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COLLEGE FILES
RG 11

Yenching
Corres.
Boynton, Grace 1941-1942

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0500

2 January 1941

Dear Grace:

Thank you for your very generous note of December 30. You are quite right in thinking that it would be wisest to look forward to making your presence in this country valuable by taking advantage of your established reputation as a lecturer. I believe that Yenching can expect no more of you than the reporting to this office of the names of new friends and your own readiness to speak in detail of the work of Yenching University to such friends as opportunity offers.

I can see no conflict between your work for the American Board and for Yenching. They are really one and the same thing, although, as we have already agreed, there is no definite aid possible to our Yenching task except in carrying through actually to the point where the way is open for contributions to the Yenching budget. I believe there is no value, and actually unjustified use of time and strength when seed is planted and left without care. In all such cases it is someone else who does the reaping, and our own project suffers. I do find, in my own judgment, a definite conflict between your commitment to China Relief, and your value to Yenching. There is an indefiniteness about this title which seems to confuse further a situation whose chaotic multiplicity we have been trying to clear. There is an established agency known as the Church Committee for China Relief. If you are speaking for them, the statement to that effect should be made in the official name of the agency. If funds put into your hands are going into the coffers of the American Board, that, again, should be stated under the official title of the board. If you are speaking for Yenching University, that can well be stated.

As you have described to me the ends to which some of your lecture proceeds have been devoted, I understand them to be applicable to the responsibilities of the American Board in China. If, on the other hand, this whole matter is on a very personal and informal basis, would it be possible for you to route through this office any further contributions which come to your hand, designating them for the definitely relief projects which Yenching is carrying on? There is, in our relations with faculty members on furlough, nothing more beneficent than the actual receipt of contributions, however modest, which can be credited to the obligations which we carry on behalf of the various colleges. Also, when we have such a relation, it is always possible to carry traveling expenses and a part of maintenance for the faculty member so related to our work.

I am very sorry that it does not seem likely that I can be in New York when you speak to the A.A.U.W., but I shall hope to see you soon.

Affectionately yours,

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan

EBM:MJT
Miss Grace M. Boynton
46 Powder House Road
Medford Massachusetts

0501

GRACE M. BOYNTON
46 POWER HOUSE ROAD
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

January 3-1941.

Dear Eva,

It is good to have your letter of January 2nd, and to feel that we have the same understanding of questions which have been under discussion.

There is no conflict in the matter of my relationship to the Board and to Genealogy. I asked a casual question about the raising of "specials" and the reply was that I was entirely free to do anything the Genealogy office wants me to do. You were aware that this was the case, and I just wanted

0502

to be clear about it for my own satisfaction. I did not make any specific references, and no questions were asked - so I don't think any complications will result.

As for the use of my China Relief Fund - yes, it is all very informal and personal. The Board does nothing but forward the money to China for me, and it is used as I direct - it doesn't belong to any established agency, but goes to projects that I designate. I am purposely keeping clear of organizations - this has nothing to do with any of them. I shall close the fund at the beginning of March when my period of study begins, so I don't think it is worth while to change the handling of it. We will see what further develops for the Spring and

0503

GRACE M. BOYNTON
46 POWER HOUSE ROAD
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

summer, and I will consult with you
as I find out what my next step will be.
Of course I shall not lecture under false
pretences. When I change to using
my Chinese Garden stuff in order to
earn a living, the people I lecture for
will know that. You will notice that
my little folder indicates that March 1
is the dead line for engagements.

affectionately yours

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Yenching Year

Cross
Boydston

I The Freshmen Arrive

The freshmen, about to enter Yenching,
Ride in a scandalously crowded Dodge bus,
Which is painted yellow and blue.
At the West Gate of the city
They must descend and stand in a row
To be frisked by reluctant police
Who are supervised by other orientals.
Sometimes a student is arrested, but more frequently
His textbooks are scrutinized by an eye which is innocent of English,
And once in a while they are confiscated. After which the bus goes on
Over a road with a magnificent view of the Western Hills
Which very few of the freshmen notice.

At Yenching they are received by the sophomores
With benevolent superiority, and are guided in the way they should go.
They present themselves to the doctor
And are examined for tuberculosis
To avoid the tragic experience of past years
When numbers have come down with this disease.
They are assigned space in the dormitories
Which is really a sardinian accommodation; but these freshmen,
Being two hundred successful candidates out of two thousand
Feel lucky to be in Yenching at all.

Sometimes a stonyhearted dean or doyen
Informs an academic liability
That it would be better for him not to stay.

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But if this luckless individual can only manage
And interview that wrecker of red tape, the President,
The chances are very good that the dean or doyen
Will smile a bit lop-sidedly, and go to work upon the problem
"From another angle."

Th
The Treasurer's Office, however, is really hard-boiled
And all the freshmen have to pay for board and room.
That is, the percentage is higher than you might expect
Considering all the things which are considered
At Yenching, these days.

When all formalities have been accomplished
And the upperclassmen have returned to the campus
Then each college, of which we have three in our midst,
Gets its teachers and students together for mutual recognition and ice cream,
And when this ceremonial has been attended to
And the freshman returns to his dormitory under the autumn moon
He considers that all the preliminaries are now over.
And is considerably relieved. But on the first day of the session
He goes to Assembly and sings Alma Mater, and is much embarrassed
Because he does not know the tune.

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II The Double Tenth

On the tenth day of the tenth moon

It is better not to study.

The world is empty of its winds

And the sunlight is very warm.

Some of us go to the Summer Palace

And hire boats on the lake and fall into the water

(But so far all of us have been pulled out successfully.)

Some of us are invited by indefatigable foreigners

To go hiking in the Western Hills.

Maybe the girls wear their high heels

And their long tight dresses

Wishing to be as attractive as possible.

But one experience with the Hill trails is enough;

And on future occasions

You can see they prefer comfort to glamour.

And anyway, shorts, sneakers and socks on the right person

Are not so bad for the glamour game

as they might be.

We take along all the equipment

Which is so necessary on such occasions.

Cameras are working overtime

And almost every shoulder

Has a strap for a thermos bottle.

At the little villages

We can stop for tea;

And get a great kick out of

The way the people look at our bare legs.

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But when we begin to talk to them
They are friendly enough.

We carry some lunch in our pockets.
We used to buy chocolate and raisins, but now
They are much too expensive.
We usually have flat cakes
Made of dark brown dough with an outside
Of sessamum seed. These are very sustaining.
And we like hard boiled eggs and "water fruit"
If somebody else will carry those things
In a good stout rucksack.

All day on the double tenth
We scramble around the Western Hills;
We make friends with each other
And take a look at the temples and pagodas
Which are very beautiful.

When we get back
We are tired to death, of course.
And since we are freshmen
We always write up the day
In our weekly compositions.

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III The Messiah Concert

Christmas at Yenching is a time
That we all approve of;
And when we graduate and go away
We notice the lack of it.

There is always a lot of music,
And anybody who wants to sing
Can join Mr. Wiant's Messiah chorus,
And shout his head off
At rehearsals, which grow very numerous
Before the big concerts come off.
Those are the great occasions. For we can earn a lot of money
And give it to the University Relief Fund.
And maybe we do not sing

Like the Handel and Hayden people in Boston
But the biggest crowd that ever gets under one roof in Peking
Comes to hear us every year. And there are all sorts of people
Embassy ladies, and foreign soldiers, and even those little brown persons
Who are known in Yenching as "Members of the Visiting Team".
But most of the people are Chinese; and they buy all the seats
And pay money to stand in the aisles and along the walls
And year after year they come again and again.
Of course we do the best we can with the music
And sometimes the best is pretty terrible
If we haven't enough people from former choruses
To keep us in time and in tune.
But most of us get to understand
That it's what we are singing about that is important to them.
And it gets important to some of us.

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I remember I first thought about this
When I was singing the Hallelujah Chorus in 1937,
And I saw the tears in the eyes
Of a little pinch-faced woman missionary
In shabby clothes
Sitting in the front row.

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IV Midyears

The murderous muttering Midyears

Are about to descend upon us.

(Shades of the Sages regard us with compassion!)

We have studied all our lecture notes

But without much illumination.

For the head feels like a steamed dumpling

And the intelligence should be given a rating of I. Q. - 0.

The University authorities give us the intimation

That we are supposed to know all they ever heard of.

And then they turn off the electricity at a quarter to eleven

And do not pay any attention to the rise in price

Of good kerosene oil.

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V Home Coming Day

Spring is the time when we buy ukuleles
And go walking two by two around the lake.
And we are very likely to indulge in romances
And maybe we announce a few engagements.
But the most important thing about the spring semester
Is the time when the whole of Yenohing turns itself inside out.
The Science Labs put on shows of things in bottles
And the Library hangs around the walls of the second storey reading room
A scroll ninety feet long.
The men students are allowed to visit the girls' dormitories
And they get invited to feasts in the girls' dining-rooms
With tea and sweets in the lady's chamber thereafter.
And they look anxiously to see if the girls have got any pictures on the wall
Of the visitor being athletic or dramatic.
Of course there are sports in the afternoon
And receptions and luncheons for the graduates
Who come back in large numbers
Whenever they can; but of course, for the last three years,
A good many have been unavoidably prevented.

