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UBCHEA ARCHIVES  
COLLEGE FILES  
RG 11

Yenching  
Corres.  
White, Robert W. 1922-1933

0431

Dec. 23. 1929

Dear Stew,

This is hardly a time to write of ought but Merry Christmas, but considering that included, shall we pass on to another subject?

Pitney Van Dusen referred a girl to me, Miss Roberta White, daughter of F.J. of Shanghai Baptist. She is getting her PhD in Psychology at Hopkins this Spring, and is very anxious to teach in China. I had a long talk with her yesterday, and liked her very much.

Her specialty is Child Psychology, especially pre-school, and her dream is to run a pre-school laboratory nursery school around which she could center her teaching, stressing education of mother's and the whole thing. While she would be very keen to get a straight Psychology job in Yenching, her very keenest interest seemed to fit in best perhaps with the Sociology Department- she was quite enthused when I told her the kind of department it was. She has been psychoanalyzed (is not a bug on the subject) and would be willing to get a job in a clinic for children this next year if that would fit her better. In view of that I thought of her for that Psychiatric line that I know you and Leonard want to fill sometime.

Now I know that money for foreigners is passed down rather tight, but I don't understand how the Women's College works. If they would appoint her without causing a corresponding loss to your budget in other ways you would be very lucky, I should think. Since they have to have a number of really good foreigners in their show one of them might as well be in Sociology. And in training and personality and good old stuff, I think Miss White is quite there. Will you keep it in mind?

She doesn't want to go on a Board quota for two reasons. One is her lack of theology (Pitney said she had more than she knew, and was quite all right for solid work) and the other is that she doesn't want to sign for more than three years first shot. I inquired very carefully into that, and don't think at all that it is due to lack of purpose- it is simply that she knows she isn't old enough to decide

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about marriage for good. I think she could give very good service for three years, but that she is just as likely to make a permanency as any people you get. And she would sign up with her eyes open and wouldn't be bemeaning the last two years of a five year term.

She is up in Boston now, and will drop in on William there. If you'd care to talk with her on her way down, her address in Boston is 145 Main St., Malden, Mass. She will pass through here about New Years. I hope she can see Jane Ward at that time for general advice and to be sized up too.

She is the kind who would fit in the department excellently, I think, and arouse no frictions. Women's college PhD's are too numerous. I believe, also. I must say she makes me feel middle-aged- she is not borne down with years. She would like to get out this summer, but as I say, is willing to wait.

Have a Happy New Year too.

*Ran*

*OK* Sociology and Economics were her major in undergraduate work at Denison.

DENISON UNIVERSITY  
GRANVILLE, OHIO

*5 copies*

FREDERICK G. DETWEILER  
SOCIOLOGY

January 7, 1930

Dr. Leighton Stuart, President  
Yenching University  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

My dear Dr. Stuart:

I am pleased to speak to you in the terms of highest commendation of Miss Roberta White. I knew her at close range as one of my students in Sociology and Economics in her undergraduate days. I also have had the opportunity of acquaintance since she graduated here. Miss White is splendidly equipped in Sociology as well as Psychology. As a student, she was always brilliant. She seems to be attractive personally, being possessed of good cheer and a considerable store of energy.

It is very seldom that I speak in as high terms of any of our students whom I desire to recommend. She has told me some of the work that she would do in Yenching, and I believe that she is very well fitted for it.

Yours very sincerely,

*Frederick G. Detweiler*  
Frederick G. Detweiler

FGD:LW

0434

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY  
PSYCHOLOGICAL LABORATORY  
REMINGTON AVE. AND WEST 31st ST.  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

KNIGHT DUNLAP, PROFESSOR OF EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY  
BUPORD JOHNSON, PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY  
H. C. MCCOMAS, LECTURER IN PSYCHOLOGY  
ROY M. DORCUS, ASSOCIATE IN PSYCHOLOGY  
WILLIE MAE COOK, JUNIOR INSTRUCTOR IN PSYCHOLOGY

January 7, 1930

Dr. Leighton Stuart  
Yenching University  
China Union Universities  
130 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

Dear Dr. Stuart:

I regret to inform Miss Roberta White, a graduate student of our department, that she had a conference with you concerning work in child welfare in China. Miss White should be especially capable in such a position. She has not only had experience in practical work in influence of the conduct of children but she has also been in contact with workers interested in the physical welfare of the child and in the social influences that effect the child's development. She is an excellent scholar and has a keen interest in research. I would hope that any position she may take now will not preclude some time for research on her part in the field of child development, with special reference to child psychology.

Miss White was awarded a National Scholarship in Child Development from the National Research Council and has started a second year in holding such a scholarship. She is not limited in her interests to her particular work but keeps abreast of the social progress of adults. I heartily recommend her for the work which she would undertake in your organization.

Very truly yours,

*Bupord Johnson*  
Bupord Johnson

BJ:W

0435

January 8, 1939

My dear Mr. Frank:

I am writing to you regarding Miss Rebecca White, a daughter of Mr. R. J. White, former President of Shanghai College. She seems to be a young woman of very unusual ability, as well as personal charm. With her Chinese background and special training, combined to make her, as it seems to me, a very desirable person for us to add to our staff. She expects to receive her M. A. next June and the advantage to the Orient's college faculty, of as many persons as possible with such attainments, is obvious.

Miss Agner is writing you more in detail. Messrs. Hill and Miller have both spoken to me in the strongest terms of her desirability, and I have had an interview with her. She is trained in psychology and sociology, but is more interested in the latter subject. Randolph Miller feels that if her case is approved, her support could quite possibly be secured from his home church -- Woodmont, N. J.

Will you discuss the matter with the Chairman of the various departments concerned and others, and send us a cable as to your recommendations? If Miss Agner's support is taken over by the U. S., the salary problem is somewhat eased, or she could be taken over under the salary grant, which is, I believe, vacant from the Fresh Air Board. Of course, if we can secure special support from the government as above, so much the better.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which came to me recently.

Very sincerely yours,

Dean R. S. Frank  
Yenching University  
Peking, China

JAN: P.S. Later- Also another since received.  
W. Detweiler from Denison U. Ohio

0436

77 Bowne Ave.,  
Flushing. Jan.29th. 1930

Miss McCoy,  
Yenching University Office,  
New York.

Dear Miss McCoy:

Dr. Stuart told me that he wrote out to Yenching, to Mrs. Frame, to ask whether Miss Roberta White could be taken on by the Women's College in Sociology, and asked her to cable in reply.

I wonder whether you would be good enough to let me know of any word that comes. It ought to be pretty soon now. Miss White was referred to me originally by a friend and I am very much interested in whether she gets to Yenching or not. I have written various people about her, and if anything is left open to further urging I want to stir things up as much as I can.

I would be very grateful if you would do this. I enclose an envelope. We are living with the Egberts for these months.

Sincerely yours,

*Randolph Fisher*

*Randolph Fisher*

0437

2001 Park Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland  
February 4, 1930.

Dr. Leighton Stuart  
Yenching University  
150 Fifth Avenue.

My dear Dr. Stuart:

I have been wondering whether you have any more definite information about an opening for me at Yenching. I myself am still a little inclined towards the advisability of working here in America for a year before going to China. But of course if a chance presented itself this year which would not be open next year I would take it.

Could you please let me know if there have been any developments since I saw you in New York. And if you think the situation is such as to follow the matter up further, would you ask Dr. Burgess or someone else who know the Sociology department to write more explicitly just what the types of work and the opportunities are. I have a catalogue but am thinking more of the field and experimental work.

I want to make the time until I go to China count for the most. Even a summer's work here might be of valuable experience. The type of position which I will try to get depends to a large extent on what the possibilities in China appear to be.

Sincerely yours,

*Roberta S. White*

0438

White

COMMITTEE OF  
YENCHING COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

of

YENCHING UNIVERSITY

MRS. MURRAY S. FRAME, B.A., B.D., *Dean of the College*  
PEKING, CHINA

February 24, 1930

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- FRANKLIN H. WARNER, *New York*
- MRS. CHARLES C. PARLIN, *New York*  
*Representative of Wellesley College*  
*Alumnae*

Dr. J. Leighton Stuart  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

My dear Dr. Stuart:

Your letter of February 19th is here.

As soon as the cablegram in regard to Miss Roberta White was received, I suggested to Miss Kendrick that she as Chairman of the Woman's College Candidate Committee write to Miss White, and she has done so. She is the one also who should, I think, correspond with Miss Burt and Miss Cherry. Both Miss Kendrick and I are interested in all three of these young

women and I hope we can secure them for Yenching. if further information from the field makes it clear that all three are needed. With you I think that we should not let the uncertainty as to where her salary will come from stand in the way of our getting a young woman like Miss White.

I am not clear whether there is still a Presbyterian salary not allocated to any individual but I think there may be one, and if there is, I feel sure there would be no difficulty about Miss White's being taken on by the Presbyterian Board. Is Miss Cochran still in Peiping?

