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Chester, Ruth 1947-1948

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Chester

Box 538
Yardley, Pa.
Jan. 3, 1947.

Dear Cornelia:

Happy New Year! This is the first time I have written the date and am proud to have done it correctly. I must say it rather horrifies me, though, to realize how my furlough is slipping away and how little I have done of the many things I want to do before I go back. However, I am beginning to feel better and that is the essential first step. If lazy habits are not too deeply ingrained by the time I get feeling O.K. perhaps I shall still get some of them done.

My last letter from Dr. Wu (Dec. 9 from Shanghai) discussed somewhat the problem of plans for next year, and attempts to cut the budget in accordance with the instructions to all the colleges by Bill Fenn. He brought the letter, I take it, for it was mailed in S.F. She suggests that we try to have a conference soon in New York, asking me to go in and meet with Bill, Mr. Evans, Miss MacKinnon and Mrs. Sherman to discuss these financial problems and whether and how we might cut our program. I shall be glad to come in and contribute whatever I can if it is possible to have such a meeting. Will you find out and make arrangements and then let me know? Bill may prefer to do some other things first and let this wait a little and it makes no difference to me. I think the only times this month that I could not come would be the 21st and 31st. If and when I come I shall probably stay 2 or 3 days, so let me know if you have a bed available and could put me up or put up with me?

Mrs. Thurston writes that En-lan wants to go there for a while before she goes to Clark. How soon will she be able to travel up there? Will she need someone with her? Mrs. T.'s idea is that I might come at the same time and make her a visit too. I will surely do that sometime, but would prefer to fit it in along with a visit to Smith and various other things. If I should be doing any speaking later it might take me in that direction. I don't want to be away from home more than is necessary to do the things I want to do and I don't want to do unnecessary travelling. But if En-lan needs someone to accompany her I could fit in my Boston trip soon and hope not to have to go that way again later. Let me know what you think about it. There may be other plans all made and if so I'll just tell Mrs. Thurston to be patient.

We had a lovely Christmas and our very small house is full to bursting with all the children home. The Stimsons all come in very large sizes and are very active and have many appurtenances to scatter about, so a tiny house is something of a problem, but its a lot of fun anyhow. I hope you and Harriet had a good time too.

Affectionately,

Ruth

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Call on
phone
send Book Post

checked with Mr. Alexander #128147
found "Qualitative" ordered by mistake
& shortly afterward error caught
& "Quantitative" ordered & sent as well

Chester

Yardley, Pa.
Jan. 7, 1948.

Dear Cornelia:

I should have included another item in my letter of a few days ago. I got several letters just before Christmas and set them aside and am gradually rediscovering things I should do, some of which have been too long delayed.

One is a request from Wu Mao-i to have a book sent her by post for use next term. Since I am living in the country and have no book lists, or catalogues for reference I find it hard to do the thing myself and wondered if you could more easily get it ordered and sent off right away. It will probably be late but if it gets off quickly it will be there soon after the opening of term I think. The book is "Quantitative Analysis" by Fales and Kenny. I think it may be Ginn & Co. but am not at all sure. I remember it is not one of the companies that does most of the scientific texts - I am sure it is not MacMillan or McGraw-Hill. I hope it will not be too much trouble to run it down. It is a book we use every spring term and for the last few years both class and teacher have used my personal copy, so I am sure it is a justifiable purchase. If I were in Phila. or New York I would handle it myself but it is difficult from here to find out about the publisher etc. Which reminds me of another question. Have the important publishers been asked to send their new catalogues out to our library, or to the relevant departments? They badly need them for we have no way of knowing what new books are available. Even though we can't have many, the few we do get should be the best choices. I will ask Arthur Thomas and one or two other apparatus companies to send their catalogues also.

Wu Mao-i also mentioned that she had asked you to replace the books which she was taking back with her which were burned. She said she sent you a list. Have those been sent yet? She is needing some of them quite badly and they had not arrived up to the time she wrote. She hopes eventually to get some insurance back but even if she doesn't I guess those books should go. She mentioned also the magazines which you and I talked over and which I know have not yet been ordered. They must have the letter before this and will have reconsidered the whole question and meantime I will write her some of my ideas on the subject.

I hope to get caught up soon on the things I should have attended to and then be a little more businesslike in the future.

Affectionately,

Ruth

* Fales & Kenny are Columbia University people & I'm sure this book would be in the Columbia Bookstore -

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Books -
Catalogues
Same already requested -
Chemistry books order
Magazines

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Chester [H]

January 10, 1947

Miss Ruth Chester
Box 538
Yardley, Pa.

Dear Ruth:

Thank you for your two recent letters of January 3rd and 7th. I am glad to know that you are making progress toward health and strength and hope that you will soon be completely well again.

I have talked over the suggestion made in Dr. Wu's letter about a conference in New York on possible ways in which Ginling can meet her financial problems. Everyone here seems to think it is an excellent idea and, after some consultation, Wednesday, January 29th, at two o'clock has been set as the time. I hope that this will be convenient for you as we are depending on you and Dr. Wu's letter for some of the information needed for the conference. Dr. McMullen, Mr. Evans, Miss MacKinnon, Mrs. Sherman, Bill Penn, and probably Mr. Corbett will be present, and, of course, I expect to attend.

Last Friday, January 3rd, En-lan went out to the Mary Harkness Home in Port Chester. The arrangements were that she stay from two to four weeks, depending on the progress she made and the possibility of better accommodations being secured for her. I do not honestly think that she is yet well enough to visit as a normal guest, and neither do I think that Mrs. Thurston is able to care for her until she is more normal. I am therefore not suggesting that she go immediately to Mrs. Thurston. I cannot tell you what the next step will be. We are working on it and are hoping to find a satisfactory solution for her problem very soon. It would not seem necessary therefore for you to plan a visit to Mrs. Thurston immediately in order to accompany En-lan to Boston.

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Miss Ruth Chester

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January 10, 1947

Your letter of January 7th raises the question of the needs in the Chemistry Department. We are ordering the "Quantitative Analysis" by Fales and Kenny, and will have it sent out by post at once.

We duplicated the order for the books that Wu Mao-i lost in the fire in India. I am checking now through our purchasing department to find out exactly when the order was placed and where the books are now. My records indicate that we sent the order through the purchasing department last May. As I have written you and the College, all shipments have been greatly delayed by conditions in America and the maritime strike. I am pushing Mr. Alexander now to find out where these books are and will let you know as soon as possible.

I got back from Florence an answer to my letter about the magazines. Following her instructions, we are dropping some from the list that Ginling has had and are adding others, up to the limit of U.S.\$500 set by the College. Chemistry magazines are, of course, included in the total.

Last February, Wu Mao-i asked us to have catalogs sent from Arthur Thomas, Merck and Eastman Kodak Chemical Houses. We wrote to these houses and have had assurance from them that these catalogs are being sent when they are available. I will see what can be done about getting publishing companies to send their catalogs also.

Of course, I shall be most happy to have you stay with me when you come to New York for the conference on the 29th. Let me know when to expect you. I hope you will be able to stay two or three days either before or after the conference.

Affectionately yours,

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Chester

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January 20, 1947

Dr. Ruth Chester
Box 538
Yardley, Pa.

Dear Ruth:

As I wrote you a day or two ago, we have set up a conference on Ginling financial matters for Wednesday, January 29th. I am, of course, planning on your being here with Dr. Wu's letter in hand, since that is our real authority for calling such a conference. I shall be happy to have you stay with me when you are in New York.

When I wrote you last, I thought that En-lan would not be leaving the convalescent home immediately. The more we think about it and plan for her future, however, the more it seems that perhaps the time has come for her next move. A letter from Mrs. Thurston invites her there when she no longer needs nursing and doctor's care. I think that time has now come. We are therefore working on a plan to send her to Mrs. Thurston's next week. I wonder if it would be possible for you to accompany her to Boston, leaving New York after the conference on January 29th. Naturally she could not take such a trip alone. I have not yet taken it up with Mrs. Thurston, nor have we found out what the people at the Mary Harkness Home would think of her leaving next week, but before we go any farther, I wanted to know whether or not you could go to Boston with her.

Hu Shih-tsang came in to see me Saturday night and showed me a letter from you in which you suggest that Miss Hu apply to Mount Holyoke for Pan Yao-t sien. You said that you had seen that Holyoke was offering several fellowships to foreign students. Miss Hu has put the whole thing in my lap and so I am writing to ask what more you know about these fellowships and to whom one should write at Holyoke. Miss Hu also told me that she had had a letter from Miss Pan in which Miss Pan said that Dr. Wu had applied for her at Teachers' College. I have heard nothing at all from Dr. Wu about this, have you? I don't think we want to be working at cross purposes. If she can be admitted to Teachers' College and can find a place to live in New York, that will probably put her farther along professionally than a year at Holyoke.

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Dr. Ruth Chester

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January 20, 1947

Miss Szetu Dju, Ginling 1935, is now in New York, applying to Columbia for courses on hospital administration. She needs, of course, some letters of recommendation and Columbia suggests that one from a Columbia graduate would have weight. Would you therefore please write a letter of recommendation for Miss Szetu? It would have additional weight, as you are the Dean at Ginling. I have promised that I would write a letter for her in my official capacity as American Secretary for Ginling. She would be grateful if you would send your letter as soon as possible to her at National Bible Institute, 340 West 55th St. New York, N. Y.

I have heard from two or three sources that Lucy Yeh is on the boat arriving in San Francisco today. What do you know about this? Is she coming for study and what are her plans?

I hope all goes well with you. Looking forward to seeing you next week,

Affectionately yours,

CSM:ef

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Chester 27

Yardley, Pa.
Jan. 22, 1947.

Dear Cornelia:

I ought to have replied to your earlier letter more promptly, but I assumed you would take it for granted that the plans for the meeting are O.K. I think I will plan to go to N.Y. sometime on Monday the 27th and will probably stay until Thursday if that is all right for you. It is certainly nice to have a place to stay.

As for Liu En-lan and the trip to Boston, I really hardly know what to say. Thinking there was no need for it at present I have confirmed some longstanding engagements and made some others, so that there is no time in the near future when I can conveniently be away long enough to make the sort of visit that Mrs. Thurston wants and expects and that I want to make when I do go. There are a number of other people in that area I want to see while I am there. The engagements I have now are: Jan. 30 and 31 in Philadelphia; Feb. 3-4 in Philadelphia; and Feb. 9-10 to be "baby sitter" here while Bill and Florençe are away - promised a long time ago. These are all personal and social engagements which could be cancelled I suppose, but which involve other people and have been arranged for some time. Later I have two speaking engagements for Feb. 20 and Mar. 6th. I suggest that you find out first what is really the best plan for En-lan. If she is to go soon and there is some other suitable travelling companion available who is going to Boston, arrange it that way. If not it might be worth while for me to go in order to get her there and just make a very short visit to return later for a better one if I can manage it. I don't want personally to pay railroad fare up there twice and I shall certainly be going to Northampton for commencement if not before and if there is nothing else to call me that way before that I should plan to go early and visit Mrs. T. before commencement time if that suits her. But it occurred to me that if En-lan is ready to go it would be worth while to pay someone's fare to get her there, since it would save her expenses at the Home. If you feel that is the best arrangement and you want me to do it I shall be glad to. In that case the best time for me would be Feb. 5-8. I guess I could go Saturday the 1st. and come back Monday direct to Philadelphia, but it sounds a little hectic on top of next week. Between the 10th and the 20th is of course all right and I could stay a little longer then and perhaps omit the later visit, but you may want to get En-lan off earlier than that. If you can find out what is best for her before I come in then we can talk it over next week.