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VI Commencement

It is a serious matter to be a Yenching graduate
And times are getting serious all over the world.
Now as we think about matters like these
We are of the opinion
That although we don't like to stick our necks out
Any better than the other fellow
Still when it comes to that, we can take anything
That is coming to us. And we are further determined
That in the not far distant future, we
Shall do considerably more
Than just "take it".
From these reflections it is obvious
That a Yenching Commencement
Is not an occasion for great hilarity.
And yet it is the end
For which we are steadily preparing.

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GRACE M. BOYNTON
46 Powder House Road
Medford, Massachusetts

March 26 - 1941
ack 3/31/41

The Treasures of Yenching University
150 5th Avenue, N. Y. C.

Wrote to
Miss Cookingham
4/2/41

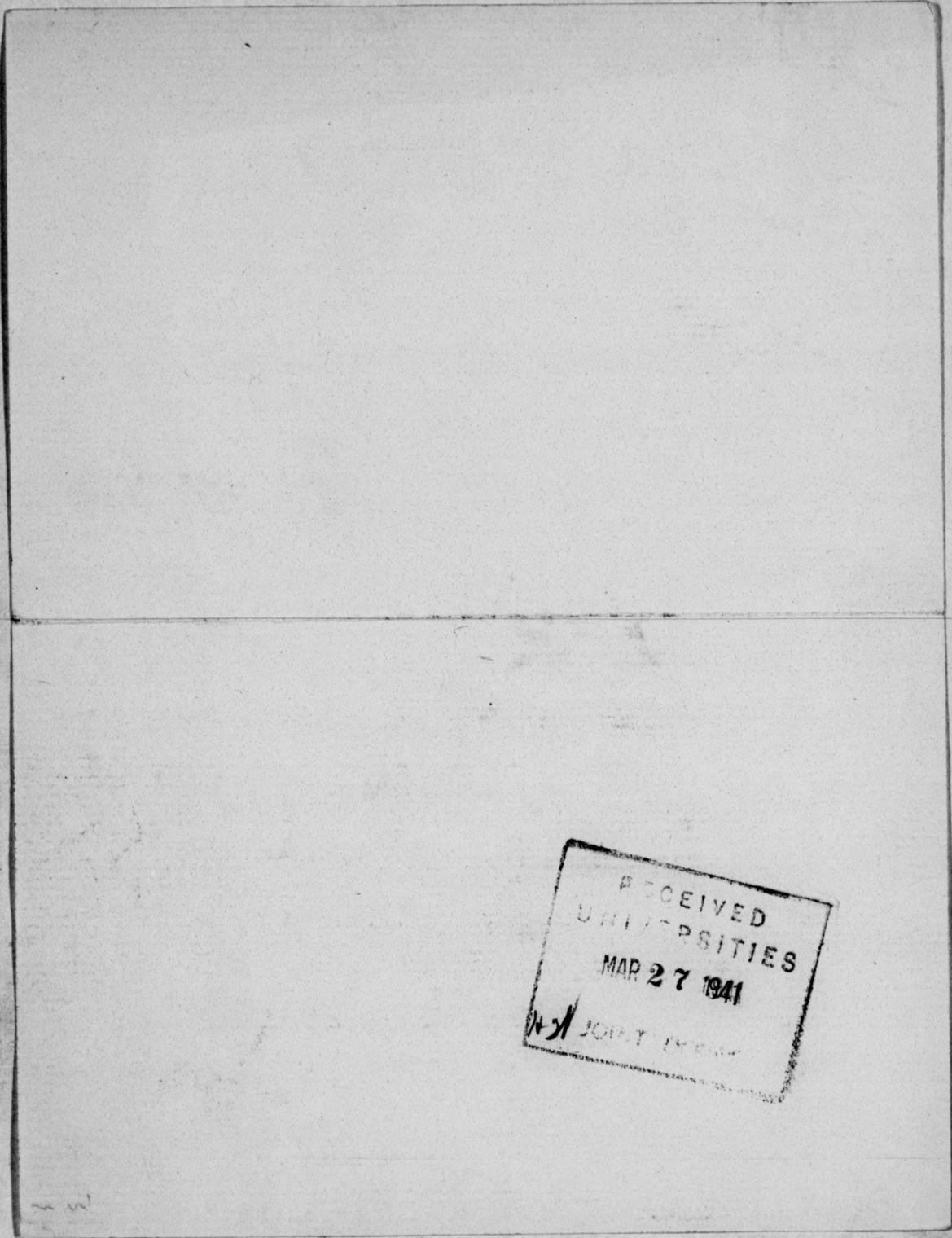
Dear Sir,

Last summer in Japan, Mr. E. G. Wilson
lent me fifty yen, and instructed me
to settle with the University. I
wrote out to China about the matter
and have a note from Miss Cookingham
directing me to send you two dollars
and eighty cents in settlement of
this debt. Please find my cheque
enclosed.

Very truly yours
Grace M. Boynton

1 cl. attached
Dep. 3/31/41
also dep. 2.80 Central Hanover Univ

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THE DEPARTMENT OF
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
of Harvard University

ANNOUNCES A SERIES OF

THREE ILLUSTRATED LECTURES ON
PEKING GARDENS

By MISS GRACE M. BOYNTON

- I Chinese Garden Tradition *Tuesday, February 11th*
II Two Gardens of the Emperor Ch'ien Lung *Thursday, February 13th*
III The Haunts of the Immortals *Friday, February 14th*

ALL LECTURES ARE AT FIVE O'CLOCK IN
ROOM D, EMERSON HALL

These lectures, open to the public,
have been made possible by the generosity of
MR. AND MRS. WALTER BECK

Miss Boynton, a graduate of Wellesley, has taught at Yenching University, Peking, since 1919 with the exception of two years spent in this country, when she was getting a master's degree at Radcliffe and lecturing on Chinese gardens. Her interest in and study of Chinese gardens dates from the time she went to live in the Lang Jün Yuan, the property of Prince Tsai T'ao, an uncle of the present Emperor of Manchukuo.

For all interested in China and its arts and especially its design for living, these lectures on Chinese gardens, with their implications for the designer of the contemporary garden, will provide stimulating material.

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March 31, 1941

Miss Grace M. Boynton
68 Parker House Road
Waltham, Mass.

Dear Miss Boynton:

I am acknowledging your letter of March 28th enclosing check for \$2.00 which we have credited to the U. S. account of the field treasurer and have written Miss Cockington accordingly.

We understand that this is an adjustment of a loan made to you by Mr. E. O. Wilson.

With sincerest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/s

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MAY 21 1941
JOINT OFFICE

GRACE M. BOYNTON
46 Powder House Road
Medford, Massachusetts

ack
6/4/41
JSP

May 20-1941.

Dear Mr. Parker,

Since our conversation with regard to a teaching position in the Department of English at Haverford University, I have conferred with Dr. Fairfield of our American Board. He tells me it is now in order for me to request you to query Haverford University as to whether they would like me to come to them this autumn. It should be made clear that I shall go to Chengtu only in case it is impossible to get to Yenching and it should be further under-

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stood that I consider Yenching's claim upon me as prior to any arrangement I make with Nanking.

However, I believe Yenching would agree to allowing me to finish a semester of work at Chengtu, supposing I began on, and I should expect Yenching to release me for a year if they were consulted in time.

I don't know what mode of communication you will choose but I should be glad if you could get a cable out and an answer before the twenty fifth of June. I have a sailing for July 25, and the Board may permit me to use it if Chengtu replies favorably. The State Department, I understand, does not consider requests for passports more than a month before sailing time, but I should have Nanking's cable in hand before I apply to them.

Very sincerely yours
Grace W. Boynton

June 4, 1941 to Pres. Y. G. Chen and Assistant Secretary W. William P. Fenn.

June 4, 1941

ACK
6/7/41

Miss Grace Boynton
45 Powder House Road
Medford, Mass.

Dear Miss Boynton:

I have awaited answering your letter of May 20, concerning the prospects of your going to the University of Hanking until there was opportunity to check up a number of other matters relating to the English Department there. Information has been sent on to the University with the request for a cabled reply as soon as possible. We should receive this before the end of this month.

I am wondering if the withdrawal of the American ships on the Pacific upset your sailing arrangements. Our feeling here is that there will be considerable difficulty at this point for all of our people who are trying to get back to the field.

Just as soon as we have any word from Changta, we will let you know.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Secretary

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JUN 11 1941
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GRACE M. BOYNTON
46 Powder House Road
Medford, Massachusetts

June 7-1941

[Handwritten initials]

Mr. Joseph I. Barber
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Barber,

Many thanks for yours of June 4th saying you have sent my offer to Nanking University, and that their reply should be received by the end of the month.

Of course the withdrawal of American ships on the Pacific presents another difficulty about reaching China. But if I can get permission to leave from my Board and the State Department I shall make a vigorous attack upon the problem of transportation. There must still be cargo boats!

