Yenching
Corrs.
Speer, Margaret Bailey
1943 - 1944

file
Marnie Speer

COPY

March 19 sent to Miss Speer.

8 San Kuan Miao, Peking
February 4, 1943

Dear Grace,

We are celebrating the lunar New Year by having a holiday from our daily Chinese class (The Shadicks, Shirley, Betty Irwin, Augusts, and I are the faithful remnants of a class which started in the South Compound a year ago and has now dwindled to half it original size.) and the familiar holiday feeling, coupled with the cold grey weather, makes me think that this is a good morning for letter writing. I wish I thought you had as warm and comfortable a room to write in as I have. Our pleasant living room gets all the sun there is and has a large, ferociously hot stove in addition. In the matter to temperature we could ask nothing better. Usually the number of diverse activities going on in it bears a distinct resemblance to Barnum and Bailey's at their biggest and best, but at the moment Dorothea's dog Tippy and I have it all to ourselves. Since we make no attempt to heat the enormous bedrooms of this vast and sprawling house, there are moments when this room seems somewhat inadequate, as for instance when Dorothea feels like playing Sibelius on Mr. Polly's large gramophone which occupies one corner of the room and Shirley's Chinese teacher arrives for a private lesson, while Augusta has to take accounts with the (our-your) cook, and Stanley D. rambles in to talk to Marnie, and faithful Chi Yeh, once the guardian of Miner Hall, feels it is time to shake down the stove. But this morning all is peace -- warmth and quiet within and unusual beauty without, for the willow trees, of which there are half a dozen between our south windows and the grey city wall, are covered with a fairy frosting on every twig and branch. I wonder what you see out of your window? And I wish we could be assured that you had a quarter of the space or half the warmth that we are basking in.

There is not much one can say in the way of news about us and our doings. The air is full of rumors of an impending 'segregation' of all our fellow countrymen in Shanghai and naturally there is endless speculation as to whether we will follow suit here, but many of us have grown wary of the repeated cry of 'wolf', and from being naturally sceptical have now become positively rumor-proof. I have continued to cherish the hope of being able to help Mother and Father celebrate their Golden Wedding the week before Easter but am reluctantly coming to believe that I am not likely to see the hills and valleys of the Berkshires before midsummer. It is a very long time since I have heard from those parts. Any news you can pass on in either direction is of course more welcome than sun or snow, but I have never understood how you could afford either the time or the money to be such a generous epistolary medium, and moreover we hear of strict new federal laws prohibiting any correspondence between here and there except through the tortoise-slow routes of 'the greatest mother in the world'. (Do you remember the posters of the last war?) If you should have a chance to tell Mrs. Finley or Mr. Evans or Miss Van Sciver about us, would

Noted
aq

C O P Y

you let them know that we think of them and that we are all endeavoring to pass these months not unprofitably?

The general level of health in the community has been remarkably high. Augusta and Ruth were upset a bit for a time but are flourishing now on liver injections. We are all a bit thinner than we used to be and considerably shabbier. Augusta's ideas of what the well dressed woman wears are not what they used to be, but she continues to comb her snowy locks in the most fashionable style even though at the other extremity of her person the soles are flapping on her only pair of walking shoes.

(sd.) Marnie.

August 25, 1943

Miss Margaret B. Speer
M.S. Gripsholm
c/o Postmaster
New York, N. Y.

Dear Miss Speer:

It is with the greatest joy that I address a letter to you with the assurance that when you receive it you will be well on your way to America. We have all rejoiced in the spirit of the Yenching group left in Peking and have been thrilled by their record of solid accomplishment in spite of every handicap. But now we are happy to know that those days are finished and that you will soon be in America again. You may be sure that the warmest of welcomes awaits you and that we are eager to be of every possible service to you!

I regret that we cannot get money to you directly, but we are assured that there will be arrangements made by the State Department, similar to those on the previous voyage of the Gripsholm, wherely money needed for incidental expenses may be advanced to repatriates. We understand that the Presbyterian Board will take care of your passage expenses. It is not possible to put parcels on the Gripsholm for you, but we are assured that the boat will carry adequate supplies of food, medicines, and clothing, so we trust that you will be comfortable.

It will be possible to send and receive air mail at each port of call, that is, at Port Elizabeth and Rio de Janeiro, as well as Goa. If, therefore, you would like us to have some special articles or information meet you en route, please send an air mail to us from Goa or Port Elizabeth, and we will endeavor to have the reply awaiting you at Rio.

I find it impossible to express my deep sense of thankfulness that this long-anticipated day has really arrived and that you are actually on your way home. I hope that the trip will be a pleasant one and that the release from the tensions of the last months will make it possible for you to relax and rest and recuperate. We are eagerly awaiting your arrival.

With every best wish,

Cordially yours,

Mrs. W. Plumer Mills

MOTORSHIP GRIPSHOLM

Between Port Elizabeth and Rio
Armistice Day. 1943

Dear Mrs. Mills,

Your very kind letters to all the Yenching Women's College faculty were among the piles of mail which brought joy to all our hearts after the "Gripsholm" left Poa. They were not delivered until the ship had actually sailed, and at Port Elizabeth we were told that air mail from there to New York was likely to take almost as long as our ship, so we have not attempted to send letters off before Rio. We still seem to be living in a dream world — the cleanliness, comfort, freedom, and abundant food on this ship are miracles which we marvel at hourly — the only flaw is that we cannot share them with the people left behind in Camp. When we sit lazily in the warm sun on the deck, we keep saying, "It will be cold in Weihsien now." Life in camp was hardly fun, but it was not too bad during the summer, and it was an experience I would not have missed for anything. During our months on the "Teia Maru" we were crowded and messy and sometimes hungry but we enjoyed the paradise of this ship all the more by contrast. We'll be able to tell you the whole story in less than a month.

Dr. Galt is writing to Mr. Evans telling him that a few of the Yenching faculty will be needing hotel accommodations in New York — those who are not connected with mission boards and do not have families nearby. We shall all be anxious to know in what way we can be of most service to the Trustees and to the Yenching College Committee. The question of finding jobs is looming very large and almost everyone would like advice on how to fit usefully into the most appropriate kind of war work. I am afraid we shall all feel like babes in the wood. We know how to wash dishes and potatoes, how to clean fish and latrines; we know how to do laundry in a tub, but I'm afraid we don't know how to live at wartime speed.

It was nice to run into your husband the first night on board the "Teia" and to see him frequently on deck. He looks thin, but everyone

is looking better and better as we get nearer home.

I wish Leighton Stuart were with us. The days ~~that~~ are so fast for us now must seem interminable to him.

Please give our warmest greetings to all friends in the office.

Very sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

Thanksgiving on the Gripsholm

Sunday, November 28, 1943

By MARGARET BAILEY SPEER

Margaret Bailey Speer, daughter of Mrs. Robert E. Speer, honorary president of the National Board, and Dr. Robert E. Speer, is dean of the College for Women of Yenching University, China. Since December 8, 1941 (which was December 7 in the United States), Miss Speer, with the other American members of the Yenching faculty, has been interned, first on the Yenching campus, later in Peking, and after March 1943 in the internment camp at Weihsien, China. She was one of the group repatriated last autumn, and arrived in New York December first. She was asked to lead the service on the last Sunday aboard the Gripsholm, and because the things she said at that time express the attitudes of so many of those who have been through the same or similar experiences, we consider it a privilege to be able to share them with the readers of the *Womans Press*.

A SMALL stay-at-home boy who continually heard his parents at family prayers asking for "journeying mercies" for older traveling members of the family grew tired of always being left out of the fun and put in his own prayers a request for "a journey and mercies." In his mind the journey was the main thing although it would be very nice to have the mercies thrown in. Now we have had the journey which we longed for and plenty of mercies besides, and we are profoundly thankful for both.

We can all remember Thanksgiving Days in other years when the American response to the President's proclamation was a sort of desperate Pollyanna search for bright spots in the midst of deep gloom. We knew that as a nation we had greater physical comfort than any other nation in the world, but we knew too the despair of the unemployed, the fear in many hearts of the inevitable involvement in war. We approached Thanksgiving Day as if it were our duty to find a silver lining in the clouds and as if we could do it by conscientiously flashing a small torchlight about. The day after Thanksgiving Day our small flashlights were turned off again and we were back in the thick fog. We forgot that the real silver lining of a cloud is never the reflection of even the brightest searchlight but comes from the sun which is there all the time although it may be hidden from our sight.

For most of us on this ship, this Thanksgiving Day has been entirely different from those other days. The darkness of war is still all about us, behind us, ahead of us, nearer for some than for others, but we have not had to search so painstakingly for bright spots. The presence of the sun behind the clouds has been made real to us. Every one of us has had deep causes for thanksgiving every day of this journey. Nothing could be more unnecessary than for any speaker to try to point out causes of thanksgiving, or to urge us to say thank you, like the mother telling her four-year-old to say thank you to the stranger on the deck for a toy. We do not need to be told we ought to be thankful. We felt so thankful on Thanksgiving Day that the tears rolled down more than one pair of cheeks as we sang "The Star-Spangled Banner." If we should feel any more thankful we would burst.

But this thankfulness is rather an uncomfortable business. It has raised some nagging questions. First, what are we really thankful for and is our gratitude something that should last or is it natural for it to be temporary? Is it a mood that was very glowing and satisfying when we gloated over our first wonderful meal on the Gripsholm, but that inevitably peters out as we have grown accustomed to the meals so that we comment rather querulously when we come down to lunch with our hearts set on ice cream and find that the dessert is only fresh fruit? (Imagine saying *"only* fresh fruit" in camp!) There is danger that such a brand of gratitude will vanish into thin air when we have been at home a few weeks and find that queues are not confined to internment camps and that even in the Promised Land there are discomforts large and small.

So it is good to probe about a little in our minds and to examine the things for which we are really thankful. The list is tremendous. Leaving out the journey, which is best of all, and thinking only of a few of the mercies, we could begin with such simple things as chocolate from the Red Cross; clean sheets and friendly stewards who change them; good food that we do not have to cook ourselves, and so much of it that we have forgotten that hungry feeling we had for so long; miraculously good weather and calm seas; overwhelming kindness at Port Elizabeth; the toys for the children bought by the American sailors in Rio. We could go on indefinitely. But is the list going to be all material things? Of course not. The fact that we will soon be with people we love from whom we have been separated; the fact that we are free citizens going to a free, unoccupied, uninvaded, unbombed country—these rank at the head of the list.

But we cannot deny that all the small, good, satisfying physical comforts do bulk very large. It is right, not wrong, to take conscious pleasure in such things. But suppose some of these pleasant things are taken away from us, what then? There are both men and women on this ship who will soon be in uniform and before long some will be in places far less comfortable than even internment camps. When the plentiful food and the clean sheets and the sunny, idle days of this journey are only a memory, what then?

We all spoke on Thursday morning of being glad that we were celebrating Thanksgiving Day on the Gripsholm instead of on the Teia, in the warm waters off South America instead of in the cold and cheerless mess halls at camp; but suppose we were on the Teia with the Gripsholm still ahead of us, would we not still have plenty to be thankful for? Are not the things

for which we are most thankful the things that are real and true even when we are not lapped around in comfort? Wherever we are, we are thankful that we are Americans or Canadians. Wherever we are, we are thankful that there are great nations which, though they have faults and weaknesses, though their records hold some things of which we are ashamed, still fight for the great causes of freedom and justice. Wherever we are, we are thankful that men are willing to endure hardship and pain and peril, willing to give their lives for their countries and for what they believe to be right. (When we put it this way, we are saying we are thankful for manliness and heroism on the part of our enemies as well as among our own forces—I hope that we really mean this.) Wherever we are, we are thankful for the essential goodness and kindness of human beings which many of us saw more clearly in internment camps than ever before. Wherever we are, we are thankful that God reveals Himself to us and brings strength and serenity to us when we need these gifts most desperately.

So it is good to keep asking ourselves what we are thankful for and to keep remembering that it is not only for the physical comforts but for far more permanent things. Yet when we think of the material things—this journey and these mercies—there is another question that keeps nagging at us even more persistently and more disquietingly. One evening on the Teia—one of those hungry evenings—I happened to be standing on the deck when a man came up from below with a treasure in his hand—a wonderful, large orange. He came straight to a child who was standing there—not his own child or one related to him in any way, but one of the children whose parents were not on board—and put the orange in her hand. A lovely smile of joy and surprise spread from ear to ear and she said, "Oh thank you, *thank* you, but why are you giving it to me?" We have all asked that question again and again in these months. Why, why, have we been given these good things when others have not?

The nursery rhyme tells us of a little boy who, when he was given a Christmas pie, sat down in a corner where no one else could crowd in to ask for a share, and, when he had pulled out a fat plum, said: "Oh, what a good boy am I!" As Christians we see all the good things of life as evidences of the loving care of a Heavenly Father, but we cannot take the Little Jack Horner complacency as a Christian attitude. It is revolting to any honest Christian to believe that God is good to us because we are better than other people or because He loves us more. Are we dearer to our families, more valuable to our country, more beloved children of God than the friends we left behind in Manila, in Stanley, in Pootung, in Weihsien? No, a hundred times no. Is it because of any virtue of ours that we are well fed when there is famine in India, while malnutrition grows worse in China, when children are hungry in every country in Europe? No. We reject any such suggestion with horror. At least I think we are all honest enough to reject such complacency when applied to ourselves as individuals. We can think of too many friends we left behind, who, if things were arranged according to deserts, deserved to come on this trip far more than we did. But when the Little Jack Horner philosophy is applied not to

Courtesy Swedish American Line

THE GRIPSHOLM IN DIPLOMATIC DRESS

individuals, but to classes or countries or races, perhaps after all we do accept it.

