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Boynton, Grace 1943-1944

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燕京大學

YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU
CHENGTU CHINA

CARE OF DREW UNIVERSITY
MADISON

Jan 10., 1943

Mr. B. C. Garside
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Evans,

A recent mail from the north brought a letter from Dr. Galt which he asks me to forward to you, and in duplicate to Mr. Hsieh Ching-Sheng whose address he gives as Care of Drew University Madison, New Jersey. Since he has used rather thick paper, I am transcribing as follows:

Mr. B.C. Garside (or Mr. C.A. Evans)
Secretary Board of Trustees
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City.

American Board Mission, Peking
4 Dec.--1942

Dear Mr. Garside,

At the special request of Mr. Wu Lei-Chuan, our former Chancellor--who is speaking on behalf of Mrs. Hsieh---I am writing to seek information regarding the whereabouts and circumstances of Mr. Hsieh Ching-sheng who, in the summer of 1940 went from our Institution to Hartford Theological Seminary for further study. No letter from Mr. Hsieh has been received by his wife for more than a year, and she is naturally becoming very anxious about him. Sometime--perhaps a year ago--word came that he had transferred from Hartford to another institution the name of which I do not have here. (The address I give above came in the letter which had passed through the hands of Dr. Hsu Pao Chen--probably he supplied it. G.M.B.) An effort will be made to enclose the new address with this letter, but if this is not possible you can doubtless get the information by applying to the Hartford Seminary office.)

Mrs. Hsieh is afraid that something untoward has happened to Mr. Hsieh---and his friends are all anxious---for other students studying abroad have managed to get letters back to their wives in roundabout ways. Any information you can send will be very gratefully received. I may add that thus far we have managed to provide for Mrs. Hsieh and her family, financially.

With cordial greetings

Sincerely yours

Howard S. Galt

I may add that anything you wish to say to Dr. Galt or Mrs. Hsieh may be sent to me here. I have been fortunate in maintaining a fairly frequent and uninterrupted communication with our people in the north and can probably forward anything you wish to say about Hsieh Ching Sheng.

I often think of your goodness to me at the time when I was leaving New York for China. How grateful I am that you made it possible for me to be in Cheng Tu to serve Yenching when her refugee time came! I long to send you a full account of Yenching's coming to Free China and hope to manage it soon. I know Y.P. has given you all the facts; I long to put on some of my kind of color!

With most cordial greetings to you and all friends in the Yenching Office

I am

Very sincerely yours,

Grace M. Brynston

0571

January 12, 1945

Miss Grace Boynton
Yenching University
Chengtu, Szechuan, China

Dear Grace:

It was good to get your message a few days ago, though it will be hard for me to live up to your expectations as I am in this office only on a part-time basis and that for only a limited period, one-third of which is almost over. But I shall do the best I can.

We have been watching with a great deal of interest developments at Chengtu, and especially the opening of Yenching University. How providential it was that you were at Chengtu ready to function from the word "go".

My main purpose in writing is to see whether we can enlist your help in sending us material written by students, giving interesting side-lights on the situation in China today. It seems to us to be a good opportunity to tell the story of the China Colleges to the churches of America, and one way to do this is to saturate the religious press. We have a list of over 200 of the leading denominational papers and have the set-up for sending out periodical releases and stories. But the material that comes from China nowadays is a mere trickle and even that is often not suitable for publication. It seems to us that the English departments of the Colleges might be of great help to us in furnishing us with appropriate material, and that without too great labor on their part. Students do still write "themes", I suppose, and whenever one comes into your hands that describes Chinese life in an interesting way, we shall be very grateful if you would share it with us. We realize that air mail postage is very high, and that with prices of commodities rising, it is likely to seem extravagant to pay for any more postage than is absolutely necessary. But this is the wrong place for economy from our point of view. Frequently a single letter from China has resulted in thousands of dollars in gifts. At the present moment, America is ready and eager to learn more about China, but less news is coming through than at any time in the last forty years. So please help us fill the vacuum, and we shall be glad to reimburse you for the postage.

It is not easy to specify the subjects that will be interesting to the American people, for almost anything is interesting provided it touches deep human realities which are common to all peoples. Some of the extra-curricular and summer activities of students, which reveal their sense of concern for their own people are very absorbing. Then there are stories of their own adventures in reaching college, their reasons for choosing a Christian institution, the sacrifices made by their parents, their idea of what the future holds for China and the world, the special research projects the colleges are engaged in to help the nation, the make-shifts which are necessary because of war conditions, etc, etc.

Of course we should value most highly a letter or article written by yourself for you combine imagination with charm of diction in an unusual way. But we know you are carrying a heavy teaching load, and so have suggested the sending

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Miss Grace Brynter

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January 12, 1943

along of student writings as a plan that may be productive without adding too much to your burdens.

We have received a couple of letters from our good friend L. R. O. Bevan who came out with the first ship 1

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January 12, 1943

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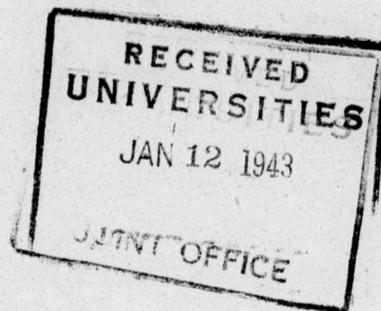
We have received a couple of letters from our good friend L. R. O. Bevan who came out with the first ship load of British repatriates and was at Durban, South Africa, waiting for a ship to Australia, when he wrote. He told us what you have probably heard from other sources that all the westerners left on the Peiping campus had all been brought into Peiping and were housed either in the British Embassy or in San Kuan Miao, connected with the American Embassy. Dr. Snapper, who also came out with the British repatriates, has given us a pretty complete picture of his experiences when under military confinement in company with Dr. Bowen, Dr. Houghton and Dr. Stuart. Though there were trying experiences, there were also many humorous aspects. We are hoping that these men will be included in the next group repatriated, but the general arrangements for this repatriation are dragging along at a very slow rate.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

che:d

Charles H. Corbett



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RECEIVED
UNIVERSITIES

MAR 1 1943

JOINT OFFICE

over
Chengtu, Szechuan, China
February 21, 1943

Dear Friends:

As I think of the six months which have passed since I last wrote you I have decided I can best put you in touch with what has gone on in this Yenching world, which you and others like-minded with you make possible, by giving you a glimpse of single occurrences---. And so I turn back to the first gathering refugee Yenching had of itself in Chengtu.

September afternoon in a Confucian Temple within the city walls. The main hall with its yellow tiled roof stands on its gray foundations at the upper end of the inner court where the spaces are dignified, and where a few lofty pines cast shadows in misty sunlight. A few board seats are arranged in a square, and a few people are seated in silence together. To the left are four members of the faculty; Dr. Han, who returned from America, was caught in the fall of Hongkong, and escaped to come and act as registrar; Dr. Wu the one senior member of staff to reach us from occupied China; Ralph Lapwood brilliant young Britisher who had been given leave of absence from Yenching to serve the Cooperative Movement by Free China as statistician and myself. Facing us were about twenty-five students, three of them girls, who had come from Peking with no knowledge that we were beginning again, but who would not stay in occupied territory. They were thin from the terrible journey, they wore clothes which were faded and threadbare, but they had the resilience of youth. They were sober, but glad. And facing this little remnant of the great University of the north was Dr. Y. P. Mei chosen to act as our head until Dr. Stuart can come back to his own.

We began by rising in silence to remember those of our number who had been imprisoned by the Japanese and whose fate was always upon our hearts. Then Dr. Mei reported the progress which had been made in creating Yenching in Chengtu. A temporary Board of Directors had been set up in Chungking. They communicated with the government and organized the systems of relief stations along the roads which our people might travel. It sounded to me a bit like the underground railroad of slavery days, except that in the long road in Free China there was no need for secrecy and aid was willingly given to Yenching - the University which had been fighting a rear guard action so to speak, which had held one institution free from Japanese domination for four long years, and was now the last to join the other refugee universities in Chengtu. Premises for us had been found in this city with great difficulty: the Methodist Mission had allowed us to take over property belonging to a girls' school which had left on account of the bombings and which supplied us with a girls' dormitory, a building for class rooms (six only!) and for offices. The Governor of Szechuan, a Christian and a man who forwards all good projects in Chengtu made it possible for us to use the temple where we were gathered. The side buildings could house the men students, and the spacious grounds would be a godsend to us all in weather when we could spend time out of doors. Many organizations were giving us a welcome in the form of money for our initial expenses; the host university of West China was opening her library and laboratories to us; we could begin teaching on October first. And so Yenching was to go on, supported by the efforts of her graduates and her friends in Free China and abroad. Word had been received from our trustees in New York encouraging us to proceed. Then we sang the Yenching song and as I looked at the company of less than thirty people who represented an institution which, all told, had numbered three thousand souls in its community, I felt the importance of the spirit and the comparative irrelevance of numbers.

