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UBCHEA ARCHIVES  
COLLEGE FILES  
RG 11

Nanking  
Corres  
Priest, Elsie (1939 Jul-Dec)

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0608

July 5, 1939

Dear Miss Priest:

Let me acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 16th. This describes the bombing of the University campus on June 11th. Your description is one of the best we have received so we have had copies made for distribution to the officers of the Board of Founders and to a few other friends.

We have just sent to the Presidents of the four universities in Chengtu a joint letter telling of the actions which are being taken here in America in an effort to minimize the likelihood that such bombings will be repeated. Since you will be seeing copies of that letter I will not repeat here what is said in it.

We keenly sympathize with all of you who went through the months of bombings in Nanking and now find yourself facing somewhat the same difficulties and dangers in Chengtu. We do hope, however, that tragic happenings like those on June 11th will not be repeated. It seems the height of stupidity and folly for the Japanese to take all the risks involved in the long flight to Chengtu, and to bomb a university campus which has no military value and will inevitably create widespread hostility and antagonisms here in America. There is, of course, a danger that the Japanese may become so utterly insane in their military operations as to attack the nationals of all the western powers - but in that case it would be extremely difficult to get beyond their reach in any event. During recent weeks it has appeared that military events both in Europe and the Far East are hurrying toward some sort of a climax. If events move in certain directions it would seem that China's policy of patient endurance may have its before many months have passed. On the other hand, other threatened crises during the last year or two have come without much happening, and this may occur again this time. In any event it seems that all we can do is to carry on as best we can from week to week, and hope for the best.

Very cordially yours,

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
University of Nanking  
c/o West China Union University  
Chengtu, Szechwan, CHINA

BAG:MP

0609

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Y

July 7, 1939

The University of Nanking  
Nanking  
China

Gentlemen:

Re: Buck: Land Utilization In China

The University of Chicago Press has a contract with you with respect to the importation into this country and sale by the Press of a three volume work by Professor J. Lessing Buck entitled, "Land Utilization in China."

We desire to report that question has been raised by the Chicago office of the U. S. Customs office as to the basis on which duty shall be assessed on the importation of this volume, and attempt is being made to assess duty on a cost-of-production basis. If such assessment is made a very substantial duty will result, which under our contract with you, must be paid by your institution. Because of such duty question, we have found it necessary to give bond covering the release of the shipment from the Customs office. The Customs office is now conducting investigation to determine the cost of production of the volume. We understand that they intend to get certain information in this regard from Professor Buck and The Institute of Pacific Relations. It may be that you will be able to assist them in this regard.

If duty is assessed on such an unfavorable basis, it will be necessary for us to determine the steps that should be taken in order to secure legal determination of the correctness of the position taken by the Customs office. It may be that you will desire to give full authority in this regard to your New York agent or other representative in this country in order to avoid delay in taking such legal steps as may appear necessary or desirable to protect your interests.

Yours very truly,

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

By S. W. Findley

S. W. Findley

BR

CC New York Office of U. of Nanking  
A. C. Tyre            D. S. Passmore  
H. V. Matthews       D. P. Bean  
H. H. Moore           W. B. Harrell

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處計會學大陵金京南  
UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
CHENG TU, SZECHWAN, CHINA

8th July, 1939

Mr. C.A. Evans,  
Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
NEW YORK CITY, U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Evans:

Will you please deposit US\$1,000 to the Yenching University account, to be sent to the field for the use of our station at Yenching. Please notify their treasurer that this has been done. This should be charged to the 1939-40 appropriation from Famine Funds.

Your letters of June 26 have just arrived and we have received the check of \$100 from Dr. Bowen. We are acknowledging this gift directly to Dr. Bowen and note that you have credited it to the Nanking emergency account, using exchange 13 cents. You may be interested to know that we sold American dollars in Chengtu this morning at the rate of 9.00. However, this has its problems, for prices have gone up, especially for foreign paper and foreign supplies and that kind of thing that we cannot secure locally.

Your letter of May 31st, concerning the final settlement with Miss Imogene Ward has reached us and we are satisfied with this adjustment. Miss Ward wrote me personally about it and there will be no question raised by anyone on the field. She must feel that you gave her very fair treatment.

We are very glad to know who Dr. J.L. Keeler is. We wrote him a letter, but it had to be fairly general in terms as nobody had any knowledge of the man. I will ask Dr. Wu to write another letter to him.

Tomorrow we will hold the joint Baccalaureate service for Ginling College and the University of Nanking with Dr. W.Y. Chen, general secretary of the National Christian Council, as the chief speaker. Commencement will be on Saturday, the 15th, and we have asked Chancellor Chen of National Szechwan University and Commissioner Kwoh, the Commissioner of Education for Szechwan Province, to give the addresses. Both events are being held at 9 o'clock in the morning as air raid warnings usually disturb us somewhat later in the day.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*Elsie M. Priest*

Elsie M. Priest

EMP:MT

0611

UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
CHENGDEI, SICHUAN PROVINCE, CHINA

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
AUG 8 1939  
JOINT OFFICE

[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely a letter or report, possibly containing names like 'Mr. J. K. Keiser']

*[Handwritten signature]*  
J. K. Keiser

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2160

150 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y.  
July 8, 1939

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
University of Nanking  
c/o West China Union University  
Chengtu, Szechwan, China

Dear Miss Priest:

We have succeeded in getting the Nanking closing ready for Sunday's boat and will send the originals by air mail by whatever route investigation reveals will probably be the fastest.

I do not know that it is necessary to comment on any changes in Endowment or Plant as that will be covered in the Annual Report and has no particular relation to your annual closing. We have, however, made adjustments with the Nanking Realty Corporation to cover the sale of 6157 Tyndall Avenue. There is no material change in Plant.

The budget analysis shows that we used only \$13,862.71 from Emergency Income for the general fund and \$5,000.00 for the hospital. The saving in Current General was due to the fact that Mr. Wheeler left in November and the amount set aside for his salary was not used with the exception of \$762.00 which represented an overdraft carried forward from the previous year. This was a part of the \$1,915.00 called Promotional Loan July 1, 1938. We also used \$136.87 for Home Administration Executive Office and \$122.27 for Trustees' Expenses, both being authorized by action BF-1058 at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

You will note by Journal Voucher #517 that Current General and Hospital accounts were closed out entirely and nothing carried forward to the new year.

Famine Funds are being held in abeyance for further instructions from you.

May we call attention to the \$1,578.96 carried in Account #171.2 representing Harvard-Yenching Institute Income. You will note this was for 1936-37 when the institute paid \$75,000.00 for the first half of the year and \$85,000.00 for the last half. This represents an increase which you did not absorb at that time and which should be taken into your accounting.

Note that in Current Special nothing was received from the Methodist Board for vacancy. I have written you before regarding this but have been unable to get anywhere even though they have been presented with documentary evidence that they agreed and signed to provide cash in lieu of vacancy on the staff. I was in conference with them only yesterday regarding this matter and they have shunted it all off until after the vacation period - so, you will not receive anything from that Board for 1938-39. \$668.69 was used from Famine Funds to balance the Riggs account.

Journal Vouchers and Invoices are also attached and we trust these papers go through promptly to be of service on the field.

0613

Miss Priest

- 2 -

7/8/39

You will want to know the amount deposited with the Central Hanover Bank and Trust Company and it is as follows:-

Directors Current Fund		\$17,313.90
Current Expense Hospital		5,886.77
Emergency Funds "		881.67
Scholarships:-		
Williams.....	\$19.68	
Wood.....	19.68	
Sherwin	98.33	
		137.69
		<u>\$24,220.03</u>

We find that it is impossible to make any closer connections than sending by China Clipper on Tuesday. Duplicate copies are going on the "President Taft".

Very cordially yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B  
ENCS.

Via China Clipper - 7/11/39  
c.c. via "President Taft" - 7/9/39

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July 12, 1939

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
University of Nanking  
c/o West China Union University  
Chengtu, Szechwan, CHINA

Dear Miss Priest:

The enclosed copy of a letter addressed to the University of Nanking came to hand this morning, and with the assurance it was forwarded regular mail I am sending copies by way of Europe and the Pacific.

You have written me on two different occasions that an effort has been made to get in touch with Dr. Busk and work out these costs.

You will note from this letter that basing custom charges on cost figures will be on an unfavorable basis and that authorization is desired to take such legal steps as may be necessary to protect the interests of the University.

An inspector of the Department spent considerable time in our office one day and promised to return for the purpose of securing additional data. Apparently he felt that what material he had was sufficient, as he has not returned and apparently has made a report to the Chicago office, the result of which is this letter of July 7th.

Presumably in the end authorization will rest with the Board of Trustees, but obviously we can take no steps without first consulting your office. As the shipment has been released on bond, there is time for an exchange of letters - although, the sooner the matter is cleared the better it will be.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B  
ENC.

Via Imperial Airways - Atlantic Air Mail - 7/15/39  
c.c. China Clipper - 7/18/39

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INDEXED

July 19, 1939

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
University of Nanking  
c/o West China Union University  
Chengtu, Szechwan, China

Dear Miss Priest:

As we have received no further word regarding Miss Edith Mary Turner, we took steps to cancel the policy as of July 1st which brought about inquiries from the Company as to the standing and regarding her certificate, and as a result we gave them the exact facts.

The Company has taken the position that it might be better to consider her on leave of absence, but insist upon adjusting the policy as of April 1, 1938. I am quoting one paragraph which sets for the attitude of the Company in this particular ruling:-

"This annuity contract is one of the earlier forms and apparently there is no direct authorization for our specific treatment of this case. However, should you so desire we would be willing to make an amendment to the policy giving the right to suspend contributions on any employee in the case of leave of absence. This amendment would give the details of this privilege but if you do not think a formal amendment is necessary we would be willing to suspend contributions in such circumstances anyway. In the case of such suspension, the benefits purchased for the employee will naturally not increase while the contributions are suspended and the employee and employer shall have the right after the employee returns to active service to pay the premiums which have been suspended with interest at 6% if the employee shall recommence contributing within six months from the date of suspension of contributions. Should the employee recommence contributing after the six months period, no payment of suspended contributions will be allowed."

I am putting this on the calendar for action three months from now and, if in the meantime no definite information is received from her, it would seem to be wise for us to definitely cancel the contract.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

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INDEXED

Chengtu, Szechuen  
July 20, 1939.

Mr. C. A. Evans,  
Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
New York.

Dear Mr. Evans:

There are a few items to be cleared and I have decided to send a clipper letter lest the mails should be too greatly delayed.

1. Clergy certificates for Li Min-yun. Miss Li is the person connected with the Presbyterian Mission about whom I wrote asking you to secure the certificates and hold for word from me. Due to various reasons, particularly the increasing fall of Chinese currency, Miss Li cannot go this year. Will you therefore cancel the application, and if possible save the US\$4. which should be paid. Should this be too late she will have to sacrifice the funds, but I hope this letter may reach you in time to save for her the deposit of US\$4. Let me know.

*Paid  
Presby. Bd  
8/4/39  
H.O.C*

2. Miss Sutherland: Miss Catharine Sutherland of Ginling College is leaving for furlough - left this morning for Kunming, and sails from Hongkong early in September. Her home furlough salary should begin with October 1939 and be the regular amount of \$2.00 less her personal insurance. I have asked her to write to you sending her address as soon as she reaches home. Also we have advanced to her US\$600.00 for the trip - she is to give you an accounting and adjustment. She is allowed to go by air from Chengtu to Kunming, train and boat the rest of the way. I have adjusted her travel allowance in lieu of travel and paid her salary through September.

*noted  
S.C.*

3. Miss Tsui Ya-lan travel: Miss Tsui has been very slow in giving me her travel account but finally she has done so, and I am enclosing it for your information. This is her expense account not including the steamship ticket, and I hope will give you the information you need. She borrowed 100. from Mrs. Thurston but has paid it back during the year. You will see she had to find this money personally except for the gift of US\$100. It looks a bit messy but I cannot re-copy so will send the original copy to you.

*sent to Mrs. Thurston  
10/10/39 but to  
[unclear]*

4. Statements and minutes: We are all a bit dismayed that not a word reporting the various meetings held early in June has come through to any of us. It seems incredible that all letters should be lost so we assume you simply have not sent them out. Needless to say we are most anxious to know what actions were taken. I am disappointed that no financial reports are here and it is the 20th - and as Clipper mail is coming through in 10 to 12 days now, I fear the delay must be in your office. Of course you are busy - who isn't? I hope the next day or two will bring in the letters for it is holding up our closing seriously. In West China Un. Un. it is also holding up putting the new budget into force for no word has come of the decisions about grants and what can be done about acceptance of the budget. In other words - the lack of any information from you has clogged my wheels in all offices and in this hot weather they seem completely stuck.

*West China  
Un. Un. clipper  
7/3/39*

Sorry about our carbon copies - it is true we have to use our carbon to a stage that is not self-respecting. It is so costly and so hard to buy that we have no choice. But I will try to guard against copies

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being useless.

*1/13/39*  
5. Insurance for Edith Turner Gunn; I have written her several times, sent her the blanks and urged her to attend to the matter. Margaret Turner is carrying the secretarial work for our office and has also urged it repeatedly, so if Edith has not responded there is nothing to do but to follow your suggestion and close the matter. Actually her policy is in my box of safekeeping documents that were left in the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp. in Hankow. They are perfectly safe but I cannot get them out at the present time. Mrs. Gunn is now in England and can be reached at "Bramblecot" Hayling Island, England. Perhaps put on the letter x/o Dr. Reynolds Turner.

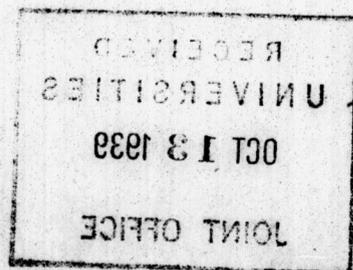
Commencement went off smoothly - which to most minds means no air raids! - and now people are scattering for the summer. Fifty per cent of my staff is off on holiday, and we are trying to close all four office accounts for the year. Fortunately the rainy season has started so there is less fear of air raids which helps the morale. I shall not get away at all - in fact the work is piled too high to permit any lessening of hours.

Is there any way that we can manage the Cheeloo accounts more easily? You know there is serious difference of opinion about the group being here and consequently there is a lack of cooperation on the part of the Tsinan staff. I am amazed at the attitude shown by Dr. Lair. I was asked to be the treasurer for Cheeloo in Chengtu and the only way I can drag a copper out of him is to send a wire that I am drawing against him. He refuses to write to any of us - sends no statements, gives no information of available funds, keeps us all completely in the dark concerning funds on hand or even what the Chengtu budget covers - I wonder if he knows! I will close the accounts the best I can for the past year and then resign from all connections with Cheeloo under present circumstances unless there is a change that means possible cooperation. This is written personally to you and is not intended to public consumption, but I wondered if there was any possible way of managing to have a better understanding of the whole situation. I agree absolutely that the treasurer must be the one in charge of the funds, but it is fearfully hard on the group here when he refuses to recognize us as existing. Could you send a duplicate set of the monthly statements to President Liu here in Chengtu so we might know something of actual conditions? It seems to me that something concrete must be done about this Cheeloo situation - or else we should all state clearly it has no right to be in Chengtu.

As I glance over this letter it sounds a bit petty - but I guess I will send it along.

Sincerely yours,

*Edwin M. Pruitt*



0618

being useless.

Insurance for Edith Turner Gunn; I have written her several times, sent her the blanks and urged her to attend to the matter. Margaret Turner is carrying the secretarial work for our office and has also urged it repeatedly, so if Edith has not responded there is nothing to do but to follow your suggestion and close the matter. Actually her policy is in my box of safekeeping documents that were left in the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp. in Hankow. They are perfectly safe but I cannot get them out at the present time. Mrs. Gunn is now in England and can be reached at "Bramblecot" Haying Island, England. Perhaps put on the letter x/ Dr. Reynolds Turner.

Comment went off smoothly - which to most minds means no air raids! - and now people are scattering for the summer. Fifty per cent of my staff is off on holiday, and we are trying to close all our office accounts for the year. Fortunately the rainy season has started so there is less fear of air raids which helps the morale. I shall not get away at all - in fact the work is piled too high to permit any lessening of hours.

