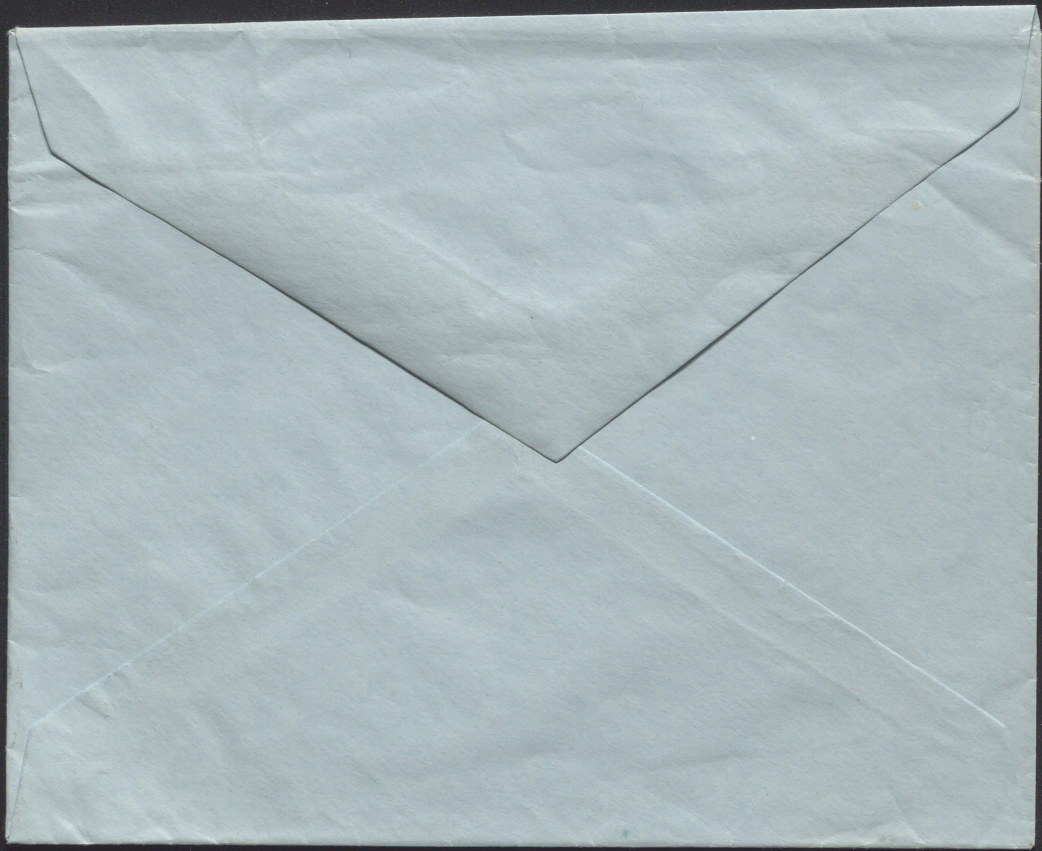


1
long letter from HRH Prince Arthur
to his father, the Duke of Connaught
from his Japanese mission
to the Mikado

1906.



From Prince Arthur
most interesting
(Japan).



CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY CO.

R.M.S. "EMPRESS OF JAPAN"

Pacific Ocean.

April 22. 06.

Dear Papa,

We have left Japan nearly
a week now and are well on our way to Canada.
I have written a long letter to Mamma, trying
to describe some incidents of our tour; so I will
not refer to it here. However it is quite
impossible, short of writing a book, to make any
attempt to go into details. I think I may safely
say, from what one hears and sees that the "Prima"
has been a success. But of course you know how
difficult it is to get anything out of a Japanese.
One thing, however is quite certain, that the entire



CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY CO.

R.M. EMPRESS OF JAPAN

people have been determined to show their
friendship to England and we just happened
to come in handy. The Emperor coming in person
to the station, despoising my health, and giving
an official banquet, not to mention other smaller
things, are all quite without precedent in Japan.
But apparently the Japanese consider the fact
of his having put on my sash and star with
his own hands, to be the greatest honour of all.
He has never before, in conferring an order, it appears,
taken the insignia out of the box. — The weather,
to a certain extent rather spoilt the sight seeing
part of our journey. Even the most beautiful
places lose their attractions, when seen from under a
dripping umbrella on a cold windy day. One month later

would have made all the difference to us; as
we arrived in the middle of one of the hardest
winters on record. - I feel I ought to be an
expert on Japanese naval matters, as I have seen at
the chief naval ports, met all the admirals and
have been escorted by a Japanese fleet for a week.
The navy is to all intents and purposes English.
Most of the officers speak it and use all their
nautical terms are English; so much so that at the
naval college it is the only foreign language
taught. As one of them said to me "English is our
second mother tongue." - We have been unfortunate
in seeing so little of the Army. Beyond the
troops lining the streets and a small "show" at
Hiroshima we have not ^{had} much chance to see anything.
As far as we can see, the Japanese army (except as
regards dress) is entirely modelled on Germany. They wear
a modified form of the "pseudomask" and apparently
have the same love of decoration. They handle their
arms smartly and are very well set up and steady in the

renter. I never noticed a man looking round
or shifting about while standing to attention.
The military bands we heard at Tokyo were
all very fair, but rather weak. A great many
landmarkers have ~~studied~~ studied in Germany;
but now they have a "school" of their own,
very similar to Kneller Hall. Uniform is worn
a great deal by officers; they have evidently
copied Germany in this respect and do not possess
a man-dress. None of the officers of my acquaintance
wore anything but uniform. — I shall be very curious
to hear your impressions of South Africa and what
you think of it as a military station. I wonder if
you saw our friends the Bays? They were at Pretoria
when last I heard of them. You must have been
very interested to see the battlefields. — The deplorable
shadow of Sir Hamilton's touchless look has been
seen with us in Japan. They are perfectly furious about
it — and one distinguished general told Davidson "Il a eu
l'audace incroyable de m'envoyer son laide lui-même!"
I must stop now, as it is just dinner time. Hoping that
you will have a good young home.
Ever yr loving Arthur.