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UBCHEA ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
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Huachung
Corres.
Rank, Joseph Benevolent Trust
1947-1948
Reformed Church in the U.S.
1939-1940

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Rank, Joseph Benevolent Trust

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C O P Y

19th November, 1947.

Rev. Noel B. Slater,
China House,
25, Charles Street,
London, W.1.

Dear Noel,

On Monday, 17th. inst., I cabled the following reply to your cable-gram of November 10th.:-

CUNIVINA, LONDON. Can build needed library now. Estimate eighty one thousand pounds plus twelve thousand, wiring plumbing. Could build in parts. Essential part forty five thousand. Letter follows. Wei.

Your cablegram reached me last Wednesday afternoon, November 12th. The Senate Committee, charged with planning, has been at work on the matter ever since. It so happened that, at the same time, we were receiving a visit from Dr. Charles Shaw, an able American librarian, sent out by the United Boards to inspect and report on library needs of the Christian colleges in China. We have been fortunate to have the benefit of his expert advice in formulating our answer.

We agreed that it is advisable to build the library now, if funds are available. We are fully aware that, in terms of British currency, the cost of building with locally obtained materials is now almost exactly four times the pre-war cost. But we see no reasonable hope that such costs will fall materially in the next five years. At the present time our local prestige and our educational standards rank high in comparison with non-Christian institutions. Now is the time to consolidate and extend our position. If we wait for easier times, we may well find ourselves following rather than leading. The high morale of our faculty and students would be stimulated by such a concrete demonstration of our faith.

Of all the buildings that we need, none has a more pressing claim than the library. We regard the library as the proper focus of all work of university calibre done outside the science laboratories, and we feel that the more students and faculty are drawn to do their work there under proper conditions and with ready access to academic materials, the more surely shall we make our contribution.

It is for this reason that we have not hesitated to plan a full-scale library. The plan had already taken shape in our minds before Dr. Shaw arrived, but he has helped us to clarify the technical details.

This plan comprises: -

	sq. ft.
Stack space for 200,000 volumes	10,000
Reading room for 350 students	10,500
/15 small seminar rooms	3,000
30 small studies for faculty	3,000
Library working space, halls, lobby	18,500

0095

This is planned for a university of 800 students and a staff of 85, and will also serve the staffs of the many Christian middle schools of this region, who look to us for guidance and help.

To secure an estimate of present construction costs, Mr. Robert Kemp, the missionary in this area with the most experience in construction work, advises us that we can rely upon the judgment of Professor Miao, who has acted as the supervising architect of the National Wuhan University since its inception in 1928. Mr. Miao has telephoned me the results of his computations and inquiries, which, for the above area of 45,000 square feet, with 10 feet ceilings, may be summarized as follows:

- (a) Two storeys, with brick walls and concrete floors. £ 51,430
- (b) Reinforced concrete frame, floors and roof but brick walls. Two storeys. £ 78,210
Three storeys. £ 80,710
- (c) Reinforced concrete throughout: Two storeys. £105,000
Three storeys. £100,000

In committee meeting, we have decided upon three storey construction of type (b) as the best. We prefer three storeys to two storeys because the more compact arrangement would mean greater convenience and easier supervision. The top storey's frame and the roof might not need to be of reinforced concrete, but the compact stack areas, as planned, would need a counter-balancing extra amount of reinforced construction.

Since Mr. Miao's figures do not include the cost of wiring and plumbing our committee has had recourse to Mr. Shaw estimate that in American library construction the latter amounts to about 23% of the cost of the shell of the building. Believing that our needs are much simpler than American customs require, even though such materials cost proportionately more here, our committee has cut this by one third, to the figure of £12,250, additional to the cost of the shell.

We recognize that the total estimate of virtually £93,000 may seem startling large, especially as it does not provide for any furnishings or book stacks. It does represent, however, our soundest estimate of the cost of building what we need. Costs of construction in sterling are not likely to increase between now and the actual beginning of work. If they fall somewhat, with improvement of transportation, we should have a margin with which to secure some essential furnishings; if they do not fall we are ready to use in the building simply the furniture and few steel stacks that we now possess. In the following years we would expect to assemble slowly the appropriate furnishings. The building itself alone is essential.

