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UBCHEA ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
RG 11

Lingnan
Corres. / Fin. records 1945
Converse bequest 1927
Elmhurst gifts 1927
Finley estate 1931

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0561

Mary E.

Converse Bequest

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0562

Mary E. Converse Bequest

FIDELITY-PHILADELPHIA TRUST COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

BELL - KINGSLEY 1123
KEYSTONE-BROAD 5123

CABLE ADDRESS
"FIDELPHILA"

March 12, 1945

Trust for Mary E. Converse
under Will of John H. Converse, dec'd.

Canton Christian College of China
New York Agency
New York City, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

This Company is Trustee under the Will of John H. Converse, who died on May 3, 1910, by which he provided a trust fund for the benefit of his daughter, Mary E. Converse, from which she was to receive the income for life.

Under the terms of the said Will, Miss Converse had the power to appoint a portion of the trust for her, and in exercise of this power, she bequeathed to you the sum of \$500.

Miss Converse died April 11, 1944, and we are now paying the legacies given by her from the said trust fund, including the gift to your organization.

If you will kindly execute the enclosed order of satisfaction we shall be glad to send a check to cover your legacy upon its return.

Very truly yours,

William Gauer

William Gauer
Assistant Trust Officer

for F.C.L.

WG:AS
Enc.

0563

TRUSTEES OF LINGNAN UNIVERSITY

Canton Christian Colleges of Arts and Sciences

The Lingnan College of Agriculture

150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N. Y.

HAROLD B. HOSKINS
President of the Board

OLIN D. WANNAMAKER
American Director

Telephone: Watkins 9-8703

March 19, 1945

Mr. Edward Streeter
530 Fifth Avenue
New York City 19

Dear Ed:

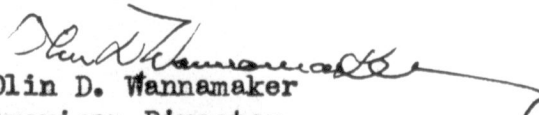
We received notice recently that a Philadelphia friend of the University had left a small bequest in her Will for us - \$500. The Fidelity-Philadelphia Trust Company informed us of this fact and requested our signature to a satisfaction of the award to our institution. In the absence of Mr. Hilles from the country, I telephoned Mr. Plimpton to ask whether he felt I ought to ask for a copy of the Will before accepting the bequest with the required satisfaction. He seemed to feel there was scarcely any need for asking for the Will in view of the fact that the Fidelity-Philadelphia Trust Company could certainly be depended upon to carry out the terms of the Will. He seemed to feel that it would be well to sign the satisfaction and courteously request a copy of the Will. I did this, with the explanation that I did not have authority to accept a settlement without being able to show to our Finance Committee a copy of the Will.

The bank has replied with the explanation that it cannot furnish a copy of the Will without charging us for the cost of making a photostatic copy which will be only \$1.00, but sending what seemed to be adequate excerpts from the Will for our purpose. I send you herewith a copy of the bank's letter.

It seems to me that even \$1.00 would be a needless waste to expend for a copy of the Will. If you agree, I will accept the settlement without requesting any copy of the Will.

Since the bequest is not designated for any specific purpose, the Finance Committee can decide what to do with it. It might be well to put it in the fund which is gradually accumulating for the erection of a second dormitory for women students, because of the fact that it comes from a woman, and because of our very great need for increased accommodation and increased opportunities for women students after the war.

Cordially yours,


Olin D. Wannamaker
American Director

ODW/h
Enclosure

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FIDELITY-PHILADELPHIA TRUST COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

BELL - KINGSLEY 1123
KEYSTONE-BROAD 5123

March 16, 1945

CABLE ADDRESS
"FIDELPHILA"

Trust for Mary E. Converse
u/w of John H. Converse, dec'd.

Canton Christian Colleges of Arts and Sciences
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, N. Y.

Attention: Mr. Olin D. Wannamaker, Secretary

Gentlemen:

Your letter of March 14th has been referred to the writer for attention. We acknowledge with thanks return of the satisfaction of award to your institution in the sum of \$500., check for which is herewith enclosed.

