Yenching
Corres
Wiant, Bliss + Mildred
1936 - 1941

BLISS WIANT
A representative of
The Board of Foreign Missions of the
Methodist Episcopal Church in

Yenching University
Peiping China

Assistant Professor
Department of Music

Furlough Address
16 Adams Street, Medford Hillside,
Massachusetts, U. S. A.

Telephone: Mystic 1043-W

January 2,1936

Dear Leighton:

Your letter of Dec.31st came today. We are very grateful to you for having advised us in the way you have. We will continue to attempt to raise our outgoing expenses but at the same time inquire as to possible openings in this country.

I have been wondering if there might not be some kind of mission work open in Peking either in some middle school or perhaps in evangelistic work. No doubt the Japs would not seriously menace the latter type of work in spite of what they have done in Manchuria.

According to present plan I will be in and around New York from the 20th to the 30th of this month at which time I hope to discuss all the possibilities with both the university and the mission officials.

Mail that we have received from Yenching seems to be hopeful still of a continuance of school but no one can safely predict evidently just what move the Japanese will next make.

We hope that you had a most memorable visit with your friends in the south and with John and that somehow,1936 will bring unusual opportunites for valiant service in the cause of Christian education. We want to be a part of it all too.

With love from us all every one,

Bliss.

Jan. 7&14, 1936

國樂

范祥天

哈佛燕京學社

CHINESE MUSIC

By

BLISS WIANT

AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Two Illustrated Lectures on

CHINESE MUSIC

By

BLISS WIANT

Assistant Professor of Music, Yenching University, Peiping, China

JOHN KNOWLES PAINE HALL, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

JANUARY 7 and 14, 1936, at 8:15 P. M.

(Given under the auspices of The Division of Music and of the Harvard-Yenching Institute)

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INTRODUCTION:

- Are the Chinese a musical race?
- Term for music in Chinese (tone pleasure)
- Language is music in essence
- Verse Tunes
- Informal music such as pigeon flutes, bells, temple music, bird songs, folk songs

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Major mood
- Penta-Tonic scale
- Use of half tones in descending series
- Modal use of tones
- Non-tempered scale
- Scant Harmony
- Complex Melody
- Two-pulse rhythm except in verse chanting

FOLK MUSIC, VOCAL and INSTRUMENTAL

- Work Songs
- Street Cries
- Temple songs
- Wedding and funeral music

CEREMONIAL MUSIC

- Confucian temple music

NOTATION

INSTRUMENT TYPES

- Tone-color, based on materials used:
  - Metal, stone, silk thread or strings, bamboo, gourd, clay, skin, wood
- Description of one typical instrument from each group
- Other widely used instruments

TONAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Huang Chung (yellow or imperial bell) the standard
- Twelve tones employed in theory

OPERA MUSIC

- K'un Ch'u
- Erh Huang (Double Yellow)
- Hsi P'i (Western Skin)
- Pi Huang (combination of above two types (Pekingese opera)
- Vocal usuage and instrumental accompaniment

CONCLUSION

三疊離歌

SAN TIEN LI KE

OUR PARTING BLEST BY CHRISTIAN BONDS

YANG KUAN SAN TIEH

ERNEST Y. L. YANG, 1933

ANCIENT CHINESE LUTE TUNE

多年朋友共知心，一旦忽然兩地分，
To nien p'eng you kung chih hsin, Yi tan hu jan liang ti fen,

重見不知何月日，臨行倍覺舊情深.
Ch'ung chien pu chih heh yueh jih, Lin hsing pei chueh chiu ch'ing shen.

Refrain

但願慈悲神，引領，引領，穩渡山高水深；
Tan yuan tz'u pei Shen, yin ling, yin ling, Wen tu shan kao hsuei shen;

共仰慈悲神，同一信，同一信，天涯團契心心印. 阿們.
Kung yang tz'u pei Shen, t'ung yi hsin, t'ung ya hsin, t'ien ya t'uan ch'i hsin hsin yin. Amen.

BLISS WIANT

Lecturer

On

CHINA

and Her

MUSIC

Mr. Wiant has been teaching music in Yenching University, Peiping, China, since 1923. He has edited three hymnals; organized and directed oratorio choruses for and taught western music to Chinese students; has made a special study of Chinese Music. Yenching University is international, inter-denominational and inter-racial; it is administered in cooperation with great American institutions such as Harvard and Princeton Universities and Wellesley College.

Testimonials from well-known and trusted leaders:

From Professor Walter Piston, Chairman of the Division of Music of Harvard University:
" . . . the members of the Division enjoyed both your subject matter and its presentation. I have also had opportunity to observe the stimulating effect on the students by your talks and only wish they might have been extended to half a dozen . . . I thought the instruments were exceedingly well chosen and illustrated your description of the instrumental music very vividly."

From two letters received from Dr. Archibald Davison also of Harvard University, Division of Music:
"I am still under the very strong impression which you made here . . . lectures both interesting and instructive and I would not have missed them for anything. Too much cannot be said for the charming manner of their presentation. Wiant knows his subject thoroughly and talks about it most fascinatingly. I hope he will be generally heard".

From John P. Marshall, Dean of the College of Music of Boston University:
"Through a long residence in China he has become familiar with the life of the people and with the aid of his musical scholarship has gained a knowledge of Chinese music which has made his lecture most entertaining and instructive. The novelty and mystery of Chinese Music is presented in such a way that it appeals to musician and layman alike. I am glad to recommend Mr. Wiant."

From John Leighton Stuart, President of Yenching University:
"Your fitness for this undertaking (lecturing on Chinese Music) in view of your natural aptitude and training in Western music, and the years of attention you have given with this equipment to the study of Chinese music ought to enable you to share this experience with others in a way that would be at once interesting and informing."

Concerning the talks on hymnology in China the following letters:

From Dr. Albert C. Knudson, Dean of the School of Theology of Boston University, writes:
"I take pleasure in heartily recommending Professor Bliss Wiant to any church or Christian group that may be interested in offering an attractive, original and informing program . . . He uses Chinese tunes in his addresses before American audiences and presents his subject in an extraordinarily interesting manner."

From Dr. John W. Langdale, book editor of the Abingdon Press, writes:
"Your address was very sensible, especially your emphasis that a nation has not really accepted a religion until it has entered its art . . . Your success in getting people to sing the Chinese music was amazing to me. I hope that you will give that address to as many churches as possible. It cannot fail to give pleasure and to do good."

From Edgar Singer, associate pastor of Wesleyan University:
". . . your presentation of the work that you are doing was one of the most compelling bits of propaganda for missions that I have ever heard. You were dealing out there with matters of continent-wide importance."

TWO TYPES OF PRESENTATION OF CHINESE LIFE AND THOUGHT

Mr. Bliss Wiant, assistant professor of music in Yenching University, Peiping, China, now on sabatical leave has two distinct contributions to make to American culture and life through the means of two types of presentation of CHINESE life and thought. Both of these concern one of the fine arts, viz: MUSIC, a subject which has had very little attention but is of surpassing human interest. One type deals entirely with vocal and instrumental music illustrated with excellent and interesting recordings of indigenous melodies; with folk songs of the people sung both in English and Chinese; with unique and beautiful Chinese instruments some of which have never been shown in America before and are very rare.

The second type consists of hymns and the story of their place in China's life, hymns which are made from Chinese tunes of various kinds and which will surely find their way eventually into western hymnology.

For booking please get in touch with:

MR. BLISS WIANT
16 ADAMS STREET MEDFORD HILLSIDE, MASS.
Telephone: Mystic 1043-W.
(Available till June 1, 1936)

February 27, 1936

Mr. Bliss Wiant
16 Adams Street
Medford Hillside, Mass.

Dear Wiants

I have your card of February 22nd.

Sorry the task of getting funds to pay for that piano is not proving an easy one. But, if it is any consolation to you, that is usually the case. I hope you won't let Mr. Bartlett escape quite so easily. He says he would like to help, so take him at his word and continue to exert a little diplomatic pressure on him to do so. Of course it is "almost" impossible to get any gifts for China these days - but our Yenching Trustees have secured about $135,000 in new money during the last seven months. So the task is not altogether impossible. But the only way in which any new money is found is by hammering away at the job.

Very cordially yours,

BAG:MP

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March 3,1936

Yenching University,
150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Miss Van Schuyler:

At 4:15 P.M. on April 7th., the Women's Graduate Club of Columbia University has invited me to speak before this body on the subject of Chinese Music. They give a fee to cover expenses-$10-and in lieu of a fee allow us to invite any people whom we wish to have for tea. I think the talk follows the tea. Only invited guests are present since it is not an open meeting.

They will send out 100 invitations for us free but will allow us to send out as many more as we wish. This seemed to me to be a fine opportunity to have our Yenching constituency present and so I am writing to you for suggestions. Names could be sent direct to Columbia,% Mrs. Juliana Haskell in Philosophy Hall and she would send them out or you might submit a list of names from which we could choose or to which we might add so that we would not be inviting the same people.

She wants the list in two weeks so we haven't a great deal of extra time in which to work.

Will you give me again the date and details of Dr. Stuart's departure so we can write him a steamer letter?

With thanks for your help and with the best of greetings,

Sincerely,

Bliss Wiant

16 Adams Street,
Medford Hillside,
Massachusetts.

April 10,1936

ack 4/20/36

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

My dear Mr. Garside:

Mrs. Wiant and I arrived back here last evening,worn and weary after ten days of strenuous effort in New York City. We just about paid expenses for we were under heavy financial obligations this trip due to the necessity of hiring a trained nurse to look after four whooping children.

