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Confidential

Somewhere in Shansi  
September 2, 1939

We have been now nearly eight weeks in this Border District, and as we have everywhere been very kindly treated and well informed by our hosts, we have come to know quite a lot about the local political and military situation.

This area - organized as the Border District of Shansi, Chahar, and Hopei - presents a very remarkable experiment in democracy in extremely difficult conditions. For all hsien cities but one, and most of the big towns throughout the district, are garrisoned by the Japanese, who also control the railways and the main roads of communication. The government was elected at a delegates' conference in January, 1938, when delegates of every group in society, military, tradesmen, farmers, gentry, and even monks from Wu Tai Shan came together on the simple basis of Resistance to Japan. It is a true United Front Government. 80% of its officers are non-party men, 12% Kuo Min Tang, and the remaining 8% all other parties, presumably mostly Communist. In the government, parties are forgotten in doing the work which is urgently necessary.

We talked with General Sung Shao Wen, head of the government. I was very much impressed with him. He is a quiet man with a wise square face and very sincere and friendly expression. He lives on the same standard as his hostler, receiving a salary of \$16 per month from which he must pay \$6 for food. He is experienced in administration, having worked for Governor Yen Hsi Shan in Shansi, and his workers obviously have very great confidence in his wisdom and effective action. Not that the government is a one man show; around Sung are many competent and enthusiastic young men, working as magistrates. We were able to meet many of them, as the government was in session when we arrived.

A beginning of democracy has been made by electing village councils by popular vote. In some cases there has been a vote of 80%, and even women, who previously took no political responsibility, have registered as much as 60% vote. The village head is elected by this council, which also allots shares of the village tax. So far district heads have not been elected, though they have been chosen lately purely for executive capacity, but the next step to be taken immediately is the organization of their election.

The people of every village are now organized. The men serve as guards in turn, and provide transport of military provisions and government supplies (i. e. paper). They also send letters and entertain guests. The women, where soldiers are quartered, grind meal and wash and mend clothes. Everywhere there is an attempt to teach the people to read, and to become conscious of the war. Children are organized into groups. They learn songs and slogans, act as servants to the soldiers, help to educate their elders, and prepare to be soldiers later on.

In this district there are 12,000,000 people. They are rapidly learning to cooperate effectively with the government because they trust it. They can see the sincerity of the men with whom they deal. They trust



September 2, 1939

the Government bank, so that Border District money is thoroughly stable on a level with legal tender. Government power is steadily extending. Their agents operate almost up to the walls of towns occupied by the Japanese. Taxes throughout the whole region have been greatly simplified. Now there are only land tax, import tax, and export tax. The land tax is less than before and the other taxes are minor ones, for control rather than income. In addition the farmers contribute grain for feeding the army. This is their biggest burden, and they bear it because they are convinced that their government by the Japanese would be far worse. The peasants say that their burden is now heavier than in normal years, but less heavy than in previous years of war (i. e. civil war).

There are two factors which have made the anti-Japanese movement a real mass movement here. One is the excellence of the work and propaganda of the Border Government, the other is the behaviour of the Japanese army. We have during most of our travels been passing through villages visited by Japanese troops. It is easy to distinguish them. They are practically destroyed by burning. Wherever the Japanese soldiers go, they burn the village, (and sometimes the crops, too), trample the fields, kill the livestock, and perhaps villagers, too, and rape any women they can find. This last action makes the Chinese hate them worst of all and regard them as beasts. In consequence of this disastrous behaviour, the Japanese are everywhere called kuei tze or demons and feared and hated. So the work of the Border Government has been made easier.

The peasants willingly cooperate in a way that would perhaps normally be impossible. They spy for the Chinese, carry wounded, join the army (80% of the army is composed of local men). When the Japanese come now, the people completely evacuate the village, burying food and taking away all animals, utensils, etc., into the hills, and all the people leave. So the Japanese must bring with them all their necessities. One magistrate put in by the Japanese complained, "My citizens are only beggars and rascals!" For when the Japanese arrived the people fled, and so the magistrate offered free relief (food and money) to those who came back. But the patriots still did not come. Only the beggars and rascals came.

The Eighth Route Army is very strong here - probably a quarter of a million men - and is really a "people's army". The nucleus and the commanders are old Red Army men of ten or more years of experience in guerrilla fighting. We have not many of the officers and very many ordinary soldiers in the army, and have formed a very high opinion of them. The behaviour of the ordinary soldiers is in remarkable contrast to that of the Japanese. They treat the farmers everywhere with the utmost consideration and kindness. I have not heard any complaints that they take food or goods without payment. They behave quietly. They take no notice of the women at all; one would think that they have no emotions of sex, for neither in recreation nor reading do they seem to have any outlet. Perhaps they are so given up to the ideal of fighting for China that there is emotional harmony. Perhaps the poor food and hard life leave no spare energy. For their food must be on one of the lowest standards in the world, costing about \$5.00 a month (in time of high prices),



restricted to millet and one vegetable. Sometimes they have corn, and in good districts, flour. They have had clothes and equipment, poor lodgings, no comforts except occasional cigarettes. Yet they remain cheerful, loyal, and enthusiastic. Their officers live on almost the same scale as the men, only their equipment is rather better, for they have more captured Japanese material. The cooperation of army and government is good, but the government is not controlled by the army.

So you can see that in social, political, and military organization this region is making rapid advances, and even if the Japanese occupy more roads and towns they cannot solve the problem of pacification of the countryside. Methods of severe repressions such as they used with success in East Hopei this year cannot be effective here, where there is much more powerful organization against them, unless they have enough men to occupy the majority of the villages - a hopeless task!

While the good points of this administration have been noted above, there remain some points where improvement is urgently needed. They can be summed up by saying that there is no scientific spirit. More scientists are urgently needed, for the faults are not fundamental. They can be put right by the introduction of people of scientific education and spirit, who would put telephone, radio, industry, onto a sound basis. It is extremely important, however, that those who go have a thorough grasp of fundamentals and can utilize the very simple materials which are available here. For instance, it is no use knowing only the modern methods of leather tanning. They are too expensive to use here. Something appropriate to the district must be worked out. There are minerals such as mica and asbestos in the hills here, but no one knows how to get them and how to use them.

There is no hope for industrial development to make the region independent of Japanese goods until more skilled workers come in. They must come from Peking and Tientsin, where there are plenty. The rest of China has such urgent need of them that they cannot be spared to come here from the interior. Doctors also are urgently needed. Until recently there was only one doctor in the whole region who could perform operations! Now he has about four good doctors assisting, but there are still far too few, and they are only able to look after wounded soldiers. Public health has no one responsible. In agricultural plans the government is better equipped, but here again they need technical men to put the plans into effective action.

Education here does not exist in the sense we mean at ..... Here everything is subservient to the plan of anti-Japanese activity, and what they call "education" is simply propaganda. "History" means the story of China's oppression by Japan, "geography" the account of battles, "common knowledge" means how to help the army, "reading" means learning slogans. It may be that this is all necessary and that anything further would be wrong use of energy, but as I see this "education", I wonder about the future. What happens after the war?



September 2, 1939

This leads on to the general question which seems to me to be of very great importance, though people here deliberately ignore it. Now there is being built up a democratic system not based on law or obedience to the government, but on willing cooperation for a common purpose, a common motivating force. The purpose is to drive out the Japanese and the motive is hatred, or self-interest. For the people believe that self-preservation means that they must cooperate in resistance. What will happen when the war ends, the purpose is achieved, or partially achieved, and the hatred and self-preservation no longer force the members of the community into cooperative action? Good democratic habits may survive, but they are not enough to build the good society that is our ideal.

It seems to me of the very greatest importance that this single motive of hatred of Japan should be replaced by a higher motive of the service of mankind and the building of a new China and new world. In that new world China and Japan must cooperate; there is no alternative. In the future lies the immensely difficult task of healing the material and spiritual ravages of war and making this cooperation possible. So that even as I admire the singlemindedness and devotion of the people here, it seems to me essential that something further be added: the contribution which a vital Christianity can give, of self-sacrifice and love and forgiveness. I do not mean that fighting should stop. It is unfortunately a necessary evil. But I do mean that an unbreakable foundation of future peace should now be built, by replacing the motive of hatred even while the external actions may have to remain the same, or may by choice remain the same.

At present these people suffer more for their ideal than we do for ours, - their self-sacrifice is more complete, and all the time there must be vital connection between their beliefs and actions. The demand made by nationalism or communism is very strong and complete; in this part of China it gets the response of the best spirits. In ..... we have had little competition of this kind; it remains to be seen what happens when students in the south are faced with the alternatives of Marxism and Christianity - for it seems impossible truly to combine them. Can we show a kind of patriotism more strenuous than that of the communists, and at the same time keep our clear challenge to be citizens of a new world where national barriers, prejudices, and hatred are completely transcended?

War means that for the time being all efforts at the improvement of social structure must be postponed; there is no chance to make the change till the war is ended. But the work of life-changing - that is, preparing men and women fit for the new society - must go on, and even faster than before. It can, because now people are forced to face the realities of life in a new way.

People all over the world will be subject to a one-sided propaganda and emotional stress. But it is essential that we determine to find the truth and live by reason, not emotion. In ..... you have a splendid opportunity for this, which I am sure you will not waste. So as we have learned to face the truth about ourselves we must face the truth about our nation, and recognizing sin, see how God can change us as a nation - England or China.



# RADIOGRAM

*Spice*

This message was transmitted by the Chinese International Broadcasting Station XGOY, of Chungking, China, on

-----APRIL 3, 1943-----, and is transcribed and relayed to you by Dr. Charles E. Stuart, 461 East Main Street, Ventura, California, operating the official listening post for the Republic of China. Reply messages must be sent through regular cable or mail services as there are no facilities through this station for replies.

No. 5883 - 33-----

TO: CHARLES CORBETT  
150 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N.Y.

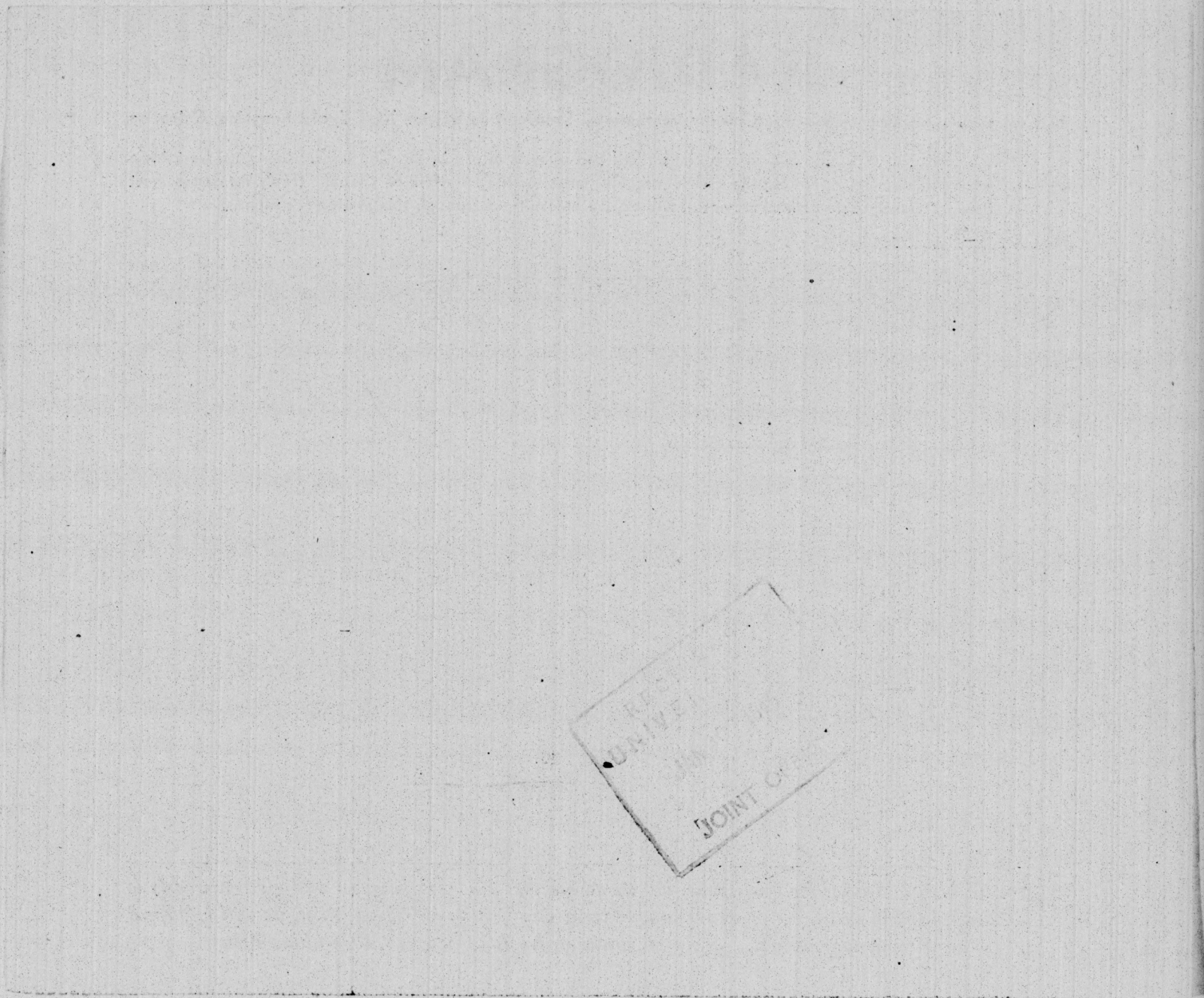
TWENTY ONE YENCHING STUDENTS TOOK EXAMINATIONS AND ALL WERE ACCEPTED AS INTERPRETERS FOR THE ALLIED FORCES. THEY HAVE LEFT CHENG-TU AND THUS YENCHING EXTENDS HER CONTRIEUTION TO INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION. YENCHING FIRST SEMESTER REPORT MAILED MARCH 13TH. MISS VANKIRK MAKING SATISFACTORY RECOVERY FROM BURNS.

\*RALPH LAPWOOD  
CHENG-TU, SZECHWAN

 *There is no charge for this service, but we do ask that you work hard for and give generously to United China Relief. If there are no agencies in your locality for China Relief, we will be pleased to accept contributions here. Make all checks or drafts payable to United China Relief.*

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燕 京 大 學  
YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENG TU  
CHENG TU CHINA

CABLE ADDRESS  
YENTA

College of Science  
5 December 1942

Yenching Office  
New York

Dear Sirs,

As you will see from the enclosed letter, we are very anxious to get Mr. Hsu Yun Kuei back to Yenching for general teaching in physics. Mr. Hsu taught at Yenching in Peiping for several years and did very good work indeed.

I am sending this copy of my letter to New York, hoping that you will have more certain knowledge than we have of Mr. Hsu's address. As far as we know he is still doing research work in Physics in Liverpool University.

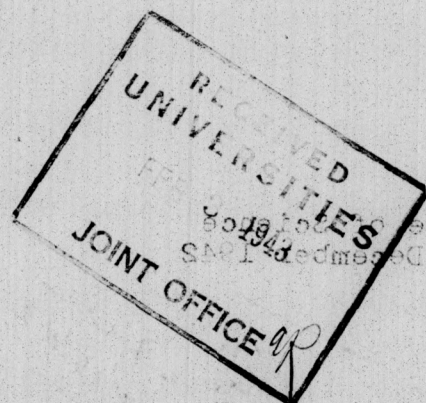
Will you please find out where Mr. Hsu is if possible, and forward to him this copy of my original letter sent direct to Liverpool?

With many thanks,

Yours very sincerely, E.R. Lapwood

1277





燕京大學  
YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTO  
CHENGTO CHINA

CABLE ADDRESS  
YENATA

Research Office  
New York

Dear Sirs,

As you will see from the enclosed letter, we are very anxious to get Mr. Han Yung-hai back to Yenching for general teaching in physics. Mr. Han came to Yenching in 1937 for several years and did very good work indeed. I am sending this copy of my letter to New York, hoping that you will have more certain knowledge than we have of Mr. Han's address. As far as we know he is still doing research work in physics in Liverpool University. Will you please find out where Mr. Han is if possible, and forward to him this copy of my original letter sent direct to Liverpool? With many thanks,  
Yours very sincerely, E. R. Japwood

8721



*Original sent direct  
to England*

# 燕京大學

YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENG TU  
CHENG TU CHINA

4th December 1942

CABLE ADDRESS  
YENTA

Dear Y.K.:

It is a long time since we parted, and a long time since I heard any news from you. Maybe a long time too since you heard much news from Yenching. During the past four or five months we have set up University here in Chengtu, and now we have already run successfully for half a semester with 250 students, of whom 100 have escaped from Peiping and come down here as refugees. We have found buildings - for administration we borrowed a middle school building, and for men's dormitories we got an old Confucian Temple.

We have plenty of students, for the reputation of Yenching is high, and plenty want to come. We also have enough budget to pay our way in spite of the tremendous rise of costs, which you will hardly believe. But what we lack is staff. In the Science College practically none of the people who were in Peiping have been able to come out. In other Colleges there are none - Lin Chi Wu, Wu Chi Yu, Cheng Lin Chuang, and so on. But we are tremendously short of people. In Physics all we have is Wu Kuo Chang, Chairman of the West China Physics Dept, acting as our honorary chairman, and Ho Wu Aien and Instructor. I am trying hard to get Meng Chao Yin to return, and there is some hope of success. But we want not only him. We want a really respectable physics department, and so I do hope that you will be able to come back here and work with us.

We do not have much to offer you. We have not many students yet, though plenty more will come. We have practically no apparatus, even counting what we can borrow from other universities, and we have practically no books. So we offer you plenty of hard work under discouraging conditions. But I believe you will see in it a chance of real service of Yenching and China, and we will certainly give you a warm welcome.

You will be interested in news. Mr. Band escaped safely with his wife an hour or two before the Japanese invaded Yenching on the 8th of December last year. He reached the headquarters of the 5th Route Army safely, and since then has been working in that area of Western Hopei. He is very well as far as we know, and is busy teaching and advising on radio, etc. There is very little ~~xxx~~ chance of his being able to come through to Chengtu, so we are forced to plan without him.

All the other foreigners were caught in Peiping, and none of them have yet been repatriated to America. Among them were Bl and Ed Wilson, Adolph, Miss Hancock, Miss Boring, Dr. Stuart, and many others. They are all enjoying a fair amount of freedom and comfort now in the American Legation in Peiping except Dr. Stuart who is in very close confinement.

The setup here is as follows:- Y.P. Mei acts as President, Han Ching Lien Director of Studies, Y.P. is Dean of the College of Arts, Wu Chi Yu, Dean of the College of Public Affairs, and I am acting as Dean of the Science College for the time being. That is why I have the pleasant task of urging you to return as soon as ever you can.

When you come, bring as many reference books as ever you can, for every one is as precious as gold.

The Cost of Living Index now is 5200 in Chengtu, with prewar as 100. Standard of living of faculty has fallen to 10% of prewar. But we still get along and enjoy life, and believe that the job is worth doing.

Looking forward very much to seeing you,

with every good wish,

Yours as ever,

Ralph Lapwood

*Ralph Lapwood*

1279



UNIVERSITIES 燕京大學  
YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHINA  
CHENG TU CHINA  
JUN 8 1943  
JOINT OFFICE

CABLE ADDRESS  
YENTIA

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
FEB 8 1943  
JOINT OFFICE

1280



# RADIOGRAM

This message was transmitted by the Chinese International Broadcasting Station XGOY, of Chungking, China, on  
DECEMBER 17, 1943.

and is transcribed and relayed to you by Dr. Charles E. Stuart, 461 East Main  
Street, Ventura, California, operating the official listening post for the Republic of China. Reply messages must  
be sent through regular cable or mail services as there are no facilities through this station for replies.

No. 6224 - 23

TO: CHARLES CORBETT  
150 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY. N.Y.

CORBETT

RECD 12/18/43

ANS'D

YENCHING CELEBRATED REOPENING ANNIVERSARY DECEMBER 9TH. GOVERNOR CHANG  
CHUN PARTICIPATED ALSO MANY LOCAL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS. ENGLISH AND  
HINESE BROADCASTS IN EVENING. FIFTEEN STUDENTS WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR WAR  
WORK RECOGNIZED IN CELEBRATION. PRESIDENT MEI NOW GOOD HEALTH.

RALPH LAPWOOD  
CHENG TU, SZECHWAN



*There is no charge for this service, but we do ask that you work hard for and give generously to  
United China Relief. If there are no agencies in your locality for China Relief, we will be pleased  
to accept contributions here. Make all checks or drafts payable to United China Relief.*

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JAN 21 1964  
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College of Science, Yenching in Chengtu  
16 November 1943

Dear Dr. Wilson,

We were very glad to have news of you from time to time when you were living in Peiping and then in the camp at Weihsien. We were worried at one time by the news that your health was poor, but hope that absence of news on that score lately means that you are back to normal.

Now we are most happy to know that you have arrived back safely in America - or will be there by the time this letter arrives. Please give my very best wishes to your wife and family, with the heartiest congratulations on the happy reunion.

