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UBC HEAD ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
RG 11

Girling
Corres.
Hoffsommer, Abigail
1936-1937

0104

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Rec'd. July 28th

1. Search air mail, sp. deliv to Los Angeles
 2. " letter (copy above) to Phila
 3. Louise Shoup's operation
- about Spruce A. N. Ju Colorado pasture
Future due to lack of M.H.
4. Hope she will let me know
when she reaches Phila.

5-700 Barrington Ave.

Philadelphia, Pa

Honolulu, T. H.
July 28, 1936

My dear Miss Griest:

It was certainly nice to be met at Honolulu by a classmate who had your letter for me. Indeed, it was the only letter that was waiting for me here, although one from mother has come since.

I hope it can be arranged that I can meet Miss Louise Shoup. Miss Thompson, who was in the English department at Ginling during the past year, is traveling with me, and we are both much interested in what you say about Miss Shoup. I hope she will enjoy her year out there; it seems hardly possible that things will be going along out there in September without me there to join in it all. I have really loved the time out there.

And I am planning to go back if things work out rightly. You told mother of a vacancy in English which I might like to investigate on my way east, but your letter to me did not mention it, and I wonder if it ~~has~~ been filled. I am not eager to teach in the United States in the way I was to go out to China, but because of several things mother has written, I feel that it would be wise to investigate the position if it is still open. So if you can write me about it, and write about me to it, I should be very grateful. As you guessed, I am taking the Coolidge, and will go all the way to Los Angeles on it, having about three days to visit while the boat is in San Francisco. I believe the ship is due in Los Angeles on August 2. Would it be too much trouble to write me there again? Your first letter was such a nice surprise; this one I'll be looking for, though I'll try not to be disappointed if I don't get it!

The week in Honolulu has been most enjoyable. Did you get a chance to spend any time here while on your way to or from the Orient? Margaret and I have been taken in by my college classmate and her apartment sharer. The apartment is tiny-- two rooms with kitchenette and bathroom, and they've been good enough to push the twin beds together so three of us sleep ~~longwise~~ ^{width} on it and the fourth on the day bed! They call us good sports, but we think they are for taking us in when they might have found more room for us elsewhere. But it has been fun, and we've done more interesting things and met more people than we would have otherwise. Honolulu is again and always unbelievable with its flowering trees, its sea, its sunsets! I'm certainly glad we stopped over.

I shall certainly be in Lancaster to visit relatives, and shall look forward to seeing you again there.

Very sincerely yours,
Abigail Hoffhammer

0105

RECEIVED
AUG 24 1936
MRS M. E. HODGE

Ans. 8/27 Finances referred to Mr. Carter. Thanks for writing Miss Shoup.
Hope you can attend meeting of Bd. Founders, notice will be sent you.
Outfit allowance due you. Have names of Ed. Advisory Com.

In Chestnut Hill 8/26/36

5700 Warrington Avenue
Philadelphia, Penna.
August 21, 1936

Miss Margaret E. Hodge
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

My dear Miss Hodge:

I was very grateful to find your letter awaiting me when I reached home this week. I did have a very pleasant stay in Honolulu between boats, and I made four stops between Berkeley and Philadelphia. I also spent a little time in Japan, so I've been having a leisurely and pleasant trip. But I was glad to get home after the weeks of traveling!

I regret very much that I did not get to see Miss Shoup at all. I am writing to her at Ginling and wishing her the pleasure of the new experience which anyone going there should have. No doubt she will get there before everyone has moved completely; it is a bit difficult to realize that things will be going on there quite normally without me being there to join in it all!

You have all been extraordinarily appreciative of the little moving picture we sent you. Despite some hectic running about on certain days, we really enjoyed our experience of directing a film, and have thought that our efforts have been more than repaid by all that people on this side have said and written. But I suppose just that same thing won't happen at Ginling soon again!

In answer to the items of business: I shall be glad to have a medical checkup. I look so tired and run down that mother is taking me up onto a great-uncle's farm to pull weeds in the sun and get fat. I shall probably be there three weeks or so—perhaps four, and I would prefer to be checked after that period of recuperation, if that is permissible. I ought to make a more normal showing. Or is the idea to see how badly off I am before the United States sets me up? If so, please let me know, and I shall have the examination in Reading, which is near the farm.

Or, if I should come to New York for the meeting you mention, I might have it done there. Will you please let me know when and where the meeting is to be? I should like to meet the other Ginling Board members, and see Dr. Wu again.

Concerning the outfit allowance you ask about: as I went out for three years it was not given to me in 1931 and was not given to me while I was on the field. I should be very glad to receive it if it is due to me. I am enclosing my travel expense account. If any of the items should not be included, I would prefer to have deductions made from the outfit allowance before it is sent to

AUG 21
1936

Carter

me. I brought home all my books, being somewhat uncertain of conditions here, so the freight charges, which seemed inevitable, seem also high to me.

I have talked with Dr. Wu concerning my study on furlough. It seems advisable, of course, for me to secure my M.A., and I am planning to study at the University of Pennsylvania. I should like tentatively to make application for the study allowance, and write you more formally concerning it in September.

I will have the med. exam. done early next week & will have the report & the bill sent to Miss Tyler as you request.
Thankyou again for your letter and interest. I do certainly hope that I shall be seeing you sometime soon.

Sincerely yours,

Abigail Hoffhammer

P.S. Mother thinks it would be advisable for me to have the medical examination soon, so I shall have that done early next week before leaving here, and will have the report and bill sent to Miss Tyler as you request. To have it done now is probably best!

Encl: Expense account of travel

0107

Miss Tyler as you request.

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5700 Warrington Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa.
September 22, 1936

Miss Florence G. Tyler
Ginling College Board of Founders
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Miss Tyler:

I was very much pleased to receive the invitation to the Board of Founders meeting on Friday of this week. I have also received the notice of the change of place for the meeting. If possible, I should like to be in New York this coming weekend, and am looking forward to meeting the people on this side of the water who are so closely connected with our college out there. And I am eager to see Dr. Wu again, of course!

Miss Hodge wrote me some time ago to have a physical examination and have the report and bill sent to you. For a number of reasons, I did not get that done before I left for the country place where I stayed some time, and since coming back I've not yet had it done. But it should not be difficult to get in soon, and I shall have the examination made as requested. I think I'm better all around than I was a month ago-- but perhaps you wanted to know the worst! Surely I'm fatter now.

I wrote Miss Hodge some time ago that I would make formal application for a study allowance this month. At the time I was uncertain about going back, though I did want to, in many ways indeed. Now that it seems I can go, as far as the family is concerned, I should like to apply for a grant for studying towards my M.A. I am planning to attend the University of Pennsylvania, which is a good school and fairly close to home. Classes will commence on October 5, registration starting on the third.

Thankyou also for the Peoples Mandate to Governments which you sent me to have filled. I certainly am earnest for peace and am happy to have this small opportunity to do something in an effort towards it.

Yours sincerely,

Abigail Hoffhammer

150.00
paid
Oct 2

0108

ans JRH
5/8/37

5700 Warrington Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa.
May 5, 1937

My dear Dr. Harlow:

I have your letter asking me for a formal statement concerning the work I have done this year in graduate school. I made no changes from those I wrote you of in the fall and at the beginning of this term, but for your reference I shall repeat.

During the first term I took ten credits, and paid the maximum tuition charge of \$125 plus a matriculation fee of \$5 and a general deposit of \$5. For the second term I paid a \$50 tuition. This amounts to \$185, leaving \$15 out of the \$200 allowance. I should like to apply this amount towards summer school if that is permissible. Otherwise I shall return it.

