

Your suggestion that the Japanese captain was motivated to kind acts by observing your JAN 15 1973 sensitivity to things oriental reminds me of a little incident a Captain Ihara Himamichi, as I remember the name, got involved in. He was an active duty and a student of some sort at the University of Delaware when I was there and working on the Morning News in Wil. Seems like this guy got himself caught taking pictures at something called Fort duPont of Fort Delaware, near Delaware City and on the Delaware River, near when the canal connecting with the Chesapeake Bay ends. If that was a military target of interest to the Japanese, they were as stupid as the Army which maintained it as any kind of an installation. But he got pinched, and there was an incident. I wrote a straight, fair story and forgot about it. But a couple of days later, when I picked up my mail at the University mailbox, there was a small package addressed to Mr. Harrald. In my box (with 600 men there should have been at least one other Harold-I remember one). I opened it. The box was pale, unfinished, almost as light as balsa, and a bit of superior workmanship. Inside was a pair of very plain and very attractive jade cufflinks, bound in silver....At about the same time, it seems that the British Ambassador rushed through town. There were no major highways then, no expressways. You know ambassadors. Laws are not for them. He was going at a dangerous speed. The Newark police force consisted of three men, whose chief, known as Bull, was the kind of cop who boasted he'd arrest his mother. So, what is a mere ambassador? Roads were not all good then, so Bill also got splashed a bit before he stopped the ambassador and his car and chauffeur. It also seems that Bull never heard of diplomatic immunity. I had, but again wrote a straight story. My life was miserable for a while, and there were visitations from the State Department after the official protest. That and the mean cop getting splashed were the parts I enjoyed. Anyway, I was reminded of this funny business when your story reminded me of Captain Ihara, not Ihara, and his appreciation of just plain fair treatments when it could have been so rough on him....Do you suppose your Japanese captain found you the first occidental he'd met who was not a boor and not contemptuous of everything oriental?...Everything about your story says these are sensitive people (despite Nanking and other atrocities) in matters of the spirit, and they consider that animals also have spirits. Around here a fine beagle is kept on a short chain 50 weeks of the year for a few runs in rabbit season, and that is considered decent treatment and we are considered by ourselves as civilized. The concern for the good spirit for your animals, superstitions to us, is a hell of a lot more civilized than what I live with with my neighbors' dogs. (Which is to say nothing about a neighbor known as Cherry Pie who considers it a blessing to go around and kill all cats and to tell their owners he did them a favor in shooting their pets. Civilization, Ugh! HW 1/14/73