Now comes your letter of the 9th asking us to return to New York for the affairs of the Annual Meeting of the Associated Boards.

Nothing would please us more than to attend these meetings for they are immensely worth while and their decisions are far-reaching. It would also be a good opportunity to be put into contact with sympathetic people.

I'm sure that we might bring some sense of pleasure and culture to the group for we have been very well received every place we have appeared. Mrs. Wiant has a very lovely,flute-like voice which is admirably suited to the singing of Chinese songs. Being the better half I need not say anything further.

There are ~~two~~ 3 considerations: (1) We cannot afford to spend any money now which does not have a definite prospect of return. The expense of the trip would be considerable-say around $50. Then(2) the time involved would be considerable since it would take several days The reason why this is an element is that Mr. Carl Engle,the head of the G. Schirmer Company,the largest music publishing house in the USA has asked us to prepare for publication as many Chinese songs as we can before we leave this part of the country. (3) We needs must raise a $1000 before we go much further along life's pathway in order to return to China in August. If we thought that going to New York again would secure that money we'd be tempted to go and forsake all other considerations.

You now see what is on our minds. If you have any suggestions we will appreciate them. Be assured that we want to come.

Sincerely,

Elmer Wiant

范天祥

156 E. Heights Blvd.,
Elyria,Ohio.

July 8,1936

Dear Mr. Garside:

A recent letter from Dr. Stuart states that he does not look for any prolonged period of violence in North China and that we should plan to return this fall. He also states that he is keeping the Yenching office informed of conditions so that we may be directed in our return plans in case of serious trouble. We now depend on you to let us know for Dr. Stuart has promised that he would thus inform us.

We are leaving here on August 9th and will sail on the SS Pres. Jackson from Seattle on the 15th of August. We now see all the money in sight necessary for our return thanks to a large gift from Mr. McBrier.

How did the debt on the piano finally get settled? Mr. MacKenzie in the M.E. office was anxious to get it off his accounts since it had been there for so many years. This whole affair was surely a mess and needed clearing.

Our little girl goes every day for treatments in a fine hospital here and it is a rather cool place since it is near to Lake Erie.

With greetings and kindest personal regards from us all,

Sincerely,

Chas Wiant

Yenching University
Peiping, China
Nov. 15, 1936

Dear friends :

Our last message to you was from the other side of the world-Elyria, Ohio. Since then we have crossed the American continent in dust and heat ; we have crossed the Pacific Ocean through chilly fogs ; we have endured the high humidity and heat of Japan and Shanghai ; we have finally emerged into what we feel is an ideal climate-the dry, sunny atmosphere of North China.

Our minds were full of doubts and fears as to the safety of our lives and the possibility of carrying on our work but peace and calm seem to prevail. More students than ever had suffered the hard examinations for entrance into our academic life and the actual number on the campus (823) exceeded our quota by 23.

Nevertheless there is unrest among all classes of society. The enclosed letter from our President, J. Leighton Stuart will help to interpret the situation here-we hope you will read it carefully. The Chinese of this section reveal marvelous self-control. They would gladly sacrifice their lives in battle to preserve their national integrity yet there is hope that there will be some way out apart from blood shed which will solve the problems of those concerned.

Can you imagine however an enemy's forces flaunting sham battles in our face on our soil ? Japan is doing this very thing on all sides of Peking and in addition is being entertained in the homes of the peasants during the operations !

Thus far no untoward incidents have happened between students and Japanese propagandists so that life has been academically normal. We have had so far an average attendance of 165 at the weekly rehearsals of the "Messiah" which we annually sing at Christmas. It is a glorious opportunity to preach the gospel with the very words of the Bible itself. A world-wide broadcast of this grand music is being planned in April when we have hopes of touring to Nanking and Shanghai for concerts.

All those connected with the preparation and publication of the new Union Hymnal have been dumbfounded at the demand which has greeted its appearance. To date about one hundred fifty thousand copies have been sold and orders still coming in. We thank God for His guidance in this project and pray that He will guide in further plans for enlarging the scope of the use of music in the church.

Our children are as usual. Allen (12) goes to the American School by bus into Peiping, a trip of 25 miles in toto. It is a fine international and cosmopolitan institution. Leighton (9) is a pupil in the small school for American children on the campus. His teacher, Miss Terman was a pupil in the same school ten years ago when her father was on our staff. Cecilia (5) will soon be having the hydrotherapy treatments in the pool which we had planned and which is now being constructed under the floor of the bedroom. It is five by six feet and will provide all she needs in exercise and muscular training. Friends have generously helped to defray the expense of construction (although it has cost three times what we thought it would) and its maintenance will mean a considerable outlay for which no special provision has been made as yet.

Bennie (our 20 months old baby) is being initiated into both English and Chinese at the same time. He is sweet and charming.

This letter will reach you at the Christmas season. We want you each one to feel our personal thanks for your interest is us especially in that you have helped to make possible our return. We were so grateful for the opportunity to observe again the exciting celebrations of Christmas in a Christian nation and now we are happy to be back here to assist in bringing into a non-Christian nation through students who will be the leaders of tomorrow an idea of what we so fully enjoy. We look forward to the time when the 'kingdoms of this world are to become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ'-when we can all around the whole world join in bringing our gifts to the "new-born King".

With all our heart's affection,

Mr. and Mrs. Bliss Wiant and family.

P.S. Won't you please write to us-we feel so far away sometimes from you all and need the personal touch that comes with a letter.

Just a reminder that in case you should wish to send money you personal check is the easiest negotiated here.

I have a little lion on my desk as souvenir of the Jenling Office!
Hope everything is going well. Yours Bliss Wiant.

Yenching University
Peiping, China
October 1, 1937

Dear Friend of Ours:

No doubt your minds have been full of wonder and your hearts full of concern for those whom you know who live in China. As far as we know there have been no casualties in North China in the missionary group. Our own family has been well protected and safe at all times.

This letter is being sent via a friend travelling to America on a boat so that it may be resent to you from New York City. Mails seem to be going both ways and we want you to write to us for we need to feel the contact with you during these war times. Chinese mail service has been astonishingly good when one considers the obstacles which it must overcome to reach its citizens and friends residing here.

Due to an unusual amount of sickness in our family this spring we were delayed in leaving the campus for our summer cottage at Peitaiho Beach. We left Peiping the morning of July 8th - the very morning hostilities began. We heard the boom of guns in the night and wondered what was happening. Fortunately we escaped with the children the terrors of warfare in this vicinity - conditions which have now changed again for peace.

We returned to the campus on the 25th of September well and happy and content. In the meantime we have been through a time of nervous strain although in perfect, peaceful and beautiful surroundings. Our cottage is perched on the side of a beautiful hill covered with pines. It overlooks a valley twenty miles wide flanked on the north by a range of mountains which ends in the sea at "Shanhai-kuan" which means "Mountain-sea-pass". It is here that on Sept. 18, 1931 the Japanese troops made a sudden attack thus revealing their bold and sinister plans to take China by force. East of here is the so-called Manchoukuo and Korea from which Japan at first drew her men and supplies for these sources.

From the beginning of the trouble until the time we left for Peiping we saw many hundreds of airplanes flying back and forth through this valley on their way to bring destruction and misery. The main railroad which connects China with Japan and Europe runs through this valley. We saw thousands of trains moving to and fro carrying men and munitions, horses and weapons. On the caboose was mounted an anti-aircraft gun for protection.

The normal train service from Peitaiho to Peking was disrupted beyond recognition choked as the tracks were with these troop trains. Ordinarily it takes 9 hours to make this trip but those who had to travel during these terrible days were delayed 20, 30, 40 and even 50 hours. People were jammed into the coaches so that even the toilets were filled up with humanity. The days were hot. Cases of death due to apoplexy caused by the heat and the jam were reported. Diseases spread from person to person under such conditions. Traffic in food supplies and the necessities of life were at a standstill. Ready cash became very scarce because the banks could not cash checks. Warships of the nations began to appear for the purpose of informing their citizens (there were more than 30 nationalities represented in the summer inhabitants at Peitaiho Beach) and to be on hand in case of emergency evacuation. All Americans were urged to register with the U.S.S. John D. Ford, a destroyer at anchor nearby, so that we could all be evacuated if necessary. Radio messages took the place of daily papers. We were all told not to leave because of the dangers in travel or impossibilities of

communications. One of our faculty group on vacation about 100 miles west of Peiping had to travel over 2000 miles in order to return to the campus - a portion of this group is still on the way having gone from here to Canton, to Hongkong and thence to Tientsin.

The tales and the rumors rife in the community were as thick as the air. No other topic of conversation was ever heard. People who planned to leave for their stations at a certain time changed their minds many times in a single day before they finally executed their plans. Some went hurriedly off to Japan en route to America.

Under such conditions it was impossible for us with small children to leave although we were longing to be back to assist in the opening of school. Everyone was very doubtful as to the possibility of starting school but our president, John Leighton Stuart. He had a vision which penetrated through these difficulties to a time when this great Christian institution should render a distinct service to the students in this area by carrying on. The four great government institutions of higher learning were compelled to close because of lack of funds. No administrator of modern times has been faced with so many impossible situations but he tackled them with a wisdom and a courage which has been the amazement of all. The most difficult problem was that of persuading students to venture forth. The Japanese authorities seemed bent upon detaining students. Their activities previous to this time have been partly responsible for the fostering of a new national spirit in China and naturally under these new conditions their presence was not wanted. By a clever rapprochement between Dr. Stuart and the new officials he was able to obtain military guards for the protection of students en route to Yenching University. In addition we have been informed of armed police protection for this area now.