The people whose work makes us comfortable—cooks working over hot stoves in crowded galleys, miners on night shifts, ricksha coolies who have so often pulled us in the heat or the cold—how easy it is to persuade ourselves that in some curious way these people do not deserve to have the same comforts, the same consideration that we need. In camp, when we were cooking or hauling water, we told ourselves, as the perspiration dripped down our faces, that we would never again be unsympathetic with those who labored by the sweat of their brows. But I fear that it will be terribly easy to slip back to the point of taking it for granted that there is a class of people who should do unpleasant things to keep us comfortable, that somehow we deserve the comfort more than they do.

And if this is an easy state of mind to drift into in regard to classes, it is even easier and even more terrible in its results in the case of nations. You and I know that we are no better than friends of ours who are deprived of the comforts we have now. But when we think of our rich land of plenty with its tremendous production schedule, its well-dressed, well-fed people, its freedom, and when we compare it with other countries, it is very easy to fall into the Little Jack Horner error on a national scale and to believe that America—or Canada—has been blessed with prosperity and her people with freedom because somehow it is a more virtuous country, dearer to God than other nations. We find ourselves in a real confusion here. Our country, as countries go, is good and great and it is a blessed thing to be a free citizen anywhere on the American continent. During the last few months we have all felt this with greater strength, with greater pride than ever before. But if for an instant we fall into the error of thinking that our blessings are all due to superior moral virtues, we shall be failing our country at a point where she most needs us. A complacent Little Jack Horner in the nursery can be ignored. A complacent, powerful Jack Horner among nations is not only extremely unpopular, he is a definite menace to world peace.

We need not push the analogy to races, but it is

just as dangerous there as it is with classes or countries.

But we have not yet answered that nagging question: Why have these causes for thanksgiving been given to us? It is a question which we must keep on asking although we will not find the answer. They *have* been given to us who have done nothing to deserve them. "He hath not dealt with us after our sins nor rewarded us according to our iniquities." We do not know why we have been given comforts that others lack, but we do know that such mercies put us eternally in the debt of the loving Father who has given them to us and eternally in the debt of every person who has been less fortunate than we. How can we pay these debts? That is the pressing question.

According to the old Mosaic law the debt could be paid by a thank offering, a sacrifice given in the Temple. It is not a bad idea to make a thank offering in return for specific blessings. I imagine all of us will want to give a special gift to the Red Cross in gratitude for what it has done for us. But something that is done once and for all is too easy a way to repay heavy obligations such as most of us are under. Our consciences cannot be eased so simply.

One of my friends told me that she woke up before daylight one morning early in this trip with the beautiful words of the Prayer Book sounding over and over again in her ears: "Give us that due sense of all thy mercies." What is a due sense? The rest of the prayer provides the only possible answer. "That our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth Thy praise not only with our lips but in our lives by giving up ourselves to Thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days."

If we have plenty to eat when others are hungry, then a due sense of our mercies tells us that we are under a debt which must be paid to the hungry, sometime, somewhere. If our children are able to grow up in a country where they are free from attack or where they are not regimented in little Nazi bands before they are in their teens, then a due sense of our mercies tells us that we are under a debt which must be paid sometime, somewhere, to children who are huddling in air-raid shelters or being taught distorted history and false science for the sake of the State. If we have escaped from desolate places where a conquering army has left hatred and bitterness behind it, then a due sense of our mercies tells us that we are under a debt which must be paid, a debt to show that armies on foreign soil who resort to brutality and cruelty are never truly conquering, but are only sowing the seeds of their own destruction, a debt to show that hate and fear will not work on our side any better than they have worked for our enemies. If we have felt Christ's love for us, then a due sense of our mercies tells us that we are under a debt to try to show in every action of our lives that love is the Christian way of life.

There is no easy way to do these things. The particular path of holiness and righteousness that each one of us must walk is one which we must find for ourselves. It is harder to find it in wartime than in peace. We shall probably lose it many times, but we shall be bitterly ungrateful unless we try.

Is the arrival of this shipload of passengers going to mean anything more to our country than joy to our families and a few more heads and hands for useful jobs? That is something, but not enough. Is it going to mean an increase of sensationalism, a lot more people urging vengeance, urging hatred, suggesting cheap and brutal panaceas? Or is it going to mean a new strengthening of the forces of justice, more people trying sanely and calmly to tell and to learn the truth, more people who realize that the collapse of our enemies will not bring permanent peace if our only aim is their destruction and if we are still complacent about discrimination against the Negro, prejudice against the Jew, superiority toward the Oriental, veiled jealousy toward our allies?

A due sense of all God's mercies requires nothing less than a giving of our whole lives in His service.

"No gifts have we to offer
For all Thy love imparts
But that which Thou desirest,
Our *humble,* thankful hearts."

Let us join in saying together the beautiful words of the General Thanksgiving, trying to make them true for our own lives.

"Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men; we bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord, Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech Thee, give us that due sense of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth Thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to Thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen."

Reprinted from the Womans Press, February, 1944

Lakeville Journal

LITCHFIELD COUNTY, CONN., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1943

Margaret Speer Gives Interview On Life In An Internment Camp

Miss Speer, Recently Returned Passenger of The Gripsholm, Reports on Experiences in Japanese Internment Center After P. H.

By A. H.

"How well you look!" was our first involuntary comment as Miss Margaret Speer, looking brown and fit, opened the door of her mother's house to us for an interview about her experiences in a Japanese internment camp.

Miss Speer laughed. "I really think I'm a terrible disappointment," she said. "Everyone seemed to think I'd arrive on crutches!"

Though no disappointment, of course, Miss Speer's obvious health did surprise us after the tales we had read and we lost no time in enquiring the details of her experiences.

Miss Speer, who was until her internment Dean of Women at the Yenching University just outside of Peking, had lived in China for eighteen years and when the University remained undisturbed after Japanese occupation in 1937 she had seen no valid reason for leaving her job and returning to the states.

The first warning of danger came too late. Miss Speer was seated at her radio, one December evening listening to the Mail Bag program where messages from families at home were broadcast to Americans in the Orient. The evening was memorable on two counts: first, Miss Speer received a message via the radio from her family here in Lakeville; second, the newscast brought word of peaceful diplomatic conferences in Washington between President Roosevelt and Japan's Ambassador.

Everything seemed calm. The next morning Miss Speer [illegible] on the radio again [illegible] before leaving for [illegible] and was stunned to hear a voice proclaim [illegible] because of the state of [illegible] which exists between the United States and Japan, all enemy aliens will please remain indoors. . . ."

Close on the heels of this broadcast, Japanese guards came to the door with instructions that all foreigners on the campus would henceforth be unable to leave the college but would remain on the grounds except when granted special passes to the city which was five miles away.

These special passes were given when need of dental, medical, or optician aid could be shown and Miss Speer said it was remarkable how many teeth seemed to need attention during that period!

The Americans and British were allowed to live on in their own homes for eight months after Pearl Harbor. Shut off from the outside world, life had to be strictly simplified but there was no actual hardship at this time.

At the end of eight months, the Japanese decided that the University was needed for purposes of war and the internees were moved to the city where they were billeted on American and British embassy property according to their nationality. Here they remained for another eight months enjoying a greater freedom, since they were allowed to go anywhere in the city. The difficulties of obtaining food and the sky-rocketing prices were the only hazards of this time which Miss Speer mentioned.

When another eight months had passed the Americans and other aliens were given ten days notice and informed that they must prepare for a move . . . this time to a real internment camp which went by the name of the "Civilian Assembly Center" and was situated in an old Missionary Compound at Weihsien in Shantung.

The buildings in the compound consisted of the shell of an old hospital, three school buildings, a church and the missionaries houses. Internees from all over North China had been collected here making a total of 1800 including 200 children.

There were Americans, British, Dutch, Belgians and a few Scandinavians. And professions ranged from Missionaries and nuns to teachers and business men.

ROCKLEDGE
LAKEVILLE, CONNECTICUT

January 10, 1944

file

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

Dear Mr. Evans,

I want to give you the details of the loans about which we spoke in the office the other day. Because of the difficulties and dangers of the situation these were made personally to Miss Wagner and to me. The funds were turned over to Dr. Galt and through him were distributed to the families of the twelve Chinese members of the faculty who were in prison. The families of professors received LC$300 a month for ten months and the families of those of lower ranks received LC$200 for a similar period. The families understood that this was a loan and would eventually be deducted from any salaries which the University might be able to pay.

The amounts received and distributed were as follows:

From	US$	LC$	Exchange rate
Mrs. Clementine Hu	400	2000	5
Mrs. C. F. Wang	1000	5000	5
Mrs. C. F. Wang	1350	8775	6.5
Mrs. C. C. Lin	200	1300	6.5
Mrs. C.C. Lin	100	600	6
Dr. S. T. Wang		6600	

nothing

Paid

wait

The loan from Dr. S.T.Wang need not be repaid until after the war and he made no request for settlement in anything but local currency. Mrs. Lin would like to have the $300 owing to her put into a savings account in her name so that it will draw interest until she can claim it. Mrs. Hu, who has died since making us this loan, asked that the $400 be paid to her son, Robert Hu (Hoo), who is, or was, a student in Seattle. Mrs. Wang asked that the money ~~[illegible]~~ owing to her be paid to her sons, Wang Kung-pin and Wang Kung-chih, who are both students in this country. Probably Wang Kung-pin has already written you about this, but if not, his younger brother, Wang Kung-chih, can be reached in care of his sister, Mrs. P.M.Ku, 2 Prescott Street, Cambridge, Mass.

US $160.00 ✓
Paid 2/9/44
Go 10934

wait for word from S.D. Wilson.

In addition to these loans, Miss Wagner arranged for a loan of LC$1000 from Dr. Stanley D. Wilson for Dr. Chao Cheng-hsin, one of the professors who was imprisoned and whose family were in a desperate condition. I believe the Trustees should repay this to Dr. Wilson at an exchange rate of and charge the amount against salary due to Dr. Chao at the end of the war.

As Miss Cookingham has probably told you, the mission-supported members of the faculty were paid salaries of LC$500 for the two months of December 1941 and January 1942, since the Japanese had our names on the list and it was easier to take the money than to refuse it. I repaid LC$200 to Miss Cookingham in Peking and she was able to use it in settling university accounts with the Swiss Representative. I would like now to pay the balance of LC$800 at an exchange rate of 5 equalling $160. I also wish to pay $150 to the Women's College account in payment for the sum of LC$750 of Women's College funds which came into my hands through the sale of furniture. (Other funds from the sale of college furniture were given as loans and gifts to needy members of the college staff in Peking.)

I am enclosing my check for $310 of which $150 should be credited to the Women's College and $160 to the University. I think this clears my account with the University.

Very sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

310.00 Dep 1/11/44

Yenching Women college
Irving Trust Co.

1/14/44 - $160.00 paid over to Yenching 20 767.

February 10, 1944

Mrs. Kenneth Chen
12 Holden Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Chao-Ying:

A recent mail has brought a letter from Lucy Chao (Mrs. Chen Meng-chia) saying that her husband is coming to Harvard next year and that she is hoping to get a scholarship at Radcliffe. In case this should be impossible however, she would like to find a position as a teacher of Chinese. Without such a position, she would find it difficult to get a passport to come to this country and would find it impossible to support herself. What is the likelihood of such a position for her in the Army special training program at Harvard? John Fairbank is doing something about her case. Could Kenneth take it up with Professor Chao or would it be well for me to write to him? You know all Lucy's qualifications.

I am still remembering our lovely evening with you on New Year's day. None of the meals I have had in Chinese restaurants can compare with your savory handywork. We had a party the other night with Grace Chao, Betty Ho, Lin Ai-chun and Li Hsueh-hsia. Of course we talked about you and wished that you could have been with us.

With much love,

Margaret Bailey Speer

MBS:G

M.B. Speer

February 10, 1944

Dr. John K. Fairbank
228 Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Fairbank:

I am sorry to have been delayed in sending you the two enclosed recommendations for Yang Ping and Lucy Chao, but I was away from home when your letter arrived. I am very happy to do anything I can to help both of these girls to come to America, and feel particularly keen that Lucy Chao should have the chance to come.

If you should wish to send their papers to other colleges than Radcliffe, I would be glad to send additional letters of recommendation. In the fall of 1941 I remember writing both to Bryn Mawr and to the University of Michigan about Lucy Chao and I believe both these institutions probably have a complete set of her academic records. They might be willing to send these papers to Radcliffe, since it is impossible for us to get any other copies of her record. A recent mail has just brought me a letter from her saying that if it should be difficult for her to get a scholarship, she would like to find a position as a teacher of Chinese in this country. You are probably in a better position than anyone else to help her to do this. Do you have any hope of raising travel funds in case the scholarships are granted?

