Abbie G. Sanderson Papers

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Series: I. Correspondence

Subseries: Family correspondence

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Folder label: AGS to brother Arthur, from Swatow, Hong Kong, and ship, re.
period "supervision by the People's Government" in Swatow, awaiting exit
permit, exit to Hong Kong in early 1953

Dates: 1950 Sep – 1953 Mar

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515063
A.B. Mission, Swatow
Sept 3, 1908

Dear Bob:

About time I was writing you a birthday letter, don’t you think? In jest, it is about time for me to be writing a letter to each of many different people, but I just didn’t get it done – for various reasons.

It is good to get your letters, though I have a guilty conscience about not writing more frequently. It is interesting to note that you also have merry-go-round activities in the churches at home – South Berwick and Berlin, though separated by a few miles of distance, do have connections and some similarities, it seems! I just had a letter from Jessie Libbey which indicated that not all is smooth sailing in their church some of the time.

You asked whether the package you sent had come through. I haven’t heard of it.
reaching the island when you sent it, and there is no need to try again—especially since coffee and milk powder are not allowed in—the coffee because it is a luxury, and the milk powder probably because of the plan to use native substitutes that will cost less.

I have already written telling you that Louise Campbell, Elsie Kittles and Mrs. Gieß are on the high seas now—sailed from H.W. on the 7th. Millicent Engel and Allison Osborn have obtained permission to go on furlough and are here now waiting to finish up formalities of leaving. They rather expect to leave this next week.

Ruth down and the Bransteds are in process of requesting permission to leave. The former has been turned down once (from Canton) because of insufficient reason for wanting to leave—.
It is getting near time for the opening of school again. We cannot tell how things will be. We are in the position of spectators only and aside from teaching a couple of English classes, we cannot be sure of participating much in school life. Yet there are some fine young people and we long to see them developing into the kind of material that is needed out here today.

Haven’t received catalogue a pages from catalogue e. English from you yet. But later will be O.K. since any college program planning is now delayed.

You would probably like to know a good deal more than I tell you in my letters. Suffice it to say that
I am well, and that I have led as restful a summer as could be expected, more restful, probably, than most of the others here. That is partly because some of the others kept on with irregular classes all summer, and — not being specially asked to — I didn’t. Some have hankered to get away for a bit and I have not minded it, being satisfied to stay in this big cool house — I have done some hard work and directed a little, and shared in conducting a S.S. class; have participated in a devotion class twice weekly and in a Chinese reading class frequently. Callers, regular church meetings, and occasional quiet social events such as birthday teas have kept the summer from being empty. Now that magazines are beginning to come again, that’s wonderful. I wish you would have the Christian Century, Baptist Leader, and Watchman Examiner sent, please. Much love, ever.
Dear Arthur, et al. —

Saturday night and time I was in bed and asleep. But strange & say, though it is long past bed time I am not the slightest bit sleepy. Of course I should remember that the very act of taking a pen in my hand and sitting down to write may have a soporific effect. Sometimes in the past that has been the case, as the resulting wavering scribbles have testified!

Tonight, however, several things have conspired to keep me stimulated, so I'll see how well this multiplicity of stimulations keeps up its multiplied effects! For one thing today has brought a fairly unusual number of contacts with a variety of problems and a considerable amount of conversation (in which one might endeavor to join but was usually
passed in the race by several more swift of tongue and more reluctant to be silenced by the clamor.

Actually the day started off peacefully enough with my Saturday morning English classes. I came home, rather downhearted because the most of the class assignment in one class had not been done—then I spent far too much time looking for some buttons to put on an old dress I'm making over (mother's old gray challis housecoat—remember?) for I'm well right out of winter clothes. Talked with the cook about a trip to the city & do his marketing, then had a caller—our former preacher Mr. L., who wanted to talk to me about a new church building that is being put up and that needs financial aid to help complete the project. Since our group of ministers is not so small and such requests are many, it has come to be that we had thought we must find a differ
plan from our previous hit-or-miss individual hand-outs - but no had not come to any decision. So I went with Mrs. L., up to see our mission Secretary and there was a half hour or so of talk there, with promise of definite action later after all had talked about the matter. (There are so many projects and if we give to all, we are swamped). This one is a fine project endorsed by the City Corp. Exec. Committee.

