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RUTH M. CHESTER
3914 LOCUST STREET
PHILADELPHIA

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2/15/39

Jan. 12, 1939.

ack 1/17/39

Dear Mr. Evans:-

My friend, Miss Catharine T. Woods of the Pres. Mission has engaged, through the Pres. Board passage on the Emp. of ~~Canada~~-Japan (she says Canada, but according to the sailings you gave me it is the Japan) sailing Aug. 5th from Vancouver. Miss Aber told her she could put me in with her, and I think that is as likely as any to be a satisfactory date for me. So I suggest that you try to arrange that through Miss Aber, so I can be in the same cabin with Miss Woods. For the present it is probably simpler just to engage that straight through to Hongkong and arrange the stop-over later if it proves possible.

If this is arranged in this way, would it be possible, and honorable, for you to hold for a while another place on the Pres. Cleveland July 28? I should feel a little more comfortable to do that, for if I stop in Shanghai, the Japan sailing might be a little too late, though I hope not. I have already written to Chengtu, asking them to send me word as soon as they can about when I should be there, and Mrs. Thurston will be finding out as soon as she can about the prospects of a trip to Nanking. So I think I ought to be able to settle it quite definitely about the first of April.

Sincerely,

Ruth M. Chester.

*Providing they are sure of Shanghai stop.

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Ruth Chester

Hotel Bellevue
Boston Massachusetts
25 January 1939

Dear Ruth:

At the moment I cannot prove that I have answered your question about Barbour Scholarship information. In my mind I have long ago written as follows:

The Barbour Scholarship Committee stands ready at all times to supply copies of a very small brochure on the regulations of appointments. I have not a copy of this booklet and you would, in any case, wish to have the current issue. This booklet states very clearly all of the regulations, and would give you all necessary information for filing applications. I feel certain that the Committee would be willing to have you file a preliminary application on behalf of any student too far away to act for herself, although it is considered highly important for the student herself to fill in the forms at the earliest possible moment.

I hope that you have enjoyed your jaunt Westward and Northward. If you are anywhere tonight within reach of the gales that are sweeping Boston, your ears and nose are being nipped in a way that even China could not better.

Affectionately yours,

EBM:e

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan

Miss Ruth Chester
c/o Mrs. William B. Stinson
3914 Locust Street
Philadelphia Pennsylvania

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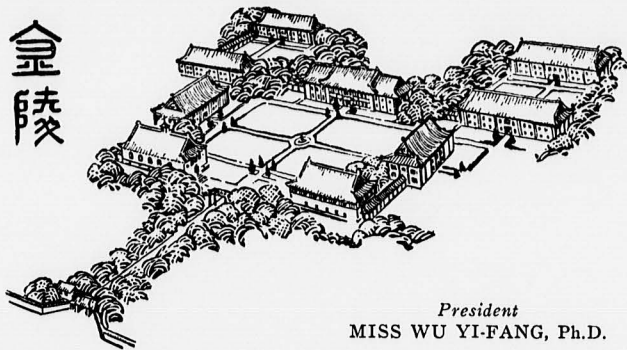
Ruth Hunter

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President
MISS WU YI-FANG, Ph.D.

3914 Locust St.
Philadelphia, Pa.
Feb. 7, 1939.

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FACULTY, ALUMNAE, AND
UNDERGRADUATES OF
SMITH COLLEGE

Dear Eva:-

A letter has just come to me from Helen Loomis which disturbs me considerably. She says that when she was in N.Y. she learned in the office that a "blanket request had come through from China, from the board meeting for a secretary for Dr. Wu" with no mention made of Helen or her relationship, and that a number of people in New York wondered what the matter was. I can hardly believe this is correct for several reasons. I have heard of no board meeting and I don't see when there could have been one, with Dr. Wu away in Madras. In view of her letter to me just before she left for Madras, in fact it was finished and sent from Hongkong, it couldn't have come before that. If it is not correct then something Miss Moore said (she was the only one she saw, wasn't she?) must have been misunderstood. What I suspect is that Miss Moore told her something about the inquiries already started for a secretary, and this got mixed somehow. It is exactly the thing I was afraid of when you first suggested writing to Smith, for it seemed to me rather underhanded to be working on new candidates when Helen was still in the field, and I felt that if she learned of it in any way it would make her position very difficult. Helen is being very fine about it, but this adds a most unpleasant and unnecessary complication to the whole situation. Even if it were true that such a thing had come from China it is certainly not Miss Moore's place to report it to Helen. I don't know who started that unfortunate conversation, but it looks as if Miss Moore did more talking than she should have, and something she said was misunderstood. Will you try to find out exactly what happened, and in any case will you let me know right away whether anything at all about the secretaryship has come from China, other than my letter from Dr. Wu? It puts me in a very queer position too, since Dr. Wu definitely asked me to take the matter up with Helen. It makes it appear that either Dr. Wu or I, or both, are not dealing straightforwardly with Helen. I gather that it was this which made Helen feel uncertain and not able to figure out what I was trying to say or do.

I'm sorry to trouble you with this, but whether Dr. Wu does ask her back or not, this ought to be cleared up at once, before her reply comes if possible.

Sincerely,
Ruth

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Hotel Bellevue
Boston Massachusetts
8 February 1939

Dear Ruth:

I have just received in the morning's mail your note of yesterday, and I am replying at once. I am asking you to send the enclosed copy to Helen Loomis, for she should certainly have our complete confidence in this matter.

Your note raises the question of an impression Miss Loomis received in New York that a request for a secretary for Miss Wu had come through from China without reference to her. There has been no correspondence on this matter from China except that which has either been directed to you or referred to you. Miss Moore is a very kindly person and she was apparently put somewhat off her balance by the questions which Miss Loomis put to her in recent conversation. She has had little experience to prepare her for response to that type of question, and it seems quite clear that her attempts to allay Miss Loomis's fears as to Miss Wu's attitude missed their intended effect. When Miss Moore mentioned the conversation to me, I was disturbed, because I realized this very lack of executive discretion on Miss Moore's part, and I cannot say I am surprised to know that things were said which would only raise additional questions in Miss Loomis's mind. I hope that she will erase the incident from her thinking in so far as the ultimate issues are concerned. She can be thoroughly assured that nothing was being kept from her, and I hope that her sense of humor and more mature experience will come to her aid, so that she can realize she brought upon herself the added bewilderment through conversation with a very new member of our staff who has never before had to deal with material in the dimensions of significance represented by the China Colleges.

Lastly, I sharply resent your statement of yesterday that the inquiry to the Appointment Office of Smith College was premature or unsuitable. We might well not only have taken the step we did to discover whether there were candidates available on the Smith list, but have informed Miss Loomis that we were doing so. You have a copy of the note which I wrote to Smith, and may well share this with Miss Loomis. In that, we spoke of a remote possibility that the preferred candidate for this position might not be able to take it, and that we wished to have preliminary information as to the availability of other candidates. I have not a copy of the note at hand

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Miss Ruth Chester

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8 February 1939

this morning, but I believe you will find that I have quoted its entire text except for a brief description of the requirements of the position and emphasis upon its importance. Miss Loomis has herself had sufficient experience in appointment work of this kind to know that we would have been sadly remiss in our duty to Ginling if we had not done something of this kind in looking forward to the slight possibility that she would not be able to return to Ginling.

Mrs. Thurston and I had a very satisfactory three hours at her home yesterday, and it appeared to be a relief to her and to Miss Calder to have me depart with a considerable load of historic Ginling material which we will carefully keep in New York. Some of it is photographic, and some of it pamphlets - no complete files. We already have in New York the residuum of Miss Bender's files. - We see Mrs. Thurston off at North Station on her way to Hanover and points West at 12:30 on Friday. Last evening I felt that she was near enough to the end of her packing to be assured of departing without too much weariness, a fact of which I was not at all certain when I saw her three days ago.

Sincerely yours,

EBM:e

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan

Miss Ruth Chester
c/o Mrs. William B. Stimson
3914 Locust Street
Philadelphia Pennsylvania

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Chester 07

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President
MISS WU YI-FANG, Ph.D.

3914 Locust St.
Philadelphia, Pa.
Feb. 17, 1939.

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UNDERGRADUATES OF
SMITH COLLEGE

Dear Eva:-

*She wrote
me in
October,
saying
but I never
got it. I
was sorry.*

It happens that I have just had a letter from Wu Mou-i, which says that she is hoping to come to America next fall and has applied again for the Barbour Scholarship. She wanted me to write them on her behalf, which I have done. The big question there will be health, of course, for they are rather wary after several unfortunate health problems, and she has been offered a Barbour Scholarship twice and had to decline for health reasons. However I told them that I knew that would be their chief question and that I really thought she was a safe risk now. I don't know what her chances are there, but not very great, I fear. As soon as I got her letter I also wrote to Miss Comstock to see whether there was anything worth applying for there, and whether I could put in the application for her. There has not been time yet to hear from her. Meanwhile I should think it very worth while to put her name in for B.U., though it would not be my first choice for her. If the man you speak of does leave the chem. dept I should hate to have her go there, for she should have something really good. I should think the best way would be to put in her application and see what comes of that and these other feelers. I will write a separate letter recommending her and enclose it, so that you can use it as you wish.

Do you know what Chen Lan-ying wants to study? My guess is economics, but she may have changed her interests since I knew her. If you think they have what she wants I should think it a good idea to put her name in there. Is B.U. a good place for music? That is what Hu Shih-tsang would want, and she is ready for quite advanced work. I don't know anything about their music so the question is without any implications whatsoever. The other question about her is that so far as I know she has nothing for travel or any part of her expenses. It may be that Miss Sutherland has arranged that in some way, but I am sure Shih-tsang herself has absolutely nothing, except debts. That was one of the reasons I didn't try to put in the Barbour application for her for I felt my uncertainty on that point alone would practically disqualify her. It is hard to know what to do, for I don't think it looks well or helps our cause to make applications and then possibly turn them down for lack of other funds, and yet I hate to block any chance

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of getting her a scholarship if she could possibly use it, for she is more or less wasting time at present, I gather and she is certainly worthy of the chance. Kao Ren-ying's plans are all made by the Y.W. I think and all financed as far as study goes. All she needs is a little help on the travel end which she is carrying herself. The R.R. clergy certificate was what she was asking for, but I don't see how we can do anything about that when she is under the Y.W. There are several other girls applying for a Barbour Scholarship and they certainly won't all make it, but whether it is wise to put any of them on the B.U. list or not, is a question. Only one of them is a Ginling faculty member and that is Hwang Dzun-mei, also chemistry. I do not know whether she has any understanding with Dr. Wu about the future or not, but she has been with us now for several years and done very good work. That brings to my mind a question about Wu Mou-i. She has not been with Ginling the last two years, as she definitely wanted some experience elsewhere. So she is not technically a member of our faculty now. But she has been for many years and we hope very much she will come back to us after she has had further study. She has made no promises, I think, but has said that she would be glad to consider it later, and I feel practically sure she will return to us. Certainly Dr. Wu and I will both do everything possible to get her to, and I think she wants to herself. I hope, in fact, that she will become the head of the department eventually. I thought you ought to know this in case it makes any difference in ~~xxx~~ her eligibility.

Helen Loomis was rather distressed that I had said anything about her letter to me, which she evidently thought I would take entirely confidentially, though there was nothing in the letter to indicate that. However, I still think it was better to clear the matter up, and am glad that I had done it, quite innocently, before I knew she didn't want me to. But she does want it dropped and forgotten now, and I think she is right about that. I do hope we hear soon from Dr. WU. It ought to come any time now.

I will enclose a letter of recommendation for Wu Mou-i, written to you, but in a form you can pass on. If you want any further information about any of the others, more than you already have, let me know and I will do what I can. Of all the group I feel Mou-i should have first place, because she is the oldest and has done such a splendid piece of work and is capable of the best. I am sure Dr. Wu would agree with me on that too, and it is not just because I happen to know her best and am most fond of her personally.

I will let you know if there are any developments from Radcliffe.

Sincerely,

Ruth

My typing seems extra bad today for some reason!

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Consult Mrs. Sears

R. Chester

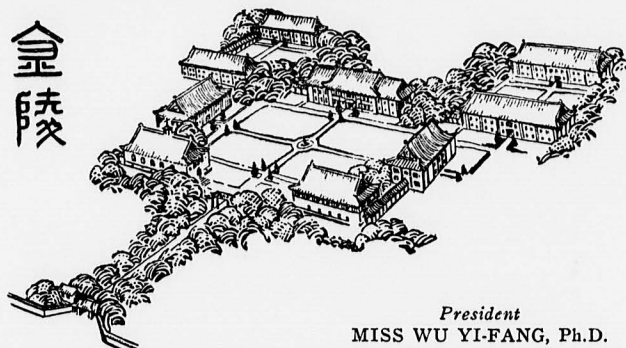
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President
MISS WU YI-FANG, Ph.D.

3914 Locust St.
Philadelphia, Pa.
March 8, 1939.

Chester

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SOCIETY

FACULTY, ALUMNAE, AND
UNDERGRADUATES OF
SMITH COLLEGE

Rec'd 3/9/39

Dear Miss Hodge,

Thankyou for the letters from Dr. WU. I am glad to know she had safely returned, and I hope my letter was not too long in arriving. Hers seems to have been pretty slow. Was it a clipper letter, or ordinary mail? I hope Miss Mossman's got there earlier, for if it didn't I am afraid there will not be much she can do. I have written her, so she will let me know whatever comes of it. Its too bad it is so late, but with Dr. Wu away so long it couldn't be helped, I guess. In the same mail with your letter I had one from Eva Macmillan about fellowship applications for various Ginling girls that we have been corresponding about. In that she was asking if I thought we should try to get some help for some of them from the Associated Boards emergency fund for Chinese faculty study. As Dr. Wu's letter was so much related to that I took the liberty of send them on to her first, and asking her to send them immediately to Rebecca. I hope you don't mind, but it seemed the only simple way of answering her letter. I have written Rebecca that I did this, so she will know it is on the way and can check up if it doesn't come along promptly. I have also written Mereb Mossman. I shall be writing Mrs. Sears shortly and will mention it, though she is not doing anything on Chinese faculty anyhow, so I don't think it matters there.

