

Box 8:4 Yanagi, Muneyoshi [Soetsu], 1889-1961

1954-60, n.d.

See also: Chikuma Shobo Publishing Co.

86/97c

c/o. The Kazanso  
Iriyamabe, Matsumoto  
Aug 31<sup>st</sup> '54.

Dear Yoshiko san

All of us were delighted with your letter, especially the Japanese one with little drawings. I am so glad to understand that you enjoyed your stay with us here. We were quite surprised to find out that your Japanese writing & sentences are almost perfect & expressed so charmingly. Why you could not pay a year or so for learning our language adequately? Lots of things can be done if you could to read & write it.

Four men's symposium is getting on steadily and this morning we discussed <sup>on</sup> ~~the~~ last problem 'how untalented people can make beautiful things?'

In this evening a special violin concert will be given for us by a group of boys & girls aged 5 to 8, trained under Mr Suzuki in Matsumoto. I am so sorry that you are

not here.

Two white men, and thin & fat potters  
will leave here on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September,  
while I am remaining here for a few days  
more to make rubbings from stone carvings.

Is Tokyo still hot? Autumn is coming  
here quickly & we feel quite cold this morning  
after the heavy rain.

I hope you and Mr. Yamamoto could  
come & see me at the Museum about  
the 20. Sept.

I have forgotten to thank you for the  
trouble you have taken for me in translating  
the article on Korean Hakeme ware. I  
expect to have the pleasure of getting a  
copy before long.

Good health to you ever,

Yours truly  
Soetsu Yanagi.



東京都世田ヶ谷区  
 代田所二の九五五

山本忠義

内田

淑子 様方  
 様

八月三十日

信初  
松本市

入山辺

霞山荘

柳  
宗茂

Kazanoo

Sept 4 '54

Dear Yoshiko san

Thank you so much  
for your letter as well as  
for the parcel. All of us  
appreciated the foods you  
selected for us and tasted  
your kindness still more.

We are so sorry to miss  
you here, we are having  
a wonderful violin-concert  
to-morrow afternoon at the  
Kazanoo, all the players are  
of 5-12 years old. They are  
marvelously trained by a skill-  
full teacher Mr. Suzuki by name.  
I am sure you will be delighted  
with it if you were here.  
Kawai is all right, he speaks  
both Japanese & English as usual,  
he eats & smokes well too.



郵便はがき

東京

世田谷区

代田所

二九九五五

山本

忠義 様

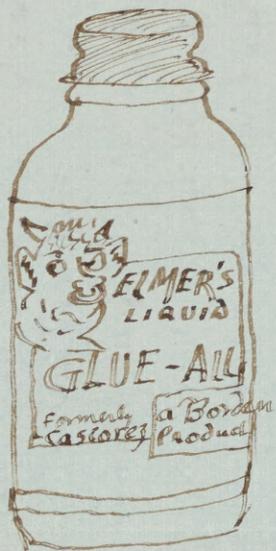
内

田淑子 様

Miss Uchida

Thank you so much for the translation. I gave a copy to heach & another to Hamada. I shall come back Tokyo probably on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. yours truly S. Yanagi

I hope I could see you pretty soon after I get back home.



When you come across this bottle, please don't fail to get it, as it is the best glue I have ever tried.

The Mingei Kaikan is closed for Jan. + Feb. at it is too cold & now very quiet.

861 Komaba  
Meguro-ku  
Tokyo  
Jan 27 '55

Dear Yoshiko San

How nice to have your words again and ~~of~~ <sup>two</sup> parcel posts which you kindly sent me, one is your book, another the glue I asked you. I enjoyed those tales like a child, because when it got here I was in sick bed, & had time enough to read it. It is <sup>so</sup> readably well written that it will certainly get wide circulation. The glue which you sent me is somewhat different from the one I used. I tried it, but it is like white cement & never become transparent as mine, though it stuck quite well. Another tube which you kindly selected, seems better than Elmer's white glue. Please accept my thanks for all the ~~trou~~ troubles you have taken for me.

It must have been so nice for you to see your parents again after your long stay in Japan. I can imagine your daily life with 'Mingei-hin' which you brought back with you, though I do not know whether they pleased your family ~~or not~~ too. I wonder what sort of slipper you use at your home? Always red in colour?