Yes, I did suggest Mt. Holyoke to Hu Shih-tsang for Pan because I just happened to see somewhere that they have 8 scholarships or fellowships for foreign students. I can't even remember where I saw it, but rather think it must have been in the Sunday N.Y. Times of Sunday before last on the education page. I can't think of any other place it might have been. I don't know anything else about it, and suspect that they are mostly given to Europeans, but since they were for foreign students I thought it worth trying. I have an impression, maybe just due to ignorance that their English graduate work wouldn't be quite as difficult as Smith's, because I

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think it is one of the outstanding departments at Smith, and so far as I know is just an ordinary one at Mt. Holyoke. I also mentioned Connecticut College for Women because I know they were wanting Chinese students a few years ago and prepared to give them scholarships. I am rather afraid that is for undergraduate work, and I don't even know whether they have graduate work or not, I do feel she ought to come this year if possible for many reasons. I think there is no harm in making several applications as long as decisions are made quickly when anything is offered. I wonder if Alice Chang knows about the Teachers College application. I have heard nothing about that, but I think it might be a good plan. She could take some education along with English and I believe she would be O.K. there. It would probably seem better to her professionally also, though really I think a year at such a place as Mt. Holyoke would be for her, both personally and in getting more individual attention to her needs. I don't know whether you could find out anything at T.C. as to prospects or not. I doubt if she has much chance at Mt. Holyoke, but I hate to feel we haven't tried everything.

Even before I left Nanking one of Dr. Wu's headaches was the possibility that Lucy Yeh would decide she had to come here with her sister for medical reasons. It was not definite then whether the sister was really coming here for treatment, but Lucy said if she did she would have to come with her and estimated she would be gone about 3 months. I had hoped it had dropped, but recently I heard that she is coming, though I hadn't heard exactly when. So I think your information is probably true. Helen Djang wrote me recently that Lucy is still not very well - has high blood pressure. Mardie Smythe thinks she is worrying too much over her sister and needs to get away from her and her family. The sister has something quite serious and nearly died last year, which precipitated a nervous condition in Lucy that put her to bed for weeks. I think it is high blood pressure the sister has, but am not sure and don't know what the cause is. If Lucy is in poor shape it may be better that she is coming, for perhaps she can get some help too. The poor music dept is shot to pieces: Ellen Koo out for about 4 months on account of an accident, Wen Yun-kwen called away by her father's death soon after school opened, Lucy not well and now leaving, and they were short handed to start with. Poor Stella is doing valiantly they say, and it's a good thing she returned full of vigor.

I will write Szetu Dju today. Your letter came yesterday morning, but I was in Philadelphia and didn't get back till dinner time last evening.

I thought Hu Shih-tsang was coming this weekend to make me a visit, but haven't heard from her so am now not sure whether she really is or not.

I got the mimeographed reports etc. this morning and am looking forward to reading them as soon as I get some necessary letters done.

Will see you Monday.

Affectionately,

Ruth

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January 23, 1947

Miss Ruth Chester
Box 538
Yardley, Pa.

Dear Ruth:

Thank you for your letter of January 22nd. I shall be happy to see you on Monday, the 27th, and look forward to your being with us until Thursday.

We have written to Mrs. Thurston about the possibility of Enlan's going up there at the end of next week. I can easily see that it does not fit into your schedule to go with her at that time, but since the 31st will round out four weeks for her at the Home, and since they suggest that she is now ready for more normal living, I think we will just make some other arrangement about accompanying her to Boston. It would not be fair to you to ask you to go up there and come back immediately. Of course, this whole plan is contingent upon Mrs. Thurston's finding it convenient. We are awaiting her reply.

Thank you for the information about Lucy Yeh. I am sorry to know the cause of her trip to America and very sorry indeed for the hole that her absence will make in the Music Department at Ginling. I am glad that Stella is there, but I feel sorry for the load she is having to carry.

I have just written to Holyoke to inquire about graduate courses offered in the English Department and about the possibility of securing some scholarship aid for a Chinese student. I shall await their reply with interest. Since I have had nothing whatever to do with the application at Teachers' College, I think I will let that alone for the present.

Looking forward to seeing you next week,

Affectionately yours,

CSM:ef

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Chester

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Yardley, Pa.
Feb. 1, 1947.

Dear Cornelia:

I got home yesterday afternoon and am feeling a little weary, but not too bad considering what I have done this week. Herewith such gleanings as I can make from recent letters which might be of some use to you.

Dziang Sin-bao, Chemistry Dep't., Nov. 11, 1946: "The term began at the end of September as planned beforehand but with a little disorder which couldn't be helped. The boxes of books and apparatus from either America or Chengtu did not come until about the middle of October. Therefore we had to begin our classes without laboratory work but with double emphasis on recitation instead. Dr. Wu Mao-i and Dr. Sao, the professor (who has come to us) from the National Normal College for Women, had quite a busy time. After the arrival of these boxes every one of the chemistry department was busy opening them, 120 in all, and in getting ready for the students to start lab work as soon as possible. We had practically spent ten days doing this work. Now things begin to get in order and students do experiments quite regularly although the gas plant is still not established so that we have to use charcoal and alcohol and also we have to prepare our own distilled water for the university is much behind us as far as laboratory condition is concerned. It is rather hard in the beginning but we hope for the better day by day. I'm pretty sure the conditions in other departments are quite similar..... We have just had our Founders' Day celebration this last weekend. Saturday night we had a gold supper and an opera "The Return of the Natives" right after. The "opera" in which both students and faculty took part was conducted by Misses Spicer and Kirk. It showed how the college came back from Cehgntu after the victory over the Japanese. It was so interesting and well done that I wish you were here to see it. Yesterday morning in the service we were glad to hear Dr. Leighton Stuart the American Ambassador speak. The message he gave is very impressive. In the afternoon we had a memorial service for Miss Vautrin the great teacher and living example of Christianity. Her life and her work has been so well presented that I think the students know pretty clearly her personality and her influence over us all."

Blanche Wu, Nov. 25th. "Your chemistry department has been certainly rich and attractive. More than one hundred boxes of things or equipments have already arrived. A grand set of new tables and stools, and the gas plant is about finished. From my chicken yard office I could very well hear the running of the wheels from the gas plant. The atheletic grounds is partly done. The log house for chickens has been torn down and the carpenters shop has been modified to house the high school faculty and Mr. Ho from the registrar's office. They are nice clean little rooms, what a contrast to the former ones! The ground near the music building will soon be turned back to a tennis court again. Chicken houses are now in the process of construction. There are altogether four sections under the Japanese tan roofed shed near the east wall. One section is for ducks and geese, one section for baby chicks, while the other two sections are for two breeds of laying hens. This is so far so good, but honestly I need an incubator and a brooder very much indeed.....Any research or project is too difficult to carry out

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in success without adequate provision of money and equipment."

Wu Mao-i, Dec. 11. "The past two and a half months passed like a flash, chiefly because we have been kept quite busy all the time. The laboratory order finally arrived on Oct. 17th...While we were in the middle of the unpacking business the stuff from Chengtu arrived. Altogether we took care of 122 boxes. The job took us about 10 days. By the end of the period we were all exhausted. But everyone was happy. The teachers had been feeling rather uneasy; the students not too patient either. After the unpacking we soon started work in the laboratory. At first we had the fuel problem - it is still a problem. We had to make our own distilled water. It costs us about \$1000 a liter.....It is easy to keep a place in order when you don't have too many things. This is the situation of the department now. We made use of the old shelves given us (by the Japanese). Drawers we have none, but the small paper boxes which came with the order have been converted for such use.... The gas tank or system is still under repair. I doubt if we will be able to use gas this semester. Fuel in the laboratory is still a problem. The alcohol is so poor and expensive. It is about 1500.00 a pound. With this alcohol we can only have the heat of a micro-burner. We are also using charcoal, especially in the organic lab.... In spite of our difficulties people outside the department think we are so well equipped. Even when we are asking for an important item they think we should wait. We have no water troughs and students in the general chemistry class are using their wash basins for the purpose.. We borrowed from the University of Nanking a few funnels and condensers. What a trouble to have to return such things every day... Things seem to go on smoothly ~~in many ways~~ on the campus although there are many things we could wish to have better. For those critical people there is still much to be worried about. Comparing with the University we are better off in many ways. But inflation is still inflation.... Life in the So8th Hill House is quite comfortable although we are still worrying about not having hot water for baths. This will be an everlasting problem. For keeping warm I think nearly all of us have not a kerosene stove. There are at least 4 kinds of them in this house. It seems we are going to have a very cold winter. Even in our office it is unbearable on a cloudy day! For a time like this probably it is much easier to live in the summer!....A few days ago Ellen Koo was struck by a jeep on TaiPing Rd. Her case was considered critical at first, but now we know very well that it can not be serious. The injury was on the head. It is healing very fast...."

Helen Djang - Dec. 30. "Miss Ellen Koo had an automobile accident about three weeks ago. Doctors ask her to stay in bed for three more months because she still could not use her eyes....I enjoy this year's freshman class much more than the previous years."

From a friend in Shanghai "It is a very cold winter in Nanking".

Sun Tseng-min - Home Ec. Dep't. Dec. 31. "All the dormitories are full. The students upstairs are sleeping on the floor, except those who have their own beds; and those downstairs are sleeping on the army cots. Dr. Wu is running between Shanghai and Nanking attending various meetings and raising money for the college. Her secretary Miss Helen Plaum came in October. She is also living on the third floor. I can hear her typing late at night and early in the morning. Miss Reed arrived at Shanghai yesterday and Dr. Wu has written her asking her to come as early as possible. Dr. Kuo will come very soon... Our department still has

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many problems. Fortunately the college has succeeded in getting many part time teachers. Mrs Powell is teaching art, Mrs Adler cookery" (P. is naval attache's wife and A from the embassy) ...various others mentioned.

Florence Kirk Jan. 1st. "On Christmas night the South Hill house entertained the single faculty...Santa Claus, Mr. Wang of the English department, joined the folk dancing and executed some surprising pirouettes himself. Then on the carpet in the living room he dumped his pack - your gifts. (Margaret Thomson took out for me a box of small things, mostly from the 5 & 10). We had chosen slips with numbers and this gave the order in which each chose his gift. It worked very well...The Christmas Eve performance went off very well. The shadow play of the Christmas Story was effective, done by the students, and the faculty play, a dramatization of Thackeray's "The Rose and the Ring" sufficiently foolish. One high point was Dr. Osborne (6' & 7") as Prime Minister, entering with Chen Shih-dzung (a tiny little thing) as his back page, carrying his crown on a pillow!.... I think we feel our present arrangements (for a ckkoing stove) are of the temporary sort, though we finally have achieved an oven from the local tinsmith! I think we would like a more effective cooking stove for next fall. Our family is quite sizable and the makeshift situation we have now is far from desirable. The Osbornes have been a delightful addition to our group...Dr. Wu, Wu Mao-i and Helen Plaum foregathered in my room last night and played bridge! I don't know when I've seen Dr. Wu so willing to have fun- she stayed without a single protest! I said it augured well for the New Year/ Helen Plaum is a grand girl." (Have had several other very enthusiastic reports of her).

That's the best I can do I have included some things that I thought would interest you, though of no use for the publicity. If anything more comes before your deadline date I'll send it on.