Fellowship applications

Administrative help for her

I am sorry Dr. Wu has so many things to call her away all the time, but I don't see any hope of remedying it. All the things she mentions are so important that I don't see how she can avoid them, and yet this constant travelling has for some years back really seriously interfered with her regular administrative duties. I feel very strongly that Ginling cannot afford to lose her, nor can we afford to hold her back from these larger responsibilities, even if we had the right to, and the only solution I see is to try to get another administrative officer, perhaps vice president, to be associated with her all the ~~in~~ time, who would know her plans and be able to help carry them out, both in her absence and when she is there. This plan for Tsu Yu-dji, for example should have been taken care of earlier, though perhaps that is a bad illustration as I guess a good deal of it evolved while she was away. There will

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MAR 8 1939

be at least two difficulties in carrying out such a plan, even if approved. One is that she will almost certainly protest that Ginling cannot afford to add such a person to the staff. Since she has even tried to do without a secretary these last two years, I foresee she will balk on that score. The other difficulty would be to find the right person, who would work with and under her and still be one she would trust to take action in her absence, and to take over entirely part of the regular administrative work. It might be possible to combine it with the dean's work or some other work, for it might not need to be a full time job, but I do think a permanent person that not only takes over in her absence, but is associated with her all the time, would be a great help. I was writing Mrs. New recently and said very much the same thing to her. I am so afraid Dr. Wu will go beyond her strength some of these days and have to give up, and we must prevent that if possible. It may be that a good secretary would eventually fill this need, but I don't see how she could at first. "Assistant-to-the-president"? V.P.?

*Later, Dr. Wu
thinks we ought
not to take her
away from her
present work
in the office.*

Helen Loomis is almost surely not returning, though she has not given her official answer yet. Nothing has been heard from Dr. Wu, but it ought to come soon. I asked her to cable, and that should have come long ago, but I am afraid she has not felt she could do it that way. But we are proceeding with other candidates. I talked with one in New York the other day, who looks like a very good prospect, and there are one or two others under consideration. I had dinner with Mrs. Sears and we talked it all over. She asked me to carry the correspondence with them a little farther, which I am doing. I hope we can be ready for a decision by the time of the executive com. meeting, but am not sure of course.

I did not get to the Philadelphia Day of Prayer meetings as I was speaking in the evening at Ambler and was nursing a cold that threatened to interfere with that. I wish I could have heard Rebecca.

My trip has been postponed till after Easter, which suits me better and also fits the dates for speaking better. I shall be leaving here April 11th, and will get back around May 1st.

Affectionately yours,

Ruth.

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35 Hedgecliff Terrace
Yonkers, New York
March 9, 1939

My dear Miss Chester:

Since I met and talked with you the other night, a letter from Mrs. Nield at Smith College indicates that we should be rather careful in our consideration of Miss Bennett for the opening at Ginling. She writes as follows: "During my absence my secretary recommended to you Miss Barbara Bennett. From my personal knowledge of her while in College, I should have been rather hesitant to have made this suggestion. I was under the impression that Miss Bennett was perhaps not so well adjusted as she should have been. It has been some years since she has been here, and I am not really in a position to judge her at the present time, but if you are considering her for the position at Ginling College, I should like to have you make a very careful inquiry concerning her success in her present position."

You will recall that we had no recommendation for her from those with whom she works at present. It was stated that those papers would be sent on in a few days. I have received none, and there may be some significance attached to this fact. I shall be glad to know what you have learned from your interview with Mrs. Bennett after we talked together.

More recently, papers have come from Miss Hildar Leland, who is now teaching piano and head of the Music Department of State Teachers College in Dickinson, North Dakota. I also have a letter from Miss Leland and I am very much pleased with everything I have about her at the present time.

Miss Charlotte Landeen of Caldwell, New Jersey is also anxious for an interview as soon as possible. I am wondering what success you had in following up the list of possibilities for the other position.

In your proposed trip after Easter, would you be any nearer North Dakota than Detroit? It would seem to me worthwhile to have Miss Leland come to Detroit if further correspondence seems to warrant it?

Sincerely yours,

MSS/am
Miss Ruth Chester
3914 Locust Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Mrs. Charles H. Sears
Chairman, Personnel Committee.

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MRS. T. D. MACMILLAN

金陵



President
MISS WU YI-FANG, Ph.D.

3914 Locust St.
Philadelphia, Pa.
April 2, 1939.

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FACULTY, ALUMNAE, AND
UNDERGRADUATES OF
SMITH COLLEGE

Dear Eva,

Thankyou so much for sending me word about Wu Mou-i. I am sorry that my reply to you has been delayed a bit by the fact that I was away, but hope it will not matter seriously. I am getting a letter off to Mou-i on this clipper, telling her that there is good hope of some help from Ginling and that if her acceptance of this offer is dependent on that to let me know at once what her minimum requirement would be. I advised her to come, but pointed out that there may be some risk as to finances after the first year. My own feeling is that if the first year and round trip travel is in sight she had better come, and hope that a way can be found for her to finish her degree once she is here.

Do you know whether she has been sent a catalogue and course of study bulletin for the graduate school, so she will know where she is, and what requirements she has to meet? I told her she would have to have both French and German, as she might be able to do some more on them this spring. I am fairly sure her German will be all right. Did you think there was anything else she might lack? I can't think of anything, but I don't know their requirements. Did they tell you she would have to take a pre-graduate year? You said something like that in one of your letters, but I can't see why, and I should not think they would give fellowship aid to her if they thought that. I would like to know about it, for it might easily make a difference in her decision.

Yes, I do approve of her coming, if Ginling can help her out in the way suggested at the Ex. meeting. I think once here there would be a way found for her to finish, and if not, she would at least get the year, which is better than nothing. My only hesitation would be if they really have some regulations which would prevent her from being a full graduate student and getting right to work on her requirements for the doctorate. Of course if it is simply a matter of not having a certain rank until the language deficiency is made up, and they would allow her to go on with the work while that was getting done, neither she nor I would mind that. I don't want her work in China to be discounted, but aside the matter of her technical rank at first is unimportant if it doesn't mean adding a year to her study. She will probably need three years altogether, I should think, considering the language, but that ought to be enough unless her thesis strikes difficulties - then no one

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APR 2 1939

can tell.

Kweiyang

Her address is care of ~~XXXXXX~~ Medical College, Kweiyang, Kweichow.

I am very happy that she has this chance and hope we can raise enough to help her with whatever else she needs. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ (Sorry, I've been to church since I started this letter and was just about to repeat something I have already said).

I have a letter from Michigan saying they have granted the Barbour Scholarship to Hwang Dzun-mei, so that is good news too. I rather think that with that she may be all right, but have asked Dr. Wu to find out whether she needs any other help and let us know.

I think my trip will work out about as follows:

- April 11 - 16th Washington
- " 17 - 19 Western College, Oxford, Ohio, care of Alice Butler.
- " 19 - 22 Berea, Ky.
- " 22 - 24 Charleston Ill, Care of Edith Haught.
- " 24 - 26 or 27, Detroit and Ann Arbor
- " 27 - 28 Cleveland, Emily Case
- " 28 ?? Elmira College.

A few details still need revising, as I think the friend I want to visit in Elmira is coming to Philadelphia about the time I would get there. If I can make it in time to drive over with her it will be fine, but I may just miss it. If you especially want me in Ann Arbor the 24th (or was it Detroit?) I could take a night train and get there that morning, so let me know how important it is. I have not heard anything more from the Detroit Smith Club, so don't know whether that is to be a date or not. At present the Washington Smith Club is the only speaking engagement. In Washington I shall be with Mean Gates, 1701 Swann St, N.W. till 14th and then with Mrs. Ray H. Skelton, Box 176 Hyattsville Md. the rest of the time. If there are any important changes in these dates later I will let you know.

Sincerely,

Ruth

This letter was written in three different sittings & part of the time with a considerable part of my attention on little Barbara, who has just discovered what fun it is to walk alone! I'm afraid it is pretty scrappy.
RHC.

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over

Hotel Bellevue
Boston Massachusetts
4 April 1939

Dear Ruth:

I have just talked with Miss Dorothy Young, the pleasant assistant in the Graduate School office at Radcliffe, and she tells me that a new course of study pamphlet has just come off the press. She will send a copy to you, but will not mail one to Wu Mou-i. By any ordinary post, I suppose a pamphlet would not get through in time to be of use. It occurred to me that you would be able to take out the pages of value and send them along by air. I hope that this hunch is the right one.

The suggestion of a pre-graduate year was made by Mrs. Cronkhite before she was convinced that Mou-i had usable German. If there had been no credit of a modern language allowed, Radcliffe would not have granted the fellowship. The more generous ruling followed - as I understand it - upon our sending to Mrs. Cronkhite your statements in regard to Mou-i's German, and this encouraging fellowship grant is the end result. I feel quite certain from all that Mrs. Cronkhite has said to me that no fellowship aid is given to a student who is not considered to be of full graduate status.

The 24th of April is the day of the meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Diocese of Michigan at which a Ginling hour has been arranged. I do not know the time of the day. I shall be there in any case, and it is a group with which I am much at home. If you are in the city, you could certainly add to the interest of the hour. At the moment I do not know where I shall be staying in Detroit, but must let you know when arrangements are completed. I usually stay at the Wardell, corner of Woodward and Kirby, but I may decide on the Statler this year.

It is such a satisfaction to know that Hwang Dzun-mei is to be at Michigan next year. I have it in mind to ask Almenn Gray Wilde for a repetition of her thousand dollar gift, making it this year the thousand dollars which we are to keep in hand for these cases of graduate study. Almenn lives in Detroit.

Your itinerary sounds like a continual round of pleasant reunions, but why this touch and go speed? I can see each one of your hostesses trying to keep you longer.

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Miss Ruth M. Chester

-2-

4 April 1939

The Charles R. Bennetts burst upon my vision this morning at the Bellevue. They both look well enough, but bear the marks of the recent strenuous days. They do not commit themselves as to whether or not they are to return. If you have a yearning to communicate with them, I would suggest that you address them in care of the National City Bank of New York.

Sincerely yours,

Miss Ruth M. Chester
3914 Locust Street
Philadelphia Pennsylvania

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(17)

RUTH M. CHESTER
3914 LOCUST STREET
PHILADELPHIA

April 5, 1939.

ack 4/6/39

Mr. C.A. Evans
Room 903
150 Fifth Ave.
New York City.

My dear Mr. Evans:

I am beginning to feel a little guilty about continuing to hold two sailings for this summer. The situation is this: I have heard from Dr. Wu, but she was not yet sure when college would be opening on account of uncertainty about the government military nursing requirements. However in that letter she said she thought my plan to reach Hongkong Sept. 7 would be all right and to continue to hold that and she would let me know, probably by cable during March what the final plans would be. March is past and nothing more has come. The Sept. 7 date is C.P., the one Miss Aber is holding for me, so there is every probability that I shall go that way. If there is no great pressure for final decisions and it seems all right to hold the one you have a little longer I should be glad to have it in reserve, but if you feel it is not fair to keep it under these circumstances let it go and I will take my chances later if there has to be a change. If necessary I could cut out the Shanghai-Nanking stop-over but I hope to get some things out and take with me that will be a real help to our work, so I don't want to omit that unless necessary.

1135

(2)
April 5, 1939

RUTH M. CHESTER
3914 LOCUST STREET
PHILADELPHIA

Please use your own judgement as to whether to continue to hold the sailing you have for me, and I will let you know as soon as any further word comes from Dr. Wu.

I have had another question in my mind for some time, and that is whether anyone has asked you to make a tentative reservation for a probable new member of our Ginling staff. We are hoping to get a new music teacher, and possibly also a secretary for Dr. Wu, but no definite appointments are made yet. What should be done in order to make sure that such persons will be able to get sailings? It will be quite important for any new people going out to meet me in Hongkong, at least, for the trip inland may have its difficulties and would certainly be easier for a newcomer if she had a fellow-traveler that knew China. Very likely she or they would not want to stopover in Shanghai, though possibly the trip to Nanking would appeal if it could be arranged. I would like to take the whole trip together, but probably a sailing two weeks later than mine, that is the Emp. of Asia which I will be taking from S'hai to HK would be the best guess to make now. I think there is every probability that there will be a music appointment, but quite a big chance that the secretary will be arranged on the field and not going from here, so probably one reservation in addition to mine should be held.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth M. Chester

1136

April 6, 1939

Miss Ruth M. Chester
3914 Locust Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Miss Chester:

Your letter of the 5th came to hand this morning and please ease your conscience about holding the President Line reservation. There is every prospect that this can be used by either the Presbyterian Board or our office, and we will not relinquish it until it is absolutely necessary.

Incidentally you may be interested to learn that there are absolutely no sailings available on the August sailing of the Canadian Pacific or the American President Line. This does not mean but that there may be opportunities through cancellations, but there is a very large waiting list.

No request has been made for a reservation for a music teacher, but I have asked the Presbyterian Board to hold a reservation which they have unless they have a previous applicant for same. In any event, we will bear this in mind, but hope that as soon as the Committee approves of a candidate that our office will be informed immediately.

With sincerest personal regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

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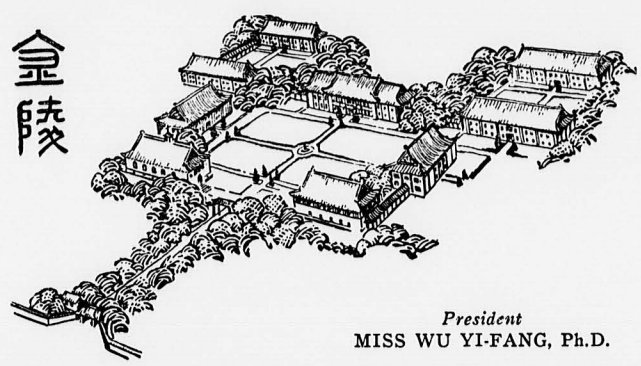
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NANKING, CHINA

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President
MISS WU YI-FANG, Ph.D.

3914 Locust St.
Philadelphia.
May 22, 1939.

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- UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY
SOCIETY
- FACULTY, ALUMNAE, AND
UNDERGRADUATES OF
SMITH COLLEGE

Dear Eva:

I had a letter from Dr. Wu today and there are a few matters to pass on to you.

I wrote her about Louise Chang some time ago and she says: "I would like to get more information about Louise Chang, especially confidential letters from her professors. We need to strengthen our sociology staff and I would be glad to know of possible candidates." Can you collect some such information for her, or get it sent on to her? I don't even remember where Miss Chang is studying. She doesn't indicate whether she would invite her for next fall or not, and of course in the meantime she may take some other job, but the best we can do is to get the information to her and an address where she can reach her in the summer if she wants to.

