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Missouri University of
School of Journalism 1943
(see also: F. L. Martin)

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
COLUMBIA

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

August 14, 1943

*Mr. James
Richard T. Baker*

*ack
8/16/43
CAE/ew*

Mr. C. A. Evans
Acting Executive Secretary
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

My dear Mr. Evans:

I have a copy of your letter of August 6 addressed to Mr. John B. Powell and relating to the appointment of Miss Edith Marken as exchange professor of journalism at Yenching University in Chengtu. I should like to give you the history of the project.

Last April President Middlebush received a letter dated February 20 from Y. P. Mei, acting president of Yenching, recounting the story of Missouri's interest in Yenching, and saying "it still seems quite feasible for Missouri University to undertake to send one of the leading members of the journalism faculty to Yenching for a year or longer. We very much need the mature guidance that such a person would bring."

I then wrote President Mei that we would explore the matter. Last month I was able to get the University Board of Curators to endorse the plan of an exchange professorship at this time, and to grant Assistant Professor Edith Marken a leave of absence on half pay from September 1, 1943 to June 1, 1944, for that purpose. This was on the condition that Yenching would take care of transportation expense and expense of maintenance while Miss Marken is in residence.

I consulted Mr. Rwell and Professor Vernon Nash, both of whom are familiar with Yenching, the latter having been head of the journalism work there for several years. They agreed perfectly in the opinion that Professor Marken would be highly acceptable for this mission in view of her

*Letter to Mr. Baker
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acquaintance with our Chinese alumni and other Far Eastern connections. They also agreed that a woman would be quite as acceptable for this work as a man.

Following the action of the Board, Mr. Powell sent a cablegram to Yenching University as follows:

MISSOURI UNIVERSITY PREPARED PAY SALARY JOURNALISM
TEACHER EDITH MARKEN ONE YEAR PROVIDED YENCHING DEFRAYS
TRAVELING AND MAINTENANCE STOPPLEASE ARRANGE AIRPLANE
PRIORITY IMMEDIATELY ADVISE STOP POWELL

I suppose President Mei would attempt, upon the receipt of the message, to induce the Chinese government to ask Washington for plane transportation. I think we must make it clear that plane transportation both to and from Yenching must be assured. If she is sent by ship nearly all her leave would be used up in going and coming. However, if so much time is required for making the arrangements that she is not able to get away before October or November, it is probably ~~possible~~ that her leave could be extended at the other end of its term.

We can ill spare Professor Marken from her present work, but are willing to make this sacrifice because of our long-standing friendship for Yenching, and our sympathy with her in her misfortunes.

Cordially yours,

Frank Luther Mott

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August 16, 1943

Dr. Frank Luther Mott
School of Journalism
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri

Dear Dr. Mott:

I am grateful for your letter of August 14th reviewing the situation regarding the appointment of Miss Edith Marken as exchange professor of journalism at Yenching University. This is another testimonial of the deep and abiding interest of the School of Journalism at Missouri in its sister college in China. I am sure this has been under your personal guidance and we owe a special debt of gratitude to you for this fine cooperation.

The letter you received dated February 20th was a result of fine enthusiasm on the part of alumnae and friends of Yenching who desire to re-establish the University in Chengtu. It was further encouraged by the substantial gift in local currency from a Chinese newspaper toward the establishment of a Department of Journalism. In addition to that, several members of the department, formerly in Peking, found their way through the lines to Chengtu. All of these things combined seemed to demand a Department of Journalism in the new unit, as it got under way in Free China.

The Trustees of the University knew about the fundamental facts but did not know that the Field was endeavoring to secure personnel from America. Not so long ago I, personally, half-seriously challenged Professor Vernon Nash to return to Yenching when conditions permitted. In doing that I had in mind the impossibility of getting a person out at the present time when space is so limited on steamers and practically nothing is available for air travel.

Late last fall all of the agencies in New York with interests in China, together with our College Boards, combined together in an effort to get a nurse on an airplane going to China. Influential men in close contact with the War Department were helping but this nurse was put off from week to week until along in April of this year she was glad to take sailing on a British boat which landed her in South Africa.

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Dr. Frank Luther Mott

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For some little time we have been trying to get space on steamships for five Chinese professors who have been in America completing their studies for Doctors degree. These men are urgently needed in China to relieve some of those who have worked continuously since 1937, some of whom should be brought to America for further study. Our major task in travel is now to get these people back to China.

A few women, nurses, have gone back during the past seven or eight months by going through neutral countries in South America and across to South Africa and then staying until the channels open for them to take neutral shipping to Karachi. This has taken four or five months and only a few have gotten through.