Very sincerely yours,

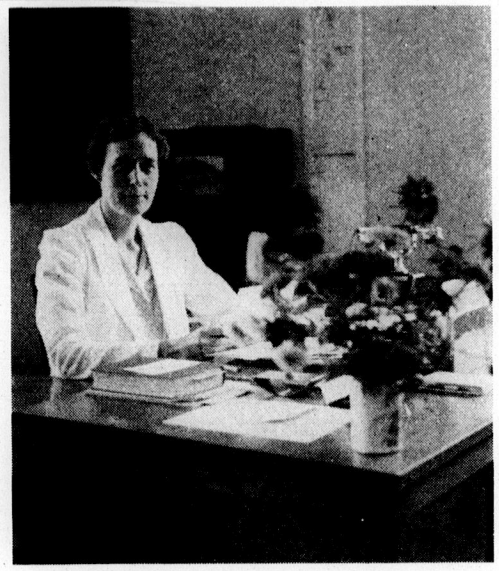
Margaret Bailey Speer

MBS:G

Back on the Gripsholm

By MARGARET B. SPEER, 1922

WITHOUT doubt every man or woman who is or has been in service overseas has felt, in moments when contemplation was possible, a split consciousness of living in two separate and unrelated worlds—the worlds of combat, of mud and blood and noise and sudden action, and the world of home, of familiar and comfortable routine, of the small daily pleasures of family life whose values are appreciated almost in direct proportion to our separation from them. (And, by the way, how often do we civilian Americans stop to think how different we are from most belligerents in being able to use the word "overseas" for all first-hand experience of military action? Canada is in the same category with us, and Japan for the present, but not England, not Russia, not Europe, not China.) Those of us who have come back from internment in China find ourselves conscious continually not only of two separate worlds but of *four*; and we cannot live in the present one, real and dear and pleasant as it is, without the constant pull of ties in the other three which keep us from accepting this one as normal or in any way to be taken for granted.

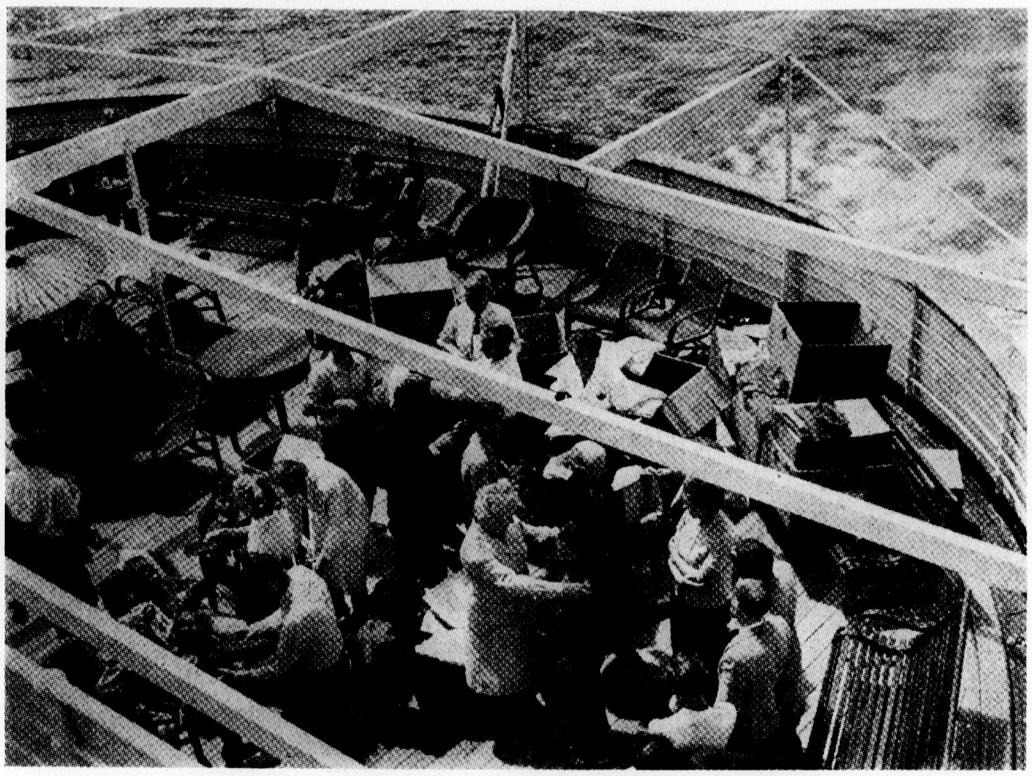


Margaret B. Speer, 1922

The Journey a Transition Between Worlds

The transition from the last world I lived in to this one was a long, unreal period of apparent suspense in space and time, and then of gradual adjustment, as we travelled for eleven weeks from the Civilian Assembly Center in Weihsien, Shantung, to New York. First, three days by train in crowded third-class cars where those who could not sleep sitting upright on hard wooden seats found their only chance to relax by spreading out a steamer rug and going promptly to sleep on the dirty station platforms where three times our train was held up while the tracks ahead were repaired after damage from guerrilla bombings. Then a month on board the crowded *Teia Maru*, a ship that must have been pleasant enough for its first-class passengers in the days when it carried its normal load of four hundred instead of our group of fifteen hundred and three repatriates, and when its passengers could while away the lazy tropical days with reading or writing. For reading matter we had Bibles—the only books we had been allowed to bring—but our Bibles could be either read for their own sakes or studied as language textbooks, since many people had brought Chinese, Japanese, French, or Spanish Bibles or Greek Testaments. Our only other reading matter was a selection of Japanese propaganda pamphlets which were doubly useful in that their pages provided most interesting reading and their margins and

Reprint from the Bryn Mawr Alumnae Bulletin, March, 1944



Being fitted with new clothes on the Gripsholm Life

fly-leaves were our only writing paper. Then came six weeks on the clean, white, friendly *Gripsholm*, with letters at last from home, and books and magazines to correct our ignorance of all the happenings of the last two years, and miraculous supplies of butter, of fruit, of white bread, of all the good things we had dreamed of, to fill up the bottomless cavities in the skinny frames of old and young. The days on the *Gripsholm* provided a perfect period for our transition back to regular American life from internment camp habits of standing in queues, of accepting what was handed out to us by "authorities," of being content with clothes that were ragged, patched, faded, rumpled, shapeless, but considered wearable as long as they held together and had no indecent holes.

What Internment Means

We are now back in America with new clothes and new jobs, but we cannot put away the consciousness of that other world of internment. It is not just a memory for us—it is an actuality for hundreds of our friends, thousands of our acquaintances. Our American friends who are still interned are waiting eagerly for another trip of the *Gripsholm* but the still larger numbers of our British, Dutch, and Belgian friends know that although a British exchange might take many of the children and some of the women, most of them will have to make the best of internment until the end of the war. For most people it is fortunately not an unbearable life. Conditions vary in different centers depending on the climate, on the economic conditions of the surrounding countryside, on the facilities available to the Japanese when they first set up the camps, on the temperament of the commandant, and on the ingenuity and morale of the internees themselves. In most civilian centers there is nothing that can honestly be called deliberate bad

treatment, but there is much that is inconvenient, unpleasant, and very different from the comforts of home that most internees had taken for granted all their lives. Very few people *enjoy* lack of privacy—eight or eighteen or twenty-eight roommates in dormitory rooms for the "unattached," or one or two children with their parents in a room where three cots leave no inch for a table or a chair. No one enjoys monotonous and scanty food. Potatoes, meat, cabbage, leeks, noodles, fish, *can* of course be cooked in a variety of appetizing ways, but it is very difficult to produce anything but stew, and stew, and more stew, when the only cooking facilities for a mess hall feeding four hundred people are two large cauldrons. No one enjoys an endless struggle against dirt. (Being clean is one of the luxuries which well-to-do people are least likely to recognize as the greatest of all luxuries.) No one enjoys the sense of being a prisoner—and who can forget that he is a prisoner when there is roll call every morning before breakfast, when some one else decides how many letters one may write and what letters one may receive, when there are high walls that no one goes outside of except the daily garbage-dumpers? And yet none of these experiences can be called a very desperate hardship for the healthy adult with a cheerful disposition. For the old, the ill, the very young, and the parents of the very young, internment life is hard. For all, there are difficulties, mental and physical, which any imaginative reader can guess at, but there are also compensations: the sense of achievement that comes from helping to turn a chaotic, unorganized conglomeration of many nationalities, all ages, and all sects into a coherent, orderly community; the sense of independence that comes to a group that does everything for itself; the sense of work well done that surely the Israelites knew when they turned out the first strawless brick; the sense of keen satisfaction that comes from living through something new and hard and disagreeable and very much feared beforehand and finding that you can "take it."

Bitterness of Life in Occupied China

But this internment world was a comparatively brief experience for those of us who came back from North China on this last trip of the *Gripsholm*. We were in camp for only six months. We did not have to face the bitter weather of winter, like the friends whom we left behind. We did not have the heat of two summers in camp, like our fellow repatriates from Hongkong. It was long enough to be, like the experiences of one of W. S. Gilbert's characters, "indelibly lined on the tablets of one's mind when a yesterday has faded from its page," but not long enough to have blotted out in any degree the consciousness of that third world where we had lived before we were interned—Occupied China, where our Chinese friends and former colleagues are having to make the daily choice between starvation with a clear conscience or compromise in order to get a job that will barely keep the family alive. This morning's mail has brought a letter from one of our Yenching alumnae in Free China. She writes of her parents still in an occupied area. Her father, a scholar, a poet, and well-known Christian leader, has had bitter experiences as a political prisoner of the Japanese. He is now "free" but not free to leave Occupied China. "They are as well off as can possibly be. The church pays a small salary for my father's preaching and my mother feeds chickens, plants vegetables, and they get along pretty well." They are fortunate. She writes of another friend, a distinguished scholar and collector, who was so ill when he was released from prison that he was hardly expected to live. "The W——s

are very badly off. They have sold all their things and as prices are getting very high, they, being quite a big family, can scarcely keep body and soul together." The young ones, the ones without too many family ties, have gone West, but there are many who cannot go. Jobs that can be taken without loss of self-respect are rare. The more able the man, the greater the pressure brought by the puppets to co-operate with the military program. Rice, white flour, even such coarse cereals as millet and kaoliang that used to be the diet of only the poorest workers, are now unobtainable by ordinary Chinese citizens. Instead they must eat a cereal mixture advertised to be a mixture of thirty or forty wholesome cereals, but actually made up largely of peanut shells, pressed bean residue, and the sweepings of the grainshop floors.

Attitude of the Chinese

I think of our proud old gardener who insisted on pulling up the tomatoes and cucumbers and cutting down the grapevines in our garden the day we had to leave our house on the Yenching compound so that there should be nothing left for the Japanese who would soon move in. He came to see me eight months later in the city when he heard we were about to be interned. His cheeks were sunken and he told me that the cost of the family food (one pound of cereal per person per day, nothing more) had more than trebled during those eight months. But his shrewd old eyes were bright. "I will not work for the Japanese. I worked in the Summer Palace when I was a boy. I have worked for you for thirteen years. I have always worked for good people. I will not work for the Japanese. My wife and I are old. If we should die soon, what does it matter?" I think of the Chinese head of a great hospital. I was having tea with his wife the day the Japanese army took over the hospital. It was all done politely, but twenty-five years of service to the ill and poor were over, twenty-five years of scientific experiments were stopped. Dr. S—— was white when he came into the room. "I have just come from a funeral," he said, and before he could cover his face with his hands the tears began to run down his cheeks. I think of other friends—students, clerks, shopkeepers. They cannot go on the streets without seeing the slogans of "co-prosperity" waving on white cloth banners at every intersection (although white cloth is now prohibitively expensive for clothes) while below the banners the khaki-clad soldiers elbow civilians into the gutters and in the gutters often lie the bodies of those who have found that co-prosperity is just another way of spelling starvation for the conquered.

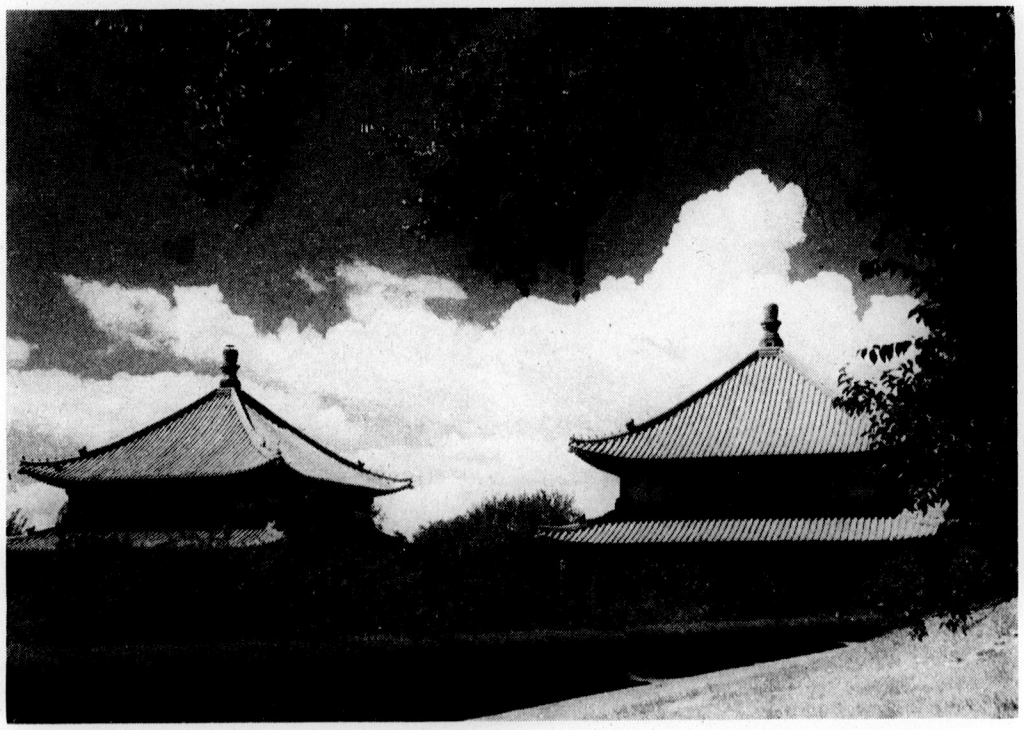
This is the pattern of the world of Occupied China as we knew it in Peking. There were foretastes of it in Japanese military pressure from 1931 to 1937. From 1937 to 1941 Japanese occupation was moderated by an unwillingness to alienate entirely the good will of England and America and by the fact that mission schools and colleges and hospitals and churches and social agencies provided places where many patriotic Chinese could work for China and for a Christian community and not for the false ideals of the "Co-Prosperity Sphere." After Pearl Harbor the last moderating influence vanished. It became harder and harder for even the most internationally-minded to believe in the good faith and the idealism of that unseen portion of the Japanese people who, we knew, hated the brutality and the arrogance of the military as much as we. Some of us knew that such a group of Japanese existed because we had had friends among them. We tried to remember them when we were enemy aliens in Occupied China

and we hang stubbornly on to our memory of them now.