With appreciation I am

Very sincerely yours

Grace M. Boynton

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CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1201

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NT=Overnight Telegram

LC=Deferred Cable

NLT=Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

BB1010 36 NT-IDB MEDFORD MASS 17

MR EVANS-ASSOCIATED CHINA COLLEGES

150 SIXTH AVE NYK

1941 JUN 17 PM 7 12

RETURN TO CHINA VOTED BY AMERICAN BOARD SHOULD APPRECIATE
OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS DETAILS WITH YENCHING OFFICE STOP
CAN SOMEONE SEE ME SATURDAY MORNING JUNE 21 WIRE ME COLLECT
BEFORE THURSDAY PM 46 POWDERHOUSE ROAD MEDFORD MASS

GRACE M BOYNTON.

YENCHING 21 PM 46.

RECEIVED
UNION
JUN 20 1941
JOINT OFFICE

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

0525

ASSOCIATED BOARDS FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA
120 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Charge to the account of

\$

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
NIGHT LETTER	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

WESTERN UNION

1206-B

CHECK
ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
TIME FILED

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

June 18, 1941

Miss Grace H. Hopkins
25 York Avenue
New York, New York

WILL BE IN OFFICE SATURDAY MORNING BETWEEN NINE AND ELEVEN.

C. A. EVANS

RECEIVED
UNION
JUN 20 1941
JOINT OFFICE

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GRACE M. BOYNTON
46 Powder House Road
Medford, Massachusetts

July 16 - 1941.

ack 7/18/41

cc - Yenching office

Dear Mr. Evans,

Mr. Fairfield has been so pressed with duties since my return that I have not been able to discuss with him another approach to the State Department for my passport. His general position is that nothing more can be done in my case until Sept. 16 when the Prudential Committee meets. Of course I do not want to give up all effort until then. I have sent a message to Yenching asking them to supply some evidence of the type the State Department says it hasn't got. (I enclose two ^{testimony} letters and an envelope for their return.)

Returned
7/18/41

0527

When I have succeeded in getting Mr. Fairfield's attention I will perhaps have something more to write about. I am hoping you will soon receive some definite word from West China.

Can the Yenching office lend me some of the very fine enlarged photographs of Yenching which I know have been sent you from time to time? I want them for display at an exhibit sponsored by Miss Louise Hagen whose address is Thetford, Vermont. She is opening her house for the benefit of China Relief on July 26th. Perhaps the office could send the material directly to her? I am sure she will return it

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MANUSCRIPTS
APR 27 1941
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Very sincerely yours
Grace M. Bryntun

July 18, 1941

Dear Miss Boynton:

Mr. Evans turned over to me your request for some of the Yenching pictures that Miss Louise Hazen could use for the China benefit she is sponsoring in her home on July 26th. I immediately got ready some of our pictures and they are now on their way to Thetford by express. With the long week-end coming, I thought I would feel safer if they were on their way up there today.

I imagine you are planning to be there yourself, but for your information I enclose a list of the pictures I sent. The "thin mounting" means that those eight pictures are left on the thin cardboard mounting that Vargassoff uses. The pictures mounted on cardboard are from a collection Bob Barges and I prepared last summer for the Princeton-Yenching exhibit at the World's Fair. Unfortunately, a great many of the World's Fair collection are being used in another exhibition, so I had to send the two different mountings, for Miss Hazen to use. I hope you like the selection I have sent.

I still miss Stephen Ts'ai, but am happy to think that he has arrived safely at Yenching. He seems to have made a very quick trip, and judging from the letter he sent me, mailed in Honolulu, it was not an unpleasant trip. He was a grand person to work with, and I am already looking forward to his next trip here, when we can take up the work where we left off.

And now I am off for the week-end. I was away from the office last week, on the first part of my vacation, and have found it rather hard to settle down to work this week. I guess the rest made me lazy!

Sincerely yours,

Miss Grace M. Boynton
46 Powder House Road
Medford
Massachusetts

0529

July 18, 1941

Miss Grace M. Boynton
46 Powder House Road
Medford, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Boynton:

Your case is pretty much belouuded at the present time.

I have received a letter from Dr. Fairfield which conveys practically the same information about the attitude of the Prudential Committee and rather encourages dropping the case until after the meeting of the Prudential Committee on September 16th.

We have received a cablegram from the University of Nanking welcoming you to the staff. I sent this to Dr. Fairfield who feels that the prospects of you returning to Yenching after September 16th should not disturb any other consideration and, therefore, we are at a stalemate regarding your particular position. In the light of this situation, I do not see that anything else can be done at the present time.

Meantime another situation has developed whereby a Presbyterian missionary can be transferred to Nanking, and we have written to the University accordingly. I am sure, however, that there is great need for both of you if the American Board would permit it. As a matter of fact, at the present time, there is no foreign English teacher carrying on the work at Nanking outside of Dr. William Fenn.

I note that you desire some of the enlarged photographs of Yenching for display at an exhibit sponsored by Miss Louise Hasen at Thetford, Vermont, who is opening her home for a China benefit on July 26th. I am referring this request to the Yenching Office with the assurance that Miss Hasen will return the material promptly.

I am returning your letters herewith, and if anything else of

0530

Miss Boynton

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7/18/41

interest develops, I will get in touch with you immediately. I am
sorry that you have this interim of uncertainty.

Very sincerely yours,



C. A. EVANS,
Acting Executive Secretary and
Associate Treasurer

CAE/B
cc: Yenching Office ✓

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July 25, 1941

ACK
7/26/41

Miss Grace M. Boynton
46 Powder House Road
Medford, Mass.

Dear Miss Boynton:

Enclosed find a letter from William Penn which I have read at his request, and I am passing it on to you.

I find that the letter to the field regarding your availability placed no restrictions upon your present condition. I have called the field that you are not available immediately to reduce the pressure and quiet their expectations.

I shall keep you informed of any further developments.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAR/S
EHC.

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46 Powder House Road
Medford, Mass.

July 26, 1941
ack 7/29/41

Mr. C.A. Evans
150 5th Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Evans,

Last Thursday I had a conference with Dr. Fairfield, and at his suggestion I am sending you this account of it. Dr. Fairfield explained the reasons why the Board cannot at present ask again for a passport to North China for me, and I find myself in reluctant agreement with the position of the Board.

That leaves the alternative of Free China, and Nanking University. In this case the difficulties of the Board seem very much less, and I put as strong a case as I could to Dr. Fairfield for the acceptance of the invitation from Nanking, and for the immediate application for a passport. He heard me most sympathetically, and told me that he would present my request to various Board bodies who must act upon the matter before anything can be done. He said that next Monday we might be a step further on the road, and, as I understood him, if the Board action is favorable, we may then be in a position to go again to the State Department.

One of the points I made in urging that I be sent to Free China, is my recent training in Basic English. Dr. Fairfield asked if I had mentioned this to you; I did not remember that I had. He suggested that I speak of it in this letter.

The Cultural Relations program is still on paper, but it would presumably include the use of Basic English. As you know there is al-

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ready a Basic Institute functioning in^{the} China under the administration of the Basic Institute connected with Harvard University, of which Dr. I.A. Richards, an old friend, is the head. The program of Basic is financed by the Rockefeller Foundation, of course. In China, the work in Basic is chiefly connected with Government schools. The Christian Schools have not as yet taken up this particular language-teaching technique.

Dr. Richards (I don't remember his official description, but he is the man who deals directly with the Foundation) is very keen to have Basic introduced in our Christian schools. When I went to him and asked for training, he gave me as a tutor, the man in the Cambridge organization next to himself. I was taught privately for the better part of the spring semester, by Mr. Hugh Walpole (a cousin of the late novelist) who has recently brought out a brilliant book on Semantics. I had this expert attention "without money and without price". I mention this, because I think it indicates Dr. Richards' interest in getting a hearing for Basic in the Christian Colleges in China. Yesterday I saw him, and obtained the promise of a "strong letter" asking help for me from Mr. Stevens of the China Foundation; and also of a general letter which might be used at the State Department. A copy of the latter should soon be sent to you.

In spite of the present crisis, I am hoping that it will become clear that Japan does not propose to go to war with this country now, and that I may have time to get the journey over before the Pacific becomes closed to civilians. With this in mind, I should like to explore ways and means of getting the money and the permission to go out by Clipper. But it is premature to go into that.

Very sincerely yours,

Grace M. Boynton

P.S. Thank you for your letter of July 25.

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ready as Basic Institute functioning in China under the administration
of the Basic Institute connected with Harvard University, of which Dr.
I.A. Richards, an old friend, is the head. The program of Basic is
financed by the Rockefeller Foundation, of course. In China, the
work in Basic is chiefly connected with Government schools. The Christian
Schools have not as yet taken up this particular language-teaching tech-
nique.

Dr. Richards (I don't remember his official description, but he
is the man who deals directly with the Foundation) is very keen to have
Basic introduced in our Christian colleges. When I went to him and asked
for training, he gave me a list of names in the Chinese organization
next to himself. I was going to write to him in the latter part of the
spring semester, by Mr. Hugh Wilson's cousin of the late novelist (who
has recently brought out a brilliant book on semantics. I had this ex-
pert attention "without money and without price." I mention this, because

JUL 28 1941
JOINT INTENT

I think it indicates Dr. Richards' interest in getting a hearing for
Basic in the Christian Colleges in China. Yesterday I saw him and obtain-
ed the promise of a "strong letter" asking help for me from Mr. Stevens
of the China Foundation, and also of a general letter which might be
used at the State Department. A copy of the letter should soon be sent
to you.

