

Tommy Mary Bason  
Whitehall  
Chapel Hill, NC

From Lt. Rick S. White  
Hq. 28th Marines  
APO, San Francisco,  
Calif.



UNITED STATES NAVY

Two Jims  
March 7, 1945

Dear Mary,

Yours of Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> reached me yesterday, so you can see our mail service is, despite the war, very good. You intimated in your letter that you already knew that there were hard days for the 5<sup>th</sup> Division and that your red head was worried for me. I have waited until I was fairly sure I might come through unscathed before writing you, and since I shaved today for the first time since D Day, I felt that I was now in clean enough shape to write you. My only other letters have been hurried scribbles to my mother on captured junk paper (hardly appropriate to write a winsome Carolina miss on). Although much fighting remains, I feel if I've come this far, the Good Lord has decided to spare me.

March 10

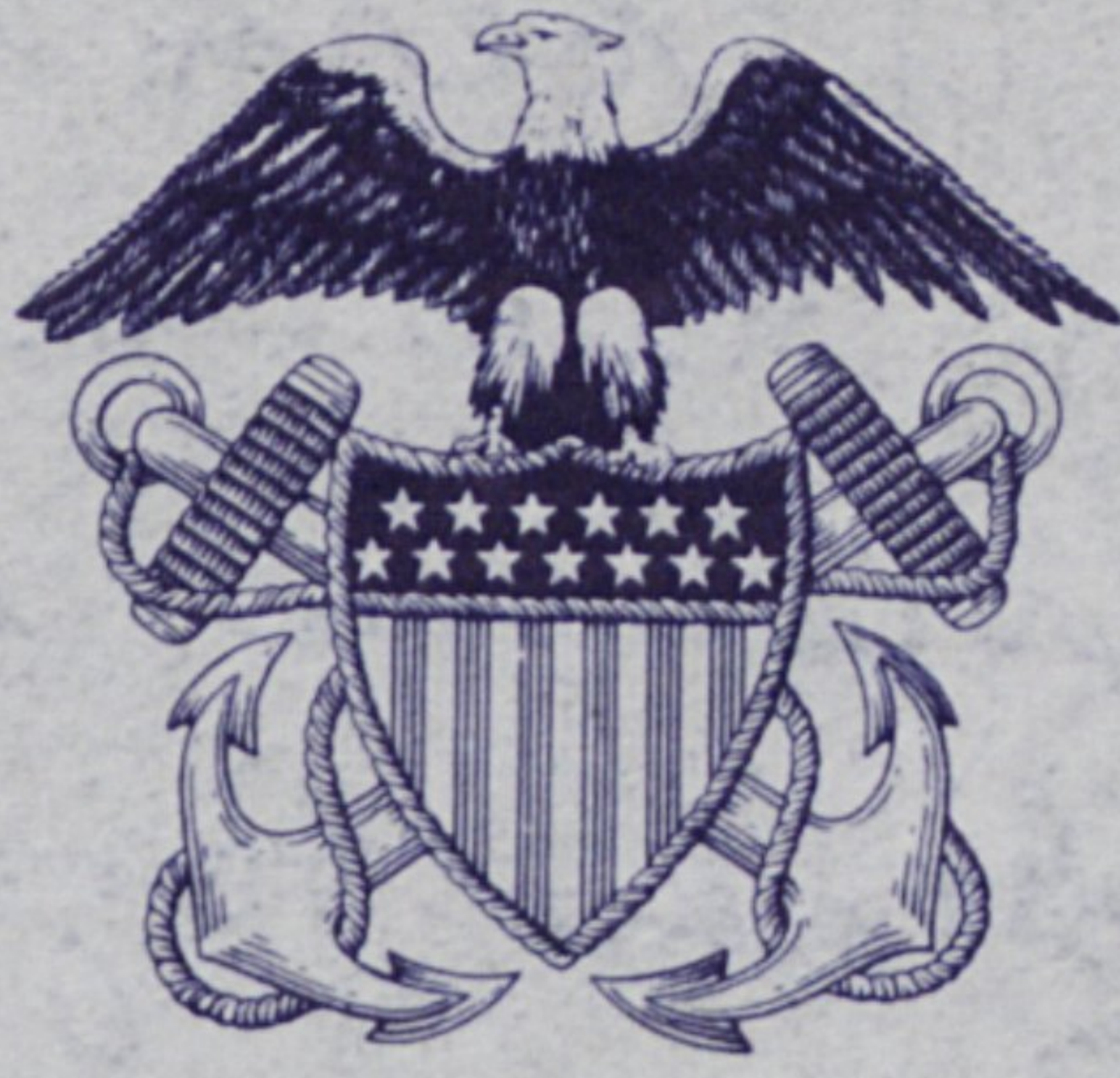
I was called away on vital business when I finished the above and this is the first respite since. I am now ensconced in a beautiful foxhole I dug yesterday,

I have it lined with warm Japanese Army blankets and it is very snug.