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He told me some of the details of his experience. After Hongkong was taken the Japanese began to reorganize the city with puppet help and Mr. Ma was required to join the new University. He temporized, and was finally kidnapped and taken away to a house where he was allowed to understand what the consequences of his refusal would be. He had already been making plans to go, and take his tribe of students with him; he managed to get out of the house where he was being held,

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The November picture is the first service of the Yenta Christian Fellowship. We had decided to have our worship on Sunday evenings and to begin with a series of sermons from Dr. P. C. Hsu now of the Nanking Theological School, but one of our own Yenching group. Over two hundred of our three hundred students had joined the Fellowship (I might say that we started with about fifty students from the north, by the time registration was finished and admitted about two hundred and fifty applicants from our local examinations.) Well the opening service was almost too much for me; the Methodists kindly welcomed us to their church and we chose their Choir room for our chapel. A little processional cross of wood was made to remind us of the brazen cross in Ninde Chapel - now desecrated by the invader. A table was arranged with a pair of candlesticks I had picked up last year, two clay pots filled with flowers and a cross which was rather unsteady and had to be glued before the service. Fortunately the hymnal which we use in the north and which many of our Yenching folk had a hand in preparing is also used here and copies of it were borrowed and placed in the seats. And when the preparations were complete the students who had been helping me said, "Doesn't it look like home?"

The small room was crowded that night and the students from the north began our Yenching processional for great festivals - "Joyful, joyful we adore thee" in Chinese set to the music from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. They sang with all their hearts and with the hopes of youth, and there was no hint of "looking backward" in the discourse in which P. C. Hsu laid down the duty of the new arrival among the Christian Universities of Chengtu. But for me, there were years of memories and many, many faces absent from that service who were yet with us in spirit, and being a privileged person, I sat in a shadow and let the tears come for a little while.

November is Thanksgiving month and you might like a glimpse of how we gave thanks in 1942.

The American community always eats together upon that occasion, and there are 110 of us. For years the housewives in charge have made an effort to produce the traditional menu, but this year it seemed not only not right but almost impossible. One chicken was priced at \$200.00 mex. (\$10.00US); coffee was \$400.00 mex. (\$20.00US) the pound. So we had a sort of hamburger steak, two vegetables and squash pie. At the very end, one generous soul produced his last tin of coffee (I was with him in Hongkong when he bought it in 1941) and it was solemnly exhibited to a cheering crowd before the drink was made. While it was boiling, someone started to open a window but was howled down with the cries, "We want to smell it!"

I haven't told you about my own living quarters, have I? I remember last year I wrote you about living in a house where most of the windows had been broken by bombing; well, now I live in a dormitory built in the local fashion with literally nothing in the windows at all. No netting to keep out mosquitoes; no glass for protection from breezes. There was not even paper when we came, but I did get that added to the whole dormitory of sixty-odd rooms. My room is 8 by 10 and has no closet! At first I was grieved and wondered where I should hang my clothes; now I know that in Szechuan in the winter you wear all your clothes and don't have to keep them anywhere else. This has been my first season without a regular provision of heat, and although last winter I felt quite cold in a house which always had one good fire going, I now feel cold without worrying much about it . . . something I never expected to accomplish! And certainly, one does not take cold, even if one's feet and hands don't always function. There is a little heat, but it does not start until January and it goes off before the middle of February and it is supplied by charcoal burned in open braziers which may give

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GRACE M. BOYNTON

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Feb. 21, 1943

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File

And in the upper hallway, Jung Chen's placard still proclaims "Yen Ta I Chia."

Before sunrise we came together by the flag staff for the initial solemnity. Facing the tall commanding figure of our Acting President were students and faculty drawn up at attention in the mist and chill of the December dawn. We began in silent remembrance of those of our number who could not be with us. Then a bugle sounded. Two girls carrying the national flag between them approached the flag staff. The National song, the San Min Chu I, burst forth, and as we sang, the flag was raised slowly into the light and as it reached the tip of the staff the beams of the rising sun caught its folds.

Yenching was established in Free China.

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITIES
MAY 2 1943
JOINT OFFICE

March 12, 1943

Mr. Charles Corbett
China Colleges
150 5 th Ave. N.Y.C.
Dear Charles,

Yours of January 12 came to me induplicate, and as soon as I possibly could I put together the foregoing account. In 1937 I did a diary report which the N.Y. office found usable so I have employed the same vehicle again. I hope this, and the "primary source material" Harold Robinson is sending you will supply some of your needs. I have more student themes and letters which I will edit and send along to you from time to time. I also send my Board general letters which you might use. Also could they have copies of what I send to you?

I was glad to have your mention of Dr. Snapper and Bevan. I hear from our friends quite regularly and the last word, came in yesterday from Margaret Speer. Writing on Feb. 4 she says: "If you should have a chance to tell Mrs. Finley or Mr. Evans or Miss Van Sciver about us would you let them know that we think of them and that we are all endeavoring to pass these months not unprofitably. ^{They are thriving} The general level of health in the community has been remarkably high. Augusta Wagner, and Ruth Stahl were were upset for a bit but are flourishing now on liver injections. We are all a bit thinner and considerably shabbier. Augusta's ideas of what the well dressed woman will wear are not what they used to be, but she continues to comb her snowy locks in the most fashionable style even though at the other extremity of her person the soles are flapping on her only pair of walking shoes. . . . I have continued to cherish the hope that I might help Father and Mother celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary the week before Easter but am reluctantly coming to believe I am not likely to see the Bershires quite so soon."

Extract from a letter from Miss Boring dated Jan. 31: "Since Xmas our energies have been largely absorbed in procuring food. Flour is like a mirage. We hear of some for sale in one place and then when we get there there is none. We bought two bags for \$62.00, but one turns out to be adulterated with cement or some such uneatable stuff. By contrast one bag for only \$32.00 provided by Chinese freinds at the price they had to pay for it has turned out to be the best we have had in months. For two weeks we all chased sugar as each person was allowed to buy only one lb. at each shop. In this way we accumululated about forty lbs. and that shd last us for three months with our modified sugar consumption. Eggs are 3 for one dollar, but this means nothing except in relation to our monthly dole which is \$250.0."

My greetings to Minnie. It is good to be in touch with you. Please remember me to Mr. Evans and Miss Van Sciver.

Very sincerely yours

Grace M. Boynton
Grace M. Boynton

March 16, 1943

Miss Grace Boynton
Chengtu, Szechwan
CHINA

Dear Miss Boynton:

I am indeed grateful for your letter of January 10th enclosing the request from Mr. Wu Lei-Chuan.

I am very happy to report that we have had several contacts with Mr. Hsieh and he has even sent us money which was cabled to Miss Priest on October 5. We trust that Miss Priest was able to locate the proper channels so that the money reached the family of Mr. Hsieh. At the same time \$30.00 was included for Mr. Wu Lei-Chuan for his personal use or in helping his friends.

Regarding Mr. Hsieh's situation the following is an excerpt from his letter to me dated October 3, 1942:

"I am very glad to receive your good letter of October 1. As you know, I came to the States in the fall of 1940. I studied at first at Hartford Seminary Foundation. I received the degree of Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) from Hartford Theological Seminary last May. My thesis was entitled "The Christian Church in Rural China."

Last year I came to study at Drew with a view to equip myself with the technical knowledge for the promotion of the rural church work in China. This year I came back to Drew again. And because of the fact that I may not be able to get back to China in a year or two, I am now preparing myself to take the comprehensive examination toward a higher degree (Ph.D.). If I can pass that examination and if I can secure the renewal of the scholarship from Drew, I plan to stay here for one more year till the summer of 1944 in order to finish my dissertation on some subject in the field of rural sociology. But before this immediate goal can be attained, there will be many problems, for the solution of which your advice and assistance will be most helpful, and I feel free now to call on you when they are needed."

In the previous letter written in September, Mr. Hsieh expressed great concern regarding his family and regretted that there seemed to be no way of getting mail through to his family. I am passing on to him the gist of your letter.