My own personal reaction is that we should let the matter be held in abeyance until there is a definite improvement in the transportation problem to the Orient. Meanwhile, I have some assurance that Yenching will get some assistance in journalism from the group which is now on the way to China. I had a satisfactory interview with Mr. Richard T. Baker and as he is in definite sympathy with our work, and as he was connected with the Methodist Board which is a supporter of Yenching University, I am sure that he will assist in any way possible, although the commission on journalism is definitely a government proposition.

In saying all of this I wish to go on record as to my desire to conserve the enthusiasm and energy of that splendid group in Chengtu which is taking the responsibility for re-establishing Yenching. We must give them every possible encouragement within the limitations of funds available.

This leads me to say that the Trustees in America appropriate a certain amount to the Field which must cover their entire budget. Thus, when Dr. Mei asks for new funds outside of the budget he does not realize that with our connection with United China Relief and The National War Fund we cannot go to the general public for additional funds for journalism, and United China Relief will not appropriate funds for current expenses of the colleges.

My foregoing remarks regarding the budget were actuated by a cable which has just come to hand in answer to one sent by Mr. John Powell, wherein the Field desires to go ahead with the project "provided Yenching Board can raise special funds."

Our natural procedure here would be to call a meeting of the Finance Committee and also the Committee on Instruction. This could not be done now with our Trustees so scattered for vacation, even if we had facts in hand and thought it wise to pursue the matter that far. Thus, I will greatly appreciate your suggestions as we wish to work in close harmony with the Field and we deeply appreciate your interest and cooperation.

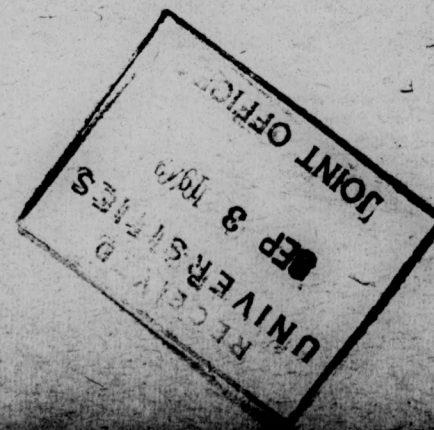
I am sure you will think it in proper form for me to send copies of this letter to Mr. John Powell and Vernon Nash, both of whom are deeply interested in this project.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE:EW

cc: Mr. Vernon Nash
cc: Mr. John Powell



0806

September 10, 1943

Dean F. L. Mott
School of Journalism
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri

Dear Dean Mott:

I am grateful for your understanding letter of September 1st regarding the exchange professorship in Journalism at Yenching University.

I do not agree with your statement that you "took too much for granted." With a University of Yenching's standing, it is perfectly natural to assume that any official statement coming from the Acting President would bear the stamp of approval of the Board of Trustees.

Unfortunately, in the keen desire to reestablish Yenching University in free China, the new group designed to start all of the departments with as little delay as possible. Consequently, aside from you, the Acting President wrote to those in America interested particularly in the School of Religion, the Harvard-Yenching Institute for Postgraduate work, the United China Relief for additional current funds and the Methodist Board for building funds. All of these requests have reverted back to our office as each agency is giving stated amounts toward the current budget and will not appropriate other funds.

While the procedure of the Acting President is contrary to custom, still I am anxious to maintain the enthusiastic interest of those behind the project in Chengtu while at the same time cautioning them regarding the future. I would also like to take advantage of what you have done so far regarding the appointment of Miss Marken. To that end, I have again checked the travel possibilities and find that there are fifty listings ahead of us and at the rate which they are being handled just now it would take at least six months before passage could be secured. Several have just gone by way of Portugal and South Africa but will have to remain there until sailings are secured for India.

Another factor which enters into the situation is that most of the group of Yenching faculty held at Weihsien are listed to return on the GRIPSHOLM, and there are possibilities of the Trustees being relieved of some additional expense figured in the present budget. I am not ready to say definitely as we do not know what the United States Government will charge us for each individual passage. The last trip cost \$575.00 each and, as we have quite a staff there, it will run into considerable money.

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As over against this remote possibility is the probable refusal of the Passport Division to grant Miss Marken a Chinese visa. Officials in Chungking notified the State Department to keep as many Americans out of China as is possible at the present time, unless they are going on a most important mission. Presumably, Miss Marken does not have an American Passport, and as a new venture I think Mrs. Shipley, whom I know quite well, would refuse to OK the application. Another feature is the fact that it will require forty-three days to complete inoculations and a place on the waiting list will not be given until this is attended to.

