

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
EUGENE AND PORTLAND

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT
814 OREGON BUILDING
PORTLAND

February 27, 1935

Mrs. Gertrude Bass Warner
Old Heathman Hotel
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mrs. Warner:

My recent trip to Japan, in October and November of 1934, gave me occasion to present to the Japanese Government the matter of the possibility of an exchange professorship. I had had permission so to do from President Boyer before leaving Oregon. I carried with me letters of introduction from Mr. Nakamura, the Japanese Consul in Portland, to Mr. E. Amau, Director of the Information Bureau, Department of Foreign Affairs; Mr. K. Yanagizawa, Bureau of Cultural Relations, Department of Foreign Affairs; Mr. K. Okada, Director, Bureau of Cultural Relations, Department of Foreign Affairs.

Immediately upon my arrival, I presented the letters aforesaid, and made my appointments with these gentlemen and spent considerable time discussing the possibility of an exchange professor. I was very cordially received because Mr. Nakamura, hereinbefore mentioned, had cabled to the Foreign Department to ask if it would be acceptable to have me discuss this problem in Tokyo in person. Having given Mr. Nakamura an affirmative answer, I found all these gentlemen extremely courteous, kind and sympathetic to what I had to say. I did find, however, to my great surprise, that the idea, while new with me, was not at all new in Tokyo because I was told that thirty institutions throughout the world had taken up the same question in one form or another.

I must confess to you that I felt rather discouraged when I found that there were thirty tentative requests ahead of ours. I soon observed, however, that I had two arguments which they were not able to answer. The first one was that due to your kindness, the University had an Oriental museum and second, that because thereof, the University was interested sufficiently to allow me to go to Tokyo and present our case in person. So far as I could determine all my other arguments were pretty largely duplicated by the other applicants but I think these two were peculiar to the University of Oregon.

After discussing the matter somewhat at length with the aforesaid people, I was finally informed that my next step was to take up the problem with the Society for International Cultural Relations known in Japan as Kokusai Bunka Shinkokai. This I did. I found this organization a private one and I understood that it had raised approximately two million yen for its purposes. It had as its honorary president, H.I.H. Prince Takamatsu and as advisors, Admiral Okada, Prime Minister; Mr. K. Yuasa, Minister of the Imperial Household; Mr. K. Hirota, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. G. Matsuda, Minister of Education; Prince Tokugawa, Count Makino, Count Kiyouya, and Viscount Ishii and Dr. I. Sakurai, President of the Imperial Academy.

The officers of the organization, however, seem to be the ones who have the actual management and control of the affairs of the Society. I made my first point of contact through their general secretary, Mr. S. Aoki. I found the organization had the following officers: President, Prince A. Konoye; Vice-presidents, Marquis Y. Tokugawa and Baron S. Goh; Board of Directors, Chairman, Count Kabayama, Managing Directors, Viscount

February 27, 1938

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
616 OREGON BUILDING
PORTLAND

Mrs. Gertrude Bass Warner
Old Hartman Hotel
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mrs. Warner:

My recent trip to Japan, in October and November of 1934, gave me occasion to present to the Japanese Government the matter of the possibility of an exchange of professorship. I had had permission to do so from President Boyer before leaving Oregon. I carried with me letters of introduction from Mr. Kakamura, the Japanese Consul in Portland, to Mr. H. A. Aam, Director of the Information Bureau, Department of Foreign Affairs; Mr. K. Yanagisawa, Bureau of Cultural Relations, Department of Foreign Affairs; Mr. E. Okada, Director, Bureau of Cultural Relations, Department of Foreign Affairs.

Immediately upon my arrival, I presented the letters aforesaid, and made my appointments with these gentlemen and spent considerable time discussing the possibility of an exchange professor. I was very cordially received because Mr. Kakamura, heretofore mentioned, had called to the Foreign Department to ask if it would be acceptable to have no discuss this problem in person. Having given Mr. Kakamura an affirmative answer, I found all these gentlemen extremely courteous, kind and sympathetic to what I had to say. I did find, however, to my great surprise, that the idea, while new with me, was not at all new in Tokyo because I was told that thirty institutions throughout the world had taken up the same question in one form or another.