You are constantly on our minds and hearts and during Lent this year our staff is remembering in prayer those who are carrying on the work in China with such devotion and effectiveness. We wish you Godspeed in everything which you are doing. As occasion offers we certainly will appreciate any word from

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Miss Beynton

- 2 -

March 16, 1943

you as your letters are exceedingly interesting and give the color necessary to hold the attention of those who read them.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

Via China Clipper
s.c. via next Clipper



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恩

GRACE M. BOYNTON
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
CHENG TU

*acked
by
5/14/43*

April 10, 1943

See B

Dear Miss Van Sciver,

Will you be so kind as to see that this is forwarded to Dr. Stuart's son, The Rev. John Stuart?

Sincerely yours,

P.S. News has just come to us that Americans received an order on March 15 to prepare to leave Peking. Each person was allowed two suit cases for luggage. The rumor was that they were being sent to Wei Hsien, in Shantung where the Presbyterian Mission has a large station. We are hoping that this is a move toward a repatriation ship but you will know all about it in N.Y. before this reaches you.

Miss Borings' last letter said it was then supposed that Dr. Stuart, Dr. Houghton and Mr. Bowen would certainly be on the repatriation list.

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燕京大學
YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENG TU
CHENG TU CHINA

CABLE ADDRESS
YENTA

May 16 1943



Dear Mr. Evans,

The enclosed note from Augusta Wagner reached me on May 5. I forward it because it will be of general interest to all the Yenching circle in America and also because of the message with regard to money. The Young lady referred to was Miss An-Lin Wang (she is married now and I don't know her new name.) She and her brother are children of Mr and Mrs. C. F. Wang who are wealthy Chinese and are still in Peking. I hope this identifies the young man who is supposed to claim the money. I hope you have received Dr. Galt's instructions since this appears to me a rather informal proceeding for the acquisition of so much money.

In addition to Miss Wagner's letter, I have one from Miss Boring dated March 19. In that she definitely said that Dr. Stuart and his fellow prisoners were not allowed to go to Weihsien; she also said that in her letters to Dr. Stuart (which she has been sending him twice a week) she was not allowed to tell him about the exodus of all his friends. She said, however, that he must know of it since his servants who went out to buy food, would most certainly hear of it. (Recent student arrivals bring rumours that Dr. Stuart now has a Japanese cook.) Miss Boring asked whether any publicity was being given to the concentration of our people at Weihsien, in Free China. She said, and the students all confirm, that nothing was allowed to go into the press or the Radio Broadcasts in Occupied China. So far as I know nothing apart from our own sources of information has been received in this part of the country.

A post card dated April 5 and received on May 11 has come in from Mrs. X Louise Loehr Saetti, the sister of Professor George Loehr. She is married to an Italian, has an axis passport and was therefore not interned with the others. She says: "...now they are all gone and we are living a most quiet life. I have no news (of the internees) beyond the fact that those who left had a pleasant trip and we believe are comfortably settled by now."

A long letter dated March 12 has come in from Mr. Hugh Hubbard of our American Board, giving full details of the arrangements made and the orders given for the departure. I suppose this was sent to 14 Beacon St. and that you have been supplied with a copy.

The news of the food shortage in Peking continues to be most shocking. People are dying on the streets daily. Plenty of food is produced on the plain around the walls but so much of it is taken away for Japanese use that the population is suffering as if it were famine year! This condition is reported from other places as well, so that I continue to be anxious about the amount and quantity of food which will be supplied our people. Hugh Hubbard's letter sounds well, but I want actual conditions checked. When any word comes through from Weihsien itself I will let you know.

very sincerely yours,

Grace M. Bryntou

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燕京大學

YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENG TU
CHENG TU CHINA

April 27, 1942

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YENCHING
UNIVERSITY
JOINT OFFICE

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3/30/42

Dear Mr. Evans,

Yours March 16, came in this morning, and when you mentioned that my letters are sometimes useful I was glad to remember that a long publicity article should be in your hands by this time. It seems also proper to send you some word about the news which has come to us concerning the removal of most of our Yenching foreign staff from Peking to a "Civilian Assembly Center" in Wei Hsien Shantung where the premises of the Presbyterian Mission are presumably being used for this concentration of British and Americans whose number one letter puts at 1500 souls.

I have received verbal messages from Peking, carried by students who have just arrived. There are also two letters in hand--one from Miss Louise Meebold of the American Board and one from Mr. Harry Martin of the same Mission. None of our Yenching correspondents has yet got anything through to us in writing, but the students bring word directly from them. The most recent arrival left Peking on March 17; orders to leave Peking had been issued to all our people and the student knew of no exceptions. He had not, however any explicit information about orders to Dr. Stuart and his fellow prisoners. From another source word comes that these three are to remain in Peking, but I do not think we know anything definite. I hope to be able to report positively on that point before long, but have decided not to delay forwarding the information already in hand.

The orders as reported by the students were that all British and Americans in North China were to be concentrated at Wei Hsien; that they were to leave for Shantung between March 23 and 27. One report says that the various nationalities were sent on different days. (This comes from a Tientsin letter posted later than the date of departure of our student informant.) I will quote Miss Meebold's letter:

"---The authorities are certainly being generous in the matter of allowing us to take things to camp--such as beds, a common library, some athletic equipment, and music as well as hymnals, and other things from the church, additional food if we can get it in our allotment of two steamer trunks and one bed and bedding pack. -----one of the burning questions is who will be exempt; only the sick and some one to take care of such are so far allowed. ----Of course we are buying summer clothes, and yeast and seeds....." She writes under date of March 17--the day our latest arrival left.

The most disturbing report was one which came early--that the group would be fed at the rate of \$4.00 F.R.B. a day. This, according to letters from the north is just half what has been considered a proper living allowance hitherto. This, combined with the news we have of a general food-shortage in North China, makes me wonder what is in store for our people. I do not know whether anything can be done about it in America, but if the Red Cross has any way to check upon food allowances for this new concentration, or any way to supplement them, I think this should be done.

Please let this news go out to the families in America. I shall send further news as it comes in.

Very sincerely yours,

Ernest M. Bergstrom

P.S. Mr. Martin's letter gave me the address and says he will be allowed to receive letters.

One copy sent clipper mail and one copy sent regular airmail.

Return to Miss Grot

WELLESLEY-YENCHING
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, N. Y.

July 2, 1943

My dear Miss Boynton:

Your wonderful letters have helped us immeasurably to gain what little insight we have into the struggles, the hopes and the remarkable accomplishments of refugee Yenching. We are therefore appealing to you for still more light!

As you know so well, Wellesley has for many years been the sister-college of the Yenching Women's College. One concrete manifestation of the relationship has for many years been an annual money contribution from Wellesley undergraduates to the support of Yenching. A more important contribution has been the presence of Wellesley graduates, such as you and Augusta Wagner, on the Yenching faculty.

Three years ago a group of alumnae, with the blessing of Miss McAfee and the Alumnae Association, decided to endeavor to keep alive among Wellesley alumnae the interest in Yenching that had been aroused in undergraduate days. Our hope has been that we would not only help Yenching financially, but that we would develop the sister-college relationship in many ways to increase understanding among the people of our two countries. Concretely, we hope that we may soon be able to exchange students, so that not only would there be Yenching students at Wellesley, but American students spending their Junior year at Yenching, and returning for their Senior year at Wellesley, full of their China experience.

As a start we undertook to finance, at Margaret Speer's request, a Chair of Sociology in the Department of Government. The response from alumnae was so enthusiastic that we have been able to pay Augusta Wagner's salary for the past three years (and shall, of course, continue it while she is interned). We have also reserved a yearly sum to build up the permanent endowment of the Chair of Sociology.

To increase that reserve this year, however, seems somewhat academic in the light of the hardships you describe with such eloquent understatement. Our Committee has decided therefore, that we should ask your advice on the expenditure in the coming academic year of an amount up to five thousand dollars on whatever student, faculty, or college needs you consider most urgent. Various needs appealed to our Committee as urgent:

- Relief stations along the refugee route from the north.
- Compensation for the sharp rise in cost of living, affecting the health, energy, and efficiency of both faculty and students.
- Possible increment to faculty salaries in order to secure the highest available talent.
- Possible scholarships to safeguard the continuance of study on the part of exceptionally qualified students.
- Additions, if available, to books and laboratory equipment.