We should like to comply with your request in sending a copy of the Will of the donor of the legacy in question, but since duplication of our documents is done by photostating and the cost thereof charged to each estate, we only make sufficient copies to cover our requirements. Perhaps an extract of the Will will serve our purpose, which is as follows:

"Fifth. Whereas under the Will of my father, John H. Converse, who died May 3, 1910, leaving a last Will dated October 13, 1908, duly probated May 7, 1910 in the office of the Register of Wills in and for the County of Philadelphia, I have a power of appointment over one-third of the share held In Trust for me by the Fidelity-Philadelphia Trust Company, Trustee, and whereas by partial release of power of appointment dated the 14th day of December 1942 I irrevocably released, renounced, surrendered and extinguished forever my right to appoint under the terms of said Will either by Will or otherwise, to any appointees other than those specified in Section 811 (f) (3) (A) of the United States Revenue Act of 1942. Therefore, in exercise of my power of appointment, limited as aforesaid, I do hereby give, devise, limit and appoint the principal of said fund under the Will of my father, John H. Converse, deceased, over which I have power of appointment, as follows:"

After making a certain award to her brother, the donee of the power of appointment under Paragraph B gave a number of legacies, the fifteenth of which is recited as follows:

"To the Canton Christian College of China (New York City) the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.)"

Unless we hear from you further in the matter we shall consider that the above extracts served your purpose. If, however, you still wish a copy of the Will in its entirety, there will be a charge of \$1.00 to cover the cost of photostating.

Very truly yours,

Fred C. Lieb
Fred C. Lieb, Trust Dept.

FCL:D

0565

Mrs. Leonard K.

Elmhurst Gifts

0566

Mrs. Leonard K. Elmhirst

Contribution toward Science Building

Mrs. Elmhirst was the wife of Willard Straight, long actively interested in Canton Christian College, who died of pneumonia during the First World War. Had he lived longer, he would almost certainly have aided Lingnan financially in a very generous manner. His widow donated very generously to Cornell University to establish a memorial for him. She made contributions to the College from 1920 on and finally gave a very substantial part of the cost of the Science Building and its furnishings and equipment as a memorial also to Willard Straight.

Unfortunately, all correspondence except the following copy of an important letter seems to have been filed and filmed with general correspondence.

Olin D. Wannamaker
Secretary

President of the Board
ARTHUR HAYES

Telephone: WAtkins 8-2103

Vice-Chairman
JAMES M. HENRY

120 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 11, N. Y.

TRUSTEES OF LINGNAN UNIVERSITY

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Ac. Bldg

December 31, 1927

Mrs. Leonard K. Elmhirst
1172 Park Avenue, New York

Dear Mrs. Elmhirst:-

You have already shown such interest in our work that I venture to think you will want to know of recent developments.

Within the year we have undertaken a reorganization which is almost as important an event as the original founding of the institution itself.

In November 1926 in view of earlier letters from our alumni, the Trustees sent President Comfort of Haverford College, Dean Watts of Pennsylvania State College and myself to Canton as a Commission to confer with the Alumni Council and with them set up a local Board of Directors which should be predominantly Chinese. (I resigned my position as Provost of The Johns Hopkins University, which I had held since 1924, in order to help in this important step and thus conserve the results of the twenty years I had already given to Lingnan. I am still at work on the financial phases of this reorganization. I mention this personal item merely to show you how important I consider this period to be).

Since August 1, 1927 a better basis of cooperation with the Chinese than ever existed before has been effective. This local Board of Directors composed of fifteen Chinese and, by the special desire of the Chinese themselves, six additional American and British members, has assumed a large measure of responsibility for the current operation while we as Trustees maintain an American personnel. Dr. James M. Henry, as Provost of the University, is the right-hand advisor of the President and Vice-President, and is a member of the Board of Directors and of each of the standing committees of the Board and of the University administration. Dr. Henry is also especially charged with the oversight of the work and maintenance of the foreign staff now numbering twenty-eight out of a total staff of seventy.

The attitude of the Canton government is not only one of tolerance but of active cooperation in the development of Lingnan as an educational institution of the highest rank under Christian influence and international auspices.