My courses including those of this term have been the following:

Eng. 53. Pro-Seminary.	Both terms.	4	credits
Eng. 40. Modern Philology.		2	"
Eng. 68. The English Bible		2	"
Eng. 61. The Contemporary Essay		2	"
Eng. 1. Elizabethan Poetry		2	"
Eng. 16 The Development of the English Drama from 1850 to the Present Day		2	"

I am not entirely settled as to my summer school courses and am trying to choose two out of the many offered. I am almost certain that I shall take History 248S, "Recent European History, 1914-1935" if I may. The other will probably be one of these three: *course*

- Educ. E27aS. The Supervision and Teaching of Reading
 - Eng. 29aS. Play Production: Stage Directing
 - Soc. 6GS. Changing Social Attitudes.
- I have not as yet talked with my group advisor.

If there is anything else you wish to know about my work, please feel free to ask me.

Thank you and Mrs. Harlow again for your invitation. It looks now as if I'll be right here in the city until the term ends on the 28th of this month.

Yours very sincerely, *Abigail Hoffhammer*

Am. Harlow.

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5700 Warrington Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa.
January 14, 1937

My dear Miss Tyler:

I have sent Dr. Dodd the report of my physical examination. I had been so uncertain about being able to go back to Ginling that it seemed unfair running up expenses for you-- I had a tremendously exaggerated idea of what visits to doctors cost! Now that I know I am doubly ashamed of having put off this simple examination so long. And I shall be very happy to pay for this myself, because of course this can give little indication of my condition when I left the field. I have explained in the report and in my letter to Dr. Dodd that I was run down and tired, and that I've gained nearly 10 pounds since leaving China.

The last few weeks have seen several things settled for me, and far from being uncertain, now, I am beginning to feel that I can hardly wait to get back to Ginling, and hope that nothing will come up to make that impossible!

Mrs. Thurston has been in and near Philadelphia during the past few days, and had lunch with me here on Monday. We exchanged all the Ginling news possible, of course, but in the days since she was here, I've gotten a number of cards and letters which had apparently been held up. Miss Kirk wrote a letter in which she joined in the general enthusiasm for Miss Shoup and Mrs. Rhead. She says the crowds are larger each time at Mrs. Rhead's music recitals.

I hope you had a pleasant Christmas and New Year season.

Yours sincerely,

Abigail Hoffmann

over

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over

5700 Warrington Ave.
Philadelphia, Penna.
September 10, 1936

My dear Miss Priest:

I have had somewhat of a guilty conscience for not having written you, particularly as I used your name for a reference without consulting you, and you know so little about me personally! And last night when Alfred, my brother, came up with some friends to drive me down from the farm, he said you had called up from Lancaster. I am

0112

SEP 10
1936

very sorry indeed to have been away
and inaccessible by phone. Did
my aunt, Mrs. W. E. Alexander, at
735 Reservoir St. call you that
evening? I hope the call was not
very important.

As perhaps you realize, I have
been looking for work although
writing is still very near to my
heart and wishes. A number of
circumstances seem to make it
advisable to try to locate here
if I can do so profitably—but
of course there are various kinds
of profit! However, I have
applied at Curtis Publishing Company
where I used your name. I would

SEP 10⁽³⁾
OVL

1936

like to get into magazine work.
I have also applied through an agency
which led me just today to a
position which I think I can have
if I want. I'm not sure I do. Also
tomorrow I am interviewing another
person. I shall have to make
up my mind in a week or ten
days, of course, in fairness to
Gentling. And if I decide not to
go back I shall notify New York
immediately.

If you wish to get in touch
with me, I shall be here in Phila-
delphia from now on, as far as I
know. Mother is still up on
the farm where she's been the last
few days getting sunburned, rested,

SEP 10
1936

and supposedly fat! I must weigh
more if sleeping and eating will
fatten me! But I've been working,
too. It's just possible ~~or~~ may go
up there Sunday, but I doubt
that I shall.

I hope you are feeling rested
after a long summer. If you
come to Philadelphia I hope I
can see you here. And again
may I express regret for having
missed your call.

Sincerely yours,

Abigail Hogsommer

Prother's read "Oil..." ; she
just started it.

[17
over

5⁰ Cooper

5700 Moxingtoe Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa.
January 28, 1937

Dear Miss Giest:

[I've been about to write
to you for several days anyway,
and when I called Miss Hodge
for information I found you were
the person I should write to. I didn't
know whether you had anything to
do with candidates skill, but since
(better than Miss McKinnon)
I know you best, anyway. I'll try
to explain informally the idea in

JAN 28
1937.

my mind.

But first to tell you why I'm
going to write anyway. I feel that
I should tell you. Several things have
cleared up for me, since I rept on
your shoulder as it were in Lancaster,
and the family seems satisfied that
China is best for me now. So, Alfred
has finally secured a position that
looks better than any he's had, and
is in a concern that's big enough
to have advancement possibilities
if he makes good - and his
boss appears to like him. But as
for me, I know now since other
things have cleared that I can hardly
wait to go back - and I'm glad it's

JAN 28 [37]
1937

this may now. And I thought you'd be glad to know I'm settled inside; if outside circumstances in China or elsewhere change I may feel sorry to make necessary adjustments, but I won't be unhappily unsettled!

The other point: I know Miss Sharp went out for just a year but I know she's well liked and that, as you said, she may find it possible to make a summer trip to her dentist in California, and also to see good Shanghai dentists if she wants to stay another year in ~~Shanghai~~ China. Now I'd hate to be the cause of her having to leave if she can stay, and I've been

JAN 28

1937

wondering if I could take Helen Loomis' secretarial place for the time she's at home and then go back to English the next year - Esther's furlough year?

I don't know who Dr. Luu has in mind for secretary but if it's someone from the U.S. I'd have the advantage of knowing something about English. I'm taking stenography starting early in February; I'd be, perhaps, comparatively slow in taking dictation (though I did it for her in 1932!) and I couldn't be as valuable as Helen is in scores of ways, but I'd be temporary! And this is only a suggestion. I haven't any idea what the candidate situation is, and I've no objection to teaching from the day I arrive in Hankow (if the schedule's made!!). But I'd love working for Dr. Luu if that can be a help. And in any case I'm going to try to be 100% more valuable to English than I've ever been.

Abigail

This is more or less business, but it's ~~done~~ with lots of good wishes for you.

Copy

Miss Hoffsummer

5700 Warrington Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
January 28, 1937

Dear Miss Griest:

Several things have cleared up for me, since I wept on your shoulder as it were in Lancaster, and the family seems satisfied that China is best for me now. Too, Alfred has finally secured a position that looks better than any he's had, and is in a concern that's big enough to have advancement possibilities if he makes good--and his boss appears to like him. But as for me, I know now since other things have cleared that I can hardly wait to go back--and I'm glad it's this way now. And I thought you'd be glad to know I'm settled inside; if outside circumstances in China or elsewhere change I may feel sorry to make necessary adjustments, but I won't be unhappily unsettled!

The other point: I know Miss Shoup went out for just a year but I know she's well liked and that, as you said, she may find it possible to make a summer trip to her dentist in Claifornia, and also to see good Shanghai dentists if she wants to stay another year in China. Now I'd hate to be the cause of her having to leave if she can stay, and I've been wondering if I could take Helen Loomis' secretarial place for the time she's at home and then go back to English the next year--Esther's furlough year. I don't know who Dr. Wu has in mind for secretary but if it's someone from the U. S., I'd have the advantage of knowing something about Ginling. I'm taking stenography starting early in February; I'd be, perhaps, comparatively slow in taking dictation (though I did it for her in 1932!) and I couldn't be as valuable as Helen is in scores of ways, but I'd be temporary! And this is only a suggestion. I haven't any idea what the candidate situation is, and I've no objection to teaching from the day I arrive in Nanking (if the schedule's made!!). But I'd love working for Dr. Wu if that can be a help. And in any case I'm going to try to be 100% more value to Ginling than I've ever been.

