

338 5178

UBCHEA ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
RG 11

Yenching
Corres.
Lamont, Thomas + Florence
1920-1940
Langmuir, Irving 1934

1233

Lamont, Mr and Mrs - Thomas W.
1920 - 1940

1234

3
3
8
5
1
7
8

Copy to H. H. L.
✓ give details about Univ Plans. File under
Lamont

April 27, 1920.

Mr. Thomas W. Lamont,
Peking Hotel,
Peking.

Dear Mr. Lamont:

Following up our conversation of a few days ago it gives me pleasure to tell you something more in detail of our University, its plans and its problems. Herewith a copy of our first announcement, on pages 4 - 7 of which you will find some information that may be of interest. Since that was published we have incorporated a Woman's College, to have the same curriculum and standards as that for men, to be known as the College of Arts and Sciences for Women. This will remain in its present quarters until we all move to the new site and even then will probably be taught in separate classes. If at any time in the future it seems desirable to combine young men and women in the same classes our flexible arrangement will make this possible. But all technical and graduate courses will be open to women from the beginning.

Our thought is to let the Senior College more and more take the form of a wide range of vocational electives. Students can thus be specializing during their college course in their professional or industrial preparation. Of course all students will be required to take certain basal studies for general culture and moral and religious training. Our hope is that these young men and women can thus go out into places of constructive leadership in the new industrial and other developments that are coming in China, and that while equipped for such positions they may also have the Christian spirit of service and may be able to apply integrity and high purpose in their careers as well as to count for all that concerns the social, economic, political and moral welfare of this country. An institution located in the Capital of China and initiated by American generosity, with such support as Great Britain can give under present conditions, ought to be worthy of the countries we represent in its staff, equipment, and ideals, and ought to be of great service in the Christian Movement in China, which, the more I watch the various currents of life out here, the more I am convinced is the one solution for China's many ills.

New Site // You will have seen before leaving Peking the site which, through the friendly assistance of certain officials, it has been made possible for us to secure. This will give us some thing over one hundred acres at a cost of \$150,000.00 Mexican. As the grounds are already improved and well...

1235

Mr. Lamont - 2.

was formerly a historic summer palace of one of the Manchu princes, and is very near the city, while outside the walls, it seems to combine sanitary and scenic advantages and protection from immoral and other destructions, while keeping us related to the life of the city in so far as this would contribute to the welfare of our students. Our plan is to erect a scheme of buildings in Chinese temple architecture, thus preserving the Chinese atmosphere and harmonizing with all that is best in the material appearance of this city. The buildings will be thoroughly modern in interior equipment and in every way adapted to their purpose. Our architects are Murphy and Dana of New York and Shanghai, who have had large experience in this special type of construction. The total cost, over our five-year program, amounts to something over three million dollars Mexican, though about half that would enable us to move out and begin operations in a fairly satisfactory way. I have good reason to hope that the active interest of certain leading Chinese in this city will mean that when once started we can get Chinese support in increasing amounts, and that by adding continually to the Chinese representation on our faculties, before many years the institution will become predominantly Chinese in its control. It will thus represent the best type of cooperation between America and China at a time when every influence of this sort strengthens the bond between the two countries and makes their friendship count for the salvation of this country through the development of her own resources in man power.

We already have an animal husbandry department and agricultural experiment station financed entirely by a Chinese business man of this city, who has conceived the idea through what he has seen of our work and has entrusted entirely to us to put into effect. We are hunting in America now for a Manager and his associates to start up this feature. We also have definite plans for a Department of Mechanical Engineering, another for the manufacture of leather, and a Department of Teacher training. One enterprise which appeals to me more strongly almost than anything else is a School of Journalism. The power of the Press at this stage is tremendous, but Chinese newspapers are nearly all subsidized by special interests or dominated and intimidated and do not have the confidence of the people. The editors also lack technical training. I doubt if there is any place where college men with Christian courage and ideals could exert larger influence than by going into journalism of a high order and thus moulding and making articulate Chinese public opinion. Another feature that will interest you is an Industrial Service Bureau, which is to open next autumn. A young man specially qualified for this has accepted our invitation to study industrial conditions, trade opportunities etc., partly to advise us what courses can be safely developed, partly to give our students vocational advice in view of industrial openings; partly also to be at the service of Chinese and foreign promoters of Chinese industries, the latter of whom may be glad to receive information regarding Chinese matters, the former of whom would secure a medium in which they will have confidence for securing Western technical experts, machinery, statistics, etc.

Mr. Lamont - 3.

This probably covers in the main what we have definitely planned thus far. We are hoping to have a number of new teachers come out in the near future to strengthen various departments. Our present estimated budget is about \$200,000.00 Mexican a year if we can secure the desired teachers and can carry out the various features that seem to us necessary at this stage. It is needless to say that underlying all that we have in mind is the effort to lead our students to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Master and Savior and to base their conduct and life purpose on His teachings, as the best way in which they can serve their country and realize their fullest development.