If you regard our estimate as more than can be secured, but feel that a smaller might be raised, we proposed to ask an American friend, who has made us a gift for another building, to allow us to use that gift to build the stack wing of the library. This would account for £28,000 out of the total estimate. Then we would propose to defer erection of the third story of the main section, which would contain the studies, seminar rooms and certain working rooms, and which would represent of course, substantially less than one third of the remaining

cost. We are agreed then, that the essential two storeys of the main section could be built for £45,000.

We have taken these five days to prepare an answer to your urgent question because we have felt obliged to base our estimate on careful judgments rather than on guesses. I hope that the efforts of our committee have not been wasted and that our answer does not arrive too late. I shall be much interested to have your comments when you are free to write again,

With the best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

/signed/ Francis C. M. Wei

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25th February 1948

My dear Francis,

I have some very wonderful news for you, which, by the time this reaches, you may have learnt or guessed at by my cable.

You know that we have been in communication with a possible donor in connection with your Library building. The story, very briefly, is this:- At our last Annual Meeting separate suggestions were made to me by Lady Hosie and Mrs. Rattenbury, within half an hour of one another, that we should approach the Trustees of the late Mr. Joseph Rank. I felt at once that surely it was more than coincidence that this suggestion should have come from two quite different quarters in less space of time than one hour. You may be quite sure that I did not waste very much time in pursuing the subject! It meant a great deal of correspondence and negotiation, but Lady Hosie explained to me, first by word of mouth and later by letter that before the first war her father, Professor Soothill, had been in close touch with Mr. Joseph Rank, in connection with a scheme to build in Central China a British University. I expect you know the whole story. In any case, Lloyd George came into the picture, and as a result Mr. Rank agreed to give a considerable sum of money towards this enterprise. Then the World War broke out and the whole scheme fell through. When we first officially approached the Trustees in writing we of course explained that, although the original scheme had fallen through, to all intents and purposes the present Hua Chung University largely fulfilled the purposes which were envisaged by Professor Soothill, except that our American friends entered into the picture and helped very largely in financing the newly-formed Union of Colleges, which eventually resulted in the establishment of the Hua Chung College, now the Hua Chung University.

I secured Mr. Rattenbury's help, and we had a special interview with Mr. Arthur Rank, -the son of Mr. Joseph Rank, and at present the leading film magnate in this country - together with his sister, Mrs. Bartlett Lang, and his brother-in-law, Mr. Bartlett Lang, who is the Secretary of the Trustees. They promised to bring the matter before their fellow Trustees. In the meantime we received your cable and letters, and these were at once passed on to Mr. Bartlett Lang. On Friday last I received the long and eagerly awaited letter from Mr. Lang, of which I am enclosing a copy.

You will see the one condition on which this magnificent and generous grant of £45,000 is made, namely that the name of Mr. Joseph Rank must be associated with the building. It will be good to have the link between the Hua Chung University and Great Britain definitely strengthened and demonstrated in this way.

I want now to come to three very important considerations:-

(1) Probably special arrangements will have to be made eventually for transmitting this big sum of money. I have already been in consultation with Mrs. Miller who handles the matters through B. U. A. C.. She thought that there should be very little difficulty, except that the Treasury might not agree to its all going out in one lump sum. It may have to go out in instalments.

(2) Do you consider that, in the present very uncertain political situation in China, you can risk the actual starting-in on building operations? We did mention this difficulty in discussing the matter with the three main Trustees mentioned above, and Mr. Rattenbury did express a doubt as to whether, when it came to the point, you would be able to take immediate action. I doubt, however, to what extent they fully realise the seriousness of this aspect of the question. Doubt has also been expressed by one or two others, for example by Dr. Williamson, our Chairman. On the other hand, another member of our Committee, Canon Wittenbach, has today suggested that you will almost certainly find safe and practical ways by which you can start operations, for example, by the buying of the necessary material, and he feels, therefore, that you will have otherwise schemes to suggest. Naturally, it would never do, and it would involve us very seriously, if any large sum of money was paid out, only to find that the building could not be used for the purposes for which it was erected. We should, therefore, be glad if you would write us as soon as possible as to your ideas with regard to this whole subject, and especially with regard to the way in which you can or cannot take quick action. The Trustees, I gather, hope that you will be able to get on with the work with as little delay as possible.