Universities Reopening in Free China

But there is still a fourth world that is real to us repatriates—Free China. Some of us have never been in what is now Free China. But Peking was once Free China and now that Free China is somewhere else, we still feel we know it well. The friends who were our next-door neighbors and the students who sat in our classes and the doctors and nurses who treated us if we fell ill, have, in almost every case where it was possible, gone to Free China. In some cases they have gone only fifty or a hundred or two hundred miles into the hills to join the guerrillas; in most cases they have travelled two thousand miles or more to Szechuan or Yunnan.

Yenching University, whose faculty I joined nearly nineteen years ago, was closed by the Japanese within a few hours of the attack on Pearl Harbor. That attack took place about three o'clock on the morning of December 8th according to Peking time. Before nine o'clock the Japanese gendarmerie had taken over our campus. On the 9th they announced that all students who had homes in Peking might go home. Oddly enough, every one of our eleven hundred and fifty students found a home in Peking that night, although more than half of them came from other provinces. Twelve of the senior Chinese members of the faculty were arrested and imprisoned for six months. President Leighton Stuart was "detained" and is still being held under close house arrest. Within a few months all the Chinese members of the faculty had to leave their homes on the campus and were scattered. The Western members of the faculty were closely watched by the gendarmes. The Japanese announced in all the Chinese newspapers that Yenching University had been abolished because it had been a center of



Campus of Yenching University which was closed a few hours after Pearl Harbor

Students at Yenching, many of whom have followed the University to Free China

Western imperialism. But Yenching was not abolished; it only skipped a semester. In September, 1942, Yenching University reopened in Chengtu with two hundred and fifty students at convocation and more arriving ragged and tired and happy every week. The teaching staff were mostly our own graduates, younger men and women who had had little administrative experience but who are courageously tackling the almost insuperable problems of finance, quarters, equipment, and supplies. The cost of living has increased one hundred and sixty times (yes, *times*, not per cent) and salaries for teachers have increased only one-eighth as much as the cost of living. Everyone is overworked. Tuberculosis is prevalent and malnutrition is common. A large part of the women's dormitory burned down last spring. An ordinary sheet of paper for a freshman theme costs more than $5. But the Japanese did not abolish Yenching or any of the other universities that have reopened in the western provinces. They merely spurred them into new life. A letter came yesterday from Agnes Chen (Bryn Mawr, Ph.D.), who is taking my place as Dean of the College for Women. She spoke of sixteen students, both boys and girls, who had just volunteered to join the Burma Expeditionary Army, and of twenty-five more who had been accepted a little earlier as interpreters with the American forces under General Stilwell. And then speaking of the fear we used to feel in the old peaceful days that Yenching life was "soft," she wrote, "We stored our energy and strength then in order to go through the impossible when necessary."

So there are my four worlds. In three of them my friends are finding it necessary, more often than not, "to go through the impossible." In the fourth, the world of home, most of us are still in the stage of "storing our energy and strength." I hope that it is in order that we too can "go through the impossible when necessary" as courageously as our Chinese allies and our own men and women overseas.

C CORBETT
REC'D 3/10/44

ROCKLEDGE
LAKEVILLE, CONNECTICUT ANS'D

March 8, 1944

Dear Mr. Corbett,

I am never quite sure which matters are meant for your desk and which for Mr. Evans. If this question should be directed to him, would you be good enough to pass it on?

A recent letter from Chengtu has asked me to get hold of some English textbooks which we published at Yenching but which they do not have in Chengtu and to send at least one copy to West China by the quickest route for reproduction there. I have secured one set and am on the trail of another. The question now is, which is preferable and more practical: to send the material by airmail or to have it microfilmed? The Post Office tells me everything to Chengtu must go by airmail, first class, and there is a limit of three ounces. I have 600 pages of material, fortunately on very light paper. I could tear the books up and send them in separate packages, but there is also the risk of a number of sections being lost. Nancy Cochran is asking the advice of her uncle, Mr. Harry Clemans, about the microfilming. I am too ignorant of the procedure to know whether it is easier or more difficult to make photostatic copies from the microfilm than from the printed page. If you have had any experience in these matters for any of the West China universities, would you give me your advice?

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

ASSOCIATED BOARDS FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA
150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

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MARCH 10, 1944

file

MARGARET SPEER
LAKEVILLE
CONNECTICUT

FOLLOWING CABLE JUST RECEIVED FROM FENN: "PLEASE INFORM SAILER SPEER CHENGTU ESSENTIAL LINK YENCHING HISTORY MEIYIPAO BADLY NEEDS SUPPORT GUIDANCE STRONGLY URGE BOTH COME."

C. A. EVANS

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3. The company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward this message over the lines of any other company when necessary to reach its destination.
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ASK ANY WESTERN UNION OFFICE OR AGENCY FOR FULL INFORMATION

March 10, 1944

Miss Margaret Bailey Speer
Rockledge
Lakeville, Connecticut.

Dear Miss Speer:

As I have been exploring the microfilm possibilities you were right in directing your inquiry to me. We sent three microfilms to Yenching sometime ago but found it necessary to ask the State Department to forward them for us. The limit of weight for the microfilms is two ounces by air mail. In addition it is necessary to have the films censored and we cannot find any two government agencies that will agree on who is empowered to do the censoring. In addition it is necessary to get an export license. We found the difficulties practically insuperable unless we could get help of the State Department.

If the books are to be reporduced photographically it would be necessary for them to have an enlarger; but as Nanking University has been designated by the Government to have charge of the preparation of material for Visual Education, it is to be presumed that they have the apparatus required. There is at least one microfilm reader on the Chengtu campus which could be used if the books are to be reproduced by hand-set type. As your Yenching books were porbably not copyrighted you will have no worries on that score.

Mr. Cameron, who is in charge of shipping for this office, thinks that the limit for air mail is two ounces instead of three as stated in your letter, but I have not checked on this. We have had very few letters lost in the mails but we take the precaution of sending duplicate copies. It would be possible to tear the books apart and send them by air mail but it would be very expensive. If you wish to compare the cost of postage with the cost of making the microfilm, I would say that the latter would cost about a cent a page to produce.

The third possibility is to send the books by some one who is going to China. Miss Walmsley is hoping to leave in a few days and is

taking a book for Dr. Struthers. Whether she can also take another six hundred pages all the way to Chengtu is problematical.

Various organizations, including the State Department, have been wrestling with such problems for a long time. The only hope for a real solution is for General Stillwell to complete the Ledo Road.

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Corbett

CHC
fb

March 21, 1944

Miss Margaret B. Speer
Rockledge
Lakeville, Connecticut

Dear Miss Speer:

The following cable just came from Y. P. Mei:

"MINIMUM NEED IN CHENGTU SPEER AND SAILER ALSO BORING IF NECESSARY SUPPORT AVAILABLE ALL OTHERS WELCOME -- MEIYIPAO."

Last week I sent you a copy of another cable along this same line. When you are next in New York I think we should formulate some sort of a cable in answer to these requests. Meanwhile I am writing to Dr. Sailer. It is practically impossible for us to consider sending Miss Boring out as we have not funds outside of the budget for this purpose, and the Methodist Board is far behind on their quota for the other Universities at Chengtu and will not take anybody on outside of their own group at the present time. Neither can we go outside and solicit funds for an additional person on the budget of Yenching.

With conditions in China as they are at the present time with costs mounting daily to still higher figures, it is a serious question whether we could consider sending an additional person supported by the Board of Trustees.

Will be looking forward to seeing you soon.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

Lindsays

YENCHING UNIVERSITY
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, N. Y.

Exchange 8/11

file

April 20, 1944

To the Reconstructed Temporary Field Administrative Committee

(Dr. Galt, Dr. S. D. Wilson, Dr. Sailer, Miss Cookingham, and copies to Mr. Evans and Mr. Corbett)

Dear Friends,

Bill Band's letter of February 25th raised various points concerning his financial treatment by the University about which Mary Cookingham wrote to you on March 27th asking your opinion and advice. Your replies agreed on some points but not on all. Therefore I should like to tell you what action we have taken and ask your further advice on several points.

On the questions of annuity, furlough, and regularizing the loan of his services to the British Council for Cultural Relations we are all unanimously agreed and the letter that has already gone from Mr. Corbett to Bill Band has therefore said that we are recommending to the Trustees' Finance Committee (1) that the University pay its half of Mr. Band's retirement annuity up to the time when he started work with the British Council; (2) that the University should assure the Bands of a furlough after the war, or before that whenever a furlough should seem necessary and travel conditions should permit; (3) that the loan of Mr. Band's services to the British Council should immediately be approved.

Regarding compensation for loss of household goods, one member of the committee suggested a payment of US$500 now with the possibility of more later, but all the rest of the committee felt that no commitment should be made at this time. Many other members of the faculty lost large amounts of household goods (the Wiants and Breeces as well as people who were on the spot) and moreover we shall not know until after the war either how complete our losses are or what stand the churches and the Government will take about indemnities. Mr. Corbett has therefore written: "Inasmuch as no member of the faculty has as yet received compensation for the loss of household goods, and because it is impossible at the present time to be sure that they are all irretrievably lost, or that compensation may not ultimately be paid by the invading forces, it is recommended that this question be left in abeyance, with the assurance that Professor Band will receive treatment similar to that accorded to other members of the faculty."

In regard to travel expenses from Peking to Chungking: although there was not unanimity on this point the majority of the committee felt that travel expenses should be paid. The argument brought up against it was that this would set a precedent that would have to be followed in the case of the Chinese faculty. It is my understanding that the University has paid travel expenses for most if not all of the Chinese members of the faculty who have gone to Chengtu. In reply to this it might be argued that the Bands are in Chungking and are not working for the University. But on the other hand if they had not left for Free China when they did they would now still be interned in Weihsien and the University would be obligated for their salary for a longer period than is now the case; also if they eventually take a furlough before returning to Peking they are already part of the way home and there is no way of telling whether this route will prove more or less expensive than travel for Britishers who may ultimately be repatriated from Weihsien. At any rate I hope the minority will not feel the majority has been too unwise in recommending to the Trustees that the Bands' travel to Chungking be paid.

This brings us finally to the most important point of all: the question of paying full salary from December 1941 to the time when Mr. Band began work with the British Council. The general opinion of the committee was that this should be paid and Mr. Corbett has written that we are recommending it with the understanding that out of this amount Mr. Band will repay to the authorities in the Northwest whatever he considers fair compensation for the maintenance and hospitality they provided. The matter of the exchange rate to be used in computing the salary, however, has been left open and attention has been called to the 8:1 rate used in paying the back salaries to the Chengtu faculty. The whole problem seems to be very complex and I should like your thought and judgment on several points:

1. Whatever action is taken in the Bands' case on salary and all other related matters will have a bearing on what should be done later for the Lindsays. Would you therefore try to make notes now of what treatment should be recommended for the Lindsays as far as we can foresee future circumstances?

2. The Bands' case is the first case that brings into sharp relief a comparison between treatment of foreigners and Chinese on the two points of the period for which salary should be paid and the exchange rate to be used. In recommending that the Bands' salary should be paid for the full period between December 1941 and February or March 1944 when Mr. Band began receiving a salary from the British Council we are in line with what has been done for all other foreign members of the staff and for the Chinese who began work in the re-opened University in Chengtu in September 1942. But what about the Chinese who stayed in Peking? If salaries for that group are going to be paid only for a limited period of five to seven months, or even for a longer period, what is the basis for the ~~most~~ more generous treatment for the Bands? Presumably the reason for paying salaries to foreigners during the period in San Kuan Miao and internment is that during that period they were not free and therefore were unable to secure any other jobs. Does that same argument hold for the Bands in Free China or does it not? Might the Chinese who stayed in Peking argue that they were less free to find other jobs than the Bands were?

In the matter of exchange rate we again have a very ticklish problem. The 5:1 rate has already been agreed upon for the salaries of the repatriated Westerners and presumably the same rate will be used in computing the salaries of those who are still interned. But for the back salaries of the Chinese faculty in Chengtu we used the rate of 8:1. There was no intention of discrimination in using this less favorable rate; we were simply acting on Y. P. Mei's recommendation to take the prevailing rate of November 1941. The Bands' case is the first case of Westerners remaining in China -- should they be treated like the repatriates or like the faculty in Chengtu? Is there so much danger that the use of different exchange rates for Chinese and Westerners will seem like unfair and arbitrary discrimination that we should at once recommend that the 5:1 rate should be used for everyone, thus increasing tremendously the sum that will ultimately be needed to take care of all the Chinese faculty still in Occupied China? Or are there valid reasons for different rates for Chinese and Westerners namely (1) that during the early months of 1942 5:1 was the approximate rate which we received from the Swiss authorities and (2) that in the case of foreigners the back salary is needed for rehabilitation in this country and even at 5:1 is considerably less than furlough salary (for example, in the case of a full professor one month's salary at 5:1 is $126 while one month's furlough salary is $205.) Whereas in the case of the Chinese faculty the only reason for using a gold exchange rate at all is simply to find some reasonable way of computing the value of back salaries in a time of unstable currency, and the prevailing rate of November 1941 seems the most logical rate to take as a basis. These are only a few of the considerations that might be raised in dealing with this very complicated problem. Ran Sailer has rightly called it "full of dynamite."

