

11 Jan 72

Have a little pile of notes here to dispose of. Will take them as they come up.

Thank you for the tape of Mme. Mitchell - looking forward to listening to it. I am, particularly, since for some time I've been stuffing stuff into the file about darlin' Martha. Quite useless, but I'm too fascinated to let it go.

Our friend the Spanish teacher is back from her trip and says she's willing to translate at least that part of the Excelsior interview with Chou in which we're most interested. So sometime when you have an emptyish envelope if you'd include it we'll have it here and can ask her at the right moment. I say it that way because she's a rather moody person and it won't do any good to approach her if she's all wrapped up in something else. In any case they have six months' of accumulated mail to take care of.

Pants for Lil didn't cost anything. A couple of months ago I finally bought a Chinese jacket and pants set for myself, pale gold jacket, copper pants which are just the right color for the jacket. Because they were on sale I also bought a pair of black pants. Didn't try them on at the store and when I did at home, found they were the wrong kind of satin for the jacket - too slick and shiny - although this didn't seem so in the hand in the store. Also I found the top went beautifully with a skirt I already had. Tell Lil to try - if she hasn't already - a straight skirt with her jackets; she might be surprised at how well they go together. That's what I wore when we had our annual Christmas dinner with some very good friends and ~~as~~ they were so pleased I got two nice smacky kisses from a gentleman to whom I am not married.

So I have a pair of pants and a skirt and an extra pair of pants I know I will not wear - and a letter from you with Lil's measurements. Simple, no? SHE was very accomodating and most willingly made the exchange, almost eagerly. I think it hurt her Chinese sense of frugality to have anything hanging in a closet not doing anyone any good. So couldn't we just consider it part of the thank-you package? This was a neat little transaction which pleased everyone at this end and we hope it will at your end, too.

Please tell Lil not to bother with any thank-you note, especially with her rugged schedule. We know from what you've said that she was pleased and that was all we wanted.

I think I've come to the last item. Now and then in your mailings you include something you might want to retrieve in the future, and we hope that when you do you'll be able to give us a date as a clue. Your file is getting so fat it would take some doing to find what you might want without a date, because it isn't always clear whether you're thinking something out on paper or making a deposit.

That disposes of the last remainder I had here on the desk so this seems to be all for the moment. We should thank you for all the clippings, a great many of which get stashed away, but even those which aren't kept are interesting. It just takes time to get them all read, as you can tell from the late return of one of them in this mailing. There shouldn't be the same delay after this because what we do now is to go through the clippings at the time they come in, putting them aside for when we have time later, but rescuing those which need to be returned.