In spite of the present crisis, I am hoping that it will become
clear that Japan does not propose to go to war with this country now, and
that I may have time to get the journey over before the Pacific becomes
closed to civilians. With this in mind, I should like to explore ways
and means of getting the money and the permission to go out by Clipper.
But it is premature to go into that.

Very sincerely yours,

Walter D. Williams

P.S. Thank you for your letter of July 15.

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RECEIVED
UNIVERSITIES
JUL 23 1941
JOINT OFFICE

July 29, 1941

Miss Grace H. Boynton
46 Powder House Road
Medford, Mass.

Dear Miss Boynton:

Your letter of July 26th came to hand promptly and also a communication from Dr. Fairfield requesting some information as to the attitude of Nanking. As we had received a cable inviting you to come, I immediately telegraphed Dr. Fairfield and hoped that this morning's mail would bring news regarding the action taken at the Cabinet Meeting of the American Board on Monday. We have also received a letter from I. A. Richards of Harvard University regarding your work.

Of course, the whole situation in China is now greatly modified by recent enactments of the United States Government along with the British and the Netherlands. What will evolve from this is a question. The best, therefore, that can be done is to await action from the American Board Cabinet and then take the matter up with the State Department.

I shall keep you informed regarding any new moves which come to light.

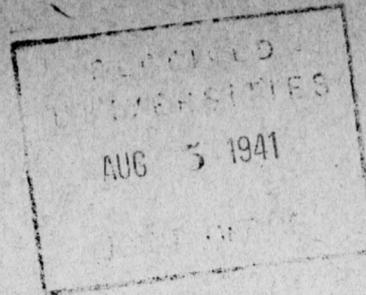
Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

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August 4, 1941

Miss Grace Boynton
46 Powder House Road
Medford, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Boynton:

I have had an opportunity to talk with Mr. Evans in reference to your telephone call of Saturday morning. Mr. Evans has been very closely in touch with the shipping companies and the State Department on the whole matter of passages to China, and I am sure we can depend upon him for accomplishing all that can be expected in the matter of securing passports.

It does not seem that your contact with Mr. Stevens at the Rockefeller Foundation will contribute particularly to the making of arrangements with the State Department. In fact, Mr. Evans feels that we will have a clearer case if we can present it directly and make it as strong as possible from the viewpoint of the University of Nanking alone. We would, therefore, suggest that you do not attempt to go further into the matter with Mr. Stevens at the present time.

Mr. Evans has taken up directly with the State Department today (by letter) your case in regard to proceeding to Free China, and we hope to have some answer from them very soon.

Mr. Evans wants me to assure you that we will do everything in our power here to get the arrangements made satisfactory to you.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

JIP:W

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August 13, 1941

Miss Grace N. Boynton
45 Fowler House Road
Medford, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Boynton:

I telephoned you yesterday to be sure that the sailing which we have booked for you will be convenient in case we get the word that we expect from the Passport Department.

Mr. Evans talked to Mrs. Shipley on the phone the day before yesterday, and the indications were that permission for your going to Chengtu would be granted. However, we cannot be sure of this for a few days as it depends upon the political developments in the immediate future. The intimation of the action which may be taken in your case seems to be strong enough to warrant your being prepared to proceed to Los Angeles on short notice, and it is for this reason that we telephoned you.

Mr. Evans is certain that it will be necessary for you to proceed from Hongkong to Chengtu by air as this seems to be the only possible route which will be available. It will, therefore, be necessary for you to plan your luggage accordingly. I did not have an opportunity to discuss with Mr. Evans any particular details of advice which he would want to give regarding things to be included in the luggage, but I may have another chance to talk with him today. If there are any suggestions, I will send them on to you.

Thank you very much for being so willing to base your plans upon the uncertainties that seem to be so prevalent at the moment.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

JIP:VW

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AUG 14 1941
JOINT OFFICE

0538

(Letter from Wm. C. Borgers, Aug. 13, 1941)

15 August 1941

Dear Miss Boynton:

*Enclosed herewith are the Exchange Orders for your tickets on the Java Pacific Line. The first Order, No. 444, is the one which you will present at the office of the company in Los Angeles, in exchange for your ticket to Manila. Attached to this are certain instructions which you should note. The second Order, No. 1464, is for you to present at the office of the company in Manila for your passage to Hongkong.

We have been advised this morning that the sailing has been postponed until August 25th from Los Angeles, and that you should plan to report at the office of the company on the morning of August 25th in Los Angeles. Fortunately this gives you three more days in which to get to the Coast.

No final word has come from the Passport Division in Washington. We had hoped that this word would come in on the morning mail, as we had been advised yesterday by telegram that your case was being considered. It will hardly be wise to start making use of your steamship tickets and making final arrangements for your trip to the Coast until we have this final word from Washington. Meantime, we will keep you posted as to developments.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Secretary

JIP:e
Enc. 4
Miss Grace Boynton
c/o Mr. Harold Belcher
14 Beacon Street
Boston Massachusetts

* The exchange orders are attached to the copy of this letter which is sent to Mr. Belcher.

Copy sent to Miss Grace Boynton
46 Powder House Road
Medford Massachusetts

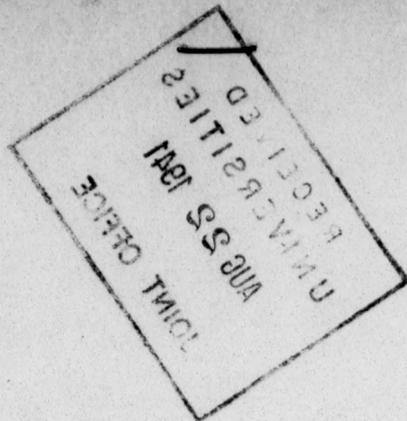
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August 17, 1941.

Miss Grace M. Boynton,
American Board,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Miss Boynton:

This is the message from Mrs. Shipley:

DEPARTMENT PREPARED VALIDATE PASSPORT GRACE MORRISON BOYNTON
NECESSARY SHE SUBMIT TWO RECENTLY TAKEN DUPLICATE PHOTOGRAPHS
AND RENEWAL FEE OF FIVE DOLLARS.

After talking with you on the phone and also
writing to Mrs. Shipley enclosing check for five dollars, it
occurred to me that it would be best to address the letter to
Mrs. Shipley, and I telegraphed you as follows:

MAIL PICTURES CARE MRS R. B. SHIPLEY, PASSPORT DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. WRITING YOU AMERICAN BOARD.

I have told Mrs. Shipley of the urgency of the
case and the time limit and enclosed check for five dollars.
It might be well to say that I have talked with you and that the
pictures are in response to the Division's request.

Tomorrow I shall look up some contacts in
Hong Kong and possibly find out who is on the same boat. That
might be of even greater help. I shall also check up about the
airplane reservations from Hong Kong into free China. Will
write you again tomorrow or ask someone in the office to do so.

This is a rather unexpected change of plans,
isn't it? And still, with the recent work you have been doing
it would seem to be even more fitting for you to go to West
China where English is not English at all. It is quite possible
that the good Lord's Hand is in all this and that your field of
service may be larger than at Yenching. Surely it appears that
way just now. May God bless you.

Most sincerely

121 Brown Road,
Scarsdale, N. Y.

0541

August 18, 1941

Miss Grace Boynton
45 Powder House Road
Medford, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Boynton:

Enclosed find letters written to the American Express Company and to Dr. Brownell of Lingnan University, also copy of a letter written to the American Express Company at Hongkong.

Professor and Mrs. Clinton N. Laird of the Lingnan University staff are supposed to be on your boat.

We are hoping that your passport will come through immediately and that there will be no delay whatever.

Very sincerely yours,

CAE:RC
enc.