As soon as I knew from New York that the date of the Annual Meeting of the Trustees was fixed for April 23d, I called the Annual Meeting of the Yenching College Committee for Tuesday, April 22d. I hope it will be possible for you to meet with our Committee that day.

I am very glad that you are to be in Boston in about two weeks and will hope for an opportunity then to discuss a number of things with you.

Cordially yours,

*Lucia B. Lee*

(Mrs. Lucius O. Lee)

copy given to BBG & he sent Mrs Lee a copy - see forward  
L:ehs

0439

Yenching University

February 27, 1930

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

My dear Mrs. Lee:

I have before me a copy of your letter to Dr. Stuart dated February 24 concerning Miss Roberta White. I note that in this letter you remark incidentally that you think Miss Kendrick should carry on the correspondence also with Miss Burt and Miss Cherry, as well as with Miss White. The procedure in the case of Miss White is quite clear, but I have no information concerning Miss Burt so I presume she is also being considered for a vacancy in the Women's College. So far as Miss Cherry is concerned, however, there is uncertainty as to the proper method of procedure on which I would like to have your judgment.

I have not seen a copy of Dr. Stuart's February 19 letter to you so I do not know what further information he may have given concerning Miss Cherry. I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter I received from Dr. Galt about a fortnight ago. In addition to this letter we also received a cablegram dated January 10 reading as follows:

"Executive has authorized inviting from Ireland Maud Cherry history, subject to your approval. I strongly recommend approval if you have not made other arrangements. Telegraph news promptly. Too pressing to await letters.

Philip de Vargas"

This is all the information thus far received concerning Miss Cherry. On the basis of Dr. Galt's letter of January 10 I wrote Miss Cherry February 13 and am enclosing a copy of my letter. Thus far we have not received a reply from her but no doubt an answer should be reaching us within the next week.

From the information available I have gone on the assumption that Miss Cherry is being nominated for a position on the staff of the general University rather than the Women's College. Accordingly I have taken the initiative in corresponding with her, expecting to turn over to the Candidate Committee of the Women's College Committee in due course the information we are able to secure concerning her. Your Candidate Committee is, of course, expected to pass judgment on Miss Cherry before final action is taken by the Candidate Committee of the Board of Trustees.

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2/27/30

There is a question in my mind, however, whether this is the proper procedure. It is a point that is not made entirely clear by the By-laws of the University or the By-laws of the Women's College. Our general procedure in the case of women candidates has been that where a young woman is being considered for appointment on the general University staff the Secretary of the Board of Trustees has taken the initiative in securing the requisite information, and has then submitted this to the Candidate Committee of the Women's College, and in due course, to the Candidate Committee of the Board of Trustees. Where a young woman is being sought for a position on the staff of the Women's College the initiative in securing information has been taken by the proper officials of the Women's College Committee, and after action has been taken by the Candidate Committee of the Women's College, final ratification of the appointment has been made by the Candidate Committee of the Trustees.

The question that should be clarified is this:- should the initiative in securing information concerning all women candidates, both for the general University and the Women's College, be taken by the proper officials of the Women's College Committee? The By-laws of the University state that "All women candidates for appointment, in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph, shall first be approved by the Committee of Yenching College for Women or such sub-committees as it may designate, and shall then be reported to the Committee on Instruction for final action". Nothing is said as to who should take the initiative in obtaining information concerning the candidates. The By-laws of the Women's College state that "It shall be the duty of the Candidate Committee to receive and examine all applications (other than Chinese) for positions of women members on this staff, to search out candidates for vacancies, and to present their recommendations to the College Committee for ratification by the College Committee and the Board of Trustees". It is not clear whether the phrase "women members on the staff" applies only to the staff of the Women's College or the staff of the entire University. In the Women's College By-laws the word "staff" usually refers to the staff of the Women's College alone rather than to the entire University though this may not necessarily be true in all cases.

There is much to be said in favor of having the initial contact between the University and a prospective candidate made by some of the ladies, rather than by a mere man like myself. I would be very happy to have the ladies take the initiative of searching out candidates for any vacancies on the general University staff for which women appointees are desired if the ladies are willing to accept this responsibility. It is one of the points we have not yet gotten around to clearing up in the new processes of the reorganized relationships. Miss Cherry's case gives us a good opportunity to make a study of the various questions involved. I would be glad to have your judgment.

Very cordially yours,

*M. S. H. H. H.*

BAG-H

Enc. 2

*cc: Dr. Stuart*

0441

*Handwritten:*  
J. S. Burgess  
Miss

March 18, 1930

Miss Roberta S. White,  
2001 Park Ave.,  
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Miss White:

I am very happy to hear that you have been appointed to the faculty of the Women's College. I hope very much it will turn out that you will be associated with the Department of Sociology at the University. In any case, we will welcome you to our Social Science group.

If there are any questions I can help you with, please let me know.

Very sincerely yours,

JSB:A

J. S. Burgess

0442

The Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland.  
March 25, 1930.

Dr. J. S. Burgess,  
Yenching University,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Dr. Burgess:

Thank you very much for your welcoming letter. I have written Miss Kendrick accepting the position in Yenching, so I guess everything is settled except the formal contract.

There are several questions which I would like to ask. Could you tell me, or tell me where to ask, about what work I will be assigned for next year? Of course I realize that things are probably quite indefinite, but it would help in my preparation to know what will be wanted.

Of course I am hoping very much to be able to teach at least one course in child psychology or child care and training. Do you know whether there will be any books on the subject available, or whether there is any chance for me to buy some with library funds? A friend of mine has promised to help me buy a few of the most recent books in the field, so that will be a start. A more definite knowledge of what courses I will have the opportunity of teaching would help in the selection of these books.

Would you advise me to write to China asking these questions and telling of the work I would like to do? If so to whom should I write?

The catalogue of the Sociology Department interested me very much. There are several courses I would like to take! Here in Baltimore I have been taking advantage of the opportunities to visit case conferences where social worker and psychologist cooperate in the study of a case. Is there a chance for that type of work in connection with the courses in social case work at Yenching?

This is a regular questionnaire! I hope it will not be too much trouble to answer it.

Sincerely yours,

*Roberta S. White*

Roberta S. White

0443

YENCHING COLLEGE  
FOR WOMEN

TRANSFER

Psychological Laboratory,  
The Johns Hopkins University,  
Baltimore, Maryland.  
March 25, 1930.

Mr. B. A. Garside,  
China Union Universities,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Garside:

I have written to Miss Kendrick accepting the position in Yenching. It seem wise to write to the central office also, informing you of my decision.

I am not just sure to whom I should write about plans for this summer. If you are not the right person will you please pass the question on to whomever is responsible? I would like very much to sail early in July so as to have the month of August in China with my family. And if it is possible to obtain a teacher I would like to spend that month in language study. With the knowledge I already have, I would hope to be able to accomplish quite a bit in that time.

Thank you very much for your kindness to me last week end when I was in New York.

Sincerely yours,

*Roberta S. White*

Roberta S. White.

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
MAR 26 1930  
JOINT OFFICE

0445

March 27, 1930

Miss Roberta S. White  
Psychological Laboratory  
The Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Miss White:

A letter from Mr. Carside this morning encloses a copy of your March 25th letter to him. Miss Kenrick also telephoned me of the letter she had had from you saying that although opportunities for service in China has opened before you, you had decided in favor of going to Yenching. We are exceedingly glad to welcome you to the Yenching faculty and I believe you will have a great opportunity for work there. I also believe that you will come to love the institution and your fellow teachers and students.

Miss Kenrick has doubtless already written you in regard to the further details that must be taken up before your appointment is officially made. The process is for our Woman's Candidate Committee to recommend your engagement to the Yenching Woman's College Committee and for that body to pass on the recommendation to the Trustees. This will be done at the time of the annual meetings; that of the Woman's College Committee comes on Tuesday, April 22, and the Trustees' meeting on Wednesday, April 23. Thus, you see, it will be some weeks yet before the official action can be taken but I want to assure you that there can be no doubt as to what the action will be. Please, therefore, continue to plan as though you were already appointed to Yenching.

As Mr. Carside indicates, he will be glad to help you in the matter of arranging for your passage and will advance money for the trip. Most parties of missionaries will sail in August rather than July, but doubtless some will be going by July and I hope that pleasant traveling companionship can be provided for you.

I am wondering whether it may be feasible for you to come to New York an hour or two on April 22d. I know the members of our Yenching College Committee would be exceedingly glad to meet you in person and I think it would mean a good deal to you during your years

0446

Miss R.S.W. -- 2

of service of Yenching to have this personal acquaintance. Our meeting is called for 10 A.M. at 150 Fifth Avenue, Room 300, in the expectation that there will be both forenoon and afternoon sessions. Arrangements will be made for us to lunch together and if you could be with us for luncheon, that would give an opportunity for some getting acquainted. We will be glad also to have you stay for the afternoon session, or part of it, if you should care to.

I am personally very desirous of meeting you, as Yenching and all its interests are dear to me.

Cordially yours,

(Mrs. Lucius C. Lee)

L:ens

0447

RECEIVED  
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

APR 5 1930

Ans.