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Out of a total budget of \$330,000 U.S. currency over half is being provided from Chinese sources. The Kwangtung Provincial Government is contributing \$13,333 local currency each month to the general purposes of the University and \$3,000 local currency for the Department of Sericulture. The first began July 1, 1927, the latter July 1, 1923.

The only requirements the government has made seem entirely reasonable and in fact desirable, - namely, that we should be known as a privately owned and not a government institution, that the President should be a Chinese, that a majority of the Board of Directors should be Chinese, and that religious instruction should be on a voluntary basis. As a matter of fact Mr. W.K. Chung has for many years as Associate President been our chief reliance in all matters relating to the public and governmental relations of the institution, while Mr. Y.L. Lee, as Vice-President, has already shown himself a most able administrator. Under their leadership many problems are more effectively handled than they could be by any American.

The Trustees of Lingnan University as incorporated in the State of New York continue to hold title to the property, and have leased the buildings, grounds, and equipment to the Board of Directors for a nominal sum for five years in accordance with a carefully drawn agreement protecting the properties and the uses thereof.

All funds contributed thru or to the Trustees will be under their control as heretofore. We are now primarily responsible simply for the support of the foreign staff, and will make such other grants to the Canton Board of Directors as may be mutually agreed upon from time to time.

In every quarter this arrangement has been hailed as an excellent basis for the future cooperation of Americans and Chinese in the maintenance and administration of such an institution.

The second major event of the past few years is the offer of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to give us \$579,000 as one-fourth of a total objective of \$2,316,000 to be secured before January 1, 1928, either in cash or in pledges payable prior to June 30, 1931. This total objective includes operating expenses since July 1, 1925 at about \$140,000 a year, \$1,000,000 endowment and the cost of certain buildings most urgently needed.

From the Charles M. Hall Educational Fund we have a promise of \$1,000,000 endowment and our other pledges and cash received will, I believe, enable us to call on Mr. Rockefeller for his very substantial gift which, however, will itself be mostly absorbed on account of current operation during the five year period.

Among the building items included in the program presented to Mr. Rockefeller is the Science Hall which we have referred to before in connection with your gifts to us since 1920.

Such a building has been our outstanding need, as to plant, for more than a decade. It was an item which had manifestly attracted

the attention of Major Straight, and also that of the China Medical Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. So when the latter promised half the cost, if we could find the other half elsewhere, we were moved to allocate to this building \$42,000 out of your total gift of \$50,000, the rest of your contribution having already been used to help defray current expenses.

We have received from the China Medical Board \$42,000 under such conditions that we cannot ask them for anything further on this item altho they have generously provided an additional \$10,000 toward equipment. However the \$84,000 has not been sufficient to complete the building, tho it could have been built for that at the time of our original estimate. Meantime loss by exchange, interruptions due to strikes, increase in cost of material and especially of labor, have combined to force us to stop building unless additional funds can be made available.

