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UBCHEA ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
RG 11

Yenching
Li, Chien-fan 1930-1931
Li, Frederick Chiang 1937
Li, K. C. 1928-1936
Li, Roger 1941

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1126

June 11, 1930

My dear Dr. Moore:

Following out the conference I had with you at the Gardens last May, I am happy to report that a cable has just been received from Yenching University in reply to a letter of inquiry sent by me, that there is a suitable student available for the coming year and that the general plan meets with the hearty approval of our Biology Department. I feel strongly that if we can put into effect the plans discussed at all, there will be a certain advantage in beginning while the matter is fresh in our minds, and have only wanted to be sure that a good fellowship student could be found.

If it would be possible to make the necessary appropriations taking effect with the coming autumn, I suggest that we proceed on this basis. As then pointed out, it would be quite possible for money to be advanced by Yenching to be repaid when your next year's budget is drafted, if this would simplify matters for you.

I shall arrive in Peking before the end of July which would give time for final decision regarding the individual student. As I am leaving New York on the 18th, it would be quite a help to hear from you before that date if at all possible. Otherwise, could you have a letter for me at my steamer? I am sailing on the S.S. President McKinley, July 4th, from San Francisco.

With pleasant remembrance of my visit to St. Louis and the hope that this will lead to developments of mutual benefit, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. George T. Moore
Missouri Botanical Gardens
St. Louis, Missouri

JLS:KK

cc/- Dr. Harvey J. Howard

1127

THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

ST. LOUIS

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

June 14, 1930

*Dr. Stuart has
a copy of*

*This
6-18-30
made*

Dr. J. Leighton Stuart
Yenching University
American Office
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. Stuart:

I am in receipt of your letter of June 11th and am naturally pleased to learn that there is a suitable student available for the coming year and that the plan we discussed meets with the approval of the Biology Department. I must confess, however, that you moved a little rapidly for me, since the man from whom I expect to get the money cannot be seen until July. It is barely possible that I may be able to wire you to your steamer before July 4th, but I doubt this. I haven't the slightest doubt in my own mind that we shall be able to secure the money and, under the circumstances, since Yenching would be willing to advance the traveling expenses, to be repaid by us not later than the first of the year 1931, I see no reason why you should not proceed with the matter.

My understanding is that you will provide a graduate student of Yenching University who will come to us to take his Ph.D. degree and will agree to stay with us for the time necessary to acquire this degree. The minimum number of years for this will be three and whether it will take longer will depend upon the preparation of the student.

We are to provide a fellowship of \$1000 a year, beginning September, 1930, and any money advanced by you is to be repaid out of the first \$1000 made available, in such manner and at such time as you may indicate.

I hope very much that you can provide a student of the type of Mr. Hung and although he may not at the present time be interested in horticulture, that he will be capable of having such an interest aroused, since one object to be accomplished is, upon his return to China to have him represent us there. It would be my hope that he could secure new plants suitable for growing in the United States and that possibly through some cooperative arrangement your University and the Garden could organize exploring expeditions for this purpose.

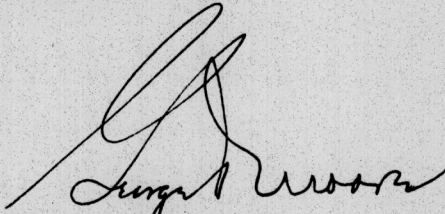
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1128

Registration in Washington University is on Monday,
September 22nd.

Feeling sure that if you send us the right man the
arrangement will be to the mutual benefit of the two
institutions, and looking forward to receiving the
student next fall, I am,

Yours very truly,



George T. Moore
Director

學大京燕
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEPING, CHINA.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

TELEGRAPH ADDRESS
"YENTA"

August 30, 1930.

Dr. George T. Moore, Director,
Missouri Botanical Garden,
St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Moore:

We are going ahead with the arrangements for Mr. Chien Fan Li, the student who is to study at the Garden, according to the plan we have had in mind. He will render to you an account of his travelling expenses, money advanced for outfit, etc., and I think you will find him careful in such matters. He is somewhat concerned because of what he has learned from Chinese friends who have studied in the States as to his ability to live for three years, pay all tuition fees at Washington University, and deduct his travel allowances from the total of three thousand dollars. I have assured him, however, that you would be glad to advise him as to the real necessities under the special arrangements planned for him. We shall leave it to your judgment as to whether, in view of the facts of the case, the Garden would care to increase the amount of its grant, or our institution should supplement this as our part toward the realization of the objectives we have in mind. In any case, will you kindly arrange with Mr. O. D. Wannamaker, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City, for the payment of money advanced here by our local treasurer in the expectation that this will be repaid after Mr. Li begins to receive the benefits of this fellowship next year. Also consult with him as to additional assistance to Mr. Li, if or when this seems to you necessary.

During the conferences which have been held with Dean Boring and others interested I have come to feel more than ever that Mr. Li will prove a worthy recipient of this fellowship, and that we can hope for a satisfactory outcome of the experiment upon which we have now entered. I trust that you will not hesitate to advise or criticize him, or take any other measures that will enable him to profit to the utmost from his studies. We shall hope to hear from you on any matter in which we can be of further assistance.

Mr. Li is sailing from Kobe on the "President Pierce," leaving September 21st, and is due to arrive in Seattle on October 3rd.

1130

Dr. George T. Moore, #2.

8/30/30

With high hopes for the various benefits which
may result from Chien Fan's stay with you, and hearty
appreciation of your active assistance, believe me

Very sincerely yours,

JLS/LC

1131

學大京燕
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEPING, CHINA.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

TELEGRAPH ADDRESS
"YENTA"

August 30, 1930.

Dr. Harvey J. Howard,
725 Boland Place,
St. Louis, Missouri,
U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Howard:

I am very happy to report that preparations are going ahead in fine shape for the departure of Chien Fan Li to the Botanical Garden fellowship. He is sailing from Kobe on the "President Pierce", leaving September 21st, and is due to arrive in Seattle on October 3rd. He ought, therefore, to reach St. Louis about October 6th. I am asking one of our friends in Seattle to arrange for his transportation by rail, as well as to meet him at the steamer. If you care to drop him a line of welcome, I am sure that he will appreciate it. I am enclosing a letter to Dr. Moore on the subject, which I think is along the line of our conversations.

Chien Fan is not a professing Christian, but is quite religious by nature, and has been a member of our chapel choir, and entered into the worship to an extent which makes him regard himself as Christian in purpose and experience. I am sure he will appreciate your help in relating him to Christian life in St. Louis of the sort that would meet his needs.

You will use your judgment about the extent to which he should be introduced to Chancellor Throop (to whom I am giving him a letter of introduction), Bishop Scarlett, Dr. Melvor, and others who are interested in this project. I am asking our New York Office to correspond with you as to the proper time for the financial efforts to which we look forward.

I can not tell you how great an encouragement it has been to me to have your generous and wise assistance, first in conceiving, and then in carrying out, this attractive and rather unique plan for securing financial support. All that I can learn of this boy would indicate that he seems promising material. He comes from a fine old official family, reduced by recent political changes, but with the traditions and high standards of his class. He certainly has the esteem

Dr. Harvey J. Howard, #2.

8/30/30

of Miss Boring, Dr. Wu and his other teachers. I shall await developments in the realization of our dream with eager interest.

With cordial greetings to Mrs. Howard and yourself, believe me

Very sincerely yours,

JLS/LC

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學大京燕
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEPING, CHINA.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

TELEGRAPH ADDRESS
"YENTA"

August 30, 1930.

Mr. Chien-Fan Li,
C/o Dean of the College of
Natural Sciences,
Yenching University.

