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Speer, Margaret Bailey
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*Budget 1938-39 for Women's College Yenching. See Budgets -
Revised Yenching College for Women.*

部女學大京燕
YENCHING COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEIPING, CHINA.

Office of the Dean

January 20th, 1939.

Mr. C. A. Evans,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.,
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Evans:

Through a most regrettable oversight the statement which was supposed to send you in November about the Women's College budget was never sent. I will not waste time by apologies now, but will try to give you briefly the reasons why there was a deficit, and the differences between this budget and the one for last year.

As you observe, the budget shows a deficit of L.C. \$4980. This was caused by the following necessary increases which were greater than the increased income for this year:

Travel for Dr. Jenkins
Travel for Miss Brandt
Salary for Mrs. Chou in Physical Education (Physical Education staff this year was increased from two to three people)
An increase of \$3000 in Women's College share of power plant equipment
Increase of nearly \$900 in wages because of increased cost of living in North China
Travel and re-outfit for Miss Cochran
An increase for Miss Kramer to whom we are paying a full professor's salary
An increase in the payment to Miss Hancock who for many years did not draw her full salary, but now wishes to do so
An increase of \$1000 for the Contingent Fund

However, now that we have come to the end of the first semester we are confident that the deficit will not be as great as this, for there will be several savings which did not seem possible at the time the budget was made out. There will be a saving in Miss Kung Lan-chen's salary under the Chemistry Department, for she has had to ask for an extension of her leave of absence. There will also be an increase in income from student fees. We budgeted for fees from 250 students feeling at the time that this was a safe estimate. Actually we had 270 women students the first semester, and unless there is some extraordinary emergency within the next two or three weeks we expect to have at least 260 students next semester. Also we shall make every effort not to use the whole of the contingent fund.

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Miss Cookingham and I have been going over the Treasurer's Report for the year ending June 30, 1938, which came in a recent mail. There are several points which do not seem clear to us. Probably there is some simple explanation which you could give in a minute if we could only drop in for a chat at 150. At the top of page 2 it is stated that the total income for the Women's College from endowment, invested funds, savings accounts, and Natural Science Loan to the University, was \$4723.69. But on page 3 where the current budget for 1937-38 is compared with the budget for 1936-37 the general endowment income is given as \$3629.88. There is a difference of over \$1000 between these two figures. Could you let us know what is the cause of this? Is it possible that some of this is the fee paid to investment counsel, or is there some other reason?

Another point at which there seemed to be varying figures is in the sums expected and received from the co-operating units. On page 3 it is stated "it will be noted that co-operating unites paid their full appropriations, the main shrinkage being in the amount used from reserve funds and an increase in special gifts, etc." However, on the page headed: Yenching College for Women, Analysis of Budget 1937-38, as of June 30, 1938" the figures read:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Budget Estimate</u>	<u>Rec'd to June 30</u>	<u>Balance due</u>
W.F.M.S. of M.E. Church	1,400.00	1,386.00	14.00
American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions	2,469.33	1,833.32	636.01
Special Gifts			
Philadelphia Mission Union	200.00	-	200.00

This looks as though some of the Boards had not paid the full amount which we had expected. I notice that in the case of the W.F.M.S., and the American Board the balance due figures are the same as the figures listed as "anticipated balance" at the close of the year 1937 in the Annual Report of the Treasurer for 1936-37. Is it perhaps that these were sums due to be paid in 1936-37, but were never received? Again there was probably some simple explanation, but it does not seem to be made clear in the report.

Since funds secured for the Women's College are sometimes listed in the Treasurer's Report ~~as~~ under the heading of "special gifts", sometimes under the heading of "emergency relief funds", and sometimes under the heading of "endowment funds" it is rather difficult for us here to get a very clear picture from year to year of the actual funds raised through our promotional efforts. In the report for 1937 the number of gifts for endowment fund were listed, but there is no such list in the report for this last year. I think it would be of great interest to us if you could send us each year, or each half year in December and June, a list of the donors and the amounts for all gifts to the Women's College, with a notation of which ones have been assigned to endowment, and which have been received for the emergency fund or for special gifts. In the case of gifts of less than \$50 it might not be necessary to itemise them, but just to say "gifts totalling so much have been received in small amounts from the following people". If this does not cause too much extra work at your office we should like very much to have it, particularly since after my year at home last year I would like to keep in touch with the various donors. There may not be very much that we can do about these matters from this end, but we like to be as intelligent and well informed on all question of promotion and finance as possible.

With cordial greetings to you and Mrs. Evans, and all my friends and acquaintances in the office.

Cordially yours,
Margaret Bailey Spier

Attention of Miss Cookingham

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Excerpt from a letter to Mr. Evans from Miss Speer.

January 20, 1939

Dear Mr. Evans:

.....

Since funds secured for the Women's College are sometimes listed in the Treasurer's Report under the heading of "special gifts", sometimes under the heading of "emergency relief funds", and sometimes under the heading of "endowment funds" it is rather difficult for us here to get a clear picture from year to year of the actual funds raised through our promotional efforts. In the report for 1937 the number of gifts for endowment fund were listed, but there is no such list in the report for this last year. I think it would be of great interest to us if you could send us each year, or each half year in December and June, a list of the donors and the amounts for all gifts to the Women's College, with a notation of which ones have been assigned to endowment, and which have been received for the emergency fund or for special gifts. In the case of gifts of less than \$50 it might not be necessary to itemize them, but just to say "gifts totalling so much have been received in small amounts from the following people." If this does not cause too much extra work at your office we should like very much to have it, particularly since after my year at home last year I would like to keep in touch with the various donors. There may not be very much that we can do about these matters from this end, but we like to be as intelligent and well informed on all question of promotion and finance as possible.

.....

Cordially yours,

(Signed) Margaret Bailey Speer

Reply to above letter:-
(excerpt)

February 20, 1939

I am greatly interested in what you say regarding the list of funds secured for the Women's College budget. I was under the impression that Miss Van Sciver was furnishing you with these reports, and upon investigation find a copy of the 1937-38 list which she states was sent to you. As she is now preparing another list which bringing the contributions up to date, and as she will be writing to you in a day or two, I am asking her to cover this situation. As Miss Van Sciver is having these lists compiled periodically, there is no reason why you should not have a copy.

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INDEX

February 20, 1939

Miss Margaret B. Speer
Yenching University
Peking, China

Dear Miss Speer:

Your letter of January 20th just came to hand and it seems good to hear from you. It is most gratifying and interesting to know that the anticipated local currency deficit will probably be decreased.

In spite of your optimism, however, many things may happen between now and the close of the fiscal year, and by way of self-protection we might well keep our fingers crossed.

I am very grateful for the copy of the revised budget for the College for Women.

You call attention to some apparent discrepancies in the Treasurer's Report and upon studying same, it occurs to me that a clearer statement under the "Endowment Income" might be made or that the entire income and expenditure for the Committee included in the general accounting which, in last year's report, was scheduled on page 3. The reconciliation of the income of US\$4,723.69 is as follows:-

General Endowment Income and Insurance	\$3,689.88
For Committee Expenses in United States	861.66
Scholarships	90.85
Chamberlain Annuity	81.30
	<u>\$4,723.69</u>

The income for the Women's College expenses is from the \$20,000.00 set aside for this purpose. The scholarship income is sent out regularly to the field, and, of course, the Chamberlain annuity income is paid directly to Miss Chamberlain.

I note your reference to the income from the cooperating boards and the budget figures which we have used for the past two years most decidedly should be corrected. The WFME cut their appropriation in 1936-37 by \$14.00 to \$1,386.00, thus representing a percentage cut on their entire budget.

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Miss Margaret B. Speer

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2/20/39

The American Board deduction of \$636.00 came as a result of the understanding with the field that Mrs. De Vargas was being appointed by the American Board - therefore, the salary allowance previously paid for vacancy was withdrawn. The hope was expressed when this deduction was agreed to that it might be restored with any increase of income which the board might secure.

You will notice that in the 1938-39 budget, the anticipated income from the American Board has been reduced.