I've a letter from Smith that rather troubles me, for they are evidently trying to sort out Chinese applicants early. They have 5 Ginling names on their list they are asking me about: Pan Ren-tsiu, Pan Yao-tsuen (that is because I wrote about her and she applied last year, when we thought Dr. Wu was going to recommend her from here), Lin Pei-fen and two other graduates who are applying on their own and whom I do not remember very well. They have records only from Pan Ren-tsiu I think, and only the cable so far about Lin Pei-fen. I am sure Dr. Wu will be sending on these things, but she is doubtless counting on Mar. 1st as the deadline, but they are apparently wanting to settle on these Chinese applications earlier as they have so many and it takes so long for them to get their papers in China. So I don't know whether to add Dziang Sin-bao or not. I guess I shall have to say what I think and explain that they will hear from Dr. Wu soon. They have already eliminated the weakest candidates from their total Chinese applications but I think I can urge them notto make final choices until they hear from Dr. Wu. Do you think we ought to cable her to send her recommendations to Smith at once? I'll leave that to your judgement to decide. I hope they are on the way, but have no way of knowing except that I imagine the cable to Ettie meant that she had then decided who was to be recommended and probably the letters started about that time and should be here soon. I'll tell them that to encourage them to wait.

~~With your best wishes to all~~

I have definitely decided to return to N.Y. on Wednesday so I shall be with you Wednesday night.

Affectionately,

Ruth

1340

Chester

Yardley, Pa.
Feb. 10, 1947.

Dear Cornelia:

I have it on my mind that I promised to write you about something, but I'm not very sure now that I remember what it was. Originally it was Mereb Mossman's address, but I think you have a better one than mine. What she gave me was American Ass'n of Schools of Social Work, 130 East 22nd St., New York 10. I have learned of another alumna who is in New York. You may know about her but I didn't know she was there: Mrs Wellington Lee (Yin Shan-gu, 1942lor 43), Apt. 1C, 524 West 114 St., New York. Hu Shih-tsang thought that Wang Ying-an was in New York, but I think that was a short visit. I don't believe she is studying there, but am not sure. Noted

Noted The girl who came recently on the boat with Chen Shih-dzung is Hsiung Gueh-djen, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Mich. She was 1942, I believe.

I plan to go to N.Y. sometime Thursday and hope to do some work in the library that afternoon. Don't worry about letting me in, for I shall probably want to work till about six anyhow.

Was there anything else I was going to tell you? I hope not for I can't think of anything more. Shih-tsang was here for a short week-end and we had a nice time with her. The family all liked her so much and I hope she will come again.

I'll see you Thursday evening. Oh yes, one thing I was going to mention is that Mrs. New wants to see me and suggests that I stay over with her at the Astor, after the luncheon. I think I will write her that I will try to call her up Thursday evening and arrange a time with her. I'm not awfully keen to stay there because I'm afraid she will want to talk all night more or less! I will leave it so that if she is very anxious to have me she can engage a room and I'll go there for a night or two.

Sincerely,

Ruth

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February 27, 1947

Miss Ruth Chester
Box 538
Yardley, Pa.

Dear Ruth:

I have just had a letter from the student Chairman of the College Relief Committee at Smith, outlining plans for their special China month on the campus. This had at one time been planned for February, but has now been postponed until April. You remember that I spoke to you about going to Smith for a talk when they had their special emphasis on China and you said that you would be glad to do so.

Miss Gowen is now asking whether or not you could come on Monday, April 21st, or Monday, April 28th, to give a lecture on education in China today. The next sentence is quoted from her letter. "Her (Miss Chester's) lecture would be incorporated into the series of Monday afternoon news lectures and should be well attended. I hope that she can be with us at that time."

I hope that it will be possible for you to go to Smith at this time, as I am sure that you could do much for Ginling on the Smith campus. I am not answering Miss Gowen's letter until I hear from you, so will appreciate an early reply.

Will you stop in New York as you go to Caldwell, N. J., next week? We would love to see you. Let us know.

Affectionately yours,

CSM:ef

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Chester

Box 538
Yardley Pa.
Feb. 28, 1947.

Dear Cornelia:

Your letter has just come. I shall be glad to go to Smith at either of the times suggested. It makes no difference to me, so let them decide which they prefer. I hope I shall be able to arrange a visit to Mrs. Thurston and others in that region either before or after it..

I am not quite sure about coming to New York next week. I just heard from my doctor and he wanted me to give him most of the day on the 6th which is just when I can't do it. So I am writing to change the appointment. If he should put it the 5th I should probably go in from here that morning and then spend the night of the 5th with you if I may. If he puts it the 7th and Elsie is still there I would stay over that night to see her, and I might need to stay anyhow. If I hear from him soon enough I will let you know. Otherwise I hope it won't be inconvenient if I should just ~~pop~~pop in one of those nights.

Dr. Hunter says the X-Ray dept at Presbyterian Med. Center say there is no evidence at all of an ulcer, so the doctors disagree, but I think this is probably right. He hopes to find out what is wrong with some further tests, and I am much relieved that it is not an ulcer as that is apt to be so,slow.

Ask Miss Gowen to let you or me know whether they have any other plans for me either before or after that lecture. I want to plan ahead how long I should stay at Smith. I shall want a little time to see some people and do a little other business but can stay longer if they want me to.

I've still heard nothing from Dr. Wu. Had a letter from Stella yesterday. She was in Kuleo Hosp. with amoebic dysentery! She says it "took 8 days to discover the amoebae" and in the same sentence that the doctors "are not yet 100% sure" so I am not quite sure either, but she has had the emetine treatment and was about ready to return home. Chen Yü-ching is leaving in March to go to Washington State Univ. She is the one on the State Dep't scholarship. Stella's letter was apparently not an airmail letter but took only 25days.

Well I'll be seeing you before long, probably.

Affectionately,

Ruth

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April 1947

RUTH CHESTER

Miss Chester took her B.A. from Smith in 1914, and her M.A., also from Smith, in 1916. In 1934, she was granted a Ph.D. by Columbia University. She went to Ginling in 1917, as a member of the Chemistry faculty, and for many years was head of the Chemistry Department. She served the College in this capacity until she came to America on furlough in the summer of 1946.

When the College was forced to leave Nanking because of the outbreak of war in 1937, Miss Chester went with the unit that moved to Shanghai, serving as Dean of that group. When the various units of the College were reunited in Chengtu, Miss Chester was the Dean of Studies. During Dr. Wu's absence in America in 1943, Miss Chester was the Acting Chairman of the Faculty Executive Committee. She was one of the first administrative officers of the College to return to the Nanking campus after the Japanese left in 1945. After this visit to Nanking, she returned to Chengtu and was one of the last to leave. She returned to Nanking and had a few weeks on the home campus in the summer of 1946 before returning to America.

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April 1st. 1947

ST. ANDREW'S RECTORY

44 West Afton Avenue, Yardley, Pennsylvania

Dear Corelia:

I should have answered your note sooner. I'm planning to go to N. Y. Monday & on to Boston on Wednesday, so I'll be there two nights. But what Angus' home was? If she is I don't want to crowd you. I'm quite sure I can find another place, so just drop me a line & I'll start negotiations elsewhere. I shall go straight up to the doctors on Monday morning.

I wonder if you can find out for me whether the "Annual Meeting" of the Smith Club, preceding my talk, is the Annual Luncheon. I've a card from Ruth Scott, but she says nothing about it & from that card she is out of town. I suspect it is the annual spring luncheon & I'd want to go, but the only thing I have word of is my meeting at 3:30. If the other is a business

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meeting I wouldn't try to go. I think for the
luncheon tickets have to be reserved ahead.
You could probably find out by a phone call to
the South Club.

I'm feeling much better & getting quite
active. Spent the whole morning in the yard
making leaves & planting seeds etc.

Our house is bursting at the seams
with everybody home. Paul is sleeping at a
neighbor's temporarily to help out the con-
gestion.

I'll see you next week, anyhow.

With love,

Paul.

4/1/47.

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Chester [17]

Yardley, Pa.
April 29, 1947.

Dear Cornelia:

I got home to find a locked house and the family didn't get here till 3:30! I never have found my keys and think I must have lost them somewhere on my trip. So its a good thing I didn't come the night before.

I am sending in my acceptance for the dinner, and my sister is trying to figure out whether she could manage it or not. Its a bad week for her, as I knew it would be, and she is very busy now with a lot of reshifting and settling in the house. If she does manage it of course I want to be at the table with her. I don't want to delay your arrangements unduly, so will leave it to you to do as you like.. If others turn up who belong in the Nanking table you had better fix it up and let me sit elsewhere. If you still have a vacancy and can save it for my sister without keeping ϕ out someone, of course that would be ideal for me as I would love to have her get to know my friends better. I'll try to get her to decide soon, but am not sure how soon she can tell. It depends partly on how much gets done before then. I'll let you know as soon as I can and will understand perfectly if it seems better to put someone else in my place at your table.

The three books which Wu Mao-i wants sent to her now are:

- Same order to Mr Alexander 5/6/47*
- | | |
|--|--------|
| ✓ Wheland, W. H., The Theory of Resonance and its Application to Organic Chemistry. John Wiley & Sons, 1944. | \$4.50 |
| ✓ Morton, Avery A., The Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds International Chemical Series, McGraw-Hill | 6.00 |
| Electronic Interpretations of Organic Chemistry | |
| ✓ Remick, Electronic Interpretations of Organic Chemistry John Wiley & Sons, 1943 | 4.00 |

If you will have those ordered and sent to her by post and have the bill sent to me I will pay for them. These are her personal purchases and I have some of her money for that purpose.

I have a long letter from Dr. Wu on finances, rehabilitation, faculty needs etc. which I haven't very thoroughly digested yet as I read it hurriedly at the dinner table. The fields that she mentions for faculty from America are: English, Physical Education, Sociology (Dr. Morris from Boston Univ. is not going) and Piano, if Catharine will not reconsider. These are evidently the most urgent needs for American faculty at the present time. The situation shifts from time to time as someone becomes available there or someone else drops out. She also mentions the following faculty as coming to America this summer:

Djang Hsiang-lan to teach in a college in the south.
Swen Shih-tsien to Wellesley (P.E.)
Lin Pei-fen to Smith
Pan Yao-tsien, definitely going, probably to Columbia/

1347

APR 29
1947

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Sun Tseng-min (H.E., for Child Welfare work, doesn't say where)
Blanche Wu, most likely.

She says she is hoping to get a letter to you and Mr. Evans into this same mail, so perhaps you will have received one. She is aiming to get it here before the annual meeting, but says if she should fail for me to pass on the information and make up any report you want. I'll be prepared to do this if her letters to you and to Miss Mackinnon don't arrive, but I hope they will as this one has come plenty early.

The students are giving a play toward the end of May and the P.E. dep't a dance drama, directed by Bin Pei-fen, to raise money for a Ginling Contribution to the Smith 75th Anniversary fund! I think that is a very nice gesture, and it will be good for our students and faculty to do it. I am sure the sum raised will not put the \$7,000,000 over the top, but it is good for little sisters to make presents as well as to receive them.

The physics stuff was in Shanghai and that was Apr. 16th, so they may get a little use out of it before the end of the term, but not much. Efforts to make some use of U.N. equipment so our class could have a little lab work failed, so they have had none at all. Thereby hangs quite a long tale, but not a very suitable one for publication!

