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Yenching
Publicity Reports
Newsletters, 1943-1944
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YENCHING UNIVERSITY

PEIPING, CHINA

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

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February 20, 1943

Dear Friends:

Through the courtesy of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, we are permitted to share with you the following reports on conditions in Peiping.

The following radio message was received from Rev. W. H. Gleysteen, Chairman for missionary and other groups and individuals in Peiping (Peking) totalling 225 Americans.

"Through good offices of the International Red Cross the Japanese authorities finally permitted the acceptance of the offer made by the Japanese Red Cross for the recording of this message, for of necessity we have been virtually cut off from correspondence. We are all most heartily grateful for this favor and wish publicly to express our sincere thanks to the Japanese Red Cross and to the Japanese authorities."

"Do not worry about us. Living conditions are favorable; for the most part, we are in our own homes. The first half of the year we received loans made by the Japanese Government and more recently by our own Government through the Swiss authorities. We receive good medical attention when necessary. We are allowed, with very few exceptions, freedom within the city walls and occasionally outside, if sufficient reason is given. Our children are free to attend their classes, being taught in English by teachers of our own choice. A few of us may even continue our former professions and businesses. The Roman Catholic missionaries continue their former activities. We are permitted freedom of worship. We have church services, prayer meetings, Sunday School. We may attend our groups, visit our friends, go about our business and indulge in our favorite sports. Most of us are awaiting repatriation. We have received many acts of kindness at the hands of the Japanese authorities. We would indeed be lacking in gratitude if we did not express our thanks to the Japanese Government for our privileges and their generous treatment of us."

It must be remembered that this recording made in Peiping and rebroadcast from Tokyo, while on the whole reassuring, could only contain information acceptable to the Japanese authorities.

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During the past few days, we have received letters which add some additional information about our missionaries in North China. We are quoting significant paragraphs from these letters.

Peking, October 8, 1942.

"The repatriation plans were set up for September 4, but four days before we learned that the ship would not sail so we are waiting for news of the ship.

"Of our group here John D. Hayes, William H. Gleysteen, Miss Orhpa Gould, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Dean plan to stay if that is possible. The Deans look after the Embassy property and by so doing are reasonably assured of an income, also they will be near their Susie and that was a big factor in their taking up this work. The houses there are fairly well filled with fifty to sixty Americans, mostly from the group outside the city. John Hayes plans to be near his aged and infirm parents. Their health is not good but no adverse news has come from them. Mr. Gleysteen hopes to be useful by remaining and his family are willing to go without him. All others in Peking plan to go and are fully packed awaiting word.

"Miss Daisy Atterbury, Dr. Hinkhouse and Miss Witmer have continued at their work in Peking with great freedom and with all courtesy shown. We rather expect the three will go to the United States if and when we all go. We are fine here, enjoy full freedom in the city, are free to have service at Union Church." (R. L. C.)

Peking, October 15, 1942.

"These days, meeting people, we do not say, like the Chinese, 'Have you had your meal?' but, 'Have you heard from your loved ones?' As the day for departure was given at very short notice, the rush to get ready was terrible. Packing, disposing of belongings, storing furniture, receiving innumerable visits, etc., etc!! The chaos was very confusing and exhausting. Mr. Loynse is not too well. We are getting along nicely as far as political and economical conditions allow. We have to be very careful with our money. It is not easy, but it is a good lesson. We had a picnic at the Temple of Heaven the other day with twenty-nine redbands attending."

(Mrs. James P. Loynse)

Peiping, November 1, 1942

"On the morning of October 27, 1942, William Gleysteen, Eugene Huebener, John Hayes and Elroy Johnson got up early to meet the 7 a. m. train from Shuntch, which brought at last the three from there - Lillian Jenness, John Bickford, and Dr. Ralph C. Lewis. All were fine, and the men were brown from sun baths."

(R. L. Creighton)

In Peiping (Peking) and Shanghai, all enemy aliens wear red armbands, with the number of the national and the abbreviation of the country, A for America, Ho for Holland and so on.

The Peking American School has been allowed to open in the American-Oriental Mission property with a distinguished faculty. Miss Moore is principal; Miss Nancy Cochran teaches English; Dr. Stanley Wilson, Chemistry; Rev. John D. Hayes, Latin; Dr. L. E. Wolferz, German and French. British children also attend. The enrollment is twenty-nine, fourteen Americans and fifteen British or European.

Another letter has been received from the American Board, but the information largely duplicates the foregoing.

Most sincerely yours,

C. A. Evans

CAE:MM

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Chengtú, Szechuan, China
February 21, 1943

Dear Friends:

As I think of the six months which have passed since I last wrote you I have decided I can best put you in touch with what has gone on in this Yenching world, which you and others like-minded with you make possible, by giving you a glimpse of single occurrences--. And so I turn back to the first gathering refugee Yenching had of itself in Chengtu.

September afternoon in a Confucian Temple within the city walls. The main hall with its yellow tiled roof stands on its gray foundations at the upper end of the inner court where the spaces are dignified, and where a few lofty pines cast shadows in misty sunlight. A few board seats are arranged in a square, and a few people are seated in silence together. To the left are four members of the faculty; Dr. Han, who returned from America, was caught in the fall of Hongkong, and escaped to come and act as registrar; Dr. Wu the one senior member of staff to reach us from occupied China; Ralph Lepwood brilliant young Britisher who had been given leave of absence from Yenching to serve the Cooperative Movement by Free China as statistician and myself. Facing us were about twenty-five students, three of them girls, who had come from Peking with no knowledge that we were beginning again, but who would not stay in occupied territory. They were thin from the terrible journey, they wore clothes which were faded and threadbare, but they had the resilience of youth. They were sober, but glad. And facing this little remnant of the great University of the north was Dr. Y. P. Mei chosen to act as our head until Dr. Stuart can come back to his own.

We began by rising in silence to remember those of our number who had been imprisoned by the Japanese and whose fate was always upon our hearts. Then Dr. Mei reported the progress which had been made in creating Yenching in Chengtu. A temporary Board of Directors had been set up in Chungking. They communicated with the government and organized the systems of relief stations along the roads which our people might travel. It sounded to me a bit like the underground railroad of slavery days, except that in the long road in Free China there was no need for secrecy and aid was willingly given to Yenching - the University which had been fighting a rear guard action so to speak, which had held one institution free from Japanese domination for four long years, and was now the last to join the other refugee universities in Chengtu. Premises for us had been found in this city with great difficulty: the Methodist Mission had allowed us to take over property belonging to a girls' school which had left on account of the bombings and which supplied us with a girls' dormitory, a building for class rooms (six only!) and for offices. The Governor of Szechuan, a Christian and a man who forwards all good projects in Chengtu made it possible for us to use the temple where we were gathered. The side buildings could house the men students, and the spacious grounds would be a godsend to us all in weather when we could spend time out of doors. Many organizations were giving us a welcome in the form of money for our initial expenses; the host university of West China was opening her library and laboratories to us; we could begin teaching on October first. And so Yenching was to go on, supported by the efforts of her graduates and her friends in Free China and abroad. Word had been received from our trustees in New York encouraging us to proceed. Then we sang the Yenching song and as I looked at the company of less than thirty people who represented an institution which, all told, had numbered three thousand souls in its community, I felt the importance of the spirit and the comparative irrelevance of numbers.

October was a month of arrivals - in fact every month has been so, but by the end of October, eight of the faculty from Peking had escaped and joined us. They were mostly the young bachelors or unmarried women but three families with the children included had dared the dangerous trip and got here without mishap. They brought us word of our Yenching heroes who were now out of prison but so closely under surveillance that their escape was impossible. Another senior member of staff came back that month - Professor Ma Chien, former Head of our Department of Chinese who left Yenching a few years ago to teach in Hongkong University, and who was caught in the fall of Hongkong. I had heard that he had not only managed to get away himself but had brought forty students out with him and had cared for them like a father, seeing each one safely into responsible hands before he considered his duty at an end. When I asked him how he had managed such a feat, his eyes flashed: "It was a time" he said, "when I felt I had to do something."

He told me some of the details of his experience. After Hongkong was taken the Japanese began to reorganize the city with puppet help and Mr. Ma was required to join the new University. He temporized, and was finally kidnapped and taken away to a house where he was allowed to understand what the consequences of his refusal would be. He had already been making plans to go, and take his tribe of students with him; he managed to get out of the house where he was being held,

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and to leave for Macao. Of course this was possible only with the connivance of the puppeteers, and many of them helped him and his young people to get away. He has taken his place with us again, and so now we count three senior members of staff.

The November picture is the first service of the Yenta Christian Fellowship. We had decided to have our worship on Sunday evenings and to begin with a series of sermons from Dr. P. C. Hsu now of the Nanking Theological School, but one of our own Yenching group. Over two hundred of our three hundred students had joined the Fellowship (I might say that we started with about fifty students from the north, by the time registration was finished and admitted about two hundred and fifty applicants from our local examinations.) Well the opening service was almost too much for me; the Methodists kindly welcomed us to their church and we chose their Choir room for our chapel. A little processional cross of wood was made to remind us of the brazen cross in Ninde Chapel - now desecrated by the invader. A table was arranged with a pair of candlesticks I had picked up last year, two clay pots filled with flowers and a cross which was rather unsteady and had to be glued before the service. Fortunately the hymnal which we use in the north and which many of our Yenching folk had a hand in preparing is also used here and copies of it were borrowed and placed in the seats. And when the preparations were complete the students who had been helping me said, "Doesn't it look like home?"

The small room was crowded that night and the students from the north began our Yenching processional for great festivals - "Joyful, joyful we adore thee" in Chinese set to the music from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. They sang with all their hearts and with the hopes of youth, and there was no hint of "looking backward" in the discourse in which P. C. Hsu laid down the duty of the new arrival among the Christian Universities of Chengtu. But for me, there were years of memories and many, many faces absent from that service who were yet with us in spirit, and being a privileged person, I sat in a shadow and let the tears come for a little while.

November is Thanksgiving month and you might like a glimpse of how we gave thanks in 1942.

The American community always eats together upon that occasion, and there are 110 of us. For years the housewives in charge have made an effort to produce the traditional menu, but this year it seemed not only not right but almost impossible. One chicken was priced at \$200.00 mex. (\$10.00US); coffee was \$400.00 mex. (\$20.00US) the pound. So we had a sort of hamburger steak, two vegetables and squash pie. At the very end, one generous soul produced his last tin of coffee (I was with him in Hongkong when he bought it in 1941) and it was solemnly exhibited to a cheering crowd before the drink was made. While it was boiling, someone started to open a window but was howled down with the cries, "We want to smell it!"

I haven't told you about my own living quarters, have I? I remember last year I wrote you about living in a house where most of the windows had been broken by bombing; well, now I live in a dormitory built in the local fashion with literally nothing in the windows at all. No netting to keep out mosquitoes; no glass for protection from breezes. There was not even paper when we came, but I did get that added to the whole dormitory of sixty-odd rooms. My room is 8 by 10 and has no closet! At first I was grieved and wondered where I should hang my clothes; now I know that in Szechuan in the winter you wear all your clothes and don't have to keep them anywhere else. This has been my first season without a regular provision of heat, and although last winter I felt quite cold in a house which always had one good fire going, I now feel cold without worrying much about it . . . something I never expected to accomplish! And certainly, one does not take cold, even if one's feet and hands don't always function. There is a little heat, but it does not start until January and it goes off before the middle of February and it is supplied by charcoal burned in open braziers which may give you a bad headache if you don't open the window. Also, the price of charcoal - but we won't go into that. Spring will soon be here. I imagine you in America have also been doing without your accustomed heat this winter, so we can get together on that.

I should not conclude upon a detail but mention the interest of living in a place where you have heroic people rolling around like marbles on the sidewalk in spring at home. Many of our students have a war record - unusual for college students even yet in China. One of my boys was with the guerrillas for two years; one was working under fire for the Friends of the Wounded (founded by a Yenching man) for an equal length of time. The little Admiral Ch'en who staged the escape for a few key Britishers and Chinese in a motor boat from Hongkong has a daughter here and called the other day. Rewi Alley of C. I. C. fame is a frequent guest. Do you envy me? You should! Greetings from

GRACE M. BOYNTON

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YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU, CHINA

March 30, 1943

The Yenching Women's College Committee
Yenching University
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Friends,

Mrs. Mei, our former Acting Dean of Women, sent her report of our first semester to Mr. Carl A. Evans, and I wonder if you have all seen it? At the beginning of the Spring Semester I entered upon my duties as her successor, and am hoping to establish relations with you in America, who have been friends of Yenching women for so many years.

We began our Spring Semester on February 15, with 89 girls, about one-third of the total number of students in the University. Fifty-two of these girls have come down from Peking; four arrived here in February, and three have come in this month, with word that more are on the way. We have secured scholarships, relief funds and loans for most, yet some need to do self-help work in order to continue their study. However they seem happy and well; they have all sorts of outside class activities and are outstanding in athletics compared with the girls in other universities here in Chengtu.

An order has just come from the Bureau of Education requiring us to organize our university women into groups called Women's Work Groups. The chief objects of the groups are to be: (1) nursing those who are wounded in air raids; (2) managing relief for women and children; (3) promoting public health; (4) promotion of family welfare.

There has been no change in our administrative system this semester. A few members of staff have been added, and now we have twenty-two women on the faculty.

It is unfortunate indeed that the dormitory for our single women teachers was burned on March 13th at about 2:30 A.M. Miss Ruth Van Kirk of the Department of English was injured and now is still in the hospital. There was no damage to the girls' dormitory though it is in the same court with the building which was destroyed.

I cannot conclude this letter without a reference to the anxious feeling we all have about Miss Speer and the other members of the Yenching group in the North. Probably you will know before this reaches you whether they are interned in a concentration camp or on their way home. Here in West China we are constantly thinking about our absent members and we know you in America must be doing the same.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Chen Wang Min Yi

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YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU, CHINA

CHEN WANG MIN YI - Mrs. Chen, Acting Dean of Women, is one of Yenching's outstanding graduates and has given distinguished service to education. When she returned from Columbia she worked in Chin Chi Middle School. This school was a unique experiment in Chinese education - unique in that it was an attempt to deal directly with the needs of the people. Mrs. Chen founded the school with her own money - she comes from a family of some wealth, and when it outgrew her ability to support it, General and Mrs. Feng Yu Hsiang added their help. There were 800 children in grades from kindergarten to the second year of high school before the political situation forced Mrs. Chen to leave the north. She drew her staff largely from Yenching graduates; she paid simply a subsistence wage but there were plenty of young people who were happy to throw themselves into the singular opportunity for service which this school offered. Mrs. Chen developed vocational courses and local health work; she initiated a parent-teachers association. She placed her school in a district of Peking where there were no others, and the community life which grew up around it was remarkable. The whole venture was one of which her University was extremely proud.

Mrs. Chen is a baptized Christian. She received baptism in the Church of Christ in China in Kweilin only two years ago although she has long been a Christian at heart. The experiences of the war in which she has shared, deepened her convictions and made her desire at last, a public confession of faith. She is strongly nationalistic, and the Church of Christ in China answers her need for an organization which is not labelled with a foreign name.

March 30, 1943

To all Yenching Friends who used to read the
Women's College Fortnightly letters:

Dear Friends,

Since Mr. Evans has been corresponding with Dr. Y. P. Mei, you have probably heard how the affairs of Yenching-in-Chengtu have been getting on. But you may not know the life, especially the personal life of the Yenching Women Faculty here. We are planning to write you once a month telling you something about ourselves as we did while Yenching was in Peiping. I am glad to be the one to write you first.

I am a Yenching graduate, and now Acting Dean of the College for Women in Yenching. I graduated in 1925, eighteen years ago, and consequently I was a student under the care of both Miss Miner and Mrs. Frame. When I returned to China from Columbia University where I received my M.A. in the Department of Education, I worked in the Chin Chi Middle School for eight years. This was what is called in America a "Neighborhood School" and my chief interest has always been child welfare. In 1936, not very long before the present war, I went to Kiangsi, then to Kweichow Provinces doing women's work under the direction of Mme. Chiang Kai-shek. There are eight divisions of women's work and the chief ones are Child Relief, the training of young women for many types of public service, service to the wounded, and the promotion of industry.

I was married in 1931. My husband is a physician who has studied in England. He has a talent for administration and was superintendent of several public hospitals at different times, in Nanking and Peking before the war. In 1937, he became the head of a hospital for wounded soldiers in Nanking. Now he is soon to go to Chungking to be the head of the Red Cross Hospital there.