We should greatly appreciate any assistance you could render us in America by permitting our representatives to refer to you any individuals that may be interested in contributing to our support. It is possible that you yourself may know of men who are looking for an investment of this sort, and that you could refer them to us. The Vice-President of the University, Rev. H. W. Luce, is at present living in New York, 514 W. 122nd St., and the Secretary of the University, Rev. F. R. Wheeler, can be reached at 156 Fifth Avenue.

Pardon this long letter and allow me to tell you again what a joy it has been to have a man with your outlook on life coming on the important mission that has brought you to China. With best wishes in the accomplishment of this purpose,

Very sincerely yours,

President.

JLS:IM

1237

File "Lamont"

Probably May 1930

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT J. LEIGHTON STUART OF PEKING UNIVERSITY TO MR. THOMAS M. LAMONT.

"Our thought is to let the Senior College more and more take the form of a wide range of vocational electives. Students can thus be specializing during their college course in their professional or industrial preparation. Of course all students will be required to take certain basal studies for general culture and moral and religious training. Our hope is that these young men and women can thus go out into places of constructive leadership in the new industrial and other developments that are coming in China, and that while equipped for such positions they may also have the Christian spirit of service and may be able to apply integrity and high purpose in their careers as well as to count for all that concerns the social, economic, political and moral welfare of this country. An institution located in the Capital of China and initiated by American generosity, with such support as Great Britain can give under present conditions, ought to be worthy of the countries we represent in its staff, equipment, and ideals, and ought to be of great service in the Christian Movement in China, which, the more I watch the various currents of life out here, the more I am convinced is the one solution for China's many ills.

"Our plan is to erect a scheme of buildings in Chinese temple architecture, thus preserving the Chinese atmosphere and harmonizing with all that is best in the material appearance of this city. The buildings will be thoroughly modern in interior equipment, and in every way adapted to their purpose. Our architects are Murphy and Dana of New York and Shanghai, who have had large experience in this special type of construction. The total cost, over our five-year program, amounts to something over three million dollars Mexican, though about half that would enable us to move out and begin operations in a fairly satisfactory way. I have good reason to hope that the active interest of certain leading Chinese in this city will mean that when once started we can get Chinese support in increasing amounts, and that by adding continually to the Chinese representation on our faculties, before many years the institution will become predominantly Chinese in its control. It will thus represent the best type of cooperation between America and China at a time when every influence of this sort strengthens the bond between the two countries and makes their friendship count for the salvation of this country through the development of her own resources in man power.

"We already have an animal husbandry department and agricultural experiment station financed entirely by a Chinese business man of this city, who has conceived the idea through what he has seen of our work and has entrusted entirely to us to put into effect. We are hunting in America for a Manager and his associates to start up this feature. We also have definite plans for a Department of Mechanical Engineering, another for the manufacture of leather, and a Department of Teacher training. One

1238

enterprise which appeals to me more strongly almost than anything else is a School of Journalism. The power of the Press at this stage is tremendous, but Chinese newspapers are nearly all subsidized by special interests or dominated and intimidated and do not have the confidence of the people. The editors also lack technical training. I doubt if there is any place where college men with Christian courage and ideals could exert larger influence than by going into journalism of a high order and thus moulding and making articulate Chinese public opinion. Another feature that will interest you is an Industrial Service Bureau, which is to open next autumn. (Mr. Bailie is Head of this Bureau.) We wish to study industrial conditions, trade opportunities etc., partly to find out what courses can be safely developed, partly to give our students vocational advice in view of industrial openings; partly also to be at the service of Chinese and foreign promoters of Chinese industries, the latter of whom may be glad to receive information regarding Chinese matters, the former of whom would secure a medium in which they will have confidence for securing Western technical experts, machinery, statistics, etc.

This probably covers in the main what we have definitely planned thus far. We are hoping to have a number of new teachers come out in the future to strengthen various departments. Our present estimated budget is about \$200,000.00 Mexican a year if we can secure the desired teachers and can carry out the various features that seem to us necessary at this stage. It is needless to say that underlying all that we have in mind is the effort to lead our students to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Master and Savior and to base their conduct and life purpose on His teachings, as the best way in which they can serve their country and realize their fullest development."

T W Lamont

23 WALL STREET

December 11, 1922.

My dear Dr. North:

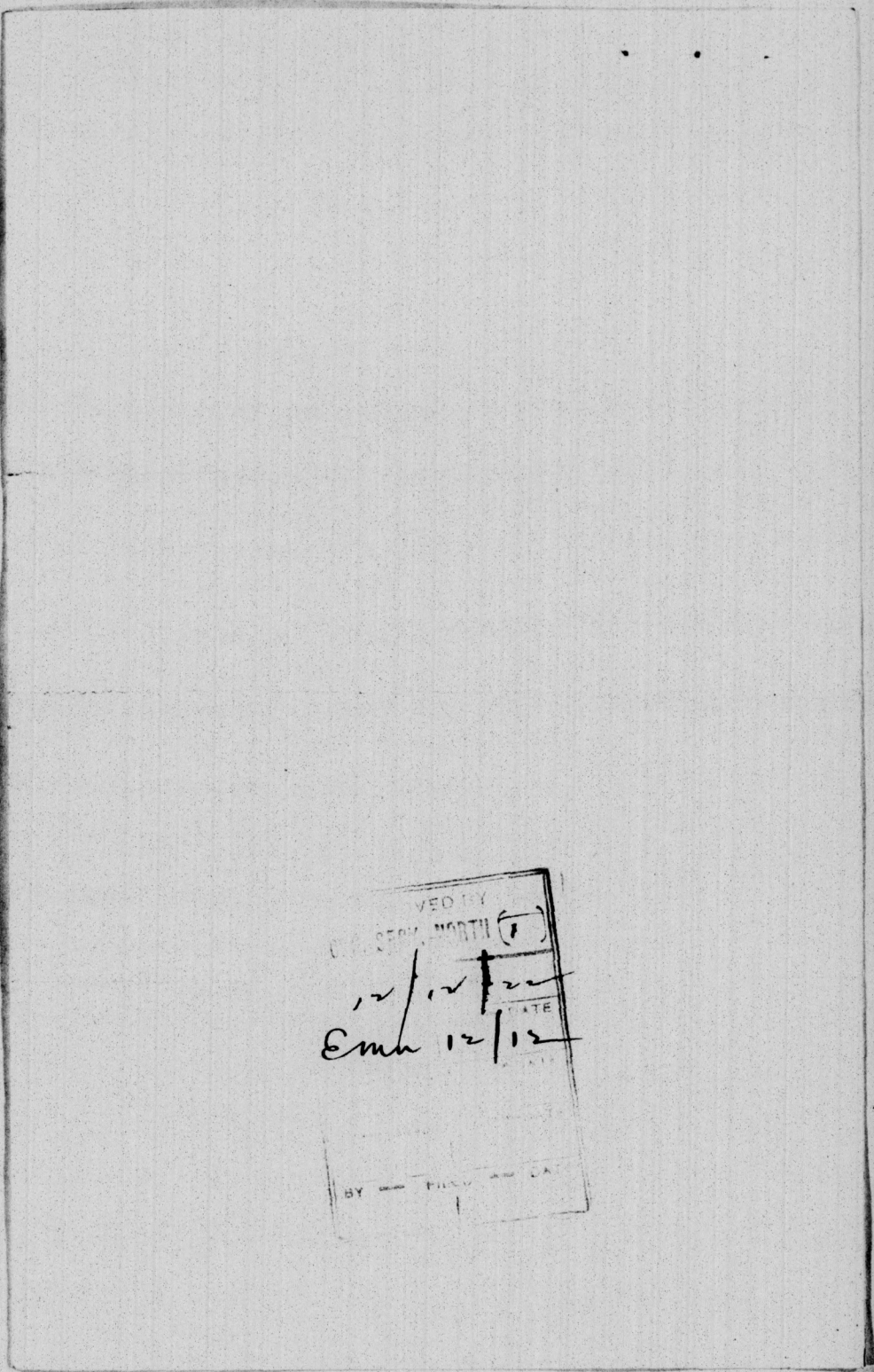
Let me acknowledge and thank you for your gracious letter of November 24 and say that I shall be glad to be numbered among the endorsers of Peking University. I have been away for a fortnight and my absence will explain the delay in answering your letter.

Very truly yours,

T W Lamont

Rev. Dr. Frank Mason North,
Board of Foreign Missions,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

1240



3
3
8
5
1
7
8

1241

N
V
January 11th, 1923.

Dear Mr. Lamont:

I am glad to write down, as you suggested, the important matter which Dr. Stuart and I began to discuss with you last Tuesday. I can do so the more easily because you know the general situation so well and so sympathetically.

As you know, in the process of uniting the old Peking Methodist University, the North China College and the Peking Women's College into one institution, we have been compelled to bring them together in temporary little Chinese buildings pending the time when we could put up adequate buildings on the beautiful new site out toward the Summer Palace. The faculty of forty foreigners and thirty Chinese, together with the four hundred students, have maintained wonderful esprit de corps in these temporary quarters. They have been able to do so because, as I said to you, they know the solid basis on which we are building; they believe in our policy for future development, and they have confidence that the friends of Peking University will cooperate in enabling their hopes to be realized.

This year we are asking our friends who understand the situation to cooperate with us in making a reality of these hopes. \$400,000 have already been given. The China Medical Board has pledged a Science Hall and equipment (\$75000) on condition that we secure the second Science Hall and Equipment. We estimate that it will take \$820,000 in addition to what we have in hand to move out on to the new site. It will be a very serious matter, not only to Peking but to the whole educational movement in China, to say nothing of the incidental relationships of China and America, unless during the year 1923 something very definite and adequate is accomplished. Indeed, it is regarded by some who have

given the best thought to the educational movement in China that the placing of Peking University strongly on its feet in an adequate way, worthy of America, is the most urgent single task in China. Personally, I have never been connected with a more one hundred per cent proposition, and I doubt whether any of us will be asked, during the course of our lives, to share in a more important single task of this nature.