Is there any way that we can manage the Chee-oo accounts more easily? You know there is serious difference of opinion about the group being here and consequently there is a lack of cooperation on the part of the Taiman staff. I am amazed at the attitude shown by Dr. Linn. I was asked to be the treasurer for Chee-oo in Chengtu and the only way I can drag a copper out of him is to send a wire that I am drawing against him. He refuses to write to any of us - sends no statements, gives no information of available funds, keeps us all completely in the dark concerning funds on hand or even what the Chengtu budget covers - I wonder if he knows! I will close the accounts the best I can for the past year and then resign from all connections with Chee-oo under present circumstances unless there is a change that means possible cooperation. This is written personally to you and is not intended to public consumption, but I wondered if there was any possible way of managing to have a better understanding of the whole situation. I agree absolutely that the treasurer must be the one in charge of the funds, but it is fearfully hard on the group here when he refuses to recognize us as existing. Could you send a duplicate set of the monthly statements to President Liu here in Chengtu so we might know some thing of actual conditions? It seems to me that something concrete must be done about this Chee-oo situation - or else we should all state clearly it has no right to be in Chengtu.

As I glance over this letter it sounds a bit petty - but I guess I will send it along.

Sincerely yours,

*Paul M. Hunt*

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
OCT 13 1939  
JOINT OFFICE

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INDEXED

July 28, 1939

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
Ginling College  
c/o West China Union University  
Chengtou, Szechwan, China

Dear Miss Priest:

Your letter of June 22nd came to hand acknowledging mine of May 11th enclosing minutes of the Finance Committee.

The various deposits which you allude to have been taken care of in previous correspondence and it is not necessary to dwell upon that. The exchange yesterday was better than 12 to 1 — an American dollar costing eight Chinese dollars. A curious situation developed in Peking yesterday as a result of the British attitude when the Japanese Federal Reserve notes appreciated 15% only to have them suddenly fall more than 10% upon the announcement of the renunciation by the United States of the 1911 Trade Pact. Surely we are in the midst of an exceedingly interesting world-wide situation.

Miss Vautrin's request had the endorsement of Miss Tyler who had visited Nanking, but no time, I believe, did the Board seriously think of sending funds directly to her.

I sincerely trust the revised emergency requests for next year will come to hand soon as the committees will begin to give consideration to these requests within the next few weeks.

I am interested in what you say regarding the annuity for Ginling and as the present policy with the Sun Life Assurance Company is fully as advantageous as any others which could be written, there seems to be no necessity for us to look further if the Board of Founders desire to make recommendations along these lines. Frankly it represents a very sincere purpose on the part of the founders to protect all members of the staff. I will take this matter up early in the Fall with the Finance Committee. Thanks for your suggestion.

With sincere best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

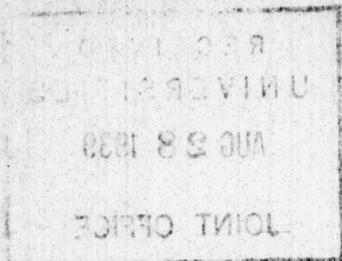
CAE/B

0620

處計會學大陵金京南  
UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
CHENGTU, SZECHWAN, CHINA

Ack. 8/29/39

July 28, 1939.



Dr. B. A. Garside,  
Associated Boards, New York

Dear Dr. Garside:

You will find enclosed one copy of the Regent's report for the University of Nanking for the year ending June 30, 1939. I am only sending one copy as I have no extra blanks. I hope you have sent out to all three offices the usual number of blanks for this year so we may have them on file for next summer.

I do not see that we need make any comment regarding this report - it is entered as usual in Chinese dollars and we are keeping our records on the fixed rate of 29½ to prevent inflation of accounts. I mention this point in case the question comes up concerning the present value of the Chinese dollar.

You will have received the report for West China Union University already, as it was completed first, and I am planning to have Ginling College report completed within the next week.

Mr. Alexander Paul of the United Christian Missionary Society is visiting us at present and we are hoping there may be no raids during the time he is in the city. It is full moon this week and we are very apprehensive.

Sincerely yours,

*Elsie M. Priest*

Elsie M. Priest.

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UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
CHONGTUNG, PEKCHWAN, CHINA

Oct 8/1939

Aug 28, 1939

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
AUG 28 1939  
JOINT OFFICE

Dear Sir,  
I have received your letter of August 24, 1939, regarding the  
report of the Chinese Missionary Society for West China Union  
concerning the value of the Chinese dollar. I am sorry that I am  
unable to give you a more definite answer at this time, but I am  
hoping that we are hoping there may be no  
further delay in the matter. It is still under  
consideration and we will be glad to  
reply to you as soon as possible.  
Very truly yours,  
John M. Christ

John M. Christ

22223755

2260

處計會學大陵金京南  
UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
CHENGTU, SZECHWAN, CHINA

ack. 8/29/39

July 29, 1939.

Dr. B. A. Garside,  
Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
New York.

Dear Dr. Garside:

You will find enclosed a copy of the report which has been sent to Dr. Elisseff for the Harvard-Yenching Institute covering the work for the year ending June 30, 1939.

We are sending you also a copy of the letter which Dr. Chen has sent to Dr. Elisseff covering the report and plans for the immediate future of the Harvard-Yenching Institute grant.

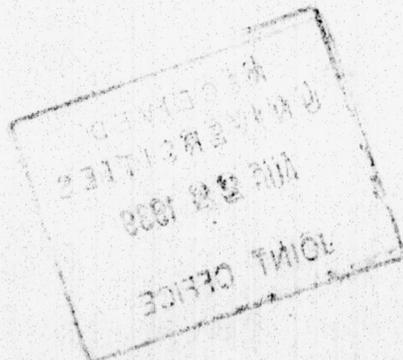
From the financial statement you will see that we have a considerable amount of funds on hand, some of which have been kept in New York for the present. We are rather conservative in our use of funds at this time, as we try to have all projects really worthwhile, and it is true that some of the most valuable investigations are not costly in this province. We have set aside a substantial amount for printing and have several manuscripts already for the press - but the work is not very well done here and we are holding the material to be done either in Hongkong or perhaps in Shanghai at a later date.

We shall not send additional copies unless word comes that one of the two forwarded failed to reach their destination.

Sincerely yours,

*Elsie M. Priest*

Elsie M. Priest.



0623

UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
CHENGDEU, KEECHWAN, CHINA

1939.8.28

July 29, 1939.

Dr. A. A. Garfield,  
Associated Journals for China College,  
New York.

Dear Dr. Garfield:

You will find enclosed a copy of the report which has been sent to Dr. Elissoff for the Harvard-Yenching Institute covering the work for the year ending June 30, 1939.

We are sending you also a copy of the letter which Dr. Green has sent to Dr. Elissoff covering the report and plans for the immediate future of the Harvard-Yenching Institute grant.

From the financial statement you will see that we have a considerable amount of funds on hand, some of which have been kept in New York for the present. We are rather conservative in our use of funds at this time, as we try to have all projects really worthwhile, and it is true that some of the most valuable investigations are not costly in this province. We have set aside a substantial amount for printing and have several manuscripts already for the press - but the work is not very well done here and we are holding the material to be done either in Hongkong or perhaps in Shanghai at a later date.

We shall not send additional copies unless word comes that one of the two forwarded failed to reach their destination.

Sincerely yours,

*W. H. ...*

W. H. Priest.

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
AUG 28 1939  
JOINT OFFICE

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處 計 會  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

院學理文子女陸金立私  
GINLING COLLEGE  
NANKING, CHINA.

*ack. 9/7/39*

Chengtü Szechuen  
August 3, 1939

Dr. B. A. Garside,  
Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
New York.

Dear Dr. Garside:

*Gave  
to  
Mrs  
Deft  
to  
copy*

You will find enclosed the financial report for the Regents of New York State Department for the year ending June 30, 1939 for Ginling College. This completes all the financial reports due the regents from Chengtu. We are sending only one copy for we are short of blanks - I assume the blanks for 1939 are in the mails but to date we have not received them.

These days are busy as we try to close accounts for last year. It is now full moon and the nights are too clear to make us sleep soundly! We have had air alarms nearly every night lately, lasting for two to three hours, but fortunately for us the planes have not found Chengtu so far. The hours of waiting are tedious and rather trying when we have a full schedule of work for the following day. I wonder how long this will last - or perhaps, how long we can stand it!

President Wu is leaving today for a vacation - Hongkong and probably Shanghai.

Sincerely yours,

*Elsie M. Priest*

Elsie M. Priest.

0625

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
SEP 5 1939  
JOINT OFFICE

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
SEP 5 1939  
JOINT OFFICE

*Handwritten signature*

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INDEXED

August 7, 1939

INDEXED

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
University of Nanking  
c/o West China Union University  
Chengtou, Szechwan, China

Dear Miss Priest:

Your letter of June 3rd has not been acknowledged and due largely of our endeavor to check with the Presbyterian Board regarding the \$645.00 for the University Hospital.

Last Friday morning I received word that they were sending me copies of correspondence regarding this matter with the field as they found that authorization had been given to the China Council to make payment and that same had been acknowledged. I wonder if it is possible that it had been paid over to Dr. Daniels at Nanking. If correspondence of this nature comes in within the next few days, I am asking that it be forwarded to you.

Dr. Buck was in the office last Thursday and reported on the progress made covering customs on "Land Utilization in China" publication. It has reached the place where probably the Government will consider accept- the wholesale price of the book as the basis for charges. If not, it will mean lining up all of the expenses to show how the money was used. However, before anything is done along that line, every other effort will be exhaust- ed.

Most cordially yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

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INDEX

August 7, 1939

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
c/o West China Union University  
Chengtou, Szechwan, China

Dear Miss Priest:

Your letter of July 20th came the day after we had mailed Miss Mei-yun Li's clergy certificates. As there is absolutely no chance of recovery through the mail, we will have to let them go through. However, if they are returned to us, we will be glad to make an effort to have them cancelled. We cannot promise this, but will do the best we can.

I note Miss Sutherland is on the way home and that she will be writing me later on. Meanwhile we have made a record of the arrangements you have recommended.

Thanks for the travel record for Miss Tsui Ya-lan. I will have to study this through later in the light of what is possible to do at this end and will write you again.

There are ample explanations to make about delay of minutes. First of all, the West China minutes went through our office promptly and copies were sent to Dr. Anderson. However, I wrote personally on the financial matters just as soon as the mimeographed copies came to my desk. The Ginling minutes have not been received from Miss Griest as yet. She was acting-secretary and I have been compelled to write her twice asking for certain financial items which were acted upon. I cannot understand this situation but presume I should as in another meeting, in which you are not interested and of which we are not secretaries, the secretary sent me the minutes last Friday when the meeting had been held on June 5th. Apparently I will have to take them with me on my vacation to write them up. I find upon checking that the Nanking and Cheeloo minutes were sent out promptly and that you should have had them in hand shortly after you wrote your letter.

Thanks for the information regarding Edith Turner Gumm. I will wait until early in September before following this through, as nothing can be gained now in view of the fact that the Company wishes to hold the policy temporarily in suspension.

I have just written a letter to President Liu regarding the situation in the Shantung account which I dislike to duplicate. I feel confident that things are working out in that situation and that, if you can carry on a bit longer, I will write a confidential letter to Dr. Lair, although I do believe that his illness has had a great deal to do with the situation.

I am glad I came in today to get this letter and yet at the same time, there is nothing that requires urgent attention. We did the best we could with

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Miss Priest

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8/7/39

the accounts and get them off as early as possible, and they should have been in your hands promptly after the letter you wrote. Will take up the thread of correspondence again when I return from my vacation.

Thanks for writing so frankly, I am

Most cordially yours,

C. A. EVANS

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work

August 25, 1939

Miss Elsie Priest  
University of Nanking  
Chongtu, Szechuan, China

Dear Elsie:

You no doubt have heard that I am to have the privilege of working for the University of Nanking as its field representative for another year.

I think you should know my plans for publicity. The Board of Founders appropriated \$1,000 for general publicity, promotion, and similar expenses. Last year we spent much less than this, and so far as it is in my power I expect again to be economical. It is my intention at present to send out during the year two formal pamphlets somewhat like the one I made up last year, the first to go out some time in November, and the second about the first of April.

The success of these bulletins with their accompanying letters of appeal must depend in a large measure on the material which we receive from Chongtu. Both Esther Slocum and Bill Fenn have helped considerably in recent months by sending pictures and information. I am hoping that we will continue to receive material which will be suitable for our purposes. I am very anxious to have adequate information on hand by November 1st. Information regarding the summer activities of various university groups would be particularly helpful.

Dr. Le Sourd tells me that the Missionary Education Movement has definitely appropriated the necessary funds to complete two motion pictures. This is particularly pleasing, inasmuch as the University of Nanking should receive invaluable publicity in this enterprise. Furthermore, such pictures should prove of great value in this country. We are confident that if the first films are successful there will be no difficulty in raising funds for further work of this nature.

- Another project in which we are interested at this time is that of securing for Chinese students scholarships and fellowships in this country. I understand that last year the Associated Boards made its first organized effort in this direction. I have been in contact with the authorities of several universities and in general have found considerable interest in this type of work.

My recent visit to St. Lawrence University is typical. The result was a letter from President Seelye which indicated that a "number" of Chinese graduates might be welcomed by the University. Dr. Seelye said that he would recommend a rebate on tuition. Of course, this would presumably not be enough but I have reason to believe that the University would be willing, after the first semester, to go farther than this towards making successful students self-supporting.

0630

8-26-39.

Now I am trying to get from individuals and foundations money to help defray expenses of transportation and incidentals.

It would greatly strengthen Christian education in China in future years if we were able to bring to this country a number of promising graduates at this time. It would also strengthen the University of Nanking and the other colleges in this country. I should like a frank statement from the administration regarding this plan.

I believe there is a definite place in St. Lawrence University if Nanking has one or more suitable candidates. Of course, St. Lawrence only grants a masters degree, but any student who really made good should not find it too difficult to make his way in a larger university.

I wonder how much you are hearing in Chengtu these days about the world situation. I hope your radio reception is good. New York, at least, is pretty well on pins and needles. I find it very interesting to watch the faces in the crowds that gather nightly in Times Square to read the news bulletins as they are flashed on the side of the Times Building. I am impressed more and more by the fact that in my experience there is more optimism and faith in the future in China than there is here in America. There seems to be a general spiritual depression and a profound fear of what the future may bring, both in domestic and international relations.

I hope you are having a real rest this summer. The past two years have certainly been very hard, and I hope you are on one of the mountains where you can relax and recover a bit from the strain that has been yours ever since the beginning of the war.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely,

OJC:cs

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Chengtu, Szechuen  
September 3, 1939.

INDEXED

ack 9/18/39

Dear Dr. Garside:

There seems to be a problem that is most difficult and I feel very much alone in trying to make a decision. It is hard to discuss with our Chinese administrators and our Western staff are all so "new" that it is not easy to take it up with them. Therefore I have decided to write this letter in a personal way, meaning I do not wish it to be taken up at all officially yet. I shall appreciate greatly knowing your reactions and advice.

Miss Hilda Anderson returned from furlough on August 12th, just in time for the outbreak of hostilities in the Yangtze valley. She was quite nervous under the continual bombardment of air raids, and we sent her to Hankow at the end of August 1937, at which time we thought she was to be loaned to the American Embassy. However, when they reached Hankow the Consular officers felt they had enough secretarial assistance and refused to take her on. At that time we had the Department of Agricultural Economics in Hankow so we assigned her to help them. This was done until our arrival early in December. About the time we were arranging to send people on to Chengtu, the League of Nations were in desperate need of a person to be in charge of the office in Hankow for a few months, and asked us if we would release Hilda for this work. She was very keen to take it on, and we were so upset about Chengtu work anyway that I urged the president and dean of agriculture (where she is assigned) to let her do it. She remained with them until August 1938 when she came up river to Chengtu. During the time she was with the League of Nations, she was "off" salary with us, but all allowances continued as usual. Also they paid her way to Chengtu, or rather to Chungking where they were setting up their office.

Long before Hilda came to Chengtu, she had a feeling she would not like it, and once she was here she hated it most cordially. It is like any other interior mission community - very like Nanking before 1927 - and on the whole is vastly superior to many! Naturally the social life is quiet, exceedingly so at times - and as gates in the city are closed at ten o'clock and on the campus at eleven o'clock, you will know we keep very moderate hours! It is only fair to say there is a great dearth of men - unattached - and it is a bit hard on the single girls of a certain age and period. All last year she felt she could not stand Chengtu life another month and made her housemates miserable with her fussing over it. I fear I did not have as much sympathy as I should have shown, but it seemed to me possible to make an adjustment under existing circumstances. After all our work was here for the present and it was a poor evidence of our own ability if we could not find something for amusement.