Abigail.

Miss Hoffsomer

Suite 903
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York
February 2, 1937

My dear Abigail:

I found your letter awaiting me when I returned to New York this morning. I am so happy that you have been able to come to a decision which puts your heart at ease and of which your family approves. Your suggestion of returning to Ginling and acting in '37-'38 as Dr. Wu's secretary is certainly a very good suggestion.

The Board of Directors' Executive Committee Minutes for late November have arrived. They state that one teacher is wanted for English, two for Music, and one for Physical Education. Dr. Wu in her covering letter said that she would write later about the faculty needs. If she has done this, I have received no copy. I have been wondering what they were going to do about Miss Loomis' position and I also think it is probable from these Minutes that the request in English is for someone in addition to you. I think the thing to do is to write at once to Dr. Wu, telling her of your decision and of your suggestion; and also to send a similar statement to Miss MacKinnon who, as chairman of the Personnel Committee, may be the only one to whom Miss Wu will write. I shall send notes to both Dr. Wu and to Miss MacKinnon but I think it would be well for you to write both of them personally.

I was interrupted in dictating this and must get off to a meeting very soon, so I won't say anything more except to send you the best of wishes and the hope that the stenography course is not going to interfere with your securing an M. A. this year.

Affectionately yours,

RG/EA

Miss Abigail Hoffsomer
5700 Warrington Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

COPY FOR MISS GRIEST 院學理文子女陵金
GINLING COLLEGE
NANKING, CHINA

院長辦公室
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 11, 1937.

Miss Abigail Hoffsommer,
5700 Warrington Avenue,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
U. S. A.

Dear Abigail:

I have wanted to write to you for a long time, but the combination of fewer boats and the rush of getting important business letters to New York ^{each year} has made me a poorer correspondent than ever before. I hope the other people have been better in writing to you, so that you may know some of the things that are happening at College.

This is the first week of the second term and things have started in a normal and regular way. I am beginning to be busy in preparation for the annual meeting of the Board of Directors on February 20. This prompts me to write to you today in regard to your plans for returning. I have made an appointment to see Miss Vautrin in regard to the faculty program for 1937-1938. I remember what you told me--that you would need more than one year to complete the work for your M.A. degree. It seems to me therefore better not to count upon your being here next fall.

I realize the financial needs you will have to face if you need to stay for another year, and the Board of Founders may not be able to make grants. It is therefore very important for you to try to get the College Board to help you in securing some fellowship or scholarship. It will be too late for me to write such a letter. However, you can talk with Miss Hodge or Miss Griest and tell them about your needs. I am sure they will be able to write letters on behalf of the College to support your application.

There is one other factor that has made me think it better for you to stay in America for two years before your return. After I came back to College last November I heard incidentally remarks from our graduates which showed their disapproval of the way you went about with friends the last year you were here. You went away with such a keen sense of your own disappointment that I hesitated to mention this to you. Yet, I have full confidence in you and I am sure you yourself wish to do differently in the future. So I am not afraid of your misunderstanding me when I tell you frankly and suggest that you postpone your return until the fall of 1938.

With all good wishes to you in your work, and looking forward to hearing from you in the near future,

Sincerely yours,

Yi-fang Wu.

Miss Heffesmer

Suite 903
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York
February 15, 1937

My dear Abigail:

The day after I last wrote to you, I received a letter from Dr. Wu on candidate matters. I felt quite puzzled as to how to proceed and felt that I had better wait until I saw Mrs. Thurston, which I expected to do while I was at Wellesley at Alumnae Council. Mrs. Thurston will be in Philadelphia on Wednesday the 17th, speaking at the New Century Club that afternoon at two o'clock on "The Educated Chinese Woman." The New Century Club is at 224 South 12th Street and I understand that the meeting is open both to members and to non-members. She is to be the guest in Philadelphia of Miss Gertrude Allen, of the Highland Apartment in Chestnut Hill.

I was Mrs. Thurston's guest in Wellesley on Saturday night and while there I found that she had had the same letter from Dr. Wu that I had had. It didn't seem fair to me to forward that letter to Miss MacKinnon or, for that matter, to any of our Board and Mrs. Thurston feels the same way about it. She is anxious to have a talk with you while she is in Philadelphia and I think that that is the best way for us to come to some conclusion as to procedure.

In a nut shell, Miss Wu's suggestion is that you stay at home for two years. I think Miss Wu is probably not aware of the fact that the Board does not give furlough allowance to a member of the staff who remains for a second year in America, and that the problem would arise undoubtedly with you if you took a position for one year as to whether you would wish to give it up at the end of that year in order to return to China. I have sent Dr. Wu a copy of the major portion of your letter to me and she should receive it early in March.

I hope that you will make it a point to see Mrs. Thurston and that you will feel free to talk with her very frankly. I confess that at your age I would have found that very difficult to do, but I know from what she said

Miss Abigail Hoffsomer, page 2

February 15, 1937

to me in Wellesley that she is very understanding of your whole situation, and more understanding of the problem which arose last year than you realize. I think you can trust her and that she will be more helpful if she feels that you are really giving her your confidence.

Sincerely yours,

RG/EA

Miss Abigail Hoffsomer
5700 Warrington
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Miss Hoffsommer

Suite 903
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York
March 2, 1937

My dear Abigail:

Mrs. Thurston told me in a most friendly fashion of her interview with you. Her understanding is that you will not succeed in securing your M. A. this year. If that is the case, and if you feel that you wish to follow Miss Wu's suggestion of two years' absence from the Field, I think the best thing for you to do is to write a note to Miss MacKinnon asking for an extension of leave in order to complete your work for the Master's degree. I do not think that you should give any other reason for this save that desire.

It is, however, only right to tell you that I have never known the Board to grant furlough for a second year because of unfinished academic work. They have granted extended leave in order that work may be finished, but it was without furlough allowances after the first year.

So far as I can judge from Miss Wu's letter, she is wholly sincere about intending that you should return at the end of two years of absence.

I realize very acutely what a problem this makes for you. If you want to talk it over more fully with me or with Miss Hodge, please feel free to do so. Miss MacKinnon is so far away that, while she would be very sympathetic, it seems unnecessary to go into all the details in correspondence with her.

Sincerely yours,

RG/EA

Miss Abigail Hoffsommer
5700 Warrington Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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5700 Warrington Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa.
March 9, 1937

My dear Miss Griest:

I should have written to you long before this to tell you that I much appreciated ~~your~~ writing to me about Mrs. Thurston's coming, and what the serious interview would concern! I thought I was well over the weepy stage but I wept a few tears on Mrs. Thurston's shoulder! However, I am truly grateful for the extra year though I regret that it came about just as it did.

Dr. Wu wrote to me, also, a letter which I received about a week or ten days ago, and she is lovely indeed, while frank. She enclosed recommendations for scholarships which I doubt that I shall use at all. Instead I am going to try to get me work which will allow part time off for the classes I wish to take. So if you hear of any good jobs, let me know! I was seriously wondering if there would be anything I could do in connection with publicity or secretarial work for the boards in New York; if there were, I could choose courses which would mean I come into Philly one afternoon and return the next evening, or some such thing. Probably you are overstaffed, but if a gap occurs, think of me! However, I shall be looking around for other things, too.

Are you spending more time in New York or Lancaster these days? I had hoped to get up to New York the middle of this month but now am putting off the trip till next month, or even May. Dr. Harlow said he would drive me up to New England in either April or May when he comes down, and I wouldn't miss the chance to go then if I can arrange it. So I'm giving up New York just now, and trying to get a little extra work done.

