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TRANSFER

SHANTUNG

182 Elm Street,
Oberlin, Ohio

March 12, 1928

Dr. R. T. Shields,
Winchester, Virginia

Dear Dr. Shields;

Mr. Cady has let me read your letter to him of March 8th with regard to the position of business manager for the Shantung Christian Hospital at Tsinan. As the Cadys and we are close friends, Mrs. Wolfe and I have talked the matter over with them.

We went to China in 1909. I just returned from China and Japan in December. Our home has been in Tientsin since 1922. As architect and builder for the American Board Mission I have had work in all the places where our Board operates in North China. My family lived one year in Techow, and I built the houses for the University that have been occupied by Dr. McRae and Mr. Cady. I mention the above to show that we are fairly well acquainted with the situation in North China. We both speak the language and my training has been largely in the building problems of mission work. Mrs. Wolfe's heart and mine are in China and we much prefer service there to anything else we could do.

As little mission building can go forward in the present unstable conditions in China, and as my work has required that I be away from home a good deal, Mrs. Wolfe and I look kindly toward a position that would attach us to one place. I feel that with some guidance and preparation I could fill the position in question, and perhaps be able to render further service where needed in line with my training. Should the way open and our American Board accede to it, Mrs. Wolfe and I will be most glad to accept and to turn our steps toward Tsinan at the earliest possible moment.

I shall show this letter to Mr. Cady before sending it on. You ask to whom to write in our American Board office. Mr. Robert E. Chandler, American Board Mission, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., I think is the one who would carry on the correspondence. I shall mail him a copy of this letter.

Trusting the above information is what is desired, we shall await further word from you.

Very sincerely yours,

James B. Wolfe

0141

SHANTUNG

TRANSFER

April 11, 1928.

Mr. J. B. Wolfe,
182 Elm Street,
Oberlin, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

I sent a cable last week to the field telling them that we could not get a guarantee of your support from the American Board, but suggesting that they push the matter from the North China Council of American Board. I also asked them whether they wished to secure you even if your support did not come from the Medical Board. I am glad to say that I have just received a cable from Dr. Kiang authorizing me to get you in any case, which means that I can now formally offer you the position of Business Manager of the Medical School and Hospital of S.C.U.

I presume this cable means that you will receive the same salary and privileges which you would receive from your own mission. Of course I very much hope that we can get your mission to support you. I was talking to Dr. Ward about it last week.

When can you be prepared to go back? We will no doubt get letters soon telling about the situation. Just now there is another man named Lewis, a Canadian I think, who is Acting Business Manager until he can get back to his own station. If he can remain there this spring, it would not be necessary for you to go out until the fall, and in view of the possible, or probable, Southern drive this spring, it might be better for you to postpone until fall. However, the question of salary is a serious one. Would it be possible for you to continue your present work until the fall, or do you have to give it up this spring? Let me hear what your reaction to this is.

I am very glad to welcome you to our Chaochow group. I am sure that you will enjoy working with the crowd.

Yours sincerely,

R. T. Shields.

RTS/A

0142

SHANTUNG

TRANSFER

May 2, 1928.

Mr. J. B. Wolfe,
182 Elm Street,
Oberlin, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

I have heard nothing from your Board since receiving yours of April 18th. I cabled to the field asking them to secure the approval of your North China Council. Of course we are very anxious for the American Board to continue your support, but that is something for the future to decide.

As far as we are concerned, I should expect you to go ahead and get your passports and transportation fixed up and try to reach Tsinan, as you suggest, the latter part of August or the first of September. I should be there by that time also. I am a little uncertain at present because we have started in a quiet way to look for money, and it has been suggested that I should remain in the United States next fall in order to do this, but recent conversations that I have had and the news from China makes me think that I had probably better go back and plan to return to the United States again to go after the money.

We are very much interested of course in the recent news from China. I hope that the Nationalists have captured Tsinan and will continue to hold it. This had to come sooner or later, and the sooner the better for all parties concerned except for Chang Tsung Chang. I do hope there will be no general looting or anti-foreign feeling stirred up.

I am just back from Canada where I visited McGill and Toronto. Am going today to Winchester, Virginia, to visit my family, and return to New York next week.