At this distance, it is, of course, impossible for us to judge as to the comparative urgency of these or other needs. We therefore would like you to weigh the needs in Chengtu, and give us the benefit of your advice. After reviewing your recommendations, we would authorize you and the Acting Dean to administer the fund.

We would not wish to put any specific restrictions on your use of the fund. Our only general directive would be that it be spent constructively to prepare students for

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Miss Boynton

-2-

July 2, 1943

the tremendous task of creating "the brave new world.". Aid to the faculty would, of course, be included in the category of "preparing" such students.

I hope we can have your recommendations soon enough for us to get a reply to you in time for the new semester. Perhaps you can give your letter to an aerial traveller, of whom there seem to be many now. Or, if your recommendations can be compressed into a cable, do not hesitate to wire me at the China Colleges office, 150 Fifth Avenue.

We hope that this small fund may give you and the rest of the faculty a lift with the difficult but thrilling work you have carried on so gallantly.

Yours very sincerely,

(Mrs. Maurice T. Moore)

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燕京大學
YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENG TU
CHENG TU CHINA

file
Aug. 20th. 1943.

E ADDRESS
YENTA

Dear Mr. Evans,

The following Post card has been received from Miss Speer:

" Grand to have family letter with your initials on it. Grieved to hear of your fire --but few details so far. After two months here have grown almost fond of our new "Assembled" way of life. Spring climate very pleasant. Summer Rains and Rigors of winter would bring new problems. Share room with Augusta, Cookie, Ruth, Martha, Shirley, Lelia, Mrs. Hardy Jowett and Magdalen Lloyd Grant, (!) Augusta and Lelia are mainstays in the Kitchen; Nellie is queen of the latrine cleaners; I am apprentice to Stanley as fish cleaner and help with so-called Adult Education when not cleaning vegetables, floors, or clothes. The first weeks were appalling but the more insurmountable the difficulties the higher the spirits, and our Peking group has come through with colors flying. The two Alice Bs have a little room together and are both flourishing, having borne the difficult sprouting as well as anyone. We are all learning New skills --Chiefly how to make bricks without straw -- or how to make a happy community without even a modicum of equipment. Blessings on you all.

Marnie.

I will add a comment or two; the "family letter" referred to was from Mrs. Speer, dated February 1st, which I forwarded to North China on March 19th. The people Miss Speer mentions are: Augusta Wagner, Mary Cookingham, Ruth Stahl, Martha Kramer (whose brother is James Kramer Forest, Indiana, and who would appreciate hearing of this mention of his sister), Shirley Duncan, Lelia Hinckley, "Nellie" is Mrs. Harold Shakick, "Stanley" is Dr. S.D. Wilson, "The two Alice Bs" are Miss Alice Boring and Dr. Alice Barlow-Brown, who was, as you know, once a Dr. for our Yenching Women's college and who after her retirement took a house near the campus and remained a member of the Yenching community. Her age and infirmity have made me very anxious about her. I regret that I can not find any address of her friends in my address book; if your office has such addresses it would be kind to send on Miss Speer's remark.

I have your letter about sending information to Jack Stuart. I am sorry to learn of Miss Van Sciver's resignation but I am sure all these matters are attended to under your direction. Please send this letter on to Mrs. Speer.

Very Sincerely yours,

G. M. Boyton

Miss Boyton has a broken arm
and dictated this letter

G. M. Boyton

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITY OF CHINA
AUG 25 1943
JOINT OFFICE

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YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU
Chengtou, China

Started August 30, 1943
Finished January, 1944
Received in Boston April, 1944

Dear Yenching Friends,

Before we begin another term, it seems I should send you another general account of our refugee community. I write under the handicap of a right arm which got broken four weeks ago, and while it has had expert care and is not painful, refuses to mend very rapidly -- this being due to a cause my Father used to describe as Anno Domini. I can make a shift to write, but not very legibly or very long at a time, and I can't manage a typewriter yet, so I am like the dog who danced on his hind legs--not gracefully, but it was something that he could do it at all.

Last semester produced a number of refugee Yenching students from the north who came hoping to finish their work as Majors in the Department of Western Languages which is my responsibility at present. Now, I may mention with nostalgic pride that Yenching English was of reputation in pre-war days. I had always known we stood well, that our best graduates were able to carry post-graduate work abroad with success, or were often taken directly on the faculties of our sister Universities as instructors in language. But I did not quite realize how high we ranked in general opinion, until our Majors began to arrive and to explain their hopes and expectations. Here was I, alone from the able staff of the north -- the solitary link between the privileged past and the meagre present. And, somehow I was to work the miracle of giving these keen competent students the authentic Yenching training -- all out of thin air. Was I downhearted? Yes! But I tried to keep it dark.

The first two Majors to arrive were two girls. They were in the senior year when Yenching was closed and were forced to attend the Japanized "National University" in Peking which duly graduated them. But they did not want "puppet Degrees". They scrapped the Pei Ta work (The quality of which they did not respect) and came down the great road in their slacks and jerseys, to finish up for a Yenching diploma. And what joys they were -- to teach and to talk to. True to Yenching form, upon graduation they both went to University jobs -- one to teach in the Associated Universities at Kunming, and one we kept with us.

Next came two Junior boys, and a determined little woman who left Yenching in 1938, has been adventuring in Free China ever since, and now asked us to carry on her formal training. I sent them into the Joint Major Course on the West China campus in which Yenching is now a cooperating institution (and what a load of teaching that means for Yenching staff!)

A flock of Sophomores appeared about the middle of March and I turned them over to a young Oxford woman who was sojourning with us and who, I verily believe, fell in love with them individually and collectively. After experience with the students of other institutions, she told me that teaching Yenching folk was like going to heaven.

*Copies of these in
Miss Groh's file*

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Last of all two freshmen came along -- too late to enter any classes. These poor lads had come when our funds at depots along the way were very low -- and they had been obliged to sell their winter clothes and bedding in order to buy food. They arrived with one pair of thin trousers and one shirt apiece, looking very thin and white, but making no fuss about their predicament. Once accepted as Yenching students, they looked around for ways of earning a little cash here and there while waiting for September. (Now one of my headaches is how to find the following articles before cold weather --

| | |
|---|------------------|
| 2 pair coolie quality padded trousers --- | \$2000) |
| 2 padded coats ----- | \$2000) Chinese |
| 2 cotton batten quilts ----- | \$2000) currency |

If they are lucky the boys can earn six dollars an hour or about \$50 a week.)

The Yenching English Majors all took the Joint Major Examination for the Joint Major Course set up on the Campus for the five Christian Universities, and all passed with such credit that Dr. Fenn of Nanking University, who has organized this Joint Major work, congratulated me upon the showing they made. Then he added, "I hope you won't have to keep Yenching here too long. What will happen to your standards will break your heart."

I know. And in the meantime what can I do for these eager minds which have had the best and will fret against limitations in teaching and lack of books?

While I was considering this question last June, Dr. Han, our Director of Studies, came into my office one bright morning and said gently, "Miss Boynton, do you think you can get positions for all your English Major students for the summer? They will have to earn their support, because there is no government rice or subsidy for the vacation months."

My jaws sagged open and seemed powerless to resume the as-you-were position. I had not known that I was supposed to run an employment agency in addition to a Department. But here were my young people facing the question "how do we eat?"

We went to work as a group and we found that Yenching English was a marketable commodity. We wrote letters, we advertised, we recommended ourselves in all the ways we could think of and jobs really came. We placed our undergraduates as translators, teachers, librarians, clerks, secretaries. Some of them got really good pay; some got just enough to buy their food. They voted to set up a Department fund to which anyone who had a surplus would contribute money which could be drawn out through a committee by anyone who was in need. Not many could put money in, but there was a small revolving fund through the summer and the spirit of mutual aid was genuine.

The two freshmen were not good enough to earn money outside. Their only hope lay in working on our department jobs. This was another point where Yenching scored. No other institution allows its students to have anything to do with preparing entrance examinations, but I had

all the hours of watching the mimeographing of the six-sheet exam paper and all the work of assembling the sheets for the 2000 copies done by my own boys. I explained to them the danger of having "leaks" in this neck of the woods, where there is actually a trade in examination questions; an enterprising soul will buy or steal a forthcoming paper for thousands of dollars and sell it to individuals for a hundred each! I left the whole protection of our paper with these two freshman boys and my confidence was well justified. One professor of a sister institution remarked to me in tones of pure wonder, "Why, you trust your students!"