Got through that conference just in time to go & Edna Smiths. Then we had been invited to a picnic lunch. Home were oven from Swaters, and it was good to see Swaters, and it was not been them, for we have crossed the bay in either direction since Wednesday when a young typhoon flew up. It has been blowing and raining ever since Wednesday, until today. And we enjoyed some that...
wienies and spam, with fixin's to make sandwiches as we wished all very nice and tasty. After the meal we discussed finances, which we must do once in a while, of course, but as Ruth Roven says, "Why do we have to get so excited about it always??"

I went right from that 'talk-fest' to a Sunday School teachers' meeting and there we met some stubborn problems. One of our Christian teachers did not return this term, and there were some stubborn problems. One of our Christian teachers did not return this term, one is not well and cannot do the S. S. teaching this term. Another is so busy that he is nearly crazy, with duties at school, and another has decided that he is getting too old to understand the psychology of present day young people and the world does better to get out in the country on Sunday and do a little preaching in needy places. So there was some fairly
sharp discussion as well as a few recriminations and a deal of praying (mostly silent!) until we finally agreed on a plan that we can at least try on in the students of high school age. Our former meeting place, up at the Seminary, is no longer feasible since some rooms are used now by soldiers' hospital and the chains have been returned. A classroom from some of the old academy, is now we have & classrooms. We meet with the adult department and will have to "borrow" nearby rooms for classrooms. Detail will have to be worked out as we go along; we are extremely slow in getting started. After that meeting I helped سنوات look over some old coats & choose which ones should be given away. Then I came home to supper & find that the cook had bought a tin of army coffee
powder which must have been on the shelf of some store ever since the war—and before! He got it much cheaper than the other kind usually costs—and though I could at least try it. Well! A half teaspoon made a cup of coffee that would just about stand alone! I made two cups out of it, and drank them both—which might explain why I am still not too sleepy!

I got some patterns out, and a piece of striped blue native cotton cloth and was mulling over what to do. Then two students that problem, when two students came & talked over possible ways of raising the standard of an English class and ways to help the poorer students get more out of the classwork. Cause upstairs—still not very satisfied. So I pinned on my pattern and measured & selved it. I had enough, and cut
out one half of my dress. The other half will have to be cut out Monday in daylight, & be sure that the stripes match, and also to avoid as much as possible the flaws in this fairly poor native cloth. Lights blinked out, and I lighted an oil lamp - went out & pantry and grabbed a cooky and some cocoa powder for a lunch - then sat down to scribble & my beloreds. I know it has been a long time since I have written - that worry is not easy these days. Many things are happening - many very worthwhile and valuable things - but this is not the time for plans about them all.

Now I really am sleepy! So I'll say 'goodnight' before I come along & find out whether...
I'm sick or anything, since I haven't gone to bed—?

Very much love & all,

Abbie
Dear Bub,

New Year's Day dawned bright and clear and fairly warm, but I stayed in the house and did not go to the church service. On that day I came under the supervision of the People's Government, who have treated me with the greatest respect and consideration. I am no longer teaching, nor is my educational colleague, but we are living in the same houses as previously, with the same help as before. I have many of my personal things—books, clothing, dishes, etc., to use freely, and I am well and husky.

As I wrote you previously, I have requested permission to leave within...
this month. Our medical colleague has been requested to stay on and continue working, if I understand correctly.

I shall be looking forward to seeing you all soon, and that is not an understatement.

With much love to all — and that means you give it to them — Emily, Mary, Goldie Snow, (Milbury man) family and connections.

Yours always,

Abby.
Copy of Abbie’s Last letter - self-explanatory,

An. Bap. Mission,
Swatow, China
Jan 3, 1951

Dear Hub:

New Years Day dawned bright and clear and fairly warm, but I stayed in the house and did not go to church service. On that day I came under the supervision of the People’s Government, who have treated me with greatest respect and consideration. I am no longer teaching, nor is my educational colleague, but we are living in the same houses as previously, with the same help as before. I have many of my personal things - books, clothing, dishes, etc., to use freely and as well and husky.

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I shall be looking forward to seeing you all soon, and that is not an understatement.

With much love to all - and that means you give it to them - Emily, Mary, Goldie Snow, Family and connections.

Yours always,

Abbie.

I seem to be able to read between the lines - you can try that too

Arthur.


