

Box 7:12 Wolf, Harriet

1952-55

Literary agent

86/97c

August 11, 1952

Memorandum:

To: Miss Harriet Wolf
 From: Yoshiko Uchida

For the records, here is a list of the short stories I am leaving with you, plus the magazines to which they've been submitted:

1. THE LONG WHITE DRESS new, not submitted.
2. THE CREPE PAPER FLOWERS * The New Yorker
Harpers
Atlantic Monthly
Mademoiselle
3. MRS. YAMANAKA GOES HOME - New Yorker Harpers Bazaar
Harpers Today's Woman
Atlantic Monthly Woman's Day
Mademoiselle Partisan Review
Charm
4. PHOTOGRAPH OF A PRESIDENT - New Yorker
Harpers
Atlantic Mo.
5. OGEE OF THE BACK HOUSE - New Yorker Charm
Atlantic Woman's Day
Harpers
6. THE TEACHER - New Yorker Tomorrow
Wile Woman's Day
Harpers Harper's Baz.
Atlantic Am. Mercury
Charm Partisan Rev.
7. I REMEMBER MR. OKADA - (before revision)
New Yorker Charm
Harpers Woman's Day
Atlantic Mo. Harper's Bazaar
Wile.
(after revision, this title)
New Yorker Esquire
Harper's Charm
Today's Woman
8. I FEEL MUCH BETTER NOW - (before revision)
New Yorker Wile.
Harpers Charm
Atlantic Mo.
(after revision, this title)
Charm (new editor)
New Yorker
Woman's Day
9. Copy of SATURDAY VISIT - Sold to Woman's Day, 5-15-52

10 - A Tree in the Heart? -

Lee Rhodes of CHARM, Margarita Smith of MADEMOISELLE? and Eileen Herbert Jordan of TODAY'S WOMAN, have shown a particular interest in my work, and asked to see more of it.

A permanent address for me will be:

c/o D. T. Uchida
645 63rd St.
Oakland 9, California

8-12-52

Talked by phone to Lee Rhodes (Charm) and Betty Finnin (Woman's Day), both of whom were very cordial and said they'd like to see whatever I wrote in Japan.

Also spoke to Lynn Whitbridge (CHARM), who said she'd be interested in seeing any articles I might do about Japanese working girls. I told her I'd have you address my things re this topic to her.

Harriet Wolf

119 WEST 57th STREET
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

August 20, 1952

Dear Yoshiko:

Thank you for sending the story, I REMEMBER MR. OKADA, on to me before you left. I have not yet had a chance to read it, but will do so soon. I did read THE LONG WHITE DRESS and liked it very much. Am already sending it out. I also read your published story, SATURDAY VISIT, which was very good.

How did your session with Orrmontt turn out? I am curious to know.

As soon as I have read all your stories, I will write to you again. In the meantime, I hope you have a wonderful vacation.

Cordially,

Harriet

Harriet Wolf

645 63rd St.
Oakland 9, Calif.
August 30, 1952

Miss Harriet Wolf
119 West 57th St.
New York 19, N. Y.

Dear Harriet:

Many, many thanks for your letters. I was awfully encouraged to know you think most of them ~~may~~ might be placed somewhere. I hope something will break soon!

Woman's Day returned "I Feel Much Better Now," to me here, so I am enclosing it herein. This might be good for Seventeen, too.

I enjoyed meeting Mr. Orrmontt, but I'm afraid my writing isn't exactly the kind of thing they can use in their reprints. He said that although he liked "Crepe Paper Flowers" he thought a novel based on it would be too quiet. Well, one never knows when a contact may prove fruitful later on, and I was glad to meet him anyway. Thank you for arranging the meeting for me.

I've been talking with my 90 year old grandmother since coming home, and hearing her life story, which goes way back to the early Samurai days of Japan. She's had quite an eventful life - marrying at 16 and being widowed with 5 children at 30 - and I've been toying with the idea of a novel based on her life. What do you think? I'll be seeing her native land when I'm in Kyoto, so hope to pick up some material there.

California is wonderful - cool and sunny - and I'm having a grand reunion with my family.

More later - and thanks again for keeping me posted about my stories. It's good to know they're in your hands.

Sincerely,

Encl:

Yoshiko Uchida

Harriet Wolf

August 26, 1952

119 WEST 57th STREET
• CIRCLE 6-0389 •
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

Dear Yoshiko:

I have now had the opportunity to read all your material.
I already wrote you my feelings about THE LONG WHITE DRESS.

THE CREPE PAPER FLOWERS is a beautiful story. It is now
at Woman's Day.

PHOTOGRAPH OF A PRESIDENT is something I do want to sub-
mit. I am going to try it out on Holiday Magazine.

OGRE OF THE BACK HOUSE is a good possibility for Seven-
teen.

I don't see much of a market for THE TEACHER, which I
think is too slight.

I REMEMBER MR. OKADA is also a good bet for Seventeen
and some others.

A TREE IN THE DESERT is a little sad, as well as slight,
but I would like to try it out on the New Yorker, Woman's
Day, Charm, Mademoiselle and Harper's Bazaar.

I will keep on working hard on the material on hand, and
if any good news comes my way you will hear immediately.

My very good wishes.

Cordially,

Harriet

Harriet Wolf

P.S. I have no story in my office entitled I FEEL MUCH
BETTER NOW, which you have listed in your memorandum of
August 11.

Collier's

640 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 19, NEW YORK
PLAZA 9-1000

September 4, 1952

Miss Harriet Wolf
119 West 57th Street
New York 19, New York

Dear Harriet:

I am returning A MATTER OF CONSCIENCE by Emily Neff and OGRE OF THE BACK HOUSE by Yohiko Ushida. We thought Yohiko Ushida writes very pleasantly but this story did not seem to us to have quite enough shape. However, we would be very glad to see more of this author's work. I am sorry; and thank you for letting us see these.