She thoroughly approves of helping Wu Mou-i to accept the Radcliffe appointment, but feels doubtful about giving anything to Hwang Dzun-mei as she has been teaching a shorter time at Ginling and will probably not be returning to us later, or at least it is uncertain. Wu Mou-i is definitely planning to return to Ginling. She feels any scholarship help we give should be dependent on length of service and definite plans for return etc. which is what we should all agree to. She does not mention Mrs. Yeh in this connection though in another place she speaks of her decision to accept the Westminster offer. I infer that she is not counting on any help from this fund.

She says Tsu Yu-dji does not seem to want to return to Ginling or to go abroad for study next fall, though I gather the final decision has not been made. She knows about Wu Suen-i's correspondence with Emily Werner and the scholarship, though I can't tell whether she realizes what kind of study that would largely be. She is expecting Suen-i in from the country soon and will talk it all over with her and let us know later whether any of the Southern Methodist money is needed for either of these people.

She has evidently about reached the conclusion that the English department should have an additional foreigner rather than a Chinese

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MAY 22 1939

and asks me to find out from Rebecca about someone she interviewed several years ago. I have written Rebecca for more information. She suggests the possibility that Louise Shoup might come back for a year or two, though Louise's best friend in Nanking is doubtful about her being happy in Chengtu, as am I. Do you know whether she finishes her doctorate this year or not? I have the impression that she does not and if that is true she would not want to interrupt it at this stage. She wants to talk with several others before she finally decides on asking any foreigner, as there is only a Chinese salary budgeted, but thought I might be making tentative enquiries in the meantime.

She evidently felt in Hongkong that Mr. Cressy was so enthusiastic about the progress of cooperation in Shanghai and the possible realization of his long-cherished dream of a Federated University there that he is inclined to overlook the needs of the group in the west. They are cooperating also, though on a somewhat different basis, but I suppose he feels it is more temporary than that in Shanghai. Anyhow she felt we should do all we can at the A.B. meeting to keep up our end.

What is the latest on the music vacancy? Did you cable? If so will you ask Miss Moore to drop me a line when the answer comes? I am still hanging on to two sailings, and feel I should continue to do so as long as there is any chance of another Vinlinger going out this summer, for it is practically impossible to get anything now.

Miss Moore may have told you that I am going to Baltimore after all for a Smith Club meeting May 31st. I can't say I am enthusiastic about adding such a trip to the million things I am trying to do in the next two or three weeks, but I felt I couldn't turn them down since I said in March that I would do it in May if they wanted me to.

I must get a letter written to Dr. Wu and bedtime is approaching and tomorrow is planned pretty full, so I must on to the next. I hope I have remembered all the important things.

Sincerely,

Ruth

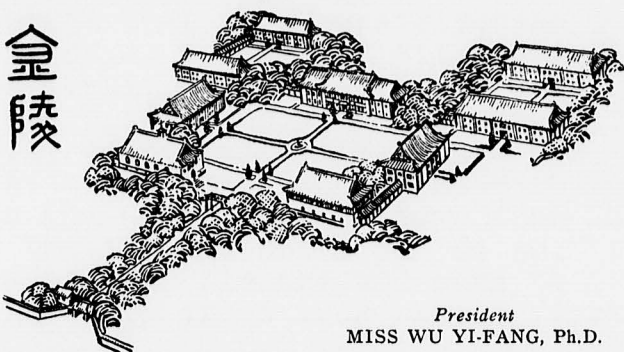
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NANKING, CHINA

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MISS WU YI-FANG, Ph.D.

3914 Locust St.
Philadelphia, Pa.

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UNDERGRADUATES OF
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My dear Mr. Evans:

At last I am back home and have a little time to think and plan and write letters, and there is quite a lot of business that I need to transact with you.

Firstly, lest I forget it, there is still considerable prospect of another Ginling appointee so I hope you will ask the Presbyterian Board to continue to hold the Aug. 5th sailing until Miss Griest or Mrs. Macmillan are sure whether we shall need it or not. I would like to feel that I personally have no further responsibility for it, and have told both Mrs. Macmillan and Miss Griest about it. I am definitely counting on the Cleveland, July 28th as I think you know.

Miss Aber said she would get my visas for me and send the passport to you when it was finished - Japanese, Chinese, British and French are needed, I suppose, but all transit ones except the Chinese. I hope recent events will not cause our State Department to interfere in any way.

I was beginning to wonder if my plan to return here from Maine to get my trunks was a sensible one, or if there could be some other way found that would make it possible for me to go from Boston to Chicago without coming here, but I don't want to take trunks to Maine and no other way seems feasible except to check now to Boston and from there to S.F. and I have just a slight hesitation in doing that in view of the uncertainties that are inevitable in these days. If there should be any reason for a change of date or plan it might be quite awkward to have the trunks way off there, and probably storage for a month would eat up part of the small amount that would be saved by not coming back here. I stopped at this point and did a little figuring and find there is practically no difference in cost anyhow, so I'll settle on Philadelphia. I shall then leave Maine on Saturday afternoon July 22 and get here Sunday morning and leave again Sunday night. I don't know whether I should pay for my ticket as far as Philadelphia or not. When I came home last summer I went to Maine directly from Montreal which was probably cheaper than it would have been to come here, but I'm not sure. I seem to have thrown away the timetable I need for that but I think I leave Bangor around three or four something Saturday afternoon and get to N.Y. at 6:20 standard time, in the A.M.

1140

A coach ticket is all right from ~~Phila~~ N.Y. to Phila and then I can take whatever train is convenient. Since there is no clergy rate from Maine to N.Y. anyhow and from N.Y. to Phila I can get my own with my certificate, suppose you just get the ticket and reservations from Phila west anyhow. If you think the college should be responsible for my trip down from Maine I can charge that up separately, and if not I'll just pay it. So it is Phila to Chicago, via P.R.R. with a reservation on the Pittsburgh Night Express, train #35-79 leaving Phila at 10:40 P.M. July 23 and from Chicago west via C.&N.W., U.P.RR and S.P.RR "The Challenger" train # 87 in the C. & N.W. table and ~~#517~~ in the U.P. which leaves Chicago at 10:30 P.M. the 24th and reaches S.F. at 8:25 the morning of the 27th. I will be in Phila now until next Friday, June 23, and if you would rather have me get the tickets now I can do so, if you send me the money. Or you can get them at your leisure and send to me in Maine. I did not expect to be here for this extra week when I first began planning.

I think that takes care of all the travel problems, but I have a few items to present in the way of expenses etc:

Purchases for Miss Minnie Vautrin, to be deducted from her salary check.....	14.01
Expenses to N.Y. for A.B.C.C.C. meetings.....	2.90
" " " " Ginling meeting.....	2.70
Postage, Ginling business.....	2.00
Total due in addition to salary and travel funds	<u>21.61</u>

*Paid 6/17/39
no 777*

As I am having more expenses now than I shall after I get to Maine, making final purchases etc. I should be very glad if I could have these funds and some salary advance immediately, for use next week. If this is not convenient or too irregular I can manage, but it would be simpler to have this and at least the June salary right now, and if the July salary could come now it would be fine. The travel allowance and funds can come any time that allows a few days margin for me to get to the bank in Bar Harbor and get Express checks, for we don't go over there very often. I have so far paid all my dental bills and most of my medical bills myself, and do not plan to turn them in. However I mention them so the door will not be closed in case I find I am coming out too badly to be able to afford to do that.

OK car

note

If I had done all my thinking and figuring before I began this letter it would have been a better letter, but I trust it won't be too hard to wade through. My address in Maine, after June 23, is care of Mrs. W. B. Stimson, Sutton Island, Maine.

Thankyou for all your trouble, and let me know if I have left any loop-holes unprovided for.

Sincerely,

Ruth M. Chester

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RUTH M. CHESTER
3914 LOCUST STREET
PHILADELPHIA

over
June 19, 1939.

My dear Mr. Evans:

A letter from Dr. Wu this morning raises one question in regard to travel which I would like your advice on. She suggests that people coming from Shanghai have found it more convenient to take a coastal steamer from S. to Haiphong, which stops a couple of days in Hongkong. I knew of this and would have tried to go that way if starting in Shanghai, but it is my impression that going from here a ticket to Hongkong costs very little more than to Shanghai and that it is therefore cheaper to do as I planned and go on the pierce to Hongkong. Would you let me know how much difference there is between the Shanghai and Hongkong tickets please? Do you think it would cost more to do it the other way? They say it makes it easier in Hongkong because you don't have to transfer baggage. On the other hand, I hoped I could send part of my baggage right on to HK on the Cleveland and not have to handle it in Shanghai, and if I can do that it is an argumnet the other way, though I have to handle a good deal in Shanghai anyhow and the total elimination of that problem in Hongkong would be nice. If I buy the steamer ticket to HK now, would they redeem that part in Shanghai if I should change my mind later? It would depend some on dates.

Paid 6/20/39

no 779

1.15

at C.O.D.

I forgot in my last letter to include a small bill for the chemistry department, which I paid as they sent

Sincerely, Ruth M. Chester.

over

1142

Someone just told me R.R. rates are to be re-
duced Jul. 1st. If so my ticket might better be
purchased after that.

R.M.E.

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June 20, 1939

Miss Ruth M. Chester
3914 Locust Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Miss Chester:

I have checked with the steamship companies on the question you raise about traveling coastwise from Shanghai to Haiphong and think that you will find it a distinct disadvantage.

The China Navigation Company is running boats at intervals of every twenty days, but they are much slower and not all of them stop at Haiphong. The O.S.K. Japanese Line runs boats from Yokohama south taking thirteen days for the trip, there being something like eight stops. The cost of the ticket between Hongkong and Shanghai on the regular boats is \$15.00. We do not know the price on the coastwise steamer. In every respect it would seem to me most advisable to take the larger boat as far as possible, putting up with what small additional inconveniences as are necessary in making the transfer at Hongkong. I shall not cease to investigate still further and will let you know if there is any change in opinion.

We did not have in mind buying the ticket until after July 1st, although the reductions which you speak of cover round-trip tickets alone. There is no reduction on single way through tickets. These reductions are figured in zones and entail a complicated process of computing fares and it is possible that even on the 1st of July they will not be put into effect.

Most cordially yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

Herewith is check for \$1.15 to cover the A. H. Thomas invoice.

C. A. E.

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NANKING, CHINA

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President
MISS WU YI-FANG, Ph.D.

3914 Locust St.
Philadelphia.
June 22, 1939.

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SMITH COLLEGE

My dear Mr. Evans:

A letter from Miss Sutherland brings up some further business. She asked me to try to get some victrola records, a baby organ and possibly a portable victrola. For the latter I think I will try to get mine out from Nanking and take it up and can lend it to the music department for the present. I went to a store here where they sell second hand records and got quite a lot at prices very much less than new ones and they are all in good condition. They are being sent to me to the boat and I asked them to send the bill to you. The total is \$10.27 less 50 cents which I paid in cash as a deposit the other day. Never mind the fifty cents - I'll settle that in Chengtu or else keep one or two records myself. The letter says Miss Priest and Dr. Wu agreed that \$100 might be used from the budget for these things. Can you give me any advice about the baby organ? I have the impression that the Moutrie organs, made in China stand up better out there than organs from here, but for some reason Miss Sutherland seems to imply that she wants me to bring it from here if I can. She says if it is too late to get it from here to look in Hongkong. Possibly Moutrie isn't functioning now and they are hard to get, but I somehow doubt that. Could I get it through the Pres. Board more cheaply than I can direct? I doubt if it can be managed from here anyway because of the time. It is too late to get it to HK by freight in time for me to get it and I don't know whether I could take it as baggage on the boat or not. If I can and it can get delivered to the boat in San F. that would be all right. I am leaving for Maine tomorrow so there is nothing I can do about it, and I don't know what to do if I had the time. If it doesn't seem feasible I will try to get it in Hongkong or Shanghai, and in that case will need a little margin of funds beyond travel needs. I can straighten the accounts with Miss Priest when I get there.

Dr. Wu wrote that Butterfield and Swire have fairly frequent boats from S'hai to Happong, stopping a couple of days in HK. I don't know what the cost is, but I think it is almost surely more than \$15 and the gain in convenience is not very great, so I think I won't bother with it.

Thankyou for the checks and the advance in salary. I am all set now for Maine, and leaving tomorrow, so all further correspondane should be addressed there - Sutton Island.

Sincerely, Ruth M. Chester.

P.S. Enclosed with the bill is a list of records. Please give to Mrs. Macmillan. RMC.

1145

Travel requirements for Mrs. Rhead.
Answers to Deakle

77

3914 Locust St.
Philadelphia.
June 22, 1939.

Dear Eva:

I had a letter from Mrs. Rhead which I have sent on to Rebecca. One of the things she asked was about travel conditions and I told her you had a letter giving lots of details. While they may change before she goes, I think it would be a help to her imagination to read it. Are you having it copied? If so that will be easy to send her a copy. If not would you send it to her very soon, asking her to be sure to get it back to me before I sail? I want either the original or a copy to take with me as I can't remember all the details. I think it would also be well to send her the one telling me what to bring, for that too helps one to realize what conditions are. She is not yet sure whether she can make it before next summer, but is going to think it over and see what she can do.

Did any answer come to the cable asking for more information about the bombing? I am very anxious to know whether anyone I know was involved.

I've spent most of today choosing victrola records from a second hand lot. They are amazingly cheap and in good condition, so I got 39 records, some of them double, for \$10.12! Quite a lot, in fact at least half of them are good red seal records, and the cheaper ones are things that will be of use, I hope too. It was fun and I think I did very well on them, but it did take a pile of time in which I expected to do other things. Since it is over \$10.00 worth they will send to San F. free of charge, also.

I talked with Florence and we decided that the best thing to do about Miss Stimson is to put her name on the lists to receive bulletins etc. and then after those have been coming awhile to send her a regular appeal. Florence thinks that a special appeal for some particular purpose might get a response once, but that the other method is more likely to get her on the lists as a regular giver. You will of course know that I do not want any pressure put on her in any way that would seem to involve me or the family, but I think she might be glad to give something. I think I gave you her address, but will put it in anyhow in case I didn't. I will also add a few other names of people who would like to get letters and information for they are interested in Ginling and what happens to Ginling, but they won't be worth much as givers for they don't have much. I'll put all these on a separate paper and indicate their relationship to me. I will just do the ones that come to mind quickly now, but I may think of some more later. I am sending out a brief mimeographed letter to friends before I leave and as I go through that list I may find some that ought to be included.

I'm leaving tomorrow for Maine so send any further communications there - Sutton Island.

