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Yenching
Corr's
Hughes, E.R. 1931-1933
Human Betterment Foundation
1931-1936

Hughes, E. N.

1931-1933

E. R. Hughes

October 31, 1931

To the Friends of Yenching:

All those who are interested in the primary and central purpose of the University - to be an embodiment of Christianity in the educational life - cannot fail to be deeply impressed and greatly encouraged by the following letter. It was written to President Stuart by Mr. Hughes, a member of the National Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association of China, August 31st last.

Olin D. Wannamaker

August 31st, 1931.

To Dr. Leighton Stuart
Yenching University
Peiping

Dear Dr. Stuart:

I arrived back here last night, and before the bustle of the National Committee claims me I want to get down on paper some more of the reflections which have come to me from my two months in and around Peiping. First of all come some very vivid impressions of Yenching, students and faculty, and these I will pass on to you, for I am thinking you may be interested.

First, by way of background, I had come over a period of years to feel that a very distinctive spiritual experiment was being made in Yenching. Doubtless there is much on the detailed side of that experiment which I have not grasped, so that what I say may sound a bit crude. R.K. Evans talked to me a good bit in 1922, but after that my impression grew unconsciously by slow accretion of news from all sorts of quarters, including those which regarded Yenching pretty dubiously. I came to see you folks as taking your stand on certain fundamental truths: the Christian's debt to God to give nothing less than the best in education; the Christian's honouring of God and man, honouring the latter as equally with him a child of God and able by God's boundless grace to make his own responses to God's calls, responses not necessarily along the same lines by which the West has been disciplined; the Christian's faith that without any artificial props, solely on the basis of his matchless power and man's need, Christ can and will assert his authority whatever the conditions; the Christian's willingness to be crucified, in this case willingness to find that the fostering of vital religion in the university is one which must take time and involve much more hardship of hope deferred and reputations discounted than your hearts had the courage and wisdom to visualize in the beginning. I saw also that in the greatness and intricacy of this Yenching task you folks were almost bound to make mistakes, that in your stark determination to allow no pettifogging restrictions, you might easily find yourselves involved in actions which you hated. Therein lay the distinctiveness of your experiment.

To Dr. Leighton Stuart. -2.

Aug. 31, 1931

Now from all this you will conceive that I had a good admiration of your faith and courage. Yes, but I must confess also to considerable qualms. You see I had had a "cure of souls" for some twenty years either in England or China, and along with a developed sense of the individual soul had come a doubt of some of the huge institutions which are built up for the glory of God: as if there were a mechanical element in Nature which was able most of all to assert its power in such institutions and make them spiritually null. It seemed to me that Yenching might suffer such a fate and that you folks might wake up some day and find you had pursued a will o'the wisp. Then three years ago I spent three months on the campus, and at the end came away wondering whether you would after all be able to pull it off. My admiration was greatly increased, but I felt the dead weight of your size and intricate organization, the wheels within wheels, lives spent in the mere keeping of the machinery running so that their spiritual witness was almost lost in the whir and clank of that machinery. Then this summer I have been again, and had two months in and around Yenching, getting to know many kinds of students and faculty members better than I did last time. My qualms are gone now. Not that you have won out, not that you are not in danger- it is going to be an uphill fight all the way- but I feel so sure that you have done the right thing and that the Spirit is with you. Two words are in my mind. One is our Lord's command "Lend expecting no return". There has been too much of the huckster spirit in much of the Church's giving to China, the feeling that we have a right to get a quid pro quo. Yenching is standing for something more truly Christian than that and teaching us to honour man as well as God. The other word is that about the tares growing with the wheat. For a university to be a university, it must be planned on the principle that it approximates much more to the larger community of society than to the smaller community of the family. What then may foster life in a family and a junior school may do the exact opposite in a university. So that parable of our Lord's holds here. What is more, I have seen the good Yenching wheat growing- or rather I should say the good Yenching rice.

