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Robertson, Leila 1932
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March 18, 1937

My dear Mr. Hedrick,

I have just received your letter inquiring for farther information in regard to Miss Leila Robertson's case in Norfolk. The letter written to you at Norfolk was written about two hours after the final interview with Miss Robertson after a very careful analysis by Dr. Wee and myself about what was the exact meaning of our various interviews. Sometimes it is of course difficult to know exactly what is in the minds of other people and sometimes they do not know themselves. However, there are some things that we do know are in the mind of Miss Robertson of which we can be certain. When she wrote the letter of inquiry to our office I think she was just fishing for information in a general way about professorships, permanent funds, etc., but was interested in establishing somewhere a memorial of some kind to her father. From that point after we saw her she began to become more and more conscious as to what she actually would like to do. From all our various interviews with her after several hours of exchanging views I think I might again state results catigorically as follows:

1. Miss Robertson has placed in her will the sum of \$50,000 payable to the Associated Boards to the Christian Colleges in China with the only specification to establish a fund in honor of her father.

2. She has thought favorably of several different plans including (a) a professorship or permanent fund in connection with all the Christian Colleges in China, (b) a professorship in the interest of Religious Education among women in four of the colleges, (c) a professorship exclusively for Ginling and Hwa Nan and (d) a professorship at Ginling alone. At the end of the next to the last interview with her she had eliminated all of these except Ginling and when we left her at that time we thought that would be her final decision.

3. Between the time of this next to the last interview and the final one several things had happened to the thinking of Miss Robertson. In the meantime she had recalled she knew Dr. Stuart, that he is a distinguished minister of the Southern Presbyterian Church and a Virginian. She recalled also her intimate friendship with a young lady graduate of Yenching whom she dearly loves. She had also talked with Miss Smith of the Y. W. C. A. at Norfolk who was undoubtedly favorably inclined to Yenching. The result of all of this was that entirely independently of anything we had said or done her mind seemed to be fixed upon a professorship at Yenching either in behalf of religious work among the girls there or for the co-educational interest of the entire university. The suggestion of Miss Robertson that she advise with Dr. Stuart was the result of what I am afraid was an unfortunate and unpredictable incident. She asked me for some personal information about religious activities upon the campus and what I had personally seen or knew about what might be done there for the religious work among the girls or the entire student

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body. To my embarrassment I was forced to admit that I had not been in China and could not give her the information that would result from the mingling with the students and professors in a way that would make it possible for me to give first hand information. At that moment Miss Robertson said, "then since you have not been in China I think I ought to personally advise with Dr. Stuart" which of course could mean only that she ought to write to him. I doubt if she will take this matter up with Dr. Stuart for several weeks or likely for several months because she wants to go into these matters thoroughly with her mother who is away sick as I understand it at a sanitarium. I think you must use your own judgment about writing to Dr. Stuart and what you would say if you do write but I think if it were up to me I would write him merely telling him of our promising contact with Miss Robertson and suggesting that if she takes it up with him that he do all he tactfully can to bring about a favorable decision in behalf of the Associated Boards. Dr. Wee and I of course have personal interest at Yenching he as a member of the faculty and I as one who has raised considerable money for the University under very delightful conditions of inspiring Christian fellowship with Mr. McBrier, Dr. Garside, and others who are so devoted to Yenching. But these very considerations made us feel that we should put all the more emphasis upon the need which Miss Robertson at first had in mind and though while of course not hostile to the idea of giving to Yenching we tried to tactfully emphasize the fact that the needs were greater in connection with the plans she had previously considered with us and that, that had so greatly impressed her which was to be a gift in behalf of Christian education at one or more of the colleges that had been less fortunate in being able to plan for the religious education of their women students.

4. Whatever plan she may decide upon for her gift she desires to make it productive in September by giving from \$1200 to \$1500 to apply on the salary annually of some teacher designated to do the work she has in mind. We do not know and it is certain that she does not know when these plans will definitely be formulated but that her heart is set upon doing this fine thing for China and that she is financially able to do it Dr. Wee and I consider certain. It is of course impossible to record everything that was said in interviews that covered several hours. To do that would require a book but this letter contains a thoroughly thoughtful and accurate statement of this situation as far as I am able to make it. Since I am not keeping a copy of this letter and inasmuch as it contains the facts in this case at a time when they are so fresh in my mind I suggest you keep this letter on file for future reference. If I were to be asked for a statement of this case later on I probably could not be so accurate and definite as I have been in this letter.