Dear Mr. Li:

In confirmation of recent conversations between yourself, Dean Boring, Dr. C. F. Wu and me, I should like to put in writing, for your guidance, my understanding of the proposed arrangement for your study in America. Dr. George T. Moore, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, has offered our University a fellowship for three years for a graduate student recommended by us, with the thought that he would pursue his studies leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Washington University, majoring in Botany, and working in the Garden under Dr. Moore's direction. The fellowship provides one thousand dollars a year, from which, however, it is expected that the travel to America and return is to be deducted. If on consultation with Dr. Moore this seems inadequate for expenses of living and study, he may feel that the Garden can increase the amount of the fellowship, or will recommend to the New York headquarters of Yenching University that an additional grant be allowed from that source, to enable you to continue your studies without financial anxiety or hardship. You will find Dr. Moore very sympathetic, and although he quite properly desires that students working under his direction practise economy, he will not want you to carry this to the point of suffering injury. Do not hesitate, therefore, to submit to Dr. Moore statements of your travel expense and estimated cost of living in America. I am sure that he will also advise you from his long experience as to the latter items.

Dr. Harvey J. Howard, of the Medical School connected with Washington University, whose home address is 725 Boland Place, St. Louis, will be deeply interested in your welfare and in the plans we have for developing a close relationship between Washington University and Yenching. The secretary of our New York Office is Mr. O. D. Wannemaker, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City. I am sending herewith letters of introduction to Chancellor Throop, Washington University, and Dr's Moore and Howard.

1134

Mr. Chien Fan Li, No. 2.

8/30/30

It is expected that on the completion of your studies in St. Louis you will return to Yenching to help develop the work in Botany, which will also be of assistance to the Missouri Botanical Garden in collecting Chinese specimens and in other ways serve the interest of both countries in this important field of investigation. All of us here will watch the progress of your study with deep personal interest, and shall hope to hear from you from time to time as to your experiences.

With all good wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

JIS/LC

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學大京燕
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEPING, CHINA.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

TELEGRAPH ADDRESS
"YENTA"

August 30, 1930.

Mr. Orin D. Wannamaker,
140 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.,
U. S. A.

My dear Orin:

I am enclosing herewith letters regarding the Missouri Botanical Garden project, which more or less explain themselves. You already have in mind the inception of this idea as suggested by Dr. Howard, and further developed through the meeting with Dr. Moore. The latter's letter on the subject is filed with you. If this letter reaches you in time, it would be a kindly act for you to write the student at Seattle. I am asking L. M. Bocker to help him there.

Of course the important thing for Jenney and yourself is the financial campaign in St. Louis, with the help of Dr. Howard, Bishop Scarlett and Rev. Dr. McIvor. This ought not to begin until Dr. Howard feels sufficiently free from his own financial efforts to give his primary attention to this. On the other hand, it ought not to be delayed any longer than this requires. The young man is rather timid and has had almost no experience in public speaking. On the other hand, as he establishes himself with his teachers, he can be introduced with their help and endorsement, and is quite prepared to attempt whatever he is called upon for in our financial efforts. It might be well for you to deal directly through correspondence with Chancellor Throop as to the formal connection between Washington and Yenching, following the Princeton pattern, but in this and all other moves Dr. Howard ought to be made to feel that we are depending on him and are following his lead.

Very sincerely yours,

J. H. Houghton

JLS/LC

Encs.

1136

Sept. 29, 1930

Dear Doctor Howard:

President Stuart has sent me copies of his letters to you and Doctor Moore in reference to Mr. Li, who is coming there to pursue research in botany. I am very happy to know that this arrangement is actually about to come to fruition. I hope that Mr. Li will make the best sort of impression and that you will feel nothing but encouragement for the splendid work you have done in our behalf to bring about this connection.

I shall wish to co-operate in any way possible with Mr. Li and also with you and the other friends there. Please do not hesitate to call on me.

I notice in Doctor Stuart's letter to Doctor Moore he raises the question as to whether the amount allowed Mr. Li may be quite sufficient for his three years when he has subtracted the entire amount necessary for his coming to America and returning to China. He raises the question whether possibly the Gardens might find it practicable to add somewhat to the amount of money provided Mr. Li, or whether our office here ought to supplement that amount. May I say to you in confidence, that if there is to be any increase, I earnestly hope it may be brought about through the Gardens there. We have absolutely no fund here from which I am authorized to draw anything for this purpose. Now it is difficult to raise special funds, and we are having such a strenuous time to raise those items in our budget as voted by the Finance Committee. If you can say a tactful word in regard to this matter to Doctor Moore, I shall appreciate it.

Cordially yours,

Assistant to the President

Dr. Harvey J. Howard
725 Boland Place
St. Louis, Mo.

ODJ:KK

1137

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
SAINT LOUIS

DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
EUCLID AVENUE AND KINGSHIGHWAY



October 14, 1930.

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

Dear Mr. Wannamaker:

Upon my return from a ten days absence I find your letter of September 29. During my absence Mr. Li arrived and is now installed in his work at the Missouri Botanical Gardens of Washington University under Doctor Moore. Mr. Li called on me yesterday and I am glad to report that he seems to be an intelligent, attractive sort of person.

I have noted carefully what you suggest in your letter regarding funds. I think it would be most inopportune now to bring up the question with Dr. Moore. Since the fund is available over a three year period, I do not anticipate there will be a deficit possibly until he is prepared to return to China. In the mean time Mr. Li will have made his impression here, and I am sure from what Dr. Moore has already said, that impression will be a good one. Furthermore, Mr. Li, himself, is quite aware that he shall have to conserve his funds and is doing so, and has gained Dr. Moore's respect thereby. However, if the opportunity arises, I shall not hesitate to discuss funds with Dr. Moore, but I do not think the present time is timely.

Very sincerely yours,

Harvey J. Howard
Harvey J. Howard.

HJH:E

1138

-COPY-

December 18, 1930

Mr. Y.C. Mei
Director, Chinese Educational Mission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

As the only representative of Mr. Chien Fan Li's family in America known to us, and realizing that you will want as full details as we can possibly furnish regarding his affairs since his arrival in St. Louis, the Director has asked me to send you the following report:

Mr. Li, as you probably know, arrived in St. Louis on the evening of October 6th and was met at the train, at the Director's request, by Dr. Woodson, a member of our staff. The next day, October 7th, he reported at the Garden and met Dr. Moore, other members of the staff and the graduate students. He was registered within the next day or so in the Graduate School of Washington University and immediately, after conference with various members of the staff, his schedule was arranged and he settled down to work.

After a day or so he told me that he had decided to move from the room which we had reserved for him into a less expensive room and did so about October 15th, living at the house of Mrs. Helen Leahy, 4244 Shenandoah Avenue, where he also took his meals. This is about one block from the Garden. His object in making the change was in order to live more cheaply and thus be able to make summer trips.

I may say here that Mr. Li was a general favorite among the students and in fact was unusually well liked by everyone with whom he came in contact. We have never had at the Garden a foreign student who has been so popular. Almost at once he became especially friendly with Mr. J. A. Moore of Indianapolis who took him sight-seeing throughout the city, on Sunday trips to the country, and took him home to Indianapolis with him for the Thanksgiving holiday. From the first it was recognized by the members of the staff, especially those professors under whom he was taking work, that he had an unusually brilliant mind and while there were certain branches of botany lacking from his earlier training, it seemed that with three prospective years ahead of him there would be no difficulty whatsoever in his filling in the gaps. In fact, everyone here was delighted with him and he fulfilled in every respect the unusual recommendations which we had received from Yenching University and from Professor Hu of the Fan Memorial Institute.

Until about the first of December everything seemed to go quite well with Mr. Li, when he seemed to rather suddenly lost his gaiety and withdraw into himself, becoming very quiet and appearing not to be feeling very well. We, however, attributed it largely to homesickness accompanied by all the natural difficulties of adjusting himself to new conditions, new associates, etc.