We really wanted to ask what you felt you could do to cooperate with us in meeting this pressing opportunity. We feel we have an invincible case and that our problem is primarily one of securing opportunity to present it to a small group of men who might be glad to cooperate if they only knew. If you do not want to assume too much responsibility yourself, would it not be possible for you to call a small group of your more intimate friends and acquaintances together at some convenient time to advise with you and with us as to the possibility of getting a still larger group where the matter could be presented more formally? Or if the larger group did not seem advisable, then several smaller groups. We really have nothing to "put over" on anyone. We only wish to present our case, hoping for cooperation in one of the rarest opportunities of the present day.

We turn to you first of all with confidence that you will help in a matter that has such large issues at stake. The past indicates that Peking University can raise up the kind of leadership China most needs, only, instead of sending out thirty men yearly, we ought to send out three hundred.

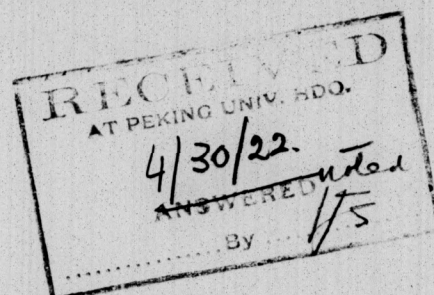
Will you think the matter over and let us know your thought?

Very sincerely yours,

Laumont

23 Wall Street.
New York.

April 28th, 1923.



Mr. Franklin W. Warner, Chairman,
Board of Trustees,
Peking University,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

My dear Mr. Warner:

Just as I am leaving for Europe, I find
that I have failed to acknowledge your letter of January 19th
enclosing the very interesting speech of Dr. Schurman, which
I am returning with hearty thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Laumont

Enc-

1244

x to Cont. Recd ✓

May 1923.

My dear Mr. Lamont:

We have just received from Mr. Roswell S. Britton your check for \$200 to be applied toward the salary of a professor of journalism for the year 1924-1925. We understand from Mr. Britton that it is your desire that this subscription should be entered as anonymous and we are marking our records accordingly. We wish, however, to thank you very heartily for your cooperation.

Let me also express our appreciation to you for your kindness in permitting the use of your name as one of the sponsors for the dinner to be held at the Metropolitan Club May 9th. Doubtless you will be glad to know that we have secured as our chief speaker for this occasion, Mr. Frederick W. Stevens.

Sincerely yours,

Chairman.

Mr. Thomas W. Lamont,
23 Wall Street,
New York.

1245

Carbon copy

23 Wall Street
New York

File

June 30th, 1925

PERSONAL

Mr. Henry W. Luce,
Peking University,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Luce:

It is with the greatest possible reluctance that I find myself unable to take a share in your plan, which you have outlined with your letter, and which you have gone over with Mr. Egan. My inability has nothing to do with any flaw in the plan, but simply to the heavy commitments that I am already under in educational matters for which I have been obliged to make myself personally responsible.

You must let me take this opportunity to tell you how much I admire the splendid work that you have done at Peking University. You have had an uphill job there, and the persistence, courage and skill with which you have carried it through appeal to me very greatly. I am sorry, therefore, to have to disappoint myself as well as you in this matter.

I am interested to know that it is your son who is helping to make such a great success of "Time", which I read very faithfully.

Sincerely yours,

W. L. Lunt

File

October 1, 1925.

Mr. Thomas W. Lamont,
23 Wall Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Lamont:

I am enclosing to you a recent address made by Dr. Stuart at the Baltimore Conference on China and America Relations. In the making of the address, Dr. Stuart did not have in mind at all the embryonic department of Journalism in Peking University, although it served to recall to my mind the aims and work of that department. My own mind becomes almost dazed when I try to think what a well-organized and established department of Journalism such as ours would be, might do in molding the public opinion of a quarter of the human race.

I recall that at present you are a bit skeptical as to just what the influence of journalism is in any land and I agree with you that when we think of its influence for good, there are some very real limitations. On the other hand it might be a great deal worse if there were not some men in it striving to make it better, and I can see no better way of accomplishing this in China than by using the type of men which we are producing and through such a department as we are endeavoring to develop.

Recent information by letter and cable indicate to us that Peking University has come through these troublous times in China with enhanced prestige and influence. At the risk of making this letter too long, I must tell you one very exceptional fact: When the national meeting of representative students was called to meet at Shanghai, the Peking Students' Union, consisting of fifty-two institutions and twenty-five thousand students voted that the Peking representative should come from our University and that our students should elect that representative. Certainly, this is a very surprising incident when all the circumstances are considered.

It is a real joy to me to believe that we have your confidence and I hope you will continue your study of us and in due time share with us in the splendid task. The formal opening of the new buildings will take place during the second week of September 1926, and it would be a real pleasure if it could so happen that with others who are even now planning to go out at that time, we could welcome you and Mrs. Lamont.