April 11

2001 Park Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland  
April 4, 1930.

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

Dear Mrs. Lee:

Thank you for your cordial letter. I am very happy at the prospect of going to Yenching and should certainly enjoy meeting you and the Woman's College Committee. There are two matters which might prevent the trip. Just at present I am doing the final work on my doctor's dissertation. I hope it will be completed before Easter, but in case it is not, it might be hard to get away at that time. Still it would only take a day, and I feel it would be of real value to know you who are the home guides of Yenching.

The other matter is that of finance. I am having to go into debt a little in order to complete my work here, and do not feel I should take the trip unless my expenses were paid. Mr. Garside warned me not to take a debt to China with me!

Thank you again for your interest.

Sincerely yours,

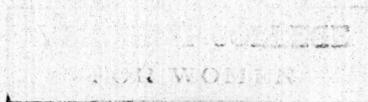
*Roberta White*

0448

3 copies

2001 Park Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland  
April 8, 1930.

Mr. B. A. Garside  
China Union Universities  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.



Dear Mr. Garside:

**TRANSFER**

Thank you for your letter and for sending mine on to Mrs. Lee. I have heard from her and guess there is no doubt that everything will be fixed up all right. Although the final contract has not been signed I thought it would be best to begin making plans or at least finding out what travel possibilities are feasible.

From some information which may or may not be accurate I have found out that the trip from here to China would cost no more via Siberia than via the Pacific. Since I have gone by the Pacific five times and have never seen Europe I would like very much to go that way if it would mean no extra expense. If I could leave New York about the middle of June and have two or three weeks in England and France that would still leave me time to get to China by the first of August.

The suggestion has been made to me that I might be able to connect up with some party of English missionaries going across Russia and so not have to have that long trip alone. They use that route often. If this were possible it would overcome the only objection to the plan which I can see.

Travel to Europe at this time of year is always so congested. That is why I am writing you now so that if the plan is approved there will still be a chance of obtaining passage. Any kind of passage, the cheaper the better, will suit me.

Would it be possible for you to let me have information about this plan by the end of this week? Part of my family is here in America and I want to arrange to see them before I sail. It would greatly facilitate my plans if I could know by Friday or Saturday what you think of the suggestion of going by Europe. With most of the boards I understand the arrangement under such circumstances is to give the cost of the trip by the regular route, and let the individual make up the rest. If that rest would be too big in my case I would be unable to go that way, but of course if the difference is small it would be worth it to see Europe.

Sincerely yours,

*Roberta S. White*

0449

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES

APR 9 - 1930

JOINT OFFICE

0450

## TRANSFER

Yenching University

April 10, 1930

Miss Roberta S. White,  
2001 Park Avenue,  
Baltimore, Md.

My dear Miss White:

Let me acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 8.

The Trustees of Yenching University have within the last few months adopted the plan of making a flat cash grant of Gold \$500 to cover the travel expenses of each member of staff going out to Peking from New York City, with appropriate adjustments for journeys starting from other points. If you find it possible to carry out your plan to go to Yenching via Siberia our office would be glad to pay over this \$500 in due course, leaving you to work out the details of your travel as you may wish. We would, of course, be glad to assist you in any way we could. From the report Dr. Stuart gave us after he returned to China via Siberia two years ago, I understand that you should be able to make this journey at a cost not greater than the allowance given you.

No doubt you will confer with Mrs. Lee and the other ladies of the Women's College Committee as to the general arrangements for your outgoing journey. They might be able to put you in touch with other groups of missionaries who will be going out either from this country or from Great Britain at about the same time.

Very cordially yours,

BAG-H  
CC: Mrs. Lee

0451

April 11, 1930

Miss Roberta White  
2001 Park Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Miss White:

I am glad to have your letter of April 4th. I have waited a little about replying as I wished to consult two or three others of our Yenching College Committee in regard to my invitation to you to come to New York for the meeting of the Yenching College Committee on April 22d. The others feel just as I do, that it is very important for you to be with us if possible. Please, therefore, plan your work so as to be with us on the 22d.

Would it be a convenience to you to have us send you a check in advance or will it be all right if we settle with you while you are there?

This morning's mail brings me a letter from Mr. Garside in which he encloses a copy of yours to him and his reply on the subject of your making the trip to China by way of Europe and Siberia. If you think you can cover the cost of the trip on the \$550, which is the regular grant for outgoing travel, and if you can find a suitable party as fellow travelers, I see no reason why you should go by that route. The point about which I am most doubtful is whether a satisfactory party can be found making the trip across Siberia as early in the summer as you wish to go. Most outgoing missionaries, as you know, plan to reach China in the early part of September. Moreover, I am under the impression that not as many choose the Siberian route in going to China as do in making the trip from there. I have learned from our Treasury Department that no American Board missionaries are likely to be going by that route at the time you wish to go, and I have asked Mr. Garside to find out if he can in regard to missionaries of other Boards. Possibly some members of our Committee will be able to help in putting you in touch with congenial traveling companions. If not, I would suggest that you go by the Pacific route this time but look forward to coming home through Siberia and Europe at the end of your period of service. That plan would give you time to lay up a little money for sight-seeing in Europe.

0452

Miss R.W. -- 2

We will look forward to seeing you on April 22d and I hope nothing may prevent your coming.

Most cordially yours,

(Mrs. Lucius C. Lee)

L:ehs

P.S.

The hour of our meeting on April 22d is 10 A.M., the place, Room 300, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City. There will be forenoon and afternoon sessions and the Committee will lunch together. We will be glad to have you present all day if you can give so much time, but the best time for getting personally acquainted will be the noon hour, so I hope you can be with us by noon. Please come right in on arrival even though the Committee may be in session.

E.B.L.

0453

2001 Park Ave.  
Baltimore Md  
April 16, 1930

RECEIVED  
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

APR 18 1930

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. L. O. Lee  
14 Beacon St.  
Boston, Mass

Dear Mrs. Lee,

I will be in New York by noon  
next Tuesday, and probably before then.  
It will be all right if you give me  
my expenses at that time.

Thanks you for your interest  
in regard to my route of travel to China.  
Your advice seems to me very good.  
Unless traveling companions could be  
found across Russia the trip would  
not be very pleasant. As I am anxious  
to get to China, it seems wise to go  
by the Pacific.

I am looking forward to  
knowing you,

Sincerely yours,

Roberta S. White

April 21, 1930.

Dr. T. H. P. Sailer,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Dr. Sailer:

Dr. Stuart reported to me recently that he had some hope that through your kind assistance we might secure the support of Miss Roberta White through the help of Miss Elizabeth Morrow of Englewood. I am writing to give you information regarding Miss White - though you may possibly know much better concerning her than I do myself - hoping that you may feel free to place this in the hands of Miss Morrow and seek to interest her. We shall all be very grateful if you can do this.

Miss Roberta White is a daughter of Dr. F. J. White, former President of Shanghai College. She is a young woman of unusual ability, as well as personal charm. These qualities, together with her Chinese background and special training, combine to make her a very desirable person for the faculty of Yenching University. She is expecting to receive her Ph. D. degree next June, and the advantage to the Women's College Faculty of having as many persons as possible with such attainment is obvious. The Department in which Miss White would be her work is that of Sociology. At the present time the social sciences have a stronger hold upon Chinese students than any other division of the modern universities in that country. The special affect of the general field of sociology however in which she is interested makes a very deep appeal to all of us who are hopeful for better things in China. She would devote her life very largely to the problem of Child Welfare. Equal emphasis would be placed by her upon research and practical application. Miss White's ability is indicated by the fact that she was awarded a National Scholarship in Child Development by the National Research Council, and was granted a second year in holding this scholarship. She is recommended in the highest terms by her professors at Denison University and at John Hopkins University.

The amount of money needed for Miss White would be, travel to the field \$550.00; salary \$950.00; an outfit \$250.00, making a total

0455

- 2-

of \$1,750.00 in gold.

I shall be very grateful if you can help us in this matter.

Cordially yours,

VB.

Olin D. Wannamaker

0456

Englewood. April 22. 1930

Dear Dr. Stuart,

I am very very sorry to say that our Church doesn't feel it should take on Roberta White for the coming year. At first the idea was cordially received, and I am sure was considered with care and sympathy, but finally it just didn't go across.

I'm afraid nothing more can be done, for the reasons are pretty good ones under the circumstances, and the minister, Mr. Elmore, is now in China instead of here to put it through. The trouble is not lack of sympathy or enthusiasm for Missions, but rather the opposite, in wanting to continue to give full support to the Board. I can see that this looks like an outside raid that would have no more justification than any such that might be made, though I put it entirely on the ground of getting behind a really good person whose connection with the church would be a good thing for it. The church people, those in charge of the budget and planning, feel that all of the work is deserving of enthusiastic support.

If I had had some of your experience in money raising I would have been less optimistic, I suppose. I do hope this doesn't create too embarrassing a situation. Count us in for \$100 toward her expenses anyway.