Yours sincerely,

0143

TRANSFER SHANTUNG

182 Elm Street,
Oberlin, Ohio

April 16, 1928

Dr. R. T. Shields,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City

Dear Dr. Shields;

Your letter of the 11th at hand with word of the cable message from Dr. Kiang, and your formal offer to us of the position of Business Manager of the Medical School and Hospital of Shantung Christian University. Needless to say we are happy in the receipt of this offer and accept pending the approval of the American Board. We understand that regardless of from where our support comes it is in the nature of a missionary appointment for a term of seven years and the salary, traveling expenses, allowances etc to be approximately the same as the we were regular members of the American Board.

You ask as to the time we could be ready to start for China. It will take several weeks to get our Passports in shape, our Clergy Rate Books in hand, our steamship passage engaged etc. Our two children aged nine and ten are in school and we would like them to finish the full year to the second week in June. Unless urgently needed at an earlier date our preference would be to plan to reach Tsinan the last weeks of August.

Shall I apply for Clergy Rate Books thru the American Board or thru your New York office? Shall I go ahead and get our passports in order? Perhaps these matters and steamship transportation can wait until the American Board can give definite word upon our support. I shall do nothing on any of the above until I hear further from you.

Mrs. Wolfe's and my strong preference of course would be that the American Board could continue our support and that we could remain as we now are under regular appointment. I do not know how entirely the work of Business Manager would fill my time. If in order to keep the American Board back of us it seemed advisable to the University authorities that I retain an advisory relation to the North China Mission of the American Board in building and property matters, or if they wanted to stress this matter as a means of securing the support of the American Board I shall be glad to work with them, both in the matter of getting it before the Board and in the extra duties that might be placed upon me. In a sense our Missions are confronting a new situation in equipment and maintenance. The Chinese have come into the problems. Altho not much new building may be planned for the near future, problems of equipment such as heating, lighting, plumbing and sanitation are still with us. Many of our younger members in their hearty desire to cooperate with the Chinese will get young Chinese engineers and firms to quote on and do the work. As the money in hand is generally inadequate these Chinese engineers with limited experience, but a desire for business, and often a desire to help the cause, will undertake the job and put in faulty work and cheap material that proves inadequate.

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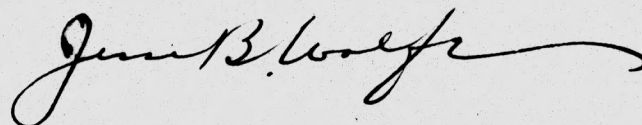
In one of our stations a Chinese engineer undertook to put in a heating system for a girls school dormitory. He ran the pipe up next the ceiling instead of near the floor where it should be. He had no expansion joints and used a boiler cast in Tientsin. A section of the boiler was blown out the first months in operation and could not be replaced. The entire system was inadequate and will have to be replaced. The market in China is filled as you know with cheap material and the Chinese want to use it. My experience in these lines, tho it might be largely advisory, would be of considerable value to our Mission. I mention this merely to show that it can be a talking point if you wish to stress the matter of the Board keeping us under its wing. The situation may be such that this relationship is entirely out of the question.

As to our salary these few months before we sail, I can state that we are at present drawing a regular furlough allowance from the American Board that I think has been budgeted to September. I should think - tho I am not the authority in the matter - that even tho the Board should not carry us in this new appointment, they would at least carry us until we actually started for China.

Could you give me any advise as to any preparation I can make in books or otherwise during the coming weeks?

We are happy in this prospect of returning to China and joining the forces at Tsinan. I suppose any further preparation must wait word from the field.

Very sincerely yours,



0145

SHANTUNG

182 Elm Street,
Oberlin, Ohio

June 5, 1928

Dr. R. T. Shields,
150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City, N.Y.

TRANSFER

Dear Dr. Shields;

Thru the Treasury Department of our Board in Boston, I have received blanks for Clergy Fare Certificates. They write that a statement from the University regarding our new status must accompany the applications. I am therefore enclosing the application forms and will be glad if such a statement is enclosed with the applications and mailed to the Clergy bureau headquarters. The Eastern Clergy Bureau certificates of Mrs. Wolfe and myself with a Bank Draft of \$2.00 to be sent to Mr. C. L. Hunter, 143 Liberty St., New York City, N.Y., and the two Western Clergy certificates with Bank Draft for \$2.00 to be sent to Mr. T. Thompson, 922 Transportation Building, Chicago, Ill. As we have not yet received word as to whether we go out under the American Board or the Shantung Christian University, I have been unable to answer the 2nd question in each application. Will you kindly fill in the answers to question 2 in each of the four application forms before they are sent in.