I went to the U.S.C. luncheon in Phila. yesterday and Stettinius made a very good speech. There was quite a good crowd there so things are getting started a bit. There is also some progress on local plans here. There is a good report of the luncheon in this morning's Inquirer with a picture of Mr. S. and two charming Chinese ladies. So far so good.

Thankyou again for your hospitality. I think I shall definitely plan to come in on the morning of the 9th, as I have too much doing here to come any earlier.

Affectionately,

Ruth

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Chester [1]

Yardley, Pa.
May 6, 1948.

Dear Cornelia:

I have your two letters to answer, as I have been away for a few days and just got back last night.

The first item I want to mention is that my sister is definitely planning to come to the dinner, so I am very glad you were able to save us both places at the ~~Wanking~~ ^{Wanking} table. ~~Is~~ ^{Are} Mrs. Thurston and Elsie there too? They are both coming, I believe. I shall have to ask you to put Florence's name in officiallyno, I do have a blank after all which I will enclose, together with the money for us both, because I am sure I didn't send mine.

I shall also enclose a small check which was given me recently for Ginling.

Yes I should very much appreciate a copy of the chemistry order of books, so that I shall not duplicate it in any of the books I buy personally. Take off the Fales and Kenny, for that is the one that you have already sent, and she was putting it in to replace the mistaken one.

I will quote parts of Dr. Wu's letter as you suggested: re Finances: "To put it briefly the situation is this: Although the receipts in US dollars are drastically cut the ^{USC} budget items in CNC are benefitted by the sudden jump in the rate of exchange from 3350 to 12,000, This Mr. Edwards thinks the budget in CNC will be able to be maintained even though the actual appropriation in US dollars is cut. This means, then, that the tentative budget approved to the end of June can be met, although appropriations in US dollars for equipment and fellowships are to be cut. In regard to the college budget, I have worked with Mr. Chen Er-chang and made a tentative budget for this term. We, too, are benefitted by the higher rate of exchange, so with the USC grants and the interest from the China Campaign Funds, and the larger amounts in CN from our Founders I expect to be able to meet the expenses for this term without any deficit. In regard to next year, I have not made any budget, because of the uncertainty of the cost of living. However, I still think as I thought before, that because of our close relationship with America, the rate of exchange of the American dollar will be adjusted if the prices should take a turn and shoot up again. (In fact within the last few days (written Apr. 16) prices are again increasing.) Of course there is likely to be a lag in adjusting the exchange rates; yet, this lag should not be as long as it was before if the government policy of forbidding the circulation of American bank notes is maintained. What I mean is this. When the U.S. Army and the consular service were regularly using American bank notes and there was a black market price for these notes, the pressure for increasing the rate of exchange from the American end was not great. The big jump to 12,000 was made after agreement with the U.S. government to forbid the circulation of American bank notes in China. If this agreement is to be maintained then all the U.S. official personnel will bring pressure for increase in the rate of exchange after the price increase is so much that it reduces the purchasing power of their salaries in CN at the existing official rate of exchange.

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MAY 6 1947

Quotation from Dr. Wu's letter, continued:

"To come back to Ginling, you know too well how we have been going on a minimum basis, and that it is impossible to consider reducing one third of our staff as suggested by Dr. McMullen. This does not mean that we do not appreciate the reasons for his suggestion. It is only that it is practically impossible. We will study our program more carefully and see if there can be some savings in some categories. During the first few years of our rehabilitation I feel strongly that we should not kill the interest and loyalty of our faculty and students by continually reducing our program. After the campaign of last year I turned ~~the~~ half of the funds into U.S. dollars, and I feel we shall be able to draw upon such funds to meet our expenditures at least for 1947-48. This is even on the supposition that the present rate of grants from the USC is to be cut by 50%, as warned by Dr. McMullen. If my thinking on the rate of exchange is correct then the grants from USC should not be cut in half if the much reduced figure of \$250,000 for April can be maintained through next year. (Since US\$7,000,000 was the total amount of the US\$ annual appropriation, the average monthly appropriation in US currency was around \$600,000.)"

Rehabilitation. This is long and I will summarize the main points instead of actually quoting in full: Mr. Gee (from U. of N.) went over everything with Edwin Kwoh and then they with Buildings and Ground committee made a list of things to be done this spring and summer & the executive committee and Bill Fenn have approved them in the main. She wrote some time ago to Mr. Evans on some of these matters, especially roof repairs, but is afraid that letter was lost as others have been answered and not that one. Work is already started on roofs, and window screens. Other items to be done are: painting of exterior woodwork, furnishing the social hall, repairing the campus road, getting bureaus for dormitory rooms, refinishing walls. She points out that we have not spent very much in rehabilitation from U.S. funds: \$20,000 sold by Miss Priest a year ago, \$6000 appropriated by Associated Boards for repairs and furniture, and about \$20,000 more during fall and winter - total \$46,000. The rest has come out of the grant made by the Ministry of Education and from receipts of materials sold. She estimates that another \$40,000 during this spring and summer would be sufficient for the work contemplated. I will quote the next bit: "In regard to the Social Hall of the Smith Building, I wonder if we could not use some of the contributions from the Smith Clubs. I learned from Mr. Evans' financial report for February that the office had received \$US 20,000 from Smith Alumnae - the highest that has ever been received, and I wonder if the item is not so large because they made gifts towards rehabilitation needs. Will you please talk this over with Mrs. Mills and Mr. Evans and find out if \$10,000 of it could not be set aside for the refurnishing of the Social Hall. A committee has been appointed to consider how to put up the partitions for the alcoves and the type of permanent furniture to choose. I wish you had pictures to show people how the girls and boys sit on tiny stools around a miscellaneous assortment of tables, and feel they are treated like kindergarten children. I think you remember that we got the former dormitory stools and tables back from Ming Deh and they and these tables are the only furniture in the room to be used by guests and boy callers." Is she right about the Smith funds? I thought at last reports the total was about \$10,000, and just about as usual. It would be very fitting if we could use Smith money to put this room back in shape, since it was their gift in the first place.

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MAY 6 1947

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Probably you have other reports about the prospects for a Joint Campaign. The idea was originally suggested by T.V. Soong, so now it has to begin all over again. But Chang Chun, the new premier is a good friend of the colleges, and a hint has been received of a substantial grant from the government as a starter to the campaign. This is all very tentative and general and I gather no detailed plans are made yet.

The students are giving a play and Lin Pei-fen is directing a dance drama, the proceeds of both to be used for a gift from Ginning to the Smith 75th anniversary fund! I think that is rather a nice bit. Perhaps I told you that before.

I think that is all in her letter that you might need now, and I will report some other items of interest at the meeting,

I have a letter from Eva with very unhappy news about Mary Treudley. I will tell you more about it when I see you, but in the meantime don't say anything about it unless you hear of someone getting a letter from her that needs explaining.

I'll be in Friday morning and will come right to the office in case there is anything you want to talk over before the meeting. I ought to get there about 11:15 or 11:30. I will be ready with as much of a report as I can make on the items you suggest.

Sincerely,

Ruth

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1351

Chester

Yardley, Pa.
May 14, 1947.

Dear Cornelia:

We had very good luck getting home the other night and were here in the house just at twelve o'clock - less than two hours from the end of the movie! I hated to rush off that way, for there were people I should have liked to see, but I knew we didn't have much of a margin for catching our train.

Thankyou for the scarf which arrived this morning and for the list of books.

I have just received a letter from a girl in Toronto which she sent to Ginling and which came back to me here. It was written on Mar. 24, and wanted me to send her records immediately by air mail! Her name is Gwoh Hwei and she was at Ginling only about a year and a half and left in the winter a year ago. I don't think you have her record, but about two years ago, she and her aunt Gwoh Kai-gueh did apply for admission to Smith and it is just possible that at that time some of it went through your hands. Would you just take a look and if you should have it make 3 copies and send them to me? I'm almost sure you don't have it but its worth asking just to be sure. I suggested to her that she try to borrow the one they have at Toronto for a few days and send it to you to be copied, so you may hear from her in a few days and this will explain who she is. She is wanting to go to some summer school in the U.S. She ought to have known that I wouldn't be there but evidently forgot it and the letter was addressed to me and looked just like a personal one, so of course they just sent it back. I told them to open all China mail, but didn't expect this kind of thing to come from over here. Its too bad, but can't be helped.

Its beautiful here and good to be home without another imminent trip somewhere. I'm going to Phila for over night tonight to see the "State of the Union" but that is very simple and doesn't seem like really going away. I have plenty to do in Phila anyhow so tomorrow I can get some of that done.

Many thanks again for all your kindness and hospitality.

Sincerely,



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May 17, 1947

Dear Ruth,

Mrs. Foster does not come in on Saturday and as I am by no means her equal as a typist this letter will not have her usual perfection. However I hope it will be readable.

We have gone through our records and can find nothing about either Gwoh Hwei or her aunt Gwoh Kai-gueh. I suppose the transcripts went straight to Smith when they applied there a year or two ago. At any rate we do not even have the names on our records.

The lists have come from the Scholarship Committee in Shanghai and three out of the four Ginling recommended are rated as acceptable. That does not mean of course that all three will be given the scholarship aid, since there are not that many available for this year, but it does mean that Ginling put up a good show in the examinations. It also probably means that Hu Shih-tsang will be appointed, since her name is first on the list, and the Shanghai Committee did not change the order, merely indicated whether or not the candidate was acceptable. The New York Committee will be meeting very soon, and I am sitting with them. You may be sure that I shall do all in my power for Ginling, and hope to have some definite word in the very near future. In the meantime please do not say anything more to Shih-tsang than we have already said, as I think the next word should be the final one. I have no fear that she will be disappointed, but I do feel that it would be best not to discuss it any more till the Committee has acted. Pan Yao-t sien was second on Ginling's list, and was accepted by the Shanghai Committee, so I think that she will surely come. Needless to say I am very happy about this and hope both these girls will have a fine year in America.

We are all in the process of digging out after meetings and days are very full. I am glad you are in a quiet and lovely spot where you can enjoy the spring. There hasn't been much of it here, and I have been almost too busy to notice it any way. I can close my eyes and still see the lovely flowers you brought us. How grand to be where they are growing!

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Chester

May 22, 1947

Miss Ruth Chester
Box 538
Yardley, Pa.

Dear Ruth:

Enclosed I am sending you a copy of a letter to Mr. Fox from Dr. Wu, which was enclosed in a recent letter from the College. I hope your plans for attending this function are working out satisfactorily. I am sure it would please Dr. Wu to have you present, and I think you would probably get something out of the occasion for yourself.

Miss Robinson was up to see me a day or two ago and told me she had just received a letter from Dr. Wu, expressing deep appreciation to the Methodist Board for sending Dr. Mary Frances Reed to Ginling. The first letter that Dr. Wu wrote was probably lost when mail was disappearing. Dr. Wu realized that this was probably the case, and so she wrote again to Miss Robinson and the letter came just a few days ago.

Since I wrote you on Saturday, the Scholarship Committee has met and the refresher awards have been made. They decided not to nominate for the refresher scholarships anyone now in the United States. So although Hu Shih-tsang was first on Ginling's list, she was not given one of these scholarships. Miss Pan will be Ginling's recipient. The scholarships cover travel both ways, tuition where necessary, and a \$150 maintenance allowance. We are hoping to get tuition scholarships for many of these students, thus saving the Committee some money. Although Miss Hu was not granted one of these scholarships, the Committee decided to include her in the list of those they are helping from the emergency fund. I put in a special plea for her and got \$100 a month, or \$1,200 for the coming year, instead of the \$900 she

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Miss Ruth Chester

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May 22, 1947

has been receiving this past year. This is really a flat \$1200 grant, and she will be allowed to draw all of it, regardless of the time she leaves America.