We have been back to the campus for just a few days. Our return trip was comparatively easy - it took only 22 hours and we had a private first-class sleeper full of Yenching families. Along the way we saw many evidences of war-bombed buildings, some gutted by fire; hundreds of Japanese soldiers at almost every station; troop trains loaded to overflowing with all kinds of war supplies; at the side of the tracks were airplanes, army trucks, motorcycles, field guns, boxes of ammunition, etc., - everything in great confusion and in a state of uncleanliness. At the station in Peking the Chinese passengers were all lined up in single file to pass Japanese guards who opened up their garments as if they were undressing them searching them for weapons and for dangerous literature. Soldiers with fixed bayonets made the search gruesome for should any one of them have refused they would have met sudden death.

Dr. Stuart was on hand to greet us and to cheer us on our way. We went rapidly through the streets of the city out the West Straight Gate five more miles into the country and finally through the beautiful main gate of our beloved campus. What peace and calm! We could hardly believe it. Students were going here and there, laughing and chatting or going about their classes - school had opened ten days before and only two days later than the previously arranged schedule in the spring. We saw none of the horrors of war here but in their place were peace and confidence and trust. Old Glory was waving proudly from the mast head - the first time we had ever seen this spectacle but necessary under present conditions. The rank green of autumnal foliage and the bright colors of gay fall flowers seemed to welcome us all. How gloriously happy we were to be back again!

Since gearing into the life as it now is we find practically normal conditions prevailing. In spite of the low registration of students - 480 out of a usual 800 - we feel that there is the usual number. The chapel services are really better attended than formerly. The 'Messiah' chorus has a more enthusiastic group than we have ever known; tennis courts are full of frolic; the athletic fields are alive with activity; the whole round of life fills us with joy and gratitude.

We realize that all this has been accomplished by means of great sacrifice. Dr. Stuart has not had one day of respite during the whole hazardous summer. Early in the morning of July 28th appeared eight bombing planes to wreck the Hsi Yuan, a strongly built barrack west across the road from our campus a short distance. The planes swooped low over our buildings in order to be at a low level for bombing the barracks. The noise was so deafening that many thought at first that our own campus had been bombed. He, together with other faculty members, stayed by to guide and direct, to comfort and sustain the students and others in this terrifying hour. It is out of such an experience that the present wonderful campus life has come. We hope that God will continue to thus marvelously lead us during the year that is ahead. We trust Him day by day.

Affectionately,

Bliss & Mildred Wiant

3+1c

Yenching University, Peking, China
January 14, 1938

Our Very Dear American Friends and Relatives:-

During the past few days we have been overjoyed to receive letters and greetings from a great number of you. We deeply appreciate your messages of love and concern, and your prayers for our safety. With great joy we anticipate the rich harvest of home letters which are our chief means of dispelling a depressing sense that often comes to us of being cut off from the "land of the free."

Your information about conditions in China must be very adequate, but we live under heavy censorship. However, we do get considerable news of what is going on in China and in the world. Our community is quite safe, but there are bandits in the Western Hills not far away. Soldiers are located at various places to maintain order. Old roads have been repaired, and new roads opened, which will make political and military administration easier. The work has been done by peasant labor. In November the head of every family was conscripted once every ten days. No pay was given. Beginning this month each one is supposed to give two days a month.

Almost daily visits from "our friends" occur, at which time they take pictures of various activities; interview our Chinese faculty; attempt to investigate various lines of work; inspect the library, etc. They are particularly anxious to uproot all signs of communism or anti-Japanese propaganda. So far, not a single untoward incident has happened, and we believe that our administration officers are very able to handle any situation that may arise.

Campus life has been increasingly steady. Our enrollment of 501 will likely be increased to 600 or more, because President J. Leighton Stuart has just left for Shanghai to attend various meetings, and to personally bring back many of our students from the Central China sector who were unable to come in the autumn. Seniors are especially anxious to finish their work.

In MUSIC, my specialty, the emphasis has been on the social aspects such as concerts of recorded music, and community singing--two each week. These have been well attended. The Chorus this semester took on special significance because it not only provided a sense of social solidarity, but also gave expression of an unusually prominent religious feeling. Many students have come from schools which had neither choral music nor religious activities.

About 70% of the Chorus was composed of such students--they had never seen the music. Their lack of knowledge and experience was matched by an equal fervor and desire to learn, so that two concerts were made possible the week before Christmas. Some raised objections, thinking outsiders would regard such a concert as a kind of entertainment. Our concert was the very first to be held in the city since last June. In other parts of China were relatives and friends of the students who are living under the strain of war and for us to be singing, would appear to be a sign of too much joy. However, our finest Chinese faculty members urged us to go ahead if we emphasized the religious nature of these concerts, and if we gave the net proceeds to charity and relief.

We proceeded on that basis and achieved our ends. The local news reporter, a young Britisher who had just come to Peking and who had never heard Chinese students sing before, was impressed by the religious spirit which seemed to fill the concert hall--of which he made special mention in a long article which he wrote. The hall was packed with an international audience. Chinese who had not been out in months were there; Japanese, in both military and civilian uniforms were there (several of them took special pains to congratulate us on the event and were much impressed by it); Catholic Fathers from French, German, Belgian and other missions in their particular garbs were there; American and British in evening clothes; a couple hundred students from the mission high schools stood in the side aisles with their plain blue outfits.

Yenching University, Peking, China
January 14, 1938

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We proceeded on that basis and achieved our ends. The local news reporter, a young Britisher who had just come to Peking and who had never heard Chinese students sing before, was impressed by the religious spirit which seemed to fill the concert hall--of which he made special mention in a long article which he wrote. The hall was packed with an international audience. Chinese who had not been out in months were there; Japanese, in both military and civilian uniforms were there (several of them took special pains to congratulate us on the event and were much impressed by it); Catholic Fathers from French, German, Belgian and other missions in their particular garbs were there; American and British in evening clothes; a couple hundred students from the mission high schools stood in the side aisles with their plain blue outfits. It was a very memorable occasion. We cleared a little less than $600 for relief, and everyone was happy. The RCA Victor Co. broadcasted our program so that it went out over North China.

Our family is well, and growing in every way. They absorb more of the political and social conditions than we realize, judging from the remarks they make, or from the prayers they offer for God's protection or guidance during these times of uncertainty.

We scan the papers and the magazines for any signs of leadership which America is taking in trying to solve in a Christian way the very serious plight in which humanity now finds itself. We hope that no matter what is done, it will be in the spirit of love. No other course will lead to a better world. It is so hard to love and not to hate, and yet it is the only way out. God help us to be Christlike in the days ahead of us all, you and us.

With all our hearts we love you.

Bliss and Mildred Wiant.

B L I S S W I A N T

Yenching University
Peiping, China

燕京大學
范天祥

ack 8/10

July 6 ,1938

Yenching University,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

We are writing you in regard to communications which we may wish to have with Miss Elizabeth James, fiancee of Mr. Dick Irwin, with whom we have been corresponding concerning a teaching position in the school for the English speaking children of the faculty at Yenching, Peking. We have instructed her to cable her reply through your office and shall appreciate having you enclose her message along with any message which you may be sending to the office in Peking at that time. We anticipate that this message will be sent sometime between August 1st and 15th. We also may have to communicate with Miss James by cable about a month from now. Since her address for the summer is rather uncertain, we have taken the liberty to inform her that in case such a cable is necessary, we will send it to your office addressed to Mr. Irwin of whose whereabouts we are sure, will you be informed. We shall appreciate having you handle these matters for us and will expect to be informed through the Yenching office here as to any expenses involved.

Sincerely,

Mildred A. Wiant (Mrs. Bliss —)

Chairman School Board of the School.

C
O
P
Y

New Buffalo, Mich.
Forest Beach Camp
August 8, 1938

Yenching University Office
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Sir:

I have had a communication from Mrs. Bliss Wiant concerning a teaching position and her suggestion is that I send my reply by cable through your office. I regret very much that it has to be worded "JAMES DECLINES", for the situation is such that my plans for next year cannot be changed. I shall write Mrs. Wiant, but in the meantime she will have definite word through your office.

Thank you very kindly for taking care of this matter for me.