This is all I think of tonight, but my thinker is rather feeble. I hope Maine air will revive it. Sincerely,

Ruth

P.S. Mr. Evans will give you, in a few days, a list of the records I got. They said they'd send it with the bill. Keep it on file as Catherine, or anyone wanting to get records will hear what I got. R.M.C.

1146

JUN 22 1939

*I'm waiting
for your O.K.
before making
cards for
these.
Ann*

Miss A. K. Stimson, 1900 Rittenhouse Sq., Philadelphia.
(My sister & sister-in-law)

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth S. Chester, 140-71 34th Ave., Flushing.
(Cousin)

Mrs. Charles M. Burt, Greenport, N.Y. (Cousin)

Mrs. Charles W. Marsac, 30-60- ~~29th St.~~ 48th St., Long Island City.
(Cousin)

Ruth M. Chester,

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June 23, 1939

Miss Ruth M. Chester
c/o Mrs. W. B. Stimson
Sutton Island, Maine

Dear Miss Chester:

Your letter regarding the victrola records and the organ came to hand this morning, and as you have spent only \$10.27 for the records and are willing to loan your machine that leaves a considerable amount for the organ.

It must be a year ago now that a portable organ was sent to them and which was paid for by Miss Griest as I remember it. Recent reports indicate that it was lost in transit or else it is held up at Kuming with a vast quantity of freight aggregating about fifteen tons which Dr. Beech is planning on taking through to Chengtu. This was a Bilhorn Organ which is the best made. We paid \$79.80 and if you are agreeable we will order one from Chicago to be sent directly to your boat, the President Cleveland, sailing July 28th. As there is time for us to order this and get it out to you, we will wait for your advice.

When the bills come through, which you speak of, I shall take care of them immediately.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

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C O P Y

University of Nanking
Chungking, China June 23, 1939
(rec'd New York 8 July 1939)

Dear Miss Chester:

I learned that you are spending the summer vacation with your sister in Maine, and I do not have the address. Since there is but little hope for this letter to reach you in time, I am sending it through Mrs. Macmillan of Ginling College Office, New York City.

Before I go on to ask you to do me any favour, I must tell you first what it is all about. I am working on an experiment of making photographic emulsions. This has been my wish for years, and now with the financial support of the China Industrial Cooperatives and the permission of free use of the laboratory and darkroom of this university, I go ahead despite the fact that we do not have everything we need. Silver and bromide we can get. But the only kind of gelatin we have does not meet the requirements. So I am now sending you a check for U.S. \$100.00 to get some of the gelatins I want. In addition, I like to have some of the color-sensitizing dyes to increase the range of sensitivity and a number of books for reference. Unfortunately, I have taken all of this information from English sources, and I do not know whether they are obtainable in New York. But in fact any books published lately dealing with photographic emulsions or the science of photography would be even more desirable. Since I do not have the least idea of the prices of the various dyes, I can only give a suggestive order. Please be free to make any alterations.

As for the duty on chemicals, I think it is very possible to get a certificate from the Ministry of Education for exemption. Dr. Wu suggests asking the company to make duplicate copies of invoices and send one copy directly to me in Chungking. Will you please tell me what is the best address to catch you in Hongkong?

I think the order should not be over 90 dollars, so that there will be 10 extra for mail and shipment if you think that can cover the expense. If it is more convenient for you, the books may be mailed to me to Chungking directly by the company. But if you can bring the more important ones with you, that will be grand. The dyes are likely to be in small quantities, and, if possible, I wish they could be with you, and a small part of the gelatin also, if they don't occupy too much space. For even air mails are very slow these days.

I have been working on the experiment for two months. The result is not very satisfactory but rather encouraging. I have tried five samples with the Britannica formula and four with the procedure given in the "Dictionary of Photography" by E. J. Wall. The plates are not too slow. Under ordinary sunlight it takes 1 to 2 sec. for exposure with 6.3 diaphragm. Some of the results can be compared with the imported lantern slides, but the general defect is that the emulsions are not uniform and sticky enough.

During a time like this, with the constant thrilling of air-raids, and the very few equipments we have, you can easily imagine how much I regret not having utilized to its full our laboratory in Ginling. I am having a nice assistant, and it helps. But often I wish you were here to supervise me.

With regard to myself, perhaps you have heard of my marriage in Nanking under severe bombing on September 20, 1937. Won't you be a little bit astonished, if you are informed that our second baby is coming soon? The first one is a girl baby. Fat and healthy, seems to be so good natured, smiling and laughing all the time. She certainly gives us much more joy than care.

Dr. Wu's note enclosed suggests what sort of work my husband is now doing. Instead of being under Mr. Pan, he is in charge of the Department of Educational Cinematography of this University under Dean Wei of the College of Science, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education. They and the Electrical Engineering Depart-

1149

ment, and also a two-year course in automobile training, are the ones who stay in Chungking for convenience. My husband is now getting ready for a long journey to west corners of Szechuan and the interiors of Sikan province with ~~the~~ group of forty.

Well, the air mail does not allow writing too much. Since you are to be back soon, I am going to leave the rest till then.

Thank you very much for all the trouble, and wish you a peaceful and pleasant journey.

Yours,

Gin-air
(Mrs. M. C. Swen)

1. GELATIN U.S. \$10.00

Listed according to order of importance:

1. Nelson's No. 1 photographic gelatin (soft)	5 lb.
2. Coignet's Gold lable (hard)	1 lb.
3. Sineon's Swiss (hard)	1 lb.
4. Heinrich's (hard)	1 lb.

Increase or reduce the quantity by ratio if it allows or in deficit.

2. Color sensitizing dyes U.S. \$40.00

1. Erythrosine	200 gm.
2. Pinachrome	20 gm.
3. Pinachrome violet	20 gm.
4. Pinacyanole	20 gm.
5. Naphthacyanole	10 gm.
6. Dicyanine A	10 gm.
7. Kryptocyanine	5 gm.

Increase the quantity by proportion if it allows. Reduce as follows if in deficit: (1) reduce to $\frac{1}{2}$; (2) omit the last three; (3) combination of (1) and (2).

3. Books on Photography U. S. \$40.

Listed according to order of importance.

1. Photographic Emulsions. E. J. Wall 21s
2. Gelatin in Photography. Vol. II S. E. Sheppard U.S. 2.50 Eastman Kodak R.Lab.
3. Photography: Principles and Applications. A. Watkins 10 s. 6d.
4. American Photography or other better periodicals on photography for one year.
5. American Annual of Photography 1939 428 Newbury St. Boston 17 Mass.
6. The Chemistry of Photography, Meldola.
7. Photographic Researches of Hurter and Drifffield, W. B. Ferguson 25s.
8. Photographic Chemicals and Chemistry, T.L.J. Bentley 3s. 6d.
9. Photography as a Scientific Implement 30s
10. The Photographic Darkroom. E. J. Wall 6d.
11. Dictionary of Photography, E. J. Wall 7s. 6d.
12. Photography; Its Principles and Practice C. B. Neblette 15s
13. Gelatin in Photography Vol I. S. E. Sheppard U. S. \$2.50 EK Research Lab.
14. ~~SKIKKIKIKI~~ Photography with Emulsions. Abney
15. Ilford Manual of Photography, Latest edition. 2s. 6d.
16. Other new publications of the subject.

C O P Y

University of Nanking
Chungking, China
June 23, 1939 (rec'd N.Y. 8 July)

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan
Ginling College Office
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City, U.S.A.

Dear Mrs. Macmillan:

President Wu Yi-fang gave me the address of Miss Chester in care of you and she thought I could hardly reach her before she left America. So I am taking this liberty to write to you directly and ask you the favour to forward the letter to Miss Chester but keep the check (U.S. \$100) for the time being in the Ginling College Office, so that in case the letter misses her, the money will still be available in New York.

Though I do not know you much personally, I am sure you must be a great friend of Ginling College. So perhaps you would like to know more what this is all about. In brief: I am a Ginling College graduate of 1936, majoring in Chemistry, and now working on the experiment of making photographic emulsions. I need some chemicals and books which I should like to have Miss Chester order for me in the United States and bring back to China with her.

Thank you ever so much for all your help.

Yours sincerely,

Daisy Swen (Miss Lü Gin-ai)
(Mrs. M. C. Swen)

Dear Miss Chester:

June 19, 1939

If Lu Gin-ai's Clipper letter reaches you early enough for you to send in a mail-order to some big company for the chemicals she needs, you may then be able to take the package with you to Shanghai and Hongkong. From there, Mr. Swen Ming-ching may be able to get the Ministry of Education to find a way of shipping it up to Chungking and also then it may be exempted from duty. As you know, Mr. Swen is working under Mr. Pan in making the Educational Movies for the Ministry of Education. The reason I suggested mailing the order is that I know you will be very busy during the last few days before you start on the long journey. The American companies can be trusted to pack carefully and to send the packages by the American Express to the boat. Gin-ai told me that this order may come to around one hundred U. S. dollars and would like to have our New York office pay it and for her to send the money to Miss Priest here, so if you should be able to get this order for her, you may ask the Ginling office to pay it but mark it clearly for Mrs. Swen.

Yours sincerely,

YFW/k

Yi-fang Wu

Because of inconvenience, I am sending the check to Mrs. Macmillan with this letter and asking her to keep for the time being, instead of above-mentioned arrangement.

Gin-ai

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C O P Y

University of Nanking
Chungking, China
June 23, 1939 (received N.Y. 8 July)

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan
Ginling College Office
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City, U. S. A.

Dear Mrs. Macmillan:

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Thank you ever so much for all your help.

Yours sincerely,

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Yours sincerely,

Yi-fang Wu

YFW/k

Because of inconvenience, I am sending the check to Mrs. Macmillan with this letter and asking her to keep for the time being, instead of the above-mentioned arrangement.

Gin-ai

1152

C. Rose 37

Sutton Island
Maine.
June 28, 1939.

My dear Mr. Evans:

As far as anything I know, your suggestion about the organ is a good one. I cannot tell from Miss Sutherland's letter whether they need another if the one sent last year gets through, but I imagine that they do, or else had reason to doubt the other one would ever turn up. In any case I am sure they can use all they get, and apparently the ones they have bought up there don't last well and will need replacing before long. I do not know enough about organs, or about their needs to know whether we should get the best there is, or a cheaper one, but should think it was better if possible to get the best, and as you say there is plenty left out of the \$100. She said that was in addition to freight, so even this Bilhorn organ won't take quite all of the \$100. I think therefore it would be best to go ahead and get it, or any other kind you think best, and have it sent to my boat in a form that I can take as baggage if possible. I will do my best to get it to Kunming with my things and make whatever arrangements I can there for it to go on with my baggage. I gather that any baggage is a nuisance, but a few organs more or less will probably not make much difference as long as one must have the baggage problem anyhow.

I friend recently asked me how she could send me remittances in China if she wished. I said I would prefer she give the money to Ginling rather than to me personally, but if she specially wished me to use it for something particular she could either send to me direct, or to you to transfer through Miss Priest. I trust that will be all right if she should do it.

If there is anything more I need to tend to, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Ruth M. Chester

If you think I could do anything to help trace the organ sent last year, let me know.

RMC

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Sorry you're so hot! Hope it doesn't last long!

Sutton Island, Maine.
July 11, 1939.

Dear Eva:

Your letter and the enclosures from China arrived this noon - mail to this island being as you surmised a little slow. Incidentally don't bother with a special delivery again, for it either comes with the other mail or afterwards! Only one mail a day is brought to the island and that is immediately delivered, so the special does no good. Today it came a few minutes later than the other mail because one of the family met the mail boy and got the mail from him, and he saved out the special and brought it along because it had to be signed for! You won't get the answer before Thursday or Friday I fear, but it can't be helped.

Lü Gin-ai is a very fine girl in every way. She is a good student, a fine earnest Christian and has a very pleasing personality. I enjoyed her very much as a student and am very happy to get this news of her and to do anything I can to help her. She comes from up in Shansi somewhere. Minnie wrote about her wedding in her diary.

As for these requests it is hard to be sure of doing the best possible for her on such short notice but my suggestions would be the following: For the gelatin and chemicals I think the Eastman Co. is the best place. They are the ones who do most in organic chemicals, even aside from those especially related to photography and the other apparatus and chemical companies get some of their organic chemicals from Eastman. So I should give them the whole order, with instructions as to quantities in relation to cost, so there would not be any delay in getting it off and have them send it to me at my boat in S.F. That can surely go by post and ought to have plenty of time.

The books are not quite so easy. I know practically nothing about this field so I can't suggest other books and haven't time now to make investigations. I wouldn't be surprised if the Eastman people might be willing to make suggestions, especially if an order for chemicals goes with it. I have glanced through my publishers catalogues of chemical books which I have up here and Van Nostrand is the only one that has anything of the sort in it. #2 and #14 in her list are Van Nostrand books, also #12 which has a new 3rd edition either just out or not quite out. If the new one isn't out I would place the order and have it mailed to her later rather than get the old one now. The only other Van Nostrand book which sounds of interest is one on the Silver Bromide Grain of Photographic Emulsions by Travelli and Sheppard. This is also from the Eastman Research Lab. Monograph No. 1 of the series on the Theory of Photography. It may be too theoretical to be of special value to her at the moment, I don't know. I believe there is time to write the Eastman people and get their advice on a list of bookcosting about \$40 which they feel would be most valuable and easily obtainable here, giving them her list to show the kind of thing she wants and telling them what she is doing, and then get the books ordered and mailed to me, preferably to the boat, but if it seemed better for any reason to send to Philadelphia before the 22nd I could take them from there. Perhaps an Eastman store right there in N.Y. would be able to oblige. I have the impression that they are very nice about helping on anything photographic. Any periodicals would have to

Get money in Springfield & send one copy by express to Mrs. Swan & let me have 2 copies of 3. They tell me if you find help & have extra copies will you

Some books might be useful to you, but I can take them if they're true

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JUL 11 1939

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go by mail anyhow and a little delay in getting them ordered would not matter. These are just suggestions and if you and Mr. Evans think of something that seems better go ahead. Eastman for the chemicals and gelatin is the only thing I feel sure of. If they don't have the particular brands of gelatin she mentions they will know what corresponds, I think. I think it is better for the ordering to be done from the office for there might be some delay in getting my credentials established if I tried to do it.