We have a daughter eight years old. She is like her father, tall and healthy. She is in the third grade and now is to be transferred to a school in the Methodist Church near Yenching for the children of our faculty families.

I am most happy to come back to the University again. To work either for big children or for little ones is my interest. China needs a lot of women leaders during the war as well as afterward. To train our Yenching girls is to serve the University and also to serve the country. I feel very happy about my present work.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Chen Wang Min Yi

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

May 6, 1943

Dear Mr. Evans:

I refer to your interest in the welfare and repatriation of the American personnel of certain educational institutions in Japanese-occupied China, in particular, to previous correspondence concerning Dr. J. Leighton Stuart and other faculty members of Yenching University at Peiping.

Confirmation has been received through official channels that the Japanese Government has put into effect a policy of internment with respect to all Americans in territory under its control, with the exception of the sick and the infirm and certain persons in special categories. It was proposed, without success, to the appropriate Japanese authorities that the mass internment of American civilians in Japanese-controlled areas be postponed pending the conclusion of the negotiations now under way for the further exchange of nationals between the United States and Japan. Reports received from official sources do not indicate, however, that American civilians interned by the Japanese authorities are to be required, as mentioned in recent press despatches, to perform labor or other duties not directly related to their subsistence and the upkeep of their quarters.

In specific regard to North China, it has been reported to the Department by telegraph that according to information available to the Swiss representatives at Shanghai all Americans in that area, other than those at Chefoo where a separate camp for internees has been established, have been transferred to Weihsien, Shantung Province, for internment, except the ill, the infirm, and a small number of persons in other categories. Included in this last group are Dr. Stuart, Dr. Houghton and Mr. Bowen of the Peiping Union Medical College, who, it is reported, continue to be under detention at Peiping and are not permitted any communication with persons outside their quarters.

In view of an unofficial report which has been received by air mail through the American Embassy at Chungking, based on letters arriving at Chengtu from Americans in Japanese-occupied sections of China, it would appear that the restriction against all outside communication by Messrs. Stuart, Houghton and Bowen may have been imposed recently. The following is an excerpt from the report transmitted through the Embassy at Chungking in which reference is made to Dr. Stuart and "his two companions" (presumably Dr. Houghton and Mr. Bowen):

"Dr. J. Leighton Stuart and his two companions are still detained in a house in the east part of the city (Peiping). They are not permitted to see visitors but are permitted to communicate by letter twice a week with other Americans in Peiping. They are permitted to receive mail. Dr. Stuart and his companions are reported to be in good health as of January 1, 1943."

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The Department is at this time requesting the Swiss Government to authorize its representative at Tokyo to approach the Japanese Foreign Office in an endeavor to obtain the removal of the prohibition against outside communication by Messrs. Stuart, Houghton and Bowen and to arrange for the delivery to them by the Swiss representative at Peiping of a message concerning their priority for inclusion in the next exchange operation as persons who have been placed under arrest by the Japanese authorities. It is believed that a message in this sense will be a source of comfort to these persons and while the Department first requested in November 1942 that such a message be conveyed to them, no confirmation has yet been received that the Swiss representative at Peiping has been permitted to effect its delivery.

The negotiations for the further repatriation on an exchange basis of Americans remaining in Japan and Japanese-occupied territory are still in progress, and the Department is making every endeavor to expedite arrangements with Japan to bring about the return of these persons to this country as quickly as possible.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:
/s/ Albert E. Clattenburg, Jr.
Assistant Chief
Special Division

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TOP SECRET

May 24, 1943

Since this bulletin did not get mailed last week, I am able to include the following Washington despatch, which appeared in the Boston Herald on May 23. In view of the reticence of the State Department up to the present, it seems fair to assume that this announcement indicates that the exchange has been agreed on in principle and that what remains is settlement of the two lists of names to be exchanged. I cannot find any exactly comparable announcement last year. The most nearly comparable date seems to be May 5, 1942, about six weeks before the Gripsholm left New York, and almost four months before it reached New York with the repatriates. These dates may have little or no value for purposes of estimate. When the Gripsholm actually sails, it seems probable that it should be back again within ten or eleven weeks. The important thing now is that the announcement has been made. WCF

NEW PRISONER TRANSFER BY JAPS NOW INDICATED

Washington, May 22 (AP)- The State Department announced today that the Japanese government had given "reason to hope that a second exchange of approximately 1500 American civilians for an equal number of Japanese civilians held in the United States may be arranged."

Negotiations for further exchanges of Americans held in Japanese occupied territory and Japanese in the United States had been underway, the announcement said, since the first transfer took place last summer.

The State Department is locating the Japanese in the United States whom the Tokio government desires to repatriate, the announcement said. Until that task is completed, the department said, it cannot indicate the date when the exchange may be accomplished.

A number of citizens of other American republics and of Canada would be included in the transfer, as well as a number of Japanese from the Latin American republics and Canada.

The department said:

"For the information of the relatives and friends of American civilians held in the Far East by the Japanese authorities, the Department of State announces that it has received a communication from the Japanese government giving reason to hope that a second exchange of approximately 1500 American civilians for an equal number of Japanese civilians held in the United States may be arranged."

It recalled that the same number of civilians were involved in the first exchange last summer, when the chartered Swedish motor vessel Gripsholm was used to transport the Japanese from the United States to Lourenco Marques in Portuguese East Africa, where the exchange took place. The liberated Americans received there from Japanese vessels were brought home on the Gripsholm.

"While arrangements were being made for that exchange, the department entered into negotiations with the Japanese government for a second and further exchanges," the statement said. "It has continuously pursued those negotiations in the hope that an agreement could be reached mutually acceptable to both governments."

"In its latest proposal the department suggested that a minimum of three more exchanges be agreed on, which would involve the repatriation of 1500 on each exchange. The reply of the Japanese government indicates that the government prefers for the time being to limit consideration to one exchange, involving the repatriation of 1500 persons on each side, and that subsequent exchanges be left for future consideration."

YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU

Chengtu, China

November 21, 1943

Dear Friends:

Dr. Mei has been so impressed with the custom which we had in the Women's College in the North of sending a "Fortnightly Letter" to our Yenching circle, that he has decided to have such a letter go out from the whole of us here in Chengtu; and to me falls the pleasant task of beginning the series. (Dean Ch'en Fang-Chih asks me to remark that this new series will replace the old.)

I shall sum up the news of the autumn as briefly as possible: We opened with 380 students, of whom 130 were our own Yenching refugees from the north, and 100 were freshmen. Our staff has suffered a severe blow in the sickness of Dr. Han Ch'ing-Lien, Director of Studies and Dr. Ch'en Shang-Yi of the Physics Department took up his duties. Wang Min-I, Dean of Women, although under great pressure to enter at once upon the government post to which she had been drafted, came to help us through the difficult opening weeks. When she was obliged to return to Chungking, Dr. Ch'en Fang-Chih of the Department of Political Science carried on. President Mei contracted para-typhoid (as a result of reducing his vitality by persistent overwork - at least that is the diagnosis of G. M. B.!) and was in the hospital for two weeks, but is now convalescing at home with doctor's orders to "go slow". (May I remark in this first letter that in Yenching in Chengtu the titles of all positions are prefaced by the term "acting", since President Stuart and many Deans and other administrative officers are unable to be with us. But although this form is observed in our Bulletins, etc., it is a little cumbersome for every day use, and our letters will ask you to take it for granted.)

I should report a fluoroscope examination for T.B., the scholar's scourge in Szechuan. The results show that 15% of our members have the disease in some form, although most cases are light. Two staff members, Dr. Han, and Miss Lo Hsiu-Chen are affected. One poor lad arrived from the north this autumn hoping to be admitted to Yenching; but instead he has had to go into the hospital and will probably not recover. (His care has been made possible by Dr. Mei.) His is the most tragic case.

Student morale continues to be excellent. Last week there was an athletic meet in a public park which had a regrettable incident. On account of some misunderstanding, a policeman shot and killed a student from a government institution, and the crowd was thrown into a panic. The Yenching athletes and cheering section alone remained in formation and marched back to the campus in good order. When I asked who took charge of the "retreat" I was told "Nobody gave orders. We all just followed our banner and came home."

The end of the page! We are going to write you only one at a time.

Greetings to you all from

/s/ Grace M. Boynton

0191

YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU, CHINA

Fortnightly Letter #2

December 17, 1943

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Miss Boynton started this series with a letter dated November 21st. I was to have followed on December 6th. The Reopening Anniversary and illness of secretary, etc. have caused my delay.

Now that I am writing after December 8th, I might give you a report of the events of that day. A rather full account has been published in the "Yenching News".

Even the weather-man contributed his services to our celebrations. Fine and sunny days are so rare in Szechuan that the proverb says, "Szechuan dogs bark at the sun." December 8th was a day that ought to have caused a good many dogs barking. A year ago we invited guests to our Commemoration Meeting. To our happy surprise, practically everybody including some of the most important people in town came. But to our dismay, half a dozen of the more important ones responded to our invitation to address the Assembly - the invitation to speak is in this part of the country considered the minimum courtesy to be shown to honored guests. As a result the platform utterances became a mixture of sense and nonsense and lasted over three hours. After that disastrous experience, we arranged to hold the Assembly Meeting in the morning and only faculty, alumni and students were asked to attend. Governor Chang Chun, a member of the University Board of Directors, an alumni representative, and a student representative were the only speakers. They all spoke appropriately and to the point. It was a very dignified and encouraging meeting.

Girls' and Boys' dormitories held their open house both before and after lunch. I for one am glad to be reminded occasionally of the great discomfort that our boys and girls have been put to, and the good cheer and artistic sense with which they are bearing it. Freshman girls this year have been put in an annex to the dormitory which was occupied by some faculty families last year. I had not seen those rooms since the change, and I could hardly believe that these well-decorated and artistically arranged rooms were the same that used to be occupied by some of our faculty families a year ago.

To the afternoon Tea Reception we invited many guests. We had to turn our Reading Room into a Reception Hall. During the peak period there were some 150 people milling around. Everybody talked at once - without invitation this time - and nobody felt obliged to listen. What a clever idea is the tea reception that foreigners have introduced into China! Among the guests there were all sorts, military officers, party men, scholars, tradesmen, artists, and Catholic priests. The Catholics talked most fluent French and that offered a tempting opportunity for half a dozen of our sweet young things to try their linguistic accomplishments on the poor guests.

Simultaneously with the tea the alumni and the students played some ball games against each other and later all joined in folk-dancing. The fine sunshine brought out a good cheerful crowd from the dormitories and even from the neighborhood.

There was the alumni reunion dinner in the evening. But instead of the University playing the host, the alumni had compassion this year and decided to be paying guests. The University did take this opportunity to show its recognition and admiration to the group of sixteen student volunteers to join the Burma Expedition by inviting them to attend the reunion dinner.

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An entertainment programme worked out by students followed in the evening and lasted, as usual, quite up to midnight. One feature of this evening programme is the insertion of the broadcasting programme as part of the show, and the timing turned out to be perfect. I had to take a dozen girls and boys to the Broadcasting Station about a mile and a half from the University after supper. Before, between, and after my addresses in Chinese and English, they sang the University anthem, a group of songs in Chinese and a group of songs in English. A few minutes later when we joined the rest of the University, we were told that both singing and speech making carried well and were a credit to Yenching.

The following morning we had to suspend classes, not by student demand nor by voluntary University decision. It was just the fact that so much of the small University building was turned upside down for temporary uses during that day that order could not be restored between midnight and 7:30 in the morning when classes begin. The few servants were all about prostrate. There was hardly a person among the faculty and students who did not contribute a share towards the events of the day. It was altogether a great and enjoyable experience to the whole University. How we wish you could also be with us.

On returning from the Broadcasting Station to the University in the evening, I felt so tired that I had to take a rickshaw. I believe the students were also tired and very eager to get back to see the Chinese theatricals. Rickshaw fares were quite beyond the students, and I gave them some money for the purpose. The following morning Mr. Lin Chi-wu, the director of the Anniversary Programme told me that those boys and girls after all, walked back and deposited the money that I gave them in the Collecting Box which had been set up by the Student Self-Government for the benefit of about a dozen students laid up in the T.B. Sanitariums. University education may look like a grand enterprise, but at the bottom, it is small experiences like this one that prop one up in spite of discouragements and makes one feel that having a share in the conduct of Yenching is a rare privilege.

I see that I have become impersonal again even in this letter. But I have come to the end of my period, and have to let this suffice this time.

With seasonal greetings to you all,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Y. P. Mei

YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU, CHINA

Fortnightly Letter #3

CHENG LIN-CHUANG - A Yenching graduate who is acting Chairman of the Department of ~~Home~~ Economics.

December 27, 1943

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

December is always a busy month for Yenching. Besides the usual Christmas and New Year celebrations, here in Chengtu we celebrate the 8th Reopening Day which Dr. Mei has described in the last letter. And again, this year, our Nursery School made the month more "Je-nao" by setting up a parents' meeting on the 19th. The Nursery has always been a show by itself; but on that morning it put on a most colorful performance. In the meeting, the parents and children gathered together with happiness and thankfulness - the children are proud of being students of Yenching University while the parents admit that the school has rendered them a remarkable service because, nowadays, nearly all mothers have to go out to earn a part of the living for the family.

This year, our Christmas holidays began on the 24th instead of the 25th as is usual. But in spite of this change in the time schedule and in spite of the small size of the student body and of the faculty and, more than anything, of the school building, we have managed to observe the tradition as closely as possible - the millet meal, the pageant presentation, the President's children's party, the faculty entertainment and whatever I have omitted. The faculty entertainment is nothing to compare with those of the good old days either in style or in content. Most of you may still remember how we changed in Peiping in the war years from family into group entertainment, but now in Chengtu we all join together to give a collective reception in which the students are served with a limited ration of one doughnut, two cookies, a few peanuts and a bowl of bean milk. This is a most realistic evidence of the extent of our change in living.

I should also add in this letter a report of the Collecting Box for the benefit of the T.B. students and the student volunteers joining the Burma Expedition which Dr. Mei has mentioned. Altogether more than \$4,000 was collected and was used to buy eggs, candies, cookies and flowers. All these were presented to the T.B. sufferers on Christmas Day by a group of student and faculty representatives led by Dr. and Mrs. Mei. In addition to the above gifts, the Meis also gave each of them a pound of bean milk powder.

The student volunteer corps is a new feature in Chengtu these days. Every day hundreds of them in separate groups are pouring into this old city from neighboring districts. They have to go through very strict physical examination before they are sent to Kuming where they will receive three months military training. It is expected that a large number of them will be eliminated. Five of the eight of our boys have passed the first examination but they still have to go through the second one. The girls' status,

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however, is not yet clear. At first they were not admitted but, lately, instructions from Chungking stated that they could join the force as nurses or by taking up other auxiliary positions. Yet, so far the local authorities have taken no action and our girls are getting increasingly impatient. The rest of the student body are quite impressed by the action of these boys and girls and, in order to show their admiration and good wishes, the Student Self Government presented to each of the boys a "Victory" ring and a Bible at a Christmas meeting.

Before I close the letter, I must also tell you of the arrival of Miss Chou Kuo-ping on the 26th. Her appearance gave a finishing touch to the perfect season that we have had.

Our thoughts have been with you and Dr. Stuart and all others still remaining in the occupied area on occasions like this. Let us all hope that we will celebrate the next Christmas in North China together.

All the best wishes to you, from

/s/ Cheng Lin-chuang

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YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU
Chengtu, China

Started August 30, 1943
Finished January, 1944
Received in Boston April, 1944

Dear Yenching Friends,

Before we begin another term, it seems I should send you another general account of our refugee community. I write under the handicap of a right arm which got broken four weeks ago, and while it has had expert care and is not painful, refuses to mend very rapidly -- this being due to a cause my Father used to describe as Anno Domini. I can make a shift to write, but not very legibly or very long at a time, and I can't manage a typewriter yet, so I am like the dog who danced on his hind legs--not gracefully, but it was something that he could do it at all.

Last semester produced a number of refugee Yenching students from the north who came hoping to finish their work as Majors in the Department of Western Languages which is my responsibility at present. Now, I may mention with nostalgic pride that Yenching English was of reputation in pre-war days. I had always known we stood well, that our best graduates were able to carry post-graduate work abroad with success, or were often taken directly on the faculties of our sister Universities as instructors in language. But I did not quite realize how high we ranked in general opinion, until our Majors began to arrive and to explain their hopes and expectations. Here was I, alone from the able staff of the north -- the solitary link between the privileged past and the meagre present. And, somehow I was to work the miracle of giving these keen competent students the authentic Yenching training -- all out of thin air. Was I downhearted? Yes! But I tried to keep it dark.