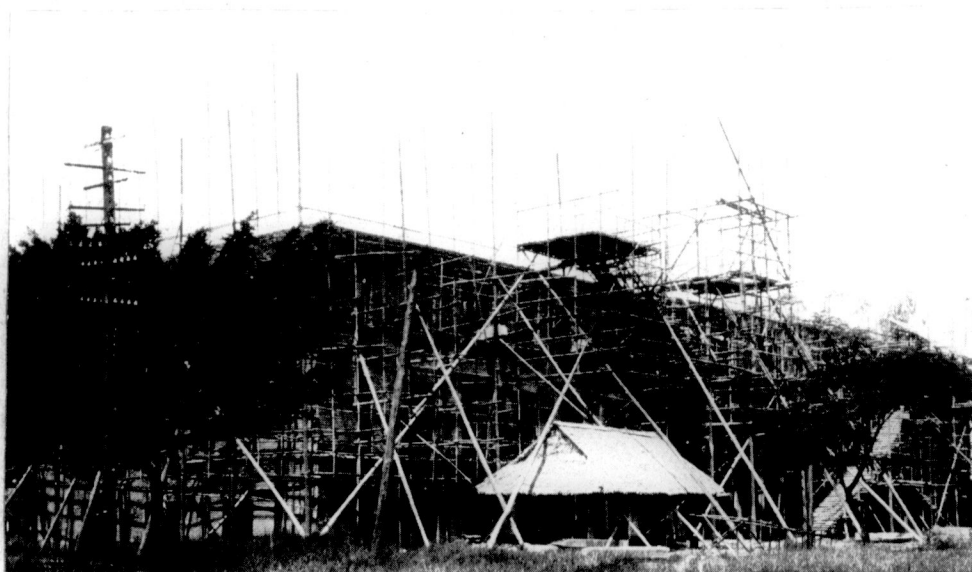
The additional sum required is \$14,000, making the total cost for only the shell of the building \$98,000. We have ventured to order the construction carried up to the level of the attic floor so as to give a less objectionable stopping point if we must cease. For this we have spent from general funds- thus increasing our operating deficit for this year, \$5,000. We are assured in the last letters from Canton (dated Nov. 26) that the attic walls and roof can be built for a farther \$9,000 if the work is not now interrupted; but that if we do stop now, it will cost at least \$3,000 more than that owing to expense involved in waterproofing the attic floor to act as a temporary roof, covering the stair well and other openings, and reerection of the scaffolding at a later date.

Hence we are very anxious to be enabled to order the building completed forthwith, to avoid this loss and to give us the full use of such urgently needed facilities.

We hesitate to seek this money elsewhere than at your hands in fear that our plans for naming the building in memory of Major Straight might be interfered with. The China Medical Board is willing to have the hall so designated as a joint gift from yourself and it. To bring in a third party might offer embarrassments. Hence we venture to ask if you cannot add to your already substantial gift at least enough to cover our most immediate necessities in connection with this Science Hall.

The building, which occupies a most prominent site, is 172 feet by 53 feet with full basement and full attic (both used for laboratory purposes) as well as three regular stories to house the work in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It will be fire-resisting throughout, red brick walls, steel sash and frames for all doors and windows, concrete floors and stairways, green glazed tile roof with slightly curved corners. No money has been wasted in adornment but the proportions are very pleasing. Such a building in this country would probably cost over \$250,000.

The attached photograph shows how the building stood when we last heard from Canton.



The full schedule in connection with the Science Hall is as follows:

Shell of Building	\$98,000	
Received from China Med. Board	42,000	
Received from Mrs. Elmhirst	42,000	84,000
		<hr/>
Balance required	\$14,000	
Drawn from current funds 1927 and deficit increased		<hr/> 5,000
Net still required account shell		9,000
Installation of Services:		
Gas, Water, Elect. Current & Freight Elevator - - - - -		7,000
Departmental Apparatus	20,000	
Received from China Med. Bd.	<hr/> 10,000	
Still need account apparatus		10,000

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We could wait for the latter two items and could without embarrassment seek funds for them elsewhere if need be, but we earnestly hope you will be willing to undertake to cover at least the first item on account of the building itself.

If any further information is desired I shall be glad to try to supply it. Any promise received before we report to Mr. Rockefeller early in January may stand to gain one-third in view of his offer on our whole program, pledges on account of which may be made payable any time prior to July 1, 1931.

We shall be grateful for any consideration you can give our request.

Faithfully yours,

C. K. Edmunds
American Director

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J. B. Finley

Estate

0573

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March 17, 1951.

Mr. J. A. Murray, Jr.,
Roosevelt Hotel,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Mr. Murray:-

I am reading with much interest your frequent reports. Heartiest thanks for sending such detailed information. I know the type of work you are doing is both strenuous and discouraging. I feel sure, however, it will prove of value to us.

I am making a note to write Mr. Crawford in April.

Here is one suggestion for you. Some years ago a Mr. Finley left a large estate under control of three executors. When Yenching was seeking money about twelve years ago one of the executors became deeply interested and verbally promised a very large sum of money from the estate. This executor died. The estate was then left under the control of the two remaining executors, one of these being a bank and the other being the President of the bank. This meant in effect that the single person, the President of the bank, was really in complete control of the estate. Yenching University did get a considerable sum from this estate but not nearly so much as it would have received if the other executor had lived.