We rec’d your letter. Wish we could stop in for a chat and see those grandchildren. Yes I could see your handy handle if you were here. Am trying to sew. Love

Gladye.
Sevastopol, China Feb. 5, 1907

Dear Arthur and all,

Can't write you the news I should like to, for my exit permit has not yet come through. E. & I. Edna S. & I had reservations & sailed from Hongkong today but had to turn them down as permission to leave had not been granted and still has not been given.

I am now enjoying certain phases of leisure very much. Knitting is one of my favorite pastimes and fortunately I have wool & make a small jacket. Sometimes I sit and knit while others read or play a game of checkers or pool. We are planning to read some Shakespeare together and maybe an adventure book or so.

Y. V. and I had a spell of reading yesterday morning, then I went to her house for dinner, rested there a bit, then our group gathered while over...
real one of Paul Thereres sessions 
us and we had a prayer and 
Bible reading and a few songs.

Afterwards V. served us a very nice 
birthday cake & trimmings, to celebrate 
Louise's birthday. In the morning I, E. 

Edna & I went over to Louise's before breakfast and sang "Still, Still with 
Thee" outside her bedroom door for a birthday surprise, then we all 
went to E.'s for breakfast. So it was quite a big day! But no bigger 
than today - because today certain 
assurances came to my mind & make me feel light-hearted.

Some day remind me & tell you.

Tomorrow is Chinese New Year. I don't know just what celebration 
there will be in the city - but they will be patriotic this year, 
surely. All in our houses will be 
more or less on holiday and will 
get our noon snack ourselves. 

We are well, and feel quite thoroughly 
protected. I am glad I can now go into all rooms 
and upstair and go over all my things & see that no 
would have got into any of them. Much love, Abbey.
Dear Arthur,

Am wondering whether you are thinking of me as on my way hence. No letters from you are Charlotte or Philadelphia. Nothing yet in the way of prospect of changing boarding quarters in the next few days or longer. Tomorrow it will be exactly 2 mos. since applying for permit to leave. Will drop you a line, of course, as soon as I hear what can be planned.

Are you still singing in the choir? Good work. It will be good to get back and let one's voice - though mouse-like - mingle with stuttering and sweeter ones of one's own kind in renditions, say, in fest 'beg, dandles with laudatory lachrymal evolutions. Even sing all the verses of that one? Do get in practice - it is a real one - all right?

I'm well, although I am a poor model for anyone painting patience or a monument! Much love, A.
Dear Arthur,

The weather is cool! We have had a fairly mild winter, but these few days have been raw. V. and I think it would be a welcome change to stop over and rest in Honolulu in a few weeks. She did that once on the way home. She did that one, you know, and the climate was not beneficial. So don't be surprised if beneficial. Of course, there is no knowing who will be traveling together or when. When I know what plans can be made, of course, I will let you know.

A letter from Belle Wetcott sent Feb 18 arrived yesterday - pretty good! It was so good to hear from her, and from you too. V. of Jan 20 was delayed some where. Her's came direct. It is wonderful to get mail again. Haven't been getting any. I imagine people have thought I was already on the way, but there are no
signs of that yet. Of course I will let you know when any news comes about my exit permit.

The days go by, one after another, and I join the girls in knitting or other hand-work. Sometimes we read aloud — we are part way through King Lear. Emanuel has brought over a few books reminiscent of Johnny Hedman and his good Paris accent, and it has been fun to delve into them a bit and see how much I can remember — which is not much I'm afraid! Were I a few years younger, think I'd like to do some serious brushing up — I find it quite interesting.

I've been reading more Psalms, too, and some chapters from John. All very helpful.

Feel Gladys, my mouth is watering for some of her good hash! Love, G.
Dear Arthur & Gladys,

Today is Father's birthday. Wonder whether there were or will be flowers at S. B. from one this year. Hope I can be the one to see that again some day. Hard to realize that he would be 88 - and that he has been gone 12 years! And, another six.

Do you know who is the dumbest? I am a dumb cluck in the world. You are dumb cluck in the world. When you write a letter, I wanted to read it all. I wanted to read it all. I read it all. I read it all.

Some letter comes direct more quickly, than another.