December 12th. All these months this has been snowed under other letters and reports and jobs, and now I can work my typewriter freely myself, and I will try to finish. Perhaps I might mention the fate of the two freshmen, to link with the August remarks. One is in a T.B. sanitorium outside the city. His case is light, and we hope to get him back after a few months -- undernourishment is probably the reason why he broke down with this disease, which has claimed 15% of our student body. The other has been in the hospital with paratyphoid, and has been out of classes so long that he cannot get credit for the semester. But both boys are still smiling. They belong to the Yenching community, which tries not to let anyone down, and they both await a turn in their hard fortune with patience and courage.

This letter seems to have been all about academic matters, as they appear in West China -- very closely linked, as you perceive, to the economic and practical. I might include here a little account of how one of our young instructors got her precious M.A. thesis through to its completion. She was in the North on December 8, 1941, and when the Japanese turned our people off the campus they did not intend to allow anything like academic work to escape with the refugees. So Yu Yu Mei secreted her notes very carefully and was fortunate in carrying them out of the gates. Her field is mathematics, so the material was not very bulky. When she decided to take the journey to Free China, she knew there would be the same difficulty, so she pasted what she needed on the backs of religious pictures and carried them through inspection in that way. I should tell you that she was travelling with a friend, and they got married somewhere on the road, and that she arrived in Chengtu as a bride -- but that is another story. In Yenching she had a room in the dormitory which burned last winter. She was the first to waken and give the alarm, and by that time she was preparing a layette; but she paid no attention to the little garments in her chest. She took the thesis off her table and walked quietly out of the building while others were taking great risks to save their property. Result: in June the thesis was approved and Yu Yu Mei got her M.A., having, a few weeks previously, got a small daughter whose wardrobe was supplied for the second time!

January 9, 1944. This time I WILL finish. I was telling about our academic lives, but I must add a dash of Christmas color to the picture. For "holiday" overtook me and we don't have any respite from classes here except on the Day itself -- and so there was no writing letters then. We celebrated with all the gusto of our Yenching tradition, which makes it the gala season of the year.

The first thing we did was to have a wedding. There have been a number already like Yu Yu Mei's, but this was two young members

of the faculty, both of the Department of Education. The bride had been a student of the bridegroom in the north. He came to Free China early in 1942, and she has just now managed to follow him. They wanted a refugee wedding -- "simple but dignified." (The latter requirement is on account of a Chinese view of a wedding as an occasion for great hilarity and not as much solemnity as with us). So a mission residence opened its hospitable door for the occasion and President and Mrs. Mei issued cards for a "tea" without mentioning any reason for it. When the guests had assembled, Dr. Mei made a brief speech welcoming the guests to the wedding of their colleagues. Then Mr. Robinson of the American Board Mission took his place to perform the ceremony and the young couple walked in together.

The bride is the daughter of a great family in the north and early in the afternoon she had been struggling with tears of homesickness for not a single relative could be with her here. But she had conquered her depression and in her plain blue robe with her bouquet of dark red chrysanthemums, she made a refugee picture to remember, with her sweetness and gravity.

The Yen Ta Fellowship was busy at Christmas time. They sponsored the traditional "millet lunch" which ushers in Yenching's celebration. On that day the students eat poor food, and put the money saved into food for the needy. This year they chose to contribute to bean milk for T.B. victims of whom we have a sad percent in our midst. Then came the pageants and entertainments for workmen and servants and children, and the carol singing almost all night. On Christmas morning at the Fellowship Service 10 people received baptism, one of them a military instructor who has not been with us very long. This service had the refugee touch in the altar fittings. We found in the Methodist chapel we use, a rough unpainted framework which, when covered with a white cloth and set with cross and candle sticks makes our Yenching altar. The only covering we can use is a white bedspread, which is removed from its domestic service whenever required -- and the candlesticks are bedroom furniture likewise. It may seem sacrilegious to have articles which "double" their roles like this, but we simply cannot spend \$10,000 for such things -- which is what it would cost to replace them. And after all, the manger at Bethlehem had a double use, too.

In the afternoon of Christmas day, all our students in hospital were visited by Yenching friends and all had packages of food and boxes of bean milk and encouragement to get well.

I should tell you about many more things -- about our work for neighborhood children and for blind soldiers, and much much more; but I must send this off now, with New Year good wishes to you all. Pray God to send us Peace in 1944.

Very cordially yours,

GRACE M. BOYNTON

ADDRESSES INDICATED

NEW YORK CITY

Watkins 9-1648

Watkins 9-1649

TELEPHONE YOUR TELEGRAMS
TO POSTAL TELEGRAPH

Postal Telegraph

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150 FIFTH AVE (NYCITY) (HR)=

JULY 2 LETTER RECEIVED WOULD USE FUND FOR HEALTH SAFEGUARDS
AND EMERGENCY RELIEF WOMEN FACULTY AND STUDENTS=

GRACE BOYNTON.

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9/20/43

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September 30, 1943

Miss Grace Boynton
Changtu, Szechwan
CHINA

Dear Miss Boynton:

Your cable to Mrs. Maurice Moore came to hand promptly and was relayed to Mrs. Moore.

As a result of conferences with Mrs. Moore and authority granted by the Wellesley-Yenching Committee an installment of \$1,250.00 was cabled to you through Harold W. Robinson. Presumably, Mrs. Moore will be writing to you, although it is possible she will wait until after having conferred with Dr. Eric North, Vice President of the Yenching Board. The situation is sufficiently clear, however, to us to permit acting immediately which we did without hesitation.

It is our understanding that this will be used for health safeguards and emergency relief for women faculty and students, and the money was cabled under General License #75, through the Bank of China.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

Via China Clipper
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YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU
Chengt, China

Mrs. Mills

October 17, 1943

My dear Mrs. Moore,

Your letter of July 2nd brought a great lift to our spirits as we faced Yen-ching's second refugee year. I say "our", because I at once shared it with all of us who are concerned with the quandaries of this session. Consultations within our own group took place first, and then on September 25th, Dr. Mei called together our Women's College Administrative Committee to whom I made a report. They instructed me to convey to you and your Wellesley Committee their deep appreciation of your aid to us. They also took action appointing the Acting Dean of Women, and Jane Balderston Dye (Wellesley 1908) and myself to take charge of the administration of the Fund.

I might at this point comment upon the addition of Jane Dye (Mrs. Daniel Dye) to the persons specified in your letter. The five thousand dollars will exchange into one hundred and fifty thousand of our money, and that will take a good bit of looking after. Of course the University office could do it; but it seemed to me we better have the advice and approval of someone who could view our proposals with a certain detachment. A Wellesley alumna who is a genius at bookkeeping and full of all sorts of wisdom and good works was at hand in the person of Jane Dye, and when I asked her to undertake this job her comment was "I should like to do it for Wellesley." Therefore, the accounts will be in her hands, and of course, regularly reported to the University authorities. This has been done with the approval of President Mei.

I am very glad my cable adopting the second of your suggestions listed in the letter "compensation for the sharp rise in the cost of living effecting the health, energy and efficiency of both faculty and students" - met with your approval, so that Mr. Evans replied "Cabling Robinson 1250 American Wellesley Yen-ching funds Bank of China license 75 health emergency purpose agreeable your thirteenth to Mrs. Moore.

The arrival of this message brought a joy which I can very imperfectly pass on to you. To know that Wellesley women who are deeply concerned for Augusta Wagner (now, we hear, homeward bound on the Gripsholm) and also for the Yen-ching of the future, are reaching out with sympathy and interest to this little refugee Yen-ching, is enormously heartening. We do send you heartfelt gratitude, and beg you to express it for us. And now, let me outline our general plan for the use of the fund.

As I have seen relief administered, according to budgets and programs and principles which struggled to be logical, I have been impressed with the suffering which is never touched. Emergencies do not arise according to rules, and each case of human trouble seems different from the next. I am therefore responsible for begging to have this money a little more flexible in its administration than U. C. R. or other giant relief schemes can be. I believe that what you American women want is to have needs met rather than rules formulated and observed. Dr. Mei has most graciously agreed to having us try an experiment of being rather free of budgeting and programing, that we may work with individual wants, especially at first. I do confess to you that I know I am not as wise about money as I should be. Therefore it is well that our committee includes two very cool heads to correct my impulsive one. The fund is so ample that probably no one need be left out, and no one of the group need be sacrificed to the needs of another, as has to happen when means are too narrow. With this remark about our principles (or the lack of them!) I will explain the plan we have agreed on to begin with. We may modify it as experience dictates.

