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Harvard-Yenching Institute  
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# THE COLLEGES

CHEELOO UNIVERSITY (SHANTUNG)  
FUKIEN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY  
GINLING COLLEGE  
HANGCHOW CHRISTIAN COLLEGE  
HUA CHUNG COLLEGE  
HWA NAN COLLEGE  
LINGNAN UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
UNIVERSITY OF SHANGHAI  
SOOCHOW UNIVERSITY  
WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY  
YENCHING UNIVERSITY

TEL. WATKINS 9-8703  
CABLE: ABCHICOL

## Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China



150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

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January 14, 1942

Dr. Joseph Beech  
2110 Fargo Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Beech:

Just by way of diversion, I am forwarding herewith correspondence covering the Harvard-Yenching attitude toward the West China Board in connection with the balances held on hand.

At one time, I felt that a personal visitation upon Dr. Elisseeff would benefit the situation, but I am convinced now that he has submitted the findings of the Board in writing that a very careful survey and study must be made in order to justify the position of the Board of Governors.

Dr. Eric North is very sympathetic with the work we are doing in every one of the Colleges and yet I found that he was willing to reflect the astonishment of the Harvard-Yenching Institute Trustees at the balances carried on our books.

Were this a court case, we could readily develop arguments which would completely smother opposition. Our chief weakness lies in the fact that we made applications from the Institute for additional funds when we had on hand balances which might have been used under the approval of the Institute. As I view it, the chief difficulty lies in this direction and some sort of a statement must be made to justify such procedure.

I could readily outline a dissertation on the subject, but I prefer to have your judgment before wasting precious moments upon what might appear later to be useless argument. If you have any bright thoughts jot them down and return with the enclosed correspondence and I will prepare a statement for the Finance Committee which undoubtedly will desire to have the Board of Executive Committee take final action.

Thanks for the card which came to hand this morning. I am still struggling to puncture the wall of darkness surrounding the occupied areas in China, but I do not seem sharp enough to accomplish proper results.

Very sincerely yours,

*C. A. Evans*  
C. A. EVANS

CAE/B  
ENCS.

PARTICIPATING WITH UNITED CHINA RELIEF

1103



over

March 11, 1942

Dr. Joseph Beech  
2110 Fargo Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Beech:

I am grateful for your letter of March 7th, also the copy of a communication which you sent to Serge Elisseeff. No previous copy of this communication has come to hand.

May I, by way of preface, state that I believe Serge Elisseeff is a bit peeved in the consciousness that reports from China over the years which this fund has been used have always shown the exact figure appropriated by the Trustees and that had the Institute shown proper acumen, this situation would have been discovered long ago. Nothing has been hidden from anyone. His discovery that only a limited amount of U. S. dollars was used a year ago led to his inquiries and the final statement which I sent to him.

I have an idea, therefore, that Dr. Elisseeff is especially touchie on the subject and any reference to personalities or dishonor as implied in his original letter as against either you or anyone else might easily stir in his own mind the idea that he had been recreant in his own duties - so, as a result your letter of February 23rd did nothing except to get a shot back.

I am inclined to think that we must take into our confidence in the thinking of this problem through our representatives on the Institute Board; namely, Dr. North, and Dr. Hume, and Arthur V. Davis. I think that I can talk with Arthur V. Davis and state the case in such a way that it will be smoothed over without much ado. There is no gain saying the fact that we built up reserves here, but it was an unintentional situation which the change in commodity prices could quickly reverse.

With these first preliminary shots over with, I must immediately frame a letter and have a meeting of the Finance Committee to give careful thought to our approach to the problem. The Harvard-Yenching Board meets in April and we have relatively little time to give to an answer.

I could not see Sydney Maddock last week end and later learned that he was not in town. I do, however, have a standing call for him to get in touch with me as soon as possible.

We will keep step with "the elephant at the bridge." Incidentally,



Dr. Beech

- 2 -

3/11/42

however, someone has told me that Dr. Cheer's severance of his connection with the Central University work was because of personalities involved. I do not know whether there is any verification available at the present time. Possibly you know something about it.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B



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OF THE  
WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

ESTABLISHED 1910 IN  
CHENG TU, SZECHWAN, CHINA

LINCOLN DSANG, PH.D., D.D., PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY  
JOSEPH BEECH, D.D., CHANCELLOR

*file*

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

2110 W. Fargo Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois  
June 4, 1942

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WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY  
OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WOMAN'S AMERICAN BAPTIST FOREIGN  
MISSION SOCIETY

Dear Mr. Evans:

I am replying to your request for suggestions re the use of Harvard Yenching Institute funds, in radiogram form that I judge our University authorities will understand, as follows:

- (1) 1942-3 General budget U.S. \$\$\$\$\$. HYI budget equal expenditures 1941-2, plus adequate curator's salary (granted).
- (2) \$10,000 available restoration living conditions and toward equalization guest universities' salaries.
- (3) \$1,000 Agrisculture Nutrition Institute.
- (4) Fellowships granted Daisugu, Michigan, Lantienho Rochester.

Under separate cover I am sending you a letter of explanations and items concerning reserve funds.