Leach has returned home, but Kawai, Hamada  
 & myself will continue our common work on 'pottery'  
 & three of us will probably spend next February  
 at the Boshu which is very warm & quiet country,  
 situated in the south end of peninsula along Tokyo  
 bay. I wish I could have you again with us.  
 I wonder when will you be here again? lots of  
 good works can be done here by you!

折込線



AIR LETTER

Sooten Yanagi  
 861 Konaba  
 Meguroku, Tokyo, Japan

Miss Yoshiko Uchida  
 645 63rd St.  
 131 Oakland 9, Calif.  
 U.S.A.

PAR AVION  
 航空

この郵便物には何物も封入又は添附できません

折込線

If there is anything, you particularly do have from  
 Japan, please let me know, I shall be pleased if I  
 can of any use for you.  
 Good health & luck, always to you!  
 Yours truly,  
 Sooten Yanagi

①

Dear Yoshikosan

Thanks indeed for your letter  
dated Aug. 27. It is full of your

unchanging tender affection

I was so much impressed with it.

I am so glad to know that ~~you~~ you  
are pleased with my book recently  
issued. Almost in the same time  
another huge book on 'Munakata  
Woodblock prints' was issued.

It was the ~~so~~ result of my  
hard endeavour for ten months.

I wish I could send a copy to  
you, but the book <sup>is</sup> very expensive  
& voluminous, it contains 24  
color plates 130 black & white  
illustrations. One of the best books  
I've ever edited, ~~as~~ I think.

(2)

I'm sorry to say that my present condition is yet very far from complete recovery. Queer enough I lost almost completely the sense of taste & of smell. So I can not distinguish sugar from salt. Everything is same. It seems the stiffness of my neck + shoulder is the cause of this strange disease. Tokyo in this summer was very hot & damp. In coming Autumn I may turn better.

Asto Münsterberg's book (pub. by Tuttle) though I was requested to write an introduction. I must say it is not a scholarly book at all. It has full of mistakes & inadequacies & the product of writing in haste. But I guess the book will get good circulation as it is a only book on the subject written in English.

(3)

Please send my best regards  
to your honorable parents

Please let me know if  
there are some particular  
Japanese things which you & your parents  
want to get. I shall be  
pleased to be of ~~some~~ use for  
you.

I remain  
yrs truly

Sorry Kawai has been not  
quite well for these weeks  
he seldom writes me too,

Soetsu Yanagisawa

Aug. 29 '58

Please excuse this badly written

English letter.

Soetsu Yanagi  
Museum of Folk Crafts  
director

861 Komaba, Meguro-ku

Tokyo Japan

Feb. 20 '58

Dear Yoshiko-san

What a charming book you have written. I have just read your book 'Cakas & grandfather's sword' which you kindly favoured me a copy. I read it with much impression & even tears in my eyes.

Who is the illustrator Mr. Hutchinson? I think the drawings may not be of high standard, but he seems to have with sense of reality & depicted Japanese characters so well. I am sure the book will get wide circulation. I congratulate its publication.

I still lie on bed inactive, but Spring is approaching & warm weather may favour me & I may be able to walk when cherry blossom do bloom

If there is anything you want  
to get from Japan please  
let me know

About a week ago I sent you  
a copy of Kokoro, a monthly magazine  
to which I contributed an  
article entitled Hiroétsu, &  
Hamada, many people said  
it is the best article ever  
written on Hamada.

I  
hope you would translate  
it into English, if it is  
possible I want to make  
a pamphlet with many  
illustrations + print it  
in Japan. Would you kindly  
try it?

I remain,  
yours truly,  
S. Yanagi

Best regards to  
your parents.

ans 3/5/58



To  
Miss Yoshiko Uchida  
675 63<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Oakland, California,  
U.S.A.

航空

PAR AVION  
航空郵便

J. Yanagi  
C 861 Komaba  
Meguroku  
Tokyo  
Japan

Feb 20 '58

September 12, 1958

Dear Dr. Yanagi:

It was so very nice to have your last letter. As always, I feel reassured when I see that you have written it yourself, although I was most distressed to know that you still have not regained your sense of taste and smell. How terrible that must be, and surely there must be no pleasure in eating. Do take very good care of yourself.

