

August 17, 1986

Dear Michi.....

What an honor to have received your letter! I appreciated your kind thoughts about my book. But I must tell you how I felt about your book, "Years of Infamy". As soon as I read about this book in the Pacific Citizen, I ordered it immediately. And I was stunned by the thoroughness and meticulousness of your research and investigation. I told my husband that this work was worthy of a PhD degree. Not only was the contact clearly factual, backed up with documents, but your honest feelings, came through with such human expressions which all of us Nikkeis felt. You were accurately reflecting all of my feelings of bewilderment, doubts, shame. I read your book with great interest, underlined parts which particularly hit me. It contained new information for me. To my way of thinking, I felt that your book was unique in that it combined fresh documented information with deep personal feelings of a Nikkei.

Since the time that I read your book, whenever anyone asked me what he could read on the subject of the evacuation, I always referred them to "Years of Infamy" as the one comprehensive book which addressed the important political issues and touched on the human issues. So, congratulations on a superb book, Michi!

I was deeply touched with your having had Mother's poem written in calligraphy. It is beautifully done. I sent this on immediately to Mother with an explanation of your request. I did translate the tanks, but with great difficulty. She did have a pen name, and signed her poems with "Murasaki Shikibu". I do not own a collection of her poems, but you have certainly given me the idea of inquiring if she has kept her poems from the past. At a certain point in her life, she stopped composing. She had become interested in church activities as a lay person. In October, I plan to visit Mother in Seattle. I will ask her if

she has preserved her works. Her grandchildren and I had been encouraging her to write her autobiography, as a legacy to them. She was reluctant to do this, but I think she has started.

As to your desire to quote short passages from my book, you are certainly welcome to do so.

I am so glad that Frank Chin suggested you write. He is quite an activist, isn't he? I met him years ago when the redress campaign first opened in Seattle, and he appeared to have become deeply involved in this. My mother could not get over that a non-Nisei would put in the time and energy that he did for our cause, and she was deeply appreciative of him.

At this point, I am not working on another book yet. I have reached retirement age, but I continue on my job at the Catholic Community League, a family and children's social service agency. After 20 yrs., I still find my work fascinating and rewarding. My husband has been retired for 5 yrs., and I feel guilty for not retiring...but he reassures me that as long as I have my health and still enjoy the work, I need to keep going.

As soon as Mother sends the tanka back to me, I shall hurry it on to you. I know that she will be astounded and flattered to see the tanka, done in "fude" so beautifully.

Sincerely,

Monica Stone

What a beautiful  
person Monica  
turns out to be. I've  
read & reread her book  
and adore it!