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UBCHEA ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
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Huachung
Corres.
Wei, Francis C.M.
1947 Sep- Dec

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MEMORANDUM REGARDING DR. WEI'S REQUEST FOR BUILDINGS.

~~Student~~ student enrollment.

	September 1946	September 1947.
Men	308	348
women	139	191
	<u>447</u>	<u>535</u>

In his letter of Sept. 26th to Mr. Lyford Dr. Wei said that there were about 20 vacancies in the new hostel, erected in 1946, and that only one half of Poyu hostel was being used so far. All the men students were using double deckers and also double deckers were in use in the new Yen Hostel.

Dr. Wei says under date of Oct. 9, 1947 that " the Board ought to begin to plan one hostel for men and one hostel for women for use by next August, and the money necessary to be taken from the building fund." He goes on to say: " All the men students are sleeping in double deckers, and double deckers have been installed into the new Yen Hostel in order to accomodate more women students. It is not unreasonable for ~~the~~ college students in China to be in crowded hostels two years after the war, but certainly it is not conducive to good college education. A certain measure of comfort is necessary to good thinking. I am not thinking of the luxurious conditions of students' hostels in England, but we should not have eight to ten students sleeping in a room intended for only two."

In 1937 Bergamini estimated the cost of a hostel for 50 men at US\$13,000.

In the fall of 1946 the "temporary" dormitory which by using double deckers could accomodate 96 men students in cramped quarters cost US\$11,400. This was of one story construction, thin grey brick walls and wooden floors.

In 1937 Bergamini erected the new Yen Hostel, which consists of three large rooms on each of three floors designed to accomodate four girls in each room or 36 in all, hall and bath rooms on each ~~floor~~ floor. This was of good red brick construction, reinforced concrete floors and stairways, tile roof. The total cost of this was US\$5,100.

Residences. Dr. Wei further talks of the need for more housing for the faculty with at least ~~four~~ and possibly six new houses being needed. He now would recommend the erection of permanent houses. In 1937 two large double houses were erected on the city wall land for a cost of US\$4,200 each or US\$2,100 per family unit. These houses were drawn to the size suggested by Dr. Wei and during the past year it has been found possible to accomodate four families in each double house by squeezing things in somewhat. However for various reasons it would seem wiser to erect single houses rather than double houses and they could be erected on the city wall land just south of those built in 1937 which is a section reserved for houses in every proposed layout Bergamini has made of the grounds.

The ~~estimate~~ estimate of the cost of the construction of the temporary houses authorized in April 1947 was US\$1,250 per family unit. These are of three rooms each, one story.

Dr. Wei further quotes rents at the rate of From US\$250 to US\$350 per year for a double house which would accomodate two families.

September 5, 1947

Dr. Francis C. M. Wei, President
Huachung University
Wuchang, China

My dear Francis:

I have just returned to the office this week after being out for more than two months. I am very happy to say that I have returned in the very best of health and physical condition. I am feeling better than I have probably for the past fifteen years. I have my fingers crossed, and I hope that I will continue to enjoy the best of health.

On returning to the office, I still find a letter from you dated May 1st. This was a very interesting letter giving me details about individuals and the University that have been very useful. Other letters from you to Mr. Lyford have also been very interesting and we were overjoyed at the spirit and conduct of Huachung students during the student demonstrations in June. More and more we appreciate your Christian character and leadership. The Huachung faculty and students are most fortunate. Since returning to the office this week I have learned that you were elected Chairman of the House of Deputies at the General Synod in August. Congratulations! I am glad that the Chinese Church recognized your leadership and ability in this way.

I am very anxious to see a report of the General Synod and learn what action was taken regarding the Central Theological School and the Bawn School. I hope it was decided to move these to Wuchang in conjunction with Huachung. I had a few minutes yesterday with Mr. Lyford and John Coe, who was passing through New York City on his way to Michigan. They had nothing definite to talk about but were going from here to 150 Fifth Avenue to talk with the officers of the United Board of Christian Colleges in China.

0700

September 5, 1947

I haven't heard from your son John since before the summer. Dean Rose, as you probably know, was elected Dean of General Theological Seminary here in New York and has moved down here. A new dean has not been elected for Berkeley but probably will be in the near future. I hope that it will be possible for John to continue to live at Berkeley, but I am afraid this will not work out as I have heard that they have taken in more students than they can possibly accommodate. We will keep an eye on him and do everything that we can to help John. I am sure he will find time to make us a visit sometime.

Dot joins me in very best wishes and kind regards.

Affectionately yours,

J. Earl Fowler

JEF:chh

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CO-OPERATING UNITS
BOONE COLLEGE
GRIFFITH JOHN COLLEGE
HUPING COLLEGE
WESLEY COLLEGE
YALE-IN-CHINA COLLEGE

學 大 中 華 立 私
HUA CHUNG (CENTRAL CHINA) COLLEGE
University
WUCHANG, CHINA

室 長 校
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 15, 1947.

Mr. J. Earl Fowler,
Overseas Department,
National Council,
281 Fourth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.
U. S. A.

My dear Earl,

I received yesterday your kind letter of September^{5th}, which had made very good time.

I am very happy indeed to know you have returned to your office in your very best of health and physical condition. You must know that you and I are no longer young, and we have to watch our physical condition very carefully. I do hope that you will continue to enjoy the best of health.

I am glad my letter of May 1st got to you. I ought to have written to you, Mr. Lyford, and Mr. Sherman more frequently during the last ~~few~~ ^{three} months, but since commencement at the end of June, I have been away practically all the time. I returned only on September 9th after the General Synod in Shanghai and a few days subsequently in Nanking. It was quite an accident that I was made chairman of the House of Deputies at the General Synod. It was the first time in the history of the church in China that a layman had been elected to that office. I occupied the chair for eight days in fear and trembling. With the ~~our~~ ^{cour}tesy of the Deputies, I was able to get through without much mishap. It was a very happy coincidence that the Chairmen of both Houses were Boone graduates, and therefore Huachung alumni, and so also is the new missionary bishop to Shensi.

The inertia in the House of Bishops tended to keep the Theological School and the Bawn School in Shanghai. To this the House of Deputies could not concur, and so a compromise was reached by deciding to keep the Central Theological School in Shanghai for the time being. I am afraid it will be there permanently. It will not be any loss to us in Huachung, but the church as a whole will realize the mistake in due course of time.

You may have heard that my son John has been appointed research assistant in the physics department in Yale Graduate School, and he is getting enough income to ~~cover~~ ^{cover} his necessary expenses.

I am interested to know that Dean Rose of Berkeley Divinity School has been elected Dean of General Theological Seminary in New York. I am going to write and congratulate him.

We are just in the rush of registering students in the new academic year. It will be another week before we know the exact enrollment,

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學 大 中 華 立 私
HUA CHUNG (CENTRAL CHINA) COLLEGE

CO-OPERATING UNITS
BOONE COLLEGE
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WESLEY COLLEGE
YALE-IN-CHINA COLLEGE

WUCHANG, CHINA
TEMPORARILY IN HSICHOW
VIA TALI, YUNNAN, CHINA

室 長 校
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

[2]

but my guess is that there will be 310 old students, and 230 new students including transfers, making a total of 540. All our hostels will be filled to the limit. One third of the student body will be women.

The Van Sants, the Fultons and the Los are all here, and we are expecting Mrs. Taylor sometime after Christmas.

As soon as registration is over, I shall report to Mr. Lyford. I owe him at least two more letters.

With the best wishes and kind regard to you and Dot, and to all members of your office at 281,

Yours affectionately,

Francis

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HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY
Wuchang, CHINA

President

WL-13, Sept. 26, 1947

Mr. Oliver S. Lyford,
54 Dana Place, Englewood,
New Jersey,
U. S. A.

(From Dr. Wei - Received Oct. 6)

Dear Mr. Lyford,

Your letter of August 13th reached me while I was in Shanghai attending the General Synod of the Chung Hua Sheng Huig Hui (Episcopal Church in China), from August 23rd to 31st. Immediately after the General Synod, I went to Nanking where I spent five days, coming back by boat, arriving here on September 9th.

Since I returned, I have been busy getting ready for the opening of the new term, and later in the rush of registration of old and new students. I do not have to do a great deal because I have so many competent colleagues who attend to the various parts of the work; but all the time, I have to be here in the office for consultation and to make decisions on matters not covered by regulations. For the entering freshman class, 132 students had been recommended by the affiliated Christian middle schools, and 3488 candidates not thus recommended took our entrance examinations in August in 4 centres, namely, Wuchang Changsha, Canton and Kuming. Only 210 of these who took the entrance examinations were admitted by the Admissions Committee with Dr. Hwang Pu as chairman. Thus 342 students were qualified to come, and the Committee, on the basis of past experience, had expected 70% of these to turn up for registration. But so far, only a little bit over 60% has actually turned up, and so there are up to this moment, 218 new students who had registered. We had at the end of last term 360 old students who had completed their year's work besides the seniors who graduated. Some of these 360 students were dropped on account of poor work, and others were advised to leave because of unsatisfactory conduct; still others have not returned, some because they had not paid on or before August 15th NC\$200,000 as deposit to assure their return, and so have not been allowed to return by the dean. We have in the university now 312 old students, which is almost 90% of the students who had completed the work at the end of last year. It is a good percentage, (judged by our past experience. The total enrollment in the university is therefore 530 students - 312 old students and 218 new ones, of whom 188 are women students.

The two women hostels are filled to the limit, and in most of the rooms, the students have to use double-deckers which they did not do during the last year. That is how we manage to squeeze in more women students, and the girls are now less comfortable. We cannot help this because so many girls want to come, and their families prefer to have them with us than somewhere else. Three men's hostels, namely, Ingle Hall, London Mission Hostel, and New Third Hostel are all opened and we have reopened also one half of the old Po Yu Hostel under the Methodist Church, by providing living quarters for four families in the new houses just completed. Three of the hostels are now full, but there are about 20 more vacancies in the Third Hostel, which is under Dr. Frank Fulton. I am glad that Fulton is here with his wife, and since he is interested in working among students, he will make a very good hostel warden.

0704

Brank and his wife are now living in the house formerly occupied by Richard Bien and family. Since Richard is returning with his family a year from this summer, we must have another house built for the Fultons. Before the next summer, we must, as a matter of fact, have more than one house built for faculty members. We have to house Brank Fulton and his family, Walter Allen and his wife who are coming back from New York, and Burton Roger and family who has been appointed by Yale-in-China Association to join us here in the autumn of 1948. Dr. John C. F. Lo has also expressed his desire to get into a new house. I give you this preliminary notice that sooner or later we shall have to petition the Huachung Committee of the United Board to appropriate from our Building Fund enough money for at least 4 permanent residences.

Further we have to pay this year NC\$10,000,000 as rent for two very unsatisfactory Chinese houses to accommodate two of our faculty members, and we have been able to renew the lease of these two houses at this rate only because we know the landlord personally. In other places we will have to pay at least six or seven million dollars as rent for one house. Therefore it is still more economical to build our own residences to accommodate particularly the missionary members of the faculty who have to vacate houses to accommodate members of faculty on leave for a year. I believe that six more residences to be occupied before next summer will be the minimum.

As to enrollment, we had just about 440 a year ago, and about 530 this year. I consider it wise to reach 600 a year from now and keep the enrollment at that number for two or three years before we increase the number to reach the maximum of 800. If we should get one new hostel for men and one new hostel for women built within the next ten months, we ought to be able to take care of the 600. But we could do that only by continuing the use of double-deckers, and double-deckers for university students are not really satisfactory. In ordinary times, a reasonable measure of comfort is necessary to university work. So if we should allow two or three years to build three more permanent hostels, so as to relieve the congestion in the hostels and to change the double-deckers into single beds, we may have enough space for 600 students. Then, and not until then, should we increase our enrollment to reach the maximum. As how to find the money for the necessary residences and hostels is for the Huachung Committee of the United Board to consider. I would suggest to take it from our Building Fund of which we have at present almost one third of a million ~~six~~ American dollars. The building project I have just mentioned will probably require less than US\$100,000. We ought to be able to afford this, since it is a part of the permanent building program.

Now let me turn to two other matters concerning finance.

First, Paul Ward must have written you about the increase of our subsidies according to government plan and in line with the principle adopted by the Provisional Board of Directors a year ago. Our expected income warrants this because of the higher rate of exchange which has come into force since the beginning of August.

With the rising prices, the government has decided to increase again the research subsidies by doubling it, beginning from August 1st. But the action taken by our Provisional Board of Directors is that we would put into effect such a change in the subsidy scheme from the month during which the government officially announces the change, whether the government action to increase in other institutions is retroactive or not. As soon as we receive confirmation of this action, we shall have to put it into effect here, and that

will mean US\$200 increase a month. Personally, I feel that we ought to give at least that much to our faculty, because increase of prices during the last month is really terrific. I hope the Huachung Committee will approve this change.

The other matter concerning finance is the Huachung fellowship, for Mr. Donald Wang. Again, Paul Ward may have written to you concerning this while I was not able to write to you on this matter during the summer vacation.

