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COLLEGE FILES  
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Yenching  
Corres.  
Speer, Robert E. + Emma  
1920-1944

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The Board of Foreign Missions  
of the  
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.  
156 Fifth Avenue

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

New York May 14th, 1920.

Rev. W. R. Wheeler,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Rex,

I am very much obliged for the statement regarding the Faculty of Peking University, which you sent me, and of the report which you and Luce presented. Please let me see anything else of the kind that you get out.

I trust you had a good meeting on the question of Missions and Politics, and should be glad to know if you reached any conclusions and put them in written form.

I should not want to be held responsible personally for the views which you quote from "The Gospel and the New World." I was stating there a prevalent opinion but was not intending by any means to endorse it without reservations.

With warm regard,

Very cordially yours,

Robert E. Speer.  
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RES:C

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*The International Committee of Young Men's Christian Association*

*347 Madison Avenue, New York.*

STUDENT DEPARTMENT

April 7, 1922.

My dear Mr. Caskey:

At the Intercollegiate Conference to be held at Silver Bay, New York, in June, we want to take some worthy recognition of Dr. Robert E. Speer's long and unique service of inspiration among the students of the United States. Thirty-six years ago Dr. Speer attended the first Student Conference which was held at Mount Hermon, Massachusetts. From that first gathering to this day he has been of invaluable service to the whole Student Christian Movement, and is remembered with affection and profound admiration by college men in this country and throughout the world.

We are asking a few men in all vocations to write a personal letter of friendship and appreciation to be presented to Dr. Speer at this Conference in June. In order that all the letters may be bound together uniformly in one volume, may I suggest that you write a letter on the enclosed sheet of paper - 8-1/2" X 11". This letter should be received in my office not later than May 10.

I trust you will wish to join us in this plan of expressing appreciation to Dr. Speer.

Sincerely yours,

*David R. Porter*

Mr. Herbert S. Caskey,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York City.

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April 28th, 1922.

My dear Mr. Speer:-

The men and women of this generation have been greatly helped by what you have said to them, by what you have written for them and by your life among them.

I have lived in both the United States and Canada and have represented missionary organizations and the Y. M. C. A. in all sections of both countries. I am sure that I speak as if authorized by a multitude to bring you their keen appreciation of the contribution you have made to their own spiritual experience, to a better understanding of their Bible and an infinitely broader conception of service, in all of which I must personally join them.

Trusting that this service may be long continued, dominated more and more by the spirit of Him "who went about doing good",

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York.

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The Board of Foreign Missions  
of the  
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

October 17, 1922

Rev. Eric M. North, D. D.,  
150 Fifth Ave.,  
New York City.

My dear Eric:

I shall be very glad indeed to have my name used  
as a member of the Committee of Endorsement of the Peking  
University Campaign, which I trust will meet with entire  
success.

Very cordially yours,

RES-KC.

*Robert E. Speer.*  
(R.E.)

RECEIVED BY
ERIC M. NORTH ( )
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The Board of Foreign Missions  
of the  
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.  
156 Fifth Avenue

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

New York December 6th, 1922

Mr. Herbert K. Caskey,  
Building.

My dear Caskey,

I have your note of November 25th and am glad to add herewith as a postscript such a brief statement as you desire.

Very cordially yours,

*Robert B. Speer*

RES:C.

P.S. Peking is one of the centers where it is indispensable to the Cause of Education and to the Cause of Christianity that a Christian University should be established. The interests of the missionary enterprise in China at the present day demand a success of the effort which is now under way to establish this University on solid foundations. And the Chinese Church of the future would have just cause for reproach against the Foreign Missions of to-day if they did not prepare now the institution which in due time the Church in China will take over as an essential institution in her life and service at the heart of the nation.

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Speer  
X W. College

March 24, 1930

My dear Mrs. Speer:

Mrs. Williamson has asked us to let you know immediately whether or not the Women's College has received gifts from Mrs. Arthur Curtiss James, Mrs. Edwin M. Bulkley, and Mrs. Thomas W. Lamont.

We are glad to report that Mrs. Bulkley has just contributed \$1000.00 for the Women's College Endowment. This was a result of the meeting at Mrs. John Finley's, January 24th. We have no record that she has been a contributor previous to this, but it is possible that she may have given through the former treasurer of the Women's College Committee direct to Peking.

In July 1928 we received \$1000.00 for the Women's College from Mr. Arthur Curtiss James and were informed at that time that this was an annual gift which had previously been sent direct to Peking. So far as we know there was no \$1000.00 gift during 1929. At least it did not come through the Yenching Promotional Office.

We have no record of any gift from Mrs. Thomas W. Lamont.

We appreciate very much your efforts in behalf of Yenching and will do anything we can to aid you. Please let us know if there is any further information we might be able to give.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Robert E. Speer  
23 Gramercy Park  
New York City

Corresponding Secretary

LM:KK

CC- Mrs. O.R. Williamson

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Twenty-four Gramercy Park  
New York City, N.Y.

December 5, 1932.

Dear Mrs. Lees:

The enclosed has just come - with a fat package of them.  
I am a good deal concerned over the statement I have marked. It is neither true nor wise. It is conceited on the one hand and likely to do harm in China, and it will not get a dollar here. Who is doing this publicity since Mr. Wannamaker left?

Forgive me for troubling you, but I think this "edition" should not be used.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Emma Bailey Speer

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Excerpts from Mrs. Lee's Letter of December 6th.

