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Woolley, Mary E. 1922-1940
Woolf, Lee Phil. 1947-50

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MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 14, 1922.

Mr. Herbert K. Caskey,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Caskey:

What I meant to say in my talk in New York was that Peking had one of the most wonderful sites for a college campus anywhere in the world. I did have in mind your interpretation and glad to send the enclosed.

Thank you for writing me about Mr. Baldwin's letter.

Believe me, with regards,

Very sincerely yours,

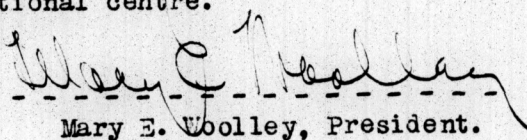
Mary E. Woolley
Mary E. Woolley

157
MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 14, 1922.

The new site for Peking University is one of the most wonderful sites in the world for a college campus. It has great natural beauty with its outlook toward the Western Hills; is a strategic place on a much travelled road toward the Summer Palace, the Western Hills and Ch'ing Hua; and is a situation of commanding influence since Peking is both capital and a great educational centre.



Mary E. Woolley, President.

09 14

C O P Y

5641 Ridgewood Court
Chicago.

January 31, 1934.

Dear Miss Woolley:

In broad daylight I repeat what I said impulsively Friday night: If you know of any position in China in which I could be of use and where I can find an outlet for my surplus energy which keeps leaking out anyway in the wrong ways -- or at least useless ways -- I offer my services absolutely for a year, at least.

Frankly, Miss Woolley, I'm just drifting. I can't find any reason for living and so I just live for new sensations and knowledge. To give myself some goal now that I've secured an A.B., I've set for myself a tour of the world, working my way -- which at least gives me novelty. I'm very very fond of my fiance, but being a wife is not a sufficient goal, and anyway, Henry has his position to secure first. When I take the trouble to envy, it is the people who have a real goal and a real absorbing interest in life. I envy you with your ambitions for Holyoke and your concern in the problems of the whole world. I envy Henry who adores journalism and finds nothing else in the world that makes him so happy (except me of course -- he says). I envy another friend of mine for his absorption in the great game of money-making. You see, I don't crave much money; I don't have a great desire for academic degrees; I haven't a religion to give a reason for living nobly; I don't want a family yet. There's just me tossing around in a chaotic world where people are grabbing for cash and love and honors. Dieu! I have a darling mother, and Henry, and perfectly good friends -- and I nearly die of lonesomeness in a big black universe. Sometimes at night I get just horror-stricken wondering why I was born into this world -- why anyone is -- and I almost wish sometimes we people were just creatures in this incomprehensible evolving universe without minds to think with -- just instincts to guide us.... I envy people with real goals in living who don't have leisure to think about these things and about themselves. My Mother's mind is filled by her family cares. Miss Marks gets relief by putting her thoughts into poems and plays and tales

So you see, if there is any real work that I can do -- and do with some purpose, I'll throw myself everlastingly into it -- and the harder it is, the harder I'll work, because I'm one of those fools who works especially well in an emergency and who, fortunately, has had good training in business methods, which helps in most every line of work, I've found.

.....

Ruth Stevens

09 15

P. H. Stevens

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

January 30, 1924.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Doctor J. Leighton Stuart,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Doctor Stuart:

It seems an imposition to add to the demands made upon you these days, but I much want your advice with regard to a combination of China and some Mount Holyoke girls.

The enclosed quotation from the letter of a graduate of 1921 whom I saw in Chicago ten days ago will tell you something about the girl herself. She was disciplined for smoking while in college, never took any interest as far as I know in the religious life of the college, and I suspect would not be looked upon favorably by a mission board! In fact, I am equally sure that she would not wish to go out as a missionary. On the other hand she is very capable, well trained as a secretary, and can be depended upon to put through successfully whatever she undertakes. One summer she went to Westport with us, did all the cooking and did it admirably without complaining. She is restless, as you can see from the letter, and I think the thing to do is to give an opportunity for the release of this energy along useful lines. I am sure that she would do her work well and would not do anything that would offend the conventions. I am not at all sure but that being interested in some new line of work would mean development into a thoroughly purposeful life. What would you advise?