Sincerely,

Janet

Janet Sheps
Associate Fiction Editor

JS:ir

THE
NEW YORKER

No. 25 WEST 43RD STREET



EDITORIAL OFFICES
BRYANT 9-8200

September 5, 1952

Dear Miss Wolf:

I'm sorry to have to say that the
vote here went against this piece by Yoshiko Ushida.
Many thanks, as always, for sending it to us.

Sincerely,

C. M. Newman

Miss Harriet Wolf
119 West 57th Street
New York 19, N. Y.

Enc. A TREE IN THE DESERT - Yoshiko Ushida

Harriet Wolf

119 WEST 57th STREET
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

September 10, 1952

Dear Yoshi:

I received your story I FEEL MUCH
BETTER NOW, and liked it very much.
It's already being marketed.

Collier's Magazine saw one of your
stories and was very much interested
in you, and wants to see more. Of
course I will send them as many of
your stories as I think are in their
editorial category.

I can well understand how impressed
and taken you must be with the story
of your grandmother's life since you
hear it from her in her own words and
you are closely attached to her. But
my feeling is that it would be unwise
to do a novel so far removed from
your own identity, especially when
it is your first try. This material
might be very valuable later on, and
don't feel that you have to discard
it. The best bet for a novel is one
out of your own deep emotional exper-
ience, one so closely associated and
indicative of yourself that there can-
not be one cold word in it. You must
have such material. Please use it.

I am so happy you are having a good
time. All the best to you.

Cordially,

Harriet



LADIES' HOME JOURNAL
The Curtis Publishing Company

Bruce Gould
Beatrice Blackmar Gould
Editors

PHILADELPHIA 5
September 26, 1952

Dear Mrs. Wolf:

In Mrs. Page's absence I succeed to the
dismal task of returning A TREE IN THE DESERT
by Yoshiko Ushida. We find in it a quality of
wistfulness that we like, but the story itself
doesn't seem to be quite strong enough for us.

Many thanks, as always, for our chance at
it.

Sincerely,

Hugh MacNair Kahler

Mrs. Harriet Wolf

HMK:jm

Woman's Day

19 WEST 44th STREET • NEW YORK CITY 36 • MUrray Hill 7-3200

EDITORIAL OFFICE

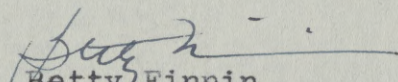
September 26, 1952

Dear Miss Wolf:

Sorry to be holding "The Long White Dress" by Yoshiko Uchida for pick-up, but I can't get enough ~~enthusiasm~~ for the piece here.

I'll keep hoping, though.

Sincerely,


Betty Finnin
Fiction Editor

Miss Harriet Wolf
119 West 57th Street
New York 19, New York

ms. 9/27

HOLIDAY

A CURTIS PUBLICATION

Richard L. Field
Managing Editor

INDEPENDENCE SQUARE
Philadelphia 5, Pennsylvania

September 26, 1952

Dear Miss Wolf:

Thanks very much for giving us a chance
to read "Photograph of a President" by Yoshiko
Uchida.

It is an interesting article, but it does
not seem to fit into any of our plans for HOLIDAY,
and I am returning it with regret.

Thanks very much for giving us a look at
it.

Best regards.

Cordially,

Richard L. Field

RLF/ds

enc: "Photograph of a President"
by Yoshiko Uchida

Miss Harriet Wolf
119 West 57th Street
New York 19, N. Y.

McCall's

OFFICE OF THE
FICTION EDITOR

October 1, 1952

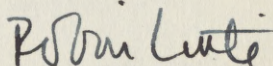
Dear Miss Wolf:

Yoshiko Uchida writes with a great deal of perception and feeling but his stories, so far, are so completely lacking in any identification for our ladies that we have to continue to say "no" to them -- I really regret having to return MRS. YAMANAKA GOES HOME.

Here, too, are Martin Panzer's THE EMPTY JACKPOT and Elizabeth Wilson's DAY OF SURPRISES neither of which seemed quite suited to our present needs.

Our thanks, as always, though, for letting us see these three stories.

Sincerely yours,



Robin Little
Fiction Department

Miss Harriet Wolf
119 West 57 Street
New York, N. Y.

CHARM

The Magazine for Women Who Work . 575 MADISON AVENUE . NEW YORK 22

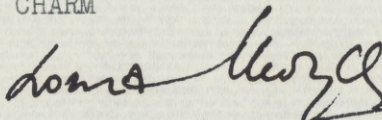
October 23rd, 1952

Dear Miss Wolf:

Thank you for letting us see Yoshiko
Uchida's article PHOTOGRAPH OF A PRESIDENT
~~it is a~~ good piece, but I am sorry it is
just not right for us.

Sincerely yours

CHARM

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lorna Lloyd", written over a horizontal line.

Lorna Lloyd
Assistant to the
Managing Editor

Miss Harriet Wolf,
119 West 57th Street,
New York 19, N.Y.

LL:me
enc

VOGUE

THE CONDÉ NAST PUBLICATIONS INC.
420 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17
LEXINGTON 2-7500

October 29, 1952

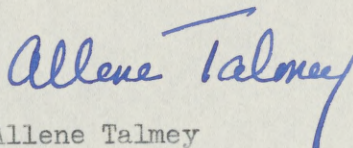
Miss Harriet Wolf
119 West 57th Street
New York 19, New York

Dear Miss Wolf:

Thank you so much for sending us
I REMEMBER MR OKADA by Yoshiko Uchida.

We are very sorry, but we feel that
it is not just right for Vogue.