Our next mail will be received at the Anapolis Hotel in Washington, D. C. I would appreciate it very much if you would ask Williard to forward my mail there until further notice. With very kind personal regards in which Dr. Wee joins me, I remain

Yours cordially

(Signed) S. P. Young

Miss Robertson

Suite 903
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York
April 10, 1937

My dear Miss Robertson:

I have recently learned of your interest in a memorial chair of religious education in one of the Christian colleges in China. This interest particularly thrills me, for I have dreamed and talked of just such support for Christian training on the campuses of the China Colleges. While I know best Ginling College, since I taught there for six years and for the last six years have been a member of the Ginling College Board of Founders in America, yet I believe that what applies at Ginling would be true of all the colleges.

When I was teaching in Ginling, all the students who came to the college were Christians, and therefore the task was to strengthen their Christian understanding so that modern education would deepen and not upset faith. In recent years the task has changed. Many students come now to the college from government schools or from private schools where there is no Christian teaching.

This creates a new need for a new orientation which falls upon the colleges in China just when their budgets are hardest hit financially by the depression and by changing monetary values in China, so that while the new need is deeply realized, meeting it is very difficult.

Last week at a tea, held by Smith College women in New York for Ginling, some of the questions asked were about this matter. Dr. Wally Werner, who recently spent two years at Ginling, is a charming woman, very able intellectually and deeply interested in the spiritual life and growth of students. She told the women at this tea that a government college girl who entered Ginling in her Junior year said to her: "Dr. Werner, the atmosphere here is so different from the atmosphere in the government school." Dr. Werner asked her whether it might not be due to Christian teachers. That girl became deeply

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April 10, 1937

interested and at Easter time became a Christian. Dr. Werner also said that voluntary Bible classes were eagerly sought at Ginling. One class of fifty, which Dr. Werner taught, divided into two sections of twenty-five each, one section meeting before breakfast at seven o'clock and the other immediately after breakfast. I tell you these things to show you the eagerness of the Chinese student when the way is opened and the leader is there. It is probable that this same story could be duplicated in spirit in all of the Christian colleges.

I wish you might meet Dr. Werner and talk with her. Her experience in China has been so recent and her interest in vital and intelligent religious training so real that I feel sure you would find her a stimulating and helpful person. She would be glad to answer questions and I think would be happy to travel down to Norfolk to see you. She cares a great deal about having the religious training in the college excellently done.

I wish you could talk also with Dr. B. A. Garside, the Executive Secretary of the Associated Boards for the China Christian Colleges. Dr. Garside spent a good many years as a Presbyterian missionary on the campus of one of these colleges in China, and since his return to America has kept in close touch with all the colleges in his position as Executive Secretary and also as secretary for a number of the Boards of Trustees of the individual colleges which form this association. He is as well informed as anyone in America about the work and interests and needs of the colleges and most deeply interested and concerned in the strengthening of their Christian character. Dr. Garside and Miss Werner could give you both a general and a concrete picture which would help you in coming to a full understanding of the tremendous importance of the gift which you have in mind. Would you not find it helpful to have both Dr. Garside and Miss Werner come down to see you?

Another source of information is the very interesting film taken on the campus of Ginling College. It is a very vivid presentation in story form of the life and activity and spirit of service of the Chinese college girl. While it is located on the Ginling campus, it is typical of the spirit and educational emphasis in all the Christian colleges of China. It is a sixteen-millimeter film and can be easily shown in a home. If you would like to see it, we should be glad to send it to you or Dr. Garside and Miss Werner could bring it.

I wish too that you could have met Dr. Yi-fung Wu, president of Ginling, when she was in this country last fall. She is such an outstanding example of Chinese Christian womanhood. She is a member of the first class, 1919, which graduated from Ginling. They were the first Chinese women to receive a B.A. degree. Miss Wu came of a Buddhist family and became a Christian in her Junior year at Ginling. She later took her Ph.D. degree in the field of biology at the University of Michigan. Last spring as she passed through New York on her way to London, she said at a luncheon in her honor that she could not have endured the strain of recent years in China had it not been for her Christian faith. In London she represented her country in her capacity as chairman of the National Christian Council of China, the only woman in the world to hold such a position.