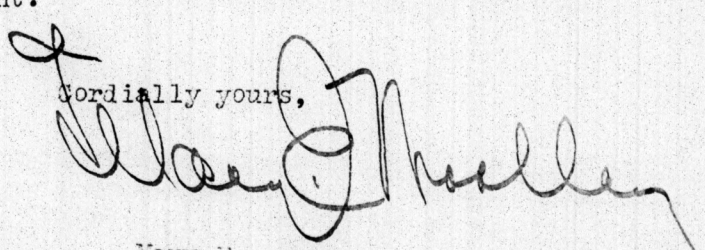
The other alumnae are of a different type, both of them graduates of 1923, - Charlotte Ferguson, the president of the Christian Association, during her senior year, and Helen Larrabee, its Treasurer. Both were admirable students; the former is assistant in chemistry and biology at the Connecticut College for Women in New London, and the latter is a reader in our department of English. They would like to teach in Peking, but I suppose would look at some other part of the map of China!

Instances like these emphasize that need of a clearing house in this country, without going through numerous denominational boards. What is the nearest approach to that and to whom should I write?

I hope you are gathering in dormitories and faculty residences to your heart's content.

Believe me

Cordially yours,


Mary E. Woolley.

09 16

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 9, 1924.

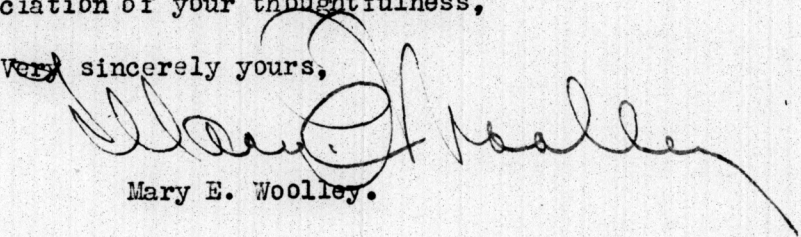
Mr. James H. Lewis,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Lewis:

Thank you for sending me the reprint of Doctor Stewart's article on "The Changing Problems of Christian Colleges in China." Everything Doctor Stuart writes on that subject is helpful and I am very glad to have this article.

Believe me, with appreciation of your thoughtfulness,

Very sincerely yours,


Mary E. Woolley.



MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 17, 1924.

Mr. James H. Lewis,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Lewis:

It will give me pleasure to be one of the three thousand to contribute to Peking University the sum of ten dollars (\$10) some time between now and June first, 1925. I hope you will secure the other two thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine.

Believe me

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Mary E. Woolley
Mary E. Woolley.

09 18

September 24, 1924

Miss Mary Woolley
Mt. Holyoke College
South Hadley, Mass.

Dear Miss Woolley:

Your good note was the first one received and you may be sure that I opened it upon my return to the city with very great delight. We are receiving an unusually favorable response, and for your share in this we are deeply grateful.

I am making a note to recall this to your mind the 2nd of January if it is agreeable to you.

May I suggest that you will be particularly interested in the next few numbers of the Peking News, as they will deal rather generally with Chinese affairs. In the October issue will be a statement about the war in China, information for which is coming from a man who knows Generals Chang, Wu and Feng and has talked with them all. He speaks Chinese so well that President Tsao Kun interrupted a conversation with him one day to ask, "Are you a Chinese or a foreigner?"

With warm regards,

Cordially yours,

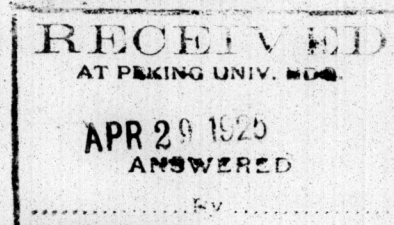
09 19

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 28, 1925.

Mr. James H. Lewis,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.



My dear Mr. Lewis:

Thank you for the pamphlet showing the progress in the construction of the university buildings. It makes a strong appeal and I congratulate you upon its success.

I wish I were able to have a real part in meeting the need. My little check will go to you shortly but it seems such a drop in the bucket.

Believe me, with regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Noted to Mr. Lewis of
Apr. 25, 1925 Interested-
unable to give now

Mary T. Woolley
Mary T. Woolley.