Swatow, China
March 6, 1951
whatever it is by now, in a quite different location, with implications, did not strike me until a few minutes ago while I was drowsing myself awake in my little bed. Anyway, it was enough to jolt me out of bed in a hurry and here am a-scribbling. Have to let you know that even the Islands of Hawaii would lose their glamour fast if I thought anybody I might name was (were) headed toward Uncle Arthur's vicinity at any given time - is that given time limited, I wonder? Because time goes on and on and I am just where I was two months ago. Some are just where they were seven months ago. Alice J., however, will be in the country with you by the time you get this. Sailed Feb 28, don't know where she will be, but 15-2, should get her, of course. I'm well - and even gaining a few pounds - not much exercise. Much love to all.

Maybe you won't see all these. Abbie you are hoping not near Royo! But I hope yours!
13 East, Little Hatchell  
Swarthos, China  

April 1, 1937  

Dear Arthur,  

I am reminded of a night once spent on the "Penobscot" or was it the old "J. J. Morse" traveling from Rockland to Sargentville in blankets of mist. I think some officer gave me his cabin and you slept (?) on the leather cushioned seats out in the dining saloon. Was there really a calf on board or was it the fog-horn? Deeply etched is in my memory, whether true or false, is your frequent explosive "Blast that calf!" which entertained me. I must admit, more than it distressed me. I wonder whether you remember anything like that? I think the steamer can't have been morose, in such fog – must have been tied up at the wharf – so maybe there was a calf some where!
Today is V.'s birthday and she invited us to her house for dinner. All were in good spirits and dull (?) came seemed driven away for a season. Later, Dam read us an appropriate sermon and after sitting around and talking a bit we finished up the afternoon with cake and coffee. It had been quite a long day for some of us. In this case, 7:30 was meant—and the others were all there earlier than I. Singing such songs as When Morning Gilds the Skies while they waited. The weather today has suddenly turned much warmer and it looks as though we shall not need to be bundled up in woolen undies, sweaters, knickers, vests, scarfs, bedsocks and shawls much longer.
Since it does not look as though you will be able to leave home for any length of time (am I right in sensing that as the gist of it?) this spring or summer, I am now suggesting a more leisurely tempo as a possible way of regaining perspective and some brand of enthusiasm, maybe. So if you all don't get on your traveling hitches this summer, maybe I will linger a few weeks along my homeward way. Don't have the faintest notion where — or whether it will work out that way. Can't take any route that will cost very much, and I'll have to do something about arranging to get funds somehow when I get in some place where they would be "gettable"! I mean, I ought to think about it beforehand. One way would be
to get some funds transferred from one account to the other in the S. P. Trust. Haven't thought that through yet. Maybe extra could be advanced to me on travel account, somewhere along the way. I'll repay later.

This morning we looked at possible trips up one or two rivers famed in song and story, and wondered what places would be good for sightseeing, and how much sightseeing we would be good for. I would like to see some places that I have never been near.

Much love.

Alice.
Dear Arthur,

Don't know just when this will get off but while I remember to tell you, I did jot down that I received your letters of Apr. 7 and 15 so I know you were having a grand time on your Big Trip. Wish I might have caught up with you!

Also had Mary's letter of March 25. Those are the only ones I have received recently; hope some more will come through without delay.

How would you like & have me share something lovely with you? A bowl of gardenias, seven pure white blooms with glossy green leaves, and among the seven two-twins on a single branch, each of which measures 4 ½” in diameter. How easy would it be to find anything like that when you are? The perfume is so very heavy that I have to set it outside on the veranda at night.

As soon as I have any news about exit permit, I will let you know pronto. In the meantime, I know you'll be glad to know that I am enjoying good health and living in hopes!

Greetings and love to all,

Catherine
Sender's name and address:
A. J. Sanderson
American Express
Hong Kong

Air Letter
By Air Mail
Hong Kong

If anything is enclosed this letter will be sent by Ordinary Mail.
Sunday, Jan. 4, 1963

Dear Arthur & Gladys:

I was thrilled to get your cable when I arrived at the Am. Express office Jan. 2 about 1 p.m. I guess I have told you that already, but I was so excited I didn’t know when I can’t remember now very much that I wrote after I got here to Edna’s apartment.

Guess I told you that Louise came out with all the baggage��ed after one day of freedom—no guards or anything while she packed her things in her home. The rest of us had guards still; I had three, one of whom followed me if I stepped from one room to another—and there was only one spot in the house where he didn’t follow me; even then he was about to follow I would have had I not told him why I was going into what I was going to
do ye a minute! (This is not for publication, or edification of anybody except ye two!)