In the case of the Philadelphia Mission Union, we have carried this in our budget for, on several occasions in the past, the Foreign Missions conference sent us special funds designated from this source. However, it is linked with the Day of Prayer Offering, and at other times it has been impossible to secure any separation of the gifts as to those which came from the Philadelphia Mission Union and those from other sources. In reality it is immaterial - the Day of Prayer Offering has always run more than the total of the two items. This was not true last year, because the late payments which had been received by the Foreign Missions Conference were held until late in June and, as our emergency funds promised to round out the entire \$300,000.00, the Missionary Conference withheld payment until after the first of the year. Therefore, the current year's income shows receipts of \$183.85 which in reality should be applied to last year's income.

I am of the opinion that both the Philadelphia Mission Union and Day of Prayer Offering should be consolidated.

I am greatly interested in what you say regarding the list of funds secured for the Women's College budget. I was under the impression that Miss Van Sciver was furnishing you with these reports, and upon investigation find a copy of the 1937-38 list which she states was sent to you. As she is now preparing another list bringing the contributions up to date, and as she will be writing to you in a day or two, I am asking her to cover this situation. As Miss Van Sciver is having these lists compiled periodically, there is no reason why you should not have a copy.

Thanks for your cordial greetings. Mrs. Evans and all in the office desire to be remembered, but it is needless to say that we have you in mind more frequently than our letters indicate. Our hope is that the work may go on and that Yenching will stand as a center for Christian education to the end of time.

Most sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS.

CAR/B

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See Budgets - Yenching College for Women

部女學大京燕
YENCHING COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEIPING, CHINA.

Office of the Dean

March 15th, 1939.

Mr. C. A. Evans,
China Colleges,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y., U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Evans:

Your letter to Miss Cookingham giving the figures for our expected income for 1939-40 came two days ago. We at once attempted to draw up a budget for next year. There are many uncertainties, particularly about individual members of staff, and I am afraid we have drawn largely on our prophetic insight in making up these figures; but I realize that if we did not send you any sort of budget you will simply have to make one up yourself, so we have done our best to foresee the future.

We are exceedingly grateful to the Yenching College Committee for undertaking to raise \$2,700 in special gifts, thus making up for the expected drop in general endowment income. We are sorry that there is such a large deficit in the budget we are presenting. There are two reasons for the deficit; first, that we have included every possible increase in the budget for next year so that we would know the worst at the beginning. We have put down salaries for people in every department where we are even remotely hoping for a new person. It seems highly probable that one or more of the new women staff for whom we have budgetted will not be available in the end. In the second place, there are more items in U.S. currency than usual. You will note the number of items for furlough, travel, and outfit. Six or seven of our foreign staff are leaving us this year for furlough or permanently. It is not likely that there will ever again be quite such a drain for items of this sort all at one time. Moreover in your letter to Miss Cookingham you spoke of our sending you not only the budget, but our emergency needs for 1939-40. Since the proposed income included nothing from the Emergency Campaign we have assumed that you would be ready to consider drawing on the results of the Emergency Campaign to meet any reasonable deficit. If it should be impossible to meet this deficit in such a way we would hope that the Yenching College Committee would authorize our drawing on the ^{reserve fund} surplus as we have done occasionally in the past. You will notice that we have used the conservative rate of exchange of 3:1, and have estimated on tuition from only 250 students, although this year we had 270 the first semester and 264 second semester. I might say in passing at this point that although in our 1938-39 budget there was a deficit of \$4980 L.C. we are now practically certain that we will close the year with a much smaller deficit than that.

Perhaps I should comment on some of the new or unusual items that appear in this budget. Under the Dean's Office we have put in travel and partial furlough salary for Miss Bent who is returning to England this year. We are hoping very much that Miss Bent will come back to Yenching after a year at home. In that case we would wish to give her a full furlough salary. Under this office we have included salary for a Chinese clerk and a foreign secretary.

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C.A.E. 15/3/39 - 2

We have not yet found anyone for either of these two positions, and when we do it is likely that the salary will be much smaller than the amount we have included here.

Under the Medical Office we have included salary and travel for a foreign doctor. Actually we hope there will be no need to pay travel, for we are expecting Dr. Jenkins to return to Yenching after a year in America, and are therefore looking for a substitute here rather than expecting to get anyone from home. If someone is found on the field ^{here} will be a saving of at least U.S.\$500.

Under the Music Department we have listed salary for a new foreign music instructor to take Miss Veghte's place. We feel that such a person is ultimately desirable, but we are not at all sure that Miss Stahl will be able to find anyone to fill this position this year.

Under Home Economics we have listed not only Miss Kramer's salary, but an amount sufficient to cover her original travel from America to China and the outfit allowance that we ordinarily give to long term people when they come. When Miss Kramer came to Yenching two years ago we paid a salary but gave her no allowance for travel or outfit. Now that she is hoping to stay on at Yenching she will have to repay to Kansas State College the furlough half salary which she received from them during her first year here. We therefore feel that we should make available for her the usual travel and outfit allowances, though it is possible that she may generously refuse to avail herself of the whole amount.

Under Political Science we have listed a salary of \$200 a month for a young Chinese instructor. We are engaged in negotiations with one of our own graduates now in America whom we want to secure for this position. It is probable however that she will not be able to come until 1940, in which case this salary would be saved for this year.

Ordinarily we provide for a contingent fund of L.C.\$2000. We have listed this here as "Contingent Fund and Salary Increases" and have added U.S.\$180 and L.C.\$1080. We hope this will take care of the expected salary increases and promotions which the University Administrative Committee is now in the process of passing on.

This, I think, covers the questionable points. Miss Stahl will be able to give you further information if I have forgotten anything significant. I am sending copies of the budget and of this letter both to her and to Mrs. Parlin.

You may be interested to know that we are in the midst of negotiations asking the Presbyterian Board to appoint Dr. Jenkins as one of its representatives to fill the quota vacancy left by Miss Veghte's resignation. This has already been approved by the North China Executive Committee of the Mission, and I hope will in time be approved by the China Council and the Presbyterian Board in New York. Dr. Jenkins is expecting to go to America this year for some special work in tuberculosis prevention. During that time she would receive no salary from us.

Miss Cookingham and I have discussed the unusual demands which

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furloughs are making on this year's budget, and feel that in the future it might be wise for us to set up a furlough equalisation fund, or something of the sort to distribute such charges more equally over a longer period of years.

I hope this material will reach you by the middle of April as you wished. We have done our best to send this off to you within 48 hours of the receipt of your letter to Miss Cookingham, and since the budget not only had to be drawn up, but has been approved by the Women's College Executive Committee and the University Administrative Committee we feel this is quite a feat.

With cordial greetings to you and all other friends in the office.

Very sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer
Margaret Bailey Speer

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部女學大京燕
YENCHING COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEIPING, CHINA.

Office of the Dean

April 14th, 1939.

Mrs. C. C. Parlin,
28 Depeyster Avenue,
Tenafly, N.Y.,
U.S.A.

Dear Miriam:

This copy of our budget for next year, and enclosed letter for Mr. Evans were prepared some time ago, but unfortunately were not sent off promptly. The later copy of the University budget which Mr. Tsai sent to the Trustees gives a slightly different version for the Women's College from this one. This one, however, is really more correct, and is the one that will be used. This also has a smaller deficit which is something to be thankful for. Any deficit is so dependent on the rate of exchange that is used that I do not feel very much troubled by the apparent discrepancy between income and expenditures. You will notice that we have still been sticking to the conservative rate of exchange of 5:1. We all feel that it is better to use that as the official rate in budget making since there is no possibility of knowing what the Government will succeed in doing in the way of currency regulations. However, the present rate is more than 6:1, and if we should use that rate the deficit would be wiped out, and there would be a small surplus. Whatever rate of exchange is approved by the Trustees for the University is the one that we should follow with the Women's College. My letter to Mr. Evans explains other points at which some saving will be possible.

We have recently had word that one of our graduates, Chen Feng-chih, who is now at Bryn Mawr, will be ready to return this summer, and we have invited her to come as instructor in Political Science. She is a very able young woman, and I hope that before she leaves America some of the Members of the Yenching College Committee may be able to meet her. Her address is Miss Agnes Chen, Radnor Hall, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. I think it will be possible for her to arrange to go to New York some time in June if there were a time when you could meet her.

