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Coffin, Henry Sloane
1921 - 1945

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MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW WITH HENRY SLOANE COFFIN BY H. W. LUCE, JANUARY 3, 1921

Today at four o'clock in our office I had a conversation with Henry Sloane Coffin in regard to the Peking Theological School. To show his interest and conviction he said that he would plan to give us some time during the year 1921 \$1000; and in addition he proposed that he ask Doctors Kelman, William Adams Brown, McGiffert and Fosdick to come together to talk the matter over and see what plans could be made.

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129 EAST 71ST STREET
NEW YORK CITY

HL

June 20th 1921.

My dear Luce,

Enclosed through the
treasurer of the Madison Ave. Church you
will find a cheque for the one thousand
dollars promised for this year towards the
salary of a Chinese professor in the Theologi-
cal Department of the Peking Univ. This is
not an annual subscription, but a contribution
towards starting the enterprise.

Faithfully yours,

Henry S. Hiss

Rev. H. W. Luce,
Peking University,
156 Fifth Ave.

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TRUSTEES OF
PEKING UNIVERSITY

December 22nd, 1921.

Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin,
129 East 71st Street,
New York.

Dear Dr. Coffin-

Herewith the data on the Theological School needs. In about ten days we must cable how far we can carry on the building operations. Architect's building plans are already in Peking and a building force ready. They can, however, care for more building operations than we can authorize at the present moment.

Mr. Harkness would do a really vital and big thing if he could give us permission to cable that we could complete the Seminary Buildings. This amount (\$54,000) would not need to be paid all at once. It could come, if necessary, during the process of building in payments covering a year (25% this January and 25% in April, July and January 1923).

If we were thus set free to devote our strength securing the six residences and the increased staff, it would go a long way toward attaining what seems to us all to be of such unparalleled importance.

I send you herewith other material which you may desire to have with you. None of it need be returned.

Earnestly do we pray that the results of your conversation with your friend may have large results.

Very truly,

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PEKING UNIVERSITY

INCORPORATED

PEKING, CHINA

NEW YORK OFFICE

156 FIFTH AVENUE

WATKINS 8191

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H. K. CASKEY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

December 27th, 1921.

Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin,
Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church,
New York.

Dear Coffin:-

Nothing could have brought more cheer to the Christmas-tide than the word which you sent over the telephone to me this morning that Mr. Harkness was willing to stand back of the wonderful opportunity before the Peking Theological School to the extent of \$50,000. It will bring corresponding joy to those men on the field who are so bravely tackling the heavy but inspiring task there at that great center of the Far East.

You mentioned three items which Mr. Harkness raised in regard to which I will make the following observations:

First - Relative to the up-keep of these buildings, there is nothing that I am more in sympathy with than that our plant should be kept in good order. Of course we cannot anticipate the future in this and have to take something in faith. As you know the Boards are standing back of this undertaking up to the limit of their ability and we are even asking at this time each one of the four Boards to increase their contribution to current expense \$1,000 a year. Our replies to date are partially favorable.

Furthermore you will have noted that in our objectives, as given in the detailed statement, are included items for up-keep and similar current expense. These we are preparing to raise or otherwise take care of separately.

Second - We appreciate also the desire on the part of some to whom appeals from various colleges in China come that there might be some unified appeal. The matter has been up many times and the question that is now under the most careful consideration is that the Five Universities under the Mission Boards which, it is generally believed, should be raised to real

0201

Page 2.
Dr. Coffin.
December 27th, 1921.

TRUSTEES OF
PEKING UNIVERSITY

University standards, (namely Peking, Shantung, Nanking, Foochow and Ch'ang-tu Universities) should form a united committee for a more or less united appeal. I think this will in due time be approved but with a clear understanding that it should not preclude entirely appeals by individual Universities. We have some six hundred Universities and Colleges in this country all with their own individual Board of Trustees and all making their own appeals, and while the case is not exactly parallel, I think that each Chinese Universities should at times and under proper conditions make individual appeals for its own good, for many men could be interested more vitally in Peking or Nanking separately than they could in a combined Five Universities movement. With this guarded, I think the unified appeal can, and in all probability, will be made in due time.

Third - We appreciate fully the suggestion that Mr. Harkness's gift might be made conditional on securing another \$50,000 for the use of the Theological Seminary and believe that this would be a very strong leverage at this time in working off the additional sums needed.

We ought to point out, however, that if applied to the entire gift this condition would cause a serious delay. In order to buy building material and let contracts at the advantageous prices immediately preceeding Chinese New Years, we would need to have \$10,000 by February 15th (assurance of the same being given by January 14th or earlier if practicable) and an additional \$15,000 payable July 1st, 1922.

Would it be possible to have guarantees of this \$25,000, as suggested above, leaving the other \$25,000 subject to the condition that a further sum of \$50,000 be raised for residences, equipment and faculty? If we are unable to be sure of the amounts named above it probably would be necessary for us to delay building operations a year.

As you may have learned from our detailed statement of estimates we have a pledge of \$25,000 for the Theological Recitation Hall as a memorial gift. There is a possibility that the donor may at a later time be able to add a sum sufficient to complete the building. In that case we would like the privilege of transferring \$10,000 of Mr. Harkness's gift to endowment or other capital needs.

I wish you would express to Mr. Harkness our great appreciation of his gift at this time. I feel that his cooperation is to an exceptional measure exceedingly opportune, and one that in the end ought to give as large returns as any gift he ever made.

Appreciating deeply your cooperation and interest in carrying out the great task before us, believe me,

Ever most sincerely,

W. L. Rice
W. L. Rice

0202

MADISON AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
921 MADISON AVENUE.

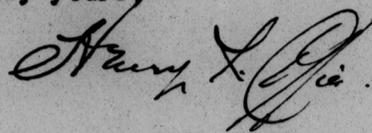
New York, December 29, 1921.

TRUSTEES OF
PEKING UNIVERSITY

My dear Luce:

This letter seems to be all right, provided you will leave out all reference to the name of the donor. If you will write me saying that "a donor is contemplating helping to the extent of fifty thousand" that will be satisfactory.

Faithfully yours,



Rev. H. W. Luce,
Peking University,
156 5th Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

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January 18th, 1922.