0920

April 30, 1925

Dear Miss Wooley:

It is the little drops which make the buckets full. One of these days there will be in Peking a very commendable sister college for Mt. Holyoke. I know that Wellesley is already related and so is Princeton and we trust a little later that one or two others of the great eastern universities may become so related.

It is raining here in New York today, and as I look out upon the dingy, dripping roof beyond my window, I think of another misty day last spring when you gave me the pleasure of looking out beyond your living room to those everlasting hills. Really they seem nearer Peking than this tin roof outside my window.

As a matter of fact, I would rather get a note once in a while like the note you have just written, showing your enthusiasm for a big enterprise, than to get your check.- and I mean it to. I am going to send your letter on to Dr. Stuart so that he may catch the up-lift of your own spirit.

Sincerely yours

Miss Mary E. Wooley
Mount Holyoke College
South Hadley, Mass.

Received for letter of
April 30, 1925
unable to give name

0921

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 28, 1928.

Mr. E. M. McBrier,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York, New York.

My dear Mr. McBrier:

The enclosed check is tiny but is sent as an indication of my interest in Yenching and my hope that "the remaining \$50,000 will be secured before July first."

Believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

Mary E. Woolley

H.

Mary E. Woolley.

\$5.00 OK

0922

Woolley, Miss Mary E.

Mount Holyoke College
South Hadley, Mass.

June 30, 1928

\$5.00 for 1928 Camp - undesig.

Gift received	6-29-28
Receipt slip #	1969
Entered on card	✓
" " class card	✓
" " stencil	✓
Serial No. on card	237 ✓
Pledge	_____
X file card	_____
Letter ack. sent	6/30/28
Checked for O. L.	✓
" " class card	✓
" " stencil	✓

0923

July 31, 1929

Miss Mary E. Woolley
Mount Holyoke College
South Hadley, Mass.

\$5.00 - ~~last payment on pledge #227~~ - 1928 ~~Comp~~ - Undesignated

Gift received	7-31-29
Receipt slip #	2562
Entered on control record	✓
" " acct. card	✓
" " contr. list	✓
Serial No. on L. and card	1818
Pledge signal attached	—
X-file cards	—
Letter ack. sent	7-31-29
Checked for O. L.	✓
" " class card	
" " stencil	✓

In appreciation
of interest,
with-respect
MISS WOOLLEY
That it is with
a larger amount.

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
SOUTH HADLEY
MASSACHUSETTS

0924

one of 102
306-8.

January 30, 1931

Very dear Dr. Stuart:-

It is a

disappointment

that you cannot

accept the in-

itation for next

I hope that you have
books all the week
for that date!
With warmest
wishes for your trip,
Cordially yours,
Helen Threlkeld

Sunday Will you
put onto your
Calendar "dinner"
at the Metropolitan
Club Wed-
nesday evening
April second, 1930,
Seven o'clock".

April 26. 1931

My dear Dr. Stuart,
On Friday

May ~~fifteenth~~, I
expect to be in
New York and
should be so
glad to have you

Lunch with me at
The Club at Ave
11:00

There is
a chance that
I shall be free
Thursday evening
the fourteenth, in
which case I
should like to
substitute dinner

that evening! it possible
for you to meet you for the
repart advice we are
pressed on deeply!
hoping that all
is going well with you,
and all your household

CS

April 30, 1931

My dear Miss Woolley:

Dr. Stuart wishes me to thank you for your letter of April 26th and to say that he hopes to be able to take lunch with you on the fifteenth of May, as you suggest, at your club at one o'clock. He is sorry he must make this tentative, however, since he is leaving for China within a few days after that and will probably have many matters to finish up. May I, therefore, call you at your Club on the 14th to verify this engagement?

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to President Stuart

Miss Mary E. Woolley
Mount Holyoke College
South Hadley, Massachusetts

LM

0929

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 15, 1932

Mr. Olin D. Wannamaker,
Yenching University,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Wannamaker:

Your letter of last June came while I was in Geneva. I suppose that gifts are not unacceptable now, although I hope that the critical situation, at the time you wrote the letter, has already been met, and I wish it were possible for me to enclose a check.

With good wishes for Yenching and its work,

Very sincerely yours,

Mary E. Woolley

H

*President of Mt. Holyoke
great friend & admirer
of JH S*

0930

OK

April 28, 1933

My dear Miss Woolley:

I am sorry to have to write to you again that we cannot apparently arrange for Dr. Stuart to see you even on May 10th. He is having to return immediately from Hartford and go down to Princeton for the 11th.