This semester I feel so much better that the more I look back on last term, the more I wonder at how wretched I was. Part of my increased good feeling comes from a determined effort to sleep, and oh, I go to bed early and get some eight to nine or even ten hours almost every night. Of course if I were grimly determined to sleep, I'd probably lie restless all night, but I manage to drop off promptly, and sleep beatifically until morning is well here. It's wonderful!!!

I'm seeing more of Philadelphia now, and acquiring a real affection for it, though I still am amused and delighted at the boundless enthusiasm of its natives. Everything in Philadelphia is the best, the biggest, or the first-- as the Orchestra, the Saving Fund Society, Convention Hall, respectively. Do come and see us sometime-- and I'll find you the sights of the town!

With best wishes to you and hopes that you're not overworking,

Abigail

0127

Miss Hoffsommer

Suite 903
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York
May 21, 1937

My dear Abigail:

I am ashamed that I have not answered sooner your letter of March 9 and the later card of May 5. I have been busier than ever, and very foolishly have been working all day and evenings too at this Ginling job. The annual meetings of the Associated Boards for China Christian Colleges were on May 10 and 11 and the Ginling meeting on May 12. I feel I can now get down to a little back business.

Unfortunately, Professor Harlow's report for the Curriculum Advisory Committee was put at the end of the agenda at the annual meeting and we never got to discuss it, so it went over to the next executive committee which meets on June 18.

Miss MacKinnon has resigned from the Personnel chairmanship and I again am that! That means I automatically go on Professor Harlow's committee. As he may not attend the executive meeting on the 18th, would you be good enough to let me know exactly how much more work you should do for your M.A. and how much these courses will cost? In addition to what you must do, what would you like to do the coming year as to study and what would that cost? What are your summer plans?

In your letter of March 19, you suggested part-time work in New York and part-time study in Philadelphia. The few people with whom I have talked do not think well of that, for they feel it is too strenuous and would not mean marked success at either place. I myself have found this year, with the work here and the effort to carry also some of my responsibilities very, very trying.

I am so glad that you are feeling better. I have discovered too that enough sleep makes a new woman--and for your ear, it keeps one young.

Another first for Philadelphia--the first free school for girls in

0128

Miss Abigail Hoffecker, page 2

May 21, 1957

the colonies, founded by a French Quaker about 1750. I read of it just last night!

I want to see you and hope to before this meeting on the 18th. Maybe I can stop sometime on my way home.

Affectionately yours,

RG/EA

Miss Abigail Hoffecker
5700 Warrington Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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5700 Harrington Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa.
May 24, 1937

My dear Miss Grist:

Your letter arrived Saturday just as I was tearing off for a final exam on Tennyson. And here's hoping I passed it!

You ask me for complete details regarding the work I shall do next year. I shall take two courses in summer school which begins in July and ends the middle of August. That will leave me three courses (2 credits each) for next year. If I were planning to go back in January as I considered for awhile, I could easily do that in one term. But as we are too poor for that, I must get something to bring in a penny or two and stretch my work out. So I was planning to take an extra course - two each term -

MAY 24 1937

depending, of course, on what "job" I have. I want to do justice to both, ^{"job" & "school,"} naturally, and will get something to do right here if I can.

The cost of the courses during the regular term ~~is~~ ^{is} \$12.50 per semester credit - which will be \$100 more inclusive of summer school, for which I have saved some. But I'm not asking for more appropriation from the Board. I shall make a loan if necessary, but hope that won't be. After all it's a concession on the Board's and Dr. Lewis' part to let me stay on when I was to finish my M.A. in one year. I couldn't do it, but that wasn't Gintling's fault, goodness knows!

My summer plans are to go to summer school, as I said. The graduate spring term is now over, but I still have papers - the profs casually announce them may may along in the term because a year's time is given for them. But I must to foot one prof and get in the one paper within a week or ten days! I have enough to keep me busy during "va-

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[37
over

sation", but I am planning to go up to New York at the end of June, just before the summer session begins. Will you be there? I would like to see you again - and answer "in person" any further questions you may have! There is a month and a half between summer and fall sessions; I'm hoping if I get something to do I can start about September 1 and then have a month to get used to it before adding school work.

I don't know if I wrote you that Dr. Lee had said she'd be glad to have me come back as her secretary the second term next year - but our letters crossed and now she expects me to stay the full year here. I imagine it works out best that way there with Miss Sharp staying, and Dr. Lee will have to get someone from July on to take Helen's place, anyway, so I've put that idea aside. It's still a possibility I suppose and I'm quite willing to do it if that way works out best - only I'll have to know before October 1. As

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-4-
you're "pursuelling" again — you will know what's
what as soon as anyone, I guess.

By the way, do you need any more
people out there this fall? I know a fine
girl who's crazy to go out, and she could provide
satisfactory references. She isn't a music teacher —
but what else have you open? She's in ~~church~~ ^{Presbyterian}
editorial work now!

I had a nice letter from Mrs. Thurston
today. She's very generously offered to help me
if I need help — so I hope I won't prove a
headache and worry to the Governing Board or
its untaxed Personnel Director! I should get
along!

And, aside from business: we do hope
you can drop in sometime — maybe to Leucaster,
or elsewhere. You may find us in the midst
of wall-papering, kaleomining, or painting, but
you will be most welcome in any event!

With the best of wishes,

Abigail

P.S. If you've more questions, I'll try to answer
them to your satisfaction! A.

0133

5700 Warrington Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa.
June 11, 1937

Dear Miss Griest:

This is just a note to assure you of what you already know-- that I am very loyal to Ginling and do want to go back there very much indeed. But I write to you now because you may have cause to doubt such true interest within the next few weeks if a number of places or organizations should write and ask you about me.

You know well enough-- who could know better-- how employers want to know where a person last worked, and why and how he or she left. Well, I can't escape the fate of all; my predicament is just doubled because I must support myself next year and want to do so well, and at the same time want to be left free to leave at the end of the year. So I'm starting on a "looking-for work" campaign vigorously these two weeks, and if you get ~~requests for~~ ^{letters about} seemingly impossible jobs, please don't be surprised. I shan't take an "impossible" one except it seems in all ways the wisest thing to do, but I have to apply for many things to get one, I'm afraid.

There is still the fact that we are poor, and if an extraordinary job should turn up (which is of course highly unlikely), mother may say I've just got to take it no matter if it's in San Francisco! And being at home I seem to have become about 16 and far from free, white, and 21, and may do what she says. But this isn't a warning as nothing ~~has~~ threateningly appeared yet! I'm just going on singing Ginling Ginling Ginling and if the overtones of the new job don't harmonise with the ringing ng's, the job will have to stand by.

No doubt you are eating, sleeping, and dreaming Ginling so I won't add more to your troubles. Instead I'll hope you have a vacation soon, and that you'll be down our way if you can. We had a lovely cold day today, did you?

Affectionately yours,

Abigail Hoffsummer

0134

Miss Hoffsommer

Miss Abigail Hoffsommer
5700 Warrington Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Suite 903
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York
July 12, 1937

My dear Abigail:

I fear that I did not write you after the Ginling Executive Board meeting in June and I judge that it was my duty as the new chairman of the Personnel Committee to do so. The Executive and Finance Committees discussed with great sympathy your situation but they felt that they could not vote any extended furlough allowances. This was on the basis that it would establish a new precedent which would be difficult and on the basis that our financial situation was not of such a condition that we could do it without penalizing something else in relation to the college. This action is taken with great regret, for we all realize that Dr. Wu does really want you to return.

There have been cases of extended furlough salaries on the basis of sick leave and also on the basis of a definite request for additional service at home, but there have been several times in Ginling's history when a staff member has not finished her study and has asked for extended leave. As far as I know, the leave has been granted, although sometimes with hesitancy, but the furlough allowances in those cases have never been continued.

I do hope that you have been able to find something to do.