I hope too you will have a chance to see Mary Cookingham. Her departure two weeks ago was very sudden. On her last furlough she very generously came back to the University five months early on Dr. Stuart's special request. She has not been able to get a rest of any sort since the incident of July 1937, and these last few months she has been so extremely tired that Dr. Jenkins advised an immediate short health leave. We therefore voted to give her the five months furlough salary which she had not taken four years ago, and she packed up and left on the Empress of Asia within ten days after the decision was made. She will probably be in New York in June or July, and we hope will be returning with Ruth Stahl in August. She said she would notify the New York office of her whereabouts, so that she can be reached through them. She was not sure at the time of leaving which friends or relatives she would be staying with.

C.C.P. 14/31/1939 - 2

[The campus is more beautiful this year than it has ever been. Perhaps we say that every year, but each year it is true. ~~As one looks.~~ As one looks at the fairyland of blossoming shrubs and flowers now it seems incredible that thirteen years ago the campus was almost a bare waste with only a few old trees and hardly any other green growing things but weeds.

read
The event of this past week has been the celebration for Miss Hancock's sixtieth birthday. No doubt the writer of the next fortnightly letter will describe this so I shall not go into detail, but it was lovely to see the spontaneous evidences of universal affection for Miss Hancock.

The fortnightly letter also will tell of the series of beautiful Easter services. Christmas and Easter are the high points of the Yearning year, and this year the services were all crowded.

I hope everything is going well with you. We are hoping that things will go on calmly here for the next few months. The President is away, and we are holding our breath that there may be no emergency before his return.

Affectionately yours,

Margaret Bailey Spear

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April 15, 1939

Miss Margaret B. Speer
Yenching University
Peking, China

Dear Miss Speer:

I thought you might be interested in a rather prominent reference given to your name at the Westchester Presbyterial meeting in Pelham last Wednesday.

Dr. Robert McGregor, Pastor of the North Avenue Presbyterian Church, was asked by Mrs. Evans who is Presbyterial President to conduct the closing brief services of consecration. He alluded to the invitation extended to you to continue to take up secretarial work here in America and of your final decision to return to China -- using it as an illustration that followers of Christ are often faced with the problem of making decisions as to where their lives may be most effectively used.

As you know Dr. McGregor has a wonderfully fine spiritual way of handling situations of this sort, and it made a tremendous impression upon the gathering of nearly six hundred women of Westchester and Putnam Counties.

We all think of you so often as carrying on under the circumstances which are anything but ideal and pray that the good Lord will grant wisdom and understanding that out of these problems will emerge a new day for all of our Christian educational institutions in China.

Most sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

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April 19, 1939

Miss Margaret B. Speer
Yenching University
Peking, China

Dear Miss Speer:

I am grateful for your letter of March 15th enclosing the 1939-40 budget for the Yenching College for Women. First of all, I want to thank you for the splendid response to our appeal, as we realize you have sacrificed a great deal to get these figures to us on time.

A great deal of faith must be taken into consideration covering any action on budgets for 1939-40. We are all anxiously working and praying for the success of this year's effort, but even in that event there are appearances that there must be considerable modification in next year's askings.

As you have set your budget up on a 3 to 1 basis, it is quite possible that there will be some considerable gain in exchange, although no one knows what the trend will be under possible change of circumstances.

We note the various comments under the different headings and these remarks will be passed on to members of the Budget Committee.

I understand that the Presbyterian Board is considering the appointment of Dr. Jenkins on the Yenching faculty and it seems there will be nothing in the way of making this appointment at the proper time.

Again with sincerest thanks for your assistance, I remain

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

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部女學大京燕
YENCHING COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEIPING, CHINA.

Office of the Dean

INDEX
April 27th, 1939.

Mr. C. A. Evans,
The China Colleges,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y., U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Evans:

One of our Yenching alumnae, Miss Chen Fang-chih (Agnes Chen) who is now a graduate student at Bryn Mawr, has been appointed as an instructor in our Department of Political Science for next year. She will be returning to China this summer, and needs some financial help towards her travelling expenses. The University Administrative Committee has approved of a grant of L.C.\$300 toward her travel, which is to be paid from the Women's College budget. We would also like to lend her without interest a sufficient sum to cover the remainder of her travelling expenses. I have asked her to get in touch with you, and shall appreciate it if you will help with steamer tickets and other arrangements. Her address is Radnor Hall, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

Miss Chen's salary is to be L.C.\$140 per month, beginning July 1st. If she should need any advance on her July or August salary I am sure you could arrange to do it.

Very sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer
Margaret Bailey Speer

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3 May 1939

Dear Miss Speer:

The material which you sent by Miss Cookingham under date of March 28 reached me in Detroit three days ago. I am now en route to New York, where I shall be more nearly stable during the next two months. Your sharing of Yenching news has come at just the right time, and it will be of definite assistance in our work of the spring and our conferences of the Yenching Committees.

The scroll of which you write is very likely already safely arrived in New York. I wrote immediately to Miss Van Sciver to let her know of its approach, and we will exert our best efforts to see that it serves every possible good end while it is in our hands on loan. It should go back to you with either Miss Cookingham or Miss Cochran.

If I am able to lay my hands on a copy of a Rochester newspaper supposed to record my chance meeting with Mary Ferguson here yesterday, I will send the clipping for your entertainment! Mary and I enjoyed running into each other, and were much amused that the good fortune came through the efforts of a newspaper scout who scans the hotel registers. We were both in town for a few hours only. The Gannett newspapers are a very alert organization, as you know.

During the half hour's talk which I had with Mary yesterday, she added to the keen and wise observations she had already made for my enlightenment in our conversations in Boston. It is splendid to have her show such fine appreciation of the China situation, and for her to see so clearly the value of the various phases of the present life of the Chinese Republic, which are at least three: (1) that in Free China, (2) that of the semi-isolated areas of Chinese independence within the penetrated territory, and (3) that of the Chinese population living in Peking and other centers where life is - - as it is! Particularly do I take satisfaction in remembering Mary's statements of enthusiastic respect for the qualities of character which are being developed by the necessarily disciplined living in which you at present share.

For your own confidential information, I am making an observation which is probably unnecessary, namely, that the embarrassment of Dr. Ferguson's statements while in this country has more than kept pace with the comfort and satisfaction which Mary has given. The pattern of his experience and interests is so extremely complicated that one has no difficulty in prophesying the nature of its impact on present issues. It had meant, of course, the expenditure of a good deal of time in explanation to those who have been puzzled in listening to him.

Mary Ferguson referred with keen pleasure to having seen your mother shortly before she left New York.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan

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May 31, 1939

Miss Margaret B. Speer
Yenching University
Peking, China

Dear Miss Speer:

Your letter of April 27th regarding Agnes Chen is at hand. She has been in communication with us and we have been trying to secure sailings, but up to Monday we had no assurance that there was any chance of her going. I believe it is through illness in a family having reservations that one berth has been given up which I have claimed for Miss Chen on the "Empress of Japan" sailing August 5th. Miss Chen will be here in New York within the next few days and I will take up with her personally the method of taking care of the transportation. I will let you know if any difficulty develops regarding Miss Chen's sailings and also what arrangements we have made with her regarding finances.

We are looking forward to the Yenching College Committee meeting next Tuesday and will be thinking of you.

At that time we hope that out of that meeting and that of the University will come some constructive action both for the benefit of the University and China.

Mrs. Finley has kindly invited members of the Committee and friends to luncheon at her home on Tuesday. She has been going through a tremendous strain during this past year and now has great cause for thanksgiving in that Dr. Finley has recovered and is again carrying on.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

INDEXED

June 24, 1939

Miss Margaret B. Spear
Yenching University
Peking, China

Dear Miss Spear:

The new appointee for physical education, Miss Ann Gertrude Jacobs, leaves New York this afternoon for the West and will sail from Los Angeles on the "President Taft" July 10th and stay over in Honolulu until the "President Cleveland" on August 2nd. She will transfer at Kobe to the O. S. K. Line and we are pressing the steamship companies here to secure a reservation for her. Up to date we have not succeeded. We have made the following advances to her:-

\$ 50.00 for outfit allowance.
75.00 advance on salary.
180.75 steamship reservation.
56.78 railroad ticket and pullman.
4.00 clergy certificates.
10.00 Chinese Visa.
123.49 cash.
\$500.00

We are giving her a letter to the American Express at Kobe authorizing the Company to communicate with the University Treasurer in case she finds herself in need of funds or instructions. We have also made a reservation for the Hotel Pleasonton at Kobe. She will have three pieces of freight coming through which have been shipped by the Methodist Board. Adjustments will be made with her on the field. Copy of the contract is enclosed herewith.