During the past year and a half I have been acting as the Dean of Science here, and many times I have thought of you and wished you were here to take up the job again! Originally when I heard that Yenching was reopening in free China I was opposed to the reopening of the Science College in view of the lack of books, apparatus, and staff, and did not expect to rejoin the University at this time. But Y.P. and Han Ching-Lien found (i) that they could not start a University without three Colleges, and (ii) if the Science College was not started immediately later registration with the Government might prove a difficult task. So when I arrived in Chengtu on a CIC trip I found that the College of Science and Dept of Math had been restarted without any faculty to speak of, and on consideration felt that since things were already in that condition the right thing was to join in and help as best I could.

I set out with the policy of fullest cooperation with other Universities in Chengtu. Obviously with our lack of facilities of all kinds that was the inevitable thing, apart from its intrinsic desirability. And I think that through the past eighteen months we have had a good record of cooperation in science. We have only bought apparatus that was needed to look after the needs of our students beyond what other Universities could supply, and we have tried to pay a fair share to enable the Universities helping us to benefit by it. We have not put on any overlapping courses, or invited faculty where there were already men to fill the need.

In Mathematics two young men arrived from the North - Yao Chih Chien and Kuan Chao Chih - and they have worked hard and excellently. This term we have half the time of Dr. Tseng Yuan Jung, a Tsinghua man on vacation who is eminent in the field of Algebra. He is a great stimulus. I hear that you and Dr. Stuart tried to get him to Yenching years ago.

In Physics four people headed by Chen Shang-Yi came through from Peiping, and on the strength of their arrival and the large number of students who came also - about 30 - we registered the Department with the Ministry of Education. They are going ahead well, in spite of almost complete lack of apparatus. Fortunately the Head of West China Physics and Mathematics (combined department) is Wu Kuo Chang who took postgraduate work in Yenching and has been very friendly.

In Chemistry we have had a bunch of excellent students - over 20 of them - come through from the north. But no teachers at all. We have not set up a Department but our students take all their work at other Universities, and Dr. Paul Chang acts as Honorary Chairman of what we call our Preparatory Department. We have just two junior staff members who look after the simpler needs of our own students - especially obtaining their apparatus from the other Universities which often needs considerable tact. I have come to the conclusion that it would be very desirable to reregister each of our departments with the Ministry of Education, and so I am looking forward to trying to register the Chemistry Department as soon as possible even if we only have a small show

1283



You will probably think that this seems unnecessary and wasteful, but as we see the trend of affairs in education in China we think that official attitudes may not be so friendly to private universities later and we might be obstructed from certain recognition ~~later~~ when we wanted it. It is better to have a running concern than to have to start from scratch then.

The position in Biology is like that in Chemistry, but somewhat better off, because we have here C.C.Liu who gave us sterling help as Honorary Chairman of the Preparatory Department last year, and got Chang Tsung Ping to carry on this year. Chang is full time with us. You will remember him as son of Professor Chang Tung Sen, who used to be a fairly flighty student, according to all accounts. We invited him with some trepidation, but the result has been very successful. He is an excellent teacher, and has stimulated the students greatly. He has also proved reliable and responsible in administration, although quite young. ( But we are all babes here.) We very much hope that Hu Ching Fu will come out here from Shanghai. We have heard from sure sources that he was fit and well in Manila, and we had rumours - as yet unconfirmed - that he was on his way from Manila to Shanghai and thence here. We hope they are true. Two good assistants arrived from the North - and Miss Tang Chi Hsueh, one of them, has proved an excellent teacher for the Arts College Biology Course. We shall try to register the Department if we get any reinforcements.

The Home Economics Dept was strong from the start with Mrs. Mei in charge, and has now a good programme, leaning towards Child Welfare, with about thirty students. Kung Lan Chen will be here soon, and will be able to add more of science to the work of the Department.

We picked up what books we could through the year by scavenging in secondhand shops every week, and we have enough for the students of elementary courses. The West China Joint Library is available for more advanced work, but is much inferior to the old Yenching library. Now we have microfilms of a selection of modern magazines, but a great lack of projectors for reading them. We have only two machines for the 5 Universities here, which is obviously absurdly inadequate. We would like to have one for the College of Science here if any friends can bring one from USA.

Last year we had just one office for the whole Science College, with a little space in labs at other Universities. This year we are much better off, with an excellent floor in a newlybuilt building for Maths and Physics, and space allotted in the Biology and Chemistry Buildings on this Campus for Biology and Chemistry. Home Economics has its own rooms in the building in the city where the rest of the University is situated.

Some of us have felt that the whole of our educational programme should be diverted towards the war effort which China should be making, but this is not the policy of the Chinese Government, which believes in business as usual. And most of our staff and students regard their duties as towards reconstruction rather than fighting. The result is that the courses and training are about the same as prewar, except that in some cases changes in courses have been dictated by the government.

Students work very hard, and Yenching students do excellently in comparison with those of other Universities. But they are suffering much from undernourishment, and many are suspected of TB - about 20% of the whole student body. They live on rice and vegetables, with practically no protein. And the lack of sunshine throughout the winter here makes for poor health too.

Now for a little news of people. Bill and Claire are safe and well, after two years of work in the guerilla district. They are now in salt peace and hoping to come through to Chengtu but we don't know yet how



difficult that will be. But we are all hoping that they will be able to join us soon. Michael and his wife are well too as far as we know. YP has been down with paratyphoid - mild case - but is nearly better now. He is a very hard worker and we all feel that he has done a good job. Chen Shang Yi and his family came through from Peiping in May and since then he has done very well in the Physics Dept and also acting as ~~xx~~ Dean of Studies this semester since Han Chinglian had to take sick leave. Chinglien wore himself out. Everybody has had to work very hard to get things going smoothly.

Grace Boynton has worked like a Trojan, and has been a most valuable link with past traditions. Paul Chang is much respected in China today for his knowledge of leather, but is in poor health. Wu Chi Yu has gone to Chungking for Government training, and Cheng Lin Chuang is acting in his place for the time. Mr. Ma Chien - head of the Chinese Department, has been a tower of strength, taking many difficult responsibilities and negotiating when personal difficulties threatened. He is a fine old gentleman.

Now for the purpose of writing this letter. We do not know your plans for the future. Of course you will want to rest for a time and live with your family. But all the staff, and the students, who specially asked to be included, invited you as heartily as we can to come back soon and help us. I would be a happy man if you would come and take the Dean's job again, and we would all appreciate the great improvement that you could bring to the Chemistry Department.

I am writing to various others of the Science College staff, but I shall not have time to write such a long screed to each, so I wonder if you would be so kind as to circulate this letter or a copy of more interesting parts of it to the following - Dr. E.O. Wilson, Dr. W.H. Adolph, Dr. Alice Boring, Mr. Walter Davis, Miss Kramer,

You may like to have a little personal news. You will remember that Nancy (Stuckey) and I were married in Chengtu in October 1940. Our son Peter was born in October a year ago, and is going on fine - full of beans. I have now been in China over 11 years without a furlough and so we think of taking furlough as soon as the war clears up in Europe. I am asking for a two-year furlough from the London Mission, which now pays my salary to work in Yenching, and hope to use the time either in London or in Cambridge working for a degree in Statistics, which I have determined as the branch of applied mathematics in which I am most ~~xxxx~~ interested. We have considered carefully the question of leaving the university earlier than that and working in China for British Government war service, but decided that we can really do most useful service by working for international understanding and friendship in the present job.

With kindest regards to all,

Yours ever,

*Ralph Lapwood*

Ralph Lapwood



College of Science, Yenching in Chengtu  
1 April 1944

Dear S.D.,

I was very happy indeed to receive your letter of January 22 which arrived here nearly three weeks ago. My delay in replying has been partly due to the stress of activities, and partly due to my wish to give you the most carefully considered news and suggestions.

It was good to hear of your happy return to your family and how well they are all getting on. I found that it was no use to send on your letters in the form you sent them, to Weihsien. They must be retyped in 50-word letters in capitals, and sent off part by part. I am doing that now, and very glad to be of any assistance in such a way.

Your letter got in at the same time as Bill Band turned up from Chungking. Both he and Claire looked much the same as ever, and though Claire was very tired, Bill was extremely fresh and well. Claire is staying on here and rapidly regaining energy and freshness. Bill left today to return to Chungking - a two-day journey by Postal truck.

The British officials in Chungking had been unduly cautious and would not hear of Bill's immediate return to the University, though at this end we thought it would be quite all right. We are much more free than pessimists make out.. So Bill was grabbed by Dr. Joseph Needham and has been formally appointed a member of the staff of the British Council - Scientific Section. This happened before he came here, and when he saw our work and the amount that he could do in Yenching I think he was rather sorry he was already committed to Needham. But on the other hand there is a great deal he can do to help the University both now and later on by staying where he is.

We tried to persuade him to get appointed to work in Chengtu. He would like to do that, and it depends on Needham. If Bill does come here we expect that he will be almost like a member of the 5-Universities faculty, and it will be very valuable indeed to have him at hand here for consultation. During the past three weeks it made a world of difference to have him on hand to discuss all problems connected with the present and future of the Science College.

Of course I showed your letter and also those that came from Dr. Adolph and Dr. Boring, to Bill, and also called in the people who are acting as Heads of Departments - Chen Shang-Yi (Phys.), Paul Chang (Chem), Chang Tsung-Ping (Bi), Mrs. Y.P. Mei (Home Ec.) for general discussion. After careful deliberation we decided that I should write to you and others describing the situation here as faithfully as I can, leaving it finally to you to decide in consideration of your own health etc., whether and when you should come to join us.

Present situation of Science College in Chengtu.

1. No one here is hopeful that the war in China will be over in less than two years, and pessimists think in terms of five more years in Chengtu. This is a world factor over which we have no control, and its uncertainty makes all planning difficult. But our general line of thinking is that we should (a) hold a skeleton staff and organization through this period in Chengtu, (b) cooperate to the maximum with other Universities here, (c) try to build one or two phases of work which can stay when we leave, and strengthen West China Union University, (d) undertake no large financial burdens, but rather assist in the saving for future rehabilitation, (e) assist in planning for future reconstruction of the College.



I will take up these points in detail later in the letter.

2. The attitude of the Ministry of Education to Yenching has been very "correct". It is not to be expected that private institutions should enjoy special government aid or privileges.

We fall in line closely with government regulations. For instance our students must study courses which meet government requirements exactly - with no leeway except what is specifically allowed in the schedules. In general no great hardship is entailed, for the regulations themselves are very reasonable. For instance the schedule of courses in Mathematics is much better planned than was our old schedule in Yenching.

But it means that we are not in a position to act on any point without Ministry approval. For instance we could not open new courses or new departments or new graduate work without first getting official approval in the correct manner. Thus it is a great advantage to have a running organisation which can recover its original scope gradually. This has been a guiding principle in our policy here.

What of future relations with the Ministry? Most of us think that the trend is towards the gradual elimination of non-government Universities. Now in addition to Christian Colleges only one private University (Kuang Hua) survives. We want to survive, and the way to do it is not to become weak so as to be an easy prey to financial or other pressure. Of course changes in Ministry set-up and policy are conceivable, and even likely, given sufficient time. But it is too difficult to prophesy what those might be. We can only act on the certainties of the present and immediate future.

3. The five Christian Universities in Chengtu have a very poor record in cooperation - going back to the original arrival of Cheeloo, Nanking and Ginling. Most obvious failure was the splitting off of Central Medical College from its cooperation with West China. Other failures have been the lack of coordination of agricultural programmes of WCUU and Nanking, the extensive duplication of courses in many departments, scattered and unplanned research projects, poor planning for joint use of buildings. Every University has thought in terms of a short exile and the need to preserve individuality rather than combine.

I mention these points not as criticism of other Universities - please do not quote me - but to show the kind of atmosphere of mutual reserve into which we came. Personally I have been in favour of most thoroughgoing cooperation, even at sacrifice of the interests of individual institutions, including our own.

After experience of trying to cut out overlapping courses, exchange students and teachers, coordinate advanced work, I have come to the conclusion that it is waste of time to try to work out a plan with Nanking, but that we can proceed with WCUU. Cheeloo Science is very weak and Ginling negligible. People will ask you to what degree we are cooperating, so I will summarise the facts of this semester.

In Mathematics WCUU and Yenching each teach our own freshmen. In the second year we each teach our own Differential Equations course for this being studied by students of Math, Ph, and Ch has big classes. Yenching has given up Advanced Calculus, Analytical Geometry, and Higher Algebra, to Hua Ta, while Hua Ta has given up Projective Geometry and Theory of Equations to Yenta. Advanced courses are planned without overlap. Many people feel that Yenching gave up too much, especially as Hua Ta has almost no Math. students, and sometimes advises them to wait a year to study a Hua Ta course rather than enter the corresponding Yenta course this year.

All other courses are in common.



In Physics the situation is about the same as in Mathematics. Each University teaches its own courses for Freshmen. Other courses are planned jointly without overlap, in general with Hua Ta giving courses with more experiment, and Yenta teaching theoretical courses, since our only apparatus is that which we borrow from WCUU. It is generally recognised that Yenching teachers in Physics are much superior to those of West China, but this does not mean that WCUU teachers willingly surrender their courses to Yenching.

In Chemistry<sup>Yen</sup>Yen<sup>ching</sup> teacher<sup>s</sup> teach<sup>es</sup> our freshmen, and all other courses are part of a joint programme with WCUU. But Yenching's share is only one or two courses per semester. We also pay a contribution each term which covers all costs incurred in experiment and demonstration by our students, and also a share of overhead of the WCUU Chemistry Department. Yenching Chemistry students are an excellent group, and head the classes regularly.

In Biology Yenching teaches only one course for Yenching students only - Non-science Biology. All other courses are part of a 5-University jointly planned programme. Chang Tsung-Ping teaches two or three very popular courses in the joint programme. Our Instructor and assistant join the common pool.

In Mathematics and Physics there is a good deal of overlapping in courses offered by Nanking and offered by the Yenching-Cheeloo-WCUU groups, made much worse by Nanking's habit of beginning many year-courses in the second semester of the academic year and carrying them over to the first semester of the succeeding year. The Chemistry and Biology Departments have done much better. In Chemistry there is no overlapping in third and fourth years, and in Biology none at all.

In Home Economics there is good cooperation between Yenching and Ginling, - mainly in the way of Ginling's sending students to Yenching courses. In this field West China, which has the only other H.Ec. Department, does practically no cooperation with others. This is a matter of personalities.

Thus set out, the Science Colleges' record in cooperation seems fairly good, and it is excellent compared with all other Departments except English, which carried a united programme. But in the science work there is still a lot of room for advance. For instance there is almost no joint planning, once the year's courses are settled. Many electives are given for one or two students, for cutting down overlapping courses has enabled many teachers to offer electives. We should plan research, extension, translation, etc., but so far we have failed to do so. We should have cut out some of the worst teachers and teaching methods, but such awkward questions are avoided.

4. I feel constantly that when the rest of the world is bending all energies to winning the war, Chengtu is cut off and pursuing peacetime activities. The Government allows little modification of prewar curricula, and students are preparing rather for reconstruction than fighting. So often our work has a remoteness which is unpleasant to those of us who want to see China's youth (and ourselves) engaged in work of immediate significance.

5. I asked Paul Chang whether you would be needed as a teacher, and he said "Yes. There is no one here so well qualified to teach Advanced Organic Chemistry." So I imagine there would be at least one important course for you to take up. Probably not more than two though.

There are here very few supplies of chemicals, and I understand that there is an especial shortage of reagents needed in research analysis.

6. I hope that if you come you will take up the work of the Dean, though I realise it may be more necessary for you not to be tied up



in details of administration, if you want to spend your main energies in the more important state~~m~~anship of planning for the future of our Science work, and of Christian Higher Education in China as a whole. But you will anyway be interested in knowing what the work of Dean now involves. First there is an inordinate amount of Committee work. The Faculty Executive, the ~~Dean's~~ Deans' Committee (concerned purely ~~with~~ with academic problems), the Student welfare Committee (concerned with all questions of students' life, health, and discipline), the University Council, meet regularly (the first two weekly, others monthly). Then there are Ranking and Salary Committee, Budget Committee, Admissions Committee, and various ad hoc Committees on which the Deans are ex officio members. Most of these committees occupy a lot of time, for two reasons - i. Yenching is now governed very democratically, and every problem is talked out until we reach a united mind on it. This is a very valuable process, but takes a lot of time. ~~xxx~~ ii. Everything had to be reorganised from scratch, and we have had to learn by experience and repeated modification how to set up regulations for faculty treatment, student treatment, setting up budget, and so on.

There has been a great deal of miscellaneous business, with the procuring and occupation of this floor we now occupy, purchase of furniture and small items, and the business office being understaffed and the Dean having no real Secretary and no telephone, these details take up an amount of my time which I resent without being able to do much about it.

Students all have their individual problems, starting from difficulties in fitting into courses when they arrive from Peking in the middle of a term, and going on through finance and efforts to find them selfhelp work, to sickness or additional dietary needs. Dealing with them individually takes a lot of time, but is a rewarding piece of work. In this respect I am much less busy than last year, for Chen Shang-Yi and others have taken a lot off my load.

Arranging cooperation with other Universities has meant cultivating good personal relationships, and going in person to take up points where we have been asking for favours. Also pushing ideas about cooperation means individual talks with a lot of people. I should do more of this but don't find time.

The Science College Committee meets monthly (I forgot to mention this above) but most of the work is done by personal talks with the Heads of Departments.

At the end of this semester I shall have carried the Dean's work for two years, and I shall much appreciate the chance to hand over to someone else. Chen Shang-Yi doesn't want to do it, and perhaps it is rather soon to put him into this position as he has little administrative experience.

For my own part I realise keenly that I should be preparing for further studies and research. But for the past two years I have made no progress in this direction, and I am afraid that if I go on in the same way I shall not be able to make much future contribution to the Mathematics Department.

7. One point which you should know before coming to China is that during the past three years every Science College has felt severe lack of students. Now Economics and Sociology and Political Science are popular Departments. Premedical and Industrial Chemistry are in some demand, but pure science - mathematics, physics, biology, is experiencing a dearth of applicants. The government is taking steps to encourage students to study science, and we ought to benefit by them, but family pressure and economic conditions exert



greater pressure the other way.

8. You will no doubt be eager to get a clear picture of the actual living conditions in Chengtu, since that ~~no doubt~~ matters greatly in your decision on return.

In my opinion missionaries are suffering no privation. There is no lack of any essential foodstuff - milk, eggs, flour, meat, vegetables, are plentiful. In fact it is difficult to name anything except imports like cheese and coffee which cannot be bought here. The problem is not supply but price. But it seems that now each Missionary society which has decided to keep people in China has determined a scale of salary which while it allows for nothing else does suffice to buy food adequate for health. People like ~~Howard~~ <sup>Harold</sup> W. Robinson who came out a year ago have retained excellent health. Good medical service and all necessary drugs for ordinary diseases are available in Chengtu. Excellent holiday places are available in the high mountains to the west, though holidaying is very expensive. But some still manage to take holidays.

We are crowded compared with prewar conditions, but not in any absolute sense. Now in our house, Miss Boynton, Robinson, and Hausske have a room each, the Bands have one, and Nancy and I and Peter have two. There are large common rooms and verandas. But we are among the more crowded people in Chengtu. *Here*

Then why do people complain all the time about the terrible drop in standards of living? Food is much simpler than before - such items as butter and chicken and cake are usually beyond our reach. We have no money to buy clothes, and do very little entertainment. There is not much chance for exercise such as tennis. We live in an atmosphere of strain and worry, especially those who are concerned with financial administration of institutions. It is the cumulative effect of several years of such conditions which have made people ready to complain.

#### Future prospects and plans

1. The Council on Christian Higher Education in China has taken first steps towards a new attempt at rationalising our Universities' programmes. It has been suggested that we should envisage five Christian Universities in postwar China, distributed regionally - n, s, e, w, and Centre. Yenching people here are somewhat afraid that Yenching being not well represented will not get adequate ~~representation~~ <sup>consideration</sup>. For instance, now Nanking has the most prosperous Chemistry work. What more natural than to decide that Nanking should take up the graduate work in Chemistry, and other Universities not? We hope that the future might see perhaps combination of Cheeloo and Yenching as the North China Unit, and Yenching selected as the centre for Christian University graduate work. The pushing of such an idea needs activity both in USA and China.
2. In various interviews Ministry of Education officials have suggested that Christian Universities should make science and medicine their special fields, and have indicated that the prohibition of Christian Universities from having Education Departments may be extended to other departments such as Political Science. Most Christian educators take a negative view of this, and think that Christian education should be "cultural" or "emphasising the humanities". I prefer to take the positive view, and consider that a Scientific education may also be a liberal education, and it is the job of Christian universities to make a unique contribution in producing scientists with keen social conscience and awareness of world events, trends, and questions. Don't you think that those of us who



believe that scientific education is a suitable field of Christian work should demonstrate to the government (beginning now, not at the end of the war) that we can make a big contribution to China in this field. If so there is a lot of work to be done in the Five Colleges of Science in Chengtu, in raising standards, pushing extensions and research programmes, etc. Registration of the still unregistered Chemistry and Biology Departments in Yenching might be a byproduct of such activity.