Will you ponder on these last two points and let either Mary Cookingham or me know what you think about them? Would you think it was wise to write to Y. P. Mei to raise this whole question of the exchange rate? So far we have simply sent word to him that his recommendation regarding back salaries for Chengtu was approved but he knows nothing about the different problems of treatment of repatriates or any recommendations for ultimate settlement with the people who remained in Occupied China. Sooner or later, however, he should probably be informed of what is being done for the Bands.

Your wisdom is greatly needed and will be much appreciated.

Ever yours,

MBS:G

Will you ponder on these last two points and let either Mary Cookingham or me know what you think about them? Would you think it was wise to write to Y. P. Tai to raise this whole question of the exchange rate? So far we have simply sent word to him that his recommendation regarding bank salaries for Chungkun was approved but he knows nothing about the different problems of treatment of repatriates or any recommendations for ultimate settlement with the people who remained in Occupied China. Sooner or later, however, he should probably be informed of what is being done for the heads.

Your wisdom is greatly needed and will be much appreciated.

Ever yours,

WHD:G

April 28, 1944

Miss Margaret Speer
Rockledge
Lakeville, Connecticut.

Dear Miss Speer:

When the Planning Committee was formed a year ago, a very careful study was made to see that each college board was represented by the chairman, or some one appointed by him, plus such additional membership as was necessary to provide representation for the main committees of the Associated Boards. In addition invitation have been issued, as occasion arose, to persons recently arrived from China who could help the Planning Committee to understand the special problems of particular institutions. Last year we were fortunate to have Dr. Wu Yi-fang to speak for Ginling, Dr. Y. C. Yang to speak for Soochow and Dr. M. Searle Bates to speak for Nanking.

This year we hope that we may have you present so that the Committee may have your counsel as questions may arise about women's education in China and about the future of Yenching. A copy of the schedule is enclosed for your convenience.

The others invited to this meeting include:

Bishop Y. Y. Tsu of the Board of Managers of Cheeloo University
Dr. R. J. McMullen, former President of Hangchow College
Dr. M. Searle Bates, of Nanking University
Dr. Y. C. Yang of Soochow University
Bishop W. Y. Chen, tp speak for Fukien and Hwanan, as well as for the Commission appointed in China
Dr. F. L. Hawks Pott of St. John's University
Dr. Frank Price who was commissioned in China to speak for the five institutions in Chengtu
Dr. Paul C. T. Kwei, formerly a professor at Hua Chung

In addition we hope that on Saturday afternoon when we expect to devote a whole session to the problem of the universities in East China there will be several additional persons from those institutions present to take part in the discussion.

The first session will begin with dinner at 6:30 on Friday evening at the Gramercy Park Hotel when the members of the committee and the others invited

to attend, will be the guests of the Associated Boards. I hope you will find it possible to be present.

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Corbett
Secretary
for the
Planning Committee

CHC
fb

File

5/31

YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEIPING, CHINA

American Office
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

May 31, 1944

Dear Mr. Ballou,

I have just received from Washington a copy of a cable evidently sent by the International Red Cross on January 14. You may have already had a copy of it in the office but I had not seen it before. Actually it says nothing we did not already know but it is always interesting to have official confirmation of facts.

"Information submitted by Egle IRC: Houghton, Bowen, Stuart interned in former A.C. Henning Company Peiping. Quarters small but comfortable and seemingly sufficiently heated. Received monthly relief 200 local dollars from Swiss Consulate. Can send and receive messages on Red Cross blanks. IRC delegate states their situation at least equal other internees."

Please don't trouble to acknowledge this. I'll be in the office later this week.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

YENCHING UNIVERSITY
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, N. Y.

June 23, 1944

Dear Dr. Galt and Ran,

Yesterday Stanley and Mary Cookingham and Mr. Evans had a long talk about Yenching's responsibility toward the E. O. Wilsons and today Mary and Stanley and I have been going over the matter again. We would like to report our findings to you for your consideration and then, if we all agree, the recommendation can go to the Trustees. The question has been raised whether final action should be taken without consultation with any of the Chinese members of the faculty. In normal times of course the university Executive Committee would act on such a matter as this, but there is no Chinese member of the faculty in this country who is an experienced university administrative officer. To send our recommendation to Chengtu for Y. P. Mei's consideration has the two disadvantages of causing a long delay and of putting Y. P. in the difficult position of having to approve or disapprove of an action which he has not been able to discuss with the rest of us and about which he has never been consulted in any of its previous stages. Much as I regret taking action on this without Chinese advice, I see no satisfactory alternative.

Before we come to the actual recommendation, there are two points which have an important bearing and which should be kept in mind.

1. The financial arrangements which have already been made for the Wilsons in the period since E. O.'s return to China in the fall of 1941 have been generous in the extreme. One might almost call them irregular, except that the irregularities developed from the impossibility of communication between Peking and New York after the fall of 1941 and through certain misunderstandings caused by E. O.'s physical condition. From October 1941 to December 1943 full furlough salary and rent for a family (a total of $230 a month on which no income tax needed to be paid) was paid to Mrs. Wilson. At the same time E. O. was drawing some funds for expenses in Peking so that he received for that period US$626.74 in excess of his normal furlough salary. Moreover, for at least one college year of this period Mrs. Wilson was working and receiving free board and lodging. In addition, exceptionally large medical and dental bills have been paid for the Wilson Family. At the time of the return of the Gripsholm the University paid the full expenses for E. O.'s stay in New York for several weeks - something which was not done in the case of any other returning member of the faculty. At that time he also had an advance of $300 which does not seem to have been accounted for and which should therefore be added to the $626.74 mentioned above. Moreover, on April 10, 1944, E. O. began working at the California Institute of Technology and has received a salary both from the Institute and from Yenching for the period from April 10 to May 31.

2. In taking up this matter of financial adjustments for a member of the faculty who is incapacitated we naturally ask what precedents there are. The little gray booklet of faculty information has a section on prolonged illness which provides a sliding scale of payments to be made in case of disability or death while in university service. This scale ranges from one month's salary, in the case of a person who has been in university service for one year, to six months salary, in the case of a person who has been with the university for ten years or more. However it is specifically stated that these payments shall not be applicable to members of the university's annuity plan. The Wilsons are members of the annuity plan.

We have tried to think what individual precedents there have been. We can think of no Westerners who have become disabled in university service. In the cases of Chinese who have become seriously ill we cannot remember any case in which the university has done more than to pay full salary for one year. Wang Chieh-yi had tuberculosis and the university took care of her for the remainder of the academic year in which she became ill. In her case recovery came after a few additional months rest. In the case of Dr. Chen Tsai-hsin, after paying full salary for a year the university continued for several years to pay one-fourth salary while Dr. Chen continued to render a small amount of nominal service to the university. When Mr. Ti, the registrar, died the university gave his widow the accumulated annuity payments in U.S. dollars which amounted to a considerable sum. Our memory of these cases may not be entirely accurate, but at least there is no precedent for continuing the salary of a disabled member of the faculty for a long period or for paying salary to a widow after her husband's death.

E. O. Wilson is at present holding a position with the California Institute of Technology but reports indicate that his physical condition is deteriorating rapidly and that he may feel he has to give up this work at almost any time. After full consideration but with some misgivings we are recommending the following treatment:

1. From June 1 for as long a period as Mr. Wilson is receiving salary from any other institution Yenching will cease to pay salary and rent allowance.

2. Whenever Mr. Wilson becomes unable to hold a regular position the university will begin to pay a retirement allowance of $1800 a year including the payments from his Sun Life Assurance policy. (The figure of $1800 has been put down since it is the maximum retirement allowance provided by Mission Boards. Some of us feel a lower figure would be better.) If Mr. Wilson should have to give up a regular position but could continue with part-time work the Trustees will determine what portion of the retirement allowance will be paid. This will continue for his lifetime only. During this period the Wilsons will be entitled to any receipts from their investments and to any money that Mrs. Wilson might earn from any sort of position.

3. As from June 1, 1944 the university will no longer be responsible for any medical and dental bills for the family except for the cost of a general physical examination which we understand Mr. Wilson has not had since his return to this country. (He had a preliminary examination by Dr. Vaughn and has been examined by specialists, but has not yet had his general examination.)

4. The balance of the educational fund for the Wilson boys amounting to $3,129.68, as of June, 1945, will be paid. ¶ Further details of the Wilsons' financial outlook about which you may wish information are to the best of our knowledge as follows:

They own a house at Peitaiho and have considerable household furniture in Peking.

They have investments yielding from $250 to $300 per year.
Mr. Wilson carries some life insurance; we are not sure how much.
The three boys carry life insurance amounting to $10,000 each.

A letter from the Sun Life Assurance Company dated January 4, 1944 states that the annuity due to be paid to E. O. Wilson beginning July 1, 1943 is $325.08 per annum or $27.09 per month. This amount will increase slowly until whatever time he begins to draw his retirement allowance. After Mr. Wilson's death annuity payments

would be continued to Mrs. Wilson only if the amount originally paid by the Wilsons and the university plus interest had not been exhausted and only until this amount should be completely expended.

We do not feel satisfied with this recommendation but we cannot find any more satisfactory solution to this perplexing problem. Please let Mary Cookingham know as soon as possible whether you approve of this plan or what changes you would suggest.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

Copies to:
Miss Cookingham
Dr. S. D. Wilson
Mr. Evans
Mr. Corbett

For Mr. Evans

June 29, 1944

Dear Dr. Galt,

After sending off my letter of June 23rd about a settlement for the Wilsons I had a chance to see Ran and went over all the recommendations very thoroughly. There were a number of points on which Ran's judgment differed from that of some of the other members of the committee. If we followed his opinions I think the final figure might not be very different from the preliminary recommendations but it would be arrived at differently.

1. He agrees with several of us here that the figure of $1800 a year for a retirement allowance is rather high. Since talking with him in Washington I have checked again with the Presbyterian Board and find that their policy is to take $1800 as the final retirement allowance to be paid after forty years of service. In cases of disability they pay a disability allowance of $900 plus 1/40 of $900 for each year of service. In E. O.'s case I believe he has served Yenching for 23 years so if we followed the Presbyterian procedure his disability allowance would be $900 plus $517.50 or $1417.50 a year.

2. Ran feels that it is unsatisfactory not to plan for a definite widow's pension for Flo after E.O.'s death. The difficulty about this is that we cannot foresee whether she would be in a position to take a job and earn her own living at that time or not. Certainly Yenching has never had anything like a policy of granting widow's pensions apart from the ordinary benefits of our annuity plan. Again I have checked with the Presbyterian Board and find that their policy is to take each case on its merits. They frequently pay widows' pensions up to $1000 a year but the assumption is that the widow will return to the mission field if at all possible and if she stays in this country she will try to find a job and any earnings from such a position will be deducted from her pension. Some of us have felt that the Wilson boys ought to be able to share financial responsibility for their parents, but Ran feels that it is psychologically unsound to expect children to support their parents.

3. In regard to the balance of the Educational Allowance, Ran still feels as I do, and as I know you do not, that this was meant to pay for the boys' college education and not as an out-and-out childrens' allowance. Ran feels that if the boys do not get a college education or if the government pays for their education as it is apparently doing then there is no reason for paying the balance of the educational fund to the Wilsons as if it were automatically their property. When Stanley was here we found the following statement in the gray Faculty Information booklet: "If the faculty member leaves before he has completed ten years of service, he is entitled to 1/2 the amount accumulated to the credit of each of his children. If he leaves after he has completed more than ten years of service, he is entitled to draw the full amount accumulated to the credit of each of his children." We were inclined to accept this as clinching your view that the educational allowances were the family property, but as Ran and I talked it over afterwards we felt that it was open to still another interpretation: namely, that the university assumed that every faculty child would go to college and in the case of teachers who left the university service before their children had reached college age the sums accumulated to the credit of the children would be paid to the family just to have the accounts closed and to save future negotiations. If the child did not go to college, or in fact if he should die, the university would not ask to have the money returned to it by a member of the faculty who had resigned, but in the case of teachers who continue in the service of the university, as the Wilsons have done, the money accumulated for a college education would not be paid to the family if the child should die, and neither would it be paid if the

child never took advantage of his opportunity to go to college. I know this is a very controversial point and there is probably no use in arguing about it. Mr. Evans feels that it is such an explosive point with the Wilsons that it is wisest to accept their interpretation of the matter whether we all agree with them or not.

Now, I am not sure just where all this leaves us. I hope this may catch up with you before you write me your comments on my earlier letter. I may not have stated Ran's opinions just as he would himself but I hope he will forgive me if I have misrepresented him in any way. The final decision rests with the Trustees. When we have collected all opinions, we will try to present all the facts and all the interpretations to the Trustees and trust them to reach an impartial and fair decision.

I hope you and Mrs. Galt are having a pleasant summer.

Sincerely yours,

MBS.

Copies to:
Miss Cookingham
Dr. Sailer
Dr. S. D. Wilson
Mr. Evans
Mr. Corbett

while never took advantage of his opportunity to go to college. I know this is a very controversial point and there is probably no use in arguing about it. Mr. Evans feels that it is much an explosive point with the Williams that it is wisest to accept their interpretation of the matter whether we all agree with them or not.