I am quoting from a letter from Dr. Wu received this morning in which she speaks of Miss Tappert's coming home in the summer of 1938. While Miss Shoup is going to stay a second year, Dr. Wu feels no assurance that she will be a permanent member of the department. Dr. Wu says: "So there will be only Florence Kirk and Abigail Hoffsommer in the autumn of 1938." And she feels that we should be looking this year for a third member of the department. I give you this because it indicates so clearly that Dr. Wu is counting on you for return in 1938. I understand of course that it may be clearly impossible for you to go if you secure a good job here. But I want you to know that Dr. Wu wants you and is expecting you. I shall be glad to know what you have been able to work out and I am sorry that I cannot send you a more encouraging letter as far as the Board is concerned.

Affectionately yours,

RG/EA

0135

5700 Warrington Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa.
July 13, 1937

My dear Miss Griest:

Thank you so much for your long letter of yesterday. As I wrote you before, I am sure, I had no idea that I would receive any more money, and have been wondering, to be perfectly frank, where the idea originated. Was it Dr. Wu's concern over me? In any case, it does not matter, though I am happy to have the formal report concerning the Committee's decision!

This does not mean that I have landed a job, but I am not yet discouraged about getting something to do, be it ever so humble. For a wonder our Philadelphia paper has a job advertised today that sounds possible-- most of them here are just for housemaids and waitresses and \$12 stenogs-- but I just saw this ad late tonight, and may already be out. However, I'm still hopeful!

I've got the grandest girl for that Ginling English position. I've been talking to Dr. Wu about her for years, and Dr. Wu was really interested, and she, the girl, has always been, but didn't want to leave her mother alone. However, she's giving up her last teaching job and going to work on her Ph.D. next year, I believe, and she is terrifically brilliant-- would lend a real scholarly atmosphere to Ginling-- but withal very human and charming and clever, and a dear. She is one of my classmates, and has her M.A. from Wisconsin, and is as smart in philosophy and math as in English, and always cracked A's in everything. In other words, Ginling must have her, and I'm going to bring tremendous pressure upon her if she's in the East next year, as she hopes to be, at Harvard. It's time she went to China, as she has long wanted to do-- and she can bring her mother along. So! Her name is Harriet Zetterberg, and her address is Valley City, North Dakota.

I shall tell you more about this paragon if I see you in New York this weekend. Adaline, Catherine Carl and I are staging a little reunion, and I shall probably be there Saturday and Sunday. May I drop in at the office Saturday sometime? But I'll call you on the phone, and if you're busy, just say so. But I hope I can see you.

I'm toiling and molling at summer school, truly hard!

Yours most sincerely indeed, *Aligail*

Put name
in candidate
files.

0136

Hoffmeyer

Suite 903
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City
July 15, 1937

My dear Abigail:

I am so sorry that I am not going to be in New York this week-end. I am going home Friday night and will not be back before Sunday evening. I am afraid you will find the office quite deserted on Saturday because we are trying to ease up a bit during July and August. If you don't go back too early on Sunday I possibly will reach the hotel--the Parkside--before you leave. I am awfully sorry not to see you and I am especially disappointed not to have an opportunity to meet Catherine Carl. If she is going to be in the city on Monday, would you ask her to get in touch with me? Ginling College is now in the telephone book, and the number is WAtkins 9-9703.

I do hope that your friend Miss Zetterberg may be interested in the English position sometime. She sounds like a splendid person.

I think you are an awfully good sport about next year. The question of an allowance for a second year was probably due both to the concern of our Board about you and also to Dr. Wu's concern about you. I think Dr. Wu hoped that since she asked you to come back with a Master's degree and since you did not secure it this year, that there might be an exception made in regard to a study allowance. The Committee really wanted very much to grant you something, but, as I wrote you, they felt that both past precedence and the difficulties of the future forbade them to do it.

I do hope you find a job that will give you some happiness as well as some income.

Affectionately yours,

RWG:GS

0137

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5

5700 Warrington Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa.
August 1, 1937

My dear Miss Griest:

I enclose a card which speaks for itself-- but doesn't speak very well for me! Need I explain that the little shop across the street was out of stamps, and I simply didn't get near a postoffice until yesterday? Alas!

You really are more than kind to concern yourself about me as much as you have; I wish I were more worth the trouble. Here's hoping that when I start my campaigning for work in earnest next week, after school is over, someone will soon take me off your mind by giving me a m-ar-velous job. I am continuing to give you as reference-- and someday someone may be interested enough to write and ask you about me. Ai-yai.

I do appreciate the book you sent, and your letter. I shall see if the school directory is not in the University of the Free Libraries, and if it is, I shall send Mrs. Macmillan's copy right back in a day or so. Thank her for it, please. I have started applying at one teacher's agency here, and renewed my acquaintance with another general one I was at last fall. And I have a couple of new ideas.

One new idea came with your anonymous offer of a loan. (I'm not going to be embarrassed by guessing right or wrong about that loan!) But with what Mrs. Thurston said she'd lend me, it almost tempts me to pinch along and finish up in January and then get something quite different to do for the remaining months, something I shouldn't have to divide my time for. However, I'm still looking around for work, and if I can't find something satisfactory I shall follow that plan and be very, very happy to have the loan. By the middle of September I shall have to decide, since school starts again the beginning of October, but that gives me six weeks to try to land something.

Is Liu En-lan coming home this year? And where will she study? Where is Djang Deh-wei to be? I had two memographed letters from Ginling this week, but I haven't had much specific news for a long time.

We are so sorry we couldn't get you for tea last Sunday. I hope that the next time I come up to New York I can see you; last week was devoted to my hostess and to Carol Carl, ~~xxxx~~ specifically-- but next time I'll be in New York longer. Are you staying the whole summer?

With my gratitude, and affectionately--

Aligail

0138

5700 Warrington Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa.
August 9, 1937

My dear Miss Griest:

(The girl at Western Union telephoned me that a Miss Greest had sent the message, and I didn't dipute her statement.)

I am sure, being as poor as I am, that I should say, "Of course, I shall consider anything!" Mother and I have been having a long talk, one of the many, but this one was particularly spirited because I wrote two exams today and it is very hot, and I am feeling the first reactions of the close of summer school! We reached a sort of agreement so it is only necessary to say that I am still uncertain whether I'd hop off to Berea under just any circumstance, but as you are aware of the unsettled state of my mind and family, please don't hold that against my application for the position! I want to know more about it-- when it would start, what it pays, and what it expects exactly. Would it include publicity work? The telegram said editorial and office, didn't it? Yes, I am interested, and I should like to know where and how to apply, if not through you.

I'd "love" publicity work or editorial.

As for the other position: I really would be crazy about working in New York City, though I realize it's a "har-r-r-d" place; many of my friends are there, and further, it is quite near home. But my stenography is far from perfect as yet. This summer I've been going to school so hard that it has dropped again, but in this interim I'm going to give double time to it and perhaps get it finished at last. I wouldn't be ready for a straight stenographic position right now, however, in New York or anywhere. If I could be largely on my own, I could type and compose letters, however.

You are good to concern yourself about me, really. Won't you be glad to have me settled soon, one way or t'other? As school here doesn't start again until October, I do have time to concentrate on stenography and job hunting-- and if you think it would be any help at any time, I can come to New York.

What in the world do you think is going to happen in China? My history paper is on the rise of nationalism in China, and I must say it is keeping me hopping to read the daily reports and keep up to the minute. But I'm glad I chose that subject: I've learned so much of the background of Chinese history that I never did get read before. I've lots more reading to do, but think the paper will ~~be~~ done within ten days. It ought to be, just to get it out of the way!

Aren't you having any summer vacation? The weather really has been hot this past week, shih-bu-shih?