As for Lu Gwei-djen I do have her card and am sorry that I shall just miss her, in the east at least. I don't know where she will be in California and whether there is any chance of my seeing her there or not. I will send a letter to the Q. Mary so she will know my plans. I should think Helen Downes would be glad to meet her, in fact I am rather inclined to think she may have been in her class those weeks she taught at Ginling in the spring of 1924. I think that was about her generation, but I am not sure. [I don't know what she will most want to see in New York. Probably some of the Fair, but her time is so short I should not try to make very specific plans till she arrives.] She is quite an independent individual and will probably know what she wants to do, or at least be able to choose from various possibilities. Her chemistry has been along medical lines [and if she wants to give any time in N.Y. to that sort of thing I should imagine medical research labs would interest most. The only person I could introduce her to at the Medical center will be away at that time. That sort of thing isn't worth much when it has to be so hurried anyhow.] She was working in the Clinical Research Dep't of the Lester Institute for Medical Research in Shanghai until she went to England to study and they arranged it for her, I think, or possibly she had a China Foundation Fellowship.

Downes
+
Helen

If you have any suggestions on pictures desired let me know. I would suppose that you don't especially want Chinese life in general unless it ties in in some way with Ginling or its personnel. Do Ettie and Florence have their developing done there, or do they send them here for developing? I got some 36 exposure films and then wondered if that was wise, for it means often a long wait before the whole roll is taken. Do you have any way of knowing whether they have any supply of Ginling films on hand? I don't want to take too many for they shouldn't be kept indefinitely and thought enough for about a year would be best, but it is hard to guess. I shall probably use some personally en route, partly by way of practicing on this camera. One advantage in having developing done there, if it can be, would be that we could take personal and college pictures on the same film, and use it up more quickly and apportion the cost correspondingly. I shall soon be ready to get the first film developed and see what I am getting.

Copy
for
Ettie

I was planning to write a note to Mr. Evans today, so will enclose it in this same envelope.

I received today a letter from a Ginling alumna which I will send to you later for I think it is worth having in the office. I am not ready to part with it just yet, however.

Sincerely,

Ruth.

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G I N L I N G C O L L E G E

EXCERPTS FROM LETTER FROM MISS RUTH M. CHESTER
WRITTEN ON SUTTON ISLAND , MAINE JULY 11, 1939

"As for these requests it is hard to be sure of doing the best possible for her on such short notice but my suggestions would be the following: For the gelatin and chemicals I think the Eastman Co. is the best place. They are the ones who do most in organic chemicals, even aside from those especially related to photography and the other apparatus and chemical companies get some of their organic chemicals from Eastman. So I should give them the whole order, with instructions as to quantities in relation to cost, so there would not be any delay in getting it off and have them send it to me at my boat in San Francisco. That can surely go by post and ought to have plenty of time.

The books are not quite so easy. I know practically nothing about this field so I can't suggest other books and haven't the time now to make investigations. I wouldn't be surprised if the Eastman people might be willing to make suggestions, especially if an order for chemicals goes with it. I have glanced through my publishers catalogues of chemical books which I have up here and Van Nostrand is the only one that has anything of the sort in it. #2 and #14 in her list are Van Nostrand books, also #12 which has a new 3rd edition either just out or not quite out. If the new one isn't out I would place the order and have it mailed to her later rather than get the old one now. The only other Van Nostrand book which sounds interesting is one on the Silver Bromide Grain of Photographic Emulsions by Trivelli and Sheppard. This is also from the Eastman Research Laboratory Monograph No. 1 of the series on the Theory of Photography. . It may be too theoretical to be of special value to her at the moment, I don't know. I believe there is time to write to the Eastman people and get their advice on a list of books costing about \$40 which they feel would be most valuable and easily obtainable here, giving them her list to show the kind of thing she wants and telling them what she is doing, and then get the books ordered and mailed to me, preferably to the boat, but if it seemed better for any reason to send to Philadelphia before the 22nd I could take them from there. Perhaps an Eastman store right there in New York would be able to oblige. I have the impression that they are very nice about helping on anything photographic. Any periodicals would have to go by mail anyhow, and a little delay in getting them ordered would not matter. These are just suggestions and if you and Mr. Evans think of something that seems better go ahead. Eastman for the chemicals and gelatin is the only thing I feel sure of. If they don't have the particular brands of gelatin she mentions they will know what corresponds, I think. I think it is better for the ordering to be done from the office for there might be some delay in getting my credentials established if I tried to do it.

Get invoice in triplicate and send one copy by clipper to Mrs. Swen and let me have two or three copies. They tell me it is of great help to have extra copies with you.

Some books might be mailed to her, but I can take them all if there's time.

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Recd Aug 12, 1939 (17)
ora

Miss Chester

AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES

New York · California · Orient · Round the World

on board

S.S. Pres. Cleveland
Aug. 2, 1939.

Dear Eva:

Your letter daught me in Philadelphia as you planned, and I cashed the check in S.F. and bought more films. I had already got some, but thought probably it would be better to have a more generous supply. We ought to be well set for this year now, I think, even if they are about all out of them, which I don't know. You are certainly doing a lot to finance this part of Gilling's publicity and I am sure it is much appreciated, both by those of us who have this chance to take the pictures and by those in America who have the chance to look at them. I have had very good luck with the little Argus and like it very much. There have been no failures in the first two films except for two or three times when I forgot to remove the cap over the lens. That habit will soon become automatic and then all will be well. I got some lovely pictures of my family, especially the baby which will be a great joy to me.

One thing I meant to ask about before I left, but didn't get to. When I get ready to send out a mimeographed letter to my friends, will it be convenient for the Gilling office to do it for me, and charge the costs to me, or are your facilities for that sort of work already overworked? I think I can get it done in Philadelphia through my brother-in-law if you feel it would be too much to ask. I would make the stencil myself, if it is possible to send it by air mail, so the main work would be the addressing of the envelopes. I have sent a mailing

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list to my sister and she will either keep it there or send on to you after I hear from you. It seems necessary to do it in America for airmail post from Chengtu on a large number would amount to a good deal. As I write it though I wonder if secretarial costs in W.S.A. might not be as great, considering exchange. Let me know what you think anyhow and then I'll decide. Probably it would come to around 150 copies.

We are having a very pleasant trip so far and I am enjoying myself very much. I had a nice visit with Luoise Shoup in S.F. and stayed overnight with her. In Honolulu today I hope to see Jane and Gordon Bowles and Alice Chang's family.

I hope you got your niece properly married and that all went well. I saw Lu Gwei-djen in San Francisco. She came to the boat to see me off and to give me some messages that couldn't very well be written. She may be heard from in the scientific field before long, if she succeeds in doing what she hopes to in the next few months.

I trust you are getting some real vacation either now or before the summer is out and will get a good rest. A letter from Dr. Wu at the steamer doesn't hold out much hope of her getting the kind we want her to have, but if she doesn't get it during the summer, perhaps we can persuade her to go away for a while after college is started again. Finishing so late makes the summer pretty short this year.

It has been a very happy year at home and I have enjoyed all of it, not least the feeling that I am much better acquainted with both the machinery and the personnel of Ginling work at home. It is good to know Rebecca is on the candidate job again and I hope that will be permanent.

Thankyou for you good wishes. Mine are with you also in the strenuous and often difficult part of Ginling's task which you are carrying.

Sincerely,

Puth.

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Copy sent to my family & to Rebecca
& to Mrs. Shelton, Ryattsville. Md. - (Washington
Smith Club) Shanghai, China.
Aug. 27, 1939.

Rec'd N.Y.
20/9/39

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Dear Friends:

In spite of many doubts through recent weeks and months of planning, one of my cherished dreams has been achieved - my visit to Nanking and I want to use some of this quiet Sunday to tell you about it.

When I arrived in Shanghai, Aug. 16th, I was very much surprised and pleased to see four of our alumnae boarding the steamer from the first tender that had come out to take us and our baggage ashore. It requires special permission and I have tried in vain to obtain it in the past, but they "had friends" and evidently found it easy. They were officers of the Shanghai Ginling Alumnae so were an official escort. Others were at the customs jetty, including Miss Vautrin whose face I was glad indeed to see. One of the first things she told me, before I had got my things through the customs, was that the pictures I had sent out several weeks before to go with my applications for a military permit to visit Nanking, had been lost at the Japanese consulate and more must be furnished. I had none, so the first thing we did was to hurry to a photographer of the kind who finishes your pictures in 5 minutes and get some atrocious samples of his wares and rush them over to the Japanese consulate. They gave little hope of getting my permit by the next day and Miss Vautrin had a good deal to do anyhow, so we settled on the 19th for the journey to Nanking and were able to get off then. In America I had been irritated by the purveyors of these cheap pictures trying to persuade me to have them enlarged or tinted, so I was greatly refreshed to have this Chinese photographer say "You know these won't be good pictures. If you want good ones you must go to a regular photographer!" I said I didn't care and wanted only speed, which I got.

Meanwhile Mrs. Chen Hwang Li-ming had offered to take my baggage out to the house where we were to stay, so when the business was finished we followed on out to see her, and also Mrs. New and Dr. Wu who were both in the city for a few days and who had promised to come around later. It was such a joy to see them all, and we all tried to talk about a dozen things at once. After a while we decided to have a sort of business meeting that evening and we separated to clean up a little and tend to personal matters and Dr. Wu and Li-ming came here for dinner with us and we talked all evening. There was so much to talk about and the time so short that we never felt we had anywhere near finished either then or later, but it was fine to have a little chance. Dr. Wu was supposed to be on a vacation, and up here to see her family - having travelled under an assumed name, much to her disgust, but I am afraid those days offered very little of rest. However the change doubtless did her good, and she did have a thorough physical examination at Mrs. New's insistence and Mrs. New reported that they said her condition was "not so bad", which is probably good news, considering what she has been through. She hoped for about a week of real rest in Hongkong, and I hope the uncertainties of the situation there and elsewhere have not too seriously disturbed her. It is all too short a rest, but I could not but agree that there was not time for more now. I hope we can send her off to some quiet mountain for a little while later in the fall.

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The day after my arrival we had a very interesting alumnae gathering. It was fine for Dr. Wu and Mrs. New and Miss Vautrin and I to be able to meet them all together and the combination drew what I think must have been close to a record attendance. I have heard the number variously estimated from 70 to over 100, but in any case it was a large group and included many who have not been in these parts for a long time. It was a very happy reunion and after brief speeches from the special guests we had a simple supper together. Then various other alumnae were introduced and some of those who have had interesting experiences in other parts of the country were asked to tell a little about them. It certainly made me feel very quickly that I was back in the heart of the Ginling circle.

Dr. Wu met me with the information that she was counting on me to be acting dean (academic) and that she felt it urgent that I get there a few days before registration day which is the 15th of Sept. It was apparent that if I went via Kunming as planned I could not possibly get there even as soon as the 15th, and even omitting the Nanking trip would not have ~~helped~~ helped for it would have been impossible to get reservations earlier. So she had decided that she wanted me to fly from Hongkong to Chungking and Chengtu and had already made a tentative reservation for me to fly from HK the 4th or 5th of Sept. That is fine except for the problem of baggage. If it is freighted all the way from HK it will take months and of course I can take very little in the plane. So I put out a few feelers for good-natured people who would take charge of it from HK to Kunming and then went off to Nanking. Tomorrow I must get to work in real earnest and try to make some plans for it. I must admit a certain relief at not having to cope with it all myself, but it is overbalanced by the feeling that it is a mean thing to ask of anyone else. It is not made any easier by the fact that its quantity increases almost daily as I get letters asking me to get this or that, or as others who have had ~~such~~ such commissions tell me they will bring me the things soon. How much the total will be I can't know till after I get to HK and see whether the baby organ and some other things that are supposed to catch me there do arrive or not. But I told Dr. Wu I was willing to part with my personal things if she would take responsibility for my parting with the rest of it, so I shall bid a fond farewell to my trunks and hope to see them before too many months roll by. This means that I shall probably reach Chengtu about the 7th or 8th, depending on how long I have to wait in Chungking.

And now for the Nanking trip. We got up at 4:30 and were off for the station by 5:30. Although the train does not leave till 7 we were none too early for the checking of baggage is a slow process. There is a lot of standing in line and waiting around, and no shelter but some slimy sheds, but we all got on and got comfortable seats. Miss Vautrin and Lin Mei-lai and I were in our party and were able to sit together with a fourth person who changed several times during the journey. The rolling stock is largely if not entirely Japanese and they are comfortable trains. The trip on the express is made quickly now - 5 and 1/2 hours and was not ~~at all~~ at all uncomfortable in spite of the rather hot weather this area has been saving for my arrival. Everyone says it's been a very cool summer and this is the first hot weather they have had! I was all eyes to see what the countryside looks like and was on the whole surprised to see how normal it is. The area around the station in Shanghai is completely dead and in ruins - nothing could be worse - and this extends for the first few miles in the outlying parts of the city. Then the country begins and seems to be almost entirely under cultivation and the crops look good. All along the way there are scattered houses and villages

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in ruins, stations are all more or less completely wrecked and are guarded with soldiers. The trains also all carry armed guards, but along most of the roadbed between stations there did not seem to be guards or even watchmen, though I may have missed seeing them. The arrival in Nanking had its amusing and irritating accompaniments. First you line up and get your permits inspected and all the important information is written down in a little notebook. Then your baggage is inspected and more or less messed up in the process. Next the cholera injection certificates are inspected. Evidently a new regulation was just in force that no certificate older than July first is valid, but neither the American nor the Japanese consulate in Shanghai had known it. Some of our party whose certificates had been officially stamped at the Japanese consulate in Shanghai the day before had to have it done over. There were six of us travelling together and I was the only one whose certificate was satisfactory! That was due to my forgetfulness and negligence for I had omitted to do it before leaving home and had it done on the boat so it was very recent! One other member of the party managed to elude them after being told she would have to be shot over but the other four - Miriam Mull and her mother, Miss Vautrin and Miss Lin all had to stand there and have it done before they could leave the station. It is bad enough to have to have it done over when you know you don't need it, but worse by their methods. They may sterilize the needle at the beginning of the day, I don't know, but they shoot one victim after another with the same needle, and either because of the size of the dose or the kind of vaccine they use the reactions are much worse than is usual with cholera. Doctors seem to differ as to how dangerous this procedure is, but it is unpleasant at least. The next stage is the most amusing of all, repeated again when we arrived in Shanghai yesterday. You have to walk through a place with doormats on the ground and as you pass by your legs and feet are sprayed with a disinfectant solution - something like lysol or carbolic from the smell. It is a fine spray that does not wet you much and what on earth it is intended to do I can't imagine, but it evidently satisfies their zeal for hygiene in some way. If they only knew how funny they are! That completed the formalities except waiting for checked baggage and getting it examined, and then our baggage and ourselves climbed into the hospital ambulance which Mr. Li had rented to meet us with! That took us quickly home, with only a brief stop at the city gate to show our permits and cholera certificates again.