I must confess to you that I felt rather discouraged when I found that there were thirty tentative requests ahead of mine. I soon observed, however, that I had two arguments which they were not able to answer. The first one was that due to your kindness, the University had an Oriental museum and second, that because thereof, the University was interested sufficiently to allow me to go to Tokyo and present my case in person. So far as I could determine all my other arguments were pretty largely duplicated by the other applicants but I think these two were peculiar to the University of Oregon.

After discussing the matter somewhat at length with the aforesaid people, I was finally informed that my next step was to take up the problem with the Society for International Cultural Relations known in Japan as Kokusai Bunka Shinkokai. This I did. I found this organization a private one and I understood that it had raised approximately two million yen for its purposes. It had as its honorary president, H. I. H. Prince Takamatsu and as advisors, Admiral Okada, Prime Minister; Mr. K. Yasui, Minister of the Imperial Household; Mr. K. Hirota, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. G. Matsuda, Minister of Education; Prince Tokugawa, Count Makino, Count Kiyoyasu, and Viscount Ishii and Dr. I. Sakurai, President of the Imperial Academy.

The officers of the organization, however, seem to be the ones who have the actual management and control of the affairs of the Society. I made my first point of contact through their general secretary, Mr. S. Aoki. I found the organization had the following officers: President, Prince A. Kono; Vice-president, Marquis Y. Tokugawa and Baron S. Goh; Board of Directors, Chairman, Count Kato; Managing Directors, Viscount



Feb. 27, 1935

N. Okabe, Count K. Kurada and S. Mihara.

As directors they had Dr. M. Anesaki, Baron I. Dan, Dr. K. Hamada, Mr. M. Kushida, Mr. M. Ogura, Mr. M. Shigemitsu, Mr. K. Awaya, Mr. K. Fukui, Mr. C. Kadona, Mr. N. Masaki, Mr. M. Oya and Dr. S. Yamada. With this organization I went over very much the same ground I had gone over with the Foreign Office. It soon became evident to me that my conferences with the Foreign Office had been relayed to Mr. Aoki of this organization and apparently with a favorable report. He finally told me that the matter of an exchange of professors could not be very well worked out but that his organization was disposed to send to the University of Oregon a scholar having in view a proper interpretation of the museum to our students and with the hope, quite naturally, that as a direct result of this the friendly relations of the Orient and the Occident might be encouraged and strengthened.

The problem of choosing the proper person to accept this commission, I soon learned, was a very difficult one for the Japanese. The spirit was willing but the flesh was weak, by which I mean to say that they were much more willing than able to comply. The number of Japanese who spoke English sufficiently well to accept such a commission were manifestly few. I saw at once that the problem was a very serious one with them and I learned from various sources of their efforts to find among their own people, scholars who could carry on this work successfully. At my last interview with Mr. Aoki, he assured me that his directors had finally agreed to send a scholar to the University of Oregon. I had asked that he come for one school year. They were a little fearful that they could not send him for so long. I then asked that he be sent in the fall of 1935. Again they felt that this was a little too soon, and so I agreed to January 1936. They agreed to pay his expenses and the matter of his salary, they hoped, would be cared for by the University from which he came. It was further arranged that after they made their selection of their candidate, they were then to discuss with him the matter of terms and then write these terms to the University together with the name of their appointee and I agreed that these should all be submitted to our Board for ratification with the understanding that we would endeavor if possible to meet their terms.

This was the understanding at the time I left Japan. Some time after my return, namely on December 22nd, I received a cable from Mr. Aoki stating as follows: "Board decided send Jiro Harada lecturer Oriental art for six months beginning September letter follows. Aoki". The letter arrived in due course confirming this and to that letter was attached an original letter of Mr. Harada to Count Kabayama, copy of which letter I am enclosing you herewith. By cable to Mr. Nakamura, we were given to understand that the University was expected to pay the expenses of Mr. Harada while our guest at the University and in addition thereto allow him an honorarium of \$100 per month. I had suggested while in Japan that the honorarium be \$50 a month and I so reported to President Boyer, but when the information came to the effect that \$100 would be more satisfactory, I felt that we should not make any objections because of this increase and accordingly I told the President that I would undertake to see that the additional sum was raised privately.