Acting Executive Secretary

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AUG 19 1941
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Charge to the account of **ASSOCIATED BOARDS FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA**

\$

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
NIGHT LETTER	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

WESTERN UNION

1206-B

CHECK

ACCOUNTING INFORMATION

TIME FILED

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

August 21, 1941

Miss Grace M. Boynton
Medford
Massachusetts

PASSPORT AIRMAILED LOSANGELES OUR BLESSINGS AND GODSPEED TO YOU

C. A. EVANS

0544

ALL MESSAGES TAKEN BY THIS COMPANY ARE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

- To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a message should order it repeated, that is, telegraphed back to the originating office for comparison. For this, one-half the unrepeat message rate is charged in addition. Unless otherwise indicated on its face, this is an unrepeat message and paid for as such, in consideration whereof it is agreed between the sender of the message and this Company as follows:
1. The Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any message received for transmission at the repeated-message rate beyond the sum of five hundred dollars; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any message received for transmission at the repeated-message rate beyond the sum of five thousand dollars, unless specially valued; nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines; nor for errors in cipher or obscure messages.
 2. In any event the Company shall not be liable for damages for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for the non-delivery, of any message, whether caused by the negligence of its servants or otherwise, beyond the actual loss, not exceeding in any event the sum of five thousand dollars, at which amount the sender of each message represents that the message is valued, unless a greater value is stated in writing by the sender thereof at the time the message is tendered for transmission, and unless the repeated-message rate is paid or agreed to be paid, and an additional charge equal to one-tenth of one per cent of the amount by which such valuation shall exceed five thousand dollars.
 3. The Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward this message over the lines of any other company when necessary to reach its destination.
 4. Domestic messages and incoming cable messages will be delivered free within one-half mile of the Company's office in towns of 5,000 population or less, and within one mile of such office in other cities or towns. Beyond these limits the Company does not undertake to make delivery, but will, without liability, at the sender's request, as his agent and at his expense, endeavor to contract for him for such delivery at a reasonable price.
 5. No responsibility attaches to this Company concerning messages until the same are accepted at one of its transmitting offices; and if a message is sent to such office by one of the Company's messengers, he acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender.
 6. The Company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where the claim is not presented in writing to the Company within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission; provided, however, that this condition shall not apply to claims for damages or overcharges within the purview of Section 415 of the Communications Act of 1934.
 7. It is agreed that in any action by the Company to recover the tolls for any message or messages the prompt and correct transmission and delivery thereof shall be presumed, subject to rebuttal by competent evidence.
 8. Special terms governing the transmission of messages according to their classes, as enumerated below, shall apply to messages in each of such respective classes in addition to all the foregoing terms.
 9. No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY
INCORPORATED
R. B. WHITE, PRESIDENT

TELEGRAMS

A full-rate expedited service.

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A deferred service at lower than the standard telegram rates.

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Messages sent in sections during the same day.

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Accepted up to 2 A.M. for delivery not earlier than the following morning at rates substantially lower than the standard telegram or day letter rates.

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A service to ships at sea, in all parts of the world. Plain language or code language may be used.

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The standard service, at full rates. Code messages, consisting of 4-letter groups only, at a lower rate.

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Plain-language messages, subject to being deferred in favor of full-rate messages.

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Overnight plain-language messages.

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Messages taking precedence over all other messages except government messages.

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- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Christmas | New Year | Easter |
| Valentine's Day | Mother's Day | Father's Day |
| Jewish New Year | Thanksgiving | |
- CONGRATULATIONS ON**
- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Anniversaries | Weddings |
| Birthdays | Commencement |
| | Birth of a Child |
- MISCELLANEOUS**
- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Bon Voyage telegrams | "Pep" telegrams |
| Kiddiegrams (No 35¢ rate) | |

ASK AT ANY WESTERN UNION OFFICE OR AGENCY FOR FULL INFORMATION

0545

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITIES
SEP 8 1941
JOINT OFFICE

August 21, 1941

Miss Grace M. Boynton
Room 1132
510 West Sixth Street
Los Angeles, California

Dear Miss Boynton:

Occasionally one's efforts are crowned with success. So far we have been able to make things click, and provided the Fates are not against you, you should be in a position now to sail the Pacific. Your passport is enclosed, and we have secured the Chinese visa. It will be necessary, however, for you to secure a British visa, which you understand is a transit one for Hongkong. I am getting these off by registered air mail, with the assurance that they will reach you in ample time for your convenience. I understand that the boat will probably leave on the 26th.

There is a great place for you in the group at Chengtu, and I am sure you will have as delightful a relationship as you have experienced at Yenching. My prayers go with you.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

CAE:EC
Enclosure

Acting Executive Secretary

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AUG 22 1941
JOINT OFFICE

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SARON LONG, PRESIDENT
CHARLES BAAD, MANAGING DIRECTOR
EDWARD S. BERNARD, MANAGER

THE BILTMORE HOTEL
LOS ANGELES



August 25-1941.

Dear Mr. Evans,

Your exertions on my behalf and your kind messages bidding me God speed have all been deeply appreciated, and I had hoped I could write you only about that appreciation. But a difficulty has arisen about the British visa for my passport, and I must ask for still more help.

I arrived this morning and so did all my baggage. My passport was waiting for me, and I shall sail tomorrow. When I went to the British Consulate

"SEE AMERICA FIRST"

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I was informed that no visas are given except upon express authority from the Commissioner of Police in Hongkong. The Consul expressed surprise that I had not been told this before leaving the coast, but when he showed me the order from the British Embassy, I saw it was dated August 14 - too recent for Mr. Carr in Boston to have heard about, when he made inquiries of the British Consul there.

I find that Gardner Terwhobury has this authority to get a visa. The body issuing it in his case is the ^{British} Passport Control in New York. They sent a telegram to Los Angeles, and Gardner is getting his visa. He does not know whether the permission in his case originated in this country, or whether his Board actually did have to get it from Hongkong. The Consul here insists that it must have come from Hongkong.

0549

- 2 -
BARON LONG, PRESIDENT
CHARLES BAAD, MANAGING DIRECTOR
EDWARD S. BERNARD, MANAGER

THE BILTMORE HOTEL
LOS ANGELES



to the Passport Control in New York - but I have heard this kind of thing before and found that the right people can act locally if they choose!

Could you, therefore, inquire of the Presbyterian Board how they got Gardner's visa, and take steps to get ^{one} for me when I reach Manila? My address there will be Co The American Express Co.

In looking over the letter of instructions given me by Mr. Belcher, I found a paragraph which offers other possibilities in case I don't qualify for a visa just as Gardner Tewksbury has. I quote:

"I have just received a letter from

"SEE AMERICA FIRST"

0550

Miss Hartwell, Foochow Mission, in which she speaks of the fact that Bishop Hall, who, I think, is the Anglican Bishop in Hongkong, is ready to be of any assistance to our [American Board] people, and refers especially to the Bishop's secretary, Dr. Charles Harth at the Bishop's House, Hongkong. I think therefore, that you would feel safe in counting on any help or assistance in Hongkong. from him."

I am not yet making any personal moves to obtain the visa, because it seems to me that the effort of the Nanking University office ought to be much more efficacious. I shall await word from you in Manila, and shall hope it will arrive in time for the earliest boat to Hongkong. If nothing comes, I will ask Mr. Tenhobury, who will certainly be going on, to see what he

BARON LONG, PRESIDENT
CHARLES BAAD, MANAGING DIRECTOR
EDWARD S. BERNARD, MANAGER

- 3 -

THE BILTMORE HOTEL
LOS ANGELES



can do for me when he reaches Hongkong.
But this would entail waiting over a foot,
and I hope that will not be necessary.

I am sorry indeed to be further disturb-
ing a well-earned and only slightly-
enjoyed vacation. And I am so grateful
for your mention of your prayers for me. I
think perhaps we do not speak often enough
now, of the deep underlying motives
and faiths. There only are sufficient
for us in these days, and I therefore
specially thank you.

Yours very faithfully

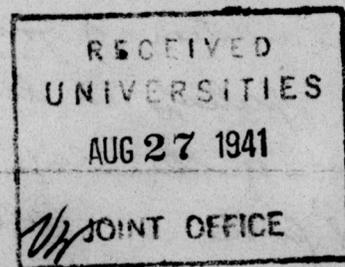
Grace M. Bryntun

P.S. The Consul here specifically advised me

"SEE AMERICA FIRST"

0552

to cable Bishop Hall to see the Hongkong
Commissioner of Police and get him to
cable authority to issue my visa to
the British Consul in Manila. But, as
I remarked, I am not doing this now.
I once met Bishop Hall at a Hongkong dinner
party, but he wouldn't remember me. He
is much more likely to know about
Nanking University!



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Charge to the account of ~~ASSOC. CHR. COLLEGES IN CHINA, 180 5th Ave.~~

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CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
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Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the cablegram will be transmitted at full rates.

WESTERN UNION CABLEGRAM

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TIME FILED

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

September 10, 1941

DEFERRED

GRACE BOYTON
AMRGO
MANILA (Philippine Islands)

CALL BRITISH CONSULATE VISA

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITIES
SEP 15 1941
JOINT OFFICE

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

0554

September 11, 1941

Miss Grace M. Boynton
c/o American Express Company
4 Des Voeux Road Central
Hongkong, CHINA

Dear Miss Boynton:

This will reach you after you have crossed the Pacific, which I trust has been accomplished without undue discomfort.

It may be of interest for you to know that Dr. Stuart cabled us requesting that your case be opened with the State Department and asked that you be transferred back to Yenching University. We did this immediately and stated the case as strongly as we could, but promptly came the reply that under no circumstances would they permit you to go into occupied China.

Therefore, you will proceed, as originally outlined, to the University of Hanking at Chengtu, and I trust that the American Express will have a reservation for you.

Dr. Winifred Shannon of the Presbyterian Board is to spend the year at Chengtu, after which she will take up her work in India. She will arrive on the PRESIDENT TAYLOR which should be in Hongkong between the 27th and 30th of the month. We hope that the Express Company will be able to secure reservations on the same plane.

Our best wishes go with you, and I certainly will be interested in receiving your comments regarding the trip.