It is wonderful to find myself in the hands of kindly friends—wonderful to find Krisa here and not taken off someplace else I knew not where! Wonderful to have so many friends come to see us—Chinese feast tonight—one last night tomorrow night—turned on lamp with difficulty this noon—

Wonderful to be in a worship service and partake of communion in fellowship with one another and with the other Christian worshippers at the Union Church here in Howloon.

Jan. 30, noon—

Alice Jaffin has just arrived by plane from Manila and we are talking as fast as we can—but I seem to have a slow tongue!

Callers galore; old students from 30+ years back; doubt whether I shall survive this overwhelming kindness; dinner engagements every day the rest of this week—and meeting friends on ferry, on street, in offices, etc.
Thrilled again today to receive a cable from Yarmouth, Me. "Thank God for your deliverance. First three verses two to four.

Maine Baptist Women

Sent by Mrs. Kingsley, I have no doubt. And she to all of us from Allison Osborne, who is now in Japan teaching 'Singing Doxology. Fourfold Amen." -

Also to Noren from Carl Capen in answer to one sent from in Bangkok: "Best news in years, hearty welcome awaits you - don't expect to fly down there on his way home - my clothes, hair (brain too, I reckon!) in a mess - need re-organizing. Don't know just how soon I shall head home. Advised to rest a bit. I get cobwebs brushed out a bit. But of course, I would like to fly as quickly as possible to my beloved ones - as yet I do not contemplate flying literally. Think sea trip might help stabilize - I hear Mrs. Sears is to come this way in Feb. I surely want to see her either here or at home - so for nothing definite yet. Thus far am taking one thing at a time; photo...
Mr. Arthur G. Sanderson
Box 551
Berlin
New Hampshire
U.S.A.
6 Humphreys Street
1st Floor
Kowloon, Hong Kong
Jan. 11, 1953

Dear Arthur:

This won't be much but I do want just to drop you a line. You remembe r that a stream of callers and invitations we have had since arriving here on the 2nd / Feast every night this last week, callers morning till night, many come two or three times before finding us in. Passport business not yet attended to but may finish that tomorrow.

Dr. Reed sails on the "President Cleveland" Jan 13, Loren flies to Siam to see Capens leaving here the 15th on the first leg of his journey around the world - Mrs. J. will meet E. H. in San Francisco - and Ruth I'm not sure where she'll meet in Boston.

I have been anxious to get started towards you, but still Louis and I have been advised not to rush too fast, trying to get a bit adjusted before starting out.
I have been of late, because while I want curiously to see you, I realize from the way I am depending on Edw. in everything that it would be an ordeal to start out immediately entirely on my own. Reflexes are not as swift as they were 10 yrs ago - joints stiff a tiny bit at times, but I'm already getting tinned up a lot.

Yesterday Mrs. Sears' letter came telling of an expected trip and saying she would be glad if & brace + I felt we could wait and see her here in Hongkong when she comes out in February on her way to the Philippines etc. in February. Otherwise we could not have a conference with her before next summer. So I'm seriously considering that. It means a little delay, but it may be best.

She wrote of you having to drive to Berlin & hear what she was trying to telephone you from. Said I ought to have heard your voice when you heard the news!

Bless you - if you haven't bought shoes etc don't - and you can help me shop when I get there please.
P.S. Forgot I still had this side to write on!

We attended Chinese services today and visited resettlement projects, especially Baptist work; Southern Baptist Seminary; new housing projects which are replacing squatters' huts.

We were at a buffet lunch in a wealthy Chinese home with about 40 Chinese workers. Got home about 4 and have had callers until now (10, 30)!
Mr. Arthur P. Sanderson
Box 551
Berlin
New Hampshire
U.S.A.

O.P. Sanderson, 5th, Hon.
6 Humphreys Ave., 2nd, Hon.
Henderson, N. B., N. Y.
Jan. 23, 1953

Artturs, Gladys, my dears!

How I wish I were heading this very minute for New Hampshire! It seems hard to wait— but many things point to a little longer wait there before starting out.