1139

Mr. Mei #2

On December 11th Mr. Li asked me if he might come to my office and talk to me and we spent an hour discussing his affairs. He complained of severe headaches and the impossibility of concentrating on his work and said several times he feared his brain was failing. Since his left eye seemed to be bothering him, I suggested that he first see an oculist and perhaps a change of glasses would solve the difficulty. I at once made an appointment for him with Dr. John Green, one of the best known oculists of the city and he went to have an examination on Saturday afternoon, the 13th. Dr. Green found that his glasses were not what they should be and gave him a new prescription which he took to an optical company for grinding. Dr. Green tells me that though he was very much depressed on his arrival, after talking together for a while, Mr. Li seemed much more cheerful and even joked with Dr. Green about the American oculist in Peking who it seems had furnished his former prescription.

After returning to the Garden Saturday afternoon, Dr. Edgar Anderson knowing of his depression and thinking to make things more cheerful for him over Sunday, asked him to go home with him for the night and Sunday. He was unable to read or study owing to the drop treatment still affecting the pupils of his eyes. Dr. Anderson reports that Mr. Li was very downhearted and morose and it seemed impossible to rouse him to anything like his usual cheerfulness and fun. On Sunday the two of them, with another of the graduate students took a long walk to Osage Hills, a hilly wooded section of the country, through which the Meramec River flows. On Monday it was still Dr. Green's advice that he not try to use his eyes until his new glasses were ready. He asked me about consulting a neurologist and I told him I would arrange for him to see Dr. Schwab and have an examination whenever he wished. On Monday afternoon Mr. Li suddenly appeared in the door of a classroom where a number of students and a professor in charge were engaged in work and said in a loud voice "Ladies and gentlemen, I have come to the end of my life; I cannot go on!" Dr. Linder, the professor in charge of the class, at once took him to his office and after a sympathetic talk he seemed to regain his self control and went to his room, coming down to dinner that night as usual, though he was extremely nervous and restless.

On Wednesday morning, the 17th, he was to appear for a quiz in one of his courses and did not come. On calling his landlady we were informed that he told her he was going for a walk on Tuesday morning, that she prepared a lunch for him which he took and said he was going to Osage Hills where he had been on Sunday, that he would take the day in the country and see if he would not feel better. Before he left the house, however, he walked back and forth for quite a while, stopping now and then and gazing at his face in the mirror and smoothing his head violently. Then he became very ill and after that was over he said to Mrs. Leahy that he believed he would go to his uncle in Washington until after Christmas. She replied that it would cost him probably \$65 and that he would be glad to have him here for Christmas if he would like to stay. He then replied he would stay here and left the house saying he would go to Osage Hills.

In a few moments, however, he came back and took with him his suitcase, saying that there were books in it which he would take to the University. On investigating Wednesday morning we found that he did not come home Tuesday night but Mrs. Leahy had not been alarmed, thinking he had perhaps gone again to Dr. Anderson's home. As soon as we began to realize that he had disappeared I went to the Manchester Bank and found that he had withdrawn fifty dollars. He went to a teller who had never waited on him and after leaving the window with the money stood for a long time at the door of the bank looking out. His behavior was so strange that two of the tellers watched him and finally saw him take an eastbound car from in front of the bank. This gave me the idea that he had gone to Union Station and following him just twenty-four hours later, I was able to find a ticket agent at the station who remembered selling a ticket to Washington to a man answering his description, the previous day. This ticket seller told me he had a "red cap" carrying his bag which was longer than American suitcases and was black and smooth in appearance. I interviewed two of the "redcaps", one of whom said he had noticed him because he was Chinese and his bag looked foreign. I learned that the next Pennsylvania train to Washington left at six o'clock and was due to arrive there at 6:35 on Wednesday evening. I returned to the Garden at once and telephoned to you, getting your address from the Chinese Legation in Washington.

I must go back a little and say that the first thing we did was to notify the police department, and a full report of everything we knew of his movements was given to them, including a full description of his appearance, clothing, etc. A report from the police this morning states that they have been able to find out nothing about him, no trace of him in any institution in the city or the surrounding county.

After receiving your telegram stating that Mr. Li did not arrive in Washington on the 6:35 train Wednesday night, we reported his disappearance to the Federal Immigration Department here and were told they would have their Chinese interpreter make a thorough search of the Chinese quarter, and would put a man on the case to learn from the train crew whether Mr. Li left here Tuesday night on the Pennsylvania six o'clock train. I have just talked with the immigration officer again and he says they have nothing definite to report as yet. The train which we thought Mr. Li had taken does not go straight through to Washington but divides at Harrisburg, Pa. Since, so far as we can discover, he did not buy Pullman accommodation but simply a railroad ticket he would probably have been compelled to leave the day coach and take another one in order to go on the Washington section. In buying his railroad ticket, Mr. Li (in case it was he) first ordered it and then did not take it but asked to be excused while he sat down for a while, saying "Wait, I see, I see". He then came back to the window and paid for the ticket. It was only this fact and the fact that he was of foreign appearance that made it possible for the ticket seller to remember the occurrence. While it may possibly be a coincidence, it scarcely seems probable that another Chinese man of exactly the same appearance and same baggage would have been buying a ticket to Washington at an hour which exactly corresponded to the time it would have taken Mr. Li to go from the Manchester Bank to the Union Station.

1141

Mr. Mei

#4

A great many of the details written above are sent you in the hope that they will give you an insight into Mr. Li's mental condition. He told me that he had had a nervous breakdown a few years ago which it took a year to recover from. I asked him all the questions I could think of that would bring out the cause of his trouble. He said that the study of German seemed very difficult and on reporting this to the professor in charge he was told he could give up German until a later time. I tried in every way to be sympathetic and to make him feel that we would do everything in our power to help him. His obsession in talking to various people seemed to be that he had accepted this fellowship here under false pretenses, that he had disgraced his family, Yenching University and the Garden and that he must get back to China where he would be "sent to jail for the rest of his life". He declared that his brain had given out and he could not think. In spite of this he has been making the highest marks in his classes and his record here is of the best. I told him this but over and over he would insist that he was a fraud and when it was found out he would be deported. We have interviewed practically all the graduate students and they all report the same general trend to his conversation for the last few days prior to his disappearance. He was very happy over the fact that Mr. Moore of Indianapolis had agreed that his son and Mr. Li and one of the other students could take a car of his next summer for a collecting trip through the south, and all his plans were for the future, spending a part of the time at the Arnold Arboretum, in Massachusetts, etc. So I think it will be evident to you that he has suffered a sudden and severe nervous breakdown. Whether or not he was sufficiently in command of himself to change trains at Harrisburg, or to keep from getting off the train at Baltimore, we, of course, cannot know. It seems that both possibilities are worth investigating.

I hope you will feel assured that if you should decide to come to St. Louis we will aid you in every possible way to locate your nephew, and in any case will report to you at once by telegraph any clues that can be discovered here. We are all distressed over this sad affair and wish to extend our greatest hope that you may be able to find Mr. Li and that he may be speedily restored to health.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Mrs. Katherine H. Leigh
Assistant to the Director

1142

December 19, 1930
School of Journalism
University of Missouri
Columbia, Mo.

Dear Mr. Wannamaker,

I presume that you have received news of the death of Mr. Li Chien-fan, the Chinese student from Yenching University who won a three-year fellowship to Washington University and the Missouri Botanical Gardens at St. Louis.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat published a story this morning as follows: The headline ran-"Botanical Student, Scion of Chinese Aristocracy, Missing"--"Immigration officials here and in Washington as well as local police have been enlisted in a search for Chien Fan Li, 26-year-old botanical student at Washington University and the Missouri Botanical Gardens, and nephew of Y.C. Mei, attache of the Chinese Legation at Washington, who disappeared Tuesday.

