

Abbie G. Sanderson Papers

Yale Divinity School Library Record Group No. 149

Finding aid for collection available at:

<http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.149>

Series: I. Correspondence

Subseries: Family correspondence

Box / folder: 6 / 48

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

For copyright information see: <http://www.library.yale.edu/div/permissions.html>

Originals of collection held at:

Yale Divinity School Library, 409 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 0511
(divinity.library@yale.edu)

Scanning and computer output microfilm prepared by Conversion Service Associates LLC, Shelton, CT with financial support from The Center for Christian Studies, Shantou University, 243 Da Xue Road, Shantou, Guangdong, China 515063

A. B. Mission, Swanton

Sept 3, 1950

Dear Bob:

About time I was writing you a birthday letter, don't you think? In fact, it is about time for me to be writing a letter to each of many different people, but I just don'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 Bethesda & Berlin, though separated by a few miles of distance, do have connections and even 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 Louis Campbell, Elsie Kitting, and
Mrs. Giedt are on the high seas
now - sailed from H.K. on the 7th.
Millicent Engel and Allison Osborn
have obtained permission to go
on furlo and are here now waiting
to finish up formalities of leaving.
They rather expect to leave this next
week.

Ruth Noren and the Braistedo 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 or pages from catalogue re. 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 had 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 wished to, being satisfied to stay
in this big cool house - I have
done some hand work and directed
a little, and shared in conducting
a S.S. class; have participated in
a devotional 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 is
wonderful. Wish you would have the
Christian Century, Baptist Leader, and
Watchman Examiner sent, please - Much love.
20th

P.B. Allison Osborn American Baptist Mission
is to sail from Hong Kong
Oct 15. The box which she Swatow, China
will send to you for one contains
diaries which I hope to put in my old age. October 7, 1930
Dear Arthur, et al.

Saturday night and time I was in
bed and asleep. But strange to 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 ^{hus}
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 nigh out of winter clothes.
Talked with the cook about a trip to
the city to do his marketing, then
had a caller - our former preacher
Mr. Lo, 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 miss-
is not so small and such requests
are many, it has come to be that
we had thought we must find a different

plan from our previous hit-or-miss
individual hand-onto - But we had
not come to any decision. So I
went with Mrs. L. up to see our
Mission Secretary Dr. Giedt 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 Ling Tung Exec.
Committee -

Got through that conference just
in time to go to Edna Smith's, where
we had been invited for a picnic
lunch. Noems were over from
Swatow, and it was good to see
them, for we have not been
able to cross the bay in either
direction since Wednesday when
a young typhoon blew up. It
has been blowing and raining
ever since Wednesday, until
today. And we enjoyed Sam's boat

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 Noren 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,
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 he would do 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 out for the students of high school age. Our former meeting place, up at the Seminary, is no longer feasible since some rooms are used now for soldiers' hospital and the chairs have been returned to the academy from some of the classrooms. So now we have to meet with the adult department and will have to "borrow" nearby rooms for classrooms - details we will have to be worked out as we go along; we are extremely slow in getting started.

After that meeting I helped Lonnie look over some old coats to choose which ones should be given away. Then I came home to supper, to 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 thought I could at least try it. Well! A half teaspoon make 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 that problem, when two students came to talk over possible ways of raising the standard of an English class and ways to help the poorer students get more out of the classwork -

Came upstairs - still not sleepy! So I pinned on my pattern and measured to see whether I had enough, and cut

cut one half of my dress.
The other half will have to be
cut out Monday in daylight,
I 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 to pantry and grabbed a
cookie and some cocoa powder
for a lunch - Then sat down
to scribble to my beloveds. I
know it has been a long time
since I have written - But writing
is not easy these days - Many
things are happening - many very
worthwhile and valuable things -
but this is not the time nor place
(nor the person!) to write to you
about them all.

Now I really am sleepy! So
I'll say "Goodnight" before some one
comes along to find out whether

I'm sick or anything, since I
haven't gone to bed — ?