Sincerely yours,



Allene Talmey
Feature Editor

Enclosure

CHARM

The Magazine for Women Who Work . 575 MADISON AVENUE . NEW YORK 22

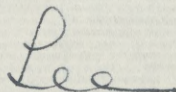
November 18, 1952

Dear Harriet:

This is beautiful, Harriet, but so tragic that I'm afraid we can't use it. I hate to have to say that, because I realize full well how seemingly unfair it is to an author like Uchida. But there it is.

There is one thing that does bother me about the story, moving though it is. Artistically, (not morally) do you think it is right for an author to leave her main character with so complete a misconception of reality? I know what the author is doing; she wants the reader to be so agitated that he or she will be forced to recognize Mrs. Takata's innocence and society's responsibility. But I just wonder if aesthetically she can get away with it. What do you think? I'd be interested to know.

Best regards.



LR:RM

ENC.: THE CREPE PAPER FLOWERS (Y. Uchida)

Collier's

640 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 19, NEW YORK
PLAZA 9-1000

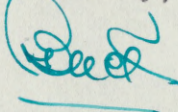
1 December 1952

Miss Harriet Wolf
119 West 57th Street
New York City 19

Dear Harriet:

This is a very nice piece and I hope you'll
let me see more of her work. But this one is a
little dated for us.

Cordially,



Bucklin Moon

BM:ir

Enc. A TREE IN THE DESERT by Yoshiko Ushida

CHARM

The Magazine for Women Who Work . 575 MADISON AVENUE . NEW YORK 22

December 17, 1952

Dear Harriet:

This is nicely and sensitively written, but
it's not right for us.

Do continue to let us see Miss Uchida's work.

Best,

Lee

LR:RM

ENC.: A TREE IN THE DESERT (Yoshiko Uchida)

January 9, 1953

Dear Harriet:

Happy New Year! And many thanks for your letter of November 25th, containing many letters about my stories. I was somewhat consoled by the fact that some of them contained encouraging comments, and still have hopes that they'll be placed someday - perhaps in one of the smaller magazines or quarterlies.

Your letter of the 11th, with other editorial letters was forwarded to me by my father, and reached me just shortly after I had written you my last letter. Many thanks for keeping me posted so closely on your efforts. I know from past experience, what a job it is to keep so many stories circulating!

Life in Japan continues to fascinate me, and I am seeing and doing new things each day. I have a few vague ideas about articles - perhaps on "The Kimono - its versatility", "The Japanese Housewife", "Bunraku - the Japanese Puppet Theatre", "Being a Nisei in Japan" - etc.. Of course, these titles are completely tentative, but will give you some idea of my thinking. I'm sure there are infinite possibilities for articles - but I don't want to rush in with articles before I've had a chance to digest more fully the Japanese way of life. I feel as though I've been here a long time - but I've been in Kyoto only two months, and actually, that isn't terribly long.

As one of my friends wrote me, I'm afraid I'm going to be bringing home more in my heart than on paper - and I have a suspicion the real writing will begin after I get back, and the thoughts have had time to jell. Of course, article writing is different, and I'll have to get busy on those while I'm here - if I do them at all.

I'm reading Faubion Bowers, "Japanese Theatre" and enjoying it tremendously, since I've just been recently to see Kabuki, Noh, and Bunraku - three of Japan's major theatre forms.

Trust you've had happy holidays in New York. I hear you're being plagued with the usual bus strikes, etc.. Until just recently, we had to cope with ~~gas~~ limited usage of gas and electricity due to strikes in the coal mines, etc.. Japan seems to have caught up pretty quickly in the field of labor-management relations, but is still way behind on the comforts we've long taken for granted - like hot water, (from the tap, that is), and plumbing in the bath room!!

Dinner seems to be in the offing... Do write again and let me know what luck you have with my stories.

All the best,

Yoshiko Uchida

Harper's BAZAAR *incorporating*
Junior Bazaar
572 Madison Avenue New York City 22 Plaza 5-2800

CARMEL SNOW
editor

FRED DRAKE
publisher

February 12, 1953

Dear Miss Wolf:

I am terribly sorry that we do not think
Yoshika Ushida's story is right for us. Thank you,
in any case, for letting us see it.

Sincerely yours,

Alice S. Morris

Alice S. Morris
Fiction Editor

asm/jj

enclosure: A Tree in the Desert

Harriet Wolf
119 West 57th St.
New York 19, N. Y.

Harriet Wolf

119 WEST 57th STREET
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

CIRCLE 6-0389

1/18/54

Dear Yoshi:

At last I have something that is a real assignment for work. Gourmet Magazine which is slanted toward male readership and wants unusual treatments of food, is interested in Japanese food as served in the home.

They will pay \$200 for a 2500 word piece and would like a comprehensive article on Japanese food. If you feel you can't cover the subject in one article, the editor would be happy to consider a submitted outline for a series.

Please airmail me your views on above and let me know how soon we can expect results.

All the best.

Cordially,

Harriet

Jan. 24, 1954

Dear Harriet:

Thank you for your letter of December 8 and your recent one of January 18th. I was delighted to have an assignment, but unfortunately, it came at rather bad time for me. I've been ill and in bed for the past 2 months. A severe vitamin deficiency and a general run down condition haven't helped matters and I still spend most of the day in bed!

I'm hoping I can get back to work by sometime next month, but I've had so many relapses already, I just can't be sure. I wonder if March (or pessimistically - April) would be too late for the Gourmet article? I do hope not.

I've given much thought to the article today, and have jotted down a few things. Tell me if I'm on the right track.