I have just written to Miss Hu and told her of this help for the coming year, and I hope it will make her happy. It will, of course, not be enough to see her through, but from a recent letter from Dr. Wu, I judge that the College will continue to pay her tuition. When the time comes for her to return to Ginling, I suppose the College will also pay her return travel if necessary.

I hope all goes well with you and yours.

Cordially yours,

CSM:ef

Enclosure: Dr. Wu's letter to Mr. Fox

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Chester

Yardley, Pa.
May 29, 1947.

Dear Cornelia:

I am so glad that Hu Shih-tsang is pretty well fixed for next year, and also glad that Pan has the refresher scholarship. That will make both of them happy and solve most of the problems. If Catherine wants still to help a little that will give Hu some margin of comfort.

I am writing at the moment mainly to say that I am coming to New York next week for a few days and should like to inquire whether your bed will be free. I am inclined to think I shall come in on Tuesday evening so that I can have the full day Wednesday. I would have my dinner here and take an evening train so would get to you somewhere between nine and ten. I am planning to stay till Friday P.M. or possibly Saturday. Please be sure to say frankly if any of this time is not convenient. If it is OK and you happen to be out on Tuesday evening, just leave word they are to let me in if I get there before you do.

I am planning to go to Princeton and am glad I did since it was Dr. Wu who suggested it. I found a place in Philadelphia that was willing to mail the cap and gown to Princeton, which the N.Y. one was not willing to do, and also I can return it more easily there.

I will see you next week if there is anything more to discuss.

Affectionately,

Ruth

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Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China
150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N.Y.

Chester

Charge to the account of

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WESTERN UNION

1206

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

CHECK
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TIME FILED

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

FOR VICTORY
BUY
WAR BONDS
TODAY

(June 2, 1947)

Miss Ruth Chester
44 West Afton Avenue
Yardley, Pa.

DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

Cornelia

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1357

Chester [1]

June 10, 1947

Miss Ruth Chester
Box 538
Yardley, Pa.

Dear Ruth:

The enclosed sheet will tell you the story of Smith contributions to date and give you the comparison with last year's of the same date and also the amount received by the end of last year. A little very simple arithmetic will show that we must receive between now and the end of June an additional \$1,507.33, if we are to equal last year's total gift.

Yesterday I had a call from Mrs. Bowman, Mary Treudley's sister, asking what we knew about Miss Treudley's plans. She seems to have heard that Miss Spicer is not returning this year and she wondered what change, if any, that might make in Miss Treudley's plans. We have had no information at all about either Eva's or Miss Treudley's sailing plans. All that I know is what you have told me, which was that they were due in San Francisco about the middle of July. If you have any further information, please let me have it. Mrs. Bowman seemed quite concerned about her sister and wondered if it would be necessary for someone to meet her in case she was not traveling with Miss Spicer.

Hu Shih-tsang came over Sunday afternoon and told me that the Lis had driven you all the way to Yardley Saturday afternoon. That was probably a much pleasanter way to get home than by train. Miss Hu seems to have enjoyed the trip also.

I finally got her to an oculist yesterday, as she has been complaining of something in her eye for some time. The doctor said that there was no foreign matter in the eye, but that it was inflamed from overstrain and that she needs to wear glasses. I am afraid this was rather a shock to her, but nevertheless, if she needs them, she will have to have them.

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Miss Ruth Chester

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June 10, 1947

I hope you have a pleasant and profitable trip at Smith. I am very happy indeed that you can meet with the Committee this year and bring them the latest information from Ginling.

One extra bit that you will be interested in is the fact that the Long Island Smith Club increased its usual \$25.00 contribution to \$30.00 this year, because they were so touched by Ginling students' desire to make a contribution to Smith's Anniversary Fund.

Cordially yours,

CSM:ef

Enclosure: Summary of Smith gifts

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Chester

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The following paragraph is taken from a letter from Dr. Lloyd S. Ruland, Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, 156 Fifth Avenue, N.Y. 10. NY written to Dr. Robert J. McMullen.

"At this time I wish to advise you of several actions taken by our Board at its annual meeting on Tuesday of this week.

1. Miss Ruth Chester was appointed an active missionary of our Presbyterian Board to be our official representative upon the faculty of Ginling College. This action was taken with the full approval of President Wu and the United Board. The action in no way alters the financial arrangement between the Board and Ginling College, but gives our Board an official representative on the faculty, a place which has been vacant since the retirement of Mrs. Thurston."

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Chester

Yorkley, Thurs. A.M.
June 19, 1947

Dear Corelia:

Your letter just came - many thanks. There is no change in Eva's plans as far as I know & I think it most unlikely. But Eva cannot take any responsibility after reaching S.F. & Mary definitely does need to be met. I've urged Dr. Wu to write directly to her sister & hope she will do so promptly as I feel that is much better than for me to relay anything. I think she will need professional care from what I've heard. The boat is Gen. Gordon, due in S.F. around July 15th -

I'll try to remember to mail this somewhere en route. Please excuse haste - Will you also please give Robert bill to Mr. Evans?

Sincerely,
Beth.

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Chester

Box 538
Yardley, Pa.
July 21, 1947.

Dear Cornelia:

I've several matters to write about and am rushed to death so will have to be brief.

1. Enclosed a clipping from N.Y. Times you might have missed, or might not have realized related to Ginling. (Showed Yu Tsai-fan) Cheng

noted

2. Cheng Mei-deh is married and now living in Philadelphia, just recently arrived: Mrs. Li-chuan Seng, 1907 Girard St., Phila. (about 1938)

3. Lü Gin-ai, Mrs. M.C. Swen. I brought copies of her record and some other papers for her to try to help her get a chance to come to this country. I wrote to Eastman Kodak and sent her their reply and then didn't know what else to do. I'm very much ashamed to have discovered only last night that she had written out suggestions of places to apply and expected me to put in those applications. I evidently never read that paper, thinking it was just a continuation of her life history, etc. Meanwhile she has written me that an application has been placed for her with the Rockefeller Foundation and I would like to write a recommendation but I don't know their address. Therefore I am enclosing all her papers, as they are better in your office than with me, and also a letter to the Rockefeller people. You must have the address and if you will send it on I shall be glad. It may be too late but I shall feel better to have tried. She is very worthy and I am sorry I was so careless. I will tell her you have these things in case she wants to use them.

I'm leaving here this Saturday (26th) and going to Kanuga Lake, N.C. for about a week, leaving there the 2nd via New Orleans and Los Angeles, if the So. Pacific R.R. strike doesn't prevent me. If that develops I shall try to change my ticket and go back to Chicago and on from there. Leaving a week earlier than originally planned, plus the unexpected trip to Washington leaves me short of time and very rushed. And that reminds me of one other thing I wanted to tell you.

4. The American Book Center for War Devastated Libraries, Inc. c/o Library of Congress, Washington 25, D.C. has as one of their services the transportation of books donated to particular libraries. So if Smith College, for instance, or (Miss Tyler) or anyone else wants to send books there designated for Ginling, they will take care of them. I imagine they might be able to get them through more quickly, and in any case it would save us the expense. They would have to be sent by the donor, not by our office. The person at Smith who is hoping to get some for us in the fall is Miss Jean Wilson, 58 Paradise Rd. Could you write her, if you think best, and suggest that she send things directly to Washington? I'm afraid I haven't time to do it now, and wanted you to know this possibility for other cases also. They are doing a big job there and I think I shall get from them some of our missing magazines.

CCM write 7/29/47

I think that is all at the moment. In S.F. I'm staying at Hotel Drake Wiltshire, 340 Stockton, and supposedly sailing the 8th.

Affectionately,
Duth.

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1362

Chester

July 23, 1947

Miss Ruth Chester
Box 538
Yardley, Pa.

Dear Ruth:

Thank you for your letter of July 21st, telling me about your plans. I am glad to know that you are going to Kanuga Lake for at least a week, and I hope that the Southern Pacific Railroad strike doesn't interfere with your plans for getting out to San Francisco. I am sure these are busy days, but I hope that all goes well with the packing and the final arrangements.

Thank you for sending me the picture of the Chinese doctors who were attending the pediatrics conference. I had noticed it when it was published, especially as Dr. Yu Tsai-fan had been brought to my attention since she was staying with Dr. McMullen. She came into the office this morning, and we had a very pleasant visit indeed. I am glad to be in touch with her and hope to see more of her.

Thank you for giving me the information about Cheng Mei-deh. This will help us to keep our files up to date.

We have forwarded your letter to the Rockefeller Foundation and hope that it will help Mrs. Swen to secure the scholarship. Until I hear more from you or her, I am not making any further applications on her behalf. We will, of course, keep the material in our files and will do what we can for her later if she needs help.

I am glad to know about the arrangements for shipping books from Washington. I will let Miss Wilson at Smith know about this arrangement, as you request. I don't think it would do much good to tell Florence Tyler about it, since Florence

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Miss Ruth Chester

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July 23, 1947

is in the habit of sending two or three books at a time to this office. Washington would probably find it an unmitigated nuisance to collect Florence's small offerings and send them on.

You will be interested to know that we have just mailed a complete set of the Encyclopedia Britannica to the Ginling Library. We also got a 1942-43 Who's Who and are mailing that. Other packages of books will be going as we get them ready.

I am glad to have your address in San Francisco. I hope that your trip is going to be as comfortable as Harriet's seems to have been. A letter from her from Honolulu says that things are so much better than she expected that she has nothing to complain of at all.

Let us know if there is anything we can do for you in these last rush days.

Affectionately yours,

CSM:ef

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1364

Chester

S.S. Marine Adder, Aug. 24th.

Dear Cornelia:

I didn't write you from Honolulu as I thought I would wait till the trip was about finished. The last few weeks at home were very busy except for the few days in North Carolina when I was busy being lazy and having a good time. I went swimming 10 times in 5 days, so I made good use of my opportunities. It is a lovely place and I enjoyed that little holiday very much.

My train trip was uneventful except that two trains were late in New Orleans they held the connecting train for us, so we just rushed from one station to the other instead of having 4 hours to see the town as I had expected. Then in Los Angeles we were 5 hours late and I missed my connection there entirely and had to take the night train. However, it really didn't matter much in the end. I had a nice visit with Margaret Andrews in L.A. (Gratia Sharp was sick and couldn't come in) and in S.F. I spent the last 24 hours with Louise Shoup. She and a friend have a nice little place and we had a nice time together. I don't believe she will go back to China, though she wants to in many ways. She expects to finish her degree in the winter and then doesn't know where she will go.

The boat is really quite comfortable, at least in "1st class". Its a long way from the old first class, but our cabin has 6 double deckers and has 3 portholes and 3 wash basins. Food is simple with a little choice but not much, and is mostly quite well cooked and good. Service is very little, but there is some. The only really uncomfortable thing has been the heat. In the shade on deck it is all right, but there isn't enough shade to go around, and inside it is very hot. The poor folks down below have really suffered. We had the breeze on our side most of the way, but two or three nights have been pretty bad even in our cabin. There are lots of nice folks on board so that part of the trip has been pleasant;

I saw Alice Chang in Honolulu and had a nice time with her. Yesterday we were at Yokohama and today at Kobe, but of course couldn't go ashore. Now we are on the last lap and will be in Shanghai day after tomorrow. I dread the landing and getting through customs, but it probably won't be as bad as I fear. My bed and cook stove didn't arrive in time for this boat, so I don't know what will happen about them.