(3) I have not yet, up to the present, made public this great gift. I have been in touch with Mr. Bartlett Lang on this question, and his position is this: there is only one reason why care should be taken in the matter of giving this gift publicity, and that is, of course, lest all the other Universities and big concerns in China should make similar demands on funds administered by the Trustees. That, of course, must be avoided if possible. I am therefore, going to draft some publicity material and submit it to Mr. Bartlett Lang before making use of it, and I will draft something which could be released in China, and something which could be released here in this country. The one point which must be made is that this is not just a response to an individual appeal. The gift is definitely linked up with past history and the personal close association of Professor Soothill and Mr. Joseph Rank with the original University scheme for Central China.

Finally, would you please at once get off a personal and preliminary letter to the Rev. Bartlett Lang, Hon. Secretary to the Joseph Rank Benevolent Trusts, Wrayfield, Wray Common Road, Reigate, Surrey? And I should be grateful if you would send me a copy of your letter. Later, of course, when you have officially announced the gift to your Board, a letter will be coming, presumably, from them.

I think it would be courteous on your part if you would also send letters of thanks to Lady Osie (Appletree Cottage, Redlynch, nr. Salisbury Wilts.) for her very important and vital part in these whole proceedings; and also to Mrs. Rattenbury, (3, Brayton Gardens, Oakwood, Middleses.) for her part in approaching, on our behalf, her friend Mrs. Bartlett Lang. Also a note to Mr. Rattenbury, for his counsel and advice and his share in the important interview we had with the main Trustees. You know, presumably, that Mr. Joseph Rank was a Methodist.

Wittenbach suggests that this will come as a very acceptable 60th birthday greeting! If so, my added congratulations and very good wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

signed: Noel B. Slater.

P. S. I shall be writing you on other matters within a day or two, I hope.

N. B. S.

Dr. Francis Wei
Hua Chung University,
Wuchang
CENTRAL CHINA

C O P Y

THE JOSEPH RANK BENEVOLENT TRUSTS.
Wrayfield,
Wray Common Road,
Reigate, Surrey.

19.2.48

Dear Mr. Slater,

Hua Chung University, China

In reply to yours of the 14th October, 1947, and subsequent interviews and correspondence, I am happy to say that at our Trustees Meeting yesterday we agreed to give £45,000, making possible the essential two storeys of the Library, provided that the name of Mr. Joseph Rank should be associated with the building.

I hope this will enable you to go ahead with the great venture.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

SIGNED: F. Bartlett Lang.

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HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY

(Central China College)

WUCHANG, CHINA

CO-OPERATING BOARDS

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY
SOCIETY OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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REFORMED CHURCH
ENGLISH METHODIST MISSIONARY
SOCIETY
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YALE-IN-CHINA ASSOCIATION, INC.

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281 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

April 1, 1948

April 1

Mr. Oliver S. Lyford
54 Dana Place
Englewood, New Jersey

My dear Mr. Lyford:

A letter from Dr. Wei dated March ninth advises us that on March eighth he received a letter from the Reverend Noel B. Slater of the Christian Universities Association of Great Britain dated February twenty-fifth. Mr. Slater told Dr. Wei that the Trustees of the Joseph Rank Benevolent Trust had agreed to give £45,000 (a little over \$180,000) to Huachung University for the new library building provided that the name of Mr. Joseph Rank is associated with the building.

Both Dr. Wei and Mr. Slater urgently request that no publicity be given this great gift until permission and instructions are received from Mr. Slater.

Another letter dated March twenty-third from Dr. Wei mentioned that the Executive Committee of the Provisional Board of Directors met on March eighteenth. The following is an excerpt from that letter:

"As preliminary information I wish to say that the Executive Committee accepted the recommendation of the Senate to recommend to the Huachung Committee the acceptance of the donation of £45,000. Sterling from the Joseph Rank Benevolent Trusts in London for the new Library Building in Huachung with the condition attached, which is that the name Joseph Rank should be associated with the building when it is erected."