Very sincerely yours,

HWL:B

1247

23 Wall Street
New York

File

October 6, 1925

Mr. Henry W. Luce,
Peking University,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Luce:

Thank you for your letter and for sending me the reprint of Dr. Stuart's address at the Baltimore Conference. I had seen a press summary of Dr. Stuart's speech but was glad to have the full text. I wish I might promise to go to China next year and be at Peking for the formal opening of your new buildings but I fear I shall be held pretty close to New York during the greater part of next year.

I am afraid I have given you a wrong impression about journalism because as a matter of fact I am not a bit skeptical or doubtful of its great value. China needs an intelligent press, honestly devoted to the public welfare, and I hope she will get it as speedily as it can be developed.

With good wishes for the success of Peking University,
I am,

Very truly yours,

JW Lammart

TWL Ee

1248

Hoffman

23 Wall Street
New York

November 20th, 1925

Peking University,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Replied to Lion letter of
Oct. 28, 1925 - Gave -

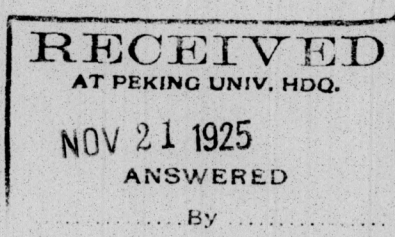
Dear Sirs:

Mr. Lamont has noted your letter of October
28th and has asked me to forward the enclosed con-
tribution of \$100.00 in response thereto.

Yours very truly,

L. Hoffman

Secretary to
Mr. Thomas W. Lamont



Received	L. F. 100
Entered	✓
Cash receipt made	✓
Plodge card	✓
Follow up card	✓
Checked on list	✓
" " Stencils	✓
Answered	✓
(Lion sent)	✓

1249

November 23, 1925

Mr. Thomas W. Lamont
25 Wall Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Lamont:

We are very grateful for your check for \$100.00 with its expression of continued interest in Peking University. Those of us friendly to China are glad of the apparently successful outcome of the Tariff negotiations.

In a letter from President Stuart this morning, he indicates that the success of the Conference is likely to insure the stability of the present central government with the probability that Chang Tso Lin will have real control. However, I think it will be better to have even him in control than to have the kind of a situation which exists at present.

With cordial greetings,

Sincerely yours

Replied to Lion Letter of
Oct. 28, 1925 - Gave -

1250

23 Wall Street
New York

June 16th, 1926.

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

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Owing to absence from town, this is the first opportunity I have had to thank you for your letter of May 27th and for your thought in sending me the copy of your newest bulletin, in all of which I am much interested. I shall look forward to seeing the Peking News account of the commencement exercises.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Laumont

TWL-Hn

23 Wall Street
New York

September 14, 1931.

Dear Dr. Stuart:

I wish I could say yes in reply to your kind invitation of August thirteenth, but I think it unwise for me to take a seat on your Advisory Committee, simply because I have reached a point with the pressure of work and responsibility that makes me reluctant to take one other single thing on my shoulders. I know quite well that you intend membership on your Advisory Committee to imply no heavy responsibility or time. But simply to have my name on a committee would mean that I should have to keep fully abreast of the University's policies, and I should in a way be endorsing all of them.

Now, while I have, as you know, a very high opinion of the University and what it has accomplished, I don't think that I should put myself in such a position. I hope, however, that you and your people will feel free to counsel with me whenever you wish. I hardly have to assure you of my continued good will towards every object that has to do with the welfare of China.

Confident that you will understand how I am placed, and with renewed appreciation of this evidence of your confidence, I am,

Sincerely yours,

W. L. Lumsden

Dr. J. Leighton Stuart,
Yenching University,
Peping,
China.

25 June 1932

My dear Mr. Lamont:

Your secretary has probably called your attention to the fact that I called at your office a few days ago with a letter of introduction from Mr. George Barber, who hoped that you would be good enough to let me discuss with you the great crisis and opportunity which Yenching University is facing at the present time.

Mr. Barber wanted me to call your attention to the grant of \$250,000 offered to the College of Natural Sciences by the Rockefeller Foundation, two years ago, on condition that we could match that with another \$250,000 by July 1, 1932. We immediately set ourselves to the task of raising the necessary \$250,000 in pledges and by last October we had raised, including the Foundation grant, \$425,000, leaving us short \$75,000 of the goal. We suspended efforts to secure pledges at that time because of disturbed economic conditions, supposing that the Foundation would extend the time for meeting their conditions.

But you can imagine our dismay, a few weeks ago, to receive a notice from them that under no conditions would the time be extended in this case beyond July 1, 1932, and that unless the entire amount was secured in pledges by that time, their offer would be withdrawn, and the \$12,500 yearly interest which they are now paying the College would cease. This would mean the end of the College of Natural Sciences and be a sickening blow to the greatest of all Christian universities in China. The future civilization of China demands that Yenching University be preserved uncrippled for its great work and, for all we know, the future interests of America may be greatly affected by what we are trying to do to promote Christian civilization in China. We have already invested in buildings and endowment more than five millions of dollars in Yenching.