Mr. Henry W. Luce, Vice-President,
Peking University,
New York.

My dear Mr. Luce:-

In reference to the conversations that you have had with Dr. Henry Coffin, regarding the Peking Theological School, I am asked by Mr. Edward B. Harkness to say that he will be very glad to give \$50,000 for the use of this School when another \$50,000 for the same purpose has been subscribed.

This pledge is to hold good until May 1st,
1922.

Very truly yours,

(signed) G. Moore.

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Letter of H. H. Harkness
to Henry Sloan Coffin

Chicago, Ill., January 17 1922

My dear Henry:

A brief statement will make all things clear:

1. When I arrived from China in February 1913 Mrs. Harkness (the mother of Edward Harkness) had already given \$10,000 for a Science Hall to Shantung University at the request, I think, of one of the Presbyterian Board Secretaries, made about 1911 or 1912.
2. When we worked out the building plans more carefully, in the light of my fuller study and more recent experience of the rapidly changing new day in China, it became unmistakably clear that \$20,000 would be needed for such a building, in fact it would have been an unwise use of funds to put up a \$10,000 building. (You can get some idea of the rapid increase of standards and costs of building in China, when I say that about 1892 the main building of Dr. Mateer's old Tengchow College cost \$5,000. The main and largest building now at Peking will probably cost \$100,000. Of course it is a much larger and infinitely better building in every way).

When this situation emerged I asked for an interview with Mr. Harkness. In his reply he said just to lay the matter I had in mind before him in a letter. I did so; and, if I remember rightly, without further correspondence he gave the additional \$10,000.

Now on our list at that time we had always referred to this amount as covering "Harkness Science Hall". This may have been done without formal sanction and may have merely rested on a very natural assumption that since this was to cover definitely a whole building, the name would go with it as in the case of other buildings. One thing is certain that it was done only because it seemed the fitting thing to do and that there was no thought of making it a claim upon the future. If any blame attached to me, it was due to the fact when I took up the matter at a secondary stage. I did not realize that it was not understood that the name was to be used. Of one thing I am sure, no one was at fault intentionally. Probably it arose because one man did not handle the matter from beginning to end.

0205

2.

At this point my entire connection with the matter ends. The building was nearly completed when I left Shantung. This Science Hall is the largest building there and in point of inside-workmanship, the finest thing I've seen in China.

3. The war came on, building costs mounted in the midst of a terrific fall in foreign exchange, - and the building, when finished, cost more than any one could have anticipated. I had always assumed that the extra cost might be made out of some "undesignated funds." On the other hand apparently the decision was made (by whom I do not know, - possibly a suggestion from the field) to ask the donors of buildings to make up what was lacking. Doubtless it was in harmony with this policy that Mr. Harkness was appealed to recently. I knew nothing whatever of it until the other day at the Foreign Board Rooms I learned that Mr. Harkness had declined to add to the gift again.

I sincerely hope that this matter (for which I feel sure no one was intentionally to blame and which no doubt still can be righted in accordance with Mr. Harkness' desire) will not prevent him from doing this finest possible service for the Christian Movement in China in connection with Peking Theological Seminary.

Ever most sincerely,

0206

The following are the names of the persons who have been
admitted to the Society since the last meeting.
The names of the persons who have been expelled are
also given. The names of the persons who have been
admitted to the Society since the last meeting are
also given. The names of the persons who have been
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who have been admitted to the Society since the
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TRUSTEES OF
PEKING UNIVERSITY

January 24, 1922

Mr. Edward F. Harkness,
25 Broadway,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Harkness:

It gives me great pleasure in behalf of the Trustees of Peking University to convey to you the following action of the Trustees.

"VOTED: That the Trustees of Peking University instruct their Secretary to convey to Mr. Edward F. Harkness their very hearty appreciation of his pledge for \$50,000 for the uses of the Theological School of Peking University, and their satisfaction that his judgment of the critical importance of the School in China's present need is in accordance with their own; and

That they take note that the gift will become available when another \$50,000 is subscribed for the purpose, provided the second amount be secured before May 1, 1922, and believe that this will give added effectiveness to the campaign for additional funds."

You will not need to be assured that those of us who have been working assiduously for the promotion of an enterprise which we believe to be so vital for the development of the Kingdom of God in China are very deeply appreciative of this very generous pledge and will do everything in our power to make it render the utmost service possible.

I regret that illness prevented me from making earlier acknowledgment of your letter of January 13 to Dr. Henry W. Luce and from conveying to you before this the action of the Trustees.

Most cordially yours,

EMH

0208

January 10th, 1923.

Dear Coffins:-

I am just starting off for another five months "in a suit case". Before I go I want to share with you two things that are in my heart.

First, the last two years and a half have seen us looking hopefully toward the future, but we have reached a very serious stage wherein if we fail by December of this year to make that hope of getting into the new buildings a reality - a hope which has buoyed up student and faculty alike to bear up under almost intolerable conditions - it will work one of the most serious injuries to education ever experienced in any land. I think the limit of endurance is approaching and this (I wonder if you ever thought of it in this light) for the only Christian University at the political, literary and student center of one quarter of the human race.

Second, You share equally with us the conviction as to the importance of developing the Theological Seminary at Peking, so hopeful in prospect in regard to raising up leaders for the church in China. The word "to" is still in jeopardy. If we fail to put this Theological Seminary strongly on its feet sometime in the near future, I fear we shall lose the fine Chinese young men who have cast their lot in with us and we shall certainly be unable to secure those who are thinking favorably of joining us. There is some interest here and there, but Dr. Stuart and I both feel that if ever Peking University stands out there in the great capital of China it will be because you have given another hitch to your belt and made it possible. You are doing wonderful work here in this city; your message goes to many parts of this land; your church supports Nan Shu Chou and yet it seems to me that if under God you could be the means of establishing on a firm foundation the Peking Theological Seminary, it would be the greatest single task of your life. I am not spying this as you must know just to jolly you up, but I speak out of deep conviction, which Dr. Stuart shares with me fully.

Ever sincerely,

Pledge
letter

Coffin

129 EAST 71ST STREET
NEW YORK CITY

Feb. 27th 1923.