We are of course delighted over your idea for Henry Welles, and do hope it goes through. I have no doubt of the importance of that particular line, and as far as I can tell, Henry has done quite remarkably well with his very limited training. With more of the latter he ought to be absolutely first class.

I hope other things are going better. I am surely sorry about this.

Most sincerely,

*See O.W. 2/21*  
*Henry*

0457

April 23, 1930

My dear Roberta:

I have just heard from Randolph Sailer to the effect that his efforts to get your support through the Ingleswood Church have been unavailing. Fortunately, the matter has already been covered without special resources, so that you need not bother any further unless some other opportunity develops, in which case we shall not hesitate to utilize your presence in the country.

It certainly is a pleasure to look forward to having you with us, and I am especially glad that we may be able to travel part of the way at least on the same steamer. I shall probably stop off at Honolulu between steamers and could easily arrange to have you entertained during that period if you care to do the same, although I rather imagine you would prefer to hurry on to China.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Roberta White  
2001 Park Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland

JIS:KK

0458

2001 Park Ave  
Baltimore, Md  
May 4, 1930

Dear Dr. Stuart,

I certainly am glad that we can be on the same boat. I was telling Mrs. Milton Wagner of it this morning, and she told me how lucky I was. She knew you in Nanking before her marriage, or was it Peking? Anyway she seems very fond of you and Jack. She has just had a new baby girl and is recovering rapidly.

Thank you for your invitation in reference to Honolulu. I should love to stay there a while, but guess China pulls stronger.

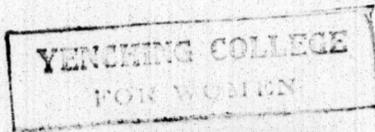
My dissertation was completed yesterday, so now I can breathe a little easier and give more thought to plans. I am trying to collect some books for my courses and some experimental material.

Sincerely yours.

Roberta White.

2001 Park Ave  
Baltimore, Md.

May 4, 1930.



Mr. B.A. Garside, **TRANSFER**  
150 Fifth Ave  
N.Y.C.

Dear Mr. Garside,

The accomodation on the  
Pres. McKinley sounds fine to me.  
I am glad Dr. Stuart is to be on  
the same boat.

I have had a gift of a small  
sum of money for work with  
children at Yenching. Can you tell  
me what would be the best way to  
get it to China - by draft? And  
would it be advisable to exchange  
it to m.p. now while the rate is  
good? There won't be much as I am  
spending part of it for apparatus here.

My Eastern Clergy Bureau book  
has come. Thanks you.

I certainly enjoyed my day in N.Y.  
The women on the committee are <sup>certainly</sup> fine.

Sincerely,

Roberta White.

0460

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MAY 6 - 1930  
JOINT OFFICE

0461

**GINLING COLLEGE**  
NANKING, CHINA

**GINLING COLLEGE COMMITTEE**

Board of Founders, University of Nanking  
**ROBERT E. SPEER**  
**JOHN R. EDWARDS**

Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society  
**MISS MINNIE V. SANDBERG**  
**MRS. JAMES M. PRATT**

United Christian Missionary Society  
**MISS LELA E. TAYLOR**

Woman's Foreign Missionary Society  
Methodist Episcopal Church  
**MISS ELIZABETH R. BENDER**  
**MRS. FRANCIS J. MCCONNELL**

Board of Missions,  
Methodist Episcopal Church, South  
**MISS ESTHER CASE**

**PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE**

**MISS YI FANG WU, PH.D.**  
NANKING, CHINA

**OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

**MISS MARGARET E. HODGE, CHAIRMAN**  
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

**MISS ELIZABETH R. BENDER, SECRETARY**  
150 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

**RUSSELL CARTER, TREASURER**  
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

**GINLING COLLEGE COMMITTEE**

Board of Foreign Missions  
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.  
**MISS MARGARET E. HODGE**  
**MRS. CHARLES K. ROYS**

Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society  
Protestant Episcopal Church  
**MISS GRACE LINDLEY**

Board of Foreign Missions  
Reformed Church in the U. S. A.  
**MRS. LEWIS L. ANEWALT**

Association for Christian Work, Smith College  
**MISS KATHARINE RICHARDS**

Coopted Member  
**MISS REBECCA W. GRIEST**

May 7, 1930

My dear Dr. Stuart:

Yesterday we received a cable from Ginling College asking that we consult with you about the possibility of releasing Miss Roberta White because of a special opportunity at Ginling in child psychology. A few weeks ago Miss White was considering the possibility of going to Yenching or Ginling and, as you know, her final decision was for Yenching, because she felt that the work at Ginling did not give opportunity for her special line of work - child psychology.

I shall be glad to hear what your reaction is to this proposition. I realize that the time is getting late for finding another person for Yenching, but if you feel that you are able for any reason to release Miss White we shall be very happy to arrange to send her to Ginling this year.

Sincerely yours,

*Minnie V. Sandberg*  
Candidate Secretary

S/B

Dr. Leighton Stuart  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

0462

Roberta White

May 9th, 1930

Dr. Stuart,

I reported to Miss Sandberg by telephone the fact that the Yenching College Committee and the Yenching Board of Trustees had already approved Miss White's appointment to Yenching and that we were proceeding to make plans for her outgoing travel. Miss Sandberg stated that she considered these developments have gone so far that it would not be desirable to ask the Yenching College Committee and Miss White to reconsider the decisions already reached.

  
B. A. Garside

0463

Randolph Sailer, Jr.  
Englewood, N.J.

May 23, 1930

Pledge \$100 toward outgoing expenses  
of Roberta S. White - dept. of  
Sociology

Gift received	4-22-30
Receipt slip #	_____
Entered on central record	✓
" " acct. card	
" " cont. card	✓
Serial No. on l. card	1000
Pledge signal attached	
X-file cards	
Letter ack. sent	5-24-30 by ODW.
Checked for O. L.	
" " <del>card</del>	M L
" " <del>card</del>	Renewal

Expenses estimated as follows in  
ODW's letter of 4-21-30 to Dr. T.H.P. Sailer  
and answered by Randolph Sailer, Jr.  
on 4-22-30: Travel to field \$550  
(1930-31?) Salary 950  
Outfit 250  
\$1750

0464

May 24, 1930

Dear Mr. Sailer:

I have just had my attention called to your letter of April 22nd to Doctor Stuart. I had not previously seen this letter. I wish to ask your interpretation of one sentence in the letter in the light of the reply sent you by President Stuart on April 23rd. I wish to see that our records here are in accordance with your own wishes.

The sentence to which I refer reads - referring to the expenses of Miss Roberta White - "Count us in for \$100 toward her expenses anyway."

Doctor Stuart's reply stated that the Women's College felt itself able to approve of her independently of any special resources.

The office as in the usual course of things put you down as having pledged \$100 toward the expenses of Miss Roberts White. Doctor Stuart's reply causes me to doubt whether such a record is accurate. Will you kindly interpret the situation for me?

With sincere appreciation of all your generous interest, added to the life work you yourself are putting in at Yenching University, I remain

Sincerely yours,

r. Randolph Sailer, Jr.  
Englewood, New Jersey

Assistant to the President

ODT:KK

0465

White

June 2, 1950

My dear Roberta:

I am back again from a trip to the West and find your letter. Heartiest congratulations on having finished your dissertation.

My present plan is to sail from San Francisco on July first and join the President McKinley at Honolulu. I shall have with me my Chinese friend and helper, Philip Fugh. Will you not arrange that the three of us can be at the same table from Honolulu on? It would be nice to have this chance to get better acquainted with you as we travel back to China together.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Roberta White  
2001 Park Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland

JLS:KK

0466

*Special Delivery*

The Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, Maryland

RECEIVED  
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

June 7, 1930 JUN 9 1930

Ans. June 9

Dear Mrs. Lee,

My orals came on Monday so now there is nothing which can keep me from receiving the degree next Tuesday. It is certainly a relief to have that strain over.

My last inoculation came yesterday, so that is over too. This is certainly a time of "finishing". Now remains finishing my packing. It is quite a job this hot weather.

0467

I have been a little puzzled at not receiving the contract from Miss Kendrick. I wrote her over a week ago, but still have had no word in explanation of the delay. I wonder if it is merely because she is so busy at this commencement time.

I am leaving here on June 10 to be with my sister at

158 Marsteller Ave  
West Lafayette, Ind.

If there is any real reason

for the delay, I wish you  
would let me know before  
I leave. After that time  
please send letters to my  
sister's address.

I have been collecting  
books and materials for  
next year, having a great  
time doing it. I can hardly  
wait to get to China where I  
can find out more definitely  
just what I will be able to  
do this next year.

Hoping to hear from you soon,

Sincerely,

Roberta White

June 9, 1950

Miss Roberta White  
2001 Park Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Miss White:

I am glad to know that your examinations are finished and that you are to receive your degree tomorrow. Please accept my congratulations. It is a real achievement.

