

September 13, 1951

Dear Dr. Harada:

I am very glad that Mrs. Garner has been able to go down to San Francisco to see you and the show at the M. H. De Young -- especially in view of the recent death of Mrs. Warner.

She left before I had a chance to ask her to look up a matter that will affect whether or not I feel that I can get away myself to San Francisco while you and the exhibition are still there. And I doubt whether at her return she will remember the works specifically enough to answer my question.

For the manuscript of my long-projected book I have been writing a chapter on the art of illustration. In it I have included as one of the most magnificent examples in all history that one of the three surviving Heiji Monogatari e-makimono in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston: "The Burning of the Sanjo Palace." In the course of writing my account of this work I think that I have found enough new ideas regarding its interpretation to justify developing the study further into an article with some claim to scholarship. Of great help to me in this connection is the recent translation of the text of the scroll, made by my good friend, Edwin O. Reischauer, and published by the Harvard University Press.

In order to deal with the scroll properly, however, I ought if possible to see one or both of the other scrolls in the series: that in the Collection of Count Matsudaira and that in the Collection of Baron Iwasaki. It has occurred to me that you may have been able to include one or the other of these works in the current exhibition of Japanese Art at the M. H. De Young. Is either scroll in the show, or is there something from the Kamakura Period dating from the same probable time of execution (mid 13th Century)? If so, then it is a foregone conclusion; I must arrange immediately to fly down to San Francisco, perhaps next week-end or the following week-end.

It was to get this question answered that I suggested in my letter of August 28 my interest in seeing a catalogue of the exhibition, if one has been prepared. If you can manage to drop me a line on the matter, then please don't bother about the catalogue. I can secure a copy when I visit the show.

I'll be eager to learn the details of the Peace Conference and the like from you when I see you-- also from Mary Sawada at her return (she has been present at the sessions from the very beginning).

With our kindest regards and wishes for the balance of your stay,

Cordially

Dr. Jiro Harada  
Hotel Victoria  
San Francisco

Wallace S. Baldinger