My dear Dr. Stuart,

I am terribly sorry that through some slip-up I never entered any appointment on my diary. I recall promising Merrill to be present, but I cannot recall any fixing of the date. If it be my error and oversight, forgive me.

I have not forgotten Peking University, but I confess that I don't know where to turn to enlist further support at the moment. But I do want to put myself down as willing to pay the salary of one of the Chinese professors, which I understand is \$1,800 gold, and to obligate myself for the next five years. By that time, we may have seen our way to a more permanent endowment.

I will send you a check for this amount, for the current year, as soon as I am called on.

Do run up for a lunch any day that you are free. We love to have you.

Faithfully yours,

Henry L. Phillips

I find my slip to be imitative of the thought
that we a receipt and not a check & see it.

March 1st, 1925.

My dear Dr. Coffin:-

On my return here yesterday I found your letter. Don't worry yourself at all over the slip which prevented your being with us at the Merrill home yesterday afternoon. I would have been a great joy to have you there and it would certainly have helped if you had been able to reinforce what Lucius Porter and I tried to say. Dr. Merrill unfortunately was unable to be present owing to a bad cold, but Dr. Schell presided and did admirably. It is impossible to tell what practical results will come out of it but we at least had a chance to tell our story to some of those whom Dr. Merrill wished to have present.

It is wonderfully generous of you to undertake yourself the salary of one of our Chinese teachers for five years and I hesitate to allow you to obligate yourself thus. You don't need to give any more convincing demonstration of your own interest than you already have done and I am sure that the difficulties that prevent any immediate efforts on your part are entirely real.

I had been wanting to take up at once on another invitation to luncheon and thank you in person, but another claim is preventing and I shall look forward to this when back in New York about the 11th of this month.

Until then,

Ever gratefully yours,

Rev. Henry Sloane Coffin, D.D.,

0211

x to Cent Rec ✓

129 EAST 71ST STREET
NEW YORK CITY

May 29th 1923.

Treasurer of
Peking University.

My dear Sir,

393
15th payment

Enclosed please find
my cheque for \$1800 in full payment
of a pledge made by President
Shan. I am in the same for the
salary of a Professor in the
Theological Faculty.

Respectfully yours,

Henry S. Gie.

MADISON AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
921 MADISON AVENUE
New York City
Jan. 16, 1924.

My dear Stuart:-

I sent Kelman a letter, which he got on Saturday morning and have heard nothing from him since. I asked him to get in touch with Merrill and he did not do that. I called up his daughter, and then his wife on the 'phone and I found out that Dr. Kelman is not very much in favor of this plan. I was under the impression that it was his own suggestion. I have just seen Merrill and we rather feel that in view of Kelman's reluctance or indifference, there is no use of our proceeding.

He has not sent us any names and we can't very well hold this whole matter up indefinitely. I am sorry, and I cannot quite understand what the trouble is. I rather think that Kelman is not fully normal in his feelings and thoughts just now, and we must excuse him.

HSC-HD

Affectionately yours,

Henry S. Gie.

Rev. Leighton Stuart,
Pekin University,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, New York.

0213

January 17, 1924

Rev. Henry S. Coffin, D. D.
921 Madison Avenue
New York City

My dear Coffin:

On my return here today, I find your letter and reluctantly recognize the necessity for abandoning any further effort through Dr. Kelman. I am sorry that you have had so much bother, and yet it is most comforting to have this further evidence of your vigorous and genuine friendship. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate all that you have been doing for the University, and the kindness Mrs. Coffin and you have shown me personally.

I am leaving here Saturday and after an absence of about a week shall be in the city again before starting on that adventure to the Southwest.

Very affectionately yours

JLS:S

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May 9, 1924

Reverend Henry Sloane Coffin, D. D.
129 East 71st Street
New York City

My dear Coffin:

I landed day before yesterday after a four weeks' trip to Great Britain, which I hope will prove of sufficient value to the University to justify the time it occupied, but which in any case was a pleasant experience for me.

I remember that you asked me on my return to this country to give you a memorandum as to the results of our campaign to date. Up to April 1 we had secured for the new plant \$925,460. These figures do not include nearly \$600,000 secured for our Women's College, and approximately \$100,000, which we are hoping to get in the special Methodist campaign, for endowment of the Administration Building, which is to be ~~the~~ Bishop Bashford. With other assets we have almost enough now to insure moving out by 1925, if our trustees can in some way underwrite sufficient working capital to go ahead with construction. We shall endeavor in the next few weeks to secure the remaining items that are necessary for this move.

Meanwhile the most pressing problem, and to my mind by all odds the finest single thing that could be done for the Christian cause in China, is the strengthening of the School of Theology, by providing a sufficient annual income to enable it to function as we can if this is assured. We already have three of the finest Chinese that could be secured for such a task. Two others of the same quality have agreed to join our staff after this summer. The budget necessary for carrying out our program for this School, including salaries, scholarships and other necessary features, and protecting it against the fluctuating fortunes of the University as a whole, and from reductions from organized church sources based on theological or other issues, leave about \$10,000 a year. In so far as this can be secured at least for the next few years, during which time we could be making further efforts, I should go back to China not only with relief but with the expectation of promoting the most significant and valuable undertaking in which, under present conditions, any missionary in China could serve. If you wish further information, I shall of course be at your service.

0215

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May 8, 1924

The enclosed copy of a letter, kindly sent me by Dr. Brown, will perhaps add nothing to your own conviction, but it may be of interest as showing what others think of this special feature in Peking University.

I am venturing to sending a copy of this letter to Harry Fosdick.

Thanking you for all your active interest in the problems and potentialities of "Yenching",

E Very affectionately yours

JLS:S

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PHANTOM HEIGHT
ST. HUBERT'S, ESSEX COUNTY
NEW YORK

July 2nd 1924.

Treasurer of Peking University.
156 Fifth Ave.
New York City.

My dear Sir,

Enclosed please find my
cheque for \$1800 in accordance with a pledge to
give this amount annually for five years toward
the salary of one of the professors in the theo-
logical school. This is the second year of my
pledge.

Sincerely yours,

Henry S. Giff

*2nd payment
#747*

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0217

July 7, 1924

Rev. Henry S. Coffin, D. D.
Phantom Height
St. Hubert's, Essex Co., N. Y.