You ask if I know why Miss Kendrick has not yet sent the contract you are to sign. I think the reason is that there has been some difference of opinion as to just what the form of the contract should be. We discovered a short time ago that the procedure of the Woman's College Committee in the matter of contracts with short term teachers has been quite different from the procedure in other parts of the University. The difference affecting finances is that the Woman's College Committee has been accustomed to make a contract on a basis of three years of service, and has paid round trip travel for that period of time. The University in general recognizes five years as the natural term of service and pay proportionate travel for anyone serving a shorter period. If, for instance, a young woman going out for a period of five years should leave in less than two and a half years, she would not only have no return travel but would make a refund on her outgoing travel. If she stayed three years, she would have only three-fifths of her return travel, four years, four-fifths.

At the last meeting of the Yenching College Committee the opinion was expressed that the Woman's College should conform to the practice of the University in general in the matter of contracts with short term teachers as in a number of other matters, but we unfortunately did not at that time compare the two forms of contract and so did not discover this somewhat fundamental difference in procedure. It was when Mr. Garside asked me whether he should send you the form of contract that the University used that we discovered the difference. Naturally, this is a matter of some importance, and you and we should understand each other clearly. Are you willing to go for a three year term on the understanding that the College will pay your full travel out

0470

Miss R.W. -- 2

and three-fifths of your return travel? The other alternative would apparently be for you to go for a five year term. We should be very glad if you felt that you could at the present time look forward definitely to a five year term of service. If, on the other hand, you feel that you do not want to pledge yourself for more than three years, it is of course possible that your term could be extended to the full five years any time while you are on the field.

This letter will, I think, still reach you in Baltimore. You may not have time to answer it until you get to West Lafayette. Just as soon as we hear from you, the contract will be sent you.

I am not sure exactly what has been said to you in regard to return travel. Do you feel that you have been definitely promised full round trip travel for a term of three years? I am sure the Woman's College Committee would be unwilling to even seem to be untrue to its word, so if you feel that in view of what has already been said, we are in duty bound to stand by the understanding we have had, please say so frankly. The practice of Mission Boards in regard to short term service apparently differs quite widely. The American Board does pay round trip travel for a term of three years but it gives term teachers no outfit allowance and no time for language study.

I shall be much interested to hear from you as promptly as possible, and I feel sure that you will not misunderstand our desire to get this matter straightened out before sending you the form of contract.

Most cordially yours,

(Mrs. Lucius C. Lee)

L:ehs

0471

YENCHING COLLEGE  
FOR WOMEN

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT, entered into by and between YENCHING UNIVERSITY and MISS ROBERTA S. WHITE this 19th day of June, 1930.

WITNESSETH:

**TRANSFER**

That, upon nomination by the Committee of Yenching College for Women, YENCHING UNIVERSITY hereby agrees to and does employ MISS ROBERTA S. WHITE for the position of instructor in Sociology as a member of the staff of Yenching College for Women for a term of three years, upon the following schedule as to salary and allowances:-

1. Salary at the rate of Gold \$950 per year, beginning from date of sailing.
2. Travel expense from her home (Baltimore, Maryland) to Peiping, China, by the most direct route; and three-fifths of the return travel from Peiping to her home.
3. Residential quarters in Yenching College for Women, Peiping West, China.
4. Medical attention for sickness without charge. One-half dental bills if incurred with prior consent.

The University, upon due notice in writing, may terminate this contract at any time, upon the payment of a sum equal to three months' salary from the date of said termination, and full travel expenses to the address given above, by the most direct route.

MISS ROBERTA S. WHITE hereby accepts the said employment and the foregoing terms and conditions, and agrees, that if for any reason she resigns the position before the expiration of half of the term of this contract, she will reimburse the University for the outgoing expenses less such proportion of them as the time of actual service bears to one-half the full term of service as above set forth, and that in case she resigns before the completion of the contract, no payment shall be made by the University for travel expenses to her home, except in case of serious illness in her immediate family.

It is further agreed by Miss White that she will give her whole time and attention to the work for which she is hereby employed and that she will not engage in any outside occupation or activity for profit except as may be agreed upon in conference with the President of YENCHING UNIVERSITY.

This agreement may be extended or amended for a further period if signed by the parties hereto ninety (90) days prior to its expiration.

WITNESSETH the hands and seals of the parties hereto this 19th day of June, 1930.

ATTEST

TRUSTEES OF YENCHING UNIVERSITY

0472

YENCHING COLLEGE  
FOR WOMEN

~~EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT~~

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WITNESSETH the hands and seals of the parties hereto this 19th day of June, 1930.

ATTEST

B. A. Gaidis  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

TRUSTEES OF YENCHING UNIVERSITY

By Anna M. Williamson  
Acting President

WITNESSES:

Mary K. Scott  
Joseph F. Chittum

Roberta S. White  
(Appointee)

YENCHING COLLEGE  
FOR WOMEN

June 25<sup>th</sup>  
(1930)

Dear Mr. Garside **TRANSFER**

Thank you for the  
check + ~~contracts~~ <sup>contracts</sup>. I hope  
you received the latter  
safely.

I have some  
additional money to  
add to my fund for  
work with children.  
Will you please send  
the enclosed \$50.00 to  
the field to hold until  
I come? Please ask  
them to exchange it

if the rate shows  
signs of dropping.

Thank you,

Roberta White.

\$150. - check incl.

Dep 6/22/20

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JUN 27 1930

JOINT OFFICE

0476

YENCHING COLLEGE  
FOR WOMEN

TRANSFER

THE TWO ROBERTAS

December 1930

*White, Roberta*

We at Yenching University have thought it a very interesting coincidence indeed that there should arrive on our campus this autumn session, within a few hours of each other and quite unknown to each other, two new members of our Women's College staff, one of American and the other of Chinese parentage, whose college careers had run so parallel a course, who had at various times been actually so near to each other, and yet, who until now had never met.

When they appeared at our first formal gathering of the staff, walking into the big hall together, to sit side by side during the morning session of a two day conference which is always held just before the opening of college, they caused no slight stir of interest. We had heard that they had graduated recently with a doctor's degree in science, and our institution is still quite young enough to attach no slight importance to this distinction. The American woman Ph. D. is perhaps not such a novelty here in China, but as yet the Chinese women who have attained this honor are not to be "picked off the gooseberry bushes". Our first thought was, "how very young they look", and then, "what a contrast", for one had a smooth dark head, and the other a cluster of auburn curls.

Oddly enough they had both been assigned to the same house on the campus, and on comparing notes on arrival had discovered that both were named Roberta, and very soon, an amazing number of points of similarity began to appear. Both had been born in China within a few years of each other; both were Baptists and the children of parents prominent in missionary work in this country; both had attended middle schools in Shanghai during the same year; both had spent nine years in America; both had left China at the age of eighteen to continue their education abroad. Their major interest had always been in science, and they had both dreamed of returning to China as doctors, but after taking some years of premedical work they had been dissuaded by friends or relatives from carrying out such a very strenuous program, and they had branched out into other fields of specialization, one in botany and chemistry and the other in psychology. In their college days in America they had joined the Student Volunteer Movement, and had attended the same S.V.M. conference in Detroit in 1927 but had not met each other at that time. Their career at college had lasted exactly seven years during which time they had each gained two degrees, the B.A. in 1927, and Ph. D. in 1930. They were members of the same honorary scientific society, Sigma Xi, and finally, they both had chosen as their sphere of activity, Yenching University.

Roberta White was born in the Chinese city of Shachsing where her father had come in 1904, as an evangelist under the American Baptist Foreign Missionary Society. She followed the usual career of the child of missionary parents, received her early teaching at home, attended a school for foreign children in Shanghai, spent her summers in a little missionary colony in the mountains, and sailed off to America in 1923 to take up her college work at Denison University, Ohio and later at Johns Hopkins. When quite a little girl her family had moved to Shanghai where her father became president of the Shanghai Baptist College.

Roberta Ma was undoubtedly inspired by the undaunted perseverance of her forbears when she decided to compete for one of the four partial scholarships offered to women by her native province of Shantung, which would enable her to go to America to study. For she was at this time an orphan, with no money of her own, and owing to the fact that her schooling had been in government institutions she was equipped with only one year of study of the English language. Not only so, but she knew full well that she must find some means of supporting herself if she ever reached America. She came of Christian parentage on both sides of her house. Her mother's father was a scholar, a famous astronomer, a man who at the time when the intellectuals of China held aloof from the foreign traders and religious fanatics, threw in his lot with the newly arrived Presbyterian missionaries of