Hilda claims there is not enough work to keep her busy in the college. I have great difficulty in reconciling this attitude especially when she says anyone could do the typing she was asked to prepare for class work. It is true much of the printing is out of the question because we cannot get the paper up here so it simply has to wait. Paper is practically out of stock except for a native variety that does not stand up well for bulletins. Hilda had hoped to do much with preparation of bulletins - and I have urged her to go ahead and prepare them in mimeographed or typed form to be printed later if they seem valuable at a later date. She decided against this proposal. I agree if she waits for Dean Chang or the professors to hand out work, most likely there is not enough to do, but after all she has been connected with the institution for eight and more years and that ought to be long enough so she can find her own way about the college. I did not interfere because of this fact - besides I have been so involved with my four institutions there was

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little time or energy left for other activities.

When July came and it was time for holidays she decided to go to the coast, visit Shanghai and Nanking and see if life would look a bit more cheerful. One thing in Chengtu one has little use for their coppers, other than living expenses, so she had saved enough money to make the trip quite comfortably. We have had enthusiastic letters from her along the way - marvelous to be in the "outside world" again, etc. etc. There are a few things I would like in the outside world - and I presume this is true of every person here as far as that goes.

Yesterday I received a letter from Nanking, which was not a great surprise to me. I will copy one paragraph:

"I suppose I should be starting back - but I just can't do it. I can't bear the thought of Chengtu - it grows worse instead of better - there still is a world outside of that place, and I can't stand the thought of going back and sitting around as I have done all last year from dawn until dark. Doing nothing in the office but type a few stupid things that anyone could have done, wandering out in the middle of the morning and the middle of the afternoon to kill time, and then doing nothing all the rest of the time. I feel absolutely sick at the thought. The only consolation is that if you can't take it, there is a lot of opium around. If I go back to Chengtu feeling as I do now - well it's just no use. I hoped that the rest of the world would look so bad that I'd be glad of the refuge, but that isn't true. Nanking is quiet - deadish - but infinitely superior to Chengtu. There were some 25 people in church, and earlier in the day I was at a tiffin with about 30 people, only two of which duplicated in the church aggregation. I shall stay here for a while - maybe two weeks, maybe two months if I can be useful."

We simply cannot afford to let Hilda stay in Nanking as much as she wants to do so - we have two missionaries there now, Dr. Bates and Dr. Steward besides the hospital staff. The place where she is needed is Chengtu in spite of her own analysis of the need. In fact I have just arranged a new plan where Margaret Turner comes over to my office (or rather to the office for the administration for the work is largely for the president not the treasurer) for full time, thus giving to Hilda Anderson part of the work she has been carrying in Agr. Economics. That might not add greatly but it would be one more office to keep up. We need Margaret Turner in administration - but I do not really want Hilda in this particular task as Margaret will do it much more efficiently.

In my own thinking I am ready to propose the following - (1) see if the hospital wants to take her on (I doubt it as they can hardly afford the money) (2) suggest she forgets the outside world and return to Chengtu or (3) give her three months salary beginning September 1st and advise her to seek another position. This last would be a bit generous for she has been out only the two years, but under present circumstances I am ready to propose it. I am inclined to think the Chinese staff will vote for the last suggestion - they have been quite annoyed with her attitude during the past year. Will you send me a reply by Clipper mail immediately so I may know if the Board of Founders would object to this proposal? After all she is a regular appointee and I feel it must be settled officially eventually. I will make the suggestions now with a provision of ratification from New York. I have a feeling she will accept this suggestion, although I know she would much prefer to have us allow her to play around Nanking helping Steward and Bates a bit - but their work is not directly connected with the University as far as writing goes. Steward is writing a book on Flora of China and Bates writes many

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Dr. Garside - 3

articles with some connection with the work of the University, but really a bit outside the so-called University work. Anyway I cannot see that we are justified in paying her salary for this work. For the care of the property etc. in Nanking they certainly do not need a secretary!

She has not sent her resignation as such to me so it is not easy to adjust and I am a bit loath to be too drastic. She is a very capable person when her mind and soul is on the task. She needs a westerner to keep her busy for Chinese are not good at finding work or dictating. For years now I have dictated every letter for President Chen - he had so much difficulty in making clear his meaning to the younger girls that it seemed the only way to manage the work.

I am sorry to bother you with this problem which ought to be settled easily enough on the field, but there are so many complications that I would appreciate your help. It seems best to me to keep the whole affair quite confidential for the moment, until decisions are made. Like all small towns the people will do too much talking, especially as many know how very much Hilda dislikes the village.

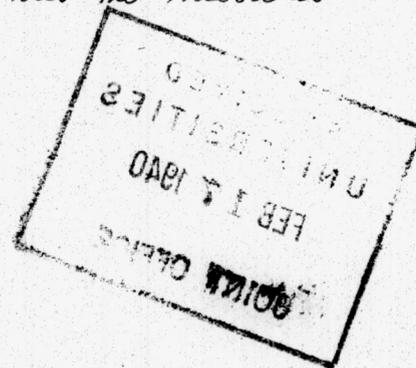
I hope you have had a holiday - your task is a heavy one these days, but I am sure you can manage it easily enough by now. I feel very stupid that it seems difficult to manage any holidays during the summer months, but the fact remains that even with full days work I do not finish to allow for leeway. West China accounts have taken a lot of time this year for I have tried to leave records that will be absolutely clear to a successor. I wish they would decide what they were doing with that office. I am carrying it largely with the help of one of my own men (loaned to them and paid by them) but when we return to Nanking he will go with us. That will leave them without a single person capable of doing any accounting! They are still very unsettled over the decision about Mr. Albertson, but in my mind it will be a tremendous mistake to let him come back to that office.

With many thanks -

Sincerely yours,

*Elise M. Priest*

*We are heart sick over the European war. What will it mean for the world? Meanwhile we have raids - but the moon is waning so a few peaceful nights soon.*



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With many thanks -

Sincerely yours,

*Robert M. Garbidge*

*We are heartick over the European war. What more it mean for the world? Meanwhile we have raised - but the reason is having as a few peaceful night now.*

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
FEB 17 1940  
JOINT OFFICE

Extract from letter from Miss Margaret A. Frame, Shanghai.

September 5, 1939.

Rev. Paul R. Abbott, D.D.,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Dr. Abbott:

I have before me the letter of August 15th written by Miss Graham. In it she says that Miss Priest has written to Mr. Evans of the Associated Boards that the amounts included in the money orders in the spring of 1938 to be used for the Nanking University Hospital have never reached her. Those included in bill of exchange 9421, namely US\$500 from Mr. James W. Brown of Cincinnati, Ohio, US\$50 from the Englewood, N.J., West Side Sunday School, and US\$50. from Miss Katherine W. Stewart of Dayton, Ohio, which came to us in Clipper letter of May 24th, were all paid into the University of Nanking Hospital account with the Associated Mission Treasurers. These sums were paid to them in Chinese currency in a check for C\$2,933. The explanatory letter was directed to Miss Grace Bauer and in her answer she explained that Mr. Glenn V. Fuller of the Associated Mission Treasurers was carrying the hospital account in Shanghai and suggested that if we had not already deposited the money to their credit it would be most convenient to do it in that way. As it happened, I had already found that the hospital had an account with the Treasurers and had already paid it into that account. That check was paid over on June 9, 1938. In my letter I explained that these gifts were parts of larger checks sent to us for relief work and were sold at the current rate of exchange.

On August 13, 1938, we sent to the hospital another gift of US\$100 which had sold for C\$620. This, however, was not designated for Nanking University Hospital as it came to us but was a part of the gift of Mrs. Mary Barber Blair. Again I have the acknowledgement of Miss Grace Bauer dated August 19, 1938.

The gift of US\$500 from the Westminster Church, Minneapolis, sent to us under date of July 12, 1938, for the Nanking University Hospital was to be used by Dr. J. H. Daniels. We, therefore, held it until his arrival in September 1938 when he asked us to pay it into the same account, which we did by a check dated September 10 for US\$500 because by that time we were definitely trying to hold our funds in U.S. currency as long as possible.

These I think are the only major gifts we have made to the hospital although through Dr. Daniels some other small gifts have been passed on for the work there, but not through the University account with the Treasurers I think but for his personal handling. I do not know what arrangement Miss Priest has with the hospital for relating their accounts to the rest of the university accounts. I presume with distances as they are the delays must be very great but I imagine by this time she has had these reports from the hospital. To make quite sure I will mail her a copy of this letter to you.

*Copy for Mr. C.A. King*

0636

處計會學大陵金京南  
UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
CHENG TU, SZECHWAN, CHINA

*ack*  
*10/14*

7th September, 1939

Mr. C.A. Evans,  
Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
NEW YORK CITY, U. S. A.

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
OCT 10 1939

Dear Mr. Evans:

You will remember that Ginling College had a gift of a small folding organ, which was shipped through the Methodist Board in August 1938. For some unaccountable reason the papers were sent to Mrs. Paul W. Meyer at the American Consulate, Kunming. Mrs. Meyer claims that she never received the papers and we have had a great deal of trouble in securing the possession of the organ. Finally we sent the non-negotiable copy of the bill of lading, which you forwarded to us, to Hongkong and asked the Chase Bank to give us a letter of guarantee which could be presented to the shipping company. This was done and the organ was delivered to us in late spring and is now in storage in Kunming. If we stay in Chengtu long enough I hope it may arrive here.

The Chase Bank is pressing us to release them from this letter of guarantee and the only thing I can do is to write to you and ask if you will try and secure a proper duplicate or some letter that will satisfy the shipping company. We are taking the position that the original bills of lading were lost in the mail. I am sorry to bother you again with this item, but I can see no other way of handling it.

Sincerely yours,

*Elsie M. Priest*

Elsie M. Priest

EMP:MT

*Signed  
Ocean  
bill of  
lading*

*Note Bilhorn 10/11*

0637



Sept. 13, 1939

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
University of Nanking  
c/o West China Union University  
Chengtu, Szechwan, China

Dear Miss Priest:

The Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada has forwarded to us a schedule showing the standing of the contracts in the Nanking account as of July 1, 1939.

The company forwarded no extra dividends on participating policies this year and consequently the schedule is different than that previously issued.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

Enc.

via air mail to Pacific Coast  
"Empires of Russia"

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September 13, 1939

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
University of Nanking  
c/o West China Union University  
Chengtou, Szechwan, China

Dear Miss Priest:

Your letter of July 8th was held out of the files pending my return from vacation. I have been back a week now and I am just trying to clear up some of the back correspondence.

The US\$1,000.00 was taken care of as you requested, and an acknowledgment sent accordingly. Yes, the exchange has gyrated considerably. It now seems to be groveling around the bottom. We trust the dear Lord will not permit the Chinese dollar to disappear entirely. Surely it is causing many complications on the field.

Miss Ward did appreciate the settlement which was made, but made it clear that if the field felt that it was not a proper adjustment she would make reimbursement. We would not have made this adjustment had not the committee viewed the matter from every angle and instructed us to take this step. If you feel there is justification for us in making a greater charge, do not hesitate to write us.

A cablegram came to hand this morning as follows:-

" WU MAO-I CLERGY EXPRESS JAPAN NINETEENTH."

A carbon copy of the letter which we have mailed to Miss Wu is enclosed herewith. The certificates were mailed immediately.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B  
ENC.

*via air mail to Pacific Coast  
"Empress of Russia"*

0640

處計會學大陵金京南  
UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
CHENGTU, SZECHWAN, CHINA

14th September, 1939

Ack. 11/10/39

Dr. B.A. Garside,  
Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
NEW YORK CITY, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Garside:

I have received a copy of your letter of August 2nd, addressed to Dr. Daniels, Nanking. There seems to be a good deal of confusion about these gifts for the Hospital and I wish it might be possible to have arrangements made so all gifts are sent to one place.

In this letter you state that gifts amounting to US\$463.66 and C\$180 were given to the hospital from the Macklins and their friends. This is the very first time that we have heard anything about the gifts in United States' currency. You state in your letter that the Chinese currency checks were sent to me to negotiate, but this is not true. You sent them directly to Nanking and they have casually mentioned them in a letter. We had no mention of this fund in honor of the Macklins. It would have been much better and would have made the record much clearer if you had taken the trouble to send the whole thing to me and let me acknowledge it properly and send it on to the hospital. Your method of handling it has caused misunderstanding, but I feel the mistake is entirely in your hands and not on the field.

I am having a very difficult time to decide now much money belongs to the hospital from the actual cash that has been turned over to us in the emergency grant. You state very clearly that in addition to designated gifts you have made up a total of \$5,000, but where are these designated gifts? They have not come to us and we have no record of them. Mr. Evans, after repeated enquiries from me has finally said that money has been sent through the Presbyterian Board directly to Dr. Daniels. The hospital group has considered this to be extraordinary extra gifts and in planning the use of the money has considered it had no connection with the Associated Boards campaign. I am trying to secure information to clear it up, but unless your office at least gives me a list of the gifts and the total amount it is almost impossible to make a correct accounting. Will you not take this matter up with Mr. Evans and between you work out some plan whereby any information concerning finances comes to this office. I have asked him so many times that I hesitate to write again on this subject.

Sincerely yours,

*Elsie M. Priest*

Elsie M. Priest

EMP:MT

0641

UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
CHENGDEU, PEKING, CHINA

1939, December, 1939  
Dec 11/1939

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
OCT 16 1939  
JOINT OFFICE

I have received your letter of August 2nd, 1939, regarding the matter of the loan of \$100,000 to the University of Nanking. I am sorry to hear that you have had some difficulty in securing the loan. I am sure that the University of Nanking is a very worthy institution and that the loan will be well used. I am sure that you will be able to secure the loan in the future. I am sure that you will be able to secure the loan in the future. I am sure that you will be able to secure the loan in the future.

I am sure that you will be able to secure the loan in the future. I am sure that you will be able to secure the loan in the future. I am sure that you will be able to secure the loan in the future. I am sure that you will be able to secure the loan in the future. I am sure that you will be able to secure the loan in the future. I am sure that you will be able to secure the loan in the future. I am sure that you will be able to secure the loan in the future. I am sure that you will be able to secure the loan in the future. I am sure that you will be able to secure the loan in the future. I am sure that you will be able to secure the loan in the future.

Sincerely yours,  
*Elise M. Priddy*  
Elise M. Priddy

EM:MT

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INDEXED

September 16, 1939

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
University of Nanking  
Chengtou, Szechwan, China

Dear Miss Priest:

I hope soon to acknowledge a letter from President Chen, which was forwarded to me in California during my vacation. I greatly admire the courage of the University in continuing its work on the campus in Chengtu. I shall write President Chen soon.

In Washington yesterday I discussed with the Chinese Ambassador a proposal which I made earlier that the Government decorate four of the persons who have been associated with the work of our Christian Colleges. The Ambassador will recommend Paul D. Cravath, Arthur V. Davis, E. M. McBrier, and Ralph E. Diffendorfer. His letter will probably go by the same Clipper mail as this.

I am writing you after consultation with colleagues here with regard to the following two matters:-

1. If someone in Chungking who has the right contacts with the foreign office could make any inquiry or suggestion to follow up any such recommendation by the Ambassador, it might be useful. I would request, however, that you consult President Chen and any others and make sure of the wisdom of even such inquiry, - not to mention follow up.

2. We want to arrange for a big dinner here, at which such decorations would be officially presented by the Chinese Ambassador. Dr. Hu tells me that last year it took eight months for the decorations to arrive in Washington. I suggested to him the possibility that some Chinese or American might be travelling from Chungking who could bring them. Will you look into this matter and see what can be arranged, and what schedule is possible. Do not spare the expense in getting the thing through; and if definite schedule can be arranged, cable us here so that we may go ahead with our arrangements for such a meeting. I do not venture to suggest details, but even if you have some safe messenger going as far as Hongkong, who could put these on shipboard properly registered, that might do the business.

Please transmit my best personal regards to all friends. We think of you all very often.

Faithfully yours,

EHC:RC

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over  
INDEXED

PERSONAL

September 18, 1939

ACK 10/23/39

Dear Miss Priest,

Let me acknowledge your Clipper letter of September 3. In this you describe frankly and confidentially the problem which you are facing because of Miss Hilda Anderson's difficulty in adjusting herself to the situation at Chengtu. I am treating the communication as personal and confidential as you indicate, but am sharing it with Mr. Evans, who was in even closer touch with Miss Anderson than I during her last furlough, and who has some pretty clear ideas as to the situation.

Both Evans and I agree that your letter gives a clear, fair, and sympathetic statement of the case as we ourselves have already suspected it to be. Both of us observed Miss Anderson rather closely while she was here in America and noticed for ourselves some of the characteristics which your letter reveals. We can see how she would find it very difficult to settle down happily in a situation such as you have in Chengtu, with the lack it has of certain types of social relationships, and with the limitations it imposes. Apparently the only salvation for her in such a situation would be to find some task so interesting and so absorbing that she could lose herself in it, and could become reconciled to the other things that she is missing.