I meant to get my address list for general letters revised on the boat, but steamer lethargy has prevented. I worked on it a little, but conditions are not conducive and anyway I've no carbon paper at hand to copy it with. So I'll send it to you later if I decide to continue to ask you to send out my letters.

I'm sorry the upper corner of this paper is getting so messy. The wind keeps blowing the paper down where it gets another letter typed on it. Its too hot to work down inside anywhere.

It has been so nice seeing you off and on this year and I do so much appreciate all your hospitality. It meant a lot to have a place I could drop in so easily. I hope you are having a vacation by now and enjoying it, whether in New York or elsewhere. I'll write you again after I get to Nanking and tell you my first impressions on returning.

Both the sun and the wind are troubling me so I had better stop and try to find a better spot where I can at least read in peace.

Affectionately and gratefully yours,
Ruth

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CHESTER

Prod 12/8/47 [17]

院學理文子女陵金
GINLING COLLEGE
NANKING, CHINA

處務教
OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDIES

Dec. 3, 1947.

Dear Cornelia:

At last I hope I have time in sight to get off a letter to you on the question of foreign faculty needs for next year. Dr. Wu asked me to write it, after the board meeting, but I needed some further conference with her first and that is harder to achieve than you would believe. She is often away for a few days at a time and then when she is here I get submerged in some piece of work that has to be pushed through and before I get to her she is off again. I caught her just before this last flit, however, and think I am ready to give you the main points.

English remains the most urgent item. The total needs will be about the same next year as now except that the University of Nanking will presumably be able to hold up their share of the major work a little better than they have done this year. But there should also be a little more elective work offered, so that will not make much difference. We are now using the equivalent of 2 full time outside teachers in addition to the regular members of our faculty - 1 1/2 for freshman-sophomore work and 2/3 for major work (Carl Chen and Ahmed Ali). We ought not to be so dependent on that kind of help, for it is very uncertain both as to quality and continuity. At the moment we have a good group, but any of them may get transferred elsewhere at almost any time and leave us stranded. The cost of such part time help is usually as much or more than the regular salary of full time teachers. As for the present staff, it seems probable that Audrey Galpin will not stay after this year - that is certainly her present intention and I doubt if she is likely to change her mind, though she might possibly. The other question is in regard to Evelyn Walmsley. Dr. Wu hesitates to raise any question of her staying on longer, since the three years of teaching which was originally planned will be completed at the end of this year. On the other hand, as you said in your letter last year, the extension of a three-year term to a longer one has usually been considered desirable if mutually agreeable, and in fact it has been done a number of times in the past, though not very recently. Florence and Dr. Wu and I all feel that Evelyn is making a valuable contribution and has fitted in very well. Her health seems all right and we see no reason why she should not be able to continue another year or two if she herself wants to. We have not raised the question with her so cannot say what her reaction would be. We would like to know the viewpoint at your end before approaching her, but if we are going to raise it we should do so soon, in order to give her time to readjust her plans if she wants to. She is handling most of the administrative work of the department in relation to classification and sectioning of freshmen, etc. which is quite an item and is the kind of thing she likes to do and does well. Florence will be due for furlough after one more year, and if Evelyn could stay two years and continue this part of the department administration it would be a real help during Florence's absence. I do not know just how old Evelyn is, but it is my impression that two more years would bring her within a year or two of retirement age on the Ginling basis, so that the end of that period would be a natural place to terminate her relationship and there would

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DEC 3 1947

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then be no question of asking her to return. Since it is so very difficult to find suitable people for this kind of work, it seems to me it would be a pity to lose a good one already here if she is willing to stay. We really need one additional foreigner to take the place of the present part time people, but Dr. Wu feels we may not be able to afford quite so many, so hopes to find adequate Chinese for some of the work and suggests that you look definitely for one to replace Miss Walpin and for another to replace Miss Walmsley if she doesn't stay. One of these new people should definitely be of a caliber to do some of the major work, and to be acting head of the department during Florence's absence. It would be much better to have such a person here a year before taking on that responsibility. We do not feel Evelyn is the person to do that, even if she is here. Her best contribution is on the general required work rather than in the major work. The second person, if there is one, should also be able to do some major work if needed, but should be good for the required work and interested in language teaching as such. I would think as concentrated an effort as possible for both types is advisable at the present stage, for we may need both even if Evelyn is here if no suitable Chinese can be found.

Physical Ed. Edith Haight has already written you about the kind of person needed in P.E. Most of what she says would apply to any candidate in any department and there is little hope of finding anyone with all of those qualities. However, such a statement may be a useful way of testing the general attitudes of a candidate by seeing how she reacts to some of those points. Professionally there are two types and we need both: one would be the mature and experienced person with training adequate for teaching theory courses to the majors and the other would be a younger person with good training and ability in the practical side. As I say, the department needs both and for the present it seems we had better look for either type among both foreigners and Chinese and see what we can find. I hope we can find a Chinese for one and a foreigner for the other, but the best way is for you to seek for both and see which you find first. It is easy to keep in close touch now that mail is so quick and there will be no need of any difficulties if we work at both ends and keep each other informed of any prospects. I feel it is very urgent to strengthen this department if we are to keep it going for it is not fair to take majors and then give them such a hit and miss program as we've been doing, and also you cannot hope to get more than an occasional major when the department is so obviously weak. Edith is a tremendous help this year and I really don't see how we could have managed at all without her. I do wish she could stay, but she feels it is impossible at present.

Music. If Miss Butler really comes to us next fall we can probably do without any other foreigner, but there seems a little uncertainty about her coming. I suppose it will not be entirely settled until their winter conference time - along in February I believe - so it would be well to be making preliminary investigations for a piano teacher in the meantime. The trouble is that the girl who came out to take her place at McTeiryre, or who was to come, has got engaged and will not be going to McTeiryre after all, so we don't know what effect that will have on the previous arrangements.

Librarian. This has already been asked for in the joint library plans that were worked out when Bill Fenn was here. The library does need a more highly trained and more experienced person to help get it into shape

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DEC 3 1947

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again. There is an enormous amount of work to be done and the present staff is inadequate to get on with it at all fast. Of course no one can do much until we get the necessary equipment for the recataloguing. We have recently heard of a librarian already in China who might possibly be available, but have no knowledge yet whether there is any hope in that direction.

All the above were approved at the annual Board meeting and we hope very much that suitable candidates can be found for all of them. I think that in most cases they would not involve additional expense over our present budget, as they are either replacements of present regular members, or of part time people who cost just as much. We have Edith and a part time American in P.E. 1 and 1/3 time of Americans in English, part of another American in piano etc. The travel would be the only extra expense probably so it is not a major item financially. I think therefore that we should make every effort to secure all of them, and not try first on one as being of greater urgency. They are all urgent needs and any one of them filled will strengthen our faculty in an important way and the search for one does not in any way impede the search for another.

This has been written in at least three installments and with interruptions frequently, so if it is not clear or consistent please let me know and I will explain further.

After Dr. Wu got your letter it seemed clear that the Tridelta scholarship is for use here. I am sorry I misinterpreted it, but at first it seemed to me the more reasonable interpretation of the cable. I hope the cable made it possible to get in our request and that the follow up material will not be too late to be of some use.

I'm sorry I have not gotten off any general letter of news and impressions before this. I meant to do it and I also meant to get out a personal Christmas letter, but there is no use talking about a Christmas letter now. I will try to write one when some holidays come along. In general things are much more normal and going more smoothly than I could have believed possible. Inflation of course gets more and more wild, but the new exchange policy helps us a great deal of course. Faculty salaries are more adequate than they were when I went home and I think most of our group are getting on reasonably well, though with much less margin than they had before the war. Since there is no use to try to save money these days anyhow, the immediate effect of the smaller salaries is not so bad. I suspect the real problem will arise later for people who have not been able to lay anything aside and thus prepare for their old age. We seem to have in the main a very nice group of students. There are a few trouble makers, but they are not causing us any undue worry. Academically I think we are on the upgrade but not yet where I'd like to see us be. It will take another year or two before highschools have been reorganized long enough to affect the quality of preparation of the students and until then we cannot tell whether the present deficiencies are temporary or permanent.

This brings my personal greetings to you and to Plumer. I hope his health ~~is~~ problem is coming to a satisfactory solution.

Affectionately,

Edith
P.S. House Co. still needs a ~~Metation~~ teacher but we hope to get a Chinese. If the Milam help comes thru a foreigner in general ~~the~~ would be most welcome.

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Chester
Ginling College *Miss Ruth*
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, N. Y.
December 17, 1947

Miss Ruth Chester
Ginling College
Nanking, China

Dear Ruth:

Thank you for your letter of December 3rd, which reached me December 8th, giving a study of faculty needs for next year. With this information in hand we can work intelligently, and hope to secure the right people for these positions.

English. I can readily understand the need in this Department and wish that we might send the three you list as being most necessary. This may prove a fairly large order because of the lack of suitable candidates as well as the lack of funds, so I think we will just work for one to replace Miss Galpin and another to take Miss Walmsley's place if she decides not to stay. I note that one of these should be able to do some of the major work and to serve as acting head of the Department in Florence's absence.

Miss Galpin. I would like to know frankly, off the record if you like, why Miss Galpin will not consider staying longer. Is she unsatisfactory from the point of view of the College, and if so, why? When she was appointed to Yenching last year, both Miss Cochran and I regarded her quite highly and certainly her recommendations were above question. When Yenching released her, I wondered, and now that she is not staying at Ginling the question again arises in my mind. If she has not been satisfactory for any reason, personal or professional, we should know it in order to avoid similar mistakes in the future.

If, on the other hand, the College would like to keep her, but she is not willing to stay, we should know the reasons, as such knowledge may be helpful to us in future appointments. If it is just a question of not being able or willing to take the hard life perhaps there is nothing that can be done, except to try to be more careful next time. But if there are conditions inherent in the general situation within the College or in our arrangements with the candidate, we should know about them. Otherwise we may make the same mistakes again.

Miss Walmsley. Miss Walmsley's appointment was for three years, and has been interpreted as three years actually at the College. In the past, I believe the procedure for extending a three-year appointment to five years has been that a recommendation to that effect is made by the field to the Board in America and that body approves the extension. Your letter is really the recommendation from the field, and I have Miss MacKimmon's assurance that the Board here will approve Miss Walmsley's staying out a year or two longer if the College wants her and she so desires. Please let us know her decision and your official recommendation, so that everything can be done in proper form.

Physical Education. I am glad Miss Haight has written about the kind of person needed in Physical Education. I have not received the letter yet, but it will doubtless be coming soon. I am in communication with a teacher who seems to have had good training and certainly has had a good deal of experience. She is definitely interested, and we may be able to get her for the mature experienced person you need. Would it be possible to get a Chinese for the younger person for the more practical side of the work? It occurs to me that Peggy Lin would be ideal for this, and even if she stays in America another year, it might be better to wait for her than to try to get someone else. However, if the right person shows up, you may be sure she will be considered.

We had an application from a man for physical education work in one of our Colleges, but I don't think we want a man in this field in Ginling. I wasn't particularly impressed with his papers anyway.

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December 17, 1947

Music. We shall await Miss Butler's decision with interest. I have had my fingers crossed all along about getting her for Ginling, but maybe I am too pessimistic. What about Hu Shih-tsang for that piano work? She will be going back in the summer and should add strength to the Department. Do you mean that still another is needed in addition to Miss Hu? Miss Butler's not primarily a piano teacher, is she?

