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UBCHEA ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
RG 11

Yenching
Corres.
Meyer, V. B. (Anderson,
Meyer + Co.) 1931-1932
re Microfilm equipment 1942

0478

Meyer V. B

(Anderson, Meyer & Co)

1931-1932

0479

July 17, 1931

My dear Mr. Meyer:

Remembering that you are to be in this city for a time in September, I venture to write you in the hope that you may be able to render us important assistance in our effort to strengthen the position of Yenching University. The financial depression has rendered far more difficult our task of keeping the institution on a sound financial basis. We face the most critical difficulties involving the whole support of the division of the physical and biological sciences and must meet these conditions in the first half of 1932.

I think you probably know the reputation of the University in China - the fact that it has probably the strongest faculty of any similar institution and that its student enrolment in collegiate and postgraduate is above 800.

I trust that you are personally acquainted with President J. Leighton Stuart and know the position he occupies among the foreigners and Chinese in North China.

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If you were remaining in New York, I should venture to ask that you join a Yenching committee of prominent men of affairs we are forming in this city. Since, however, you are shortly returning to China, I can scarcely ask this. What I do venture to ask is twofold. Will you give me a very brief statement expressing your opinion of the importance of Yenching University in China and to accompany this statement a note of introduction to a few of the most prominent business leaders here? I had a very satisfactory conversation some time ago with Mr. Forum, and should be pleased if you would talk this matter over with him. A letter from you to such persons as Mr. Owen D. Young, for instance, and other executives in two or three of the great corporations, might be the means of access for us to these persons to whom we wish the opportunity of explaining the purpose and program of Yenching University in the hope of obtaining their cooperation.

I regret that I cannot request the pleasure of your personal acquaintance since I shall be in Europe while you are here. My associate, Mr. Aydelott, may, however, ask for a brief interview.

0480

Mr. Meyers.....#2

July 17, 1931

Assuring you that President Stuart and the Board of
Trustees will be very grateful if you can accede to this request,
I remain

Sincerely yours,

Assistant to the President

Mr. V. B. Meyers
Andersen, Meyers Co.
79 Fifth Avenue
New York City

cc to J. L. S.
cc to ayddott

ODW:KK

0481

V.B. Meyer

November 12, 1951

Dear Mr. Meyer: ✓

You may recall the brief conversation I had with you at the office of Mr. Forum in this city. You stated that there had been considerable criticism of Yenching University in China on the ground that the University gave its business to others than Americans -- that it used foreign architects and contractors and purchased its construction material from foreign firms. I expressed my surprise and assured you that you must be confusing this institution with some other.

I take pleasure in sending you herewith a copy of a statement just prepared for me by our Assistant Treasurer, giving the aggregate of expenditures in connection with the physical plant of the University, and showing the distribution of these expenditures among Western individuals and firms and Chinese employees. You will note that of an aggregate of \$2,712,000.00 U.S. currency thus far expended, \$1,350,000.00 has been disbursed to Western firms and individuals and that the remaining amount, approximately one-half of the total sum, has been expended for the purchase of land and the purchase locally of such supplies as would under all circumstances be bought from Chinese firms.

The part, however, which will be most interesting to you will be the fact that well over a million dollars has been expended with American firms for the purchase of various supplies of the sort needed in construction work. More than 90% of such supplies came from American sources. The only purchases made from European firms have been specialized types of machinery and fixtures which could be obtained from such sources with a substantial saving of time and expense.

Please note that the architect responsible for the planning of the entire Yenching plant has been Mr. Henry K. Murphy, an American with an office in New York City; that our consulting engineer is an American, and that the Superintendent of Construction has been an American.

✓ K R
X T
"Info
about
Yenching"

0482

Mr. V.B. Meyer.....#2

November 12, 1931

I should have been pleased to have an authoritative word of recommendation of Yenching University from such a prominent Shanghai business representative as you. I regret that the information you had regarding the University should have been of such a misleading character as to prevent you from giving me such a letter.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant to the President

Wilhelm
Mr. V. B. Meyer
The Andersen, Meyer Company, Ltd.
Shanghai, China

ODW:KK

cc to JLS

PN Forum

0483

-COPY-

R E S O L U T I O N .