Dr. Stuart wishes me to say, however, that he still hopes that you may be able to come to New York before he leaves for China on the 17th. He would be very glad to adjust his schedule on the days mentioned in our last letter wherever this would be possible so that he might have at least a visit with you even though a dinner or luncheon engagement could not be arranged.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to President Stuart

Miss Mary E. Woolley, President
Mount Holyoke College
South Hadley, Massachusetts

LM

0931

May 15, 1933.

My dear Miss Woolley:

Pardon my delay in writing. This has been because of uncertainty about my own plans. It seems that I am again doomed to miss you by a slight difference in time, as I shall be in Chicago next Saturday but must leave that night to start my journey to the coast, flying most of the way.

I rejoice in the constant evidences of the useful activities which you are carrying on and the vigor which you must have since you seem to be able to keep so active.

I should have liked to report to you some of the developments in the correlation of the China colleges. There seems at last to be some encouragement in that the controlling bodies in America have at last determined that it is their responsibility to initiate action and they have made a move in the right direction. With this thought there is now a chance for some real progress.

With best wishes for your health and the hope that next time when I come to this country we can have a visit,

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Mary E. Woolley
President, Mt. Holyoke College
South Hadley, Massachusetts

JLS: A

0932

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

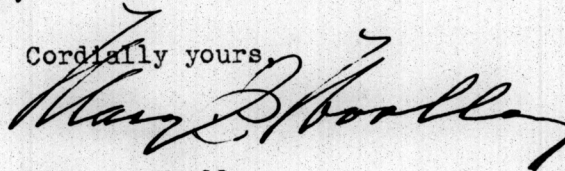
January 14, 1936

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

My dear Dr. Stuart:

Professor Wild of our faculty, who spent a year at Ginling College, brought to me last evening the enclosed statement in the Foreign Policy Bulletin of January the third with regard to the relation of the present Chinese government toward students. She was greatly disturbed about it, and I told her I would consult you with regard to its accuracy, as I knew that you had confidence in the Chiang Kai Shek Government. May I bother you at your convenience to send me a brief "reaction"?

Cordially yours,



Mary E. Woolley

Encl. 1

0933

January 16, 1936

Dr. Mary E. Woolley:
Mt. Holyoke College
South Hadley, Massachusetts

My dear Dr. Woolley:

I have your letter this morning with the enclosure which I have read quite carefully not having seen it before. On the whole, it seems to be quite a careful and correct objective statement of the essential facts. Any difference of opinion would be chiefly due to interpretation. My own view point would be briefly as follows:

There is an influential group of more or less sincerely patriotic Chinese who feel that in view of all the factors involved (including their reluctant realization that there is no hope for assistance from any other country, individually or collectively) the best way out for China is some form of "co-operation" even though this is attended with many disadvantages. In other words, they are powerless to protect themselves by force. International action is not to be depended on and some such compromise is the only practical course. The sympathies of such people are naturally with Japan. They, as is true of most typical Chinese, tend to be opportunists or fatalists and they cannot overlook their own personal and group interests. The more positively so-called "pro-Western" or "Internationalists" or even international patriotic groups, must reckon with this element or add still further to the present confusion and factional feeling in the country. All of which is, of course, being steadily played upon by clever Japanese agents. As to General Ching, himself, his own weakness as I see it, lies in a rather brusque and unimaginative regard of other people. He lacks personal magnetism, suave and friendly amenities, which count so much with Chinese, and has perhaps developed certain abstract ideals of government which he fails to realize are not accepted or even understood by others. In short, he is not politically minded in this respect. The students are, therefore, a disconcerting factor in his attempt to conciliate and temporize, until the country is stronger. He deals with them accordingly, rather than rising to a capacity to "utilize" them in his total program, or at least to convince them that the Government is essential to them. The up-shot of all this is, that the situation in China is far from ideal. Judged by the stand-point of any of its friends or patriots, there is some consolation in reminding ourselves that this is at least true of the Japanese. It accentuates the matter of helping to overcome some of its more serious and characteristic weaknesses.