The first two Majors to arrive were two girls. They were in the senior year when Yenching was closed and were forced to attend the Japanized "National University" in Peking which duly graduated them. But they did not want "puppet Degrees". They scrapped the Pei Ta work (The quality of which they did not respect) and came down the great road in their slacks and jerseys, to finish up for a Yenching diploma. And what joys they were -- to teach and to talk to. True to Yenching form, upon graduation they both went to University jobs -- one to teach in the Associated Universities at Kunming, and one we kept with us.

Next came two Junior boys, and a determined little woman who left Yenching in 1938, has been adventuring in Free China ever since, and now asked us to carry on her formal training. I sent them into the Joint Major Course on the West China campus in which Yenching is now a cooperating institution (and what a load of teaching that means for Yenching staff!)

A flock of Sophomores appeared about the middle of March and I turned them over to a young Oxford woman who was sojourning with us and who, I verily believe, fell in love with them individually and collectively. After experience with the students of other institutions, she told me that teaching Yenching folk was like going to heaven.

Last of all two freshmen came along -- too late to enter any classes. These poor lads had come when our funds at depots along the way were very low -- and they had been obliged to sell their winter clothes and bedding in order to buy food. They arrived with one pair of thin trousers and one shirt apiece, looking very thin and white, but making no fuss about their predicament. Once accepted as Yenching students, they looked around for ways of earning a little cash here and there while waiting for September. (Now one of my headaches is how to find the following articles before cold weather --

| | |
|---|------------------|
| 2 pair coolie quality padded trousers --- | \$2000) |
| 2 padded coats ----- | \$2000) Chinese |
| 2 cotton batten quilts ----- | \$2000) currency |

If they are lucky the boys can earn six dollars an hour or about \$50 a week.)

The Yenching English Majors all took the Joint Major Examination for the Joint Major Course set up on the Campus for the five Christian Universities, and all passed with such credit that Dr. Fenn of Nanking University, who has organized this Joint Major work, congratulated me upon the showing they made. Then he added, "I hope you won't have to keep Yenching here too long. What will happen to your standards will break your heart."

I know. And in the meantime what can I do for these eager minds which have had the best and will fret against limitations in teaching and lack of books?

While I was considering this question last June, Dr. Han, our Director of Studies, came into my office one bright morning and said gently, "Miss Boynton, do you think you can get positions for all your English Major students for the summer? They will have to earn their support, because there is no government rice or subsidy for the vacation months."

My jaws sagged open and seemed powerless to resume the as-you-were position. I had not known that I was supposed to run an employment agency in addition to a Department. But here were my young people facing the question "how do we eat?"

We went to work as a group and we found that Yenching English was a marketable commodity. We wrote letters, we advertised, we recommended ourselves in all the ways we could think of and jobs really came. We placed our undergraduates as translators, teachers, librarians, clerks, secretaries. Some of them got really good pay; some got just enough to buy their food. They voted to set up a Department fund to which anyone who had a surplus would contribute money which could be drawn out through a committee by anyone who was in need. Not many could put money in, but there was a small revolving fund through the summer and the spirit of mutual aid was genuine.

The two freshmen were not good enough to earn money outside. Their only hope lay in working on our department jobs. This was another point where Yenching scored. No other institution allows its students to have anything to do with preparing entrance examinations, but I had

all the hours of watching the mimeographing of the six-sheet exam paper and all the work of assembling the sheets for the 2000 copies done by my own boys. I explained to them the danger of having "leaks" in this neck of the woods, where there is actually a trade in examination questions; an enterprising soul will buy or steal a forthcoming paper for thousands of dollars and sell it to individuals for a hundred each! I left the whole protection of our paper with these two freshman boys and my confidence was well justified. One professor of a sister institution remarked to me in tones of pure wonder, "Why, you trust your students!"

December 12th. All these months this has been snowed under other letters and reports and jobs, and now I can work my typewriter freely myself, and I will try to finish. Perhaps I might mention the fate of the two freshmen, to link with the August remarks. One is in a T.B. sanitorium outside the city. His case is light, and we hope to get him back after a few months -- undernourishment is probably the reason why he broke down with this disease, which has claimed 15% of our student body. The other has been in the hospital with paratyphoid, and has been out of classes so long that he cannot get credit for the semester. But both boys are still smiling. They belong to the Yenching community, which tries not to let anyone down, and they both await a turn in their hard fortune with patience and courage.

This letter seems to have been all about academic matters, as they appear in West China -- very closely linked, as you perceive, to the economic and practical. I might include here a little account of how one of our young instructors got her precious M.A. thesis through to its completion. She was in the North on December 8, 1941, and when the Japanese turned our people off the campus they did not intend to allow anything like academic work to escape with the refugees. So Yu Yu Mei secreted her notes very carefully and was fortunate in carrying them out of the gates. Her field is mathematics, so the material was not very bulky. When she decided to take the journey to Free China, she knew there would be the same difficulty, so she pasted what she needed on the backs of religious pictures and carried them through inspection in that way. I should tell you that she was travelling with a friend, and they got married somewhere on the road, and that she arrived in Chengtu as a bride -- but that is another story. In Yenching she had a room in the dormitory which burned last winter. She was the first to waken and give the alarm, and by that time she was preparing a layette; but she paid no attention to the little garments in her chest. She took the thesis off her table and walked quietly out of the building while others were taking great risks to save their property. Result: in June the thesis was approved and Yu Yu Mei got her M.A., having, a few weeks previously, got a small daughter whose wardrobe was supplied for the second time!

January 9, 1944. This time I WILL finish. I was telling about our academic lives, but I must add a dash of Christmas color to the picture. For "holiday" overtook me and we don't have any respite from classes here except on the Day itself -- and so there was no writing letters then. We celebrated with all the gusto of our Yenching tradition, which makes it the gala season of the year.

The first thing we did was to have a wedding. There have been a number already like Yu Yu Mei's, but this was two young members

of the faculty, both of the Department of Education. The bride had been a student of the bridegroom in the north. He came to Free China early in 1942, and she has just now managed to follow him. They wanted a refugee wedding -- "simple but dignified." (The latter requirement is on account of a Chinese view of a wedding as an occasion for great hilarity and not as much solemnity as with us). So a mission residence opened its hospitable door for the occasion and President and Mrs. Mei issued cards for a "tea" without mentioning any reason for it. When the guests had assembled, Dr. Mei made a brief speech welcoming the guests to the wedding of their colleagues. Then Mr. Robinson of the American Board Mission took his place to perform the ceremony and the young couple walked in together.

The bride is the daughter of a great family in the north and early in the afternoon she had been struggling with tears of homesickness for not a single relative could be with her here. But she had conquered her depression and in her plain blue robe with her bouquet of dark red chrysanthemums, she made a refugee picture to remember, with her sweetness and gravity.

The Yen Ta Fellowship was busy at Christmas time. They sponsored the traditional "millet lunch" which ushers in Yenching's celebration. On that day the students eat poor food, and put the money saved into food for the needy. This year they chose to contribute to bean milk for T.B. victims of whom we have a sad percent in our midst. Then came the pageants and entertainments for workmen and servants and children, and the carol singing almost all night. On Christmas morning at the Fellowship Service 10 people received baptism, one of them a military instructor who has not been with us very long. This service had the refugee touch in the altar fittings. We found in the Methodist chapel we use, a rough unpainted framework which, when covered with a white cloth and set with cross and candle sticks makes our Yenching altar. The only covering we can use is a white bedspread, which is removed from its domestic service whenever required -- and the candlesticks are bedroom furniture likewise. It may seem sacrilegious to have articles which "double" their roles like this, but we simply cannot spend \$10,000 for such things -- which is what it would cost to replace them. And after all, the manger at Bethlehem had a double use, too.

In the afternoon of Christmas day, all our students in hospital were visited by Yenching friends and all had packages of food and boxes of bean milk and encouragement to get well.

I should tell you about many more things -- about our work for neighborhood children and for blind soldiers, and much much more; but I must send this off now, with New Year good wishes to you all. Pray God to send us Peace in 1944.

Very cordially yours,

GRACE M. BOYNTON

Jan. 10, 1944

BIWEEKLY LETTER SERIES NO. 4. - TO
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF YENCHING

Dear friends and colleagues,

Happy victorious New Year to all!

We celebrated our New Year by a simple "t'uau pai" or group greetings at the Faculty Club Room. Dr. Mei availed himself of the opportunity to welcome the newly-arrived faculty members: Ch'en Yen Chueh, Chow Kuo Ping, and Cheng Yen Jung. Professor Ch'en had been held up by illness for four and a half months on his way between ~~Kweilin~~ and Chungking. Chow Kuo Ping, who had to reenter occupied-territory in order to come to this part of free China, undertook a hazardous journey.

Dean C. Y. Wu just returned from Chungking after a six-week attendance of the government training camp. He gave interesting reports concerning the Yenching Alumni. An alumni center has been recently inaugurated, and it greatly facilitates socialization and exchange of Yenching news. It is said that the alumni in Chenctu contemplates following suit.

Dr. Mei in turn left for Chungking, among other business to open the ten-million-dollar campaign. It has been decided that he should make "all the begs in one asked." It looks like the financial aspect of the university for 1944-1945 needs the strongest reinforcement if it is to be on the safe side. The campaign, in short, is both pertinent and urgent.

The students have done something praise-worthy on New Year's day with astounding results. In response to the plea of Marshal Feng Yu-Hsiang, they took part in the "Cash-offering" drive to benefit the soldiers on the front. The Yenching students collected more than \$80,000 from the shop-keepers, the street passer-byes, the faculty and themselves. In addition, their joint efforts with other colleges in a bazaar at Huahsiva yielded another \$300,000. For New Year celebration the students entertained themselves with free educational movies, music, and stunts.

The final examination is drawing near and the students are busy studying away. Last year the students carried an air of happy-go-lucky merry-go-round, due perhaps to maladjustment after having quitted school for sometime and undertaken long tedious journeys. This year they have returned sober, and the library and studies have been packed full, going back to the old Yenching atmosphere.

Chen Fang-ching

0200

More than twenty students are due for graduation this spring and a simple ceremony will be performed on our own campus. Last summer it was an inter-institutional business, with five universities doing it together in one huge mass.

We are awaiting most anxiously to hear from our repatriates in America.

Yours sincerely,

Ch'en Fang Chih

Ch'en Fang-Chih



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0201

YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU, CHINA

Fortnightly Letter #5 (#4 has not yet been received)

RALPH LAFWOOD - A representative of the London Missionary Society. Taught mathematics at Yenching for a number of years before going to Free China to work with the Industrial Cooperatives. When Yenching re-opened in Chengtu, he came back to the University as Acting Dean of the College of Natural Sciences.

February 17, 1944

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Y. P.'s absence in Chungking meant that this file of letters got lost in his office and only descended on me a few days ago. I hasten to write and pass on, and we will try to catch up with the schedule.

Y. P. had a very good time in Chungking - came back looking less worn and careworn than ever before. He was able to present to the Board a revised budget for 1943-4 which still balanced, and called some well-attended and enthusiastic meetings of alumni, at which the main business was the planning for a ten million dollar campaign. As the campaign begins others will tell you the news.

At the same time as he was away, I was asked to take the short trip to Tse-Liu-Chin - two days' journey away (not counting breakdowns) to see Han Ching-Lien. He had been doing a light job - resting half-days - at the splendid Shu Kuang Middle School, run by Ching Lien's close friend and Yenching graduate (History) Han Shu Hsing. But he was not yet well. He complained of feeling tired all the time, and looked it. But could not be persuaded to take complete rest. (You all know Ching-Lien). He desired to be spared the rough-and-tumble of Yenching administration for another term.

The fall semester finished satisfactorily. Seventeen students graduated - ten of them women. Yenching women are certainly "li-hai" (fierce, terrific) these days: especially in Freshmen and Sophomore classes they beat the men constantly.

Wu Pei Chi - Hui-Ch'ing's (Lu Hui Ch'ing - head of Physical Education work) student, made a study of the physiques of our students in comparison with prewar, and found (roughly) that for men of certain height-range, they are about ten pounds lighter than prewar. Random observations confirm this impression. The women on the other hand are almost the same weight. Do they know how to use their income better, or are they richer than the men?

My instructions are to write mainly about the College of Science. As you will have seen from statistics sent to the U.S.A. by Y. P., most of our students in Science are from the north. They are working hard, and making very good records. Except for freshmen and one or two of the sophomore classes, they join courses offered by the Five Universities jointly. For laboratory work we depend heavily on West China, who have been very generous in opening to our students all their facilities of space and apparatus.

Mrs. Mei is running the Department of Home Economics. It is weak on the side of Nutrition, but very strong on Child Welfare - with a popular model nursery, and publications in the form of charts and pamphlets on bringing up children. Chang Tsung-Ping - son of Chang Tung-Sen - is Acting Chairman (we all regard ourselves as acting during the period of exile) of Biology, and looks after all the premeds.

0203

This is quite an onerous job, as there is no PUMC for them to go on to, and fitting courses looking forward to WCUU Medical College or Central Medical College is a PhD.-standard jigsaw puzzle.

We were very relieved to see Chen Shang-Yi turn up from Peiping with his family (and spectrographic grating, carried next to his heart), and he was able to set up Physics in a form which in spite of our lack of apparatus convinced the Ministry of Education that they should reregister our Department.

You will all be very interested to hear that Bill and Claire Band arrived in Chungking, feeling very fit after 1,000 miles over the mountains, at the beginning of this month. The British Embassy urges Bill to join for war service, in which physicists are much needed, and advised him for other reasons not to come to Chengtu. We are sorry not to see him, and still hope he may get here to help us after all.

In Chemistry, Paul Chang, Professor in WCUU, has done a noble job in looking after our students. Paul's health has been poor, and when he gets into his winter wrappings of coats and sweaters and overcoats and gowns and scarves, you can hardly see him underneath. But he has a great reputation in Industrial Chemistry, and has just finished organizing the China Leather Association. Naturally he cannot give much time to individual students, and we look forward very much to the coming of Mr. Adolph and Mr. Hsu Peng-Cheng. No news from Mrs. Hsu (Kung Lan-chen) lately, but we expect that she will leave Shanghai when the weather clears in the spring.

In Mathematics we are lucky in having with us Professor Tseng Yuan-Jung, on sabbatical leave from Tsinghua. He is well-known in the field of Algebra, and stimulates us a good deal.

We have been able to take care of all the old students who have come through except the Pre-Engineers, whom we have sent on to other Universities as soon as we could. Thirteen Science students have graduated in Chengtu, and another bunch is due to finish this summer. They show a tendency to move on to Chungking, Kweilin, etc. for that is where the big factories are, but I urge them to go Northwest, for that is the land of opportunity and greatest need.

The Yenta Fellowship has prospered these last two years. There are now a dozen small groups, including the recently resurrected "Salt and Light" group, all full of beans, and providing a ring of friendships for which every refugee student feels great need. Faculty and Servant divisions are less active, but as quite a bunch of faculty are acting as Advisors to the small groups they do share naturally in the Fellowship activities. The death of Dr. P. C. Hsu meant a personal loss to very many of student fellowship members, for during the past year he had taken a keen interest in the Fellowship, and had spent much time in conversations with the members individually.

Student life as a whole has gone on much more smoothly than might have been expected, seeing how easily poor living conditions lead to frayed tempers and complaining dispositions. The influence of Ching-Lien last year, Mr. Ma and Wang Chung-Han this year (among the men - the women are much more peaceable) meant a great deal in mutual understanding between students and administration. Szechuan students and "down-river" students do not always see eye to eye, but on the whole the relationships in Yenching are much better than is common.

We are looking forward very keenly to seeing some of you for the Fall Semester.

All good wishes,
/s/ Ralph Lapwood

0204

Dear Friends,

You will be interested in this letter from Bill Band. A few sentences dealing with purely business matters have been omitted. It is unnecessary to say that this should be kept completely confidential!

M. B. Speer

SINO-BRITISH SCIENCE CO-OPERATION OFFICE

C
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P
Y

British Embassy
Chungking

Received: March 25, 1944

February 25, 1944

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Professor Charles H. Corbett
Yenching University
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Professor Corbett:

This is going to be a business letter rather than the story of our adventures. But in case our previous letters did not get through to you, here is a brief outline of what has happened.