3. Some of us hope that Yenching while here will make one or two concrete contributions which can be left behind to strengthen WCUU for the future - for instance, an optical shop, Shang-Yi having trained people and set up the shop while here, not planning to move things back to the North. Again Yenching is helping push the Leather programme here, but that would stay with Huata. I think that even at a time of economies, and general decision not to purchase apparatus, such schemes should be promoted.

4. Bill and I discussed at length, as far as one can discuss now, the problems which would arise when it is time to set up again in Peking. It seems that people should be working things out beforehand, and that there should be a strong advisory body to make decisions on policy of the College of Science during the hectic time of moving back. Many of our senior people are in Peking and can do little or nothing except consider plans. Those of us who are here are free to act, but we cannot do so without general agreement. You people now in America form a third group, in a position to take general actions but not detailed carrying out. Bill and I suggest that perhaps you could form a "Planning Committee" composed of people in all three places, working now by correspondence, but as soon as the time came getting together in action. This Committee would work on the determination of order of development of work of reconstruction of the College, people to be invited to the staff, raising of funds, relationships with the Government, rehabilitation of library, cooperation or combination with other Universities. By careful consultations it could build up relations of confidence with the Trustees, the present Yenching in Chengtu, and the Peking group. Thus it would be powerful and even decisive in effecting a smooth transition from the present condition to the future absorption of all groups in the postwar Yenching. You would be the natural person to head up such a committee having been in Peking and America, and coming to China yourself later on. Other membership we suggest is Tsai Lu Sheng, C.F. Wu, Hsu Hsien Yü, Chu Sheng Ling, Band, Boring, Adolph, Lapwood. It was our opinion that this group of two from each main department (two more might be added from Home Econ.) contains the senior people who would have greatest prestige as a group. But of course you may have other information which leads to a different constitution.

We have means of passing on information to the Chinese now in Peking, so that circuitous communications could keep people at present separated by war in touch with each other's thinking.

We have not proposed this idea to any people here, as we like first to have your reactions to it.

Well, I have written a very long letter in an attempt to give you enough material for decision on coming back immediately or in the future. Obviously we want to have you, and in our minds the most important thing is planning. But if the war lasts five more years it would be unreasonable to spend five years talking of plans. So just when you might come out so as to be at the right places at the



right times is a question we must leave with you.

I am writing today or tomorrow to Miss Boring and Dr. Adolph who both wrote shortly after you did. In order to avoid repetition I hope you will be able to share this letter with them. In letters to them I am dealing with other questions which they have raised, and I will ~~in~~ ask them to let you see their letters too.

I will close with a little personal news. Bill's work with Needham has very great possibilities, as he has facilities for getting out from England, USA, and India many of the books, magazines, and equipment which scientists in China are craving for. Their office also acts as a centre for exchange of information. Bill will probably be writing himself to give you more details.

Chen Shang Yi has done very well, and proves very hardworking and easy to work with. Chang Tsung Ping is making himself a reputation as a brilliant lecturer, and is much appreciated for his wide scientific interests, which range from mathematical philosophy to economic entomology. Kuan Chao Chih, of whom I have great hopes as a mathematician, has been sick 3 months with TB, not yet fully recovered. He is a victim to wartime reduction of living standards. Mrs Mei's work in Child Welfare is very successful, though the department is awfully weak on the scientific side ( nutrition, etc.)

We very much hope for the early return of Hsu Peng Cheng. He is needed for straight teaching, as Yen-ching contribution to the joint programme, and to look after thesis work and other individual needs of the students. His work would not overlap with yours. If you see him and he is still querying whether to come or not please urge him to come quickly.

YP is now in Chungking, working on the campaign for raising a ten million dollar endowment fund. The outlook is quite good, with Chengtu's quota of 3 million already mostly promised, and Kung helping actively in Chungking.

I keep my interest in CIC, and next month will probably be made the treasurer of the International Committee operating here. This takes away precious time from my other work, but I am convinced of the extreme value of the CIC work and wish to help where I can.

You will remember how when in Peking I discussed what kind of mathematics I should study when on furlough. I never came to a clear line then, being interested in all kinds of applied mathematics from surveying to physics. During the past five years my interest has been focussed clearly on statistics, and I am determined to pursue that line in the future. I remember your work on fertiliser which required statistical analysis, and CW Lu's in psychology. I would like to be fully familiar with the various fields of statistical analysis so as to be able to undertake with confidence either advising or analysis for any project from other fields. This would not overlap with Lin Chia-Tung's work, as he is little interested in the mathematical side of statistics.

I have asked the Mission to grant me a two-year furlough when the time is appropriate, and would use it to study for Ph.D either in Cambridge or London (originally I hoped to study in USA, but if the London Mission finances me, I shall have to stay in England to do weekend deputation work for them etc..) I hope you will approve of this plan. Certainly my idea is to return to Yen-ching if I am invited.

Peter is very well, and has just started to walk. Nancy has been off colour for a month with catarrh, but we hope the return of warm weather will put her right. Very best regards to Mrs. Wilson and the two girls, Yours as ever, Ralph Lapwood *Ralph*

*This is not to make us independent, but a desperate effort to raise funds to carry on next year on the same scale as this.*



College of Science,  
Yenching in Chengtu  
12 April 1944

Dr. S. D. Wilson,

Dear S. D.,

I am enclosing for your reference a copy of a letter we sent to Mr. Evans dealing with general questions of policy. It was passed by the FEC without question, and so may be taken to represent our collective opinion on most issues.

I am also enclosing four lists of journals. I have tried to find out from people here what they remember of the journals taken by Yenching in Peking, and this is our composite effort.

Our idea is that although there is no hope that we can get these journals <sup>here</sup> now or in the near future, they should be ordered and collected now in America, ready for sending out to China as soon as Yenching is able to open up again in the north. Our experience here is that the journals themselves are much more convenient for use than the microfilms, especially if one is hunting over a large field for information. We also consider that it is useless to spend any more money here on books in Science. We have acquired all that are absolutely essential (and available at the same time) for present work. If books can be brought in by Needham's office of course we shall welcome them, but otherwise the best ~~plannin~~ plan for use of money on books is to concentrate on the acquisition of journals for the future.

When we get back to the north we may find that all back numbers have been irrecoverably lost, in which case no doubt some series will have to be replaced in microfilm. But others may be still recoverable - in private hands, in shops, or in puppet institutions. Anyway to have a set of journals in all important fields covering the past two or three years will be most valuable.

I am sending these lists to you by way of Bill so that you can decide what to do with them. We hope you will be able to go ahead and order and store. If there is no other way, some money could be deducted from library budget in China to pay for them. But if you decide that there are faults in this plan, or that further discussion is necessary before action, please let us know.

You will note that there is no list of books on Home Economics. Mrs. Mei did not know what books had been ordered in the past. But she requests that Dr. Kramer inform you of what ~~books~~ journals need to be reordered, and you treat Home Economics journals on the same footing as those of other departments.

Please read through the lists with WHA and Miss Boring, etc., and modify them as you think changing times may demand.

Bill went back to Chungking a couple of weeks ago and we hear that he is very busy. Here I have been occupied in working for closer cooperation between the five Science Colleges, and the prospect between at least Yenching, Huata, and Ginling, and probably Cheeloo, is good. Just recently work for the CIC International Committee has also taken some of my time.

We are waiting anxiously for news of Hsu Peng Cheng. He originally stated that he would be leaving USA this spring for China. We hope he will come soon.

Looking forward to hearing soon from you in reply to my earlier letter.

With all good wishes,

*Ralph Lapwood*  
Ralph Lapwood

1293



(from Calcutta)

as from c/o Mr. E. Lapwood  
Conchill Lane  
Seaton  
Devon, England

Dr. S.D. Wilson  
California

Dear S.D.,

I am enclosing my two final reports from the Science College. I had to write them after leaving China, so they have not been checked with other members of the College or University, and must be regarded rather as personal reports.

My most recent letter to you was written on March 25th. Since then I have received both your letter or April 22nd which crossed mine, and yours of May 20th in answer to mine of Mar. 25th. In the rush of last minute activities I had to hold over writing to you until reaching India. We got here at the end of the hot weather when the monsoon was breaking, and all went down with dengue, which has wasted most of the month since we arrived. Hence my delay in writing to you.

I first refer to points raised in your two letters.

We have been very glad to hear that the root cause of Miss Boynton's illness has been discovered, and do hope that complete cure will not be long delayed. She worked magnificently for Yenching in Chengtu.

We were sorry, but not surprised, to hear that the doctor had forbidden your coming to China immediately. We hope that by the end of this year there will be no question that you can come. We expect Ran Sailer and Hsu Peng-Cheng. Although we heard recently that it was impossible for Americans to leave during June and July, we hope that the recent rapid change of the whole situation will mean that they and others can get permission to travel.

We finally had to abandon the idea of travelling via Australia and America. It seemed fairly sure that if we got to Australia we would have to stay there perhaps a year before getting further transport. Enquiries showed that the authorities frowned on people taking a roundabout route in wartime. So we reluctantly decided that the wisest thing was to proceed direct to England and put in a good year of deputat-ion work to satisfy the Mission. That would clear the ground for future study. I was very lucky, moreover, in succeeding in an appeal to the British Ambassador for high priority for travel to England on the grounds of my CIC connection. So where others have had to wait six months or longer in India we confidently expect to be on the way to England within two months of our arrival here.

Naturally I much regret that I cannot have the advantage of talking with you about plans, and meeting people in America. I shall have to depend heavily on your help in making negotiations from England.

I hope that by now you will have seen Y.P. and had a good chance to confer with him about the Science College and its many problems and opportunities for the future. Looking back over the past three years of work I feel that



greatly. He is a very good man to have, and his academic reputation is high these days.  
Every good wish to your family,

*Average grade about 6.0*

*My old tutor*

Ralph

we did succeed in keeping a skeleton going, and a fundamental organisation which can be expanded when the right time comes. I suppose that - provided China is not split by civil war - it will be possible to reoccupy the old campus during the year, and by 1946-7 work should be in full swing again. That certainly makes us feel thankful. But there will be an enormous amount of reequipping to do. I do hope that in England we can mobilise help from the British Council and other sources - such as I.C.I. and other firms. In America I suppose there will also be some scientific organisations which will feel responsibility for aiding China's recovery. (I hope you got the copies of apparatus lists which I sent to you in July. I also sent to Ballou.)

I wish that I could return sooner to take part in all the exciting work of reestablishment. But I am already 35, and it is not good to leave the augmenting of my basic training any longer. A two-year course of study at this time seems essential. Especially when we see the speed at which Chinese mathematics is developing, and realise that Christian institutions and missionaries must not fall behind intellectually.

Thank you for the promise to consider the requests of Kuan and Tu. I noted what you said about wanting Paul Chang on a permanent basis. But seeing the complicated personnel problems by which he is surrounded I said nothing directly to him. I did however mention the matter to Mr. Ma, (in a regular Chinese way.) This would not commit anybody.

I have seen Huang K'un here in Calcutta. He is on his way to England as Boxer Scholar, and hopes to study in Cambridge.

Before I left Yenching, naturally several of the junior staff members came and asked me for recommendations. In each case I gave them a letter saying what I honestly could do to their advantage. They are a hardworking lot, and have gone through a good deal of privation for the sake of sticking to the University through these three years when anything else - even middle school teaching - was much more remunerative. So they have deserved well of the University.

One of them was Yao Chih Chien. He has worked very hard in Mathematics Department, and in the Dean's Office, where, since so much work is now in Chinese, I depended heavily on him. But he is by no means brilliant as a scholar. He has drive and a good deal of ability to organise and get things done. I tell you these things in case he writes to ask your help. I do not have enough experience to know whether in the past the University has encouraged people to go abroad on other grounds than sheer academic brilliance.

When we get to England we shall first go to stay with my father and mother, whose address heads this letter. I will write to you again. I hope to enlist the aid of Mr. E. Cunningham, Chairman of the Math. Dept. at Cambridge, in the matter of plans for study. He is also a congregationalist, and can influence the Mission.

When I left Chengtu it was hoped on all sides that C.F. Wu, already in Chungking, would return as Dean of Science. But no answer had been received from him. Perhaps you have heard from other sources by now. Meanwhile C.C. Liu joined us and helped



College of Science,  
Yenching University in Chengtu  
31 May 1944

Dr. S.D. Wilson  
635 Berkely Avenue,  
Claremont  
California

Dear S.D.,

My previous letters were written to you on 1st April and 12th April. We are looking forward quite eagerly to hearing from you in reply.

Today I am writing to you about my personal affairs. Tomorrow Bill Sand will be up from Chungking and we shall be writing about the Science College work and prospects.

In an earlier letter I mentioned to you the hope that I could get a two-year furlough and the chance for intensive study. I remember that in the North you urged me strongly to take such work.

I am not thinking of taking furlough immediately, but I am doing a little planning forward, so that I shall be able to make the best use of the time when it comes. We think of staying on in Chengtu until at least the end of next Academic year - that is June 1945. By then, with the reinforcements we hope to have, my presence should not be necessary to the College or the Department. If the war in Europe is over and the war in the East nearing its conclusion, the chance of doing study will be fairly good. We would be away probably from Yenching during the time of moving back to the North and for the setting up there. But since there will be a large number of people rejoining the University who have been forced to stay in North China, and some more from USA, we think that that will be a time at which we can easily be spared.

I am now quite a long way away from my College days - I have already been in China twelve years - so in Mathematics there will be a good deal of polishing up required, and getting informed on developments of the past ten years. In fact, hoping as I do to work for a degree - either Ph.D. or D.Sc. - I should get two years of solid academic work.

During the past five years my interest in Applied Mathematics has gradually concentrated on Statistics - or to be more exact, the Mathematical Theory of Statistical Method. It seems to me that if I get a good advanced training in this subject then it will be useful over a wide field of applications - from ~~Rhxx~~ Psychology to Agricultural experiment, in addition to providing a field of mathematical research which is of growing importance. Fortunately in Chengtu there is a good deal of literature on the subject, and only the limitations of my own time have prevented me from pursuing studies further. I have taught two courses on statistics, and have done some reading. During the next year I hope to master most of the material I can find here, and that will put me in a position to take the most advanced courses offered abroad or to attack a research problem without much further preparation.

What I would like you to do for me is to enquire where I could study in U.S.A. if opportunity arises, assuming that Universities have returned to postwar conditions. I would like to know which Universities specialise in Statistics. Perhaps you could recommend two or three of them, and get from them for me a syllabus of their courses

1296



and requirements. You will remember that I hold the M.A. of ~~xxxxxx~~ Cambridge University in Mathematics with the following record, usually regarded as a good one:

- 1929- Mathematical Tripos Part I First Class Honours
- 1931- Mathematical Tripos Part II Second Class Honours in Sched. A  
B star (distinction) in Sched. B.
- 1932- Geographical Tripos Part II First Class Honours  
(Surveying and Geomorphology)

I was a Major Scholar of St. John's College during my time at Cambridge, and gave up a Research Scholarship from the State (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) when I came to China.

Would one of the good Universities accept me into the Graduate School? In how many years, and by what kind of work, could I qualify for Ph.D.? (i.e. is it necessary to have two continuous years of residence, need many lectures to be attended, how much weight is given to the Thesis, could the time be spent by working through a Summer Vacation course?)

About how much would it cost to take such a course in normal times?

The Universities I know of are Chicago, U.I.C., and C.I.C. I do not know which is the best for applied mathematics, but I have always thought I would like to study in U.I.C. if I could go to the States.

I am also making enquiries in England. I think that I would be welcome to return to ~~xxxxxx~~ Cambridge, but for some purposes either London or Edinburgh would be more suitable.

The big question as to whether I shall get time to study at all is still under negotiation with my mission (London Mission) who consider study as very much second to departmental work. So I write to Combs to see whether there was any chance that Vencoring would take over responsibility for one year of my schooling and give me a more thorough chance for study.

One other question. Is it usually possible in the States to get research studentships or other conveniences for research? Possible, that is, for non-Americans, and people well over the normal age, as I shall be.

All these questions seem to be very far away from the hands of a world at war, and as long as the war goes on, I and I do not intend to try to study, but rather to stay on with the job here. However we like to be prepared for a more rational and peaceful world some day, so as to use the farleaved time to best advantage. I shall be very grateful for your help in this matter.

We are living about quite smartly here. Now there is a drive for cooperation among the five Universities here, and I think we shall achieve more integration of the courses offered. We have not succeeded so far in persuading more students to enter science, and the drift into Economics, Sociology, and Political Science continues. The Government realizes the danger of this nation-wide phenomenon, and have introduced subsidies which we hope will improve things later on. We are now living in quite a Vencoring group, with Hauseke, Robinson, Mrs. Band, Miss Robinson, Honey and myself and Peter all under one roof, with Nancy as wingman. It is a cheery crowd, and we don't suffer from undernourishment.

Yours ever, Ralph Lapwood  
*Very best wishes to yourself, Mr. Wilson, & the girls. Ralph*



College of Science,  
Yenching in Chengtu  
13 July 1944

Dear S.D.,

We have been expecting to hear from you in reply to my letter of April 1st, but mails seem to have been coming more slowly lately, so I am going on to write again without waiting for your letter.

I enclose my report on the work of the past year. It does not contain statistics, as it is meant to be part of the University report which has statistical sections, and will reach you later. As you will see by the report we are making progress in certain directions - our Mathematics, Physics, and Biology are developing satisfactorily. We are worried about the failure to find adequate fundamental staff for the Home Economics and Chemistry. We still hope for news from Hsu Peng Cheng that he is returning, and I am pinning my hopes for the immediate future as far as Chemistry is concerned on him.

In order to let you have a clearer idea about the College now I will give you a few notes on our personnel here, but please treat them as confidential.

In Mathematics, Dr. Tseng Yuan Yung, as Visiting Professor, is a hard worker, a good lecturer, and inspiring to the students in personal conferences. He also has great influence with our younger faculty. Of course we can't work him as hard as our own people, and he takes no administrative work. He is much respected through the five Universities. Kuan Chao-Chih has devoted the time of his illness to extensive reading, and now has an encyclopaedic knowledge of mathematics. But naturally he has not felt much urge to create. It is now time for him to be doing original research, and I have had Dr. Tseng promise to direct his work. Kuan is very brilliant, and I hope that he will before very long have a chance to study abroad. I would also look forward to him as a permanent member of the Department, as he is a good teacher and popular with the students. Yao Chih Chien is the fourth man in the Department, a rather angular personality and not very good academically. But he is a very hard worker, and good at doing business. So after some consideration we kept him on for this next year. I do not regard him as permanent however.

In Physics, the Department might have made much progress, but after Han Ching-Lien left Chen Shang-Yi was conscripted to the Dean of Studies' position, where he has done well. But this has meant that he has given inadequate time to the Department. Tu Lien Yueh was a hard worker as his second-in-command, but found it hard to control the people below him. Recently Tu took leave of absence to get his family from Peking where they had been suffering great hardships. He was up in Honan when the Japs advanced, and we know only that he is safe, but not whether he succeeded and when he will be back. Lo Wu Nien after good work last year proved a failure this year, given little attention to the job while he was trying to get abroad to study. We have dropped him from the staff, and will try to find a better man. Tseng Tse Pei was rather spiritless for a period after his arrival from occupied China, but with the arrival of Mr. Band has bucked up a lot and is working hard. He is a good research man but not such a good teacher, and I think Bill does not regard him as a permanency in the Department. Chu Pao Hsi the assistant is a pleasant hardworking fellow.

In Home Economics, V.K. is essentially an administrator, and has not given much time to teaching. Miss Hsieh Wen Mei, teaching



nutrition, is not very good, but for lack of people we have to keep her another year. Miss Liu ~~Kxxxxxx~~ Chao Kuo, the assistant is capable. The Home Economics Extension work has a couple of capable people.

In Chemistry, Chia Ting Hsun is not satisfactory, as his academic qualification is not enough to command the respect of the students, and his whole heart is not in teaching. But for the time being while we depend on Paul Chang we have to have someone who will work with him and do all the chores of the department. So we are keeping on Chia, but look forward to changes when Hsu and yourself come. The Assistant Yin Ching Chih is good, and is now working on translations for publication as "Abstracts from Chinese Chemical Journals" sponsored by Needham's office. This is in addition to his regular work as an assistant.

In Biology Chang Tsung Ping has been a great success. His lectures are brilliant, and he has found time to write several papers, and direct excellent thesis work. He is also very cooperative and efficient in administration, surprising some of the people who knew him as a student. Miss Tang Chi Hsueh is a very good lecturer and Mr. Chin Tsun Te an energetic assistant. The spirit of the Biologists is excellent.

I have mentioned the names of all the people we now have on the faculty in the College. Obviously with ~~xxxxxx~~ such a tiny staff we are only equipped to play a part in a joint programme - necessity and commonsense combine to direct us into that policy.

We have found that Needham's Office will make gifts of textbooks, and so we have sent in long lists of needs, which should equip us well, especially in Maths and Physics, with books from England. Is there any hope that any organisation in America similar to the British Council would present us with books. If so please request on our behalf. We have almost nothing and every book will be welcome.