Very sincerely yours,

J. Leighton Stuart

JHL:CT

0934

June 24, 1940

Dear Miss Woolley:

In writing you today I am not forgetting that the struggle in Europe is holding your heart in a vise of uncertainty, and that the calls upon you are very many, but you are one of those who know Asia, and know that the future of the world and of our own country hinges quite as much on what happens there as it turns on closer connections with Europe. I must share with you a problem whose solution admits of no delay, for a conditional gift of \$47,000 for the Women's College can be claimed only if an additional \$4,000 is raised in gifts or pledges by June 30th.

There are few miracles greater in history than that Yenching should have been able to carry on undisturbed with the Japanese army all about them. The life on the campus sounds quiet, until one reads between the lines, or some uncensored letter comes through by the kindness of a traveller. Then one finds the colors of the back-drop of strain and tragedy behind the routine of college life.

The faculty are doing their utmost to use what they can of the balance of exchange to meet the most urgent needs, but this gift which is now conditionally available will immeasurably strengthen morale in addition to securing steady progress in the training of Chinese youth for the happier days of the future.

You will do what you can, I know, to help in redeeming the \$47,000 during the few remaining days before the expiration of the time limit. The pledge form and envelope are to facilitate your getting word to us by June 30th.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs. John H. Finley)

Miss Mary E. Woolley
Fleur de Lys
Westport-on-Lake Champlain
New York

0935

June 28, 1940

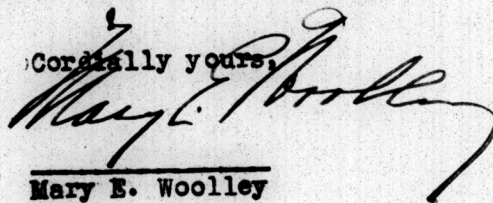
Dear Mrs. Finley:

The enclosed check is so tiny that I am almost ashamed to send it. I hope, however, that it will indicate my interest in the Women's College of Yenching University.

\$3.00

Every mail brings appealing requests for help in these troubled days, and the result is tiny gifts where I should like to send generous ones.

Cordially yours,



Mary E. Woolley

Mrs. John H. Finley
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

0936

MARY E. WOOLLEY

WESTPORT-ON-LAKE CHAMPLAIN

NEW YORK

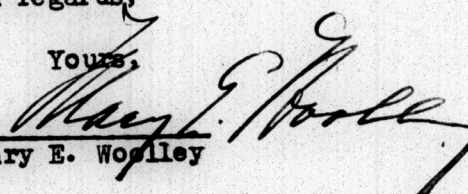
July 11, 1940

Dear Mrs. Finley:

Just a word to say how pleased
I am that success has crowned the
effort to complete the \$100,000 endow-
ment unit for the Women's College of
Yenching University.

With warm regards,

Yours,


Mary E. Woolley

Mrs. John H. Finley
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

0937



366/5647

MAR 20 '50

Yenching University
Peiping, China.
Nov. 5th. 47.

Our dear all,

A respite from labour, occasioned by a student strike (of which more anon) gives us a Guy Fawkes Day to start what is intended to be our letter of Christmas greetings. We hope against hope that it may arrive in time. Please forgive us if it does not.

A close look at the address will reveal that we are not where we were last year. In March a flying column of trucks left the London Mission compound in the city bearing our furniture piled in a crazy mountain. Rounding one corner a chair flew off the top and narrowly missed a policeman, who immediately reached for his gun. Some good parleying saved the situation, as it nearly always will here, and we arrived safely seven miles outside the city on the campus (US influence is strong) of Yenching University, where we lived for two months until our house in the neighbouring village was vacant. We now live in a Chinese house in this village of a few hundred people under the shadow of the famous Western Hills. The house is Chinese style, has about seven rooms built on one level round a court-yard and has running water and plumbing. It has stone floors and is heated by Chinese stoves—a bit like Ideal Boilers standing in the middle of the room. There is no garden but the court is large enough to play games in when students come to see us. In the village it is possible to buy most things except butter and things in tins. To most of you that may not sound like a very exciting difficulty.

