Yenching
Corrs.
Conklin, Edwin Grant 1932-1934
Conover, Lula 1931-1945
Converse, Mary E. 1921-1944

May 24, 1932

Dear Professor Conklin:

Because of your double relationship to Yenching University - your membership on the Board of Trustees of Princeton-Yenching Foundation, and your personal and professional interest in the natural sciences - I venture to ask whether you may be able to cooperate with us a little in a really critical emergency facing the University. I will not waste your time with too much detail, but will only say that the Rockefeller Foundation positively declines to extend the time limit on an offer of $250,000 toward the endowment of the natural sciences, and not only will not extend the limit, but will cut us off from an annual grant of $12,500 unless we match the capital sum by June 30th. Because of the terrible conditions prevailing, we had assumed that the time limit would be extended and are disappointed and very much shocked to learn that this cannot be done.

We are "turning Heaven and earth" not to lose the capital grant and not to have the whole division of the natural sciences crippled with the loss of one-third of its total current income, which would have to be removed from the budget already voted for next year, if we fail in our effort.

We have available to report to the Foundation about $183,000, and need $67,000 before June 30th. I need not tell you that this relatively small amount of money looks at the present time as difficult to raise as a whole mountain.

Through your years of work in financing scientific undertakings, can you possibly give us contact with two or three persons who might be interested in giving something toward the balance still needed? A word of introduction from you commending Yenching University as unquestionably the most important American institution in China, and during these years of turbulence probably the most important, without any qualification whatever, would open the doors for us.

I shall be deeply grateful for any help you can give.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant to the President

Professor E. G. Conklin
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

ODW:KK

cc to JHS

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of Biology

May 26th, 1932.

Mr. Olin D. Wanamaker,
American Office of Yenching University,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City

My dear Mr. Wanamaker:

I am greatly distressed by the news contained in your letter of May 24th and hope that something can be done to save the situation. It is inexplicable to me that the Rockefeller Foundation should have taken so positive a stand on a matter that is of such vital importance to Yenching University. I do not have any idea how I could be of any service in this matter. Evidently it will be necessary to get the aid of some foundation or of a number of very liberal contributors, and the latter seems almost hopeless in these hard times. I suppose, of course, that you have canvassed all the sources of supply, and particularly those individuals and foundations that have been interested in education in China. I wonder if the Chinese Legation in Washington or the Consul General in New York might be able to make valuable suggestions.

The only foundation that I can think of apart from the Rockefeller that might be interested, is the Rosenwald Foundation, of which Dr. Edwin E. Embree is President. Dr. Embree was with me at the time I visited Yenching in 1926, being at that time an officer in the Rockefeller Foundation, and I know that he was greatly interested in the work of Yenching University, and especially in the departments of natural science. I suggest that you appeal to him for aid in this crisis, and if I hear from you that you have decided to do this, I will write him a personal letter urging the importance of the matter and requesting his favorable action.

I regret that I feel so helpless in such a case as this. I have never been able to raise money in any large way. The only exception to this has been the obtaining of a grant of £50,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation for the Bermuda Biological Station for Research, which occurred before the period of depression. I know the President of the Rockefeller Foundation only through my contact with him in connection with the application for this grant, and if the Foundation has taken a positive stand in refusing to extend the time allowed for meeting their conditional grant, it would be useless for me to attempt to change this decision. Possibly if you knew someone who has influence with Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. this could be accomplished, for example Colonel Woods, Counsel to Mr. Rockefeller, or possibly our Princeton Trustee, Mr. Albert G. Millbank.

Mr. Olin D. Wanamaker May 26th, 1932.

Hoping that some way may be found out of this very serious situation, and promising to aid within my power, I am

Cordially yours,

EGC:R

MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

WOODS HOLE, MASS.

September 15, 1934

Mr. N. Gist Gee
American Office of
Yenching University
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Mr. Gee:

Your letter of September 11 was forwarded to me here at Woods Hole. In reply, I regret to say that I have had no experience with silk worms and do not know whether the proposed refrigeration would actually double the quantity of silk produced, though I should think it likely that it would, especially if the worms are given sufficient food to fully develop before they pupate. Certainly this would be a remarkable discovery if it could be applied commercially. There are, as you know, some kinds of silk worms which produce two broods a year, - the so-called bivoltine; whereas those that produce but one brood per year are known as univoltine. A Professor Tanaka of Kyushu University has worked out the inheritance of this trait. When you are in Princeton again, I shall be glad to refer you more particularly to any of these papers and I shall look forward to a visit from you sometime in the autumn.