My dear Dr. Coffin:

Thank you for your check for \$1800.00, and
your note of July 2.

I am wondering whether you plan to remain
at Phantom Height throughout the summer. I should
very much like to talk with you for an hour or so
some day, when you will be free. I know how one
likes to keep away from too much work during the
summer vacation period, and I assure you I would not
remain too long.

Dr. Stuart writes that the buildings are
going forward as rapidly as possible, and that they
are beginning to show the beauty which will finally
be theirs, when the campus is completed. We are
building there for the future of Asia.

Very sincerely yours

0218

File

February 20, 1925

Reverend Henry Sloane Coffin, D. D.
921 Madison Avenue
New York City

Dear Coffin:

I came away from our little chat together fully aware that you saw the Peking University situation as it actually exists - a tremendous and inspiring task. Again and again since then I have thought first of your work here in the Madison Avenue Church, which in itself is a full man's job, and we have rejoiced that you have been so greatly blessed in it. Then you extended the work of your church to Nan Shu Zhou, and that has been wonderfully worthwhile and must give you a great deal of satisfaction. Your other great work has been in connection with the Theological Department of Peking University. You were the first man here in the United States who saw and felt the opportunity when I first presented it, some four or five years ago. And for it you have accomplished much. Perhaps what you have done and will do will be as potential in the advancement of the Kingdom of God as no other work you are doing. I am sure you feel that it is a very special item on your program.

We shall await the developments of Mr. Lewis' letter to Mr. Harkness and if it should come through, you would, of course, know how to deal with it. But what I want to say is this, that I hope that you will grow to feel, as possibly you may already, that the establishing and maintenance of the forward-looking Theological Seminary at Peking is one of your very special interests, to be placed high upon the list.

Perhaps, as you think over various men, it might be possible for us - cooperating together after I get out of the hospital in April - to gradually develop a small group who will stand by in the stress and the urgency of the next few years. We need to find men similar to those who have stood by Union Seminary in New York in such fine fashion during the last thirty or forty years.

I saw Fosdick for a few moments yesterday, and I am sure he will cooperate with us. He saw clearly that four millions going into Union Theological Seminary could not mean more than a fraction of that amount would mean placing it in Peking at this juncture of human history and Chinese national and international development.

0219

HSC

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2/20/25

We carry on our work under difficult conditions. I never felt it more than I do now, with a sick wife off in Peking and myself about to go into the hospital. Still Peking University's greatest need at the present hour is for an increased number of staunch friends in the United States. Perhaps by our cooperation together we may gradually bring this about. I wish you would hold in mind this matter and note any to whom you thing special appeal for cooperation might later be made.

Appreciating more than I can tell you, your sympathy and encouragement,

Ever sincerely yours

HWL:S

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0220

March 5, 1925

Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin
129 East 71st Street
New York City

Dear Dr. Coffin:

President Stuart has just written, for the China Mission Year Book of this next year, a statement concerning the religious policy of Peking University.

In view of the fact that this University occupies such an important position, not only in Chinese educational life, but also in its relation to American friends, I am quite sure you will be rather glad to have this frank statement before you.

Next to the political situation, China is going through a terrific moral struggle as she enters modern life. The various outbursts against Christian teaching have been indicative of this unrest.

In the midst of such moral and mental upheaval, Dr. Stuart feels that our own policy should be frankly understood, both by the Chinese and the Americans.

Sincerely yours

0221

March 27, 1925

My dear Dr Coffin:

If you do not already know, you will be pleased to learn that Mr Harkness has agreed to give us the \$100,000 we requested provided we secure an equal amount for general endowment by April 1st.

There are several person with whom we believe this very generous conditional offer will have great weight. On the other hand, we want to overlook no opportunities at all to meet this obligation, so if you have any suggestions we shall of course be delighted to sit at your feet and listen intently!

I realize how much of yourself must be back of this generous gift on the part of Mr Harkness and I wish here to express our very deep gratitude for it, as well as the continued inspiration that your support gives to Dr. Stuart and the rest of us lesser lights and the Board of Trustees.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

To

Dr Henry Sloane Coffin
129 East 71st Street
New York City

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MADISON AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
921 MADISON AVENUE

RECEIVED
AT PEKING UNIV. HQS.
MAR 30 1925
ANSWERED
.....By.....

New York, March 28, 1925

My dear Mr. Lewis:

I was, of course, delighted when Mr. Harkness was so responsive to the appeal. I took it up personally and put the matter through.

I would suggest that you go to Dr. Fosdick and to other men like him and press this matter now. If we do not capture this large gift it will be a frightful blow. Unfortunately I do not know just where to send you and would advise an attempt on persons who are not Presbyterians as we have done our share for the present.

Faithfully yours,

Henry J. Pierson

Mr. James H. Lewis,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City

0223

March 30, 1925

Reverend Henry Sloane Coffin, D. D.
921 Madison Avenue
New York City.

Dear Dr. Coffin:

Your delightful note of Saturday reveals what I had quietly assumed to be the probable power behind Mr. Harkness' generous gift. Words are, of course, utterly inadequate to tell you how deeply we feel about it. However, unless you suggest otherwise, I am telling this information to no one except Dr. Stuart, plus taking the liberty of showing your note to Dr. Fosdick.

We have in mind one place where we are very sure we can get \$100,000. to meet the offer of Mr. Harkness and steps have already been taken to secure that gift in cash immediately.

On the other hand, I am using this offer of Mr. Harkness as a leverage to help bring across one of our very wealthy trustees and in this I am soliciting the help of Dr. Fosdick because of his influence with her. I am asking Dr. Fosdick to help us in any suggestion which he may have in mind. He has already been told of the offer and stated that he would be glad to cooperate in any way possible.

In addition to this, Dr. Barton has agreed to take up with Mr. Arthur Curtiss James the possibility of contributing toward our endowment now in order to secure this large gift of Mr. Harkness.

I am sending, under separate cover, a copy of Dr. Stuart's Report to the Board of Trustees, which I know you will be glad to read if you find the time.