Young Li is of an aristocratic Chinese family residing in Peking. He came to St. Louis in October on a three-year graduate scholarship from Yenching University, being selected over several hundred other students for the honor.

Officials at the Missouri Botanical Gardens attribute his disappearance to a nervous breakdown, induced by eye strain. They said he was a brilliant student, but about three weeks ago developed spells of melancholia and seemingly lost his ability to concentrate.

Dr. George T. Moore, director of the gardens, talked to Li about his conditions, and the young student was in fear he was about to suffer a mental breakdown. Dr. Moore sent him to an oculist, where he was fitted for another pair of glasses.

He attended classes Monday, but was handicapped due to the fact his pupils had not recovered from their treatment.

Tuesday morning, according to Mrs. Katherine H. Leigh, secretary to Dr. Moore, he told his landlady at 4244 Shenandoah avenue he was going to Washington to visit his uncle in the Chinese legation. He changed his mind a moment later and said he was going for a walk in Osage Hills, where students from the Botanical Gardens frequently go on hikes.

He left home about 11 a.m. and did not return that night. When he failed to appear for classes the next day, Mrs. Leigh called his landlady. Tracing his movements it was found he appeared at the Manchester Bank at 1 p.m. Tuesday and drew \$50 from his account, but left a balance.

This confirmed the belief he had returned to his original intention of going to Washington, \$50 being about the sum he had ascertained from his landlady would be necessary for the trip. A check at the Union Station revealed he had purchased a day coach ticket for Washington over the Pennsylvania lines.

His uncle in Washington was notified and met the train, reporting in a long-distance telephone conversation that young Li was not aboard. It is feared young Li may have suffered a lapse on the train and failed

to get off at Harrisburg, where day coach passengers change trains for Washington.

"If he had taken a Pullman, as he was fully able to do" said Mrs. Leigh, "He would have gotten through all right. He was amply provided with funds. His family, I understand, was wealthy. He was one of the most brilliant students we had, and was well liked by everyone. He seemed fully able to handle his program of study without overtaxing himself, although he found one study, German, hard, and had been advised to drop it.

"He spoke English well enough, although somewhat hesitantly. I don't think he was unhappy at school, although he did get homesick spells occasionally. But all the students liked him and did their best to make him feel at home."

Li is 5 feet 2 inches tall and weighs 120 pounds. He was typically Chinese in appearance and his glasses were shell-trimmed.

The place at which he roomed is students rooming house near the Botanical Gardens.

Tonight's United Press report to our newspaper here runs:

"The body of Chien Fan Li, 26, Washington University student was found hanging from a tree by a hunter in Kirkwood, Mo., today. He entered the university last fall after winning a scholarship in his native land. Friends said the Chinese student had been despondent because of difficulty with his studies."

I assume that his uncle will take charge of his corpse. I will appreciate it very much if you will let me know if you have other news about his case. I am writing to the authorities at Washington University for further news and information and I will send them to you later. I remain,

Sincerely yours,

David C. H. Lu

David C.H. Lu

P.S. Mr. Li Chien-fan was a major in biology in Yenching University and was graduated in 1929. He is from Tientsin, Hopei (Chihli) Province. He received his fellowship in the summer of 1930 and came to this country in October 1930.

D.L.

-COPY-

December 24, 1930

Dr. J. Leighton Stuart
Yenching University
Peping, China

My dear Mr. Stuart:

By this time you have undoubtedly heard of the tragic death of Mr. Li. I am enclosing copy of a letter to his uncle in Washington which gives the history of the case up to the time of the finding of the body. His uncle, Mr. Y. C. Mei, arrived in St. Louis on the 21st of December and seems to feel that it may not be necessary to send the body back to China. He says that several students who have died in this country have been buried here and he thinks that is the thing to do in this case. Mr. Mei expects to take it up with his wife when he returns to Washington and see if she will take the responsibility of saying whether or not burial can take place here. In any case, the body has been properly prepared for shipment and will be held in a receiving vault until we are informed as to just what is to be done.

Mr. Mei tells us that a few years ago Mr. Li had a nervous breakdown and that on another occasion he was found unconscious, so that it is possible his mental condition was the result of some deep-seated trouble.

No student we have had here in years has made a better impression on his instructors. His work was far above the average and everyone of us felt that he was destined to take a very high place in the botanical world. The students received him as one of them; he entered into all their plans for recreation and amusement arranged from time to time and we have no cause for regret through lack of attention paid to him.

Mr. Mei took charge of Mr. Li's personal effects, including his watch, clothing, etc., and his passport was turned over to the U.S. Immigration Officer in St. Louis. Mr. Mei directed that his notebooks and books on botanical subjects which he had purchased be sent to Yenching University, together with several volumes which obviously belong to your library. We are likewise sending some of his lecture notes and drawings which will give you an idea of the excellent work he was doing. This box is now being packed and will go forward by freight since it is rather heavy and there is no particular need for haste.

Mr. Mei assured me that he would write to you and I am depending upon him to give you his impressions and any additional information that I have neglected to include. I would only ask you to express to Mr. Li's parents the high esteem in which we held their son and our heartfelt regret that his mind became unbalanced to an extent that he did not know what he was doing. I do not need to add my personal regret at the outcome of an experiment from the results of which we both expected so much. Will you please show this letter, with enclosures, to Mr. Hu and anyone else whom you think should be informed as to the particulars. I do not feel that I

Dr. Stuart....#2

can at this time write more than this single letter, although of course I shall be glad to supply additional information to any who might have the right to request it. I think that after the holidays some of the students will wish to write to Mr. Li's parents, if for nothing more than to express their admiration for him as a student and companion. Their plans for the Christmas holidays in which he had been included are being abandoned out of respect for his absence.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Geo.T.Moore,
Director

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1146

✓ X to CR. Crane

January 14, 1931

Dr. George T. Moore, Director
Missouri Botanical Garden,
St. Louis, Mo.

My dear Dr. Moore:

Let me acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 9 with which you transmit a check for \$507, being the amount received from Mr. Charles R. Crane in payment of travel funds advanced by Yenching University to Mr. Li Chien-fan to cover the cost of his recent journey from Peiping to St. Louis.

We are at this time transmitting this remittance to the field Treasurer in Peiping, and are informing him of the source and purpose of the gift.

With appreciation of your courtesy in caring for these final details of this most tragic~~al~~ affair, I am

Very cordially yours,

BAG-H

CC: Promotional Office ✓

1147

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

SAINT LOUIS

DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
EUCLID AVENUE AND KINGSHIGHWAY



February 18, 1931.

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

Dear Leighton:

I have just received your letter of January 21 in answer to my letter to you regarding the tragic suicide of Li Chien-fan. Since writing that letter I have had two conferences with Dr. Moore, one of which was attended by Dr. Ingram and Dr. Hua Liu of Peping. I was particularly anxious for these two visitors to Saint Louis to hear from Dr. Moore his detailed statement regarding Mr. Li so that they could both directly give you the personal message from Dr. Moore. I presume that these men have already done that. Dr. Moore also told me that he had written a very long detailed account of the entire affair to you so there is no further information that I can give you that you do not already have.

The boy's uncle, Mr. Mei, who came from Washington, told Dr. Moore that the boy had a nervous breakdown three or four years ago in Peping. In a remark made by Dr. Moore to me, I received the impression that he felt that it was a mistake to send a boy with that history. Judging from your letter I do not get the idea that you and others concerned at Yenching were aware of this breakdown, or that he had a breakdown. As a matter of fact, perhaps Mr. Mei was quite mistaken and that the boy might have had an illness of some other nature, which may have left him in an exhausted physical and mental state for a time.