I was in my old home in the south when your cablegram was sent to be by Dr. Hwang Pu in July. I wrote back and asked him to make it known to people concerned. When I returned to Wuchang early in August, Dean Pu Hwang, Dean Richard Bien and Dr. Paul Ward all urged emphatically that while we could not allow Mr. Ying Chung Fu to anticipate his fellowship by a year, as was your action transmitted to us by cable, we could not very well hold back Mr. Donald Wang's fellowship, because he was the first actually to try to get abroad on the Huachung fellowship and had succeeded in getting a passport from the government. We have been encouraging the young people to look forward to the Huachung fellowship for two or three years already, and if none should be made effective, it would seem a breach of faith on our part. Mr. Paul Wu was awarded this fellowship a year ago, but he failed to get his passport and could not go abroad. Now he has gone to America on an Associated Board fellowship this year, and therefore he is out of the question. Donald Wang is awarded the fellowship this year, and he has gone through all the trouble to get his passport. So we have to give him the money of US\$1200 as the stipend of the Huachung fellowship, and he will take care of the rest for at least one year of study in America. For several years in our budget, approved year by year by the Huachung Board of Founders acting concurrently as Board of Directors, we have an item of \$600 earmarked as "Fellowship". The accumulated amount of this item for at least four years ought to cover at least Donald Wang's stipend of US\$1200. So please explain this situation to the United Board and get its approval for the appropriation of US\$1200 to cover Mr. Donald Wang's Huachung fellowship for the year 1947-1948.

Mr. Ying Chung Fu has applied to the Senate of the university for permission to stand as a candidate of the Huachung Fellowship of the next year, 1948-1949. We have already informed him of your decision to stop the Huachung fellowship entirely after this year. We have quoted to him the relevant portion of your cable and your letter to Dr. Pu Hwang concerning the fellowship, both received here in July. But Mr. Yin has requested us to appeal to your Committee again and I am therefore raising the question whether you will approve the granting of the Huachung fellowship for another year with a stipend of \$1200, and if you should Mr. Ying will be the recipient. Mr. Ying Chung Fu graduated from our department of Physics in the year 1940. Then he served as an assistant in the department of Physics for a year, 1940-1941, went to Tsing Hua University in Kunming for two years of post-graduate study in physics, and after he had completed the course for the degree of Master of Science in Physics in 1943, he returned to teach in Huachung and has been teaching ever since. He is not a Christian although he graduated from Boone Middle School and Huachung College. But he is not antagonistic. Dr. Richard Bien has been trying for two or three years to get him a scholarship in Brown University and it is our hope that when Dr. Bien gets to Brown this year, he will succeed in securing an appointment for Mr. Ying either as an assistant or as a research student. Since Mr. Ying has raised the question whether the Huachung Committee of the United Board will approve the granting of the Huachung Fellowship for another year, we will like to have an explicit answer from you.

We are calling a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Directors on October 11th. Again I shall raise the question with them on the appointment of the mission representatives to the Board of Directors. We must get the Board properly reorganized in China. But the missions have been very slow in taking the action.

I just asked Paul Ward whether he would be able to send you the report for 1946-1947 within the next few days. His reply is that with the pressure of work, he shall not be able to do it within the next three weeks from today. But he has already sent you the budget for the year 1947-1948, and as soon as it is approved, please let me know. I hope to get my report ready in about a fortnight's time.

Paul Ward has reported that the government has already paid us the additional grant for rehabilitation and for our current budget.

While I was in Shanghai, I was informed that the government had granted to the Christian colleges 60 times NC\$100,000,000. As soon as the money, I understand will be paid over in two months time, our share will be NC\$460,000,000. This sounds a huge sum, but at the present rate, it is less than US\$12,000. I am going to recommend for the consideration of the Executive Committee of Directors meeting on October 11th the appropriation of all this amount for the building of residences. This time we ought to build permanent residences instead of semi-permanent ones; and in Dr. Taylor's estimates, it is barely enough for two residences. As soon as the Executive Committee has met, there will be a recommendation to your Committee to consider and to act.

The government has given this amount of money to the Christian colleges with the understanding that there will be a joint campaign of the Christian colleges to raise 90 times NC\$100,000,000. We ought to raise in our centre something like NC\$1,600,000,000. We are just taking the initiate steps to get the campaign organized in the Wuhan centre, but the local government is also taking the initiation to raise 40 times NC\$100,000,000 as financial aids for college and middle school students in the province of Hupeh, and the president of Huachung University is a member of the Committee to raise this amount. With this campaign going on, it will be futile for us to start another campaign of a similar nature. So I am reporting to the committee in Shanghai that our campaign here must be postponed.

Looking over the sheet attached to your letter of August 13th, I noticed one item under "9", marked as "Dr. Wei's Scholarship Fund", amounting to US\$2,253.34. I don't understand what this Scholarship Fund is. Certainly I have not given the money, and I would like to know where it came from.

I must not carry on this letter any more. It is already too long. Let me close with the report that I am in the best of health, and that I wish to be remembered to your family, members of the Huachung Committee, members of the United Board, and all my other friends in New York and its vicinity. Let me thank you for the portrait you sent me. I am having it framed to be hung in my office. It will be too selfish for me to keep it in my own house.

Yours sincerely,

/signed/ Francis W. M. Wei



Handwritten numbers on the right margin: 7, 3, 5, 2

September 26, 1947

Dr. Francis C. M. Wei
Huachung University
Wuchang, China

My dear Francis:

Many thanks for your letter of September fifteenth. I was mighty glad to hear from you. We had the pleasure of having John's company over last weekend. He told me he had a little job up in New Haven but did not make it at all appear that he had been appointed research assistant in the Department of Physics of the Yale Graduate School. He is much too modest. In fact, he is much like his Daddy in many ways.

I am amazed at the number of students that you are registering for this year. In the first place, I do not see how you can anywhere near accommodate 540 students. I hope that you can continue to control and influence them as well as you managed the situation during the student trouble of last June.

I have just had a letter and statement from Arthur M. Adler, foreign book dealer, 114 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, requesting me to pay \$19.40 for an order received from Prof. Shen Lai-Chin of Huachung University. I was afraid that this order might be urgent so I have advanced the money for it. In the future, please request anyone on your faculty placing orders in the United States to be paid from this office to write and notify me. We will not acknowledge statements in the future of this nature in which we do not have advance information from you. Professors should have your O.K. or the Treasurer's before they place orders and we should be advised of this approval.

Dr. Richard Bien has just arrived in New York this morning. I had the real pleasure of over an hour's interview with him. He is not stopping here but going right on to Providence. He expects to return this way for a more extensive visit in about a month.

Dot joins me in very best wishes and kind regards.

Very cordially yours,

JEF:0

0708

Copy for Mr. Fowler.

October 6, 1947
Letter W-104

Dr. Francis C.M. Wei,
President, Huachung University
Wuchang, China

Dear Dr. Wei:

My last letter to you was my W-103 of August 23. The last letter from you to me was yours of June 27. It looks as though some strange thing has come over our correspondence but certainly it is not a change of sentiment or of mutual interest in our common cause. I have understood that you were absent from Wuchang in the South and in Shanghai and I have read your letter of last month to Mr. Fowler and rejoice in the new honor and responsibility which have been heaped upon you. On my side the explanation is the old one of difficulty in writing and carrying on other activities. I hope to keep up until a successor shall be found for my job, which I have loved. I am not dead yet by any means but I am oh so slow! Otherwise I am very well for a man of my age.

There are a number of things concerning which we need to hear from you as soon as possible. We are handicapped by lack of information from the University. We have been expecting Paul Ward's report on 1946-47 operations and a revised budget for 1947-48. We understand that he expects to send his figures to John Coe for verification, but I have not heard that Coe has received them. Also I have not received from Dr. Pu Huang any answer to my letter of July 10 regarding travelling fellowships and scholarships. Naturally we are anxious to know how you have met the awkward situation resulting from inadequate reserves. Also, we need to know how nearly the additions to building and other rehabilitation work are completed and what money is necessary to finish these operations. I hope no new work is contemplated but I do not see how you can accommodate such a large student body without more buildings.

I am hopeful that when we receive Paul Ward's figures for 1946-47 and 1947-48 we can produce a parallel tabulation of former years which will illustrate clearly the steady control on finances which you and Mr. Coe have maintained throughout the years of disturbance. This will strengthen our ability to secure the necessary funds for the current year and thereafter.

It is very fortunate that John Coe is in this country this year. He has analysed Paul Ward's preliminary figures and is ready to take the later figures in hand as soon as they arrive. He will help me a lot in preparing a good case for Huachung University. To supplement these figures we shall need your best guess as to the amounts which we reasonably may expect from Chinese sources in 1947-48.

Also we need to know enough about your correspondence with the United Board, Harvard-Yenching etc. so that we can supplement your efforts in any way that will be helpful. I have not received the usual \$5,000 from Harvard Yenching for 1946-47 and I am wondering whether there has been any change in their policy.

Financial conditions in the U.S., as affecting money-getting grow worse from week to week. It looks now as though the current year's operations may be the hardest to finance in our history. A special meeting of the main body of the United Board has been called for October 14, to determine upon a policy to follow during the rather distressing circumstances of the current year. There seems to be good reason for hope for better conditions next year.

0709

October 6, 1947
Letter W-104

News from China has been very meagre in recent months. Therefore we are dependant upon the College Presidents for realistic reports of developments from month to month and the extent to which national developments are affecting the work of the Colleges. Abnormal optimism will not do any good, but views based on intelligent Christian faith and interpretation will help a lot. I have been re-reading your "Education in Wartime China" and "Rooting the Christian Church in Chinese Soil." We need some such discussion of the possibilities for a New China in the light of recent history.

I am asking for a lot from you and Paul Ward but I do not see how we can make good without it.

With most cordial wishes for all my friends, I am

Yours very sincerely,

Oliver S. Lyford

*Copies being mailed to Mr. Sherman, Yale-in-China,
United Board, Evang. + Ref. Board, Fowler + Greiner*

*Letter from Mr. Wei, dated Sept 26, received this morning,
No figures of cost included. Will have copied and circulated*

O. S. L.

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HUA CHUNG (CENTRAL CHINA) COLLEGE

WUCHANG, CHINA

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室 長 校

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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October 7, 1947

Received Oct 15

CO-OPERATING UNITS

BOONE COLLEGE

GRIFFITH JOHN COLLEGE

HUPING COLLEGE

WESLEY COLLEGE

YALE-IN-CHINA COLLEGE

Mr. Oliver S. Lyford
54 Dana Place, Englewood, N.J.

Dear Mr. Lyford:

Since the following matter is highly urgent and important, we have jointly prepared this statement, trying to make it as brief and clear as possible:

1. The salary policy that we have followed at Huachung for over a year is to apply to the "basic salaries" the same multipliers and subsidies currently in effect at the National Wuhan University, the only comparable government institution in this area.
2. Prices in this region have increased about 100% since September 1st and seem likely to continue to climb as sharply in the coming days. The consequent revision of the government scale applied to Wuhan University is likely to be slow in materializing. Our faculty members are seriously distressed.
3. We propose, subject to your approval, to pay with the salaries on October 25th an arbitrary bonus of one third more, announcing that this is judged possible and necessary under this month's circumstances of salary scale, rate of exchange, price level, and university income, and that there is no promise to repeat it.
4. We calculate that on the most conservative estimate the university can afford this bonus out of current income:
The budget as originally submitted last June shows a salary total of \$38,210. We deduct from this the whole of the income item "To be found by the United Board" (\$11,400), leaving \$26,810; dividing this by twelve, we have \$2,234 available for salaries each month. We realize that the estimates for the Methodist and L.M.S. grants are probably high, but contributions have already arrived from the U.S.C. and B.U.A.C. to balance this. We feel that by figuring in this way we are still leaving a margin of safety to meet the worse times that may come.
Without the bonus, salaries to be paid here for October would total CN \$67,791,000; the bonus of one third would raise this to \$90,388,000. Applying the least favorable bank rate now available at Wuchang (and converting the subsidies paid in advance at the rate effective when paid), this comes to US \$2,015.67. Adding Dr. Richard Bien's salary of \$91.67 per month, the total is \$2,107.33 or only 94% of the money available.
5. The formal justification for the bonus is that in the national universities of China teachers under the pressure of inflation make ends meet by taking paying jobs outside. The universities do not object, and even facilitate this by short hours. Wuhan University requires 4 to 6 hours of teaching, as contrasted with the 10 to 12 hours here and in most American colleges, and the 8 hours in the few biggest American universities. We are unwilling to lower Hua-

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學 大 中 華 立 私

HUA CHUNG (CENTRAL CHINA) COLLEGE

室 長 校

CO-OPERATING UNITS

BOONE COLLEGE

GRIFFITH JOHN COLLEGE

HUPING COLLEGE

WESLEY COLLEGE

YALE-IN-CHINA COLLEGE

WUCHANG, CHINA

TEMPORARILY IN HSICHOW

VIA TALI, YUNNAN, CHINA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Wei and Ward to Mr. Lyford, October 7, 1947 -- page 2

chung's standards by permitting outside work for pay, but in the past few weeks we have had to take a firm stand on this in several cases. One local college president today expressed wonder that we felt it fair to enforce this rule.

One less important point at which, in realistic terms, we have not been paying as much as Wuhan University is this: whenever the government has belatedly raised the salary scales to follow the inflation, it has applied the increase retroactively for one to four months, whereas we have considered it necessary, as sound business practice, to put the increase into effect only as of the month in which it was officially announced.

6. Our case, however, rests on what present prices mean to the individual faculty members. The highest-paid professor, who has seven children to support and educate, would receive this month without the bonus the equivalent in purchasing power of about \$21.50 in pre-war U.S. dollars. With the bonus his October salary would be \$28.66 by the same reckoning. His monthly salary before the war was equal to U.S. \$106.00.