Sincerely yours,

E G Conklin

Edwin Grant Conklin.

EGC:brd

September 20, 1934

Dr. E. G. Conklin
Marine Biological Laboratory
Woods Hole, Mass.

Dear Dr. Conklin:

Thank you for your letter of September 15th. I appreciate your willingness to put me in touch with the literature connected with the work on silk worms and possible if I have a little time some day when I am in Princeton I will take advantage of this.

Our delightful visit in your home is a most pleasant memory and I would be very glad indeed to see you again when the opportunity offers itself.

Kindly remember me to your entire household and be sure when you are in New York to call us up. Our home telephone is Cathedral 8-8821 and the office is Watkins 9-8703.

Very sincerely,

M. Gist Gee

MGG:HW

LULA CONOVER
HOUSE 17A, LANG JUN YUAN
YENCHING UNIVERSITY

Same as mentioned by Mr. Barbour in his report to Trustees 2-16-31 p. 3.

Copy sent Mr. McBride 3-11-31 LC

Peiping, China, & copy in Yenching news folder

Feb. 10, 1931.

RURAL EVANGELISTIC WORK

Last Sunday morning the service of worship here at Yenching University was a very impressive one. Dr. T. C. Chao, the University Chaplain, was in charge of the service. The speaker, Mr. Tsai Yung Ch'un, was a young man with a fine spiritual face. Mr. Tsai was formerly a student at Yenching, having been graduated last June. For some months he has been working as a country evangelist for the American Board Mission in the villages around Paotingfu and Tinghsien. As he told of the needs of these rural people and the insistent call of service for them, his face revealed the deep sympathy which he had for them, the Christian love which filled his heart, and the desire to give all that he might bring to them the uplifting power of Jesus Christ.

He told of how when he was about to leave a certain village word went around among the church members, and that evening a number of them gathered at the house where he was staying. They were unable to express the feeling that filled their hearts. They asked him to lead them in singing "God Be With You Till We Meet Again". Then for a long time they talked together. Finally one of them suggested that they pray together. Mr. Tsai said: "I prayed. I felt it hard to leave them, for I don't know when or who will come again to this village to be their helper. I could only put them in the care of our Father. After my prayer, every one of them prayed. So although the village homes are unheated, village life is warm. Oh, how I love that warmth!"

With great earnestness Mr. Tsai told of the needs of these village people. He said: "The villagers are suffering from ignorance, poverty, disease and selfishness, the four great enemies of China."

As a concrete illustration, he told of a twelve-year-old girl who was so bright that after studying three months in a class she was able to read the New Testament. When Mr. Tsai came to the village, he said: "This girl must have a chance for further education". But when he visited her home, her parents said to him: "Teacher, you see this girl. Whenever a teacher comes to stay in the village she drops everything and goes to attend the class. But we are poor farmers. We cannot afford to let her go. At home she can help to spin and earn a few coppers a day."

Other instances of privation, lack of opportunity, and suffering touched the hearts of his hearers, and as the depth of his sympathy and love for these people sometimes choked the words, I saw more than one of his listeners wipe the tears away.

After giving other illustrations, Mr. Tsai said: "These all are suffering from problems which are rooted in ignorance, poverty, disease or selfishness".

"During my first days in Tinghsien," the speaker continued, "I was tackling the question 'What message have I for the villagers?' After these few months of work, and in the face of such sufferings, I feel within me a voice saying, 'Be Jesus to them. Move among them in the way the Heavenly Father would - that is your message.'"

We were told that over eighty per cent of the Chinese population belong to the peasant class. About ninety per cent of the whole population are rural people. "What is China but this rural mass? If you want to save China, you must save the masses. They are the real China."

In closing Mr. Tsai said: "I would like to present to you a word from Jesus: 'Unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains just one grain. But if it dies, it yields a great harvest.'"

I came away with mingled feelings of great sorrow because of the sufferings of China's millions, and great joy in my heart because of Christian Chinese young men and women, such as the one we had just listened to, whose consecration, Christ-like love and faith in God, and self-sacrificing service give promise of a better brighter day for China - a day of more equal opportunities, of brotherly love, and Christian fellowship made possible through the mighty working of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

L. Conover

燕京大學
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEPING, CHINA.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

TELEGRAPH ADDRESS
"YENTA"

July 3, 1931.