To begin with, I was for the first time this summer at the Hopei Province Student Conference, a conference such as I had never seen before in China both for numbers, student initiative, and excellence of devotional periods. The part Yenching played there was most marked; indeed from one aspect it was too marked. The Conference Committee had relied quite obviously on being able to get Yenching professors to fill the bill for lectures. They would do well to get to work earlier and go further afield. Still this feature shews the value Yenching is to this splendid institution. Further the faculty members who were there apart from the visiting lecturers very much demonstrated their value. It was good to see the terms on which they were, both with their own Yenching students and with the general body; whilst Y. P. Mei's wit and wisdom were a joy to behold. As advisor to the Provincial Union he must have a very fine influence. My own particular duty was in connection with the Morning Watch and again I was greatly struck with the part Yenching played. Without T. C. Chao's preliminary help the students could never have successfully carried through their bold purpose of dividing the conference into small groups and getting these to spend a whole hour in quiet worship. When I reached Peiping I was amazed to find that this was the plan, for quite half the 250 students expected were high school students. I sympathized very much with the nervous apprehension

To Dr. Leighton Stuart -3.

Aug. 31, 1931

which afflicted the student in charge of the arrangements. She, by the way, was a Yenching student, a girl whom I knew for some years before she came to Peiping- I think she would have been a Communist anywhere else, but you are surely making a Christian of her. Well, that bold plan succeeded. I kept tab with my friend and we found that only a very small proportion stayed away from the Morning Watch.

To come to the student side and Yenching's contribution, besides my young friend, there was the girl who was chairman of the Conference, whom I did not know, but what struck me was that ordinarily she would have been a very nice young party, a bit inclined to be comfortable in whatever environment she found herself. And yet here she was taking the lead and doing it well. And then too there was my friend 'the Bishop' as he is called- popular, you know, in spite of intense reserve. I know a good bit of his history and I should say that Yenching has helped a lot in saving him from being a dour fanatic; God gave him a temperament which will never be weak-kneed and you have added the Pauline grace of sweet reasonableness. Well, he very much pulled his weight both in the planning and running of the Conference. These were the outstanding people, but there were others, devotional group leaders, study group leaders, the girl in charge of Evening Prayers, etc. Altogether, the Conference would have been a much poorer spiritual event without what Yenching did for it.

In the Student Commission meeting with its representatives from all over China, Yenching of course did not stand out so prominently. But even there your folks were always found ready to help and to give as occasion required. T. C. Chao was back from his student conferences in East and Central China, and the Committee got him to take the daily devotional period. He was very good, whilst Y. P. Mei seemed to me to do a lot in the discussions to push things along to those more constructive decisions which I had hoped for and which in the end the Commission failed to reach. I noticed too the attention with which Yenching people were always listened to, whilst a few days before the meeting was held, one evening when I went to have a talk with the Chancellor, I found one of the Commission leaders closeted with him taking his counsel on the Student Movement. With regard to the feeling against the Churches amongst Christian students, I have found suspicion in Yenching as elsewhere, but not with that bitterness of prejudice which does exist in other places. These outstanding folks whom I have met strike me as well-balanced, ready to give the Church their full loyalty. All the same the denominational spirit does not attract them.

These are my impressions, I trust not too longwinded. Having arrived at this position, you can understand how encouraged I am to pray for you folks in your great venture.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) E. R. Hughes.

學大京燕
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
Peping China

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

TELEGRAPH ADDRESS:
"YENTA"

March 24, 1933

Dr. J. Leighton Stuart
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Stuart:

The enclosed cable arrived yesterday, and Dr. Galt has located "Hughes" as Mr. E. R. Hughes. His address in the 1932 Protestant Missions Directory is 216 Scott Road, Shanghai, but apparently he is now in London. Dr. Galt thought perhaps it would be almost as quick if you wrote the recommendation from New York, and would be much better, as you probably know him. I am writing Mr. Hughes that we are forwarding his cable to you in America.

Everything is progressing peacefully - the students are very calm and orderly and there is an air of steady and serious application that is quite reassuring. We all hope that everything is going well with you.

Sincerely yours,

Tom J. Cunniff

March 22, 1933

來報紙
RECEIVING

中國電報局

本局號數
JOURNAL NO.