As of course you know, we escaped with the Lindsays into the mountains on December 8, 1941, eight minutes before the Japanese closed down the university. We had originally hoped that Japan would be defeated in six months or a year, and that we could go back to Peiping with the Chinese armies.

In September 1942 we received an invitation from the folks at Chengtu to join the re-organized Yenching, but we were still thinking in terms of going back to Peiping. Also the Chinese Eighth Route Army Command told us that it was at that time not advisable to attempt to cross the Japanese operated Shansi Railway, at least for my wife - the escort available was not strong enough to guarantee her safety, and I was unwilling to take unnecessary risks.

By the winter of 1942 we had realized the impossibility of staying on leading a guerilla life for the remainder of the war - a matter of years rather than months now that the Japs had been able to consolidate themselves throughout the East Indies. However, immediate action was impossible. We were advised to wait until August 1943 when tall crops permit easy and safe movement across enemy occupied zones. This also would allow me to complete a course of lectures I was giving to their radio technicians, in their spare time, on physics and mathematics.

The journey from Fuping in Hopei Province to Yen-an in Shensi took two months. It was an exceedingly strenuous trip; we both lost about twenty pounds weight. After resting there for a month we sent telegrams to the British Embassy in Chungking and to Chengtu saying that we had arrived in Yen-an and were hoping to proceed to Chengtu later. This was by way of a feeler. The reaction was interesting. A message came from Chengtu through the Embassy to the effect that the university did not feel able to invite me to go and work there because my name was "too red"!! Nevertheless they were asking the Embassy to make arrangements with the Chinese authorities to let us come through the blockade. By about December 20th we received word that these arrangements were complete, and shortly after that we received a telegram from Ralph Lapwood welcoming us, telling us that travel funds were awaiting us in Sian, and advising us to proceed first to Chungking.

0205

It was January 11th by the time we were able to persuade the Yen-an people to let us leave them. They lent us five thousand national currency for the trip to Sian, which was far more than necessary because it turned out that on crossing the blockade line we were warmly welcomed by all the Kuomintang officials and entertained as guests of the government. In Sian we received ten thousand national currency which had been forwarded at Lapwood's request by the British Consul at Chengtu. The total fifteen thousand was only just enough to get us to Chungking. There were delays on the road due to snow and engine trouble; we arrived at the Capital on February 2, 1944.

In Yen-an we had been pumped full of what we regarded as pure anti-Kuomintang propaganda about the state of affairs in the universities - lack of academic freedom, students' fear of discussing any political subjects. But in Sian the missionaries told us practically the same things, and warned us that owing to our having stayed two years in communist areas, it would be practically impossible for us to renew our intimate friendships with the students, because, no matter how non-political our friendships may be, the political authorities would suspect and embarrass the students who indulged in friendship with us. Our name might after all, in certain circles, be regarded as too red, and we would not be permitted to continue in those free and happy relations with our students that we had found so valuable in Peiping for so many years.

Some of the Embassy people backed up this idea with the same story. However, Ralph Lapwood wrote us from Chengtu inviting us to go there, saying that he was sure it would be "alright". But that was merely academically "alright". After all I do not, as you will understand, like being merely a physicist. And to have this cloud hanging over us is exceedingly frustrating in one's personal relationships. It grieves us very much, the more so in that we have never done or said anything against the National Government here, and more especially have we never done anything to harm the reputation of Yen-ching University with the National Government.

Lest this seems in a complaining tone, I must hasten to say at this point that had we not escaped we should still be in the internment camp at Weihsien; none of the younger British internees have been repatriated as far as we know. And of course there is no other way for westerners to escape except through the communist territories. And although this circumstance makes our relations with the Yen-ching people uncertain, the experience we have had up in the guerilla areas has meant a great deal to us. We know more about the China of today probably than any other westerners anywhere. This knowledge is embarrassing us just now, but after the war maybe we can make good use of it. Our chief anxiety is that the two sides may come to cooperate with each other; and mere indulging in propaganda pro or con this side or that is not going to help such a reconciliation. After we have studied this side of China carefully and dispassionately, as we have done the other side, then we shall be in a better position to help, if outside help is either necessary or desirable.

After careful thought I told the Embassy people I should like to be assigned some kind of war work, wherever I was most needed as an experienced research physicist. This seemed the right thing to do under the circumstances. Although our furlough is overdue and although we have been living under very hard conditions indeed for the past two years, I felt, and in this Claire fully agrees, that to shirk this responsibility was unworthy.

As soon as I made this idea known, Dr. Needham, head of the British Scientific Mission in China, snapped me up like "manna from heaven" to quote his own phrase. While negotiations with London appear to be proceeding smoothly, although at the usual leisurely pace, it remains now to clear up any questions about our connections with Yen-ching, and come to a mutual understanding about the future.

When Lapwood wrote to me from Chengtu he advised me to try for an appointment from the British Council assigned to teaching in Yenching; because their treatment would be less stringent economically than what they could afford to offer me. Since it is the British Council that pays me if I work for Needham, and it would have to be through Needham that any such application as suggested by Lapwood would have to pass, you will realize that I can do nothing but agree to Needham's own idea that I work with him. He has been in urgent need of a physicist, and has been trying to find one in England for the past six months. All the younger worth-while physicists in England are busy on war work, and not one could be spared for the work in the China field.

However I can hardly claim more than is offered by the British Council during the period that I am working for them; the cost of travel to Chungking and the absolute necessity for furlough at the end of the war - or even sooner if our health does not hold out that long - can hardly be claimed as their responsibility. I am planning to keep up the regular medical examinations as required by the Yenching appointment. Claire was checked up thoroughly at the Canadian Mission hospital the other day; Dr. Allen found nothing seriously wrong. I feel perfectly alright also, and because I can stand strain better than Claire, I am assuming for the moment that there is also nothing the matter with me.

Then there is the question of our indebtedness to the Eighth Route Army authorities. They accepted us as unpaying guests, fed, housed and clothed us for two years, they gave us of their very best. All we could do in return was a few lectures which in Yenching would count as about "5 credits" per semester. There was no administrative work, no laboratory work, none of the extras that go along with a full-time job. I consider that this can never be regarded as adequate return for all they did for us.

A further word about the kind of work I am planning to do. This Sino-British Scientific Cooperation Office is under the British Council for the Cultural Relations, and headed by Dr. Needham of whom you have no doubt heard a great deal. The whole purpose of the Office is liaison work, breaking down the blockade of China's scientific workers and other intellectuals caused by the Japanese war. Needham has already done a great work here during the past year; there is an enthusiastic welcome for him and his work here in China. We arrange for the importation and distribution of books and literature from both England and America to Chinese universities, research institutes and government departments. Yenching and the others in Chengtu have already benefited by this service. I personally feel that this kind of work is exceedingly valuable, and my being on the staff here will eventually be a good contact for Yenching too. I may be able to help liquidate the prejudice that still exists in certain Chinese circles against the missionary universities. One of our most important pieces of work is the securing of expert advice from authorities abroad on specific problems raised here by Chinese scientists and technologists. The opportunities for establishing and cultivating good will between China and the west are boundless. Our mailing facilities are of course through diplomatic channels. My particular task is handling all the American correspondence.

If Ran Sailer is still there, please let him see this. We read S. D. Wilson's vivid description of his adventures, addressed to Winfield here. Please give our best regards to all.

With our very best wishes

Sincerely yours,
/s/ William Band

Claire and William Band (Physics Department, Yenching University)

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YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU, CHINA

FORTNIGHTLY LETTER

Lu Hui Ching - A graduate of Wellesley's Department of Physical Education. Assistant Professor and Acting Head of Division of Physical Education and Health at Yenching.

May 15, 1944

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

As usual, I am again behind the schedule so I must make a brief account of the past month instead of two weeks. Dr. Mei has returned from Chungking and has reported that the TEN MILLION DOLLAR CAMPAIGN is getting along very well indeed. Judging from the atmosphere and the results so far, we will probably make the goal at the end of the period.

On April 19, we had the opening of the Wellesley Infirmary, (for women students). It is a small room containing two beds and other necessities. The beds are wooden beds with no spring of course, but they are comfortable and well made. The main trouble is noisiness. But this is nothing new, for no matter where you go in this campus everybody can hear everybody else talking. Agnes was our first honorable patient. She was down with reaction from diphtheria injection.

Our Controller, Mr. Hausske, fell from his bicycle on his way back to Huasipa and broke his ankle. He has been on crutches three weeks already. Miss Boynton was sick for more than a week. At first she had fever for no reason that the doctor could find. Then she had an inflammation of her left thumb and had to have her nail taken off. She is up now. Dr. Mei's secretary, Miss Fung Pao Chung, had acute appendicitis and was operated on immediately. Mrs. Band was helping in the President's Office during Miss Fung's absence.

We seem to have plenty of sickness around. Perhaps it is due to the crowding and lack of nutrition. This year, we have 18 active T.B. cases. Among them, two are faculty members and the rest are students. Nine of the students are from Peiping, and with conditions as they are the university has to spend a great deal to help them. The average expense for a student to stay in the sanitarium is around six thousand dollars per month. Just lately the Student Relief Committee decided to help more, but before they only subsidized \$600.00 a month.

In December, January, and February, we had more than a dozen cases of typhus including the President and Dean Wu Chi-yu. We thought perhaps the dirt, dust and rats had a great deal to do with it. So we spent two weekends doing house cleaning, boys first and then girls. Every student, faculty, (those who live in the dormitory), and workman had a share. The result was very good. God gave us good sunshine so that we could sun our belongings.

Three weeks ago, we had two diphtheria cases. Everyone was afraid and we managed to give practically the whole university injection of diphtheria antitoxin and the Schick Test. It was quite a job. We had to borrow nurses and doctors and hypodermic syringes.

So much about sicknesses. The reason for giving such reports is that I am in charge of the University Health Service. This work is quite different from the good old days when we had two infirmaries and a team of doctors and nurses. We now have only a room for clinical services. Two nurses, one man and one woman, are holding office hours morning and afternoon. If there is any reason to consult doctors, we

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May 15, 1944

must go to the Union Hospital Clinic. The most difficult problem is finance. Whenever one gets sick, there is always the money problem. Then we have to apply for medical aid and relief.

Most of my time is given to the Health Service. I am teaching five credit hours of major courses in Ginling College. I am not teaching Physical Education in Yen-ching but only doing Department administrative work. We have now six members on our P.E. staff, including Miss Wu Pei-chi who came in the Spring. She is teaching half-time and doing half-time Health Service. Mr. Lin Chi-wu is also teaching half-time in Ginling College. I am sorry to tell you that we do not have major work in Yen-ching because the Minister of Education won't let us do it. We are now concentrating on our required work and intra-mural program. In spite of limited space, we are able to offer some fifteen kinds of activities. You find everyone playing something in Yen-ching. Badminton, especially, is the most popular game of the year. It's a nice game which two or more people can play regardless of technique or age. This sport is considered the cheapest individual sport you can find today. We are making our own birds and they work just as well as the imported ones. We make the best birds in the market and charge the lowest prices. We play with wooden paddles, not rackets. It's a wonderful game, just like real badminton.

Miss Josephine Rathbone always thinks of our women faculty. She sent two lipsticks and a fountain pen through President Wu Yi-fang. She said if I don't use them give them to someone who needs them. She saves my life because I don't have a fountain pen which is not leaking. But the two lipsticks I can give away. I sold them for \$1500.00. Half of the money I spent on buying some eatables for the T.B. students and the other half I used to make a pork dish for the women faculty - in proper Szechuan language "Ta Ya Chi", literally speaking "sacrifice to teeth". Seven hundred dollars may sound a lot of money, but it will buy only four cattles of pork.

Last night Miss Nina Stalling of the Methodist Mission, who is teaching Home Economics in Yen-ching, invited eight of our faculty members, including Dr. and Mrs. Mei, Agnes, Mr. Chiang Yin En, and Dr. S. Y. Chen, for dinner to meet Miss Jean Lyon of the New York Headquarters of the Chinese Information Bureau. She was sent to China for three months to collect some first-hand information on the situation here.

The Five Universities Department Heads had a joint meeting a few days ago, discussing concrete plans of cooperation between departments. Some things were worked out in the meetings. We hope that they can carry out some practical plans in the near future. We are praying hard that some of you will be back with us in the Fall. With my warmest greetings and best wishes to you all!

Most sincerely yours,

Lu Hui Ching

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YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU, CHINA

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Most sincerely yours,

Lu Hui Ching

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YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU, CHINA

FORTNIGHTLY LETTER

H. W. Robinson - Formerly of the North China American School. He has served for the past year as Acting Controller of Yenching University and now is giving his time to Christian Fellowships on the Chengtu campus.

May 31, 1944

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Now that Albert Hausske has come to be controller of Yenching, I have been asked to give more time to the Christian Fellowship, where I have enjoyed working as I have been able to find time to do. I am now trying to become familiar with that work and believe that some of you will be glad to learn more of the condition of the Fellowship.

We are still following the custom established in the north of having the Fellowship include the faculty, students and servants. Those three divisions function separately, cooperatively and are under a common executive committee which meets monthly. Professor K. Ma is the capable president of that committee.

Last fall we had a financial campaign which not only gave us money for our running expenses but provided evidence that the present Yenching people believe that the Fellowship is a valuable part of Yenching life. Because of the financial burdens that life in West China entails we did not feel like setting our goal too high and decided that 4,500 Yuan would meet our minimum requirements. A group of twenty-six students was chosen to canvas the university and collect contributions. We actually received more than twice what we had set as a goal. This not only put the Fellowship on its feet, it enables us to pay off our deficit of last year and with the gifts that have come in during the present year we expect to close this year without a deficit. That doesn't mean that we have done much which cost money; it only means that we have kept such activities down to a very low level.

During the year the Fellowship has conducted Sunday evening meetings in the chapel of the Methodist Church which is located just across the street from the university on Shansi Kai. We usually have an outside speaker and three of them have been Bishops in the Anglican, or as we say in America, Episcopal Church. During the Lenten season we had a series of meetings on the church: The Church and Society, The Church and Education, The Church and Music, The Church and Medicine and The Church and Youth. On Easter morning we had a Sunrise Service on the city wall, which was followed by an egg hunt, as was the custom in the north. There were sixty-seven at that service and although the usual cloudy weather prevented us from seeing the sun there was nothing dull about the service or the people who attended. The Fellowship combined with the Methodist Church in the Easter morning service and Yenching students added much to the choirs which had a large part of the service.

On the Sunday following Easter there was a Fellowship Retreat in a private garden outside the city wall. Even Miss Boynton was enthusiastic about the place and we were fortunate in having President Wu Yi-fang of Ginling for a speaker. About 170 attended, most of us walking the two miles or so to the garden and returned in the same way. After Dr. Wu's fine address there were games, a picnic lunch and small group discussions. The final meeting was a service of worship following a report of the discussion groups.

During the winter vacation ten Yenching students, with seventy or eighty students from the other Christian universities in Chengtu, held a conference for one week at a Methodist girls school located about eight miles north of the city. The

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general theme of the conference was "The New School Spirit" which proved to be a happy choice. Everybody seemed to be conscious of the need of a new life in the universities so that they not only got keyed up to such a need at the conference but returned to their schools determined to live out the ideals that they had been discussing. There are still small groups in the universities which are promoting the idea. So conscious of this fact was Dr. Wu that she used it as her subject at the Retreat and made some very practical observations and suggestions. There is a Union of Christian Fellowships in Chengtu and that body used the same subject at a one-day Retreat which it held recently. I am told that other cities have heard about the "movement" as it is now called, and are trying to follow the example that Chengtu has set.

The most active part of the Yenta Christian Fellowship is to be found in the small groups that have been formed by students who enjoy meeting together. There are eleven such groups and most of them meet weekly. There are from ten to twenty students in a group and usually one or two faculty members act as advisers. I am told that the total membership in those small groups is 226 students (132 men and 94 women), thirty-three members of the faculty and twenty-eight servants.

The Kan Lin Group, of which I have the honor of being adviser, was organized in North China by Herbert Chia who still is the efficient manager and leader. He is also one of the ablest leaders in the larger Fellowship and will be greatly missed when he graduates this summer. The Noel Group was formed a year ago last Christmas and the Easter Group a year ago last Easter. Other groups are The Salt and Light, the Yenching Tree, Open Light, Sweet Home, and Happy Workers. The last named is a group for servants and one of the student groups help run it as a part of its program. Several of the groups are doing social service in the university and the neighborhood where the university is located. There is a night school for servants, another for children and adults of the community. Boys and girls clubs, home visitations, letter writing for families of soldiers, are types that come to my mind.