April 10, 1937

I am taking the liberty of enclosing for you a letter which Dr. Fu wrote about her experiences in Europe and in America last summer and fall, also a recent report from her, and a report from the new alumnae secretary of the newly organized alumnae association at Gilling. Will you please feel free to ask any questions you have in mind, and to command our aid in any way at all? I shall be happy to answer questions as far as I know the situation, or to send any information that we have.

Your colleague,

Sincerely yours,

I enclose your letter of April 10, 1937, and the letter from Dr. Fu which you mentioned in it. I am sorry that I cannot give you more information at this time, but I will do my best to answer your questions as far as I know the situation.

RS/EA

Miss Lolla Robertson
6200 Richmond Place
Norfolk, Virginia

I am sorry that I cannot give you more information at this time, but I will do my best to answer your questions as far as I know the situation.

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This client is probably ^[17]over
Miss Lila E. Robertson
6300 Richmond Place
Norfolk, Virginia.

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June 7, 1939

Mr. Barron F. Black,
Vandeventer & Black,
Citizens Bank Building,
Norfolk, Virginia.

Dear Mr. Black:

Thank you for your letter of yesterday, asking for
certain information for use in drawing the will of one of your
clients.

In the enclosed pamphlet, "A Design for Giving" you
will find most of the general information asked for in your letter.
The enclosed Annual Report for the past fiscal year will give some-
what broader information as to the work and financial support of
the universities and colleges participating in the Associated Boards,
and as to our activities on their behalf.

Since we have during the last two or three years corres-
ponded and conferred with a lady in Norfolk who is a generous friend
of the China Colleges concerning the possibility of her establishing
a professorship of religious education at some Christian college in
China we might hazard a guess as to the identity of your client. But
we will of course make no mention of names except as you may be author-
ized by your client to do so. I mention these previous contacts in
this particular case merely because this special friend indicated cer-
tain preferences as to the type of professorship and possibly as to
institutions which she had in mind - all of which would be helpful
in making suggestions as to procedure.

The Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China is
a New York corporation, incorporated under the Membership Corporation
Law under date of July 7, 1934. It is empowered to receive, hold,
administer, and disburse funds for the participating universities and
colleges individually or collectively. It is recognized both by the
New York State Government and the United States Government as a phil-
anthropic corporation, and as such all gifts to it are exempt from
federal and state taxes. I enclose a photostat copy of our latest
certification from the U. S. Treasury Department showing that contri-
butions to the Associated Boards are deductible by individual donors
in compiling their income tax returns.

Each of the individual universities and colleges also has
an incorporated board of trustees which is empowered to receive, hold,

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Mr. Black

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June 7, 1939

administer, and disburse funds for the institution which it serves. Donors may therefore make gifts and bequests either to the Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China to be held in trust for a designated university or college, or else to the board of trustees of the institution to be benefitted.

The two enclosed pamphlets show the strength and permanence of the Associated Boards and its affiliated boards of trustees. At the present time we are administering about \$7,000,000, American currency, of endowment funds belonging to these universities and colleges, and are transmitting each year around \$1,000,000 of annual income received from American sources. The work of these colleges has not only continued but has grown greatly in scope and importance during the present disturbed conditions in China. All endowment funds are of course held and invested here in America under careful legal safeguards and under the supervision of investment committees composed of men of wide experience and sound judgment. (The list of officers and members of the Associated Boards appears on page 11 of the Annual Report.)

From your statement of the wishes of your client, I would infer that the form of bequest contemplated would follow in general that suggested at the top of page 10 of the pamphlet "A Design for Giving". I would assume that the bequest would include a specification that the fund would be held in trust by the Associated Boards to establish "the Professorship of Religious Education in University" (or College), together with such special stipulations as the testator or testatrix might wish to include.

When we last consulted with the Norfolk friend to whom I have already referred we understood that she was particularly interested in a professorship of religious education in a woman's college or for women students. We then suggested Gialing College (exclusively for women), of the Yenching College for Women (a part of Yenching University) as the two most outstanding centers in China for the training of fine Christian womanhood. But there are women students in all the other ten universities and colleges, and a Professorship in Religious Education would be welcome in any one of them. (And of course I may be entirely wrong in my thought as to the identity of your client.)