The last few days there has been a funeral going on in the neighbourhood and the air has been filled with so-called music. I find it as hard to find the pattern in the music as I do in what we have been doing this last year, which does not ease the business of giving you some idea of it. Our main sphere of operations is half a mile away from our house in National Ching Hua University. It was originally founded on Boxer Indemnity money, laid aside by the US and Britain, and has grown into being about the best university in China. There are 2,700 students of whom about a tenth are women and the competition to get in is awful. In the summer Philip helped to correct the 20,000 entrance examination papers. It had a bad effect on his grammar. The campus is large but not beautiful, especially because most of the buildings are in strictly utilitarian Western style. The academic interest of the students, as elsewhere in China, is chiefly in science and applied science at that, but the University also has good departments for other subjects. The place has the reputation of being radical and even 'red'. And undoubtedly it is very touchy about academic freedom in a land where pressure is sometimes put on universities to admit and reject students on other than academic grounds; also the students who feel that they have a reputation to maintain are not slow to express themselves on political matters. We know a number of the teachers and more of the students pretty well, and feel that it comes as close as any in China to our idea of a liberal University.

Here in May of this year we opened a Student Christian Centre in part of a building given to us by the university. We aid several hundreds of students with student relief.

Rem
y39p
x

0938

They work in different jobs provided by the university or in service work found by us, and for this they are given money to help pay for their food. We also run a programme of general interest. Lately for example we have had weekly showings of filmstrips lent by the British Embassy press attaché. Seeing pictures of London and the Underground raised our comments to a lyrical note. The sight of Mr. Gladstone, riding in the midst of a cabinet of equally heavily bearded persons in an open smoke covered railway wagon, also confirmed the faith of the Chinese students in the permanent conservatism of the British, for they thought it was the present cabinet. The real reason why we are here, though, lies in what we do with the Christian Fellowship. Six months ago this was small and unorganized. Now we get about a hundred to the weekly worship services and it is quite well organized into three or four small groups which have a regular group life of their own. This is the students own doing, for all that has been needed from us has been suggestion and encouragement. We help with discussion groups and Bible study, and I think most of all by just getting to know them. Philip is officially a lecturer in the Western Languages Department, though half his classes are taught by Jean. Jean takes the second year students for composition, and Philip has a course of lectures on the English Bible and Classical Myths. We suspect that these students of English are getting more theology than is usual in a National University. We feel very strongly that teaching helps in many ways. It gives a certain standing for the Centre in the eyes of the administration; it gives us good contacts amongst the teachers and above all it puts us right off in that semi-pastoral relation to the students which is usual for teachers in China.

Two hundred yards from our door is Yenching University, the foremost Christian University in China, and the most beautiful campus we have ever seen. Round its lake are buildings in Chinese style, with western interiors. It has about 900 students, a third women. The academic standards are high but the really distinguishing mark is in the spirit of the place, especially in its teacher-student relations and in the social life of the students. There are 20-30 Westerners on the staff, mostly appointed by missionary societies. Jean works here in the University infirmary (which also involves some medical work in Ching Hua) and in a child welfare station run in the village by the Yenching sociology department. The Christian Fellowship is large and has a full time Chinese secretary; Philip spends a little of his time as 'consulting secretary'. He also gives a small course in the School of Religion in Biblical Theology.

During the year we have taken part in two student conferences; one at the Chinese New Year (at the end of our January) inside the city to which about 60 students came, and one in August in a school outside the city. This latter followed roughly the programme of the World Conference of Christian Youth at Oslo. It was a worthwhile effort, although it strained Philip's resources to the utmost as he had to give a lecture in Chinese on Justice and Freedom. Here every political word has a special shade and has to be used with circumspection. The conference seemed to us to be nothing but a whirligig of meetings, but we know now that it really did introduce some students to Christianity and its present relevance.

To be 'relevant' in China today means relevant to the political situation. The civil war—officially called 'suppression of the rebellion'—has continued and increased in severity. Along with it has gone an increasing area of arbitrary rule, of poverty and of fear. Everyone will recognize that civil rights cannot be spoken of in the same terms during civil war as during peace, and there is no question that students and others understand very little of what is implied in real democracy. But arbitrariness and corruption are plain for all to see (not least I imagine to the central government which cannot always control its own officials and armies) and this invites the opposition of the students which itself is likely to lead to further incidents. The standard method of demonstration is the strike, usually because someone has been arrested by secret or military police. The students rush about pasting up slogans and collecting comfort money, and there may be clashes with the police or the army. In Peiping on the whole the authorities have acted with restraint, but in other places students have been killed or imprisoned without trial. I think that the authorities are in a very difficult position from their point of view as there is no doubt that communist agents do their best to fish in these troubled waters. We also have evidence that agents of the extreme right, theoretically supporters of the government, have their people at work, which may give some idea of how very confused the whole thing is.