Since she has not been able to find such a job there in Chengtu, and apparently is not likely to find one, the situation certainly does not look encouraging.

Evans and I have tried to analyze objectively the three possible courses you suggest, with the following results: -

(1). Having her remain in Nanking. If there were sufficient secretarial work in Nanking to justify her remaining there, and if the University budget were able to provide for her support at that point, this would seem to be the happiest solution of the problem. But since there is not enough work for her and the budget does not make any provision for a secretary at Nanking, this does not seem to be a feasible solution and would probably have to be discarded.

(2). Urge that she return to Chengtu. There must be a great deal of work in Chengtu that Miss Anderson could do if only she could be persuaded to undertake it. You yourself are carrying a far heavier burden than any single individual should ever tackle. While much of it is a type that Miss Anderson could

0644

not undertake, there must be a large amount of routine work you are doing that she could take off your hands. But would she really be able to relieve you, or would it take more time and nervous energy for you to turn matters over and supervise her doing of them than to go ahead and do them yourself? There must be others also in Chengtu who are overworked, and whom Miss Anderson could help out if she would undertake it in the right way. Then you mention that with the shift in Margaret Turner's duties, there is an increased amount of secretarial work in Chengtu for which Miss Anderson is directly responsible.

But while it may be clear that there is work in Chengtu which Miss Anderson ought to do, if it is equally clear that she would not undertake this work happily or successfully then it would be a mistake to drag her back. She would certainly be unhappy and probably inefficient; and all of her associates would find the arrangement a most unsatisfactory one.

(3). Give her three months salary and allow her to seek another position. If neither of the two above alternatives can be worked out successfully, then the third seems to be the only choice left. Evans says positively that he thinks this is the choice the University would have to make. I am inclined to believe that this is correct, though being an incorrigible optimist I always retain a faint hope that some arrangement may possibly be worked out that will keep her relationship to the University. She undoubtedly has very fine capacities if only they can in some way be utilized in ways that are productive and that will leave every one reasonably happy.

So far as the Board of Founders are concerned, I am sure that if the University authorities find that the third solution suggested above is the wisest one, they will be glad to agree with that decision. Should such a step be necessary, President Chen will undoubtedly send us a communication explaining the case to whatever extent he considers wise. I might at that time add unofficially such other information as it seems desirable to give.

We do hope that it will be possible for you to work out arrangements whereby your own load will be somewhat lightened this year. Even in normal times you carry far too heavy a burden, and in the last two years this has been doubled again and again. Even under the greatest stress you always keep your work up to a high level of efficiency, but we know that this must make heavy demands upon your nervous energies and upon your physical strength. Both because of our appreciation of your great value to all of the Universities in Chengtu, and because of our personal affection for you, we are solicitous that you do not overtax yourself too severely, and that in some way you find a little opportunity for rest and relaxation.

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Miss Priest

3.

9/18/39

The swiftly developing events in Europe during the last three weeks have kept the world in a constant state of amazement, trepidation, and confusion. So many unbelievable things have happened that people would no longer be very much surprised at anything. Always we have analyzed each new happening in the light of "What effect will this have on the situation in China?" Some developments have seemed to be encouraging from that standpoint, others discouraging. Nobody can foretell what will happen during the days this letter is on its way to Chengtu. But we continue to hope that China will carry on through the task it has undertaken of maintaining its independence and integrity.

What parts the United States will play in these conflicts going on throughout the world none of us know as yet. We find ourselves in the midst of cross-currents of opinion, all of them shifting day by day as the world situation changes. I have always called myself an internationalist, and have held to the conviction that America must play its part in the events of the world, but I confess that I am not always clear as to just how this can best be done.

With all good wishes, I am

Very cordially yours,

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Chengtu, Szechuen  
September 20, 1939.

Dear Dr. Garside:

I wrote you about the problem connected with Miss Hilda Anderson, and now comes a letter from her dated September 6th in which she tells me her decision is made to resign and seek other work. She asks for information about sending her resignation and I have told her to send it to you as she is a regularly appointed missionary under the Board of Founders of the University of Nanking. I presume you will receive it in the course of a few weeks.

May I urge that you make the following settlement:

1. The usual retirement allowance of three months salary -- I will pay this on the field.
2. Waive any settlement regarding travel or allowance. Consider that her years of service settle any obligation for refunds.
3. Make a satisfactory adjustment on her insurance policy. I do not know her final decision about the policy as yet, but as far as the University is concerned, I hope you will be generous in making the settlement with her. She joined the staff February 1931, so has been with us about 8-1/2 years.

I do not wish you to judge her harshly at this time. It is not easy during these days and we are often very weary of being "guests" with all the problems involved. We are grateful for the privilege of continuing the institution - but perhaps we have to have vision to see the greater values. Miss Anderson has a very humble honest spirit and I feel has faced the situation clearly in making this decision. I am enclosing part of a personal letter she has written to me for I am most anxious that you should have a complete picture of the situation. I feel sure you will know this is a personal letter sent to you in order that you may know in a way beyond my powers to express her whole attitude at this time.

As to her work - ~~we~~ will re-arrange the staff and know we can handle it fairly easily as Mrs. Riggs is a secretary and is willing to help. In fact, it will be a great help to her to have something to do for Chengtu is a difficult place if you have nothing to fill your time. With her help and some of the more important things being taken over to my office where Miss Turner can handle them, we will take care of the necessary work. ~~We~~ shall not consider any new secretarial staff for the time. Probably when we start down river again - when? - we shall require a new secretary but I fear you need not start seeking for a candidate at present.

Registration continues - we have to hold it open for communications are so difficult these days the students cannot possibly secure tickets on buses or even planes. I will let you know as soon as we have close the registration as to the numbers enrolled. Miss Kees has not arrived but we hope will come during the next week. At last we have heard from her. The Riggs are in Kunming awaiting for a plane. The Fenns arrived yesterday.

I feel confident I can leave this whole matter of final adjustment with Miss Anderson in your hands and that you will see that sympathetic letters and actions are recorded. She may return to us at a future date - and I see nothing gained by closing too many doors or causing hard feeling.

Sincerely yours,

*Edwin M. Peck*

0647

Chengtu, Szechuen  
September 20, 1939.

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UNIVERSITY

OCT 1 6 1939

Dear Dr. ...

JOINT OFFICE

Board of Trustees of the University of ...  
I presume you will re-  
ceive it in the course of a few weeks.

May I urge that you make the following settlement:

1. The normal retirement allowance of three months salary -- I will pay this on the field.
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3. Make a satisfactory adjustment on her insurance policy. I do not know her final decision about the policy as yet, but as far as the University is concerned, I hope you will be generous in making the settlement with her. She joined the staff February 1931, so has been with us about 8-1/2 years.

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situation clearly in making this decision. I am enclosing part of a  
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have a complete picture of the situation. I feel sure you will know  
this is a personal letter sent to you in order that you may know in a way  
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As to her work - ~~will~~ re-arrange the staff and know we can handle it  
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work. ~~will~~ shall not consider any new secretarial staff for the time.  
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I feel confident I can leave this whole matter of final adjustment with  
Mrs Anderson in your hands and that you will see that sympathetic let-  
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and I see nothing gained by closing too many doors or causing hard feelings.

Sincerely yours,

*Chengtu*

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University of Nanking,  
Chengtu, Szechwan.

21st September, 1939

*ack by Cal  
10/20/39*

Dr. B.A. Garside,  
Mr. C.A. Evans,  
Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
NEW YORK CITY, U. S. A.

INDEXED

Dear Dr. Garside and Mr. Evans:

I am enclosing a statement of the financial condition at the close of June, 1939. This is a preliminary copy for your information. A fuller and complete financial statement will be forwarded after the meeting of the Emergency Executive Committee, which will be held as soon as President Chen returns from the People's Political Council meetings in Chungking. There are one or two items which I wish to call to your attention particularly and for that reason I am sending you this copy today.

Famine Funds for 1938-39:

On your statement of June 30<sup>th</sup> you indicate that the Famine Fund receipts were US\$33,213.58 and that you had disbursed to the field, or deposited in New York, \$22,668.69, leaving a balance unclaimed of \$10,544.89. After we have balanced the account for the Famine Fund work and made all the necessary adjustments we find we need US\$860.57 in addition to the amount deposited of \$22,668.69 or \$23,529.26. Will you kindly deposit this amount of \$860.57 to our account in the Central Hanover Bank & Trust Company and return to the principal the balance, or \$9,684.32. I think it is quite clear to you that the administration is using only necessary amounts of the Famine Funds to carry on the work during these years and keeping as much as possible in capital funds. On account of present high exchange we are able to carry approximately the same amount of work locally for far less American dollars. Will you kindly report this matter to the next meeting of the Board of Founders and have it recorded that the field has requested to have this amount of \$9,684.32 cancelled from the appropriation for 1938-1939 and returned to the capital funds. On the statement which is enclosed you will note we have indicated that there is in *new york* C\$8,050.45 on hand. This is made up of two items, one being this amount of US\$860.57 at the official rate of 3.30 and the other being US\$1,578.96, also at 3.30.

Harvard Yenching Institute:

On your statement for June and in your letter of July 8<sup>th</sup> you call to our attention that you are carrying US\$1,578.96 in the Harvard Yenching Institute Income Account,

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860.57*

*8003.05*

*1578.96*

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covering the special appropriation for 1936-37. As we had never drawn this amount we included it in the report sent to the Harvard Yenching Institute last year and entered it on our books as being held by your office. Will you be good enough to deposit this amount in the Central Hanover Bank & Trust Company and thus entirely clear this account to July 1939. I do not believe there needs to be any further explanation of the Harvard Yenching Institute Account as we sent you full details when the report was sent to Dr. Elisseeff. However, this will be part of the fuller financial statement which I hope will be forwarded early in October.

Dep 10/17/39  
No 6753  
1,578.96

Exchange for 1938-1939:

Under the restricted funds we are leaving the amount listed under Interest and Exchange until we know your formal decision regarding our request to have all exchange allowed the field during the past year. Under the regulations of the Board of Founders it is understood that you can require us to return one-fourth over the official rate. After we have paid for salaries, books and equipment, which have all come from the current appropriations, the balance to be sold on the field is not great, but there would be a small amount of exchange due the Board of Founders under this regulation. Under the present circumstances and especially in view of the fact that the Board of Founders has met all its obligations from the emergency grants, we wish to request that all field funds be sent to us and that no gain be required by the Board of Founders during this year. This was the decision reached by the Board of Founders for the year 1937-38 and I hope there may be no question about it for the year ending June 30th, 1939.

Closing for the year:

There were two factors that were a great help to us in closing our accounts for last year. The first one was the generous gifts from the Associated Boards under the emergency funds and the second was the fact that exchange was in our favor. You will see from the statement that we were able to close without a deficit. This applies to all units. There will be balances in funds available to June 30th that can be used for two things. First to cover the cost of restoring salaries to 100%, you will note there is an item in the statement for this purpose. The cost of living is increasing rapidly, especially since the fall of the Chinese dollar and it has been working serious hardships for many staff members especially in the lower groups to have salary only on an 80% basis. All salaries are being restored to 100% beginning September 1st and in addition we are increasing slightly the staff whose salaries are \$120 or under. The professors and instructors have agreed that the lower salary group is in far greater need and they approved of the plan to give them increases in salary this year.

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This has all been planned very carefully and we feel very confident we shall be able to manage the additional cost with the reserves made from last year. We shall require between C\$65,000 and \$75,000 for this purpose. You will note that the reserve is \$67,895.64.

The second need that has come up since the bombing of June 11th is the necessity of constructing inexpensive residences and temporary dormitories for staff and students. This will require around C\$40,000 and I am hoping the Board of Founders will see their way clear to allow us to use all the gains in exchange last year in order that this great need for the housing of our staff and students may be made from that fund. We have put in reserve the entire balance of our gain in exchange part of which belongs to the field, amounting to \$49,881.61. Our plan has been to use this money for the cost of construction of these buildings. Our first hope was that \$30,000 would be sufficient, but it has already gone to \$35,000 and costs are increasing daily, so I fear it will be at least \$40,000 by the time the buildings are finished. You may be interested to know that our plans are to house 34 of our families, we have 54 applications in at the present time and it is not easy to decide on the ones that have to be left out. On the other hand we do not feel we can put any more money into residences at this time. If we are sent a special gift for this purpose we shall be most grateful, but until that comes we feel we must manage with the funds that are available. I mention this in order that you may see how much needed these residences are and how much we are hoping to have these funds for this purpose.

Fifth Dormitory Fund:

You are carrying on your books an item of US\$3,129.29, which was money raised by President Chen and Dr. Wheeler during Dr. Chen's visit to America, for the Fifth Dormitory which we hoped to erect for our freshmen students in the summer of 1937. This gift has not been brought onto the field books as yet. We have a small amount which we have reserved for this dormitory which appears on the statement as \$6,006.00. This was the accumulated special fees and local gifts which were secured to construct this building. During the past few weeks I have been turning over in my mind the thought of bringing to China at this time this gift of \$3,129.29 and selling it at local exchange which would give us approximately enough to complete the building unless prices increase very radically. Will you consider this matter and send me your advice. I would suggest selling it and placing the proceeds on fixed deposit until such time as it will be possible to return to Nanking. I realize some people will feel this is a far too optimistic view and because there are questions I am appealing to you for your help in making this decision.

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Generally speaking we are in a fairly sound financial condition. The great worry today is to know the value of Chinese currency. It is fluctuating so wildly and values change so suddenly that we do not feel in a position to predict the future. You may be assured that every effort will be made to keep the expenses within the available funds in sight. This may not be an easy task if prices continue to rise in the same proportion as they have during the past three months. If you have any questions about any of the funds or accounts indicated on the statement please let me know and I shall make every effort to make clear to you what we are trying to show.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*Elsie M. Priest*

Elsie M. Priest

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Generally speaking we are in a fairly sound financial condition. The great worry today is to know the value of Chinese currency. It is fluctuating so wildly and values change so suddenly that we do not feel in a position to predict the future. You may be assured that every effort will be made to keep the expenses within the available funds in sight. This may not be an easy task if prices continue to rise in the same proportion as they have during the past three months. If you have any questions about any of the funds or accounts indicated on the statement please let me know and I shall make every effort to make clear to you what we are trying to show.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*Elaine M. Priest*

Elaine M. Priest

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INDEXED

September 26, 1939

*ack*  
*11/6/39*

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
University of Nanking  
c/o West China Union University  
Chengtou, Szechwan, China

Dear Miss Priest:

The Presbyterian Board has forwarded to me a copy of a letter written by Miss Margaret A. Frame under date of September 5th at Shanghai. This deals with emergency funds sent out by the Presbyterian Board and designated for Nanking.

Presumably these funds were paid over to the Hospital Account with the Associated Mission Treasurers and no report forwarded to you. It would seem from this report that all of the funds designated by the Presbyterian Board were paid over as designated.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

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*Follow up copy*

Ginling College  
Chengtú, Szechuen  
October 14, 1939.

Mr. C. A. Evans,  
Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Evans:

You will find enclosed the financial statement for the close of June 1939 for the college. I do not see any items that need explanation other than the ones we shall discuss in this letter, but we are always glad to give you more detailed information concerning any point that does not seem to be entirely clear on our reports.

Grant from Rockefeller Foundation:

Ginling College received a grant of US\$7,500 00 as their share of the contribution made to the Emergency funds by Rockefeller Foundation. Today we wish to report on the use that has been made of these funds for the year 1938-1939:

Housing in Chengtu for staff (building under construction)	C\$ 10,000 00
Share of cooperative charcoal truck	5,000 00
Travel and transportation of supplies	10,000 00
Contribution for Chemistry Building	12,860 00
Balance required for current needs due to the low value of the dollar	12,715 19
Total amount .....	C\$ 49,975 19

As we sold the funds for 1938-1939 at an average exchange rate of about six to one, the total of the grant would be approximately C\$45,000 00.

Other emergency funds:

When the Board of Founders approved the requests for emergency needs in Chengtu, they included two items for 1938-1939 which we wish to have definitely reserved for future use. These are:

To complete the Terrace House in Nanking	C\$20,000 00
Funds required for return trip to Nanking	10,000 00

The equivalent of US\$9,000 00 at 29½.....C\$ 30,000 00

President Wu and I wish to request you to place this amount of US\$9,000. in some special account - preferably a savings bank account - designated for the two definite items above. We are using the official rate in planning for this money merely as a precautionary measure.