PASSED JULY 19TH 1931 BY THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

TIENTSIN - CHINA.

---ooOoo---

WHEREAS:

Funds subscribed by Americans for Education and other charities in China are now being spent for the purchase of other than American or Chinese Materials and for the employment of others than Americans or Chinese, and

WHEREAS:

In the case of Great Britain and Other Nations that have remitted Boxer Indemnity Funds, with the sole exception of the United States, it has been invariably stipulated by the remitting nations that these funds when used for the purchase of foreign materials or the engagement of foreigners, such materials shall be of their manufacture, and for the engagement of none other than their nationals.

THEREFORE:

To clearly illustrate that American Funds are not being so expended, we take this opportunity to cite the following examples.

YEN CHING UNIVERSITY, Peiping.

Practically all funds for construction, equipment, maintainance, and endowment were subscribed by American Business men to other Americans.

Altho the original plans were drawn by American Architects, the Consulting Engineers for construction were neither American or Chinese. This Choice of engineers naturally influenced the purchase of other than American or Chinese materials in many instances, For example Power Plant and other equipment.

Orders for maintainance supplies, insurance, etc. are being placed almost entirely with foreign concerns.

Also many members of the staff responsible for recommendation of purchases are neither American or Chinese.

TSING HUA COLLEGE, Peiping.

This college was built and is maintained entirely from funds of the American Boxer Indemnity. While most of the staff are Chinese, the few remaining foreign members are mostly non-American.

Maintainance and technical supplies being purchased are in larger part neither American or Chinese.

Engineering consultation and construction work is now principally in the hands of other than Chinese or Americans. This fact has a

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material effect on the type of materials and equipment purchased, and to the detriment of American business.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, Peiping.

We understand that this university has been financed entirely from American Sources, but that practically all foreign materials purchased were other than American and the consulting architects are not American.

CHINA FOUNDATION.

This Foundation has been entirely endowed from Funds of the American Boxer Indemnity.

The Consulting Engineers and Architects engaged by them for the various projects supported by them are generally neither American or Chinese as the Metropolitan Library and Biological Institute at Peiping, where the equipment other than Chinese is mostly not American.

AND ^RWHEREAS:

We could cite numerous other cases throught China where the same practice continues to the detriment of American business.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:

That in view of the large unemployment in the United States and with a paramount purpose of promoting American Trade, we consider it imperative that the above facts be presented to the proper authorities for immediate action, since during the present severe economic depression other nationalities are striving in every way to promote their trade and the United States most certainly should lose no opportunity to protect and increase American Trade and business interests.

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YENCHING UNIVERSITY

OFFICERS OF THE TRUSTEES

FRANKLIN H. WARNER, *Chairman*
GEO. G. BARBER, *Vice-Chairman*
MRS. O. R. WILLIAMSON, *Vice-Chairman*
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C. A. EVANS, *Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer*

燕 京 大 學

PEKING, CHINA

Christian — International — Co-educational

AMERICAN OFFICE
150 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

OLIN D. WANNAMAKER
Assistant to the President

OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

WU LEI-CHUAN
Chancellor
J. LEIGHTON STUART
President
HENRY W. LUCE
Vice-President Emeritus

November 12, 1931

*copy in finance
Reports
+ Information sent
files*

Memorandum to Mr. Wannamaker,

Re Plant Expenditures with American firms and individuals.

On October 31, 1931, the amount expended for the physical plant of Yenching University amounted to approximately \$2,712,000.00, U. S. currency.

Of this approximately one half, or somewhere in the neighborhood of G. \$1,350,000.00, has been disbursed to Western firms and Western individuals for such supplies as structural steel, lumber, cement, building hardware, paint, plumbing fixtures, water and sewage piping, electric wiring and fixtures, power plant and pumping machinery, water tower, and the like; and for such professional services as those of the architect, the consulting engineer, and the Superintendent of Construction.

The remaining half was disbursed for such items as the purchase of land; the purchase locally of brick, lime, sand, gravel, and other building materials; and the payment of salaries of workmen and Chinese in charge of various phases of construction.

Of the half disbursed in the West, our records show that well over a million dollars has been spent with American firms for the purchase of the various supplies enumerated above. More than ninety percent of such supplies came from American sources. The remaining supplies, coming from European sources, consisted chiefly of specialized types of machinery and fixtures which could be obtained from such sources with a substantial saving of time and expense.