We are all enjoying your lovely book so much and I have shown it to many friends as well. Your book on Munakata sounds wonderful, and perhaps someday I shall have an opportunity to see it.

They are having a show of prints by contemporary Japanese woodblock artists and I enjoyed seeing the work of such people as Onchi, Azechi, Munakata, etc. There is a great deal of interest in these contemporary prints now.

As you know, it has been my hope to return again to Japan and learn more about mingei, and recently, a friend has been urging me to apply for another fellowship. My problem is to find a good project to undertake.

I wonder if I might ask your advice as to the kind of study that you think most needs to be done in the field of folk art. To secure a fellowship I would have to outline a definite program, such as the writing of a book on, for example, "The Folk Art Movement of Japan: Its leaders and its influence on Contemporary Crafts" or something more specific, such as "Contemporary Folk Pottery of Japan". Perhaps there is already too much written on the latter.

My main difficulty is that most of my accomplishments are in the field of children's literature and I really do not have a suitable background in art or art history beyond my own very keen interest.

If I were to be invited to Japan by you and Hamada Sensei or Kawai Sensei to perform a specific study or project, perhaps that would be my biggest asset in securing a fellowship. Although I know I would be inadequate, I wonder if there would be some project I could undertake.

Another problem is that such fellowships as the Guggenheim have a closing date of October 15, so if I wish to apply for 1959-60, I must do so within a month. This is still all in the dream stage and I would not trouble you for advice so soon, if it weren't for the fact that I must make a decision soon if I am to even make an application.

If you feel well enough to give some thought to the above, I would certainly appreciate hearing from you. Please do take very good care of yourself, and I hope the cool autumn air will bring you much strength and energy for the important work you continue to do. With best regards from my parents,

Affectionately,

September 23, 1958

Dear Dr. Yanagi:

How very kind of you to write me so quickly and to send such a fine letter of recommendation with your words of encouragement. I appreciated it so much, knowing that it must be an effort for you to write letters when you have so many other things to do.

The fellowship I am thinking of applying for is the Guggenheim, but there are so many very well-qualified experts in various fields who apply for this fellowship, that I am not too hopeful that I can receive one. However, I will probably try, as "nothing ventured, nothing gained."

If I do make the formal application, I think that they will send a special form to be filled out and so, unfortunately, I don't think I can use the lovely letter you have already written. I believe they like to receive the letter directly from the person who is recommending.

In any case, I shall keep you informed, and let you know if and when I do make the formal application. Then, I believe you will hear directly from the Foundation requesting certain information which they will specify.

We have had a sudden cold spell after two weeks of very warm weather, and it feels as though winter isn't far away. I suppose the momiji in Japan will soon be very beautiful, and I hope the fresh coolness of autumn will bring you renewed energy. Are you in bed each day, or do you get dressed and sit up? What can I send you to make you comfortable?

Thank you again for your kind letter and for your always encouraging words.

Affectionately,

And as you suggested folk-craft movement of  
Japan may be the subject which no people  
will touch in near future.

Dear Yoshiko san  
How wonderful it would be  
if you could come again to Japan  
get fellowship &

I enclosed here a letter of  
recommendation if needed,

Please correct it in better  
English & type it in proper  
way. I enclosed <sup>also</sup> a signed  
one as such will be  
necessary.

In haste

I remain faithfully

S. Yanagi

Of course the subject  
of study may be  
changed to your  
preference

Contemporary folk pottery, maybe more practical  
& better

Dear Sirs

I have a pleasure of writing  
the following letter of recommendation  
for Miss Yoshiko Uchida  
who is going to study  
the Contemporary traditional  
~~hand~~ folk-crafts in Japan.