There are two ways to handle this payment for investment. In the first place we could send to you a check on the Central Hanover Bank and Trust Co. for US\$9,000 00, or secondly, you could take this amount from this year's appropriation making the investment as soon as possible. I am inclined to favor the second method and will appreciate very much if you will plan to invest \$9,000 00 for us marking the investment clearly that it was done at the request of the field officers for the purpose of setting aside the two funds indicated. Likewise I will make our records clear to show that while this money really came from last year's emergency funds, the actual investment is being made from current

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Mr. Evans - 2

10-4-39.

funds paid into your office during the current year 1939-1940. In this way we shall be saved the problem of sending through the mails the check from our New York bank account.

Endowment interest for 1938-1939 :

On your final closing statement you indicated that the endowment interest for the year amounted to US\$5509.39 which was considerably more than the average for the past few years. As we did not have any details of this amount, we used in closing the books for the year approximately the same amount as for the year 1937-8 keeping in reserve the difference or when converted into Chinese currency at the official rate C\$ 6,480 98. This seemed to us to be the best plan until we knew exactly what was covered by the total income of US\$ 5,509 39. Will you be good enough to send me details of this amount so we may decide whether this balance now being held in suspense belongs to our current funds, or whether it is the interest on the special endowment from the Southern Methodist Mission Board, part of which was to be used for current needs. Meanwhile we will carry the item on the books and will not plan its use until we hear from you.

Needs for 1939 1940:

Within the next week or two we shall re-figure the entire budget and see exactly what our needs for this current year may be in light of actual enrolment, or the increased cost of living due to the devalued dollar, etc. We will also re-consider the problem of rehabilitation in Nanking and see if our figures should be revised.

We shall appreciate very much having some word from you concerning the probable amount that may be expected for this year to meet our needs. We realize that with the war in Europe the whole situation has changed and it may mean that we must begin to plan most carefully to cover our most pressing needs with funds that are available. I need not mention that the current appropriations that are made annually are most inadequate to meet the needs of the college. This is not due to the present war situation but has been a fact for many years. In other words Ginling College depends upon gifts outside of annual appropriations to meet the ordinary current expenses of the college.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie M. Priest, Treasurer.

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處計會學大陵金京南  
UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
CHENG TU, SZECHWAN, CHINA

16th October, 1939

ack 11/16/39

Mr. C.A. Evans,  
Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
NEW YORK CITY, U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Evans:

Last Saturday West China Union University decided to send Mr. Spooner US\$1,500 for the purchase of a truck and the cost of bringing in supplies. It is to be charged against their emergency 1938-39 fund. There has been some trouble in Hongkong in cashing these orders that are used by West China Union University, so, in order that any difficulty may be avoided and Mr. Spooner may be able to secure the funds promptly, I have given him a check on our bank in New York in return for which they have delivered to us draft No. 945, payable to the University of Nanking for US\$1,500.

You will find this draft enclosed.  
Will you be good enough to deposit this amount to our bank account in the Central Hanover Bank and Trust Company.

Sincerely yours,

*Elsie M. Priest*

Elsie M. Priest

EMP:MT  
Enc.

West China check  
# 3174 - 11/14/39  
Dep. above check  
11/14/39 - 1,500

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南京金陵大學會計處  
UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
CHENGTAU, Szechwan, China

1939, October 15

Check #110/37

Associated Students of China Colleges,  
100 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Sirs:  
I have received your letter of the 10th inst. regarding the purchase of a truck and the cost of operating it. It is to be arranged that the truck is to be used for the purpose of carrying these goods from the various points to the various points. I have given you my check for the amount of \$100.00 in return for which you will please issue a receipt to the

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Bank records and the Central Bank and Trust Company.

Yours truly,  
Chen M. Chen

Director

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150 Fifth Avenue  
New York City  
October 17, 1939

INDEXED

Dear Miss Priest,

ack 10/27/34

As a part of our China Colleges publicity program in New York this year, we are planning to have some kind of a public gathering during the autumn or early winter. We must build such a gathering around some kind of significant event, and must plan it for six or eight weeks in advance if we have any hope of making it successful.

In this connection we are of course thinking of the possibility concerning which Earl Cressy wrote you on September 16 - that the Chinese Government might take action on the Double Tenth awarding decorations to four of our faithful servants. If we find that such action was taken, and know fairly definitely when we can count on the decorations being here, we can set a date and build plans for the affair around that knowledge. If we discover that the Government took no action on October 10, but is likely to take favorable action at the New Year, then we would postpone our plans until a little later. If we find that the Chinese Government took negative action on Ambassador Hu Shih's recommendation, then we will go on with plans for an affair along other lines altogether.

It is quite possible that on the basis of Mr. Cressy's letter of September 16, you have been able to institute discreet inquiries in Chungking, and are getting off some word to us by China Clipper or by cable. But if you find that any further steps are possible without creating any unfavorable reaction, and without too much expenditure of time, we would be grateful for your help.

Cressy tells me that Dean H. R. Wei, and Dr. Han Li Wu are probably both in Chungking now, and that either of them might be able and willing to find out the facts for us, and to give any help possible. You will know better than we do as to who might be approached and how.

What we specifically need now is information as to just what has happened or is likely to happen. We would request, therefore, that if you can find the information for us you send one of the following three cables: -

(1) If favorable action was taken on October 10, and if the decorations are in process of being sent to America, will you cable as follows:  
"APPROVED ARRIVING ABOUT ( date )."

(2) If no action was taken on October 10, but there is likelihood of a favorable action at the New Year, cable:  
"ACTION POSTPONED".

(3) If the Ambassador's recommendation was flatly turned down, or the likelihood of any favorable action later seems remote, cable:  
"REJECTED" or "APPROVAL UNLIKELY."

If we don't have any one of these three cables from you during the weeks just ahead, we will assume that you have not been able to obtain any definite information as to just what has happened. Our apologies for troubling you about the matter.

Very cordially yours,

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
University of Nanking  
Chengtu, Szechuan, China

B A GARSIDE

BAG:ms

0659

NOTE: See letter of October 17, 1939- to Dr. M. Searle Bates.

150 Fifth Avenue  
New York City  
October 17, 1939

*ack 10/27/39*

Miss Elsie Priest  
University of Nanking  
Chengtu, Szechuan  
China

INDEXED

Dear Miss Priest,

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter I have just sent to Searle Bates, together with copies of letters which have been exchanged recently between Mr. Frank G. Hoover and our office.

We would welcome the comments of yourself, President Chen, and any of the other leaders there in Chengtu as to how we should proceed in our relationships with Mr. Hoover. The matter is one in which we must keep a spirit of cooperation and mutual good will all around. But unless we handle the matter wisely, and in a constructive way, there seems some danger of our losing altogether the support that Mr. Hoover should be able to give in substantial amounts to the work of the University of Nanking.

Very cordially yours,

B A GARSIDE

BAG:ms  
Enc.

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0660

University of Nanking,  
Chengtu, Szechwan.

17th October, 1939

ack 11/16/39

Mr. C.A. Evans,  
Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
NEW YORK CITY, U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Evans:

We have been clearing the expense accounts with Miss Margaret Kees and Mr. Allen Spitzer and making arrangements with them for their salary payments and other details. As they are both appointed for a term of five years they are entitled to participate in the pension scheme. I have always advised young staff members to take advantage of this policy and was a little surprised that you had not mentioned it to either one of them when the papers were sent to them. Both Miss Kees and Mr. Spitzer wish to join, but I find there are no application cards in our files. I am sure I have some extra ones in Nanking, but it will probably take less time to ask you to forward them from New York than to attempt to have someone find them in the files in Nanking. I believe it is possible for you to arrange for them to share in the scheme before they return these cards to you. I am sending you the following information:-

Margaret C. Kees - Birth, December 7, 1909

Allen Spitzer - Birth, June 6, 1909

If you will send me the policies together with the cards we will see that the records are completed.

Miss Kees is anxious to have part of her money deposited in America. She has asked me to request that every month \$40 be deposited in a savings bank account with the Wells Fargo Bank, Market Street, San Francisco. This is to begin with the month of October. Beginning with October I shall pay her only \$40 and will deduct her insurance premium from the field salary. Temporarily I shall deduct \$4.00 for both Miss Kees and Mr. Spitzer, but I realize there may be a slight adjustment to make as they are both around 30. In addition will you kindly deposit US\$240 for Miss Kees in the same bank account, representing her salary for July, August and September. I would suggest that you keep the savings bank book in New York but ask the bank to send her the signature cards and some withdrawal slips so she would be able to withdraw the money if occasion arises.

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Nov 16/39*

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*320.*

*2706768  
11/15/39*

*calculate  
Wells Fargo  
11/16/39*

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Mr. Evans - 2

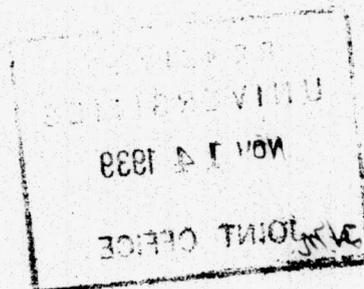
Miss Kees has turned in to me her expense account for the trip out and states her total expenses, including the outfit allowance, came to US\$634.36. You advanced her \$625.00, which leaves \$9.36 still due her. I will clear this amount on the field. I might say that you did not give Mr. Spitzer enough money to reach Chengtu. He needed about \$100 more, which we sent him in Shanghai and Kunming. I mention this merely as a guide to you in arranging for travel expenses for various people. The cost of transportation is increasing hourly and it is very difficult to plan ahead on the amount that may be required.

Sincerely yours,

*Elsie M. Priest*

Elsie M. Priest

EMP:MT



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Miss Kees has turned in to me her expense account for the trip out and states her total expenses, including the outfit allowance, came to US\$34.36. You advanced her \$25.00, which leaves \$9.36 still due her. I will clear this amount on the field. I might say that you did not give Mr. Spitzer enough money to reach Chengtu. He needed about \$100 more, which we sent him in Shanghai and Kunming. I mention this merely as a guide to you in arranging for travel expenses for various people. The cost of transportation is increasing hourly and it is very difficult to plan ahead on the amount that may be required.

Sincerely yours,

*E. M. Priest*

E. M. Priest

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over  
October 20, 1939

ack  
11/6/39  
INDEXED

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
University of Nanking  
Chengtu, Szechwan, China

Dear Miss Priest:

Your letter of September 21st, addressed to Mr. Garside and myself, came to hand on the 16th of October and we are grateful for this preliminary financial report. We will reply under the headings which you have used.

Famine Funds for 1938-39. Agreeable to your request, we have deposited \$860.57 in your account at the Central Hanover Bank and Trust Company as representing the additional amount you required to close the year to June 30th. Before returning the unexpended balance in Famine Funds to the principal account, we made an adjustment of \$1,681.27 which represented charges presented by the American Board for the expenses of Charles Riggs. As this brought to a close the old arrangement, it seemed the better part of wisdom to make this adjustment in last year's accounting - thus, after adding this to the expenditure with the deposit we have made, there was a total of \$25,210.53 in last year's budget. This left \$8,003.06 which we have turned back to the principal account and Journal Voucher #523, of which we are enclosing a copy, covers this transfer. As requested we will report this to the next meeting of the Finance Committee and secure approval for this transfer.

Harvard-Yenching Institute. The old balance in the Harvard-Yenching Institute Account of US\$1,578.96 has been credited as requested to your account at the Central Hanover Bank and Trust Company. There seems to be no reason why any action should be taken on this as long as you are filing your reports with the Institute.

Exchange for 1938-39. On Tuesday of this week I had a long conference with the Treasurer, Mr. Robert C. Morris, and hoped to make some arrangement whereby a meeting of the Finance Committee could be held within the next week or ten days. This seems impossible just now, although I will try again within the early part of next week. I mention this as we would like to get action on the question you raise regarding the gain on exchange accruing to the credit of the Board of Founders.

Closing for the Year. We note under this heading that you were able to close all departments without a deficit due to emergency gifts, and the unusual rate of exchange. It is indeed gratifying, however, to note that such balances as have accrued were used to help compensate for the rise in cost of commodities. There have been expressions of concern on all sides regarding this distressing condition, and to a degree it is a relief to know that you are able to do something to relieve the situation. The effort to improve the housing condition would seem to be an especially worth while one, and again it will be necessary for us to make haste so that consideration can be given to the use

0664

10/20/39

of gain in exchange.

Fifth Dormitory Fund. Surely the question you raise regarding the transfer of this fund to China involves a multitude of other questions. One might think that there is sufficient devaluation now to discount the worst imagination, but the extent to which exchange can go is limitless. There is a class of thinkers here in America who say that never again can things happen as they did in Germany around 1920. That the monetary structure is such that world-wide banking will not permit of such a catastrophe. On the other hand I sat in a meeting on Monday where about the keenest mind present expressed the opinion that this world struggle will be by all odds the most devastating the world has known and involving practically all of the nations of the world with all of their resources. Somewhere between these two thoughts there is a medium which probably will be more nearly correct. Of course, there is a question involved as to how the funds will be handled in China and what your estimate of their safety will be. When one thinks of the low cost of the Chinese dollar now, one is inclined to think that even did it go lower it might not be a bad idea to peg the profits at this point. We will discuss this matter also at the Finance Committee meeting and give you further observation.

We do appreciate the hopeful and reassuring words in the last paragraph of your letter and yet there has never been a time when we felt any concern over the use of the funds which were sent to the field or which the field was using. The Board, I am sure, has unswerving confidence in the ability of those handling the funds of the University of Nanking, and to you, the Treasurer of these several institutions, should the credit go, and it gives us pleasure to acknowledge this fact at the present time.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B  
ENC.

*via "President Adams" - 10/23/39*

Original via "President Adams"

Copy " China Clipper - 10/24/39

0665

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITY  
OCT 24 1939  
OFFICE

金 陵 大 學 會 計 處

UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
NANKING, CHINA

INDEXED

October 23, 1939.

Dear Dr. Garside:

Thank you for your letter regarding Miss Adnerson and her relation to the institution. She has sent her official resignation both to President Chen and a copy of the letter to you so Dr. Chen has accepted it and forwards the formal request to you. I believe it is all in order now and as I have written in detail about the settlement to be made with her I do not need to repeat except to ask for your official notification that I am to pay her for three months. It seems quite clear to all of us that this is the only course to follow at the present time.

Miss Anderson has just written me that she would like to continue her insurance providing some arrangement could be made to allow her to carry the payment of the premiums until a later date. Perhaps this privilege could be extended to her for a definite period, but it is entirely the affair of your office as we have had nothing to do with payment of insurance policies. They had better be controlled entirely by the Board of Founders.

Sincerely yours,

*Elmer M. Priest*

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INDEXED

150 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y.  
October 24, 1939

ack 11/6/39

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
University of Nanking  
Chengtu, Szechwan, China

Dear Miss Priest:

I am writing you still further on the question you raised regarding the Dormitory Funds being sent to China.

As preliminary to any action which the Finance Committee may take, I am writing you that there is a general feeling among those with whom I have talked against sending the funds out with the hope of pegging profits at the present low rate of exchange. The questions involved are as follows:

If the funds are deposited in a bank, what will be the future stability of that institution?

Is there any assurance that the rate will not go lower?

If invested in securities, what guarantees are there that they will not change in value?

One thought which has been injected is that the money was given for a dormitory at Nanking, and many, many things may happen before it could be used for that purpose.

For the purpose of getting an unbiased opinion, however, we will present this without prejudice to the Finance Committee.

I am dictating this hastily to get it in today's Clipper mail.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

VIA "CHINA CLIPPER"

Copy via next boat

0668

150 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y.  
October 26, 1939

INDEXED

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
University of Nanking  
Chengtou, Szechwan, CHINA

Dear Miss Priest:

Becoming rather impatient at the delay in getting Edith Turner's annuity account straightened out, we notified the company to cancel the certificate and return the funds to our office, pending further word from her. The company replied that on the previous day they had received a communication from Miss Turner's lawyer in London requesting a paid-up annuity policy.

After due consideration and consultation with those readily available, we decided to sign a release allowing her this privilege. The University's share to be returned to our office. Accordingly, the papers have been executed and in the course of time the adjustment will come through.

I am passing this on simply as a report of progress.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

Via air mail to Pacific Coast  
"Empress of Canada" sailing from Vancouver 10/28/39

*cc: via "President Goff"*

0669

*See letter for Priest Nov 31 1939*  
*"His Staff" Nov 19 39*

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
University of Nanking  
Chengtou Szechwan

27th October, 1939

*ACK 11/20/39*

Dr. B.A. Garside,  
Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
150 Fifth Avenue, NEW YORK CITY.