Cordially yours,

*Joseph Beech*  
Joseph Beech



Charge to the account of **ASSOCIATED BOARDS FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA**  
150 Fifth Avenue, New York City

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# WESTERN UNION CABLEGRAM

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PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK
ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

June 22, 1942

**LINCOLN DSANG**  
**CHENG TU (CHINA)**

DISREGARD HARVARD YENCHING WELL KNOWN POLICY EXPLAINED 1940 PRINTED MEMORANDUM  
WILL DESTROY INSTITUTE SUPPORT STOP INSTITUTE DEMANDS MAJOR ATTENTION UNDERGRADUATE  
CULTURAL WORK ESPECIALLY ADEQUATE INSTRUCTION CHINESE LANGUAGE WITH GENEROUS PROVISION  
FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY STOP FORMAL INSTITUTE ACTION IN LETTER DECEMBER FIFTH MAILED  
ELISSEFF TO ROBERTSON INDICATES RECOMMENDED RATIOS FOR RESTRICTED FUNDS AS FOLLOWS  
3105 EACH FOR TEACHING LIBRARY AND MUSEUM 2360 RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION WITH BALANCE  
FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND ADMINISTRATION STOP SPECIAL MEETING GOVERNORS CALLED BECAUSE  
INSTITUTE DISSATISFACTION REQUEST IMMEDIATE ASSURANCE FAITHFUL ADJUSTMENT TO MEET  
INSTITUTE STANDARDS

CARL EVANS

*Sent June 26, 1942*



Harvard-Yenching

June 23, 1942

President Lincoln Dsang X  
Mr. Harold Robertson X  
West China Union University  
Chengtu, Szechwan, CHINA

Dear Friends:

The Board of Governors of West China Union University held a special meeting on the 19th of June because the administration of the Harvard-Yenching Institute has become increasingly restive regarding the use of the Restricted Funds. Recently they addressed to the Governors a vigorous demand that something be done promptly to bring expenditures of the Restricted Fund in line with the Institute's policy. This does not apply to any other funds of the Institute held in the hands of the field or the Governors, but only to the \$12,421.06 in the budget for the use of the field.

The November meeting of the Institute gave consideration to the reports received from China from all the Colleges. Where the Institute requested us to furnish budgets of the Colleges, it was done. With this material before them a pretty clear idea could be gleaned as to the working conditions in each institution.

As a result of that meeting, specific recommendations were made to the Board of Governors, as well as to the Trustees of each of the other colleges, and the letters covering the actions were mailed to our office for transmission to China. It was valuable material and to send it with little chance of delivery would have been very expensive. We purposely held it for the time being in our office. In the case of West China Union University, it was held until we had received cabled assurance that clipper mail was being delivered in Chengtu. We should have made copies of the original recommendations and forwarded same to China, but under the stress of the emergency that was not done and it is all too late to rectify the mistake now.

The letter, addressed to West China by the Institute, dated December 5th, admonished the field to stress the undergraduate cultural program, especially the development of the Chinese language with liberal allowance for library and museum. The ratios used by the Institute are set forth in the following motion passed at the meeting:

"That the authorities of West China Union University be informed that the Trustees of the Institute desire that they reallocate for 1942-43 and following years the proportions of expenditures from the Restricted Funds they receive from the Institute and make up their budget annually to conform as nearly as possible to the following proportions:

25 per cent for teaching  
25 per cent for library  
25 per cent for museum  
19 per cent for research and publication  
1 per cent for scholarships  
5 per cent for general administration."



President Dsang  
Mr. Robertson

- 2 -

June 23, 1942

Transposing the percentages into dollars the figures will be as follows:

Teaching	\$3105.00
Library	3105.00
Museum	3105.00
Research & Publication	2360.00
Scholarships & Administration	746.06

These are not cast-iron stipulations, but represent in general the distribution which is thought to be the proper one. You will know best, but your expenditures must be amplified and justified by complete and proper reports.

The Spring Meeting of the Institute had the advantage of the knowledge of a qualified and objective discerner who had visited the Universities and had first-hand information of the factors involved. Reports were most sympathetically presented, with due recognition of many difficult aspects of the program, particularly of West China.

You will be in the process of making a report for the year 1941-42 when this letter reaches you, but the Governors are asking that immediate attention be given to the division of expenditures in the 1942-43 budget brought by Mr. Barnett - for instance, the following items appear:

Library.....	LC\$166,000.00
Museum.....	48,576.00
Chinese Cultural Studies Research Institute.....	64,718.00
TOTAL.....	LC\$279,294.00

As the regulated Chinese currency yield on the Harvard-Yenching Institute appropriation totals \$232,398.00, a considerable amount of the appropriations in the above projects come from the regular budget which is quite understandable. However, it leaves nothing for undergraduate study which is the most important and outstanding feature of the requirements of the Institute.

The Governors are requesting, therefore, that you break down the three items, listed above, into items with names of individuals and their teaching assignment. The large part of the appropriation allocated to "Chinese Cultural Studies Research Institute" is most obscure and must be explained in detail. Please keep in mind the fact that the Harvard-Yenching Institute demands the development of a high standard of undergraduate cultural work before undertaking postgraduate activities.

In the past the Board of Governors has been content to allow the field to work out its own application of funds supplied toward the budget. There is no intention at the present time to deviate from this principle, but the Trustees are responsible for funds supplied for a specific purpose, and are legally obliged to see that the wish of the donor is properly carried out. As the Restricted Funds from the Harvard-Yenching Institute are granted upon a conditional basis; viz., that expenditures be in accordance with the standard of the Institute, it is necessary that the Governors take such steps as are necessary to assure the Institute as to the proper use of these funds, and thus insure continued support.