You will note that we have been evasive about the salary, but it is our understanding that the amount set up in the budget is the figure which will be available for her, provided that is a livable salary. Of course, that situation is entirely in your hands.

We are wondering what the outcome of the present financial will be and await from day to day for new developments.

Best cordially yours,

CAE/B
c.c. to Mr. Tsai

C. A. EVANS

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150 Fifth Avenue
New York New York
10 July 1939

Dear Miss Speer:

Reasons for saying thank you have accumulated until I shall be quite unable to do justice to all your fine help this year. No one could have stood by better than you have, and our competence in dealing with possible contributors has been proportionately increased. Both the quality and the quantity of the information we have been receiving from the Yenching campus has been better than ever before. Now that Mr. Mead's photographs are actually at hand, we feel rich indeed.

As I have thought of writing this letter, I have realized it should have its note of constructive suggestion as well as its preponderant note of gratitude. If your colleagues can, in future, work toward supplying just as much information along personal, social, and religious lines as they have this year, and develop also something of the atmosphere of the educational pages of the Sunday New York Times, we would have nothing left to desire. By that I mean the reporting of actual classroom activities and results, both usual and unique. The best of our American institutions have long ago learned to do this, and it pays fine dividends in wider understanding and more secure support. How much more does an educational project in China need to prove itself productive along those lines for which our schools and colleges are maintained?

I believe the minutes of the Women's Committee have not yet gone forward to you; Mrs. Parlin was rushed in making the move from New Jersey to the country and could not do the necessary work before she left. You may know, however, that the Committee courageously tackled the problem of completing the endowment, resolving to raise at least half of the balance by June, 1940. I have suggested to Mr. Garside that a sub-committee of the Committee on Promotion should be constituted for this task, but he does not share my conviction on this point, possibly for the very good reason that he hopes Mrs. Moore will keep it as an integral part of her function. One of my reasons for suggesting a sub-committee is that Mrs. Moore's most vital interest is in the development of the very large and important Wellesley project, and I fear that it is not reasonable to expect her to devote the necessary time and attention to the endowment gifts, whose cultivation is a full sized task in itself.

The progress in the Wellesley-Yenching field has been very encouraging. Mrs. Moore has established a satisfactory agreement with the officers of the Wellesley Alumnae Association, and the stage is set for the actual organization of a Wellesley-Yenching Committee. Just before Mrs. Moore went up for her reunion in June, we launched the idea of a yearly gift of \$5,000 for the next five years to support an adequate participation of the Women's College in the School of Public Affairs. We already have Miss Stimson's pledge of \$500 for each of

Miss Margaret B. Spear

- 2 -

10 July 1939

the five years, and are in process of talking with others on the basis of from \$500 to \$1,000 yearly. Will you let me know whether you now have a candidate available as a woman appointee on this faculty, and whether the Women's College wishes to move forward toward completing such an appointment for 1939-40? The immediacy of your interest and desire on this point will naturally have a bearing upon our promotional work of the next two months.

Sincerely yours,

EDM:am

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan

Miss Margaret B. Spear
Yenching University
Peiping China

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13 July 1939

Dear Miss Speer:

In my letter of July 10, I referred to the beginnings of a plan for a \$5,000. yearly contribution for the next five years from Wellesley friends. You will also have my inquiry as to the interest of the Yenching Women's College in making an immediate reality the first appointment on the proceeds of this plan. Your reply to this question has an important bearing upon our conversations with one of our finest friends, Miss Kate Andrews of Rochester, who is Wellesley 1887. Miss Andrews is able to give generously, but she has long been in intimate touch with the work in China, and she is inclined to question ~~the~~ in the present urgent circumstances - such a plan as Mrs. Moore's committee has drawn up is of primary importance. We have, of course, vigorous statements to hand, but it will be of help to us also to have your comments after you have received our letters of this week.

Sincerely yours,

EDM:am

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan

Miss Margaret D. Speer
Yenching University
Peiping China

1181

C
O
P
Y

20 Sacramento St.
Cambridge, Mass.
July 31, 1939

Dear Mr. Evans,

Needless to say this letter must be a shocking disappointment to you. My sense of judgment is so numb that I can only say I deeply deplore the whole situation. Thank you for more than I can express for all that you have done for me. I alone am responsible for all the inconveniences that you have incurred.

I regret beyond words that time has not permitted me to explain the whole situation to you. Before long I shall write to Miss Speer and shall send you a copy of the letter from which I hope you could derive some idea of my trouble, of my sitting here and writing to you instead of setting out on my journey to China.

When I sent you the first telegram, I could not explain to you what notes I meant that were so important to me. To simplify in a few words, I accepted the Yenching job with full expectation of finishing my thesis over here. It is not done owing firstly, the sudden departure of my professor to Europe and his having to go to Washington to testify many times about the neutrality law which made him cancel all his appointments with me; secondly, my having been ill with heart attacks due to a sunstroke which rendered me unfit for work for over two weeks. Various other sundry events came up as other upsets.

The only hope for me to return would be to bring my thesis into China. It is on China and international law. All chapters except one will not pass the Japanese censorship. I write in sections and have to have the whole thing in order to finish the whole thing. It is not those notes that Miss Cochran has of mine, but those that I was going to ask her to bring but had not yet given her, that were the most important. The cards she sent back to me were not of primary importance. I had no time to recopy the numerous sections that were to be most of my thesis. I have to take an exam on the thesis after submitted. All this time I have been in touch with Bryn Mawr. They naturally preferred that I have some definite reply from Yenching. Day before yesterday I received the fourth letter from home literally forbidding me to return. I relayed the news to Bryn Mawr. It was decided that unless I heard from Yenching I should stay back.

If the whole situation is a nightmare to me, how much more of a confusion it must appear to you. Words fail me and I feel devoid of expression. Now, that I am staying, there is another big business mess to bother you.

I am returning you herewith 2 tickets (steamship and train), 2 letters of introduction, and a check of \$25. As soon as I have my account straightened with the bank, I shall refund the rest of the \$100 which you advanced me. As to the tickets, I hope they could be returned somehow to the traveling agents or companies. Kindly let me know of any discount or other obligation incurred thereof.

I cannot get over the fact that so tremendous an amount of your work, time and energy is being wasted on me. I do not plead, nor give any excuse, and as a matter of fact do not even know what to say to myself. All that I shall do will be to report the facts of the case to Yenching, I deserve whatever judgment that may be passed upon me.

1182

To you personally I again express my highest appreciation and gratefulness for all that you have done for me. For the loss of your time and work I wish there could be some means of making up. I offer you my profoundest apology, and regard the affair as a ghastly incident.

Yours most regretfully,

/s/ Agnes Chen

Agnes Chen.

August 1, 1939

Miss Margaret B. Speer
Yenching University
Peking, China

Dear Miss Speer:

I have just finished a note to Miss Anne Cochran who is returning on the "Empress of Japan" sailing August 5th and have notified the field accordingly. At the same time a cable informs the field that Agnes Chen is not coming out. A copy of her letter, dated on the day she was supposed to leave Boston, is enclosed.

It is apparent that Bryn Mawr has been negotiating with Miss Chen relative to remaining in this country next year. A week ago a telegram from the College was received asking if we could provide \$500.00 scholarship if Bryn Mawr would furnish \$450.00. This came from Eunice N. Schenick, Dean of the Graduate School. As we had no funds available, and as Miss Chen was supposed to ship her trunks the following day, we did not follow it through excepting to write Miss Schenick that it would be necessary to refer the matter to the field, and it would be our judgment that no funds would be available.

Yielding to my pressure that Miss Chen return she authorized me to send on her tickets and this morning they were returned. I hate to say it, but to my mind Miss Chen did not wish to go back into North China. I will, however, conclude our correspondence with as good grace as a Chinese would do, as apparently the lady is very much chagrined at what she is doing.