Our records do not show that you have been one of our contributors in the past, but if you can figure out any way of making even a small pledge at this critical time, you will help save great and sacred interests which it has taken over sixty years to build up in the heart of China. We are now less than \$18,000 short of the required amount, but securing this small amount is causing us more trouble now than the other \$230,000, not only because of the serious economic conditions, but because of the shortness of time. Those of our friends who can reach an early decision will place the Trustees of the University under special obligation to them.

Hoping, therefore, that we may hear from you by return mail, let me remain

Yours cordially,

Mr. Thomas W. Lamont
23 Wall Street
New York, N. Y.

S. P. Young

SPY:JMB

1253

T. W. Lamont

23 Wall Street
New York

June 30, 1932

Dear Dr. Young:

I am sorry that I was not free to see you the day you called with the letter of introduction from our friend Mr. George Barber, and to discuss with you the critical situation of Yenching University, set forth in your letter of June 25. I wish I were able to join in meeting the comparatively small deficit that stands between the University and its conditional pledges but unfortunately I am unable to do so. Nor am I able to make a suggestion that might aid in solving your problem.

Regretting the circumstances and wishing you success in your effort, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

T. W. Lamont

Dr. S.P. Young,
Yenching University,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

1254

Copy of letter typed by Mrs. Robert E. Speer, addressed to
Mrs. Thomas Lamont, 107 East 70th Street, New York City

Hotel Irving
Greenwood, Mississippi
April 12, 1940

Dear Florence:

It may seem like madness for me to ask you - or any one - to think of China when more and more the lights are going out on the other side of the Atlantic, but you are one of the people who do not need to be reminded that the future of the world is quite as likely to be decided in Asia as in Europe, and so I am not at all hesitant about bringing the needs of Yenching to people's minds today.

One cannot put into print many of the things one knows, lest they bring further dangers to those who are quoted. There is therefore an assumption that things are "quiet" within the occupied area. There is a state of quiet on the Yenching campus, outwardly, but behind it is a back-drop of strain, of anxiety, of poverty and starvation that result in mental break-downs, in disease, in outbreaks of violence that do not get past the censor, and usually only comes to us through letters brought out by travellers. There is no greater miracle in modern history than that Yenching should have been able to carry on its work of educating, without Japanese intervention or supervision, the hundreds of Chinese boys and girls who come to them for the only chance there is for free thinking and unintimidated study.

Some of the boys might be able to go to the schools that have moved to the west of China; very few of the girls could. Yenching is their only chance, and Marnie has said from the first of her years out there, that there is even more hope for China in its girls than in the boys, for the girls are trained to a discipline that life has not asked of Chinese men. Yenching's endowment for the women's college - of which Marnie is dean - is pitifully small. To increase it now means putting the women's college in the position that a woman is in when she does not have to go to her husband for every cent of car-fare, or for each postage stamp. The enclosed from Marnie's last letter shows the need for such money. The faculty use for these needs now, from their own salaries, all that they can of the benefit that they receive from the present rates of exchange. Caroline Slade, I hope, is coming to see you to tell you more of all this. I wish I could read you Marnie's letters of this past winter. I doubt if wild horses would bring her home, no matter to what post, away from this need, one of the most vital in the world today.

1255

Mrs. Lamont

-2-

From Mrs. R E Speer
4/12/40

There is no better investment than to help China now,
and to help Yenching women is to help at the centre of China's struggle.

Rob is here for some church work. This is an interesting
part of "America", and it is good to see how much more they know and care
about the rest of the world than they did two years ago.

Much love to you. Come to see us again in Lakeville.

Yours always,

(Signed) Emma (Speer)

P. S. I can't copy what I want you to see from the last letter from
Peking, but I am having it copied in New York, to be sent to you from
there. Even my portable typewriter is not equal to a secretary.

1256

23 Wall Street
New York

Dear E.M.

This came this morning, with a very nice note from Mrs Lamont in the same mail, saying that this was all she could do now, but perhaps she might be able to do more later. I have acknowledged her note, and the official receipt can go to Mr Lamont's office- the letter I suppose can be addressed to this secretary whose name I can't read!

May 28, 1940

Mrs. Robert E. Speer,
Lakeville,
Connecticut.

Dear Madam:

In accordance with Mrs. Lamont's direction I enclose her check to your order in the amount of \$200.

Yours very truly,



Secretary to
Mr. Thomas W. Lamont.

Enclosure.
ETS/RVB

1257

July 17, 1940

My dear Mrs. Lamont:

The beginning of July has brought to me the pleasure of writing to you that final success has crowned our effort to complete the \$100,000 endowment unit for the Women's College of Yenching University on the date set by the donors of the large conditional gift of \$47,000.

We are thankful for the generous impulse which prompted your gift to this fund, and we are glad to include you among those who will watch the progress of this excellent College with that glow of proprietary interest which can be felt only by those who have taken a part in assuring its future. To the administrative officers and the faculty of the College this undergirding of their task will bring an increase of courage and a certainty in the making and carrying out of plans which will strengthen morale and help vitally in the maintenance of high standards.

