

12 Corinium Gate
Cirencester
Glos. GL7 2PX.

3rd July 1995

Grahame H. Petchey,
P.O. Box 1052
Occidental,
California 95465
U.S.A.

Dear Friend,

The Clerk of Cirencester Friends Meeting has passed us your letter as being among very few people who remember Nona Ransome. We were close friends with Nona and remember her very well. I believe a Buddhist priest came to see her at her flat in Thomas Street and I expect it was Shunryu Suzuki.

We met Harry Rose, her adopted son, several times. I suppose the last time was at Nona's funeral. We have not heard of or seen him since and I have no address for him. The next time I am at the Friends Meeting House I will scan the visitors' book for the years that Nona was with us but it is very unlikely that Harry Rose will still be living where he lived at that time. If however I find an address I will append it to this letter.

I am sure you will be interested to know that Nona died lying on the sofa in her sitting room and was found holding the lovely photograph of the little Empress clutched to her bosom.

I hope you will be able to visit Cirencester again - you will be warmly welcomed at the Meeting.

Yours sincerely,

R. Edgar Hope - Simpson.

R. Edgar Hope-Simpson.

P.S. No luck so far. Will write again if I find an address.

R.E.H-S.

Grahame H. Petchey
P.O. Box 1052
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June 21, 1995

H. Ransom Rose
5 Sherwood Ct.
Seymore Place
London WIM 57H
ENGLAND

Dear Mr. or Ms. Rose,

I am trying to contact the adopted son of Nona Ransom. I found your address in the telephone directory and please forgive this intrusion if your only relationship is that of sharing the same name.

Should you indeed be Nona's son, you may remember my visiting you in 1967. I came to know Nona through a former student of hers whilst in Japan, named Shunryu Suzuki, to whom she taught English and expounded western culture. Shunryu became a priest and in his latter years became famous in the United States for his humble and simple teachings about Buddhism. I visited Nona in Cirencester on many occasions and much enjoyed listening to her many stories of China and her experiences with the royal household. At that time, I was trying to find a publisher for her writings.

A biography of Shunryu is now being written and in hope of corroborating my recollections of what she told me about the time when Shunryu was her student, the writer would like to meet with Nona's son.

I would very much appreciate your letting me know if this missive is correctly or mistakenly addressed and I trust you will understand how difficult it is to trace a person from a distant country after so many years.

Sincerely,