There seems to be no way of reaching a proper solution, except to have in hand specific data from responsible individuals at the University giving assurance



President Dsang  
Mr. Robertson

- 3 -

June 23, 1942

that the standards of the Institute will be carried out to the letter. A copy of the printed memorandum issued by the Institute was sent to the field in the Fall of 1940 and frequent admonitions have been issued which, by this time, should have borne fruit. We, therefore, regret the necessity of being compelled to ask for those details which, of course, will be submitted to the Institute for final approval. The Institute is especially exercised over the proper use of the time of Dr. Cheng Te-K'um. A great deal of money and time has been invested in preparing him for this work. The authorities on the field have a large responsibility for the proper use of his abilities - for, it would be tragic indeed were it found necessary to withdraw the appropriation and transfer Dr. Cheng elsewhere.

You can well understand the implications involved in this situation did it come to pass that the Restricted Funds should be withdrawn from West China.

It is to be regretted that we are compelled to write so vigorously, especially during these days of tension and uncertainty, but it cannot be otherwise, for the situation is extremely serious.

A copy of this letter is being mailed to both of you separately and it will be necessary for you to gather together those who are definitely responsible for the implementation of this program and make adjustments regardless of the cost. IT MUST NOT BE DELAYED. For the purpose of having a clear understanding, a cabled reply is requested upon receipt of this letter which might say that the letter of June 23rd has been received and an answer will be mailed by such a date.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

Via China Clipper

cc: Dr. Eliseuff  
" Beech  
" Anny  
" Castwright  
" Decker  
" North



17 Boylston Hall,  
Cambridge, Mass.,  
July 6, 1942

President Lincoln Dsang,  
Mr. Harold Robertson,  
West China Union University,  
Chengtu, Szechuan, West China.

Dear President Dsang and Mr. Robertson:-

Mr. Evans has sent me a copy of his letter dated June 23rd which he sent to you. This letter and several cables were necessary because of the fact that you did not receive my letter dated December 5, 1941 in which I transmitted the vote of the Trustees of the Institute in regard to the proportions of expenditures of West China's share of the Restricted Funds which they wished put into your budget for 1942-43.

During my stay in Chengtu, I repeatedly emphasized that the Trustees of the Institute are desirous of having a well-balanced undergraduate department in Chinese at West China and that they permit research work only after an adequate library has been built up and undergraduate work is carried on satisfactorily. I pointed out that your library is still very weak in many fields of Chinese studies. In order to make their policy clear, the Trustees found it necessary to print a memorandum, which was sent to all the affiliated universities. In spite of all this, you started a new research institute without consulting the Trustees and myself; and, in the budget brought by Mr. Barnett (referred to in Mr. Evans's letter to you of June 23, 1942) I see that the Chinese Cultural Studies Research Institute has a higher allocation than the museum, which is unacceptable to the Trustees and to me. The museum at West China is considered the outstanding and unique activity there, and the Trustees have therefore been willing from the beginning to make special appropriations when Mr. Graham was in charge (and at the request of the University) and later to make a large outlay on the training of a competent curator by financing Mr. Cheng Te-k'un. Now you are transferring your emphasis to Chinese Cultural Studies Research Institute, which, I understand, is starting a kind of sectional research library, - a duplication of expenditures which should go to the main library. The University of Nanking has a separate research institute and library because of the special conditions there, where undergraduate studies are of a very high standard and are supported by the University and not from Harvard-Yenching Institute funds. Also, they have several outstanding scholars who are qualified to do high-class research work. Until undergraduate work at West China is reorganized on a high plane and the library becomes a real research library, I am averse to having a special research institute at West China. I am, however, in favor of keeping Mr. Wen Tsai-yu as a part-time teacher on the faculty so as to give to the advanced students

President Dsang,  
Mr. Robertson,

July 6, 1942

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more impetus to their work and to enable Professor Wen to have sufficient time for his personal research. If he has articles for publication, they can be published in the joint journal which the three universities are supposed to have started. The 19% which the Trustees voted should be used for research and publication is for any member who is able to do research work and whose articles are worth publishing. I had in mind specifically the publications of Mr. Chên Te-k'un and Professor Wen. From this money, also, the subsidy to the joint journal should be made.

I indorse the request of the Board of Governors contained in Mr. Evans's letter to you of June 23rd, 6th paragraph, on page 2, that you break down the three items of Library, Museum, and Chinese Cultural Studies Research Institute; and I must ask you, because of all the unpleasant experience we have had, that every new proposition for any considerable expenditure of the Institute's funds which changes the organization at West China or for the appointment of any important member of the faculty be submitted here for consideration.

I have received copies of telegrams and letters which Mr. Evans has sent to you in regard to these matters and also concerning Mr. Cheng's salary, the last one dated June 2nd, as follows:

CHENG TEHKUN PROFESSOR CURATOR 19412 RECEIVED 7000 19423  
BUDGET 10000.

Because LC\$10,000 does not mean anything to me here now on account of the inflationary prices in Szechuan and because I do not know whether it includes medical allowances and other perquisites which most of the affiliated universities allow in addition to salaries, I shall have to leave it to your sense of fairness that Mr. Cheng be adequately compensated. I do insist, however, that because of the large outlay which the Institute has made on his training to fit him for museum work at West China, it would be deplorable, if because of an inadequate salary, he should leave the University.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Serge Elisséeff x

Director

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RECEIVED JUNE TWENTYTHIRD LETTER REGARDING HARVARD YENCHING HAROLD  
ROBERTSON SERIOUSLY ILL TYPHUS NECESSITATES DELAY REPLY AND REPORT  
LAST YEAR EXPECT MAIL FULL INFORMATION EARLY SEPTEMBER

LINCOLN DSANG

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*write*  
*elisseff*  
*8/27/42*  
*CAC*  
*HR*

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FOR MESSENGER TELEPHONE POSTAL TELEGRAPH OR RING POSTAL CALL BOX

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Copy for N.Y.

WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY, Chengtu, Sze.

September 4, 1942.

ack  
by CAC  
12/1/42

in W. China Uni  
file

Dr. Serge Elisseeff,  
Harvard-Yenching Institute,  
17 Boylston Hall, Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Dr. Elisseeff:

You will find enclosed the annual report for the work supported by funds received from the Harvard-Yenching Institute. Your letter of December 5th, 1941 did not reach us until after July 1, 1942, and by that time the work for the year 1941-1942 had been completed. You will see by the report that we continued the same program as reported for 1940-1941.

We have received the letter dated June 23, 1942 from Mr. Evans of the Associated Boards, and more recently your letter of July 6, 1942. I wish to assure you that these letters are receiving our careful attention and replies will be forwarded at an early date. We decided not to hold the report longer, but to write you that the replies to your letters will follow in a few days.

I regret to report to you that Mr. Harold D. Robertson, Vice-chancellor of the University, has been seriously ill with typhus fever and it will be several months before he is able to return to the office. You will know this has caused some delay in replying to your letters as Mr. Robertson has handled the former correspondence, but we will do our best to give you a satisfactory reply.

Sincerely yours,

*Lincoln Dsang*

Lincoln Dsang, President.

1114



*Copy for Mr. Evans.*

*Stenciled by KLP.*  
October 14, 1942 *4/28/43*

*Lincoln Dpang*

Dear Dr. Elisseeff:-

Your letter of July 6th was received some time ago, but I have been slow in getting a reply off to you as Mr. Robertson has been seriously ill, and hence it was not possible to consult with him on the questions raised. He has had typhus fever and pneumonia, and for two weeks was unconscious. Fortunately he is now out of danger, but the doctors do not wish him to take up any of his duties until some time next year. He is now slowly regaining his strength. Dr. Lindsay has again assumed the Vice Chancellorship. He will act until Mr. Robertson can return to his office.

In reply to the questions you raise, I enclose a summary of the budget as prepared for 1942-43, showing details of each section supported by the Harvard-Yenching Institute funds. I am sorry that from the summary taken to America by Mr. Barnett it was not possible for you to discover the real allocation of Harvard-Yenching money, since the undergraduate work in Chinese was included under the budget of the College of Arts and, similarly, the grant to the Library was not separated from that received for the library from other sources. The enclosed summary points out the proportion of Chinese Department and Library supported by H-Y money.

From this budget you will see that the percentage distribution as compared to that you request is as follows:-

Teaching 25.35 per cent; your requirement, 25.0 per cent.  
Library 25.25 per cent; your requirement, 25.0 per cent.  
Museum, 20.91 per cent; your requirement, 25.0 per cent.  
Research & publication, 27.53 per cent; your requirement, 19.0 per cent  
Scholarships, 0.27 per cent; your requirement, 1.0 per cent.  
General Administration, 0.65 per cent, your requirement, 5.0 per cent

From the above you will see that our proposed expenditure for the current academic year did not vary greatly from that expected of us. In view of the fact that this budget was prepared long before we received word of action of the Board of Trustees in determining the percentage distribution of our budget, it is surprising that we came as close as this to the required distribution. Now that we have your action we shall, of course, arrange for a redistribution of the budget to accord entirely with what you suggest.

In regard to the Institute for Chinese Cultural Research, I would point out that ever since the formation of this Institute detailed reports of its activities have been sent to you. But it was not until July, 1942, that we received any intimation of official disapproval. Your letter of December 8th, 1941 was only received on July 7th, 1942. It was then too late to discontinue its activities this year since contracts had already been given to and accepted by all members of the Institute staff. However, we are ready to close this Institute at the end of this academic year if that is your requirement. You will realize, nevertheless, that it is vital to keep some research work going, and this you recognize in permitting us to spend 19 per cent of the H-Y funds on research work. This can in future be carried on under the departments supported by H-Y funds, such as the Chinese Department and Museum. .

I agree with you entirely in your statement that West China's unique activity is the Museum, and that we should continue to support its work adequately. That its funds were reduced during the period of study abroad of Mr. Cheng Te-k'un was due to the fact that for a large part of the time there was no one here well qualified to develop the work or to make purchases of museum articles, and hence wished to await Mr. Cheng's return. Now that Mr. Cheng is back and in control we expect to support him fully. Mr. Cheng is doing a very fine piece of work. His abilities are fully appreciated by practically all members of our faculty, and he is and will continue to receive my

1115



10-14-42

Your recent cable authorizing a special grant to enable Mr. Cheng to pay off his past debts was greatly appreciated. This year his salary is N.C.6000. together with all the bonuses and special allowances made to all full professors. This means that Mr. Cheng is being treated similarly to other members of the staffs of the five universities on our campus. We hope that adequate salary increases, made necessary because of the rising cost of living, will be made possible to us all - not alone to members of a branch of our work which has an assured income.

I would like to assure you that much has been done to improve our undergraduate teaching department of Chinese. It is generally conceded here that our Department of Chinese is now one of the best in the province; it certainly has the largest enrolment. We are continuing to modernize its teaching methods and we have done much in the direction of securing a more modern trained teaching staff. Considerable attention is also being paid to the raising of the standard of the teaching of the Chinese language to students of Science, Medicine and Dentistry.