Shantung Province, in order that he might add to his store of knowledge this new science that the west was bringing to the east. He became a Christian, this Chinese astronomer, and was the first Chinese teacher in the mission school in Shantung. His two children, a son and a daughter, were brought up in this new faith. The son followed his father's footsteps and now carries on the family tradition as a professor of astronomy and mathematics in Cheeloo University of Tsinan, Shantung. The daughter, Roberta's mother, married a young doctor who had also been trained under the Presbyterian missionaries in Cheefoo. And so, Roberta's interest in science comes from both sides of the family. Her father as a child had gone through one of those harrowing experiences that many children are called upon to face in China. As a small boy his village had been in the grip of one of those terrible famines which still ravage the province of Shantung, and after all the food was exhausted, the bark and leaves of one great elm tree in the centre of the village helped to keep alive the little group until the time of the new harvest. Before they became too weak to walk, a little band of boys from this village, her father among the number, set off in the hope of reaching the coast. On arrival at Cheefoo they were taken in by missionaries and it was in the mission schools there that he trained to be a doctor. "He was a consecrated Christian", said his daughter simply, "He served China till the last day of his life, and was loved and honored by all who knew him. He gave away so much during his lifetime that when he died he had little money to leave us". Roberta was brought up in Tsinan where her father was at this time a distinguished member of the medical staff of the university. She attended the Girls Normal School and her hope was always that she might become a doctor like her father. He died when she was only fourteen. Two years later, when her old school was in need of a teacher of physical training she was sent to Shanghai to take this course. She had only been there a week when she was called home by her mother's sudden death. With her ambition undaunted by the sorrows she had been called upon to face so early in her life, and free now to continue her studies, she decided to compete for the scholarship that enabled her to go to America. Not until after she had been her name posted up as one of the successful candidates, did she inform her friends, she herself felt that her chances of winning were so very slim. It was now necessary to choose the University in America to which she would go, and she deliberately made the choice of one in a State where she was assured she would meet no other Chinese students, because as she says, "I wanted to go where I would hear only English spoken". So, she too sailed away to America, and after two years hard study of the English language was entered as a freshman in the University of Texas where she took her full college course.

These two Robertas have now come back to China, eager to bring the new learning to the land of their birth, a land which although so great in many other aspects, stood still and dreamed of old philosophies and literary conceits, while the western nations of the world were racing to outdo each other in discoveries in this new field of science. And they have come not only to bring the light of pure science to students who are now so insistent on the scientific method that everything, even religion and philosophy, must stand before this test, but they have come to bring that something that is more than mere science, call it what you will, of which the greatest of all teachers has spoken in the promise, "and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

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JAN 26 1931  
JOINT OFFICE

0479

(copy for Mrs. Lee)

PEIPING UNION MEDICAL COLLEGE  
Peiping, China

September 7, 1931.

RECEIVED  
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

OCT 19 1931

Miss M. Wood,  
Acting Dean for Women,  
Yenching University,  
Peking West.

Dear Miss Wood:

As you know, I have been consulted on many occasions by the various College physicians in charge of the women of your University, about Miss Roberta White. She is in an extremely poor physical condition and is probably suffering from a chronic colitis. I am sure that the best chance of ensuring a better state of health for the future is that Miss White should take one year off work, and return to America for special treatment. I do not consider that satisfactory treatment is available in China.

Yours sincerely,

G.A.M. Hall, M. D.

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RECEIVED

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

燕京大學女部

OCT 19 1931 YENCHING COLLEGE FOR WOMEN  
PEIPING, CHINA

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

September 24<sup>th</sup> 1931

Dear Mrs. Lee

It seems to me that there is a personal matter in connection with Roberta White which I owe to you to share informally.

She is engaged to be married to Mr. George Taylor an Englishman whom she met at Johns Hopkins and who is here under a Harvard-Yenching Fellowship which terminates next June.

Future plans are necessarily vague for both of them, contingent upon the position (kind and place) that Mr Taylor secures, and upon Roberta's own health - but their hope is to be married next summer. It is therefore an open question as to whether she can return to fulfil the third year of her contract, though, should they not be married next summer, and should she recover sufficiently, she may wish to do so.

With warm greetings

Myfanwy Wood

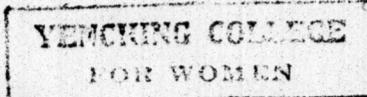
0481

Country Club Road,  
Fairmont, W. Va.

Oct. 6, 1932.

ack 10-29-32

Mr. B. A. Garside,  
China Union Universities,  
150 Fifth Ave., New York.



My dear Mr. Garside:

During the year since I left Yenching I have planned many times to write you and the Women's College Committee to express my regret at leaving Yenching and my gratitude for the generous treatment given me. I kept postponing my letter from month to month in the hope that before long I could ask to be reinstated on the staff of Yenching. It was such a disappointment to have to leave that I could not reconcile myself to the formal severing of relations with Yenching.

As you know there were two factors hindering my return. One was health and the other was the uncertainty of my fiancé's plans. Yesterday I received a letter from him saying that he expects to remain in China for another year. The question of my health is also much more certain than it was two months ago. I gained a great deal this summer, and at the present time am working in a nursery school and feeling very well.

I am sure that in another two months I will be strong enough to return to China.

Would there be an opportunity for me to teach at Yenching during the second semester of this year? I would expect to pay my own travel back to China, and if a full-time salary were not available would be glad to teach on a part-time basis. Yenching has some rule about married women teaching only ~~part~~<sup>half</sup> time and as there is a possibility that that I might marry perhaps this should be taken into account. On second thought I believe that this ruling applies only to wives of faculty members.

I do hope that Yenching can use me. I feel as though I owe it to her to return if I can, and also I want very much to go back. Caroline Chen has written me that the Home Economics Department is very short-staffed. Perhaps I could help out there. Miss Chen and I had planned a couple of courses in her department before I left.

Please give my regards to those members of the Women's College Committee whom I know.

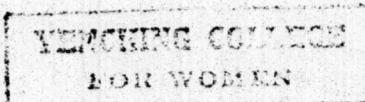
Sincerely yours,

Roberta S. White.

P.S. I would be willing to teach without a contract so that Yenching need not assume responsibility for my health. The fact that my parents live in China makes this feasible.

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
OCT 10 1932  
JOINT OFFICE

0484



Yenching University

October 29, 1932.

Miss Roberta S. White,  
Country Club Road,  
Fairmont, W. Va.

My dear Miss White:

I am sorry that an unusually heavy pressure of meetings and the work of preparation for them has delayed my earlier reply to your letter of October 6th.

We are very delighted to learn that in the year since you have been in America, your health has been improving so greatly. We know that you were keenly disappointed at the necessity of giving up your work for a time in order to regain your health, and I can assure you that you have been greatly missed by the University. The members of the Yenching College Committee, and all the others who had the privilege of meeting you before you went out to China, have felt a sincere personal interest in you ever since, and have been genuinely concerned over your health problem.

I am taking up with the ladies of the Yenching College Committee the question you raise as to the possibility of your returning to the University. It is obvious at once that two questions would have to be settled before any final decision could be reached.

The first and most important of these is the question of your own health. We all feel a personal sense of responsibility if anyone recently sent out to China suffers a breakdown in health, because it always causes us to wonder whether or not we have been sufficiently careful in checking up on all details of the health situation. It so happens that during recent years we have had an unusually large number of cases where young people sent out under appointment by our various college boards have broken down in health within one or two years after they began their work in China; and as a result we are all feeling a bit cautious about such matters. I am sure that the first step in the direction of returning to China would therefore be for you to have a thorough examination by some physician in your neighborhood in whom our medical secretaries here in New York and Boston would have complete confidence. A clear-cut affirmation by such a medical examiner that you are physically fit to return to the field would be of major importance.

The second question is that of faculty arrangements at Yenching during the second semester. On this point we can only send inquiries to the

0485

Miss Roberta S. White

-2-

October 29, 1952.

the  
to the field and ask them to reply in the light of/local situation. Since undoubtedly you will wish to begin making definite plans within the shortest possible time, we might ask the field to cable as to their attitude toward your return for the second semester.

We will press forward with the matter as promptly as possible, and I hope that some decision can be reached by the early part of December. This, however, is a matter that must be left in the hands of the Yenching College Committee.

With warmest personal regards, and best wishes for your continued improvement in health, I am

Very cordially yours,

BAG:PW

0486

212 Quincy St.  
West Lafayette, Ind.

Nov. 3, 1932.

ACK. 11-7-32

copy to Mrs. Lee

YENCHING COLLEGE  
FOR WOMEN

Mr. B. A. Garside  
China Union Universities  
150 Fifth Ave., N. Y.

Dear Mr. Garside:

I was very glad to receive your letter and to hear that my case was under consideration.

I am now staying with my sister in Indiana and will be glad to have a physical examination by one of the local physicians if that is satisfactory to you. The doctor who treated my case in California said last May that she would not advise me to return to China this past summer with the expectation of doing full-time work, but that she would have no objection to my returning if I taught only a few hours. Since May I have gained so much in strength that I feel confident she would make no objections to my return now. I weigh about twenty pounds more than I did when I sailed to China before, and that is a real safeguard.

As you realize, I am anxious to make definite plans as soon as possible. Is there anything I can do to expedite a decision?

Sincerely yours, Roberta S. White.

Copy to Mrs. Lee.

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NOV 5 - 1932  
OFFICE

0488

212 Quincy St.  
West Lafayette, Ind.  
Nov. 12, 1932.

RECEIVED  
NOV 15 1932

NOV 15 1932

Nov 16/32

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

Dear Mrs Lee:

I was very happy to receive your letter this morning and glad to know that you had written Yenching. It takes so long to receive a reply from China that I suppose no definite decision can be reached before the end of December.