Another need is for microfilm projectors or readers. The five universities only have two public projectors. We have a makeshift machine which hasn't been made to work yet. We could use at least three machines in the college if you could find any way of getting them to us. Even the tiny hand readers like reading lenses would be valuable if you couldn't send us anything larger.

There is another question which you may have in mind. Now there is in China an immense quantity of scientific equipment belonging to the USA army and airforce. It is likely that when the war is done this will be disposed of rather carelessly. Could you find any way of getting as much suitable apparatus as possible made over to the university for physics use. Of course that lies in the future, but the idea was suggested to me by one of your airmen.

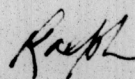
So far the University has been able to make up a balanced budget for 1944-5. Total \$20,000,000. Whether we can keep within it depends on the rate of rise of prices, but I for one am pessimistic about it. Costs are now 600 times prewar.

This is the first time ~~xxx~~ since I came to China that I have stayed put during the summer vacation, but the China situation is unsteady, and Nancy is expecting another infant in September, so we decided to stay in Chengtu together. I am very fit, and shall try to get in a ten-day geologising-climbing trip into the high mountains on the west (17,000 feet) in the beginning of August. Next year I hope will be my last as Dean.

Nancy and Peter are very well.

Please give my kindest wishes to all your family,

Yours ever,



Ralph Lapwood



College of Science,  
Yenching in Chengtu  
30 August 1944

Dear Dr. Wilson,

Your very welcome letter of July 23rd arrived here two days ago - only just over a month on the way. The mail is gradually speeding up. Bill and I were distressed to know that <sup>you had not</sup> ~~received~~ my letter of ~~12th~~ April, and as soon as we learned that from Dr. Boring Bill sent you another copy - on about August 7th. Please let us know whether you get that safely.

I am glad to know that you got my letter of the 12th April and dealt with the lists of Journals given in it. Your letter to me on that subject has not come through.

Thank you very much indeed for the trouble you have gone to and the excellent information on the subject of furlough study. The picture you paint of C.I.T. is very attractive. But unfortunately I can make no decision at all until the attitude of the London Mission becomes clearer, as I mentioned before. I shall look forward to getting the further information you promise and only wish that you were yourself at hand so that I could get your advice on the various complications of our planning.

We were very interested to hear of your work at Pomona, and glad that you have found such a congenial post for this year in the States. You will see from the April ~~12th~~ letter that we had not set any date at which we hoped you would be out here and it looks as if your timing will be very appropriate. You do not mention health in this recent letter, so I trust that that means that you are more or less back to normal, and after a few more months of good living in the States will feel strong enough to undertake anything.

Everyone here was very pleased to hear of your honour in being selected for Wesleyan Hon Doctor of Science, and we send you our heartiest congratulations. Yenching shines in reflected glory.

We have heard from Marnie Speer and Ran Sailer, and are very sorry that neither of them will be with us this academic year. We now pin our hopes on Dr. Boring's being able to come. We very much need people of mature and experienced judgement at this time, and also the linking of Yenching people in USA and Chengtu needs personal contact for thoro understanding.

We are sorry to have heard nothing recently of Hsu Peng Cheng. You do not mention him in your letter. I am afraid that may mean that he is not available or not coming.

I am sorry to report that Kuan Chao Chih, who we hoped had finally got free of TB, has been ordered by the Doctor to take a further period of complete rest. Those doubtful spots on the lung are taking a very long time to clear up. No doubt the damp Chengtu climate is partly responsible, and we cannot afford to send him away to Yunnan or the Northwest. Kuan has now exceeded the time allotted for salary while resting, so his support for the next five months is a real problem. If you get any special funds which could be devoted to such a worthy cause I would be very grateful to receive them on Kuan's behalf. Tom Breece sent me some money through the Yenching Office which I was able to use for students with very great effect. But that is finished now. Kuan is a real mathematical genius, and I want to do everything to hold him for Yenching.

You will be glad to know that we have a baby daughter just born, and doing very well. Peter is full of energy and mischief. I had an excellent 12-day geological and mountainaring holiday and look forward to the work of the year with zest.

With warmest regards to yourself and your family,  
Ralph Lapwood

1300



August 28, 1944

Mr. Ralph Lapwood  
Yenching University  
Chengtu

Dear Ralph,

It seems good to have a letter from you and I will try to answer your questions. I am glad that you and Nancy have been able to establish a home and offer a haven to many other Yenching friends. I know from Grace Boynton's letters how much it is appreciated.

Our records show that your annuity payments were discontinued September 1, 1940. I believe we expected you to return to Yenching that fall and then your plans were changed. At that time payments to the Sun Life Assurance Co. amounted to \$8.50 per month, half of which you were paying and the other half was being paid by the University. The company does not allow us to make up back payments when a policy has been suspended so all we can do is to add your name to the list beginning July 1, 1944. You may recall that annuity payments were based on salary, you and the University each paying 5% of your salary each month. We have no record of what your salary is at present so Miss Speer and I decided to list your payments at the former rate. That means you should pay \$4.25 per month or U.S.\$51.00 for the year 1944-45 for your share of the payments. Whether you should pay the University's share also, since your salary is being paid by the London Mission, is a matter which can best be decided in Chengtu.

You raised the question of furlough arrangements and I discussed these informally with Miss Speer also. We cannot make any definite decisions here since we have no official committee. The Board of Trustees does not wish to make decisions on matters which have been settled on the field in the past. The only thing Miss Speer and I feel prepared to do is to report what has been done in the past and I think we can assume that the University will continue the same general policies in the future. Ordinarily Yenching does not grant furloughs for less than six years of service but I feel sure the University would be willing to finance a part of your furlough. I do not recall that the University has financed two year furloughs in any cases in the past although a few people have been given a second year of leave without salary in order to do further study.

I feel that these remarks are far from what you desire but I think it is the best I can do at present.

Your letter brought the first news I have had of Mr. Subilia in a long time. I liked him so much I am glad to hear indirectly from him.

With best wishes to you and Nancy,

Sincerely yours,

MC  
Via China Clipper  
cc via next Clipper

P.S. Since writing the above Mr. Evans and I have discussed this matter and have come to the conclusion that you should pay the full amount of your annuity during the period you are paid salary by the London Mission Society.

1301



Yenching University in Chengtu  
24 May 1944

Miss Cookingham  
Yenching University Office  
New York

Dear Cookie,

It was very good news to know that you had joined up with the New York Office, and the results in systematic help are already apparent and gratefully received this end.

Nancy joins me in sending congratulations on your repatriation, and we are very glad to hear that you are so fit again by now.

I am writing to inform you about my status in Yenching, especially with regard to finance.

I left Peiping in July 1939, and for the subsequent year I received \$100 monthly as a contribution to my salary while I worked with the C.I.C. I understood from Leighton that this was paid by Yenching, but he may have had it from some other funds. This ceased in the summer of 1940, and thereafter I had my salary from the International Committee for the C.I.C. until July 1942.

In 1942 August I rejoined Yenching, this time in Chengtu, Y.P. Originally I wrote to the Yenching salary, calculated on the old basis. But it soon became clear that that would not do. Not only did I have to live on foreign funds, even on a most economical standard. So I set out to try various other means for salary. After a few months, during which I was supported by Yenching, I was informed that the London Committee had taken over their salary (I was paid by the L. C. from 1939-40) for the duration of the war. I had to advance the money back to the L. C., and the L. C. policy in general, so that we had no real salary (as such) at all in Chengtu, in spite of the fact that we were paid.

I do not know where the London Committee will send out money on the Yenching staff. Previously they refused to do so, although London was the source.

All these facts have bearing on the question of Annuity and furlough.

When I left Yenching in 1939 I arranged with an officer that he should look after the Annuity payments for me. He did this, and informed me at various times in 1941 that \$2,300 approx. had been paid to my credit. He said payments stopped in 1941 if not earlier, and as the situation has since been very obscure, and it did not seem worth asking the New York Office about it, I let the matter lie. I hope you will be able to straighten things out for me. I want to preserve the Annuitant agreement, at least as long as there is any chance of my returning to the Yenching payroll. I hope you will get the Committee dealing with such matters to determine how much I should pay in back payments, and how I should make payments now. You will probably have to give me time to make payments up, as we cannot afford anything beyond food at the present time.

1302



Miss Cookingham, Page 2

As for furlough, the situation is as follows - I came out to China under the L.P.S. in 1932, then resigned in 1936 to join Yenching. I worked in Yenching from 1936 to 1939. From 1939 to 1942 I worked with the C.I.C. From 1942 (August) on I have been back with the C.I.C. During this period I have not had any furlough.

It was the urgent opinion of Stanley Wilson, Bill Sand, and others, that I should not further study, and but for the intervention of Miss Wilson no doubt have accomplished it before now. But seeing that at the earliest I cannot take furlough before 1945 summer I am proposing to take a two-year furlough when the time comes, with the idea of making up some of the lost ground academically. I reckon that two years, studying for four semesters or six trimesters (as in England) would fit me for the kind of work in Mathematics and Statistics I want to do in the future. V.P.C. is in favour of this plan. I would not go as long as there is no chance for advanced study in England or America, or as long as there is the present desperate need of people here.

The question is - could Yenching be responsible for my furlough or part of it? The London Mission attitude is on the whole against furlough study. While they promise to try to fit in some study during demutation work, they do not commit themselves to either the two-year furlough idea or to putting study as a first claim on time, as the University has usually regarded it.

The question is complicated, and probably I have no claim on the University at all. For three years I was on Yenching salary and for another three I was seconded from Yenching to the C.I.C. which has no provision for furlough of foreigners who work with it. The reason for my request is rather that from Yenching point of view it would seem that I should do a reasonable amount of study when I finally go on furlough, and unless the University helps to make that possible I may not be able to get it in.

There's no hurry. Indeed it seems quite off in the clouds to talk about furloughs when all the world is at war and we ourselves may have to evacuate if present rumours are true. But one always likes to look ahead and make plans for a brighter and more rational future.

The University is going along very well, considering the extraordinary financial difficulties that hedge us around. I think you would feel proud of our Chinese administrators - the vigour and efficiency with which they work here, and the really democratic way in which they run things. Y.P., Mr. Ma, Chen Shang-Yi, Agnes Chen, are all very good, and so are some of the others. Our students have an excellent reputation for scholarship and character, and take the leadership in the Christian student life in Chengtu.

With very best wishes, and looking forward to hearing from you. Sorry to have posed so many problems.

Yours *Ralph Lapwood* Ralph Lapwood

We have heard at regular intervals from JD Subilia who was mobilised and in an Antiaircraft battery. He is very happily married and has a baby daughter.

1303







September 25, 1944

Mr. Ralph Lapwood  
Yenching University  
Chengtu, Szechuan

Dear Ralph,

Since writing you on August 28 about your annuity payments I have had another idea on the subject. We have found that it is possible for your 1944-45 Sun Life Assurance Company premiums to be paid out of special funds not available for other University purposes. Now that is one thing you will not have to think about again this year. During these years of inflation I can imagine there are plenty of financial problems for everyone to worry about. At least this will be one less for you.

We are having real autumn weather now and it seems good to have the air cool and crisp. Yesterday some friends took me out in the country in a car and we had a grand hike in the woods and a delicious picnic dinner. It reminded me of hikes in the Western Hills though the country side was quite different.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Cookingham

Via China Clipper  
cc via next Clipper

PS - In general I do not believe in secrecy but I think it would simplify matters if you did not mention this annuity arrangement to others. The money available in your case because of the peculiar situation would not be on hand for other cases which might seem similar. The less that is said about it the fewer explanations will be required. I am sure you will understand.

MC

1305



RECEIVED  
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SEP 26 1944  
JOINT OFFICE

1306



燕京大學

YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENG TU  
CHENG TU CHINA

College of Science,  
3 October 1944

CABLE ADDRESS  
YENTA

Dr. Wm. H. Adolph  
Cornell University

Dear Dr. Adolph,

Your letter of May 3rd crossed mine of April 5th, and in answer to your I wrote again on June 13th. I hope you received these two letters. ~~satisfactorily~~.

In this letter I am enclosing a note from Tsao T'ien Ch'ing whom no doubt you will remember - younger son of C.P. Tsao. This was written a long time ago and given to me just too late for enclosure in one of my former letters, so it lay in my drawer unattended. It has no particular time element, so I thought you would still be glad to see it.

After his graduation Tsao T'ien Ch'ing had the good luck to be invited by Dr. Joseph Needham to become his travelling secretary. If he makes good - as I am sure he will - this gives remarkable experience in China now - something like Faraday's with Davy, and the promise of similar opportunities abroad later on.

I expect that SD will have sent on to you copies of various letters and reports which I sent to him. We hope that you feel reasonably well in touch with what is happening here these days.

I am due to take furlough next summer. I shall have done six years with Yenching, and three in the CIC. As I worked in Middle School for four years before joining Yenching, you can see that for the sake of catching up with modern developments and teaching methods in my subject, it is high time that I had chance for further study. I am thinking of staying away from China for three years. The first year will be mainly taken up with deputation work, and partly with study in Cambridge or London. For the subsequent years I hope to study in one of the American Universities. But all these plans depend very much on what happens in the wars in Europe and the Pacific.

Bill Band is also due to take furlough. And Miss Boynton has been ordered by the doctor not to risk another summer in Szechuan without furlough. So I hope that the Yenching group in the States now will consider quite carefully who should come out here next academic year. We expect Alice whenever she can get away, and trust that Ran and Marnie will be able to make it too. In the Science College there is a widely expressed hope on the part of faculty and students that both you and SD will be coming out next year.

So this letter is a kind of appeal to you that when you consider your work for the next academic year you will give Yenching's claims a very heavy weighting. If you do come it will be to the job of planning for and carrying out the return to the north (we hope and expect). That will be a loss as far as academic work is concerned, but it will be a period of fixing policies anew, deciding on permanent personnel, obtaining apparatus, revising the setup of Christian education in China, and so the need for balanced and experienced administrators will not be satisfied by the arrival of two or three people to the University.

All good wishes to yourself and your family,

*Ralph*  
Ralph Lapwood

1307



College of Science, Yenching in  
Chengtu, 28 November 1944

Dear Dr. Wilson,

Since my last letter to you written on 30th August I have received from you letters of (?) August and 24th September, and a good deal of material on statistical work in Columbia and Applied Mathematics in Brown. I am very grateful indeed for the way in which you have obtained such full information for me. It is of the utmost value in my attempt to plan for the future. I wish I had ~~as~~ complete material about courses available in England. I have written to Dr. Hotelling and Dr. Goodrich, and I shall be writing, as soon as I have finished this letter, to Dr. Richardson. In each case all I can do is thank them for the information, and tell them that in present conditions I am not yet able to plan definitely for the future.

You will of course want to know what my plans are, as worked out up to date. The London Mission has granted a two-year furlough, and is strongly urging that we do not delay beyond June of 1945 in returning to England. But the Mission is unwilling to accept my desire that study come first. They feel that as we have had an interesting life in China and will have many things to say in England, we should regard deputation work as inevitable. Study could be put in as time was left over from deputation. Naturally this will not do. I know well that unless study is recognised as the major activity it will be crowded out.

I have talked this problem over with friends here, and come to the conclusion that the best way out is for me to devote most of my first year to fulfilling the desires of the L.M.S. But I will live in a University town, and do my best to attend ~~lectures~~ lectures and brush up ready for intensive studies later. Then at the end of the first year I will ask the Mission to set me quite free for one year, and then I shall probably try to go to USA for study. I hope that one year there will be financed by the LMS.

Having done some study in England, there should not be any difficulty in finishing a PhD course in USA in two further years. I have requested Yenching to finance the second year of study, but so far have had no answer - Cookie wrote back that the decision should be made on the field, but YP points out that the people this end were not consulted when Bill Band was granted furlough from the New York end, and Yenching here has no budget for his travel or furlough expenses, supposing that New York will provide those.

What is your advice in this matter? I think that seeing I worked on Yenching payroll for three years I do have some claim on the University, though legally not for a full year of furlough. (Of course the University would not have to pay my travel expenses.) And I believe that it would be very much in the interests of the University to make it possible for me to complete a course of advanced training.

One of the points which make me think that perhaps I should not try to start right in on a PhD course is the uncertainty of date of reaching England. It is somewhat doubtful whether I should leave here before the arrival of Ran and Alice Boring, and possibly yourself, if you do manage to get out next fall. Then there is no knowing how long the journey to England will last, especially as we would like to pass by Australia to see Nancy's father and mother - Dr. and Mrs. E.J. Stuckey of Tientsin Mackenzie Memorial Hospital. So even if I got to England in time for the beginning of the term, it would be a great rush.

Well, that's enough of my own plans - you have shown so much interest in helping me that I thought I should bring you up to date. Let's proceed to answer your two letters, and give some news of the College and University.

and  
family

1308



I hope that you were able to get somewhere on the matter of donation of scientific equipment by the American air force to colleges in China after the end of hostilities.

We do understand the terrific difficulties in getting anything sent out here from USA. But if you can manage to get any parcel as far as Calcutta we can arrange for its transport from there.

Our cost of living here is now over 700 times prewar. But the change of exchange rates has eased the situation as far as foreigners are concerned. For two years we lived by scraping along and selling off possessions gradually, but now that the  $\$$  has gone to over 800 mex we are able to make ends meet without further selling. This of course does not help our Chinese faculty, who are now living on the equivalent of 7% of prewar salary - i.e. a Professor is getting in ~~goods~~ purchasing value \$25 mex per month.

Opinion here is now less optimistic than it was two or three months ago, on the subject of the wars in Europe and the Far East. YP has extended his estimate of the time to elapse until our return to the north from one year to three, and many feel anxiety over this strong Japanese advance which has reached the southern borders of Kweichow. The region of Hunan and Kuangsi which has been the recent battleground is very familiar to me as I worked there for two years as C.I.C. inspector and statistician.

Everyone here heard with much interest of your work in Pomona, and felt very proud for you and of the reflected glory to the University from your Honorary Degree. We all hope that you are steadily regaining all your old energy, and building up reserves for the future.

We were very sorry to hear of the continued illness of F.O. I often meet chemical engineers here who graduated from Yenching and ask with affection and concern about F.O.

You mention what is in the minds of all of us - the conserving of the resources of the college for the future. I have understood that the Science College Endowment brings in around \$15,000 (gold) per year. In recent statements from Evans, the amount of this \$15,000 which is being sent to Chengtu is not specified. A considerable sum is being reserved in New York each year (very rightly) against salaries of faculty in Peking. Various other American payments are also retained. The final result is that of the total Trustees' income of \$80,000 plus not over \$45,000 yearly is sent out to Chengtu. The majority of this \$45,000 is Harvard-Yenching and Princeton-Yenching and Rockefeller (CPA). My proposal is that a fair proportion of the funds reserved in New York should be earmarked as for future purchase of apparatus and equipment for the Science College, having been derived from the Science College Endowment in the first place. I am taking this matter up with the controller here, but at present he is not able to find out the exact facts of the case.

Please continue to urge Hsu Peng Cheng to return to China as soon as he can. We kept a vacant place in the salary list for him, but seeing that he is not going to arrive this academic year, we are trying to invite Huang Jen Hsun, Chief Engineer of the Weichiang Sugar Plant (Yenching Chem. Dept. Graduate) to spend his six months of sabbatical leave with us. His engineering knowledge is very appropriate now that nearly every student is wanting to go into industry.

I am very glad that you will continue to push for the share of Yenching in future scientific training in Christian institutions in China. I hope that graduate work can again be regarded as our natural field. It needs pushing from your end, for we do not have enough prestige of experience and achievement in our small group here to carry the necessary weight.



Your news of the existence of a committee in Peking looking forward to the restarting of Yenching was very interesting and encouraging. The reason for my suggesting a Science College Committee rather than a general University Committee was partly that Bill and I seemed to be somewhat ahead of the group here in discussing plans, partly that we had special problems to consider in the way of obtaining of apparatus and supplies, and partly that comparatively speaking the personnel problems envisaged are so much simpler than for the rest of the university, so that it is easier to start. But the situation has changed since I wrote then, - for instance Bill and I will not be available for some time. In line with your letter I will have a chat with Y.P. before he leaves for the States, and see whether measures of a more general nature cannot be set in motion.

Our most recent news from Peking - via a pastor who recently came out - is that Leighton and Houghton are in good health, able to see friends once a week, to get in books, and to get food <sup>cooked and</sup> sent in ~~regularly~~ from Norwegian nurses nearby. We regard the news published by the Hsin Hua Je Pao that they had suffered a nervous breakdown as untrue.

You will be glad to hear that Kuan Chao Chih was discharged from the hospital much earlier than we had feared. He is now free from TB and is rapidly gaining strength. He has taken a half-load, and is lecturing again with his usual excellence.