I asked Dr. Moore on two occasions this question, in the form of an expressed hope: I hope and I know that Dr. Stuart also hopes that you will be willing to continue this liason if and when another capable candidate can be found. The first time he said unqualifiedly that he would like to have it continued. The second time I referred to the matter he hesitated and said that he would have to consider the matter again and that the Fellowship which he had gotten would probably have to be awarded to someone else for the time being. At that time he had just gotten through a week with which a great deal of time had been spent straightening out Mr. Li's affairs with the coroner, Chinese Consul, the Federal authorities and the boy's uncle, Mr. Mei from Washington. My present conviction is that Dr. Moore would like exceedingly to continue the plan because it will give him

1148

Dr. Stuart - Page 2.

an opportunity to secure specimens from the Orient from an individual who knows the needs of his garden and whom he knows personally. I believe that you are the one to keep his interest alive in the matter and to secure his further cooperation. He and all the other members of the faculty were tremendously impressed with the ability and industry of Mr. Li and for some reason they feel that they are not likely to get such a good man the next time. I do not see any reason for hastening the matter, but I believe to strike while the iron is hot is always good psychology. My suggestion is to make a tremendous effort to secure another man within a year. It may even be necessary to comb the whole university field in the United States and British Empire to find a Chinese with the proper preparatory training. On the other hand I am quite aware that a man should have other qualifications which you rightly deem important.

Our daughter Peggie sent us the beautiful letter which you wrote to her. I want to thank you most sincerely for that letter which Peggie said she wants to keep always.

I am leaving next week for a two months' trip to the south and southwest, primarily in the interest of our research work in trachoma and aviation medicine. By the time I get back the latter part of April, our new building should be ready for occupancy. The completion of it has been greatly delayed on account of minor strikes and consequent disorganization of the building schedule.

Please give my kindest regards to my old friend George Barbour, Larry Sears and other friends of the University.

Very sincerely yours,

Harvey J. Howard
Harvey J. Howard.

HJH:E

學大京燕
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEPING, CHINA.

系學物生院學科然自
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

March 23, 1931.

Dear Dr. Stuart:

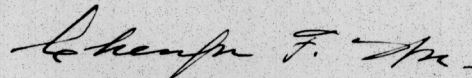
I trust you have had a good rest and a pleasant trip back to America. We are carrying on our work much as usual and with good spirit.

The enclosed letter was referred to Dean Boring and then to me. Both Miss Boring and I feel that this is our good opportunity to reopen the question of the fellowship since Dr. Howard is so enthusiastic about it and is willing to help us.

I understand that you will visit St. Louis sometime during April. I hope you will succeed in reestablishing this fellowship, allowing us to secure a well qualified student for it within a year. Although we do not have any such person to recommend right now, we feel sure that we shall be able to locate such a person within the next few months and to give him the position of an assistant in our Department during the next academic year so that he will be well acquainted with our work before being given the fellowship.

Trusting that we shall soon be able to hear from you and closing with my kindest regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,


Chenfu F. Wu.

Chinese Educational Mission

TSING HUA UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS
BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION IN U. S. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

2645 CONN. AVE. N. W.

May 6, 1931

President J. Leighton Stuart,
Yenching University, Amer. Office,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear President Stuart:

When I was in New York during the latter part of last week, I had hoped that I might be able to see you sometime in your office there, but I was sorry to find that you were out of town during those few days. I trust that you have had great success in the work that you came to attend to for the University this time.

One matter about which I should like to have had a talk with you personally is in connection with the death of Chien-fan Li, or rather the disposal of his remains. About a month ago a cablegram came from his sister, Hui-nien Li, saying that their mother insisted on having the body moved back to China, but nothing was said about how it was to be done. Recently a letter from her informs in detail as to how the sad news was finally broken to his father first and then his mother (both were told that he died of scarlet fever!), and how bravely they both had stood it, and finally the fact that it seemed to be his mother's one strong desire that his body should be taken back home. This attitude on the part of his mother is quite understandable, though many of his relatives would not think it necessary nor advisable particularly in view of the heavy expenses that will be involved. However, as this is so strongly wished for by his mother, who was all but on the verge of a mental collapse herself, his friends and relatives in Peiping felt that they should try to arrange for it if it can possibly be done.

To finance the undertaking, they suggested that perhaps the authorities of Washington University, who kindly offered Chien-fan the scholarship for this year, could be approached, or some other body to help on it. On this point I have to consult your opinion as to whether it will be advisable and how it may be best be done. For not being familiar with the arrangement by which Li came to receive the scholarship, I feel that I should perhaps not take the matter up with the authorities of Washington University directly. When I was in St. Louis right after this tragedy was discovered, I saw Dr. Moore of the Missouri Botanical Garden, but did not mention this proposition because I thought it might not be necessary then.

Dr. J. Leighton Stuart - May 6, 1931

Chinese Educational Mission

TSING HUA UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS
BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION IN U. S. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

2645 CONN. AVE. N. W.

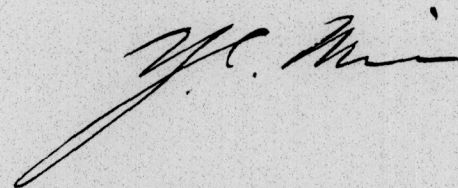
- 2 -

Li's family is not at all in a position to bear the expenses of the undertaking; his relatives would be willing to help but they cannot do very much. So, they have thought if Washington University could allow to have the balance of the scholarships fund originally offered to Chien-fan for the year used for this purpose, the matter could then be arranged without much difficulty.

I hope to have your advice and, if possible, your help regarding this matter. You have been a great friend to Li in having secured the scholarship for him and also made the provision for the caring in part of his family while he was abroad, and I am sure you have the deepest sympathy for his mother and will do what you can to give her a little more comfort and consolation. Indeed, it is not his family alone that should mourn his death, the country has lost a young man, and Yen-ching an alumnus, of great promise of scientific attainments in the future.

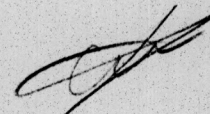
With kind regards, I remain

Yours very sincerely,



1152

Chien Fan Li



May 8, 1931

My dear Harvey:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter received this morning, and of my reply, which are self explanatory. I doubt if it would be wise to ask the Botanical Gardens for any further help in this matter, although you will know better than I about this. Will you use your own judgment about taking the matter up any further with Dr. Moore?

I wrote you a few days ago, when you were out of the city, about the value of my going through St. Louis and attempting to renew this project. If you think it advisable, I may yet be able to travel to the Coast via St. Louis and stop off between trains long enough for a conference with you and any others whom you think it would be desirable to have present. Please let me have your frank opinion.

I need not assure you that it would be a pleasure to see you in any case. The business that I am here for is rather exacting on my time.

As ever yours,

Dr. Harvey J. Howard
725 Boland Place
St. Louis, Missouri

JLS:KK

1153

May 8, 1931

Dear Dr. Mei:

Your letter has just reached me. I fully appreciate the pathetic circumstances which you described and should like to do anything possible to help carry out Chien-fan's mother's wishes. I am leaving for China in a few days and have been away from the city a good part of the time before then. The situation in St. Louis is extremely delicate, as you can readily understand, so that I hesitate as to what course to recommend. Perhaps the best thing for me to do would be to write to Dr. Harvey J. Howard, who conceived the idea in the first instance, and who has lived in China both in Canton and later at P.U.M.C. for many years. I shall send him a copy of your letter and ask his advice on the whole matter, requesting that he reply to you direct. If I go through St. Louis, as is possible, I shall take it up in person, which will be easier. In any case, rest assured of my desire to do whatever may be possible in the matter. This is an unforeseen catastrophe in which we all suffer together.