Since there are obviously a number of possible alternatives which a testator might choose, it would apparently be helpful if we might talk these matters over together. Before your letter reached me I had made plans for a trip southward and westward which would bring me to the vicinity of Norfolk on Tuesday, June 13th. If convenient to you, I would be happy to come to your office that day to go over these matters more in detail, and to supply such additional information as you may need and as I may be able to give. Whether your client might wish to participate in such a conference is of course a matter for the decision of yourself and your client. If convenient to you I would prefer the morning for such a conference, but could adjust my schedule for the day to fit almost any hour you might suggest. If you preferred some other day, such as June 10th or June 12th, I could adjust my plans accordingly. From June 14th to June 24th I myself would probably be unable to get to Norfolk, though some other member of our staff could arrange to visit you at your convenience.

Mr. Black

June 7, 1939

I would be grateful for a note from you indicating whether it would be convenient for you to see me on June 13th (or some other date) and suggesting any special types of information you might wish me to have in hand. In the absence of any specific word from you, I would get in touch with your office on the morning of the 13th to see whether you wished to hold such a conference - but an advance understanding would undoubtedly be helpful to us both.

Very sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary

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Rohrman Fund

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June 21st, 1932.
Dict. June 18th.

Miss Alice M. Hudson, Treasurer
44 Chestnut Street
East Orange, New Jersey

Dear Miss Hudson:

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the receipt, through you, of \$200.00 from the Estate of Mrs. Anne Elizabeth Vander Veer Rohman.

I think you did not say in so many words, and perhaps the will did not specifically state, that the \$25,000.00 was to be an Endowment Fund. But I gather from your letter that the Church, at least, is handling it in this way, and they are establishing an Endowment Fund in this amount. If that is the case, there is an income each year, I take it, of approximately \$1,250.00. I understand your statement to be that the trustees have given no promise, but that through conversation, you are led to believe that in the future the Women's Christian Colleges of the Orient will receive \$350.00 of this \$1,250.00. In other words, the trustees have not agreed upon a fifty-fifty division of the income, but more nearly three-fourths to the missionary society of the Church and one-fourth to the Colleges of the Orient.

If this is not a correct understanding of the matter, I would appreciate being set right for the sake of our files.

Thanking you just as much for the \$200.00 that is now sent for Gialing,

Yours very sincerely

A.C.

Treasurer.

RC:MF

Copy for Miss Tyler

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September 30, 1932

Mr. Russell Carter
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Carter:

I have your acknowledgement of June 18th and am just writing to say that it is my understanding that the money has been given by the trustees of the Baptist Church of Philadelphia three parts to their missionary society and one part to the Union Colleges. This will mean that each of the seven colleges will get approximately \$50.00 per year from this fund. Of course we have no absolute assurance that at any time there may not be a readjustment by that board of trustees which would be either in favor or against the Union Colleges. I hope we may at least hold our own, and of course would be delighted if the way opens for a bit of pressure toward a larger sum.

Very sincerely yours

Florence G. Tyler,
Executive Secretary

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Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt

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December 11, 1943

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It was a great privilege and pleasure to me to have lunch with you last Monday. The occasion will add one more to the many happy memories I take back to China with me.

I am enclosing the original letter in Chinese that accompanied the embroidery, as I thought it might be interesting to you. I am also sending the English translation which I promised you.

I hope that I may soon have the privilege of entertaining you in China and of introducing you to some of the ways of our ancient country.

Sincerely yours,

Yi-fang Wu

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Greetings to Mrs. Roosevelt:-

We, the students of Ginling College, wish to take the opportunity presented by the presence of our President Wu Yi-fang in America to convey to you an expression of our very great admiration for you, the First Lady of the United States of America, the great democracy.

We are deeply impressed by your leadership of your women to participate in political affairs, to promote social justice, and to endeavor to achieve liberty and equality.

These accomplishments for the happiness of mankind will illuminate the pages of world history.

On the occasion of the mission of our President Wu Yi-fang to the United States, we feel honored to present to you this piece of Szechwan embroidery, made in Chengtu, as a token of our respect and admiration for your leadership for the benefit of mankind.

Kindly accept this gift and allow us to drink to your health.

Respectfully yours,

The Student Body of Ginling College
for Women in China

March sixteenth, nineteen forty-three

(Thirty-second year of the Republic of
China)

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