Conforming with your letter of May 2nd, I have secured our Passports, and have looked up steamship sailing dates. I can hardly make reservations until we know thru whom to make them - either the American Board or the Shantung Christian University. The S.S. "President McKinley" sails from Seattle August 11th. The N.Y.K. boat "Iyo Maru" also sails from Seattle August 11th. If the matter of our support can be fixed in the near future so that we can go ahead with preparations I think we can arrange to go on one of these boats.

In case we are under University support with regular American Board allowances, a "Refit Allowance" of \$250.00 is granted to returning missionaries for necessary purchases. Should the University grant such an allowance I should be glad for it at an early date for needed purchases.

Most of the American Board missionaries travel the Pacific on the President boats. We would be willing to return on the N.Y.K. boat "Iyo Maru" with a saving of approximately \$100.00 on each ticket from Seattle to Kobe. Our little girl is eleven and the boy nine until August 29th. We will therefore have three and a half fares with a saving over the President boats of \$350.00. I would like to take my car, an Overland Whippet Sedan back with me. The freight from Seattle to Tsingtao will be approximately \$150.00. I should like to be allowed \$150.00 on the saving from our tickets to be applied in getting our car over. I came back from Japan last winter on the "Iyo Maru" so know that she has comfortable accommodations. If this is agreeable I should be glad for definite word. I could then write either direct to Seattle for reservations or get them thru the American Board office in Boston.

Very sincerely,

James B. Wolfe

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TRANSFER

SHANTUNG

182 Elm Street,
Oberlin, Ohio

June 15, 1928

Dr. R. T. Shields,
150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Shields;

I have written to Dr. Ward, our American Board Medical advisor in Boston about medical examinations. He writes that whatever organization stands back of our support would likely desire medical examinations. Our Oberlin family doctor has given us these examinations several times in the past and sends the report with the bill to the office in Boston. Should the American Board keep us on we shall proceed as heretofore.

In case the University handles the matter just what examinations do you desire? We were all vaccinated for small-pox three years ago this spring. We had typhoid inoculation two years ago in September. We are all in good health as far as we know. I shall wait word from you before doing anything in the matter.

Dr. Minor is in Oberlin for the Commencement days from the 15th to the 19th of June. I believe she plans to return in September.

We trust that our Board will have received word from the North China Mission Council Meeting soon with regard to our support.

Your letter of June 14th from Baltimore has just been handed to me. I realize that your time is very fully taken up these days.

Very sincerely,

John B. Wolfe

SHANTUNG

TRANSFER

June 26, 1928.

Mr. J. B. Wolfe,
182 Elm St.,
Charlin, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

I have been running around the country a good deal, but have spent the last few days in New York. You will see from the enclosed letter what I have written to Chandler. We want, if possible, the American Board to undertake your support, but if they do not, we are prepared to do it. I have just realized today, after seeing Mr. Shaw, our Treasurer, that she really hasn't funds sufficient in New York to pay for your tickets, so I am asking Chandler to advance the money. In regard to your refit allowance, we are allowing \$250., as the American Board give it.

We appreciate your willingness to go on the "Igo Maru" and save that much on the tickets. I have discussed the matter of the car with several of our people, and I think it will be all right for you to take it with you, and we pay the freight, which you say is approximately \$150., but in order not to set a precedent which might give us trouble in the future, I would like you to agree that this car, when you are not needing it, can be used by other members of the staff at a reasonable rent. No one needs a car for joy-riding in Taiwan, but occasionally it is very useful in going to the railway station or other places. Mr. Williamson of the Institute has a car, which has been a great convenience to the University during the last year or two.

If the American Board cannot do as we ask them, we will borrow the funds elsewhere and cable to the field. I hope to hear from Chandler in a few days, and have asked him to write to you. I suppose we should have a regular contract, though if it is understood that you are taken on on the same conditions that the American Board would take you, I think that would be satisfactory. You might, in your answering letter, simply state that you agree that the University shall take you on, on the same conditions that the American Board would do. I am not sure just what these conditions are in regard to travel expenses where, for some reason, people leave the field sooner than they are expected to.

Write me at Winchester, Va.

Yours sincerely,

R. T. Shields

RTS/A

Shantung
per Chandler
6/30/28