Now a word on another matter. I am this morning in receipt of a letter from Mrs. Speer enclosing a marked copy of the leaflet "Yenching Today." A copy of her letter and the marked leaflet I am herewith sending you. I realize that you are probably not the one who wrote the leaflet but you will know how far, if at all, this matter should be followed up. My first copy came with a note from Miss McCoy and I have since had twenty-five more copies. I am sending Mrs. Speer a note as you will see by the enclosed copy. I hope you will forgive me for "passing the buck!"

Also on further thought I want to add in connection with Mrs. Speer's criticism of the leaflet that I do think the statement of the purpose of Yenching as given in this little leaflet inadequate to say the least. I wish it would have made reference to the building of Christian Character. However, it would not have occurred to me that this paragraph is sufficiently misleading to warrant scapping the whole edition of the leaflet.

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December 6, 1932.

Mrs. Robert E. Speer  
24 Gramercy Park  
New York City

Dear Mrs. Speer:

Thank you for your letter of December 5th received this morning. I am not sure which department of the work for the Union Universities in China is responsible for the preparation of this leaflet. As you know, Dr. Gee has been elected vice-president of Yenching with the thought that his primary duties shall be in promotional lines in America. I think very likely he or one of his helpers may have prepared this leaflet. So far as I know, no appointment has been made of a successor to Mr. Wannamaker in the office. As I am not sure who prepared the leaflet I am sending a copy of your letter and the marked copy of the leaflet to Mr. Garside thinking that he can suggest any step that seems desirable in regard to the use of the leaflet. I am grateful to you for writing me for we certainly do want the fullest cooperation and understanding in regard to all methods of promotion as well as to everything relating to the good of the University.

You will be interested to know that Miss Roberta White has raised with us the possibility of her return to China for a semester of work in Yenching before her marriage which will probably take place next summer. Her fiance is now in China, I think in Yenching although I am not sure just where he is. Miss White has had a recent physical examination and apparently is in excellent health. We shall take no action in the matter until hearing from the field.

Always cordially yours,

(Signed) Mrs. Lucius O. Lee

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December 9, 1932

Mrs. Lucius O. Lee  
14 Beacon Street  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mrs. Lee:

With your letter of December 6th you enclose a copy of Mrs. Speer's letter of December 5th, commenting on the recent Yenching folder, and your reply to her letter.

As you know, all of our Yenching publicity is now being produced under the direction of Pierce and Hedrick, who are in charge of our Yenching promotional work. However, the men working on such publicity always submit their material to representatives of Yenching University before anything is published, so if any mistakes are made, the fault lies within our Yenching organization. In the case of this particular folder, several of us here at the Yenching office went over the material and considered it satisfactory. Since I am one of those who approved this material before it was published, I should bear my share of any criticism it may deserve.

Since your letter arrived, I have gone over Mrs. Speer's comments and your own with both Dr. Gee and Mr. Hedrick. We will also talk with Mr. McBrier and the other members of the Yenching Promotional Committee, and will probably write you again after that Committee has had an opportunity to express its judgment. This present letter gives only my own personal and informal comments.

We all agree that the statement Mrs. Speer criticizes is unfortunately worded, and is susceptible to interpretations that were never intended. We see how easy it would be to interpret the statement that it is Yenching's purpose "to develop in North China a University achieving American standards" to mean that we are seeking to set up in China an American type of institution which would be alien in its nature and entirely unsuited to the needs there. However, nothing could be further from the thought this sentence was intended to express. As you know, Yenching has always endeavored to make itself truly Chinese in every way possible - in architecture, in administration, in curriculum, and in spirit. The University has consistently sought the friendship, cooperation and support of the Chinese people, and has been unusually successful in these efforts. What this sentence attempts to say is that Yenching's purpose is to develop in North China a university which fits into the life and needs and environment there to as high a degree as an American university succeeds in doing these same things in our own environment.

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December 9, 1932

We regret that in the effort to make this folder very brief and terse, we blundered in failing to express our meaning clearly.

One other justifiable criticism of the folder is that it does not give as much emphasis as it should to the fundamental Christian character, ideals, and influence of the institution.

The other criticism Mrs. Speer makes, that this statement (and possibly other statements in the folder) is conceited, raises what may be a very important and fundamental question as regards not only this particular folder, but other aspects of our Yenching publicity and promotion. With very good justification, we Yenchinians sometimes have a tendency to boast a bit about the splendid institution we have built up in Peiping. If criticized for this trait, we are inclined to adopt the attitude of the young man who, when chided for his boasting, remarked in some surprise that his opinion of himself was far more modest than his attainments merited. It has always been a right and effective factor in our Yenching appeals for support, that the institution is one of the largest, finest, and most successful examples of missionary higher educational institutions in the Orient. We have rightly used Yenching's splendid campus, solid financial backing, strong administrative and instructional staff, large enrollment, and successful record of far reaching service, as the bases on which we make our appeals to leading men and women in America to give generous support.

But we must be very careful that we avoid both any tendency toward vain boasting, and also any statements that might make invidious comparisons with the other universities and colleges in China, each of which is rendering in its own way equally fine and significant service to the cause of Christ and to the people of China. Necessity for care at this point is particularly important just now when we are all striving to bring our Christian colleges much more closely together into a common unity of purpose and program. For any one institution to flaunt too vainly its own accomplishments and superiority would inevitably create destructive jealousies and enmities.

After all, Christian greatness and leadership cannot be measured in terms of physical bigness, or financial resources, or statistics of staff and student body. The only true test is Christ's standard that the individual or the institution who would be greatest of all must be the servant of all. No sincere individual or institution is ever tempted to boast of greatness when this standard is applied.