Gratefully yours,

(Mrs. John H. Finley)

Mrs. Thomas W. Lamont
107 East 70th Street
New York City

1258

Langmuir, Irving
1934

1259

UNION COLLEGE
SCHENECTADY
NEW YORK

Sept. 28th, 1934.

Dr. N. Gist Gee,
Yenching University Foundation,
150 - Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Gee:

Dr. Irving Langmuir has been invited by the Japanese Government to make a visit to Japan for the purpose of lecturing on scientific subjects. Dr. Langmuir informs me that when he leaves Japan he wishes to visit China and in particular Peking. His visit there will be quite unofficial but it occurs to me that it might be a nice thing to fortify him with letters of introduction to some prominent people in China.

Dr. Langmuir, as you may know, is a Nobel Prize Winner of two years ago and ranks as one of the great scientists of the world. His special field is Chemistry, although he is almost equally well known in the field of Physics. It is because of this that he is being invited by the Japanese Government.

I am wondering whether you would be willing to give him a letter of introduction to Dr. Stuart of Yenching University and some leading member of P. U. M. C.; also to one of the outstanding scientists in Peking. While no arrangements have been made, I think it quite likely that Dr. Langmuir, who is a rather ready speaker, could be prevailed upon to give one or two lectures in his chosen fields. It might serve as quite an inspiration to some of the leading scholars of Peking. You would have better suggestions as to whether that would be feasible and as to how it might be arranged. In any event, I am sure that the Scientists of Peking would be glad to welcome a Nobel prize winner.

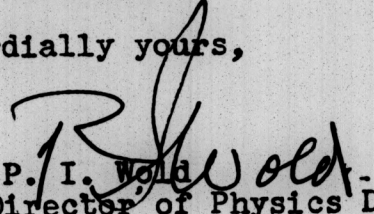
Dr. Langmuir plans to leave Schenectady about October 6 and I believe will be spending about five weeks in Japan so that he may be reaching China some time in December, although his itinerary is not yet complete. If my suggestion meets with favor, you could send such letters directly to Dr. Langmuir at the Research Laboratory, General Electric Company, Schenectady, New York, or send them to me and I would be very glad to hand them to him personally. Quite likely you follow

(2)

Dr. N. Gist Gee

the practice of sending a copy of such letters to the parties concerned and in that event, I think it would be safe to say that Dr. Langmuir would probably be arriving in Peking some time in December. I believe he plans to stop in Shanghai and it may be that a letter to someone there would be helpful.

Cordially yours,


P. I. Wold
Director of Physics Department

September 29, 1934

Dr. J. Leighton Stuart
Yenching University
Peiping, China

Dear Dr. Stuart:

I have just had word from Dr. P. I. Weld, Director of the Physics Department of Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., telling me of the plans of Dr. Irving Langmuir of the General Electric Company to visit Japan during the winter. He is planning to leave Schenectady on October 6th and will spend about five weeks in Japan. At the end of his visit to Japan Dr. Langmuir expects to visit China and I am writing to ask that you get in touch with him and lend him your assistance in making such contacts as he may desire or as you may think wise for him in China. Possibly you may wish to turn this over entirely to the Chemistry Department and doubtless Dr. Wilson or Dr. Adolph will be glad to take up the correspondence and make the arrangements.

I would suggest that Dr. Langmuir's coming be made known to the China Foundation, to the Chemistry Society of China, to the Engineers' Society and to the Peking Society of Natural History. All of these organizations combined may wish to invite Dr. Langmuir to address one or more meetings.

It is possible also that the China Foundation may wish to use Dr. Langmuir in visiting some of the other educational centers in China during his visit there.

Dr. Langmuir is a Nobel Prize Winner of two years ago and ranks as one of the greatest scientists of the world. His special field is chemistry although he is almost equally well known in the field of physics. It is because of his outstanding reputation as a scientist that he is being invited by the Japanese Government. I am quite sure that the scientists of Peiping as well as the rest of China will be delighted to welcome a Nobel Prize Winner.

Very sincerely,

HGG:HW

H. Gist Gee

1262

September 29, 1934

Dr. Irving Langmuir
Research Laboratory
General Electric Company
Schenectady, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Langmuir:

I have just received word through Dr. P. I. Wold, Director of the Department of Physics at Union College, that you are to make a visit to Japan this fall.

I am writing to a number of my friends in the Orient telling them of your plans to visit Japan and I trust that it may be possible for you also to continue your trip to Peiping and possibly other parts of China. I think you would find it most interesting and I am sure you would be most helpful to them there.

I have written letters to Dr. J. Leighton Stuart, President of Yenching University, Peiping, China; to Dr. S. T. Wilson, Dean of the College of Natural Sciences at Yenching University, Peiping; Mr. Roger Greene, Acting Director of the Peking Union Medical College, Peiping; Dr. V. K. Ting, Director of the Academia Sinica, Nanking; Mr. Wong, Minister of Education, Nanking; Mr. Wong Wen Hao, Director of the Geological Survey in China, and Dr. G. A. C. Herklots, Hongkong University, Hongkong.