In other words, the bonus would bring salaries this month up to only three quarters of the 40% of pre-war purchasing power discussed last year -- and this only if prices do not climb much before October 25th.

7. We ask therefore a) that you cable at once approval of the October bonus as proposed, and b) that you write us approving (if you feel able) the principle and policy of granting such a bonus in any later month when it seems equally needed, the amount to be within the limit figured out on the same strict and conservative basis as used in paragraph four above. To be prepared for the possible worse times ahead we must maintain the faculty's confidence that we are really doing the best we can for them.

Very sincerely yours,

Francis C. M. Wei

Francis C. M. Wei
President

Paul L. Ward

Paul L. Ward
acting Treasurer

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私立華中大學
HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY
WUCHANG, CHINA
TEL. ADDRESS: "WUCHANG 8344"
電報掛號：武昌八三四四

CO-OPERATING UNITS
BOONE COLLEGE
GRIFFITH JOHN COLLEGE
HUPING COLLEGE
WESLEY COLLEGE
YALE-IN-CHINA COLLEGE

CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

校長 章卓民
PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

October 9, 1947.

Mr. J. Earl Fowler,
National Council,
281 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.
U. S. A.

Dear Earl,

I received day before yesterday your letter of September 26th and I was glad to hear from you again.

Richard Bien had just written from Brown University saying that you were very kind to him in New York and that he expected to visit New York again in another month.

In the third paragraph of your letter of September 26th you referred to a letter and statement from Arthur M. Adler, Foreign Book Dealer, 114 Fourth Avenue, New York, requesting you to pay \$19.40 for an order received from Professor Shen here. I showed Paul Ward this paragraph and he admitted it was his fault not to have written you about it, since Dr. Shen had already received his permission to send the order. I have told Paul Ward that hereafter all orders of this kind should be sent through his office instead of by individual members of the faculty.

The new term is going well with apparently a good lot of students who seem to appreciate what we are able to give them and take everything in good spirit.

My son John has written very appreciatingly of his visit with you in New York. He is continuing his work as an assistant for Prof. Montgomery and taking 13 credit hours of lectures and laboratory besides auditing another course. He is getting ready to take his French examination this month. He passed his German in February. Next spring he will have to take his general examinations as a preliminary to the doctorate.

October 10th is near, and after that we shall be preparing for the consecration of Newton Liu in the Church of the Holy Nativity on the campus.

With the best wishes,

Yours affectionately,

Francis

P.S. Please get for me 1000 multivitamins produced by Smith in N.Y., ask John Coe to bring them, & charge to me. F.

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PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

October 18, 1947.
WL-14.

Received Oct 27

Mr. Oliver S. Lyford,
54 Dana Place, Englewood, N.J.,
U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Lyford,

I am so happy to receive your letter WL104 dated October 6th day before yesterday.

I must apologize for the irregularity of our correspondence on my part. It has been due largely to the rush both at the end of the last term and at the beginning of the new term, and that I was away from Wuchang practically the whole summer. I am glad that my letter WL-13 of September 26th reached you safely.

Again I have to apologize that I have not found the time to write my Annual Report for the last year. More than once, I sat down to complete my notes, and yet I have not been able to get the writing done. I have been called away so often to attend meetings of one kind or another.

With a more or less guilty conscience, I have been reminding Paul Ward to send his financial report to you for 1946-1947 operations, but he too, has been working so hard day and night that he is behind his schedule as the acting treasurer, especially now, when foreign exchange as well as market prices is rising so steeply that as soon as we have completed the study of one scheme we have to face entirely a new situation.

Your question about the Huachung fellowship has been answered in my letter WL-13. Paul Ward has just reported that the erection of 12 housing units leaves only a deficit of US\$300. The appropriation for this project was US\$15000, but in addition to this, we have received two gifts from our good friend Mr. Li Jui, one in June amounting to NC\$10,000,000 and then another at the last weekend amounting to NC\$20,000,000.

As to the increased enrollment of students, we have arranged to accommodate them by putting in more double-deckers into the hostels.

The Executive Committee of the Provisional Board of Directors met on Saturday October 11th. Dr. Fulton was appointed secretary pro-tem, and he has not been able to get the minutes ready to be enclosed for you in this letter. To anticipate the minutes, and to prepare your mind for them, I would like to report to you the following actions:

First, that ~~the~~ NC\$460,000,000 as our share of government speci-

See copy of minutes of Oct 11

0714

al grant of NC\$6,000,000,000 be recommended to the Founders acting as Directors, to be used towards the cost of additional residences and hostels to be erected in the near future.

Second, that it be recommended to the Founders acting as Directors that 6 additional faculty residences of the permanent type be built before August 1948, and two hostels, one for men and one for women, be also erected as permanent buildings before the same date, and that approximately US\$100,000 be appropriated by the Founders from the available building fund which together with the new grant for buildings made by the National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church in United States amounts now to over one third of a million dollars U.S. currency.

The Executive Committee has made these recommendations with regard to buildings because it is felt that while it is justifiable to put our students in double deckers in our hostels, and while they are happy with even this kind of accommodation in view of the present situation in China, this arrangement is not conducive to the best type of university life which would require a reasonable measure of privacy and comfort. We may argue that prices are at present too high to warrant any expenditure in U.S. money on buildings, but there is no telling when prices will come down to a level for us to start building again. It seems to be a pity to let the money lying in the bank to depreciate with the depreciation of even the U.S. currency when it could be turned into effective use when the needs are so great. After all, we don't know what the future has ~~installed~~ for us, but we must work while it is day, and trust that God will take care of the rest.

The Executive Committee has instructed me to write at once to Bergamini asking whether he can spare the time to visit us from the Philippines before Christmas for a period of time long enough for him to consult with the Faculty Committee already appointed by the Senate to study our needs and to reach some conclusion as to the general outlay of the plan and the architectural style of the buildings, for the consideration and approval of the Huachung Committee of the United Board. I have written to him already, and am expecting a reply in about two weeks. If he could not spare the time to make this trip, the Executive Committee would wish to know what the Huachung Committee of the United Board will do with regard to the university architecture. It is unwise to let things drift any longer.

We have this term 523 students of whom 190 are women. It is the opinion of the Senate that we should reach the enrolment of about 600 students in the fall of 1948, 400 men and 200 women, and then stop at that figure for two or three years not only for the sake of consolidation but also to allow time for the building of more hostels, so as to relieve the congestion, and to get hostel life into the normal conditions which would mean two or at most four students in a room or suite planned for that number, all in single beds instead of six or eight or even ten in one room with all sleeping in double deckers. The hostel scheme ought to be one of the distinctive features of Huachung. This requires the provision of quarters for two faculty members near to each men's hostel. Our present buildings make the working of this scheme impossible. Hence the building of new hostels is an urgent need.

The Executive Committee meeting on Saturday also took action for the university to follow the government plan of subsidies. According to newspaper reports, the government has been considering various plans. It looks likely that they are going to adopt the one which calls for 125% increase of all the salaries and the subsidies. So far we have been following the government plan since July 1946, and it has been proved the most satisfactory to all concerned. At times, it works hardships on our people when the government is slow in changing to meet the new price level, but as long as we know that the government is going to make new adjustments, we are willing to wait in spite of the hardships. I was working it out with Paul Ward yesterday and found that if the government should finally adopt this month the plan of increasing by 125% we would probably have a deficit of US\$2000, when we take the lower figures of the salary item for the year 1947-1948. But exchange may be in our favour, so as to eliminate this deficit. Even though there may be a deficit, the increase like this one is justifiable. We still have our reserve to fall back upon. You may like to keep the reserve as intact as possible, but it ought to be remembered that the greater part of the reserve has been kept just to meet a time like this. We may have three or four more years of hard time to face, but we ought to stretch our reserve to cover this expected period. We ought to keep the future in mind, but it does not seem warranted to sacrifice too much the present for the future.

Since dictating this letter, I have heard from Mr. Evans of the United Board in N.Y. that the Harvard Institute has made a grant to us amounting to U.S. \$2000.00 to be spent before Dec. 31st 1947.

Things are really developing very rapidly in China. Paul Ward and I wrote you a joint letter on October 7th proposing to increase immediately the subsidies by one third. The proposal is out of date now. The only way is to follow the government plan when it is put into effect by the government in the national institutions. One of the Executive Committee members was amazed on Saturday to know that our highest paid professor had been receiving only one and three quarters of a million dollars Chinese currency a month. He said that a minister in his church in this area with very little education had been receiving a higher salary.

Even when we follow the government subsidy scheme, we have still to bear in mind the fact that professors in the Wuhan University teach only 4 to 6 hours a week and are allowed to take extra jobs outside ~~with~~ ^{the} pay, while the Huachung teachers have to carry 10 to 14 lectures a week and are not allowed to carry extra remunerative jobs outside. We feel proud of our arrangement, but while the financial conditions are as they have been, we ought to give some kind of recognition to the willingness of our people to maintain a good tradition at their own cost. We recommended in our joint letter dated October 7th that as long as there is the need, and as far as our resources are permitting, we should pay our men more than the government universities pay theirs. I do not know what the United Board will say about this, but as far as I know, not all the Christian universities which have joined the United Board are following the same scheme in paying salaries and subsidies to faculty and staff members.

Before I close I like to report the following figure:

3.	Total number of students registered this term:	536
	Old students-	316
	new students-	<u>220</u> 536

(4)

Men students- 344
Women Students- 192 536

4. (Note: of the total number, 13 students have already withdrawn, some by doctor's orders, and others to enter National universities where there are no fees charged.)

29% a year ago in Wuchang, and 15% two years ago in Hsichow.

By departments the students are:

4. Chinese 30
English 80
Econ. & Com. 168
History 29
Biology 24
Chemistry 50
Physics 45
Education 97

Total: 523 - not counting the students who have left.

With the best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Francis C. M. Wei

P. S. Yesterday after dictating this letter I received your cablegram approving the 3rd + 4th paragraphs of our joint letter of Oct. 7th.

F.C.M.W.

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CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

校長 章卓民

PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

October 23, 1947.
WL-15.

Mr. Oliver S. Lyford,
54 Dana Place, Englewood,
New Jersey,
U. S. A.

Received Nov 3

Dear Mr. Lyford,

My last letter to you was WL-14 dated October 18. I have been wondering whether it ^{would} reached you before the Huachung Committee meeting on October 24th. Sometimes, airmail from China to America takes only six days, and I have recently received one from New Haven for only five days from the time of mailing.

I wish to report to you first of all that we are making preparations for the celebration of the 23rd Anniversary of the Huachung Founders' Day which is on November 1, and which is also the occasion every year for the formal matriculation of the new students. We used to receive from the Founders on that day a gablegram which always cheered up the faculty and the students.

Secondly, I have to report that since I wrote to October 18, we have received confirmation from the President of the Wuhan University of the government decision to increase the subsidies for members of the faculty and staff by 125%, except research subsidy which is only doubled. Following the action of the Provisional Board of Directors taken in July 1946, and in accordance with your approval of this action, we are paying the subsidies tomorrow on the reckoning and it means NC\$~~20~~20,000,000 increase ^{on} the salary item of our budget. It is a tremendous increase, but figuring it out with Paul Ward, we feel that we ought to be able to make it without causing too serious a deficit in our budget, especially when the likelihood is that for the next two months, there may not be any further increase and the exchange rate will be more in our favour.

Against this sudden increase mentioned above, I wish to quote you the following paragraph from the Rev. Noel B. Slater's letter dated October 8 from London - "...I still hope to write you in a day or two regarding to our allocation, but the last Executive voted an extra 360 pounds for equipment for Huachung to cover duty on goods already ordered, plus an extra 60 pounds, part of a special contribution from the Presbyterian Church of England; and 650 pounds for maintainence which you could either use towards a 'Chair' (in the hope that we should be able to keep up payments) or for some other special needs. This, with 700 pounds granted you on June 24th for equipment, plus 600 pounds for maintainence, totals 2310 pounds for this year, which is more than you asked for. You still have 300 pounds to your credit on maintainence."

- After consultation with Paul Ward and report to the Senate, I shall

0718

make recommendations to you with regard to the appropriation of the un-earmarked money in the above paragraph just quoted from Mr. Slater's letter.

I have heard from Dr. Richard Bien in Brown University. He has built in the Brown University Laboratory an oscilloscope at the cost of only US\$63 by using surplus materials. Such an oscilloscope in the market will cost US\$2000. We decided to ask you to pay him this \$63, and I have also written him to consult with you whether he could spend more money on science equipment over and above our commitments up to date. As he is asking for some money for immediate expenditures on scientific supplies, I have written him after consultation with Paul Ward that if he should get in touch with John Coe immediately he may with John Coe's approval spend US\$1000 out of our rehabilitation funds, but that if he should wish to spend more of the same funds, he must wait until after John Coe's return to Wuchang and when John Coe and Paul Ward have been able to check all the outstanding orders, unless you should see your way clear to authorize him to spend more on science equipment. It would be an advantage to the university if Richard Bien should attend himself to the buying of science equipment for the three departments - Biology, Chemistry and Physics, while he is in America himself.