Sincerely yours,

/S/ ELIZABETH F. JAMES

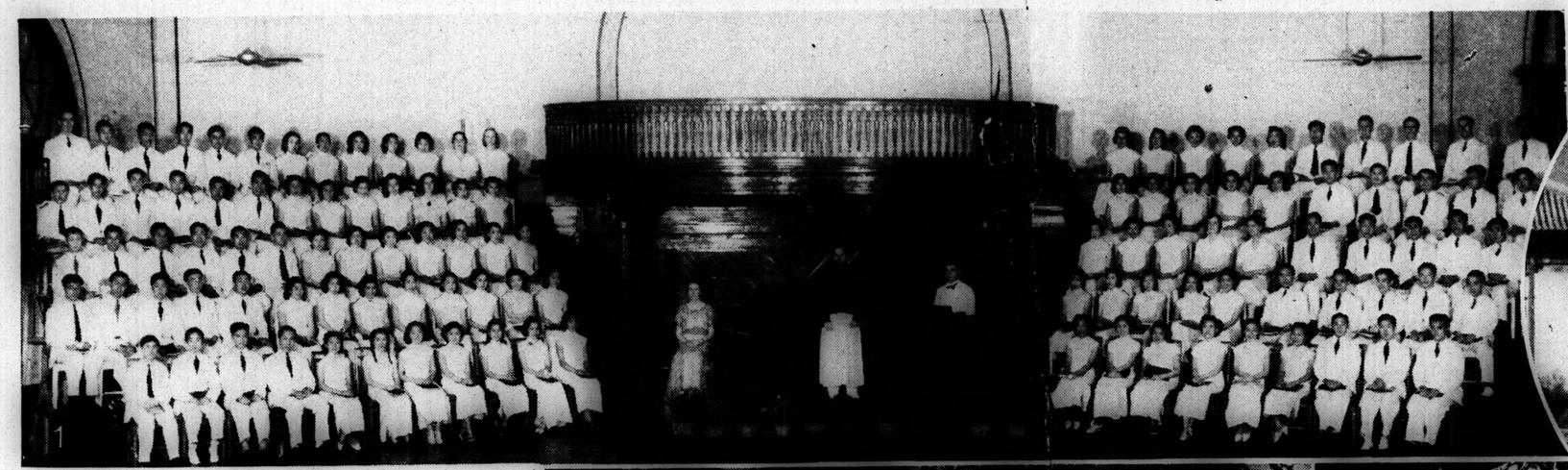
Schools—Colleges
Home Study

燕京大學慶祝聖誕

The Chinese Characters Mean: Yenching University Wishes You a Merry Christmas

Parents—Teachers
Students

A Tuesday and Saturday Education Page



Chinese Students Sing Handel's 'Messiah' in Old Peiping

'Music a Social Experience' at Yenching; Can Teach Unity and Co-operation, Says Music Professor

By Millicent Taylor

Written for The Christian Science Monitor

Just about now, as Christmas carols usher in this beautiful season of the Christian world, young men and girls—Chinese students—attending college in the shadow of the ancient Summer Palace outside the old city walls of Peiping, are singing that great Christmas oratorio of Western peoples, Handel's "Messiah." The Yenching University Chorus, under the direction of Bliss Wiant, Assistant Professor of Music at Yenching University, has ever since 1928 sung the Messiah each year. Certain parts are sung in English and others in Chinese.

"Christmas is in our hearts as far as our thoughts of the coming of the 'Prince of Peace' is concerned; but when one looks outside our campus walls to the almost incessant traffic of the sinews of war we begin to wonder—where is Christmas anyhow," wrote the Wiants in a letter that winged to me from across the Pacific last [illegible] r," the letter says further [illegible] people in [illegible] ttended rehearsals of H[illegible] 'Messiah,' and 215 will act[illegible] take part in the two concerts we [illegible] an to give—one in t[illegible] Memorial Auditor[illegible] one in the Grand H[illegible] banquet hall [illegible] ng. As never before can the religious idealism, the spiritual messages, and the powerful force of the Bible words which we sing in the grand old oratorio be impressed upon these fine students."

Great Music Fills The College Halls

I don't know how many students are singing it this December, 1939, but the last time I heard from Bliss Wiant the rehearsals were going forward as usual.

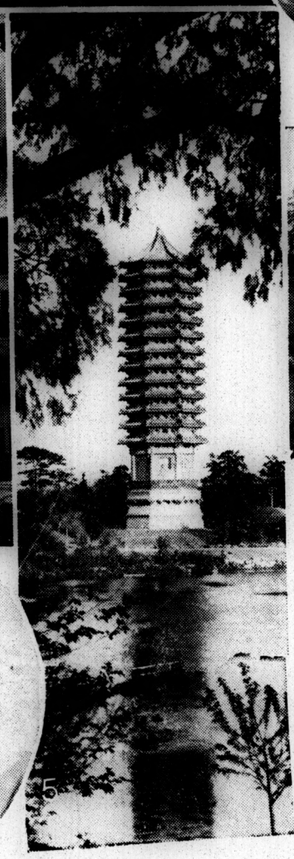
"For us it is a perfect joy," he once said, "to hear the strains of these wonderful choruses being sung not only in the rehearsals but also in dormitory rooms, in the halls, on the walks. They come out so very spontaneously."

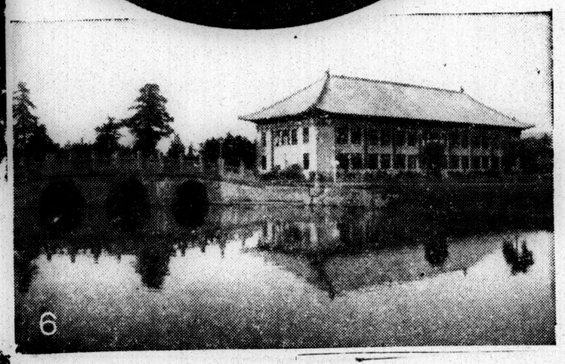
As I write this, thinking of them, I have before me some of the programs of previous years: "The Yenching University Chorus Presents . . ." in the Grand Hotel de Pekin, in the Grand Theatre in Tientsin, with lists of sopranos—names like Chang Feng Mei, Huang Chia Ch'ing, Wang An Lin; and of altos, Ch'en P'ei T'ao, Sun Chia Hsiu; of tenors and basses, Tu Yeh K'o, Yang Jui Fang, and an occasional English or American name, for some of the members of the faculty and others join the chorus too at this time.

Bible Words

"Comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished," go the words of Isaiah that these Chinese boys and girls come to know by heart. "Why do the nations so furiously rage together," they sing from Psalms, "and why do the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed." And these students know the beautiful passage, again from Isaiah, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." Some of the students who sing this come [illegible] villages and towns far in the [illegible], their homes destroyed, their families refugees. But these words they know: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful . . . The Prince of Peace."

The Wiants are among the very few workers from the Western world whose chief reason for being in a Chinese college is music. If you have ever heard native Chinese music, in a theater or on the air, you know that the traditional Chinese singing voice is a high falsetto for both men and women, and Chinese instrumental music difficult for us to follow. Yet the Chinese are essentially a musical people. Their language is perhaps the most musical in the world. This is not alone due to the lovely liquid vowel sounds. It is because the meanings of syllables change according to the inflection with which they are spoken; and that therefore the language is not spoken so much as actually sung.





(1) The Yenching University Chorus, as it sang the Brahms Requiem in Peiping, China, last May. Standing at the center, with the baton, is Bliss Wiant, director of the chorus and Assistant Professor of Music at the University. He is wearing formal Chinese clothes "because they are as formal as anything western but much more comfortable," in his opinion. Mrs. Wiant, who carried the soprano solo parts, is seated to the left, and Mr. Bradford is at the Hammond Organ. (2) Glimpse of Yenching University, Bashford Memorial Hall at right. (3) Bashford Hall at the left, the Physics-Biology Building at right. (4) Bliss Wiant, from a snapshot. (5) Yenching's most distinguishing landmark is the water tower in the form of a Chinese pagoda. (6) East and West are blended in Yenching's buildings, concrete but Chinese in design.

Chinese Folk Songs

Folk songs are everywhere—work songs, lullabies—lovely gay or wistful tunes. When Bliss Wiant was last here he played or transcribed many for me, and some are unforgettably beautiful. But to Western ears Chinese opera and orchestral music is difficult until two things are learned. One is that the pentatonic or five-tone scale is used. The other is that Oriental music is polyphonic; there are no chords. The upper melody wanders along, seeming to have no plan, while lower melodies wander also, with charming independence, along their separate ways. The nearest thing we have to it is our Fugue, yet because of its mathematical precision, the Western Fugue is indeed unlike.

Bliss Wiant pointed out to me that these separate polyphonic melodies—frequently extempore—going along to make a composition, are typical of the traditional Chinese temperament. China is a nation of individualists. United action is for China modern history still in the making.

ing good music, or even the mere joy of doing this together, as in any chorus in the Western world. These young men and girls are, through music, having fundamental experiences. First, they are singing in natural voices. Second, the girls are singing in equality with the men to make a unified whole. Further, they are singing parts, parts that make chords of harmony; and groups, sometimes the whole chorus, are also singing in unison."

Music as a social experience—this then is in large measure the teaching of Yenching's Assistant Professor of Music. "The value of music as a socializing factor in the new life of China is being recognized by Chinese leadership," he wrote in his Christmas letter of two years ago. "The Chinese are thrilled to see a large body of their own people singing as one in a large volume of tone—it is a new experience for them. Never in the history of this race which covers thousands of years have such sights been witnessed. . . . It bespeaks for them a new day of co-operation. . . ."

"Who goeth forth and weepeth and beareth precious seed shall doubtless return with rejoicing and bring his sheaves with him." These are words from the Brahms Requiem sung by the Yenching University Chorus at Easter time. My program is partly in Chinese, but poring over the Bible words that are in English I recall sentences from a letter written by the Wiants at Thanksgiving, 1938: "We have many students whose source of income has been cut off by the ravages of war. Homes destroyed by fire, by pillage property, and crops burned or stolen. Some of them came here this fall with the backing of their parents, but since their arrival here their homes have disappeared. . . ."

"See, how the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth and hath long patience for it until he receive the early rain and the latter rain. So be ye patient." Thus go the Bible words from James, included in the Brahms Requiem—and how truly do the Chinese, even eager college youth, understand their meaning!