The campus looks as lovely as ever - in fact a little lovelier for trees and shrubs have grown, and I felt indeed that I had come home. Of course it is almost empty right now and there were very few people there for me to see, but that was not very different from what one would expect in the middle of August and I have been there other summers when there weren't many more than this time. I stayed with Mrs. Thurston who is living in Eva Spicer's house and that was very pleasant. I ate lunches with the Chinese group so as to see more of them, and also, I must admit, because Chinese food was a real treat. Practically all my friends in Nanking came in for tea that first afternoon, so I saw them all once and they knew I was here. Not many of my best friends were there, for even those who are still working in Nanking were away for their vacations. But I enjoyed the few who were there, and the group at Ginling. Besides Mrs. Thurston and Minnie, Mrs. Tsen, Blanche Wu, Lin Mei-li and one or two others I knew less well, several of the old servants whom I knew well and was glad to see again, and then Harriet arrived several days before I left, having come down by train from Tsingtao without incident.

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I spent a large part of my time sorting my possessions, throwing away quite a lot and packing them either to take or leave. Then I did some similar work in my office and picked out a few bits of apparatus to take along. Most of one day was spent hunting library books. There were lots of other things I should have liked to do, but there was not time to start them and this job I was able to do comfortably without hurry, so it was not as unpleasant a job as I had expected, in spite of pretty hot weather. I have gotten used to being drippy now and once you accept it and don't fight it its not so bad.

One afternoon Minnie took several of us who were newcomers out for a ride. We went to the Ming Tomb and the Sun Yat en tomb and other places in the memorial park around Purple Mountain, to the stadium and swimming pool, and then back to the city and through the business part which was so largely destroyed. Most of the park area has been little damaged, and only looks a little neglected. One lovely memorial hall and its beautiful contents has been pretty thoroughly smashed up - marble urns overturned and vases broken and all bronze objects significantly gone. In the city the scars are beginning to be covered. Ruined buildings have had little cheap fronts built up and saps are open so that much of the destruction doesn't show unless you look behind. The shops are smaller, and there are many Japanese shops, and there are not nearly as many people nor the kind of goods that could formerly be bought, but it looks more normal than I expected on the surface. One street has rows and rows of little shacks selling loot of all kinds from the most worthless looking junk, to really good furniture.

I am more glad than I can say to have had this visit. For one thing I have resented the fact that I was caught away on a summer vacation and had never been back. Now I have been there and have left with the knowledge that my absence would be for a longish period and I feel as if the broken threads had been picked up. Also my general impression is of a happier and more normal life than I expected. That is partly due to the fact that its summer, partly to the fact that my visit was a very superficial one and I did not have any first hand contact with the problems they face, and partly to the degree of healing that has taken place in the 15-20 months since things were at their worst. My mind was still full of those tragic days and the contrast was a surprise. Whether to be glad or sorry for the increasing normality of life is hard to say. The year I have been gone has brought many improvements and one must rejoice that the burden of the suffering people is lightened some what, but if it means any degree of acceptance of the "new order" or any greater chance of its establishing itself for a longer time it would be buying a little comfort at a tremendous price.

Twice this summer, once when I was in Nanking, the railroad has been cut for a day or so - whether by guerillas or by a wreck from "natural causes" seems a little hard to ascertain for sure. Anyhow it made me feel that I did not want to leave my return to Shanghai till too close to sailing time, for I have important things to do here, and must make that boat. So reluctantly I returned to Shanghai yesterday, after just a week in Nanking. Minnie was coming down for a mission meeting and Mrs. Thurston is coming tomorrow with some other people. Unless the Hongkong situation looks too threatening she is going there with me and after a little stay there perhaps on to Manila for a few days. She has decided not to go to Chengtu at present but may do so later. It made me heartsick to look at our lovely campus and equipment and space and have to go off and leave it to work in crowded and ill-equipped buildings where our presence is also crowding others.

This has become rather a long-winded account, and must stop here, for the next stage of the journey is another story. *Ruth M. Bletcher*

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CHRISTMAS LETTER from Ruth M. Chester,
Professor of Chemistry at Ginling College

Ginling College
Chengtou, China
November 6, 1939

Dear Friends:

Although Christmas still seems very remote indeed, I am sure it is time I got started on a letter if it is to get through all the intervening miles and processes in time to reach you all for that occasion. Also I feel I should give you an account of my journey and my first impressions here, before time has blurred them too much.

The trip to Shanghai was very pleasant and quite uneventful, except for several very nice interludes with friends. In Shanghai there were Ginling friends to meet my boat and from that minute on I had a most interesting time. It happened that Dr. Wu, our president, was in Shanghai for a few days at that time, and also Miss Vautrin, who has been carrying on such a splendid piece of work in Nanking ever since the war began. The three of us were an inducement for an alumnae meeting, and there was a record-breaking attendance of over seventy at an informal supper meeting the night after I arrived. After a couple of days in Shanghai I went with Miss Vautrin to Nanking, and it seemed indeed like coming home to get back to our lovely campus after more than two years' absence. I spent a week there, partly in visiting friends and going about the city, and partly in sorting my possessions, repacking them, and picking out pieces of chemical equipment to bring along.

The trip to Nanking was much more comfortable than I had expected, with regular train service on the pre-war schedule. The presence of Japanese soldiers and train officials everywhere, the exclusively Japanese rolling stock, the innumerable petty regulations and restrictions, together with the background of ruined and deserted cities and villages, made it impossible to forget the "new order in East Asia", but physically the trip was comfortable. My feet were sprayed, both in Nanking and in Shanghai, my baggage examined, my passport and military travel permit inspected and a good deal of information about me written laboriously in a notebook. But I managed to evade the trough of disinfectant (?) in which everyone was supposed to wash hands, and was lucky enough to have a cholera certificate whose date was acceptable. All the rest of my party had to be re-shot before they would let them leave the station, and the way it is done is not altogether commendable, to put it mildly. Both on the journey and in Nanking I found things on the whole more normal than I had expected - doubtless because I had not made enough allowance for the degree of recovery, or at least of superficial covering of the scars of war, which a year and a half would bring. Of real recovery in economic and cultural life there is practically nothing, but ruins of once large and prosperous stores are more or less concealed by cheap little temporary shop fronts, and people can at least go about their business, if they have any, in reasonable safety.

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Our own campus is even more beautiful than ever, for an added two years of growth is quite evident. Since it was August, no work was in progress and the few friends on the campus composed just such a group as one might expect to find there in any August, which no doubt added to my feeling that things were much as usual. Had I seen the large group of high school girls (170) or the 60 women in the homecraft course who are there now, and thus been forced to miss the college group, I should probably have been more conscious of the changes which have taken place. At any rate I did feel very much at home, and when I walked around the empty laboratories and the library and other buildings and saw all the idle space and equipment there and then thought of our little college group hundreds of miles away, in such crowded quarters and so desperately handicapped for lack of suitable equipment, the tragedy and folly of it all was impressed on me anew, and it was with great regret that I pulled myself away. When Mrs. Tsen, our dormitory director, who is still there looking after living arrangements and directing some of the homecraft work, said goodbye to me, she said, "We hope you'll all be back soon - perhaps in a year, at most two years." How we all hope she is right, even when we dare not really believe it.

Then came the return to Shanghai, and on to Hongkong, where I had to wait for a little over a week. Dr. Wu had decided that it was more important to get me to Chengtu before registration day than for me to convey all the baggage, personal and otherwise, which was in my care. She had arranged for me to fly from Hongkong, instead of going around through French Indo-China by rail, as I had originally planned. I have been appointed Acting Dean of Studies, and the temporary registrar is entirely new at the job, so there were plenty of reasons why it was a good idea for me to get here. I spent much time and agony on the baggage problem, but finally had the good fortune to get it solved in a very satisfactory way, and it all came through promptly, arriving here on October 23, less than six weeks behind me, - and I flew!

The air trip was most interesting, with some extra thrills beyond those of an ordinary air trip. The Japanese hold the territory just around Hongkong, so the airplanes have to cross their preserves at the beginning of the flight, and occasionally the Japanese have interfered with such civilian planes, so they make every effort to avoid being observed by them. The flight always starts during the night, sometime after midnight, but at hours not announced beforehand; even the dates of the flights are not announced publicly and are not regular. Then when they do take off, they circle right over Hongkong for about an hour, moving around the circle very slowly (we went five times around in an hour), using most of the power to climb up and up to about 16,000 feet before the real journey begins. It was most beautiful, for Hongkong has one of the most beautiful harbors in the world and the lights were lovely, both on the water and on the hills that rise steeply up from the harbor. They got fainter and fainter and it seemed finally as if we were nearer the stars than the earth! The plane made the climb with all lights on, as war regulations in Hongkong required that, but as soon as we had reached the required altitude, all lights were turned off, even those on the wings, and we headed off into the darkness. The one unpleasant part of it was that rising to such heights so suddenly is too much of a strain on one's physiological adjustments, and for the first hour or two of the trip I felt quite faint and uncomfortable. Later, when we dropped a little, I was all

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right except that a whole night with no sleep at all, on top of a long and busy day, does not make one feel quite on top of the world, even if you really are!

The sunrise viewed from a long distance above a thick bank of clouds, sun and sky and clouds, was another unforgettable experience. We took just six hours from Hongkong to Chungking, the temporary capital, and arrived in time for breakfast. I had to stay there over night and then took another plane for Chengtu the next morning - a short trip of just over an hour, looking down on fascinating terraced fields. Midmorning of September 13th found me actually here, and I felt it was indeed a lucky 13th! After nearly two months of travel (I left Maine the 22nd of July) and after days of waiting and uncertainty in Hongkong, when I seemed very far from my destination, it was almost incredible that I was really here only 31 hours from the time I left Hongkong, and I still have a feeling that I didn't really travel to Chengtu, but was whisked here on a magic carpet.

It is surprising how much like a home-coming it has seemed, although I have never been anywhere near here before. But it is the same Ginling; there are many other Nanking people here, and our traditions and problems are much the same, so that I felt at home immediately, and more glad to be here than I can possibly explain. I even enjoyed struggling again with schedule-making, a task from which a few years ago I tried firmly to extricate myself. I was 'way over my head in work as soon as anyone had time to show me where to work and what to work on, and for the first two or three weeks I hardly had time to breathe. Now the rush is over, all the schedule problems are settled in some fashion, late students have been taken care of (there were many of them because of difficult travel conditions), and we are well into our year's work. We have 155 students and that means we are badly crowded in our little dormitory. They could not squeeze me in there, so I am living with a very nice Canadian family belonging to the West China Union University, on whose campus Ginling is a guest, along with three other refugee institutions. It is the first time I have lived away from the Ginling group and I miss them in many ways, but I am not above appreciating the far greater comfort and space and quiet of my living arrangements. I go over to our dormitory for lunch each day.

Another factor which helps me not to feel isolated is our very sociable office arrangements. One moderate-sized room houses the whole of our administration, except the treasurer and her assistant. In our office are eight desks with eight regular occupants, though some of us do not spend all of our time there. The president, her Chinese and English secretaries, the business head, the dean of discipline and her assistant, the dean of studies, and the registrar are all there. Although it is a system whose disadvantages are obvious, there is one real advantage, namely, that almost anyone you need to consult is likely to be within reach of your voice if not of your arm, and, if not, he or she is likely to come in soon. Our classrooms are also on the floor with the office, so teachers and students are all quite accessible. I am inclined to think I save as much time because of this ease of consultation as I lose in the lack of concentration which such a situation is likely to produce.

One of the unexpected duties which I found awaiting me was to teach

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a science survey course for arts majors. That is something I have wanted to do for years, but I was never foolish enough to want to do it with no advance preparation and no books of my own and with a completely strange library. If I could have spent my whole time on it for a week or two it would have been fun, but it got only a small fraction of my time, and each class found me frantically trying to gather enough material for a class period and reading assignments. The worst of that is over now, and I do at least know what I am trying to do with them and have found quite a number of useful books.

The rest of my teaching is in our makeshift laboratory in a basement room formerly used for storage. No gas and no water, and no this and no that, but somehow we are managing to keep up the essentials of our regular laboratory courses. This term we have three different laboratory classes, each working six hours a week, totalling between 45 and 50 students, and two thesis students besides - all in one small room! It reminds me often of my first years at Ginling when our laboratory was very little better than this. The equipment and chemicals which we do have are a strange collection and anyone who looked over our list without knowing its history would certainly wonder what crazy person had done the ordering. We lack some very essential things that a small laboratory would have, and on the other hand we have some things that might well be classified as luxuries for a small college. We have just received the things which I ordered in the spring of 1937 for use in Nanking to supplement all that we had there or could buy locally. It almost makes me weep now for I should so love to exchange most of it for other things. The new science building which is being built in cooperation by the different universities here now, and which they hoped would be ready for at least partial occupancy this fall, is only two or three feet high and I don't think a brick has been added since I arrived. There is a great shortage of bricks because the building industry has grown a good deal faster than the brick-making one.

I have learned, like many people, to hope for bad weather during and just after the full moon. Last month we had beautiful clear weather and consequently air raid warnings every night for a week, and five of them after midnight. One night two squadrons of Japanese planes came and dropped some bombs, but none of them were very close to us and very little damage was done, and there were very few casualties. A number of small cities in this province have been badly bombed recently, including serious damage to a number of mission properties - schools, hospitals, and residences. Canadian Mission property in several towns has been especially badly hit. This month most of the nights have been cloudy so, except for being kept up until midnight one night, we lost no sleep. Recently we had a daytime raid by two squadrons of 27 planes each. One group dropped some bombs on the north airfield and dug it up a good deal and destroyed one civilian plane, but that was about all they achieved. They were attacked by Chinese planes and quite a good many people were killed by machine gun bullets from the air fighting. They broke up the Japanese formation and pursued them some distance, bringing down three, and they thought others were injured. One Chinese plane was lost too. I have heard that the Tokyo report of that raid stated that they brought down 34 Chinese planes! I wonder sometimes whether any of the gasoline or pig iron my steamer unloaded till 4 a.m. one hot night in Kobe has come up here to help wipe out mission hospitals and innocent civilians in far inland China. Why do we keep on sending it?