Dr. Wei also advised us that the Executive Committee took action to double the subsidies for all members of the faculty and staff for the month of March. When the subsidy scale was adopted on January third the exchange was 82,000 National Currency for one American dollar. When his letter was written on March twenty-third the exchange had increased to 435,000 to 1. As you will see, this is more than five times the former rate. This greatly increased exchange rate made possible a special bonus equivalent to the March subsidy. A sub-committee consisting of members of the Executive

April 1, 1948

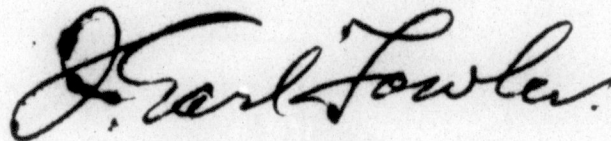
Page 2

Committee resident in the Wuhan area, was appointed to revise the subsidy scales from time to time, so as to keep up with the prices, as long as the increases remained within the limits of the salary items in the budget already approved. Even with these increases we are still not paying as much as forty per cent of the pre-war purchasing power. The scales being paid now are more than the government University faculty and staff receive.

The statistics regarding enrollment are also very gratifying. For the new term 469 students enrolled; 173 women and 296 men. Of this amount 211 are Christian students, or exactly forty-five per cent of the total enrollment. Thirty-two students are being prepared for baptism which will bring the percentage of Christian students above fifty per cent.

I know that you will all rejoice with me in this very fine report from Dr. Wei and, especially, for the very generous gift that has been received from the Joseph Rank Benevolent Trusts.

Very sincerely yours,



J. Earl Fowler

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Mr. Noel B. Slater
Christian Universities Assoc.

April 2 - '48

Dear Mr. Slater.

The splendid news con-
tained in your letter of Feb. 25th
to President Francis C. M. Mui has
been reported to me from Wuchang.
I have shared the good news
with such members of the
Kwa Chung Committee of the
United Board C. C. C. as I could
get together and asked their
advice concerning our procedure
in the matter. It was most
desirable of carrying out ^{the} ~~our~~
wishes of the Trustees of the Board
I need in the matter of refraining
from all publicity until ^{the Trustees} ~~we~~
have prepared such a statement

publicity you may release
to H. H. H. ^{in order that} the Trustees
~~are ready for us to use it in~~
the U. S. A. H. H. Wynn Fairfield
Especially stressed this point
because of the encouragement
it will bring to all the friends
of the China Christian Colleges, ^{and more}
particularly ^{now} in the drive for continued
support.

We are tremendously grati-
ful to you for your wonderful
help in ~~the procuring~~ this gift
of a library for the University Li-
brary.

Very sincerely yours.

Arthur D. Sherman
Chairman - Hua Chung ^{Committee}

Dear Mr. Slater:

The splendid news contained in your letter of February 25th, to President Francis C. M. Wei has been reported to me from Wuchang. I have shared the good news with such members of the Hua Chung Committee of the United Board C.C.C. as I could get together and asked their advice concerning our procedure in the matter. We are most desirous of carrying out the wishes of the Trustees of the Benevolent Fund in the matter of refraining from all publicity until the Trustees have prepared such a statement as they wish given to the public. We fully understand that a premature announcement would cause embarrassment to the Trustees.

It was decided at our meeting to send a statement summarizing the contents of your letter with due emphasis on the matter of no publicity to the members of the Hua Chung Committee and a copy of your letter to Dr. McMullen, the Executive Secretary of the United Board so that they may be prepared for formal action when the proper time arrives. At the same time I was advised to ask if you will kindly send us a copy of any publicity you may release to Dr. Wei, if the Trustees are ready for us to use it in the U.S.A. Dr. Wynn Fairfield especially stressed this point because of the encouragement it will bring to all the friends of the China Christian Colleges more particularly now in the drive for continued support.

We are tremendously grateful to you for your ~~wonderful~~ help in procuring this gift for the University Library.

Very sincerely yours,

Arthur M. Sherman
Chairman - Hua Chung Committee

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Reformed Church in the U.S.