THE CHINESE TELEGRAPH ADMINISTRATION

由 From		附註 -REMARKS-		交 To	
時刻 Time				時刻 Time	
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原來號數 TELEGRAM NO.		等第 CLASS		字數 WORDS	
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To Tightendown
Yensing Peking
applying Oxford University
Chinese please recommend
Hughes London Mission

April 21, 1933.

The Senate
Oxford University
Oxford, England

Gentlemen:

I understand that Mr. H. R. Hughes is being considered for a readership in Chinese at Oxford University, and venture to write, recommending him for such a position. Mr. Hughes has not only an exceptional knowledge of literary Chinese but, what is almost more rare, a delicate appreciation of its inner meaning. This feeling of his for Chinese culture has given him a fine sympathy and insight which, together with the basis in sound scholarship, would seem to fit him admirably for the position in question.

Very sincerely yours,

JLS.A

I leave May 13th C.P.R. via Montreal to Montreal and then Empress of Asia from
Vancouver on June 3rd, due in Shanghai on June 23rd. There is a special Education Officer of the
April 27th 1933
Boxer Indemnity Board to be held in July.

25 Balcaskie Road
Eltham, Wells Hall
London S.E.9.

My dear Leighton-Stuart,

I cabled you at Yenching on March 22nd to say that I was proposing to stand for the Oxford Readership in Chinese and asking you if you would do me the kindness of recommending me. You were among the two or three friends in China who I thought might be ready to do me this service. Why I cabled to you at Yenching was because I had heard some one say that you had been seen recently in Shanghai, so I presumed you must be in China. Now however I hear from T.C. Chao who has been staying a few days with us, that you are in America. So I write renewing my request.

The circumstances which have brought me to make this decision are a bit complicated, yet simple enough really. My appointment to the Y.M.C.A. had to come up for reconsideration when I came on furlough last year. The Y asked for me to be loaned again to them, but the L.M.S. owing to financial difficulties was unable to consider it. Then my L.M.S. friends tried to make an arrangement by which I was free to do my special jobs and yet be carried by the Shanghai District. The result was a compromise which with all the good will in the world on both sides was not a satisfactory arrangement for either of them. So when the Society's financial year drew to a close I began to see more and more clearly that since cuts would have to come, it really was my business to find some means by which at any rate for a few years I could stick to my research and get my book finished without delay and at the same time relieve the Society of the rather embarrassing position in which it was in relation to myself. Some Oxford friends also were encouraging me to concentrate more on research.

So one way and another my wife and I came to the decision. Oxford of course would be delightful enough, specially as this time I have made some very good friends there. But I am definitely afraid of getting tied up in England, and consider that what little service I can render to the work of the Kingdom is most likely to be done in China. On the other hand the terms of the Readership allow of the holder spending six months in the year in China. So it may be possible for me, if I get the Readership, to keep in close touch with scholars and friends and students in China and to discharge my duty as a trustee of the British Boxer Indemnity Board. Truly,

The date of the election has not yet been published, though it may be any day now. Probably the date will be about the end of May, but might be some days earlier. So if you feel you can recommend me, it is rather important that the recommendation should come quickly. There is one complication about

the matter. My wife and I are leaving for China on May 13th, so that it would be safer if any communication were sent to the Master of Balliol, Oxford. He is one of the electors and he assures me that it will be all right for my recommendations to be sent to him.

大
成
礼
The Oxford Readership specializes on Chinese Religion and Philosophy. I cannot remember specially talking to you of it on those jolly nights we spent the summer before last on your verandah. In case I did not, I have been concentrating gradually more and more during the last three years in my research on the emergence of the neo-Confucianist culture which got going after Hsun Tze and which can be seen so clearly in the early Han books, specially the Li Chis of the two Tais, the Tai Tai Li and the Siao Tai Li (commonly known as the Book of Rites). Arising out of what I discovered in the welter of schools and their struggles in the Civil War Period and immediately after, I came to see the distinctive Chinese tradition emerging and centring round questions of authority and freedom in politics and religion with no dividing line between religion and politics. So the subject of the book I ~~am~~ have been fighting to get time to finish is Problems in Authority and Freedom in Religion and Politics: China Has Something to Say. The last two chapters will deal first with the situation in China today in relation to the great traditions of Han days, and second with what the bearing is on the West with its problems in authority and freedom in religion and politics.