She is well qualified in studying  
the subject as she had already  
started it during her stay in  
Japan some years ago

And moreover she can utilize  
if she could get fellowships for  
further study on the subject  
all the materials which the  
Museum of Folk-crafts has collected

And being the director of the Museum  
I like to help her by all  
available means

And I am sure all my  
craftsman-friends scattered  
all over Japan will be pleased  
to help her in switching her practical  
knowledge & experience on the  
rural craft hands - crafts of  
traditional

Japan

I remain,

truly yours,

Soetsu Yanagi

Museum of Folk-  
crafts

Director,

This is the copy of my letter of recommendation for you (S.Y.)  
I hope this will ~~be~~<sup>be</sup> of use for you

Nov 17 1958

Dear Mr Mathias

I understand that Miss Yoshiko Uchida applied  
for your foundation scholarship for her study of  
Japanese contemporary pottery. As far as I know  
she is well qualified for this scholarship for the  
following reasons:

- 1) She speaks and is able to read the Japanese  
language which is the most important condition  
for any study of Japanese culture.
- 2) She was in Japan for some years and she studied  
the subject during her study here from 1953 to 1955.
- 3) Such famous Japanese potters as Shoji Hamada  
and Kanjiro Kawai know her very well and they  
will certainly help her in her study of the technical  
side of ceramic arts.

41). I, being the director of the Museum of Folk Crafts, which has the largest collection of contemporary rural potteries in Japan, will assist her study by all means at my disposal. All materials available will be offered for her study. Moreover, she will be welcomed at all rural kilns in our country as most of craftsmen in the villages are the members of our Association of Folk-Crafts and they will certainly appreciate and sympathize with her study of the present situation of Japanese ceramic arts. So she will therefore have all the conveniences and privileges necessary for her study.

I can say with confidence that I highly recommend her for your Foundation's scholarship.

Yours truly  
Soetsu Yanagi

November 23, 1958

Dear Dr. Yanagi:

Your two airmail letters arrived the other day and I want to send my sincere thanks to you for writing such a nice letter to the Foundation for me. I do appreciate it so very much, knowing that it must have taken both your thought and your energy to do it. It is a very nice recommendation to have in my files and I am very grateful for your kind words. I feel very fortunate to have your encouragement in this project even though it should not work out.

About the dacron comforter - I feel as though I wrote too much about it before it even arrived! Actually, it is like a quilt, without any electric wiring, but it is made of a synthetic material called dacron, which, like nylon, is light in weight but strong. I thought about sending you an electric blanket, but didn't know if the current could be used in a Japanese home, and so decided on the other.

The best news in your letter was that you can now walk to the Mingei-kan! It made me very happy to hear that, for I had feared you were in bed all the time. I'm sure that you will gradually gain more and more strength and will soon be able to go further than the Mingei-kan. Has there been any improvement in your sense of taste? It would be so nice if you could enjoy your food, at least.

Yesterday the annual Big Game (football) of the season was played by the Univ. of Calif. and Stanford Univ. I went with an old school mate, and we both enjoyed being back at our alma mater. The Big Game is always a colorful event with many card stunts by the students and fancy maneuvers by the bands. The game was an exciting one, and our school won!

Tomorrow I am celebrating a birthday, and Thursday is Thanksgiving Day. It is a busy, but happy time of the year.

Please continue to keep well and improve, and thank you again for being so kind as to send me a copy of your letter of recommendation. I appreciated it so much.

Affectionately,



Nov. 29/58

Dear Yoshikosan

A big parcel arrived here yesterday.  
Just before I got it an American lady had  
come & told me about Dacron comforter  
so I looked forward to its arrival like  
a child. The box was unpacked as soon as  
it got here, & needless to say it was spread  
over my weak body & I was surprised to  
find out how it makes me warm so  
quickly. & ~~it is~~ I <sup>felt</sup> ~~was~~ so comfortable  
that I felt in a sleep for 2 hours without  
break. When I awoke everybody <sup>by me</sup> said  
"maa yokatta koto."

I really appreciate its lightness & <sup>warmness</sup> ~~comfortableness~~  
but I still more appreciate your warm  
kindness you've done to me. As it will be cold  
here by ~~the~~ March, I'll certainly think of you  
whenever I use it. during long winter days.  
No better gift to an invalid like me than the  
one you ~~sent~~ chose & sent <sup>to</sup> for me is possible

a big show of van Gogh was held in Tokyo for 2 months, but I was not able to see it to my great regret.

I am sorry that I cannot express fully what I want to express for the reason of my gratitude for your kindness. In your recent letter, I understand that you were pleased with my letter of recommendation for your scholarship. I hope it works well & for your revisit to Japan.