I do not know how far Columbia financed the Journalism group which has just gone out. I believe there was a delay because of insufficient funds and it is possible that Columbia did contribute in some way. I understand that Columbia School of Journalism made the recommendations regarding personnel.

The relationship between the University of Missouri and Yenching ^{not} has always been most cordial and I am hoping that what I have written, or said, will ^{not} impair that situation. Mr. Nash is right when he says that in the past the Missouri School of Journalism Alumni did not give any substantial support to Journalism at Yenching. That does not mean that it could not be done through possibly a different approach. Activities in our various China Colleges are maintained by Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Cornell, Smith, Wellesley, Grinnell, Pennsylvania State College and with a larger group carrying minor interests. In no case was the interest built up in an over-night program. It has taken hard work in a well-planned campaign. But, again we are stymied by an agreement with United China Relief and the National War Fund not to solicit funds for new projects.

With sincerest thanks to you for your interest, I am

Very truly yours,

CAE:B

C. A. EVANS

October 27, 1943

Dean F. L. Mott
School of Journalism
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri

Dear Dean Mott:

Copy of your letter of October 20th to James Y. Chiang is at hand.

In regard to the need of books and printed material for Yenching; and for that matter, all of our Colleges in China, we are fully conscious and have been trying to find some method of getting publications through. The State Department is now microfilming some books for us and the New York Public Library has agreed to let us use their facilities for a very nominal sum.

We are using this kind of service because there is no chance of books going through now and there will be none until there is a very definite letting up of the pressure which the Army and Navy are exerting to get war materials to the Far East. Even in the microfilming there is a questionable quantity because of the very poor lighting facilities due to shortage of combustibles available in China.

As regards to the future, we are accumulating current magazines against the time when they can be shipped to the Orient—but when that will be is anyone's guess.

May I again thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project at Yenching University.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

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October 20, 1943

Mr. James Y. Chiang
Chairman
Journalism Department
Yenching University
Chengtu, Szechuan, China

My dear Mr. Chiang:

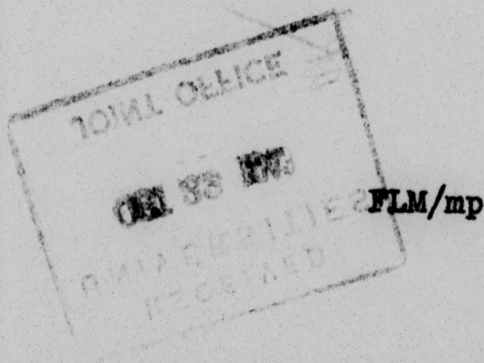
I have your letter of August 26, and thank you very much for its fine spirit. We were told by Mr. Evans, head of your New York office, that he thought it would be impossible to get transportation for Miss Marken to Chengtu by plane, and to guarantee her prompt return in the same way. This has lead us to give up for the present our project of sending Miss Marken to you. I hope that it will be possible sometime in the future to render that service. So far as raising the money for her transportation is concerned, I think that could be done on this side, though it would not come directly from the University.

You speak of the need of books and other reading materials. If we knew somewhat more specifically the type of books desired and whether it is possible to get reasonably prompt transportation for them without loss, I think we could help you in that respect. I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Evans in the hope that he may have some suggestion to make as to transportation of books. With very best wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

J. L. Mott

Dean



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October 20, 1943

Mr. James Y. Chiang
Chairman
Journalism Department
Yenching University
Chengtu, Szechuan, China

My dear Mr. Chiang:

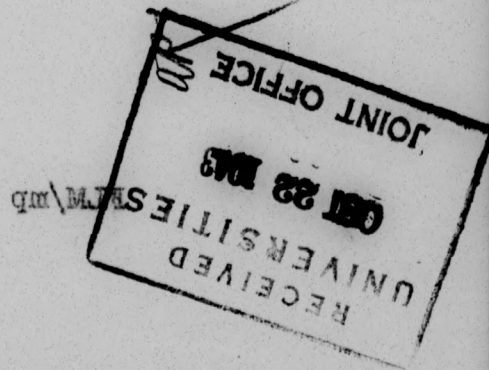
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Cordially yours,

F. J. Motte

Dean



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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
COLUMBIA

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

September 1, 1943

Ack 9/10/43

Mr. C. A. Evans
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China
150 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York

My dear Mr. Evans:

Thank you for your letter of August 16 regarding the leave of absence of Miss Edith Marken for an exchange professorship in journalism at Yenching University. It was, of course, thoroughly discouraging to us so far as this project is concerned. I was doubtless misled by President Mei's letter, and doubtless took too much for granted anyway.

I presume the "group which is now on the way to China" to which you refer is the Columbia University School of Journalism group.

Cordially yours,

F. L. Matt

Dean

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