I am sorry to say there is no recent news about Tsai Lu Sheng. But comprehensive news about all the friends in Peking says that they are in good health, some teaching in Fujen (for instance Hsu Hsien Yu, J.C. Li) others staying at home (Wu Lei Chuan, Lu Chih Wei). T.C. Chao is priest in the Anglican Cathedral. Yenching is now said to be the HQ of a "North China Natural Resources Investigation Commission". You will know that Robert Chao and his wife and family came through a short time ago. Robert and his wife are working for the Government organisation which takes care of American aviators here. Both in responsible positions.

The ~~ten~~ million dollar campaign has succeeded well. Mainly owing to Y.P.'s energy. But unfortunately Y.P. has recently antagonised many people by careless or tactless remarks or attitudes. So that there is a good deal of criticism by alumni. Y.P. is too American and too little Chinese in dealing with some of them, or outside people. He is extremely good on the business and organisational side of running the university, but weak on understanding people.

Wu Chi-Yu hoped to go to the States ~~and~~ as Yenching's representative. Having failed in the election, he is bitter, and will not cooperate with Y.P. It is rumoured that he plans to leave here. We are trying to get back Han Ching-Lien. He is very necessary for our smooth running. We also want to get JB Tayler and Kuang Lan-Chen to return as soon as they can. Shen T'i-Lan, recently appointed as Chief Secretary, is a very good man, and should help us a lot. Mrs. Mei has done excellent work in promoting the work of her department, and has already put the publishing work - pamphlets, charts, etc., on a sound financial selfsupporting basis. But she is more unpopular than before. Of course such problems always arise, and we are fortunate in having level-headed people like Mr. Ma Chien around to keep things running smoothly.

Chang Tsung-Ping is doing very well. Chen Shang-Yi has done well as Parttime Registrar. But the Physics Department has suffered greatly, so I must insist that Shang-Yi come back next semester to fulltime work in Physics.

1310



Within this last month the students here have been more active than at any time since 1939. First an unfortunate incident in which policemen beat some local students brought out the smothered resentment against undemocratic procedures, and the students, in defiance of orders from the government, combined to march to the provincial government and present a set of five demands, including "Habeus Corpus" and other people's rights. The Provincial Governor - Chang Chun, one of the best statesmen in China - handled the matter well, and agreed to the demands of the students as reasonable, and so no further demonstrations occurred.

Soon after that the Government, at the pressure of American representatives in Chungking, began the reforming of the army, and called for 100,000 student volunteers. Gradually throughout the country there came a vigorous response. From the ~~five~~ Universities here several hundreds of students have volunteered. Cheeloo alone provided about 150 students, for interpreters, air force, or volunteer expeditionary force. The lists are not yet closed. We all hope that the Government plan will really make use of the students who have joined up. Last year a similar plan ended in fiasco.

The Presidents of the Five Universities, combining with non-Christian colleges, have sent to the Government a manifesto suggesting total conscription rather than volunteering, and offered to turn the Universities into training establishments for wartime needs. This is what some of us have desired for a long time, and I earnestly hope that it is put into effect. Each department has been asked to submit curricula of wartime courses. If only this step had been taken five years ago it would perhaps have saved the present military disaster. There is still a good deal of fear that the government does not really have any adequate plan to use all who wish to serve, and also on some sides that the KMT may take advantage of these moves to strengthen the party rather than the nation. But it is realized that in time of national danger party considerations have to be put second.

A little more news about people. Grace Boynton has been ordered to complete rest by the doctor, since she was getting weaker under the continual strain. She is improving very slowly. She has previously been ordered to proceed on furlough in the spring. Probably you know that. Albert Hausske is doing an excellent job as Controller, but looks in poor health from overwork. Y.P. is in good health and spirits. Lu Hui Ching is proving a very good Dean of Women, and Wei Yung Ching has worked himself thin in doing splendidly as Dean of Discipline. He has an excellent understanding of the students, and they like and respect him. He has been asked to head up training of workers in relief and rehabilitation for the UCR and possibly later the UNNRA. He has not accepted yet, but it is likely that after finishing this semester he will want to go. It is very much in line with ~~his~~ his previous training and experience. That would leave us a difficult problem in finding someone to take his place.

I am troubled to know who should act as Dean of Science after I leave. Shang Yi is the most probable man, but some of his relationships with ~~other~~ Deans and Chairmen of other Universities are not very good, and cooperation is an essential. Chang Tsung Ping is a very good fellow - efficient and cooperative, - but young as I am for the job, he is even younger. I am going down to Chungking soon and will talk over this and other problems with Bill Band. Bill is due to leave for England in February.

I still carry some work for the C.I.C. - now as chairman of the International Committee, which allocates the funds raised in other countries - especially USA - for the CIC. Occasionally this makes me very busy. But I am in excellent health. The doctor has recently pronounced me 100% normal. Best wishes to all your family, Ralph <sup>Ralph</sup> ~~Law~~wood

Nancy, Peter, and the baby (Joan) are all well.

1311



February 13, 1945

Professor Ralph Lapwood  
Yenching University  
Chengtu,  
West China.

Dear Ralph:

This is a very tardy acknowledgement of your letter of October 3rd. I am many times grateful for your keeping me so closely in touch with developments in chemistry and in the College of Science. I feel that I am filling a place here where at the same time I am able to be of some help in the war effort and do not feel that another move just now would be appropriate. With the increased number of visitors from Chengtu and Chungking who stop in from day to day we feel we are gradually getting into better touch with the reality of things in West China and in the University.

After considerable prodding and correspondence I think we have finally aroused the New York Office to the importance of securing Dr. Hsu Peng Cheng for the Department of Chemistry at Yenching and recent word from them indicates that they have been in touch with you again with respect to his appointment. Apparently appointments such as his were originally handled largely from Peking so that there was no recognized procedure which they could follow with respect to a Chinese member of the staff and they did not seem to know how to proceed. I am hopeful that satisfactory arrangements can be made and that Dr. Hsu will be able to join you before long.

Enclosed is a copy of a Chemistry Alumni letter which you might be interested in passing on to the Chemistry folks at Chengtu. We have a very loyal group of Chemistry alumni in this country. Most of them have made good and are very much interested in Yenching's contribution to the war effort. You will be interested that we had a day's visit recently from your friend Dr. Platt, who I think you knew in Shanghai. Dr. Platt is now one of the British Government's expert nutritionists. He has travelled around considerably among the British colonies and has recently come to this country as the British representative in connection with inter-allied food talks. He is doing very fine work. A regular procession of Chinese agricultural and industrial experts have been coming to this country and many of them stop at Cornell. We had a week's visit from Dr. Hsien Wu, formerly of P.U.M.C. who is now in this country preparing to return to China to head-up the new Government Nutrition Research Institute. Among my graduate students I have two Chinese girls and I understand a couple more

13 12



are coming next term. We are able to direct their interest into studies which will be of profit to them in their future work in the Far East.

I think the Yenching staff is to be congratulated on the fortnightly letter. The material in this is actually what is needed here and extracts from these letters find their way into talks and all kinds of informal publicity efforts directed by those who are interested in Yenching. I hope they will be continued. We are very much looking forward to Dr. Y. P. Mei's visit to this country and I hope he will by all means find it possible to drop off and see us here at Cornell.

Please convey our best greetings to our Chemistry friends and also to Mrs. Lapwood whom we have not met.

Very sincerely yours,

Wm. H. Adolph  
Acting Professor  
Biochemistry and Nutrition

WHA:H  
Enc.



February 10, 1945

Mr. Ralph Lapwood  
Yenching University  
Chengtou, Szechwan, China

Re: \* Yenching finances.  
\*\* Agent in Calcutta?

Dear Mr. Lapwood:

Your biweekly letter dated December 15 has just come to hand and I want to drop you a line of appreciation before anything has a chance to crowd in and divert me. The mail comes in bunches and this follows close upon the heels of another excellent letter of the same sort from Dr. Mei.

I notice the reference in the opening paragraph to my letter of October 25. I hope that none of you will feel cramped in style or freedom of expression by the thought that what you send us has a wider circulation than the intimate group of Yenching friends and faculty alumni who know the campus and its personnel. If necessary we can sift out things only of interest to people who know you all or, on the other hand, add a phrase or two which will make the reference understood by everybody. We feel strongly that such letters, interestingly written, giving an intimate picture of life on the campus, make the very best kind of promotional literature. In my letter to Dr. Mei I expressed thanks for the copies of the Yenching News. It is very good to have them, but even they do not quite take the place of the sort of news letter you sent.

\* Stanley Wilson shared with us three weeks ago your letter to him of November 28. It helped a lot in understanding a good many of the problems you face, though I am not sure we can move very fast in helping you solve those problems. Cookie (I don't quite dare call her that to her face, but I find it easy to refer to her in that way when writing to those of you who long knew her by that pleasant appellation) is preparing a careful memorandum on Yenching finances which will, I think, clear up the uncertainties you may have had regarding the exact amounts of income for various departments of the University. She saw at once the reasons for your questions and also felt sure she had the answers.

We certainly want to do everything we can to further your plans for study when you come to this side of the Atlantic. Stanley will probably have written you before this one or two of his ideas. If we let the matter rest longer than we should, please do not fail to keep prodding us. I have in mind your thought that your first year of furlough will necessarily be spent in Great Britain with much time given to speaking for the LMS.

\*\* We are keenly anxious to know the exact nature of whatever arrangements can be made in Calcutta for trans-shipment of stuff to Chengtu. Is it someone or some agency to which we could send things ad lib with the expectation that they would move on without too much delay, or must everything be arranged by you from that end?

My wife would want to add a word of greeting to Mrs. Lapwood, whom she remembers from Tientsin as Nancy Stuckey. For some reason we did not have that relationship in mind until recently. I developed a very great admiration for both Dr. and Mrs. Stuckey during the years when they were at the MacKenzie Hospital and we were living way out on the edge of the Chinese city near the Central Railroad station.

With kindest regards and the hope that all plans for your furlough are moving on with complete satisfaction, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

Via air mail.

c.c. by regular mail.  
EHB:mec

Earle H. Ballou

*a copy of memo on Yenching finances prepared by Miss Cookingham went with this letter.*

1314



UNIVERSITY  
FEB 13 1945  
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13 15



53 Hua Hsi Pa, Chengtu  
14 December 1944

Miss Mary Cookingham,  
Yenching Office, New York.

Dear Cookie, I received some time ago your two replies - August 28th and September 25th - to my letter to you of May 24th. Thank you very much. I had just written an answer to your first when the second came and put my reply out of date, so I didn't send it.

Let me first take up one or two items of business.

1. Annuity Payments

Thank you very much for straightening out the record, and renewing my share in the annuity plan. And beyond that for finding a way in America for payment of my part for the year 1944-5. Nancy and I do very much appreciate this kindly aid, which greatly simplifies our budgeting problems here now. If we should be grateful to any particular person or persons, please pass on our very sincere thanks.

Your decision to register on the same rate as in 1940 is quite suitable. I hope that it may be stepped up later.

2. My account in New York

Do you reckon to keep on your books personal accounts for faculty members here? If so I would be very grateful if you would pay into my account any sums made available for us from friends such as the Breeces in America, and pay from it any sums which we request you to pay. If this is a service which you do not undertake, perhaps you will advise me on opening a Bank account in New York.

I believe that a little money stands to my credit with the New York Office. Will you be kind enough to pay US\$ 5.00 (five) to John E. Lenox, c/o Rev. Merrill Lenox, 152 Madison Avenue, New York City. This is a debt incurred by Nancy in getting some second-hand baby-clothes from missionaries here.

Please do not send out sums deposited with the office for me unless instructed from this end, as we are due to leave soon, and as we most likely will leave by air we shall have to sell off our stuff. So we would be glad to have any available gold for use outside China, while we live on the results of sales for the ~~xxxxxx~~ last month or two.

3. Our plans and furlough

Thank you for making first enquiries on my behalf about possibilities of furlough finance. I asked YP about the question, and he was somewhat uncertain in whose control lay the decisions. For he pointed out that in the case of Bill Band action was taken in New York without consulting the University in Chengtu, whereas in my case action was referred by New York to Chengtu.

So I am leaving this point for the time being, as it is not very urgent. I hope that during YP's visit to America the responsibility can be determined, and then I can apply to the right quarters.

My plan now is to stay here until the arrival of Alice Boring and/or Ran Sailer, and then proceed quickly to England, possibly by way of Australia. That might be in the early fall of 1945. After one year of furlough work\* in England I wish to put in two years of study, and hope that the LMS will finance one, while the University takes responsibility for the other. I would not be needing any travel funds from the University. I would prefer to study in America.

\* *suppl. to*

13 16



4. News of People

So much for personal business. Probably you would like to hear a little about the people here now.

YP and VK are very well. They are reputed to be the best couple at bridge in Chengtu. VK has won recognition from the Government and other quarters by the excellence of the series of literature about or for children which she has been editing and publishing. The project is on a selfsupporting basis. But she is no more tactful than she used to be, and so has plenty of enemies. YP has done a very good job in raising more than the \$10,000,000 aimed at in the financial campaign - how much more is not yet known, but it is hoped that including interest there will be over twelve million. The campaign is now closed. YP is proceeding to Chungking on Sunday, to help form a Board of Trustees - or some such organization - for this money in China. Very necessary, for even with our depreciated currency it is quite a lot of money to be responsible for. YP also has not on all occasions been the personification of tact - too "American" sometimes in dealing especially with oldfashioned gentry - so that you will probably hear various criticisms. But we think he has done a very good job here. He is very clearheaded and democratic in internal administration, and recently the students have come to support him much more strongly than they did at first, when they were always comparing him disadvantageously with Leighton.

Wu Chi-Yu was very miserable at having lost the election to go as Yenching representative to America, and has been trying to get a job in the Government. At last he seems to have succeeded, and left here on Sunday last. On the whole people are not sorry to have him go, for he has become so antagonistic to YP that it interfered with cooperation in the University.

Cheng Lin-Chuang is doing well as Dean of the College of Public Affairs. Chen Shang-Yi has worked very hard as Dean of Studies, but the Physics Department has suffered a good deal in consequence, so I am agitating to have him return to the Department next semester.

Wei Yung Ching had what is in some respects the hardest job in the University - Dean of Discipline - that is, Chairman of the Student Welfare Committee. He has done extraordinarily well, and has won the confidence of the students in a way that no one else has done since we started here. Yung Ching has been called by Lennig Sweet to go to help in Chungking with the training of personnel for UNRRA, but he has the good of the University so much at heart that it is likely that he will stay here in response to our urgings. We are sorry that he should lose so good a chance, but the need of the University ~~fix~~ right now is primary with us.

Grace Boynton's sickness is a great blow to us. She has not been strong for a long time, though she kept on working very hard. But now for two or three weeks she has been in bed, very weak and with assorted pains. So far the doctors have not been able to make a sure diagnosis. But anyway all agree that she should go back to America just as soon as she can. Grace has no head at all for figures, but she has been a great source of wisdom here in all problems involving persons, and we already miss her very greatly.

Mr. Ma is well, - he is a remarkable old gentleman. Chang Tsung-Ping - son of Chang Tung-Sun - has proved a great success, and I hope that he will become a fulltime member of Yenching faculty when we return to the north.

Bill and Claire Band have decided to take advantage of the call for people to prepare to evacuate Chungking and may have left China already. I think their job has not been very suitable. It will be good to have Bill take his furlough soon and prepare to return to Yenching at the first chance. Nancy, the children, and myself, are all in excellent health. Hope you are.

*Estimates for - Report*

1317



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SECRET

signed to WASH. A

1. The first of these is the fact that the VA has been editing and publishing the project in the form of a series of literature about or for the VA. The project is not a collection of essays or articles, but a series of literature about or for the VA. The project is not a collection of essays or articles, but a series of literature about or for the VA.

top this money in China. Very necessary, for even with our equipment - JAN 30  
twelve million. The campaign is now closed. It is proceeding so quickly - UNIV  
own, but it is hoped that including interest there will be over  
\$20,000,000 aimed at in the financial campaign - how much more I  
and so has plan of campaign. It has done a very good job in raising more

any did at first, when they were always comparing him disadvantageously with the students who have come to support him much more strongly than before. He is very mischieved and democratic in internal administration. Probably hear various criticisms, but we think he has done a very good job sometimes in dealing especially with disaffected Gentry - so that you will find on all occasions that the personalization of fact - so "American" -

On this was very miserable at having lost the election to go as remaining representative to Mexico, and then he was trying to get a job in the Government, it felt he seems to have misadvised, and left here on March 1st. On the whole he is not going to have his go, for he has decided to concentrate to it that he interested with cooperation in the University.

have him return to the Department next semester.

Wei Yang Ching has what is in some respects the hardest job in the University - Team of Discipline - that is, Chairman of the Student Welfare Committee. He has some extraordinary ability, and has won the confidence of the students in a way that no one else has done since we started here. Yang Ching has been called upon to go to help in Shanghai with the training of personnel for UNRRA, but he has the good of the University so much at heart that it is likely that he will stay here in response to our requests. We are sorry that he should lose so good a chance, but the need of the University for him now is greater than ours.

Grace's doctor's statement is a great blow to us. He has not been strong for a long time, though she kept on working very hard. But now for two or three weeks she has been in bed, very weak and with unsteady balance. No far as the doctors have not been able to make a sure diagnosis. But anyway all agree that she should go back to America as soon as she can. Grace has no need at all for lighters, but she has had a great source of wisdom here in the past few years. And we direct her very truly.

and the children, and myself, are all in excellent health. Hope you are. I take his trip now soon and prepare to return to Yenching at the first chance. I think their job has not been very suitable. It will be good to have Bill and Claire and have decided to take advantage of the call for people to prepare to evacuate Chungking and have left China already.



January 31, 1945

Mr. Ralph Lapwood  
Yenching University  
Chengtu, China

Dear Ralph:

I was glad to receive your letter of December 14, 1944 and will now report what is being done in regard to various matters.

Yesterday we paid \$5.00 to John E. Lenox as requested in your letter. We can easily take care of small payments for you here and I know it must be a great convenience for you when exchange has such a wide variation. We are holding the balance of the money sent in by Mr. Breece for you in our Suspense Account. We received \$60 so there is still a balance of \$55 in your account.

It may seem to you on the field that your request for furlough is very much the same as that of Bill Band's but to us in New York there are certain important differences. Since the Bands were at Yenching at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor the Trustees feel that they have a responsibility for their salary and travel until the time they reach their own country. Had they not chosen to leave Yenching on December 8, 1941 they would be interned in Weihsien until some future date. We are glad they were able to get through to Chungking and will now go on furlough so that they will be ready to return to Peking whenever it is possible for us to start work on our campus there.

Since the Bands returned from their last furlough in September 1937 and worked at Yenching as long as it was possible to carry on they were entitled to a regular furlough in June 1943. There is nothing irregular about the arrangements except that war interfered with the work which Bill was doing at Yenching.

Your case is complicated by the fact that you have been on a London Mission Society salary part of the time and that you now desire a longer furlough than the usual one provided by Yenching. Since the London Mission Society is providing you with travel funds an immediate decision on how much money Yenching will provide for your furlough expenses is not an urgent question. After Y. P. Mei arrives in America the matter can be discussed and I am sure everything possible will be done to help you prepare yourself for future service at Yenching. Dr. S. D. Wilson is already exploring possibilities for fellowships.

I am very glad to have the personal news in your letter. I am sorry there was ill feeling between Y. P. Mei and Wu Chi-Yu but I do not feel that the departure of the latter is a great loss. We are looking forward to seeing Grace Boynton. I am sure she can add some news and answer many of our questions.

With very best wishes to you and yours,

Sincerely yours,

Mary Cookingham

MC/mp

13 19



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JAN 31 1945  
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Dr. Stanley Wilson

Science College, Yenching in Chengtu  
3 March 1945

Dear S.D.,

My previous letter to you was written on 28th November. I hope you received it fairly promptly. It crossed your letter of October 22nd, to which I now reply.

Very many thanks for taking up all the points on which I requested your help. I am especially glad that journals are being ordered regularly in USA for the University.

You will be glad to hear that we have been able to rig up a microfilm reader here, and are using it a good deal. It is a makeshift, and we have had to build a kind of paper and bamboo hut over it to get darkness enough for its feeble light, and so whenever you do succeed in getting something more adequate to us everybody will feel very ~~grate~~ grateful.

Everyone here is glad to hear of your enjoyment of the work in Pomona, and at the same time, hopes that your health is improving fast enough for you to envisage coming out here in the not very distant future.

I am enclosing a copy of my report on our work of last semester. You will be glad to know that my remark about the turning of the tide seems to be justified, and this semester we already have a freshman class of well over thirty, with the hope of further students arriving from Chungking. They seem to be of fairly good quality, though as with all middle school graduates of the interior of China in recent years, their English standard is poor.

Miss Sheng Hsi Ying, referred to in the Report, has arrived, and should prove very satisfactory, though it is early to say.

We are very grateful to you for urging Hsu Peng Cheng to come out here. We have cabled to the New York Office to get him out to us at all costs, and after a few days I shall send him a personal message welcoming him and urging early start. It is going to make a big difference to us when he and Lan Chen get here, for all of us are quite dissatisfied that after three years we have made no progress in improving our temporary Chemistry "preparatory-department", and their coming offers the first bright hope. Perhaps news of your coming will be the second encouragement.