I think I'm getting better & better though the progress is extremely slow. I still lost the senses of taste & smell - this is awful, & in these weeks I have had some difficulty in eating & drinking. But I began to walk with cane ~~to~~ almost by myself from my bedroom to the Museum, though I got tired soon.

Sorry for this badly written English letter. I feel myself that my brain does not work quite correctly yet.

Thanks again for Dacron comforter  
Yrs ever  
S. Yanagi.

Best regards to your father & mother.

Dear Yoshiko san

How was the answer from the Guggenheim  
foundation as to the scholarships? I  
am very anxious of it + I do often think  
of you + your work with us.

We have now a wonderful show of the old  
Tamba pottery in the Mingeikan, as this  
show will be perhaps the very best show I've  
ever tried in the Mingeikan, I hope you are  
with us right here now. Some photos of  
them were introduced in the March number  
of the Mingei, so I think you saw them + can  
imagine what they are.

Well, giddiness almost gone but I have  
now some difficulty in eating + swallowing  
foods, but warm Spring which is right near may  
little favour me for improving my health.

Though nothing is known in the future of  
man's life, Best regards to your parent

Yrs. truly ever

S. Yanagi

The doctor (omofaker) has worked wonderfully well for me  
+ when it is used, I never miss my recollection of you.





JOHN SIMON GUGGENHEIM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION  
551 FIFTH AVENUE · NEW YORK 17 · N · Y ·

I beg to acknowledge, with the thanks of the Foundation,  
the receipt of your confidential statement concerning

Miss Yoshiko Uchida

*Thank you,*

*James F. Mathias*  
James F. Mathias  
Associate Secretary

Yanagi letter

no date - Prob. 1957  
shortly after his stroke  
~~could~~ <sup>might</sup> be the one to which

I replied Oct. 15, 1957  
but no reference to "segna"  
to which I refer, so prob not.

10  
8-12

Oakland 9

California

U.S.A.

PAR AVION  
航空郵便

Van Gogh p.c. - 10/24  
Apple to him sent in  
write you before 10/15 so  
do hope it will fly  
to much love  
Send greetings  
B.W. from  
all.

June ltr - <sup>date?</sup>  
8/8/58  
?

Sending photos. etc  
of Muzei-Kan.

Please tour /  
Muzei Kan Heru'

These photos -

Why hot summer -  
not st for invalid.

With feeble foreign -  
go every day to Muzei Kan



由良地へ行かれざる筈です。

昨日河井博君がこゝに来左なので共に貴女のお噂をしま

しを。何とかもう一交貴女と来日して頂きをいつと話し合ひ

ましを。くれぐれもお大切に所願親様によろしくお傳へ

下さい

八月八日

柳宗悦

内田淑子録

ana  
ka

Hanabi

Dear Uchida san

Excuse me to write you on such a paper  
with pencil. Thank you so much for your  
warm hearted letter. You are so often in my  
mind & all of us whom you know speak of you  
always with affection & respect. Let  
Thank you also so much for parcel post you  
kindly sent me. I enjoyed Blue-cheese cracker  
very much indeed. It was delicious & thanks  
also for the glue, the very one which I asked you  
for. But alas! when I can handle it? I don't know,  
for my left arm & hand lost the sense of motion  
completely, perhaps Nakao wrote to you that  
I got stroke in last December & I was told  
that if my entrance into hospital were delayed

It was  
for two days I might have been dead. I escaped  
really a narrow escape the chief cause of my  
illness was the irregularity of pulse, But anyway  
I was saved miraculously for a doctor told my  
wife that everything is too late. Strange enough  
I just after I entered into ~~the~~ hospital  
the left hand side of my body lost the sense of  
motion since that time I have been lying in  
bed quite inactive. It has been hard experience  
for me, for I had quite healthy body & has had not  
had any serious ill for 60 years. I cannot  
still walk nor grasp anything with my left hand.  
But fortunately my right hand is all right  
and I can talk & think properly.

Unusually long rainy season of this year + very hot summer followed made my body still weaker and I have been suffered by eczema which is terribly irritable.