We are sincerely grateful to Mrs. Speer for her frank comments on this particular bit of Yenching publicity. We will try to see that these comments are utilized to the fullest possible extent in all our Yenching publicity material.

Very sincerely yours,

B A GARSIDE

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THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

December 22, 1932

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

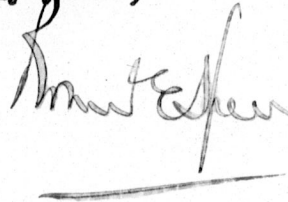
Mr. Olin D. Wannamaker,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Wannamaker:

May I express my disappointment at the statement of the purpose of Yenching University as contained in a little leaflet which I have just seen. I am sure that the Presbyterian Church would not be satisfied to be told that the purpose of the University which it has shared in founding and is sharing in supporting is "to develop in North China a University achieving American standards and of sufficient enrolment to make a definite impression upon the country through its graduates." I do not believe that such a statement will commend the University to our Christian people here or to China. It seems to me that both in our purpose and in our statement of purpose the distinctive Christian note should appear both in words and in spirit.

With best wishes for a happy Christmastime -

Very cordially yours,



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December 27, 1932

My dear Dr. Speer:

As Mr. Wannamaker is no longer connected with Yenching University, being now in charge of the promotional work for Lingnan University, and at present in China, I am taking the liberty of replying to your letter of December 22 addressed to him.

We are very sorry indeed that the statement in the little Yenching leaflet has disturbed you. A similar letter written by Mrs. Speer to Mrs. Lucius Lee was forwarded to Mr. Garside, who replied to Mrs. Lee. We enclose a copy of his letter since we feel that he has expressed the feeling of all of us.

Sincerely yours,

N. Gist Gee  
Vice President

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

LM

*WMM*  
BAG has seen  
& approves sending  
his letter.

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THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

February 6, 1933

Dr. N. Gist Gee  
Yenching University  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

My dear Dr. Gee

Mrs. Speer and I are very much obliged for the copy of the Yenching Gazette containing the reprint of our Board's action with regard to the Report of the Appraisal Commission. I gather that the editor did not quite take in the significance of the first half of the action of our Board and that he missed the phrase about the doctrinal basis of the Report.

We are beginning to receive the reactions now from the British and continental missionaries and they are, as one surmised they would be, pretty trenchant and severe.

Very faithfully yours,

*Robert E. Speer*<sub>13</sub>

RES:B

Dictated by Dr. Speer  
Signed in his absence

*W.S.B.*

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Copy for "WOMEN'S COLLEGE COMMITTEE" File.

Sent to members of Women's College Committee, together with pledge form.

May 16, 1934

Mrs. Robert E. Speer  
24 Gramercy Park, So.,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Speer:

At the recent meeting of the Women's College Committee of Yenching University the present financial situation was discussed in detail and it was felt by those present that one of the greatest needs today is a large number of regular givers who will give us a definite sum each year at a regular time. This will help us to build up a sum upon which we can budget regularly.

In the past Yenching has depended too largely upon its "drives" and emergencies and during these times of depression many of those who have given under pressure and have given largely are not now in a position to do this any longer. There are many, however, who can and will still give us smaller sums regularly.

We are beginning our approach to this group through our own Committee and are writing to ask that you indicate on the enclosed blank how much you can contribute each year and the purpose for which you wish to designate this sum. We will note your amount on your card and will send you a notice at the time when it is most convenient for you to make this payment. We hope that you will make this amount as large as possible to help carry us through these trying days when funds are difficult to secure and when the staff on the field need every cent they can get to maintain the high standards of efficiency for which Yenching has always stood.

In this connection will you be willing to send an appeal to a small number of your acquaintances who are in a position to help and ask them to join with us in this plan to give a definite sum each year? We will prepare the appeal and send you the desired number of copies or, if you prefer, we will be glad to mail them from our office here if you will send us the covering letters addressed to the persons you wish to reach.

Please let us have an early reply.

Very sincerely,

Chairman, Promotion Committee.

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1934 Mr. & Mrs. Speer

ELLIOTT SPEER

All Saints' Day, 1898, Englewood, N. J.  
September 14, 1934, Mount Hermon, Mass.

"E'en as he trod that day to God, so walked he  
from his birth  
In simpleness and gentleness and honor and clean  
mirth."

Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The disciple is not above his Master, nor the  
servant above his Lord. It is enough for the dis-  
ciple that he be as his Master and the servant as  
his Lord.

If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we  
have fellowship one with another, and the blood  
of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

If God be for us, who can be against us? . . .  
Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? . . .  
Nay, in all these things we are more than con-  
querors through Him that loved us. For we are  
persuaded that neither death nor life, nor things  
present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth  
. . . shall be able to separate us from the love of  
God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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O ALMIGHTY God, who hast knit together Thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of Thy Son Christ our Lord; grant us grace so to follow Thy blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys which Thou hast prepared for those who unfeignedly love Thee; through the same Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(Collect for All Saints' Day.)*

“WE SEEM to give him back to Thee, dear God, who gavest him to us. Yet as Thou didst not lose him in giving, so we have not lost him by his return. Not as the world gives, givest Thou, O Lover of Souls! What Thou givest, Thou takest not away, for what is Thine is ours always, if we are Thine. And Life is eternal and Love is immortal; and Death is only an horizon; and an horizon is nothing save the limit of one's sight.

“Lift us up, strong Son of God, that we may see farther. Cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly: draw us closer to Thyself that so we may know ourselves nearer to our beloved who are with Thee, and while Thou dost prepare a place for us, prepare us for that happy place, that where they are and Thou art, we too may be. Amen.”