Miss Louise McCoy,
Yenching University,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.,
U. S. A.

My dear Miss McCoy:

Enclosed herewith you will find two photographs of the Commencement procession at Yenching. One of them show the Chancellor very clearly, leading the procession. He is followed by President Stuart, The Commissioner of Education, the Chancellor of the National University of Peiping, and Mr. Roger Greene, of the Peking Union Medical College.

Yours sincerely,

Lula Conover.
Acting Secretary.

Encs.

July 28, 1931

Memo to Miss Genovera

Rec'd 8-10-31

Thank you for your letter of July 3rd enclosing two pictures of the Commencement Procession. I suppose the pictures we asked for of activities during the Commencement period will be coming along soon. We do need for this fall some more intimate pictures of smaller groups of students and faculty. Miss Magne has some letters from me in her file - May 8th and June 1st - which will explain what we need. Pictures that are taken at too great a distance and have a number of people in them do not make good pictures for reproducing.

I know we give you a lot of requests to fulfill but we really should be getting out better publicity than we have in the past and pictures help so much.

L. Mc.

Notes Jul 7/1/44

Portland, Oregon,
July 4, 1944.

ack 7/17/44 cde/cw

The China Colleges,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York 11, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

June 23rd I received a copy of the "China Colleges" Bulletin. This interested me very much, having done stenographic work at Yenching, and having taught at St. John's University. The picture of the entance to St. John's University caused me to see vividly the whole campu and the University buildings. Such a beautiful campus it was. I hopeit has not been destroyed. How I wish I could know about former students in my classes and fellow-Faculty members. I know about some of the American members of the Faculty, but I have heard nothing about my Chinese friends since I left Shanghai in November, 1940.

Thank you for sending the paper. I am glad that the St. John's Alumni are planning to open St. John's in Chengtu. My best wishes are for their success and progress.

Sincerely yours,

Lula Conover.

Address:

Miss Lula Conover,
Box 4624,
Sellwood Station,
Portland, Oregon.

Portland, Oregon,
July 4, 1944.

The Chinese Colleges,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York N. Y.

Gentlemen:

June 5th I received a copy of the "Chinese Colleges" Bulletin. This interested me very much. Having done stenographic work in Kenming and having lived at St. John's University. The picture of the entrance and the urgent and the view also of me based ability see of am of to St. John's University. I hope that.nan University building. Such a beautiful campus it was. I wish I may be I could work about temporary arrangement in Yenching need destroyed. Now I am classes and letter-Faculty members. I know about some of the Chinese friends time to return members of the Faculty, but I have been hoping you about my chinese friends since I left Shenkenkel in November, 1940.

Hoping you for sending the paper. I am glad that the St. John's Alumni are planning to open St. John's in Chengtu. We feel always are for their success and progress.

Sincerely yours,

Address:
Miss Lulu Conover,
Box 4254,
Bellwood Station,
Portland, Oregon.

Conover

Portland, Oregon,
July 4, 1944.

Yenching University,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York 11, N. Y.

Gentlemen;

The 26th of June I received for the first time a copy of the "Yenching News", and was very much interested in looking it over. I am wondering what the subscription price is for the little paper. I do not see that information given. If you would let me know what the subscription price is perhaps I could subscribe for the paper and receive it regularly.

I am still greatly interested in the work of Yenching University, and those who are carrying on in such difficult circumstances have my sympathy and good wishes.

Yours sincerely,
Lula Conover.

Address:

Lula Conover,
Box 4624,
Sellwood Station,
Portland, Oregon.

O.K. sent post card saying there is no charge

July 17, 1944

Miss Lulu Conover
Box 4624, Sellwood Station
Portland
Oregon

Dear Miss Conover:

It was good of you to write us on July 4th regarding the last copy of the China Colleges. We too, are very happy that St. John's is planning a new unit in Free China and they are deserving of success as they have made a very good start indeed. I mean by that, there has been a very good group which has gathered together and a considerable fund has been raised. Of course, the Episcopal Board here stands back of them to help in any way possible.

With every good wish to you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

CAE:EW.

C. A. EVANS

1241 N. E. 53rd Avenue,
Portland 13, Oregon,
January 17, 1945.

ack
1/30/45
case/Ed

Yenching University,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York 11, N. Y.

Dear friends:

Several days ago I received the Bulletin of "The China Colleges", which contains the picture of Dr. Y. P. Mei, now Acting President of Yenching University in Chengtu. The brief article accompanying the picture stated that Dr. Mei would come to America next spring, a guest of the Division of Cultural Cooperation of the State Department.