The architect who has been responsible for the planning of the entire Yenching plant is an American; our consulting engineer is an American; and the Superintendent of Construction is an American.

B. A. G.
B. A. Garside

Assistant Treasurer

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ANDERSEN, MEYER & COMPANY, LTD.

BRANCH OFFICES AT CANTON, HANKOW, HARBIN, HONGKONG, MUKDEN, PEIPING, TIENTSIN, TSINGTAO, TSINAN,
LONDON AND NEW YORK



HONG NAME-SUN CHONG

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行

HEAD OFFICE:
4, 5, 6, 8 YUEN MING YUEN ROAD
POST OFFICE BOX 265
SHANGHAI, CHINA.

CABLE ADDRESS: "DANICA"
ALL STANDARD CODES

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

OUR REF. NO. _____
ADDRESS ALL LETTERS
TO THE COMPANY
NOT TO INDIVIDUALS

Shanghai, December 19, 1931.

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

*4 copies made at request of OSW -
(1) sent to JLS
1 sent to Mr. Chevalier.*

Dear Mr. Wannamaker: -

I duly received your letter of 12th November, and well recall the pleasant conversation I had with you in New York. You can readily appreciate that my very frank statements to you were not very pleasant to make, and that I would only make them on the basis of information which had been given me on the subject.

It is quite correct that I stated to you the reasons which you mention in the first paragraph of your letter, and that you did not feel my statements to be based on facts. In your letter you have given me information which certainly, on the face of it, seems to confirm your verbal statements to me in New York. Under the circumstances, I feel it is only fair that I should lay before you the basis on which I made my statements to you, and I therefore investigated carefully the source of my information when I returned to Shanghai and after receipt of your letter.

As you are probably aware, American firms in China have quite a difficult time in holding their own as against other nationalities, not only for the reason that the vested interest of America in China is, generally speaking, a good deal smaller than Japanese, British and other interests, but also because, while the British, Japanese and other nations have always followed a most definite national policy in employment of men and placing of orders for anything they may require in China, the American vested interests have not in any way followed this policy.

Naturally, this has for many years been a very disappointing situation for the American pioneering firms in China, and it has, from time to time, been given a good deal of attention by the various American Chambers and American local bodies. This year, in the middle

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ANDERSEN, MEYER & COMPANY, LTD.

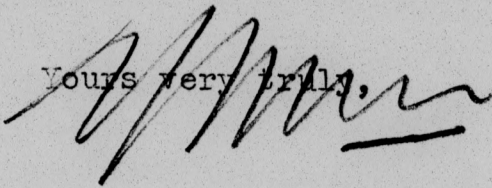
PAGE 2.

of July, this whole question was very fully discussed by the American Chamber of Commerce, and the discussion took the form of a resolution which was in due time circulated to the other American Chambers, including the Shanghai Chamber. The resolution, with comments by the various Chambers, was in due time forward to the President of the United States Chamber of Commerce in Washington. I am sending you attached a copy of this resolution. Please understand that it is sent to you personally and confidentially, but I do not believe you would have much difficulty in obtaining it officially should you so desire.

As you will note, it specifically and definitely mentions the Yenching University, and states as a definite fact what I mentioned to you in our conversation in New York. If the situation is such as you outlined to me in your letter, it seems to me that the Chambers of Commerce must have been misinformed, and you might well find it advisable to take steps to get this matter cleared up.

Naturally I had no desire whatsoever to make any statements which were not correct, but you will appreciate that with the information I had, my attitude was reasonable and fair.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,


VM:GR

0488

V. Meyer

February 3, 1953

Dear Mr. Meyer:

Thank you for taking the trouble to reply to my letter of last November in which I undertook to correct the misleading statements contained in the resolution passed in July 1951 by the American Chamber of Commerce of Tientsin. I appreciate your suggestion that it might be worthwhile to send to the U. S. Chamber of Commerce correct information on the subject covered in the resolution. Since I already had copies of the resolution prior to receiving yours, I am in position to do this without referring to your letter.