It is likely that you will hear from some of these people and arrangements will be made to give you a warm reception in Peiping. I regret very much that I myself am not in China at the present time as it would give me great pleasure to handle these contacts for you if I were there.

I am enclosing with this formal letters of introduction to the persons whose names are given above.

Very sincerely,

H. Gist Gee

NGG:HW

1263



GENERAL ELECTRIC
COMPANY

RESEARCH LABORATORY

1 River Road
SCHENECTADY, N. Y.
October 10, 1934

Mr. N. Gist Gee
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Gee:

I wish to thank you for the letters
of introduction that you have prepared for me
in connection with my trip to Japan and China.
I am sure that my trip to China will be made much
more enjoyable by meeting these friends of yours.

Yours very truly,

Irving Langmuir

IL C

1264

國民政府教育部
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

NANKING CHINA

November 1st. 1934.

Mr. N. Gist Gee
Yenching University
150 Fifth Ave.
New York City

Dear Mr. Gee:

I have received your letter of September 29, introducing Dr. Irving Langmuir. It would give me great pleasure indeed to meet Dr. Langmuir when he comes to China, and I shall be very glad to do whatever I can for him.

Yours very truly,

Shih-chieh Wang
Shih-Chieh Wang
Minister of Education

1265

院學醫和協平北立私
PEIPING UNION MEDICAL COLLEGE
PEIPING, CHINA

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

November 2, 1934

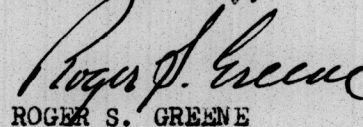
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
"MEDICAL PEIPING"

Dear Mr. Gee:

I have received your letter of September 29th telling about the approaching visit of Dr. Irving Langmuir. Since you have asked Dr. Stuart to arrange for Dr. Langmuir to meet various people in China, including the China Foundation officers, I am leaving to him the making of such arrangements, except that I have myself written to Dr. V. K. Ting suggesting that advantage be taken of Dr. Langmuir's presence to get his advice about the development of the Physics and Chemistry Institutes of the Academia Sinica.

If Dr. Langmuir comes to Peiping, we shall, of course, be very glad to welcome him at the College. I am writing to Dr. Langmuir, c/o American Embassy, Tokyo, Japan.

Yours sincerely,


ROGER S. GREENE

Mr. N. Gist Gee
Yenching University
150 Fifth Avenue
New York

RSG:RP

Enclosures: (copies)
Mr. Greene-Dr. Ting, 11-2-34
Mr. Greene-Dr. Langmuir, 11-2-34

PEIPING UNION MEDICAL COLLEGE

COPY FOR INFORMATION OF

Mr. Gee.

November 2, 1934

Dear Dr. Langmuir:

I have just learned that you are visiting the Far East this fall, and that you are thinking of including China in your itinerary. I hasten to extend to you on behalf of the Peiping Union Medical College a cordial invitation to visit this institution, and to be our guest while you are in Peiping, if that would be convenient for you. There are in our College many chemists and a few physicists who would consider it a great privilege to meet you, and if you found it agreeable to give one or more lectures while you are here, that would be greatly appreciated, though we should not wish to ask anything of the kind if you would feel it a burden.

Would you be kind enough to let me know when you are likely to be in Peiping, and for how long, and to inform me also of how many there are in your party?

If our organization can be of any assistance to you while you are in China, please command us.

Yours sincerely,

ROGER S. GREENE
Acting Director

Dr. Irving Langmuir
c/o American Embassy
Tokyo, Japan

RSG:PP

University of Hong Kong

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

TEL. NO. 28056
SUB-EXCHANGE 41

22nd November, 1934.

N. Gist Gee Esq.,
Yenching University,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York,
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Gist Gee,

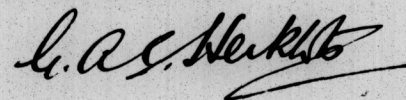
I was very pleased to receive your
letter of September 29th.

Regarding funds for expansion, the
answer is in the negative !

I enclose a copy of my letter to
Dr. Langmuir which I have addressed to him C/O Dr. J.
Leighton Stuart at Peiping. I hope that we shall
have the pleasure of seeing him and, if, he feels
inclined, of hearing him lecture.

Many thanks for your good wishes which
I reciprocate.

Yours sincerely,



G.A.C. Herklots.

1268

22nd November, 1934.

Dr. Irving Langmuir,
C/O Dr. J. Leighton Stuart,
Yenching University,
Peiping, China.

Dear Dr. Langmuir,

My friend Mr. N. Gist Gee has written to me that you may possibly visit Hong Kong some time in December. We should be honoured if you could pay us a visit. My colleagues the Professors of Chemistry and Mechanical Engineering and the acting head of the Physics Department are equally keen to have the pleasure of meeting you. The Vice Chancellor, Sir William Hornell, is writing to you offering hospitality but should be away at the time of your visit my wife and I would be honoured if you would stay with us.

Yours sincerely,

G.A.C. Herklots.