The longing for peace is deep and for the most part of this vast inarticulate people unexpressed. They are increasingly hungry and afraid. Their little stores of grain are raided first by this side then by that. They can see no end to it and no advantage whatever happens. Prices have increased five or six times during the year, and though this affects the cities more than the country it is eating away the foundations of every man's livelihood. There is a lot of talk about democracy and some violent things are said in its name. It is, here as elsewhere, a kind of catch word. It seems to us that what multitudes really want is *good* government; they want peace and justice, as little interference as possible and the sense that their interests are a primary concern of government. I think that at the bottom most even of the highly articulate students want this more than the dubious advantage of a vote at the poll. We say dubious because it seems to us that there do not here exist the psychological and moral conditions, much less the religious ones necessary to democracy in the Western sense. The shouts are all for free speech, but the same voices will be raised to prevent the expression of an unpopular point of view.

We hope that this gives some idea of the noisy, sometimes alarming and always interesting and exciting background of our lives and work. Privately we are making many good friends and meeting many interesting visitors—Parliamentary missions, American congressmen, educators etc. We no longer have the idea that Piccadilly Circus is the hub of the universe, and certainly do not believe that the future course of history is more likely to be determined in Whitehall or at Lake Success than somewhere out here where a great civilization is undergoing a transformation. No one can say now where it will go. Although we are missionaries we do not think that the odds are heavily on some

form of Chinese Christendom; that has to contend with the long established this-worldliness of the Chinese, with other militant faiths, especially communism, and with the weakness and often the unperceptiveness of its own supporters. But if you want to be at one of the great turning points for both Church and world this is the place to be.

We have a powerful radio and hope that this helps to prevent us becoming too provincial, even in a province the size of China. We hear the Voice of the United States and the BBC; we heard the test matches and the World Series. This not only brings us the news of a world outside Peiping, it also carries our minds to our friends at home and in America. They will go with peculiar pleasure and not a little homesickness when it comes to be Christmas time. It is the worst time to be abroad. Please accept this letter as a substitute for a personal appearance. We hope that you will have the best of Christmasses, and that your stockings will be full of all that you want.

And may the Prince of Peace watch over your festivities.

With sincerest greetings

Jeane Philip Leelwood

China - Missions

366/5647

Yenching University,
Pekin.

4th November 1949

Our dear people,

The careful textual critic of these letters will have noticed something that signifies the most momentous event round us of the last year; new spelling of the city in which we live, or rather the return to the old spelling, which means 'northern capital'. We newcomers swell with extra pride, but the oldsters regard the matter as the re-assertion of a law of nature.

Last year, writing about this time, we hinted at decisions hard to take then facing us, of which the chief was 'to stay or not to stay'. In the event it was not so difficult, for we had the encouragement of many friends, messages and information from the other side and our own conviction that missionary work is not yet quite like the walls of Jericho. The actual change-over, the liberation, was exciting enough; one day the lines of the Nationalists a hundred miles away collapsed and within forty-eight hours there was a battle next door to one of the Universities in which we worked. Naturally this interfered with the classes which Philip had gone over to take, since the students, soon joined by the teacher, departed to look over a wall at the smoke and tumult. In another forty-eight hours the Nationalists had departed to take refuge inside the walls of Peking, and we were on an island of no man's land, in which everyone expected looting. Actually everyone was so busy watching his own property that he had no time to go to take anyone else's. All the same it was rather creepy for two nights, and we were regarded as foolhardy for continuing to live in the village instead of coming inside the walls of the University. Aided by several students we had a night watch of our own, which went into galvanic action every time a cat screeched.

For six weeks we were more or less cut off from the city which was under siege. We made one exciting journey across the lines to take a sick colleague to hospital, and other people managed it from time to time so that we even received letters. Finally Peking also was liberated with severe fighting. (The General who worked this from the Nationalists side was for his pains considered democratic enough to have been put in charge of water power in the new government).

Since then, as you all know, most of the rest of the country has been brought under the control of our government, and it cannot be long before the civil war is substantially ended. This will call forth from the whole people the nearest thing possible to a mass sigh of relief.