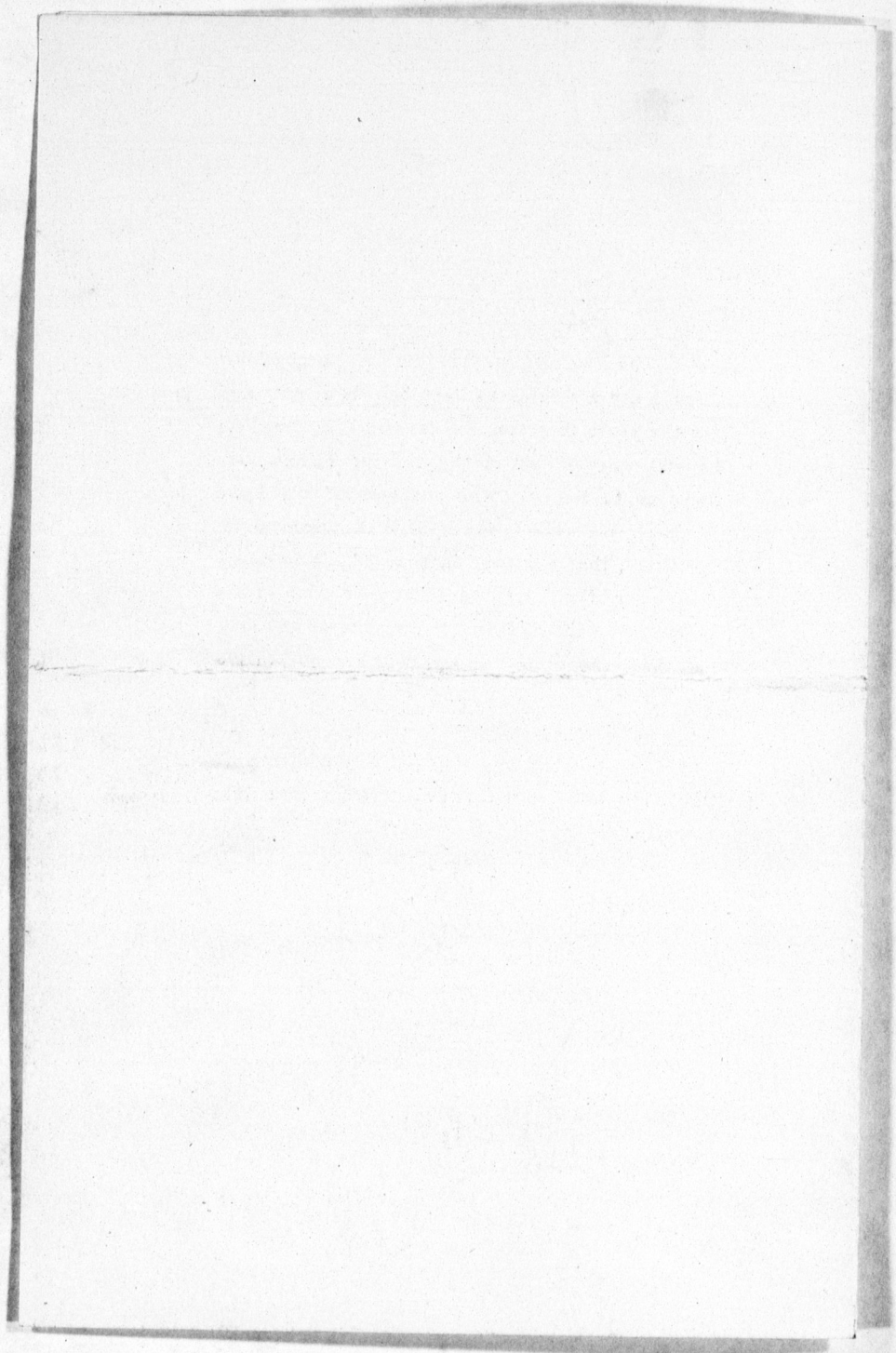
Dear Dr. Joe,

The love and prayers and sympathy of our friends are a ceaseless direct help both now and for the years to come. We are grateful for them beyond words. This strong tide of human love helps us to realize "the nearness of the Love Divine." We walk in the light that streams from the Cross, that evidence in time of the meaning and power of Infinite Love, that revelation of the heart of God and His perfect forgiveness and holiness. We are more conscious, hour by hour, of the whole world's need, of those who sorrow without hope, of those who sorrow without sympathy. The way of love is the only way out of darkness into light, the only way forward through time into eternity.

Russell E. Spear

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*Rough*

Yenching University  
Peiping, China  
January 7, 1936

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y.  
U. S. A.

My dear Dr. Speer:

First let me thank you and Mrs. Speer for giving to our generation this glorious daughter of yours. She is the finest fact on the Campus. In the midst of uncertainty and confusion she walks across the campus and you have a strongly reassuring sense that life is rational and fine after all.

We are having a very interesting year in Yenching. We spent last year in Palestine working on the religious program of the Jerusalem Y.M.C.A. and becoming more familiar with the geography and history of the holy land. The opportunity to teach New Testament here in Yenching is all we could ask.

I am writing especially because two very good Presbyterian friends have written recently anxious about the Orthodoxy and religious life of Yenching especially of the School of Religion. I have been on the inside of the School now for four months and I think am able to appraise it fairly accurately.

My first impression is of thankfulness that a School of Religion can command men of such outstanding gifts as are the Chinese men on the faculty of the School of Religion. My work through the year has brought me into a good number of theological schools in America and China. These men are quite above the average in native ability and in training for their work.