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October 27, 1939

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Oliver S. Lyford
230 Park Ave., N.Y.C.

Rev. Arthur V. Casselman, D.D.
Sec'y, Board of Foreign Missions
Reformed Church in the United States
1505 Race Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Casselman:

I hope you will be in Philadelphia when this reaches your office, but if not I hope that somebody else can give me the information needed.

I am having a lot of trouble in constructing the record of financial operations of Hua Chung College for the last three college years. The best record I can get is that given on the attached sheet which covers these years. I hope you have records in your office which will enable you to check these figures and supplement them with answers to the questions indicated by question mark.

With reference to the year 1939-40, you will note that items specifically mentioned exceed the amount of the grants. I suspect that the item for the Practice School should be \$250 instead of \$1250.

I have a record of other faculty members with no indications as to the mission which is supporting them. Please let me know if any of these parties are connected with your mission, and if so, give me the amount of the salary of each:

Lucy Fish Miller Ruth Ernschaw (now Mrs. Lo) E. P. Miller

The above parties appear in the record for 1938-39.

Also I have a record of ~~some~~ parties who were on the payroll for 1937-38, as follows: R. Hailwood, 1/3 time, \$1,000; E.R. Pillow, 2/3 time, \$1,000; N. F. Garrett, fulltime, \$3,000; C. F. Wiston, 1/2 time, \$1,500.

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The salaries of the last four are in U. S. Currency.

Your assistance in straightening out this question will be greatly appreciated, especially if I can have the information quite promptly.

You will be interested to know that I received this morning from the National City Bank in New York information that they have received a transfer of funds from their Hongkong bank amounting to \$8,000 to be placed in the account which I opened up recently for Hua Chung College, Francis Wei, president. This means that he is proceeding with this matter according to the plan which I reported at the last meeting of Founders.

You will see in the minutes of that meeting the long and carefully worded resolution which we prepared, with reference to the taking over of the responsibilities of the directors for the time being. It seemed advisable to make this a very formal record to insure that the directors will not misunderstand what we are doing and to give Francis Wei a formal credential for the duties which this Executive Committee Pro-Tem are carrying. I hope this meets with your approval.

Please do not get the impression from the above that I am peevish because I have not heard from you before; I am simply a little on edge because of the length of time which I have had to put into this study, of which only a very small portion is due to the lack of information from your records.

Very cordially yours,

Oliver S. Lyford

OSL-f

HUA CHUNG COLLEGE

Grants by Reformed Church Mission

Note: The college year ends July 31.

	<u>Chinese National Currency</u>	<u>U.S. Currency</u>	
<u>Actual Figures for 1937-38</u>			
Special Grants	\$ 7,110	\$ 250	
Personnel	7,120	3,000	
<u>Specifically mentioned:</u>	<u>\$14,230</u>	<u>\$ 3,250</u>	3,963.33
<i>Cal. year 1937 - 10,140-</i>			
Dr. D.S. Hsiung	3,340	-	
Dr. P. V. Taylor	-	3,000	
Books and Periodicals	-	250	
	<u>\$ 3,340</u>	<u>\$ 3,250</u>	4,470
<u>Actual Figures for 1938-'39</u>			
Special Grants	\$ 5,150		
"	550		
Personnel:		\$ 3,000	
Dr. P. V. Taylor		?	
Eduard Taylor		?	
Books and Periodicals		?	
Practice School		?	
<i>Cal. year 1938 8,920</i>	<u>\$ 5,700</u>	<u>\$ 4,250</u>	4,470

The report from China for this year is quite incomplete.

Budget Figures for 1939-40

		<u>Chinese National Currency</u>	<u>U.S. Currency</u>	
<u>Special Grants:</u>				
Salary for Administration		-	\$1,000	
Salaries and special for Education		\$4,920	5,000	
Salary for Science		3,240	-	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
	<i>Cal. Year 1939 -</i>	\$8,160	\$6,000	4,250.
		<hr/>	<hr/>	

Specifically mentioned:

Dr. P. V. Taylor		\$ -	\$3,000 ✓
Eduard Taylor	<i>Prof. R.C. 9m</i>	-	3,000
Miss Zenk		-	1,500 ✓
Practice School		-	1,250 ✓
Books and Periodicals		-	-
Grant - Aug.-Dec. 1939		2,050	125
" - Jan.-July 1940		2,870	125
School of Science - Salary Grant		3,240	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$8,160	\$6,000.
		<hr/>	<hr/>

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Rev. Charles E. Creitz, D. D.
President

Mr. Henry C. Heckerman
Vice President

Board of Foreign Missions
Reformed Church in the United States
Evangelical and Reformed Church

Rev. Arthur V. Casselman, D. D.
Secretary

Schaff Building, 1505 Race Street
Telephone Rittenhouse 6282
Cable Address "Evrechurch"
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Rev. Jacob G. Rupp, D. D.
Field Secretary and Treasurer

Rev. John H. Poorman
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

October 28, 1939

Mr. Oliver S. Lyford
230 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Lyford:

Your letter of the 27th just came to hand a moment ago. I am leaving in a few minutes and shall try to answer some of your questions, and the reports that you want I am asking my Assistant Secretary, Rev. Mr. Poorman, to add to this letter.

It is difficult to make out some of these reports on account of the fact that our reports from China have been delayed in the last year and some of them evidently have been lost in transit. But our Board's appropriation for Central China College goes through our China Mission and the funds are handled by the mission treasurer in China. My Assistant will give you the best available figures, and I hope you will get from them what you desire.

We find it rather difficult to give the figures accurately because of the fact that our mission year is the calendar year and the Central China College year is the college year.

There are a few questions in your letter, however, that I can answer immediately.

The item for the practice school is \$1250, not \$250. This is a sum which is given by the Woman's Missionary Society who have assumed the support of this practice school.

Neither Lucy Fish Miller, nor Ruth Earnshaw, nor E. P. Miller are connected with our Mission. The same thing is true of R. Hallwood, E. R. Pillow, N. F. Garrett and C. F. Wiston.

The only American missionaries associated with Central China College who are supported by our Mission are Dr. P. V. Taylor and Miss Gertrude M. Zenk. Edouard Taylor, as you know, is Dr. Taylor's son, but has no official connection with our Mission.

The other matters will be presented on a separate sheet by Mr. Poorman. I hope this will give you the information you need. You certainly have had a difficult task in untangling these very much interwoven and often incomplete figures.

Very cordially yours,

A. V. Casselman
Secretary

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HUA CHUNG COLLEGE APPROPRIATIONS

Personnel	1937		1938		1939	
	U.S.	Chinese	U.S.	Chinese	U.S.	Chinese
Dr. Taylor, <i>Salary</i>	\$2,233.33		\$2,210.00		\$1,990.00	
Rent		\$425.00				\$300.00
Teacher-Helper		40.00		\$120.00		180.00
Miss Zenk, <i>Salary</i>	230.00		760.00	700.00	760.00	300.00
<i>Teacher-Helper</i>						
Dr. Hwang, Salary - <i>Education</i>		\$3,240.00		\$3,240.00		\$3,240.00
Rent		425.00		480.00		480.00
Medical Allow.		60.00		60.00		60.00
		<u>3,725.00</u>				
Dr. Hsiung, Salary - <i>Physico</i>		3,240.00		3,240.00		3,240.00
Rent		480.00		480.00		480.00
Medical Allow.		60.00		60.00		60.00
		<u>3,780.00</u>				
Substitute for Dr. Taylor		1,000.00				
	<u>\$2,463.33</u>	<u>\$8,970.00</u>	<u>\$2,970.00</u>	<u>\$7,680.00</u>	<u>\$2,750.00</u>	<u>\$8,340.00</u>
<u>School of Education</u>						
Administration		\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00 ✓
Books	\$ 250.00 ✓		\$250.00 ✓		\$250.00 ✓	
Practice School	1,250.00 ✓		1,250.00 ✓		1,250.00 ✓	
Investigation		30.00		100.00		100.00 ✓
College Physician		40.00		40.00		40.00 ✓
Hostel Work		100.00		100.00		100.00 ✓
	<u>\$1,500.00</u>	<u>\$1,170.00</u>	<u>\$1,500.00</u>	<u>\$1,240.00</u>	<u>\$1,500.00</u>	<u>\$1,240.00</u>
Totals	\$3,963.33	\$10,140.00	\$4,470.00	\$8,920.00	\$4,250.00	\$9,580.00

