

6.23.04

Wednesday

*Provincialism*

I had a telephone conversation today with a person in Singapore.

His name is Song Koon Lim. He is an entrepreneur, a cosmetic chemist, and the founder of Aroma Singapore, Plc.

I looked up Singapore when Mr. Lim (I don't know what to call him, other than Mr. Lim, and he has not suggested anything. He calls me "Laird". I suppose I could use the Asian convention and call him "Lim".)

The best site for information about foreign countries is the CIA site. The CIA says Singapore is 3.5 times the size of Washington D.C. Wouldn't you know that the CIA's frame of reference is Washington DC?

Reminds me of a dinner that my wife and I had at La Caravelle in New York City back in the 1970s. At the time, La Caravelle was one of New York's top restaurants. During the dinner, the Maitre'd asked us where we were from. When I replied, "San Francisco", he said, "Oh, I have a good friend who is a chef out there."

"What's the name of the restaurant?" I asked.

"Charlie Trotter's," he said.

"That's in Chicago," I said. "Illinois".

"Well, I knew it was out west somewhere," he said.