But our friends concern is of the theology of these professors. On that point I write as a conservative. Of Lutheran background and training I am in sympathy with those who are anxious that we should train men and preach as far as we may the full gospel of Christ. And I find myself in heartiest accord with these men in their teaching. Of course they are up-to-date men. No other kind would be of any use teaching the youth of China now. They have a social passion. But their chief concern is for the spiritual experience and life of our students.

Dean Chao who is head of our School and whose superb Christian life and experience gives much of the pattern to the School, spends his best energy on the devotional life of the students. It is his major passion. Of course they are not attributing as high degree of essentialness to some doctrines as some might wish. They are not so concerned to be sure that a student believe in the pre-existence of Christ as they are

that he should exist now in our lives. They are more concerned to have Christ born in us now than they ~~are~~ to prove the nature of his birth 2000 years ago. That will not satisfy all of our friends - nothing will. But it is the emphasis which is essential in these days in China.

I know this faculty well. They are devotedly committed to leading our students into a richer transforming experience of Christ and to train them to lead many others into the same experience. They have set for themselves a hard task. The mind of the Chinese student these days is a typhoon of emotions not all of them favorable to Christianity as lived out often in our western so-called Christian lands. And with no interest whatever in theological Orthodoxy.

This faculty deserves the confidence and enthusiastic support of every man who loves Christ and longs for the coming of his kingdom among men.

Personally my own religious life has been much refreshed by life with this faculty and I covet for the Church of China hundreds of pastors and teachers trained by them.

Cordially,

*Arthur Keight*

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Nov. 3  
1936

ROCKLEDGE  
LAKEVILLE, CONNECTICUT

Dear Mr. Barber,

There was  
no chance after the  
dinner the other even-  
ing to say what I  
wanted to, so I'll have  
to tell you in writing -  
before I sail for England,  
but it was one of the  
nicest dinners I've ever  
gone to - with a reality  
of formalness, of un-  
derstanding that is the

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least possible found a time  
for Yonchong's future.

Will you say this  
for me to our "invisible  
host"? Our Spore was  
never more than ever going to  
have missed it, when I  
told him what a good  
time we had had.

Yours sincerely

Ernest Rostay Spore.

Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>

MRS. R. E.

Spore.

燕京大學  
YENCHING UNIVERSITY  
PEIPING WEST, CHINA

Jan 10

My dear Puytan

I'm sure everybody else has  
been more faithful than I in  
reporting.

If classes resume we are ready  
for the true four lines. We  
were just getting finally  
wound up in our classes when  
the strike came.

We are very happily settled  
in 19 Lung Jun Yuan. It is a  
very satisfactory home. The Dr.  
discovered that Mrs. Rush had  
been having intestinal flu all  
fall which made it hard  
to get settled. But now

we are all fixed and ready for  
work.

I enclose copy of a letter to  
Spicer which I wanted to  
say to some one influential,  
about our critics

Of course we miss you very  
much. Personally and  
officially and will be very  
happy when you return  
Hope our son Rob. has had  
a chance to meet you.

Cordially

Arthur Hughes

Yenching Women  
Promotion

August 17, 1937.

Mrs. Robert L. Spear,  
Lakeville, Connecticut.

My Dear Mrs. Spear:

The news of the last few days has been sufficiently arresting to bring me down to New York. My intention for the present is to do the obvious tasks of sending information where it appears to be needed, and possibly of lightening the burden upon some of my colleagues.

We have just had at the Parkside this noon, a luncheon of thirty people, hastily convened for the purpose of exchanging information on Mission procedure of the moment. The principal Boards were represented, the China Colleges, and the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. It was discovered that the Secretaries are for the most part continuing to send out returning missionaries, due to sail at this time, but that some of the offices are detaining for the present all new appointees. From Yenching the definite cabled instructions are to send all of those due to go from America for the next college year.

I wanted you to know of this change in my location, which may be merely temporary. Mr. Hedrick is here but does not view with any enthusiasm any definite activities, even intellectual, at the present time. He is hoping that the committee chairmen will get together in the near future and formulate a statement of policy for next year, which will assure our program of thoroughly constructive emphasis, and keep it away from political and military partisanship.

I am eager to know whether Grace Yuan is still with you, or whether she has accepted some other invitation for the remainder of August. I am afraid this note may sound as though my own plans were too vague to be interesting, but you can understand that I am not worth a great deal this afternoon when you know that I left Northampton at 3 o'clock this morning to make the journey to New York.

I was delighted to discover, after leaving you last week, that the fine Route 82 now connects with the extension of New York Parkway System. Reaching this city by motor will be almost painless as soon as Riverside Drive has been completely eliminated by

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the final link of the elevated roadway between 72nd and Dyckman Streets.

It was a real pleasure to meet Grace Yuan, who roused in me real enthusiasm. I shall be happy to have all the time possible with her this year.

Sincerely yours,

TEM/an

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August 31, 1937.

Dear Mrs. Speer:

There was certainly nothing very enticing in my note of August 25 in regard to Miss Yuan's proposed residence in New York. We really do have concrete needs for help which she can give, work which would take perhaps three or four days of time. This would be classification and comment in connection with Yen-ching pictures, particularly student groups, and we would hope that she might be inspired to write a few short sketches to accompany some of the pictures.

There is another matter which has been brought up today by a letter from Mrs. Griffith of Philadelphia, who writes of the possible loss of interest on the part of the Womens Interdenominational Union, now that Mrs. Boyd is gone. The annual gift from this group has been attached - at least in their minds - to kindergarten work under Yen-ching auspices. We need to have advice from Miss Speer as well as Miss Yuan, in making an adequate reply to Mrs. Griffith and in planning our material for the Womens Interdenominational Union this year.