In regard to publications, we shall, of course, cease putting any Institute funds into any general publication other than the Joint Publication of the three affiliated universities here. You may rest assured on this point.

I do not wish to comment on your "amazement that practically every year since 1929 a large proportion of the H-Y funds due West China has been retained in New York," more than to call to your attention that we have tried several times to make you familiar with this fact.

May I suggest that in the future we have more frequent direct communication with the Institute and that you feel free to instruct us as well as to comment freely upon our yearly reports.

With high regards,

Yours sincerely, Lincoln Dsan.



December 7, 1942

President Lincoln Dsang  
West China Union University  
Chengtu, Szechwan, CHINA

Dear President Dsang:

I received a copy of your letter of September 4th to Dr. Serge Elisseeff which, I believe, came in a letter from Mr. Small.

The minutes of the Institute's meeting are just coming through and undoubtedly the Director will be writing to you at an early date.

I have also received your letter of September 23rd which deals with the Harvard-Yenching Program at West China.

I am very glad indeed that you recognize the importance of rectifying any irregularities to which attention has been called by the Institute. We are fully cognizant of the difficulties involved in carrying on the work in China and sympathize with you all most deeply. In fact we have felt repeatedly like congratulating you in carrying on so well under such untoward conditions.

In spite of all of this, however, the Harvard-Yenching Institute is deeply sympathetic with our program and are in a position to be of immense benefit to us. It, therefore, remains to do the things which will carry out the purposes and ideals of the Harvard-Yenching Restricted Fund and eliminate the crass criticisms which quite justly are leveled at us. Your letter gives me every assurance along this line, and I wish to thank you most heartily for this encouragement.

I also wish to thank you for the report of the Trustees to the New York Educational Department. This is being forwarded at once.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

Via China Clipper  
c.c. via next Clipper

1117

Copies of this in  
H-Y file

## HARVARD-YENCHING INSTITUTE



17 Boylston Hall  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
March 10, 1943

To the Presidents, Boards of Managers, and Boards of Trustees  
of the  
China Christian Colleges

Dear Friends:

Again and again during the months in which the China Christian Colleges have adjusted their locations and their program to the needs of the students and the emergency of the time, the Trustees of the Harvard-Yenching Institute have admired the courage and skill with which the changes have been made and are proud to have even a small share in the support of these institutions.

We are sure you are aware of how deeply the Trustees of the Harvard-Yenching Institute are concerned for the general welfare of the China Christian Colleges, as well as for that special phase of their work concerned with the teaching of Chinese language and culture. During the last five years, in addition to \$407,368.43 from the income of the Restricted Fund and the support of the graduate school at Yenching, the Institute has put \$328,000 into emergency aid for the colleges. While striving to meet the current emergency, however, we share your anticipations of the very serious problems of the future, and desire here to comment on one or two aspects of them.

We have followed with much interest the developing proposals to simplify the North American corporate structure of the colleges by the merging of the several separate corporations. We venture to urge that this be pressed to a successful conclusion in order that more effective united consideration and action can be taken on the post-war changes that will undoubtedly confront the colleges.

In reference to the Institute's particular concern, the presence of the group of colleges in Chengtu seems to us a very exceptional opportunity to develop a clear, coherent and united program in respect to Chinese studies in the colleges. Urgent as will be China's need for young scientists and technical experts of every kind, it will be a vast misfortune if they and other Chinese students should grow up to places of influence without a clear and living understanding of their national cultural heritage and the greatness of its contribution to the nation and now to the world. Surely such an understanding is of immense value to quality of life and to human inter-relationships. Too narrow a specialization of interests, on the part of large numbers, can become a peril to civilization. The Trustees have set forth, in the Memorandum on Policy and

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Procedure, issued in 1940, what they feel to be the general policies involved in the use of the funds for which they are Trustees, but the real power for actual achievement rests with the faculties and administrations of the colleges. The Trustees earnestly hope that college administrations and faculty, particularly of the colleges with which this Board is directly related, will seize the present opportunity. The post-war advantages of such action will be considerable.

In the relocation and rehabilitation of the colleges after the war, the Trustees hope to be in a position to make financial contributions of some value. They would point out, however, that their responsibility as Trustees would permit them to do so only if they could feel that the contributions would support a comprehensive, coherent, and non-competitive program appropriate to the locations and capacities of the then existing institutions and affording the probability of sound quality within the scope undertaken. Understanding that measures are being initiated for the making of plans for the post-war period, the Trustees wish to commend every effort made looking to the formation of such a program as described and to express their sense of its urgency now. Great as are the difficulties of communication and conference, there is a better opportunity now to make plans and to avoid the hasty crystallizations that are otherwise sure to mark the post-war period. The Trustees will study with great interest any such developments and will be greatly disappointed if the lack of them forces the Institute to divert its interest to some other areas.

The Trustees will welcome communications from the authorities of the colleges on these subjects.

Cordially yours,

Wallace B. Donham  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Serge Elisséeff  
Director

Dr. George Elisseeff  
Harvard Yenching Institute  
17 Boylston Hall,  
Cambridge, Mass. U.S.A.

C o p y

June 25th, 1943

Dear Dr. Elisseeff, X

When Dr. Stelle was here we discussed with him the desirability of sending one of our staff members, Mr. Meng Szu-Ming for post graduate study at Harvard. Because of the Pacific war this plan has not materialized. However, we felt that Mr. Meng should have the opportunity for advanced study in America as soon as possible. We believe the earlier we make the plan for him, the better.