Thanking you again, and with much affection and appreciation,

Abigail

0139

5700 Warrington Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa.
August 11, 1937

My dear Miss Sharp:

Indeed, your name is familiar, although it seems quite inadequate for me to address you simply as "Miss Sharp." You are quite aware of the Ginling habit of speaking of the departed (to the U.S.A!) by using their two names, such as Rebecca Griest, or Gratia Sharp. I almost wrote, "Dear Miss Gratia Sharp:". Eva, in particular, mentioned you often, I believe.

Thankyou much for the letter telling me more about the position in Berea. It sounds truly alluring; as you said, and I would welcome the double opportunity of learning more about Kentucky people, and working in a position that would have editorial aspects. Too, I know a girl who is teaching in Berea, and the Fenns, who had been there, so I'm drawn towards the place and the job, both. I shall write to Miss Dingman at the address you gave me, and will let you know if I hear from her.

Are you working in New York for some time to come? I dash up there every now and then, and shall look forward to meeting you the next time I come if we can arrange it.

Will you give my best wishes to Miss Griest? And thankyou both again for the trouble you are taking over me.

Yours sincerely,

Abigail Hoffmeyer

0140

[17
over

5700 Maddington Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa.
August 15, 1937

Dear Miss Grist:

The book is wrapped and will be sent out early tomorrow morning. I wish I had gotten it mailed to you during the past week as I intended; I was beginning to think I'd kept it too long. Please thank Mrs. Macmillan for it; I have gotten several ideas from it.

And about the Kentucky position which you explained at such length: I wrote to Miss Bigman at the Nova Scotia address but I've heard nothing yet, of course. And I've also wondered how long she'd be there,

0141

C21

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1937

as the conference was rather short,
according to newspaper accounts. How-
ever —

As to the fly in the ointment: the
last few days have made very clear
to me that I'll have a family uproar
on my hands if I consider going back
to China before things are very well
settled indeed, and mother is very
certain that no permanent peace will
be forthcoming until things are drastically
settled one way or another. The news,
which you probably noticed, of Robert
Reischauer's death has made mother
more certain that needless sacrifices
mustn't be made, and she says if
the Japanese get control they don't want
other foreigners around. The whole

0142

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1937

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subject makes me too sick at heart -
Bob practically grew up with me when we
all were youngsters; he was so brilliant
and so able to contribute to Japan and
China and it seems his death is a
complete waste. I could never be sure
to contribute as Bob could have,
but for myself I want to go back
when and if I can be of help. What
can happen in another year in
China we can hardly surmise - but
mother seems to think I ought to plan
to stay here two or three years more
and then go back if I still feel it's
the thing to do. But she would recommend
me paying Gintung back in any case -
for if I go back later it doesn't matter.
I must admit I don't fall in

0143

AUG 15 1937

[4]

You added information about the work at Berea makes me wonder if I should have
Dingman - maybe about me - but I shall not for some kind of word
If my lucky I didn't go to Chatsworth - I developed tail over my eye which caused a head
ache!

entirely with the plan - but with things un-
certain both in China and in our
family, I can't take a definite stand against it now.

We've just been reading tomorrow's paper -
and now they're galling outing around Ken-
ning, as they threatened to do. "This is
not America's war".

I don't seem to be arriving at any-
thing is these rambling paragraphs. But
what I am able to say is only that I'd love
to do the Berea job if Miss Dingman
would consider me - and my ultimate
permanence in it could only be determined
after six months or a year when many
things have had time to happen. That, of
course, may not recommend me to Miss
Dingman! But I thank you for having
written to her. Meanwhile I can wait,
and watch - and keep on applying!

With love,
Alice Paul

0144

Referred in case of ^{reference} 1939

Suite 903
160 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York
September 20, 1937

My dear Miss Hoffsommer:

Miss Griest has asked me to write to you in regard to the action taken by the Executive Committee of the Ginling Board of Founders at their meeting on September 16th. It was voted that the Board approve your remaining in America through 1939 and that your returning to China at that time, in case you still wish to do that, depend in part upon the completion of your U. A. degree and on the situation at Ginling and in China in 1939. In respect to the furlough allowance, which you understand about I believe, they wish to make this repayment as easy for you as possible. The amount settled upon is \$936, and the Board suggested that it might be a help to you to defer beginning this repayment until January 1938. On account of the state of the Ginling Treasury and also because it seems an easier way to do it, they prefer to have it paid in monthly installments, and suggest that you write to Mr. Evans, the Ginling Treasurer in regard to the amount to be paid each month. I hope I have made this clear, but if there are any questions, please feel quite free to write us about any of these points.

I have wanted to write to you ever since you went to Berea to say how many times I have thought of you, and how much I hope that you are going to enjoy it, and feel that your decision to go was the correct one. I don't know how recent news you have had from other members of the Ginling faculty in this country. I suppose you did know that Moreb has a position in the Sociology department of the Womens Division of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, North Carolina. We have just had word that Louise Shoup is to work for her doctorate at Chapel Hill this year, so perhaps you three can see each other. Louise Waight is in New York looking for a job, and Helen Loomis has had two offered her, one with Frank Price, distributing China news, the other at Asheville, North Carolina in the Teachers' College.

I shall send you a mimeographed copy of a letter from Dr. Wu sent via the China Clipper. Of course much water has flowed under the bridge since it was written, but it is good to have direct word from them.

Sincerely yours,

GS

Suite 903
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York
September 23, 1937

Dear Miss Hoffsommer:

I regret to say that I, in reporting to you the action of the Executive Committee at their meeting on September 18th, omitted one of the chief points in their action concerning you! In telling you about the repayment of your furlough salary, I should have added that in the event of your returning to China (to Ginling) in 1939, the money will be refunded to you. I don't know how I could have omitted that important item. Please forgive me.

I presume you, like those of us in New York, are torn between feeling you can't bear to hear the news from China and can't bear not to. The New York Sun on Tuesday, reported that Minnie and Catherine were remaining at Ginling, "Because they felt it their duty to remain with their Chinese colleagues," which of course means that Dr. Wu is also there.

Good luck for your job, and for you.

GS

Miss Abigail Hoffsommer
Berea College
Berea, Kentucky

I feel so familiar with you, both from having heard so much about you and from having spoken of you so often, that it seems stilted to keep on calling you Miss. Shall we adopt the Ginling habit of calling each other by our first names?

over

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over

Box 494 Berea College
Berea, Kentucky
September 21, 1937

Dear Miss Griest:

I have managed to write the letter of resignation. I hope it gets to Miss Hodge in time for the Board meeting, the exact date of which I have forgotten, though it seems to me you said it would be some time around the 25th?

The letter was not easy to write, 'cause I really just hate to resign from Ginling. And yet I have the curious feeling of being at peace, somehow feeling that I have done the right thing, and that I'm in what is the right place for me at present, anyway. When I accepted that Connecticut job I didn't have that feeling though I was glad to have something to do for a while. Here I shan't be just having something to do; I know I shall be happy, for I already think the countryside is lovely, and I am impressed with the general friendliness of the staff of workers as seen in the dining room and elsewhere. And, of course you know, there are so many people here that were in China! I've been telling people there must be a dozen, including the two newcomers of us this year-- the other a Canton born young man who's taught there and in India, too. And I must tell you that people here know where Carleton is, too, as two art teachers are from there. One was teaching there when I was an undergraduate, and the other is the daughter of one of my favorite Carleton profs. Too, there are three staff members from St. Olaf, the rival college across the river from Carleton in the same little town of Northfield. So I'm quite at home!

So I do want to thank you again, from the field, and hence even more earnestly, for having left me to this position, and for all the untrue but flattering things you must have told Miss Dingman. I don't believe you stopped to think how hard it may be for me to prove good, but I shall try, for I do like Miss Dingman, and the work has enough variety in it to make time fly. What if I do have to count postage stamps one minute-- the next I'm doing something quite lofty--hem! Do come and see us.

