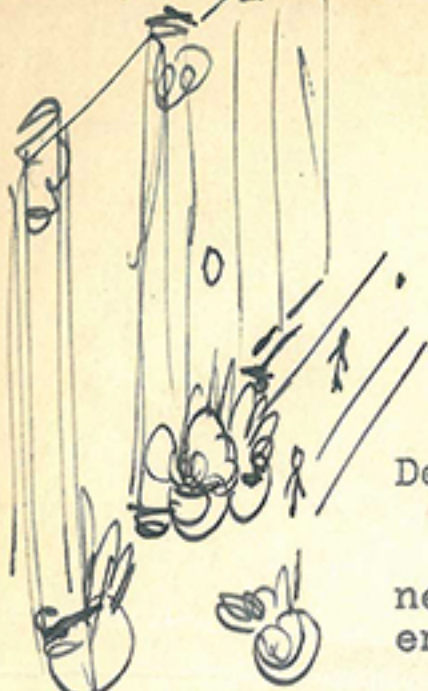


August 8th.




Dearest Folks;

This is written in one of the six lounges on the newest, most modern ship afloat. This is in fact it's maiden voyage.


Our leaving Hongkong was quite a thrill, with the entire population glad-ragged and noisy turned out for the sending-off ceremonies, every whistle in the orient tooting us good-bye, the orchestra, somewhere beneath a sea of confetti-ribbon playing "God Save The King," everyone laughing or crying or shouting...very exciting.

And, gosh, what a ship this is! They speak of floating hotels in reference to liners, but this is more--




Three systems of elevators to hurtle one hither and thither, and believe me there's a lot of hither and thither to this ship: Three theatres, two cafes, a restaurant, a gymnasium, a swimming pool, a golf course, a shopping district, a radio station, a roof garden, and simply packs of card rooms, billiard-rooms, bar-rooms, writing rooms, and dancing halls--- I really can't imagine anything grander. Though they do say the C.P.R.'s offering for next spring will accommodate four thousand passengers--that's the Steven's rate--and will probably include a dirt race-track and a cathedral.

But I'm quite satisfied with this. Feel almost sorry we're leaving it so soon. It'd be nice to linger a few years in this fashionable summer resort except that there's the orient awaiting us ashore and what's more, in Shanghai--our favorite city--there are some letters bearing my name, the first letters from home.



Hongkong was a wonderful surprise, and Canton did more than live up to my highest expectations. I'll have to tell you all about it....Not to-night--awfully tired to-night--when I get home. Let's see--in Hongkong there was that chow-house with the fight, Pady's market on Tung Street, the Mohomedan mosque and the East Indian friends I made there. And Canton---But really I'm too tired, too weary--the list would be so long, and then there'd be the danger of my telling you about my shopping experiences and then I'd never stop, and never get up to-morrow, and to-morrow I've got to get up early..and to-night it's late..so---



IVORY SHOP