1. Dentistry

Dental bills are specifically excluded from U.C.R. medical relief and Lu Hui Ch'ing, graduate of our Wellesley Department of Physical Education and our University health officer

0600

among many other jobs, reports that practically all our women staff need this attention. They have been authorized to have their teeth attended to, and bills will be paid from this fund.

2. Medical relief for Junior staff

U.C.R. medical relief is not available for persons below a certain academic rank. This has left a large proportion of our teachers unprovided for, and as their salaries are in the lower brackets, they are more needy than the professorial group. The University has done what it would but its resources have been inadequate to the calls made upon them. We propose that all junior staff medical care up to the amount of \$2000 per person be charged to this fund. This, I may say, will meet one of the gravest criticisms of us as a Christian institution. I know there was great bitterness last winter, arising from our dilemma in regard to those not eligible to U.C.R. relief.

3. Medical relief for Part-time Teachers

The same action is proposed with regard to another group - those women, some of them our own graduates, who serve us on a part-time basis. They are not eligible for U.C.R. relief and neither can the University include that item in their treatment, and as a result, the greatest distress has arisen within this group - especially in cases of pregnancy. One, a young assistant in Mathematics was burned out in the fire (in fact she gave the alarm). We went nearly frantic over ensuing problems of getting proper housing and care for her. Another case is our school nurse whose child has just been born. Except for this fund we could not pay for her confinement, which we now wish to do.

(I am sure you, in America experience the same urge to marriage and parenthood which war conditions produce everywhere. In Yenching we began with the idea that we would employ unmarried assistants and part-time junior staff; but we cannot get unmarried professors. We simply have to accept the situation.)

4. Payment of Debts

This proposal, for which I am chiefly responsible, is to lift the burden of debt from certain of our most valued senior women from the north. This is a matter of some delicacy, but Dr. Mei has allowed me to make inquiries and recommendations, and the Committee has taken favorable action in four cases.

5. Student Emergency Hospitalization

Whenever a student has to go into the hospital, if she cannot meet her own charges, we shall use this fund for her. We have a sad number of T.B. cases, and an occasional accident. How to provide for such emergencies has been one of Lu Hui Ching's worst headaches.

6. Supplementary Nutrition

We wish to wait and see how much of our money will be needed for the plans I have outlined; if there is a considerable surplus, as some think there may be, I wish to propose that the reports of the medical examinations of our students and staff, be scrutinized, and where supplementary food seems a need that we take steps to supply extra milk (now ten dollars a cup!) and eggs (four dollars apiece!) We have lost two valuable members (one of them a woman) from our original Yenching group, who are suffering from general breakdown. I believe eggs and milk and perhaps some of the costly vitamin medicines, taken with rest in time would have saved them to us. We have one or two more cases obviously threatening; and there may be more than we are aware of. This is as full an account as I can give at present of the aid we hope the Wellesley Fund will bring to Yenching women. I hope it will commend itself to you, and I do thank you for allowing me the privilege of having a share in the planning of the use to which the money will be put. I do believe it will lift many a strain, and restore energy in many cases; and I also am confident that my own shortcomings as an administrator will be corrected by the wisdom of Mrs. Dye and Dean Ch'en Fang Chih.

I should like in closing to say a word about our new Acting Dean of Women. It must seem strange to you in New York that Yenching has now to install the third incumbent

of that office within our short refugee history. You know of course that Mrs. Mei undertook the initial work on a temporary basis; when Mrs. Ch'en-Wang Min I succeeded her, we knew we had a woman of wide experience, great ability and of devotion to Yenching, which made her ideal in the absence of Miss Speer who is longed after by everyone. Like most ideal arrangements it was too good to last! Mrs. Ch'en's husband moved to Chungking where he is the head of the Red Cross Hospital, and then Mme. Chiang returned from America and demanded Dean Ch'en Wang Min I for National service which would also reunite her with her family. We were helpless and so was she, and she has just gone.

Confronted with this vacancy we looked to our own staff, and we feel great confidence in entrusting the work to Dr. Ch'en Fang Chih. She is one of our most brilliant returned students; she took her Ph.D. at Bryn Mawr in Political Science in 1939, and since then has been a valued member of our Department of Political Science. She has the advantage of having been close to Margaret Speer, both in her student days and as a young member of the faculty when she acted as class doyen. She objects that she is young and inexperienced, but the future lies in young hands these days, and I, for one, am very proud that Yenching possesses a woman of such capacities and of such fine attitude for this very exacting post. If Margaret Speer has reached America by the time this letter arrives, she can give you an intimate account of "Agnes" Chen who has the greatest affection and admiration for her.

With renewed gratitude and appreciation of all the encouragement and help Wellesley women are giving us here, I am

Very loyally yours,

/s/ Grace M. Boynton
Wellesley 1912

October 25, 1943

Miss Grace Boynton
Yenching University
Chengtu, Szechwan, CHINA

Dear Miss Boynton:

We have received a letter from Ernest T. Shadick informing us that on Friday evening, September 10th, Mrs. Annie Laskert died. She was Mrs. Shadick's mother. There are no particulars, but Mr. Ernest T. Shadick has requested that this word be passed on to China.

We are all grateful for the fine work you are doing and the contacts you have made, and news which comes through to America from time to time regarding conditions in China.

Through a roundabout way we learned of the accident which has deprived you of writing for some period, and we hope that by the time this reaches you, you will be entirely well. The Boyntons in Searsdale inquire frequently about you and it is our good pleasure to give some bits of information as they become available.

Most sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

Via China Clipper
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OCT 26 1943
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Please forward to Prof. T.E. Breece in California.
N.Y. office read, if interested, and please copy for
Miss Margaret Spear.

Yenching University
Cheng Tu, West China
November 7, 1943

My dear Tom and Ruth and Marnie and Nancy,--also E.K. ^{Cochran} ^{Smith} ^{and Louis Wolf}
if anyone can get one copy to them:

This must first of all be addressed to Tom and Ruth who sent me a generous gift for student relief just about a year ago and have never had a word from me about it. But as I sat down to write you, Tom and Ruth, I knew you would be interested in the history of the Department in its refugee career; and then it occurred to me that the other Department people might also like to know about it; so, since they--Marnie and Nancy and E.K. are being repatriated --I'm addressing you all more or less, sending one copy to Marnie and one to Tom and Ruth and the whole in the care of the New York office. Please get the tidings around!

The money you forwarded was in hand about February of this year, I think but I didn't use it until summer, and how I used it will come in its proper place in this tale; but let me say thank you at the beginning; how much it meant you will see; behold me, following the principle of suspense in this here composition! And recently I have heard of the beautiful work you two are doing for Americans of oriental blood; and I rejoice that you are there to do that although we do so much need you here too. But unless you are possessed of extra physical strength, and I had almost said the vitality of youth, it is not very wise to come out here; and I imagine that was why your Board did not send you. Among the six and a half of us (as Y.P. says) who opened Yenching

everyone except me was young; and yet we have had two serious casualties: Han Ch'ing Lien, invalided to the country with T.B. and nervous prostration, and Lo Hsiu Chen obliged to resign because of threatened T.B. and now Y.P. himself in the hospital with paratyphoid which he never would have contracted if he had not lowered his resistance by overwork. And then, between us, I myself had a little private session of prostration last summer which a broken arm camouflaged rather well, but which causes me to be less useful than I should like to be this autumn. So-- you two dear Breeces should not undertake this kind of life until and unless the doctors give you high recommendations. And that should be noted by all you repatriates.

Now for history! When in the course of human events an institution is closed and its students and staff scattered and its books and the texts produced by years of work made unavailable and no place to go in Occupied China what then? Well in our case, the Yenching English Department began to function on one hot July morning when a few Yenching boys who had escaped from the north and made the journey into the interior met, upon the porch of a missionary residence, one G.M.B. who, with tears in her eyes (yes--I'm a perfect Mid Victorian these days--can even bring off fainting fits on occasion!) and joy in her heart, began the Summer Session English Course of Yenching University for the year 1942. There were no books of course, but we had pencil, paper and note-books and went to work.