Very much love to all,

Abbie

American Baptist Mission
Swatow, China

January 3, 1951

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 Mass)
family and connections -

Yours always,

Abbie

Copy of Abbie's Last letter - self-explanatory,

Am. Bap. Mission,
Swatow, China
Jan 3, 1901

Dear Bub:

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.

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, Family and connections-

Beurs 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 use your handy hands if you were here. Am trying to sew.
Love
Gladys.

These have
been
left
of
ready
things
offen
and
little
but
know
how
much
it
will
make
it
very
easy
Seymour, China
Feb 6, 1927

Can't write you the news
I should like to, for my exit permit has
not yet come through. A. J. Edna & I had
reservations to sail 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 to make a small jacket,
and sometimes I knit and knit while
others read or play a game of
checkers or Root. ^{consequently I play a game of cards} We are planning
to read some Shakespeare together,
and maybe an adventure book or so.
K. V. and I had a spell of reading yesterday
morning, then I went to her house for
dinner, seated there a bit. then
our group gathered while Lora

read one of Paul Scherer's sermons
to us and we had a prayer and
Bible reading and a few songs.
Afterward V. served us a very nice
birthday cake & trimmings, & celebrated
Louise's birthday. In the morning K. &
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 to tell you.

Tomorrow is Chinese New Year.
I don't know just what celebrations
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 upstairs and look over all my things & see that no
mouse has got into any of them. Much love, Abby

Swatow, China
Feb 25, 1951

Dear Arthur,

Am wondering whether you are thinking of me as on my way home. No letters from you and Charlotte or Phil for some time now. Nothing yet in the way of prospect of changing boarding quarters in the next few days or longer. Tomorrow it will be exactly 2 mo. 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 sturdier and sweeter ones of one's own kind, in renditions of, say, sin feet' burg, dambles with laudatory lachrymal exudations. 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 practicing patience as a movement! Much love. A.

Dwight Chen

March 3, 1951

Dear Arthur,

The weather is cold! 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 for a few weeks on the way home. She did that once, you know, and the climate was most beneficial. So don't be surprised if that is what happens. 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 Welcott sent Feb 18 arrived yesterday - pretty good! It was so good to hear from her, and from you too. Yours of Jan 20. was delayed some where. Hers 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. I join the girls in knitting & other hand work. Sometimes we read aloud - we are part way through King Lear. Emanuel has brought over a few books reminiscent of Johnny Hadman and his good Paris accent, and it has been fun to delve into them a bit & 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 some Psalms, too, and some chapters from John - all very helpful -

Tell Gladys my mouth is watering for some of her good hash! Love. Q.

Swanton, China

March 6, 1951

Dear Arthur & Gladys.

Today is Father's birthday. Wonder whether there were or will be flowers at S. B. for our two this year. Hope I can be the one to see to that again some day. Hard to realize that he would not be 88 - and that he has been gone 12 years! And Mother said -

Do you know who is the dumbest dumb cluck in the world? You are looking at the handwriting of the cluck this minute. When your letter came, I wanted to read it all in one swallow, caught sight of Harold's name first, didn't see the sentence re. Roy till after that, so though I read Roy, I thought of Carl, in terms of a visit to the one which would take in a call, at least, on the other. Visions of a milk farm, or

Some letters come direct & are quickly - but I can't tell whether one way or any better than another

whatever it is by now, in a quite different location, with complications, did not strike me until a few minutes ago while I was drowsing myself awake in my little bed. Anyway, it was enough to jump me out of bed in a hurry and here I am a-scribbling. Have I let you know that even the Sands of Hawaii would lose their glamor fast if I looked anybody I might name was (was! pl) headed toward Uncle Arthur's vicinity at any given time. In 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 ~~same~~ country with you by the time you get this - Sailed Sat 24. Don't know where she will be, but I ^{will} ^{try} to get her, of course.

I'm well - and even gaining a few pounds - not much exercise!
Much love to all,

May be you won't see all that Abbie
you are hoping for near Roy's! But I hope you do!