Since I know the Kan Lin Group best, I will tell you a bit about it. We usually begin our weekly meetings with a short service of worship, hymn singing, Bible reading and prayer. Then we have discussions, lecturers, musical evenings and social hours. There are also reports of the work that is being done and the necessary business transacted. Most of its members are from the north and as they have no "home life" these meetings are in a way like family gatherings. There is a very easy and spontaneous spirit in the gatherings and a great deal of fun is found in very simple activities. A week ago I invited them to the house where I am now living with Ralph and Nancy Lapwood, Grace Boynton, Albert Hausske and Clare Band. It was such a rainy evening that we thought nobody would come, since we live nearly two miles from the university. We were mistaken; the whole group of twenty turned up and those without umbrellas or raincoats had wet garments. We tried to get them to change and wear some of our clothes but most of them seemed to think that such procedure would brand them as "soft" so they sat in damp clothes. So far as I have learned no one suffered any ill effects from it. We have a piano, which Yenching hasn't, and a victrola with a fair collection of records, so they planned to have a musical evening. Some played piano solos, one of the guests sang and the whole group sang. Fortunately the rain stopped before the meeting ended and there was good weather for the trip back to the university. No rain could dampen their enthusiasm and I suppose that it actually added to the pleasure of the evening. They are a fine group of young people and my fellowship with them means much to me. One form of their activity is intimate talks between couples and my talks with individuals have been rich experiences. They are doing some real thinking, have a serious purpose in life and are seeking for the best that the university and society have to offer.

There are many in the small groups who are not Christians but they enjoy the fellowship of the Christian students and this is a good way to introduce them to the Christian way of life. Some of the Christian students have not been baptized and I was pleased to learn before Christmas that some of them wanted to be baptized. We planned a service of baptism for Christmas day but there were two boys who had volunteered for war work and feared that they might have to leave before that time. We therefore had a service of baptism at one of our Sunday evening services early in December and it was a very impressive service. The boys said that since they were giving their lives to God they wanted to have some symbol for that act so they brought flowers which they placed on the altar just before the baptism. They were members of the Kan Lin Group so that group presented them with silver crosses and Herbert Chia read the passage "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me." They then were presented with Bibles and an appropriate passage was read. The hymn which that group has adopted as its own is "God Will Take Care of You" and they sang it at the close of the service.

We are now having another class preparing for baptism and expect to have the service before the end of June. There is also a weekly Bible class and another class for religious discussion. Our latest type of activity is a discussion group for members of the faculty. About twenty-five have signed up and met for the first time May 19th. We had a simple supper together here in the house where I am living and a discussion after the meal. Dr. Wei Yung Ch'ing has just arrived from America. He is to be on the Yenching staff and will help with the Fellowship work. Although I do not know him personally the reports that have come to my ears lead me to believe that he will be a great help in the Fellowship and especially in the faculty discussion group.

Last year the Yenta Fellowship was fortunate in having occasionally the inspiring presence of one of its founders, Dr. P. C. Hsu. His tragic death a few months ago brought grief to a large circle of friends and that grief was particularly keen in the Yenta Fellowship. A memorial fund was raised to help Mrs. Hsu and her two children and the Fellowship gladly took charge of raising money for that purpose in the Yenching circle. There was a generous response, even though Yenching people have a hard time getting over the days themselves.

At Easter time when a group of us were discussing the meaning of Easter, Herbert Chia, who had been deeply touched by the death of Dr. Hsu, said that when Bishop Hall of Hongkong had spoken to the Fellowship a year ago on the subject, Life and Death Today and Tomorrow, the talk did not mean much to him. Since the death of Dr. Hsu that talk has come to have much meaning to Herbert and he said that there is no doubt in his mind about the reality of a living Christ. This sorrow had brought a new meaning to him of what Easter really is. His "tears for a telescope", as I once heard Dr. S. Parkes Cadman say, had helped him to see more clearly the meaning of Easter and the Cross.

In a real sense it may be said that Yenching was nailed to the cross December 8, 1941 and to those who drove the nails it seemed that the institution was finished. Such is not the case. The Yenching Spirit is still alive and nowhere is it more evident than in the Yenching Christian Fellowship.

Sincerely yours,
/s/ H. W. Robinson

June 7th-Five students and one teacher were baptized at the Fellowship meeting last Sunday morning at 7:00 A.M., in spite of the fact that many of the students had been up until one A.M. attending a play in honor of the graduating class. About eighty attended the service and helped to make it a very impressive one.

JULY 4. 1944

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I would like first to apologize for having been behind the schedule in sending out this letter. The last month has been an extremely busy one. We had to negotiate with the other Universities regarding the matter of cooperation, and then we had to make a balanced budget. At the same time we had theses and examination papers to read and correct. So I could not possibly manage to write you earlier. But now every thing is over for the past academic year. We had commencement a week ago and now everybody is having a vacation, so I hasten to write you.

The Commencement here is a joint affair of the five Universities. It is, perhaps, the only matter in which the five institutions have been able to cooperate. The ceremony took place in the big hall of the Gynasium of the W.C.U.U. about half the size of our Bashford Auditorium. This year the five Universities had more than 400 graduates. We had only 51. Most of them were old timers in Peiping but some of them were recruited locally two years ago. All of them seem to be good material.

For the last few months we had been confronted with two problems, one intimately with the other. The first concerned the possible cooperation among the five Universities in the matter of teaching with a view to possible economy. We had many, many meetings on this matter. The negotiations proceeded very well, when only the principles were discussed. But finally when it came down to cutting down of surplus personnel of the various Universities, then progress became impossible as each of the five Universities looked to the initiative of the others. No result was therefore, achieved, and the time we spent on it was simply wasted.

I must say that from the very beginning we have always showed our willingness to cooperate with other institutions. Our Science College is already on the Campus cooperating with the W.C.U.U. and our Western Languages Department has also since very long ago been cooperating with the same Departments of the other Universities. But distance has so far prevented us from going further on this matter much to our regret. Through out the negotiations we have showed a most willing and correct attitude to cooperate conditional only on the fact that

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adequate space must be given us in the campus for classrooms and offices. We are thus not in the least responsible for the breakdown of the negotiations. It is such a black record for the Christian Universities, and we regretted very much that there has been so little leadership in this matter. Since the breakdown of these negotiations, we on our initiative have recently been feeling out possibilities of cooperation with the individual Universities, notably the W.C.U.U.. Our Chinese, History and Economics Departments have scored some successes in this matter already and we hope that very soon we can report further progresses.

We began our budget making early in the spring. According to estimates then made, our deficit would be around N.C.\$ 10,000,000. This deficit was reduced to N.C.\$ 7,000,000. Following that we waited several months for the issue of cooperation among the five Universities to be clarified, hoping in the mean time that the materialization of such cooperation might enable us to further reduce our deficit. But with the result of the cooperation negotiations as described above, we made a last-minute and a most desperate effort to balance our budget just before the commencement. In accomplishing this purpose we effected some cutting. But more important than that was the fact that we changed the original basis of calculation i.e. five times increase in prices, to a new basis of calculation of three times increase, which is much less scientific and reliable. Then we are not certain whether we can sell our gold drafts in the 'open market' at as favorable a rate as we did previously, i.e. N.C.\$ 100 to C\$ 1.00 which is the basis for calculating our income from abroad. It is, therefore, questionable whether our budget has been balanced in the strict sense of the word. It is so much more difficult to produce a balanced budget nowadays than it used to be previously.

I should here mention another problem which we are facing now, and that is the problem of housing. Chengtu is usually known as 'small Peking'. But so far as renting house is concerned it is rather undeserving of this nickname. While houses are easily available in Peking, in Chengtu it is next to impossible to get housing accommodations. Not that there are no houses. There are plenty of them, but the owners simply do not want to rent them to other people in spite of the fact they themselves are not living in them. To get a house one usually has to use political influence or he must be a special friend of its owner.

When we first came we rented the premises of the Hua Mei Middle School and also of the Chi Hua Primary School, both being properties of the Methodist Mission. In the

YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENG TU, CHINA

FORTNIGHTLY LETTER

Dr. Yung-ching Wei - Has just returned to Yenching after years of study in the United States. He describes vividly his first impression of life in Chengtu under wartime conditions.

July 18, 1944

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

It has been six weeks since I returned from the States. I arrived in Chengtu at the end of May. It took me five months to travel, but my journey was on the whole a pleasant one. Once we did expect some "excitement" when two submarines were spotted. However, we were safe and "disappointed."

Conditions have changed tremendously in the last four years during my absence. First of all I was really shocked by the sky high prices. While in Calcutta Prof. Chen of Nanking University, with whom I was traveling, once asked me if I had any Chinese money to pay porters and ricksha fare in Chungking. My answer was of course a negative one. He then with good intention offered his kind help and said that he had eight dollars (Chinese) and asked if I would like to take four. Fearing that he himself might get caught I declined his friendly offer with appreciation and gratitude. But good heavens! A porter alone at the airport charged me \$100. I tried to argue at the moment. However, I found out later that it wasn't so bad after all comparing with other prices.

Under the circumstance of "dynamic" changes of prices I have been wondering how our University keeps her budget in balance unless President Mei is a magician. It is still a mystery to me. For instance the price of rice which is under government control has been increased from 200 dollars in the past till June to 600 beginning in July. What a radical change it is. Of course this kind of change does not appear often.

In spite of living difficulties and suffering I found that the morale is still high; that people carry on their work with calm and patience; that the government is trying to do its best; that students have become more practical; and that the general public seems more interested in international relationships and cooperation. It takes time, but the situation is encouraging.

So much for the general conditions. Now I am going to tell you something about our University life. My first impression is that everybody is carrying a heavy load. I am deeply impressed by the spirit of devotion and cooperation among faculty members. Most administrative officers of the University under the capable leadership of Pres. Mei work long hours each day. Dr. Mei himself usually comes to office about 7:30 in the morning and spends most of his evenings in meetings. Everyone of them needs a short vacation, but God knows whether some of them could enjoy a luxurious rest.

The housing condition is simply terrible. The students' dormitory, a Temple of Confucius, is so crowded that they can hardly breathe. A room of 30 sq. ft. is accommodating 22 sleeping on double-decker beds. The girls' dormitory and faculty homes are a little better, but measuring by American standards, or comparing our Peiping campus, they look like gym. lockers indeed.

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Two weeks ago when I went to visit a faculty home I was certainly frightened by a notice put up at the gate. The words ran somewhat like this: "This elementary school has decided to move back here and will be open again in this house on July 15th etc..." This notice was put up by the principal of this Methodist school which had moved out of the city for air raid reason. The school house had been rented to us for faculty homes. The notice serves as a sort of ultimatum to threaten us to move before the dead line, July 15th. Our President's calm as well as good cheer in meeting problems like this are indeed remarkable. I was told that all negotiations with the Methodist school had failed and we simply have to search for places to accommodate the nine faculty members.

Food is another problem. Last month board cost each student \$700. This month it costs each \$1,200. How can students get enough money to pay this amount? Well, the way they take it and their courage, cheer, and patience to work their way through is admirable. Beside the scholarship help provided by the University and the Ministry of Education, almost every student does some sort of self help work: office assistants, tutorial work, teaching in nursery schools and summer schools, social service, rural educational work, canteens for both American and Chinese air forces, working on farms, etc. The war has been a great lesson to them. However, I hope it will not be too hard for them to take it.

From my observation, however subjective it may be, I notice that students have become more aware of vital social, political, and international problems. They are learning through hard ways. Academic clubs, though few in number, are very active. Outside speakers are often invited. Topics like democracy and the Chinese Constitution, The People and the Government, Wartime America, Wartime Mobilization in Britain, etc. are among the popular ones.

Wall literature is another interesting means through which students express themselves in writing. They have no money to print their articles, so they copy them on paper and post them on walls instead. I have seen three special numbers -- one on social problems, one on economic problems and the other on the visit of Mr. Wallace. They were issued by Sociology, Economic, and the Literature Digest clubs respectively. The Dramatic Club just gave a play in June in honor of the graduating class. It was well attended.

Concerning the University religious life, Mr. H. W. Robinson wrote a great deal in his letter dated May 31, 1944. However, I would like to give my impression on the baptismal service which was held on June 4th. It was early morning and the chapel was full and occupied by 80 student members of our Christian Fellowship. I was asked to preach the sermon and my topic was "Growth and Dedication." Five were baptized and afterwards the Christian small groups to which they belonged presented them with flowers and gifts. The warm welcome and hearty congratulations they received from the members were comforting and impressive -- something for them to remember.

Before closing I would like to say a few words regarding my work. Since I have had my vacation in the last few months on my way to China, I am going to work this whole summer. In the later part of July I may go away for two weeks to speak at two conferences. One is a student camp, the other a religious workers' conference. Next semester I shall be teaching two courses: social administration emphasizing young people's work and sociology of religion. Beside

As from
Yenching University
Cheng Tu, West China
August 16, 1944

Dear Friends,

This letter is headed with the usual address, but I am writing from a mountain resort three days' journey from Cheng Tu. I am 6000 feet up in the air, and I look out over a magnificent range which piles up higher and higher before the eye until it catches the glint of the snow-fields on the peaks which we call "The three sisters," and which are the beginning of the true Himalayas. The slopes of this mountain where the summer community lives, are covered with evergreens and great masses of hydrangea which bloom with a soft intense blue like that of a Maxfield Parrish painting; there are "Easter lilies" growing wild, and many other flowers. But most important of all is the mountain air, which is sweet and fresh, and cool, cool, cool. The torture of damp heat on the Cheng Tu plain is only a bad dream here, and there are about thirty of us missionaries who are predominantly thin, and wrinkled and yellow-faced and gray-haired, and then a varying number of our boys who are just out of hospital or suffering from one result or another of their service, but who are predominantly fresh and humorous (if not too homesick) and whose hair has not yet acquired those "mournful messengers of grey."

Now, wouldn't you wonder how missionaries get along with G.I.s? From the missionary side I can bear witness in good United States that we get along just swell. The boys were rather doubtful about whether they could possibly stand the strain; as one of them confided to me, "We didn't know what to do about you-- how to take you folks." But that was a boy suffering from nervous shock, and he was made welcome in a family where there were two children, six and eight years old, the prettiest little girls you ever saw; and I think that family has greatly eased the malady of that troubled boy.

At the moment I am writing on the porch of our "Home for Single Ladies" built by the Methodist Mission, and hospitable to some of us who are not Methodists. We have the community library here, and two of the boys have wandered up to draw books and have remained for conversation. One good Methodist woman is telling them how in her school the girls sleep in "double triple-decker beds," in rooms so small that they cannot all get out of bed at once because there is not room enough for them to "put their feet down" simultaneously; and the boys are telling her how they can't stand fried eggs when the mess boy uses unrefined rape seed oil in the cooking. We have also seen two planes which our guests have pronounced to be harmless, and we have told the story of the bombing of Cheng Tu four years ago. So, you see, we find some points in common, and while there may be headaches on the score of discipline in some places invaded by our compatriots, we know nothing about such things here.

This is my first vacation in three years, and one pleasant thing about it is that I can get a few letters written. I have decided to be influenced by the holiday atmosphere, and make this letter a presentation of "the missionary at home." Usually, of course, one is expected to tell about "the missionary at work," and until now that has been all one could do in connection with

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American Board people in West China, because for some time we didn't have any home. But this spring we acquired a residence on the campus, and I think perhaps you would like to know what it is like and how we live in it.

The house is a comfortable square one standing among green lawns and great trees, and directly opposite the spot where a house was bombed to bits in 1941. Since we live in refugee conditions we do not occupy the whole of it. There are three rooms on the ground floor which have been turned into a flat for a student in West China University. His papa is an important personage with more money than is good for said son, and so the latter began to worry papa with prodigal practices. Therefore papa demanded that the marriage which he had arranged when son was five or six, should immediately take place; and papa brought pressure to bear upon son's University to furnish a place where son could remain at home with his pretty bride. The Methodist Mission was in turn pressed to receive the young couple in this house and allow a kitchen and servants' quarters to be constructed in the back garden. All of which was done; there is now a most delightful baby in the flat, and its parents give pleasant little parties to their friends, and I assume that son has settled into the desired domesticity. Of course, it does occur to the crude mind of a refugee, that there are several members of the West China faculty who live in conditions fit to drive them to drink; and whether it is strictly ethical for a professor to be driven to drink in order that gilded youth may be rescued from the same, is a question I leave to those more concerned to work out. Anyhow this is education in Szechuan.