Now, I am not sure just where all this leaves us. I hope this may catch up with you before you write me your comments on my earlier letter. I may not have stated Dan's opinions just as he would himself but I hope he will forgive me if I have misrepresented him in any way. The final decision rests with the Trustees. When we have collected all opinions, we will try to present all the facts and all the interpretations to the Trustees and trust them to reach an impartial and fair decision.

I hope you and Mrs. Gelt are having a pleasant summer.

Sincerely yours,

MMS

Copies to:
Miss Cockingham
Dr. Zeller
Mr. S. D. Wilson
Mr. Evans
Mr. Corbett

file
BALLOU
REC'D 7/8
ANS'D 7/13

ROCKLEDGE
LAKEVILLE, CONNECTICUT

July 7, 1944

Dear Boss,

It has seemed to me a number of times during the last month that a mouse would have more powers of decision than I have! You must have been right about a typewriter's ability to write its own letters, for the letter I wrote to Shipley last week, which sounded so firm and final to me, sounded to them as though I had left a lot of loopholes. I had based my refusal chiefly on unwillingness to be tied up for two years, whereupon they promptly said, "Come for one year and we promise not to try to hold you longer if you can go back to China next summer." And seeing how much it means to Mother, I have succumbed and told Shipley I'd go for one year. They are perfectly willing for me to go on making speeches for Yenching and China and I really believe I'll have time for quite a few. I am well aware of all the disadvantages in this one-year scheme, but I honestly believe there are fewer in this arrangement than in any of the other plans for the next year or two which had presented themselves.

The hardest part of the decision was to face sending word to Y.P.Mei that I wasn't going to try to go back to help them before next summer, but having finally decided on that step in any case, I don't believe that going to Shipley will prove as much a desertion of Yenching as some people have feared. After all, Bryn Mawr is a good deal nearer New York than Lakeville.

Will you be good enough to tell Mr. Evans? (I

seem to have more letters to write today than my willing typewriter can cope with.) The fact that I am going to Shipley is still confidential until the school can make its official announcement. I hope you'll all still consider me just as much on the job for Yenching and China as I have ever been.

A letter has just come from Y.P. asking whether they can plan a welcome party for Ran and me by Thanksgiving time! Apparently Ran has finally decided that he must put off his return for another year too. I don't know whether it's worthwhile sending them a cable or not. I shall write Y.P. at once in any case.

I wish I could share our Connecticut breezes with you all.

Very sincerely yours,

Maurine Speer

"ROCKLEDGE," LAKEVILLE, CONNECTICUT July 5

For some curious reason I keep having miscellaneous requests for information about Miss May Sheehy. Am I right in thinking that she is Dean of Women at WCUU and that she is in charge at present? Could you tell me if I am right & if there has been any recent word about her? Also when she took her last furlough? Sorry to trouble you.

Margaret Spear


NEW YORK N.Y.
JUL 6
2 30 P.M.
1944
GRAND CENTRAL ANNEX
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
1 CENT 1
RECEIVED
UNIVERSITY
JUL 7 1944
JOINT OFF.
Mr. C. A. Evans
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, N. Y.

July 7, 1944

Miss Margaret B. Speer
Rockledge
Lakeville, Connecticut

Dear Miss Speer:

Yes, Miss Streeter is the Dean of Women at West China Union University. She is a representative of the Church Missionary Society on the West China staff. Unfortunately I do not know when her furlough is due. It is my impression, however, that it is at least two years before it is due.

Sorry you cannot be with us and enjoy this wonderful hot weather. It is blistering.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

file
Ans'd

ROCKLEDGE
LAKEVILLE, CONNECTICUT

July 13, 1944

Dear Mr. Evans,

I wrote to Mr. Ballou a few days ago breaking the news that my powers of resistance had not been adequate to withstand Shipley's second attack and I have agreed to go there for one year. They have promised to let me go next summer if both my family situation and the political situation make it possible to go back to China. I don't feel very gay about it all, but I think this is the right thing to do. And I hope to be able to do whatever I can for Yenching and the China Colleges in the meantime.

Sent OK

The enclosed check is a gift to Yenching from Miss Christine Hammer. The receipt should be sent to her at 194 Main Street, Bridgewater, Mass., but her regular address for our permanent records is 86 East End Avenue, New York City.

?
1

I've written Mary about the next steps regarding E.O.Wilson and she will be discussing them with you.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

July 14, 1944

Miss Margaret Speer
Rockledge
Lakeville, Connecticut.

Dear Marnie:

I hope you will pardon me for letting so much of a week go by before answering yours of the 7th. I was not surprised at your decision, though of course it would have been encouraging in a number of respects if you not only felt you could go right back to Yenching but in some way could be spirited there promptly and without any of the delays and hazards which attend a journey in that direction. We surely will be wanting your help on Yenching and other college matters in the autumn and rejoice that you will be no farther away than Bryn Mawr. The best success to you in the new enterprise -- but not so much success that you are tempted beyond powers of resistence to stay longer than the one year!

I do not believe that we will cable Y.P., but rely on letters which can go a little more into detail. It is quite possible that within a month there will be a chance to send letters much faster than they can go in the post in which case not so very much time would be saved by the brevity and generally unsatisfactory nature of a cable.

Miss Boring has been in for quite a talk and as you know is very keen on going back. In staff meeting Monday we agreed that if she clears her health hurdle -- and she herself is very optimistic, with the expert opinion to be secured in the near future -- we shall do everything within our power to further her plans. Whether this means much or nothing at all remains to be seen. Plumer Mills, planning to return in connection with NCC matters, was told that at present the State Department did not consider such work of sufficient importance to support him but that after several months they would be willing to reconsider. Claude Thomson seems to have a stronger case and one more similar to Miss Boring's. We should know in a few days

how he fared in his application. If they turn him down I presume neither Miss Boring nor you or any other woman would stand any show.

I question whether your salutation is sufficiently respectful or reverential. It tempts me to try to match it: How would you like to be called bossy?

If you have any reason at all for staying in Lakeville during this kind of weather, keep away from New York.

Very sincerely yours,

EHB
fb

July 21, 1944

Miss Margaret Speer
Rockledge
Lakeville, Connecticut.

Dear Miss Speer:

I think we could well talk over with Miss Boring several matters connected with her going back to China. She says you are to be down here next Monday and Tuesday and that she could come in the latter part of either afternoon. I have suggested Monday at four o'clock but that may be too early for her. Unfortunately I have another appointment later on which would make four-thirty a bit crowded but adjustments can be made if necessary.

I might say that we of the staff are agreed we should do everything we can to help her get back, but on the financial side it looks as if not much can be done if the field budget is not able to carry most if not all of her expenses, unless, that is, we can stir up a good deal more spondoolix around here that has yet arisen to the surface.

Very sincerely yours,

EHB
fb

BOUGHT 1 U.-MAGNA CAPS FROM
Lebenle LAB, 30 Rockefeller PLAZA
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FOR EXPORT (7101) 8/22/44
FOS

Lakeville, Conn.
August 2, 1944

Mr. J.A.Cameron
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, New York

Dear Mr. Cameron,

Last week when I was in the office you were away and I am not sure when I shall be there again. The problem of vitamins for Yenching is still in my mind and I hope you can help me out. I am enclosing a check for one hundred dollars which has been given specially for the purpose of sending a gift of some vitamins for the Yenching faculty and students. ($50 is from Miss Boring; the rest is in small gifts which have been made to me personally.)

I suppose the first point is to decide how to send them and the matter of buying them is secondary to that. Several weeks ago you gave me a memorandum about the procedure for mailing them, and if we cannot find anybody to take them, I suppose mail is the only alternative. However, Mr. Neuhauser at the Shipping Department of the Presbyterian Board told me that on some of the recent packages of medicines that they had mailed the postage was nearly as much as the cost of the vitamins.

I have not heard the latest news about Dr. Claude Thomson's passport but I have been making inquiries as to whether Dr. Shuhsi Hsu, who is going back in a few weeks, could take anything for us, and also about Dr. Harold Loucks, who may be going to Chengtu or Chungking this fall. Do you think it would be worth while to use half the money to buy vitamins to be sent by mail at once and to use the rest as soon as we find someone who could take a package?

You probably have all the material at hand as to the best kind of vitamins to buy, from the point of view of potency, cost, and ease of packing. Miss Ruth Williams of the Medical Center bought Squibbs ABCDG to send out to the YWCA and apparently only paid $19 a thousand for them at the Yale Drug Co., 1460 St. Nicholas Ave. At the Presbyterian Board they recommend Squibbs Special Formula(which I think is the same thing) but Mr. Neuhauser told me he paid $30 a thousand. Dr. Dodd at the Presbyterian Board also recommends Upjohn's Unicap brand, which only cost $10 a thousand. I think the main thing is to get one of the standard all-purpose brands. The Unicap are especially good to pack because they are light and small and the pills apparently don't have to be kept from touching each other as some of the gelatinous ones do.

May I leave the whole matter in your hands? You might consult Miss Cookingham about any of the details. And if it should seem that the Yale Drug Company is the best place to buy the Squibbs, Miss Boring, who lives near there, would be glad to get them. I'll let you know at once if I hear that either Dr. Hsu or Dr. Loucks could take a package for us.

I hope you have had a pleasant vacation.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

Lakeville, Conn.
August 2, 1944

Mr. J.A.Cameron
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, New York

Dear Mr. Cameron,

Last week when I was in the office you were away and I am not sure when I shall be there again. The problem of vitamins for Yenching is still in my mind and I hope you can help me out. I am enclosing a check for one hundred dollars which has been given specially for the purpose of sending a gift of some vitamins for the Yenching faculty and students. ($50 is from Miss Boring; the rest is in small gifts which have been made to me personally.)

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I have not heard the latest news about Dr. Claude Thomson's passport but I have been making inquiries about Dr. Smith Hsu, who is going back in a few weeks, could take anything for us, and also about Dr. Harold Loucks, who may be going to Chungkin or Chungking. Do you think it would be worth while to use half the money to buy vitamins to be sent by mail at once and to use the rest to see if we find someone who could take a package?

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May I leave the whole matter with you? You might consult Miss Cookingham about any of the details. Mr. Hu thinks it would seem that the Yale Drug Company is the best place to buy the Squibbs. Miss Ruth Williams, who lives near there, would be glad to get them. I'll let you know at once if I hear that either Dr. Hsu or Dr. Loucks could take a package for us.

I hope you have had a pleasant vacation.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

Lu Gwei-Djen
50 Haven Ave.
Bardnall
N.Y. 32
B.N. WO-3-6800
LAB. 3-2500-582

August 11, 1944

Miss Margaret Speer
Rockledge
Lakeville, Conn.

Dear Miss Speer:

A special appropriation made possible by personal gifts was made available for fire victims in the fire which destroyed Yenching dormitory a year ago last March. The field treasurer has informed us that the committee in charge has divided the appropriation equally among those who have lost all of their possessions. The individual share is $197.67.

Miss Lo Hsiu-chen has requested us to send you the enclosed check and states that she had written you regarding the disposition. This check has been drawn upon the University of Nanking account at the request of the treasurer and it's requested that the check be cashed promptly.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/mp
Enc.

ROCKLEDGE
LAKEVILLE CONNECTICUT

August 14, 1944

ack 8/17/44

Dear Mr. Evans,

You and Mr. Ballou will be interested in the enclosed article from the Sunday School Times, if it has not already come to your desk.

Thank you for the check for Miss Lo Hsiu-chen's share of indemnity for fire losses. I have not yet heard from her what she wants me to do with the money but I have deposited the money in my account and made a note that it is to be held until her instructions arrive. Probably like all the other younger members of the staff she is hoping eventually to some to this country for further study.

I go down to Bryn Mawr tomorrow to begin my new job, but hope to be in New York frequently and will stop in the office when I can. My address will be: The Shipley School, Bryn Mawr, Pa.

We are in the midst of a terrific thunder storm here. I hope it is breaking the heat in New York.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

August 17, 1944

Miss Margaret B. Speer
The Shipley School
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

Dear Miss Speer:

Sincerest congratulations and best wishes in your new position. Our thoughts and prayers go with you and we trust the year will be one of rich experience.

I was pretty much bowled over by that article in the Sunday School Times. By that I mean the appreciative stand as related to the Colleges. I have not had a chance to read it thoroughly and wish to review it again tonight. Mr. Ballou will not be back to the office until next week. Meanwhile, I have been away from the office for this week except for today, when I came in for a series of meetings and conferences.

The terrific thunderstorm you had on the 14th has just arrived in New York an hour and a half ago. Within this period it sounds as though we were in a bombing operation over Normandy and as yet I have seen no appreciable difference in the heat situation.

Many thanks for sending the article.

Most sincerely yours,

CAE:EW.

C. A. EVANS

August 15, 1944

Miss Margaret Speer
Lakeville, Conn.

Dear Miss Speer:

Your letter of August the 2nd was handed to me upon my return to the office on the 7th. Your check for $100.00 has been deposited in the Yenching University Suspense Account.

It is true that the cost of mailing parcels to China amounts to just about as much as the cost of the merchandise. However, the urgent need of medical supplies, I believe, justifies our spending at least half of the $100.00 immediately, and the balance when we have an opportunity to have them taken in personally. I talked with Miss Cookingham and she agrees that this is probably the best procedure.

The matter of the best type vitamin to be purchased is not so simple. As you say, various persons have their favorite brands and do not seem to agree on what is the best to send.

I recalled that Miss Lu Gwei-djen, a graduate of Ginling College, and an authority on nutrition, who is here in New York had vitamins prepared especially for Ginling College and taken back by President Wu, should be able to solve our problem. I called her and explained the situation to her and she asked that I give her a few days in which to explore the various possibilities and told me that she would call me back. So far she has not called. If I do not hear from her today, I will contact her again and try to get her decision. She is acquainted with the transportation difficulties involved and with the needs of the faculties and students in China and is, I believe, the logical person to make the decision for us.