But the music students at Yenching are not having western music exclusively. This would not be the way of the Chinese Christian Colleges. Yenching's music department is a great pooling place for music of East and West. Bliss Wiant has showed me many original compositions in the Chinese style, done by some of his ablest students.

And for years there has gone on a most indefatigable and significant collecting of native folk tunes—street cries from the old city of Peiping, songs from the coolies, chants from the temples, songs the women sing to their babies, rice songs—some of them thousands of years old. A few years ago a group of churches working in China printed a hymnal in which Yenching's music department took part. The words are Christian words, done in Chinese, and the tunes for the most part are sweet old melodies gathered from the far corners of that great land. When a new student comes to Yenching, Mr. Wiant is very likely to get him to sing songs of his native village or province. Out of many conversations with him come these bits of ancient melody—many to be transcribed for the first time in all time.

This mutual exchange of music is indeed not unlike the very aspect of Yenching's campus, which her president, Dr. J. Leighton Stuart, once described in the China Press Weekly as a blending of East and West. "As one goes through the 170-acre campus of this University," said Dr. Stuart, "and looks into its administration [illegible] classrooms, and dormitories, one is immediately impressed with the blending of the East and West in their design and construction. Roofed with sloping tile and decorated with red pillars and intricately pointed eaves, these Yenching buildings are modeled after the Chinese palaces; but they are built of concrete and equipped with modern conveniences [illegible] their interiors represent the most advanced Western thought in school construction. The most distinguishing landmark on the campus is the water tower which, otherwise a commonplace reservoir, is shaped in the form of a famous Chinese pagoda."

So, as those of us who live in the Western world usher in the Christmas season to the sweet measures of familiar hymns and carols, we can send a thought out across the seas to an earnest young host of Chinese students, who, just about now, are singing in symbolic unison and integrated parts, the glorious words and music of Handel's great oratorio, the "Messiah."

The Bible translations quoted in this article are those used in the Handel and Brahms compositions, English texts.

Yenching University
Peking
February 1, 1940

Dear friends beloved :

Weeks have lengthened into months since last we appropriated the privilege of writing to you. Some of you have been concerned lest something may have happened. Our only excuse is a combination of busy-ness and laziness.

Our summer vacation was one of complete relaxation from all public activity. The year had taken a toll of strength so heavy that we felt the need of quiet rest. Even the directorship of the community choral society which had been our care over a period of years was shunted to others in order to evade every semblance of routine work. Never have we all been so well as during the days of this respite. It is during these precious weeks that we knit ourselves as a family into very close fellowship. The hikes, picnics, swims and frolics each contribute its share to that end. Our daily evening worship with hymn-singing, Bible reading and prayer greatly enriched our lives and gave us a new sense of the value of living.

The return from our beach cottage to Yenching campus has been for the third time a terrible experience. On this last occasion rail traffic was badly interrupted by unprecedented floods. You all read of the inundation of almost the whole city of Tientsin last summer. Bridges along the railroad were washed away and due to the force of mad waters could not be replaced for several weeks. It was in the midst of this situation that we felt we had to return. We left our mountain-side cottage at 10:15 PM with baggage and four children in beautiful moonlight. This was the only bright spot in the trip! The train was so crowded that we barely got on. About 2 AM we discovered that the diner was next door and had empty space on the brass-covered serving table. Here we parked the children until 6 AM when we had to get off. After creeping along in a motly jam of people for three hours we reached a tug which took us through flood water in plain sight of delapidated homes and homeless people. This tug was so crowded that there was no room left for standing even. Our family got separated in the jam and remained so for the 6 hours we spent on this dirty, smelly outfit. A big book could be written on the experiences of these 6 hours. On arriving in Tientsin we had just missed a train to Peking and had another wait of 3 hours in the station. On arriving at the Peking station we were met by President Stuart and others with proper conveyances so that we reached our 'home, sweet home' just 24 hours after we started. Never did it look and feel so good!

Yenching's Water Tower Pagoda

Registration for courses started the next morning. During the summer the authorities had selected several hundred new students and had turned away a thousand who wished to enter—enough to make a university larger than our own! With such a select body of nearly a thousand of both old and new students the academic life of the campus has been of very high calibre this year. Classes are fuller than ever before not to mention dormitories.

The religious vitality is higher than for many years. Last year with nearly as many students as this year there were 19 small fellowship groups among the students organized for the discussion of religious and social problems. This year there are 34 such groups. About half of the whole student body attends one of these groups every week. Other activities are in the same proportion.

The Chorus was bigger and better than ever before in spite of a large number of new faces. On the reverse side of this sheet is a report of our Peking concert which pleased all who were participants in it. We cleared a thousand ($1000.00) dollars for relief.

In addition to the annual presentation of the 'Messiah' the celebration of Christmas was very rich and meaningful this year. The poor were remembered with food and with entertainments. Students and faculty had many kinds of festivities both religious and secular. Among other things was the annual carol sing which takes place on Christmas Eve. This year we hired a donkey and a little cart and strapped a reed organ thereto. As we went through the campus we played and sang continuously. We went through the streets of a small village adjoining the campus thereby causing the populace to emerge for a 'look see'. All were much impressed as we sang in these narrow and dirty streets such old favorities as Mr. Harrington's: "There's a Song in the Air" and Brooks' famous "O Little Town of Bethlehem". Especially poignant were the words:

"Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light."

We live this winter among people who are suffering more intensely than ever before in recent times. The ravages of war have set in among the populace in a most distressing way. Grains of all kinds are exceedingly difficult to purchase. The common people must stand in line daily at the grain stores to secure the expensive ration. If conditions do not improve soon there is likelihood of open revolt. Among the students there is also economic stringency. The university authorities have budgeted several thousands of dollars to be spent for self-help work. Every department that can has provided some kind of work for those who are in greatest need. Their pay is several times higher than could be secured outside the campus but they do something for remuneration rather than simply receive money without work.

The contrast in the variety of personality which our growing family presents becomes more interesting every day. Allen is 15 and is the tallest of us all. His interests are radio (he has made himself several receiving sets and a transmitter) &ice hockey. He is very clever in being able to repair mechanical defects in the things around the house that go wrong. His studies as a junior in high school are very good. Leighton is 12 and in the 7th grade. Music is an absorbing interest with him. He practices assiduously on the piano and is making progress. He and the other children enjoy hearing the many albums of recorded masterpieces of music which we have in our department. Cecilia is 9 and will soon be 10. She is growing splendidly. Her defective limb is making a little progress towards a better condition. She is in the 3rd grade and makes good marks in her studies. Bennie is just 5 and the sprightliest of all. His out-going, winsome and genuinely friendly little soul captivates all who come within the radius of his sunny self. He spends hours every day at the victrola listening to 'Snow White' and other records not to mention the great compositions of the masters. He is beginning very early to know what the best music sounds like.

In closing will you allow me to make an appeal for our own music department. Books are *so* expensive due to the high rates of exchange between American dollars and the kind of paper currency we use here. One American dollar is worth nearly enough to provide food for a month for a student—this gives you some idea of how much a book would cost. So, if any of you or your friends have piano or vocal music of the masters such as Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, Schumann, Brahms, etc, etc., who would be willing to donate it would you wrap it up and mail it to us for use among our students? This will save them and help us in a very effective way.

Please write to us. There is nothing that we anticipate more than your cheering, interesting letters. We appreciate your thoughts and prayers for us and depend on you more than you realize.

Affectionately always,
Bliss and Mildred Wiant

From "The Peking Chronicle" Dec. 21, 1939

'MESSIAH' SUNG BY YENCHING CHORUS

THOUSAND PERSONS ATTEND CONCERT

The large dining-room of the Peking Hotel was packed to the doors on Tuesday night when the Yenching University Chorus rendered Handel's "Messiah". In addition to the six hundred tickets sold, a group of something like two hundred students were standing along the side aisles, and they, with the members of the Chorus, brought the number present up to nearly a thousand—the largest number of people that ever meets together in Peking.

The Peking public owes a big debt of gratitude to Mr. Bliss Wiant, who twice a year, for many years past, has given them the opportunity of listening to some of the world's immortal musical works sung by a massed choir. It is difficult for the layman to realize the amount of time and labour put into a production like last night's. For instance, half of Mr. Wiant's chorus had never even seen the music of the "Messiah" before this autumn!

There was something moving in the sight of those tiers of young people, so absorbed by the beauty of the words and music, so carried away by the enthusiasm of their own singing. One felt that, apart from anything which Mr. Wiant had done for the public, there was what the Chorus itself was getting out of the experience, for the inspiration of singing in a group is something which, before this century, the Chinese never had known.

Mr. Liu Chun-feng, who has a remarkably pleasing tenor voice, sang his solos with great feeling, especially poignant being "Comfort ye," and "Behold and see". The bass part was taken by Mr. Ch'i Nai-ch'un, and there was a spontaneity about his performance which gave one the impression that behind his seemingly effortless notes lay a great reserve of strength.