In the meantime I have decided to return to China in time to spend Christmas with my father in Shanghai. He is alone, as mother has been ill and is here in Indiana with my sister. She agrees that it will be best for me to return now, and then in case Yenching cannot use me I may be able to find work in Shanghai. I am expecting to sail from Vancouver December third on the Empress of Asia, third class. Shall I communicate with Yenching on my arrival or wait to hear from you? My address will be: "University of Shanghai, Shanghai, China"

What shall I do about a medical examination? I have been examined so often and so thoroughly in the past two years, and have succeeded so well in eliminating all my symptoms, that I doubt whether a new doctor could find anything of significance. But of course I shall be glad to do anything you wish. I am leaving here Nov. 27 so that it will have to be seen to right away.

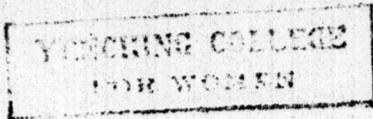
I am certainly hoping that the way may be made clear for me to return to Yenching

Sincerely yours,

Roberta S. White

P.S. I will send a copy of this to Mrs. Garside.

0489



212 Quincy St  
West Lafayette, Ind.  
Nov. 12, 1932.

Mr. B. G. Garside  
150 Fifth Ave  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Garside:

This morning I received a letter from Mrs. Lee saying she had written about me to Yenching. I will quote from the letter which I have just written in reply to hers.

"I was very happy to receive your letter this morning and glad to know that you had written Yenching. It takes so long to receive a reply from China that I suppose no definite decision can be reached before the end of December.

"In the meantime I have decided to return to China in time to spend Christmas with my father in Shanghai. He is alone, as my mother has been ill and is here in Indiana with my sister. She agrees that it will be best for me to return now, and then in case Yenching cannot use me I may be able to find work in Shanghai. I am expecting to sail from Vancouver December third on the Empress of Asia, third class. Shall I communicate with Yenching on my arrival or wait to hear from you? My address will be: —

University of Shanghai, Shanghai, China.

"What shall I do about a medical examination? I have been examined so often and so thoroly in the past two years, and have succeeded so well in eliminating all my symptoms, that I doubt whether a new doctor could find anything of significance. But of course I shall be glad to do anything you wish. I am leaving here Nov. 27 so that it will have to be seen to right away."

I guess there is nothing to add to that. It has just occurred to me that you might be interested, from the point of view of preventing a recurrence, in learning what caused my breakdown. There were several factors, infected wisdom teeth, <sup>at Johns Hopkins,</sup> overwork, and climate. The fact that the Women's College had seven or eight different physicians during my year there probably had something to do with it as you can easily see. I am so glad Dr. Nutting is there now.

Sincerely yours,

Roberta S. White

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UNIVERSITIES**

NOV 15 1932

**JOINT OFFICE**

0492

November 13, 1937.

Miss Roberta S. White  
212 Quincy St.  
West Lafayette, Indiana

Dear Miss White:

I am very glad to have your letter of November 12 and am deeply interested in your decision to return to China without waiting for a reply from Indiana as to your working there. I am so sorry that your mother has been ill. It is sad for her and for your father to be separated from us and I know your coming will mean very much of comfort and cheer to your father.

You ask whether you should communicate with friends on your arrival in Shanghai. I would by all means write them at once. They will by that time have had all the information we have as to your health and readiness to serve and there is no need for you or them to wait for a further letter from America. One of the questions to which they must find the answer is of course the question whether a salary for you can be provided from the budget as voted. I fear it is wholly unlikely that the College will find it possible to add to its total obligations, but as you are now, unexpected grants often take place and it is not impossible that a modest salary might be provided.

You ask about a medical examination and speak of having "been examined so often and so thoroughly in the past two years." I think the College as well as our Committee will need a doctor's statement as to your health. If you have or can secure from one of the doctors who has recently examined you a statement that the troubles from which you suffered are passed and that you are now in good general health with no special liabilities, that might be sufficient. Just to be on the safe side I enclose a medical blank. Do you think that your doctor in West Lafayette can fill this out without having to give you a new examination?

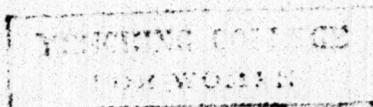
With very kind regards, I wish you a comfortable and pleasant voyage.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs. Lucius O. Lee.)

EL:dsk

0493



Yenching

November 18, 1932

Miss Roberta White,  
212 Quincy Street,  
West Lafayette, Ind.

My dear Miss White,

Let me acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 12th.

I have also received a letter from Mrs. Lee, written after she received the letter you wrote her on that same date. I am writing Mrs. Lee rather fully about these matters, and am sending you herewith a copy of my letter. Since I have discussed these problems at such length in that letter, I will not attempt to repeat my comments here.

I have no doubt at all that our friends back at Yenching will be eager to have you back on the campus if the necessary arrangements can be made. But I do feel that in fairness both to yourself and to the work we must examine all problems of health with the greatest possible care. In my letter to Mrs. Lee I tell of the case - with which you are probably familiar, that happened at Yenching only a few years ago. And I might add that my wife's breakdown in health five years ago was directly traceable to our term of service in China. Having watched her valiant and none too successful struggle to regain her health, I naturally am keenly aware of the seriousness of these problems.

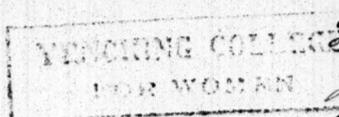
With you it is a case of returning to your home and to your family and friends. So no doubt you are wise in making the trip to China in any event. We do most earnestly hope that the medical papers will give you a clean bill of health and will open the way for definite negotiations for your reappointment to Yenching. Since you are leaving on the 27th and would not be able to supply any additional information the medical secretary of the American Board might later require, it is quite important that you see to it that he is supplied with the fullest possible data.

With the warmest of good wishes for your trip to China, and in the hope that next semester may see you again at Yenching, I am

Very sincerely yours,

BAQ/G  
Enc.

0494



212 Quincy St.  
West Lafayette, Ind.

Nov. 22, 1932.  
ark. 11-29-32

Dear Mr. Garside,

Yesterday I received a cable from my father advising me to remain in America until I received a letter which he was sending. I do not know what the letter will contain but of course I am postponing my sailing. Perhaps it is just as well, since now I will have time to find out whether my physical examination is satisfactory to you or not, and perhaps there will be time to hear from China as to whether they wish my return at Yenching.

I will have the medical examination this week and return the blanks to Mrs. Lee. I trust that everything will be satisfactory, and I appreciate very deeply your solicitude for my health.

About the question of travelling third class I do not know what to say. Mother was a little dubious about it, but since we could not afford to pay more and since she had a friend who crossed

twice that way without any ill effects,  
she consented. Father's letter may contain  
some objections to third class. As soon as  
his letter arrives I will have to make a  
new decision, and may sail on the  
"Empress of Canada" Dec. 17. As this is one  
of the larger boats, and the third class  
accommodations much better than on the  
"Asia" I believe they will be satisfactory.

The letter mentioned in the cable  
may refer to some change in my father's  
plans. In case he settles in some part  
of China other than Peking of course I  
should prefer to be with him. But if  
we cannot marry I would much rather  
teach at Yenching than do anything else.  
I am sending your letter on to him so  
that he will know just what the situation  
is.

Plans involving so many factors and  
at such a distance are certainly difficult  
to make, but I hope they will work  
out satisfactorily for all concerned.

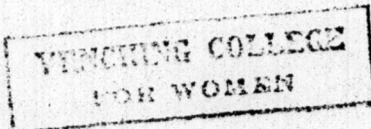
Thanks you for your kindness

Sincerely,

Roberta S. White.

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
NOV 25 1932  
OFFICE

0497



Yenching University

November 29, 1932.

Miss Roberta S. White  
212 Quincy Street  
West Lafayette, Indiana

My dear Miss White:

Let me acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 22nd, telling of the cable from your father advising you to remain in America until you receive a letter which he is sending.

I know that this delay will be a keen disappointment to you, but perhaps it will be beneficial in the end through allowing more time for making decisions.

No doubt your medical papers have gone to Mrs. Lee before this, and we will soon know the decision of the medical secretary. This decision should help greatly in clarifying the problems confronting us. I will write again after we hear from Boston regarding these medical questions.

We sincerely sympathize for the uncertainty and anxiety of your weeks of waiting, but we trust that things will work out happily within a short time.

Very cordially yours,

BAG:PW

CC: Mrs. Lee

0498

November 30, 1932.

Miss Roberta White  
212 Quincy St.  
W. Lafayette, Indiana

Dear Miss White:

I am very glad this morning to have your letter of November 28 with the enclosed health report. Dr. Ward the Medical Secretary of the American Board has looked over the report and pronounces it good. I am reporting this fact to Mr. Gar-side and also to Yen-ching. I find that my first letter to Miss Speer reporting the possibility of your return for a semester's work in Yen-ching was dated October 31. There is therefore time for us to receive a cabled reply before your sailing date now deferred to December 17. As I did not however, ask Miss Speer to cable I am not sure that a cable-gram will be sent. I did tell her that I was asking you to communicate with her immediately on your arrival in Shanghai. I do appreciate that all this uncertainty is very trying. If the College has urgent need of your help I think it not impossible that a cablegram will be sent even though I did not ask for one. In any case you may rest assured that we will pass on as promptly as possible any word that comes from Peiping.