We were very sorry that we could not extend an identical invitation to Li Hui Lin, with whom we had had correspondence. The fact was that when we first communicated with Li we hoped he would be here this academic year, using the salary reserved for Dr. Boring, who has been prevented from leaving America. Moreover we were led by his family here to suppose that he could pay for his own travel (travel for one man from USA deducts from our field budget much more than the yearly salary of one professor). When we found that he hoped we would pay for his travel, and moreover that he could not get here much earlier than Dr. Boring, we reluctantly cabled that while we would welcome Dr. Li to join the staff, but could not bring him out here.

I wish you were here so that we could talk about the future of the Biology Department. We are embarrassed by a wealth of good people available. Chang Tsung Ping has proved himself in every way a great asset. He is brilliant and hardworking, and very easy to work with. I believe he has great possibilities for the future, both in academic fields and in administration. Dr. Li Hui Lin is a botanist - a line needed in Yenching, - and has an excellent reputation. Now we know that Dr. Liu Cheng Chao who has been in



W.C.U.U. for the past few years, will be free in September, and would prefer to join Yenching, though he has an excellent invitation from the National Central Museum as Head of the Zoology Section. He is a fine research worker and a careful teacher and administrator, and stands high in the regard of Dr. Boring. Further J.C. Li is still in Peking, and naturally will later be available once more for Yenching. Now that Manila has been freed, we expect that it will not be long before we hear from C.F. Wu. Thus there are six professors in the realm of possibility (including Dr. Boring), and it is hard to know how to decide wisely who should be invited. (Naturally all ~~invitations~~ invitations which we give here are from year to year, and make no commitment for the period after return to the north.) I am discussing this problem with Chang Tsung Ping and Y.F. now.

Returning for a moment to Chemistry, I should tell you that Mr. Huang Chen Hsun, who accepted our invitation to come as a visiting lecturer for this semester, has been chosen to go as a Government industrial representative to USA, so that we shall have no reinforcement in Chemistry this term after all.

Chen Shang Yi has nearly freed himself now from the position of Dean of Studies. Han Ching Lien has not yet come, but whether he returns or not, we have been able to get Shang Yi back to fulltime in the Physics Department, after a year and a half in which he had much less than half time to spare for it. The Department suffered during his absence.

In the middle of December we had a letter from Bill Band, saying that in the general pressure to evacuate foreigners at that time, he and Claire were taking the opportunity of going home. Recently I had a short letter written by Bill on Jan 5th from Calcutta. They were having a good time in India, and expected to move on towards England some time in January. Their address in England is c/o Mrs. Blanche Chaytor

"Kings Lynn", Hooton Road  
Willaston, Wirral

Bill said that he had had a "cordial and optimistic letter from the Institute of Physics at home, assuring me that there would be plenty of work to do, either temporary or permanent."

We recently had news from a traveller who left Peking not long ago. He reported that Leighton and his fellowprisoners were in good health and spirits. The rumour of a nervous breakdown, spread from Chungking three months ago, seems to have had no foundation at all.

Bad news was of the death of Wu Lei Chuan. On Chao Tze Chen's birthday, he insisted on going out to the party held in T.C.'s honour, but fell on the way, hurt himself, and died within a few hours. We have no corroboration ~~extant~~ of this news, but people here think that it is likely to be true. Other friends in Peking were reported to be in good health.

Life here goes on about as usual. The cost of living is now about 1100 times prewar, but the American dollar is now worth \$550 mex, and American cheques sell at \$300 mex to G\$1. We have recently been living on just about 25% of our prewar salary, and find it adequate for food. We buy nothing else, of course. We heard that Miss Boynton left India safely, and in much improved health. We got a card from Jim Hunter written in Australia. My own family, and Mr. Hausske, Miss Reed, and Miss Dow, all living together, are all very well.



S.D. Wilson, 3 March 1945

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During December, when the Japanese drove up towards Kweiyang, there was a good deal of fear and agitation in some mission circles, and it was decided to begin evacuating missionaries, beginning with women with children. Decisions made then have been carried out through the last three months. Many of us feel now that the need for such precautions is past, and that no further evacuation should be done. But some of the mission secretaries are still jittery, and press for the complete evacuation from China of all mothers with children.

This has brought Nancy and myself under considerable pressure to go, but we have resisted it, convinced that it was from emotional and uninformed attitudes. We are among the few families left here now, and are regarded as rebellious nuisances by the evacuators. But we both feel that the risk of a crisis is small, and the work we have to do quite sufficient to justify our staying on until the time fixed for our furlough. That is the end of June. I wish there were some way by which I could stay on until the arrival of Ran and Alice, but it would not be a big hope in my time in England.

We have asked to be allowed to travel via Australia, and so to see Nancy's parents. Bishop Hall has suggested that I travel across America to England, so as to do some work for the American Committee for the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives, and inform them on the conditions in China. If this eventuates, I shall certainly plan my itinerary so as to visit you, unless you have yourself left for China by then. (A few days ago, in conversation, Y.P. expressed the very earnest wish that you would come out to help Yenching here as soon as possible, - not wait for the return to the north before coming to China.)

I had another letter from Hotelling, recommending me to get into touch with PL Hsu, of Tsinghua, whom he regards as one of the world's most eminent statisticians. (I hear that he studied for a time at Yenching). As to plans for furlough study, I have received information about work in England, which is naturally much disrupted at present. Decision about where to study must wait for more information, and seeing that I have definitely decided not to start in until the fall of next year, there is time yet.

Please my give my very kindest regards to all your family, and other friends who live near you.

If you could pass on this letter to Dr. Boring she might like to see its contents.

Yours as ever,

Ralph Lapwood



1323

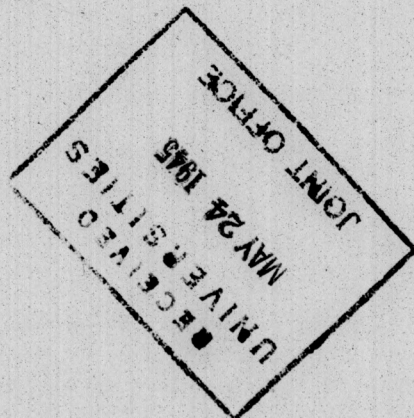


[illegible]

all your good days or late nights I will think you are  
happy. I have been very busy lately but I am still  
very much yours as ever.

TOVA E BING

BOOKS BY THE





Dr. Stanley Wilson

Dear S.U.,

I wrote to you on March 3rd, sending a report of the Science College work during the Fall semester. Today by separate letter I am sending copies of that letter and report, in case the first failed to arrive. But I shall not send any duplicate of this letter, hoping that by now the mail is reliable enough to warrant confidence.

Your letter of February 13th came through in just about a month, with part of the C.I.T. catalogue. The duplicate and the other half of the catalogue have not yet arrived. I first comment on points raised in your letter. I am glad you are sharing with other friends in the States items of news which I send to you. I hope you will continue to do that, for you and Ran Sailer are the only ones in the States to whom I write as a matter of regular course. To others I write only on specific points.

We have no further news of Leighton and Houghton, except confirmation of the statements that they have occasionally been seen on the streets of Peking, and seemed thin but healthy. Their - at least Leighton's - letters to internees in Wei Hsien are full of hope and confidence. As to others in Peking, see later in this letter. We are delighted to know that you feel so much fitter, and that there is a prospect of your coming out. At the end of ~~it~~ this letter I will go further into that question, as far as we can see from this end.

Y.P. hopes to arrive in USA for the beginning of May, leaving here in the middle of April, and travelling all the way by air. He hopes to return here by Thanksgiving.

Now let me take up in order the points which have arisen since I last wrote.

Tu Lien Yueh

You will remember Tu, who has been a very faithful worker in the Physics Department since 1934 - 11 years. I do not know whether there was any special reason why he didn't get a chance to go abroad during this period, but now he is beginning to feel that if he doesn't get away soon he will have no chance. I enclose a list of his qualifications and desires, passing on his request that you help him to get a chance to study in America. I know him as a careful and responsible teacher, but I do not know his capacity for research or other advanced work. I am also sending a copy of this letter to Bill Band, and asking him to correspond with you on his plans for physics and his interest in further training for Tu. Naturally Tu Lien Yueh would like to get his chance to study abroad as soon as possible.

Kuan Chao Chih

Kuan seems to have thrown off finally the last vestiges of T.B., and is now looking well, feeling energetic, and teaching 9 credits in addition to doing miscellaneous jobs for the Department. You will remember him as our graduate of 1941, and about the best the Department has ever produced. I am convinced that the Department should look forward to keeping him as a permanent member, and should pay attention to the problem of his advanced studies just as you did for Hsu Hsien Yu. I believe that Kuan has an excellent chance of winning a scholarship from Tsinghua or Boxer Foundations to study



abroad, but naturally he is anxious to have a second string. He does not wish, however, to go abroad before Fall 1946, so there is plenty of time. I have also asked him to fill out a list of his qualifications and desires, which I send to you herewith. If opportunity arises for you to make preliminary negotiations on his behalf, it would be very helpful. This depends partly on your own plans. If you remain in the States next year, perhaps you can help in making more definite arrangement. If you come to China, you will be able to advise Kuan on the spot here.

With everything I see of his work I am more and more impressed by his mathematical ability and his hold on the students of his classes.

#### Alumni Successes

\*Huang K'un, who won a Boxer Scholarship to England, is now receiving "training in etiquette" in Chungking, and will probably start soon. I expect to be able to help him in England, during the coming year.

\*Chang Shou Lien, who began his work in Yenching and finished in Tsinghua, is to go to U.S.A. with an Assistantship - I believe to C.I.T. or some other University on the West Coast. These two are both Physicists, and very bright.

\*Tsao Tien Ching, graduating with a remarkable record of 9's and 10's, has been working with Dr. Joseph Needham, as his personal secretary. He has had a unique opportunity to see science throughout China, in Needham's party of inspection and visitation. He has been promised by Needham a chance to study in England. (Chemistry)

We should keep these three young men in mind for future faculty members.

#### Lists of Apparatus Lost

Recently a Dr. Gould of the Foreign Economic Administration of your Government, came to Chengtu and asked each University to supply for his information lists of equipment (scientific) lost in Occupied China, and further lists of equipment desired to bring the work of the Departments concerned up to standard of modern work. It was extremely difficult for us to supply the first of these lists, since we do not have in every department members who were responsible for equipment in the north. But Gould was satisfied with approximate lists as his interest was probably in estimating the market for American manufactures in postwar China. I am now getting these lists revised to send to you and the New York Office. Perhaps you already have better ones, but if you don't, these will have reference value to any Committee considering reconstruction of the Science College.

It will take at least several days more before all lists are in, and then I want to get similar lists of the fundamental requirements in the way of books. They will reach you in due course.

#### My own plans

The London Mission has agreed to our travelling to England via Australia, so as to visit the Stuckeys (Nancy's parents). I hope to go from there across the States, as you have suggested, and of course one of the main things would be to see you, if you were still in America. That would be in late September or October. Arriving in England, I expect to spend the first year in reputation. After that, of the various possibilities, that of studying in C.I.T. as a teaching fellow is the one that appeals to us most.

#### Science College plans

Mathematics: We have invited Chang Tsung-Sui to take my place. He has promised to come if he does not go to England.



Dr. Tseng Yuan Jung will probably stay on for one more year, though his primary loyalty is to Tsinghua. Kuang Chao Chih and Yao Chih Chien will complete the Department staff.

Chang Tsung-Sui is producing research papers in Mathematical Physics of very high quality. This will be a great stimulus to our people here, though we understand that his teaching is not so good.

Physics: We plan to make no change - the line-up will be Chen Shang-Yi (fulltime again), Sheng Hsi-Ying, Tu Lien-Yueh, Tseng Tse-P'ei, Chu Pao Hsi (Assistant). If Tu got a chance to go abroad, Chen Shang-Yi would like to replace him by Chen Jen-Lieh.

Home Economics: We are hoping very much that Kung Lan-Chen will come through when she finds that Peng Cheng is on his way out. She would strengthen the Nutrition programme immensely. V.K. should stay on as Department head for one more year at any rate. We hope to replace Hsieh Wen Mei by someone stronger for elementary courses in Nutrition and Diet. Sooner or later the rightfulness of putting a Home Economics Child Welfare programme in the Science College must be thrashed out. At present it seems somewhat anomalous.

Biology: We were very glad to receive yesterday the telegram over the names of yourself, Ballou, and Dr. Boring, clarifying the position in Biology. We are very sorry to have raised hopes in Li Hui-Lin's mind which we couldn't carry out, but you can see that the \$2,000 possibly needed for travel from America to China would mean a loss of \$600,000 in our budget here - more than a year's salary of a professor. We had originally been informed that he would be able to finance his own way out, and his sister still seems to think that way. Chang Tsung-Ping is trying to help him to get exchange at government rate of 20:1 or at most 40:1.

We shall still hope for Miss Boring to come during the year. Meanwhile we shall try to persuade the University to invite C.C.Liu, so that the line-up would be Chang Tsung-Ping, C.C.Liu, Miss Tang Chi Hsueh, and an Assistant.

The future of the Biology Department is closely tied up with P.U.M.C. plans and our premedical work. I hope you will be able to persuade P.U.M.C. directors to revert to the system by which Yenching Science College carries the premedical work for P.U.M.C. I have heard rumours here that there is doubt about that, but so far I haven't had the chance to follow up the question.

Chemistry: a headache as ever. P'eng Ch'eng's return will be a great new source of strength, but his job will not be easy. Recently Spooner has gone home to Canada from WCUU, and the Chairmanship of their Chemistry Dept. has passed into the hands of local Szechuanese faculty members - a clique who do not wish to aid outsiders more than can be helped. So it is likely to be much more difficulty for our students to use their facilities. During the past three years Spooner has headed up a very generous policy. If that is abandoned, P'eng Ch'eng will have a hard time providing for our students. We must continue work in Chemistry, for every Department depends it. In some ways the Chemistry Department is the very centre and sine qua non of a Science College. Paul Chang has indicated that he would like to leave WCUU and come over to Yenching, but I feel very hesitant to welcome the idea - even open it for consideration - for I know he is a hard man to work with, and much disliked by all his students, although he has come to hold a leading place in his field in China.



S.D.Wilson 25 March 1945

4

I have proposed that we replace Chia Ting Hsun, but he has helped the University to solve one of its most urgent problems - housing - by getting in his name space for six families, so Y.P. is doubtful whether we could ask him to go! such are the complications of administration in wartime Chengtu. Thus we expect to have Hsu Peng Cheng, Chia Ting Hsun, one assistant, part time of Kung Ian Chen, and we have asked to add to the budget a salary for another professor. It is doubtful whether any additions to the budget will finally be approved. If you come it will brighten up the picture immensely.

We still desire to get Biology and Chemistry Departments registered as soon as possible, and hope to do that within 1945.  
Science College Deanship

I have expected to pass over the job to Chen Shang-Yi. But he has had nearly two years as Acting Dean of Studies, and feels very much overstrained by the weight of that job preventing him from much activity in the Department of Physics. Moreover, he is so straightforward as to be on occasions tactless, which is a mortal error in dealing with the cooperating Universities, where preservation of the other party's face is most necessary. So I have wondered whether to get Chang Tsung-Ping as Dean. He is efficient, and has good relationships all round. He is popular with the students. But he is young, and may not have enough prestige to get things he needs. If you come you might take the name of Dean, and have Tsung-Ping assist you in all routine and detail. There are two other possibilities. Liu Cheng Chao, if he joins us, could do the job if he would. But relationships between him and Y.P. have not been very cordial on his side. Then Shen T'i Ian, who graduated in Chemistry from Soochow, might be a good man. At present the University has not assigned him clearly to a key post, since it is not sure whether Han Ching-Lien is coming back or not. Shen has considerable organising ability, imagination and drive. He is a very hard worker. But he has been away from science for 20 years, and might be subject to criticism - which flies around us everywhere all the time now - on that score.

It seems that I shall not hand over until the end of the semester at any rate, so there is time to get your suggestions before any decision is made. If you have any very strong and clear opinion on this or other point please cable.

University Conditions

Y.P. is very anxious to go to the States, but the problem of administration in his absence is still unsolved. There were three possibilities - to invite Y.T.TSUR, for Mr. Ma to become Acting President, or to set up a Committee as Nanking has done. It now seems that Tsur will not come, Mr. Ma cannot swing things by himself, and so we come to the Committee as only way. Mr. Ma is the obvious chairman, and two other members are needed. We want Han Ching Lien for one, and Sailer for the other, and it is suggested that I act for Sailer until he comes. This means leaving out Wu Chi Yu, who will probably be invited to join, but is now so cantankerous on all occasions that he is not expected to accept. Other possibilities for the Committee are T.L.Shen (whom I would strongly support) and Hausske. We gravely lack administrative manpower. Things are still in the air, but an F.E.C. next week must make decisions so as to release Y.P.

1328



S.D.Wilson 25 march 1945

5

Your Coming out to Chengtu

It is grand that you are feeling so far recovered as to raise the question of coming out soon. No doubt you will like to have comments on the need and risks as we see them.

First, as to health, conditions in Chengtu are much improved during the past two years. Now our salaries have been adjusted, and the exchange rate raised, so that there is no financial problem of livelihood. Two years ago we were selling all our stuff off and cutting down our nutrition so as to stay on, but now we are not needing to sell things, and we get a full diet, including as much milk and eggs and meat as we want. There is no lack of fundamental foodstuffs. We can also afford as much heating of the house as we need.

You mentioned the sickness and return to the States of Cross, Hunter, and Robinson, but Cross became sick from extensive travel, Hunter from trying to live on meagre Chinese food in Sian, and Robinson is not sick at all, but eager to see his family. Grace Boynton was always frail, and she was worn out by hard work and anxiety, rather than lack of nutrition.

We are crowded here, living on top of each other, without much quiet or privacy. That worries different people to different extents. I do not know how you would find it.

News from Peking

News of the death of Wu Lei Chuan has arrived from several sources, but it conflicts in details, so we still don't know the exact date or kind of illness, except that it was probably stroke.

We have also heard reliable news of the recent death of Henry Chou. This shocked our faculty here, for they regarded him as a young and vigorous man.

What news we have of all others in Peking is commonplace - living conditions hard, health so-so, teaching and other work going on fairly normally.

Local news

Prices here continue to rise fast. Efforts at control have failed. But anxiety about the possibility of an early Japanese attack on Szechuan has died down, and most people now think that the Japanese are going to have their hands so full in the East that they will not try any more major drives in the West. They are now conducting a series of small campaigns aimed at strengthening their lines of communication along the coast. They are also rumoured to be preparing to withdraw everything south of the Yangtze in the event of need.

Nancy and I and Peter and Joan are all well, though Peter, with enlarged tonsils (he is too small to have them removed) has had a succession of coughs through the winter. He is a little thin, but is now putting on weight as the spring comes.

Your Mission folk, who live in the same house, Albert Hausske, Alice Reed, and Margaret Dow, are all well and working hard, especially Albert, who is carrying a very heavy load as Mission Treasurer and Yenching Controller.

Every now and then we see Chris Hollister (who used to be on Yenching English Dept. staff - 1937-40?), Larry Ballou, Bill Cady. They are well and working successfully.

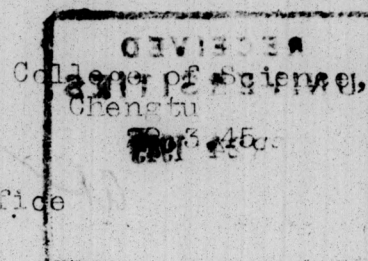
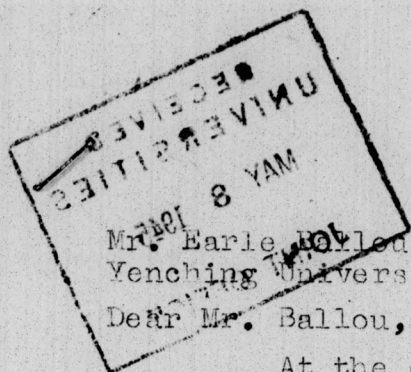
Our Chinese faculty here have gradually pulled out of their many sicknesses, and with the coming of the spring we hope to keep a better record.

Every good wish to yourself and your family,

*Ralph* Ralph Lapwood

1329





BALLOU

REC'D 4/23

ANS'D 5/5

Mr. Earle Ballou  
Yenching University New York Office  
Dear Mr. Ballou,

At the end of January Dr. Gould, of the M.E.A., requested each University in Chengtu to provide him with lists of equipment needed after the war for setting up science work again on an adequate scale. He gave us only a few days notice, and so lists were compiled hurriedly.

I enclose a copy of the lists which were given to Dr. Gould by Yenching. He did not disclose his purpose, but we suppose that he wanted to find out what would be the demand which might be met by American manufacturers.

I intended to get this list revised and send one copy to you and one to S.D. Wilson. But after much delay the Departments have given me lists so much revised as to be in effect new lists. I am therefore sending you now for reference and filing the old list and letter given to Dr. Gould, and I am getting out new revised lists\* for you and Dr. Wilson, which will perhaps be of value when you plan for the restarting of science work in north China.