The caves on Iwo are something to see. If Edgar Rice Burroughs and Jules Verne had gotten their heads together, they never could have thought them up. Some go down into solid sandstone 300 feet and there are whole rooms on 4 or 5 different levels.

These catacombs, which are everywhere are, I would say, the feature of the island which stretches the imagination furthest. You almost never see a live target. The terrain is all up and down and everywhere the Japs lurk.

I had a front row center seat on the morning of D Day. It was a beautiful day - just a trifle warm. We landed in a Higgins boat 40 minutes after the first armored amphibian hit the beach, but we were cruising around 4000 yards offshore for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours before H hour. The Naval bombardment knocked out almost all their beach defenses, which permitted us to gain our foothold. Our regiment's mission was to capture Suribachi, the mountain to the south and we finished the task alone in about 5 days. That all seems years ago now, since we have moved ~~up~~ north.



UNITED STATES NAVY

I have had the usual narrow scrapes and they continue in ever lessening quantity.

Sorry to hear about you and the Red Cross. Is it all up or are they still considering you or you them? Why not try a different <sup>Red Cross</sup> office? I was looking forward to a reunion somewhere out here and know anyway, how much you want to help.

Our food situation is excellent under the circumstances. We eat better than at our last camp, where the food was impossible. We do it all ourselves, and it takes some time, but it is all very welcome.

How about that picture you said you might send? It's long overdue. Don't go to any special trouble but if you have some, put me on the list. After Peter and Harry + Bill + Joe maybe, but, ah well.

This was just to let you know I'm healthy, and I'll write soon again when I have decent facilities.