Mr. Meng graduated from the Department of History of West China Union University in 1933. He held a scholarship from Harvard-Yenching Fund for post-graduate study in Chinese History at Yenching University 1935-1938, and took his M.A. degree there. His research work in the Social History of China was greatly admired by Professor William Hung and his thesis: "Social Classes in China under the Yuan Dynasty", which was published in Yenching Journal of Chinese studies, has been well reviewed by Chinese German and Japanese scholars. Since then, he has published a number of articles on the Social history of Chinese and historical methods, which are greatly appreciated by Chinese scholars. Mr. Meng returned to Chengtu in 1938 and joined the faculty of the West China Union University, since when he has been on the staff of the University. He commenced as an instructor in history. Because of his efficiency in teaching and research work his rank was advanced to that of Associate Professor in 1942.

Mr. Meng is a very good teacher and commands the respect of both his colleagues and students. He is also a very good research worker. In the years 1941 and 1942 he secured a research fellowship from the British Boxer Indemnity fund to study the social conditions and changes during the six Dynasties. In his line of research, he has already gained a national reputation. As he is already thirty-five years of age we very much wish that he may have the opportunity to study at Harvard Western technique in historical research and also to broaden his outlook by getting contact with mature scholars of the West. As a Dean of a College always keeps in mind the need to build up his staff, I feel very strongly that Mr. Meng deserves to have the opportunity to study abroad. After a few years of post graduate study at Harvard, he would return to our University with deeper vision and sounder scholarship and would certainly make a much more valuable contribution to this University than he is now making. We are very anxious to secure qualified teachers with modern education in order to strengthen the undergraduate work in various lines of Chinese studies. The earlier we can send Mr. Meng to America, the better will he be able to cooperate with Dr. Cheng Te-K'un in strengthening our Department of History. We write early this year so that ways and means may be discovered for him to go to America next year. We shall appreciate it very much if you will kindly let us know what are the immediate steps for Mr. Meng to take.

Yours sincerely,

C.S. Lo

Dean of Arts, WCUU.

Dear Dr. Elisseeff:

The West China Union University has decided to send Mr. Meng Szu-ming of the History Department to Harvard for advanced training under you. It is understood that Mr. Meng should return afterwards to West China to give the department the benefit of his training. I have advised him to pick up as much French, German and Japanese as possible so that he may have a better use of the opportunity that Harvard would offer him. You will hear from Mr. Lo Chung-shu, the Dean of Arts, directly about this.

Dean Lo is very anxious to raise the standard of undergraduate work here at West China, and we do hope that you will do your best to help us build up a group of competent instructors that are most urgently needed in the field.

With Best wishes,

Chang Te-K'un

1120



17 Boylston Hall,  
Cambridge, Massachusetts,  
July 8, 1943

Professor William P. Fenn,  
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China,  
House 106, Hwasipa,  
Chengtu, Szechwan, China.

My dear Professor Fenn:

I am very grateful to you for your very helpful and informative letter of May 19, 1942, giving the clear picture as to the financial situation of Mr. ~~Cheng~~ Te-kun.

I also appreciate your suggestion to make a subsidiary payment to Mr. Cheng from the balance of funds of West China Union University being held in New York. Since the receipt of your letter, I have received information that the Academia Sinica has voted to give Mr. Cheng a research grant of \$500. for this year. In view of the fact that this grant will be paid from a special appropriation which the Institute has made to the Academia Sinica to aid research scholars in Chinese studies in China during these difficult times, the Institute will not need to make any further provision for Mr. Cheng from West China University funds. I hope that Mr. Cheng, with this aid, will be able to get along as comfortably as can be expected during war times and will be able to balance his budget.

I was pleased at the friendly attitude of President Dsang in trying to help solve Mr. Cheng's financial difficulties.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) S. ELisséeff

Director

1121

**BRITISH EMBASSY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

August 18, 1943  
*ack 8/20/43*

Dear Mr. Evans,

Thank you for your letter of the 12th August concerning the whereabouts of Mr. Khoo Kim-keng.

We are very sorry that the letters which have been written to us by Mr. Khoo Ping-ying have not reached us, but we have been in correspondence with the appropriate department of our Embassy in Chungking about this particular case. At our Embassy's request we asked both the British Consulate General in New York and also the Chinese Embassy to make all possible enquiries about Mr. Khoo Kim-keng, but unfortunately nothing seems to be known concerning his whereabouts either by the Chinese authorities in the United States or by our own.

We regret very much that we have not been more successful in our search, but I have no doubt that if there are any further possible places of enquiry our Embassy at Chungking in correspondence with Mr. Khoo Ping-ying will be causing the necessary enquiries to be made.

I hope this letter will enable you to assure the Shantung Christian University that everything possible has been done in the United States to trace Mr. Khoo Kim-keng.

Yours very sincerely,

Mr. C. A. Evans,  
Associated Boards for  
Christian Colleges in China,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y.

*Paul H. Gore-Booth*  
P. H. Gore-Booth



— August 19, 1943  
Dr. Serge Eliseeff  
Harvard-Yenching Institute  
17 Boylston Hall  
Cambridge, Mass

Dr. Dr. Eliseeff:

I am reporting to you  
on developments regarding  
the use of the \$30,000 bal-  
ance accrued on the books  
of the West China Governors  
from Harvard-Yenching  
Restricted Funds.