Librarian. There have been one or two other requests for librarians beside the one for Ginling, including a tentative one from the University of Nanking. We are in correspondence with a very promising person, but rather want to wait until Dr. Shaw returns so that the whole situation can be reviewed in the light of his report.

Tri-Delta Scholarship. I have just written to Dr. Wu that we have already received the \$500 scholarship from Delta Delta Delta. It is available whenever the College wants to draw it. Dr. Wu wrote me something about Chen Shang-chiu, and Miss Plaum said she had taken some pictures which would be coming soon. Just by way of emphasis, I am repeating what I have already said to Dr. Wu and Miss Plaum, that is, that every scrap of material about this girl - human interest stories, academic work, plans for the future, everything, and some good pictures - will be most valuable. We hope to get the grant renewed another year, and the best chance for that is good publicity now. I am sure you will help to get it to us.

Thank you for your personal greetings and good wishes. Plumer is fine. The doctor says there is nothing at all to worry about, and has practically dismissed the case. Plumer is gaining weight and is in excellent health.

This will reach you about Christmas time, I think, and brings my heartiest wishes to you and all the Ginling family for a truly Merry Christmas.

Affectionately,

CSM:ef

Via China Clipper

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院學理文子女陵金

GINLING COLLEGE

NANKING, CHINA

Chester

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處務教

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDIES

Jan. 26, 1948.

Dear Cornelia:

These last few weeks have been a dizzy whirl and I just couldn't find time to write letters, so yours has waited a long time for an answer. This is the beginning of examination week and most people are too busy with their own affairs to need to bother me in the office. My classes are finished and the exam that will take most time to make out doesn't come till Friday, and several urgent problems that have occupied a lot of time are now finished, so here goes for catching up on the correspondance a bit.

I don't know how recently ~~Helen~~ or Dr. Wu have written you, so I will report on her first. She came home from the hospital last Tuesday and is living in Eva's house with Mrs. Tsen there to look after her, so she is very comfortable. The wound is still not healed and seems to be more or less at a standstill, so she is still not getting out at all and is a little discouraged because it is so slow. It is 4 weeks today since the operation, so that is a long time. I am afraid it means that her general condition is not good. She looks better than she did for a while before the operation, but not too good.

English department, Walmsley and Galpin. To answer your questions and bring you up to date on this matter I will report first that I had a talk with Evelyn and she is definitely interested in staying on, probably one more year, but thinks she would not stay two. One more year would be five years away from home, though only 4 with us. For certain good reasons which she explained to me she cannot make a definite decision just yet, but probably will be able to do so very soon, within a week or two. So for the moment we are hoping she will stay next year but are not sure. I will let you know as soon as the answer is definite. It is hard to know just what to say about Audrey Galpin. The main point, however, is that we are not counting on her staying another year, because she has so clearly indicated that she doesn't intend to. I think she felt badly at being transferred from Yenching, and was in a critical mood when she arrived here, and has continued to be. She doesn't like the group living arrangements we have, and that is a real problem for a number of people. She is much younger than the rest of us and is a critical kind of person and very sure of herself. She forms her judgements very hastily without any effort usually to find out either whether her information is correct or whether there are reasons for it that she doesn't understand, so many of her criticisms are very half-baked actually. But the main point is that she doesn't like it here and makes no secret of the fact, either inside or outside the college group. My impression is that she is somewhat happier than she was, but I think it is very doubtful if she will consider staying. So far as I know I think we are ready to ask her to stay and I think we should make a definite decision on that point very soon and ask her, so that she

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GINLING COLLEGE

NANKING, CHINA

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處務教

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDIES

can make the decision herself. I think her teaching is good and she is conscientious about it, but she doesn't always do her full share of other work, either in the English department or in general group matters. I think she feels her salary is too low and she cannot do all the things she planned to. Her sister was in China for two or three years with the American Embassy or a consulate, and was able, of course, to buy lots of Chinese things, and do some travelling, etc. I think Audrey came with the same sort of hope and now finds she hasn't very much to spend that way. Why anyone should expect to do that kind of thing on the salary of a mission institution is more than I know, but people do. Our living is very much cheaper than most people's for various reasons, including the fact that we live in a large group, and our salaries are perfectly adequate from my point of view but they don't leave large margins for travel and purchases it is true. She and Helen Plaum are the only two who have any complaints to make on that score I am sure. This is all confidential, of course, and I will let you know as soon as either of these people is definitely decided. For the moment go on the basis that at least one of them will not be here next year, for I am quite sure it will work out that way at the best.

Dr. Wu is trying to think of a way to give some of the foreign group small apartments next year. It would help the spirit of the group considerably I think, but is difficult to manage as housing is insufficient and we don't want to favor the foreign group more than the Chinese in such matters. This year Dr. Wu has an apartment and Liu En-lan and her sister have one, but no other singles. I am not at all sure that Dr. Wu really likes it. I think she was persuaded rather against her will by friends who thought she would be better off, but she doesn't have enough time to look after her personal affairs to make it too satisfactory.

We are now in the "big cold" and it is cold - about 20 degrees this morning. How the poor children are going to write two hour exams in unheated rooms I don't know, but they will have to try. We are going to put charcoal braziers in the north rooms, and today is nice and sunny so by afternoon when the first exams begin I think the south rooms will not be too bad, but there is not much we can do about it. Most of the winter has been very mild and sunny so it has not been nearly as uncomfortable as I anticipated. We had one snow and cold spell before Christmas and this one now is the second. The roads have been awful the last few days, as we had a wet snow which got tramped down into a smooth slush and then froze and it's as much as your life is worth to go anywhere, on foot or any other way. Yesterday the main roads were pretty well cleared, but smaller ones as slippery as could be.

I don't think I have much news in my mind - it has been too full of administrative details of more or less importance, but not interesting to write about. I seem to have left your letter up in my room, so I will leave this open and make sure whether there is anything to add to it before I send it.

Nothing more this time - Cordially,
Bill

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Chester

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院學理文子女陵金

GINLING COLLEGE

NANKING, CHINA

處務教

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDIES

March 20, 1948.

Dear Cornelia:

My main purpose in writing this morning is in regard to the order of library cards for our library. I believe the whole matter is pending and waiting for further word from us. We have not been as idle on it as it may seem, however. When I began to look into the whole thing more thoroughly and Florence and I spent a little time looking over the earlier lists sent in to you we realized that there was a considerable amount of dead wood that should be eliminated before we spent money for cards. We have therefore been checking over with the help of various departments and preparing a revised list, which we have also tried to get done more carefully and accurately than the previous one. We now have one section of the revised list ready and I am sending it herewith. There will be more coming along presently. This new list should therefore completely displace the previous one which may as well be discarded. Dr. Shaw when he was here urged us to be fairly drastic in removing old books that would be of little use, so that we should have room on our shelves for the new ones that we need and should have and would have a better working library.

I hope very much that it will now be possible to proceed with the ordering of these cards from the library of congress. The list is made out according to their numbers and can be sent to them just as it is. This is a very urgent need. For some years our library has been in the hands of people without sufficient experience and training to know how to catalogue properly. The result is a very chaotic condition which makes it very difficult to find what we have in any given line and seriously affects the usefulness of the books we have. Some of them seem not to be in the catalogue at all, and books of the same kind are scattered through several different catalogue numbers, etc. Some are completely misclassified. With the present library staff, inadequate in both quantity and quality, it is utterly impossible to cope with this problem by trying to revise the cataloguing ourselves. If we can get the L.C. cards then we can follow their classification and get things reorganized. Dr. Shaw advised us, as have several other specialists to keep our old Dewey classification and not go to all the work of changing, but most of the L.C. cards give each book a number according to both systems, so they will still have the same usefulness. I am sure that Dr. Shaw will agree that we very badly need to get some better order into our library. I hope it will be possible to get this order placed right away, and then to continue with further lists as we are able to send them.

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them.

I think very likely Dr. Wu has written you more recently than I have about the English department, but my present information is that in all probability Miss Walmsley will stay one more year, but not longer. I think Miss Galpin is planning to go home this summer and Dr. Wu I think feels it is better to leave it so and not raise the question of whether she would be willing to stay another year. So the need for reinforcement in that department remains urgent. It is a great help to have Dr. Teale here beginning to straighten out the tangles at the University, but I think he feels pretty well swamped by the confusion he landed in.

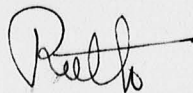
Our second term is well started now with a total of about 390 students. We did not take new ones, except for a very few transfers and quite a number graduated this year, so the enrollment is a good bit smaller than in the ~~spring~~ fall. After this winter we shall not have very many winter graduates and that will make the enrollment for the two terms nearer equal. I feel it is not worth all the trouble to take in a winter class each year and that after a year or two our spring enrollment will be only a little smaller than the fall one. It is a tremendous amount of work to give entrance tests in the winter and we can never take more than a small class and then they have to be treated separately all through the four years.

I did hope to write a general news letter during the so-called winter vacation, but I just didn't have time. I had only about two half days off altogether, in addition to not working evenings, and I felt that that minimum of relaxation was necessary. I have pretty heavy work this term also, and although I have caught up a bit from the rush of the first weeks I have not caught up on needed rest and am feeling a bit tired. So I am afraid there is no hope of such a letter in the very near future. I have not even finished the revising of my personal mailing list. I'm sorry, but there is a limit to what I can do and I'm aiming to keep within the limits if possible and not overstep them. I have not forgotten that I ought to write such a letter and will do it when I can.

We are very happy to have Dr. Helen Ferris with us from the Methodist Board. Dr. Wu has surely written about her transfer from Kulison to us. She is a fine person and a great addition to our group in every way. Miss Butler was here for a short visit recently and she is definitely coming to us in the fall. If all the other cooperating boards would do as well by us as the methodist have we should be flourishing.

I hope all goes well with you and with the work at your end of the line. With personal good wishes,

Affectionately,



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Chester

Ginling College
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, N.Y.
April 7, 1948

Miss Ruth Chester
Ginling College
Nanking, China

Dear Ruth:

Library Cards. This will acknowledge your letter of March 20th about library cards. I have turned over the list and the request to Mr. Evans and by now I hope that it is in the works.

You will be interested to know that I had an opportunity to present the needs of Ginling's library to the Business and Professional Women's Club of Riverside Church, and they have voted an appropriation of \$100 to be applied to the expenses of recataloguing the library. Of course, this gift will not begin to buy all the Library of Congress cards we need, but at least it is a help and I am sure that you share our feeling of appreciation.

We shall look forward to receiving further sections of Ginling's library as you have them ready.

Candidates. I have just written to Dr. Wu about the very fine candidate we have for the position of librarian at Ginling. I have also discussed with her at some length the question of the appointment of Doris Goulter. I shall await with interest Dr. Wu's decision on Miss Watson and also the decision of the U.C.M.S. on Miss Goulter.

It is indeed good news that Rosa May Butler will be at Ginling next year. I am still working on English candidates, as I have said to Dr. Wu, but at the moment have nothing very encouraging to report.

Pan Yao-t sien. I had a long talk with Pan Yao-t sien a few days ago. She has been working very hard and from all reports has done well. She is taking her comprehensive examination on April 15th. She says she is afraid she will not pass, but I do not share this apprehension. Even if she does fail on this first try, she will have a second opportunity later on. She seems to have all of her ducks in a row for her degree in June, depending of course on this comprehensive, and she is definitely making plans to return to Ginling in the summer. I think the year has been good for her. She is a very attractive person, has made pleasant contacts and a good impression for Ginling.