(This address is the same place as always, but just written out now - It is the exact equivalent of the Chinese
13 East, Little Kachueh
Swatow, China

April 1, 1951

Dear Arthur, (I ^{same one} might say so!)

As the fog rolls in this misty

morning I am reminded of a night we once spent on the "Pamaguiet" - 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 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 moving, in such fog - must have been tied up at the wharf - so maybe there was a calf somewhere!!

Today is V's birthday and she invited us to her house for dinner - All were in good spirits and dull (?) care seemed driven away for a season. Later Sam 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, for Ray asked the women to come early for waffles - By early 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 woollen 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 seeing that as the gist of it?) this spring or summer, V. is now suggesting as more likely temp. as a possible way of regaining perspective and some brand of enthusiasm, maybe!

So if you all don't get on your traveling britches 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 to some place where they would be "gettable"! I mean, I ought to think about it before hand. One way would be

to get some funds transferred
from one account to the other
in the S. B. Trust. Haven't
thought that thing through yet.
Maybe extra could be advanced
to me on travel account, some-
where along the way. (I mean, 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 sight-
seeing, and how much sight-
seeing we would be good for.

I would like to see some
places that I have never been
near. (But if you can travel,
I'll suit such plans as I
can make to yours!)
Much love,

Abbie

Swatow, China
May 25, 1951

Dear Arthur,

Don't know just when this will get off but while I remember I tell you. I'll jot down that I received your letter of Apr. 7 and 18 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 though without delay.

How would you like to 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 $4\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter. How easy would it be to find anything like that where you are? The perfume is so very heavy that I have to set it outside on the verandah at night.

As soon as I have any news about exit permit of course 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.

Abbie



From the southwest

BY AIR MAIL

HONG KONG

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS OPENED
CLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL



*Mr. Richard J. Sanderson
Rm 327
American Express
Dept.*

U. S. A.

Second Air Mail

Sender's name and address

*R. J. Sanderson
American Express
Hong Kong*

To open cut here

To open cut here

Wang Hong
Sunday, Jan. 4, 1953

Dear Arthur & Gladys:

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

Guess I told you that Louie came out with all the baggage back 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 & would have had I not told him why I was going in & what I was going to

do for a minute! (This is not
for publication, or edification of
anybody except you two!)

It is wonderful to find myself
in the hands of kindly friends -
wonderful to find Thomas here & not
taken off somewhere else we know
not where! Wonderful to have so
many friends come to see us -
Chinese feast tonight - one last night
& one tomorrow night; turned one down
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 Kowloon -

Yours, soon -

Alvin Giffin 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 N.S. "Thank God for your deliverance First Thess One verses two to four."

Maine Baptist Women Sent by Mrs. Kingsley, I have no doubt. And one to all of us from Allison Osborn who is now in Japan teaching "Singing Doxology Fourfold Amen" —!

Also to Norman from Carl Capen in answer to one sent him in Bangkok "Best news in years, hearty welcome awaits you" — Loren expects to fly down there on his way home —

My clothes, hair, (train too, I reckon!) in a mess — need re-organizing — Don't know just how soon I shall head home. Advised to rest a bit + get cobwebs brushed out a bit out 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. Seay 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 nothing at a time; photo &

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS EN-
CLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL.



HONG KONG



Mr. Arthur J. Sanderson

Box 551

Berlin

New Hampshire

U.S.A

Sealed fold here

Sender's name and address:-

A. J. Sanderson
6 Hampshire Ave. 1st Floor
Lowell, Mass

Do not open here

6 Humphreys ~~Street~~ Avenue
1st Floor
Kowloon, Hongkong

Jan. 11, 1953

Dear Arthur:

This won't be much but
I do want just to drop you all
a line. You wouldn't believe what
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. Fiedt 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 Rosen may meet Loren in Boston.

I have been anxious to get
started towards you, but both Loren
and I have been advised not
to rush too fast, trying to get
a bit adjusted before starting out.