Love

Rock



UNITED STATES NAVY

月

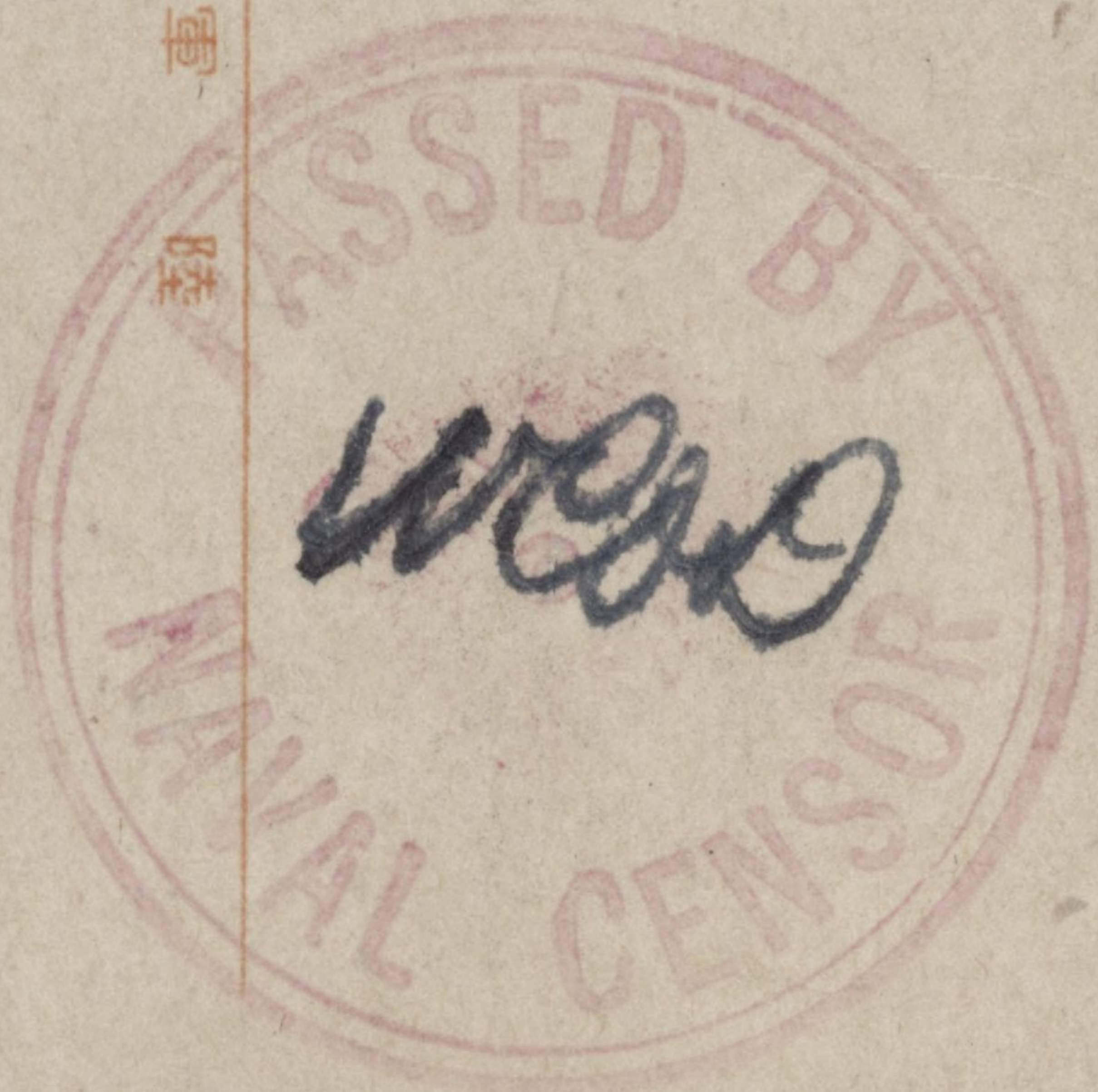


中村貞以氏筆

Here's your pin-up  
 girl competition. A  
 conventional beauty  
 by Nakamura called  
 "The Moon". Set it?  
 She's looking at the  
 moon. Females are  
 the same the world  
 over.

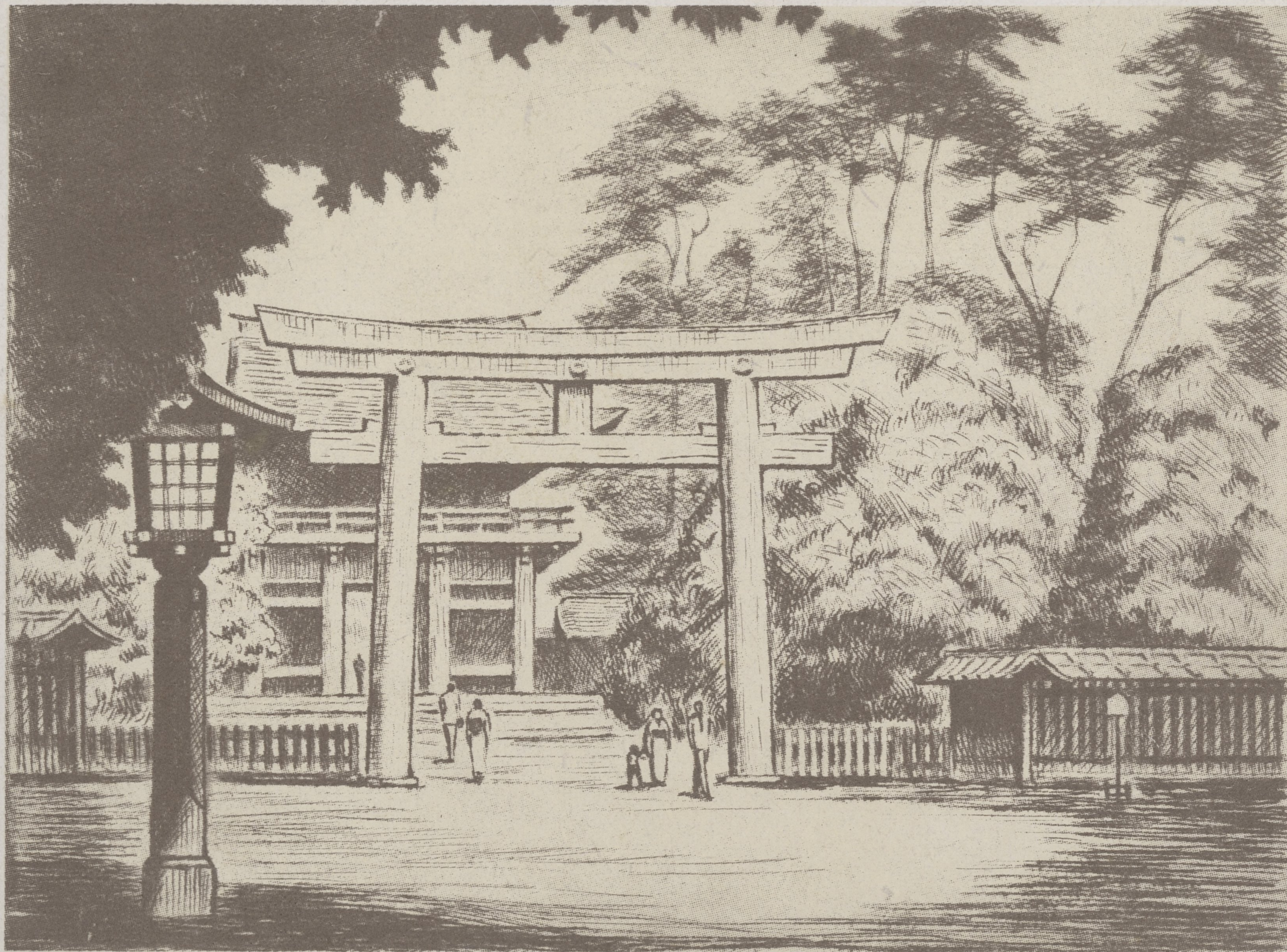
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きがは便郵