On the whole, possibly it is just as well that we found this out before her sailing. It would be tragic to have her arrive in China and have her find that she would be fearful of every new development.

With sincerest best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B
ENC.

Via Air Mail to Pacific Coast -
"Empress of Japan"

1184

August 3, 1939

Miss Margaret B. Speer
Yenching University
Peking, China

Dear Miss Speer:

Mrs. Parlin just sent me a day or two ago a draft of the annual meeting minutes asking me to add the financial items.

The budget figures as reported in the 1938-39 report shows the American Board as contributing \$1833.32, but the action was passed subject to confirmation of the proposed figures as included from cooperating boards. When this word came through from Boston, it showed a total figure for 1939-40 of \$862.50 which is nearly a thousand dollar cut.

In view of the action of the Committee, we have not made any arrangements for making up the difference because of the cut from the American Board. It would seem wise for the present to let it stand. Early in September when I get back in the office again and when the fall work is in full force, I am going to write a letter to the American Board asking why this drastic change. We would not get any results now as only a skelton organization is in their office. It also leaves the way open for you to write by saying the budget has been cut by \$970.82.

Between us the Women's College has a surplus account of \$9,149.33. Then we have paid over to you all the emergency funds which we have received during the current year and there are possibilities of your having a balance in China.

If you have any desire to write to the American Board, you surely have my blessing.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

1185

August 7, 1939

Miss Margaret B. Speer
Yenching University
Peking, China

Dear Miss Speer:

Your cable came to hand this morning as follows:-

"HOPE CHEN RAPID RECOVERY RETURN SOON SPEER"

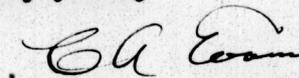
The illness which kept Miss Chen from going to Yenching is the thing which cannot be very readily overcome. I had in mind to write more in the first cable, but decided it would be best not to. This lady is exceedingly timid to the point of having a very serious inferiority complex. Three things have influenced her.

Apparently her people have been urging her not to return to China.

Bryn Mawr is offering her part of scholarship for next year, and which considerably upset her. I would not be surprised if arrangements were made for her to go back there.

The third thing was that she had not finished up her thesis and one might conclude that she found people around Cambridge too interesting for her to put as much time as is necessary into the work to complete it. Another factor was what "friends" had told her around Boston. She intimated that they warned her not to return to China, especially in occupied areas. Coupled with that and her native fear and lack of courage, you have the whole story. Personally, I would recommend that she be not asked to return to North China.

Very truly yours,



C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

1186

部女學大京燕
YENCHING COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEIPING, CHINA.

Office of the Dean

August 11, 1939

Dear Mrs. Macmillan,

We are trying to collect for you all the information we have about Yenching graduates who are going to America this summer. Dr. Lin, our Director of Studies, is writing to you about our men students. I would like to tell you what I can about some of the women. It is quite hard to keep track of all the alumnae who go to America, for often they change their plans after they have communicated with us. However, here is some data on six women who will probably be in America by fall.

✓ Nancy Chou (Chou Nien-tze) has gone to Wellesley on a scholarship for graduate work in English literature. She is a most vivacious and active girl, a granddaughter of Liang Ch'i-ch'ao. She will make a good ambassadress of China wherever she goes and should be an excellent person to meet student groups in and around Boston.

✓ Dr. Kung Lan-chen (Mrs. Hsü P'eng-ch'eng) has gone to Detroit on a research grant from the Children's Fund of Michigan. She will be doing work in children's nutrition. Her husband has gone to Cornell for work in chemistry. Dr. Kung did some of her undergraduate work in Yenching and then went to America for study at Oregon and Columbia. For about six years she has been on our faculty, teaching home economics and chemistry. She is a first-rate scientist but sometimes a little prickly in social relationships.

✓ Mabel Ch'en (Mrs. Wang Jun-ch'uan) has gone with her husband to the University of Minnesota. Unlike Dr. Kung, she uses her married name, but I am not sure whether her husband will be known in America as Wang Jun-ch'uan or as Teddy Wang. Both of them came from Honolulu to Yenching for undergraduate work. Last year Teddy was an instructor in our Department of Physics. Mabel is a protege of Miss Elizabeth Matthews of Cincinnati, who is on our prospect list.

You will find these three the most useful propagandists for the China Colleges, but since you want to keep in touch with all Yenching students in America, I should give you the names of three more. Liu Ping-sheng, after a year as assistant in our Department of Physical Education, has gone to Louisiana State University. Chi Ya-cha says she is going to Harvard. That sounds to me impossible; perhaps it is Radcliffe. Nan Ying-chen, who has just finished her sophomore year here, has applied to both Oberlin and Willamette. I think there is more chance of her being accepted by the latter. These three are not shining lights.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer
Margaret Bailey Speer

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan
150 Fifth Avenue
New York

Sept. 7, 1939

Miss Margaret B. Speer
Yenching University
Peking, China

Dear Miss Speer:

Miss Cookingham has asked me if a copy of her health report was sent to the field at the same time she received her copy. Upon investigation I find that this was not done, and neither do I find here a covering letter written dealing with the cable of July 8th. In neither case, however, does it appear that this could seriously affect the situation.

You will note the emphasis which the doctor places upon the nervous condition, but before accepting his recommendation or passing it on to Miss Cookingham I took occasion to have a long talk with him with the hope that he would be willing to modify his recommendation, say after a short rest period. He was most emphatic, however, in his conclusion that a few weeks of rest could not possibly accomplish what a prolonged absence from prevailing conditions would accomplish.

Of course, the situation in China is making the medical profession especially careful in any recommendations regarding the return of staff members and missionaries. Even if direct hostilities and open warfare are not imminent, the thought is that the strain of the situation, in many cases, is too acute to warrant taking the chances.

You will note that the report does not stress any organic trouble, but those things which were discovered in the examination presumably will be corrected after a restful period under normal conditions. I would even recommend to Miss Cookingham that she accept a position for a period in congenial surroundings which would occupy her time, on condition, of course, that it would not be too much of a physical strain.

I hope to see Miss Cookingham within a few days and trust to see that the summer has been of beneficial effect. Personally I have felt the need of a complete rest from the pressure of things, but after getting away from the office I was still more restless and anxious to get back into the turmoil of the situation. I find that upon my return I am more content than at any time during the last three weeks, even though I had kept closely in touch with the foreign situation.

Conditions throughout the world today are taking a nervous toll of people

Miss Speer

- 2 -

9/7/39

which I do not recall even in World War days.

With sincerest best wishes, I remain

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

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部女學大京燕
YENCHING COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEIPING, CHINA.

Office of the Dean

November 13, 1939.

Dear Mrs. Macmillan,

It is about time to send you another list of recent visitors to Yenching. We do not have as many travellers as we used to have, but there have been a few who have been on the campus since early summer who might be glad to be kept in touch with Yenching later on.

St. Miss Emily B. Tracy, 516 West Coulter St. Germantown, Philadelphia. Miss Tracy has a sister who is a missionary in Japan and the family lived for a long time in Plainfield, so that they knew the Cochrans.

Dr. Lloyd S. Ruland, Secretary of the Presbyterian Board, was here for a day. I suppose he is automatically on your list anyway.

Some other Presbyterian visitors were Dr. and Mrs. W.L. Caughey. He was formerly the pastor of the church in Glens Falls which has supported the Wolferzes and is now temporarily the pastor of the Community Church in Shanghai.

Miss Joy Homer, who has been in China writing publicity reports for the Church Community on China Relief, was here last month with her fiance, Mr. William Dörflinger. They are both very alive young people and were greatly taken with Yenching. He could be reached through Macmillan, who is publishing a book of his, and she through the Church Committee.

Mrs. S. E. Sadler of Cincinnati came with her sister, Mrs. Hannaford who is a missionary in Japan. Mrs. Sadler's address is Bryant Avenue, Cincinnati. I am sorry I do not know the number, but it is probably in the telephone book. She is a person of moderate means and great enthusiasm.

Y.M. Mrs. Frederick B. Fisher of Hingham, Massachusetts came for a night on her way back to America after several months in India and a month in Chungking.