I will get the package off as promptly as possible.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES A. CAMERON

JAC/mc

THE SHIPLEY SCHOOL

BRYN MAWR, PENNSYLVANIA

Office of the Principals

August 22, 1944

Dear Mary,

I hope you had a good vacation. The change in the weather was perfect, both for workers and vacationers.

A letter has just come from Stanley about Sherm. I don't know whether the Wilsons may have written directly to Mr. Corbett or anyone else in the office. This seems like bad news. I am enclosing the short letter from Flo to Stanley, which he sent. Stanley writes as follows:

"I have been intending to write you in regard to E. O. for the past two weeks but seem to have been occupied with other matters. I had thought that he was doing better than earlier and he seemed to be feeling better. Flo had moved over to Pasadena and that had made things better for him. But beginning on July 31st, he failed to come to the laboratory and he has not been there since. I was much surprised when this took place. However it is apparent that he has failed much lately and that now he is in pain most of the time. I will enclose a note which Flo sent me. He has taken all of his things from the lab. and has resigned. I feel that this is the END as far as any work from him. Of course I may be mistaken and he may improve and return to work but it looks doubtful to say the least. It is a tragedy for the University and for the family. The real tragedy lies in the fact that neither one of the two members of the family have any spiritual resources with which to meet the crisis. They seem to have nothing outside of their own bodies. As Galt said to me to-day, 'it seems impossible that they could have lived in the Yenching community as they have and be without higher spiritual values.' There may be something that they have that is not obvious to Galt and myself,- let us hope so at any rate. I suppose the University will be soon able to decide what they are going to do in this case. They have funds for the time being but I suppose they are anxious for the future."

I don't know quite what we ought to do next, but I wonder whether it would not be well for one of us--you, or Mr. Corbett or me--to send off a personal note to Flo at once saying that we are very sorry to hear of these latest developments and to assure her that their needs are not forgotten. I don't suppose we could begin to send any sort of monthly allowance until the whole question of Sherm's treatment is settled by the Trustees.

I am in the midst of being initiated into my new job here, but

will be in New York on my way home for a brief visit next week and will surely see you at the dinner for H. H. Kung on Monday.

Most affectionately yours,

Maxine

MBS/ehc

Miss Mary Cookingham
Yenching University Office
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, New York

August 23, 1944

Miss Margaret Speer
The Shipley School
Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Dear Miss Speer:

Since writing you a day or so ago, I have been in touch with Miss Lu Gwei-djen and she has suggested that we purchase Vi-Magna Vitamins from the Leberle Laboratories, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City (Vi-Magna is the new trade name for their product formerly sold under the name of Multi? Vitamins.)

I contacted the Leberle Laboratories and they assure me that this is their best all around capsule and although they have had very little experience with shipments passing through hot climates, they are confident that this particular brand will not deteriorate.

I have ordered 1,000 at $15.79 for our first shipment and have applied to the Office of Economic Warfare for export license for a total of 5,000. Although the funds we now have on hand will probably not cover the cost of sending over 2,500, I thought it might be well to have permits for a larger amount for use in case we receive additional gifts for this specific purpose.

It will probably take three weeks to have the export license validated. I will get the first package in the mail as promptly after receipt of the license as possible.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES A. CAMERON

JAC/mc

APPLIED FOR LICENSE FOR EXPORT OF 5m CAPS AUG 22, 1944

THE SHIPLEY SCHOOL

BRYN MAWR, PENNSYLVANIA

Office of the Principals August 24, 1944

ac 14 9/27/44

Dear Mr. Cameron,

Thank you for your report on your conversation with Miss Lu Gwei-djen about the best vitamins to be sent to West China. I am sure we will do well to follow her advice. I am enclosing another check for $25.00 which has been given to me by some friends at Dwight's School, to be used for medicines for Yenching. I think this can be added to our Vitamin Account and will help with the postage on this first shipment.

I have just heard that Dr. Harold Loucks is probably going back soon as Adviser in Surgery to Government Medical Schools in West China. I am not sure that is his exact title, but I think he will be starting off soon. I will get in touch with him at once and ask whether he can carry a package of vitamins for us. He is a good friend of Yenching's and will be glad to help if he can possibly manage any extra allowance of luggage.

I hope to be in New York on Monday to go to the dinner for Dr. Kung, and will try to stop in the office during the day.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

Margaret Bailey Speer
Principal

CHECK $25.
(HELEN A. BALLOU)
J.A.C. 8/28/44

MBS/ehc

Mr. James A. Cameron
China ~~Relief~~ Colleges Office
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, New York

Barron -

August 29, 1944

Dear Mr. Barron:

Here is about all the information I have on Miss Speer and I think it would be a good idea if you checked with Miss Speer before using it:

Miss Speer is a graduate of Bryn Mawr, class of 1922. She went to China in 1925 under the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. Since that time she has been on the Yenching faculty teaching English and, since about 1933, as Dean of the College for Women.

Miss Speer, with the other American members of the Yenching faculty was interned, first on the Yenching campus, later in Peking, and after March 1943, in the internment camp at Weihsien, China. She was repatriated last autumn and arrived in New York on the Gripsholm last December 1st.

The following information I found in an article from a Hartford newspaper dated April 28, 1944:

Months of internment in China prove that genuine happiness is based on "what we do and are," rather than "on what we have", according to Miss Margaret Bailey Speer, dean of the College for Women of Yenching University, China, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Speer of Lakeville, Connecticut.

Miss Speer stated that there was little opportunity for "camp apathy or bailed wire sickness" at the camp where she was interned. Conditions were very primitive and the internees were required to organize their own groups to take care of cooking, cleaning and the everyday living requirements for the 440 persons assembled. The cooks were the most important persons in camp, and the meager supply of food allowed no margin for error in its preparation.

The chief cooking utensils were two large cauldrons firmly fixed on bricks which formed the fireplace. Porridge, soup and stew were the main dishes which could be prepared and the task of cleaning the cauldrons after each meal required considerable ingenuity.

"A distinguished philosopher was the water-coordinator," Miss Speer said, and he had to do much with little. One of the rules at camp was, 'please remember to de-gravy your dish.' There were two reasons for the rule: first, because every scrap of food was needed, and second, because there was never enough water to cleanse unusually soiled dishes."

There were about 300 children at the camp, and in order that they might have more calcium, egg shells were ground to powder and served on their "tasteless porridge". Classes were organized for the children, from the grades through high school, but all the teaching had to be from memory as there were no books available.

The internees learned, Miss Speer said, to get along without certain necessities and never to be afraid of being poor. They also learned new social values, in that it was essential to think of the welfare of the whole group and not of the importance of any individual. There was, too, a new sense of God's presence, she said.

What we must work for, she concluded, is a just and honorable peace. "If you have anything unjust or dishonorable, it won't be peaceful; "and she closed with the Chinese proverb, "Do I not destroy my enemy when I make him my friend?"

This is all the information I can give you. The Presbyterian Board will get in touch with you direct if they have any information to add to this.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Edward Barron
United China Relief
1790 Broadway
New York City

P.S. I am enclosing a picture of Miss Speer which I hope you can use.

FG

For Mr. Evans. Memo being held for action by Committee. 9/7/44

Lakeville
August 31, 1944

Dear Mary,

This memorandum about Sherm may be too late to be of any use. I have typed it on a borrowed typewriter that badly needs a new ribbon and that has an unrestrained habit of skipping unexpectedly after half the letters. Please feel free to alter these notes in any way that you think is necessary. They may not be of any use, but it seemed to me that there is no point in presenting this matter to the Trustees unless we give them a bit of background so that they will understand what the issue is.

I have been thinking about the period when Sherm was getting salary both from Caltech and from Yenching. I felt very much provoked with Sherm for not suggesting himself at that time that he did not need (was not entitled to) two salaries, but in thinking of what adjustment should be made now it has occurred to me that if Sherm had not been able to take another job we would have paid his Yenching salary for a full six months. Since he took the Caltech job largely as the result of medical advice and then has had to give up it, don't you think it might be legitimate to allow him the six months furlough salary, counting out the time that he was receiving another salary? I think his period at Caltech was from April 10 to July 31. Six months salary might therefore be counted from Dec. 1 to April 10 and from August 1 to Sept. 20. His disability allowance would therefore start on Sept. 20. It's not a very important point but it would be a decent thing for us to do and might save a little extra haggling and hard feeling.

Sorry not to have been more helpful about all this sooner, and forgive these messy pages. I'm returning the other correspondence for your files.

I hope New York isn't getting too hot again. At least it can't last long.

Love,

Bannie

Sept. 6, 1944

Miss Margaret Speer
The Shipley School
Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Dear Marnie,

I was glad to receive your letter and the resolution in regard to the Wilsons. Mr. Evans thinks your statement of the situation is splendid - so clear and complete in detail. He is calling a meeting of the Trustees as soon as one can be arranged. He is having copies of your memorandum prepared and they will provide the material for discussion. Many thanks for your careful work.

Mr. Evans and I are also pleased with your suggestion for taking care of the double salary payment. We would all like to do all that we can for the Wilsons but we do not want to start any unnecessary precedents. The arrangement of dating Sherm's disability allowance as from September 20 is very good.

Shirley and I had dinner together last night and a grand old visit. The heat has been rather uncomfortable but the weather man is promising us cooler weather from now on.

I heard your father preach at the First Presbyterian Church on Sunday. It was a very good sermon but quite different from the ones I have heard you give. I like yours better but that is probably because our background has been so much alike during the past few years.

My love to you,

MC

THE SHIPLEY SCHOOL

BRYN MAWR, PENNSYLVANIA

September 26, 1944

ack 9/29/44

Mr. C. A. Evans
China Colleges Office
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, New York

Dear Mr. Evans:

The enclosed check for $163.50 has just been sent me by the Pembroke College Alumnae Association. The money has been collected as a contribution for the personal needs of Miss Chou Kuo-ping. I have already acknowledged the gift. Would you be good enough to transmit the money to Chengtu as soon as possible with word that it is a gift for Miss Chou from her fellow alumnae at Pembroke?

We are just in the throes of the opening day here and it all makes me homesick for the beginning of term at Yenching. I don't seem to have had time to come to New York but hope to be able to get there next week or soon afterwards. With best wishes to you all,

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

Margaret Bailey Speer
Principal

MBS:p

Dep. 9/27/44

Yenching College for Women

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September 26, 1944

Miss Margaret Speer
The Shipley School
Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Dear Miss Speer:

The export permit for your vitamins to Yenching University arrived yesterday and I have made the first shipment of 1,000 by first-class mail. Miss Cookingham and I discussed the procedure in addressing the package and decided that it would be more convenient for all concerned if the package was addressed simply to Yenching University, Chengtu, China rather than to an individual. We were afraid that the Chinese custom authorities might possibly interpret the package as for an individual rather than for the use of the University as a whole if it were addressed to an individual and place a heavy duty as they have done in another case or two recently.

We are not certain who should handle the distribution of the vitamins and whether or not there were any stipulation or restriction or request by the donor that vitamins be used for any particular group in the University.

You have been responsible for securing this gift and I would appreciate it if you will write to President Mei telling him that the package is on its way and giving him instructions for the use of the vitamins. I am enclosing an invoice which should accompany your letter in order that President Mei may use it in clearing the customs.

Will you please let me know when you think it advisable to send a second package.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES A. CAMERON

JAC/mc
encl.

Package referred to was sent by first-class mail from Station O, Reg. #419257. Post Office receipt for this shipment attached to Yenching University voucher #11118

File - JAC 9/29/44

THE SHIPLEY SCHOOL
BRYN MAWR, PENNSYLVANIA
Office of the Principals

September 28, 1944

Mr. James A. Cameron
China Colleges Office
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, New York

Dear Mr. Cameron:

I am delighted to know that one shipment of vitamins is already on its way to West China and hope that the postage did not turn out to be too expensive.

I have written to Dr. Loucks to ask whether he could take a package with him when he goes and if I hear that he is able to do so I shall let you know at once. In case his baggage is too limited to allow him to take any extras, I think it would be well to send another shipment by mail in about a month.

I will write to Dr. Mei at once telling him about this parcel and enclosing the invoice which you sent. I shall explain that the vitamins have been given by friends of the University and are to be used by anyone who is in need of this reinforcement due to Chengtu diet. It makes no difference whether it is faculty or students, men or women or even faculty children. They should be used wherever they will do the most good.

I am very grateful to you for attending to all the troublesome details of purchasing and shipping.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

Margaret Bailey Speer
Principal

MBS:p

September 28, 1944

Miss Margaret B. Speer,
The Shipley School,
Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Dear Miss Speer:

Mr. T. C. T'ang in reporting to me on the final accounts for the dinner to Dr. H. H. Kung added the following paragraph:

> "Mrs. C. H. Yung (nee Yang Yu-chieh), our National Treasurer, has asked me to inquire with the Yenching Office what should be done about the alumni contributions to the Yenching Scholarship Fund. Will you please discuss the matter with Miss Speer and let me know your recommendations? The sum is not large but I believe it will help some."

I imagine you are very busy in your new work but I shall appreciate a line or two from you about this matter. I trust everything is going well.

With very kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Corbett

CHC:D

September 29, 1944

Miss Margaret Bailey Speer
The Shipley School
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

Dear Miss Speer:

Thank you for your letter of September 26th enclosing check for $163.50 from the Pembroke College Alumnae Association. As you indicate that this is for the personal needs of Miss Chou Kuo-ping, we are sending it to the field outside of the budget with special instructions that it be paid to Miss Chou.