Yoshiro saw how much I wish I could have you right here in Tokyo, there are lots of things to be done with you. I have full of ideas. As Nakao told you the issue of the monthly magazine <sup>Kogei</sup> will be edited before long + it is my sincere wish to have English part section in that magazine so that I may get wider readers both in America + Europe. You will be certainly a great help for us. Do you know that Kawai was seriously ill + got had operation in the hospital, I was so anxious about him

4

for he is by us means a healthy man as you know  
Paul fortunately the result was good & he is now  
at his home & I was told that he began to work  
on pottery again to my great pleasure. Hamasa  
is alright. Leach & married Janet, they  
are not now in St Ives & seem happy.

Sorry I am now a bit tired for I write this  
letter on bed in quite an unnatural position  
lying. Anything you want to get from  
Japan please let me know,

Here I'll stop my pencil & say good-bye  
for a while.

Good luck ever with you  
your friend

Soetsu Yanagi

# Yanagi ltr

- ① - p.c. - both sides } '54
- ② - env. " " } '54
- ③ - ltr " " } '54
- ④ - air letter " " '55 (2)
- ⑤ - 4p. pencil ltr - (4)  
prob. 1957  
(see my reply 10/15/57)
- ⑥ - pure hand written (2)  
2 pp 8/8/54
- ⑦ - 2 p. hand written 8/29/58 (3)  
pencil
- ⑧ - 3 p " " (3)  
pencil - no date
- ⑨ - Prob. Sept. 17, '58 (1)  
I have copy & reply 9/23/58
- ⑩ - Envelope dated 9/17/58 - (2)  
Both sides
- ⑪ - Mathias ltr - both (2)  
sides 11/17/58
- ⑫ - 11/29/58 ltr - Both sides (2)

~~29/14~~ ?  
30

⑬ - 1 p. letter (1)  
no date -

⑭ - prob green (1)  
env. -  
was sep. -

Japanese doctors will be at the U.C. Medical Center in San Francisco on June 11-12. Hosts/hostesses and interpreters are needed for these days. This notice may not reach you in time to help in this capacity, but the group sponsoring this clinic are in continuing need of funds to carry on their work. If you wish, you may send your donations to: Friends of Hibakusha, % JCPA, 1858 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA. 94115.

\* \* \* \* \*

"LIVE OAK STORE" THEATER PARTY  
SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 24

The Berkeley JACL is getting together a theater party to attend the Asian American Theater's product of the "Live Oak Store" on Friday night,

June 24. This is Hiroshi Kashiwagi's story of a small town Japanese store owner. Their struggles to make a living in a hostile environment conveys the Issei spirit of strength and discovery and independence.

As a matter of interest, Seiji Steimetz, son of Cal and Etsuko Steimetz, is one of the performers in this play.

For the performance on June 24th., we are getting \$3 off the regular price, so the admission will be \$5. Curtain time is 8 P.M. If you are interested, please contact Kiyoshi Katsumoto at 236-2880 or Bea Kono at 525-9064. We need to know the number of people who wish to attend as soon as possible.

\* \* \* \* \*

PAST PRESIDENT FRANK T. YAMASAKI  
PASSES AWAY ON MAY 16TH.

The Berkeley JACL extends their heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Tish Yamasaki and her family on the passing of their beloved husband

and father on May 16. Frank was one of our staunchest supporters as well as being one of the outstanding pillars of the community. We will miss him very much.

Frank was instrumental in setting up the girls' and boys' basketball leagues in the Bay Area. The Berkeley JACL has decided to establish a perpetual Frank Yamasaki Trophy for the Berkeley JACL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT in his memory.

\* \* \* \* \*

1983 BERKELEY-SAKAI STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM  
STILL SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR THIS SUMMER

According to Frank Miller, President of the Berkeley-Sakai Association, there are still a

few openings for Berkeley area students who may be interested in living in Japan for a few weeks this summer. Under the leadership of Jim and Vi Gallardo, students will spend the last week of July touring central Japan and the first weeks of August living with Japanese host families in Sakai. Participants may be male or female and should be between the 16 and 22 years of age. Total cost per student will be about \$1500. Firm commitments are required by June 15. For more information, call Frank Miller at 524-4275 or Jim Gallardo at 848-2066.

\* \* \* \* \*

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE  
BERKELEY CHAPTER  
2615 BROOKS AVE.  
EL CERRITO, CA. 94530