In addition to teaching the summer classes it was necessary to prepare for the forthcoming session. I had discovered an old edition of our grammar exercise text in the store room of West China University English Department. I persuaded Y.P. to give me the money to get it photographed and thus reproduced. It cost a scandalous lot of money and we had to charge \$40.00 the copy last autumn; but as soon as it leaked to the commercial market it brought \$200 the copy which is now its price! It has been taken over for use in West China and other institutions have asked us to allow their teachers to buy it for teacher's use. I felt we had to have some sort of text to read, so I went through an old file of Readers Digests, selected a few articles like 'Mme Curie in summary' and had these reproduced by the photographic process. That is faster than printing, and we had these two books to use when we opened in Sept. And for staff! If you have tears prepare to shake with laughter till they come. Cheng Tu was literally without even returned student Chinese candidates for University teaching! Therefore I took Lo Hsiu Chen, whose major was History and who was Lucy Burt's assistant until the accident--and

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Hilde got hold of Louis Wulferz German text
& got it mimeographed. 64 pages sent
to Louis, too.

was thankful enough to count on her for one section; one of the school of Religion students who was from Hongkong, a girl named Pao Mei also turned up, and in spite of her desire to continue as a student in Nanking Theological Seminary, we got one section planted on her. It turned out that she had taught in Hongkong and knew Phonetics, and she was also an excellent teacher so she really was a help. There were also two young English girls. One had finished her preparatory work in England, come to China for a year with her parents and got stuck here by the war. She knew some shorthand, so she was taken on as Y.P.'s secretary and did one section of subfreshman work for us. Pen Piercy was an Oxford graduate and was a Y.W.C.A. secretary very much ~~up~~ up with that job, but held to it except for six hours which they allowed us to have for teaching. So she did a sophomore section and three hours of Advanced French. I found a German Jewess married to a Chinese in the Nanking Library; no books were coming in to be catalogued and she had nothing to do and was not paid enough to live. She was also an excellent teacher of German which is a subject excluded from the campus curriculum for some mysterious reason connected with West China U's back history. I conducted a war with Nanking U, and Hilde Kiang was finally released to teach for us. Result we have by all odds the best French and German taught in Cheng Tu. And last, but by no means least, we added to our staff a most distinguished name that of Professor Hsieh Wen Ping who came to us from Wu Han University in Chia Ting just a short way down the river. Y.P. and the other Chinese had been very scornful of my poor collection of little girls, ^{for staff} and were very eager to get some face from one well known name. Hsieh Wen Ping was in Tsing Hua with Y.P., went to America where he took an M.A. over fifteen years ago, returned to China and began to write short stories and novels in Chinese, for which he is well known. He was supposed to be an expert in translation and they were eager to have a translation course on the campus, so we felt very fine to be offering the services of an expert to them as well as to ourselves.

Well, I should not dwell upon the sad history of Professor H. Billy Fenn had warned me that distinguished Chinese professors of English were not as a rule a help in the class room with students of our standard; certainly the poor man was bored with the required work he did for us, and presently Bill told me he was "not giving satisfaction" on the campus. The poor man (H. Not Bill) had a family of six children, a tubercular wife and both his parents to support; and he was himself so undernourished and so far from well, that one could have nothing but sympathy for him. In the end, I gave him charge of the theses of the two English majors who turned up in the middle of the year Feng Pao Chung and Lin Hsin*. They were doing translations from Lu Hsun with him. The results were so catastrophic that I must draw a veil over the sufferings of the two girls and the Department. (The girls said they noticed a difference between Prof. H and Harold in dealing with translation!) We had the good luck to "lose" Prof. H to a government University in the summer and are no longer paying \$53000 a year for tragedy and inefficiency in our midst. We have not yet recovered sufficiently from this experience to invite another distinguished Chinese member of staff!

As for me, I was teaching required sections and also contributing to the teaching of literature courses on the campus. Here Bill Fenn had managed to get one of the few pieces of cooperation going, and all four Universities (before Yen-ching came to make five) had combined their major work into one course under Bill's direction. He had ordained that in the freshman year each institution did its own required work. Then such students as wished to enter the Joint Major English Course must take and pass an examination of his contriving. Having passed it they got good solid work from Bill himself in their sophomore year and the courses in literature were rotated and taught by any talent which could be discovered. Bill, Miss Lambertson of Ginling Mrs. Spencer Kennard of West China and I have been the team since my arrival. I must pay tribute to Bill upon the way in which he has fought for standards and has succeeded in training a few men who are the equals of our good Y products. Of course as soon as Y arrived I insisted that we join this program

* Lin Hsin was snatched up by "Tsing Hua" (now part of "Kien Ta") in Kunning and is teaching there. Feng Pao Chung remains with us. Pen Piercy was much impressed with both girls, especially Feng Pao Chung - wanted to get her a scholarship for Oxford.

and so we did and can look anyone demanding "cooperation" squarely in the face.

For the first semester we had no English majors from the north. Then they began to arrive, and I'll put down the names since I am sure you are interested to know who has got here.

- W37013 Ch'en Pao Ching (did not graduate; has been out teaching)
- 38291 T'sao Chia Lin (finishes this June. Thesis trans. part of Burma)
- W38414 Han Chih Hsien (science major for two years. Has just entered W.L.)
- 39109 Li Yueh (problem child. Does not adjust. Supposed to graduate in June but has failed one of Bill Fenn's courses.)

- W40002 Chang Hsiu Min
- W40015 Chin Chien Shen
- 40121 Huang Ming Yeh
- 40268 Yang Chia Min
- W 41056 Huang Hsiu Chen
- W41075 Liu Shih Fen
- W41090 Sun Yi Ch'iao
- 41086 Feng Chien Lung
- 41125 Huang Yu Shou (robbed on the journey. Has broken down with T.B.)
- 41168 Liu Hsiu Hung
- 41301 Chang Kuang Yu

W 38096 Tu Jung (thesis trans. of a party Burma)

Then there were others who arrived as English majors and have left the Department. These are

- 40184 Luan Jui Tien (gone to be interpreter for American forces)
- Fu Chuen Ming (Journalism)
- 41065 Chien Chia Jui (Journalism)
- Su Chuan Hsu (Journalism)
- W39081 Wang Mei Lin (joined the newly established P.U.M.C. nursing School)
- W41111 Wu Hsueh Shu (gone to Kunming)
- 41269 Wang Yun Shen (transferred to Journalism)
- 39145 Shao Yun T'ang (gone to be an interpreter)
- 41052 Ch'eng K'e Chiang (interpreter)
- 41119 Hua yi Chu (interpreter)
- 38025 Chang Tze Hua (interpreter)

The second semester of the first year, our academic lives were saved by Pen Piercy whom I have mentioned. She left the Y.W. moved into our midst fell in love with our students from the north and they with her. She took the two seniors and coached them in good Oxford style for the courses which were broken off in Yenching. (Of course these two had had to go to Pei Ta, and they got degrees there but they hated them and wanted Yenching's degree so we were able with Pen's help to carry them on from the point where Harold left them and except for the thesis disaster I feel they are worthy Yenching B.As) But Pen was burned out in the fire and what with that and personal difficulties we couldn't keep her. And so last summer she left; Lo Hsiu Chen broke down with T.B. Rose Pao married and although she still teaches she is an uncertain quantity; Hsieh is gone (thank the Lord) Audrey Donnithorne the second English girl went last January, and so---: present staff is Ruth VanKirk who taught for many years in Brigan. is here in West China and will stay with Yenching like the staunch American Board woman she is; Feng Pao Chung who takes Lo Hsiu Chen's place as assistant and does subfreshman work; Pao Mei, ^{last} will, last only this semester, and Chang ~~Pao~~ P'ei, whom I have always called "Pauline". She graduated from Yenching in 1931 ~~in~~ the School of Religion. She has been teaching English in Hongkong and Macao and came in from Macao last summer to get away from Japanese occupation. I judge she is engaged to Chang Han Ch'a our major who graduated in 1939. He poor fellow is still in Tientsin. He has been very ill and has delayed attempting to reach Free China on that account. She asks me to send her regards to you. Marnie.

Well you see this is a pretty thin staff, but it is as good or better
 *He has just sent word he is better & will come to Cheng Tu. I shall add him to my Eng. staff.

then other institutions of our ilk can show. We have two foreigners teaching; we have our Yenching texts; since by this time I have completed the reproduction of the Composition Guide from stray copies sent me by students or alumni; we carry on Yenching methods of teaching and examination as well as I can manage them; and we really have the best French and German in the city as well as the best English. I say this without intending to be conceited. Bill has to handle such vast numbers in Nanking that his work must lack the individual teaching element which we still struggle to give.