*now
B. Sadler
from
see list*

Dr. Fisher

You know her, of course -- formerly Miss Welthy Honsinger, widow of Bishop Fisher. She is doubtless on all the China Colleges lists but she ought to be particularly interested in Yenching since she is an old friend of Fredericka Giang Li and Miss Gouldy.

copy to H. H. H. ✓
Professor and Mrs. John E. Orchard of the Columbia School of Business were here for a few hours in the summer. They are both authorities on industrial conditions in the Orient and should be kept in touch with the doings of the College of Public Affairs. That completes my list for the moment. I will send you another accumulation of names in the Spring. *C. A.*

Early in the summer we sent you the names of some Yenching students going to America. Of these Miss Nan Ying-chen failed to go, and two more should be added: Carl Shoemaker who took her freshman year here is now at Vassar and Ruth Evans who finished two years here is at The University of California.

I am just sending Miss Van Sciver some changes in the mailing list for our Fortnightly Letters with some comments on members of our faculty who are in America this year.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer
Margaret Bailey Speer

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan
The China Colleges
150 Fifth Avenue
New York
United States of America

Some photographs enclosed.

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部女學大京燕
YENCHING COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEIPING, CHINA.

Office of the Dean

November 14, 1939.

Dear Miss Van Sciver,

My hands have been full during the last few months and I have postponed writing to you much longer than I should have. Thank you very much for your letter of ~~August~~ August 13th and for the complete list of donors and prospects for the Women's College. Here are a few comments on names or addresses which I think need corrections. On the donor's list: Miss Margaret I. Hayes is no longer at Wellesley but is here as my secretary and assistant. On the prospects' list: Mrs. Bluett~~s~~ should be addressed at Finglas Vicarage, County Dublin. Finglas is the name of the Vicarage, not of her husband! Mrs. ~~W.D. Gregory~~ of Minneapolis died a few months ago. Mrs. Nelson T. Johnson, as you probably know, is already back here in Peking. Miss Ruth Stahl is on her way back. I am enclosing a list of a few addresses to which we sent letters last year but from which mail was returned to us unclaimed.

I think we are now all straightened^{out} on the lists, but perhaps there is one more point on which I need straightening out. The two lists you have sent us lately covered first, donors from July 1, 1938 to June 30, 1939, and second, prospects. We have on our files here names of other donors whose last gifts were given some years ago. I assume that most of these are still good prospects and could sometime be approached again. We also have a number of names of people who were never contributors, which are not on this new list of prospects of August 1939. I shall not bother you with all these names now but will give a few samples.

Mrs. E. Adcock
1000 Lake Shore Boulevard,
Evanston,
Illinois,
U.S.A.

Mrs. Harry W. Allen
205 North Taylor Avenue
Oak Park
Illinois
U.S.A.

Mrs. J.W. Allen
175 North Taylor Avenue
Oak Park
Illinois
U.S.A.

Mrs. A. G. Beebe
401 Forest Avenue
Oak Park
Illinois
U.S.A.

Mrs. O.P. Bell
2051 Norwalk
Eagle Rock
California
U.S.A.

Perhaps these are all deadwood and have been cut off your list for some purpose. I am not sure that it makes much difference to us at the moment since we can not possibly send letters to all these people, just now anyway, except for a Christmas greeting to those who have contributed during the past year.

During the summer you sent us corrections of our faculty "Fortnightly" addresses. There are some more which should be noted now. Miss Margaret Waller's address is continuedly listed as Bloomsbury but I feel sure that it is Bloomsburg. The U.S. Post Office will probably get the letter there anyway. Miss Mary Chamberlain's address in Wellesley continues to ~~be~~ alternate back and forth from 9 Appleby Road to 11A Appleby Road. I do not know which is right. Again, I think it doesn't matter much. The same is true of Mrs. F.J. Hall and her two addresses of 4 Jenks St. Brookville and 14 Beaumont Avenue, Catonsville. Miss Eleanor Lee Waddell still lives in Mill Valley, California but her street address is 7 Elms St. (or maybe it is Elma; I can never read her handwriting.) Miss Gwladys Wood has a new street address: 42 Gikkas Crescent, Dulwich Village, London, S.E. 21, England. Miss Katherine Cherry's address is Corbeg, Delgany, County Wicklow, Ireland. That is all for corrections. Now for additions to our last year's list. These are either people who have just gone on furlough this year or who have been in America for several years but had somehow been left out of our list. Mrs. Laurence Mead and Miss Cookingham you of course have thought of. There are four of our British faculty who are in England and will welcome every bit of news of the China Colleges. Miss Dora M.L. Bent, 49 Austin Avenue, Lilliput, Parkstone, Dorsetshire; Miss E.M. Hancock, 5 Brampton Road, Stockport, Cheshire; Miss L.M. Burt, 22 St. Paul's Road, Gloucester; and Miss Myfanwy Wood who can be best reached, c/o The London Missionary Society, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. 1, England. Two other members of our faculty now in America are Dr. M. Elizabeth Jenkins, c/o Dr. Kazuo Togasaki, 1848 Buchanan St., San Francisco and Miss Mary Brandt who has many addresses and plans that I do not know which to suggest. She can probably best be reached at 507 West Pine St. Florence, South Carolina. Other people on our list are former staff members; Miss Fang Chi and Miss Nancy Chou both at Wellesley; Mrs. Wang Jun-chuan, c/o Department of Physics,

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; Miss Kung Lan-chen, Merrill-Palmer School, 41 Ferry Street, Detroit; Miss Hsu Ching-yi, Mills College, California; Mrs. Kenneth Chun, Department of Chinese, University of Hawaii, Honolulu.

Another member of the Yenching faculty, though not of the Women's College, who should be kept in touch with all that is going on, is Mr. L.R.O. Bevan, 18 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield, S.E. 8, Melbourne, Australia.

And by the way, another person who should be on our prospect list is Mrs. George Johnson, the new headmistress of Dana Hall, Wellesley. Mrs. Johnson was formerly Miss Alnah James and though it is many years since she was in China she still has many friends here and should be able to interest her students in Yenching.

President Stuart tells me he is not going to send out a Christmas letter this year but I am still hoping that we can get one out from the Women's College before it is too late. I will send you a copy of course.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to you all in the office.

Ever sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

Margaret Bailey Speer

Miss Elivena Van Sciver
150 Fifth Avenue, New York

Please forgive untidy typing. I miss Miss Bent's secretarial assistance very much. Miss Hays cannot take dictation and my Chinese stenographer is rather weak in grammar, spelling, English, & typing!!!

20 November 1939

Dear Miss Speer:

Your letter to the Fortnightly Friends, dated "sometime before the middle of October" and Wu Liang Ssu-chuang's of September 30 have found a very warm welcome. As a matter of fact, we knew very well that you all must be completely buried under the work of beginning a year with such a large enrollment and so many of your regular faculty members absent. The only really big fly in the ointment at present is that we have not had your reply on the matter of the proposed Wellesley Professorship, which you should have received many weeks ago. We may have received it by cable before you receive this letter. Mrs. Moore has been delaying some of her important approaches to possible donors until we had a confirmation of your interest in this professorship and the possibility of its being put to immediate use.

The Women's College Committee has made some very heroic resolutions in regard to the completion of the Endowment Fund and some slight progress has been made toward the actual beginning of the year's campaign. The engine needs a little more steam to get it really on the tracks, but I believe you would feel more encouraged with the general atmosphere than you did two years ago. The Committee holds its third meeting this week Tuesday, and I will write you more fully after that has been held. There is more than one reason why the Committee is willing to embark upon an endowment plan even in these sad days. One of the reasons is Mr. McBrier's very evident desire to have this fund completed and his willingness to help with it, but I believe a reason which is even deeper is the interest which people in this country have to fasten their attention upon work which has long-term promise, such as Yenching is acknowledged to possess.

When John Hayes was in this country, he and I had a long talk about the possibility of his sending us reports and pictures of projects in which he has the help of Yenching boys and girls. If there is other work going on of the type he contemplated on his return, will you not remind him of his promise?