Hu Shih-tsang. Hu Shih-tsang is still having health problems. I am afraid the second year has not been too satisfactory as she has really not been strong enough to take advantage of the opportunities she had. We have tried to see that she had all the medical care possible, but the doctors have not been able to do too much for her. I am anxiously awaiting the report of a conference that she is having today with a psychiatrist. I think that she plans to go back to China when Yao-t sien goes, as the two girls want to travel together.

Helen Djang was in New York briefly last week and I had a very short visit with her. She has doubtless written to you or Dr. Wu of her plans. She tells me that she expects to spend most of the summer at Northwestern and that general area and is going to England in September. I probably will see her just before she sails, but she does not expect to be in New York between now and then.

I am somewhat concerned about your own health, more from what you did not say than from what you did say. Reading between the lines of your letter, I wonder if you have been working too hard and therefore feeling the effects. You certainly do not need me to tell you that that is a poor use of time and energy. Save your strength and last longer! I do hope that you really are as well as when you left America.

My affectionate greetings to all the Ginling family.

Cordially yours,

CSM:ef

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Chester

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Ginling College
Nanking, China.
May 20, 1948.

Dear Cornelia:

Ever since Dr. Wu wrote you the letter she dictated in regard to Helen Plaum's resignation she has been wanting to write you another letter to give you a little more of the background. But these last two weeks have been exceptionally busy ones for her, and you know even her usual amount of business is plenty. There have been a lot of outside meetings of various sorts and we have had to have extra meetings and conferences in the college to deal with lots of little but potentially serious problems that have arisen in connection with all the May anniversaries that students are celebrating. Such things take much time and energy and so she has not been able to write and a long hand letter takes so much time. So she has asked me to write you instead and let you know the general situation as we see it. She is going to take the letter to Shanghai tonight to mail there and if she wants to make any comments on it she can do so.

It is not easy to size up the whole problem fairly for Helen is a very complex person and very different at different times. Other people who have known her quite a way from Ginling - at Peiping last summer for instance - have said they could see she had serious conflicts and maladjustments in her thinking and feelings and I am sure that is true. She has very definite standards about how things should be done, mostly good ones, but rather more perfect than one is likely to see in real life, and she seems to feel it her duty to discipline anyone who doesn't come up to those standards. The result is that she is sometimes so blunt as to be really very rude, and is altogether uncooperative at points if she doesn't think things are being handled in the right way. She is also very jealous of her prerogatives, often to a rather absurd extent. She doesn't like it, for instance, if I make an appointment directly with Dr. Wu, instead of through her, and she resents it if she doesn't know exactly what Dr. Wu is doing and where, and especially if anyone else knows anything she doesn't. If anything happens that she isn't told about etc. she is hurt, and shows it. These are minor matters as far as Dr. Wu is concerned, or the rest of us, though it makes her difficult to live with and work with, but they are things which combine to make her unhappy. She feels she is in charge of promotion and publicity and doesn't want anyone else to do anything on it. For example, a committee was elected last fall for such work and she was made the convener of the committee. It has not met once to this day, and she has done all the publicity work without any consultation with other members of the committee. She has been reminded but she evidently doesn't want that committee to function. She would be furious if someone else did a similar thing, however.

Our living arrangements have been hard for her, and for all of us in some respects. It is never easy for 10 women to live together and run a joint household, for people inevitably have different ideas and have to make adjustments. Also it greatly limits one's freedom to entertain etc. It is probably easier for some of

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MAY 20 1948

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us who have done it for many years, as we learned to live and let live when we were younger and more pliable. Anyhow, I am sure that has been hard for Helen, and especially so since she and Harriet Whitmer are always at swordpoints and H. is our housekeeper. The fault there is about 50-50 I think, except that Helen is more rude and disagreeable at meals, etc. and is more likely to deliberately drag out a pretext for an argument or for trouble. She is incredibly unpleasant at times, and hurts H. very much, though H. herself is sometimes quite aggravating in making us all live according to certain rather peculiar ideas of her own. We all have to tackle Harriet now and then, but we try to do it understandingly and she will take it all right, but Helen is very unkind and mean in the way she does it. She is moody and will sometimes sit through a whole meal with a grim expression and not say a word, and everyone feels we are skating on thin ice and there may be an explosion any minute. I think on the whole she has been better this year than last, from all I've heard, but recently - since she definitely decided to leave, I suppose - she has been very difficult. She is very critical of the rest of us for not sharing more with the Chinese faculty, etc. and calls us un-Christian in our relation to them, and yet she is so irritable and unpredictable in her reactions that some of them will not go to her to ask a simple question, but will come to me for an address or something of the sort. If I don't have it and suggest they ask her, sometimes they say they are afraid to because she doesn't like to be bothered, so I have to go and ask her for them! No one, either foreign or Chinese, dares ask to borrow anything belonging to her, and yet she goes out of her way to blame us quite unreasonably for various things. An example was when we had some of the Chinese faculty in for dessert one evening to meet Anna Moffet. We had hoped to have strawberries or shortcake but found there were not enough berries for the number of people who were coming, so we had a pudding with canned pineapple instead. A few days later, at dinner, she exploded violently about our not being willing to share our strawberries with the Chinese, as if we had kept them back because we were greedy! That night it was so bad that Harriet had to leave the table. Well that is more than enough of that sort of thing, and I hate writing it all, but I know she feels very strongly and may easily have a good deal to say about us when she gets home and it seems only fair to let you know there is another side to the story. She is an exceedingly charming person when she is in a good mood, an interesting talker and altogether delightful, but you never know what may happen next.

In spite of all this and our very real difficulties with her, we all recognize that she is a very capable person, has done a better job for Dr. Wu than anyone she has had for years and years, and I was thoroughly in agreement with Dr. Wu's efforts to persuade her to stay on. I felt that if she would stay she was worth so much to the college and to Dr. Wu that we could put up with the rest and feel it worth while. I am sorry she is leaving, and I know that some of her criticism are valid ones up to a point, and if she could have approached such questions in a reasonable and understanding way she might have helped us to see some things that ought to be changed that we have taken for granted because we were used to them. But she can't do that and apparently can't be happy unless everyone fits her pattern. I do not believe she will be happy in any work anywhere until she has a different attitude for every job has its problems and I doubt if she can find one where all the people she works with are just what she thinks they should be. It is all very tragic and I feel very badly about it. I gather that last year, her first one, was a particularly difficult one in our foreign household for

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called Christian - I must stop for a meeting. Since it is so late in the season & the work conditions in China, so bad & nearly impossible to find a secretary. I am very sorry for Helen, for you, & the college & have to repeat with a number of reasons, and perhaps if she had not been plunged into such a difficult adjustment at first things might have gone better. Anyhow that can't be helped now, and she has evidently made up her mind and will not be persuaded. It is all the more tragic because it is so difficult to fill that position and it is so important to Dr. Wu and the college. I should add that I think Helen has great admiration and affection for Dr. Wu herself and it is general conditions of work and of living and her foreign associates that have made the problem for her, not Dr. Wu herself. I am very glad of that, for it has meant that they have worked happily together with very little friction.

thought of this, & I don't intend to write to Mrs. Mc Curdy until you have had time to see the possibilities of finding a secretary. I am very sorry for Helen, for you, & the college & have to repeat with a number of reasons, and perhaps if she had not been plunged into such a difficult adjustment at first things might have gone better. Anyhow that can't be helped now, and she has evidently made up her mind and will not be persuaded. It is all the more tragic because it is so difficult to fill that position and it is so important to Dr. Wu and the college. I should add that I think Helen has great admiration and affection for Dr. Wu herself and it is general conditions of work and of living and her foreign associates that have made the problem for her, not Dr. Wu herself. I am very glad of that, for it has meant that they have worked happily together with very little friction.

I hope this will give you some understanding of the situation. If you have other questions you want to ask I shall be glad to try to answer them.

Today is the inauguration day and we have a holiday to mark it. It is also the anniversary of last year's student troubles, so we shall rest more easily when it is over if all is still peaceful then. The free day has helped me to get one small jump ahead of some of my work, so I am grateful for it. You need not worry about me - I am too busy this term, it is true, but I'm standing it all right and there's nothing wrong with me. My two thesis students are entirely finished now, so that will ease things up a bit for the rest of the term.

With good wishes to you, and apologies for being such a very infrequent correspondent.

Sincerely,

MAY 20
1948

Ruth

Dear Mrs. Mies,

While we are waiting for the people to get here for the Council of H. Eden, meeting, I wish to add a few words. First I wish to ask for your forgiveness in not leaving you a letter at the same time when the formal letter was typed by Helen.

Secondly, in regard to the office work, Helen is dissatisfied because she is not able to direct everything and because she can not do the things as well as she liked, because she is a perfectionist. She keeps on working all day, always late to lunch & stays on in the office till 6 or so. No matter how many times I tell her not to worry if she can not finish the things everyday, but she should stop for meals & for other things (for instance, the thanksgiving service.) just because she does not go to such things, she feels she is not accepted by the foreign community in Nanking. The only group she keeps in touch is the Episcopal students in Sinking & so the Episcopal Church. In short there is a conflict in her - she has high Christian ideals & wants everyone to practice them, yet when she does things that things she does, anything, I can not be

Wu's secretary

Ginling College
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, N.Y.
May 26, 1948

Miss Ruth Chester
Ginling College
Nanking, China

Dear Ruth:

I greatly appreciate your letter of May 20th, giving me all the background for Helen Plaum's resignation. I am very sorry indeed that it has been such an unhappy time for her and that she has succeeded in making it unhappy for a number of the rest of you. We all rejoiced when she was appointed, because from her papers, she seemed highly qualified, and one woman, in recommending her, said "How can you have any question about her."

I can only say that I am sorry for this failure to fill the position permanently. It is a difficult position, but we will continue to look for just the right person. I was interested that Dr. Wu seems to have had something of the same idea that I had about Mrs. McCurdy. If she could take over some of the more confidential part of Dr. Wu's work and serve as College Secretary, perhaps a Chinese typist could carry the routine end of things and thus the problem would be solved.

I am enclosing a letter to Dr. Wu in this to you as I wanted to be sure that it is given to her directly and not through Miss Plaum. Maybe you would explain to Dr. Wu why the envelope comes addressed to you and not to her.

I have just written to Dr. Wu that the China Colleges office is being completely reorganized, and by this time next year the entire executive staff will be changed. There seems no place in the new set-up for anyone to do the work that I have been doing, and so I have sent in my resignation, effective at the end of August. Mr. Ramseur has already gone, Mr. Wannamaker is leaving very soon, and Mr. Evans and Mr. Corbett go at the end of the fiscal year, that is, June 30, 1949. This leaves Dr. McMullen the only one of the old staff. I hope that the new organization will be more effective and efficient than the old one, and that it will all work for the good of the Colleges. Just how the detail will work out, I do not know. I cannot tell you what is going to happen to the specific Ginling interest because as yet there seems to be no definite plan. You may be sure it will be taken care of.

I am glad to hear you say that you are well. I do hope that you will have a restful summer and that next year's schedule will be a little lighter. You know as well as I do that it doesn't pay to work yourself to death, so take it easy.

My greetings and best wishes to all Ginling.

Affectionately yours,

CSM:ef
Via Air Mail

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