But now, in the face of this limitation imagine our joy to know that Chou Kuo Ping is on her way to us! We tried and tried last winter to get in touch with her but without success. Finally, a roundabout inquiry came to Agnes Chen as to whether we could use her, and whether we could subsidize her journey and that of her brother who must come with her. It was possible to tell her to come; and we have just received a letter saying she is borrowing the money and is on her way. It is high time. The department detail is already beyond me, although Pao Chung and Ruth do their best to keep me straight. As soon as possible after Kuo Ping gets here, and grasps the situation, I shall retire from the Headship of the Department and she will carry on. And maybe when she is in the saddle she can pick out some Chinese Professors who will be helpful in our job!

And now what is to be said about standards? Well, we are down--way down. We are admitting locally-taught student who are pretty awful; but I see that our standards slipped in the north before the Japs closed us. We are a year to a year and a half lower than we should be. But students who are in earnest can still learn English in Yenching (and in Nanking University.) Our Joint Major Course still has competent students from Ginling College (West China and Cheeloo are worse off than we are.) You can see that we need reinforcement in staff desperately. We are still very much running upon our prestige, and our Department has 41 majors--the Lord be merciful to them and us!

The book situation is desperate and nothing much can be done, since nothing can come in to us by air. So we just go on with what Bill Fenn was able to bring up river and what I can rescue of our texts.

I have taken most of a Sunday to tell you people all this. I don't know whether you will have to take a Sunday to read it or not; but I feel it is worth while to keep our ties as close as we can, and this little account may help to do it.

One thing I want to tell you: Last June we found that the government did not provide rice for the students through the vacation months and I got a request from the "registrar's office to try and find work for all my majors which would feed them through the summer. Imagine! I was scared, and so were the students. We held some meetings to decide what to do and we got a sense of solidarity out of our emergency which will persist. Well, we went to work and advertized and I "inquired" and we found that Yenching English was a marketable commodity. Letters requesting private teaching came pouring in; the Chinese Air force sent post haste for our best student-teacher; the British propaganda people could use a man; there was a good library job; in the end everybody got something to do. But I used Tom's money to help out a boy who had less English than the rest and couldn't get such well-paid work. We did this employment agency business in Yenching tradition; as fast as jobs were offered I submitted them to a student committee of two who with me decided what work went to what student; and there was not a single murmur about partiality although everyone was in serious need. We pulled through the summer rather better than most Departments.

End of the page. Greetings from all of us to all of you.

Yours in teaching

Grace M. Boynton

I mean text & evidence for literature course & books of reference

* Our first reprint of the Grammar Book is exhausted. New previous copy of the 1940 edition is in my hands. I am negotiating its photographic process reproduction. We shall be using it next fall.

燕京大學

YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENG TU
CHENG TU CHINA

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CABLE ADDRESS
YENTA

November 21, 1943

Dear Friends,

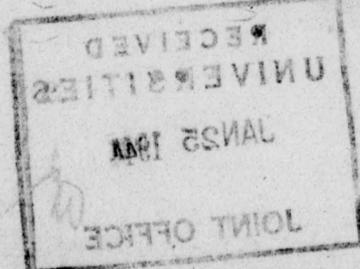
Dr. Mei has been so impressed with the custom which we had in the Women's College in the North of sending a Fortnightly Letter to our Yenching circle, that he has decided to have such a letter go out from the whole of us here in Cheng Tu; and to me falls the pleasant task of beginning the series. (Dean Ch'en Fang-Chih asks me to remark that this new series will replace the old.)

I shall sum up the news of the autumn as briefly as possible; We opened with ~~300~~ students, of whom 130? were our own Yenching refugees from the north, ? were transfers, and 100? were freshmen. Our staff ~~has~~ suffered a severe blow in the sickness of Dr. Han Ch'ing Lien, Director of Studies, and Mr. Ch'en Shang Yi of the Physics Department took up his duties. ~~Dean~~ Wang Min-I ^{Dean of Women} although under great pressure to enter at once upon the government post to which she had been drafted, came to help us through the difficult opening weeks. When she was obliged to return to Chungking, Dr. Ch'en Fang-Chih of the Department of Political Science carried on. President Mei contracted para-typhoid (as a result of reducing his vitality by persistent overwork--at least that is the diagnosis of G.M.B!) and was in the hospital for two weeks, but is now convalescing at home with doctor's orders to "go slow". (May I remark in this first letter that in Yenching-in-Cheng Tu all positions are prefaced by the term "acting", since President and Deans and other administrative officers are unable to be with us. But although this form is observed in our Bulletins etc, it is a little cumbersome for everyday use, and our letters will ask you to take it for granted.)

I should report a fluoroscope examination for T.B. the ~~scholarship~~ ^{scholar's} scourge in Szechuan. The results show that 15% of our members have the disease in some form, although most cases are light. Two staff members, Dr. Han, and Miss Lo Hsiu Chen are affected. One poor lad arrived from the north this autumn hoping to be admitted to Yenching; but instead he has had to go into hospital and will probably not recover. (His care has been made possible by Dr. Mei.) His is the most tragic case.

Student morale continues to be excellent. Last week there was an athletic meet in a public park which had a regrettable incident. On account of some misunderstanding, a policeman shot and killed a student from a government institution, and the crowd was thrown into a panic. The Yenching athletes and cheering section alone remained in formation and marched back to the campus in good order. When I asked who took charge of the "retreat" I was told, "Nobody gave orders. We all just followed our banner and came home."

The end of the page! We are going to write you only one at a time.
Greetings to you all, from



GMB

Grace M. Boynton

0609

File
December 9, 1943

Miss Grace Boynton
Yenching University
Chengtu, FREE CHINA

Dear Grace:

It is a pleasure to be able to report to you that the illuminating article you sent me has been printed in the December issue of "The Womans Press". Your article occupies the first two pages and thus has the place of honor. Unfortunately, they had to cut it somewhat but this was done very carefully not only by the Editor but by Miss Margaret Burton a member of the Yenching College Committee.

It was very fine to have this article appearing just as the Yenching repatriates stepped off the Gripsholm. It is hard to describe the exciting events connected with their arrival. The ship docked on Dec. 1st a day ahead of schedule. Nobody was allowed on the pier to meet them except the American Red Cross. There was no telling when any particular individual would disembark. Some came ashore in the early afternoon, some in the evening and some not until the next morning.

A meeting to welcome the Yenching party was held on Friday afternoon Dec. 3rd under the auspices of the Trustees of the University and the Yenching College Committee. After a brief welcome extended by Mrs. John H. Finley who was presiding, Dr. Galt responded and gave us a summary of the events which had happened between Dec. 8, 1941 when the University was taken over by the Japanese and the arrival of the repatriates here on Dec. 1, 1943. Miss Margaret Speer introduced the members of the Yenching party, sixteen out of the twenty-one being present. She wittily spoke of the various appetitudes which each individual had displayed during the internment at Weihsien. She also gave us some additional details of the life there, supplementing Dr. Galt's remarks.

The health of the various members of the party is being carefully checked and it is too early to make any detailed reports. In general the spirit of the party is excellent. The voyage on the Gripsholm was exceedingly pleasant by contrast with their former experiences. They were amply supplied with food and many gained weight, the record being held by Miss Anne Cochran who put on 20 lbs. and she still looks like a sylph.

Dr. Galt reported that they were happy to receive at Goa a communication from President Y. P. Mei, enclosing his Annual Report and the Minutes of the Board of Managers as well as a newspaper account of the reopening of the University in Chengtu a year ago. The Peiping people have been somewhat worried lest the adventure in West China, would use up funds needed for the ultimate rehabilitation of the University in North China. We have endeavored to reassure them at this point, making plain that we have been putting aside reserve funds to meet obligations to the Chinese staff in Peiping as well as to repatriate the Western staff. We have also pointed out that the funds from U.C.R. were available only on condition that they would be spent as received; they can not be reserved for future use. We have stressed also the value to morale of the Chengtu venture.

I presume you will be hearing from some of the repatriates soon, if you have not already had letters posted at Goa. Their accounts of the internment in Weihsien make it difficult to understand some of the messages from Lucius relayed to this country. They say that nobody did any agricultural work nor was any washing done for the "visitors". We are told that Lucius in his office as supervisor of the water supply has reduced his costume to a minimum, at least during the summer.

Miss Mary Furguson who worked in the Swiss Consulate in Peiping, right up to the time when she left to board the Teia Maru, reported that Dr. Stuart was keeping well and that he was being supplied with funds in adequate amounts so that his food supply was assured. This is the latest word we have received about him.

With very kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

CHC:MM

Charles H. Corbett

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