But when the Prodigal's flat has been deducted, it leaves on the ground floor a living room, dining room, hall and kitchen, which have accommodated the Community Thanksgivings--people squeezed in very tight. Upstairs there are four chambers and a bathroom (but no plumbing; plumbing is "not done" in Cheng Tu)-- and a porch running all the way around. Now, since our Mission already has Harold Robinson, Albert Hausske, Ruth Van Kirk, and myself at work here, you might feel that here we have a room apiece and that newcomers like Alice Reed, Margaret Dow and Helen Smith, with Jim Hunter on a visit from Si An might have difficulty in finding accommodation with us. But how little you know! For in addition to the American Board folk already enumerated we have in our midst the Lapwood family, Father-Ralph, Mother-Nancy, and Child-Peter, aged 18 months. Father Ralph is Dean of Science and Professor of Mathematics in Yenching, and he and Nancy are English Congregationalists, and members of the London Mission. They share expenses with us and have the "Master bedroom" with Peter on the porch outside their windows. It was my idea to get Nancy to say she would "housekeep" for the lot of us; she is that pattern of virtue "which looketh well to the ways of her household." What that involves when every drop of oil and crumb of bread, and grain of sugar and salt is worth dollars, you may imagine. We ABers are devoted to the whole family and find ourselves a most congenial household.

As I said, the Lapwoods have the front bedroom; then on one side of the house we have a men's dormitory consisting of a commodious sleeping porch which can house three missionaries and three G.Is

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simultaneously, a portion of back porch converted into a men's dressing room, and a chamber which does duty as study for the two men who are here all the time. On the other side of the house we have a women's dormitory like the men's, with a chamber which I use for my studying, etc, and a wash room where all the inhabitants of the women's sleeping porch can hang their towels and powder their noses; and then behind that is the chamber we call the guest room which we keep busy in a number of ways.

This all makes possible a very elastic use of the house. Let me hark back to a week in June before I came here, also before Alice and Margaret arrived, and give you a notion of what was going on in our midst. Each section of our household, single men, single women, and married couples had a program which was proceeding at the same time with all the rest. To itemize:

Single men: Albert Hausske was suffering from a cracked ankle and an attack of dysentery and was in bed in the men's suite. (One reason why I am so thankful to have this house is that now American Boarders can be ill on their own premises!) Harold Robinson was entertaining a chaplain and two G. Is in the spare cots, but as these guests were not around very much except when asleep they did not disturb Albert too much.

Married Couple: The Lapwoods were having an Oxford Group Houseparty. This meant that thirty Yenching students had brought mattresses and nets and were sleeping in our basement, and eating on the downstairs front porch. They had their parties and meetings in the living room and dining room. In one corner of the porch was a young couple who have been working in the Chinese Industrial Co-operatives (the wife is a Yenching graduate) under such conditions that they were emaciated and exhausted, and needed a place to recuperate. Therefore, curtains were hung up and cots provided, and these two were resting and eating themselves back to normal condition.

Single women: I was getting over an infection which had laid me low before the houseparty began, but which, thanks to the new sulpha drugs, cleared up rapidly. The beds on my porch were occupied on different nights, by different members of our Yenching faculty. One night it was the young Dean of Women who had got worn to sleeplessness and came for a respite from dormitory responsibility. Another night it was an attractive teacher with a "date." I could give her a place to dress for a campus function and a latchkey to use, which obviates embarrassing situations in the girls' dormitory where she lives, where young undergraduates are not encouraged to be out late. Another night it was a newly-arrived assistant who has found refugee living very rough after being the spoiled darling of a wealthy Hongkong family.

During this week, the guest room was occupied by my great friend Winifred Galbraith, who is a YWCA secretary and constantly travelling, which in China means being in constant jeopardy and never getting proper food and rest. Winifred is the author of a book called The Chinese which is the best general account for newcomers to this country which we know, and which has gone into a Penguin edition which we are giving to such men in the forces as care to read about the strange environment in which they find themselves. Her presence in the house for a week was the greatest delight which I have had in many a long day, and we talked and read together

undisturbed by all the other things which were happening in the house.

So, you see, three programmes were running along all together, and wonderful Nancy kept everything going smoothly. All those who were not in the Group meetings met at meals over the long table which was generally set for ten or twelve and Albert had his upstairs; and though the thirty Oxford Groupers ate food sent out from their school kitchen, I felt that we observed the Biblical injunction to be "given to hospitality."

Since I came up here, Margaret Dow and Alice Reed have arrived and Jim Hunter has returned from the hospital where he went for a check-up. I learned this from Helen Smith of Fukien who has just come refugeeing to Szechuan. She says Margaret was nearly dead when she arrived and I can well believe it. It has taken her and Alice Reed almost a year to make the journey from America. I suppose you all know of the tragic loss to them and to us in India. Mary McClure is missed by us all; but I suppose she is most deeply mourned by the Chinese refugees from Shansi who were awaiting her with an affection which was most moving.

But to return to Cheng Tu. There are at present in our house six American Board people, and Nancy writes, three G. Is who have their scanty time for leave to spend on the campus; and in the guest room Mrs. L. and her five weeks old baby. Mrs. L. is one of our Yenching staff, and she and her husband manage very well in two tiny rooms under a low roof in the cool weather. But the place in summer is a furnace, so Nancy invited Mrs. L. to come to us directly from the hospital after the baby's birth and stay until cool weather begins. Nancy is supposed to be taking a little rest because Peter is going to have a small brother or sister early in September. But even so, Nancy has two Yenching students from the Home Economics Department conducting a Nursery School for the children of servants in our compound, and this goes on in the house when it's too hot or rains-- on the lawn when the weather is favorable and inculcates many hygienic habits as well as gives fourteen small Celestials the time of their lives, to the relief of over-burdened mothers.

Perhaps I have chattered enough about the American Board at home. There is, in our midst a thankfulness, a harmony in our relationships, an eagerness to share in every way we can our benefits with those who need them, which is unique in my missionary experience in China. And that will be twenty-five years in September.

With warmest greetings to you all, I am

Yours very cordially,

/s/ Grace M. Boynton

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August 17, 1944

BIWEEKLY LETTER SERIES NO. 12 - TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF YENCHING

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Registration for entrance examinations was not as big as we had expected. We have too high a standard for the Szechuanese. Being one of those who had to do the reading of the papers, I was rather glad. Although over 500 had paid registration fees, it had dwindled to 377 by the time we had the English exam, the last of eight subjects examined. This was here in Chengtu. We had sent out 200 papers to accredited schools in May, but because of the fighting both in the North and South we got only 74 back. There are still about 300 to come from Chungking. I've been waiting for them to come. I want to go to O-Mei and here I am, stuck. The exams were taken on the 24th and 25th of July and you'd think there'd been time for them to go to Peiping and back. Oh well, such is life!

However, several of the staff members have come from their vacations. Agnes Chien and Kuang Jui Fang have come back from O-Mei. Although they were sick on the trip, they strongly advise me to go. So far I've only met one woman, a Yenching graduate too, who did not think much of the old mountain. Lu Hui ching, Wu Pei Ch'i and Chou Ch'i Hsing have come back from their camp. The Meis came back some time ago from Peiluting. There is still Miss Boynton to come back from Peiluting. Ralph Lapwood is still there, but he has been only gone a few weeks. Miss Van Kirk is at K'uan Hsien. Hilde Kiang and Pauline Chang are still away. In other words everybody except the English department is back. I may forsake the fort and go away too. There is barely time to make the trip and be back for registration.

The most pressing of our problems now is the housing of the faculty members that are in the Primary School next door. When we didn't show any signs of moving out, they nailed down the toilets, then they pulled down the kitchens. They began to grind an organ all day and all night. They left all the lights on. We have to pay the bills. Today the children have come for their entrance exams. Maybe we'll have to move out. I don't know if the administration has found any houses or not. I'll let the next writer continue the sequel.

It's autumn now, in case you've forgotten the Lunar Calendar, and the weather is quite comfortable. I must say it wasn't bad at all, considering that we live in an attic, shut in by tin roofs on all sides. We hear Chungking was horrid and we take comfort in that, I mean, we felt much less hot. Chengtu ought to be rich. There's no better climate for crops. It rains every night and shines every day. We are expecting a big harvest this fall. This however, hits us hard. Let me try to explain this to you. We are paid according to an index number made of prices of certain things. I don't know how that number is reached. The index number for last month was 26 something. I am sure it does not mean that prices are only 26 times higher than pre-war days. One of the main things that make up the number, however, is rice. A good harvest then means a lower index number, yet nothing else has gone down at all. For instance, in March rice per t'ao was 650 and pork was 60 dollars per cattie. Then rice went up to 1500 in May, pork went to 120. Now rice is 750 and pork is 130. Another hitch is that we are partly paid in rice subsidy which is sufficient for our needs; for us singles we have some left for exchange of other things. That means we lose both ways. I am sure this is all very puzzling to you. It is to me too. But we live! Don't worry.

However, we are all for a speedy victory!

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Chou Kuo Ping

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Copy

August 21, 1944

A Footnote to the Yenching Biweekly Letter Series

1943 - 1944

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

With this note we are sending you letter No. 12 by Miss Chou Kueping in this series. We thought we might close the series for this school year with the round dozen. The Biweekly Letter Series from Chengtu was inspired by the news of the repatriation of the large group of our colleagues in Wei Hsien last fall, and No. 1 in the series was dated Nov. 22.

We shall probably start another series for the next school year after the opening of the semester. We are more or less wondering, however, whether these letters have served their purposes as well as we intended. High postage and irregular mailing service have not encouraged people to be diligent in their personal correspondence. It was hoped that this series of letters by various members of the University will give friends and colleagues of the University abroad some side light on the University situation, a more rounded idea of the University in Chengtu - both in addition to official reports by the University officers - as well as some personal gossip. Now that we have experimented with the project for nearly a year and are about to start on a second series, we would be happy if you will give us your comments and reactions as to how the thing might be done to be more worthy of the effort and postage spent.

Wishing you all another pleasant and profitable year of work and hoping to see you all in Peking in another year's time,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Y. P. Mei

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YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU, CHINA

FORTNIGHTLY LETTER

Miss Grace M. Boynton - who needs no introduction

October 16, 1944

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

The bi-weekly letters are beginning again, by which we try to keep you in touch with affairs in our refugee incarnation of the Yenching which you knew. We heard from Mary Brandt Wang in India that she had received Ralph Lapwood's account of us, written sometime last spring and sent her by the New York Office; and she promptly wrote "over the Hump" to ask for more news. Her husband is stationed in a hospital which has both American and Chinese army personnel, and Mary and her two children live near by and are well and happy after serious experiences before they reached India.

I did not mean to start out with personal items, which should come, of course, rather apologetically included in the rear of solemnly important subjects such as Registration, statistics, additions to staff, the Ten Million Dollar Campaign fund, etc. etc. But I have a rather scrappy style of thinking and writing which insists upon being anecdotal - tsei pu chi!

Perhaps I will begin by mentioning a few of the Yenching vacation activities. Lin Yueh Hua and Jao Yu Su had a small daughter born to them in June; and as soon as mother and daughter were getting on comfortably, papa dashed off to measure skulls in Tibet - which it seems was expected of him by some Foundation or other. He is just back, very tanned and fit, and is sending imposing academic monographs to his friends all about profound anthropological matters. Ralph Lapwood organized a tramping trip into the mountains which lie to the west of Chengtu, and came back with a correct map of the region, which had been done only sketchily and with some inaccuracies before. He and Dr. Whittington of Ginling College also collected fossils which are of great interest; Dr. Whittington being geologist, science will benefit from this vacation excursion. There are probably other activities of interest to report for the Yenching summer but I mention these^{as} an indication that even in vacation hours something is being accomplished.

There was a gratifying enrollment for our entrance examinations, and we were pleased to find a good number of mature students wishing to transfer to Yenching. Registration for the fall semester had to be held open until Oct. 10 in order to give students a chance to manage transportation. On account of the Japanese drive, trucks were taken from this region and sent down to Kweilin to facilitate refugeeing - China's weary old problem. Therefore students were massed in Chungking and Chiating with no way to proceed to Chengtu. Just one of those things! But now we have closed our lists with a total of 377.

No sooner had students reached us than most of the faculty in Sociology and Home Economics streamed over to Chungking to attend a Conference on Child Welfare. From all I can gather, the Conference was really a Yenching get-together. Six out of eight papers were read by ourselves, and one-third of those attending were our graduates! It seems we must count for something in the future of Chinese children.

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But dear me! I should have proceeded from Registration to New Arrivals and will hastily resume the proper theme of a biweekly communication.

We have a new set-up in the Registrar's Office, and great improvement in its functioning. We have been desperate for a Registrar and last summer we heard that Jen Yung-kang (Yenching 1936) was in Sian. We telegraphed him to come, and he picked up his family and came without ifs, ands, or buts. I feel very proud (and also somewhat mystified) that Western Language Training should produce a successful Registrar, but it seems to be true that in this refugee world wonders will never cease!

As we met for our first FEC there was a bustle at the door and Cheng Lin-chuang ushered in Dr. Hsu Yung-shun just back from the States. It is most fortunate that he has arrived, since Dean Redfield of the University of Chicago is due to spend some time in West China looking into the fields of Social Science, and Hsu Yung-shun is to accompany him in his investigation.

I think in mentioning additions to our community we should not leave out the babies born to Yenching families. Dr. Ch'en Shang-yi has a son, his fifth child. I have already mentioned Dr. Lin's little girl. We have been greatly distressed about the child who developed an ugly case of blood poisoning necessitating two operations. The little thing's life was probably saved by the penicillin used for her, and this was brought as a gift from the American people by Vice-President Wallace when he was here and left with the hospital where the baby was cared for. We hope she is now out of danger.

I should next report on the Ten Million Dollar Fund. A great deal of it has been promised and some of it actually paid in. Statistics never were my strong point but I'll get Hsiung Te Yuan to tell you the facts in a postscript. What has interested me has been little things like these:

Our Librarian, Liang Szu-chuang, whom we know as "Florence", has, as most of you remember, a little daughter whose pet name is Boo-Boo. She came from the north with her mother and the two have felt the pinch of life in West China, to the full. When Boo-Boo heard about the campaign she approached the collector with one hundred dollars which she proposed to contribute. The collector was a little shy of taking that amount from a child and suggested that she first ask her mother. But Boo-Boo was insulted. "This", said she "is my own money, and I wish to give it to Yenching and my mother has nothing to say."

One of the servants insisted upon contributing fifty dollars, and other servants have also come with their touching screws of grimy paper dollars. All of which seems as important to me as the news that Dr. McCaughey of the UCR has expressed approval of an institution which can help itself in the midst of the present stress.

My final item must be the visit of Mrs. W. T. Wu, whom most of us knew as Hsieh Wan Ying. She had an opportunity to come from Chungking in Dr. Balfour's private car (Dr. Balfour is the Rockefeller Foundation man) and as I have been begging for a visit ever since I last saw her which was in 1941, she packed a bag and came almost without notice. She stayed with me, and I was able to talk with her late at night and early in the mornings, but the rest of the time she was busy

October 16, 1944

with the renewal of old friendships and with establishing contacts with the new body of students to whom she has been hitherto only a name. (In this connection she was much amused to receive an invitation begging Mrs. W. T. Wu to come to the University welcome party for Miss Hsieh Ping Hsin!) It warmed our hearts to have her with us.

With cordial greetings to all of you, I am

Yours very loyally,

/s/ Grace M. Boynton

P.S.

TEN MILLION ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

I. HISTORICAL FACTS:

It was started in March of this year by the alumni in different large centers including Chengtu, Chungking, Kunming, Kueilin, Kueiyang, Lanchow, Sian, and other places in various provinces. Previously it was hoped to be through at the beginning of this semester, but owing to the fact that the communications during war time have been so difficult, it is going to be extended to the end of the year.

II. STATISTICS:

The amounts that we have already received up to the 20th of Oct. 1944 are as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Chungking ----- | ¥5,048,950 |
| 2. Chengtu ----- | 2,414,900 |
| 3. Other places ----- | 129,300 |
| | <u>7,593,150</u> |
| Interest in addition ----- | 1,474,000 |
| Total | <u>9,067,150</u> |

III. PROSPECTS:

It was learned that this campaign has been started in many places, and certain amounts have already been raised. The balance of about one million will be easily made up. Recently Dr. Mei, the acting President, has started his visits to different centers to help our alumni there in promoting and pushing the campaign as far as possible. Now he is down at Lanchow and from his telegram recently we learned that the prospect there is very good. We believe that our campaign will be a very successful one indeed.