Everyone in Peking knows and appreciates Mrs. Bliss Wiant's voice, for it is one that is often heard and never without pleasure. She excelled herself last night in what, to some, was the peak of the evening's music; the steady assurance which rang through the words of "I know that my Redeemer liveth," went straight to every heart, and the accompaniment was exquisite. Miss Ch'i Yü-chen took two soprano solos very charmingly; her voice is one of great purity, which though not strong, penetrated to every corner of the room, her top notes being very clear and true. Astoundingly enough here were people singing in an alien tongue, to foreign music, yet pronouncing their words audibly, (something not always compassed by choirs at Home!) and keeping in tune. There was never the faintest suggestion of "going flat"—that bane of conductors in so many "quires and places where they sing". This, perhaps, is a case where Chinese singers, whose ears are so delicately attuned to "tones", have the advantage over their duller-eared Western friends.

It was a good moment when the audience rose and joined in the soaring triumph of the Hallelujah Chorus. Such an evening came with peculiar appropriateness during this week before Christmas, when all thoughts turn, despite our war-ridden world, to the coming of the Messiah.

Greetings to all in the Yenching Office.

Bliss Wiant

YENCHING UNIVERSITY
Peking, China.

July, 1940

Dear friends and loved ones:

The end of another academic year is here and following it the summer vacation—that period when we look forward to being with you all in more freedom of thought, of being with our children on the mountain side and at the beach, of renewing our bodily strength and our spiritual vitality, of stimulating our intellectual life by more reading, of the enjoyment of freedom from schedules, telephone calls, and the close routine of every-day life. In our summer home we dress very scantily and wear only the oldest things we have, and in this way economize as well as get a change from our ordinary habits of dress.

Since our last letter to you we have had five months of happy work with our students. The Easter season was one which was full of meaning. As usual we had our out-door, all-university celebration on the campus in a very lovely natural amphitheatre. There are few places in the world where this festival is celebrated in as natural, wholesome and altogether lovely way as at Yenching. There is no fuss, no display of new clothes, no showing off by the choir or the minister—it is a pure service of divine worship out in God's own temple, among the things which make Easter what it is. The recreation of Christian character is always manifest by the baptism of children and adults and reception of new members into our Fellowship. This years there were some 25 or more.

After this very impressive service, those attending it are divided into small groups and assigned to places on the hills overlooking the lake to eat a picnic dinner—very simple food but very rich fellowship. These groups are a cross section of our campus life and include faculty, students and workmen of all kinds. Any persons in our community whether they be members of the church or not are invited to join in this act of common life. This year more than 800 participated. In the evening a very simple pageant of the Easter story took place in the chapel and thus ended the day.

The month of May was the busiest of all. The Presbyterian missionaries stationed in North China had their annual meeting on our campus the middle of the month. This brought a much larger group of westerners among us than we are accustomed to seeing. Preceding this meeting there had been a retreat for all the student Christian leaders in Peking for a day. The big event at the end of the month was the annual Home-coming Day of the University. Hundreds of visitors were here to see old friends, exhibitions of various kinds and enjoy the beauties of the Alma Mater. In the evening our Chorus sang the CREATION by Haydn. Bashford Memorial Auditorium was not only crowded to the doors but people were in the stairways and even on the steps leading to the building on the floor below. The students sang very effectively and I was proud of them all. Mildred sang in her usual charming way and delighted all who were present. Two days later we went into the city and sang there to about 500 people who paid to hear it. It too was a success and drew forth underserved words of praise from very discerning people.

This summer there is being worked out a plan whereby the students of our Fellowship who are willing may help the churches in this region to give their pastors and workers an opportunity to come here for a month of summer training. The plan is that as these pastors and workers come in from their fields of labor our students will take their places and carry on the best they can. You can imagine how mutually effective such a plan may be. It links us up with the realities of church work and puts these Christian workers into a new life of fellowship with others and gives them new inspiration for the future. All churches cooperate in this undertaking. There are about 100 planning to attend. Not as many students as that are going out because in many cases other provision is made by the churches for their leadership during this period. There is no doubt but this plan will bear happy results.

The situation around us remains about the same as previously. Although the war started here three years ago there is still no indication of any peace having settled upon the countryside. Troops still go out into the Western Hills daily and trucks loaded with war supplies rush past our front gate constantly on their mission of destruction. Food supplies are scarce and prices high and there is no happines among the common people. The determination to make the best of it all and abide the time when a better day will dawn resides in every heart. There have been invaders among these people before; their history is ancient; their vitality is unlimited; their spirit is unbroken throughout many generations; like the earth on which they live they are adamant and immovable and yet very courteous and polite to those in control.

Our campus has been consistently peaceful, marvelously so, this year. One would think that with nearly a thousand students among us that something untoward might happen but there has been nothing but the most successful living this year. Plans are now being made to admit even more this coming year—at most 1100. The men will live three in a small room instead of two; every available space will be occupied. A high school is being opened in one of the gardens adjacent to the campus in order to prepare students for entrance into the college. Recently still another beautiful old gardens has been purchased so that more rooms for faculty can be provided. New faculty members are being added. In our Music

Department we have invited one of our graduates who has distinguished himself in the School of Music, Uni. of Michigan to join us—our first Chinese colleague in music.

Our second graduate in Music this spring was a very attractive and able young lady, a Miss Han. She composed during the winter a number for piano and small orchestra using for the base of her composition an old theme from the T'ang Dynasty—more than a thousand years ago. This proved to be most successful and interesting and set a new standard for creative work among our students. If she could secure a good scholarship she should go abroad for more training. Exchange rates at present make the expenses of going abroad for a Chinese fantastic. For instance, just the expense of getting to and from America and making provision for board and room would take about $20,000 Chinese money. This when compared to the $500 local currency which a student needs to pay for his total maintaince on our campus seems ridiculous. But one must keep in mind that every student who comes to us has to be subsidized at least 1000% (ten times). Those of us who must pay for all we get and must buy at least a few things from America have also to spend fantastic sums for certain articles. We bought an ice cream freezer the other day for $85 local currency! no other kind is available that we can use. Other prices are in the same proportion.

Miss Han Te-ch'ang

One of the most delightful experiences of the spring was a long visit of brother Paul and his wife, for about two months they were living in the city and came out to the campus for week ends. Hallie spent a great deal of her time with the dentist while Paul studied the national language and had certain physical defects adjusted on the side. To have a brother on this side of the world to visit with once every couple years is a blessing for which we are truly grateful. It brings us a new sense of nearness to our loved ones which we could not obtain otherwise. Our children get a family consciousness in this way which is quite helpful and inspiring to them.

Our oldest son, Allen was promoted to the last grade in high school recently, Leighton steps into the 8th grade and Cecilia will be in the 4th grade. Bennie will start to school in the fall. All of the family will be either teaching or else taught. Last March Allen fell victim to measles. Soon afterwards, the other three children had inoculations of convalescent blood. One by one they all came down but did not suffer so much as did Allen. We were very grateful to the young man who thus gave of his blood to lessen the severity of the attack for the others. A few weeks of beach sunning and rest will put them all in tip-top shape.

During the second week of May all classes stopped to observe a day of sports and athletic contests. One of the features of the day was a 220 yard high hurdle dash by one of our faculty members who is almost 60 and the mile run by three of our faculty members in their forties. I was the oldest of the three and came out third—time 7.3 minutes. Mile running is my constant exercise and is not done to entertain the public.

Our dearly beloved president, John Leighton Stuart, spent two months off the campus this spring visiting various parts of this great land. He found our students in responsible places of leadership, doing valiant constructive work on small pay. The spiritual tone of thesouth and west is high. Recent discoveries of natural resources in places which were formerly the hinterlands will enable that part of the country to be entirely self-supporting within a very few years. He brought back with him a personal letter of thanks from the lady-of-the-land because of a gift we had made to her splendid work among war orphans—money which had been made by the 'Messiah' Chorus this December. We felt that no more appropriate way to spend that money could have been found.

Miss Liu Chin-ting, the other student graduate in music.

As we have seen the effects of war so near at hand and we read of the futile destruction of humanity in Europe we pray that our fair land will not add to the misery of the world by casting her pearls before the swine of militarism. May God lead us into ways of living which may open up new paths for the world as we slowly but surely approach a world community of common interests.

Hello Miss Van Sauer!
You are no doubt kept terribly busy these days and all for us out here. We are deeply grateful

Your loving friends,

The Bliss Wiant Family

BLISS WIANT

Lecturer on "Chinese Music" with Musical Illustrations

BLISS WIANT, in his lecture on "Chinese Music", demonstrates the fact that when one learns to understand the East as well as the West, then there is real appreciation of the East. Chinese Music is intelligible to any cultured person of the West, for it is the music of humanity, the music of the fundamental human being. Mr. Wiant tries at all times to bring China's contribution into juxtaposition with the counterpart in the West and thus bring the two into harmony or contrast, as the case may be. This is done by comparing or contrasting the folk songs, the instrumental music and the operatic music of China.

In addition Mr. Wiant employs in his lecture the use of the most recent recordings in Shanghai of China's leading nationalist musicians. They are not "colored up" but are truly indigenous. Some of the illustrations of the lecture are produced on instruments which Mr. Wiant has brought with him from China. In a few cases these instruments are very rare and very unique, especially the 1300-year-old jade sounding stone, the only one of its kind in existence since it is a natural piece. There are pigeon flutes, Chinese oboe and flute, Chinese Pipes of Pan (progenitor of the European reed organ, mouth organ and accordion types), a beautiful Chinese pitch pipe and ancient lute.

In brief Mr. Wiant aims to make Chinese music intelligible to an American who knows nothing about it but is interested to know something about it.