I have planned a book of 13 chapters, making about 400 pages. I have written five of these in a form which more or less satisfies me. Then you will remember there is the paper on Filial Piety which I wrote for Yenching at the big occasion in 1929, when the School of Religion asked me to contribute. Also I enclose a copy of a popular lecture I gave to the Royal Asiatic Society in April of last year. There are various articles also in the Chinese Recorder and the International Review of Missions from 1930 to 1932. Is this enough to help your memory? I am sorry to worry my friends in this way, but since I am, the least I can do is to burnish their recollections of my small affairs. By the way I have asked Hu Shih to write a recommendation, also David Yui, also Chu Chia-hua. I should like to have asked Ku Chieh-kang, but gave up when I realized the difficulties of cabling. I do not know whether Dr Chu will bestir himself enough, nor whether Hu Shih can be found these days of alarms and excursions, or whether David Yui will be well enough. However, there it is. If this Readership does not come my way, I have been asked to stand for the Lectureship which Hongkong is starting. I would rather not be in Hongkong, but in some ways it would not be more inconvenient than living six months in Oxford and six months in China.

Are you well? And how does Yenching fare for the future in these hard times? T.C. Chao made an earnest appeal to the L.M.S. Board yesterday that they should continue to back up Yenching. He was applauded well when he finished, though I don't know whether that can be taken as any sort of indication. The decision on cuts will be made at the June Board I gather.

The very best of good wishes

Yours very sincerely E. R. Hughes.

CS

May 10, 1933.

My dear Hughes:

This is only a brief acknowledgment of your letter before I start off on another trip, to say that the cable was relayed from China and that I sent a letter to the Senate at Oxford, which I hope will be of help in securing the Readership for you. This morning a card came, indicating that this had been received. I sympathise keenly in the problem you are facing and hope that this will prove to be the right solution.

Very sincerely yours,

JLS

✓

Dr. H. R. Hughes
25 Balcanish Road
Waltham, Well Hall
London S.E.9, England

Human Betterment

Foundation

1931-1936

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Mr. Olin D. Wannamaker
Assistant to the President
Yenching University
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Wannamaker:

I have your circular letter of the 7th instant in your appeal for funds to sustain your work in China. I fully appreciate the great work you are doing and hope that the response to your call will amply supply your needs. I am unable, in justice to my obligations to the Human Betterment Foundation, to respond to any such calls. We may, however, be able to cooperate in our work for China and other over populated countries with many hereditary defectives.

With this end in view, will you kindly read carefully the enclosed pamphlet "Human Sterilization". It has a real message which you will find no place else. The work should be carried to China, and it can be done through the missionaries and educational institutions better than almost any other way.

I will be glad to hear from you when you have read the enclosed pamphlet.

Sincerely yours,

E. S. Gosney

E. S. Gosney, president

December 12, 1931

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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

February 16, 1933.

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Dr. Geo. G. Barber, President,
150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City :

Dear Dr. Barber :

I appreciate the compliment paid me in your request of 10th inst. to become a member of the California Advisory Council of Yenching University, Peking, China. I cannot promise to be very active in the service of your great enterprise, as the work of the above Foundation is about as heavy a tax on my time and strength as my age and condition will allow. However, association with the splendid body of men you list as members of your Board from California, makes it an honor to be a part of your Council.

We have had some correspondence with Mr. Wanamaker of your New York office, and also with one or two members of the faculty of Yenching University, relative to our work here; and have sent the University a number of copies of the enclosed, much condensed statement of the results of our research, but have not received from the school any reports as to what they have done in bringing this matter to the attention of their classes. We feel that one of the most necessary and greatest protections to the over-crowded population of China, and particularly to those who are unable to fend successfully for themselves, would be the practical application of eugenic sterilization of the unfit to that race. And, inasmuch as it takes time - a generation or more - to educate the people to where they are ready for such advancement, I would ask you as my first suggestion and counsel, that you seriously consider our work here in its application to the people of China, and the possibility of making that one of the outstanding projects to be advocated by those departments in your University which naturally deal with these problems of biology. As I have said, we have already sent some of our literature to several of your professors, and shall be glad to furnish them with any amount they can use to advantage.