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YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU, CHINA

FORTNIGHTLY LETTER

Dr. Shang-yi Ch'en -- Chairman of the Department of Physics; giving part time in the office of the Dean of Studies during Han Ching-lien's illness.

November 6, 1944

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

The weather at this time of the year in Chengtu is usually cool, damp and short of sunshine. Quite a number of people catch colds and have coughs. For this reason I am generously allowed to change this biweekly to a triweekly letter for the time being.

Before I wrote this one, I read the preceding one by Miss Boynton. Her letter is so interesting and newsy that I feel that there is nothing more for me to tell. All I can do is to add one more sentence to the third paragraph on the second page of her letter, that a baby girl, named Joan, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Lapwood in September. Dr. Mei flew to Lanchow in the middle of September for the 10 million endowment campaign. He is going to come back within a few days. The result is very fruitful and two million dollars will be raised as said in his recent letters from Lanchow.

A joint meeting of the ten science societies in China - Mathematics, Physics, Geography, Zoology, Botany, Genetics, Physiology, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Psychology - was held in Chengtu from Nov. 4th to 6th. There were about 350 people who attended. We had three discussion meetings on the practical problems related to science and the present day China, some public lectures, and the reading of scientific articles. Yenching had seven papers in Physics, seven in Biology and one in Chemistry to read before the meeting.

During these few weeks the professors and the members of both the FEC and the University Council are confronted by the problem "who should be sent as Yenching professor to lecture in America, as invited by the American Embassy." Both the FEC and the Council are considering the problem quite seriously.

Professor Wu Mi arrived in Yenching Oct. 26th. He is a well-known man of literature, and used to teach in National South-West Union University in Kunming. His coming to lecture in Yenching for this academic year is certainly an honor to Yenching.

Vice-President Wallace gave Yenching 60 gms of Vitamin B when he was visiting Chengtu. It has been made into tablets enabling 133 weak persons to take it. We certainly are very grateful for it. Somebody asked what kind of vitamin we need the most. I answered "Vitamin M". With Vitamin M - money - we can get everything we need.

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November 6, 1944

In conclusion, I am glad to tell you that my paper entitled "New Absorption Band of Alkalis in the Presence of Foreign Gases" has just appeared in Physical Review Vol. 65, June 1944, through the kindness of the International Cultural Service and the Division of Cultural Cooperation of the Department of State, Washington, D.C. The article gives a successful explanation of the phenomenon I discovered in the summer of 1936, and studied throughout the following six years. This article was written in memory of my mother who died in the Spring of 1943, about one week after I left her for Chengtu!

With Christmas greetings and a happier new year,

Yours very sincerely,

/s/ Shang-yi Ch'en

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YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU, CHINA

FORTNIGHTLY LETTER

Dr. Y. P. Mei -- Acting President of the University.

November 15, 1944

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

I have played the truant and have been away from my desk for over seven weeks. When I returned to the University a few days ago, I found everything in running order; even the Biweekly Letter Series had been launched with remarkable promptitude and regularity. I like to contribute my share to the series with a few reports and impressions gathered on my travel.

I left the University on September 15. This is the fourth time I have left Chengtu for Chungking since January, but this time Mrs. Mei (V. K. to some of you) was with me. A National Conference of Child Welfare Workers was called to meet at Chungking at that time. Dr. Chen Wen-hsien of Nanking University and Mrs. Wu Kao-tze (Kao Chun-cheh) of the Chengtu Child Welfare Committee, both Yenching Alumnae well-known to a number of you, were on the same postal truck, Mrs. Cheng Lin-chuang (Jui-wu) of Yenching Sociology Department having left earlier. Although I was not a member of this Conference, my date-book for those first ten days in Chungking was heavily filled with parties and meals in connection with the Conference. So many of the ladies attending the Conference were Yenching Alumnae that we had carefully to avoid mentioning the institution in conversations and at round tables to avoid our own embarrassment and possible misunderstanding on the part of others.

I had three weeks in Chungking before taking the plane for Lanchow. During that time, Mr. Edwards, Field Director of UCR left for America, Congress-man, Walter Judd came and went, and Dr. McConaughy, President of UCR, returned to America after a visit of Chengtu. Dr. Judd and I played hide and seek with each other and missed seeing each other, but I did have the privilege of a good talk with President McConaughy.

The main purpose of my trip this time is to help the Lanchow Alumni with the Campaign there. At present the airline runs between Lanchow and Chungking only. And so one has to go to Chungking from Chengtu in order to get to Lanchow. This is both the shorter way in time and cheaper way in money. And therefore you have to pull a lot of wires before you can get a ride on a plane. At last I was able to get on the plane for Lanchow on October 11 and returned to Chungking on October 31. The three weeks in Lanchow was a real "change" in many ways. It almost felt like home-coming to me.

The Lanchow climate is glorious as ever. When it is cloudy you really see clouds, white, gray, golden and crimson; when there is sunshine you feel the warmth and you see the azure sky. To help you really share my feeling of exhilaration as soon as I landed in the Lanchow airfield I have to take you back somewhat and say a word about the climate in Chungking during those three weeks of my stay. We ran into an Indian summer which lasted relentlessly a whole week. Room temperature was 95° F. It was right towards the end of September or, in terms of the lunar calendar, right up to the eve of the Mid-Autumn Festival, mind you. Just before the festival day, the

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FORTNIGHTLY LETTER

weather man changed his mind. A breeze and a sprinkle developed into a storm. There was a drop of nearly 30 degrees in less than that many hours. Since then it was the rains, rains day and night, rains light and heavy, but the rains eternal. My plane for Lanchow was scheduled for October 10. We were told to get down to the airdrome before six a. m. and that means getting up at three and managing to walk the two miles of muddy paths and hundreds of slippery stone steps long before daylight. At the airdrome we were weighed, registered and examined, and after a wait of over one hour, were told to go home because of bad weather and to come again the following morning and see. It was so disgusting and difficult that I decided not to try any more if they had to cancel the trip the following morning again. The following morning it was the same mud and rain but, believe it or not, the plane took off and landed us in three and a half hours in Lanchow, and in beautiful sunshine. Three weeks later this story was reversed, from Lanchow sunshine to Chungking fog and rain, like running a movie film backwards. When I expressed my surprise and disgust that Chungking should have rain again upon my return, my friends indulgently corrected my mistake, and assured me that it was still the same old rain in which I had gone and to which I simply returned.

It was in the spring of 1940 that I left Lanchow after a sojourn of two years. The four and a half years since then have seen many changes in Lanchow and in the Northwest. Sinkiang, for instance, is now much more accessible to outsiders and much more a part of the Central Government than in any time since the Revolution. At least two Yenching alumni have recently gone to Sinkiang to teach, and others are maneuvering. In Lanchow I met at least half dozen people who had just returned from a visit of the Tung-Huang caves and the Shih Men oil wells. Lanchow itself presents an entirely new appearance. An energetic mayor has widened the streets, built parks, and developed suburbs. Walking on the streets, I had the feeling of meeting an old acquaintance after long years of separation. The side alleys, however, remain very much the same, and the local people - the way they vendor their wares, sweep the floor, quarrel on the streets - seem to be totally unaffected by this modernizing influence.

Of course, many more organizations, agencies and people have come from the outside. George Fitch is now stationed in Lanchow as regional secretary of the YMCA National Committee. Rewi Alley has been spending more time in Lanchow lately than in any other one place. The present American Consul at Lanchow is Mr. Stephens. The Northwest Normal College, formerly Normal University of Peiping, has recently moved to Lanchow from Southern Shensi and is about the best education center in that region. It gladdens one's heart to watch all this new prosperity and tempo in an old and all but motionless city like Lanchow. However, one cannot help wondering as to how many of the people and how much of the work now swarming and crowding themselves in Lanchow will still be found there, say, one year after the conclusion of the war. Real reconstruction of China's Northwest requires time, and therefore devotion, and perseverance, qualities that must come from an inner realization rather than exigencies and circumstances of the moment. If the Yenching community does really represent to any degree the spirit of Christianity, of the Christian missionary, and of the American pioneer, do we not really have a challenge in our educational program as we look out on the future of China's great Northwest, the front gate of the country, as Vice-president Wallace put it?

Price level is still considerably lower than in Chengtu or Chungking. The following table might give you some idea:

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| | <u>Lanchow</u> | <u>Chungking</u> | <u>Chengtu</u> |
|---|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 Egg | \$ 5.00 | \$ 13.00 | \$ 25.00 |
| 1 Catty of Pork | 70.00 | 140.00 | 140.00 |
| 1 Chicken (average $3\frac{1}{2}$ catties) | 200.00 | 600.00 | 700.00 |
| 1 Catty of Flour | 13.00 | 45.00 | 60.00 |
| 1 Catty of Rice | 30.00 | 35.00 | 40.00 |
| Haircut | 60.00 | 80.00 | 120.00 |

From the above table, it seems I am interested in food and hair-cut only. But actually that is about all we folks can be concerned with now. The Chengtu Universities' faculties are at present assured of something like 6-7% of their pre-war buying power. Even that is taxing our treasuries to an embarrassing extent. Our Joint Treasurer threatens to come off the present basis of payment which will further reduce the buying power of the faculties. I myself would rather see staff cut down or institution closed than members of faculty of Christian colleges suffer further sacrifices and indignities.

There is a handful of Yenching alumni in Lanchow, but they are all active, loyal and picked men. Wang Ssu-yi (Mathematics '29) is associate manager of the Central Bank. Yang Yi-hsiang (Political Science '32?) is associate director of the salt administration. Chang Kuan-lien (Psychology '34?) is still going strong with the Kansu CIC. These and several others worked with me very intimately and hard during the three weeks I was there on the Campaign. Fang Ch'un graduated from Chengtu only in the winter of 1944 and is now on the staff of the Poohsing International Trading Corporation. He called early Sunday morning, as his office is far away and Sunday is his only free time. He said a few brief but very touching words to me about his experiences since leaving the University and what he now thinks of his Alma Mater. As he was talking, his hand clumsily reached into his pocket and finally produced an envelope. It contained \$4,000 our first cash income in the Lanchow campaign, and the boy's whole month salary. I learned later from his superior that he had to arrange for delayed payment of his board in order to be able to make this contribution to his Alma Mater. Contributions of hundreds of thousands of dollars are very welcome to a financial campaign, but it is contributions with a sentiment such as this one that really gives one the kick and keeps one at it.

On the whole I had three weeks of good time in Lanchow - dinners, parties, calls, speech-making, bridge, theater kept me going the whole time. The local alumni thought that was the way to bring in the cash. Apparently it was. Result: \$3,000,000 (This puts the campaign over the top)!

Just one additional word to tell you that the faculty by an overwhelming majority vote has just elected me as their representative to go to America on a lecture tour as guest of the U. S. State Department. While I appreciate the honor and confidence the faculty has bestowed upon me by this vote, it has caused me sleepless nights as I try to decide what to do in Chengtu and what to do in America, when to do it and to finish doing it. Shall be seeing you soon - hope all of you - possibly before this gossipy letter reaches you.

With best wishes to you all,

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Y. P. Mei

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Cummings

YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU, CHINA

FORTNIGHTLY LETTER

Miss Ch'en Fang-chih (Agnes) -- A.B. Yenching 1935 and completed graduate courses at Bryn Mawr in 1939; is a member of the Department of Political Science and was Acting Dean of the Women's College last year.

November 30, 1944

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

For the past two weeks Yenching and all other colleges and high schools in Free China have been gripped in a spirit of exaltation by the Enlistment Movement. The Government calls for voluntary recruits from among China's educated youth, and the zeal with which the students rally to the colors seems to reach radium intensity. Thousands have been accepted as Expeditionary Forces which will be trained in India and will serve on the Burma Front. One hundred thousand will receive training within the country for services on local fronts.

When the movement was first launched in Yenching, the students were cautious and hesitant. But after exchanging views with members of the faculty which as a whole spurred them on to duty and service, their doubt vanished, and they enlisted with great enthusiasm. 79 boys and girls have been accepted: 66 for the army, or as auxiliaries, 3 for the Burma Expeditionary Force, 9 for the air force, and 1 for the navy. The air force group is a special pride to Yenching since out of hundreds of applicants from the nine universities only 30 qualify. The single-ton navy boy seems to need a little explanation. The navy enlistment has never been an open affair. The boy merely slipped away to Chungking and wrote back to report about it after he was in. And please don't tease us about training a navy on the Yangtze River. The U.S. Navy has kindly offered to train our personnel on the Pacific Ocean. Six members of the faculty have also decided to join the army, including Chou Chi-hsin. The others are all now assistants or clerks.

With so many students gone or going away, and in order to meet wartime needs, it is inevitable that our curriculum system will have to be radically reorganized. Upon this task the nine universities in Chengtu are working in collaboration. Already a first-aid and nursing course, chiefly undertaken by the P.U.M.C. Nursing School is open to the students. Another on military English will follow soon. All faculty members have been asked to submit a list of courses they can offer related to the War.

The chilly weather of early winter is setting in. The faculty members offer a poor health record: 2 cases of pneumonia, 1 bronchitis, 1 stomach operation (still critical after two weeks), 1 serious eye-trouble, 1 malaria, and numerous colds and minor diseases. Still, happy are we, and gladly we strive, so long as Yenching will stand as a symbol and an ideal.

With Christmas and New Year greetings to all,

Yours sincerely,

Ch'en Fang-chih

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YENCHING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN THE U.S.A.

December 8, 1944

Y. P. Mei

Fellow Alumni, Former Faculty Members and Friends of Yenching:

A letter has been received from Dr. Y. P. Mei, Acting President of Yenching University, appealing to the Yenching Alumni Association in USA to raise NC\$500,000 in connection with Yenching's NC\$10,000,000 Campaign, now in full swing in Free China. A similar letter has also been received from Mr. Wei Yung-ch'ing, former National Secretary of the Yenching Alumni Association in USA, and now on the faculty of Yenching in Chengtu.

At a meeting of officers of the National Chapter and New York Chapter of the Yenching Alumni Association in USA on November 25, it was decided, in the light of Dr. Mei's and Mr. Wei's letters, that the Scholarship Fund originally sponsored by the Yenching Alumni Association in USA be merged with the NC\$10,000,000 Campaign Fund--the original Scholarship Fund campaign was announced in a circular letter sent out by the Association on June 23, 1944. It was further decided that a fresh appeal be sent to all alumni and former faculty members for contributions to help meet the quota.

To date, the National Treasurer has received contributions amounting to US \$259.00. This means that at least US\$1,700 has yet to be raised.

To expedite fund raising in this country, it was decided that the following be invited by the National Association to take charge of the campaign in their respective localities: San Francisco--Miss Hsu Ching-yi and Mr. Winborne Lo; Los Angeles--Mr. Benjamin Soong; Ann Arbor--Miss Shen Yao; Chicago--Miss Lu Yi-chuang; Washington, D. C.--Mr. Charles Lo and Miss Lois Ing; Boston--Mrs. K. S. Wang, Miss Tan Pin-pin and Mrs. P. M. Ku; New Orleans--Mrs. G. H. Wang; New Haven--Miss Tang Wen-shun; Honolulu--Mr. Philip Ho; Cleveland--Mr. Lin Cho-yuan; and Philadelphia--Mr. Feng Chao-t'ang.

A similar Committee was formed for New York with Miss Lucy Tou as Chairman and the following as Members: Mr. and Mrs. Joe K. Chen, Miss Grace Chao, Dr. Hsia Yun, Mr. Chou Shun-hsin, Miss Chang Shu-yi, Mr. I. C. Sung, Mr. Chen Chin-miao, and Mr. George Kao. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chiang, respectively Secretary and Treasurer of the New York chapter, and the National Treasurer and National Secretary are ex-officio members.

To ensure the success of the campaign, it was thought advisable that the appeal for contributions be not confined to alumni alone, but also be extended to former faculty members and friends of alumni. Donations should be sent to the National Treasurer, Mrs. C. H. Yung, 160 Claremont Avenue, Apt. 3A, New York 27, N. Y. Mrs. Yung will forward same to the Yenching Office which will issue official receipts.

It is earnestly hoped that upon receiving this letter, those who have not sent in their contributions thus far will do so immediately while those who have already donated are urged to make additional donations. Enclosed are copies of letters from Dr. Mei and Mr. Wei which will give us an idea of the hardships the faculty and student body of Yenching are going through in Chengtu--the situation undoubtedly has been greatly aggravated in the face of the military crisis in China.