Would it be a good idea for Miss Yuan to be here from Saturday the 4th throughout the week, going at its end to the retreat in Poughkeepsie? When the Poughkeepsie program is completed on Saturday the 11th, it would be clear whether Miss Yuan should come back to New York, whether there is something in my immediate program to enlist her interest, or whether your suggestion of Lakeville (Gould Farm) is the better plan until the Seminary opens. We are making a definite plan for a good deal of solid time devoted to our treasurers in this office, which Miss Yuan can do so much to make more valuable. This would probably mean, if arriving on Saturday the 4th, she could well be here in the office at nine on Monday morning, in order that she might apprise the work to be done, and fit it easily into her other plans.

May I add a word about the Poughkeepsie Retreat? We are making every attempt to secure the attendance of enough of our people so that the spirit of those two days may be of vital help throughout the next year. Mrs. Finley promised some days ago to write to me of the Yen-ching plans, but nothing further has yet arrived from her. Will you have it in mind that if she is not available for Poughkeepsie, you must be there? We would be ever so grateful to have you in any case, but to have neither you or Mrs. Finley, would be most unfortunate.

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Page 2 -

You will have been in touch with the deliberations held in New York during the last ten days by representatives of those bodies having work in China. Have you seen the report of Herman Liu's message from the University of Shanghai, telling that they are opening the school year, housed in garages and matsheds? He concludes by saying:

"The educational front is more important than the military front."

I shall be in New York continuously until we go up to Poughkeepsie, and shall be glad to meet Miss Yuan if that will help. Certainly I am looking forward to the blessing of her presence and spirit, and it may be that I will have a reason for asking her to be with me somewhere after the tenth of September, during the days until her own school begins.

I am very grateful for your expression of understanding of what these days mean to us.

Affectionately yours,

TDM/am

Mrs. Robert E. Speer,  
Rockledge,  
Lakeville, Connecticut.

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150 Fifth Avenue  
New York New York  
7 November 1938

Dear Mrs. Speer:

The note in your card which specifies that you must catch a three-thirty train on Thursday sends my heart down into the depths. If this is necessary, we must make some very careful plans in advance, in order that the luncheon may not leave undone something definite as a basis for the next few weeks. As to the morning meeting, I pled with our men here not to schedule that on the same day with the luncheon, since the task of the afternoon is so very important to the women, and I feared that the morning obligation would operate to the disadvantage of both engagements. It seemed necessary to put the luncheon hour at one o'clock in order that the dining room might be cleared by the time we should give to our speeches and our brief business.

The time set for the speaking is not more than twelve minutes for each one of the three, and I feel certain that it will be worthwhile. As a basis for action on the program for the coming year, I am drawing up a brief resume of promotional foundations, in order that we may appear to be building upon the fine work that has been done in the past years. Mrs. Moore has agreed to serve as the chairman of the Committee on Promotion with the understanding that someone will sit with her one day each week for the next month or six weeks, working upon the details of the promotional scheme. Ideally, it should be a member of the Board who will do this, one of the titled, non-salaried members. And this brings us to the fact that something should be done about the chairmanship before there can be other allocations of authority. Mrs. Parlin is eager to have Mrs. Finley's name retained for the next few months at least. If this is done, would the next step be to ask Mrs. Timothy Pfeiffer to serve as acting chairman? The next question is, would either Mrs. Parlin or Mrs. Timothy Pfeiffer devote the time necessary to make Mrs. Moore effective? Either of them can do it if they will.

If the position of being right-hand assistant to Mrs. Moore will not be taken by either Mrs. Pfeiffer or Mrs. Parlin, I am, of course, ready to take it and will make the adjustments necessary to do as good a job as I know how, but I would have to insist that the delegation of this responsibility be made definitely by the Women's College Committee, and that it bear some designation of title in order that the relationships here in our

coordinated councils be given the necessary lubrication. The title could either be "Executive Secretary" (which would mean a designation of Mrs. Parlin's work as Corresponding and/or Recording Secretary), or it could be an executive vice-chairmanship, the adjective "executive" presumably implying a responsible relationship to the active program. I want these qualifications of my attitude, based upon long, careful thought, to be quite clear to you and to Mrs. Pfeiffer before we go into the meeting. You will not need to be told that at least two of the gentlemen who will be present at the luncheon would not take seriously some of the things I have said, since they probably see no reason why the Women's Committee should not continue to be a fifth wheel to the University activity in America, as it has been for the last few years. The committee must take the responsibility of deciding whether they wish to take a new and constructive attitude in the increase of American support, giving someone authority to lead in the work. As I review what two other women's committees are doing in our present program, and when I glance over some of the folders in the Yenching office which tell of the splendid work of Mrs. Boyd and others, I long to have the Yenching women revive that type of leadership. I know that you will share my hope that a decision can be made before we adjourn on Thursday.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan

EBM:e

Mrs. Robert E. Speer  
Rockledge  
Lakeville Connecticut

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*Assured  
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same*

*Robert  
Spencer*

ROCKLEDGE  
LAKEVILLE, CONNECTICUT

1939

Dear Mrs McMillan,

There is a little place up in the Berkshires, not far from Great Barrington, of which I may have spoken to you—Gould Farm— that embodies in its spirit and its practices, the Christian way, as much, fully, as any place I have ever known, even in the saintliest mission groups. It has had a hard time since '29, because they have gone on taking in people who needed what they have to give, and could pay little or nothing. I owe them a great debt for the deeper things of the spirit that they have revealed to me, and I have tried to help them with their finances, with some success, but not enough. What I want now to ask you is a matter of ethics: Query, is it ever right to try to interest a person, whom you have known through one group, in the work of another?