Incidentally, a long article appeared in the Scarsdale "INQUIRER" telling of your work at Yenching and of your sailing back to Peking.

Our prayers go with you.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

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Copy of letter to Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Boring, 21 Bowdoin Street, Cambridge, Mass.
Letter came by air to Durban via Calcutta and onward by surface transport.

The University of Nanking
Cheng Tu, Szechwan, January 16, 1942

Dear Garry and Lucy:

It is considerably over a month now since Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, and since Americans in Yenching were interned. We in West China have had to wait a long time for any news of friends in the North, but I have now received a letter from Yenching dated December 12 which gives a few details about what happened on the campus on the morning of the 8th when the Japanese took over. This was written by Edith Czech, an Austrian, and it is the only word which has come through to West China from Yenching since the 8th as far as I know. I think possibly Edith's German passport gave her more consideration than was granted English and Americans. My latest word from Alice herself is dated December 1st.

Edith says that all foreign members of the staff were called to a meeting at the President's house at about 10 o'clock on December 8. There the Japanese military - both officials and armed soldiers - confronted them. Edith says:

"The meeting was short. The outcome was heartbreaking. Twenty minutes sufficed to destroy the beautiful work of a whole lifetime of devotion to the young. All buildings are sealed. All students are dismissed. All Western people have to collect and live together in the South compound where we still are allowed servants, heat, light and water."

Edith does not mention anyone by name, so I have so specific news of Leighton or Alice. But this word means she (Alice) has left her Lang Jün Yuan house and is with the rest of us in the South compound. Whether Leighton is there, or is shut up by himself somewhere, we don't know. The newspapers had a telegram saying he had "lost his liberty."

Some Chinese here have received letters from Chinese members of the Yenching staff. They are guarded in the extreme in what they say, and are all from people who report that they are now visiting relatives or friends in Peking. They are careful not to speak of Yenching by name and not to mention people by name. It looks as though the Chinese staff was scattering, just as the students have scattered.

From Shanghai and Nanking we have more news, and all reports indicate that foreigners are living comfortably in their own homes but are very strictly guarded by Japanese soldiers - not by "puppet" Chinese. One school in Shanghai has armed Japanese at its gates. It is therefore probable that the South compound at Yenching is similarly guarded. It is our smallest and most compact compound and would be the easiest to watch.

I think it worth while to send you this meagre news which has come to me, although you may have been able to secure more information than this. May I ask, if you have, that you let me know what you hear? I am told that one or two Chinese teachers from Yenching are known to have got into Free China territory, and are expected to arrive here. They will be a long time on the way, but when they come I may know more, in which case I will send you whatever information I get.

There are various schemes for re-establishing Yenching here (in Chengtu), but they are still in such an embryonic stage that it is not worth while to write about them. Harvard-Yenching has some work going on on this campus already, and would be a logical center for graduate students.

My paper is nearly used up, and this does not seem a time to write about this and that. I am glad to be here at work -- and we haven't had an air raid since I came. That's all my news. My affectionate greetings to you both from -

/s/ Grace M. Boynton

0557

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AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS
14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Information Service

China

MARY D. ULINE,
Secretary

March 30, 1942

NOTE: This letter came via air mail. On the envelope were the following directions: "By British Overseas Air ways to Lagos Nigeria, via Calcutta and thence by P.A.A. (Pan American Air Ways) to destination." In a personal paragraph Miss Boynton said, "This letter is very general and not very significant, I fear, but there are reasons for both unsatisfactory qualities... When the atmosphere is grim, one may overdo the bright smile! We have a lot to be thankful for here and we are doing our best to improve the shining opportunities, for we don't know how long they may last. The news from Singapore is full of significance for Rangoon, and if that falls, and the Burma Road is cut, the result may be a different picture here on this campus. One thinks about many things one does not say. I am very thankful over the news from North China which in general is more favorable than I dared to hope."

Miss Boynton's letter of October 26, 1941, was widely distributed. We hope that some of the replies have reached her, for letters are a great source of help and strength to our missionaries at this time.

Mary D. Uline.

The University of Nanking
Cheng Tu, Szechuan
February 8, 1942
(Received March 27, 1942)

Dear Friends,

This Szechuan--translated Four Rivers--has me all mixed up. Consider now. This is February, the season of hot water bags and running noses and Washington's birthday, etc., but I am sitting out of doors without a coat in wine-warm sunshine. I see a great branch of pink double plum blossoms stretched against blue sky, and all full of jewel butterflies with black and gold and coral-spotted wings. And soon it will be China New Year,- not Washington's birthday at all. And furthermore, I believe I am the only person in my house who is glad to see the sun. Szechuan winter months are very cloudy and misty, and people here are thankful for the dull low-hanging skies, because then the Japanese planes cannot find us. Just as soon as we have a fine day, faces look anxious.

0558

Wouldn't anyone be mixed up about a world where we cringe when the sun shines?

My last letter concluded with my arrival here. Now I have finished my first semester's work and can write some more. I feel rather pleased with myself when I reflect how neatly I passed Honolulu and Manila and Hongkong before the Japanese arrived. In Yenching, the students always referred to the Japs as "the visiting team," and they seem now to be playing around all over the place. Before this reaches you, I suppose the fate of Singapore will have been decided. One British Tommy in a hospital in Singapore is reported as saying, "One Britisher is a match for ten Japs, but unfortunately there are eleven Japs hanging around just now." And so it seems.

And what is life in Free China like? It is very much more enjoyable than I had expected. All the things which are different are, as far as they touch me, a bit humorous. I teach in a class room which was built to be a hospital laundry; I live in a house in which a good many panes of glass have been shattered by bombs, and in which the electric lights won't turn on because a transformer was too heavily loaded and blew out and there doesn't seem to be another this side of Rangoon. Result, I use at night a little clay lamp with three holes and three wicks (made of an old undershirt which is vastly superior to the native wicks) and which burns a native vegetable oil which is smoky and lurid as to light, and quite vile as to smell; but this lamp is exactly like the pictures of lamps which I associate with the Bible stories about the Wise and Foolish Virgins. You see, (and here I am not being humorous) candles cost four dollars and fifty cents apiece,* and kerosene is so precious that you have to get the government's permission to buy it, which is the same as saying that you don't buy it at all. I roam the campus grasping my one American fountain pen with a desperate clutch even though it is perfectly safe in the depths of my coat pocket, because I heard a day or two ago that a man found a second-hand Parker fountain pen in a shop and when he tried to buy it was asked fifteen hundred dollars! And when my American shoe soles began to wear out, I found the proper thing to do was to have rubber soles cut from worn automobile tires; they have irregularities of surface, and you feel rather as if you were on rockers when you wear them, but they are all the rage among us refugees. As for the ways in which warm under things to wear in winter are contrived, I should really blush to tell you the stories which circulate among missionary wives! But all these things are food for good stories. The whole thing is summed up I think by the gay young colleague who said to me as she mended her five-year old stocking, "You know, last night I dreamed I had got to Heaven and when I looked around it turned out to be Woolworth's Five and Ten on the Main Street at Home."

When I first took up my teaching in Nanking University I asked my students what their major subjects were, and was told that they were about evenly divided between the Department of Horticulture and

*All figures are in Chinese dollars. A Chinese dollar is worth about five cents in U.S.A. currency today.

the Department of Agricultural Economics. The last was something I had never heard of before, but I find that there is a greater demand for graduates of this course of study than of any other. I was glad to discover that now I am teaching students who are going to make very practical contributions to the management of The Good Earth in China. I asked if my pupils were really going to farm, and was told that very few of them would do that. But they will be bringing modern science in both the social and physical fields of knowledge, into Chinese rural life. Nanking was the first institution to see the need of this training, and she has a distinguished record in supplying it. She has seven Agricultural Experiment Stations scattered all over China, from which improved seed and improved methods are given to the farmers; she is pushing improved products and better living conditions. Her standards for personal conduct are very high. She has received a Government award for her moral tone and fine discipline. And she cannot begin to take the students who want to come. We have just given entrance examination to twelve hundred students, from whom we have room for only one hundred and fifty. Nanking's brave record in holding on in Nanking under bombing and all the distractions of war, and then the courage and good order in which she made her retreat to Szechuan and the determination with which she carries on here, - all this makes her seem a heroic institution, and I am proud that she has a place for me and that there is something I can do for Free China through her.

Of course this all makes me think of Yenching, of which I was speaking to you last year. I was telling you that Yenching carried on under the perils of the Occupation. And now, I can tell you, she carried on to the morning of December 8. Then the Japanese came, and closed her doors. They have shown some kindness to western teachers who are concentrated in one of our Residence Compounds and are allowed to have heat, light, water and service. But they arrested the most prominent of our Chinese professors and some of our students, and those people are still in prison so far as we here in the west can discover. The letters which come to me from Yenching all say, "We are so glad that you are free to go on working." You can imagine that my thoughts as I work, are very full of my fellow-workers who are now in the hands of an enemy.