BLISS WIANT was born in Ohio and graduated with B.A. at Ohio Wesleyan University with all courses in music offered there. He spent three years in Boston studying at the New England Conservatory of Music, Boston University College of Music and organ with E. E. Truette. The year 1928-29 was spent at Harvard studying music with Edward Ballantine, Dr. Archibald Davison and Wallace Woodworth. Mr. Wiant has studied piano with Albion Metcalf.

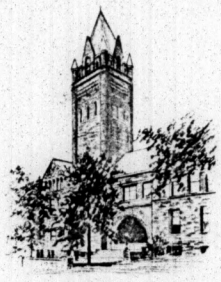
Having lived in Peking, China since 1923 as teacher of music in Yenching University, he organized and directed a department of music there. Yenching is the largest missionary institution of college and graduate grade in the world. It has organic connections with Harvard University through the Harvard-Yenching Institute for Chinese Studies; with Princeton University through the Princeton-in-Peking, which supports the work in Social Sciences; through the Rockefeller Medical Foundation which supports the pre-medical work; through Wellesley College, which supports the College for Women in Yenching University. It is co-educational; has eight hundred students, of whom about one hundred and fifty are participants in the department of music. This last year there were twelve major students in music.

Mr. Wiant will be in America for the current season and is available for engagements. For terms and dates, please address:

ANITA DAVIS-CHASE, *Personal Representative*

234 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.

ack. 3/17/41 JSP



OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

31 Vandeman Ave.,
Delaware, Ohio.

March 14,1941

Mr. B.A.Garside,
150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Garside:

We have been here for ten days now and are gradually gearing into the life of America. It is a rather difficult task but we will have to do so.

No doubt you have had heard from Leighton Stuart of our coming. He wrote that we would be arriving at about this time. I do not know what plans if any, you may have for me in connection with the promotional work of the university. Please let me know before I get too tied up here with various engagements.

We need some material for publicity and information even here. ~~Leighton told~~ us to write you and ask for materials which would be helpful in distributing the facts about Yenching and China which you have at hand.

Please inform us as to any news which may be coming in from time to time. It seems as if the papers are more or less reticent about Far Eastern news these days-á at least our own papers here are of no account on this score.

The family are all well and in school. Allen is a senior and had enuf credits to graduate when he landed here from Peking. Leighton is in the 8th grade and will have no difficulty. Cecilia is in the 4th grade. We must take her out for a while to get a new brace for her but she will get along. Bennie is 6 and has no place to go for the present.

We are awaiting anxiously word from you and will be delighted to get in touch with you again.

With greetings and best wishes from us all,

Sincerely,

Mr. Bliss Wiant

March 17, 1941

Mr. Bliss Wiant
31 Vandeman Avenue
Delaware, Ohio

My dear Mr. Wiant:

Your letter to Mr. Garside has come to my attention, since he is now giving all his time to the United China Relief, Inc. We had a letter the other day from Dr. Stuart, telling us that you would soon be here, and we have been expecting word from you about this time.

The promotional plans for our work have been somewhat changed, owing to our entry into the United China Relief organization. Just how their campaign is going to affect our promotional work is not quite clear. We are, therefore, not in a position to advise you of definite plans, as these are in the process of being determined by the united organization under Mr. Garside's leadership. We will have to leave matters on this particular subject indefinite for the present.

You suggest sending publicity material for use immediately, and I have asked Miss Van Sciver to send you, under separate cover, the latest materials which we have produced here. When you have looked these over if you can use additional copies of any of the items sent, we will be glad to furnish whatever you need.

We are very glad indeed that you are so nicely located in Delaware, and that your arrangements for the family have worked out satisfactorily.

I might mention that our annual meetings of the Associated Boards and the individual boards of trustees will be held in New York during the week of May 5th. The Associated Boards Annual Meeting will take place on the 5th and 6th, and the Yenching meeting will be held on the 9th. If you should happen to be planning a trip east and could arrange to be here during that week, I can assure you that we will be very happy to have you attend these meetings.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

JIP:VW

File
Phoned
FTC
3/17/41
7 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSOCIATED BOARDS OF CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA

March 17,1941

We have received word that Professor Bliss W. Wiant is now at home with his family. They are residing at

31 Vandeman Avenue
Delaware, Ohio.

He writes that President Stuart urged that he do some cultivational work on behalf of Yenching University during this period at home. Do you folks have any plans for special cultivational work where you would like to use Mr. Wiant? If so, I should be glad to talk over the matter with you.

FTC
MM

Frank T. Cartwright
Associate Secretary

March 18, 1941

Mr. Bliss Wiant
31 Vandeman Avenue
Delaware, Ohio

Dear Mr. Wiant:

In accordance with your request of March 16th, we are giving you herewith the address for Miss Hutchison's mother, as follows:-

Mrs. T. A. Hutchison
325 Main Street
Brockway, Pennsylvania

With sincere personal regards to you, we are

Cordially yours,

CAE:RC

31 Vanderman Ave.,
Delaware, Ohio
March 19, 1941

Mr. Josephus D. Parker
150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Parker: Thank you so much for your letter of the 17th just received. Thank you also for the publicity material which Miss Van Sciver is sending us.

As soon as you have any definite plans about promotion we would be glad to know them. We are also very anxious to know when we can return to Yenching. This is a question for which no earthly solution can now be found but we hope that soon indications as to how affairs will eventually will be clear.

It would give us great joy to be present for the Annual Meeting of the Board and especially the Yenching meeting on May 9th.

Sincerely,

Bliss Wiant

BLISS WIANT

YENCHING UNIVERSITY, PEKING, CHINA
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

FURLOUGH ADDRESS:
31 VANDEMAN AVENUE
DELAWARE, OHIO

May 20,1941

Mr. C.A. Evans,
150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Evans:

You have noticed that in various communications from the Library and the Bursar's Office at Yenching that they have authorized an expenditure of $25 for the purchase of Books for the Music Department.

When I left Yenching it was my plan to go on to New York but inasmuch as I have not been called there I cannot afford to go there for the present. It was my hope to buy these books from a first-hand selection rather than by mail order and thus be more intelligent in the purchasing.

Now it is evident that I will not be able to make New York before the time of your closing of the accounts for the year. In this case the money would normally go back into the account of the Library and we would lose this fund.

Paid 6/4/41 20974

Would you be willing to give me the $25 for which I would give you an accounting as soon as I get to the place where I can buy the books? It is now our plan to be in Boston for the fall semester and I will no do ubt be on deputation work a part of the time and would be in New York. By thus giving me these funds the account can be closed for the year and we will have saved this precious money for our department.

Since returning to America I have driven 6000 miles trying to spread abroad the good name of Yenching in these troubled times. I have spoken to over thirty audiences which included the eleven district

P.T.O.

conferences of the Ohio Conference where I could reach the ear of all ministers and leading laymen of this great conference. I have never witnessed such insistent and intense interest in China as now and I cannot turn down any appeal which comes for information if it is possible to accept. However, I have turned down as many as I have accepted.

If you have any suggestions as to how we may save this fund in a better way please advise me.

With greetings and best wishes,

Sincerely,

P.S. Stephen Tsai is probably still available and could carry back to his office any report of how this money was handled. I noticed there were some cancellations in orders besides this $25.00. If this could be saved so much the better.

Bliss Wiant

June 4, 1941

Mr. Bliss Wiant
31 Vandeman Avenue
Delaware, Ohio

Dear Mr. Wiant:

Your letter of May 20th should have had more prompt acknowledgment and I have no excuses to offer, except priority of some other mail equally pressing.

In complying with your request, we are enclosing check for $25.00 which we trust you can negotiate without difficulty. This will get you started on the purchases which you have in mind.

I can well imagine that you have been kept busy and you will busier still. However, it is all in the good interest of China.

Mr. Stephen Ts'ai is on the West Coast and consequently we are limited to the authorizations received from the Bursar.

Looking forward to the time when we will be able to see you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B
ENC.

BLISS WIANT

YENCHING UNIVERSITY, PEKING, CHINA
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

FURLOUGH ADDRESS:
31 VANDEMAN AVENUE
DELAWARE, OHIO

July 1,1941

ack 7/11

Mr. Oliver Caldwell,
150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Caldwell:

We have been advised by friends to write to you for advice and help regarding two matters:

1. Securing a place to spend the summer so that we may spend a part of the time to invesitgate the living conditions in and around New York for the coming winter. We have four children,aged 16,13,10,6,one is a girl 10 and the rest are boys. We have been back from Yenching since March 4th and have been living with my wife's mother here. The Board of Missions of the Methodist Church allows us a maximum of $55 per month rent allowance and we cannot afford to pay more.

2. Advise us regarding getting a fully furnished house with yard for us during the fall and winter. The girl is a cripple and can walk only short distances. Allen,the eldest son will not be with us after September for he enters Ohio Wesleyan then. Liehgton,13 will be in High School and the other two in the grades. Mrs. Wiant wishes to study voice and I would like to study with Clarence Dickinson at Union and with other church musicians in the city.

If we could get a place near New York City and yet in New Jersey it may be ideal because the New Jersey Conferences are financially back of the North China work , a field in which we work. In this way all our needs would be supplied. I would need a garage for I must drive a car. I have a great number of Chinese musical instruments which are too bulky to carry on a bus.

When we were here in 1936-36 on furlough we had to raise our return expenses by lecturing on Chinese music and on the work in music which we have in Yenching and in the hymnological contributions to China in general. Since returning this time I have already given 70 talks and driven 10,000 miles. I would like to have some time for study before we return to Yenching(presumably in January,1942).

