

Kuo Hsi Landscape

MWCh 32: 109

Peking, 11 April, 1931

My Dear Friend,

I thank you ever so much for your welcome and interesting letter of March 8th, for your telegram with money for the sale, and for your kind and thoughtful telegram about class-instruction. All night, Dear Friend, I write all your say, and quite agree with you. I had a good laugh to myself and smiled to you, when I read about the China doves, was sent rubbish - a not unusual thing in America, I have been told. Your idea of getting rid of these gifts by declaring that they must be given to you is an excellent one. When I write to your President I tell him in my letter that my gifts were not presented to the University or Museum, as I knew no one there, but that they should thank you and not me, as my gifts were there on account of you. In selection of gifts, it will not always be possible for you to avoid offending somebody's susceptibilities - that, of course, may be awkward, but cannot be helped. You say it takes time and work to get things in order - my poor friend, think of what I have had to do in the first instance, in finding out all and everything I can about each object, and then proceeding to put it down and get the things ready - and off! When I now think of it I feel mightily thankful that I have got off what I have. The Chinese Government has prohibited the export of all books and manuscripts, all sculptures, and bronzes. It is but a time when paintings and porcelains also will be forbidden. All imperial things are forbidden. If they can catch you.

I am enclosing herewith a newspaper-cutting in French, from which you will see the spirit of the Chinese on this subject. I am sorry that your bronze has not been forwarded to you. It was clearly packed out to her. Funnell and the contents was marked L. W. and he was requested to forward it at once to you. There may be some red tape at the bottom, but I shall attend to it surely, when I get out.

Your telephone for last has been paid for the rent. In looking up your a/c I found that there were last 1098 to your credit, for which I have bought a Chinese drug paper fold vase and a copy of the Capital - both originally from the Palace.

Mr. DeLant requests me to tell you that your part of why is no longer postponed, but he adds that you will have to attend accordingly. I have forwarded you the 3 things, and enclose herewith the Consular Invoice. He has just thought, thinking down orders from Washington have been issued as regards antiquities that pay no import duty. An uncle's red-tape document me to your free America. The old saying about it: "God's own country, and the devil's own Custom House" is evidently but only too true.

The details of the rule are as follows:

Sung: Kuo-Hsi - Landscape Roll.

On opening the roll: 1 roll of Wu Pin (China) paper
1 " " France (China)

At the end of the roll: Signature of Kuo Hsi.

1 roll of Wang Tao-hsing (Sung)

1 " " Chao Kwei Hsi (Yuan)

2 rolls of Sung Chi-chang (Sung).

The roll comes from the Imperial collection, as also shown by its loose-wrap.

You can be imagining that you got the things you did, when you were here before - there has been no more fresh coming.

I have had my hands more than full these last 3 months - and am not through yet - in trying to sort my big imperial things by getting them out of the country before it is too late. It has taken a tremendous lot of work, and cost a lot of money in dues and transport.

I sent another collection of sculptures to Los Angeles last September, but they were stopped in D. Antio, and have been confiscated, without any previous notification to the effect that export was forbidden. They do just as they please, and duties are about 6 times as much as they used to be. But all this, we can discuss when we meet.

I am hoping my best to get away about the end of this month, April. - try to be sure, as soon as I know. I shall

write to
WM 6735 100

write to the C. P. Sanatorium at San Francisco.

G. W. I write all you say about seeds and teachers.

Re the 5 collections of Chinese art on exhibition in Los Angeles; I have heard about them, but there is

nothing either singly or combined in the U. S. to compare in any way with my things. True, I shall look up

her Richardson, when I get there. I have always

heard her well spoken of.

My wife is busy on her continuation of the history of China, from the end of Chien Lung to the Revolution, and it suits her to stay on here. Gooden is doing very well indeed, and had his first exhibition not long ago, he

has certainly got talent, and great application.

I shall let you know first of all, as soon as I know

myself, when I shall be there, but - wait and hear

a talk, no, talk together! I am just writing to you as

I write this, and saying: another job might, and I hope to

be out of this and home for better conditions and surroundings in every way.

All loving and true thoughts and wishes to you, my best friend,

Your true friend,

Norman Phelps