Very sincerely yours,

President

Dr. Y. C. Mei
Chinese Educational Mission
2645 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C.

JLS:KK

CC to Dr. Mei

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
SAINT LOUIS

DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
EUCLID AVENUE AND KINGSHIGHWAY



May 12, 1931.

JHS
We have agreed to
this Dr. Moore's plan

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

My dear Leighton:

I have just received your letter of May 8 with enclosures. I have been gone for two months and upon my return I also found your letter of April 22. Personally I think it would be a most inopportune and inappropriate time to approach Dr. Moore or Washington University with the proposition as outlined in Mr. Mei's letter. I understand that the scholarship which was released through Mr. Li's death was immediately assigned to someone else so there are no funds available from that source. As a matter of fact, Dr. Moore personally, in his department in Shaw's Garden was put to considerable expense on account of Mr. Li's death. A request to further add to this expense after all that was done for Mr. Li in taking care of his affairs after his death would be denied I feel sure. If we desire to maintain the friendship of Dr. Moore and secure cooperation with Washington University on a similar basis in the future, I strongly advise that the matter regarding Mr. Li shall not be brought to the attention of Washington University any further.

Dr. Moore is President of the Associated Harvard Clubs and is now going through a very severe strain both in a financial way and as far as his strength will permit in working out the program and arrangements for the entertainment of the large number of guests which will be here this week. On account of this arduous job, Dr. Moore undoubtedly has neglected his own personal affairs and possibly garden affairs for some weeks and I believe on that account it would be unwise for me or you to discuss with him at the present time future relationships between Yenching and Washington Universities.

I called upon Mrs. F. J. Shoemaker at the Country Club Grounds a few days ago and during the course of conversation she said that the depression was affecting her so badly that she had had to borrow money in order to make certain payments on gifts she had promised last year. I also think, therefore, that any approach to her at the present time would be inopportune. Since I have not had the opportunity to talk to Dr. Upson about any other contacts, and since these two that I mention above cannot be approached now I do not see any logical reason for urging you to stop in Saint Louis on your way West as much as Mrs. Howard and I, personally, would like to see you. I say this because of your own statements in both letters that your time is limited and the business which calls you to America is very exacting. I do hope that your trip has been successful and pleasant.

Very cordially yours,

Harvey J. Howard
Harvey J. Howard.

HJH:E

1155

May 18, 1931.

My dear Dr. Mei:

Dr. Stuart is having a very hurried last day in New York before leaving for the west coast and China, and has asked me to reply to your letter regarding Mr. Li Chien-fan.

Dr. Stuart wrote to Dr. Howard of Washington University, St. Louis, and he replies as follows:

"Personally I think it would be a most inopportune and inappropriate time to approach Dr. Moore or Washington University with the proposition as outlined in Mr. Mei's letter. I understand that the scholarship which was released through Mr. Li's death was immediately assigned to someone else, so there are no funds available from that source. As a matter of fact, Dr. Moore personally, in his department in Shaw's Garden, was put to considerable expense on account of Mr. Li's death. A request to further add to this expense after all that was done for Mr. Li in taking care of his affairs after his death would be denied I feel sure. If we desire to maintain the friendship of Dr. Moore and secure cooperation with Washington University on a similar basis in the future, I strongly advise that the matter regarding Mr. Li shall not be brought to the attention of Washington University any further."

Dr. Stuart is very sorry to have to forward such information, but said that it would seem unwise, under the circumstances, to press the matter further.

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. Y. C. Mei
Chinese Educational Mission
2645 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C.

LM

1156



OI KWAN HOTEL.
CANTON.

Yenching Kow.
Peking, China.
Dec. 16, 1937

My dear Mr. Evans,

This document should have been sent back to you sometime ago but it is extremely difficult to travel during war time & for that reason I could not easily get to an American consul.

I do not fully understand the contents of the document but I do fully trust President Stuart's recommendation that I put the business entirely into your hands. I do not know whether President Stuart mentioned to you or not that I do wish that the money be invested into something very safe regardless of interest - U.S. Government Bonds preferably or something equally secure.

My husband & I have been marooned in the Soviet since the war broke out and now ^{we} are on our way back home. If there is anything I should know please inform me at Yenching. Thank you very much for the trouble you are taking on my account.

Sincerely yours,
Federica Gwang Li.
(Mrs. J. C. Li)

CONFIDENTIAL
JAN 11 1938
JOINT OFFICE

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KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that I, MRS. J. C. LI, formerly MISS FREDERICA CHIANG, residing at Peiping, China, legatee under the will of JENNIE A. GOULDY deceased, who died on or about May 10, 1935, and whose last will and testament was admitted to probate by the Surrogate's Court for the County of Orange, State of New York at Newburgh on August 20, 1935, have made, constituted and appointed, and by these presents do make, constitute and appoint CARL A. EVANS, of 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York, my true and lawful attorney in fact, for me and in my name, place and stead, and for my use and benefit, to collect, ask, demand, sue for, receive, receipt for and recover of and from the executor, administrator trustee or personal representative of the estate of the above-named decedent, or of and from any other person or persons or corporations having the administration of said estate, any legacy or legacies, bequest or bequests, debts, credits, claims or demands, or distributive share or shares, interest or interests, in said estate to which I may now or at any time hereafter be entitled under the last will and testament of said decedent; and to receive from the executor, administrator, trustee or personal representative of said decedent any personal property distributed or paid in kind or otherwise, and to give the proper receipt therefor; to institute, conduct and defend all suits in equity or actions at law, and any and all proceedings, contests and actions of whatsoever kind which may in any way concern the subject matter of this instrument; to retain and discharge counsel; to institute, appear in or compromise any lawful or necessary suit, action or proceeding to probate the last will and testament of said decedent, or to administer, settle or close said estate; to enter my appearance and waive the issuance and service of any and all citations therein in all proceedings whatsoever in any way relating to said estate; to accept service of any process in my behalf and to consent to the entry of any and all orders or decrees of any court relating to said estate; and I hereby authorize my said attorney to convert any and all property received as my distributive share or shares, legacy or bequest into cash, and to endorse my name upon any and all checks, drafts or other

negotiable instruments made payable to me or to my order; to compromise claims, actions or proceedings, to execute and deliver receipts, releases, general or special acquittances, assignments, deeds, conveyances and quitclaims and/or all other suitable instruments in writing, and to institute any proper, suitable or necessary proceedings, suits or actions to protect my interest in said estate, or otherwise to carry into effect the various powers herein granted; and I do hereby further give unto my said attorney full power to constitute, appoint and authorize in his place and stead, and as his substitute, one or more attorney or attorneys, for me, with full power and authority to do, execute and perform and finish for me and in my name all and singular those things which shall be expedient and necessary in and about, for or concerning the premises, or any of them, as fully as I could do if personally present, hereby ratifying and confirming whatever my said attorney or his substitute shall do or cause to be done in, about or concerning the premises and any part thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this
8th day of December 1937.

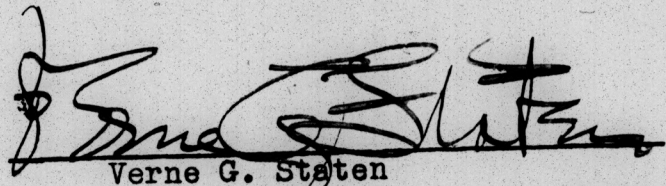
Sealed and delivered in
the presence of:

Mrs. J.C. Li (J.L.)
formerly
Miss Frederica Chiang.

Atty.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA,)
: ss.:)
Province of Hupeh,
City of Hankow,
Consulate General of the
United States of America.

Then and there appeared MRS. J. C. LI, signer and sealer of the
foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the same to be her free act and deed,
before me.



Verne G. Staten
Vice Consul of the United States of America.