If tomorrow is not too stormy a day, I am going to try to stop in Lakeville and greet whatever members of your family may be at home. I am having to make an unexpected trip to Smith College to confer on the matter of their Campus Chest.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan

EBM:e

Miss Margaret B. Speer
Yenching University
Peiping
China



Yenching University
Peking, China
November 20, 1939

Dear Friends and Relations,

This is always a breathless time of year. Christmas suddenly seems very near and one realizes that, in spite of all one's good intentions, one has missed the last mail that can possibly get letters across the Pacific in time for Christmas or even New Year's Day, and one determines to address the envelopes at top speed and yet it is impossible to let this one or that one go without an additional note and in the end only about half of them get off after all. So this year, because I'm late and even though I'm late, here is a semi-letter that will tell you some of the things about the past year that I would like to be writing to each one of you.

You will all realize that there are lots of things that cannot be said. There is no use talking about the European war to you who are so much closer to it than we are here. Here we are spared the strain on nerves of too much news that isn't really news and of breathless radio announcers piling up the suspense, and we are cut off from much information that would make vivid the changed details of daily life in Europe. But on the other hand we do not need the radio or the newsreels to tell us what bombings and evacuations mean to the men and women and children who endure them, because we have been having first hand accounts of that for more than two years.

And there is no use talking about some of the things that keep life from being idyllic even on this lovely campus where we live in comfort and are still able to go on with our work without interruption. There is no use talking about general hopes or fears for the future, for it's safe to assume that this part of the world gets in the news now and then and you can supply the background.

A log of the past year is not very exciting. As I look over my calendar I find little but notes of classes and committee meetings and the innocent sociabilities of a college campus, and yet perhaps a few jottings about the passing months will give you a better idea of Yenching life than vague generalities about Christian education in China, and the very fact that life goes on quietly will show you that our job now is not a spectacular one of dealing with crises but just a slow and steady building up and hanging on.

January: The year begins as usual with the Yenching tradition of the faculty gathering in the President's living room to stand in a circle and make three bows to each other, a custom tempering Chinese formality with Western hilarity. Winter vacation brings a respite from classes but no journeyings other than to Peking.

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February: The second semester begins with the unheard of phenomenon of the women's dormitories being just as full as during the first semester, in spite of the fact that some of the seniors have finished their course and some have gone to live in the Home Management House. Chinese New Year, celebrated by the arrival of freight boxes sent from Lakeville last July. Begin talking to the seniors about their plans for jobs after graduation.

March: Committee meetings about the university budget, and discussion groups to hear reports of the Peking delegates returned from the Madras Conference. The problem of fertilizer for the garden solved by the necessity of digging up the septic tank which is unfortunately almost directly beneath our cherished grape arbor and asparagus bed. Augusta and I go to Tientsin to visit middle schools and come back more thankful than ever for the beauty and space of the Yen-ching campus.

April: Easter, with the beautiful outdoor services that have become the high spots of Yen-ching tradition. Spring vacation and a five day trip to Peitaiho where the beauty of the newly ploughed fields and the sea in the spring sunshine make up for the inconveniences of travelling for eight hours in a jam rivalling the subway rush.

May: A month of minor excitements; concern over a student who became mentally unbalanced; visits to Peking middle schools; Mission Meeting; awarding scholarships; and getting exercise in the garden picking strawberries and trying to keep ahead of the weeds. Our narrow horizons enlarged by the arrival of our Women's College doctor, a refugee from Vienna, with her blind mother. Yen-ching is a haven for them but what about thousands of others?

June: Of course Commencement—a nice cool gray day after several weeks of broiling summer heat. Almost all the seniors going to useful positions. An unprecedented exodus of members of faculty going on furlough, including the whole British contingent of the Women's College. Only a few of us left for the summer odd jobs.

July: "Oh I am a cook and a captain bold
And the mate of the *Nancy* brig,
And a bo'sun tight and a midshipmite,
And the crew of the captain's gig!"

With some people away on furlough and some on vacation and some off on business and some ill, I find myself substituting for most of the administrative officers of the university and free to experience all the joys of a dictator (if any) for a week or so. Summer school and a summer conference keep the campus from being deserted. Inventories and painters. Entrance examinations for fifteen hundred candidates of whom we can accept about a tenth. Unusually heavy rains cause general collapsing of walls in the nearby

villages and picturesque flooding of all the low-lying portions of the campus. No loss of life except among the goldfish.

August: Dinny, our cherished wire-haired terrier, has a fine family of thoroughbred pups, who henceforth make our house a magnet for all the children of the neighborhood. A real flood in Tientsin causes wide-spread suffering, and combined with the Anti-British Movement makes travel difficult for new and returning members of the faculty. Unexplained explosion of our kitchen stove wrecks the kitchen and splatters the ceiling with grape juice and chutney, but fortunately no one hit by flying bricks and coffeepots.

September: Women's dormitories, originally planned for 200 girls, have now been stretched to hold 276, with thirteen more living outside. Record enrollment of nearly a thousand men and women students. Welcome temporary additions to the faculty of refugees from Tientsin and elsewhere.

October: Constant topic of conversation is the high cost of food and the difficulty of securing rice and flour. Good food for the students is our chief problem. The Community Chest is over-subscribed but the busy Relief Committee still has trouble taking care of all the needy people around us.

November: Routine; classes and committees; budgets and surveys; freshmen frightened of their mid-semester tests; seniors starting on their theses. A tired student coming home from the laboratory in the evening faints and the next morning the whole campus hears she saw a ghost!

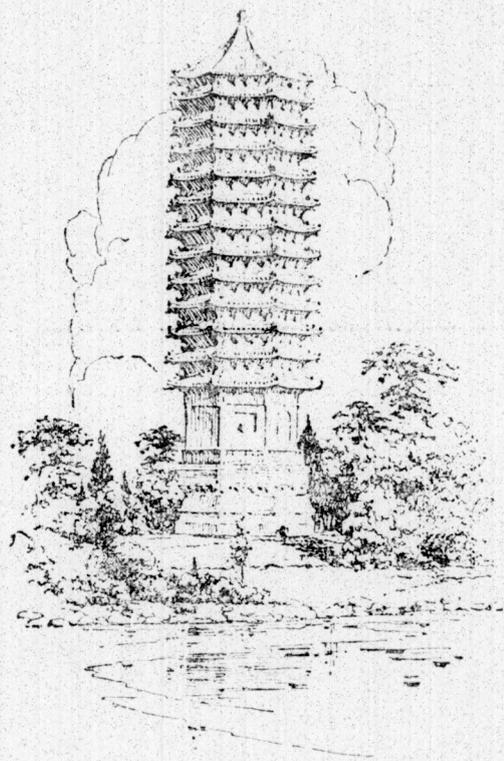
December: Christmas. In the fourteenth century an English poet wrote: "In the morn when all men call to mind how Christ our Lord was born on earth to die for us, there is joy for his sake in all the dwellings of the world." An American of the twentieth century ends her modern Christmas Carol:

"...And the Christmastide begets
Seven million bayonets."

We share in sorrow and shame for the bayonets, but may there still be joy for His sake in the dwellings of the world.

With Christmas greetings to you all,
Ever yours,

Margaret B. Spear



部女學大京燕
YENCHING COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEIPING, CHINA.

Office of the Dean

November 30, 1939.

Dear Miss Van Sciver,

I am sending you herewith some copies of the Christmas greetings we have sent to the Women's College donors. The printing of the letter still leaves a good deal to be desired but we have had a frightful time with the printer and decided finally that time was a more important consideration than a closer approach to perfection. We have sent a copy to each person on your list of donors for the fiscal year of July 1st 1938 to June 30th, 1939. In addition I have added the name of Miss Stimson and have sent a copy to the Wellesley College Service Fund Committee. The name of Miss Margaret Jackson I have omitted since news has come recently of her death.

The extra copies you may want to use to send to any possible new donors who have given since last July. I am sorry these are so late. When you have tried printing in China you will understand the inevitability of delays.

With warm New Year's greetings
to you all.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

Margaret Bailey Speer

Miss Elvena Van Sciver
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.,
United States of America

*A few copies enclosed;
more in another envelope.*

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November 1939



Dear Friends of Yenching College for Women,

One hot day at the end of the summer there came from our New York Office a long list of those who had contributed to the College for Women during the past year. As I read the names and found that almost every one of you was either a personal friend or someone whose long interest in Yenching had made her name a familiar one, I wanted to write an immediate "Thank you" to each one. Your gifts, exclusive of the large one from Wellesley students and faculty, have totalled nearly six thousand dollars, or about half of the income in American currency which we count on every year. At the abnormally high current exchange rate they have covered the complete salaries of twelve women members of the faculty, both Chinese and foreign, with something left over for the scholarship fund.