I shall be eager to see Dr. Mei and talk with him if he comes to America, but I can scarcely hope that there will be an opportunity for that. Not many China folks come to Portland. Usually they arrive in San Francisco, and then go directly East. I thought perhaps your office would know of Dr. Mei's itinerary, and would let me know if he expected to travel via Portland. If you cannot give me information in regard to his itinerary, perhaps I should write to Dr. Mei direct.

I shall await your reply. I am very glad that Dr. Mei is to have this opportunity. He is such a fine man. He will be a worthy representative of the China Christian Colleges.

With all good wishes for friends of Yenching, whether here in America or in China.

Sincerely yours,

Lula Conover.

Yenching ex-faculty

January 30, 1945

Miss Lula Conover
1241 N.E. 53rd Avenue
Portland 13, Oregon

Dear Miss Conover:

Your letter of January 17th is at hand and you will be pleased to note that Dr. Y. P. Mei is scheduled to leave China some time in February. If he flies to America it will take him a very short time and possibly will be here in early March.

We do not know his schedule or what the State Department will wish him to do. It is quite possible, however, that he will be on the Pacific coast and in that case there is some possibility of his seeing you. Of course we do not know anything about his itinerary. I would suggest, therefore, that you write him in care of our office and we will hand it to him just as soon as he arrives.

Very truly yours,

CAE:EW.

C. A. EVANS

1241 N. E. 53rd Avenue,
Portland 13, Oregon,
February 16, Oregon.
1945

Mr. C. A. Evans,
Associated Boards for
Christian Colleges in China,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York 11, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Evans:

This is to thank you for your letter of January 30th. I appreciate the information concerning the expected arrival of Dr. Y. P. Mei from China, and the suggestion that I write to him in care of your office. This I have just done today, and I shall be glad if the letter can be handed to him when he arrives.

I am glad for his sake that he is to come to America, and I am glad that the American People are to meet and know such a fine representative of China.

Recently I was interested in reading that Professor Johnson, of the Oregon State College, was to be sent again to China by the State Department, Division of Cultural Relations. I am glad of that. I met him casually last fall at a committee meeting. We stole ten or fifteen minutes to talk about China, and it was very interesting.

Very truly yours,

Lula Conover.

BALLOU

REC'D 4/12

ANS'D 4/13

1241 N. E. 53rd Ave.,
Portland 13, Oregon,
April 6, 1945.

Mr. Earle H. Ballou,
Yenching University,
150 Fifth Avenue,
Bew York 11, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Ballou:

This is to thank you for your letter of March 20th. I thank you for your kindness in sedning this to me. I am sure all the friends of Dr. Stuart were glad to hear the good news concerning him, and to know that the rumors concerning him were false. We read the statement in the February 2nd issue of the Shanghai Evening Post correcting the false statemen

Even so, imprisonment for so long a time must be very hard to endure, especially for one like Dr. Stuart, who would be active and interested in affairs. I often remember in my prayers the workers who must suffer so much of hardship these days. I am somewhat fearful that the Japanese will practice their atrocities on prisoners in China as they did in the Philippines when they knew the Americans were coming and the prisoners would soon be released. How wonderful it is that so many have been released from the Philippine prison camps.

The situation in the Pacific looks better for the Allies. Russia's decision will help a great deal. I see small chanve for Japan. It would save so much suffering and death if Japan would surrender, but I suppose that is too much to expect from that nation. It does seem that she can't hold out much longer; she has had so many losses of men, ships and airplanes.

I am wondering if Dr. Y. P. Mei has arrived in America yet. I understand he was expected in the month of March. I hope his visit in America will mean much to him, and that he will be able to help the American people to better understand China and the Chinese.

Please notice my present address, as given at the beginning of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Lula Conover.

April 13, 1945

Miss Lula Conover
1241 N. E. 53rd Avenue
Portland 13, Oregon

Dear Miss Conover:

We have noted your change in address. Thank you. We are not quite sure when Dr. Mei will arrive. The report you saw that he would get here in March was quite erroneous. Our cabled word from him indicated that he was then expecting to leave some time this month, which might mean arrival sometime before the first of May, or it might mean later. We understand he will be given air passage, but probably only a second or third priority. Word brought by T. Z. Koo suggests that he may not leave until May, but this is to be weighed against another statement that he expected to get off immediately after a meeting of the Council of Higher Education the middle of this month. We hope for another letter in the near future.