Dr. Brank Fulton has been talking to me about a fellowship granted by Yale-in-China Association for a Huachung faculty member now in America. Brank and I agreed that we ought to let Richard Bien have this fellowship, for his travel from Providence to New Haven, and for whatever expenses he may have to incur in visiting New Haven as frequently as possible, and to stay long enough to contact as many of the New Haven people in the interest of Huachung as he can. The stipend of the fellowship ought to enable him to do two or three other things. First, he ought to feel free to attend the Huachung meetings in New York; to visit the Evangelical and Reformed Church people in Philadelphia; to call on such people as Mrs. Procter and Miss Johnston in Ohio; and to attend Yale Club meetings in various cities in America; all on behalf of Huachung. Secondly, we should want him to make a visit to England and work with Slater for two or three months as I did a year ago, so as to promote further the interest of Huachung in Great Britain. I am writing to Richard Bien about this, and I shall write more explicitly to Mr. Slater concerning Richard Bien's visit.

1. In spite of all rumours, our district of the country is still safe. Please have the news broadcasted to our friends in America, that as long as we do not cable you to the contrary, you may assume that all goes well with us. Prices are still rising, but during the last week, they have not been as alarming as before.

2. As a whole, everybody on the faculty and staff feels happy about the situation in the university. The students are working very hard, and they are behaving well.

Only yesterday, a Mr. Tsen came in to announce his decision to us that he was going to turn over to our university library about 4000 Chinese books, a collection left by his father. In recognition of the gift, we have agreed to set aside from our own funds US\$400 as an endowment, the annual interest from which will be a scholarship for a student in our university, with preference to a descendant of his father, or a native of his district which is not far away from Hankow, if such a student proves in other ways qualified for our scholarship. We have to pay for the transportation of the

(3)

books from the Tsen's family in An-lo to Wuchang, and the cost of transportation may be NC\$3,000,000 which in terms of US currency is not much. The books given to us by the Tsen family have the estimated value of at least NC\$40,000,000. We hope that you will approve this transaction. We would like to encourage this kind of gift as far as our resources permit, because it is now so difficult to buy Chinese books to replace our very heavy losses from our library during the war. A former student of ours has been telling me also about turning over to us the books left by his deceased uncle. This collection, however, is in Wuchang, and will not cost much money in transportation.

, With the best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Francis C. White

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HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY

Extracts from recent letters from China

A letter dated October 23 and received from Dr. Francis Wei since our meeting of October 24, contains the following good news:

"In spite of all rumors, our district of the country is still safe. Please have this news broadcasted to our friends in America. As long as we do not cable you to the contrary, you may assume that all goes well with us. Prices are still rising, but during the last week, they have not been as alarming as before."

"As a whole, everybody on the faculty and staff feels happy about the situation in the university. The students are working very hard, and they are behaving well."

From this and other letters recently received, I quote the following paragraphs:

"Total number of students registered this term:	536
Old students	316
New students	<u>220</u> 536
Men students	344
Women students	<u>192</u> 536

(Note: Of the total number, 13 students have already withdrawn, some by doctor's orders, and others to enter National Universities where there are no fees charged.)

Of the total number of students, 40.8% are Christians, against 29% a year ago in Wuchang, and 15% two years ago in Hsichow.

By departments the students are:

Chinese	30	
English	80	
Econ. & Com.	168	
History	29	
Biology	24	
Chemistry	50	
Physics	45	
Education	<u>97</u>	Total: 523 - not counting the students who have left."

"The two women hostels are filled to the limit, and in most of the rooms, the students have to use double-deckers which they did not do during the last year. That is how we manage to squeeze in more women students, and the girls are now less comfortable. We cannot help this because so many girls want to come, and their families prefer to have them with us than somewhere else. Three men's hostels, namely, Ingle Hall, London Mission Hostel, and New Third Hostel are all opened and we have reopened also one half of the old Po Yu Hostel under the

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Methodist Church, by providing living quarters for four families in the new houses just completed. Three of the hostels are now full, but there are about 20 more vacancies in the Third Hostel, which is under Dr. Brank Fulton. I am glad that Fulton is here with his wife, and since he is interested in working among students, he will make a very good hostel warden."

"I have to report that since I wrote on October 18, we have received confirmation from the President of the Wuhan University of the government decision to increase the subsidies for members of the faculty and staff by 125%, except research subsidy which is only doubled. Following the action of the Provisional Board of Directors taken in July, 1946, and in accordance with your approval of this action, we are paying the subsidies tomorrow on this reckoning and it means NC\$27,000,000 increase monthly on the salary item of our budget. It is a tremendous increase, but figuring it out with Paul Ward, we feel that we ought to be able to make it without causing too serious a deficit in our budget, especially when the likelihood is that for the next two months there may not be any further increase and the exchange rate will be more in our favor."

"Against this sudden increase mentioned above, I wish to quote you the following paragraph from the Rev. Noel B. Slater's letter dated October 8 from London - "...I still hope to write you in a day or two regarding our allocation, but the last Executive voted an extra 360 pounds for equipment for Huachung to cover duty on goods already ordered, plus an extra 60 pounds, part of a special contribution from the Presbyterian Church of England; and 650 pounds for maintenance which you could either use toward a 'Chair' (in the hope that we should be able to keep up payments) or for some other special needs. This, with 700 pounds granted you on June 24 for equipment, plus 600 pounds for maintenance, totals 2,310 pounds for this year, which is more than you asked for. You still have 300 pounds to your credit on maintenance."

"Things are really developing very rapidly in China. Paul Ward and I wrote you a joint letter on October 7 proposing to increase immediately the subsidies by one-third. The proposal is out of date now. The only way is to follow the government plan when it is put into effect by the government in the national institutions. One of the Executive Committee members was amazed on Saturday to know that our highest paid professor had been receiving only one and three-quarters of a million dollars Chinese currency a month. He said that a minister in his church in this area with very little education had been receiving a higher salary."

"Even when we follow the government subsidy scheme, we have still to bear in mind the fact that professors in the Wuhan University teach only 4 to 6 hours a week and are allowed to take extra jobs outside with pay, while the Huachung teachers have to carry 10 to 14 lectures a week and are not allowed to carry extra remunerative jobs outside. We feel proud of our arrangement, but while the financial conditions are as they have been, we ought to give some kind of recognition to the willingness of our people to maintain a good tradition at their own

cost. We recommended in our joint letter dated October 7 that as long as there is the need, and as far as our resources are permitting, we should pay our men more than the government universities pay theirs. I do not know what the United Board will say about this, but as far as I know, not all the Christian universities which have joined the United Board are following the same scheme in paying salaries and subsidies to faculty and staff members."

"The Executive Committee of the Provisional Board of Directors met on Saturday, October 11. Dr. Fulton was appointed secretary pro tem, and he has not been able to get the minutes ready to be enclosed for you in this letter. To anticipate the minutes, and to prepare your mind for them, I would like to report to you the following actions:

First, that the NC\$460,000,000 as our share of government special grant of NC\$6,000,000,000 be recommended to the Founders acting as Directors, to be used towards the cost of additional residences and hostels to be erected in the near future.

Second, that it be recommended to the Founders acting as Directors that 6 additional faculty residences of the permanent type be built before August 1948 and two hostels, one for men and one for women, be also erected as permanent buildings before the same date, and that approximately US\$100,000 be appropriated by the Founders from the available building fund which together with the new grant for buildings made by the National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States amounts now to over one-third of a million dollars U.S. currency.

"The Executive Committee has made these recommendations with regard to buildings because it is felt that while it is justifiable to put our students in double deckers in our hostels, and while they are happy with even this kind of accommodation in view of the present situation in China, this arrangement is not conducive to the best type of university life which would require a reasonable measure of privacy and comfort. We may argue that prices are at present too high to warrant any expenditures in U.S. money on buildings, but there is no telling when prices will come down to a level for us to start building again. It seems to be a pity to let the money lying in the bank to depreciate with the depreciation of even the U.S. currency when it could be turned into effective use when the needs are so great. After all, we don't know what the future has in store for us, but we must work while it is day, and trust that God will take care of the rest."

The spirit of Christian loyalty and optimism shown in the above quotations is wonderful and of course should be rewarded with adequate salaries and adequate housing as soon as possible. However, the University is carrying on successfully under the present handicaps and the most important requirement at present is adequate financing to provide for the maintenance during the coming months at the same degree of comfort as at present.

The present indication is that with exchange rising at about the same rate as the cost of living, the budget income for the present college year will be adequate for maintenance at about the same degree

0723

as for the year 1946-47 and therefore that the income from our regular sources, with about U.S. \$20,000 from the United Board, will be sufficient for the life of the faculty and staff at the present degree of physical discomfort. The faculty should be rewarded by income beyond this minimum and we hope for more liberal grants. We always must keep in mind that the present individual incomes have a buying power which is only a small fraction (averaging about 25 per cent) of the corresponding buying power before the war.

The Huachung Committee (formerly the Hua Chung Board of Trustees) questions the advisability of spending any considerable amount of our western capital for new buildings until there shall be greater assurance that such buildings will not be destroyed during the present armed rebellion. However, we have approved of the use of all available Chinese income for such purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

Oliver S. Lyford
Treasurer

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copy to Mr. Fowler

1512 Brooklyn Ave.,
Ann Arbor, Mich.,
Oct. 27, 1947.

Dr. F. C. M. Wei,
Hua Chung University,
Wuchang, Hupeh, China.

Dear Dr. Wei,

Thank you for your letter of October ninth which reached me last week when I was in New York preparing for the meeting of the Hua Chung Founders on the twenty-fourth. It was fortunate that I had it before the meeting.

Earl Fowler will be sending you the minutes of the meeting and writing you ere long. However I am sending you a preliminary report. It was a good meeting with Dr. Sherman, Mr. Lyford, Miss Johnston and others there. Rex Wheeler, new ~~xxxxxxx~~ executive secretary of Yale-in-China was also there. The meeting lasted nearly three hours.

The two most important actions were first the passing of the budget which Paul Ward had sent on in the summer. They also took action ~~in~~ ^{decided} in regard to the erection of three permanent residences. I think that it was ~~that~~ ^{just} the money from the ~~the~~ ^{the} expected government grant of C\$460,000,000 be ~~be~~ ^{used}. This would be in line with the suggestion on the last page of your letter of Sept. 26th to Mr. Lyford that you were going to recommend that this money be so used to the ~~xxxxxx~~ Executive committee of the Board of Directors at a meeting on the 11th of October. They ~~xxxx~~ realized that this money would not be enough for three residences, and so they went ^{on} further to say that they would find the balance needed for the three houses probably ~~xxxxxx~~ from the ~~xxxx~~ \$200,000 appropriation to Hua Chung from the R. and A. fund. They did state that the total cost of the three houses should not exceed US\$18,000 or US\$6,000 for each. The way this figure was reached was that they considered the fact that the double houses Bergamini built on the city wall in 1937 cost US\$4,200 per double house or US\$2,100 per family unit. Earlier Bergamini had estimated the cost of a house at not more than US\$3,000. ^{per family unit} So a figure of not quite three times prewar actual cost ^{per family unit} seemed a fair maximum to use at the present time.

Dr. MacMullen was at the meeting to discuss the campaign which is being put on to raise money for the colleges and took more time than had been expected. He is putting on a campaign to raise US\$600,000 for the colleges for current operations. How much he will get is a question. Our share of this is to be fifteen or twenty thousand, if all is raised. Henry Lase has already given ~~xxxx~~ \$50,000. This is in addition to what may come through USC which will not be much.

The question of the fellowship was on the agenda, but unfortunately it did not come till after MacMullen. By the time that MacMullen was through, it was so late that members of the board were drifting away so that the fellowship has been put over to the next meeting.

In your letter to Mr. Lyford, you mention the matter of Dr. Wei's scholarship fund. I have checked the matter over in New York and find that in keeping their accounts in New York that they had placed in this fund the various sums which had been given you for scholarships such as from Mrs. Duncanson etc. I hope this clears the matter up, and accounts are being adjusted.

I have seen Donald Wang several times here in Ann Arbor. He seems to be getting adjusted and settling down at his work well. Mrs. Harold Gray is letting him have a room in her house which is of course helping him out considerably.

We expect to be in Boston sometime before the middle of November for a bit, and while there I hope that we will have a chance to see Richard Bien.

Earl Fowler has gotten us passage on the "Marine Adder" which is scheduled to sail from San Francisco on the ninth of January. I hope that nothing will occur to hold it up. Both of us have gotten well rested and are anxious to get back to

*Sincerely,
John L. Coe*

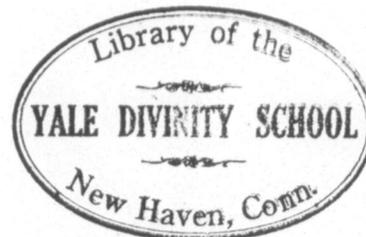
0725

HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY
WUCHANG, CHINA

November 14, 1947
WL-16

Mr. Oliver S. Lyford
54 Dana Place, Englewood,
New Jersey
U.S.A.

Re: Annual Report for the Academic
Year 1946-47



Dear Mr. Lyford,

I can hardly realize that my last letter to you was WL-15 dated October 23. The three weeks have passed almost at the blink of the eye. So much has happened that I do not realize that the time is gone so very quickly.

I have heard from John Coe giving his preliminary report on the meeting of the Board of Founders in New York, and I am waiting for Earl Fowler's minutes which I believe will come very soon.