Dear Dr. Garside:

Your letter of October 17th arrived this morning. A few days ago we wrote Mr. Cressy concerning the granting of the decorations to the four men mentioned in his letter to me. As Dr. Wu is in Chungking and was willing to take up this matter with the Foreign Office and possibly other officials I will not proceed further with either Dr. Han or Dr. Wei. As I wrote Mr. Cressy, there has been some hesitation on the part of some of our Chinese colleagues, inasmuch as they do not know any one of these four men and as we did not have any biographical sketch it was difficult to explain to Madam Chiang and other officials exactly who they were and what they had done. I confess I am a bit vague concerning two of them. I remember meeting Mr. Diffendorfer and Mr. McBrier, but I am quite hazy concerning the other two. I presume we should have had some information about them, but I took time to glance through our files and did not find anything that referred to them other than their names connected with the promotional work. Dr. Wu will be back in Chengtu on the 30th and I will know by that time concerning the reactions of the group in Chungking. There were no honors awarded on October 10th and we have not heard of any plans to award decorations on January 1st, but Dr. Chen feels it is done whenever occasion arises rather than on a fixed holiday. You may be assured that we will do everything possible to promote this plan, but it will depend very largely on the request from Ambassador Hu.

I have your letter concerning Mr. Hoover and we are trying to decide the next step in this whole question. I wrote you quite confidentially about this whole matter some months ago, but we have been weak in not having had direct communications from Dr. Bates. We are a little suspicious that some of his letters are not coming through, as we know one that was sent from Nanking did not get through to us. We will write again to him and hope to have a favorable reply. It is quite clear that Dr. Ma is no longer connected in any way with our staff. We are now seeking for another professor to fill this vacancy.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*Elsie M. Priest*

Elsie M. Priest

EMP:MT



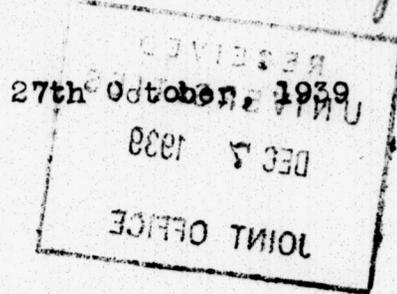
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OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
University of Nanking  
Chengtu Szechwan.

Duplicate



Mr. Joseph I Parker,  
Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
150 Fifth Avenue, NEW YORK CITY.

Dear Mr. Parker:

Your letter of October 17th reached us this morning. I am very glad to be able to report that the statements concerning the use of the grants from the Rockefeller Foundation have been sent for all four institutions. On September 30th we sent the report for the University of Nanking and on October 14th the report for Ginling College. Mr. Robertson has sent the report for West China Union University during the past few weeks and only last week I sent the report for Cheeloo University. Just in case some of these letters have gone astray I am enclosing the statements showing the use of the grants for three institutions. I will not copy the whole letter, but merely the part that concerns the actual use of the funds. I hope that all these letters are received in sufficient time for you to make your report to the Rockefeller Foundation, I realize in one or two cases we were slow in getting them off to you.

University of Nanking: (Grant of US\$15,000)

1. To restore the salaries of our staff to 100%	\$50,000
2. Residences and temporary dormitories for staff and students	40,000
3. Deposit on emergency buildings at Renshow	2,000
4. Purchase of a truck for emergency purposes	12,000
Total	\$104,000

As we sold the funds for 1938-39 at an average exchange rate of about six to one, the total of the grant would be approximately \$90,000. Some of the funds were not sold until after July so I am giving a total of a little more.

Ginling College: (Grant of US\$7,500)

1. Housing in Chengtu for staff (building under construction)	\$10,000
2. Share of cooperative charcoal truck	5,000
3. Travel and transportation of supplies	10,000
4. Contribution for Chemistry Building	12,260
5. Balance required for current needs due to low value of \$	12,715 19
Total	\$49,975 19

As we sold the funds for 1938-39 at an average exchange rate of about six to one, the total of the grant would be approximately C\$45,000.

Cheeloo University:

Chemistry Building on the campus	US\$ 2,000
Student dormitories in Chengtu	2,000
To supplement the work of the College of Medicine, Chengtu	1,000
Total	US\$ 5,000

(per letter of October 23rd, 1939)

Sincerely yours,

Elsie M. Priest

EMP:NT

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OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
 University of Nanking  
 Chengtu Szechwan.

RECEIVED  
 UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
 DEC 7 1939  
 JOINT OFFICE

Mr. Joseph I. Parker,  
 Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
 150 Fifth Avenue, NEW YORK CITY.

Dear Mr. Parker:

Your letter of October 17th reached us this morning. I am very glad to be able to report that the statements concerning the use of the grants from the Rockefeller Foundation have been sent for all four institutions. On September 30th we sent the report for the University of Nanking and on October 14th the report for Gining College. Mr. Robertson has sent the report for West China Union University during the past few weeks and only last week I sent the report for Cheloo University. Just in case some of these letters have gone astray I am enclosing the statements showing the use of the grants for three institutions. I will not copy the whole letter, but merely the part that concerns the actual use of the funds. I hope that all these letters are received in sufficient time for you to make your report to the Rockefeller Foundation. I realize in one or two cases we were slow in getting them off to you.

University of Nanking: (Grant of US\$15,000)

- 1. To restore the salaries of our staff to 100%
  - 2. Residences and temporary dormitories for staff and students
  - 3. Deposit on emergency buildings at Remahow
  - 4. Purchase of a truck for emergency purposes
- Total \$104,000

As we sold the funds for 1938-39 at an average exchange rate of about six to one, the total of the grant would be approximately \$90,000. Some of the funds were not sold until after July so I am giving a total of a little more.

Gining College: (Grant of US\$7,500)

- 1. Housing in Chengtu for staff (building under construction)
  - 2. Share of cooperative charcoal truck
  - 3. Travel and transportation of supplies
  - 4. Contribution for Chemistry Building
  - 5. Balance required for current needs due to low value of
- Total \$49,975 19

As we sold the funds for 1938-39 at an average exchange rate of about six to one, the total of the grant would be approximately \$45,000.

Cheloo University:

- Chemistry Building on the campus
  - Student dormitories in Chengtu
  - To supplement the work of the College of Medicine, Chengtu
- Total US\$ 5,000

(per letter of October 23rd, 1939)

Sincerely yours,

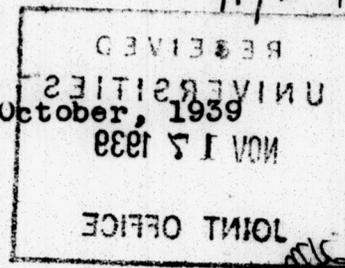
Elsie M. Priest

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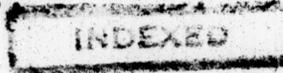
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OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
University of Nanking  
Chengtu Szechwan.

27th October, 1939



Mr. Joseph I Parker,  
Associated Boards for China Colleges  
150 Fifth Avenue, NEW YORK CITY.



Dear Mr. Parker:

Your letter of October 17th reached us this morning. I am very glad to be able to report that the statements concerning the use of the grants from the Rockefeller Foundation have been sent for all four institutions. On September 30th we sent the report for the University of Nanking and on October 14th the report for Ginling College. Mr. Robertson has sent the report for West China Union University during the past few weeks and only last week I sent the report for Cheelo University. Just in case some of these letters have gone astray I am enclosing the statements showing the use of the grants for three institutions. I will not copy the whole letter, but merely the part that concerns the actual use of the funds. I hope that all these letters are received in sufficient time for you to make your report to the Rockefeller Foundation, I realize in one or two cases we were slow in getting them off to you.

University of Nanking: (Grant of US\$15,000)

1. To restore the salaries of our staff to 100%	\$50,000
2. Residences and temporary dormitories for staff and students	40,000
3. Deposit on emergency buildings at Renshow	2,000
4. Purchase of a truck for emergency purposes	12,000
Total	\$104,000

As we sold the funds for 1938-39 at an average exchange rate of about six to one, the total of the grant would be approximately \$90,000. Some of the funds were not sold until after July so I am giving a total of a little more.

Ginling College: (Grant of US\$7,500)

1. Housing in Chengtu for staff (building under construction)	\$10,000
2. Share of cooperative charcoal truck	5,000
3. Travel and transportation of supplies	10,000
4. Contribution for Chemistry Building	12,260
5. Balance required for current needs due to low value of \$	12,715 19
Total	\$49,975 19

As we sold the funds for 1938-39 at an average exchange rate of about six to one, the total of the grant would be approximately C\$45,000.

Cheelo University:

Chemistry Building on the campus	US\$ 2,000
Student dormitories in Chengtu	2,000
To supplement the work of the College of Medicine, Chengtu	1,000
Total	US\$ 5,000

(per letter of October 23rd, 1939)

Sincerely yours,

*Elsie M. Priest*

Elsie M. Priest

EMP:MT

0674

INDEXED

October 31, 1939

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
University of Nanking  
Chengtu, Szechwan, China

Dear Miss Priest:

This morning's mail brings us a check for \$208.14 covering the University's contributions toward the policy of Edith Mary Turner.

The company is negotiating with Miss Turner with the hope of establishing a group annuity conversion for her contribution, but it will take some time to bring the matter to a conclusion.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

*via "President Van Buren" - 11/6/39*

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UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
CHENGTU, SZECHWAN, CHINA

ack. 12/19/39  
yap

INDEXED

1st November, 1939

Dr. B.A. Garside,  
Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
NEW YORK CITY, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Garside:

We have this morning received the minutes of the Executive and Finance Committees of the Associated Boards, held on September 22. We are particularly interested in actions EF1022 and EF1023. I am sure your statements in 1022 should be perfectly clear, but we have all puzzled over the phrase "estimates they have submitted". Do you mean that the trustees of the individual institutions presented estimates separately from those sent by the field groups? This is the only explanation I can make and if that is true I wish you would send me a copy of the request that was made directly through our Board of Founders of the Associated Boards.

We realize this will be a very difficult year for any campaign work in the United States. We are now revising the budget for this year and I am rather anxious to know exactly what you mean by the action EF1023 as far as it applies to the University of Nanking. First, what items have you included in making up the "joint needs of the group"? This amounts to \$17,520. We have looked through all the files, both in our office and the West China Union University office, and neither Mr. Robertson nor I can find any records that at any time we requested any joint funds of this kind. It would be a great help to us if we could have details and know what you mean. Secondly, under University of Nanking you have listed: Budget: \$21,296.92; Special \$6,000.00; Total \$27,796.92. Under date of April 3 we sent you our needs for extraordinary purposes during this year, our total being C\$253,500.00. Of course I expect that you have made a reduction in the total askings, but I cannot reconcile this division with any figures that I have ever seen. According to the monthly summary that is sent to us it has been indicated that \$15,000 is to be taken from the emergency funds to balance the budget. How do you account for the difference of \$6,796.92? It would be a very great help to us if we could have some details of these figures and to know how you arrive at this proportion. I presume much will depend upon the rate of exchange which you used in figuring this money and while it has been at a high figure for a few months, there are indications that it may fall back to something like 5 or 6 to 1. I am not a prophet so cannot say definitely, but we are beginning to notice signs that makes us think that this will be true. On the other hand we are facing a very critical situation as prices have been increased to meet the high exchange rate that has prevailed for the past few months and it may take a long time for them to revert to anything like the former figures. You may be interested to know that the index of the purchasing value of the Chinese Dollar has now been figured as 62% as compared with

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the standard just before the war broke out. From this you will know there is great suffering among the lower salaried people and not only our institution, but all institutions on the campus, are facing a serious problem.

We are enclosing statistics indicating the student enrolment of the University of Nanking. This will be sent in the joint letter from Mr. Robertson in summary form, but we thought it might be of value for you to have all the details. This does not include the enrolments of the schools in Nanking as the report has not reached us at this time.

I received your telegram asking for reports on the Rockefeller Foundation grants, but every one had been sent and then a few days ago, in response to the Clipper letter, I sent a summary again by Clipper just in case the former letters had miscarried. I am sorry that they were not sent earlier and hope they reach you in ample time to make the annual report to the Foundation.

We are looking forward with pleasure to the visit of Dr. Lobenstine and have already written to Shanghai, asking him to let us know about the time that he expects to be in Chengtu. Because of his former connections with the institution we shall be very happy to have him make a careful study of the work we are doing at this time.

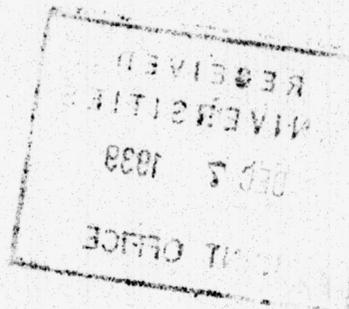
With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*Elsie M. Priest*

Elsie M. Priest

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Dr. Garabide - 2

the standard just before the war broke out. From this you will know there is great suffering among the lower salaried people and not only our institution, but all institutions on the campus, are facing a serious problem.

We are enclosing statistics indicating the student enrollment of the University of Wankang. This will be sent in the joint letter from Mr. Robertson in summary form, but we thought it might be of value for you to have all the details. This does not include the enrollments of the schools in Wankang as the report has not reached us at this time.

I received your telegram asking for reports on the Rockefeller Foundation grants, but every one had been sent and then a few days ago, in response to the Clippel letter, I sent a summary again by Clippel. Just in case the former letters had miscarried, I am sorry that they were not sent earlier and hope they reach you in ample time to make the annual report to the Foundation.

We are looking forward with pleasure to the visit of Dr. Lobenzine and have already written to Shanghai, asking him to let us know about the time that he expects to be in Chengtu. Because of his former connections with the institution we shall be very happy to have him make a careful study of the work we are doing at this time.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Elise M. Priest

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UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
Office of the Treasurer  
Chengtu Szechwan

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES

NOV 4 1939

3rd November, 1939

JOINT OFFICE

ACK 12/11/39

Dr. B.A. Garside,  
Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
NEW YORK CITY, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Garside:

Dr. Wu has just returned from Chungking and brings the word that the decorations were conferred on October 10 as follows:

By the Presidential Decree of October 10, 1939, were conferred upon:

Mr. Paul D. Cravath - the order of Brilliant Jade of Red Cravat with Blue-white borders  
Mr. Arthur V. Davis - the Order of Brilliant Jade of Red Cravat with Blue-white borders  
Mr. Edwin W. McBrier - the Order of Brilliant Jade of Red Cravat with Blue-white borders  
Mr. Ralph E. Duffen - the Order of Brilliant Jade of Red Cravat with Blue-white borders  
Mr. James J. Ryan - the Order of Brilliant Jade of Red Cravat with Blue-white borders

I do not know who James J. Ryan may be, but as he was in the list I am sending the complete number of names to you. If he has no connection with the Associated Boards it will make no difference. Accordingly we are sending you a cable: "Approved arrival indefinite." Dr. Wu has made arrangements in Chungking to have the decorations forwarded by C.N.A.C. through Mr. Rape of the Methodist Mission. However, nobody seemed to be very clear whether there was a stock on hand and if they have to wait for the decorations to be made it may take many months. We will try and secure more definite information about this fact and arrangements have been made so you will receive them at the earliest possible date.

I have asked Dr. Wu to write either to you or Mr. Cressy giving in more detail the facts about these decorations. This will give you the news that they have been conferred and I hope will enable you to go ahead with your own plans. Will you please send this word to Mr. Cressy. The letter from Ambassador Hu reached the Foreign Office in plenty of time to have the honors conferred on October 10.

Sincerely yours,

*Elsie M. Priest*

Elsie M. Priest

EMP:MT

C.N.A.C. = China National Airways Corp.

0679

RECEIVED  
 UNIVERSITIES  
 NOV 24 1938  
 3rd November, 1938  
 JOINT OFFICE

*AKR 15/11/38*

UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
 Office of the Treasurer  
 Zeechuan  
 Chengtu

Dr. B.A. Garbide,  
 Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
 150 Fifth Avenue,  
 NEW YORK CITY, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Garbide:

Dr. Wu has just returned from Chungking and brings the word that the decorations were conferred on October 10 as follows:

By the Presidential Decree of October 10, 1938, were conferred upon:

- Mr. Paul D. Gravatn - the Order of Brilliant Jade of Red Gravat with Blue-white borders
- Mr. Arthur V. Davis - the Order of Brilliant Jade of Red Gravat with Blue-white borders
- Mr. Edwin W. McBrier - the Order of Brilliant Jade of Red Gravat with Blue-white borders
- Mr. Ralph E. Dillen - the Order of Brilliant Jade of Red Gravat with Blue-white borders
- Mr. James J. Ryan - the Order of Brilliant Jade of Red Gravat with Blue-white borders

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Sincerely yours,

*Elsie M. Priest*

Elsie M. Priest

E.M.P:MT

*C. W. A. C. = China National University Corp.*

0880

150 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y.  
November 4, 1939

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
Ginling College  
Chengt'u, Szechwan, CHINA

Dear Miss Priest:

Your letter of October 14th came to hand yesterday, and we are grateful for the report on the use of the Rockefeller Foundation grant. With your report and a telegram today we have complete data for these appropriations of 1938-39.