With thanks for your courtesy in the matter, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Assistant to the President

Mr. V. Meyer
Andersen, Meyer & Co., Ltd.
P. O. Box 265
Shanghai, China

ODW:KK

*cc to Mr. Chivalier
JLS*

0489

February 8, 1932

Dear Mr. Chevalier:

I leave entirely to your own good judgment the question as to whether it might be well for you to show Mr. Eugeman the enclosed copy of a letter we received recently from Mr. Meyer in reply to my communication to him. Mr. Meyer came about as near as he could be expected to come to acknowledging the inaccuracy of the report which furnished him the basis of the statement he made to me. I refer to the second paragraph of his letter.

I think, in general, it is worthwhile to correct false and injurious information in the minds of persons of position and influence, even though we do not expect any immediate result from such a correction. Remembering what Mr. Eugeman said to me about the benevolent foundation set up by a former vice president of the Radio Corporation, I should be pleased to have any obstacle removed which now makes it entirely useless for me to approach him in regard to that foundation.

Once more, however, I leave the matter to your own good judgment.

Cordially yours,

Assistant to the President

Mr. J. B. Chevalier
Bankers Trust Company
501 Fifth Avenue
New York City

ODW:KK

cc to JLS.

0490

W. S. Mor.
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ACQUISITION
OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION BUILDINGS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 19, 1942
ack 6/29/42

The Librarian,
Associated Boards for China Colleges
New York, New York.

Dear Sir:

As you undoubtedly realize, there is a tremendous shortage of microfilm equipment, and I wonder if it would be possible for the Interdepartmental Committee to purchase or borrow from you a Model C Recordak Microfilm Reader which I understand you possess. I can certainly give you every assurance that the Reader will play a real part in the war effort.

It would be much more effective for you to sell us your equipment; we will, of course, pay the original cost, and all packing and shipping charges to Washington.

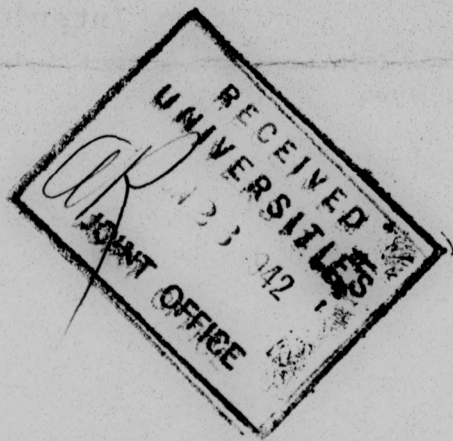
Once again let me say that any Reader that you may be able to turn over to us will be put to vital but confidential uses, and that you may be sure that you will be making a contribution to the war effort.

Sincerely yours,

Frederick G. Kilgour

Frederick G. Kilgour
Executive Secretary
Interdepartmental Committee

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U. S. Gov.

June 25, 1942

Mr. Frederick G. Kilgour
Office of Strategic Services
Coordinator of Information Buildings
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kilgour:

I am writing you regarding your request of June 19th covering a
Recordak Microfilm Reader.

We have the entire equipment of camera and reader -- the same having
been purchased after a long study of various equipment in the field. We acquired
it at the request of Dr. William Hung, the Chinese head of the Graduate School of
Yenching University, Peking, China. It was paid for from his personal funds and
belongs to him. Dr. Hung was in America a little more than a year ago for a short
period and instructed me to hold it until conditions warranted shipping it to China
for use in library work among all of our Colleges in the Orient. He also told me
that we could use it for our own file work and we have been getting our files in
condition so that we can proceed with microfilming valuable data.

As you well know, we cannot get in touch with Dr. Hung as he is interned
on the Yenching campus and the prospects are not bright for shipping the equipment
even to Chengtu where a new unit of Yenching is being opened.

As Secretary for the Board of Trustees of Yenching University, I have a
large degree of responsibility, but do not feel that I am authorized to release this
equipment without authorization from the Board of Trustees. In effect, the Board
is acting as Trustee for all staff members in any way involved because of the war
and presumably could give authority for the use of the equipment.

With this knowledge in hand, if you desire me to present your request to
the Board of Trustees, I shall be glad to do so.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

- CAE/B

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UNIVERSITIES
JUN 23 1942
POST OFFICE

355 525

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