



Gift Horse

Dear Michelle: When I had lunch with Stewart the other day, I told him about this, and now I'm telling you. In Louisville early this month, Yoshi purchased an *omiyagi* for you. An *omiyagi* is a gift that Japanese bring back from a trip for a friend. It's a rearing horse, made of leather stretched over a light-weight molding. Well, we've decided to keep it for ourselves. It stands next to our library clock. If you want to look your gift horse in the mouth, you'll have to visit us. Yes, we should have bought two of them, but we didn't think about it at the time, and once we arrived back home and retrieved the figurine from our luggage, we couldn't bear to part with it. You see, I'm from Kentucky, famous for its horses, and Yoshi is from Japan's Gunma Prefecture, the very name of which means "Many Horses." Forgive us. We stole your horse. But look at it this way: Every time we look at the horse, for the rest of our lives, we will think of Michelle & Stewart Moore, and smile.

Jackson Sellers, October 2006