Have you Mereb's address? Josephine Brown (Shanghai Y.W., she was in here last week) and I both want it. *I'll write to Miss J.B.*

It's been nice to know Miss Gundlach. And there are nice other people here, too.

But I'll write you again some time. Meanwhile, please do keep me on the Ginling news list: and I mean that I shall be

SEP 21 1937

(2)

glad to provide postage if my resignation automatically removes my name from the regular list. You KNOW I'm just as interested as I was, and will continue to be so long as there's anybody out there I know.

My love and gratitude to you,

Abigail

P.S. I'm figuring on paying off my debt in three years. Is that fairly good time?

150 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York
September 28, 1937

Dear Abigail:

It was very good of you to write me so beautifully about yourself, China, and your new work in Berea. I think you have done the right thing to resign, although I hate to have you do it. It isn't fair to your new job to be thinking of it as a temporary stop-gap. I trust that it will go along smoothly and that you will continue to be very happy both in it and at Berea.

I am hoping to go out to Western College at Oxford, Ohio, near Cincinnati, this week-end. If I could accomplish a great deal of work before Friday night, I might feel justified in running down to Berea for a few hours, but I am not at all sure that that will be possible.

Mereb's address is: Sociology Department, The Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina.

Of course we shall keep you on the Ginling news list. Our very best file is that of all our former staff. There is no group in this country which is more interested in Ginling than this group and it does not matter how long it has been since they have been there.

I think if you can pay your debt in three years you will be doing very well indeed.

With best wishes to you and with love, I am

Sincerely yours,

RWG:GS

Miss Abigail Hoffsummer
Berea College
Berea, Kentucky

10/17/37-ael.

[17]

Berea College
Berea, Kentucky
October 1, 1937

Dear Miss Griest:

At the end of a long day I have written the answers to the questions you sent. I am afraid they are not of much value; others will be able to contribute much more to your needs, but here is my pittance.

(Not that it is such a short pittance!)

Thank you yourself for the other letter to me. I do wish that you could get down to Berea; I am rather looking for four other friends, but they may not get here until next weekend. But it would be merry if you would all turn up!

I had a very lovely letter from Miss Hodge today. I haven't written to Mr. Evans yet but certainly will try to within a day or two.

I believe the job will come along, though I've passed the beginner's-fast-progress stage and have been doing some awfully dumb things. However, my typing is getting less tiring, even after long hours, so I feel that is a step. And while my shorthand is still largely abbreviations, I manage to put in a few more curly-cews each time I'm dictated to.

There is much more to write about-- but this isn't a letter-- only an accompanying note.

I didn't mention Frances Fenn's being ^(ask Mr. Wheeler) here-- but you knew that. And I know there are other people around, of course.

If there is anything else I can do, I shall be happy to do it.

With my love to you,

Abigail

P.S. Sorry to have changed paper! And I'll save your stamped envelope till my next communication!

Abigail Hoffsommer
Ginling College, 1931-1936

OCT 1
1937

[27]
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(in case of?)

1. What preparations for protection against war were being made in Nanking and in other communities that you know?

After the Shanghai War of 1932 in particular the areas round about Nanking were gradually fortified. On Purple Mountain trenches had been dug near the top before we were refused climbing privileges. By the last two years I was there we were not allowed to climb the mountain at all because of military fortifications-- whether cannon or anti-aircraft I am not sure. Purple Mountain fortifications would command the Shanghai Nanking Railway and, more distantly, the Yangtse River.

We also lost the privilege of walking on the city wall in freedom. It was guarded by soldiers stationed at short intervals. There were places where we could see that trenches were prepared.

Walking up a hill near Ginling one afternoon, a group of us were startled to come upon a machine gun nest hidden behind trees and shrubbery (1936). Doubtless we were on forbidden ground; there was a good deal of military reservation to the southwest of the campus the last three years or so. This nest overlooked the wall but was not very near the river.

Sandbags have been filling the center arch of the big gate to Hsiakwan for about two years. Of course guards check on all people going through the gates at all hours of day and night.

Bombs have decorated Hsin Giaï Kou and a fork on Chong Shan Lu near the Drum Tower for at least two years, and they are elucidated by large posters showing the probable effects of air raids.

In at least two rural schools near Nanking I have seen pictures of the Shanghai War horrors for the children's elucidation; the English text books published for use in some government schools had anti-Japanese propaganda; there was also the boycott-- but these are in the nature of propaganda against Japan.

On two different occasions we had city-wide practice against air-raids, with the warning siren, practise bombs dropped on jerry-built shacks, and lights off throughout the city. These occurred in the fall of 1934 and 1935 I believe.

2. In what ways were the men and the women students preparing to assist their country in time of war?

OCT 1 1937

77

Abigail Hoffsommer
Ginling College, 1931-1936

-2-

By the year 1935-36 the government had the college freshmen throughout the country studying military training or military nursing under trained staff. Our freshmen girls gave all of each Saturday afternoon throughout the year to learning bandaging and other nursing. I believe the freshmen men were expected to go to camps early in the spring for six weeks or more.

They are always ready to attend meetings or to speak. General Chiang spoke to a large group of Nanking students during my last winter-- more to reassure them that the Government was doing all it could, and to thank them for their interest but to beg them not to be impatient. I believe the faculty felt that he had made a very definite impression on his hearers.

The compositions turned ~~into~~ in to me, an English teacher, reflected more and more the determination of the students to do something for their country. Needless to say much of the expression was simply and grandiloquently to "save the country"; there was a good deal of vituperation against "the cruel Japanese" (what would they call them now?) and much impracticality. But there was spirit that grew during the five years after the Shanghai War; all we could do was try to direct it.

And in this connection I must not fail to tell you of the graduate who wrote back to me (she was not an English major) of the ~~sad~~ plight of "Chain".

3. What was the attitude of students and of faculty towards war?

This question is most difficult to answer. There are those who wanted to fight, and fight right off to the bitter end to get the Japanese out; as a whole I believe the students were more volatile than the faculty. On the other hand, there were the steadier students, and the ~~the~~ marvelously level-headed Dr. Wu whose influence for balance among both student body and faculty cannot adequately be measured.

But it is necessary to admit that, even among the foreign group who strove to remain objective and look for ultimate results, a feeling of despair would creep in: "we don't want war; war is wrong; peaceful means are ultimately and immediately the best, BUT--- How Are We Going to Get Japan OUT of Here Now or Even Later without War? War is the only language she seems to understand. And yet--- And yet----".

4. What were the efforts of students and of faculty in behalf of reconstruction?

I am not sure I understand what you want to know here. After the Shanghai War-- indeed, during it, many of the girls and faculty were helping in very practical ways to have things run smoothly again in their communities and groups.

I believe the girls are aware of the work that must be done throughout the country in education and training to make their country

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Abigail Hoffsommer
Ginling College, 1931-1936

hold its own with the western world. Numbers of the graduates have gone into rural work; scores are teachers. But you have all that data.

5. What is the student, also the faculty, attitude towards the Central Government?

I believe it was, during the time I was there, favorable. I think here again Dr. Wu did a great deal to make the students understand that a government must have loyal support, even when it does not do everything just as fast or exactly the way one would like.

6. What is the student, and the faculty, attitude towards Communism?

I can think of only two individuals who might have had strong Communist leanings in the group, but I may be fooled. While Chiang was criticised for waging war on Communists instead of Japanese, the graduates who came back from rural districts where Communists had been brought tales that did not make anyone want to be near Communists such as the bandits and poor of western China become.