With best wishes, Yours

Ralph Lapwood  
Ralph Lapwood

*In subsequent mail*

1330



*Y.P. Mei N. York Office  
SD Division*

College of Science,  
24 January 1945

Dr. Gould  
Foreign Economic Administration

Dear Dr. Gould,

At the request of President Y.P. Mei,  
I am sending you herewith list of equipment and  
apparatus which will be needed by Yenching University  
College of Science.

The College has five Departments - Mathematics,  
Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Home Economics. The Chairman  
of each Department has submitted two lists - List A detailing  
Equipment Lost through War, and List B Further Equipment  
Needed.

Yenching College of Science was extremely  
well equipped in prewar days, offering graduate work in  
Physics, Chemistry, and Biology, and carrying on research  
work in each of these subjects.

The whole of our equipment was lost when  
Japanese military occupied the Yenching campus on Dec 8,  
1941.

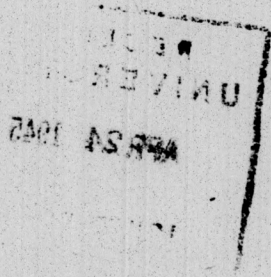
Our faculty members have had to rely on  
memory in making up lists of equipment lost, so that I  
can only affirm that they are right in general, though  
they may be in error in many details and omissions.

We have only listed those items which will  
not be obtainable in China, but from the nature of the case  
this will include the majority of equipment in each  
laboratory.

Trusting that you will be able to help in  
the very great task of re-equipping our scientific work,

Yours very sincerely,

(Ralph)  
E.R. Lapwood  
(Acting Dean)



1331



Y.P. Wei  
24 January 1945

College of Science,  
24 January 1945

Dr. Gould  
Foreign Economic Administration  
Dear Dr. Gould,

I am sending you herewith list of equipment and  
apparatus which will be needed by Yenching University  
College of Science.

The College has five Departments - Mathematics,  
Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Home Economics. The Chairman  
of each Department has submitted two lists - List A detailing  
equipment lost through war, and List B further equipment  
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Yenching College of Science was extremely  
well equipped in former days, offering graduate work in  
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The whole of our equipment was lost when  
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not be obtainable in China, but from the nature of the case  
this will include the majority of equipment in each  
Laboratory.

Trusting that you will be able to help in  
the very great task of re-equipping our scientific work,

Yours very sincerely,

H.R. Laddwood  
(Acting Dean)

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APR 24 1945

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Yenching University in Chengtu  
1 April 1945

*File*

Request for Aid in Furlough Study

E.R. Lapwood

This memorandum is written as a request for financial aid from Yenching University in furlough studies.

I came to China in 1932, and worked on Chinese Language for one year, <sup>and</sup> Middle School teaching for three years, as a member of the London Mission, before joining Yenching. In 1936 I joined Yenching University, employed by the University, since Mission policy did not allow the contribution of my support, My rank was Instructor, with salary \$155.

In 1939 (July), with the consent of the President and the Science College Dean, I left the University on leave of absence to serve the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives. During the academic year 1939-40 I received a monthly salary of \$100 from the University.

It was the policy of the College that I should proceed to a course of advanced study as soon as could be arranged. In 1940 I received a letter from Dean C.F.Wu (written Feb. 14th) containing the following statement : -

"If Mr. Lapwood should look forward to have a furlough in the near future, it seems fair for him to return to the University for at least one year before he takes the next furlough. Assuming this to be the case, if he returns in 1940-41 he may leave in 1941-2 and if he returns in 1941-2 he may leave in 1942-3."

It is therefore clear that the College expected to finance complete furlough arrangements (since I was a Yenching employee) after I had completed four years with Yenching and one with the C.I.C. as a Yenching contribution.

War conditions changed, and it proved impossible to return to North China. But when Yenching was reopened in Chengtu, I felt that I should carry out my promise to Dr. Stuart, and return to help.

Owing to the stringency of University finances, I made an urgent request to the London Mission to finance me as a London Mission representative with Yenching. This they did, on a short-term basis, promising only for the duration of the war. I have now served for three years on this arrangement.

It is now nearly thirteen years since I came to China, and the London Mission has indicated concern that I have delayed so long before taking furlough. A letter from Mr. T. Cocker Brown to Dr. Y.P.Mei, dated 9th October 1944, reads

"At the recent meeting of our Board of Directors we had before us the matter of Mr. Lapwood's furlough, and I was instructed...to express to you our concern that it has been necessary to postpone that furlough for so long. Mr. Lapwood

1333



has been in China now for twelve years without taking a furlough, and we feel that it is very important that the date of his taking one should not be postponed beyond the point that is absolutely necessary."

I have requested the London Mission to allow me a two-year furlough, in view of the necessity for putting in a period of study. It seems likely that my first year of furlough, however, will be used by the ~~London~~ Mission almost exclusively on deputation speaking, and that the second year may be available for study.

My need for further study is now very great. In order to play a proper part in the academic life of the College, I should expect to spend two years in getting a better balanced acquaintance with modern mathematics in general, and a specialised knowledge in one branch (Statistics). Every teacher in Christian Colleges in China now knows the need for adequate academic standards, and I am certain that Yenching should not be satisfied with less than the best preparation obtainable.

It has been, therefore, the opinion of people intimately concerned in the University administration that I should work for a Ph. D. degree (please refer to Dr. S.D. Wilson and Dr. Y.P. Mei). This would need a period of two years of study in any University. I hope that one of those years may be financed by the London Mission, and I am now requesting the University to finance the second, which is beyond the limits of Mission policy.

This request is less than the original intention of the University, since it would not be necessary for the University to provide travel expenses either way.

Dr. S.D. Wilson has suggested that I try to obtain a teaching fellowship at an American University, in order to provide part of the necessary expense of study. This I am very willing to do, but (a) it is a doubtful factor, and (b) the part-salary so gained will at any rate be inadequate to support my family.

I therefore request the University to consider granting me ~~financial~~ financial support for the academic year 1947-8 on the usual basis of treatment of foreign faculty members during their furlough study.

Yours very sincerely,

*E. Ralph Lapwood*

E. Ralph Lapwood



has been in China now for twelve years without taking a vacation, and he feels that it is very important that the University should not be concerned beyond the point that is absolutely necessary."

I have requested the London Mission to allow me a two-year leave, in view of the necessity for putting in a period of study. It seems likely that my first year of leave, however, will be used by the LONDON Mission almost exclusively on vacation work, and that the second year may be available for study.

My need for further study is now very great. In order to play a major part in the academic life of the College, I should expect to reach the stage of having a better balanced acquaintance with modern mathematics in general, and a specialized knowledge in one branch (Statistics). My first year in Christian College in China now shows the need for academic standards, and I am certain that leaving should not be satisfied with less than the best preparation obtainable.

It has been, therefore, the opinion of people intimately concerned in the University administration that I should work for a leave of absence (please refer to Dr. G.D. Wilson and Dr. Y.T. Mei). This would mean a period of two years of study in any University. I have that one of those years may be financed by the London Mission, and the other by the University. The University's financial policy, which is beyond the limits of mission policy.

This request is for the original intention of the University, since it would not be necessary for the University to provide travel expenses either way.

Dr. G.D. Wilson has suggested that I try to obtain a position temporarily at an American University, in order to provide part of the necessary expense of study. This I am very willing to do, but (a) it is a doubtful factor, and (b) the part-salary so gained will at any rate be inadequate to support my family.

I therefore request the University to consider granting me financial support for the academic year 1945-46 on the usual basis of treatment of foreign faculty members during their leave of absence.

Yours very sincerely,  
*John L. Johnson*  
John L. Johnson

RECEIVED  
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MAY 24 1946  
JOINT OFFICE



Mr. Ralph Lapwood  
Yenching University  
Chengtu, Szechwan, China

May 5, 1945

Re: Y.P. Mei's arrival.  
Uncertainty of Hsu Peng Cheng.

Dear Mr. Lapwood:

Just a hurried note this Saturday morning as we stand on the very eve of our busiest week of the year: Annual Meeting of the Associated Boards and individual meetings of most of the college boards. Many details will go forward to China in due course. At the moment I have three things to say.

First, Y.P. is here and is in fine spirits. He does appear thin, however, even a bit haggard, and we shall try to feed him up. He telephoned from Washington Wednesday afternoon and arrived in town, in weather which must have reminded him of Chungking, yesterday afternoon. As he was still in his "Chung Shan Fu" his first efforts were to get to the bank before closing and to Macy's for an outfit. It is fine to have him here and he will give a lift to our whole program next week I am sure.

Second, I have just had a Special Delivery letter from Hsu Peng Cheng this morning, written on the verge of calling off his return to China this summer. He advances half a dozen arguments, all but one or two of which impress me as decidedly weak. I fear the trouble is simply that he doesn't want to go back to China under present conditions. I have written him, also by Special Delivery, urging that no change be made in his plans for return and putting it as strongly as I dare in writing one with whom I am not personally acquainted. I have also informed Stanley Wilson and asked him to put the heat on, and when I see Y.P. tomorrow morning he will undoubtedly write in the same tenor. At least one of the people with whom Dr. Hsu has consulted is a Chinese in whose judgment I place no confidence, and I hope Dr. Hsu will stick by his original purpose. Just at the moment it is impossible for any westerner not connected with the government or a medical person to get permission to go to China, but these restrictions do not apply to Chinese.

Third, I am very glad indeed to have the list of war losses which you prepared for the FEA. This is valuable in itself (I expect the revised list will be even more so) and especially as an indication that an organization like the FEA is taking an interest. This is exactly along one of the lines where we have hoped some help might eventually originate, but it is the most concrete move we have heard of. It also confirms a feeling that has been growing upon us that overtures to FEA, UNRRA and those in charge of the disposal of surplus war supplies can best be made by people on the field rather than through Washington. If you have or secure any information bearing upon this point, we would appreciate receiving it as fast as you can get it.

May all go smoothly as you work on your furlough plans. Both my wife and myself would want to be remembered to Mrs. Lapwood's parents if you see them in Australia. We had a high regard for them during the years when we often saw them in Tientsin.

Very sincerely yours,

Via airmail.  
c.c. via regular mail.  
EHB:mec

Earle H. Ballou

1336



RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
MAY 8 1945  
JOINT OFFICE



*Ralph*

June 13, 1945

Mr. E. R. Lapwood  
Yenching University  
Chengtu, Szechwan, China  
c.c. to: Livingston House  
42 Broadway, Westminster  
London S.W. 1, ~~London~~, England  
(c/o Rev. T. Cocker Brown, D.D.)

Dear Mr. Lapwood:

This is just to report that at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Yenching Trustees ten days ago the question of your extended furlough was discussed in some detail. We had your statement dated April 1st and we also had Dr. Mei present to reinforce it at every point. Thoroughly sympathetic consideration was given to the matter and the formal vote taken was as follows: "VOTED to assure Professor Ralph Lapwood that the Trustees approved of his taking advanced study and will take up the matter with the London Missionary Society." In the discussion the question was raised, notably by Dr. Warnshuis who was one of the LMS representatives on the Trustees, whether that Society might not be able and willing to finance this extra year of study as well as the other two years. I was asked to take the matter up on this basis of inquiry with Dr. T. Cocker Brown and have just written him. The feeling was that because of your unusually long service without a furlough and the fact that for a considerable part of the time you were not on the LMS budget and in view of the great value to you of this advanced study and the degree you hope to secure, that Society might be willing to carry you for the whole period of your absence from the field. There is plenty of time of course to discuss the matter as fully as may be necessary. In any case the University heartily approves of your plans.

In the letter which I wrote you on May 5th, I made one remark which may have given rise to a wry smile on your part. My interpretation of the motives behind the inquiries made of the various Universities by representatives of the Federal Economic Administration was, as you know, pretty thoroughly at fault. I found out not long afterward that what they had in mind is not how they may give things away but to whom the interests they represent can hope to sell things. Quite a different goal! However, we still hope there may be a good bit of help coming to all of the Colleges from government or quasi-government agencies.

In the hope that you may be already on the way home before this gets to China, I am sending one copy to Chengtu and the other in care of the home office in London, even though I understand you expect to travel via Australia.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

Via airmail to China.  
c.c. via surface post to England.  
RHB:mec

Earle H. Ballou

1338



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UNIVERSITIES

JUN 16 1945

JOINT OFFICE

1339



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

19 SEPTEMBER 1950

A LETTER TO MR. NOEL SLATER  
DATED 29 AUGUST 1950, FROM  
DR. RALPH LAPWOOD, YENCHING UNIVERSITY

In two recent letters you ask me for comments on the situation here, with special reference to the continuance of support to our Universities from England. I will do my best to give you facts in reply, and you will realise that the interpretation is my own, and my experience is limited to Peking.

The People's Government is proceeding very systematically with the planning of China's economy, and especially the industrial development of her resources. It would be worth while for you to get and keep beside you for reference a copy of the "Kung T'ung Kang Ling"--the manifesto adopted by the first P.P.C. last year. This describes carefully and accurately the policy of the government, on the basis of a united front. Each plan adopted sets out from the appropriate point in the Kung T'ung Kang Ling. It is not easy to judge trends, but my guess is that during the past year there has been a tendency to extend rather than contract the scope of the "united front" as far as internal affairs are concerned. Thus more efforts are being made now than before to win the cooperation of "national capitalists", intelligentsia, and bourgeoisie. For instance the direct attack on "petty bourgeois attitudes" by party members in the University is to be modified in favour of an appeal for cooperation by petty bourgeois next year. Buxton, coming in two weeks ago from Hongkong, reported that his ship carried many rich merchants and bankers who were being welcomed back into north China.

These things all belong to the conception of "new democracy" which is the national policy. "New democracy" declares war on landlordism, imperialism, and bureaucratic capitalism (i.e. the use of official position to get rich in industry), and aims to unite the workers, the peasants, the intelligentsia, and the national capitalists in the struggle. National capitalists are men who are willing to use their capital in line with national policy. Such men are beginning to believe that it is worth their while to do so.

Private Universities are in a similar position. They are invited to operate under the leadership of the Ministry of Education to give effect to the policy of the Kung T'ung Kang Ling. They are then encouraged to continue, and are not likely to meet the question of their nationalisation until the end of the period of New Democracy, when the country is ready for socialism--unless internal problems or financial problems lead them to appeal for government action earlier. This means according to our estimates, that the contribution of the private universities as such is desired for at least ten or twenty years, and who can say what will emerge during that time.

These are considerations of policy and legal status. From another point of view, the private universities are much needed. By giving education which makes little or no charge on the government they give to the Ministry of Education financial aid of great value. The government has done a wonderful job during this year in stabilising the currency and balancing the national budget, during a period when bad

1340



weather and floods have imposed heavy difficulties. This attainment has inevitably meant drastic economies in government expense. The Ministry of Education has been unable to embark on urgently needed work, and so has been glad to encourage the maintenance of self-supporting private schools and universities. At the same time it has asserted leadership in such matters as political education, which is a minimum demand it cannot but make.

Regarding private Universities (of which Christian Universities now form the main body) as within its planning, the Ministry of Education has laid down principles for their treatment: that they should be maintained, that their level of political understanding should be raised and that their strong points should be developed. And for Christian institutions, they must free themselves from the taint of imperialism (this means such things as control by westerners, excessive use of English and methods unsuitable to China, subservience to foreigners, etc.)

Coming now to Yenching, we have had many evidences during the past two years that the government is determined to ensure its continuance, and no evidence of undue pressure. When we have been in desperate financial need, the government has lent us money. When we have tried to get staff members, the Ministry has helped us. We have been helped to bring westerners from other parts of China, and have secured entry permits for those we wanted to bring in from abroad. In government planning for industrial development, Yenching is expected to make a special contribution to light industry, and the work of our Chemical Engineering Department will be subsidised during the coming year by a grant of a million catties of millet (about G\$30,000). It should be understood that this aid comes because of cooperative spirit and planning, and has not involved on our side the acceptance of imposed plans or personnel. No faculty member has been sent to us by the government, and there seems no likelihood that that will be done, unless we ask for it.

The broadminded action of the New York Office in leaving all budgetting and planning to the University has freed our faculty from any feeling of control from outside China. Since the departure of Dr. Stuart internal administration has in fact been in the hands of Chinese, we may say with confidence that at the present time there is no control by westerners. Such westerners as remain in the administration do so at the request of Chinese colleagues, and regard themselves as "acting" until suitable Chinese are found and appointed. I should say here that the C.C.U.A. has ever since the inception of its support given aid in a way completely acceptable to our Chinese colleagues. Your unconditional grants and your efforts to ascertain our needs and meet them sympathetically have made it clear that no taint of "imperialism" is to be feared.

This is our situation at present, and so it seems that as far as Yenching's relations with the Ministry are concerned, and as far as government policy is concerned, we are justified in planning to go ahead in faith. Then how about Yenching's Christian purposes? We have realized clearly here during the past two years that whether Yenching is Christian or not depends not on our written constitution or formal freedoms of observance and witness (which we have) but on the Christian quality of the lives of our faculty. In Yenching there is no evidence of increasing



pressure on Christians, or of circumstances which make impossible for faculty or students a life of Christian action and expression. It is up to the Christian themselves to demonstrate the validity of their faith. This opportunity is clearly defined and protected in the Kung T'ung Kang Ling.

The life of the Christian fellowship is strong now. It has benefitted greatly from the challenge and example of communist students and government concern for the common man. It has to live dangerously, for the situation here is dynamic and no longer static--organisations and ways which fail to meet the challenge of the new day will fall by their own inner frustration and weakness. We believe that Christian faith can meet that challenge, and the proof will lie in the lives of our Christian faculty and students.

The gravest threat to Yenching's existence and to its fundamental purpose comes not from inside Yenching nor from China's internal situation, but from international conflict. Our funds may be cut off suddenly by American government action. Involvement in war would mean the stoppage of support and communication; the western faculty members would find themselves in a hard position. There is no question of the reality of this danger. The question is "Shall we allow it to discourage us or to reduce our work". Some people feel that the anticipated cost is greater than the anticipated value of continuance. So L.M.S. missionaries in Central China have proposed complete withdrawal during 1950. We do not share their attitude. My own follows that of Dr. Joseph Needham, nobly expressed in a meeting in New York: Speaking of the need to continue aid to China and to maintain relationships, Dr. Needham said: "I feel this strongly myself on account of the innumerable friends in the fields of science and technology which I myself made during my years in China. I have no intention if I can help it of allowing myself to be separated from them. I am profoundly interested in, and have a concern for...the important task which lies before them in the raising of the standard of life of the mass populations of Asia...I would only reiterate that this aid and cooperation seems to us British to be both reasonable and desirable since we refuse resolutely to concede the inevitability of a third world war. A third world war would mean the utter destruction of the cultural and social heritage of Western Europe. If we believe, as we do, that it can be avoided, then there is no reason why we should feel compelled to abandon our friendly relations with that great and ancient civilisation of China."

The reasons which Dr. Needham as scientist and humanitarian found so convincing for continued aid are all the more compelling to Christians. We do have here in Yenching the opportunity to witness to the deep desire of the people of Britain for international friendship and equal cooperation, to our vision of a world in which the best of all cultures is generously shared. We believe as Christians that this witness and vision are worth taking risks for, and that the guidance and power of God are available for the task.

So for my part, and I believe that this view is shared by many Chinese friends here, I hope that the C.C.U.A. will continue to maintain its financial aid to Yenching, no matter how black the international situation, and will continue to work for personal contacts, either in the invitation of Chinese to England or in the sending of British to China, no matter how many material obstacles are to be overcome. We may



have to live through still harder periods of misunderstanding and difficulty, but in the end the things which we stand for must be achieved.

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EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER FROM DR. C. W. LUH  
DATED 1 SEPTEMBER 1950

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"School opens tomorrow, but regular classroom work will not be resumed until the middle of September. As you know, we and the Catholic University of Peking joined in the common entrance examinations of all the institutions of higher learning in North China. We may have to take up to 400 Freshmen of good quality. They come from all parts of China. That means delay in transportation, for the announcement of entrance results was made only a few days ago. Apparently we can easily maintain our status as a Class A institution, having no difficulty in enrolment. The Catholic University does not meet the requirements.

"We are planning to reorganize our Board of Managers. They have not met for over two years, thus over two-thirds of the members have served their terms. I cannot get the members still functioning to convene a meeting. Not only do our new regulations require the reconstitution of the Board of Managers so that the Trustees can forward us money, but a new Board is also urgently needed in our connection with the Ministry of Education. All the private institutions have to be re-registered, and only the Board of Managers can represent an institution."



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

17 DECEMBER 1951

EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER DATED 16 OCTOBER  
FROM RALPH LAPWOOD, YENCHING UNIVERSITY

(Note: The picture presented in this letter should be accepted with some reservations, though not so many as to blind one to an important aspect of the situation in China - at least in Peking. W.P.F.)