Note. In 1937 the following additional items were paid;

Dr. Taylor- Travel to China- \$325.00
Miss Zenk - " " 325.00
" " - Outfit 200.00

1939-40
Chines
Mr. Taylor 3,000.
Miss Zenk 1,500 3,780
Mr. Hwang 3,780
Mr. Hsiung
Books 250
Practice School 1,250 1,240
Administration, etc 6,000 8,800

October 31, 1939

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Oliver S. Lyford
230 Park Ave., NYC

Mr. Arthur V. Casselman, D.D.
1505 Race Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

My dear Dr. Casselman:

Please accept my sincere thanks for your very prompt reply to my letter of October 27th. The information which you give, together with the report provided by the Rev. Mr. Poorman, goes a long way to clear up my problem.

It is the custom of the College in reporting annual receipts and disbursements to include all Western personnel at the rate of \$3,000 for a couple and \$1,500 for a single person. Therefore, Dr. Taylor appears as receiving \$3,000 for 1937, whereas, according to your report, he received U.S. \$2,233.33 and Chinese \$465. This will illustrate one difficulty which I have in putting the story together. It probably is a good practice for the College, but rather confusing for a fellow as far away from the College as I am.

Your sheet shows appropriations for the year 1939 of U.S. \$4,250 and Chinese \$9,580. Please advise as to whether we may safely assume appropriations for the first 7 months of 1940 at the same rate. I need this information in order to be prepared to approve the college budget for the college year 1939-40.

I am wondering whether there would be any merit in having your funds for the College deposited in the National City Bank of New York so that they may be withdrawn by check, according to the plan arranged to meet Dr. Wei's needs. I can understand from your letter that it would be hard to avoid confusion in your account with your mission and, of course, would not propose it unless there is extreme difficulty in moving funds from your mission to Hsichow.

Yours very truly,

Oliver S. Lyford

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June 6, 1940

The Rev. A. V. Casselman, D.D.
1505 Race Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Casselman:

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Hua Chung College, temporarily located at Hsichow, Yunnan, we had the privilege of hearing Dr. Edwin C. Lobenstine, Vice President of the Board and President of Yale-in-China, give a personal report on his recent visit to China, and especially to the College. He told us Dr. Wei has been giving much thought to the question as to the way a Christian college can make its most distinctive Christian contribution to China. He feels very acutely the need of a stronger staff of foreign professors, who should be technically well equipped, and at the same time be dominated by strong and vital Christian purpose. Dr. Wei has come to the conclusion that to maintain an adequate Christian atmosphere in Hua Chung College he must have a faculty of whom approximately one-third should be missionaries. He urges that each of the cooperating units in the College should be constantly on the lookout for persons with these qualifications to represent them in the institution.

Dr. Wei emphasized this conviction in a letter to Dr. Lobenstine following the latter's visit, adding, "it is the character of our faculty that determines the kind of work we can do as a Christian institution, and the contribution we can make to the development of higher education in China." In repeating his conviction of the necessity of maintaining their staff and college faculty with approximately one-third missionaries, he says, "By missionaries I do not mean just people who are sent out to the College by the Missions of America and in England to fill certain positions in the institution. They must be people who have a genuine missionary spirit and who are really zealous to maintain the Christian character of the work. We agree, however, that besides this, another qualification is essential and that is no new appointee should be sent out for our teaching staff unless he or she is qualified to be at least an instructor in a college of good standing in America. But let me reiterate that academic qualifications alone do not qualify a person to the appointment to

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the Hua Chung faculty. I hope you will emphasize this in your report to the Founders and to the Cooperating Missions. It may be a good thing for each of the Missions to go over its own records and see how many people of such a calibre they have sent out to us during the last ten years. The Churches in China are still young and there are only a few from whom we could select our teachers with the necessary academic qualifications and a missionary zeal. This has been my main problem as President of the College, and sometimes I feel so discouraged that I would want to give up. We cannot make bricks without straw, and Hua Chung cannot maintain its character unless we have on our faculty men and women who emphasize their Christian contribution above everything else. We have a few of these, but we do not have nearly as many as we would like to have. The Cooperating Missions and our friends abroad must help us more along this line."