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It is pathetic to watch the people when a warning is sounded. There is very little protection possible in the city, so most of them throng out into the country, on foot and in all sorts of vehicles, with their treasured possessions. Even old women and little children can be seen carrying rolls of bedding and household utensils. Shops, especially during the full moon, keep much of their stock out in the country, and others bring it in by day and take it out again at night. I happened on October 10th, the Chinese National holiday, to be in the city when the first warning came, and had a chance to see the mass exodus and be a part of it, as I walked back to the campus, which is outside the city. The planes didn't come that day and when the release signal came they all trooped back again - a weary business when you do it over and over. Here on the campus we don't need to pay any attention to the preliminary warning and even the second one only means we have to be prepared to take shelter at once if the urgent sounds, so we can keep on working. My personal emotional reaction to a warning in the daytime is rather like that of the children who hope the Japanese planes will come so they can have another tea party in the dugout! At night they irritate me, for I don't like to be kept out of my comfortable bed.

Our students were thrilled, as college girls would be, when Madame Chiang Kai-shek was out here one day and decided to stay and join our welcome party given by the student government for new students and teachers. We had a very simple and informal supper which she ate with us, and then made a very good talk to the girls afterward. Another day she had her picture taken with our whole group - only an amateur picture unfortunately.

While the Chiangs were in Chengtu, the Generalissimo also called together all the students and faculty of the city and addressed them. I was a little taken aback when I reached the big parade ground where it was to be, to find that presidents, deans and all foreign faculty were to be honored by platform seats. That was more of a privilege than you might realize, for it was a blazing hot day and all the rest of those several thousand students and faculty had to stand in the sun for an hour and a half. We also got a very close view of the Generalissimo and at the end he turned around and bowed to us and smiled a most charming smile - the first time I had seen him do that.

Last week we had our annual Founders' Day celebration, in rather a simple way but quite worth while, I think, especially for the new students who do not know our past history and what we stand for. We tried this year to give them a little idea of what our own Nanking campus is like, since only a very few of our present students have ever seen it. On Friday evening Mrs. Kwan, who is teaching our vocal work this year and is both new to us and to Chengtu, gave a very fine recital which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

As for news of China in general, it seems to be increasingly good news. The Japanese have made no important advances for nearly a year and this fall they have met defeat in several places and been pushed back, and at least one point it meant a really important victory for the Chinese. Chinese have also recently made a number of successful air raids on Hankow air fields and destroyed large numbers of Japanese bombing planes. I cannot wholeheartedly

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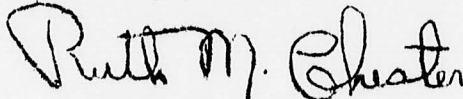
rejoice over any military victory involving great loss of life and suffering, but I admit to having very few reservations indeed in my rejoicing over the destruction of bombing planes and gasoline (good American gasoline, no doubt). It looks as though we may really be at the turn of the tide for which we all hope, and that the invaders will continue to recede. Chinese have been very much encouraged and Japanese are finding it more and more difficult to make the encouraging reports: their home morale demands.

The problems of the rest of the world come to us in abbreviated form via the British Broadcasting Company from London and other broadcasts from Manila and various other places. It is quite a change from my zealous reading of the New York Times, but I suppose that in the end we get the most important items. We print each day a small radio news sheet for campus distribution. Eventually we get a Shanghai paper, which is about two months on the way.

I am afraid this letter is already much too long, but it is hard to know where to stop. It brings my personal greeting to each of you and my sincere wish that the Christmas season may bring to us all a deeper realization of that "peace which passeth understanding" which our war-torn world needs so desperately.

The address at the head of this letter is all that is needed to reach me and ordinary letters with five cents postage do come through in about two months' time. They come a good deal faster if you put on 24 cents for each half-ounce and mark them "Airmail in China." I hope you will try one or the other method sometime. Transpacific airmail is still faster, but pretty expensive, (70 cents each half-ounce).

Sincerely yours,


Ruth M. Chester

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GINLING COLLEGE

150 Fifth Avenue
New York New York
15 December 1939

Dear Ruth,

It is good to know that you reached Chengtu safely and saw various friends on the way. I hope the new chemistry building is occupied by this time and is a great joy. How are you enjoying being a dean? Do you think this new plan of organization does away with our idea of having an "under-study" for Dr. Wu? I have just written her that I do not think it does. Perhaps she will let you see the letter.

In that same letter I told her how glad we are that she had a physical examination in Shanghai and asked what the doctor said. I also exhorted her to report it to one of your Chengtu physicians and to tell me what he said. I begged her to follow his advice carefully, and quoted from Dr. Dodd his opinion of the general bad effects present conditions are bound to have on life in China. But I am counting on you to supplement everything Mrs. New says and does to make Dr. Wu take care of herself.

With best wishes for you and the college,

Affectionately yours,

Margaret E. Hodge

MEH:e

U. Y. 15 Feb. 1940
1940
Chengtu, Jan. 7, 1940.

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Dear Miss Hodge, Rebecca and Eva:

I really intended to write you soon after my arrival to report some of my first impressions and to discuss some of the matters we talked about last year, as I see them from this point of view. But those good intentions have been constantly postponed by demands that were more immediately urgent and now I feel like such an old-timer here that I am afraid my first impressions are too much dulled to be recalled. My general Christmas letter will have given you some of them and I will not try to repeat any of that.

The chief thing I have on my mind to write about is that recommendation made last year for administrative help for Dr. Wu, suggested as a vice-president. My opinion on that problem has somewhat changed since I got back, so I want to pass it on for whatever it is worth. During the summer, as I think you know, Dr. Wu worked out a reorganization of the faculty, partly in response to a requirement of the Ministry of Education for uniform administrative organization, and partly also because last year's experience showed clearly the need of better organization and more sharing of responsibility. Under the president there are three main administrative divisions: the Disciplinary, Business and Academic. Chang Siao-sung is Dean of Discipline and Guidance (horrible title, but I gather an accurate translation), Mr. Ming is Business head and I am for the present Acting Dean of Studies. We have been hunting for an academic dean for years and Minnie has felt that it would delay the securing of a Chinese dean if she accepted the title, so she has done the work without the title, and without any clearcut division of responsibility, and without sufficient time to give to it to do all that a permanent dean should do. When I landed in Shanghai Dr. Wu told me she was counting on me to do it and hoped that with the title of Acting Dean I would accept. I had long ago come to feel it would be better that way, when Minnie was doing it, so I agreed and was glad to find that Minnie also seems to feel it is better now. I hope very much that it will be for only a year or two and that I can help get the office organized so that it will be easier, not harder, for a Chinese to take it over. There is a Disciplinary Council, of which Siao-sung is head, an Academic Council of which I am head, in addition to the College Council which is the general legislative body of the faculty. To be sure the personnel of the three councils is almost the same, but that doesn't matter. The important thing is that the administrative responsibility is shared by the three of us, instead of being all on Dr. Wu as it was formerly, especially the last two years when Minnie has been separated from the college group. This definite division of responsibility has helped Chang Siao-sung, I think, to have more initiative and to take responsibility better. She is not a first class administrator because she is a little too timid and hesitant to take hold decisively, but this set up has helped some with that difficulty and she is very dependable and has good judgement and is easy to work with. I have a light teaching schedule and have been giving a good deal of time to the dean's work and I think Dr. Wu has felt very much relieved at having the primary responsibility for these two big departments on someone else's shoulders. She talked over this vice-president matter with me, and said she felt things were working very much better this year, and that she felt very much relieved and I know her own feeling is that it is better to carry on this way for a while at least. There is

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JAN 7 1940 (2)

no one available at Present who is qualified for the vice-president's position, and to put in anyone who is poorly qualified would complicate things very much instead of helping. So I have come to agree with her that that particular form of administrative help had better not be pushed at the moment. It is a difficult time to get well-qualified people because there are so many opportunities for them that seem bigger than this would seem. I also feel that a more urgent need is for strengthening our teaching faculty, both academically and spiritually. The number who can be counted on for any effective work outside their own classrooms, is pitifully small, and I'm afraid a good many are not too good in the class-room. Dr. Wu shares this concern fully and is making every effort to do what she can about it. With Djang Hsiang-lan's return this spring, and Liu En-lan in the fall, I look for a decided improvement, for they are both outstanding people in many directions. Very confidentially I may say that both Dr. Wu and I are hoping that after a year or two Hsiang-lan will accept the position of Dean of Studies, but when I sounded her out on it a bit last year she turned it down very definitely, so we are not going to mention it at all until she has been here long enough to see the situation clearly, and then we hope she will change her mind. She would, I think, make an excellent Dean and as such would share a good deal of the administrative load.

As for Dr. Wu herself, she continues to be pretty close to the edge of her strength all the time, but also continues to avoid going irremediably beyond it. She moved out of the dormitory because it was so crowded, and is living for the present here at the Kilborn's. She gets breakfast here and the other two meals at the dormitory. It is much quieter at night and she is getting more sleep and has looked somewhat better since the move, I feel. She plans to return to the dormitory next semester, when the enrollment will probably be a little smaller, but I'm inclined to hope there won't be room for her and she will decide to stay on here. There she is never free to relax till the end of the evening while here, once she comes in for the evening, she is safe from interruption unless there is some emergency. I hope this spring we may be able to get her off for a real rest for a little while, but have not broached the subject yet. I felt in the fall that although she needed it very much, it would do no good for her to go off when there was so much on her mind that needed her here, and she had to be away twice for longish spells in Chungking and one period when the "Madame" was here she took practically all her time. She was not resting well because these things worried her, and to go off entirely, I felt would only worry her more and do no good. Now she has been here for some months consecutively and things are pretty well organized and running smoothly and I hope a time will come when we can persuade her to get away for a bit, with enough peace of mind to make it achieve its objective.

Most of Ginling is tired but happy today, I think. We have just put on a three-night performance of a dance drama on Mu-lan for the benefit of the families of soldiers, who seem to be a very pathetic and needy lot. It was an excellent production and something quite new to this community and seems to have been very much appreciated. We are getting here the same reputation we have always had in Nanking for doing somewhat original and unusual things and doing them exceedingly well. I can boast with a clear conscience, for although I say "we" it is one aspect of Ginling life with which I have nothing at all to do except to be an appreciative audience. On this occasion I helped as ticket-taker, which is well within my abilities, but I contribute nothing on the creative or dramatic side. I think they are hoping for proceeds around \$1000 but definite figures are not yet available. A West China faculty member said this morning that it was well worth doing if we only made expenses!

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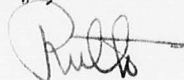
JAN 7 1946 [3]

I don't know who has written you about Christmas, but I might add a little about it, even at the risk of repetition. We had a series of special chapel services for the whole week preceding Christmas, and after the first day they were quite well attended - that is in comparison with the very small group that usually comes. Also a week before Christmas on Sunday evening the Christian students and faculty had a meeting in the dormitory, social first followed by a religious service at which Dr. Lautenschlager spoke. The other religious service we had at Ginling was the usual carol singing after breakfast on Christmas morning. Our glee club and others, joined with the students of the other universities for carol singing on the campus Christmas eve. On Friday night we had our Christmas party with a play by the faculty which is always amusing to students, whether done well or badly, and then a simple dramatization of the world situation and what women might do about it, directed by Eva acted by students. A Finnish, Chinese, Japanese and German woman were the four who met by the roadside and soon began to quarrel. Later they slept and Mary and Joseph passed by and Mary left the Child Jesus with them. When they waken, at first each wants to take the wonderful child and then realizes her country is no place for him, and so they end in agreeing to work together to make a better world. It was quite effective and was followed by a candlelight processions across the campus to our dormitory, where a very lovely tableau of the Holy Family awaited us in front of the dormitory. Before it we deposited the gifts we were making for relief work in North China and in Nanking, and after another carol we disbanded. On Saturday and Sunday evenings the Five Universities Chorus gave the Messiah, very badly, if you want my humble opinion, but not as badly as I feared from the last few rehearsals. I am afraid they are going to perpetrate it in Chungking during the winter vacation, when it will probably be without most of the foreign members of the chorus and will be somewhat worse I should think than it was here. Perhaps I'm too critical, and shouldn't say such things, and I am careful to whom I say them on this campus. Some of the students, most of them, I think, took part in the distribution of rice tickets and other gifts to families near us who are in great need - many of them soldiers families I believe. That about completes the list of Christmas activities I think, except for

the Sunday morning service. That was a combination of a Christmas service with special music with a baptismal service. Four students were baptized two from Ginling and two boys from either Nanking or ~~the~~ West China. There is a larger group under preparation, but evidently they were not considered quite ready yet. I like the idea of having it at Christmas in some ways, but it seemed to me that the Christmas service overshadowed the other, so that it lacked the importance that it ought to have, both to those who were baptized and to others. It was sort of tacked on to the end of the other service, without enough relation between the two. I hope they didn't feel that way about it, but I did. Men don't plan such things as carefully as women, but if we run off and have our own we seem exclusive and uncooperative and perhaps that is worse!

I hope I have told some of the things you want to know, and will try not to let too many months go by before writing again. If there are questions any of you want to ask me, I will try to answer them, for I do feel it is important for us all to understand both ends of the job of making Ginling what we all want it to be.

Sincerely,



1172

I'm sending copies of the enclosed letter to Miss Hodge & DeLoach

Rec'd 11/15 Feb 1940

FEB 15 1940

Dear Eva:

The long-expected Smith College clothes finally arrived about three or four weeks ago! Claude got them as far as Kunming last spring and they've been there ever since until Lewis Smythe went down this fall and gathered them up along with a lot of other things and brought them through. I unpacked them and then sent word to people to come over to my room and pick out what they wanted, thinking in my innocence that after the faculty had taken what they wanted I would let students have the rest. But they melted like frost in the sun and I discovered that practically everything was gone before nearly all the faculty had had a chance at them. So I suggested that people return some things in order that others could have a chance at them and in the end I think all the faculty who wanted anything got something, but there was nothing left for students. Woollens are scarce and expensive here so they were much appreciated and things that aren't good enough to wear outside can be worn underneath. As I was unpacking them I felt a good many things were not worth the cost of getting them here, but from the way they were snapped up I guess perhaps they were. I haven't asked Elsie how much it did cost but it must have been quite a lot. I think the recipients ought to pay the freight, but it is a nuisance to divide it fairly and collect it, so I don't know what will be the final decision on that. At any rate it is clear that they were much appreciated and by the time the things got here it was much more than a friendly gesture.

