

MAIN HOUSE
OSAKA

BRANCH HOUSES
TERAMACHI, KIOTO
NOBORIOJI, NARA

EXPERIMENTAL GARDEN
IKEDA, HIOGO
JAPAN

LONDON HOUSE
68 NEW BOND ST., LONDON, W.



YAMANAKA & CO.

Dealers in Japanese Art Objects

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DORCHESTER, MASS.

NEW YORK, ~~March 28, '05.~~ 190

Mr. G.W.V. Smith,

49 Chestnut St.,

Springfield, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Your kind favour of March 26th. is duly to hand. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to know that our unconscious effort to do what is right and proper in our dealing is so highly appreciated. It is for me to express my hearty thanks for your kind patronage for so many years unbroken, and let me sincerely hope that it may continue.

The Shrine belongs to Shinto. You may wonder at first why such a mass of decoration for the Shinto since the sect is characterized by severe simplicity. I may say to this that there are two types of Shinto architecture. For the present purpose I call them, (1) The Ise type, (2) The Tokugawa type. It is of the former that has been so much written about its simplicity, and is represented by the famous shrines at Izumo and Ise, the Mecca of the Shintoist. The Tokugawa type is rather modern compared with the former, and is of the most elaborate type, rich in carvings and color scheme, and is represented by the Mausoleums of Nikko and Shiba.

Your shrine belongs to the latter type of architecture. As it is stated in the sale catalogue the work on it began in 1790. During the course of construction Mr. Komatsu died, and his son Gensuke took up the work, and completed it in 1805. The shrine is original, and we can guarantee its authenticity. After completion it was dedicated to the Temple of Tenjin or Temmangu in Osaka, and every year during the annual festival, the shrine was exhibited to the public by the Sugano family.

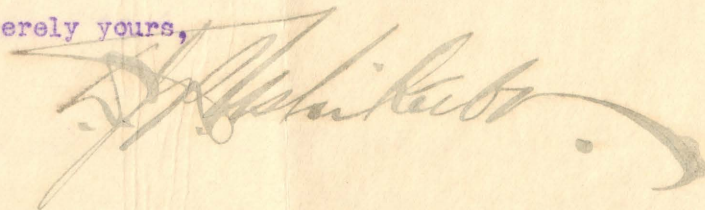
Of the Temple of Tenjin, Mr. Hearn in his last book, "Japan, An Interpretation" says:

"The spirit of Sugawara-no Michizane, once minister to the Emperor Daigo (898-931 A.D.) is worshipped as the god of calligraphy, under the name of Tenjin or Temmangu: children everywhere offer to him the first example of their handwriting, and deposit in receptacles, placed before his shrine, their worn-out writing brushes."

These are only few that I thought will be interesting for you to know. If there is anything that you would like to know and I can do for you, please do not hesitate. I shall be glad to assist you in any way I can.

Trusting that your unselfish, noble work for the course of art may bring much fruit, and with kindest regards to Mrs. Smith, your partner and your co-worker, I beg to remain,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. P. Hearn", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

YAMANAKA & CO.

254 FIFTH AVENUE,
NEW YORK.

SHRINE EXPLANATION,

MARCH 29 1905



WRITTEN BY
D. J. R. USHIRUBO.

Mr. G. W. V. Smith,

49 Chestnut St.,

Springfield, Mass.