"For daily news, we read the main local paper, sponsored by the government. This gives us the bones of the news, both of China and the rest of the world. Our small radio set is still in order, and we sometimes listen to BBC, especially for British news. There is no restriction to listening to short-wave, and the reason we listen only occasionally is that the news is essentially the same as in the newspaper. \*

"As members of the Educational Workers Union, we join the meetings of the groups to which we belong - Nancy the Western Languages, and I the Mathematics. These help a lot in understanding what our colleagues are thinking. Recently they have been checking up on the Patriotic Vow. Three months ago groups all over China worked out sets of decisions whose contents you can imagine from the title. They included loyalty to the government, opposition to imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucratic capitalism, etc. and got down to business about actual jobs. Recent check-ups show that many people feel unsatisfied that they did not get far enough in carrying them out. I asked a young Communist what should be done next. She replied - 'Keep on trying, get the help of a group mutually responsible, study the records of great patriots like soldiers who have died for the people and become inspired by them. Study the activities of traitors and anti-revolutionists, and learn to hate them, and through similar failure strive to improve.' Among the students, mutual criticism is prevalent, and very useful. Among the faculty there is very little. The Patriotic Vow for students included decisions about regular exercise, hard study, accepting mutual criticism, studying current events; for faculty, conscientious teaching, exploring ways of making courses more immediately appropriate to national needs; for merchants, honesty with customers and government; for factory workers, stepping up efficiency of production; for farmers, making use of all the scientific advice methods possible; and so on. I believe that as the resolutions are constantly re-examined, and the constant effort made to live up to them, radiating from the very conscientious party members, very considerable progress in efficiency will be made. The students have adopted a slogan '51-1-8' - 50 hours study every week; 1 hour of exercise every day; and 8 hours of sleep every night. This accords with the Ministry of Education's instruction that each course is to be planned in terms of the total demand that it makes on the student's time, and the total of all demands shall not exceed 50 hours.

"Among our friends the major topic of discussion is the remarkable speed with which construction is going ahead all over the

\* In the light of the Communist press dispatches which we received from Hong Kong, this statement is difficult to understand. W.P.F.

1344



country. Someone back from North Szechwan reports that in every city he visited, he saw extensive road-repair, road building, and new buildings going up - usually public buildings. We had supposed that in Peking this was because it is the capital, but evidently not. Many articles that we had supposed could not be manufactured in China for many years are already in production. The project that fired the imagination of the public most is the gigantic Huai River Control Scheme, on which work has progressed so fast that a great part of the dykes, channel, and dam have already been completed.

"In all of these schemes and achievements the factor that has most impressed is the tremendous human energy which has become available because of the enthusiasm and hard work of the laborers engaged. Those who worked through the summer in factories, told us when they came back of the keenness and drive of all the factory workers, who really think and work as though the factory was their own, and in fact, the nation was their own. Peasants who have received land show the same attitude. This awakening of the masses is transforming China so fast knowledge based on facts observed three years ago is no guide. Until recently, people in Yenching had held implicitly if not explicitly, the idea that leadership would naturally rest with the highly educated. Now they are discovering that not only driving power, but also practical wisdom, creative thinking, organisational ability, and desire to cooperate, mark the liberated peasants and workers beyond their expectation, and perhaps beyond their own achievement. The result is humility - willingness to see themselves as technicians at the service of the people, willingness to surrender their own plans and attitudes and fit into the all-over planning of the government. This is a very general state of mind, from C. W. (President) down to a freshman student.

"I need not say that this sense of new and rapid achievement brings great patriotic pride. All the love of country which was frustrated during the past thirty years finds expression. When you read of actions of Chinese groups, for instance the Chinese Church, it will help to remember this tremendous tide of patriotism which is carrying them along."



NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Yenching University, Peking - May 5, 1952

Dear Friends,

This letter is a few days late, but thus I am able to report the beginning of classes and the general enthusiasm at return to studies. Nancy and I are busy teaching, Nancy with a slighter load than before, as far as teaching hours go, but it is likely that student requests for help outside teaching hours will be heavy.

The Anti-3 Movement ran through three months. The first stage was the attack on waste and corruption. In the latter part of this stage the faculty went through the process of self-criticism and acceptance of popular criticism. By previous standards, the methods of criticism were very unmerciful and sometimes criticisms were based on inadequate evidence, little chance for defense being allowed by popular pressure. The objective seemed to have been to get people to the stage of giving and taking criticism, freed from the fears and self-defences which form strong inhibiting forces. So the leaders did everything to encourage criticism and to discourage self-justification, even when the criticisms were somewhat out of aim or the justification rather reasonable.

Next came the stage of all-over criticism of Yenching's past. The most important event then was the Exhibition aimed at setting out the failure of Yenching to meet the real needs of the Chinese people. Endicott, after going around the exhibition, said he found the evidences of this failure in the type of books studied, or the records of graduates, very convincing, but that the letters quoted against individuals might have other interpretation than that attributed. This comment was rather coldly received, as feelings were running high.

There emerged the statement that Yenching had failed to move with the times since Liberation, and the obstructing forces were symbolized in the persons of Chang Tun-sun, T.C.Chao, and C.W.Lu. This stage finished with indictments against these three. Several others, some of them faculty members well-known for their reactionary or cynical opinions, failed to satisfy the students and staff by their self-criticisms. (Note - from an item in the New York Times of May 26, these are probably Nieh Chung-chi, Chi Sze-ho, Shen Nai-chang, Agnes Chen.) During the indictment of Dr.Lu, the Sam Deans and Gilkey were stigmatized by the students as imperialist agents, and demands sent to the police that they should be examined and ejected. They were isolated until they left a month later.

The next stage was one of clearing up the past. Each person had a chance to get off his chest anything that was worrying him about past relations with the Kuo-min-tang, or anti-communist actions, or unpatriotic actions during the Japanese times, etc. Nancy and I were told not to attend these meetings, as they were for Chinese consumption only. I was able to put in two or three weeks of concentrated work on research problems, and Nancy to take care of the housework involved in the change from winter to summer. Towards the end of this stage some people were very busy indeed, but many, including most of the students, were rather unoccupied, so that the preparations for May 1 celebration and the commencement of classes immediately after were welcomed heartily.

The organization of the big demonstrations has always been done with much attention to detail, and considering the problems of getting a million people past the reviewing stand in three or four hours, remarkable efficiently. This year especial attention was paid to the look of the procession, and abundant use of flowers, bright dresses, silk flags, and streamers of all colors produced a brilliant impression. The standard of marching has also naturally improved after three years practice, and even Yenching professors were at last able to march in step.

Now all energies are being directed to making up for lost time from studies. The semester will go on till the end of July, giving 12 weeks of classwork - a month less than usual. Courses are being trimmed to fit. Students

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1346



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show a strong determination to grasp the work, and are asking for extra attention to be paid to supervision and tutoring. They have organized themselves into study groups of about ten each, and smaller mutual help groups of three, and hope to experiment to find out the best combination of personal effort and responsibility with mutual help and group study. Some teachers feared that after undergoing criticism they would not hold the respect of the students, but those fears turn out to be ungrounded, as the students, having made suggestions, propose to leave final decisions about content of courses, examinations, etc. to the teacher. In Mathematics at any rate, the students intend to avoid interrupting the course of a lecture by questions, reserving questions and discussion for specially provided occasions. Each professor works with one or more assistants who share with him the responsibility of tutoring connected with his course. Some people have thought that now in China the students grade themselves on their courses. This is not so here, and is not planned for this semester either.

The end of the Anti-3 Movement was marked by a Grand Spring Clean in the whole university, all buildings and the campus too. Gangs of students cleaned out all ditches, and the job of getting water to flow through all the ponds involved some heavy pieces of excavation. Every wall and ceiling and window was cleaned, every office turned out. Enthusiastic workmen crawled along the beams of the auditorium with brooms and dusters. The attic of the Chemistry Building, which contained the dust and junk of a number of years, variously estimated at seven to twenty-seven (including for instance specimens from our long-defunct Geology Department) was thoroughly cleaned - a very big job. A sudden burst of energy swept also through the faculty and staff homes, as spring-cleaning took place before a threatened inspection. The students, encouraged by the accomplishments of the Spring Clean, called for volunteers for ditchdigging for the "Collective Farm". Each year for several years there has been an effort to grow vegetables on the part of the students. On the one hand they have felt they ought to do some manual labor, on the other they hoped to improve their diet. But previously their unskilled efforts have resulted in loss of money and very little to show. During the past year, however, a method has been worked out by which the skill is provided by hired farmers and the student labor is auxiliary. Instead of mobilizing most of the students for a few days, after which interest is lost, they have brought together a few keen students who have maintained interest and contributed work throughout the year. The result is that very good vegetable crops have been grown in several parts of the campus, including the west field, which stood barren so long. The new ditches are to carry water for irrigation all over that field which grows excellent vegetables when the salt is washed out by irrigation.

Spring cleaning has penetrated to every corner of the city and to all the surrounding villages. Haitien and Chengfu, streets and courtyards, are extraordinarily tidy. Now the campaign against the "five poisonous things" is on. In the old days, these meant Scorpions, Lizards, Centipedes, Toads, and Snakes, most of them in fact completely innocuous. But it has been taken over to mean Rats, Houseflies, Mosquitoes, Lice and Bedbugs. In each household in the city, each person has to produce one dead rat. Godowns and storehouses have to produce more, according to a quota. School children have been mobilized and schoolteachers. Some of the latter, who instructed their students to bring them some rats to submit, were severely reprimanded and told to set a good example by catching their own rats. If it had not been shown in England and elsewhere that there are a great many more rats around than one ever supposes, one would fear a rat famine in Peking and a consequent rarity value leading to breeding and sale. But workers have been warned not to put the pressure on to that extent. The campaign against houseflies is severe to the extent that school children are being taught how to recognize housefly eggs in soil and garbage heaps, and collect and destroy them. These campaigns are in line with the general immense improvement in efficiency and public health, but they are being boosted now with the statements that the American army may try to spread disease



into China at any time, so that patriotic fervor is mobilized. Our newspapers reproduced facsimiles of statements of two American prisoners on how they had been instructed in bacteriological warfare and to drop germ carrying bombs.

I have just seen a copy of the Economist of April 12 which carries this statement:- "An increase of disease in China (one of the last countries in the world to adopt modern institutions of medicine and health) has been the inevitable consequence of the fact that the majority of foreign doctors have left China and that many of the few qualified Chinese doctors have emigrated or been arrested as counter-revolutionaries....The discrepancy between propaganda claims and the fact of large-scale epidemics could hardly be explained without the saving device of "American germ-warfare". This is a very complete misunderstanding of the situation here. It is true that most of the foreign doctors have left. But most of the Chinese doctors - as far as my own acquaintance goes, I could say all - are here and working harder than ever before. But these epidemic diseases are stopped less by individual doctors than by public health work and prevention. In this respect the progress in the past three years has been magnificent. From what we have seen and heard, we are quite prepared to trust the statements of the Ministry of Health as factual, not propaganda. Far from there being an increase in disease, there has been a decrease.

I shall be busier this semester than I expected with a change in courses and 90 new students to get to know. In this week's classes they have been very friendly and responsive. I am impressed by the quiet efficiency of the young men they have chosen as representatives to talk over with me the questions of methods. These days the students take the planning of their work - their whole time, in fact, - very seriously and from two years experience are learning to do it better. The emphasis on well-balanced activities is continued, and care for health with the consequent emphasis on exercise is still obvious. Morning exercises continue with large numbers participating and no sign of flagging after several months.

Recently there have been some reductions in prices, and the cost of living index has gone down slightly. The volume of business done through government trading agencies and cooperatives is now very great, and seems to be sufficient to enable the government to control prices through them. There are no signs of the shortages preceding spring wheat harvest that worried us during the first two years after liberation. Talks with farmers, servants and others with low incomes shows that though they are still living very austere, conditions are improving and they feel security beyond what they have known for years. This is partly due to stable prices and partly due to the great demand for goods and services of all kinds in the rapidly expanding economy.

As time goes on and there is more evidence of the help being given by Russian experts and none of the domination or exploitation which was once feared, the attitude toward USSR becomes daily more cordial. There is a big demand among our students to learn Russian, although English is by no means fading or neglected.

The Christian Fellowship is not very active these days. Sunday services continue as usual with attendance of about 60, but there are not many other activities. The School of Religion has not yet emerged from the heartsearchings about its "past connection with capitalism and imperialism". The original leadership of T.C.Chao and Tsai Yun-chun and others has been much criticized and rejected, and new leadership has not yet taken grip. Newton Chiang and J.F. Li are now responsible for the School of Religion. They both preached very well on recent Sundays, especially J.F.

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Yenching campus has looked magnificent as ever this spring, and the yellow roses and wisteria have been even better than usual. The air is now fragrant with the scent of false acacia. Plans go ahead for the combination of the universities, and building has begun in the Korean garden and south of the Powerhouse, but the shape of things to come is not yet evident.

Yours as ever,

Ralph

1349



MAY 11 1953

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Yenching University, Peking  
Sept. 26, 1952

Lapwood Letter 52-8

Dear Friends,

This letter has been much delayed, owing to our busy-ness in packing and preparing to leave. I shall try to make up with more letters in the immediate future.

There is not much to say about our personal activities during August and the first part of September but it is worth recording that we met with no difficulties in selling or otherwise distributing our household possessions. If one sells to friends, there is no official procedure required, but if to merchants, the stuff must be registered at the local police station. We pay registration and stamp fee but no tax. The merchant, if he resells, must pay tax. We have met much kindness and helpfulness.

More interesting is the record of what has been going on around us. Immediately after the end of the term (beginning of August) all faculty were mobilized for discussions preliminary to the detailed re-organization of higher education in North China. Careful new inventories were made. The government plan is indeed far-reaching. This campus is to be the center of the Peking "comprehensive" university, which will eventually contain departments of all the usual academic subjects. The standard of the university is to be high, and strong senior staff members have been retained for it. Every department will be large - Mathematics will have 300 student and 30 to 40 faculty members. Physics will have over forty faculty members, of whom about 15 will be professors, 6 lecturers, and the remainder instructors, demonstrators, and assistants.

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I am told that classes will be large for lectures - 60 to 100 students - but they will be divided into small groups for tutoring. The number of hours of supervised study or discussion will be approximately equal to the number of hours of lectures, and the student will also do private study. One professor will be responsible for one subject only, though he may lecture on the same material to two parallel classes. Thus a group of say 300 students making the same subject may be divided into five groups for lectures, and 30 groups for tutoring. All lecturers and assistants (the assistants are mainly responsible for tutoring, though the lecturers must also help) concerned with this course form a "Teaching Research Group" which meets for several hours each week to work out the best presentation of the material. When agreement is reached, a few persons draft the lectures notes together, and all teaching proceeds according to these notes. It will be observed that the strong points of this method are the pooling of ideas, the uniform standard of teaching, and the group responsibility. An English lecturer would probably comment that the method is likely to produce dull lecturers, and there is no chance for a man to talk of his own special interests or work, and thus inspire the students. Such a criticism would not be given much weight here, on the ground that the fundamental job is to give the students what they need, in view of their future occupations, and that personal preferences of the lecturer are a red herring. It is stressed that, since the students already accept it as their patriotic duty to study hard and thoughtfully, it is more important to aim at clarity and appropriateness than catching interest.

Although the foreshadowed organization is more complete, the basic ideas have already been applied here during the past few semesters, especially in this year's spring term. In the Mathematics department there is no doubt that the average of teaching standards went up. The most powerful aids were the giving and criticizing of proposed lectures in the Teaching Study Group before facing the

Yale Divinity Lib.  
New Haven, Conn.

1350



students, and the active initiative of the students in planning and carrying out the tutoring work.

The rationalization of the higher educational system through this region has been carried out more thoroughly than I had anticipated. I think this is because the main result of the anti-3 movement was to bring most faculty members to a point where they were really ready to sacrifice their personal preferences and fit into an overall carefully designed plan.

Each region will have one or two "comprehensive universities". Eventually each of these will be fairly complete, but at present there will be set up only as many departments throughout the country as there are adequate staff for. For instance, I believe there is to be only one Astronomy Department, and two Geography Departments, but each of these will have ten or more Professors, so as to create a group which can do good research with mutual criticism, and complete advanced training for its students.

In addition to the "comprehensive universities", there will be technical institutes - also called "universities" in Chinese. These will not try to cover too wide a field but will concentrate on those subjects appropriate to their environment. For instance, all aeronautics will be concentrated in Tsinghua, also research in applied mechanics, etc. All chemical engineering in North China (at an advanced level) will be set in Tientsin, at present the centre of chemical industries.

A feature of the reorganization is the rise in importance of special purpose colleges, such as the College of Finance and the College of Geology in Peking. Previously scattered work will be concentrated in these.

As I said above, the first part of the vacation was spent in working out details of this scheme. Then a ten day holiday was declared, - practically the whole of the Yenching faculty went as a group to Tsingtao, and the campus saw no academic activity until they returned. The first two weeks of September were spent in the re-allocation of faculty. Committees composed of leaders in the various subjects made provisional lists. The next step was rather surprising. Instead of bringing these proposals in for general discussion by small groups, the leaders interviewed faculty members one by one and told them in confidence what job they were proposed for. Each individual had two or three days to consider, and make objections or counter-proposals. As I was not concerned in this matter, I can only report it at second hand, but I get the impression that here is a partial swing away from the way of discussion by every one of everything. It seems to have been regarded as wiser to use general discussion on principles and impersonal matters, and to make allowance for personal feelings by confining the discussion of people for jobs to a smaller group of administrators. This kind of swing goes on all the time - its use is implied in the communist method of analyzing each project after completion for errors and possible improvements.

Earlier on it was expected that there would be a small percentage of moves, and that for the time being most faculty members would stay with their original institution. But in the event, the reshuffling is very extensive. In Yenching about half the faculty are to move, and in other institutions the proportion is about the same. All the people with whom I have talked are pleased with their assignments and there is a general air of adventure. Tai Wen-sai, who is really an astronomer, but has been teaching mathematics because we had no place for astronomy, will be able to give his full time to astronomy. Similarly with others. Among the interesting appointments is Tsai Lu-sheng's to be the head of the Chemistry Department in a brand new university in North Manchuria. He is looking forward to this as a chance to do a creative piece of pioneering - and this throws some light on the change in him, for he has been content for many years to



carry on his research and steer clear of other responsibilities. There must be some people who do not want to move, but in the general atmosphere of enthusiasm and optimism they keep their feelings to themselves. The big shift starts on October 5, but some people are already pushing off, most are remaining with their institutions to take part in the October 1 parade.

While the faculty were thus engaged through vacation, the students' activities were more simple. Some of course went to their homes, but about 600 went on a pilgrimage to Dairen, which they described as "a city in which every person was a worker". They lived in a school and visited factories, schools, and public institutions, coming back all fired with the idea that soon all China will be as well-built, well-organized and well-fed as Dairen. Since their return they have been working hard on Russian. There is a great drive now on to get every one to learn Russian, and our Russian teachers have been working like mad all summer. All faculty members are busy learning, though Hsu Hsien-Yu told me that he thought the teaching methods old-fashioned and unsuitable. (Our teachers of course are Russians locally picked up, with no training in teaching and cannot be thought of as representing modern USSR methods.)

I would like to add a postscript to my previous notes on the anti-3 movement. The government directive was "struggle severe, punishment light". So it has turned out. The time of struggle and criticism was extremely tense and verbal attacks most painful and heated. Most of the charges had a basis of truth, some were exaggerated. A few people suffered undeservedly. But reports were exaggerated, those spread abroad were false in many points. No one of Chinese faculty at Yenching was arrested, and no one was dismissed from the university. Every one's salary has gone on without question. Ten people whose self-criticism failed to satisfy were gathered into a study group headed by Chien Fo-Chen (not one of them) and when they were ready they were asked to make another self-criticism. Five of these have now emerged to normal life, including Agnes Chen, Ch'i Ssu-ho, Shen Hu-tze, and the other five will probably soon emerge too. C. W. Lu produced a further self-criticism which was also passed. He will probably move over to the Academia Sinica in the re-organization. Chang Tung-sun still failed to meet popular approval. T. C. Chao has not yet tried to do so. I would like to put myself now on record as believing that in Yenching the positive results from the Anti-3 movement far outbalanced the grievous mistakes that were made. This is a revolutionary time of drastic actions, and though a mistake means much suffering, a victory means much progress and thoroughgoing change. Among the positive results I would put:- willingness of practically the whole faculty to devote themselves to the people's good without counting the personal cost; the feeling on the part of the workmen, staff, and clerks that the place belongs to them as much as to any one, and it is up to them to put their whole heart into making it good; closer regulations on the whole between faculty and students (previously only some faculty had had the confidence of the students); direct frankness in all dealings (a great victory over "face"); a new standard of public and private honesty. A by-product is that the campus and buildings are better kept than ever before.

My space is finished - will write again soon.

Yours as ever,

Ralph Lapwood

P.S. I expect to leave Tientsin with Peter, Joan, and Stephen in two weeks' time, and to wait for Nancy in Hongkong. Nancy (Mrs. Lapwood) will take Susan (youngest child) and travel with the delegates after the Peace Conference, at which she is an Australian delegate. We have bookings from Hongkong on the 24th October, but we do not know whether Nancy will travel that way or go first to Australia. At the moment our roles are reversed, and I am Mama! Every one is very well.

1352