Your anxiety about how internees will fare in China is shared by all of us. I am not sure whether slow starvation is customarily included among acts described as atrocities, but certainly the many letters we have recently received from friends and acquaintances in the Philippines have placed an emphasis upon food beyond anything we have ever seen!

Very sincerely yours,

Earle H. Ballou

EHB:mec

MISS MARY E. CONVERSE
ROSEMONT
PENNSYLVANIA

Conditional pledge

My dear Dr. Stuart:—

It was a pleasure to see you again, and I wish I could be one of seven to give one of the faculty houses, but could only do it if the payments extend over a period of five years. I regret that I cannot do more on account of the

multiplicity of demands upon me, and limitations of income.

I expect to be at the meeting on Monday, and perhaps you will have an opportunity either before or after to let me know if this arrangement would be possible for you.

Yours very sincerely,

Mary E. Converse

Mar. 23. probably 1921

paid up

To aid YENCHING UNIVERSITY of Peking, China, in carrying forward its Christian educational activity and in consideration of the securing, by representatives of this University, of gifts from others for this purpose, I am sending herewith a cash gift in the amount of $..... (or) (and) I hereby pledge the sum of One Thousand ($1000.00), to be paid by me in accordance with the plan checked below:

- ☐ In 2 annual payments beginning July 1, 1930 (date)
- ☐ In ..... semi-annual payments beginning ..... (date)
- ☐ In ..... quarterly payments beginning ..... (date)
- ☐ At my convenience, on or before ..... (date)

over

Full name of my local church: Bryn Mawr Presbyterian

Signed (Miss) Mary E. Converse

Street Garrett Rd.

City and State Rosemont, Pa.

Date Apr. 10, 1930.

Please remit to the order of E. M. McBrier, *Treasurer*, Yenching University, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

NOTE: I shall expect to be reminded previous to due dates Yes (yes or no)

(over)

To aid YENCHING UNIVERSITY of Peiping, China, in carrying forward its Christian educational activity and in consideration of the securing, by representatives of this University, of gifts from others for this purpose, I am sending herewith:

A cash gift in the amount of $.....

A pledge in the amount of $1000., to be paid by me in accordance with the plan checked below:

- ☒ In annual payments of $200 each, beginning July, 1936 (date)
- ☐ In semi-annual payments of $..... each, beginning ..... (date)
- ☐ In quarterly payments of $..... each, beginning ..... (date)
- ☐ At my convenience, on or before ..... (date)

Signed (Miss) Mary E. Converse

Street 1 Garrett Rd.

City and State Rosemont, Penna.

Date June 5, 1936.

Full name of my local church: Bryn Mawr Presbyterian

Please remit to the order of E. M. McBrier, ~~Treasurer~~, Yenching University, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

NOTE:—I shall expect to be reminded previous to due dates Yes (yes or no)

PENNSYLVANIA ROSEMONT

Gifts:

$100 - 1921 Converse, Miss Mary E.
100 - 1923 Lancaster & Garrett Avenues
Pledged $1000 for Residence, 1923, paid in instal (Bryn Mawr 187)
completed August 1927.
100 - 1928 Yenching)
100 - 1928 Women's College
200 - 1929 Yenching
Pledged $1000 Women's College Endow, paid in instalments $200 annually, 1930-34.
200 - 1935 Women's College Endowment
Pledged $1000 Women's College Endowment, paid in instalments $200 annually, 1935-194-
Pledged $1000 Women's College Endowment, applying on fund to secure $47,000 conditional gifts. Payments to begin 1941-42, when previous pledge has been completed.
200 - 1940-Nov.-WCEnd.-Final Pay't on Pledge dated 6/5/36.
200 - 1941-Dec.-WC Sustaining Endowment
200 - 1942-Sept.WC Endowment

DECEASED April 1944

#2

ROSEMONT
Converse, Miss Mary E.
Continued

Information:

1931- Miss Speer called June. Very helpful with names and suggestion. Bryn Mawr AB 1898.
Member Philadelphia Emergency Committee ABCCC.
June 1940 - Mrs. Parlin and Mrs. Macmillan called on Miss Converse at her home. Miss Converse made a new pledge of $1000 to W C Endowment, to help secure the three conditional pledges amounting to $47,000 for endowment. This pledge to begin 1941-42. They learned that Miss Converse is devoted to Miss Alice Boring, at Yenching.