I am glad to know that you are homesick for Yenching. I always rejoice when I hear this because I know it is a good sign. Any time you are ready for sailings just let us know, we will do everything we can to be of assistance. Meanwhile the oftener you come to New York the better we will like it. Of course, I cannot close without extending to you sincerest best wishes in this work in which you are now engaged.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

file

THE SHIPLEY SCHOOL
BRYN MAWR, PENNSYLVANIA
Office of the Principals

CORBETT
REC'D 9/30/44
ANS'D

September 29, 1944

Mr. Charles H. Corbett
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, New York

Dear Mr. Corbett:

I am glad to hear that Yenching Alumni have raised some money for the Scholarship Fund. The thing to do, I should imagine, is to ask Mrs. Yung to send the money that she has collected to your office together with the names of contributors so that Miss Groh or whoever succeeds her will have completed records. The money should be transferred to Chengtu as promptly as possible with word going to Dr. Mei about its source and our appreciation of the loyal efforts of our alumni. I am afraid the sum is not large but some of the alumni, at least, are eager to have a share ~~of~~ in what is going on in West China and this contribution for scholarships at Yenching is all to the good no matter how small the actual sum is.

I had hoped to get to New York long before this but the opening of term is just as hectic a period in Bryn Mawr as it used to be in Peking. An old-timer like you does not need an explanation of the pressure of work at this time of year. With cordial greetings to all of you in the office,

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

Margaret Bailey Speer
Principal

MBS:p

File-
8 a c
10/3/44

THE SHIPLEY SCHOOL
BRYN MAWR, PENNSYLVANIA

October 2, 1944

Mr. James A. Cameron
China Colleges Office
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, New York

Dear Mr. Cameron:

I have just had word from Dr. Loucks that he has had to start for China earlier than he had expected and that he is extremely limited in the amount of luggage that he can take. There is no hope therefore of his taking any vitamins for us. Unless we hear of some new traveler to West China I think we might send another package of vitamins about the end of this month and a third shipment about Thanksgiving time and then send no more until we get some word from China about the arrival of the first parcel. In the meantime however, we had better be on the lookout for anyone traveling in that direction who could transport some for us.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

Margaret Bailey Speer
Principal

MBS:p

THE SHIPLEY SCHOOL

BRYN MAWR, PENNSYLVANIA

ack 10/20/44

October 16, 1944

Receipt sent to Mrs. Speer

Mr. C. A. Evans
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, New York

Dear Mr. Evans:

I am enclosing a check for $10. which was given to mother after a recent speech and which she should like to contribute to the work of the Women's College. Will you send the receipt direct to her at Lakeville?

I am still hoping to pay you a visit before long but my trips to New York seem to be very few and very fleeting. I am so glad to hear of Miss Cowing's coming to the Yenching Office to take over Miss Groh's work. Miss Groh has surely been a faithful worker all these years and we shall miss her there very much.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

Margaret Bailey Speer
Principal

MBS:p

THE SHIPLEY SCHOOL
BRYN MAWR, PENNSYLVANIA

October 19, 1944

Dr. Earle H. Ballou
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, New York

Dear Boss,

A letter from Mary Ferguson has come in this morning's mail saying that United China Relief had a cable from Lennig Sweet yesterday which included the following: "Yenching seeks advice from Margaret Speer other colleagues regarding appointment Chinese representative visit America as State Department guest for a year. Cable suggestions Chengtu". Mary does not understand any more than I do just why this message should have come through Len and U.C. R., but here it is and what is our next step? I am glad to have this indication that the State Department is willing to have representatives come from the Christian colleges as well as from government universities. I will be glad to get in touch with our Faculty Committee here (in this country) to see what suggestions they have to make although it really seems to me preposterous to have the suggestions coming from this end rather than from Chengtu. Y. P. Mei is of course the man who should come; but how on earth could the University continue for five minutes without him on the spot out there?

One hears rumors now and then that Stephen, or one of the other men who were in prison, may try to get through soon; but I am not sure about the comparative advantages of such a person from occupied China and of someone who has had a longer experience in free China. I won't take any steps in this matter until I hear from you. Is it worthwhile asking someone in Washington like Augusta Wagner to get a little more light on the State Department's part in all this?

I keep hoping to have time to get to New York and to come into the office; but my job here, particularly in these early stages of initiation, keeps me busy from morning to night. Do you remember a year ago today and the incredulity with which we looked at that first meal on the Gripsholm? With all good wishes to you all,

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Speer

Margaret Bailey Speer
Principal

MBS:p

October 23, 1944

Miss Margaret Bailey Speer
The Shipley School
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

Dear Miss Speer:

Thank you for your letter of October 16th which came to hand promptly. The receipt for the $10.00 which you enclosed has been forwarded to your mother at Lakeville as requested.

We too regret to see Miss Groh (now Mrs. Bone) leave our staff as she has been a very steadfast and conscientious worker in the Yenching Office. However, we are very fortunate in securing the services of Miss Cowing as I am sure she will fit into the situation very nicely.

Hope you will stop in and see us when you are again this way.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

(not dictated)

October 24, 1944

Miss Margaret E. Speer
Shipley School
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

Dear Marnie:

If I had known just what to say I might have answered your letter of the 19th immediately. If I should wait until I do know what to say it never would be answered, so here goes.

We discussed the matter in staff meeting yesterday, and I have talked with Mary Ferguson over the phone this morning. It looks to us like a "hot" kind of a request, in what I understand is the technical meaning of that adjective. In other words, on the basis of some information which has reached some of the people here, the selection of representatives from any of the colleges out there for the signal honor of being brought for a year at State Department expense is an exceedingly delicate matter. As you probably know, President Y. G. Chen is such a representative, as well as Dr. Chi-tung Yung of Lingnan. We have seen little of the latter as he went elsewhere soon after arrival and has not come back. Perhaps the suggestion from Yenching is made in an effort to avoid some such aftermath as resulted in the case of at least one of those two men. But the feeling of the other people on the staff was that, barring more detailed information justifying the request, all people connected with the Colleges had better keep out. The responsibility ought to be that of the State Department, and selections should be made by them on the basis of information privately sought rather than openly solicited.

Now we may be all wet in taking this position. If Augusta Wagner can throw any light on the matter it would be very valuable. Y.P. is, as you say, the logical man, and right off the bat it would seem as if he were the only man. To take anybody else from Chengtu would certainly open the way for very invidious comparisons. Yet, as you also say, Y.P. is also indispensable there on the campus. President Chen's absence creates a much less difficult problem because Nanking's staff was taken to West China comparatively intact, and the University is, I gather, conspicuous for having an able corps of Chinese deans. There is the allied problem which arises in taking any administrator away for as long a period as a year. One wonders if a semester would not be better if comparatively rapid transportation could be assured. However, this again is outside the scope of our competence.

I don't believe a person just out of occupied China, certainly one who so far as we know has not yet reached Szechwan, would qualify. Furthermore, from several sources we get the impression that since the summer military successes of the Japanese the main corridor of escape to Free China has been closed, so that if Stephen did not get out before August I fear his chances of doing so are badly reduced.

All that I have written will undoubtedly be of great help to you! Do you have any idea how soon the advice has to reach Chengtu? I should think

consultation with your Faculty Committee is indicated, but they will indeed have to be smart if they suggest the right answer.

I certainly do remember a lot of things that were happening on a lot of days just a year or so ago. Sunday afternoon I went up to Poughkeepsie to speak for Phil Swartz, and there in the Hudson, almost as soon as we got over onto its bank, was that SHIP, with all its colored stripes and other poignant reminders of what we were doing last October. It was headed the right way but did not seem to have much steam up.

Very sincerely yours,

P.S. Herewith is an envelope which came two or three days ago from China. I held it till proper inspiration for this letter should come to me but I am holding it no longer.

EHB/mec

October 26, 1944

Miss Margaret B. Speer
The Shipley School
Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Dear Miss Speer:

I am today mailing by first-class mail (air mail India to China) a second parcel addressed to Yenching University containing 1,000 vitamin capsules. Will you please inform President Wei, as you did previously, that this package is on the way and that he should make arrangements with the Chinese customs to have it cleared without duty.

We have now spent $37.50 for postage and $47.37 for vitamins. We have on hand, after shipment today, 1,000 vitamins already paid for which will cost approximately $18.50 to mail. When this third package goes out, we will have spent $103.38 of the gifts received. I plan to mail the third package on or about November 25th.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES A. CAMERON

JAC/mc

November 29, 1944

Miss Margaret B. Speer
The Shipley School
Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Dear Miss Speer:

I am just getting off the third package of 1,000 vitamin tablets to Yenching. Will you please notify the field that this shipment has been made. I will await word from you before making any further purchase or shipment. The postage on this package amounted to $16.55.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES A. CAMERON

JAC/mo

THE SHIPLEY SCHOOL
BRYN MAWR, PENNSYLVANIA

December 4, 1944

ack 12/10/44

Dear Mr. Evans,

I had these checks in my pocket the other day but forgot to leave them with you. They are fees that have been given to me for recent speeches, and I would like to contribute them to the Women's College budget.

It was good to see you all and get a little caught up on the latest news from China. I am glad to hear that Y. P. Mei is planning to come to this country in the spring, though how the University will get along without him is a mystery. One only hopes that the Japanese drive will be stopped before it has spread over the whole of West China.

Very sincerely yours,

Margaret Bailey Speer

MBS/ehc

Margaret Bailey Speer
Principal

Mr. C. A. Evans
China Colleges Office
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

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THE SHIPLEY SCHOOL
BRYN MAWR, PENNSYLVANIA

December 12, 1944

Dear Boss,

I have had a request from the Committee in charge of the girls' conference that is held every year at Northfield for some suggestions about a Chinese who could give a course there on comparative religions and who would speak from a Christian point of view. The group is usually five or six hundred girls from the private schools of New England and the middle Atlantic states. They are very responsive to the right person but would be rather critical of anyone dull or stuffy. If Y. P. Mei gets here early enough in the spring and is not tied up with other engagements, I think he would be just right. I do not dare suggest Timothy Lew for I am afraid his sinus difficulties might strike the girls as a little bit ludicrous, unfortunately. I have never heard Y. C. Yang speak to this sort of audience. Have you heard him, and do you think he would do? And do you know about Chan Wing-tsit who, I believe, is Dean of Lingnan and is now at Dartmouth, or has he gone somewhere else this winter? I met him last spring at Cambridge and liked him very much, and I know that he made an excellent impression when he spoke at Bryn Mawr College on Chinese philosophy. Could you find out something about him from Mr. Wannamaker if you do not know him yourself? I am sure he could present the different religions of the Orient, but I would like to know what warmth and conviction there would be in his Christian viewpoint and also whether he could present the material to teen age girls.

I am sorry to bother you, but this invitation from Northfield presents a tremendous opportunity to the right person. If you have any other suggestions they will be most gratefully received.

Ever yours,

Marie Speer

MBS/ehc

Mr. Earle H. Ballou
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, New York

December 14, 1944

Miss Margaret Speer
Shipley School
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

Dear Marnie:

I think you are right about T.T. Those of us who are acquainted with with his difficulties and idiosyncrasies are inclined sometimes to forget how he may impress people who have not previously known him. Furthermore, I wonder a bit if girls of the age group which will be chiefly represented at Northfield would fully appreciate the quality of what he would give them.

I really think your best bet is Y. C. Yang. Have you read his little book--"China's Religious Heritage," I think it is? Not profound in a scholarly sense, yet by no means shallow, and put in an astonishingly bright and catchy way. Y.C. knows colloquial English right down where it grows and continually surprises one by his ability to say things that some of us who are his friends ought to have been smart enough to think of ourselves! He would take with that sort of crowd, I am sure, and would give them a lot to think about. His own religion is of the sunny, enthusiastic kind.

Mr. Wannamaker vouches for the fine spirit and genuine religious nature of Dr. Chan up at Dartmouth, but questions whether he would be as popular a lecturer as Y. C. Yang, whom he at once mentioned for the appointment before I had done more than ask his opinion about Dr. Chan. Some friend of Mr. Wannamaker on the faculty of one of the midwestern universities, Minnesota I think, wrote him recently in enthusiastic comment on an address Dr. Chan had recently given there. But Mr. Wannamaker would suggest another man as probably better fitted for this particular kind of job: Mr. S. C. Lee, now at the State College of Illinois, where he is connected with what will eventually be a full scale intercultural institute, embracing South American as well as Oriental fields. Mr. Lee is a Lingnan graduate (perhaps of American origin however, though I did not think to follow through on this), who was a Y secretary here in this country until his health gave out. He then was connected with the Institute of Oriental Studies at the University of Hawaii, where he recovered his health. Mr. Lee is a very likable fellow and an earnest Christian. Mr. Wannamaker has no question as to his popularity with any group to whom he lectures.

But I am sure you are taking no chances if you get Y. C. Yang for the job.

Cordially yours,

EHB:mec

December 15, 1944

Miss Margaret Bailey Speer
The Shipley School
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

Dear Miss Speer:

Enclosed find a receipt for $35.00 covering the checks which you enclosed in your letter of December 4th. As requested they have been credited toward the work of Yenching Women's College.

I share with you the feeling of mystery of how the University will carry on for a year with Y. P. Mei in this country. Apparently they seem to think they have solved that difficulty and I certainly will be glad to see him. We hope that the things which are beginning to happen in China and Japan, and the islands of the Pacific, will hasten the day when domination by an outside power over China will cease.

With the Season's Greetings to you, I am

Most sincerely yours,

CAE:EW. C. A. EVANS