1. Average daily food in J. homes: For ex. bean soup, rice, seaweed and pickled vegetables for breakfast; dishes built around rice; etc.
2. Food for holidays and special occasions: - for New Years, weddings, birthdays - (red rice, sea bream, etc.)
3. Seasonal dishes: Dishes cooked at the table over charcoal during winter, etc.
4. Special dishes: eels, french fried shrimp, rice balls with raw fish, etc.
5. Eating out: Dept. store restaurants with sample displays of food, restaurants featuring specialties - turtle soup, barbecued sparrows, etc.
6. Regional dishes: Ex. all vegetable meals in Kyoto temples.
7. Misc: sweets, beverages (tea), aesthetic appeal of Japanese dishes - use of lacquered trays, bowls, etc.

How should the article be slanted?

1. Should it be done in a fairly light vein?
2. Should it be written from the viewpoint of an American in Japan - perhaps with an eye toward being helpful to other Americans who might come here?
3. Or, should it be merely a descriptive article of Japan's food habits. And should it be confined just to the home?
4. Should it include specific details for making some of the dishes? Should emphasis be placed on dishes adaptable to the west?

This could all be done in one general article, I think. But if they want details, I could do something more comprehensive in two articles, I think.

I'd appreciate it if you could answer some of these questions for me, and give me some hint of how to approach this. I don't know Gourmet at all. Would it be asking too much to have you send me a sample issue?

I did receive WORLD. Many thanks. I can see how my article would hardly fit. I guess they changed their concept of

The way after midnight - specification

Harriet Wolf

119 WEST 57th STREET
• CIRCLE 6-0389 •
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

2/10/54

Dear Yoshi:

I was awfully sorry to hear about your not being well. I do hope that by the time this reaches you, you will be yourself again.

I am enclosing GOURMET. Here is what the editor says in response to your queries:

"Miss Uchida's ideas seem to me to break down into two articles. One dealing with eating out in Japan and a second one, stressing the aesthetic, on eating at home in Japan.

The eating out article might be angled for the tourist: the historic spots he would see, the beauty of the cities and countryside, and what to expect when he visits the various types of restaurants. The second article might include not only the average daily food, but food customs, a description of how food is served and eaten, and special holiday menus. Each article should contain specific directions for making a few typical dishes in our country. Total length - about 2500 to 3000 words per article. The wordage includes any recipes.

The articles should be colorful, informative, occasionally amusing but written from the viewpoint of a Japanese."

Hope you can do these pieces as I am sure of the sales on both.

All the best to you.

Cordially,

Harriet

March 13, 1954

Miss Harriet Wolf
119 West 57th St.
New York 19, N.Y.

Dear Harriet:

Your letter of February 10 just arrived the other day. Thank you so much for sending me further details on the FOURMET article, as well as a copy of the magazine itself. I was glad to have an opportunity to look it over and do appreciate your sending it to me.

I'm anxious to get started on the articles, but sad to say, I'm still recuperating at home! I doubt if I'll really be able to get to work till next month, and then I'll have to do some research before I can begin writing.

I'm afraid it'll be some time before I can get the articles to you - maybe some time in May. You didn't mention any deadlines, so I'm hoping there aren't any. Please let me know if this delay will mean they don't want the articles. If I don't hear from you, I'll just try to get them to you as soon as it's possible.

I feel so terribly frustrated, but this just seems to be one of those things that only time and much rest can cure, and there's nothing I can do but be patient. The Daphne is blooming and the days are getting long, so spring can't be far - and I'm hoping I can end this hibernation with the warm weather.

Trust all goes well with you.

As ever,

P.S. Did you see the article
by the Nisei in the Feb.
issue of HOLIDAY? I was
most interested to read it.

Yoshiko Uchida

Harriet Wolf

119 WEST 57th STREET

NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

—
COLUMBUS 5-3530

3/22/54

Dear Yoshi:

I spoke to the Gourmet editor and she said she is satisfied to wait for the material until May.

It was good to hear that you are getting well. Do take good care of yourself. And send me some pictures of yourself. I would love to have them.

The weather here too is improving. We have all had our share of germs.

I'm sorry I missed the Holiday article you mentioned. If it is still around, I will try to get the magazine.

All the best.

Harriet

c/o Rev. T Yamamoto
955 2-chome, Daita
Setagaya-ku, Tokyo
April 27, 1954

Miss Harriet Wolf
119 West 57th Street
New York 19, N. Y.

Dear Harriet:

This is just going to be a very short note
to thank you for yours of March 22nd.

I'm finally beginning to feel better and have
been working hard on the two GOURMET articles.
They're beginning to take shape nicely and
I'll be sending them to you by mid-May, or
earlier - if possible. I'm waiting now to
hear from one of the restaurants I wrote to
in Kyoto.

Sorry I don't have any interesting news to
tell you, since I still spend most of my
time at home!

Hope all's well with you.

As ever,

Harriet Wolf

119 WEST 57th STREET
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

COLUMBUS 5-3530

August 6, 1954

Miss Yohiko Uchida,
c/o Rev. T. Yamamoto
955 2 -chome
Daita, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo
Japan

Dear Yoshi:

Enclosed is my check for \$360.00
in payment for your articles:

LUNCH FOR BREAKFAST
FRIED SHRIMPS

which sold to Gourmet for \$200 a
piece.

Sorry for the delay which I did my
best to shorten.

Hope all is well with you.

Harriet

August 12, 1954

Miss Harriet Wolf
119 West 57th St.
New York 19, N.Y.

Dear Harriet:

Thank you so much for your letter of the 6th, and the enclosed check for \$360 in payment for the two articles for GOURMET. Needless to say, I'm delighted to feel a little productive at last! And of course, the check was most welcome.