Enclosed I am sending you the much belated Annual Report of the President. It was written before the end of October, but I have not been able to get it typed until today. I hope you will excuse this long delay and convey my regrets to the Board of Founders acting concurrently as the Board of Directors. You may find it possible to get this report and, perhaps, the accompanying reports duplicated in Earl Fowler's office in order to send it out to the members of the Board and others concerned. I am sending a copy to Mr. Slater in London asking him to share it with Mr. Rattenbury of the Methodist Missionary Society and Mr. Orchard, or whomever may be acting for him during his absence, in the London Missionary Society. As soon as you are able to get the report duplicated, please send copies to all the cooperating Missions including the Mission of the Evangelical United Brethren Church whose secretary is Dr. Heinmiller.

In China, I am trying to get the report typed again so as to send a copy to each of the Mission heads in the field. We are only able to get seven copies at each typing.

It is not necessary for me to review the recent events in the university during the last few weeks, because since November 1, we have revived the English weekly bulletin which you may remember used to be sent to you even during the earlier years in Hsichow, and we were forced to discontinue it when mimeograph material in English became unavailable. Now we call this English weekly bulletin "Huachung Newsletter." The office is sending you and some members of the Huachung Board a copy every week in order to keep you posted of happenings here. If you should find any need for more copies, please let me know, giving the names and addresses or else, we would just send you extra copies every week. Dr. MacMullen of the United Board is already on our mailing list.

From the last two issues of the Newsletter, you will know about the Consecration Service for the Rev. Newton Liu, one of our alumni, on October 28; the visit of the British Parliamentary Mission; the faculty and staff dinner on the eve of the Founders' Day; the celebration of the Founders' Day on November 1; the Alumni Meeting on the evening of the Founders' Day; the play staged by the students' dramatic club on Novem-

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ber 7 instead of November 1 or October 31 because of the mid-term examinations immediately before and after November 1; and the attendance of Dr. Pu Hwang at the Annual Conference of the China Christian Education Association as representative of Huachung. Dr. Hwang returned from Shanghai only yesterday, and reported a very successful conference. He came back on the same boat with the principals of several Christian middle schools in Hunan and Hupeh, and while in Shanghai during the conference, he was able to contact the principals of many Christian middle schools in Anhwei and in Honan. One of the consequences of his visit to Shanghai is twelve more Christian middle schools in our region which have decided to join up with us as affiliated Christian middle schools. They are in the Provinces of Anhwei and Honan. All these Christian middle schools have expressed their desire to have the privilege of recommending their graduates to us for admission into Huachung. If we should grant them this privilege we shall have more students every year from the Christian middle schools and also a larger percentage of Christian students in the university. Dr. Hwang is very proud in reporting to me that we seem to be doing better services to the Christian middle schools in our region, and we hope that our policy may be adopted by the other Christian universities in China. To achieve the aim of Christian higher education, the Christian universities must work hand in hand with the Christian middle schools, and we have been pursuing this policy for the last 18 years. Only the war interrupted our program and now since we came back to Wuchang, we are pushing it ahead, with all the facilities and resources available to us.

Dr. Charles Bunsen Shaw representing the United Board is visiting us here now. He arrived on Wednesday which happened to be a National Holiday. Mr. Mark Tseng met him at the airfield and brought him and his accompanist Mr. Hu Shao-sheng to Dr. Brank Fulton's house where they are being entertained as college guests. Yesterday, he spent the whole day in the library with Mr. Mark Tseng, the librarian. At noon yesterday, he lunched with me and nine other leading members of the faculty. In the afternoon yesterday, we had a meeting with him considering the type of building for our library to be built as soon as possible. Paul Ward suppered with him yesterday evening. Today he is visiting the Boone Library School, and tomorrow, I shall take him to visit Wuhan University. In the afternoon tomorrow he will meet with our library committee, and day after tomorrow, Sunday, November 16, he and Mr. Hu will be flying to Szechwan. You will see that we are making the best use of his time here, and he has come just in the nick of time to give us the advice in our reply to a cablegram from London received day before yesterday, which read as follows:

".....NLT WEI HUACHUNG UNIVLRSITY WUCHANG
CABLE IMMEDIATELY STERLING ESTIMATE FOR NEW LIBRARY BUILDING
 ALSO POSSIBILITY ERECTION IF MONEY AVAILABLE. WE PROPOSE MAKING
 SPECIAL APPEAL. SLATER"

For more than 10 years, I have been suggesting to Mr. Slater of the China Christian Universities Association in London and to the London Missionary Society and the Methodist Missionary Society that in our new building program, the best thing will be for the British Missions cooperating in Huachung to secure sufficient funds for the erection of a library which will be the most central and the most impressive as well as the most useful building in the whole place, so as to symbolize the British cooperation in our university. Professor David Anderson who had spent two years in England before his return to the university last October, had also been pushing this project. The cable indicates that

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As to the time for the erection of the building, which is going to be perhaps the most important building in our project, the best advice we have received is a year or 18 months from now, when prices may be more normal. Again we have to get more information from contractors and architects before we can come to a decision and cable to London.

In view of this as well as in view of the necessity of putting up before August more faculty residences, and student hostels which are more urgent than the library building, I have written already twice to Mr. Bergamini now in the Philippine Islands, asking whether he will be able to pay us a visit before the end of this calendar year. My first letter was a month ago, and so far I have received no reply. I wrote again at the beginning of this week addressing the letter to the care of the Treasurer's office of the American Church Mission in Shanghai to be forwarded from there so as to make sure that it will reach Mr. Bergamini. In case Mr. Bergamini is unavailable, would your Board or the Huachung Committee of the United Board approve the appointment of another architect, and what names would you have to suggest. It may be necessary to consult the office of the National Council at 281 in this matter.

This letter is getting already to be too long and I have to close here with my best wishes and the kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Francis C. M. Wei

P.S. At Wuhan University yesterday I consulted the superintendent architect there about the cost of building. He said that it was 20,000 times pre-war price in terms of the N.C. currency. Exchange is now 22,000 times. Is it not cheaper to build now.

F.C.M.W.

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私立華中大學
HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY
WUCHANG, CHINA
TEL. ADDRESS: "WUCHANG 8344"
電報掛號：武昌八三四四

CO-OPERATING UNITS
EDDONS COLLEGE
GRIFFITH JOHN COLLEGE
HUPING COLLEGE
WESLEY COLLEGE
YALE-IN-CHINA COLLEGE

校長 章卓民
PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Re: Annual Report for the Academic
Year 1946-47

November 14, 1947.
WL-16.

Mr. Oliver S. Lyford,
54 Dana Place, Englewood,
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Received Nov. 24
circulated to entire
membership of Teachers
Committee and to
Office of Church Board

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Nov. 26 - Copy of this
bulletin has been received

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November 19, 1947

Dr. Francis C. M. Wei
Huachung University
Wuchang, Hupeh, China

My dear Francis:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the minutes of the Huachung Committee of the United Board for the meeting held on October twenty-fourth. I am mighty sorry for the delay in mailing these to you. John Coe was at the meeting and, I believe, he has already written you commenting on it. In all probability, Mr. Lyford has also written you.

We are all very apprehensive regarding the present situation in China. In all probability we are more anxious and disturbed than you people are in the field. Still, the newspaper reports are very distressing. It is very hard for us here to justify capital expenditures when the conditions are so uncertain. Vote #432 shows we approved of three new residences for faculty members with the understanding that the money received from the government will take care of at least two of these new residences. We had in mind supplying residences for the Fultons, Rogers, and Walter Allen family. It is more or less understood it would not be necessary to start these residences before March. The idea is to delay as long as possible due to the general situation.

There was one other question that we wanted to bring up for a vote but did not because Dr. McMullen was present at the meeting and we did not want to discuss a topic that he might use as a criticism of the Huachung administration. I would like to refer you to Vote #405 of the meeting of March 1946, a meeting at which you were present. We all feel strongly that under present conditions you should stick to the decision made in Vote #405, that is that the enrollment of Huachung be increased gradually up to five hundred within the next five years. This means that you should not increase your enrollment next year over the present number that you have in the college at the present time. You and the students have our deepest sympathy in the crowded conditions. Still, conditions are just about as bad in all of our institutions here in America. I do not know whether your son, John, has written you about the congestion in the seminaries. They are using double decker beds which is an unheard of thing in any of our seminaries. During this emergency we felt justified in not

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Dr. Francis C. M. Wei

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November 19, 1947

approving of the building of any further dormitory or hostel. I hope this decision is not going to be too much of a disappointment to you.

I have purchased and sent to John Coe and he has received a parcel of one thousand Smith's Multi-Vitamins. I have not received the bill yet but when it comes in I will charge them to your account.

We great enjoyed having John with us for a weekend. I have not seen him since his visit here to New York. It was just by accident that we had the pleasure of having him with us. He was en route to catch a train to Binghamton, New York and missed his connection.

We have not received a report yet about Newton Liu's consecration. I presume somebody will write about it sooner or later. Please give him our congratulations and we hope he will have a very long and successful administration of the Sian Missionary District.

With very best wishes and kind regards.

Very affectionately,

J. Earl Fowler

JEF:O
Encl.

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C O P Y

19th November, 1947.

Rev. Noel B. Slater,
China House,
25, Charles Street,
London, W.1.

Dear Noel,

On Monday, 17th. inst., I cabled the following reply to your cable-gram of November 10th.:-

CUNIVINA, LONDON. Can build needed library now. Estimate eighty one thousand pounds plus twelve thousand, wiring plumbing. Could build in parts. Essential part forty five thousand. Letter follows. Wei.

Your cablegram reached me last Wednesday afternoon, November 12th. The Senate Committee, charged with planning, has been at work on the matter ever since. It so happened that, at the same time, we were receiving a visit from Dr. Charles Shaw, an able American librarian, sent out by the United Boards to inspect and report on library needs of the Christian colleges in China. We have been fortunate to have the benefit of his expert advice in formulating our answer.

We agreed that it is advisable to build the library now, if funds are available. We are fully aware that, in terms of British currency, the cost of building with locally obtained materials is now almost exactly four times the pre-war cost. But we see no reasonable hope that such costs will fall materially in the next five years. At the present time our local prestige and our educational standards rank high in comparison with non-Christian institutions. Now is the time to consolidate and extend our position. If we wait for easier times, we may well find ourselves following rather than leading. The high morale of our faculty and students would be stimulated by such a concrete demonstration of our faith.

Of all the buildings that we need, none has a more pressing claim than the library. We regard the library as the proper focus of all work of university calibre done outside the science laboratories, and we feel that the more students and faculty are drawn to do their work there under proper conditions and with ready access to academic materials, the more surely shall we make our contribution.

It is for this reason that we have not hesitated to plan a full-scale library. The plan had already taken shape in our minds before Dr. Shaw arrived, but he has helped us to clarify the technical details.

This plan comprises: -

	sq. ft.
Stack space for 200,000 volumes	10,000
Reading room for 350 students	10,500
/15 small seminar rooms	3,000
30 small studies for faculty	3,000
Library working space, halls, lobby	18,500

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This is planned for a university of 800 students and a staff of 85, and will also serve the staffs of the many Christian middle schools of this region, who look to us for guidance and help.

To secure an estimate of present construction costs, Mr. Robert Kemp, the missionary in this area with the most experience in construction work, advises us that we can rely upon the judgment of Professor Miao, who has acted as the supervising architect of the National Wuhan University since its inception in 1928. Mr. Miao has telephoned me the results of his computations and inquiries, which, for the above area of 45,000 square feet, with 10 feet ceilings, may be summarized as follows:

- | | | |
|-----|--|----------|
| (a) | Two storeys, with brick walls and concrete floors. | £ 51,430 |
| (b) | Reinforced concrete frame, floors and roof but brick walls. Two storeys. | £ 78,210 |
| | Three storeys. | £ 80,710 |
| (c) | Reinforced concrete throughout: Two storeys. | £105,000 |
| | Three storeys. | £100,000 |

In committee meeting, we have decided upon three storey construction of type (b) as the best. We prefer three storeys to two storeys because the more compact arrangement would mean greater convenience and easier supervision. The top storey's frame and the roof might not need to be of reinforced concrete, but the compact stack areas, as planned, would need a counter-balancing extra amount of reinforced construction.

Since Mr. Miao's figures do not include the cost of wiring and plumbing our committee has had recourse to Mr. Shaw estimate that in American library construction the latter amounts to about 23% of the cost of the shell of the building. Believing that our needs are much simpler than American customs require, even though such materials cost proportionately more here, our committee has cut this by one third, to the figure of £12,250, additional to the cost of the shell.

We recognize that the total estimate of virtually £93,000 may seem startling large, especially as it does not provide for any furnishings or book stacks. It does represent, however, our soundest estimate of the cost of building what we need. Costs of construction in sterling are not likely to increase between now and the actual beginning of work. If they fall somewhat, with improvement of transportation, we should have a margin with which to secure some essential furnishings; if they do not fall we are ready to use in the building simply the furniture and few steel stacks that we now possess. In the following years we would expect to assemble slowly the appropriate furnishings. The building itself alone is essential.

If you regard our estimate as more than can be secured, but feel that a smaller might be raised, we proposed to ask an American friend, who has made us a gift for another building, to allow us to use that gift to build the stack wing of the library. This would account for £28,000 out of the total estimate. Then we would propose to defer erection of the third story of the main section, which would contain the studies, seminar rooms and certain working rooms, and which would represent of course, substantially less than one third of the remaining

cost. We are agreed then, that the essential two storeys of the main section could be built for £45,000.