If you care to make inquiry of Dr. Robert Freeman, who is one of our members as well as a member of your Council, or of any responsible person here in Pasadena, as to the reliability and seriousness of our work, I am sure you will feel justified in recommending it to your University faculty; and will thereby aid us in our constructive work for race betterment, as well as your University in its work for its people. May we hear from you and have your advice as to what can be done in this respect? We make a special effort to be conservative and correct in all matters recommended from this office.

Please note change of address from 26 N. Marengo Ave., to Suite 321 Pacific Southwest Bldg., Pasadena. Inasmuch as there is only one E. S. Gosney in the United States that I know of, I usually sign my name in that way; but make it the full name if you prefer. Cordially yours,

E. S. Gosney

Information
just the
same as
this letter

no, to JKS
& to
the P.M.C.
at O.D.W.'s
suggestion

OL & ML
sent by changed
at r -
2/26

He has been on
our regular
mailing list
since Oct. 1930

H

September 8, 1933

Mr. E. S. Gosney
Suite 321, Pacific Southwest Building
Pasadena, California

Dear Mr. Gosney:

Thank you for your recent communication on the subject of sterilization. I am glad to have these facts. The progress of the movement seems to be quite rapid now. It will doubtless gain momentum as time goes on and will soon become a recognized routine in certain types of cases.

I am looking forward with much pleasure to another trip to the West Coast this winter and I am hoping to see you and have an opportunity to have a long talk with you about Yenching University and our work in Biology out there.

Dr. C. F. Wu, the leading young biologist of China and a professor at Yenching is now in the United States doing some work on the insects of China. His headquarters are at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., and letters to him should go in care of Dr. J. G. Needham. I am sure you would find him most sympathetic with general ideas and I hope you will get into communication with him. It would be splendid if you could meet Dr. Wu some time during the year when you are in the East; he will leave from New York City for Europe on his return to China next year.

Looking forward with pleasure to seeing you this winter,
I am,

Very sincerely,

HGG.A

H. Gist Gee,
Vice-President.

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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

January 2, 1936.

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Dr. J. Leighton Stuart, Pres.,
Yenching University,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York, New York.

Dear Dr. Stuart:

We have your favor of the 26th inst. reporting the condition and work of Yenching University which I have read carefully and find it quite interesting. Though I know very little, save what I have learned through your reports of the problems and success of your institution. I am afraid my counsel on your greatest problem - that of raising funds, would be of little value. I am not personally adapted to that sort of business and my experience in increasing the resources of this Foundation has not renewed my confidence even for those institutions in which I see the greatest possibility and the greatest needs.

We have had some correspondence with the professors of your University in 1931, 1932 and 1933, particularly with Dr. Leonard Hsu, head of the department of Sociology and Dr. J.C. Li, chairman of the Biology department and sent them, for the University, some of our literature including our two volumes, Collected Papers and Sterilization for Human Betterment. We have not heard from them for the last two years. We would like very much to know how the work was accepted by the students and in what way our pamphlets were received by the students and the faculty. We had contact with Dr. N. Gist Gee something like a year ago and wrote him at the University in Peiping and also addressed a letter to the University office in New York, from which our files show no reply, though we received marked encouragement from your New York office and others connected with the University whenever we have contacted them on this subject. We are continuing our research work and from time to time printing and distributing brief pamphlets and leaflets for the education of the public on the results of these investigations.

*notes
cd*

Dr. Stuart, #2.

How can we best reach the parties at the head of the departments of Biology, Psychology, Sociology etc who would naturally come in contact with this work and learn whether or not they care to continue to aid us in this educational work and how we can best do it?

Cordially yours,

E. S. Gosney

E.S. Gosney, President

B

AC