With personal appreciation and very deep regard,

Sincerely yours

0224

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April 1, 1925

Reverend H. S. Coffin, D. D.
129 East 71st Street
New York City

Dear Dr. Coffin:

Last fall we invited all the persons on our mailing list, who had not previously contributed any money to the University, to contribute \$100.00 each for our mechanical installations and power equipment. We had provided some little replicas of the Chinese Laughing Lion, two of which will guard the entrance of the University grounds, and which you know are so characteristic of Chinese sculptural art. Each person who contributed was sent one of these little reminders of the University.

At the time these were being cast, I personally purchased a few of them because I wanted a few of the friends of the University to receive these as an expression of the appreciation of the University for generous help which they have given.

I am sending one to you by this mail and trust you will enjoy it and consider it as coming from the gates of the University, which will always stand open in welcome waiting for your entrance.

Very sincerely yours

0225

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MADISON AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
921 MADISON AVENUE

New York, April 3, 1925

My dear Mr. Lewis:

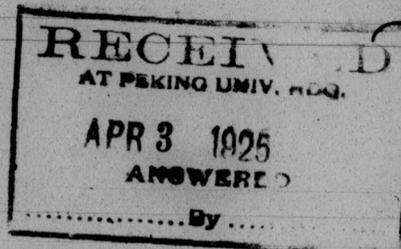
Let me thank you for your great kindness in sending me that interesting small lion. He adorns my mantle at the present moment.

I want to congratulate the trustees on President Stewart's statesmanlike report.

Faithfully yours,

Henry D. Phillips

James H. Lewis, Esq.,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City



0226

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June 5, 1926.

Reverend Henry Sloane Coffin, D. D.,
921 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Doctor Coffin:

I am sending to you a copy of Dr. Stuart's last report to our Board of Trustees. Fortunately affairs in China seem to have cleared up a little more than was indicated at the time Dr. Stuart wrote. This morning's news brings word of the swearing a covenant of a blood oath between Generals Wu and Chang. Under Chinese custom this makes them literally brothers because they exchange blood from their bodies. I do not believe this will be broken and if it is not broken it will mean peace in China, at least in the northern half.

You may know that Dr. Stuart is planning to have Timothy Lew come to America next fall and we are arranging to have him invited to give University lectures at several Universities. Eric Worth is handling that phase of the matter. I am confident also that the groups of persons whom Timothy will meet will add to the good-will of those who know of the University and will greatly extend the list of its friends. In case you feel that your entire support of him is becoming a drain it might be possible to get this burden shared during Timothy's stay in America. Our records show that our last check from you for Timothy's support was received in July 1924. Because of this I wonder whether you would wish to send us a check covering this last year's support. Unfortunately our expenses are going to be extremely heavy this coming year for the operation of the University and we will face a considerable deficit in our current expenses for this past year in case the money we have counted upon does not arrive. Therefore this item.

0227

HSC

-3-

6/5/26

Now for the word which I should have put at the very beginning of this letter: It is a great thing for Protestant Christendom in the United States that you were willing to accept the leadership of Union Seminary. I am very sure that it indicates the beginning of a statesmanlike leadership by the Seminary of all Theological Schools in the United States.

Very sincerely yours,

0228

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MADISON AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
921 MADISON AVENUE

June 9, 1926

My dear Mr. Lewis:

Thank you for sending me Dr. Stuart's report. I am enclosing my check for a salary for this year. When I subscribed, I subscribed for a limited period of years, and I do not know that I can do this indefinitely. I shall be glad to see Mr. Lew when he arrives.

James H. Lewis, Esq.
Peking University
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Received	6/10/26	✓
Entered		✓
Cash receipt made		✓
Pledge card		
Follow up card		
Checked on list		✓
" " Stencils		✓
Answered		
(Linn sent)		✓
Filed		✓

payment or pledge
Faithfully yours,

Henry P. Olin.

0229

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JUL 5 1927

"PHANTOM HEIGHT"
ST. HUBERT'S
ESSEX COUNTY
NEW YORK

July 3rd 1927

Samuel F. Peckinpah University,
150 Fifth Ave.

Dear Sir,

I have been in the
habit of sending a cheque for
\$1100 towards the payment of
a salary of one of the professors in
the therapeutic department of the
University. I enclose \$50 to
again this year.

Yours truly,

Henry S. O'Neil

#1776
C.A.

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JUL 5 1927

MANHATTAN HEIGHTS
ST. HUBERT'S
ESSEX COUNTY
NEW YORK

100 1/2 St. No.

Dear Sir,

I have been in the
 receipt of your letter of
 the 27th inst. regarding the
 history of the property in
 the neighborhood of
 Manhattan Heights & so on.

Yours truly,
 J. H. [Signature]

RECEIVED
 UNIVERSITIES
 JUL 5 1927
 JOINT OFFICE

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1 E 20

July 7, 1927

Rev. Henry Sleane Coffin, D.D.
"Phantom Height"
St. Hubert's Essex County
New York.

Dear Coffin:

It brought a bit of cheer to us at this critical time when your gift to the University reached here, another proof (if indeed any were needed) of your unflinching interest in the inspiring task there at Peking. We have recently had a cable saying that the academic year closed peacefully and successfully, and Professor Terman, one of our teachers has just arrived from Peking and says he thinks the University has had perhaps the best year in all its history. Favored partly by our geographical location and partly by the exceptionally happy cooperation of students and faculty during the last year, Yenching remains the only institution in China that has complete faculty and students intact during these troublous times.

Of course there has been a good deal of (boring from within) by the minority party of the "reds" and nothing has pleased me more than the sane and balanced way our students have met the very great pressure put upon them.

I spent from November to April between here and the Pacific and never have I known a period when people were so keen to hear about China and so unwilling to help China. One can explain this psychologically but is a very illogical position for that all-to-large number of people who take who really believe in establishing the Kingdom of God throughout the world. For our institution in Peking I think we have a severe financial period ahead but I am sure we shall win out "if our faith fail not".

Harry returns from Europe on Sunday after his first vacation since "Time" started, and, on September 15th, we will welcome Emmavail here. She with her husband are now crossing India. Mrs. Luce and I are happily located at 611 West 112th Street and are enjoying to the full our united days together again.

I hope sometime in the fall before your work starts up too heavily we can have opportunity for a little talk together.