Everyone advises "no rush" and "wait till you are a bit adjusted." Many say now that there has been decided improvement since we arrived—improvement in our looks, etc. ! Mrs. Sears' trip being next month—a rather arriving here next month still appears to be the deciding factor, thus far a rather, keeps us from deciding & more sooner! I feel that after such a long period of idleness I ought to be getting back to some sort of work. I miss feel so even more, I think. Yet sometimes I wonder whether I am a dependable person now.
or not! I have not been out on the street by myself yet except a place very near by and just for a minute or so — oh yes — went to the hairdresser the other a.m. I stayed more than "a minute"! But that is very near.

Students and other old friends are still overwhelming us with kindness. Every week we learn of more and more people who have been praying for us — all around the world, it seems! Not only in China, Hungary, and U.S., but in India, England, Australia, Africa — many places. And every day we meet people who express their joy and thankfulness that we are here. Many ask so eagerly in news of relatives in Swatow but we can tell them nothing except what we may have heard since coming here. We had not heard since coming here. We had no opportunity to see any friends or talk with any before leaving Swatow. I was under guard every moment from Apr. 9, 1951 until after midnight Dec. 31, 1952. Some Dr. Friedt & Loen Nauen. 1952. Louise was free of guards Dec. 26, 1952; was accompanied by customs officials & sailed in the steamer that night, and sailed in the steamer that night, and sailed in the steamer that night, and sailed in the steamer that night. But there is much that will have to wait till I see you all — and even then I don't know...
I have written to you but have not heard from Emily recently. I hope you are both well. I have written to Emily.

I have sent some sweets to her as a birthday gift. I hope she enjoys them.

I have been busy with my work, but I try to find time for relaxation. I take a walk in the park every day to clear my mind.

I have been invited to a picnic by some friends. I will attend with enthusiasm.

I have received a letter from my sister, she is doing well.

I hope you are both well and happy.

Love, [Your Name]
To: Arthur J. Sanderson

176 Humphrey Ave
Kowloon, Hong Kong

U.S.A.
Feb. 8, 1953

Dear Arthur and Gladys:

I don't wonder you would like to know my itinerary; I would like ("should like"?) to know it myself. (I say I sound all right; I tell you I can't talk English, even.)

I have already written telling you that Louie and I have reservations on the S.S. "President Cleveland," American President Line, leaving Hong Kong February 21 and arriving San Francisco about Mar. 18. Touching at Kobe and at Yokohama in Japan, and at Honolulu. I haven't yet found out the dates of these stops. I shall go to Velva's (Louie will too) and she will want me to stay a few days - I should like to see the folk in Portland and Seattle but there are many around Los Angeles whom I'd very much like to see - and I don't see how I can go both north and south and at the same time head east towards my beloved brother and sister.
and the children (husbands, wives and "grand"!) to say nothing of other dear ones whom I'm also eager to see!

Peoria sounds like a grand meeting-place; that plan suits me down to the ground. But I am not up to any public-speaking yet. I am ashamed to have to say "no" but I have turned down 3 invitations to speak already—here—just can't manage that for a while yet!

The week of March 16 I cannotorgan, enforcing your desires; but of possibly "disturb you", as you see from my dates. Even if I should not go either to Oregon or to Los Angeles I could not get to Peoria much before April, I think. I have not had a medical check-up here; don't know whether Velva could do it or not (professional etiquette, etc.) But have no doubt that she will give me some of "once-over."

If Roy and Gladys come East next summer perhaps it would be better to give up trying to see them more often as I should like to visit them. But I find it very hard to decide on most things these days! I will try to make up my mind to something very soon and will
let you know my plans as soon as I know them, of course. At the present moment I am very much inclined to write to the friends both north and south of San Francisco, see the ones I can see in the Bay area, then head east after not too many days at Cornell Memorial Hospital, which is where my headquarters will be on the west coast. In one way I'd like to go via A. M., but not if it takes time when I have the urge to get here!

Surely it will be fine to see Harold and Ethel in Buffalo — Emily writes of thinking of flying & flying to “take care” of me! Or of dashing out in S. F. ! But decided to wait and meet me in New York! And save her money for a trip next summer — Is it really true that we would be driving east from Peoria? Via Columbus, for instance? Granville, O.? Rochester N.Y.? And some other places where we could make brief calls? Wonderful!

Mine later — Be seeing you! Love & love, Abbie
Ms. Arthur P. Sanderson
Box 551
Berlin
New Hampshire
U.S.A.
Feb 18, 1953

Dear Arthur & Gladys:

I am getting "rehabilitated" a lot, I think but the job will never be completed until I get with my own folk, and York Road sounds like a swell place to get affairs of that type seen to - in my case, at least!