Misc. Service No. 1437

April 28, 1928

Dear Mr. Li:

It was a very great pleasure to know that you were among the guests who attended the dinner on behalf of Yenching University last Tuesday evening. I am sorry not to have been able to see more of you personally on that occasion.

You are probably already sufficiently familiar with the general purpose of Yenching University and the progress we have been making to date in its realization. You also doubtless received one of the pamphlets which were distributed to our guests indicating the amount of money still needed to complete the first stage of our program. As I stated that evening, we are now trying to raise \$500,000, of which \$150,000 still remains to be secured. If among your many contributions to deserving causes, you could include a pledge to Yenching it would be especially appreciated because it would come from a Chinese and would thus be an endorsement which would have no little influence with American supporters. Your name is so well-known and so highly honored in this country, as well as in China, that a gift from you means much more than the money involved. Unless we secure the full amount asked for in pledges before the end of June, we cannot receive certain gifts conditioned on getting it. On the other hand, it is not at all important that there should be an immediate payment. I venture to enclose a pledge card which indicates the different ways in which a pledge could be made to us over a period of years to count in our present effort.

I should much prefer to call on you in person and pay my respects, but am leaving the city to be gone for some days, only returning on May 8th and sailing from New York by S. S. Majestic on May 12th. You also are so busy that I hesitate to intrude upon your time. I therefore am writing to you and am sending you another one of our pamphlets in case you did not happen to receive one at the dinner.

With warm personal regards, believe me

Very sincerely yours

Mr. K. C. Li
233 Broadway
New York City

JLS:O
Enc

1162

K.C.Li

WOOLWORTH BUILDING
NEW YORK

May 9, 1928

Dr. J. Leighton Stuart, President
Yenching University
150-Fifth Ave.
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Stuart:

It gives me great pleasure to enclose my personal check for \$100. toward the campaign for funds which I am glad to hear is now approaching a successful conclusion.

If the disturbed conditions in China and their consequent effect on my business permitted, I should like to make this amount much larger and shall hope to contribute from time to time as these conditions improve. This is because of my hearty belief in the work you are doing, which I have watched during the last few years with increasing appreciation and sense of its value. I know how highly our mutual friend, the Chinese Minister, Dr. Alfred Sze, thinks of your institution and of the work it is doing for China, which adds to my own confidence in the wisdom of your plans and in the success with which they are being realized.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,



KCL:BS
Enc.

1163

May 10, 1928

My dear Mr. Li:

Dr. Stuart has handed to me your kind letter to him of May 9th and as he is so pressed for time in these last two days of his stay in America, has asked me to write for him and tell you how very much he appreciates this gift. Dr. Stuart also wishes to thank you for your expressions of interest and confidence in Yenching University.

Our official receipt in the amount of \$100 is enclosed herewith.

Very sincerely yours,

Office Secretary

Mr. K. C. Li
Room 5005, Woolworth Bldg.
233 Broadway, New York City

LM

1164

Mr. K. C. Li
(metals)

Woolworth Bldg.
Room 5005
233 Broadway
New York City

May 10, 1928

\$100.00 for 1928 Camp.-Undesignated

Gift received	5-10-28
Receipt slip #	1928
Entered on contr. record	✓
" " acct.	✓
" " contr.	✓
Serial No. on L. card	184
Pledge signal attached	_____
X file cards	_____
Letter ack. sent	5-10-28
Checked for O. L.	✓
" " class card	✓
" " stencil	✓

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January 17, 1929

Dear Mr. Li:

Last spring while Dr. Stuart was in America you were very generous in helping us in the campaign in which we were then engaged by giving a contribution of \$100 to the University. I know you will be happy to hear that the campaign was successfully concluded and that we met all the requirements necessary to secure a conditional pledge of \$90,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Boyd of Philadelphia. This money will pay the cost of a splendid gymnasium for the Women's College and construction work will begin very soon on that building.

I do not want to appeal to you unreasonably soon after your last gift but I find myself in a peculiar situation just now in relationship to two students of Yenching who are in this country. This is my excuse for writing you. These two young men have the special affection and interest of Dr. Stuart. One of them is the son of the first man baptized by Dr. Stuart as a Christian after the beginning of his missionary work in China. The second rendered very important service at Yenching throughout last year as president of the student self government association. He is a young man of such special magnetism and force of character that his influence was determinative in maintaining order on the campus through the trying and difficult period culminating in the capture of Peking.

The first of these two young men, Chang Ke, is studying at Columbia preparatory to returning to China and giving himself to the effort to link up students who have taken advanced and postgraduate work with the actual needs of rapidly changing China. The second, Chang Wen-li, is studying at Harvard. His intention is to return to China to give his life to bettering the rural conditions in his country.

The entire amount of money necessary to bring these two young men to America, give them one full year of the best possible advantages, and sending them back to China will be about \$4200. The travel for the two amounts, as you very well know, to a large sum. We have been able to secure thus far only \$3100 of this amount and still need \$1100 more. Since we appealed so generally to our friends through 1928 in the Yenching campaign, it is a little difficult to find persons to whom we can afford to go now on behalf of these two young men. Under these circumstances it occurs to me that you might possibly be able to help us in this special matter. If so we shall be deeply grateful.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. K. C. Li
Room 5005 Woolworth Building
New York City

CDW:BB

1166

May 28, 1932

no reply

Dear Mr. Li:

Please believe me when I say that the following statement represents the most crucial emergency Yenching University has ever faced. It now seems as if it would be almost impossible to avoid the loss of \$250,000 offered by the Rockefeller Foundation toward the endowment of the College of Natural Sciences and also the loss of \$12,500 granted annually toward the budget of the natural sciences. We shall certainly lose both the capital sum and the annual grant unless we can raise a balance which now amounts to \$62,500 still needed to match the Rockefeller Foundation by June 30th. If we succeed in this almost impossible job Yenching will benefit by an addition of half a million dollars to the endowment of the College of Natural Sciences, which I believe is doing work as valuable to the cause of education in China as any other institution there.

Ordinarily, we expect contributions in this country from Americans. In the present distressing emergency I hope it is not out of order to ask Chinese to join.

Will you be so kind as to let Dr. S. P. Young, who represents Dr. Stuart, discuss this situation with you?

Sincerely yours,

Assistant to the President

Mr. K. C. Li
4901 Woolworth Building
New York, New York

ODW:KK

1167

March 16, 1936

Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Li
22 La Marcus Avenue
Glen Cove, Long Island

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Li:

President Stuart, of Yenching University, Peiping, China, briefly discussed, I think, at the dinner party given in his honor by Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Phillips Dodge, the commanding position which Yenching holds as the greatest and most influential American university in any non-Christian land.

However, Dr. Stuart's sense of propriety did not permit him to risk seeming to take advantage of a pleasant social contact to seek your financial cooperation in the solution of a problem which weighs most heavily upon his mind and heart - the determined fight now in progress not only to save the university in the present crisis, but to add \$2,000,000 to its endowment and equipment. If, after having invested in this great university more than \$5,000,000, making it one of the most useful in the world, we should now permit it to be crippled or destroyed, it would be a sickening blow to all the friends of China everywhere.

Therefore, since the heavy financial responsibility for the university rests upon me as Dr. Stuart's representative in America, I am taking the liberty of reminding you of the strategic position which Yenching University holds in the national and international life of China. We think it is significant that most of the friends who have made substantial gifts in this campaign are persons who have recently been in China and who agree that there is probably no place in the world where money contributed to the cause of education yields such quick and astonishing results.

Dr. Stuart sails for China March 20th, and I am writing to express the hope that you may be willing to join other New York friends in a telegram we will send him just before he sails from San Francisco, announcing the amount subscribed by those who would

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Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Li
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like to have him take back to China with him this assurance of their interest in his great work there which has done so much to win for America the lasting gratitude of the Chinese people.