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It is this Mrs Henry M. Pfeiffer, that I have in mind. She seems to have so much money, to give it so generously and to be interested in what women are doing ( and women are the leaders at Gould Farm, and have been since Will Gould died twelve years ago) that it did occur to me that she might have something to spare for this work. Please tell me with the utmost frankness what you think.

Eight below here this morning, and entirely glorious!

My love to you.

9 AB

January 23rd.

1939

I have no address for Mrs Pfeiffer

ROCKLEDGE  
LAKEVILLE, CONNECTICUT

RECEIVED ATTENTION  
MAY - 8 1940

E. M. McBRIER

Dear Mr McBriar,

Here is the first fruits of my many efforts in behalf of Yenching Women's College. I have sent a personal acknowledgement to Miss Billings.

My own check is part in payment of my pledge for the current Yenching year, ending in 740 this last April, I fear, and ~~the~~ remainder for the Yenching Endowment, pl~~ed~~ged to Mrs Finley in the Fall. (#25.00 for annual, \$50.00 for the endowment)

I am more than sorry that it will be impossible for me to be at any of the China College meetings next week. Would you be good enough to have my regrets and apologies expressed in the right time and to the right person? I am having a Chinese student here next week for ~~several~~ several days, and having two meetings in behalf of China. The results financially will not be large, but the community greatly needs this

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awakening.

With cordial greetings, and with appreciation of  
the strenght you are expending in behalf of China,

I am

Yours most sincerely,

*Emm. Bailey Speer*  
(Mrs Robert E. Speer)

May the seventh.  
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January 13, 1943

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
"Rockledge"  
Lakeville, Connecticut

Dear Dr. Speer:

We have just received a communication from The American Red Cross conveying the following message from Margaret Bailey Speer dated May 13, 1942:

"NO WORD FROM YOU. WE ARE ALL WELL. WESTERN GROUP LIVING SOUTH COMPOUND. RECEIVING ADEQUATE RELIEF FUNDS. OTHERS SCATTERED. FREQUENT LETTERS FROM LEIGHTON. INFORM EVERYONE."

Of course, this is entirely out of date as more recent word places the Yenching staff in the buildings of the American Embassy in Peking. Dr. Stuart is still confined elsewhere in Peking under close observation. However, I am passing on this word as coming directly from Miss Speer for such comfort as it may afford.

I understand that Miss Graham gave you a copy of "Ran" Sailer's most recent letter which is the latest word coming through from Peking.

With the best of wishes to you all, I am

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

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ROCKLEDGE  
LAKEVILLE, CONNECTICUT

Dear Mr Corbett,

In the minutes of the meeting on April 2nd. I notice that there is a plan to enlist Yenching graduates in raising money for the new Yenching.

I have just had a very nice letter from Yao Shen, Yenching 1935, from 1117 Willard St. Ann Arbor, Mich. You doubtless know of her, but just in case you did not have her name and address, I am sending them to you. She speaks of a recent letter from her family, saying that those who are in Shanghai are all right, and those in Chengtu equally well off. This was very cheering. She seems a most devoted and loyal alumnae.

With all good wishes, and regretting that I will not be able to be at the meeting at Mrs Finley's on the fourth. I am

Yours most sincerely,

*Emma Bailey Speer*  
(Mrs Robert E. Speer)

April 28th.

*Seen by Mrs Mills*

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*File*

May 12, 1943

Mrs. Robert E. Speer,  
Rockledge,  
Lakeville, Conn.

Dear Mrs. Speer:

We have been so busy with the annual meetings of the Associated Boards that I have not had time to thank you for your letter of April 28th giving the name and address of the Yenching graduate. We have put her on the list and are glad to get the news that the members of her family in Shanghai and Chengtu are well.

You no doubt know of the transfer of the Yenching people to Weihsien except for Dr. Leighton Stuart, who has been left behind in Peiping. Word from Chengtu indicates that Yenching is getting a good start there, with fine loyalty and enthusiasm.

With very kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Corbett

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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ROCKLEDGE LAKEVILLE, CONNECTICUT

*ack  
7/23/43*

Dear Mr Evand,

Word has come to us from the Presbyterian Board that letters can be sent to them to go on the Gripshom to those who are to be repatriated, altho' the list is not yet made public.

I suppose the same opportunity is offered to those connected directly with the China Colleges, rather than with the Boards.

I am concerned that Miss Augusta Wagner's family should know of this. No doubt you have their address- Mr and Mrs William Wagner, 448 East 84th St. New York.

*Wm Wagner*

Yours sincerely,

*Emma Bailey Speer*

(Mrs Robert E. Speer)

July 21st. 1943

*Wm Wagner  
Mr. Wm Wagner  
7/26/43*



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July 24, 1943

Mrs. Robert E. Speer  
Rockledge  
Lakeville, Connecticut

Dear Mrs. Speer:

Thank you very much for your letter of July 21st  
regarding letters to go on the GRIPSHOLM.