7. What do you think will be the attitude of students towards their own college work in the face of national peril?

If they believe they can be of more help nursing or doing something else-- teaching, speaking, writing-- they will do it. But during the 1932 war they organized in Shanghai and carried on. I think they realize that education will be of ultimate value to them in their desire to serve the country (here again Dr. Wu! And I think always of the Ginling student), but in such dire peril I do not know if they would carry on, right under the bombings. I don't know if parents would send their daughters to school in Nanking today. But they will come back as soon as they can, if Ginling is there, and school can carry on.

The college cancels celebrations in time of crisis--Christmas of 1931 was rather quiet; with Chiang Kai Shek's capture in 1936 another Christmas was quiet-- until he returned safely. The students make quite a good deal of National Humiliation Days, and can always be counted on to put the money they had planned for some innocent fun into something for a national need. They gave (1932 or 1933?) very successful Chinese dramas, the returns from which were turned over to national projects. (I don't recall exactly what: it had to do with some anti-Japanese movement.)

8. Are there other items which you think should be mentioned?

I do not know if I have emphasized the loyalty of students and staff sufficiently. I mean loyalty to Ginling. It is partly a loyalty to Dr. Wu, but it is also a loyalty shared with her to the college. This loyalty will guarantee a large group of the Chinese staff "standing by" at this time; and the foreign staff, students, and alumnae, too, doing what they can.

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If I could be of any help by speaking on China in this vicinity I should be glad to do it. I do believe, however, that there are others here at Berea far better qualified:

Changsha	Miss Jane Lewis
Nanking	Miss Adelaide Gundlach
	Miss Julia Allen
	Miss Abigail Hoffsommer
Canton	Mr. John G. Barrow
	Mr. Ben Fuson

There are probably others here-- but Miss Gundlach will probably tell you of them. I haven't met everyone yet.

If I were to speak I'd prefer students, or church-groups (not services), or clubs that weren't highly intellectual! However I am open to suggestion.

Only weekends could be spared, in general. If I know far enough ahead I could take a Monday ~~as well as~~ ^{instead of} a Saturday for any particular weekend.

I shall be glad to share any letters that I may receive which would be of value.

I don't have any addresses of Ginling students or alumnae in the States other than those in your possession.

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John Earl Baker's elder daughter Frances would be an excellent speaker for China. She is now

Mrs. Howard Frank Ross

1655 North Alabama St.

Indianapolis, Indiana

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Enc Excerpts from letters (17)
from Chen Yü-dyen
(attached)

Berea College
Berea, Kentucky
October 18, 1937

Dear Rebecca:

(That's going to take a bit of practicing!)

This is only the merest note to accompany the enclosed, which I have copied from three letters I received. They may be of absolutely no value, and you are quite at liberty to add them to your wastebasket contents, inasmuch as I have the originals. But there they are.

I really rather wanted to cry when I got the crazy, gay, Micky Mouse Christmas card from the Husemanns, and reading their letter didn't help much, since I won't know where they are by Christmas. They weren't such ardent Nazis and how will they be happy in Germany?

I am continuously grateful for the material which comes my way from New York. Edith Haight's things filled the mail for me today.

And then I had your note (as see the "Rebecca"). I am sorry you couldn't get down to Berea.

But this is all this time. It's not a letter, so I must stop!

Greet Gratia, and others there for me, please.

With my love,

Abigail

Is Margaret Thompson on the G.C. mailing list? She would gobble up every thing you sent her.

Miss Margaret Thompson
2420 Burlington Avenue
St. Petersburg, Florida.

(Burling 1935-36)

(Mistake: one pen!)

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GINLING COLLEGE

Excerpts from two letters from Chuen Yuen-djen, class of 1938.
Forwarded from Philadelphia, received in Berea October 4

Shanghai, China
Aug. 8, 1937

.....

Nothing in the world is more horrible than war. Our government has for years tried its best to avoid the bloodshed, yet peace seems impossible. The war will soon break out. I think you may judge which side is responsible for the war if your papers are just about the world affairs.

Have you ever been in Tientsin while you were in China? I can imagine that if you re-visit it you will surely find a great change there, as so many institutions and houses were destroyed by bombs-- and lives too!

..... Since the 7th of the July I have not once been out to the movies, which are the most reasonable recreation to me during holidays.....I think you can guess what sort of summer vacation I have had.

....

I am now waiting for the last order from the Central Government. Hence I may plan or decide what to do-- work or study. If the war really soon break out I would rather be a nurse or a propagandist than a student. For the time being I will perhaps go out to work for my country with those people of Y.W.C.A. in Shanghai.....

I, not unlike you, am a lover of peace; I hate very much to hear the war prolonged, yet I do not expect any peace wrought by force or submission, for our God is righteous I believe!

August 27, 1937

.....

Five days since I wrote you last, Shanghai like the North China was in a violent storm. The war, up to now, is carried on. The situation is very serious this time. Within a few days many thousand lives were destroyed here. The most miserable of the victims are those innocent people who live near the battlefield or in the foreign settlements. But thank goodness! my family are all quite well.

Shanghai, unlike it in 1932, is in a ten times worse condition. Things are not quite in order. Two days after the war broke out. The transportation within the city stopped. There

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are still almost no markets. All day long the streets are overflowed with the fugitives. There are about thousands who become homeless. Large fire caused either by bombs or gunfire can be seen every day in Chapei, Pootung, and the southern part of the city. The heaven seems on fire, too. Shells rain into all parts of the town. The atmosphere is full of the horrible noise of the bombs. A large number of buildings were damaged. Kiatinghsin, a small city near Shanghai, Chapei, and Pootung were now completely razed with bombs by the wild beasts---Japanese. I am very sorry to tell some Christian institutions were damaged by them, too, such as Shanghai College, Nantung Hospital, and Chung Yin Middle School for Girls.

Communications have now been cut off from the other parts of China. The Shanghai-Nanking train stopped yesterday, for the railway was bombed by the rascals--Japanese. But I believe it may be recovered a few days later. So that I do not know whether I can safely get back to Ginling when it opens. Furthermore the iron birds of Japan fly frequently into the interior parts of China, as the beasts intend every single minute to damage those inland cities of China. But the loss over there is very light, for our air defence is enough to give a blow to the Japanese air attack.

One thing, I think, you will very glad hear is that all our people have now realized to cooperate (cooperate) with the government. They, though with great fear and sorrow for their loss, feel still as calm as usual. As for this new effort of China, we should take the credits to our generallissimo's preparation.

Miss Chen also includes a little poem about a bird trying to find its way home and lost and frightened in the bomb and bullet-filled air. Miss Chen hopes things will turn out so that students can go back to school for she feels that "education is really very important for the young generations."

The following are bits from a letter from Dietrich Husemann, a young German who, with his wife, is known to recent Nankingites. It is dated September 1 from Nanking, and, forwarded from Philadelphia, reached me October 13.

....please accept our most cordial Xmas greetings for 1937. It is a little early yet, I know, but who knows where we will be on Xmas time, so in order to make sure, that I won't forget you, I rather am mailing my greetings now. You simply have to appreciate that!!! After having been in 25 Nanking air raids, I should like to continue our conversation on pacifism. Some of them were quite severe, right over our heads in the search lights. A few minutes

you have the feeling as between life and death-- and all is over.
Anybody who has been through this experience, can hardly remain a sincere pacifist. If after a while you see a big smoke and flames and fire against the sky, you are very furious.....specially when you learn the next day, that over 100 people, innocent people, have been killed, from sleep to death, (it was from 12-4 a.m.)..... Our house given up, the household dissolved, we will soon return to Germany. All this on account of the "undeclared war". I could stay on, of course, but it is of no use. No school, no church, no college, no shops open, no foreign mail, very little at least; no lotus lake rides in this beautiful moonlight, streets empty and dead like at New Years, no movies, last not least!..... Nat. Centr. Univ. badly damaged.....

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