Ever in the best of bonds,

HWL/ES

0232

"PHANTOM HEIGHT"
ST. HUBERT'S
ESSEX COUNTY
NEW YORK

July 2nd 1928

Treasurer of Peking Univ.

Dear Sir,

I am in the habit
of sending you \$1,800 at this
season in payment of a promise
made to Prof. Stuart for the
payment of the salary of our
Chinese professor in the Geological
Department. Kindly acknowledge
receipt to the above address.

Yours truly,
Henry L. Gill.
He pledged \$9000
in 1923 - see receipt 2006.

His wife
for \$1,800 one. This \$1800 completes payment

0233

Coffin, Rev. Henry Sloane
Union Theol. Sem.
New York City

July 5, 1928

\$1800 for last

Gift received	7-5-28
Receipt slip #	2006
Entered on control record	✓
" " acct. card	✓
" " contr. list	✓
Serial No. on L. and card	286 ✓
Pledge signal attached	✓
X file cards	—
Letter ack. sent	7/7/28
Checked for O. L.	✓
" " class card	✓
" " stencil	✓

payment on pledge
of \$9000 made in
1923 toward salary
in Theol. school at
Geneva

0235

December 4, 1928

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Coffin:

By special request of President Stuart, we are mailing you under separate cover a colored photograph to give you an impression of one unit of the architect's scheme of Yenching University. The physical equipment of the institution is nearing completion. It is universally recognized as being satisfactory and truly beautiful, harmonizing in a wonderful way with the scenery of the Western Hills and its setting among the ancient Chinese palaces and gardens. We hope that in the midst of this beautiful setting Yenching University will truly embody the spirit of Christ which will give new life to the China now evolving out of ancient Cathay.

You are two of the friends in America without whose generous and devoted help Yenching University could not have come into existence. We hope this picture will bring vividly to your conscience the value of what you have done and be a reminder of our lasting gratitude.

Very sincerely yours,

Assistant to the President

Rev. & Mrs. H. S. Coffin
Union Theological Seminary
120th Street & Broadway
New York, N. Y.

CHW:LN

0236

H.S. Coffin

80, CLAREMONT AVENUE

My dear Mr. Wainwright -

My husband and I wish
to thank you very much indeed for
the charming colored photograph of
part of Yenching University - 21
gives a most delightful picture
of what it will be as a whole,
and we are proud and glad to own
it -

Very sincerely yours

Agostine Prentice Coffin

December 9th

0237

January 12, 1929

Copy to Mr. Wannamaker

January 31, 1929.

President Henry Sloane Coffin, D.D., ✓
Union Theological Seminary,
Broadway at 120th Street,
New York City.

My dear Henry:

As I recall it your generous contribution of \$1,800 per annum for the maintenance of one of the Chinese members of our School of Religion expires during the present year. This is a request to you to continue this form of cooperation with us, if you still feel that in planning your budget for benevolence we continue to be worthy of a claim upon your generosity. You will recall that at the outset this money went to the salary of William Hung but was later transferred to that of Dr. T. C. Chao, the present Dean of the School and one of the foremost Christian workers in China both intellectually and spiritually. He was one of the delegates at the Jerusalem Conference and spent several weeks afterwards in the British Isles where he seems to have made quite a creditable impression. I hope that it will be possible for William Hung to see you some time and tell you something in detail of T. C. Chao's work. For my own part I have an admiration for him such as I feel for very few either Chinese or Western friends. He is a tremendous asset not only in his immediate duties but in his religious influence in the University as chaplain of our Sunday Service. He is also constantly called to various parts of China for taking part in conferences, etc., and is chief editor of the little magazine "Truth and Life", which is practically an organ of our theological faculty and is the only publication in China for a modern and scholarly but evangelical presentation of Christian truth. I might add that while the resources of the University have been increased since you made this promise yet our needs and potentialities have kept this space with these assets so that our dependence upon this assistance

Ms. last
1800 covered
year 1927-28
but
JLS was
asking for
year 1927

0238

is essentially the same as then.

In a somewhat more personal way it means a great deal to me to have this added form of fellowship with one whom I love as much as I do you. I wish it were possible to invite myself to lunch with Mrs. Coffin and yourself, and then present this appeal to my helpless host.

With constant remembrance in this great task and with greetings to Mrs. Coffin, David and Ruth,

Ever, affectionately yours,

March 6, 1929

Dear Dr. Coffin:

Dr. Stuart invited President Hibben of Princeton to preach the dedicatory sermon at the formal opening of Yenching. He felt that Dr. Hibben's prestige as an educator in America would be valuable to Yenching in China and that the appearance of a distinguished American educator as a preacher at the formal opening of the University would also be of service to Christianity in China. Unfortunately, Dr. Hibben has felt it necessary to decline. Dr. Stuart has now placed upon me the responsibility of discovering the right person and inviting him.

My first thought is the question whether you can possibly be induced to go. You know without my telling you how delighted Dr. Stuart would be. I am sure you will give the matter serious consideration if your duties render it at all possible that you could get away.

If this is something we must not hope for, can you suggest to me one or more possibilities - ministers of sufficient distinction to be especially desirable for this purpose and who might either be going to China this summer or who might be induced to go for this special purpose. Unfortunately, Yenching has no fund available from which to pay the heavy expenses of the journey, so that we are forced to seek for the services at the hands of someone who can pay the cost of his own journey to China and back. This will restrict us seriously but it cannot be avoided.

With sincere thanks for your help, I am

Sincerely yours,

Assistant to the President

Dr. Henry Slaane Coffin
Union Theological Seminary
120th & Broadway
New York City

CDW:BB

0240

May 8, 1929

Dear Dr. Coffin:

Apr. 21, 1929

A recent letter from President Stuart informs us that you have generously renewed your pledge of \$1500 a year to Yenching, the gift to be allocated this time to the salary of Dean Chao in the School of Religion.

We are deeply grateful to you. I am sure from all we have heard of Dean Chao that he must be one of the most valuable persons connected with Yenching. It gives deep satisfaction to know that his service there is through your generosity so closely associated with Union Theological Seminary.