明治神宮

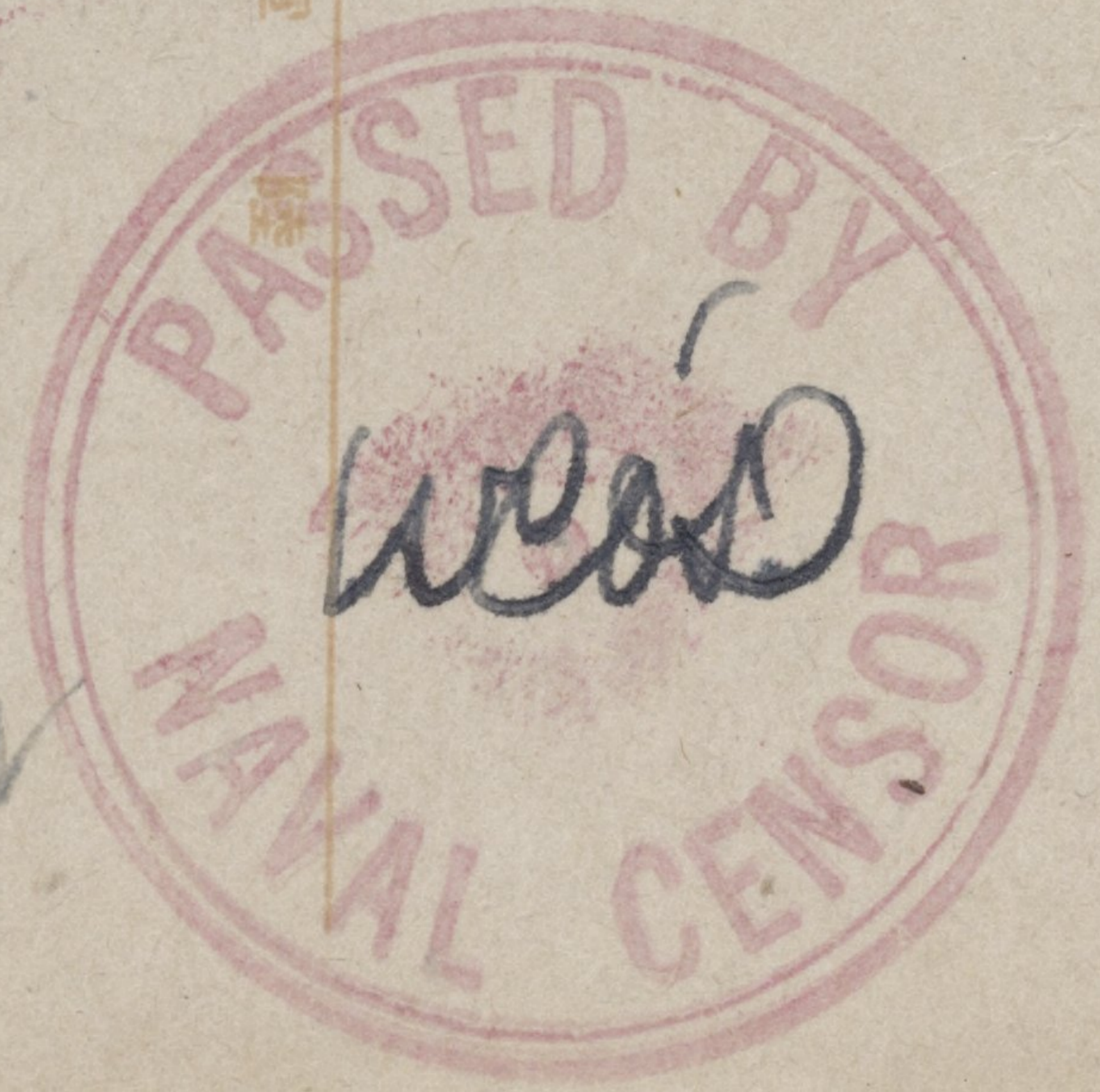


三木辰夫氏謹作

This is the famous  
Meiji Shrine in  
Tokyo etched by  
Mitsuki. Just the  
usual run of  
penny postcard.  
I have some  
beauties around,  
which are better  
than Renoir, but

行印所刷印版色原材光程留式紙

廠本品需軍



they aren't stamped  
yet. Hold on.  
Rich

きがは便郵