I have been of two minds,
because - while I want furiously
to see you, I realize from the
way I am depending on Edna
for everything that it would be
an ordeal to start out immediately
entirely on my own. Reflexed are I
not so swift as there were 10 yrs
ago - joints stiff a thing bit at times
but I'm already getting timbered
up a lot.

Yesterday Mrs. Sears' letter
came telling of an expected
trip and saying she would be
glad if ~~the~~ Louise & I felt we
could wait and see her here in
Hong Kong 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.

The words of your having to drink
in Berlin to hear what she was
trying to telephone you Jan 1, said
I ought to have heard your voice when
you heard the news!

gladly - if you haven't bought shoes
etc. - don't - I have enough to manage
O K - 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.

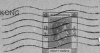
We went at a buffet lunch in
a wealthy Chinese home with about
40 Chinese workers - Got home about
4 and have had callers until
now (10.30)!

BY AIR MAIL

HONG KONG

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS EN-
CLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL



Mr. Arthur J. Sanders

Box 551

Dorchester

New Hampshire

U.S.A.

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address:-

A. J. Sanders
6 Humphreys Ave. 1st Flr
Kowloon, Hong Kong

To open and insert

Jan. 23, 1903

Arthur & 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 going next month - or rather arriving here next month still appears to be the deciding factor thus far - or rather, keeps us from deciding to move sooner ! I feel that after such a long period of idleness I ought to be getting back to some sort of work. Louis feels as ever 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 ^{for shopping} hair-dresser
the other a. m. & stayed more than "a
minute"! But that is very near.

Students and other old friends are
still overwhelming us with kindnesses.
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, Hongkong, 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 us eagerly for news of
relatives in Swatow but we can tell
them nothing except what we may have
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. So was Dr. Gidd & Loen Naon.
Loen was free of guards Dec. 26, 1952;
was accompanied by Customs officials to
the steamer that night, and sailed for
Hongkong early next morning. But there
is much that will have to wait till I see
you all - and even that I don't know

how coherent a report I shall be able
to make - so many things seemed
utterly without reason, and contradictory.

Here no day passes without meeting
or conversation of special interest -
Night before last 28 "Old girls" of the
Girls' School, some of them my ~~blond~~ ^{blond}
93 + 34 years ago, fêted us and presented
me with a beautiful silk Chinese gown,
which you will see before long, I hope.
Today 12 of us, including Wakka students
of Alice's & Louise's, and Quator students of
Louise's and mine went on a picnic -
Edna, L., Q. & I took the makings of ham
sandwiches - with h. b. eggs, pickles, cookies
etc.; took the Peak Tram which climbs
up to the "Peak" 1380 ft (approx) above sea
level, at an angle suggested here -
got pop at the Terminal (top), and walked
but we found a good spot  the eat -
Fellowship was grand and the walk
the longest I've taken, with no ill
effects - (Great cables leave no marks on
the wear!)

Have you heard from Emily recently?
I have written to her but have had
no answer - I hope she is not sick -
Now I'm hoping for another letter from
you - all.

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS EN-
CLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL.



Mr. Arthur J. Sanderson

Box 551

Berlin

N. H.

U. S. A.

Sender's name and address:

A. J. Sanderson
6 Humphreys Ave. 1st Flr
Howden, Hong Kong

Second fold here

To open see back

Feb. 8, 1953

Dear Arthur & Gladys:

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

I have already written telling you that Lonnie and I have reservations on the E.S. "President Cleveland", American President Line, leaving Hongkong 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 (Lonnie 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 "grands"!) 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 ⁽⁶⁾ I cannot possibly ^{if you, conflict with your business} 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 for me or not (professional etiquette, etc.) but have no doubt that she will give me some ^{kind} of "once-over".

If Roy and Gladys come East next summer perhaps it would be better to give up trying to see them now for, much as I should like to visit them. But I find it very hard to decide 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 ^{not} 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 Corvett
Memorial Hospital, which is where
my headquarters will be on the west
coast. In one way I'd like to go
via ^{not leaving home this} L. A., but not if it takes time
when I have the urge to get home!