You will recall that  
the Institute raised  
restrictions on this fund  
and suggested that it be  
used for adjusting West  
China salaries. This

(2)  
— action was cabled to  
the field immediately,  
but we found that mean-  
while the funds secured  
from other sources and  
the necessities of the  
occasion had leveled  
off the differences on the  
West China campus so that  
this fund was not needed  
for this purpose. There  
was also a reluctance  
on the part of the field  
to use it for other than  
a Chinese Cultural Program  
regardless of the raising  
of limitations. Naturally  
Dr. Tamm was notified.



(3)  
of this situation and he  
has made a suggestion  
which seems constructive  
and logical, and I have  
so far agreed to the  
extent of accepting a  
draft for two-thirds  
of the amount. His idea  
is to use this fund with-  
in the structure of  
the Harvard-Yenching  
Institute's cultural  
program for relief and  
sustenance, and that  
if there is any possible  
savings that it be used  
to send a student to the  
United States for

(4)  
graduate study.  
It is our plan  
that Dr. Hearn continue  
his service during  
the coming year and  
with him in close  
contact with the  
situation, I feel that  
we can be justified  
in agreeing with his  
suggestion. That will  
leave \$10,000 on hand  
for possible use in  
next year's budget  
for further relief in  
case of continued rise  
in prices or demands  
upon the Institute.



(5)  
program.

I am informing Dr. Tenn  
that we are reporting  
this to you and that  
meanwhile he is to keep  
us informed of progress  
being made in the  
use of the funds.  
We can do this from  
our office, from the  
administrative stand-  
point, with the assur-  
ance that information  
will reach us promptly.  
Very sincerely yours,

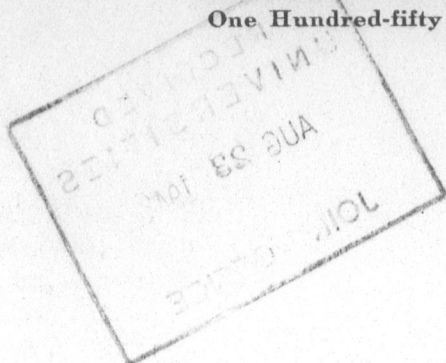
COE/B

C. O. Evans

Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China

One Hundred-fifty Fifth Avenue

New York, N. Y.



*file*

August 19, 1943

Dr. Serge Elisseeff  
Harvard-Yenching Institute  
17 Boylston Hall  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Elisseeff:

Dr. Fenn has sent me a copy of his letter to you dated May 19th and I have received a copy of your letter of June 8th in reply. At the present, Dr. Cheng's situation seems to have been solved without further appropriations from West China funds.

In the process of this investigation various things have come to light which you should know. One, of course, is the psychological effect of having Yenching University start a program in Chengtu and place the salary scale far above that of any other of the four institutions on the West China campus. Funds made available through United China Relief, the Harvard-Yenching Institute and the Rockefeller Foundation have helped in leveling off this difference until that objection is not very practical. The effect, however, of having another institution potentially able to do this is not at all conducive to unity or harmony.

Another phase has been the attitude of those who have been forced to give way because of West China not definitely conforming to the use of the Restricted Fund. This has been annoying and at one time menacing, but it has all blown over.

Still another phase has been Dr. Cheng's own attitude, for with him returning with educational advantages far above that of many of his colleagues, it is quite understandable that his attitude might well be that of a condescending nature to others less fortunate or able. I am convinced that he has learned an excellent lesson.

I believe now that this issue has clarified itself for the time being, but with the constantly advancing prices, we cannot be too sure of the future. We have, however, voted West China \$170,000.00 in Relief Funds aside from Trustees Funds and those from the Institute, which practically is the amount which was asked for their 1943-44 budget. We are hoping to get an additional amount for salary relief during the year to compensate for the still rising price of commodities.

Very sincerely yours,

*C. A. Evans*

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

1126



August 20, 1943

Dr. Serge Elisseeff  
Harvard-Yenching Institute  
17 Boylston Hall  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Elisseeff:

I am reporting to you on developments regarding the use of the \$30,000 balance accrued on the books of the West China Governors from Harvard-Yenching Restricted Funds.

You will recall that the Institute raised restrictions on this Fund and suggested that it be used for adjusting West China salaries. This action was cabled to the field immediately, but we found that meanwhile the funds secured from other sources and the necessities of the occasion had leveled off the differences on the West China campus so that this fund was not needed for this purpose. There was also a reluctance on the part of the field to use it for other than a Chinese cultural program regardless of the raising of limitations. Naturally, Dr. Fenn was notified of this situation and he has made a suggestion which seems constructive and logical, and I have so far agreed to the extent of accepting a draft for two-thirds of the amount. His idea is to use this fund within the structure of the Harvard-Yenching Institute's cultural program for relief and sustenance, and that if there is any possible saving, that it be used to send a student to the United States for graduate study.

It is our plan that Dr. Fenn continue his service during the coming year and, with him in close contact with the situation, I feel that we can be justified in agreeing with his suggestion. That will leave \$10,000 on hand for possible use in next year's budget for further relief in case of continued rise in prices or demands upon the Institute's program.

I am informing Dr. Fenn that we are reporting this to you and that meanwhile he is to keep us informed of progress being made in the use of the funds. We can do this from our office from the administrative standpoint, with the assurance that information will reach us promptly.