I was impressed by this same emphasis at the annual meeting of Associate Boards of Christian Colleges in China, which I attended in New York, May 13 and 14. It was noted that there has been a considerable decline in interest in religious subjects on the part of students in the Christian colleges, and that this decline can only be checked by having well-equipped missionary teachers sent out from America.

In view of this, I have been asked by the Executive Committee of Hua Chung College Board of Trustees to bring to the attention of the three American Boards participating in the work of Hua Chung College the need for missionary teachers of high Christian character and purpose and outstanding ability. I am, therefore, writing to you with the request that you bring this matter to the attention of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reform Church. Our hope is that we may obtain an additional foreign missionary for the staff of Hua Chung College from each of the American Boards, in order to strengthen the Christian purpose and work of the College.

Dr. Wei has not indicated the exact position he would like to have filled by each of these, but I am writing him for definite information concerning this.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Charles E. Creitz, D. D.
President

Mr. Henry C. Heckerman
Vice President

Board of Foreign Missions
Reformed Church in the United States
Evangelical and Reformed Church

Rev. Arthur V. Casselman, D. D.
Secretary

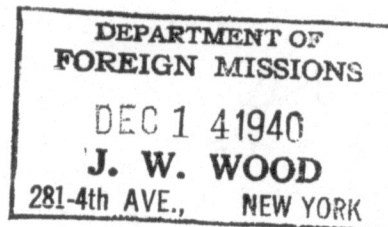
Schaff Building, 1505 Race Street
Telephone Rittenhouse 6282
Cable Address "Evrechurch"
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Rev. Jacob G. Rupp, D. D.
Field Secretary and Treasurer

Rev. John H. Poorman
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

December 13, 1940

Dr. John W. Wood
Church Missions House
281 Fourth Ave.
New York, N.Y.



Dear Dr. Wood:

I am very sorry to tell you that on account of a previous engagement for the very same hour on Monday, which I have had for a long time, it will not be possible for me to be present at the meeting of the Executive Committee next Monday, December 16th. I do want you to know, however, that I just had a letter from Dr. Taylor under date of October 26th which has the following interesting paragraph:

"I do not yet know whether my letter to you, concerning the situation in the college last year, ever reached you or not. I do know that I had shown the letter to Dr. Wei and he thought I was mistaken in my interpretation and that he told me he would write you. I do not want to bring the subject up again, since things are so much better this year than they were last year, but I should like to add that a rumor which I heard last year has proven to have been fact. This same group of at least part of it, wrote to Bishop Gilman, of the Hankow diocese, under whom the college and the president work so far as the American Church is concerned, asking that the president be removed. One of the leaders of last year's revolt has found work elsewhere and another has resigned from all his positions, and contents himself with the work of his classes. Dr. Bien, against whom the first efforts were directed and who as a consequence resigned, was elected chairman of the faculty a few days ago. This shows the reaction has set in in no uncertain terms and that the president was wise in not being too precipitant. He simply outmaneuvered the opposition so that in due time it collapsed."

A letter from Miss Zenk under date of November 9th has the following paragraph:

"I do not know how much Dr. Taylor has written you about recent events around here. I think the most outstanding, so far as our Mission is concerned, is the fact that Dr. Taylor received honorable mention from the Chinese government a few days ago. About 200 people, 24 of whom are foreigners, were given special recognition for their educational service to China. Three of these are from our school - Dr. Wei, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Coe. I am so happy about that, especially because it helps to compensate in part for all that Dr. Taylor has gone

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through the last year. It was a critical time for the whole college, but it seems to have weathered the storm. Things are so different this year that it really is a pleasure to work with such a congenial faculty. The famous 'Science Ring' seems to have completely broken up and its leader is a different person. Yes, things certainly have improved!"

I thought you would be pleased to have these paragraphs from these letters which came in this week. I am sorry I cannot meet with you on Monday.

Sincerely yours,

A. D. Caselman

Secretary

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