Summer has come to Japan with a real vengeance after teasing us all during July with wonderfully cool weather. As a result, I can't seem to get anything concrete accomplished, and am afraid I have no outlines of articles to send you. I also have to go slowly since I still tire so easily.

I plan to leave Japan toward the end of October. If between the packing and everything else I'd still like to do before then, I can do some work, I'll certainly send it along.

Hope you've had a pleasant summer, and best wishes as always.

Sincerely,

P.S. If you know when my articles will appear in GOURMET, will you let me know? Thank you.

Harriet Wolf

119 WEST 57th STREET
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

COLUMBUS 5-3530

December 6, 1954

Miss Yoshi Uchida,
645 63rd Street,
Oakland, California.

Dear Yoshi:

So happy to hear you are back. Gourmet
will not use your pieces until Jan-
uary or thereabouts.

I have an idea for you which I am sure
you could do. Reader's Digest pays
\$2000 per story for each DRAMA IN
EVERYDAY LIFE or for THE MOST UN-
FORGETTABLE CHARACTER. Will you please
study some back issues and send me
two or three ideas in the form of
300 word synopses (no professional do
gooders). These must be highly in-
spirational and emotionalized with a
good climactic ending. It is worth
investing some work on these.

All the best.

Cordially,

Harriet
Harriet Wolf

HW:cq

645 63rd St.
Oakland 9, Calif.
December 13, 1954

Miss Harriet Wolf
119 West 57th St.
New York 19, N.Y.

Dear Harriet:

Thank you for your letter of the 6th. It was good to hear from you. I'll certainly give some time and thought to your suggestions re the Reader's Digest.

I'm enclosing a brief outline for a possible article. I had intended to do this in Tokyo, but never found the time. It's mainly a description of an "omiai" (match-meeting) in Japan, and I thought a rather interesting article might be built around this. What do you think? Is this the kind of synopsis editors like? If so, I'll try another one on Japan's folk art, perhaps. I'll welcome any suggestions from you if I'm on the wrong track.

Best wishes,

As ever,

Yoshiko Uchida

I HAVE A DAUGHTER TO PUT AWAY

Outline for possible article

by

Yoshiko Uchida

"One hot night in August, Mr. Toda, dressed as formally as was possible in the summer heat of Tokyo, and perspiring profusely, arrived at the home of his friends, the Rev. and Mrs. Yamada. With him came his mother, dressed especially for the occasion in her formal crested black silk kimono and coat, and bound up in at least three feet of heavy brocade by the obi around her waist. With much bowing and many words of gratitude, they presented the Yamadas with a large basket of fruit and a box of sweet bean paste cakes - "unworthy tokens of their appreciation," they called them - for in a few hours the Yamadas would be introducing the young man to another prospective bride."

Description of what follows thereafter: The arrival of the young lady, accompanied by her retinue. The meeting (omiai) over vast quantities of food prepared by Mrs. Yamada, who had spent the major part of the day in a nervous frenzy of cooking and cleaning. There follow two days in which the couple are given an opportunity to "get acquainted" - mostly by visiting with relatives! Then events move swiftly, and a formal engagement ceremony takes place three days after their first meeting.

Not all matches progress with such alacrity: Story of how it all began... "One day, the girl's father had come from his home in the island of Shikoku to visit his sister, Mrs. Okada, in Tokyo. With the somewhat wearied hope of a father who had already "put

away" four daughters, (the Japanese term to indicate the married status of a daughter literally means 'to put away'), he had sighed, 'You know, I must think about putting my youngest daughter away.'

"Now telling a Japanese woman of an eligible male or female is like leading her to a bargain counter and giving her a fat roll of yen. It is both a challenge and a source of infinite delight."

This gets things started. Description of events that led to the "omiai": The first visit by Mrs. Okada to the Yamadas to ask if they might find a suitable husband for her niece; The Yamadas did indeed - they knew a fine young man for whom they had arranged three previous meetings without success. There follow initial inquiries, an exchange of photographs and biographies, and at last the summer meeting.

"In Japan, one never knows just what curious set of circumstances or what chance conversation might result in the acquisition of a spouse." Examples: For instance, two women who meet only occasionally in the waiting room of a masseuse's home, compare the "statistics" of young marriageable people they know, and part with promises to secure photographs which might eventually be exchanged in view of a possible meeting.

Advantages of the "omiai" system: Although there are more love matches today than in the years before the war, there is still a lively demand for "go-betweens" and many young people admit themselves that they still rely on this method, and find it highly successful. For the good "go-between" matches his statistics carefully - comparing the family, education, economic and social status of the two individuals involved - and then, if there is "en" (if the fates so decree), he is responsible for an "omiai", and usually, ^{as many J. will testify,} for a happy marriage.

Harriet Wolf

119 WEST 57th STREET

NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

COLUMBUS 5-3530

December 17, 1954

Miss Yoshiko Uchida,
645 63rd Street,
Oakland 9, California.

Dear Yoshi:

I had forgotten how charmingly you write, so that even an outline from you has the personality only you can give it. I liked your idea on matchmaking and will let you know what editorial response I get.

Please keep on sending me article suggestions and any other material you have in mind.

All the best.

Cordially,

Harriet

Harriet Wolf

HW:cq

Harriet Wolf

119 WEST 57th STREET
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.
—
COLUMBUS 5-3530

January 18, 1955

Miss Yoshiko Uchida,
645 63rd Street,
Oakland 14, California.

Dear Miss Uchida:

Enclosed is your completed list of
markets for your manuscripts. The
ones you had already listed were
correct.

Sincerely yours,

Cynthia Quimby

Cynthia Quimby

P.S. We are sending you under separate
cover the manuscripts you asked to
be returned.

100
100

645 63rd St.
Oakland 9, Calif.
January 20, 1955

Miss Harriet Wolf
119 West 57th St.
New York 19, N.Y.