Very sincerely yours,

CAE:B/W

C. A. EVANS

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HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF FAR EASTERN LANGUAGES

HARVARD-YENCHING INSTITUTE  
BOYLSTON HALL  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

September 3, 1943  
*file*

Dear Mr. Evans:

Thank you for your letter of August 20th in regard to the use of the balance accrued on the books of West China Union University from Institute Restricted funds. I will report the action outlined therein to the Trustees at their next meeting, and I am sure they will approve.

Sincerely yours,

*Serge Blissett*  
Director of the  
Harvard-Yenching Institute

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

1128



17 Boylston Hall,  
Cambridge, Massachusetts,  
October 1, 1943

Dear Mr. Meng:

I wrote to the Department of State in regard to you after receiving a letter from Dean Lo, of West China Union University, saying they would like to have you come to the U.S. for post-graduate work and asking me what steps should be taken to enable you to do so. I now have a letter from the Department of State in which it is stated:

"It may be added for your information that the American Consular Officer in charge at Kunming, China, was authorized in his discretion to act upon the visa applications of Chinese students without prior reference of their cases to the Department when the sponsorship has been undertaken in China by persons who are well and favorably known to the Consulate General. Consequently, if Mr. Meng is applying for a visa at Kunming and his case is being sponsored locally, it is possible that it will not be referred to the Department. In such circumstances, it would be advisable for your college to forward a communication addressed to Mr. Meng or the Consulate General at Kunming regarding his acceptance as a student."

I am enclosing a letter to me from the Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences which you can show to the American Consul at Kunming or Chungking.

We shall be glad to see you here and we will do our best to help you in your studies.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Serge Elisséeff

Director

Mr. Meng, Szu-ming,  
c/o West China Union University,  
Chengtou, Szechuan, China

Enclosure

January 18, 1944

Dr. Serge Elisseeff  
Harvard-Yenching Institute  
17 Boylston Hall  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Elisseeff:

I am wondering if you have given any other thought to the possibility of rendering any assistance to Mr. Meng Szu-ming.

We have had this up for discussion before, but seemingly felt that there was something lacking in his preparation. However, later letters which have been endorsed by Cheng Te-k'un seem to press for some assistance in his post-graduate work.

I wonder if you have had this material, of which I have some copies, and if not I will forward same to you. These letters are dated July 7th and June 25th and written by Lincoln Dsang and C. S. Lo respectively. I also have a three-page letter from Cheng Te-k'un, reviewing the situation at West China but with particular emphasis on the failure of the Trustees to give him absolute authority to proceed in clearing up what he characterizes as a very weak situation.

Probably Dr. Cheng would make a better President than Lincoln Dsang, but far be it from the Trustees to start any such procedure from this side of the Pacific. I wish we had a Francis Wei at the head of West China, but wishing will get us no where and we must deal with what material we have in hand.

Most sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

1130



# HARVARD-YENCHING INSTITUTE



17 BOYLSTON HALL  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

January 20, 1944

Dear Mr. Evans:

On October 1, 1943, I sent a letter to Mr. Meng Szu-ming, of which I enclose a copy. I therefore know of nothing further I can do. The difficulty is probably in getting passage from China on a plane. Probably, my letter was not received at the time Mr. Chên Te-k'un wrote to you.

I doubt if the Trustees of the Institute, even if they had the power, would be willing to give to Mr. Chên absolute authority at the University, because he is the youngest member of the faculty. I do not think that we here can interfere with the election of the President of a university. If Mr. Dsang is not satisfactory - and he has never seemed to me to be very capable, imaginative or coöperative - it is the Trustees of West China University who should take action.

Sincerely yours,

*Serge Blaisieff*  
Director

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

Enclosure

1131

January 24, 1944

Dr. Serge Elisseeff  
Harvard-Yenching Institute  
17 Boylston Hall  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Elisseeff:

I wish to thank you for your letter of January 20th enclosing a copy of a communication to Mr. Meng at West China Union University.

\* Apparently all has been done which can be taken care of at this end at the present time.

With many thanks, I am

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

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for Report See - Harvard-Yenching Institute file

WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

ack  
1/30/45  
Sept. 7th, 1944

Dear Mr. Evans,

A few days ago we posted the 1943-44 report to the Harvard-Yenching Institute of Chinese Studies to Dr. Elisseeff. Enclosed please find a copy of this report which I trust will reach you safely. I have advised Dr. Elisseeff that you will notify him of the arrival of this copy of the report.

I am very conscious of the fact that it is most difficult during these years to plan our work in full accordance with the desires of Dr. Elisseeff. We are not happy about some things ourselves but I would like to assure you that we are doing our best under the present special circumstances.

I am anxious to hear that <sup>+</sup>Meng Ssu-ming has gotten off to a good start and that he has made a favorable impression on Dr. Elisseeff. I have asked him to write me each month and you might urge him to form this habit. I feel that much depends upon his being happy in his surroundings and in his work during the first few months. It will be a great disappointment to me and to the university if he does not meet the standards set by the Institute. Please inform us of the arrangement you have made to meet his travels and living expenses for this year. In previous correspondence I suggested that all this expenditure should be charged against our Harvard-Yenching Fund balances.

I hope you had some time off this summer and that your office worries will be some what less this coming year. Everyone here is trying to guess the probable date for the ending of the fighting in Europe and how much longer it will be before the invader will be out of China. The last days of the war and the presidential election will combine to produce all the excitement you can desire, I imagine.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
H. D. Robertson

RECEIVED  
OCT 18 1944  
HARVARD-YENCHING INSTITUTE

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