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(COPY OF LETTER FROM ACTING PRESIDENT Y. P. MEI OF YENCHING
TO T. C. T'ANG, NATIONAL SECRETARY OF YENCHING ALUMNI ASSO-
CIATION IN U. S. A., DATED SEPT. 11, 1944)

Your cable of Aug. 29 reached me about a week ago. It is certainly very heartening to get the news of your party with Dr. Kung and of the opinions of such people like Mr. Henry Luce. This is the first day of class work for the new academic year, the University's third in Chengtu, and according to the usual practice in Peking the faculty held its Preseasonal Conference last Saturday. Your cable was read to the gathering. The faculty appreciated the kind greeting sent them by the Alumni Association in America, and would like to reciprocate by sending through you to the whole Alumni group their kindest regards.

The University is going quite well considering the circumstances we work under. Of course there have been difficulties and disappointments. But on the whole I think we may truthfully apply to Yenching in Chengtu the apt phrase that Churchill used in referring to the British Armed Forces, "They accomplished so much with so little." The \$10,000,000 Campaign has been coming very nicely. After 6 months' work and in spite of disturbances in several centers due to recent fighting, we have now in hand over \$8,000,000. It seems so possible and feels so tantalizing to reach our final goal, that I have decided to spend the next 4 or 6 weeks on Campaign travel again.

Our aim is to be able to announce on the Anniversary Day, Dec. 8, that we have fully reached the goal of our \$10,000,000 Campaign. To be able to do that we have yet to put in a good deal of hard work. I am writing to turn to the Alumni Association in U.S.A. for help. We understand that the National War Fund and the U.C.R. place many restrictions, but we are not trying to approach the American public in general for this campaign. It is mainly a China Alumni effort. But we believe that the Alumni in U.S.A. are free to contribute without infringing on those restrictions and may even wish to have a share in the effort of their schoolmates in China who live under much more difficult financial conditions.

The present exchange the University can get is 115:1 and it is still on the up grade. Therefore a few thousand dollars, for instance, would go a long way towards our needs. Nothing would give us more encouragement and happiness than a cable from the U.S.A. Alumni Association before Dec. 8 to announce to us that you are making a gift of, say, half a million Chinese dollars towards the Campaign. I know this will take work and effort on the part of yourself and all Alumni. But isn't it worth trying though? Be sure to send the gift in U.S. currency through our New York office to us.....

With best wishes to you and all members of the Alumni Association,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Y. P. Mei

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(COPY OF LETTER FROM WEI YUNG-CH'ING, FORMER NATIONAL SECRETARY OF YENCHING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN U. S. A. AND NOW WITH THE YENCHING FACULTY IN CHENGTU, TO T. C. T'ANG)

September 23, 1944

....I found life here is very hard for our students. Housing situation is really the worst. Office spaces are more than inadequate. Yet the boys' dormitory, which is a Confucius Temple, is even more crowded. About 200 or more are sleeping in one room of 20 by 30 feet. The food is very inadequate from nutrition point of view. There are about one tenth T. B. students. Each is paying 1,400 dollars per month for board. It would cost a student at least 15,000 dollars a semester, if he or she is lucky enough to get the money and to continue his schooling. How can anybody pay such a sum unless his father is a billionaire! Many students just don't have any money.

The above picture may be depressing. Nevertheless, our students work harder than before, and are more practical. Fellowship groups, academic clubs, wall papers and other student extra-curricular activities are shared and shouldered by most of them. Our University has a better fame among the five here, and our students usually rank top in joint classes among the five universities. This is something cheerful and something valuable about which the professors and officers in our university feel happy.

Now I am writing particularly for one thing. That is to ask for your leadership and help for our TEN MILLION ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN. I know that a share from our alumni in America will be greatly appreciated. Two years ago while I was there we initiated a collection from our alumni there for Yenching's re-opening. Chou Shun-hsin, Hsia Yun, Miss Teng Shu-yuan, and I helped that campaign and we cabled back Yenching through C. A. Evans 500 dollars. What a small amount it was. However, it was appreciated by both faculty and students. This year since the beginning of the 10,000,000 dollars Campaign, there has been a great deal of hope put upon our alumni in America. People here count on your help. I am sure a share from America will be a thrilling stimulation to people here. It shows the keen interest, love, and loyalty to our Alma Mater....

Looking forward to hearing the good news....

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Wei Yung-ch'ing)

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December 14, 1944

Dear Friends of Ours:-

We are constantly reminded of our many friends scattered the world over, and especially at this Christmas season do we think of you with gratitude as we ask God's rich blessing on you and yours - His joy this Christmas-tide and His upholding strength and guidance during the New Year ahead. For some, the past year has held deep sorrow, and for such we pray God's Peace and Comfort. May the agony of suffering the war has brought teach us all new lessons and strengthen our resolve to do our small part in helping bring into being a world wherein brotherhood and justice, peace and good-will shall abound.

It was a great joy being a reunited family last Christmas. This year we are having to send parcels to Rosalie, and Alan in Claremont (147 W. 7th St.) and Ed in Camp Riley, Kansas. We so enjoyed watching Alan develop last year, but in February it seemed wise for Rosalie to take him to Sunny California where he'd have fewer colds. They have had three months with Ed either in Oklahoma or Kansas near his camps or in California on his furloughs. All seem in good health and little Alan is growing tall and becoming quite a conversationalist. Ellen is very happy in Elmira College for her second and last year before entering the Nursing course. During the summer she worked in the Community Service Society for Fresh Air Camps. It carried a good deal of responsibility and meant hard though enjoyable work. She was always jubilant when she could manage to squeeze in an extra mother or child to enjoy two free vacation weeks. Polly was for the third summer in Camp Watonah, this time as Councillor. It was splendid training for her and she greatly enjoyed the work. She graduates this June from Horace Mann and is now trying to decide on a college. We had earlier thought that during Ellen's and Polly's college years we would be far away with an ocean between but as it now looks, they will be well along on their college careers before the way opens for us to return to our beloved China.

We are thankful for all good news of Yenching University as they carry on in West China and wish we might be working there with them. Despite many difficulties and handicaps they are going ahead with the training of young men and women for their part in the national and social rebuilding of future China. When we remember that one out of each ten High School students, one of each five college students, and one of every two in "Who's Who in China" has been connected with a Christian school, we realize the importance of Christian education in China today. I have heard it said that in asking students to state their religious preference, fifty-nine percent have written "Christianity". Surely "He has set before us an open door and there are many adversaries" is as true now as in Paul's day, and we must not fail them. Few of us can go in person but through prayer and giving we can maintain this great work. With true vision of great opportunities ahead the Mission Boards are carefully planning for post-war work in the various lands, knowing that new methods must be used and already looking for new recruits to relieve and increase the force of Christian workers at home and abroad. In the meantime one rejoices in the splendid work being done by Nationals and realizes that as never before the work of Christ is taking on new significance in this period of national ferment and growth.

This circular letter is not as impersonal as it seems for we are thinking of you each one as we send it forth with a "God bless you every one."

Sincerely Your Friend,

Katharine King Wolfers

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YENCHING UNIVERSITY IN CHENGTU, CHINA

FORTNIGHTLY LETTER

Mr. Ralph Lapwood -- Acting Dean of the College of Natural Sciences and teaches Mathematics.

December 15, 1944

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

On December 8th we held the Second Anniversary Celebration of our Reopening in Chengtu, remembering at the same time the closing down of the University three years ago by the Japanese in Peking. No outside guests were invited, but many alumni shared with us in the day's programme.

A (gratifyingly) short meeting of all members of the University was held in the morning, after which women's and men's dormitories were open to visitors. We are accustomed to seeing the women students' rooms beautified for this event, and they excelled again in constructing pleasing arrangements in 4x8 rooms under refugee conditions. But this year the men too exerted themselves in the cause of health and beauty. Only one of the big rooms in the Wen Miao retained its natural undergrowth and jungle. The rest had been mercilessly cleaned, and presented a stern purity of aspect that would have satisfied even the Generalissimo - except for the occasional pin-up girls presented by the A. A. F.

The sanitary arrangements of the Wen Miao - non-existent when we first took up residence - have been steadily improved, mainly owing to the sustained efforts of Lu Hui Ch'ing as Head of the Health Division of the Student Welfare Division. But until recently none of her strongest efforts had been able to touch the massive Cloaca Maxima, into which all subsidiary drains contributed, but which had no outlet of its own, and culminated in an augean stable beside the kitchen. Now at last that too has been tamed, and we hope that the spirits of the sages which presumably still reside in their tablets in the main hall of the temple will feel grateful.

On the afternoon of December 8th there was an athletic display - with a dose of Chengtu's all-too-rare winter sunshine to warm the spectators. Then an Annual Meeting of local alumni, at which Yang K'ang Tsou was elected Chairman for the year. Then a dinner at which the University entertained the alumni, followed by an entertainment. Main feature of the entertainment was a film provided by the O. W. I. This took the place of two plays originally planned but abandoned in view of the tense and tragic military situation at that time. The students decided to abandon the plays, and requested that the funds granted for them should be turned over for patriotic activities.

Having celebrated the anniversary with much enjoyment but also temperance, we were all able to resume work promptly next morning - in contrast to previous years, when an extra half-day's holiday had proved necessary.

In her care for our general health, Hui Ch'ing has recently sponsored another good piece of work. For the sum of N. C. \$500 per month a person (providing he lives near enough to Shensi Kai) is able to get for breakfast each morning a special

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nourishment ration. One morning it will be beanmilk and yu t'iao, another morning bean porridge, and so on. The \$500 does not pay for this, but helps, and the remainder of the cost is met by Wellesley Funds or other funds which Hui Ch'ing has been able to scrounge. This especially benefits the children of our faculty members.

Y. P. is away in Chungking. When the military situation looked worst alumni in Chungking who were holding the results of the \$10,000,000 campaign wanted to hand over the responsibility as soon as possible to a properly constituted body of trustees and called Y. P. Mei to come and help. We do not know yet how much money there will be altogether, but Y. P. is confident that the total has already exceeded twelve million dollars. While in Chungking Y. P. will make arrangements for leaving China as guest of the State Department to U. S. A. When he will leave is not at all sure. I believe he will watch the general Chinese situation and also the needs of the University, and will not leave until he is sure of adequate stability in both.

You will have heard probably that Wei Yung-Ching was invited by Lennig Sweet to work with him in personnel training - first for UCR and probably later for UNRRA. The invitation came at a time when we needed Yung-Ching very much, and we urged him not to leave. His attitude was very good indeed, only desiring to act whichever way was best for the University. When the students knew of the chance that he would leave they combined to write a letter to the University in the name of the Student Selfgovernment, the Yenching Life Association, the Chi Ming Fellowship, the Hsin Lei Fellowship, the Drama Clubs, etc. . . . 17 different student organizations.. urging the University to hold Yung Ching here. He has now decided to stay on for the time being, at any rate. His popularity with the students is not by chance. Since his arrival he has put in a tremendous amount of time and creative energy into talks with the students, and into helping to solve their many problems.

Grace Boynton has not been well for several weeks now, and confined to bed with an undiagnosed sickness. But within this last week she had improved a good deal in comfort and strength, and the doctor is preparing to send her home. She had previously expected to return to America in February, so she will put forward her programme by a few weeks. She has been a great peacemaker and wise advisor for the past three years, and we have no one to fill her place when she leaves. The Chairmanship of the Western Languages Department, however, goes into very good hands. Dr. Li Fang Kuei, who came to Yenching from the Academia Sinica, a very distinguished philologist, will be head of the Department as far as outside contacts are concerned, though for all affairs concerning internal timetables and Required English Chou Kuo P'ing will do the work.

Mr. Shen T'i Lan has arrived here with his wife. When we knew that he had resigned from the Acting Presidency of Soochow University we hurried to invite him to come to help Yenching in administration, as he has had many years of experience in administration in Christian educational institutions. He is an old friend of mine - he was headmaster of Medhurst School in Shanghai, where I taught for three years before joining Yenching in 1936. During those three years I came to have a great admiration for T. L. Shen. In every way he made the students of his school alert to social, national, and international issues. His weekly talks to the whole school on current events moulded the thought of many of the boys. He believed in the dignity of labor to the extent of ensuring that every boy did real manual labor - both in the woodwork room and in the school campus. Most important of his achievements was the night school associated with the Middle School. In later years there were 400 students in the night school - underprivileged factory workers from Shanghai's slums. All the boys of the Upper Middle School were mobilized to teach them, as a form of service. The night school students were not only taught Chinese and Arithmetic, but how to conduct democratic meetings and organizations, how to play games, how to act in plays,

how to understand the news. Our students have taken to T. L. and he is kept busy by them. His present title in the University is Chief Secretary, but what position he will finally fit into in the administration has not been determined.

Our list of people who have succumbed to various diseases remains as long as ever, but instead of recording the miserable details I will report two more cheerful facts. The little son of Dr. Tseng Yuan Yung (Visiting Professor of Mathematics) fell violently ill with post-measles pneumonia and his condition became critical. When in the nick of time he was rushed into hospital and given penicillin - recently brought out to China as a gift from America and now in the charge of Dr. Stephen Zhang of PUMC. His temperature fell miraculously within six hours, and he is now on the way to recovery. Then Kuan Chao Chih - also of Math Dept. - has made a fine recovery from T. B., is now fat and well, and is practically on a full schedule again - far earlier than we had dared to hope.

Undoubtedly most of the illnesses from which our faculty are suffering are due to undernourishment. So your gifts of vitamins are greatly appreciated.

With all good wishes,

(Signed) Ralph Lapwood

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517 West 123rd Street, N.Y.C. (27)
December 18, 1944

Dear Friends:

A few days ago I was recalling the unforgettable events associated with my return on the "Gripsholm" a year previously. It is interesting that with very little will power I have been able to forget many of the unpleasant happenings of my detention and internment whereas I can readily bring to mind a number of experiences that will always remain a source of inspiration and enrichment. One is the loyalty of our Chinese colleagues and friends, especially just before our internment; another is the splendid spirit of willing service shown by so many in the camp and the satisfaction and enrichment it brought to our greatly circumscribed life there.

Such good care of us had been taken during our more than six weeks' trip on the Gripsholm that most of us arrived in very good physical condition, nevertheless we were urged to take a three months' rest. There had been some thought of sending me back to the re-opened Yenching in Free China when I first got back and I began counting on going when a physical check-up revealed no reasons against this. Nevertheless I was sent home for an additional month's relaxation and then when I again raised the question, the financial difficulties due to the inflation in China had become so great that our Board had to decide against my return.

Just at this time I received an invitation to become the secretary of the Committee on Friendly Relations Among Foreign Students and on May 1st I took over the responsibilities of the headquarters office at 347 Madison Ave., N.Y.C. (17). I would be glad to mail any of you on request the report of an important conference we held last June which tells much more fully about the work of our Committee than there is time or space for here. In brief it is the work of linking these very important young people from other lands (there are 8000 of them) with American friends on the campus and in the church groups where they are studying. I don't need to convince any of you that this strategic group should be won for international good will and sympathetic understanding of the Christian cause in view of the positions of leadership they are sure to occupy a few years after their return home. Of course I would be pleased to receive any spare parts of your benevolence budgets to help change the color of our financial statement from red to black at the end of the year.

Part of my duty is to visit groups of foreign students and their friends at the colleges. My trips are often made coming and going to conferences like the one at Lake Forest last summer when I visited Ann Arbor, Chicago, Evanston and Columbus where there are considerable numbers of students from other lands. I was able to visit Philadelphia, Penn State and Washington in connection with a trip to Bucknell where I had been invited to speak at their vespers service. Mrs. Roosevelt's annual tea to the foreign students in the Washington area will be given this week and I am planning to attend.

Practically no word has reached us from the dear friends, Chinese and American, we left behind in occupied China and I am sad when I think of them facing another winter. In camp this is a great hardship though they will probably have a minimum of necessary food, but in Peking where the food situation was already desperate last winter it is truly alarming. Occasional word comes from Free China much of which brightens the dark picture of Chungking which the papers have been painting lately. The heroic spirit of patient endurance and dogged reconstruction has not flagged in the Chinese we associate with.

Katharine and I are bold enough to think our friends will accept this form of affectionate greeting and earnest Christmas wishes from us because we treasure so highly every kind of message that comes from you, especially at this season. Our gratitude at having you in our circle is deeper and sincerer than ever.

Cordially yours,

Louis E. Woelfer

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