In almost the same mail with the news of your gifts came a letter from a freshman who feared she would have to withdraw from college because her family's slender resources had already been overdrawn by a wandering and erratic brother. I told her we could give her a scholarship and the next mail bought her grateful reply: "You cannot image what kind of happiness a favorable letter brings

to a longing heart. An avenue is paved on the deserted land. Thankfulness to the paver!" That is what Yenching students would say to each one of you if they could—"Thankfulness to the pavers!"

This is not a news bulletin. Our New York Office sends you those and you have heard already of our record enrollment for this year of over 980 students, of whom 290 are women. What no bulletin can tell you is of the squeezing and readjusting necessary to crowd seventy girls into a dormitory originally built to accommodate fifty, or of the pleading persistence of the girls on the waiting list, who urge that surely there is room for just *one* more, and claim that they would not mind sleeping in a corner of the dining room. In other years we have felt that our halls were full, but we knew that they could be a little fuller. This year we have reached the limit of brick and concrete walls. Not another bed can be squeezed in unless we contrive double deckers.

Disturbed economic conditions have meant double the usual number of applicants for scholarships and for self-help work. Anyone familiar with the Chinese student's former distaste for manual tasks would be astounded to see girls clipping hedges, answering the telephone, and weighing out vegetables and fish in the kitchen.

Each year the success of the graduating class in finding useful niches in the community is a sort of test of the quality of Yenching education. This year again we have a record of an almost instantaneous connection between national and community needs and Yenching products. The following percentages show what our last year's seniors are doing now: 3 per cent in banking, 8 per cent in nursing, 15 per cent continuing their study, 15 per cent doing practical work for rural or industrial betterment, 15 per cent with inde-

finite plans when last heard from, 22 per cent teaching, and 22 per cent doing religious or social work. One girl, after a long struggle to make up her mind to go to a difficult position in a country town, wrote: "Though I came alone I got here all right. It was an awful trip (because of the flood). Here is not as comfortable as Yenching. The food is country food with only one or two vegetables and millet. No bed to sleep on. Everybody sleeps on a wooden board. I can train myself to live a simple and uncomfortable life. I don't know how to help the vast number of country people now, but I will help the students in this school the best I can. I believe that God will show me the best way to take."

If the anxieties and frustrations of the world today make us hesitate to use the word *merry*, perhaps the Chinese greeting may remind us, better than the familiar English words, of the essential meaning of Christmas for our tortured world—聖誕之喜—*Sheng Tan Chih Hsi*—"The Joy of the Holy Birthday."

Sincerely yours,

Yenching University
Peking, China
November, 1939

Margaret Bailey Speer

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部女學大京燕
YENCHING COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEIPING, CHINA.

Office of the Dean

December 15, 1939.

Dear Mrs. Macmillan,

In reply to your cable which came a few days ago we sent at once the following message: "Proposed professorship greatly desired as permanent strengthening Women's College participation Public Affairs. First choice appointment Wagner beginning at once. Agnes Ch'en possible alternative."

I know that my long silence on this matter must seem to you reprehensible in the extreme and I blame myself very much for not having written you at once on the receipt of your July letter, just to say that of course we approved the general plan of raising a large gift from Wellesley Alumnae to be used for support of adequate participation of women in the College of Public Affairs. My reason for not doing so was that I wanted to write more than a mere letter of general assent and one that should go into greater detail. To do this it was necessary to have conferences and consultations with members of the faculty and Administrative officers in a number of departments particularly in regard to the first appointment to the chair. However I will not spend time on explanations of the length of negotiations or of delays due to illnesses and absences or of the handicap we have been working under this year of extreme short-handedness in the Women's College, but will go on at once to the final result of our discussions.

I need not tell you how desperately we need a sure income in the form of endowment or regular gifts for support of faculty salaries. The peculiar value of the rather anomalous situation of the differentiation between the Women's College budget and the University budget is that ~~the~~ separate income for the Women's College secures, as no other arrangement can, the appointment and continuance in service of women members of the faculties of the three colleges. I know the experience of women in many co-educational institutions is that a number of factors, both economic and psychological,

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inevitably tend to encourage the appointment of men rather than of women. A separate income which assures the appointment of women, is not the only influence, but is certainly one of the most important, which keeps the relationship of men and women on such a sound and frictionless basis at Yenching. For a great many years we have felt that there should be more women members of the faculty in the College of Public Affairs, since more than a fifth of our women students major in the departments of that college. At present there are only two women on the college faculty - Miss Wagner in the Department of Economics and Mrs. Cheng Lin-chuang, who is teaching part time in the Department of Sociology. Any plan for endowment or an assured income to be used for a woman member of the College of Public Affairs will have an enormous usefulness. It will strengthen the Women's College, it will strengthen the College of Public Affairs, and it will strengthen our facilities for training women in some of the fields in which they are most needed in China today. We have long had a demand for women trained in Sociology from the Y.W.C. A. and other social and religious organizations. This demand continues to be as great as ever and in addition there is a new need for women with an understanding of economics and of political institutions to work in new areas and new fields where courage and initiative and college training can speed the process of reconstruction. I do not need to enlarge on this last opportunity for I am sure you understand the need.

In regard to the details of the appointment, it has not been easy to decide the matter from the double standpoint of our need here and of the appeal to Wellesley donors at home, but after weighing all the arguments the cable represents our considered decision. Miss Wagner, a Wellesley graduate already known to at least a few of the Alumnae, is a mature and respected member of our faculty, one of our rather limited number of holders of the Ph.D. degree, and a teacher with the weight of experience and years behind her. Our only hesitation in suggesting her at once was the feeling that the appointment of a Chinese woman might seem more appealing to givers in America, and the further consideration that since she has already been our faculty for so long the question might be asked how her appointment to the proposed professorship could be called a strengthening of the Women's College

share in the College of Public Affairs. Of course I do not need to tell you that any endowment or assured income provides such a strengthening no matter to what unit it may be designated, but donors do not always understand such matters.

Feeling that there would be a great appeal in the appointment of a Chinese to this position, we have been hoping for months to be able to make an announcement of the addition of a young Chinese to the Department of Sociology or Political Science. Our negotiations in regard to Sociology are still in the air. You probably know something of Mr. Evans' dealings in America with Agnes Ch'en who has been at Bryn Mawr for three years and who we hoped would return to Yenching last summer. ~~It was a great disappointment that she did not come according to plans but we are still hoping that she will really be here next semester.~~ She was one of the ablest and most promising girls we have ever had, and from Bryn Mawr and other sources we have heard much that is good and encouraging about her work in America. ~~But for some reason she made a most unfortunate impression on Mr. Evans last summer, and until the reasons for her postponed return here are cleared up, we have hesitated to recommend her for such an important appointment as this. It would seem better to wait until she has a chance to prove to herself after her return to China. If she makes good, as we profoundly hope she will, we can make another recommendation after a few years. Since we would like to have the idea of a chair in the College of Public Affairs carry with it an academic prestige worthy of the Wellesley connection, it seems wisest to recommend the appointment of Miss Wagner, of whose fitness there can be no doubt in the minds of any of us.~~

Before however, considering how much the Wellesley Chair is all of [unclear]

(Sincerely yours)

As you can see, although financial support is a fundamental problem, the securing of adequate personnel is just as great. The announcement of a chair for a woman professor in the College of Public Affairs will be of great help in encouraging trained Chinese candidates, but at the same time we must recognize that young Chinese women with the right training are rare and we must be patient in trying them out.

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We all appreciate the splendid work which you and Mrs. Moore and the other courageous members of our committee are doing, in embarking on this project, and I send my profound apologies for the inconvenience which I know the delay has caused you, but I can only ask you to realize that there have been inevitable reasons for it.

With gratitude and appreciation to all of you.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

Margaret Bailey Speer

Mrs. T.D. Macmillan
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.
United States of America

The appearance of this letter is not up to New York office standards, but it is the best my little Chinese typist can produce!

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