I think I must tell you a little story about one of my boys here as I close, though it is not a story you would usually find in a letter like this! You have heard of the American Volunteer pilots and engineers on the Burma Road. Well how do you suppose those boys get along with no Chinese language? How, indeed, but by having Nanking University students act as interpreters! The Government has recently issued a call and one of my pupils came to see me to tell me that he was leaving for this service. He is a quiet, modest sort, rather formal in manner and rather elegant in his tastes, and I felt misgivings as to how he would get along with my "he-men" compatriots. So I tried to warn him a little--to tell him that American words and ways might be brusque but hearts were usually kind and he must try not to be troubled by differences of manners as long as the necessary work was accomplished. A little note came back from him. It says, "My Kind Teacher, I am interpreter for Lieut. L. He is with good heart and loud speaker. In first five minute conversation he remarked Godamit thrice. I understand your meanings." Well, well East and West are now meeting with a vengeance

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The Department of Agricultural Economics. The last was something
Letter from Grace Boynton -4- I
on the Burma Road.

This didn't get posted--for posting an air mail letter is a
more complicated business than you might think, and not to be
entered into unless you have plenty of time, patience, extra "stick"
for the stamps, and eighteen dollars and seventy cents (over 90 cents)
for postage, all at hand simultaneously. I don't always get every-
thing organized when I should.

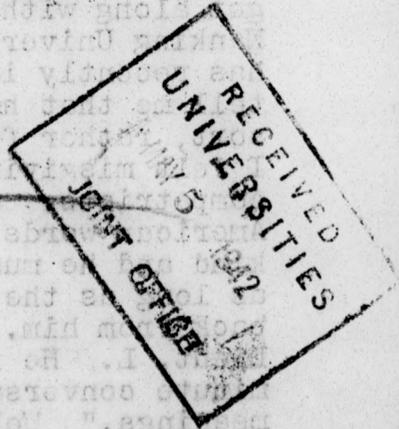
Well, I'm more mixed than ever, for promptly after I wrote
that lyric bit about plum blossoms etc. the sky darkened, and it
came on the snow and it has snowed now for four days! This is sup-
posed to be the first of such grand liberality since Nature exerted
herself eight years ago in a similar way; but I could now be lyric
all over again about bright red quince buds outlined in snow, and
Chinese roof shapes ditto, but I don't think I will!

I should like, instead to have you glimpse with me, the way in
which this refugee community is carrying on the various Christian
interests which the war breaks up; these interests seem to be the
exact opposite of Humpty Dumpty who couldn't be put together again.
It's rather inspiring to see the putting together happen. First of
all, the people here were mostly dependent for money on either
Hongkong or Shanghai. Now, of course, they are cut off from support
from those financial centers; and yet everybody is provided for; the
machinery is too complicated for me to understand, but the devoted
souls here and at home who manage Mission funds have seen to it,
that somehow people are cared for. Our missionaries, themselves,
have looked after the Orphaned Missions of the continent of Europe,
and now they are carried in their time of emergency. It does seem
marvelous to me. And then there are the many Christian organiza-
tions which were based on Shanghai. Some, like the Y.W.C.A. moved
in time, and had their National Headquarters all set up here in
Cheng Tu before the War of the Pacific began; but others like The
Church of Christ in China got caught, and is reorganizing on an
emergency basis out here. The short term for this is the C.C.C.,
and I am going to work for them a little this spring, so perhaps
by and by I can tell you more about them. They are the body which
includes the vast majority of the Christian Communions in China, and
they were founded on a word of one of our own American Board Chinese
who said, "We must agree to differ, and resolve to love."

With warmest greetings to you all, I am

Yours very sincerely,

GRACE M. BOYNTON.



April 10, 1942

My brother (Dr. Edwin G. Boring) wrote the Censor's office in Washington, asking about mail to China for internees, and received word from Byron Price's office as follows:-

"Arrangements are just now being made to set up facilities for handling mail to Prisoners of War, Internees, and Detainees. Although these arrangements are not fully completed, I suggest you send under cover the proposed message for your sister in an unsealed envelope to the District Postal Censor, Main Post Office Building, Chicago, Illinois.

"The correspondence should be sent to the censorship station ready for posting and after it has been censored, it will be deposited in the mails by the station. Since the letter contains no detrimental information, it will be released promptly by our Chicago Office."

s/s Lydia T. Boring

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Copy of a letter from Grace Boynton, written June 7th, Chengtu.

Yesterday we had a big American mail and Grace Riggs received the letter you wrote Lucius in her care. It is considered necessary to open and read all mail which we are asked to forward to Occupied China in order to be sure that nothing which everyone concerned would regret may happen, so I asked Grace to tell me what you said about getting news, and she read me bits from your letter. She will send it on, but in the meantime I want to let you know all that I know about the people at Yenching and I wish you would forward this to all the Yenching wives who may be interested.

First of all I want to say that I am disappointed that my own efforts to send you all the news seem to have been only partially successful. I knew how ~~anxious~~ anxious you all would be and just as soon as my first word came thru in early Feb. from Lucy Burtt, I sent radiograms by the Chungking Mailbag to the Board, the New York Office, to you, to the Speers, and to Grace Smith in care of her son-in-law. So far as I have heard, the message to the Board was the only one which got thru. It was my information which you quote in your letter to Lux. I also sent a radio to Anna Wilson at the last address in Claremont which I had for. All these should have been broadcast Feb. 10. About the first of April Leatrice received an inquiry about Ran from Louise and I sent off a reply at once saying Ran was all right and have heard indirectly that this reply reached her. At the same time I sent a message to Louise Galt and a letter has recently come thru from her which has a veiled message of a good report having reached her about her husband and son, so I hope some of my attempts have been successful. About a week later I sent a message to Flo, for a letter had come thru from Alice Boring saying Sherm was turning his unexpected vacation into a thoro-going rest-cure. I had no address for her and had to send thru Anna. Now a recent letter from Alice asks me to send Anna a message, but our Mail-bag privileges have been cut to one message a month and I can not send another until July so I am putting Stanley's message into this letter which should reach you in five weeks if it makes as good time as my last from home and can carry the message in its entirety which the Mail-bag could not. Alice writes: "S.D. wants me to tell you he is flourishing and his household of grass widowers and bachelors is the merriest on the compound even tho they do guy him about giving them too many beans to eat! There was some strange rumor about him, so he would love it if you could get news to Anna to say he is entirely all right and safe." This was dated April 26.

Augusta in a very juicy letter speaks of repatriation prospects and says; "Stanley has been 'house-mother' to Bi, Lang Gilkey, Sherm, Ran and Dr. Adolph; they have had a good time and enjoyed being together. Stanley is keen to get home to his Anna and his Goonies and because he wishes it so much is sure we will be home in six months time at the latest.-----Aline's husband (the letters usually speak of J.L.S. in some roundabout way) was hoping to be repatriated but all possibility of repatriation has been postponed for a month, it is said, and who goes and who does not is not in our hands. Aline's husband is banking all his hopes on getting away but I fear he may be doomed to disappointment. He was looking well and in quite good spirits when we saw him a week ago but I hear he is rather low over the postponement of evaluation. He is doing the house-keeping for the family, who are Dr. Houghton and some other P.U.M.C. people in the Ying Compound and they are living well." This was written April 13.

Since February I have been hearing from the Yenching group fairly regularly and on March 20th Lucius wrote me the following postcard: "Please request Trustees circulate the following information to all relatives in all countries. Yenching community interned totals 42 adults and 4 children. De Vargas and family moved to Peking to assist Swiss office caring for alien interests. All well and busy. Group organized, with financial, housing, supplies, medical, and executive committees. Members engage in intellectual, recreational, religious, physical and musical activities, with ~~some~~ due time for relaxation. Are planting and tending gardens (vegetable). Morale excellent. President resides by order in the Ying Compound. Thirteen native colleagues still away from the main group detained on the city."

This message came late in April when Y.P. happened to be here. It was too

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June 7, 1942

long for the Mail-bag and I knew Y.P. was cabling the trustees, so he took charge of it. I have not heard that anyone received the message, so I repeat it in case it never got thru.

Augusta, Alice and Edith Czech all report the dismay which overtook them when they were told to pack up and get out of University property. After a week of frenzied attempts to find somewhere to go, they asked if they might remain in the South Compound until the diplomats departed from the San Kiam Miao and then go there, and they were finally told they might remain where they were for the present, and they hope to stay thru the hot weather and harvest their vegetables!

Alice says they all pooled their resources in the beginning of the internment and people lived on 120-140 dollars a month. Now they are on the "dole" and draw \$200 a month, but she says they really need a little money since all of the dole must be used for food and overhead expenses, and Augusta writes that it was a problem to get food that was nourishing and not "too nasty". Martha and Alice both feel that a triumph of science and good sportsmanship was achieved in the solution of the food problem. Ruth writes that the Japanese who live in Wan Ying's house and a part of V.K.'s are surprised and a little at a loss to account for the good spirits of their charges.. Our Yenching people have a lot to be thankful for in comparison with our brave Chinese in prison. I am going to write the story of their ordeal for the New York Office at the end of this month when it is a little more complete than it is now, and I haven't room to put it down here. It is one to make us all proud, and no one is reported dead or seriously ill. Yenching has now her patriots who have suffered and risked their lives rather than serve the aggressors.