Dr. Stuart did not mention details regarding your wishes in connection with this pledge. In order that our office may be conducted in a businesslike fashion and to avoid certain mistakes that inevitably get into such organizations as ours, we are trying to carry out the principle that every pledge be made out on a suitable form giving specific information, dates of payments, and other matters. For this reason I am sure you will understand my sending you one of our usual pledge cards. Will you kindly indicate on the card when you wish to be reminded regarding this pledge and for how long a period the pledge is made?

You may wish to do what some other contributors do - keep a duplicate of your pledge in your own files. I send a second card for that purpose.

With renewed thanks for your gift, I remain

Cordially yours,

Assistant to the President

copy for JLS

Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin
Union Theological Seminary
120th Street & Broadway
New York City

0241

May 16, 1929

Rev. Henry Sloane Coffin,
Union Theological Seminary,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Coffin:

Please accept our grateful thanks for your
and Mrs. Coffin's gift of \$1,800.00 to cover the salary of
Professor T.C. Chao. I send you herewith the receipt of
our Treasurer.

We are carefully noting your statement that
you do not wish to pledge yourself indefinitely, and your
permission to remind you next May, at which time you may
renew if practicable.

Cordially yours,

Assistant to the President

ODW:EMG

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Coffin, Rev. & Mrs. H. J.
Union Theol. Sem.
120th St. & Bwy.
New York City

Feb. 3, 1931

\$1800 - Salary of T. C. Chad

Gift received	2-3-31
Receipt slip #	2938
Entered in control record	✓
" " acct. card	—
" " contr. list	✓
Serial No. on L. and card	1129
Pledge signal attached	—
X-file cards	
Letter ack. sent	2-4-31
Checked for O. L.	✓
" " class card	ML
" " status Renewal	✓

Three letters from
ODW

0243

Rev. & Mrs. Henry Sleane Coffin

Union Theol. Seminary
120th St. & Broadway, New York

Gift received, Feb. 8th, 1932 (date)

Cash Gift \$ 1800.⁰⁰
Pledge \$ _____
Designation Sal. of T. C. Chao
Received through Annual gift
Entered on control record ✓
Serial number 1353 ✓
Entered on record card ✓
Pledge signal attached ✓
Cross file card made _____
Receipt number 3522
Acknowledgment sent 2-8-32
Entered on renewal sheet ✓
Checked for office list ✓
Checked for mailing list ✓
Contributed previously? Feb. 1931

0244

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UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BROADWAY AT 120TH STREET
NEW YORK

December 6, 1932

PRESIDENT'S ROOM

The Rev. B.A.Garside
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Mr.Garside:

*Record card
noted*

You will remember coming and talking to me last year when you got my contribution for Yenching University, and asking me whether I could do it another year. I then told you how strapped I was and that I intended to do it another year if I were able.

I think I ought to let you know now in December and not wait until spring that at the present moment I can see no possibility of my being able to make the usual contribution. Sources of income upon which I have depended in the past have now absolutely dried and I have to keep pretty much within my salary and that has been cut. There are charges for the education of my children and household expenses that cannot be curtailed and therefore I do not know how I could possibly give more than a fairly small sum this spring.

Regretting to have to write this letter to you,
I am,

Cordially yours,

August S. Cullen

2.24 H

0245

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BROADWAY AT 120TH STREET

NEW YORK

PRESIDENT'S ROOM

December 6, 1932

Mr. George C. Barber
60 East 42d Street
New York City

My dear Barber:

Of course you may include my name on the Advisory Council of Yenching, although I trust this means no meetings. I am very fond of Leighton Stuart and only regret that curtailed resources make it impossible for me to do as much for Yenching as I have done in the past.

Cordially yours,

Henry S. Coffin.

0246

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BROADWAY AT 120TH STREET
NEW YORK

February 7, 1936

PRESIDENTS ROOM

The Rev. President Leighton Stuart
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Stuart:

Is there any chance of your being in the City on a Thursday morning in the course of the next few weeks? We should love to have you speak to our boys at Chapel and that happens to be my morning when I can very easily withdraw in favor of a better speaker. Any Thursday after next Thursday, when we happen to have a speaker, is free. The service is, as you recall, at eight-thirty, and the speaker can have about ten or eleven minutes. I am sure the boys would get a lot from listening to a message from you.

We should love to have you spend the night before with us if it is convenient.

Affectionately yours,

Henry S. Coffin

0247

February 21, 1936

My dear Henry:

I was awfully mortified on over sleeping yesterday. Mrs. Coffin may have given you the message that I had been delayed by a train wreck between Philadelphia and here the night before and got to bed about 3 o'clock. For the first time in my hotel experience, the telephone operator failed to call me as requested. With you ready to take the service, there was no serious loss to the students but I am sorry not to have had this further visit with you. As I am leaving for China next Wednesday, I can scarcely offer to make good this failure on the present trip. This, therefore, is a word of farewell to Mrs. Coffin and yourself until I am here again.

As ever,

Affectionately,

JLS:CT

President Henry Sloane Coffin
Union Theological Seminary
120th Street and Broadway
New York City

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UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BROADWAY AT 120TH STREET
NEW YORK

PRESIDENTS ROOM

February 9, 1939

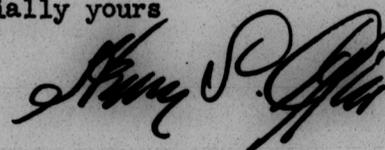
ack 3/1/39

Mr. George Barbour
Yenching University
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Mr. Barbour

It so happens that your dinner occurs on the same night as the B Minor Mass of the Oratorio Society of which I am the president and I do not see how I can skip that occasion. We only have three meetings in the year and if I do not put in my appearance as president of the Society and then go out and have a word with the chorus, it doesn't seem very gracious. So will you excuse my wife and me from the dinner and believe me when I say that it isn't due to any lack of interest in Yenching or affection for Dr. Stuart and many others whom we know intimately in that institution.

Cordially yours



HSC:BB

0249

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BROADWAY AT 120TH STREET

NEW YORK

PRESIDENT'S ROOM

March 3, 1939

Mr. George G. Barber
Yenching University
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Mr. Barber

Thank you for sending me the
souvenir program of the dinner in honor
of Mr. McBrier. It must have been a most
interesting occasion and I am very sorry
that it was not possible for my wife and
me to be with you.