Dear Harriet:

Here is the story I've just finished. It's called TOMORROW WE SHALL GO TO KAZUO'S. I'd be interested to know what you think of it.

Will you try it at the NEW YORKER (I still have hopes!), and THE ATLANTIC, and anywhere else you think it might have a chance? Many thanks. *Mugh Women Day / Little A.*

I'm going to work on a synopsis for "Most Unforgettable Character..." I thought I'd try one on an interesting old man I knew as a child who is now doing lots of good things for his native village in Japan. It doesn't have to be an American does it?

All the best,

Yoshiko Uchida

Encl:

Harriet Wolf

119 WEST 57th STREET

NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

COLUMBUS 5-3530

January 31, 1955

Miss Yoshiko Uchida,
645 63rd Street,
Oakland 9, California.

Dear Yoshi:

I liked your new story TOMORROW WE
SHALL GO TO KAZUO'S. I will try it
first at the New Yorker as you suggest.

I am sorry I must return the enclosed
THE BEST OF JAPAN. This is much too
highly specialized for the market
that I handle.

I am looking forward eagerly to the
new story which you are now at work
upon.

Fond regards,

Harriet
Harriet Wolf

HW:cq

Harriet Wolf

119 WEST 57th STREET

NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

COLUMBUS 5-3530

Feb. 3, 1955

Miss Yoshiko Uchida,
645 - 63rd St.
Oakland
California

Dear Yoshi:

A new editor has popped up at Gourmet and she wants a little additonal material for your second piece; the one on shrimps.

In order to give it a little personal quality she wants to include the following: Why did you go to Japan? What are your special interests? Where born? Give about a page of background on yourself.

Can you accommodate? Sorry for the extra trouble.

All the best.

Harriet

Yoshi Uchida

8 February 55

Dear Harriet:

Here is some personal data for the editor at GOURMET. I hope it'll do.

Your Christmas card just came back to me from Japan the other day! Many thanks for your thought of me.

And please convey my thanks to Miss Quimby for sending me my manuscripts.- what an enormous pile!

I was sorry you couldn't use the folk art piece, but realize, of course, what a specialized article it is.

Will try to get something more to you before too long.

All the best,

PERSONAL DATA

Yoshiko Uchida

I was born in California, spent most of my life in Berkeley, and graduated the University of California in 1942. Also spent a year at Smith College, where I received my Masters in Education, and then did some elementary school teaching for a short while.

This interest in children led to the writing of juvenile books - THE DANCING KETTLE, And Other Folk Tales From Japan (Harcourt, Brace & Co.) and NEW FRIENDS FOR SUSAN (Charles Scribners). But I have always been interested in writing for adults too, and have done many short stories and articles. One series of articles on various aspects of American life was sent by the Civil Affairs Division of the Army to Japan, for publication in native periodicals.

It was to collect material for additional juvenile books that the Board on Overseas Training and Research of the Ford Foundation granted me a fellowship in 1952 to spend a year in Japan. A second book of folk tales which I wrote and illustrated while in Japan, THE MAGIC LISTENING CAP, will be brought out by Harcourt Brace this month (Feb. 24th).

I found Japan a charming and fascinating country, and eventually stayed there two years, instead of just the one. I was especially interested in its folk art, and did a series of articles on Japanese potters and rural pottery for the NIPPON TIMES of Tokyo. But everything in Japan was fascinating to me - its art, theatre, architecture, gardens, festivals etc. - and I wrote articles on a variety of aspects of Japanese life. I did a great deal of travelling, not only to the usual tourist haunts, but to remote country villages where I often tracked down rural potteries and kilns high up in the mountains.

Because of this travelling, I had the opportunity to sample all kinds of food throughout Japan, in a wide variety of circumstances - in

plush restaurants, in temples, in city homes, in simple rural homes, / and in the many interesting restaurants tucked away on the side streets of the big cities. I enjoyed almost everything I sampled, and always, the food was beautifully and artistically arranged.

One visit to Japan is simply an inducement to go back again, and this I would surely like to do so eday. Travelling is one of my special loves - I spent a wonderful summer seeing much of Europe the year before I went to Japan - and I think I would be content if I could live in a house surrounded by beautiful things (much Japanese pottery included, of course!), do much writing, some painting, and take a trip to Europe or Japan at least every other year!

February 8, 1955

645 63rd St.
Oakland 9, Calif.
19 February 1955

Miss Harriet Wolf
119 West 57th St.
New York 19, N.Y.

Dear Harriet:

I'm enclosing two pieces today, but need to tell you a little bit about both.

1. WE DO NOT WORK ALONE:

I wrote this in Japan for the Nippon Times and for a private printing by the Folk Art Movement. An editor for THE ATLANTIC picked it up, and it was considered, but eventually dropped.

I thought if it was of interest to them, some other magazine might be interested too. What do you think? Is it too specialized for you to want to handle?

2. MRS. YAMADA WRITES OF SOUP:

I'm just not too sure about this piece. Does it have possibilities? Will you give it an objective reading and let me know?

I just can't seem to make much progress on the "Most Unforgettable Character" outline! You did say to make it a short outline, I think - and I'm still struggling with it!

Best wishes,

Sincerely,

Yoshi Uchida

Harriet Wolf

119 WEST 57th STREET

NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

COLUMBUS 5-3530

February 29, 1955

Miss Yoshi Uchida,
645 63rd Street,
Oakland 9, California.

Dear Yoshi:

I received your two articles WE DO NOT
WORK ALONE as well as MRS. YAMADA
WRITES OF SOUP. They are both so well
written that I will take a whirl at
them and see if we can get an editorial
nibble.

