

Krassui, Jakabko, Nagasaki
April 21, 1940

Dear Miriam;

It was so good to have your long letter this morning. The mail came just as breakfast was ready so breakfast had to wait for American mail is an infrequent joy now. There are fewer boats than there used to be and we have long waits sometimes.

I hadn't realized that Wallace was interested in foreign stamps - thought he was collecting only American ones. I'm enclosing a few he may not have. The one of the water fall on the envelope I may have sent before. The other three have just come out and are of the Hokaido park (north ern island) series. They are putting out a series of 4 for each of the national parks - 10 in all I believe. These come out from time to time and I'll try to see that you get a least one of each series. There are 20, 10, 4, 2 sen ones to each set. I'll send the 20 sen one of this set later.

My oldest sister collects too so I try to send the new ones to her too. Also Japan is changing all her regular stamps and it's quite a job to keep up with them.

I'll send you yours here after. If I can get first day cancellations in the past had I realized you wanted them especially.

Well, I had a busy, happy ten days in Shanghai although for four days the weather didn't cooperate very well. It was my first trip to that city and there was so much to do I was fairly dizzy. I had gone primarily for shopping for the new dollar is so cheap now that we can get marvelous bargains in things produced in China and even American things are no more expensive than at home. After three years my clothes began to look pretty shabby so I invested pretty heavily in new ones which I had made to order - the approved way in Shanghai.

I had three tailor or dressmaking shops and a furrier and milliner all working for me at one time. I had a blue felt hat made with a high crown and wide brim, a school dress of navy blue spun silk, a dark purple wool dress with interlined jacket especially for school ceremonies next winter. We are expected to be somewhat dressed up but the building

is practically unheated and we are not allowed to wear odd jackets, sweaters, or ^{out}door coats so I decided I'd have a very warm dressy suit. These there is a blue afternoon dress with a wide suede red belt, a chiffon dress, a printed silk, a Chinese brocade evening coat in deep plum color and princess style. Also had two spring coats and a very old black velvet afternoon dress remodeled. My most ^(like Caracas) important purchase was a gray Russian lamb coat which I had a German Jewish refugee make for me to the tune of \$30. U.S.A! It's a silvery and nicely fitted.

The refugee problem in Shanghai is really terrific. Now the white Russians have gotten pretty well settled but the floods of thousands of Chinese from the occupied parts of the city and the surrounding country are appalling. Folks who lived there last winter ^{said} that whole families lived in doorways or right out on the streets and the number of dead picked up daily ran up into the hundreds. And now the German Jewish influx is pathetic. The first who came were allowed to bring boxes of things to sell, but these last ones could bring only a small box of personal things so what they will live on I don't know. A young woman came selling heavy damask table linen ^{triple} while I was there. She had sold all her own and now was working on commission for her friends. She knew a tiny bit of English so could make contacts some of the others couldn't, I suppose. I got some gorgeous linen from her which we needed very badly here. Now I wish I had gotten more.

Heard a very fine concert of orchestral music - the first I've heard in three years (not canned), saw some movies, notably a Chinese one the scene of which I saw in Peking seven years ago. It is an historical picture laid in the Forbidden City - the Emperor's palace.

Now I must stop and go to church. We go to Japanese church in the morning but have an English service in the afternoon sometimes.

Love, Helen