We have taken these five days to prepare an answer to your urgent question because we have felt obliged to base our estimate on careful judgments rather than on guesses. I hope that the efforts of our committee have not been wasted and that our answer does not arrive too late. I shall be much interested to have your comments when you are free to write again,

With the best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

/signed/ Francis C. M. Wei

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Huachung University

November 25, 1947
WL-17

Mr. Oliver S. Lyford
54 Dana Place
Englewood, N. J.
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Lyford:

My last letter to you was WL-16 dated November 14. I hope you have received it in good time.

There is not much to report on the day to day happenings in Huachung these last ten days. Everything seems to be going on well except that there has been again a bit of scare on account of the military situation, but I don't believe it is serious.

I do not know whether it is due to this that the black market rate for the American dollar is suddenly shooting up. I am watching the situation with great care to see whether there are other factors involved.

Prices continue to rise. Since we increased the subsidies a month ago according to the new government scheme, our people feel quite relieved. But I am afraid that they will feel the pressure again very soon, if the market should continue like this. Early in October, I raised the question with you whether you would allow us the liberty to give bonus to our faculty and staff members if it should be safely within our budget limit, partly because of the dropping purchasing value of the Chinese currency, partly because of the unusual high rate of exchange, and partly for the sake of recognizing the loyalty of our people in adhering to the full time principle, which has been upheld in very few institutions in China today, but which we believe is a good tradition to maintain.

In my last letter WL-16 to you, I mentioned the visit of Dr. Shaw to our university. It happened that on the day of his arrival, November 12, we received a cablegram from Mr. Slater of the China Christian Universities Association in London as follows:

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..... CABLE IMMEDIATELY STERLING ESTIMATE FOR NEW LIBRARY
BUILDING ALSO POSSIBILITY ERECTION IF MONEY AVAILABLE. WE
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We took the opportunity of Dr. Shaw's presence to get his expert opinion on the kind of library we should need keeping in mind the maximum enrollment of 800 students, and a teaching staff of 80 to 85. The Senate had appointed before Dr. Shaw's arrival a committee on the needs which had to be met by the different buildings to be erected, so as to present them to the architect for designing the buildings. The committee met with Dr. Shaw and then the Library Committee had a meeting with him also. After that, I had the meeting of the

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Senate and appointed two members of the Senate to draw up a cable reply to Mr. Slater which was followed by a letter which was dated November 19. To keep you informed of this particular development, I am sending you enclosed herewith a copy of the letter which quoted the entire cablegram.

After we had mailed the letter, we received a letter also from Mr. Slater dated November 10, in which he said that he was making an appeal in a "very useful quarter with the cooperation of Dr. Rattenbury and Dr. Williamson, and that he was expecting to meet with a possible donor on November 18 about whom he would prefer to say nothing more, in case his efforts should meet with no immediate result. So far no further word has come from Mr. Slater.

Then writing on October 30, Mr. Slater gave the details about the establishment of possibly three Chairs in each of the six British-linked universities including Huachung. He is hoping to get enough money to allow £600 for each Chair per annum. This amount is to cover the salary -- subsidies and house rent of the holder of the Chair, which will mean something around £300, leaving £150 per annum in reserve for the sabbatical year in England for travel and living expenses in England, and the balance each year, perhaps £100-150 for additional equipment and/or books in connection with the professorship.

At Mr. Slater's request, I have nominated Professor Richard P. Bien of the Physics Department, Professor George Bien of the Chemistry Department and Professor Shen Lai-chiu of the Economics-Commerce Department as our candidates for the three Chairs in Huachung. Mr. Slater wants a candidate whose subjects may appeal especially to industrial and business people who are expected to give the money to maintain all these Chairs. He emphasizes the necessity not to use the money for the three Chairs for expansion of the university, and only to relieve in as practical a way as possible the heavy financial burden which the university administration is at present carrying. If this scheme should go through, it will mean also as much financial assistance from that quarter as the salaries, subsidies and house rents for three of our senior professors, and a certain amount for their research, and their sabbatical leave, once in every seven years.

Harvard-Yenching Appropriation. I am very happy to report to you that I have received a letter from Professor Elisseeff of the Harvard-Yenching Institute in Cambridge, Mass., under the date of November 10, 1947.

In this letter, Professor Elisseeff said that he had received my annual report, and that "for the fiscal year 1946-1947, we had received US\$9352.12 from New York, which represents the Institute's \$5000 grant and \$4352.12 from Reserve Funds."

I have not answered Professor Elisseeff's letter yet because I am waiting for Paul Ward to have some free time to discuss with him that particular matter. I am afraid there is some misunderstanding as indicated by the figures quoted by Professor Elisseeff. But I hope that the grant of US\$5000 for 1946-1947 has really been received by you. You have not informed us of this since you wrote that you were somewhat disturbed for not having yet received the money from the Harvard-Yenching Institute.

Professor Klisseeff's letter continues to say that he recommended "that since we met the requirement set forth in the Trustees' vote granting us US\$5000 for the fiscal year 1947-1948 subject to the condition that the money is to be spent in accordance with the advice of the Director of the Institute, and that a report of the expenditures of the previous grant be made to reach Cambridge by October 1, 1947, the money should be sent."

I hope by this time, you have received this amount of US\$5000 from the Harvard-Yenching Institute.

Further, Professor Klisseeff's letter says that "Executive Committee also voted that a \$5000 grant should be made for the fiscal year 1948-1949 subject to the same condition," and he quoted the action as follows:

".....That \$5000 be included in the Institute's budget for 1948-1949 for Huachung College for its department of Chinese Literature and History, subject to the conditions that the money is to be spent in accordance with the advice of the Director of the Institute, and a report of the expenditures of the previous grant to reach Cambridge not later than October 1, 1948."

Finally, Professor Klisseeff in his letter says, "I was much interested to know that you have spent some of the money given you for rehabilitation to reinforce the library, and I have no objection to your drawing on the Reserve which you have built up in New York, to further strengthen your library". On the strength of this, we are giving permission to the department of Chinese Literature and History to draw around US\$500 for a very much needed set of Chinese books which the members of the department had been wanting to buy for some months. I hope it will meet with your approval also that we draw upon the Harvard-Yenching Reserve for this.

I am fully hoping to get at least another letter to you before Christmas, but in case I should delay my writing again, please accept my most hearty greetings for Christmas for yourself and your family.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

/signed/ Francis C. M. Wei

HUA CHUNG COLLEGE

(Central China College)

WUCHANG, CHINA

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DEC 4 1947
J. EARL FOWLER

December 3, 1947

Dr. Arthur M. Sherman,
Grace Church,
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Sherman:

I received this morning from Dr. Wei the enclosed letter dated November 25th, with copy of his letter of November 19th to Rev. Slater of London.

The second paragraph of Dr. Wei's letter is almost incomprehensible to me and his general idea of proceeding with the construction of a new library building seems to be totally inconsistent with the situation in the vicinity of the Yangtze River at the present time.

I am sending you these letters at once and sending copies to Messrs. Lobenstine, Greiner, Fowler, MacMullen and Hume, in order that we may give the subject the attention which you may consider desirable.

Yours very truly,

Oliver S. Lyford

Oliver S. Lyford
O.S.L.

copy sent to:
Dr. Lobenstine
Mr. Greiner
Mr. Fowler ✓
Dr. MacMullen
Dr. Hume

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HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY
WUCHANG, CHINA
TEL. ADDRESS: "WUCHANG 8344"
電報掛號：武昌八三四四

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CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

~~Francis Cho Min Wei~~
Earl
DEC 12 1947

J. EARL FOWLER
校長 章卓民
PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C., L.L.H.D.

December 5, 1947.

Mr. J. Earl Fowler,
Acting Associate Secretary,
Huachung Board of Trustees,
281 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.,
U. S. A.

DEC 12 1947

J. EARL FOWLER

My dear Earl,

I received several days ago your letter of November 19, enclosing a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Huachung Committee of the United Board acting for the time being as the Board of Directors of ~~the~~ Huachung University, the report of the Treasurer ending July 1947 submitted by Mr. Lyford, and extracts from my recent letters for the information of the Huachung Committee.

Mr. Lyford has not written me about the meeting, but I know he has not been able to write very much these days.

I am very sorry indeed that all of you are so apprehensive with regard to the situation in China. It always looks worse from a distance. But as far as we know here, it is not as bad as that. The Wuhan area has had two or three scares, but we feel quite certain that our centre is still safe, especially now when General Pai Chung-hsi has established his headquarters in Kiu Kiang to direct operations in the six provinces from Shanghai to Chungking. As I wrote to Mr. Lyford some time ago, you may rest assured that we are safe in Wuchang, unless you should receive a cable from us to the contrary.

The work is going on smoothly. Everybody is working hard. The winter has already set in, but many of us have not been able to start our stoves because of the high price of coal. Without a stove, I find it difficult to do any serious reading or writing when the temperature is below 40 degrees-F. But soon we can get used to it. No fire has been started yet in the offices.

I am glad that the Huachung Committee has approved the erection of three new residences for faculty members. I wish the vote had been four residences, because it would not do at all if Dr. Hohn C. F. Lo and family should have to stay in their present quarters while the Fultons, the Rogers, and the Walter Allens should be given new residences.

It would not be absolutely necessary for us to start the erection of these residences before next March, but surely building materials will rise steeply if we should wait until after Chinese New Year which is in February, before we buy. On the other hand I quite see the wisdom of delaying the purchases as long as possible owing to the general situation.

Our share of the government special grant is not yielding very much

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in American currency, on the basis of which we have to do our reckoning in building. Perhaps it will be only about US\$7000. Paul Ward has not been able to give me the exact figures because he has been using the money in Chinese currency from time to time and change into American currency in the books.

We are hoping to start our part of the Joint Campaign for the thirteen Christian colleges sometime next week. The Joint Committee in Shanghai has given us the job to raise NC\$300,000,000 but we are setting our goal in the Campaign at \$1,000,000,000 with the hope that we may be able to realize one half of it.

In your letter you remind us of the decision made in Vote 405 that the enrollment of Huachung should increase very gradually up to only 500 within the next five years. But at that time, we could not foresee the circumstances which would obtain after our return to Wuchang. Every Christian school and all the colleges in the Wuhan centre are now having more than double their pre-war enrollments. It would not have been possible for us to stay below 400 this year. It is by a great deal of self-restraint that we are keeping our enrollment for the year at 536. If we should have to keep the same enrollment next year, we would have a very small freshmen class in September 1948, and this would be bad for the morale. So probably, we will have to go over 550, if not approaching closely to 600.

Congestion in our hostels is not the same thing as congestions in institutions of higher learning in America. Students' rooms in the General Theological Seminary or the E.T.S., in Harvard or in Yale, are large enough to put twice as many students into them as originally planned. Very little leeway was left in our students' rooms for expansion, and so when twice as many students are put into one room with double deckers, there is not even enough room for one desk and one chair for ~~the~~ ^{each} students. In none of our hostels is there a properly constructed baggage room, or store room, or social room, not to say a dining room. Conditions in our present hostels ~~are~~ not conducive to studies or serious thinking. Unless something is done, the danger will be irreparable. It is not so much the disappointment to us that I mind, but the havoc to higher education in Huachung.

It is difficult for me to convey to you the idea how the morale would go up if there should be any sign of our building project getting under way. I saw that first in 1934, and again in 1937. At the present time in the minds of many people in the Wuhan area, Huachung is certainly taking the lead in higher education. We have built up a proud tradition, we have the nucleus of a good faculty, we are maintaining good standards, we have a good morale, and now we have a good name. Unless we should stimulate further, the interest of the people in the Wuhan area in our work, we may lose the lead by trying to maintain the status quo even for the short period of two or three years. A year ago, we took in an unusually large number of freshmen, and it has taken us a good deal of effort to assimilate them. Last September, the freshmen was only two thirds the size of the class of the previous year, and we feel that the next two or three years we should not go below 200 for our entering class. If we should stop this rate of increasing our number, which is gradual, it will mean that after two or three years, we would have to have a large entering class again, and that ~~will~~ mean another period of re-adjustment. Furthermore, if we should turn away too many candidates for admission, they ~~will~~ ^{will} feel discouraged, and stop looking to Huachung as a place for college education. Our admission has been strict enough, but we do not want to make it unreasonable. I have been telling you some of the things that have been on my mind since I read

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your letter and the minutes of the Huachung Committee meeting, and I hope that I have made myself understood.

Miss Hutton has sent a small article to Billy Leidt for publication in "FORTH". Another version of the same article has been sent to the "HANKOW NEWSLETTER". I have just received a programme in Chinese of Bishop Liu's enthronement in Sian on November 23. At his Consecration here in the Church of the Holy Nativity, we raised within our small community over ten million dollars Chinese currency for his discretionary use. We are proud of him as one of our Alumni.

With best wishes and greetings for Christmas and New Year,

I am,

Yours affectionately,

Francis

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COPY

December 10, 1947.

The Executive Committee,
China, Mission, Evangelical & Reformed Church,
Rev. Ward Hartman, President,
Yoying, Hunan.

Dear Mr. Hartman;

I am taking advantage of Doctor Taylor's going to Yoying to attend a meeting of your executive committee, to send my greetings to the mission, as President of Huachung University, and to report to you an offer which has come to us from the Theological Seminary of the Evangelical & Reformed Church at Lancaster, Pa., as is stated in a letter from Doctor Theodore F. Herman, under date of July 14, 1947. Enclosed please find a copy of this letter, and my reply to it, dated October 17.