We observe that it is your desire to set aside emergency funds allocated to complete the Terrace House and the return trip to Nanking. This is being transferred at the rate of 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ to the local currency dollar, thereby establishing a U. S. Dollar Fund of \$9,000. Seemingly you are playing safe at this rate, although no one can foretell conditions. At least we are accepting your judgment and are proceeding to deposit in a savings bank account - the first one of which will be with the Bank for Savings of New York, and the papers of which I have before me.

As we are rather short on cash, we are only depositing \$2,500 at the present time. I say "short" but it is only because income for the first half is pretty much in hand, and we must be prepared for emergencies during the next couple of months. I promise you, however, that as funds are received we will add to this account until the limit of their acceptance is reached, which is \$4,000. We will then establish other savings accounts to take care of the balance.

You will note from the foregoing we are taking your suggestion that the deposits be taken from this year's appropriation as the money accumulates. We will keep you informed from time to time as to the standing of these accounts.

Endowment Interest for 1938-39. The \$5,509.39 Endowment Income, included in our closing, represents the interest from all sources. Under date of November 12, 1938, I wrote calling attention to the setting aside of \$5,000 in Plant Account. At that time I called attention to the probability of segregating the income, but we also stated that the \$10,000 in Endowment would be included in the total figure. Our understanding has been that the Southern Methodist Board desired to have the \$10,000 set aside for endowment for rural service work. As you have an item in the budget covering this, there would seem to be no necessity for segregating same. The divisions which we have at the present time in Account #137.2 are Scholarships, Plant and Endowment.

It might be advisable for us to send you copies of our journal vouchers from now on, as we are now using the looseleaf journal. Prior to this we have been using the old books of Ginling where the entries were made in a bound book.

Needs for 1939-40. We will be greatly interested in receiving the revised figures for the present year, showing budget requirements. From two other sources come reports of violent rise in prices of commodities which was to be expected in view of the drastic decline of the local currency.

We have not revised - one way or another - the anticipated amount set aside for the field budget.

Under separate cover, I am writing a covering letter on the October 31st

0681

11/4/39

closing. You will see from the budget analysis that, aside from emergency gifts, the ratio of income is being maintained. The Smith College Community Chest and Alumnae Income filters in during the year and need not be considered for this particular purpose.

As far as income is concerned on emergency gifts, we are slightly ahead of last year due to one sizable gift of \$5,000. We are now preparing an application to the Harvard-Yenching Institute for a repetition of the gift of \$50,000 last year, and, in view of the progress we have made through the Committee on Unification here in America, there seems to be no justification for their refusing our application. At least, we are optimistic at the present time. There are several promising approaches which may or may not materialize, but at the present time we are not counting upon them definitely. Up to October 23rd we had received in cash \$17,246 in emergency gifts. In my estimation the budgeted figure of \$19,697.04 remains.

In spite of European conditions, there is strong interest in the Orient. The statement made by Ambassador Grew to the Japanese people has created no end of interest here in America, even though the reaction here in America has taken an averse turn. He stated to a group of us at a meeting at 156 Fifth Avenue that he intended to make such presentations to the Japanese and he certainly lived up to his statement. If it accomplishes nothing more, it will place the American people on record as to their attitude toward the invasion of China. Steps are also on foot for the correlation of all relief work for China. This is to include the China Relief Committee, our Colleges, American Medical Aid, and others. There are possibilities in this alignment, even if only from the standpoint of added emphasis on the China situation.

I am wondering if what we have said will be of any encouragement - for that is the one thing we would like to do more than anything else. Our desires, of course, are to lift the financial burden as much as possible, but sometimes I wonder if means for carrying on the work were readily secured if the incentive for carrying on would not be greatly decreased.

I wish to thank you for the financial statement showing the condition as of June 30th. Apparently, this is for the current operation of the College as it contains only \$42,854.07 of Plant Funds.

Most cordially yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

Cc: Accounting Office

Via China Clipper - 11/6/39

Copy via "President Van Buren" - 11/6/39

0682

處計會學大陵金京南  
UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
CHENG TU, SZECHWAN, CHINA

INDEXED

6th November, 1939

*ack 12/12/39*

Mr. C.A. Evans,  
Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
NEW YORK CITY, U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Evans:

Your letters of October 20 and 24 have been received. It is impossible for anyone to answer positively concerning the stability of any banking institution in the Orient today. We have made every effort to spread our funds among several banks, but it is quite clear that if one should crash they would all be seriously involved. I have been unable to secure any satisfactory information through any channels about the possibility of the future security of the Chinese dollar. At just this moment the dollar is strengthening in relation to United States currency and is today much firmer than at any time during the last four months. Again it is difficult to know whether this is a temporary strength or whether the Chinese government is able to control to a certain extent the exchange for the dollar. We have a small amount invested in French Municipal bonds and Shanghai Municipal bonds in Shanghai. These investments were made many years ago and interest has been paid regularly on them. The whole total is about \$20,000 and all other money that is invested is scattered among the several banks, both government and private. I do not feel competent to make any prediction about the future of the currency. It is true that Chengtu currency is considerably less valuable than Shanghai money, but I do not believe this is due to any real change in the value of the currencies, but is merely due to the fact that Shanghai checks are in great demand and there is a certain amount of restriction placed on the banks, therefore the open market can charge a high premium and of course those of us who happen to have funds in Shanghai benefit from this premium. Today the premium is 25%, it has been as high as 50%, but when we first came to Chengtu it was only 2%.

When I asked your opinion and Dr. Garside's about converting the small gift for the dormitory I had in mind the possibility of securing a larger amount with the hope that we might be able to complete the building with funds in hand if the time came when we could return to Nanking. Part of the material was already delivered to the site, but no actual building had taken place. Of course as soon as the war broke out we cancelled all building programs, and we have no idea of instructing the group in Nanking to continue with this building until it is quite clear that there is hope of returning to make use of the plant.

0683

Mr. Evans - 2

11-6-39

I am not urging that the money be sent to China, in fact my enquiry was made informally.

This morning I happened to be in a conference when the proposal was made that the only safe investments for funds these days is land. I know many people are considering the advisability of taking some of their surplus money, that has accrued due to high exchange, and investing it in land or even in certain types of buildings. That is all very well for the institutions that are on their permanent campus, but it hardly helps those who are guests and have no desire to hold any property of great value in this province.

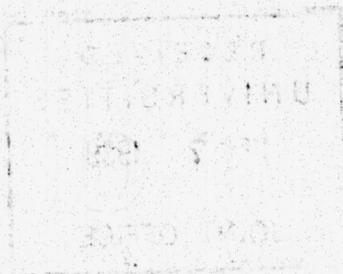
With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*Elsie M. Priest*

Elsie M. Priest

EMP:MT



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11-6-39

Mr. Evans - 2

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This morning I happened to be in a conference when  
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 in certain types of buildings. That is all very well for the  
 institutions that are on their permanent campus, but it hardly  
 helps those who are guests and have no desire to hold any  
 property of great value in this province.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*W. H. ...*  
 W. H. ...

WHE:W

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0685

UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
office of the Treasurer  
Chengtu Szechwan

Duplicate

6th November, 1939

Mr. C.A. Evans,  
Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
NEW YORK CITY, U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Evans:

I have received several letters from you during the last few days. Your letter of September 27 advises me that Mrs. Yeh returned to you a check for \$500, which we had advanced as a loan in case she had to provide a bond. Thank you for depositing this money to our bank account. We have written Mr. Yeh immediately that we are prepared to return to him his fixed deposits which were provided as collateral.

I note in your letter of September 29 that Miss Alice Butler has given \$10 for a scholarship to Ginling, we will make adjustment on the books transferring this amount from emergency funds to scholarship funds. As the staff writes Miss Butler frequently I will ask some of them to acknowledge the gift personally to her. I have your letter of September 26 and the copy of your letter of October 23 addressed to Dr. Wu. We will go over the financial statements together and send you a letter in a few days commenting on the various points raised in your letters. It seems quite satisfactory to me to allow the suspense account of \$908 which you have been holding in America to be used as a special fund to meet needs for staff members. I am putting it on our records, as we have been keeping track of these refunds month by month.

I will figure out the total value of the plant in Nanking and show you the approximate exchange which we are using and have used throughout the years. The report that has been sent to the regents each year has been figured on a conservative basis so I do not believe you will run a serious risk if you will report these figures. I shall be very glad to see you set up in New York a plant section that corresponds to the plant section carried by the other institutions. I will not try to enclose it in this letter, but will work it out and send to you according to the records which we have in Chengtu.

On your plant section you are carrying the furniture and insurance fund as \$2,500. This amount has not been changed for the last year or two although the original agreement was to make a transfer of \$250 annually to build this fund to a figure that would be adequate in case of fire. Frankly I have never been in favor of this policy, but as it was adopted by the Board of Founders it did not seem possible for the field to do anything but agree. None of the buildings on the Nanking campus are insured against fire except those that have been constructed with money raised in China.

0686

We have consistently followed a policy of insuring all buildings built by funds contributed in China, but have never insured the main buildings. I know many people feel the fire risk is very slight, but I raise this point inasmuch as the insurance fund is not being built up annually according to the original plan.

Your letter of the 26th, concerning money paid to the University Hospital through the Presbyterian Board, has reached me and I am struggling to clear the muddle up that has resulted from this practice. Will you please guard any remittances sent to the field in the future, in as far as possible having them sent through our office.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie M. Priest

EMP:MT

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RECEIVED  
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JOINT OFFICE

Your letter of the 26th, concerning my part of the University Hospital through the Presbyterian Board, has reached me and I am struggling to clear the muddle up that has resulted from this practice. Will you please guard any remittances to the field in the future, in as far as possible having them sent through our office.

Sincerely yours,

Elise W. Priest

EMP:MT

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0688

INDEXED

November 16, 1939

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
University of Nanking  
Chengtu, Szechwan, CHINA

Dear Miss Priest:

Your letter of October 17th came to hand yesterday and we are recording the application for annuity participation of Margaret Catherine Kees and Allen Spitzer.

We will take this up with the Company immediately, meanwhile we are enclosing four cards which they are required to make out and forward to our office. We have only four cards on hand at the present time, but will procure more shortly and send you an additional supply. At the same time we will let you know definitely the position of the Sun Life Assurance Company on coverage of these two applications. We regret that seemingly they were not definitely advised or approached as to their participation in the Annuity Plan.

We trust this will not occur again, although in the past we have not made it an object to sign up annuitants in advance. Here in the office there is a six months preparation period before applications are accepted with the privilege of making the policy retroactive. We shall endeavor to be more careful in the future.

As requested we have forwarded a check for \$320.00 to the Wells Fargo Bank, Market Street, San Francisco, opening an account in the name of Margaret C. Kees. We have instructed the bank to either communicate with her direct or send the identification cards to our office.

We do not know whether they will communicate direct with Miss Kees or request us to follow through. The \$320.00 represents salary for July, August and September, and \$40.00 each for October and November.

I am glad to have the word regarding travel expenses from Hongkong to Chengtu. This has been such a variable figure that advances have been mere guess work. We have, however, tried to protect the staff members in every way possible, and hope they have gotten through without difficulty.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B  
ENCS.

0689

150 Fifth Avenue  
New York City  
November 20, 1939

Dear Miss Priest,

We have your letter of October 27. This deals primarily with the decorations recommended by Ambassador Hu Shih.

Cressy's letter of September 16 appears to have been a bit misleading. He had no thought that our friends at the University would need to give any active sponsorship to the recommendations Ambassador Hu Shih was sending to Chungking. As a matter of fact, the Ambassador and the Chinese Government might have been a bit upset if any one had appeared to be "pulling wires" before the Government took action on October 10. Dr. Hu wrote at length, giving all the necessary biographical data and summarizing the outstanding service rendered to China by each of the four gentlemen whom he recommended. (Don't ever let Arthur V. Davis or Paul D. Cravath know that you folks in Chengtu are "quite hazy" about who they are or what they have done for China in general and the Colleges in particular!)

We were delighted to receive the cablegram you sent a few days after your letter of October 27 was written, stating that the Ambassador's recommendations concerning the decorations had been approved, and adding that the time of their arrival was indefinite. We are waiting for the next China Clipper mail, to learn more as to the prospects of the decorations' reaching here in the fairly near future.

Cressy and I had a chat with Dr. Hu when he was in New York last week. At that time he told us that he had unofficial word, but no formal confirmation as yet, that the decorations had been granted. He asked what success our friends in China had had in getting the decorations started to America by a faster route than the normal channels. While we were talking to Dr. Hu, we met one of Dr. K'ung's secretaries who had just come through from Chungking in ten days by air, leaving there the last week in October. He said he would have been happy to bring the four decorations with him if he had known about them. He also indicated that others would be coming from time to time, and that any of them would be happy to bring the decorations if requested. We hope that you have found some feasible way of getting them started to us so they will arrive here by the end of December. We have been making preliminary plans for an affair here in New York, but cannot make any definite plans or set any dates until we know just when we can count upon having the decorations here. We would of course be quite willing to incur any special expense necessary, even to having them sent by China Clipper if that were considered sufficiently safe and dignified. But we don't wish to give any appearance of unseemly or undignified impatience.

Turning to the question of any future approaches to Mr. Hoover, we will mark time until we have had further word from China. It seems to us that the key to the situation here is Searle Bates. Until we find out what he thinks and plans, we will be very much in the dark as to how to proceed. We have learned from sad experience that for us here in New York to make some kind of a proposal to a substantial donor and then to have some personal friend of his on the field ~~disapprove or discount our recommendation is always disastrous.~~ By far the better procedure is for the personal friend on the field to recommend some constructive course of action, and then for us here in New York to support this recommendation.

Miss Elsie Priest  
University of Nanking  
Chengtu, Szechuan  
China

Very cordially yours,

0690

INDEXED

150 Fifth Avenue  
New York City  
November 20, 1939

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
University of Nanking  
Chengtou, Szechuan  
China

Dear Miss Priest,

For some time Mr. Evans and I have been studying the important questions of procedure which are emphasized by your letter of September 14. In that letter you deal specifically with the delay and inadequacy of our reports to the field regarding the gifts from Dr. and Mrs. Macklin and their friends, and in more general terms with the lack of clarity in our reports last year as to designated gifts for the hospital and the university.

It is obvious that last year we devoted too large a proportion of our thought and energies to raising these special funds, and not enough to making reports to our friends in China. This year we will try to do a better job in keeping you informed of all gifts that come in, without at the same time reducing to any extent our efforts to secure such gifts.

The procedure we plan to follow is this: - Beginning on December 1, we plan to make a monthly distribution of all gifts received for the emergency fund up to the close of the previous month. In connection with this distribution, we will prepare for each College a detailed statement, showing all designated gifts by amounts, designations, and names and addresses of donors; together with a total of undesignated gifts paid over by the Associated Boards or received through the individual boards of trustees. These monthly summaries will be sent to the Field Treasurers at each of the Colleges along with the monthly financial statements. In that way you can keep track throughout the year of just what is being received and from whom it is coming. In special cases, where designated gifts seem to require some note of appreciation, we will indicate that on the monthly report - though we realize that our friends in China are already so overcrowded that we should not add to their burdens by having them write frequent letters of appreciation.

Beginning with the November 30 reports, our monthly budget analyses will show the amounts of the special funds we are seeking for each of the Colleges, and the progress made toward meeting them up to that date.

Very cordially yours,

B A GARSIDE

BAG:ms

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UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
CHENG TU, SZECHUEN, CHINA

Dear Dr. Garside -

May I take this opportunity to extend Christmas Greetings to you and Mrs. Garside. I hope her health is greatly improved these days.

It does seem a very peaceful Christmas Season, and we can only hope another year will see the end of all wars. The clouds and mists have descended over the plain so we feel quite safe from raids for a few months! If at times we long for the sun, we are consoled by the thought of safety from bombs.