The books which I brought were also very much appreciated. One or two of them were in use the day after I unpacked them. I think on books I should recommend posting directly from N.Y. here in the future, unless there is a large shipment, for they are very heavy and the cost of getting them here as freight or baggage is considerable and it's a lot of trouble for somebody. Most things cannot be mailed but they can, and I doubt if it costs any more. I'll try to check that up more carefully some of these days and let you know.

I believe it is your Christmas gift which is to provide us with a faculty dinner tomorrow night, and I am sure it will be appreciated and enjoyed by all. Eating together seems to be one of the best ways of welding together a somewhat scattered group, for whatever other interests people may have or may lack, a good meal appeals to all! Not a very high level on which to unite a college faculty perhaps, but as a step toward other things it has a real value, and is universally enjoyed. The men in particular, are hard to bring in to joint activities, particularly since they are all non-Christians and not really interested in anything but the academic part of the college. But they all turn up when there is food on the program! We are going to slip in a little discourse on grading standards and methods, in view of the near approach of the end of the term, and then have a social time to finish the evening with.

Ettie and I have been interested to hear the announcement of the new President for Smith, but have not found anyone here, so far who knows anything much about him. I do hope he will prove a worthy successor to pres. Nielson, but that is hoping for a lot, isn't it?

Thankyou and others in the office for getting out my letter so promptly. My sister wrote that it was out well before Christmas and that is quite a record breaker for me! Please be sure to have me charged for the expenses of mimeographing and mailing.

Sincerely, Ruth.

1173

From Ruth Chester, Chengtu, Szechuan

16 April 1940

Dear Eva:

Dr. Wu is in Chungking and has been delayed there longer than she planned, and last night a letter came from her asking me to write you at once about the proposals of the foreign faculty on the matter of salary. We did not get it talked through before she left, but she had one meeting with us and then left us to work it out by ourselves. Her plan then was that after her return it would be considered, along with plans for sabbatical leave, etc, for Chinese faculty, by the executive committee of the Board of Directors. The delay in her return makes that impossible so she suggests that I write you what our group here recommend, and if she or the executive committee wish to make any important changes she will cable before your board meeting. I think she has already written you this explanation, but I repeat it in case her letter should not arrive till after mine.

All of the foreign group now here met together and discussed the salary problem at some length. We were unanimous in the opinion that the present method of paying us entirely in gold is not right for with present exchange rates it means that we are much better off than ever before at the very time when drastic increases in prices are making things very difficult for the Chinese faculty, and when the proposed budget for next year also has a large shortage. I think there is no one in the group who would not favor in theory the principle of equality which we discussed last year, and I personally wish very much that we could reach that ideal, but I frankly don't see how it can be done at the present moment. It is not possible to ask all the foreign group to live exclusively on Chinese food, in fact there are very few who can do that without health risks, and the cost of foreign food is now very much higher - something like \$100 a month more, even when quite a little allowance is made for additions to the regular dormitory food. Also when exchange is so high (22:1 the last time I heard it quoted) any items which we have to spend in gold would be prohibitively high if we were put on a purely Chinese basis. The best we seemed able to do to meet this situation is a compromise in which we still get part in gold and the rest at a more or less arbitrary exchange arrangement. Naturally individuals differ both as to their actual requirements and also as to the degree of sacrifice they are prepared to make in order to come nearer the equality ideal. Personally I should prefer to cut our income more drastically than this plan does, but I am convinced that it would not be wise or right to do so for the whole group. It seems therefore better to recommend a plan which involves an appreciable reduction in the amount we shall receive, but which will still be adequate to meet the needs of those who have rather large commitments in gold (insurance, for instance) and which also can reasonably be applied to any newcomers into the group. Then those who feel they can and should go farther can do so by returning some proportion of what they receive to some special fund such as that for providing retirement allowances for Chinese faculty. I rather hope that Catharine Sutherland can be persuaded to do it that way, though I have great sympathy with her stand for the other plan. None of us have had any evidence whatever of any criticism or ill feeling on the part of the Chinese faculty because of our affluence and that is an evidence of the thoroughly good spirit which prevails. Dr. Wu took pains to investigate that point and is sure there is no such feeling. I am inclined to think that the present good spirit is surer of continuation if we make a reasonable adjustment that is the same for us all, than if some of our group go much farther. That may start questioning as to why if one can do it we all can't and there are some very good reasons why some cannot. That is why I feel it is better to continue us all on the same basis and let individuals return some of their surplus if they see fit to do so.

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APR 16 1940

The proposals we worked out are as follows:

1. One half of the present salary be paid in gold - i.e. \$36/mo
2. The other half be paid at the old official rate of 3.30
3. That one third of the gain in exchange so made be paid to us each month and the other two thirds be retained by the college.

Elsie says this is in line with the kind of adjustment some of the missions are making, and it has the advantage of making the amount of Chinese currency received vary somewhat in relation to exchange.

I think it was also agreed that it would be fair that those who are receiving payment from the college each month on the insurance carried jointly by the college and the individual, should receive a slightly smaller portion of the total in gold, since those who do not receive that have to be entirely responsible for their own insurance or savings.

Your publicity instincts will be gratified, I'm sure, over the plans now on foot for several 15-minute radio programs which a man from WHO (Des Moines) is setting up. He seems to know what he wants and how to get it, and we think it ought to be quite good publicity. Details are not yet worked out, but the general plan looks pretty good.

Dr. Wu seems to have made a good recovery from her recent illness. She had to go off to Chungking a little sooner than I wished were necessary, but she seems to have given herself some chance to rest and to be getting on all right. We hope she will get back this week. The cable re Mrs. Rhead just arrived. I will give it to Dr. Wu as soon as she returns.

All goes well with us except that scarcity of time and limitations of strength seem to make it impossible to get around all the work that is crying for attention. If I let myself think of the important things I am neglecting I could soon get into quite a state of nerves, I think. But nerves won't get things done any faster, in fact they only hinder, so I am trying to keep calm and do what I can and trust the institution won't collapse for the lack of the things I don't get to. I am gradually turning over registrar's work to the new registrar, as she learns what it's all about, and that is gradually giving me more time to be dean. The latter, which is really supposed to be my job has suffered very much because I have had to do so much of the registrar's work. Unfortunately that kind of routine work seems to have to take precedence even over things that in your heart you believe are more important. Dr. Wu's illness and then absence have also added somewhat to my duties, as Siao-sung and I between us take over most of the administrative responsibilities in her absence.

My greetings to everyone. I am afraid I am a bad correspondent.

s/ Ruth M. Chester

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W.S.

W.S.

Ginling College
Chengtu, Sze.
April 16, 1940.

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My greetings to everyone. I am afraid I am a bad correspondent.

APR 16 . 1940

Ruth M. Chester

1177

CHRISTMAS LETTER

from

Ruth M. Chester, of the Department of Chemistry

Ginling College
Chengtou, China
November 24, 1940

Dear Friends:

As the weather turns cool and Thanksgiving approaches, I realize that if I am to get any Christmas letter off this year it must be done now, for it has to spend a good deal of time between my hands and yours - in fact I suspect it is already too late to reach you before Christmas.

Since I wrote a year ago, things have gone on here in much the same fashion as before. We seem no nearer the end of our exile than we did then, and we cannot see our way ahead any more clearly. All we can do is carry on and hope for the best. As far as the day by day work is concerned, most of today's program would be just the same if we knew we were returning to Nanking next summer. But making long-range plans is exceedingly difficult. We are crowded to bursting this year with just under 200 students, and the faculty is all housed in buildings we have no assurance of being able to use after this year. It is therefore urgent to make plans for next fall. But where and how and with what? Building costs are very high and the money which last year might have covered a faculty residence is not nearly adequate this year. Moreover, we hate to put money into buildings that we may use only a year or two. Our hosts naturally do not want their campus cluttered up with any more temporary structures (and it should be said that they have been most generous in this respect) and we don't want to build permanent ones. If the use of a new building is to spread over five to ten years, its construction might be justified, but supposing we use it only one year! This is just one of the many questions which seem to have no rational answer, and yet which must be answered.

The transportation problem has become still more serious and we simply cannot count on new supplies and equipment. Most of a big order for all the chemistry departments on this campus, which reached Hongkong more than a year ago, is still trying to struggle its way through; some of it has been ruined and some lost. It will not arrive for months, at best. The order I sent last spring is held in Philadelphia pending further instructions from us. It does not seem wise to have it shipped out till we see whether we can get things by way of the Burma Road. Since the Japanese made their deal with Indo-China, the rail route from Haiphong to Kunming has been entirely closed, and about forty miles of railroad and bridges have been destroyed by the Chinese on their side of the border to prevent Japanese using it to bring in troops and supplies. It is along that border that our hundred and more cases of chemicals and glassware are stranded. The Burma Road was reopened by England in October, at almost exactly the same time the other was closed. It is doing good service, but the maximum volume of traffic is inadequate and of course the government must have most of it. I think there will be little hope of public freight for a long time. The only way we can get things in will be for someone to buy trucks, drive them in, and then resell here. It is sure to be very expensive if it can be done at all. One man from West China Union University is down there now with a lot of baggage and other stuff which he is hoping to get in by truck. If I had come back this year instead of last, my baggage would now be in Rangoon and I should have no prospect of seeing it before spring.

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NOV 24 1940
page two

Christmas letter from Ruth Chester, 1940

So far the airmail and passenger service to Hongkong is still functioning, but we must expect interruptions of that service. Recently two different planes have been attacked by Japanese, and in one case practically everyone on board was killed, including the hostess, who was one of our graduates. She had resigned at her husband's insistence and was making this trip at the special request of the airline. It was also to be the last trip for the American pilot. If that air route should be suspended, our only contact with the rest of the world would be overland hundreds of miles to the railhead in Burma. It is largely because of that possibility, I imagine, that our government has included us in the general advice to Americans who are not doing "important work" to withdraw and go home. It was not at all an urgent notice and no one here is taking it at all seriously. One or two families who were in any case planning to leave very soon, are hastening their departure, but we feel this is a safe and comfortable place and there is no point in leaving it for another. The friends in East China are in a much more difficult position, of course, and they realize that the evacuation notice may become much more urgent at almost any time. However, they, too, intend to stay if possible. We seem to be more or less in a state of suspense, with many rumors in the air and a general feeling that things are happening, or preparing to happen - but no one knows what.

We had a fairly serious airraid here in July, and four or five more in October. None came very close to our campus, which is outside the city wall, but bombs were dropped in various parts of the city, in some cases with quite a number of casualties. We have had no warnings at all now for several weeks, in spite of some sunny weather, so I am inclined to think the Japanese are going to forget us for awhile. There seems to be something of a withdrawal from Central China and parts of South China, probably in order to have their troops more active elsewhere. It is a long and expensive flight from Hankow here, and I have never believed that they were likely to concentrate on us very heavily or for very long.

As for myself, there is really not a great deal to write. The most interesting thing I did last year - or at least the one which got me the most publicity - was to ride my bicycle over the edge of a bridge into an irrigation ditch, which happened to be empty at the time. It did me no permanent damage except for a slight scar on my lip. But dragging me unconscious and bloody out of a ditch in the middle of the campus created quite a sensation. Evidently I looked pretty ghastly, and I had enough concussion to leave me completely in a daze even after I seemed to be conscious and had talked. I remember nothing between the realization that I was going off the bridge and my coming to after they got me home. It appears to have been rather a narrow escape, but no real harm was done. Except for this little episode, life ran on in its usual routine.

In the summer I spent several weeks on Mt. Omei, one of the most famous of China's sacred mountains. I was not very enthusiastic at first, but liked it better later. The best part of the summer was the trip to the top of the mountain - 11,000 feet. Our cottage was at an altitude of about 4,000 feet, so it was quite a climb. We took two days going up, stayed two at the top, and came down in one. I had a baggage carrier for bedding and warm clothing, and a light bamboo chair with carriers, so I did not have to walk all the way. I walked a little more than half the way, but next time I hope to take longer for the trip, walking all the way and planning to stay longer at the top. We had bad weather and never saw the glorious view of the snow-capped mountains of Thibet which is one of the chief objects of the climb. It was well worth doing even so. One of the things I enjoyed especially was the flowers. There are many beautiful ones on the mountain, including masses of wild hydrangea, lady slippers, orchids, and edelweiss, of which there is quite a lot on the top; it is lovely! I do hope I can take the trip again sometime.

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Christmas letter from Ruth Chester, 1940

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This year six of our Ginling group are keeping house in a home whose usual occupants are away on furlough. We are enjoying so much having a place where we can entertain and where we can run things our own way. Of course six people don't have completely unanimous ideas about everything, but we seem to agree fairly well and we are all feeling more free than we have been able to do recently. It is so much easier to see students and other members of the faculty for they feel this place belongs to Ginling and they come in and out freely. Last year I lived with one of the families on the campus, and although I could not ask for a happier arrangement as far as my own enjoyment was concerned, it did cut me off somewhat from the Ginling group. I am afraid we can have this house for only one year and then we don't know where we shall go next, but we are having a good time while we can. Housekeeping here is quite a different matter from any I have done before, because we refine our own sugar, put up our own jelly and jam and pickles, if we have any, make our own butter and cereal coffee. Fortunately the cook seems to know how to do all these things. We do have a small amount of real coffee which we use for special occasions, but depend mostly on tea and the cereal coffee, which is really quite good if you don't think of coffee when you drink it. We get on with almost no supplies from outside and you do not need to feel sorry for us. Although I do like my coffee, it is not an essential and we do have very good food and plenty of variety. This is a very rich province and fruits and vegetables are plentiful and very good. We picked 123 lemons off our own trees a few days ago, so delicious lemon pies are now in order.

Our news of the rest of the world is more meagre than I wish it were. A very tiny news sheet gives us the high spots of radio news each day, but it is not very satisfactory. We have just recently succeeded in borrowing a radio which I hope will keep us in a little better touch, but it is not working very well yet. I can get London sometimes, but not always, and Manila not at all so far. Those are two of our best news sources here. Not having a newspaper does save time, but I do hate not knowing more about what is going on. The little we do get is depressing and confusing, but I suspect that is true even when you know more.

It is always a little hard to feel Christmasy in November, and this year it seems especially hard, but whatever the situation when Christmas comes, it is a time when one thinks much of friends, both near and far. I hope it will be a time of peace and happiness for you all, in spite of much external confusion and suffering, and that we shall soon be able to feel that a new era of peace and goodwill is approaching. I have appreciated very much the good letters which many of you have written, and hope you will take this as an answer and write me again. I wish I could find time for individual letters, but that seems impossible.

With best wishes to you all,

Ruth M. Chester

Ruth M. Chester

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