



Cc. 404.621

Dec. 16/77

Dear Don,

There isn't actually any snow on the ground, but it certainly feels more like Christmas to us here in Cambridge than it ever did in Hawaii or Australia. We are enjoying it here very much, and I am making excellent progress on my book. Although the food and the weather are rather dull, the place has great charm and the people we have met are all quite friendly.

It seems a lifetime ago since we left Australia

in September and travelled to Hong Kong, Japan, and across Russia to Finland. Russia was fascinating but heavy going at times (no hot water

With the Season's Greetings
and

All Good Wishes for
The New Year

for 9 days when we came across Siberia). After 2½ weeks in the U.S.S.R., Finland sure looked good to us. We visited my relatives in Turku and had a ball. My great-uncle Heikki played Karelian songs for us on his violin while we

had breakfast at his house! That alone was worth the whole trip. We'll be going back there in June.

WINTER FARMYARD

By William J. Shayer, Jnr. (1811–c. 1885)

By courtesy of J. A. Hollis, Esq.

Shayer was the son and pupil of William Shayer (1788–1872), a self-taught artist who lived in Southampton. Both artists painted animals and landscapes and as they worked together and both signed their paintings, W. Shayer, it is often difficult to distinguish between their works. William Shayer Jnr. is probably best known for his fine coaching scenes which were very popular. He exhibited at the Royal Academy, Suffolk Street and the British Institution.

This farmyard scene, which captures the atmosphere of a crisp, cold winter's day, may well have been painted in Hampshire, where Shayer and his father often worked.

Keep well, and have a happy Yule,
Cheers, Dick + Betsy



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