I wonder if you have thought of re-
considering our association in the light
of my handling your juveniles as
well as your other output, I am sure
that I could do better for you as to
advances on contracts and royalties
as well as foreign sales. Do let me
hear from you on this.

All the best.

Cordially,

Harriet

Harriet Wolf

HW:cq

Harriet Wolf

119 WEST 57th STREET

NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

—
COLUMBUS 5-3530

March 8, 1955

Miss Yoshi Uchida,
645 63rd Street,
Oakland 9, California.

Dear Yoshi:

I liked your story THE LITTLE GOLD
BAG, and will try it out, although
child's view point stories are
always hard to place.

All the best.

Cordially,

Harriet Wolf

Harriet Wolf

HW:cq

645 63rd St.
Oakland 9, Calif.
March 27, 1955

Miss Harriet Wolf
119 West 57th St.
New York 19, N.Y.

Dear Harriet:

Many thanks for your letters of February 29th and March 8th. I'm sorry to have been so long in answering them, but they came just while I was in the hospital after undergoing a major operation, and I am only now getting caught up with many things.

About my juveniles - at the moment, I only have two manuscripts, both of which happen to be out on the market, and am in correspondence about a possible third with a personal friend at a denominational press. However, perhaps we can work something out for the future. Will you let me know what your financial arrangements would be for juvenile books? The fee is only on the advance and not on royalties too, isn't it?

I do need your immediate help on one of the above manuscripts, however. This is the story:

I did the dummy for a picture book entitled, "Rokubei and the Thousand Rice Bowls", which I submitted to Miss Margaret Lesser at Doubleday on November 29, 1954. They acknowledged its receipt on December 8th, and gave it Ms. No. 1128A.

On Jan. 26, 1955, I inquired about the ms. and received no reply. On Mar. 7, 1955, I wrote again - still no reply!

I wonder if you would be willing to contact Miss Lesser for me and find out what's happened to it? I have no idea whether they want it, whether it's been lost, or what! I had talked to Miss Lesser before going to Japan, and at that time she had seemed most interested in seeing my manuscripts on Japan. If, therefore, something constructive could come from this, I'd be most pleased. Harcourt has already seen the book, but they do so few picture books, they weren't interested.

I'd be interested to know where my ~~various~~ pieces have been, if you've time to let me know. (Outline- "I've a Daughter to Put Away", "Tomorrow We Shall go to Kazuo's", etc..) Any encouraging responses on anything???

I'll look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Yoshi Uchida

Harriet Wolf

119 WEST 57th STREET
• CIRCLE 6-0389 •
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

April 4, 1955

Miss Yoshi Uchida,
645 63rd Street,
Oakland 9, California.

Dear Yoshi:

I was very much concerned to hear that you had undergone an operation. You had never told me that you were ill. I do hope you'll take care of yourself and keep me posted on how you feel.

In reply to your query as to my financial arrangement on juvenile books, it is the same as my arrangement for adult books. If I make a sale of a book to a publisher, then all payments including advance and royalties are made through my office after the deduction of the 10% fee.

I just spoke to Miss Lesser's secretary at DOUBLEDAY about your picture book ROKUBEI AND THE THOUSAND RICE BOWLS and was told that it was definitely being considered and that Miss Lesser will get in touch with me as soon as she has decided whether the book will fit into their list, which is pretty crowded.

I am enclosing five notes from magazines: MADEMOISELLE, WOMAN'S DAY, NEW YORKER, HOLIDAY, and THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. Will you please return them for my files?

Your outline I HAVE A DAUGHTER TO PUT AWAY went to: CHARM, HARPER'S, ATLANTIC, WOMAN'S DAY, MADEMOISELLE, NEW YORKER, POST, HOLIDAY, READER'S DIGEST and is now at COSMOPOLITAN. MRS YAMADA went to: COSMOPOLITAN and WOMAN'S DAY. TOMORROW went to THE NEW YORKER, WOMAN'S DAY, HARPER'S, READER'S DIGEST and is now at BAZAAR. WE DO NOT WORK, went to: THE REPORTER, MADEMOISELLE, and is now at NEW WORLD WRITING.

I do hope you will keep well.

Best regards,

Harriet

Harriet Wolf

HW:cq
enc5

COPIES OF LTRS TO HARRIET WOLF:

NEWYORKER: Feb. 7th: "I'm awfully sorry to be returning this one by Yoshiko Uchida, but the editors have finally decided against it. It has some good things in it, but, regrettably, doesn't seem quite substantial enough to work out for us. Many thanks, of course, for letting us see the piece."
Sincerely, C. M. Newman

Re: "TOMORROW WE SHALL GO TO KAZUO'S"

WOMAN'S DAY: "Thank you for letting us see TOMORROW WE SHALL GO TO KAZUO'S by Yoshiko Uchida. We are sorry to be holding it for your pick up, but altho it's a charming piece of work, we are unable to fit it into our editorial plans. "
Sincerely, Edith C. Pratt, for the Ed.s

Rewrite

Ch ~~A~~ ~~10~~ XII

645 63rd St.
Oakland 9, Calif.
April 22, 1955

Miss Harriet Wolf
119 West 57th St.
New York 19, N.Y.

Dear Harriet:

Many thanks for your letter of April 4th and for the enclosed letters from various editors. I'm returning them herewith. I was especially glad to see the letter from the NEW YORKER, which seemed to indicate that they gave my piece serious consideration. I wonder when I shall ever get beyond that point!!!!

Thank you so much for contacting Miss Lesser at Doubleday. I'm a little concerned that she is still considering the book, as she's now had it for almost six months! When do you think we can query again? I'd like to get it back into circulation if she's not going to use it.