Surely it will be fine to see
Harold and Ethel, in Buffalo -
Easily writes of thinking of flying to
Longdon to "take care" of me! Or of dashing
out to 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!

More later - Be seeing you!
Love & etc., Abbie

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS WRITTEN
CLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL.

HONG KONG

PLEASE BRING
BLOOD DONOR
諸君輸血
電話 TEL NO. 112

Mrs. Arthur J. Sanderson

Box 551

Berlin

New Hampshire
U. S. A.

Sender's name and address

A. J. Sanderson
c/o Humphreys Ave, 1st Flr
15, 2nd Flr, Hong Kong

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 word of sailing on the S.S. "President Cleveland" American President Line, leaving N. Y. 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 meet at least
one more! Is 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 as 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 Mar 15 or so -
so with quite a bit of time in
Berkeley I ought to be able to get
to Peoria sometime the week of
April 12-14 - You can write again
what is the very best time for you &
I can make my plans accordingly.
How far is Peoria from Chicago?
I got a U. P. time table today but found

that Peoria is not on that line
so I must ask about that in the
next day or so -

Sat. Sun. Mon. and today were busy
days. Sat. was Chinese New Year - &
we went to church in the morning out
to dinner at ~~the~~ ^{the} afternoon - then
had callers in the evening - Sunday
morning church service; in the afternoon
a Y. P. group (from several years ago in
Akchick) met here to organize a group
that shall continue - Before they left,
callers came, and there was no chance
for our simple soup and sandwich
supper until 10.30 p.m.!

Yesterday we had 23 callers, then
were out to tea, then took a Chinese
doctor & his wife to dinner, brought them
back here for Chinese Checkers & a chat -
Today went across the bay to ^{the} Hongkong side
to put up my ticket and see about
extension of stay in H.K. (expires tomorrow)
This p.m. had a morning prayer meeting at
one of the churches. ^{another speaker} ~~one of the churches~~ ^{was the speaker}.
She is wonderful - I am not up to that yet!

Mrs. Sears come on Friday Mrs.
Wintz on Sunday - Mrs. L. leaves Monday
Mr. H. leaves on a boat. Mr. Findell comes
Friday, we leave Saturday! Be seeing ya!
Much love, Abbie

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 "mot" farewell AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES at the ship. I haven't tried to get to reckon how many came down to see us off but it must have been about 100 persons! Edna staying on ^{On Board S. S. President Cleveland} only a few months March 4, 1953

Dear Arthur & Gladys,

(L.S.P.)

Here we are on our way, have already had one day in Japan, royally welcomed by Gertrude Waterman & the Bollingers in Osaka. We got off at Kobe; Gertrude was at the dock waiting for us at 7 a.m., but we couldn't go 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 us 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, Miss Pearl McKane & Mrs.

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

To the Bollingers. Mrs. & Mrs. (young people) with 3 children - Mrs. ^{Mrs.} went took us to the "Alaska" restaurant in Osaka - top of the highest building - huge glass windows overlooking city, canals, etc - wonderful! Lunch was wonderful too, incredibly good steaks for some - lobster salad appeared in a huge ice basket - huge ice handles &

visits - although brief - with Mrs. Lane, Mr. Pittell & Mr. Harty were invaluable - we are very glad that we waited - although it was hard not to set off for some folks immediately.

everything - beautifully arranged - we are already getting on eye-full of things not ever seen before!

"Mrs." went to 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. Met some of the Hg. teachers, visited the church and saw the new brick baptistery being built into the church; had a lovely visit in the parsonage with the pastor & his wife - fine fellowship with them - served tea and Japanese sweets, sitting around a low table, 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 (q.?) in G's home, the Bollingers 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 enough to get to bed - which we did before the ship sailed!

This p.m. we land at Yokohama - more friends from China! Much, much love, Abbie