Your help and counsel will be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Bliss Wiant

Bliss Wiant

July 11, 1941.

Mr. Bliss Wiant
31 Vandeman Avenue
Delaware, Ohio

Dear Mr. Wiant:

I was very pleased to find your letter waiting for me on my return from a brief vacation. It is possible that I can help you in your search for a house.

1. Your first question concerns a house for the summer, frankly, this is a relatively difficult matter. However, I see no reason why you should have much difficulty in finding a place within your means, if you are willing to be some distance from New York. My advice is for you to secure a cottage in the Adirondacks for the summer and you would be able to drive to New York to look for a house. Other possibilities would be the far North shore of Long Island, or Shelter Island which is off the Long Island shore. There are also sections of the lower Jersey coast where you might be able to find a place within your means, but personally I must confess that I am not much attracted by the shacks generally available in that area. The difficulty lies not so much in the cottages themselves, as in the terrible crowding, and the general lack of shade. However, if you know anybody in Asbury Park, you might be able to secure something through your church connections which would be desirable. I very mush doubt if you can find a real satisfactory summer place near New York for less than $25.00 per week, that is why I believe one of the more remote lakes in the Adirondacks would be a better bet. I should be very happy to do whatever I can to find such a place for you if you feel it would be desirable.

2. Your second question is more easily answered. I believe Dr. Cartwright should be able to give you better advice concerning New Jersey than I can. My home is on Long Island, and I believe that you probably could find what you want in the area where we live. The particular difficulty lies in your desire for a furnished house. I would suggest that unfurnished places are much easier to secure. You are no doubt aware that the re-armament program has played havoc with the housing situation, and I suggest that when you come to New York, the two of us might go together to hunt for a house. I have a number of connections among real estate people.

I shall be very happy to help you in any way in my power. I have been acquainted with your travel for many years, and I hope that you will find it possible to settle down for a time in our neighborhood.

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

OJC:MM

Oliver J. Caldwell

BLISS WIANT

YENCHING UNIVERSITY, PEKING, CHINA
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

FURLOUGH ADDRESS:
31 VANDEMAN AVENUE
DELAWARE, OHIO

July 16, 1941

Mr. Oliver J. Caldwell,
1507 fifth Ave.,
New York City

Dear Mr. Caldwell:

Your letter of July 11th came while I was away. We are pleased to get it and to have the reassuring words which it contains.

Since our first letter we have come into contact with a party who lives in Long Island and will be absent from the house in August. Consequently we felt such a place was ideal in that it would allow us a month in which to locate for the coming months. We arrive there on the 1st of August. The address is #72 Vanderbilt Ave. Manhasset and it is a Mrs. Walter A. Franklin who has rented us her residence. We do hope that this location is not far from yours on Long Island.

We are leaving on Friday to go to Michigan en route so will be gradually moving towards the east. We will certainly be looking you up soon after we arrive.

With thanks for your letter,

Sincerely,

Bliss Wiant

Ack_ 9-4-41
OJC

130 Morningside Drive,
City.

September 3,1941

Dear Oliver:

Herewith the documents properly signed in all fullness.

Thanks indeed for the fine time we had today at your expense. It was good of you to take me out and to give me so much time.

If you could see what the
* head of the speakers bureau,Miss Marian Cadwallader has in mind if anything I would appreciate it. Should she be willing to take over making all arrangements then a few lectures now and then which require no preparation,would be of some help. But as I explained to you, I cannot make any more inquiries for I feel there may be some 'nigger in the woodpile' somewhere.

Again with thanks and with hopes that we can see you often from now on,

Sincerely,

Bliss Wiant

Bliss Wiant

* United China Relief Headquarters.

(7)

BLISS WIANT

YENCHING UNIVERSITY, PEKING, CHINA
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

FURLOUGH ADDRESS:
31 VANDEMAN AVENUE
DELAWARE, OHIO

130 Morningside Drive
New York City
Sept 11, 1941

Dear Oliver:- Thanks for your letter of the 4th. I tried to talk with you over the phone & you tried to get me too. I just wanted to tell you that concerning the United China Relief there were a couple of matters that I wished to clear up. First, Betty Price wrote me in April that she wanted to see me touring the country lecturing on Chinese Music and that I should report on my arrival in the city which I did. She approached me and not I her. I simply presented myself & then nothing happened.

Secondly, the next time I went in I asked Miss Cadwallader if she would be willing to take me on as a private affair since she is running a music lecture, concert bureau. She asked me to send her some testimonials, etc, which I did & then she would let me know. To this date I haven't had one word from her. This mystifies me.

I wrote Mr. Evans fully regarding our finances with a carefully made out & explained budget. His reply was to the effect that every dollar available from Yenching investments had been carefully assigned and that he hesitated to present it before the Finance Committee because their reply would be no funds and refer the request to the campus for action.

BLISS WIANT

YENCHING UNIVERSITY, PEKING, CHINA
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

FURLOUGH ADDRESS:
31 VANDEMAN AVENUE
DELAWARE, OHIO

Therewith I replied that I was ashamed for being so naive as to think that the trustees would have any concern over financial problems of its faculty; we on the campus have a spirit known as the "Yenching family" but evidently that spirit doesn't extend beyond the campus walls. I sent a stamped envelope for the return of my letter and budget. So that episode is now history.

No doubt I'll have to get out and dig for my living and do all the studying that time and strength permit. I have word from Clarence Dickinson to the effect that it is altogether likely that I can register for the new Mus. Doc. degree.

Please excuse me for unburdening my woes on you but I have felt your sympathetic touch. Sincerely and gratefully,

Bliss Wiant

BLISS WIANT
130 MORNINGSIDE DRIVE
NEW YORK CITY
TEL. MO. 2-6238

Dec. 11,1941

Dear Miss Van Sciver:

We will surely be glad when you get word from Yenching-all of us and it is fine you are preparing the list for mailing.

I've tried to find information about Miss Kramer but so far haven't located anything. Shirley Duncan was a former fiancee of Breece's son so they may know where her mother lives.

Stuart Mitchell is the full name of the one in question but where he came from I do not know. We had correspondence with George Loehr's and Mrs. Seatti's sister who lives in Houston, Texas-that's all we know. I should have kept the correspodence but we didn't.

Miss Stahl's folk live in Alliance at the address you have. We went to visit her relatives there last summer so that is OK. As far as I know Fred Riggs did not get to China.

There are a couple other names which should be added to the list :

Mr. E.O.Wilson

Mr. Curtis Grimes(you can get the whereabouts of his relatives from the American Bd. Hdqrts at 14 Beacon St., Boston.

Excuse me! I see you do have George Loehr's sister's adress-she is Mrs. Saetti's sister.

I think this is all I can help at this moment. We now hope for news.

Yours as ever,

Bliss Wiant

BLISS WIANT

YENCHING UNIVERSITY, PEKING, CHINA
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

FURLOUGH ADDRESS:
31 VANDEMAN AVENUE
DELAWARE, OHIO

December 2,1941

MUSIC AS AN EXPRESSION OF RELIGIOUS FEELING AT YENCHING

Music is an essential factor in the expression of the religious life at Yenching. Especially during these last four years when many types of emotion had no adequate expression has music been employed as a means of sublimating these emotions. This is shown by the following items:

1. Although the oratorio "The Messiah" has been sung on the campus and in the city of Peking since 1928 there is now a larger percentage of the student body participating in ~~this~~ the work of the Yenta Chorus than ever before. During the second year of the war(1938)more than 25% of the students joined the rehearsals for the annual production at Christmas. The concerts both on the campus and in the city were attended by record-breaking crowds. In the teaching of the music to the students, the director has always laid very heavy emphasis on the religious aspect of the words and of their expression through music. Many have remarked that the concerts were not in any sense an exhibition of artistic skill but rather a deep religious atmosphere pervaded the hall of presentation to a highly marked degree.

2. Friday morning means a sacred music recital at the regular chapel hour of that day. All through the year everyone knows that music is provided weekly at this time. The chapel is invariably full on this occasion for the soul seems to find a fulfilment of its desire ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ through the music heard. Instrumental music,(organ,violin,'cello,etc)

BLISS WIANT
YENCHING UNIVERSITY, PEKING, CHINA
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

FURLOUGH ADDRESS:
31 VANDEMAN AVENUE
DELAWARE, OHIO

and vocal(solos, duets, quartets,etc) together with some fine hymn and a prayer comprise this service.

3. The Chapel Choir regularly sings special music every Sunday morning but in addition to this weekly contribution it takes the whole service at least one Sunday in each semester at which time no sermon is preached. Music and Scripture are the sole expression of those who attend. The service is carefully and consistently worked out around a central theme so that unity of a high order is achieved. These services always pack the chapel.

4. The Christmas celebrations on Yenching campus are very rich with music.

a. The Candlelight service is always at dusk on Christmas Eve and is composed of a tableau,some Scripture and music. It is a very impressive service.

b. At eight o'clock that evening about 5o or 6o or more students gather at the home of a faculty member from whence they start out to sing carols all over the community which includes a small village nearby. A reed organ is strapped to a small donkey cart so that as the carollers go strolling thru the night their sweet voices are accompanied by the strains of the organ. It makes a truly ethereal effect.

c.On Christmas night the homes of the faculty are open to students. Through the portals of these friendly homes go pouring hundreds and hundreds of students often singing as they go or singing when they arrive inside a home.