I appreciate your concern about my health. I just went for a post-operative check last week, and everything seems to be fine, so I'm grateful for that. I'm really feeling quite well now, and just about back to normal.

I hope all continues to go well with you. Will you be coming out west to visit your daughter some time? I remember you said she was in California.

Hope to be sending you more material before too long.

Sincerely,

Encl:5

Yoshi Uchida

Harriet Wolf

119 WEST 57th STREET
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

COLUMBUS 5-3530

June 15, 1955

Miss Yoshiko Uchida
c/o Kakutani
207 Diamond St.
New Haven 15, Conn.

Dear Yoshi:

The cover illustration is always
taken care of by the publisher.

If the book itself is illustrated
arrangements are made with the
author for sharing royalties
or for having the book illustrations
paid for by the publisher. This
depends on negotiations of course.
The latter is more advantageous.
A great deal depends on how valuable
the book is to the publisher. There
are no set rules.

It was wonderful to see you the other
day. Wish we could make it more
often.

All the best.

Harriet

Harriet Wolf

119 WEST 57th STREET

NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

COLUMBUS 5-3530

✓ replied by
P.C.
8/15
- sent return
- net home.

July 26, 1955

Miss Moshi Uchida
c /O KAKUTANI
207 Diamond St.
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Yoshi:

Going back to you with a market list
is the enclosed:

TOMORROW WE SHALL GO TO KAZUO'S

Best wishes.

Cordially,

Harriet

1500
2500
3500
12

See - My Everywoman's
The Reporter
(Arch / bk)

UCHIDA

TOMORROW

NEW YORKER

WOMANS DAY

HARPER

ATLANTIC

READERS DIGEST

MILLE

HARPERS BAZAAR

TOWN AND COUNTRY

From the desk of —

ELSIE CHRISTIE

Ushida

Dear Harriet:

These are truly
nice — especially
I Feel Much Better.

But they are just too
slight for us.

Sincerely,

Elsie

(2) Everyman

Cosmopolitan

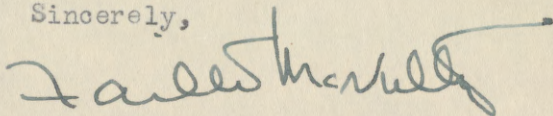
— FAITH McNULTY —

September 10

Dear Miss Wolf,

I'm sorry I must return
these, but ~~many~~ thanks for letting us
see them. I enjoyed the Yoshiko Ushida
and wish we had a place for reminiscences
of this sort.

Sincerely,



Faith McNulty

Miss Harriet Wolf
119 West 57th St.
New York 19, N.Y.

I Remember Mr. Ohada

From the desk of —

ELSIE CHRISTIE

Dear Harriet:

What a nice,
understanding sketch.
Wish we could ever
use things like it.
As yet, we don't have
the face.

Thanks a lot.

Sincerely

Wanda Elsie
Yamamoto

Harriet Walf:

- 12-13-54: "I have a Daughter to Put Away" (redline)
1-20-55: "Tomorrow We Shall go to Kazuo's"
2-19-55: "We do not Work Alone"
"Mrs. Yamada Writes of Soup"
2-23-55: "The little Gold Bag"

(over)

Daughters: Charm, Harpers, Atlantic^{lth} ✓, W. Day, Melle, Nyer.
Port, Holiday^{lth} ✓, R. D., Cosmo.

Yamada: Cosmo, W. Day

Tomorrow: Nyer^{lth} ✓, W. Day^{lth} ✓, Harpers, R. D., Bazaar

Kawai: Reporter, Melle^{lth} ✓, New World.

Please mark and return to Y.U.

Returned

1. WE WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY: - *Coronet*, Holiday, Times, Charm, New Yorker
Atl. Brief, Reporter, Mille., World
2. THE SEASON OF THE ENSOKU:
3. A SORT OF A PILGRIMAGE: Holiday, Atl., New Yorker, Mercury,
Part. Rev., World
4. BENTO TIME: American, Gourmet, World, WD Woman's Day
5. JAPAN'S DOLL DRAMA: American, World, Theater Arts, Woman's Day
6. A STOCK OF CANDY AND A PAPER SHOW: World, Theater Arts, American
Woman's Day

I do have a record of where the following short stories were submitted
before I brought them in to you - but after that, my record isn't too clear. *

- My list
includes
Charm*
1. THE LONG WHITE DRESS: Today's Woman, Woman's Day, LHJ, Cosmo, New
Yorker
 2. THE CREPE PAPER FLOWERS: *Charm, Woman's Day, Virg. Quarterly, Discover, Audubon*
Pop. Library, NW, Collier's, PR, Pacific Spec.
 3. MRS. YAMANAKA GOES HOME: *McCall's, Everyman, New World, Discover, Pac. Spec,*
Collier's, Post, Redbook, LHJ, GHK, Farm Life, Va. Quart, Cosmo
 4. PHOTOGRAPH OF A PRESIDENT: *Holiday, Charm, 17, Mille., Coronet, WD*
 5. OGRE OF THE BACK HOUSE: *Colliers, Holiday, 17, Bazar, Today's Family*
 6. THE TEACHER:
 7. I REMEMBER MR. OKADA: *Coronet, Seventeen, Vogue, McCall's, New Yorker*
Harper, Atl. Charm, Bazar, WD, Esq., Collier's, Everywoman
 8. I FEEL MUCH BETTER NOW: ~~XXXXXXXX~~ *Everywoman, Holiday, Bazar*
 9. A TREE IN THE DESERT: *Journal, N.Yer, Mille, Colliers, Harpers, Charm, Discover*
Woman's Day

* Just went over your letters to me + filled in the info. I have on hand.
Is this complete? - But I don't think I know which ones
went to Pacific Spectator, for ex.