It has been our feeling that the announcements about  
the trip of the GRIPSHOLM is somewhat premature. Information in  
our office may be entirely wrong, but it is our understanding  
that it cannot get away before the middle of September, if the  
Japanese Government approves the lists of names submitted by the  
State Department. However, we are passing this information on  
to Mrs. Wagner.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

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YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU  
Chengtou China

Aug. 20th 1943

Dear Mr. Evans,

The following Post card has been received from Miss Speer:

"Grand to have family letter with your initials on it. Grieved to hear of your fire--but few details so far. After two months here have grown almost fond of our new "Assembled" way of life. Spring climate very pleasant. Summer Rains and Rigors of winter would bring new problems. Share room with Augusta, Cookie, Ruth, Martha, Shirley, Lelia, Mrs. Hardy Jowett and Magdalen Lloyd Grant, (!) Augusta and Lelia are mainstays in the Kitchen; Nellie is queen of the latrine cleaners; I am apprentice to Stanley as fish cleaner and help with so-called Adult Education when not cleaning vegetables, floors, or clothes. The first weeks were appalling but the more insurmountable the difficulties the higher the spirits, and our Peking group has come through with colors flying. The two Alice Bs have a little room together and are both flourishing, having borne the difficult uprooting as well as anyone. We are all learning New skills--chiefly how to make bricks without straw--or how to make a happy community without even a modicum of equipment. Blessings on you all.

Marnie."

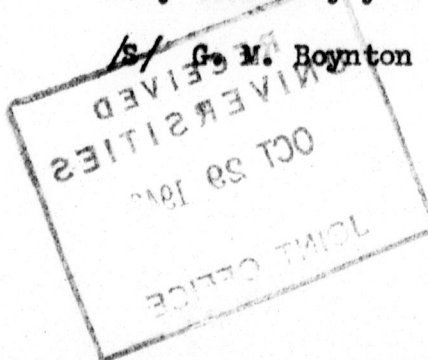
I will add a comment or two; the "family letter" referred to was from Mrs. Speer, dated February 1st, which I forwarded to North China on March 19th. The people Miss Speer mentions are: August Wagner, Mary Cookingham, Ruth Stahl Martha Kramer (whose brother is James Kramer Forest, Indiana, and who would appreciate hearing of this mention of his sister), Shirley Duncan, Lelia Hinckley. "Nellie" is Mrs. Harold Shakick. "Stanley" is Dr. S. D. Wilson. "The two Alice Bs" are Miss Alice Boring and Dr. Alice Barlow-Brown, who was, as you know, once a Dr. for our Yenching Women's college and who after her retirement took a house near the campus and remained a member of the Yenching community. Her age and infirmity have made me very anxious about her. I regret that I can not find any address of her friends in my address book; if your office has such addresses it would be kind to send on Miss Speer's remark.

Very sincerely yours,

G. M. Boynton

Miss Boynton has a broken arm  
and dictated this letter.

MR



October 27, 1943

Mrs. Robert E. Speer  
Rockledge  
Lakeville, Conn.

Dear Mrs. Speer:

Enclosed find copy of a letter received from Grace Boynton.

We are also received the following cable through the Embassy  
at Bombay transmitted through the State Department:

"STUART DETAINED PEKING FOLLOWING HOMEWARD BOUND ADOLPH BORING BROWN COCHRAN  
COOKINGHAM DAVIS DUNCAN GALTS HAGUE HANWELL HUCHISON KRAMER SAILER SMITH  
SPEER STAHL WAGNER TWO WILSONS WOLFERZ OTHERS AT WEI HSIEN WELL NOTIFY  
FAMILIES."

This is different from our previous understanding in that  
Alice Barlow Brown and Miss Hutchison are included in the list.

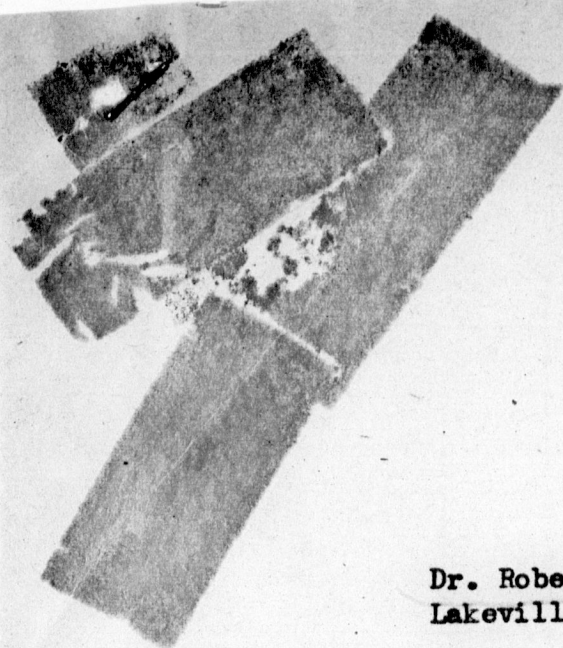
Most sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

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October 3, 1944

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
Lakeville, Connecticut

Dear Dr. Speer:

Yesterday afternoon at the special meeting of the Board of Founders of the University of Nanking it was voted to ask you to prepare a memorial minute for President Bowen, who as you know died during the summer. It was felt that because of your long acquaintance and association with him you were the person eminently fitted to do this. We have in mind something which would not only be spread upon the minutes of the University of Nanking Board of Founders, but also undoubtedly be adopted at the annual meeting of the Associated Boards next May. We hope very much that you can do this for us.

You will be interested to know that at the meeting yesterday unanimous approval was given to the "Plan for Consolidation of Trustee Boards," and as the attendance exceeded three quarters of the total membership of the board, this meets the legal requirements here in the state of New York. Nanking is the first of the colleges to act formally and we trust that yesterday's meeting augers well for the outcome of several other board meetings which will be held during the next two months.

With kindest regards, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

EEB/mec

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