Of course I am deeply interested to know the reasons which have led your father to ask you to delay your sailing. Very likely the letter will clear up some at least of the questions in our minds. It is as you say, very difficult to make plans when people at such great distances are involved.

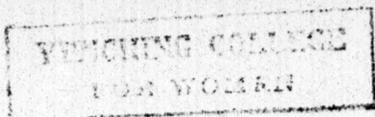
In closing let me congratulate you on the fine record you have made in recovery of your health. I assuredly hope that you can keep well and feel the joy of work.

Very cordially yours,

(Mrs. Lucius O. Lee.)

EBL:dsk

0499



212 Quincy  
W. Lafayette, Ind.  
Dec. 7, 1932.

Mr. B. A. Garside  
150 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Garside:

You have doubtless heard from Mrs. Lee that my medical report has been pronounced good. I hope that the word from Yenching will be equally favorable.

I am anxious to sail as soon as possible so as to have a little time at home in Shanghai and also to have time to plan my courses before the second semester starts. I would like to sail on the Empress of Canada Dec. 17. That will mean leaving here next Monday night Dec. 12. If you should receive word from China this week-end will you please wire me on Monday?

Sincerely yours,

Roberta S. White.

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
DEC 9 - 1932  
JOINT OFFICE

0501

212 Quincy  
W. Lafayette, Ind.  
Dec. 7, 1932.

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

RECEIVED  
PASSAGE DEPARTMENT

DEC 9 1932

Dear Mrs. Lee:

~~Dec 7/32~~  
I was certainly happy to hear that my health report was satisfactory.

Recent letters from Father indicate that his objections to my sailing are based on the opinion that it would be unwise for me to return to China unless I have a definite position at Yenching or some other institution. The letter mentioned in his cable has not arrived yet, but should arrive this week-end. I am very anxious to sail Dec. 17 if possible so as to have a little time at home in Shanghai, and also a week or two for preparation before classes begin. If you receive any word from China this week-end will you please wire me, as it will be necessary for me to leave here late Monday night or early Tuesday morning. I am all ready to leave so that only a few hours notice would be necessary.

Yenching may have heard of my

0502

desire to return even before your letter reached Miss Spear, as I suggested to my friend, Mr. Taylor, that he mention the possibility to Dr. Stuart. I also gave him a note to Miss Cookingham which I have heard that he sent her. I did not know the Dean and so wrote to her. Perhaps there may be some reply to this.

The next Express with good Third Class accommodations does not sail until Jan 14, which is rather late.

Sincerely yours,

Roberta S. White.

December 3, 1938.

Miss Roberta S. White  
212 Quincy Ave  
W. Lafayette, Indiana

Dear Miss White:

This is just a line to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of December 7 and to tell you that day before yesterday we called Yenching asking whether or not they needed you. We added that your health report was excellent as we wanted that fact clearly before them. I should think we might receive a called reply any time now. Just as soon as we have such a reply I will pass the word on to you by wire.

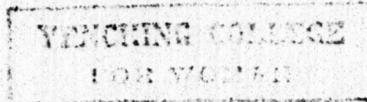
A point on which I find myself in doubt is that of Mr. Taylor's present work in China. My impression is that he is a Harvard-Yenching graduate student in Peiping. Is that correct? It is of course not necessary for me to have the answer to this question or to know the work to which he is looking forward. I should like however, much interested and will appreciate your giving this bit of information some time when you are writing.

Most cordially yours,

(Mrs. Lucius O. Lee.)

LBL:dsk

0504



Yenching University

December 9, 1932

Miss Roberta S. White  
212 Quincy  
West Lafayette, Indiana

My dear Miss White:

Let me acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 7th.

Mrs. Lee sent us a copy of your medical report, and we were very much delighted to learn that the condition of your health was much better than we had dared hoped for. So far as a layman like myself can discover, the medicos have given you a thoroughly satisfactory health clearance. We hope that by driving yourself a little less strenuously in the future, you will be able to round out three score years and ten without any more serious health difficulties.

A letter from Mrs. Lee dated December 6th, stated that she was at that time cabling to the field in regard to your return to the campus. I have written her that you are planning to leave West Lafayette on the night of December 12th, and that you would appreciate a telegram giving any information that might be received from the field by that time. Even though no reply has come from Yenching by the 12th, we would still have five days to reach you in care of the "Canada" at Vancouver. I hope, therefore, that by the time you leave the States you will have some fairly definite word as to the prospects for being at Yenching next semester.

With the warmest of good wishes for your journey, and for your happiness after you arrive in China, I am,

Very cordially yours,

BAG:RC

0505

December 14, 1957.

Miss White  
113 Quincy Street  
West Lafayette, Indiana

My dear Mrs. White:

I assume that Roberta has already left you for the Pacific Coast as her last letter to me said that in order to catch the impress of Canada sailing December 17 it would be necessary for her to leave West Lafayette by Monday evening or early Tuesday morning. As I know you are anxious to know of any word we receive which relates to her future plans I write to tell you that I have this morning a cablegram from Miss Ssu-Tu the new Dean of Yenching Women's College which reads simply, "No need White." I understand that message to mean that the departments in which Roberta would naturally serve at Yenching are now sufficiently staffed. I am relaying this message to Mr. A. Vancouver in care of the Embassy of Canada. I trust the disappointment may not be too keen and that it is very likely that congenial work will open for Roberta in Shanghai if she is there. I shall surely hope to know what develops for her.

Very cordially yours,

(Mrs. Lucine O. Lee.)

LBL:ask

0506

YENCHING COLLEGE  
FOR WOMAN

CANADIAN PACIFIC

S. S. EMPRESS OF CANADA

Dec. 31, 1932.

ack 1/26/33  
RC

Dear Mr. Garside,  
Mrs. Liu's telegram,  
telling of the cable answer  
from Piping, reached me  
in Vancouver. Of course  
I am sorry but I think  
I understand the situation.

I shall look for  
temporary work in Shanghai  
and hope that by Autumn  
I can find a position in  
my own profession. Do  
you think there is any  
possibility of Yenching  
being able to use me  
then? If not I should  
like to find work in

0507

some other Christian college  
in China.

My father has been  
corresponding with Ginling  
Women's College, and there  
is some hope of an open-  
ing there in the Fall. I  
wonder if you could put  
me in touch with any  
opportunities which may  
appear in the other Union  
Universities, Lingnan,  
Shantung, or any others.  
I am not particular  
about location but I  
would like to teach my  
own subjects, Psychology  
and Child Welfare, or at  
least courses that are some-  
what related. It seems a  
pity to teach English after

CANADIAN PACIFIC

S. S. EMPRESS OF CANADA

spending so much time  
in preparation of these  
other subjects.

I can write directly  
to these universities but  
I thought there might be  
some advantage in  
approaching the problem  
from the American end  
as well. I shall be grateful  
for any advice or help  
which you can give.

Thank you again for  
your kindness. With  
best wishes for the New Year,

Sincerely yours,

Roberta S. White

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UNIVERSITY  
JAN 20 1933

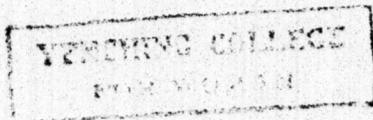
JOINT OFFICE

0509

P.S.

You may be interested to know that my trip Third Class has been very comfortable. There are only three of us "Europeans" in Third and the stewards have been very nice about letting us use the Tourist accommodations, which are almost empty. The European food is good. I tried the Chinese <sup>food</sup> but found I couldn't stand it three times a day with a rough sea.

The Third class accommodations on the Asia and Russia are poorer than on this boat, while those on the Japan are supposedly better. I have one of the better cabins here. Those on the lower decks would not be so good. R.20.



January 26, 1933

Miss Roberta S. White  
University of Shanghai  
Shanghai, China

My dear Miss White:

Let me acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 31st written on board the "Empress of Canada". We can appreciate somewhat how disappointed you were at the cable that came from Yenching. I hope that after you arrived on the field you found the prospects for getting back to Yenching somewhat more encouraging. If no opening materializes there, possibly some of the other universities may have some vacancy for which funds are available. I know that each one of them would be very happy indeed to add you to the staff if they could only find the support; but that is becoming a more and more desperate problem just now.

You may be sure that we will keep you in mind, and will try to get in touch with you right away if any opening develops in the field of Psychology and Child Welfare. I agree with you that it would be unfortunate for you to revert to some such general subject as English, when you have such a fine background of training and experience in your specialized field.

I am glad to know that your trip third class proved so satisfactory. All of us are learning in these days of depression that we can get on quite comfortably with much less than we once considered quite essential.

With warmest regards, and with best wishes for the coming months, I am,

Very cordially yours,

BAG:RC

0511