Peking and the Southeastern, at Nanking. As you know, the old Southeastern Library was destroyed by fire before they moved into the present building. This danger of fire in Chinese libraries appeared to me while I was there as the outstanding problem to be solved by them. There are at present treasures of incalculable value that are likely at any time to go up in smoke. The most disastrous library fire that we ever had in this country, namely, the one that destroyed the State Library at Albany, New York, was directly due to the use of wooden shelving and took place, like the Chinese fire, on the eve of the library's removal to a fire-proof building."

After referring to types of steel stack, he adds:

"If you conclude finally that the alternative lies between ordinary wood and American steel stack, I cannot urge you too strongly to endeavor to raise the difference."

We have gone into the matter of the varieties of steel stack and we have found the type of stack which is the least expensive from the point of view both of material, form and the freight costs for shipment to China. The complete equipment for the stack room will cost in New York slightly less than $[illegible],000. This seems like a large amount, but it must be remembered that once secured, this lasts as long as the building or longer and is a most vital part of the library structure.

I have analyzed the situation as to costs and needs and have to report the following:

Cost of the library completed, without furniture	$55,700
Cost of library furniture	3,500
Cost at New York of stack for gallery alcoves	1,[illegible]
Cost at New York of one-half the stack	10,[illegible]
Estimated freight New York to Peking	1,440
Estimated cost of erection	730
	$[illegible],[illegible]

This would give the library a capacity of about 120,000 volumes which should meet our requirements for four or five years. At the end of that time, the second half of the stack should be added at a cost of $12,086 which would give the completed library a capacity of approximately 225,000 volumes.

It would be possible for the University not to incur the expense for as much as one-half the stack at the present time and could, for perhaps two years, get along with one-quarter of the stack room.

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