Everyone reports Lucius as in good spirits and supporting morale. He labors very earnestly in the "57" vegetable garden. There are choir, dramatic evenings, and once a week a sort of shop club. No one has mentioned his special share in these things, but knowing Lucius we know it is a large one. I cannot help being glad he is in the group altho I often think of you and feel guilty at being glad.

Will you get word to the rest? My love to them all.

Grace

P.S. I would have written to you all before, when word first began to come, but at that time no mail was moving in or out of Free China. From December to April the radio was our only means of communication with the U.S.A.

Grace Smith - Mrs. S. K. Smith.

Anna Wilson - Mrs. S. D. Wilson.

Leatrice - Leatrice Murray, a Yenching graduate working in Great China Union University, who I feel sure would be in touch with friends of Mrs. Sailer in case he was in Free China.

Louise Galt - Mrs. Howard Galt.

Ho - Mrs. S. O. Wilson.

Sharon - Dr. S. O. Wilson

Angela - Angela Dreyfus

Bi - Mrs. Blum, an elderly Amstertown with many years experience in China.

Alma Lusk - Dr. Stuart.

Y.P. = Y. P. Mei. (copy)

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14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Information Service

CHINA

MARY D. ULINE,
Secretary

Yenching in Chengtu

Excerpts from personal
letter from Grace M. Boynton
Yenching University, Peking
now in Chengtu, West China

Written September 30, 1942

Yenching-in Chen Tu (also written Chengtu) is now a fact. Classes have begun, and in spite of all difficulties morale is high. Our young folk are still arriving. Almost every day a girl in slacks arrives from the long truck ride between us and the Yellow River point at which most of the Yenching refugees enter Free China. She is always grimy and cheerful; sometimes she has bedding and baggage, often she has not, but when she comes into our gates she knows she is at home once more. The early arrivals greet her with enthusiasm and carry her off to get a bath and be installed in a room where there is as yet exactly one article of furniture -- a plank bed. People share clothes and bed covers until the newly arrived can connect with the relief money which will make it possible for her to face the winter. We have also admitted about a hundred and fifty local students so our dormitories and courts present contrasts.

We are in the midst of an inflation which is going to be like Germany's after the last war. Economists view this winter with anxiety because they say the crash is bound to come before spring. By crash they say they mean the point at which the "index" jumps so that money is no longer a medium of exchange. I believe they say that in Germany when the "index" reached 70% it then jumped to 700 or 7000 -- money was no longer worth anything. And when that happened the salaried classes ceased to exist. People either became manual laborers or starved. Here in China unless the government does something about exchange our Christian institutions will have to close when the index jumps. One American dollar is now legally exchangeable for twenty local dollars, but the economists say it should exchange for about two hundred! The government has "pegged" exchange -- for reasons that seem good to them, I suppose! I am not worrying about this matter, for I know I do not understand Economics, and worrying is no good anyhow. But I offer this summary of what is going on as background for what I may be having to report later. I never saw an institution that showed less expectation of closing than my own at the present minute. Everyone is full of confidence and full of plans for the future, and so far, a way

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has been found out of all difficulties.

I imagine the details of our life are of more interest than discussions of the local economic situation or of our general administrative policies, or any of the highbrow considerations (a nice polysyllabic word, don't you think?) which I suppose should be talked about. Let me give you a sketch of my day:

I am usually wakened about half past five by the noise the servants make as they start the fires in the dormitory kitchens which are near at hand. At six o'clock I hear a thump outside my door; the "amah" has brought up a wooden bucket of wash water for me and my two young English girls who help in the English department. The water is supposed to be hot, or at least warm; it does not always manage this desirable condition. The only containers for heating water are the cooking "kuos". These are big shallow iron bowls under which the fires are made. The kuo is filled with wash water and the servants tip a little hot into the buckets for the dormitory and then add cold ad lib -- so the temperature of your water is quite variable. You can't send back for more because the kuo is at once filled with breakfast as soon as the wash water buckets are filled.

I rise and dress while the amah makes a tiny charcoal fire in a clay pot on the porch outside my room. On this she boils a kettle of water, and she has now mastered the art of setting my breakfast tray, for I take this meal in my 8 by 10 room. When I have made my bed and put away all the implements of washing, I sit in the one chair by the one table and the tray comes in. I have a little red clay teapot settled into a sort of cover of palm tree fibre which keeps it hot. I have, in addition, a little metal top kettle with a place in the middle of it for some red embers of charcoal -- it's the samovar principle only introduced into a pot with a handle. I have also the kettle from my Girl Scout mess kit, and this contains my boiled egg. There are two slices of bread which the amah tried to toast with the tongs she uses for the charcoal -- so far her success has not been great. And then there is a piece of fruit. I bring the bread, the fruit, and the egg from the house where I eat dinner at night, and so my breakfast is just a case of "add hot water and serve".

Before I have emerged from my room the noise of the carpenters in the courtyard has begun. The price of wood doubles every two weeks, and our young business manager, when confronted with the job of getting furniture made for 300 people, cannily bought quantities of unsawed timber in the summer and had it hauled inside the compound walls. Here the men have been at work upon it ever since August, and now finished articles are beginning to find their way into class rooms and offices -- but only beds have been put in the bedrooms as yet. It is a little embarrassing to have an army of carpenters and a forest of timbers in the midst of opening the University, but that is a trifle, of course. I have been made head of the Landscape Committee but I don't expect to try to function until we stop being a combination of a sawmill and a cabinet maker's establishment.

At eight o'clock I am in my office -- which is the pleasantest

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room in the whole set-up, and which I have furnished in part myself. I share the room with my English girls and my blessed Chinese assistant who is also an old student and who behaves as if remembering the things I forget and doing all my arithmetic. This girl, Lo Hsiu Chen, came out of occupied China with her young doctor husband and her baby. The husband is on the staff of the government hospital here which is largely recruited from the doctors who belonged in the Peking Union Medical College. The baby, Hsiu Chen left with her husband's family in Loyang. She has thrown herself heart and soul into the task of reopening Yenching; I do not know what would happen to me without her.

The morning goes in classes and interviews with students. New arrivals are always reporting; yesterday one old Yenching boy came in to register. In 1937 he left us to go into the army and he has had four years at the front and is now just out of hospital with permission to finish with us for his degree. Another boy graduated in '38 and has been working in a factory ever since. He is a Physics Major and wants more work-- and more English--to prepare him for further usefulness. Another was only a freshman--she looks like a Chinese doll. She left Peking in July disguised as a country woman with her "permanent-wave" greased flat and the cotton head dress to disguise it. She told me she had not been able to brush her hair for sixteen nights. It took her that time to get out of Japanese territory. I said, "You have had a hard journey" to which she replied sweetly, "It was not easy". But she was all dimples and had no complaints.

In addition to seeing the students and teaching, there is a lot of business to look after. We are reprinting the Yenching English texts and we find local institutions want to buy them. I have turned that sort of thing over to my young English girls and they seem to enjoy arguing with our Treasurer to get capital, making deals with the printers and selling the product. In fact, everybody seems to enjoy hugely their share in setting up this baby Yenching, and we all work to the point of exhaustion without much noticing how it happens that we haven't any strength left as we drop into bed.

At noon I go to luncheon with the only other foreigners on our staff. Ralph Lapwood is an Englishman who joined our Mathematics Department in the north and after three years with us felt he ought to respond to the urgent call of Rewi Alley to go into Free China and do statistics for the Cooperatives. He has served them for three years and now is back with us and is Dean of our College of Science. He is married to "Nancy" a very pleasant Australian girl who was born and brought up in China. I am much touched at the way in which the Lapwoods have made me a part of their household. I do not go to them for breakfasts because I feel they should have a part of the day in family privacy, but lunch and dinner I have with them. It is good for their finances. They have three rooms in a house in this compound, and are struggling to furnish the "flat"; but with prices as they are it is a great puzzle how to manage even bare necessities.

Afternoons I sit in committee--and evenings too most of the time. I loathe committees but as I am senior member of the faculty, I go to almost all of them, and of course, it is fun to be at the heart of the show and be consulted about all that goes on. In fact, I find that I have now arrived at the place where my seniority excuses my faults, and the respect and affection with which I am treated fill

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me with amazement and gratitude.

I have remarked that students come in from the north almost every day. I should add that we have gathered a remnant of our faculty from the north; we now have 35 on our pay roll here and of these about 27 were with us in the north. They are mostly the Junior people, and many of them are old students of mine as well as colleagues.

Well, well you see that I have not many ideas outside my little groove. But you see, too, how absorbing and satisfying I find life in this new Yenching.

Oh--Wilkie has been here. We were told to hold ourselves in readiness to attend a tea in his honor, and I went for the first time to a place called the Moral Endeavor Hall, which is the scene of most of Chang Tu's official functions. The following morning he addressed a mass meeting of all the students of the five Christian Universities on the West China Campus. Our Yenching President, Y. P. Mei, translated for him. The Chinese students liked him very much and wanted to know whether he would really be our next president.

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Mary D. Uline, Secretary

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