

Peking, 2 June, 1932.

My dear, good Friend,

I am just back again in Peking, and my first letter to America goes to you. When I got on-board the steamer in Los Angeles, I found your thoughtful gifts to me, and I was amazed at the [ ] and work you had gone to to send me these letters, partially written by yourself, partially type-written. My dear, dear Friend, how could you do it all? Well, of course, it is no new thing to me, to find how big and good and warm your heart is, but for all that, when I realized the work done, I also realized that it was a work of love on your part. I am very grateful to you and thankful to God that he has given me such a friend./

The passage across from Los Angeles to Manila direct was good; I was the only passenger, and had the ship all to myself; the Captian, officers, and crew were so nice and kind to me; I did not need my trunk once, but still had to stand up, or sit up, or lay down on the [ ] which was hardier than the trunk. From Manila, we we went to Hong Kong—Shanghai. My wife had hoped to meet me in Hong Kong on her way home, but her steamer was delayed, and I could not wait. She and Godfrey had gone to Hong Kong to see her son and daughter in law; they were then later to go to Harbin and by rail through Manchuria and on by the Siberian Railway to Berlin, where they are to stay for Godfrey's studies.

I went to Nanking, where the government kept me 10 days, and wanted to keep in order that I might help them with some reorganization work for which they think me the most suitable person, as I know Chinese conditions so swell. It is the biggest thing that has now come my way, as it is for all China, and if only my health was all right, I should be so pleased but you see, as I do not sleep at not I cannot do any work in the morning or forenoon, but shall have to do all my work from 12 noon till evening, an arrangement that may suit me, but not the others. However, God has arranged all so [ ] and well before that I firmly believe that also this time, He will keep his hand over me. As my Lady says: Step by step shall those who trust in Him that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

When I think of my time in America, it seems a horrible nightmare; and I should not live it over again for all the money all the world, and mind you, for all that, if I had not stayed as long as I did, I could not have put my house in order as I did.

God moves in a mysterious way, His wonder to perform, we do not always see His ways, but we may at all times be sure that if we do our little best, He will never fail us, but works out His plans for us—guides us and leads us. What a [ ] and help it is that this is actually so./ And so, enough for to-day, I am somewhat tired, but wanted to write first to you.

All loving and kind and true thoughts and wishes to you, and may God be ever with you, to guide you and lead you.

Ever your true friend,  
Normann Munthe

P.S. You know much I wish to know you well and happy!  
NM

*Correspondence, Notes, Expense List, and Invoice for Objects Obtained by Gen. Munthe and Shipped to Gertrude Bass Warner in Eugene, Gertrude Bass Warner papers, UA 022, Box 05, Folder 06, Special Collections and University Archives, University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene, Oregon. Transcribed by Tom Fischer.*