

**Stella Patri
Hand Bookbinder**

68 Divisadero St.
San Francisco
California 94117

August 1, 1969

Mr. Ivataro Oka
Tominokoji Sanjo Agarui
Nakagyo-ku
Kyoto, Japan

Dear Mr. Oka:

On July 28th the package of paper arrived and in very good condition. It was so well packed that nothing could have damaged it. Thank you so much for the trouble you have taken on my behalf. The dyed paper is very similar to the sample I had left with Kurodani. The two Usu-mino papers are excellent for my work in repairing books.

I have two favors to ask: (1) information on making starch paste, the proportions of starch to water and how long to cook it. Do you add any insect deterrent?

(2) How to make a board upon which to lay mended paper to dry such as you use in your studio. I know it is a wooden frame upon which layers of paper (how many and what kind) have been attached and then painted with persimmon juice. That the juice is from green persimmons, mashed and strained through a fine sieve and let to stand in a jar for six months. Is this the way to do it?

A friend has a persimmon tree and will give me the fruit whenever I want it. I certainly would not need such long panels as you use but smaller ones. I think this would be a good method to use when repairing a frontispiece that needs backing or even when covering a badly torn page with silk gauze. It seems an excellent way to do the drying and to eliminate the pressing. I would like to apply it in my work when needed.

Thank you again for the trouble you have taken so far and if this request for information is too time consuming please tell me so and I will understand. If there is anything I could do for you or that I could send you from here I would do so with great pleasure.

My warm regards to you, your family and Mr. Kelman.

Sincerely,