I hope you will give this matter your kind consideration and advise us how to proceed in order to make the best possible use of this offer of fellowships at your seminary in Lancaster.

I have asked Doctor Taylor to explain to you in person, the difficulties confronting students who desire to secure passports to go to the U.S.A., to study theology on the basis of the terms offered in these fellowships. These difficulties I have explained in my letter to Doctor Herman, but to this letter I have as yet received no reply.

If this scheme should materialize, and when the passport difficulties are overcome, as we expect they may, it is our earnest hope that your mission will send to Huachung such students as may be candidates for the Christian ministry, and who would be, after graduation, candidates for these fellowships.

In connection with our theological work here, I should like to make the presentation to you as to the need for one of your missionaries joining our staff in the theological faculty in the very near future, so that, in the first place, your mission may have a share in this very important part of our programme for the training of Christian workers, both men and women, and in the second place, we may have here in Huachung someone who will begin the organization and building of a religious and social center for Evangelical and Reformed Church students at Huachung, whose number, we believe, will increase from year to year, especially since your church is developing more senior middle school and will therefore have more students who will go to college.

It is not for me to suggest whom you should appoint to this important post at Huachung, but if you should agree with my suggestion, that since Doctor Taylor is already busy with other work at the university, and has his main interests in the college of education, my mind turns to the Rev. S. W. Whitener, who for so many years has been a member of our Board of Directors, and who has been taking a keen, sympathetic interest in our

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work. However, let me say here, so that there may be no disappointment, that if Mr. Whitener, or some other person like him should come to join our faculty, there would not be a heavy teaching load in the theological work, in this initial stage of the development of the theological course, until the theological work is further developed, but there will no doubt be some academic subject in which he will be able to assist in the interim. Again, Dr. Taylor Taylor will be able to explain to you the situation in detail, if you desire him to do so.

I am making this report and proposal to you and your mission, even though in accord with the action of your mission, I have, since the war years, communicated directly with your Board of International Mission in Philadelphia. That may have been the best procedure under abnormal war conditions, but now that peace has returned and conditions seem to be becoming more normal, we should like to ask you to give us permission, as previously, to deal through your mission, instead of the Board in Philadelphia, directly. If you should see fit to do this, please so instruct us, and report the same to your Board of International Mission.

I am enclosing a copy of my annual report to the directors of the university, except the accompanying documents which are too bulky to send. I am likewise enclosing a copy of the prospectus of our theological course.

Before closing, I wish to express to you, our sense of gratitude for the cooperation of your Church and Mission in Huachung, and the great share they have taken in the university since 1929.

With my best wishes and kind regards to you and your executive Committee,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Signed: Francis C. M. Wei.

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*App. by hand and sent
25⁰⁰ cheque - "Special"
to Dr. Wei - on Dec. 30*

校長 章卓民
PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

December 17, 1947.

Rev. A. M. Sherman, S.T.D.,
812 Broadway, New York 3, N.Y.,
U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Sherman,

I received the other day your very kind letter dated December 2, in which you were so kind as to remember my 60th birthday on December 7. I wish to thank your kindness in sending me your congratulations, and in mentioning whatever I have been able to do for the Church and my Alma Mater during the last 37 years of service. I have nothing to feel proud of except that I have stuck to my position for almost four decades, and I feel thankful that I have been allowed to serve in this way.

As a matter of fact, I am not 60 yet. Last Sunday was only the 59th anniversary of my birthday. But friends were so kind, both inside and outside the university, that I was simply overwhelmed with parties and gifts from the faculty members, the alumni and the students. I succeeded in persuading all my friends not to make too much of the occasion, so that very few people outside, except those in the inner circle, knew anything about it. This is not the time to make a great deal out of something very insignificant. I was particularly thankful that my colleagues and my students did everything as simply as possible. But they showed me their affection just the same.

I am glad you had a chance of meeting with Richard Bien, and having an evening with him and Paul Wu in your apartment. Even Richard Bien too, had been somewhat disturbed by the news in American papers on the situation in our part of the country. I have repeatedly written to him as well as to Mr. Lyford and Mr. Fowler that there is really no imminent danger for us in the Wu-han cities, especially now when the Central Government is taking the Central China region more seriously, and that General Pai Chung-hsi, Minister of National Defence, is himself taking command of the troops in the six provinces along the Yang-tse River from Shanghai to Chungking. I have been in close touch with the bankers and the government officials, and as far as I can learn, conditions are improving rapidly. The national troops are winning victories, and our province is practically clear of the communists. At least we can say that the Wuhan centre is safer than ever before.

Prices continue to rise as the inflation becomes worse. The students will probably have to pay three and a half times as much as they did in September. The fees cannot of course keep up with the general level of prices, but the students must pay enough to cover their minimum

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board and lodging, which now amount to almost double of their tuition fees paid to the Institution, whereas before the war, the two amounts were about equal. It means that the income for the university is cut by half which we cannot very well help in the present circumstances. On the other hand, we have to increase the stipends of our scholarships so as to enable the poor students to continue their education here. Almost 70 per cent of the funds for scholarships comes from gifts sent to me by friends in America for my discretionary use, and I have been turning all these gifts over to the Treasurer for scholarship ~~sq~~ as to help to some extent the university budget.

We are getting ready for the celebration of Christmas next week. On Saturday December 20, the Choir with almost 60 voices trained by Professor David Anderson will sing the First Part of Handel's Messiah at 3 o'clock in Stokes Hall. The singing on Saturday will be only for our own community, and on Sunday, December 21, the singing will be repeated for outside guests by special invitation. On Monday December 22, the English Department will stage a religious play at 7 p.m. also in Stokes Hall for our own community, and then on Tuesday 23, the same performance will be for outside guests. Christmas service will be the same as usual, but in the evening of December 27, the Sunday School under Dr. Edith W. K. Taai will have its celebration with about 60 boys and girls of primary school age in the Sunday School, almost exclusively children of Huachung and Boone faculties. Last Christmas, I preached in St. Paul's Cathedral, and this year I have been asked to preach in Griffith John Church of the Church of Christ in China in Hankow. I am happy to be able to serve other churches as well as our own.

Last night we have the first snow fall this winter, and it is still continuing. The temperature last night fell under 26 degrees-F, and when I looked at the thermometer hung in my porch half an hour ago, it was 30 degrees, because there was no fire in my house at all. Coal has been so expensive that few of us could afford to burn a stove even when the temperature is at freezing point. I have a little bit of coal and I propose to start my fire this evening so as to make it possible to work.

Fowler has sent me the minutes of the Huachung Committee meeting of October 24. We were all very sorry to know that the Founders would not permit the appropriation from the Huachung Building Funds amounting now to almost one third of a million dollars U.S. currency, for the completion of the New Yen Hostel for Girls and for the erection of a permanent hostel for men. If we should wait for prices to come down, or for the situation to be really stabilized, we may have to wait for a long time. After all, buildings are the last things to go in an emergency, as the war has taught us. It seems such a pity to allow money to deteriorate in the bank while good uses could be made of it at the present time. The Executive Committee of the Provisional Board of Directors will meet again on January 3, and the questions of buildings will be discussed by them as well as the question of extra subsidies for our faculty and staff members. It may be difficult for you to realize that with the inflation becoming worse and worse, the senior members of the faculty are getting only about 18 per cent of their prewar salary, reckoned on purchasing value. The junior members are better off, but still they get only a little bit over 50 per cent of their prewar purchasing value.

The news has reached me that several Lutheran groups working in Hupeh have finally decided to join our work here as a cooperative unit, with possibly two or three missionaries ~~on their~~ ^{and in} annual appropriation. I am arranging to have a preliminary meeting with some of their key men tomorrow, before I go to their official meeting in Hankow on January 15 to discuss this problem. As soon as the negotiation is concluded, I shall send you or Mr. Lyford an official report.

With affectionate regards to you and Mrs. Sherman, and every good wish for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

I am,

Yours as ever,

Francis C. M. Wei

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December 19, 1947

Dr. Francis C. M. Wei
President, Hua Chung University,
Wuchang, China

From Mr. Sherman

Dear Mr. Wei:

Dr. Lobenstine, Mr. Lyford and I met unofficially on December 12th to review the financial problems which you have placed before the Huachung University Committee in your recent letters to Mr. Lyford. All of the principal points in these letters have been duplicated and sent to the members of the Committee, together with copies of your Annual Report of President and the minutes of the meeting of your Executive Committee. Since December 12th we have received the first three copies of Huachung Newsletter, all of which give abundant evidence of the vitality of your whole organization.

I expect to call a special meeting of the entire Huachung Committee at an early date to consider and act upon your recent proposals, but it seemed wise to first have them reviewed by such of the New York members as were available. As one result of this preliminary meeting, we decided that it is desirable that we hear from you again before we have this larger meeting.

I asked Mr. Coe to meet with us on the 12th and he assisted us greatly in our discussion by supplementing the information which your documents contain. He also provided us with extracts from your letter to him of December 4th, which bear upon the matters before us. While we were meeting your letter of December 5th arrived at Mr. Fowler's office.

Your Executive Committee, at its meeting on October 11th, recommended that construction be started as soon as possible on six new faculty residences and two new hostels and that the cost of these eight buildings be paid out of the building funds now available in New York. They estimated that the cost, complete including equipment ready for operation would be U.S. \$100,000. The governing reasons given for this early procedure are the pressing need for better housing and the probability that costs will go up as time goes on. Further reasons mentioned are the necessity of sustaining the morale of the faculty and students and keeping the good reputation which the Universe now has in the community. These are valid reasons and I am sure they will be given careful consideration by the Committee who are deeply conscious of the fine service which you all are rendering, but we must also have before us the other side of the picture.

First we must face the general political and economic conditions in China and in fact throughout the world. We understand from your letters that political and military conditions in the Wuhan area at present are reassuring. For this we are thankful but apprehension persists about the more distant future, especially in relation to the expenditure of larger sums for building at this critical time in the evolution of the new China. If China were settling down, with a fair prospect of peaceful, progressive improvement, - political and financial, - we certainly would be disposed to adopt some such procedure as you propose, but we have no evidence, other than that which you have given us of your immediate neighborhood, which indicates that there is even a strong national trend in such a direction. It looked to some as though the trend is strong in the opposite direction and it is argued that since this is the case we must be prepared for an upset in the situation which you describe in Wuhan.

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An adequate development of land and buildings for a Huachung Campus for 800 students and a faculty of 90 would cost much more than all the U.S. funds which are now available. We have no doubt that the money for such a campus will be forthcoming when China is on its way to recovery on a sound basis. To this end, however, each step taken from now on must be sound and must succeed as you go along. We must be wise as well as progressive and forceful. If, for instance, you should build some fine new buildings and then they should be destroyed or commandeered by one army or another, we would find it even more difficult to raise money for replacement. It is a fair question whether this is the time to take large financial risks. In a year from now the picture should become clearer. In the meantime we do not have to be idle in carrying out our plans for the future. Before any large buildings are put up or even planned in detail we must have a competent architect draw up a general plan for the campus as a whole. This will cost money but such expense can be met and the very fact that work on it is pending will help the morale of the institution. Mr. Bengamini prepared a sketch plan for the whole campus including the Boone property but some members of the Board of Founders were not well impressed with it and we do not know whether he went any further with it. We doubt if you can draw Mr. Bergamini away from the Philippines now, but it is worth trying.

We cannot understand where Mr. Slater can expect to receive in Great Britain enough capital to meet the cost of such a library as you contemplate or that the donor would be willing to have the money invested in a new building without careful consideration of the points mentioned above. However, if the money is placed at the disposal of the University and the plans for the building conform to a general plan which we - acting for the time being as Directors, - can approve, I believe that our Committee's consent will be forthcoming.

The three "chairs" for professors mentioned by Mr. Slater will produce a fine stimulus for all the teaching staff, and will also help to secure other "chairs".

The difficulty with the Harvard-Yenchung Institute regarding the annual contributions to Huachung is due to some confusion in the respective records. Mr. Lyford is working on this and hopes to get the matter straightened out shortly.

Please let me have, as soon as possible, your reactions to the above comments about the plans for new buildings. You no doubt realize that we are obligated to get the consent of the donors of our building funds before starting on any considerable expenditure.

Ever with warmest regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

Arthur M. Sherman.

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校長 章卓民
PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

December 24, 1947.
WL-18

Mr. Oliver S. Lyford,
54 Dana Place, Englewood, N.J.,
U. S. A.

Recd. Jan 5

Dear Mr. Lyford,

Again I have failed to realize that I have not written to you for such a long time. My last letter was WL-17 dated November 25.

But during the last four weeks, I have written several letters to Earl Fowler and one to Dr. Sherman, and I hope that they have informed you of the contents.

First of all, let me assure you again that we are quite safe in the Wuhan centre. The martial law in the Wuhan cities which had been on for over a month was called off on December 21, owing to the improved situation. Fighting is still going on and is spread even to the west of the railway from Hankow to Peiping. But there are so many troops in the Wuhan cities that we feel we are well protected. What people fear now is that the trouble will penetrate into Szechwan and Western Hunan to join up probably with the communists in Kwangsi, thus by-passing us, but it will mean the worsening of the general situation.

Prices continue to rise, and so also the exchange for the American dollar. But the latter is fluctuating on account of the government control of gold metal. If the exchange rate should remain the same, we would be able to keep within our budget without any difficulty.