MR7 There has been great activity in the Universities these last months. Yenching, the Christian University, has been distinguished for the closeness of its relations between administration and students, and has thus avoided the troubles which have affected some Institutions. For in almost every case this has been the crucial question. Nevertheless, there have been considerable changes made here to make things formally and actually more democratic than they were. Lower ranking teachers, students and workmen, now appoint representatives to the highest council of the University; and last pre-sessional conference of the University was noticeably an improvement on previous shows when only the big shots spoke.

The pressure in favour of group activities and group decisions is great; for example - students attending the same lecture courses divide themselves into small groups for out side study and discussion, ideally attempting to bear one another's burdens.

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We have not yet got to the point where we give everyone the same mark. Certain courses in the theory of New Democracy, which is Marx-Leninism adapted to the present stage of economic and social development, have been added. For the rest very few changes of courses have been made and those all with a view to fitting the education more directly into China and its needs. And it must be said that the students have never been keener than now on study. There is perhaps an insufficient appreciation of the value of pure science and the humanities, reflected in the overwhelming number of new students wanting to study engineering and medicine, but natural in the circumstances. The Educational Bureau puts in a lot of propaganda in favour of a broader and longer term point of view.

At first it was, of course, not clear, what would be the position of private, and specifically of Christian, Universities. There is now no doubt that they are wanted, that we are to be autonomous, within the general educational law, and that we can continue to rely on teachers and money coming from abroad. This even applies to the School of Religion. The official policy is freedom of religion, and this has been written, without qualifications into the Common Programme which does duty for a constitution. You will hear of infringements of this basic principle. Some of them arise through misreporting, when the troubles of a Christian get quoted as caused by religious oppression; more of them occur because the lower ranking officials have not yet learned to distinguish between the official atheism of the communist party and its recognition of the right of religions to exist for the present and for the long time future. Also so far there is no body of case law on the subject and no organ to which to appeal yet in existence. These things will come. It is early days to judge, but in a revolutionary situation we think it best to look on the brightest possible side, especially when everyone knows and hears little but the arguments on the other.

At the end of last summer term Philip left his job in the Student Centre at the National University - Tsing Hua - and there are now others carrying that on on a small scale, and became a full time member of the teaching staff of Yenching. Most of his time is given to the School of Religion and a little to the Philosophy *Dept-9* infirmary and in the Infant Welfare Centre Clinic in the village. *the University of Science and Technology in the village*
Because we now work only in Yenching we have moved onto the campus and have a very attractive and convenient house near the student dormitories.

The Christian Fellowship, which Yenching started for China, is in comparatively good condition. It has a membership of nearly 200 students, about a fifth of the total, as well as teachers and workmen. At the beginning of the year it seemed that the policy of the government sponsored youth group was to do away with the Christian Fellowship altogether. That did not come off and now both sides are looking for an accommodation. Meanwhile the current ideological emphasis has forced the Christians to greater clarity about their own position. We must know what we must defend. This kind of clarity has been a long standing need in China, and at last there are groups seriously studying for this purpose. We are all greatly helped in this direction by T. C. Chao, whom many of you know, whose mind is working all the time on the problem of stating Christian faith in terms of Marxism and Chinese culture. Who is to say - though some do say it - that this cannot be done? And if it is done it will have importance beyond China.

All this may sound suprisingly hopeful. In fact we feel that things are much better ~~than~~ we were prepared to see when we decided to stay. We do not feel specially hopeful about any human achievements, but this experiment looks like the only one with any

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hope for China at this moment. A great deal of nonsense is talked about it from outside, as our radio tells us; such as that the government is a Russian stooge. Russian influence, which is real and may increase, is precisely because they have not interfered and because the authorities now feel that they can turn to them for help without fear of throwing away their independence.

It is possible that someone is horribly mistaken over this, and things may go more according to our fears than our hopes. We wish that we could dash home now and then to talk it over more fully and carelessly.

This letter is intended to bring to you all our Christmas greetings. As always it will be late, but our thoughts will have outsped the mails. Britain, America, China, Bethlehem; it will all be one place when the herald angels sing.

Sincerest wishes to you all,

PHILIP
(Signed) JEAN and LEE WOOLF