It was at this point that I asked you if you would be willing to help me in paying the difference, namely \$50 a month for six months which you kindly consented to do. I think this is as nearly as I can recall the points leading up to the securing of Mr. Harada. As between friends, it would seem to me that if he proves as satisfactory as we hope, it would be a gracious gesture if the University could see its way clear to confer an honorary degree upon him. I have not mentioned this to any other person but I take it that I could speak it quite confidentially to you and that we could both bear it in mind if we feel later on that we might be justified in making such a request.

Please be assured that I am delighted to be of any service possible to you in this matter and I shall hope to do anything within my power to make this undertaking all that we had dreamed of. With kindest regards and deep appreciation for your great service to the University and assuring you that this is an effort to enable the University and its students to capitalize the great value of your gift, I remain

Very cordially yours,

Burt Brown Barker

Burt Brown Barker

BBB:PS

M. Okabe, Count K. Harada and S. Minura.

As directors they had Dr. M. Anasaki, Baron I. Dan, Dr. K. Hamada, Mr. M. Kasahara, Mr. M. Ogura, Mr. M. Shigemitsu, Mr. K. Aoyama, Mr. K. Fushiki, Mr. G. Kadono, Mr. W. Masaki, Mr. M. Oya and Dr. S. Yamada. With this organization I went over very much the same ground I had gone over with the Foreign Office. It soon became evident to me that my conference with the Foreign Office had been relayed to Mr. Aoki of this organization and apparently with a favorable report. He finally told me that the matter of an exchange of professors could not be very well worked out but that his organization was disposed to send to the University of Oregon a scholar having in view a proper interpretation of the museum to our students and with the hope, quite naturally, that as a direct result of this the friendly relations of the Orient and the Occident might be encouraged and strengthened.

The problem of choosing the proper person to accept this commission, I soon learned, was a very difficult one for the Japanese. The spirit was willing but the flesh was weak, by which I mean to say that they were much more willing than able to comply. The number of Japanese who were willing to accept such a commission was manifestly few. I saw at once that the problem was a very serious one with them and I learned from various sources of their efforts to find among their own people, scholars who could carry on this work successfully. At my last interview with Mr. Aoki, he assured me that his directors had finally agreed to send a scholar to the University of Oregon. I had asked that he come for one school year. They were a little fearful that they could not send him for so long. I then asked that he be sent in the fall of 1935. Again they felt that this was a little too soon, and so I agreed to January 1936. They agreed to pay his expenses and the matter of his salary, they hoped, would be cared for by the University from which he came. It was further arranged that after they made their selection of their candidate they were then to discuss with him the matter of terms and then write these terms to the University together with the name of their appointee and I agreed that these should all be submitted to our Board for ratification with the understanding that we would endeavor if possible to meet their terms.

This was the understanding at the time I left Japan. Some time after my return, namely on December 22nd, I received a cable from Mr. Aoki stating as follows: "Board decided send Ito Harada lecturer Oriental art for six months beginning September letter follows. Aoki". The letter arrived in due course confirming this and to that letter was attached an original letter of Mr. Harada to Count Katsuyama, copy of which letter I am enclosing you herewith. By cable to Mr. Nakamura, we were given to understand that the University was expected to pay the expenses of Mr. Harada while our guest at the University and in addition thereto allow him an honorarium of \$100 per month. I had suggested while in Japan that the honorarium be \$80 a month and I so reported to President Boyer, but when the information came to the effect that \$100 would be more satisfactory, I felt that we should not make any objections because of this increase and accordingly I told the President that I would undertake to see that the additional sum was raised privately.

It was at this point that I asked you if you would be willing to help me in paying the difference, namely \$20 a month for six months which you kindly consented to do. I think this is as nearly as I can recall the points leading up to the securing of Mr. Harada. As between friends, it would seem to me that if he proves as satisfactory as we hope, it would be a graceful gesture if the University could see its way clear to confer an honorary degree upon him. I have not mentioned this to any other person but I take it that I could speak to you confidentially to you and that we could both bear it in mind if we feel later on that we might be justified in making such a request.

Please be assured that I am delighted to be of any service possible to you in this matter and I shall hope to do anything within my power to make this undertaking all that we had dreamed of. With kindest regards and deep appreciation for your great service to the University and assuring you that this is an effort to enable the University and its students to capitalize the great value of your gift, I remain

Very cordially yours,
Butt Brown Barber