If you are willing to be numbered among Dr. Stuart's friends joining in this expression of good will before he sails, will you please fill in and return to me the enclosed pledge card in the self-addressed envelope I send to make an answer to this letter as convenient as possible.

Hoping to hear from you in a few days, or prior to March 20th, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

SPY:V
Encls.

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Roger Li
Y. M. C. A.
Sian
March 31, 1941

Return to Yenching Office

Dear Uncle and Aunt,

We have arrived here for four days. Richard, Ralph, David and I are all well and safe. Since we came here, we have been living in the Y. M. C. A., looking for jobs we are paid for and those "we are not paid for." Mr. Hall is helping very much. We have to wait in patience for some days.

Prices of ordinary necessities are exceedingly high; foreign paper is hardly available, so I have to typewrite this letter in order to save paper. We four have to spend 12 dollars for two meals a day; therefore we cannot wait very long, although we have to wait.

Some of us attended the English Sunday Service of the Baptist Mission yesterday evening. There happened to be no electricity. We sang the hymns and worshiped in the dim light of a candle and an oil lamp. Although we did beautifully and solemnly, it made me think of our Ninde and consequently feel rather homesick. We talked in the little room of Mr. Hall, after we came back, and I saw a copy of the hymns issued by our Fellowship; I closed my eyes and felt as though we were in your house on a certain Saturday evening.

Praise the Lord for the interesting travel he has given us. We met many things unexpected and entirely new.

It is too difficult for a Chinese to apply for a passport from the Japanese authorities in Shanghai because, first of all, you must have a Japanese friend to prove that you are a "good Chinese." But to "buy" one needs only seven or eight dollars. After staying in Shanghai for more than a month, I became bored by that noisy city and was anxious to leave. I spent five dollars for a pass and hurriedly boarded a train together with Ralph. That was on March 7.

The next day, after crossing the Yangtze, we met a Japanese MP in the Pukow station, who, upon examination, declared that our passports were false and put them in his pocket. I explained in vain for he could only say that my pass was bought, and I could speak no Japanese. A Chinese came and let us go, saying, "You can go without a pass."

The inspection of passengers throughout the whole journey from Nanking to Hsuechow was strict. Five Chinese inspectors discovered that we were traveling without passports, shouted, and said that we must be "bad people." I could only tell them that I was the treasurer of Ta Hua Educational Supply Co., going home to see my father with my cousin Ralph, but I did not have any evidence. They did not believe me, threatening to report to the Japanese military police. We found ourselves helpless and almost wanted to burst into tears. Four of them went away without saying anything and the last one turned back, whispering, "Don't be afraid, we are Chinese."

Twice we succeeded in preventing the Japanese from knowing that we did not have a pass. Once, the captain of the MP, who came solely for questioning the Japanese passengers, took me for a Japanese, for I was in Richard's foreign clothes, my face was unshaven and had been for weeks, and I was pale with terror. I told him that I was a Chinese, standing up respectfully.

"Chinese? Let me see your pass."

"That has been examined four times, do I need to take it out again?"

"Do you have one?"

"Of course I do." I lied. "The policeman ahead has just seen it."

He then went away.

Night found us safe in an inn of Hsuehowfu. Fortunately we made friends with the manager of an inn by whose help, when we had waited four days, another two passports were secured.

Ultimately we started from a city on the Pin Han Railway for the Yellow River, which now flows southward from a leakage northwest of Chengchow. The Japanese army does not forbid people like me to go through the so-called No Man's Land for we are neither spies nor soldiers, and I personally had every reason to go through to see my father whom I had not seen for so many years. But it is better after all not to meet any of them. They do not know whether you are a spy or not and they have to detain you in a prison and question you for weeks. But foreigners are allowed to come and go through that region. Many a missionary takes it as the best way to go to Free China. Sometimes they ask for permission from the Japanese authorities and then go across the river.

On the afternoon of March 13 we got to a village in No Man's Land ready to pass the Yellow River. Again we found ourselves helpless. The pass of the river was guarded by the Chinese army which allowed no people to get across without a "trans-river" pass that could be applied for in Chengchow only. We had to stay in a villager's house and wrote to Miss Katie Murray of the Baptist Mission and Pastor Wu of the Sheng Kung Hui in Chengchow. Richard and David came three days later. They also wanted to go to the West to see their parents. We were glad indeed because we could share our anxiety, danger, as well as interest. We met a Mr. Griebenow, also going through, who is a warm-hearted Christian and missionary of the Free Methodist Church. He was going home to Labron, where Mr. Li An-che of Yenching University is living in his house.

To make a long story short, we left the village after staying there for a week and got to Chengchow by donkey. We had a chance, as I told you in my last letter, to know some of the Church leaders in Chengchow; for instance, Miss Murray, Messrs. Andrew, Ashcraft, Terry, Griebenow, and some Chinese pastors. You may have known or heard of them. Some of them wanted to have us stay in Chengchow but we preferred to see our parents first.

March 22 was a foul day. We left Chengchow, nevertheless, on donkey-back. Despite the cold that I had, I also favored their idea of getting to our destination as early as possible in order to save the little money we had.

It is customary to change the donkey on the way because the drivers do not want to go too far from their home. When we had gone about 70 li we got to Hsing-yang Hsien and it began to rain. After we had taken our lunch, the rain stopped, but the road became muddy. No donkeys would leave. We tried our best and hired only 3 donkeys to bear our baggage and we ourselves had to walk. We did so for 40 li and it kept raining all through the way. We had no umbrella, nor did we have any clothing to cover our baggage. All became wet when we arrived at Ssu-shuei. My headache was cured, but my legs and feet began aching.

The next morning we were on foot again. At night we slept in a cave on a mass of yellow soil which is called "loess" by geologists.

I have many stories to tell but for my poor English I must be able to provide you with an interesting description of our trip.

We had a new discovery in our clothes. They were inhabited by lice. The causes are obvious. We lived in all sorts of dwellings with coolies, refugees, and the like, but we did not have time to change clothes and to take baths. Now we are busy in washing, bathing, and lice-hunting in the morning sun. It may serve as a sort of amusement or recreation.

It is not hard to get employed, says Mr. Hall, but we must wait. I would like to have my work connected with the church, the Y.M.C.A., or literature. For the time being, I do not have enough money to go to the Southwest to see my father. I have written to him but I do not know if he can help me to get over to him.

Disappointment is everywhere for if you keep your eyes open you can easily find pollution, bribery, laziness, inner conflict, and things like that. But we believe that in Him is hope and in Him is light.

Paper is too dear here. A sheet of foreign paper must cost me a dollar, and foreign paper, as I said, is scarcely available.

We do not have books to read. There are, say, practically no English books in Sian. What fill the bookstores are current magazines, pamphlets of propaganda and nothing else. I regret that I was over-scrupulous then. I left in Shanghai the Goodspeed Bible, your photo, and a little English dictionary which Mrs. Hung gave me as a gift. I wrote to the friend to send them to me by mail, but the Goodspeed is too big and heavy to be sent. Sian is in want of everything, especially books. In Peking the Bible is the cheapest although the best book. But in Sian you have to spend \$6.40 for a copy of the Chinese version. I want to buy a copy of the New Testament in English; people say, however, it is too hard. I remember I have seen at your home a copy of the New Testament of very small size. If you do not need it and if it is convenient to send it by mail, I hope you will send it to me through Mr. Hall.

Richard, David (Yu), and Ralph are well. They wish to be remembered and pay their regards to you. Will you show my letter to my friends who know that I am here. Remember me to Mrs. Hung and show her my letter if she likes to read.

"Although I am absent from you in body," says Paul, "I am present with you in spirit." When daydreaming I am with you in my homesickness.

Yours loving

Roger