Faithfully yours



HSC:BB

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THE SHIPLEY SCHOOL
BRYN MAWR, PENNSYLVANIA

October 30, 1945

ack
11/1/45

Dear Mr. Evans,

Mrs. Henry Sloane Coffin is President of the Millbrook Garden Club. She was anxious that they should get an international outlook even through their Garden Club interests. They had some money in their treasury and so she wrote and asked if there was some way in which she could interest them in Yenching's horticultural needs. I prepared the enclosed statement which we sent her. I am enclosing an excerpt ~~for~~ a personal letter from her to me in which she says that the Club voted to give five hundred dollars to Yenching.

You will see that she asks various questions of how to forward the money. In answer to her questions I am writing her to say that the Club should send the money to the Yenching Office and that I am sure there will be no difficulty in Yenching's accepting a specific gift of this kind. I will thank her, but I think it would be nice if Mr. McBrier, or whoever it is that does such things, would write a note of thanks for Yenching. I will also tell Miss Boring about this gift and perhaps she will write a note of appreciation for the Biology Department.

I wait every day to hear the word that Lucius and Langdon and perhaps some of the others have arrived in this country. Is there any news directly from Peking?

Sincerely yours,

Augusta Wagner

AW:W

Mr. C. A. Evans
Yenching University
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

*Mrs. Coffin's address is
Coombe - Pine
Lakeville
Connecticut*

0251

Yenching University had one of the loveliest and most distinctive campuses in the world, as members of the Garden Club of America who visited it in 1935 will bear witness. The grounds were purchased from the family of a Prince, to whom they had been given by the Emperor Ch'ien Lung for his help in building the Emperor's summer palace. The Chinese love natural beauty and the grounds were originally laid out with artificially created hills and a lake, fine old pines and spreading Chinese locust trees, finely proportioned houses, and charming summer pavilions. But the family fell on evil days and when the grounds came into the possession of Yenching much of their original landscape beauty had been destroyed. Many of the ancient trees had been cut down for the money their wood brought. The lake was a stagnant pond for the water system which fed it had long since fallen into disrepair. The buildings and summer pavilions were in ruins and the place was a tangle of weeds, but Yenching salvaged what beauty remained and created new loveliness.

In the early days when we were pioneering and when funds were scarce, Yenching was fortunate in being given a fund to be used to restore the beauty of the grounds in memory of Mrs. Leighton Stuart. The money has long since been used up, but a memorial of great beauty was created. It passed into the hands of the Japanese on December 8, 1941.

What the present state of the grounds may be we do not completely know. In the first week of the occupation the nurseries and workshops were looted of every piece of equipment - shears, shovels, rakes, brooms, spades, mowers, carts, baskets, hose, buckets. Not a thing remained. Workers were dismissed. All growing things were left to die.

The following spring the Japanese occupation forces instituted "Arbor Day" for Peking. They stripped the Yenching campus of truckloads of young trees. These they planted in the city and its environs; then they moved on leaving the newly planted trees to die for lack of care.

At Yenching itself they did nothing to keep the grounds in order. When we appealed to them to water some trees planted the previous spring they ordered us to mind our business. The trees were allowed to die. When we left, the grounds were a mass of rank overgrowth and litter.

It will take much money just to put the grounds in order, to buy the necessary equipment with which to do it, and to reemploy the Chinese laborers. There is so much destruction of other kinds to be repaired out of our limited funds that if the Millbrook Garden Club could assign some of its funds to this special project we might more quickly once again restore the beauty of Yenching and at the same time help to provide employment and food for some of the Chinese village families who have been starving, or have been on the verge of it, during the long years of Japanese occupation.

Our Biology Department before the Japanese invaded the University was doing work in plant pathology. China suffers great losses annually in her fruit and grain crops from pests and disease. Our Chinese scientists were trying to find methods adaptable to Chinese conditions to improve the situation. But the Japanese have looted the laboratories; all the equipment is gone. It may be that the Club would be interested in helping to reestablish the laboratories and in establishing scholarships for the students working in this field.

October 14, 1945

Excerpt from letter of October 27, 1945 from
Mrs. Henry Sloane Coffin

"Last week I got Miss Lamont to read the statement at our Millbrook Garden Club meeting and it aroused much interest. There were also, of course, projects in Europe that interested the membership, so I appointed a committee to look into the different places. Today they reported that they recommended we give \$500 to Yenching, to help towards the equipment in the Plant Biology Dept. and \$500 to the American Relief for Holland, to help purchase garden tools that are so much needed there.

I am so happy we can do something for Yenching. I have an Executive Committee meeting here on Friday next at lunch, or Nov. 2nd. Could you let me know before that date how we can best give this money, and where to send it, or would it be better for us to purchase the equipment, if we knew what was wanted? I know there may be difficulty in giving to a specific object, because of the whole money raising fund rules."

0253

COOMBE-PINE
LAKEVILLE
CONNECTICUT

November 6, 1945

22/14
11/14/45

My dear Mr. Evans -

As president of the Millbrook
Garden Club it is my happy duty
to send you, for Yenching University,
the enclosed check for five hundred
dollars for the Club -

We wish it used to help

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rejuvenate the Biology Dept. which
has done such fine research work
in the past, helping Chinese agri-
culture. As a Garden Club
we want to help in the rehabilitation
of that part of your work. I
understand we will be allowed
to ask that our contributions
go toward this end? Miss
Speer told us it is possible
to make gifts for specific
objects.

Very sincerely yours

Anthony Prentiss Coppin
President, Millbrook Garden Club

Mrs. Henry Sloane Coppin
Lakeville,
Connecticut.

November 14, 1945

Mrs. Henry Sloane Coffin
Gambro-Pine
Lakeville, Connecticut

Dear Mrs. Coffin:

Your very gracious letter of November 6th enclosed a check for \$500.00 for which we enclose receipt herewith. This gift was designated to help refurnish the Biology Department and it will be sent to China for this purpose.

May we express to you, as the President of the Millbrook Garden Club, our deepest gratitude for this very thoughtful and timely gift. It will have the virtue of enduring and lasting value.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAR/B
ENC.

0256

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