Your letters - one two days ago, another today - are helping in the process, I assure you. It was good to know that you have got my mail of sailing on the S.S. "President Cleveland" American President Line, leaving H. P. Feb 28.

I have been overjoyed to hear from you frequently, but today's letter intimates I may not receive another letter from you sent to this address. That will be ten days more and if I don't hear it will seem like a long time 'cause I have been spoiled already in the last 6 weeks!
But maybe you will not at least once more! So the steamer any way (I hope), at Kobe or Yokohama if not Hongkong and maybe at Honolulu, Hawaii? And I suppose it won’t matter whether you send the steamer or to Berkeley!

It is very exciting to realize that I shall soon be on my way to you and that D. V., you are planning to be in Peoria when I get there. I am very glad to know which is the convenient time for you—that is, the last three weeks in April.

Sounds right for me—we may not arrive in S. F. until March 28 or so—with quite a bit of time in Berkeley. I ought to be able to get to Peoria sometime the week of April 12-18. You can write again what is the very best time for you and I can make my plans accordingly.

How far is Peoria from Chicago? I got a U. P. timetable today but find...
that Peoria is not on that line
so I must ask about that in the
next day or so.

Oct. 31, Mr. and Mrs. were busy
days. Sat. was Chinese New Year—
we went to church in the morning, had
dinner at the after noon—then
calleders in the evening—Sunday
morning church service; in the afternoon
a Y. P. group (from several years ago in
Nakchich) met here & organized a group
that will continue. Before they left,
calleders came, and there was no chance
for our simple soup and sandwich
supper until 10:30 p.m.!

Yesterday we had 23 calleders; then
were out to tea, then took a Chinese
doctor & his wife to dinner, brought them
back here in Chinese Checkers & a chat.
Today went across the bay to Hongkong side
to pick up my ticket & see about
extension of stay in H.K. (expires June
This p.m. the Tragmin prayer meeting at
one of the churches. Louise was the speaker,
she is wonderful—I am not up to that yet.

Mrs. Sears came in Friday—Mr.
Seems leaves Monday,
Mr. J. leaves Sunday—Mrs. J. leaves Monday;
Mr. H. leaves. In our fed. Dr. Fridell came
Friday, we leave Saturday! Be seeing ya!'

Much love, Abbie
Dear Arthur & Gladys,

(2.9)

Here we are on our way, have already had one day in Japan, royally welcomed by Gertrude Waterman at the Rollingers in Osaka. We got off at Kobe; Gertrude was at the dock waiting for us at 7 a.m., but we couldn’t get ashore until 9. She would have had a long cold wait if she had not been able to sit in her car — it was a long wait, at that.

Gertrude took me to see the Kindergarten training school which is next door to Kobe College. Fine new buildings going up, getting furniture gradually as they need it. We met two of the missionaries, Mrs. Pearl McRae & Mrs. [name].

Then we went on to Osaka (about 18 mi.)

P.S. Didn’t get a letter off to you at Kobe — we needed time to recover from the mad whirl of the last few days in Hongkong and the mad farewell at the ship. I haven’t tried yet to reckon how many came down to see us off, but it must have been about 100 people! Edna staying on at the ship until a few months.

On Board S.S. President Cleveland

March 7, 1933
everything beautifully arranged—we are already getting an eyeful of things we've never seen before!

"Mr. Gent and language class, 'Mr.' took us, still in G's station wagon, to Mead Christian Center, where we saw a kindergarten class in action, and a display of beautiful dolls prepared for the doll festival which is today. We met some of the kg. teachers, visited the church and saw the new brick baptistery. We had a lovely tea and Japanese sweets, setting around a low table in Japanese fashion. It was my first visit in a real Japanese-style Japanese home. They were most cordial: expressed the hope that we would return there to work!

Evening meal was sukiyaki (sp.? in G's home, the Tollingers as guests. At 7 we had a 'Godspeed' prayer together and Gertrude drove us back to Kobe—On Boarding ship we found that the ship was not to sail until 11 instead of at 9 as scheduled! But the day had been an exciting one and we were glad to get to bed which we did before the ship sailed! This morn we land at Yokohama—more friends from China! Much, much love, Abbie."