On Saturday night, I received a cablegram with a signature EVANS. It must be EVANS of the Associated Board. The cablegram says that \$2500 has been deposited with Greiner for Emergency Relief, November, December. I interpreted it to mean Emergency Relief for the faculty, and that the money must be used before the end of this year. After careful study of the cablegram, Paul Ward agrees with me, and we have decided to get the money exchanged at once and distributed it to the members of the faculty and staff as soon as it is deposited with our bank here, which I hope will be before the end of this week. The distribution will be according to the monthly payment, and if the exchange should be as we have expected, it may be as much as the equivalent of two and a half times the payment for everybody. This is the time for us to get the money into the hands of our people, because it is anticipated that by January 10, which is the beginning of the 12th month according to the lunar calendar, there will be another steep rise of prices. As you may realize from the previous letters I wrote to you, I have been wanting to find the money even from the current budget for a special subsidy such as this, and so this amount cabled by Mr. Evans just meets the need. I believe it is the special Harvard Yenching grant

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about which Paul Ward has been corresponding with Shanghai to get the money sent back to America for our convenience. Any money that goes through this channel will give us the most favourable exchange, and under the circumstances, we would wish to get as favourable an exchange as possible for the benefit of our people.

In my last letter WL-17 I reported to you in full about our correspondence with Mr. Slater of the China Christian Universities Association in London. Two weeks ago, I received Mr. Slater's letter dated November 20, which was after he had received my first cable reporting to him the amount in sterling needed for the library building, about which I had already written to you. Mr. Slater's letter says, "I have passed on a copy of your cablegram to Mr. Rattenbury. He is, to put it mildly, staggered at your figures. They are so high that I am afraid it is next to impossible to secure the kind of help which we have in mind. But we will write you again probably after the 26th January."

We arrived at the figures sent to Mr. Slater after careful study by a committee. They may have been too high for Mr. Slater's project, but we had to paint the situation as it was.

We are in the midst of our Christmas festivities. The university Choir with 54 voices under Professor David Anderson, sang the first part of Handel's Messiah in the afternoon of Saturday, 20th, for the university community, and repeated the singing for invited guests on Sunday afternoon. The singing took the form of worship in Music and I was asked to conduct the service in Chinese both times, so as to help the congregation to understand and to appreciate the singing in a worshipful spirit. The collection at the two services amounted to approximately NC\$6,250,000. Half of this is going to pay the expenses of the music books and half of it will be sent to the Hupeh Christian Council for the relief of refugees from the Communist occupied areas.

Last night the English Department staged the play "Why the Chimes Rang". It was very well done; and this evening it will be repeated for the Christian middle schools students in the Wuhan centre.

You may be interested to read in American papers President Chiang Kai-shek's Christmas message, which to my mind is very striking, as for the President of the National Government to broadcast to the whole nation. It was printed in all the papers yesterday.

Today I read with great pleasure the new law governing universities. By this law, our College of Education, which has been somewhat precarious with regard to its legal standing, is now assured. The law stipulated the possibility of seven colleges or three of them in any university, and the colleges are Arts, Science, Law, Medicine, Agriculture, Engineering, and Commerce. Only national universities may have a Teachers College, but any university which has already had a College of Education may continue it. I think Huachung is the only private university which has already had a College of Education. Other colleges or universities may have a department of Education, but not a College of Education. This will give us a wider scope for the training of teachers for the Christian Middle schools.

Our Language School for missionaries and other aliens has been going on well for the last ten weeks. I have been lecturing to the students on Chinese Culture, and I shall continue this course until the middle of February, and then Dr. Pu Hwang will lecture to them on Chinese Education, and Dr. Tregear on Chinese Geography. So many missionaries are asking to come to this Language School that we have to erect at once a temporary building with money contributed by the supporting missionaries for the purpose. The Language School is entirely self-supported. Some of us from the university simply contributed our services as our extra curricular activities.

I wrote to Earl Fowler a few days ago that several of the Lutheran Missions are thinking seriously of joining our work here. I had a preliminary meeting with two of the leaders a week ago, and on January 15, I shall meet with their committee in Hankow. The likelihood is that the Lutheran Church in China will come in as a cooperative unit with two or three missionaries to start with, and an annual money contribution. They will want to build some houses for their representatives, and a hostel for students, on university land.

About forty-three students in the university are preparing for baptism. Eighteen of these will join the Episcopal Church, ten the Methodist Church, five the Church of Christ in China, and ten the Lutheran Church. After this, some more students will probably be prepared for baptism at next Easter. We have this term about 300 non-Christian students, and to have 15% of this number baptized within one term is really encouraging.

I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Dr. Hartman, President of the China Mission of the Evangelical and Reformed Church which is self explanatory, and is only for your information.

With best wishes and Christmas and New Year greetings to you, your family, and all my friends on the Huachung Committee, and in the various churches,

Yours, as ever,

Francis C. Miller

HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY
Wuchang, China

December 31, 1947

Rev. Arthur M. Sherman, S.T.D.
242 E. 19th Street, New York 3, N.Y.
U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Sherman:

Day before yesterday I received your letter of December 19. I was glad to know that you were able to have an unofficial meeting on December 12 with Dr. Lobenstine and Mr. Lyford to review the financial problems which I had placed before the Huachung Committee in my last letter to Mr. Lyford, and that Mr. Coe was able to be with you in that meeting. I have noted also that my letter of December 4 had already reached Mr. Coe, and my letter of December 5 had reached Mr. Fowler's office.

I hope the Huachung Newsletter will continue to reach you and other members of the Huachung Committee in America. It is being sent regularly every week by ordinary mail to America. Since the Newsletter contains practically all our day to day news on our campus, it saves me space in my correspondence to report to you the same news in detail.

I quite understand why the general political and economical situation in China and throughout the world should have made you hesitant in appropriating a large amount of money for the erection of buildings from the Building Fund at this critical time. It would be just too bad if we should build some fine new buildings and then they should be destroyed or commandeered and damaged, because it would certainly be difficult to raise money for their replacement.

Yesterday we had a special Senate Meeting which, as you know, consists of all the responsible administrative heads of the university here with two representatives elected by the faculty and the Senate represents all the Missions cooperating in Huachung. I took the opportunity of reading the relevant parts of your letter of December 19 to the Senate in order to show them the trend of your thinking in New York with regard to our building project. The Senate members and others have for months been questioning me as to the date when we shall begin the erection of some of the buildings so badly in need for our work.

After they had heard the excerpts of your letter, they appointed Dr. John C. F. Lo, Secretary of the Senate, and myself, as Chairman, to draft an official presentation and submit it to you as President of the Huachung Board or the Huachung Committee, setting forth the reasons why the Senate should persist in urging you to allow us to build four to six permanent faculty residences, to complete the New Yen Hostel, about half of which was done in the autumn of 1937, and to erect a permanent hostel for men.

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This statement has not been drawn up yet, but I am writing to you in advance to tell you about the consensus of opinion prevailing in the Senate meeting yesterday as well as in previous meetings on the question of buildings.

The Senate seemed to have been thinking persistently that it might not be necessary to be over-cautious in investing money in buildings. It will be better to take the risk of spending a part of our Building Fund, if the donors should so agree, instead of allowing the money to deteriorate continuously in the bank, as even the American dollar is losing more and more its purchasing power in the present world situation. On the other hand, our needs ought to be met, and in meeting the most urgent needs by putting some money into buildings, we may perhaps fulfil better the original purpose of the donations, which we take to be the increased effectiveness of our work.

We realize that the first step in our building program is the securing of the service of a competent architect for the drawing up immediately of a general plan for the campus as a whole. Without such a plan, we would be erecting from time to time small units of temporary buildings which at the best will be only patched-up work, and may become a hindrance to our entire building project when it gets started. I wrote first to Bergamini in October, asking whether there would be any possibility for him to make a visit to Wuchang and stay a month or two in order to draw up the plan desired. The Senate has appointed a committee to study the needs of the university in buildings, and to consult with him with a view of helping him to plan more intelligently. No reply was received from him to my letter of October and so early in December, I wrote again, addressing the letter to the care of Mr. Gilson in Shanghai, to be forwarded instead of sending it direct to the Philippines as I did my October letter. Perhaps I will have to cable now, in order to get some kind of reply from him.

If Mr. Bergamini should find it difficult to get away from the Philippines, would the Huachung Committee in New York approve the appointment of a competent architect in the field here if such an architect could be secured, and if his qualifications should be approved by the Senate, and/or if the Executive Committee of the Provisional Board of Directors now functioning as Board of Directors in China, should approve. The expenses of such an appointment would have to come out from the Building Fund.

We have not explored the possibilities yet as to the availability of such an architect. In discussing the matter yesterday, two names were mentioned in the Senate meeting, and both are competent architects connected with two of the Missions cooperating in Huachung. Should we proceed in negotiating with one of these two architects, or should we wait further for Mr. Bergamini's reply?

The question is becoming more and more urgent because three Missions have contributed money to the amount of U. S. \$2500 for a small building for the use of the Language School, which is meeting a great need of the Missions in this area. Where should we put this small building so that it may not interfere with the architect's general plan? It must be somewhere on a lot not likely to be used at all for our general building purpose. This is the only one instance to illustrate the situation.

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Dr. Paul Ward was not able to attend the Senate meeting yesterday because he had to be at another meeting; but he had left me the following memorandum which I shall quote in toto for you:

"To Dr. Wei
From Paul L. Ward
Subject: Dr. Sherman's letter of December 19

1. General political and economical situation in China and throughout the world:
 - (a) The chances are small that any building would be destroyed (or more than somewhat damaged as to windows and woodwork) in the event of military operations in Wuhan. Witness experience in 1927 and 1938-1945.
 - (b) Communist control of the Wuhan Cities would represent a great change in the civil war, and therefore such a serious deterioration in the anti-communist world situation, that it will probably not come to an end apart from a decisive world conflict. It is our duty to work while it is day. The survival power of our work depends on the quality of what we do right now.
 - (c) We are glad to have the Directors in New York defer decision until March, for construction need not start until April. If the situation improves by then, or sharply worsen before then, decision will be easier. If it is about the same, experience with the chronic condition of the civil war (and war in China) since 1911 indicates that we should not defer any urgent needs.

2. The need for two new hostels and six new residences is not primarily to sustain morale and the university's reputation:
 - (a) Some increase in hostel space is necessary, unless we are to limit next year's freshman class to half a dozen or so women and perhaps fifty men. The present program of admitting each year the freshman class that will produce an enrollment of somewhat over 600 students is a well considered move towards the size of institution agreed to be essential for better teaching and a sound position in the community. To interrupt this program after two years will be stultifying and multiply the difficulties of internal adjustments to the eventual larger enrollment.
 - (b) Some improvement in living conditions for seniors is necessary as part of present efforts to raise standards of academic attainments.
 - (c) Housing for faculty is simply not to be found in Wuchang outside our buildings. The new foreigners must be housed next Fall. The Methodist Mission is unwilling to see its hostel used longer than absolutely necessary for housing faculty families (four at present)."

I have quoted you this whole memorandum by Dr. Paul Ward because although he is comparatively new in the work here, he is in close touch with all the different phases of our work as the Acting Treasurer in the absence of Mr. Coe; and the building program has been very much on his mind. In addition to what Paul Ward has said in his memorandum to me quoted above, I would like to say that our women's unit is becoming very popular in this part of the country because of the good discipline our women students are getting, and because of the general reputation of

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Huachung. In September last, we had 536 students of whom 195 were women. More would like to come if we had only the space for them. Women seem to stay longer in the university, because as a rule they either come from well-to-do families, or are sent by the churches. It seems to be absolutely necessary to complete the New Yen Hostel Building in order to meet the situation next September.

After this long letter may I sum up by saying that we must secure immediately the services of a competent architect to draw up a general plan for the campus, especially now that the Boone Middle School is planning to move out; and secondly, by next March, we ought to come to a decision whether we should or should not take the chance in building at least one more hostel for men and four to six faculty houses. Mr. Coe will have left perhaps by the time you have another meeting to discuss this matter, but Dr. Richard Bien will be available until next summer. The Yale-in-China Association has just completed its general plan for Yali Union Middle School and Hsiang-ya Hospital in Changsha by Mr. Wu, a Chinese architect trained in Tsing-hua University and Yale. You may be interested in getting in touch with Mr. Wu with regard to the building situation in China at the present time. Mr. Wu is sailing next week from Hong Kong to America, and he can be reached through the Yale-in-China Association in New Haven.

We had a very happy Christmas season with three days of holiday, and we are going to have three days also for the New Year this week.

With affectionate regards,

Yours, as ever,

(signed) Francis C. M. Wei

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CO-OPERATING UNITS
BOONE COLLEGE
GRIFFITH JOHN COLLEGE
HUPING COLLEGE
WESLEY COLLEGE
YALE-IN-CHINA COLLEGE

CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

私立華中大學
HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY
WUCHANG, CHINA
TEL. ADDRESS: "WUCHANG 8344"
電報掛號：武昌八三四四

*Original letter,
Copy was microfilmed.*

校長 章卓民
PRESIDENT
FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

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omit (Before I close let me thank you on behalf of the faculty and students for the Christmas ^{card} which you and Mrs. Sherman sent. It has been posted on the bulletin board.)

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Yours, as ever,

Francis C. M. Wei