With Greetings to the friends in the office -

Sincerely yours,

Elaine M. Priest

November 21, 1939

0692

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INDEXED

November 29, 1939

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
University of Nanking  
Chengtu, Szechwan, CHINA

Dear Miss Priest:

I am acknowledging your letter of November 6th and note that the check for \$500.00 given me by Mrs. Yeh has been straightened out on your books.

You will note from recent cash disbursements that the \$908.00 of staff refunds, held in suspense, has been greatly decreased. It should be gradually growing, but Miss Merab Mossman has made no payment for a year and we are making an attempt to have her renew installments. She took a trip to Europe this past summer, presumably upon funds which should have been returned to Ginling, and I have no serious compunction about putting on the pressure.

I certainly shall be glad to get details of the Plant Section and have made several efforts to get together the figures covering the remittances to China. The entries, however, are so confusing on the ledgers that it requires a restudy of the treasurer's reports, which I have not had time to do.

I have gone through the books down to 1934 and find no record where the Furniture and Insurance Fund was supposed to be built up from income. I have not taken the trouble to check back into the minutes to find when the action was taken, and this is not necessary as you have given me the facts. As you were not in favor of building up the fund originally, I presume that you would not suggest that we start now. The amount would not go very far toward covering any general losses, but there seems to be no reason to disturb it now in view of the fact that the income is going into the general account.

Mr. Garside will be writing you regarding the funds cleared through the Presbyterian Board sent directly to the Nanking Hospital. As far as the process was concerned, there was no other way to do, with the possible exception that a duplicate letter should have been forwarded to you. The amount, as reported originally through the Presbyterian Board was in bulk, and for the last few days I have been trying to secure details which will be reported to you later, as soon as the Board is galvanized into action.

I wonder if the air raid, which you mentioned, was in answer to Ambassador Grew's speech in Tokyo October 19th. Before leaving for Japan he told us what the nature of this speech would be and he certainly lived up to his predictions.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B  
Via "PRESIDENT HAYES" - 12/4/39

0694

處計會學大陵金京南  
UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
CHENGTU, SZECHWAN, CHINA

30th November, 1939

Mr. C.A. Evans,  
Associated Boards for China Colleges,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
NEW YORK CITY, U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Evans:

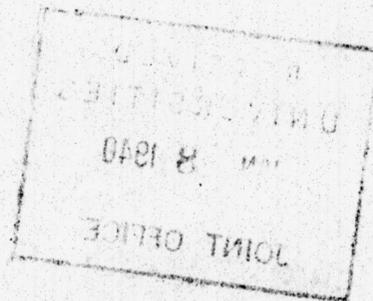
I enclose order #10387, covering 26 film slides which we need very much for some of our class work in Visual Science. I am sending the order to you as I would like very much to have you place this order with the following instructions: please have these films addressed to the American Express Company, Hong-kong. They may be sent by ordinary mail. I will write to the American Express to have them send them to us by air express, as that is the quickest way and the only sure one we have of receiving parcels these days.

*OS*  
You may be interested to know that the package from the Taylor Instrument Companies of Rochester arrived here safely a few days ago.

Sincerely yours,

*Elsie M. Priest*  
Elsie M. Priest

EMP:MT  
Enc.



*ack*  
*1/8*

*1/8*

*Note Visual Science*

UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
CHENGDEU, KEECHWAN, CHINA

30th November, 1939

Mr. C.A. Evans,  
Associated Banks for China Collection,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
NEW YORK CITY, U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Evans:

The enclosed order #10887, covering 2000  
rides which was sent very much for some of our class  
work in Visual Science. I am sending the order to you  
as I would like very much to have you place this order  
with the following instructions: please have these  
rides addressed to the American Express Company, Hong-  
kong. They may be sent by ordinary mail. I will  
write to the American Express to have them sent them  
to you by air express, as that is the quickest way  
and the only one we have of receiving parcels  
these days.

I am interested to know that the  
order has been received by the Instrument Company of  
Rochester and that it is safe a few days ago.

Sincerely yours,

Wang Kang  
Treasurer

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
JAN 8 1940  
JOINT OFFICE

ENCLOSURE

*Wang Kang*

*Wang Kang*

*Wang Kang*

*Wang Kang*

*Wang Kang*

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0696

C O P Y

HONG KONG. 6th December 1939

Associated Mission Treasurers

Shanghai, China

(For a/c of Mr. C.B. Rape, Methodist Episcopal Church, Chungking)

To THE AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY, INC. Dr.

L box six Chinese Government Decorations forwarded by Parcel Post to Mr. B.A. Garside, Associated Boards, Room, 300, 150 Fifth Ave., New York City, 22nd Nov./39		
- - - - -		
Cost of new wooden box, as per packer's bill attached	HK\$	.35
Parcel Postage on above.....	2	85
Marine Insurance - insurance arranged for US\$100.00, @ 85% plus stamp tax on policy.....	3	72
Cost of cable to Mr. Garside on 28th November informing him when the parcel was shipped, as per your letter of 24th November, 20 words @ \$2.97 $\frac{1}{2}$	59	50
Handling fee .....	3	00
Total	HK\$69	42

E. & O. E.

THE AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY, INC.  
'D/Note No. 1020 (EC-2096)

0697

INDEXED

ASSOCIATED CHINA COLLEGES  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

December 11, 1939  
Act 11/20

Dear Miss Priest:

Let me acknowledge with warm thanks your letter of November 3rd, telling of the action of the government in conferring the decorations. President We has also sent me two letters giving further details.

A fortnight ago the American Express Company's New York office informed us that they had just received a cable from their Hong Kong office notifying them that these decorations had been mailed to us from Hong Kong on November 22nd. We hope, therefore, that they will be arriving within the next week or two.

Plans are now being made for an affair here during the last week in January. Ambassador Hu Shih has officially informed the four gentlemen of the action of the government, but any publicity about the decorations will be avoided until the time of the dinner, when the Ambassador will be on hand to confer them in person.

We will be grateful if you will send us a memorandum of the total expense to which you and President Wu have been put as a result of your activities in connection with these decorations. We will then deposit a check for that amount to the credit of your account in the bank here (unless you want us to follow some other procedure.)

But we cannot repay so easily our indebtedness to you both for the time, interest, and trouble you have given in this matter. That will have to go down in our records as an "account payable".

All good wishes for the holiday season.

Cordially yours,

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December 11, 1939

Miss Elsie Priest  
University of Nanking  
Chengtu  
Szechwan, China

Dear Elsie:

Mr. Garside's secretary informs me that she has a quarter of an ounce margin in a letter that she is about to mail you, so I am taking the opportunity to write.

I am much gratified to learn indirectly through Dr. LeSeurd's office that the motion pictures, for the Missionary Education Movement asked, are being produced. I believe that we can get some invaluable publicity in this way. I should like to urge that while this project is under way, a University of Nanking movie also be taken. We could make good use of a reel or two depicting the daily life of the University, and the contribution it is making to the welfare of the people.

In February I plan to get out another piece of publicity for the University, but find myself completely without material. So I must plead again for photographs, articles, and reports of activities. I wish you could persuade Dr. Bates to send me some information about what is happening in Nanking.

We are very much relieved to find that the European situation has not affected us as adversely as we had feared that it might.

Please let me know if there is anything that I can do, either for you personally or for the University.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

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處計會學大陵金京南  
UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
CHENG TU, SZECHWAN, CHINA

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JJP

CONFIDENTIAL

December 11, 1939.

INDEXED

Dear Dr. Garside:

I have hesitated to write to you on this subject and when I tell you I have written and torn up two letters already, you will know how much I hate doing so tonight. It seems to fall to me to let you know this particular problem and as others on the staff expect me to do so, I shall try to make clear what we are up against.

As you know the board of rounders appointed Allen Spitzer to the University to teach English for a term of five years beginning this fall. He arrived in August, and we arranged for him to live with our only University family who has a proper house and could give him a room.

we have tried to be patient with him realizing the adjustment period is always difficult for all staff members. It is also true he has had rather serious health complications and is physically far from strong. It is a puzzle to many of us - especially the doctors on the campus - how you ever allowed him to pass a medical examination for service in China. The bare fact that a man his height weighs only 108 lbs. seems to most of us sufficient warning to warrant a very careful medical check-up. However, we cannot change that point now and will try to give him all possible care to take care of his physical condition. This is about the worst climate for him - he should be in a place where the sun shines at least once in a while.

All of the above could be managed and dealt with in time -- but our great problem lies in the fact that he drinks fairly heavily and is causing us deep embarrassment. Either the physical handicap or the drinking, or perhaps a combination of both, has caused him to "cut" his classes almost continually. It has been a source of comment among all staff and students and the dean is beginning to lose patience. There has been no contribution of any kind to the department or to the life of the institution - he refuses to share in any of our extra-curriculum activities. In fact, scoffs the idea of being a missionary or having anything to do with anything religious. Needless to say this is most difficult for all of us and particularly for Dr. Fenn.

We are letting you know, not because we want you to do anything about it at this time, but because after all is said, Mr. Spitzer is a regularly appointed missionary under the Board of Founders. There may come a day when we must look to you to help take action, but for the present I am only informing you of our plans.

Dr. Fenn is giving him warning this week that unless the drinking is stopped entirely, he will be asked to leave the institution. I do not know yet the reaction to this warning - we hope he will realize how serious it is for us. It has been the most embarrassing situation since we have been guests in Chengtu - and there have been several other things that have caused sleepless nights.

I may as well tell you the whole story about Allen Spitzer. The University family who took him into their home are very strict on the subject of drinking, smoking, non-participation in religious activities etc. Perhaps

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they were not very patient, but anyway it proved impossible for Spitzer to continue to live with them, and one of the Canadian families very kindly came to our rescue and took him into their home. They have been fine - but it has not helped our problem greatly!

Now there is another complication. On Christmas Day Allen Spitzer is being married to Lillian Robison, a young woman sent here by the Hartford Foundation for evangelistic work. She arrived in Chengtu about the 10th of November and nobody - except Allen - seems to have had a chance to know her at all. However as she is 32 and he is 30, I feel the question of marriage is their own affair. We have made it clear to him that it is impossible for us to give him a married salary for this year - or make any promise for the future. That seems to be no great concern to him at the moment when exchange is high, but I am worried over the future for them myself. We have also made clear that we are in no way involved in outcoming expenses for Miss Robison.

I will keep you informed of developments, and hope there may be a turn for the better. Dr. Fenn and I have spent hours trying to solve it and not to have it presented officially to our Executive Committee (all Chinese members except myself) We both feel embarrassed to have to discuss the character and conduct of one of our few Western staff members. President Chen feels very strongly on the whole question of moral conduct and I am not sure he will consent to having Spitzer remain under any circumstances. It is always hard on the rest of the Western staff to have such a case.

It seems so strange that you people ever let him come under the circumstances - I know how difficult it is to choose candidates, but long before he reached Chengtu, we had letters from personal friends warning us of his fondness for wine.

I haven't the slightest notion where we shall put them to live once they are married - we have no house but as they have no knowledge of the language, they could hardly keep house anyway. Nobody wants to take them in - I do not know where to turn. I do not expect you to solve this problem but I wish someone would do so!

Naturally it is a very keen disappointment for Dr. Fenn. He has worked hard to build up the staff for the department but I must say you have not helped him very much. Miss Kees is a most excellent teacher and we are glad to have her on the staff. We have been much concerned over Herrymon Maurer, but lately he has seemed to take more interest and of course he is still very young. He will never be a brain wave or make a great contribution to the work, but he will develop into a steady worker. You may be interested to know that his wife has had a bad time this autumn with typhoid fever, but their young daughter was born last week and as all are making good progress to recovery we are relieved.

I am sorry to write about this problem but you should know in case we have to let Mr. Spitzer out. If you have any suggestions, let me know.

sincerely yours,

*Chas. M. Priest*

0701



INDEXED

December 12, 1939

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
University of Nanking  
Chengtu, Szechwan, CHINA

Dear Miss Priest:

I am grateful indeed for your letter of November 6th reviewing the financial situation at West China.

I am afraid it is asking too much from anyone to prognosticate anything about the future in this world so filled with chaos. I am reminded of the frequent conversations I have with one member of Yenching's Investment Committee who is Vice Deputy in the Federal Reserve Bank. We have frequent meetings and telephone conversations and after reviewing a situation from every angle, he often says in conclusion, "What will develop is anybody's guess." This is so characteristic of world conditions that to do any figuring from a logical standpoint is just impossible.

As more or less of an answer to the question you previously raised as to the sending out of funds for the dormitory to China, I am afraid you will have to give instructions at the time when you think it is proper, or draw at the time when you desire to so do.

The problem of putting money in land as set forth in your last paragraph naturally raises the question as to where the land is located. The way governments are confiscating property at the present time would make it appear, at the present moment, that there are no stable values anywhere. If I should venture a guess the best thing I know of now are the Baby Bonds issued by the U. S. Government for which one pays \$750.00, and at the end of about twelve years receives a total of \$1,000.00 which includes interest. The only way interest is paid in the meantime is to sell the bonds or amortize it in advance. This, of course, does not provide for the change of costs in commodities, and when we answer that question common stocks present the only solution, and there you have the speculative chance of their going still lower as well as going still higher.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

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INDEXED

December 19, 1939

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
c/o American Express Company  
4 Des Voeux Road Central  
Hong Kong, China

Dear Miss Priest:

Mr. Garside has asked me to reply to your letter of November 1st, in which you raise questions regarding actions EF-1022 and EF-1023 taken at the joint meeting of the Executive Committee and Committee on Finance of the Associated Boards.

First, in relation to action EF-1022, I would like to refer you to the action taken at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Founders, BF-1060. "The estimates they have submitted" bases back on this action, and are the estimates furnished by the field insofar as they concern China. However, in considering the whole budget of the University of Nanking, a complete budget summary was put before the Associated Boards committee. Apparently you have not received a copy of this budget as presented, or else it has gone astray somewhere in the mails. In any case, I am enclosing herewith a copy of the budget as presented to the Associated Boards. You will note that this budget has had added to it the items for expense in America, or in other words, the Board of Founders budget. The figures presented to the Associated Boards are, of course, a summary of the figures received from you, but I think if you will look this over, you will discover that they coincide with the budget figures sent to us last spring from your office.

In the emergency request figures as shown on page 5 attached to the enclosed budget, you will note that these include all the figures in Dr. Chen's letter of April 3rd, with the exception of those items marked "Return Trip to Nanking" and a variation in the amount to balance the University budget. The amount to balance the University budget is taken from the totals on page 4, these being U.S. \$21,796.92 or, at 5 to 1, L.C. \$108,984.60.

In reference to action EF-1023, you will have already received via Clipper mail my letter of November 24, in which this action has been explained. I trust that that letter clears up the matter sufficiently for you. However, I would like to make this additional explanation in the light of the budget enclosed in this letter. The budget enclosed herewith is a complete budget, including the expenditure of the Board of Founders in America, and this has been included when determining the total amount of special funds required to balance the budget. This amount is \$21,796.92. The \$6,000 noted as "special" in the allocations of action EF-1023 are for you on the field to apply to any of those items given in the letter of April 3 which are considered most important. When the allocations were made, considerable reductions from amounts asked were necessary. In the case of the University of Nanking, these reductions affect those special requests included in that letter.

I would like to point out, however, that there are certain items in Dr. Chen's letter of April 3 which could well be considered in connection with the fund for joint needs of the Colleges working in Chengtu, and that some of these

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December 19, 1939

will be affected by the considerations of the joint group in the use of the \$17,520 so allocated.

Mr. Evans has shown me a copy of the letter which he wrote you on December 7, in connection with the November budget summary. In that letter he referred to the items marked "special fund" in Class A and Class B, the total of these two being \$27,796.92, which is the complete total of the money coming from special funds. The figure in Class B is in error by \$1,500, in that this amount in Section III was overlooked in determining the amount which should be put in Class B. In other words, the budget summary should have items in it as follows:-

Class A	Account No. 175.5	\$13,500.00
Class B	Account No. 175.5	12,796.92
Section III	Account No. 166	<u>1,500.00</u>
		\$27,796.92

This would make up the total amount of the allocations from the special funds for 1939-40. Correction of these entries will be made in the next monthly budget statement.

While we are discussing this matter of special funds, may I call your attention to the fact that we have now named the special fund, the "Sustaining Fund", and hereafter it will be referred to under that name. This has been selected to take the place of the title of the preceding two years of "Emergency Fund".

I am sorry that our minutes did not carry sufficient explanation to make clear what was intended, and I hope that the enclosed budget will clear up for you any difficulties you may have had in understanding the actions taken.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Secretary

JIP:VW  
Enc.

*Via S.S. "Pres. Taft"  
from San Pedro, Calif.*

0705