I feel entirely free in making the effort to get something from this estate for Lingnan, since there seems now no hope of anything further for Yenching. Many efforts have been made but the old executor has become a bit crusty, and it is not likely that Yenching will make any further attempt.

I suggest that you do your best to break through. It would be well to telephone first and find out whether the old man is at his office. He may be in Bermuda. He is exceedingly old, somewhat deaf, I think, and has hard-boiled as a 20 minute egg.

The name of the estate is the J. B. Finley Estate. The address is Monongahela, Pennsylvania. The executor is Mr. Joseph A. Herron. Since you have been accustomed to tramping in snow perhaps the icy cold bald head of Mr. Herron may give you at least a change of terrain. More power to you.

Cordially yours,

0574

ZIMMERMAN LITHO. CO.

Roosevelt Hotel

L. FRED KLOOZ, MANAGER
PENN AVE. AT SIXTH ST.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

*Write over
Herron's signature*

March 24, 1931

Handwritten notes:
L. F. K. 1/5
3/24/31

Mr. Olin D. Wannamaker,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wannamaker:

I phoned Mr. Joseph A. Herron, Trustee of the Finley Estate, Monday at his home. He told me that I might see him at the Duquesne Club here in Pittsburgh at 12.30 p.m.

When I arrived at the club I saw at a glance that it was not the time or place to talk business so asked him for an appointment at his office or home. He granted this request so I went over to Monongahela, an hour and a quarter's ride on the trolley from Pittsburgh, and interviewed him at 11 p.m. this morning. The photographs which Miss Lewington sent me were a great help in telling the story.

The income from the Finley Estate has been reduced during the general depression. It is divided into four equal parts. One part goes to religious causes, another to educational institutions, local charities claim the third division, and the fourth part is re-invested. The auditors will be working on the Estate from April 1st to 15th. After the 15th of the month Mr. Herron will know exactly what money he has to distribute.

He said that he was very much pleased with the work that Lingnan was doing and as it was a going concern he would see if one thousand dollars could not be contributed to Lingnan from the fund designated for educational purposes. We are to write to him on the Fifteenth of April regarding this gift, and, if he cannot arrange for it at that time, then it will be sent after the next quarterly income period which will be about the middle of July.

He explained that Mr. Finley had made a \$20,000.00 pledge to Yenching but died before the entire pledge was paid so that he (Mr. Herron) paid the balance. He thinks that Dr. Stewart is a very fine man.

I know that you are thinking, why did he not

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Mr. Wannamaker

Page 2

make this \$20,000.00 for Lingnan instead of only \$1,000.00? Believe me when I say that I asked for a great deal more than he was willing or able, according to his statement, to give. He is quite an old gentleman and does not hear very well. But I must admit that after your description I was very much surprised to find him very friendly and courteous and willing to contribute but on his own terms.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I have sent to Mr. Herron so that there will be no misunderstanding about what he said regarding the gift. A signed pledge was out of the question.

This may be only the beginning of more to follow in the years that are ahead.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

John A. Murray

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March 24, 1931

Mr. Joseph A. Herron,
Alexander & Co., Bankers,
Alexander Building,
Monongahela, Pa.

Dear Mr. Herron:

I want to again express my appreciation of
the interview which you granted me this morning in your office.

We shall write you as you suggested on April
15th, 1931 regarding the one thousand dollar gift for Lingnan
University.

If the income from the Finley Estate devoted
to educational purposes will not permit of the gift at that
time then we shall look forward to receiving it after the
next quarterly income period which, as you suggested, would
be about three months.

Cordially yours,

John A. Murray Jr.

SL/JAM Jr.

0577

Finley Estate

April 13, 1931

Mr. Joseph H. Herron,
Alexander & Co., Bankers,
Main Street,
Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Herron:

I am writing this note as you suggested when I was in your office three weeks ago regarding the \$1,000.00 gift from the Finley Estate to Lingnan University.

You said that after the auditors were finished about the 15th of April and had rendered you a report you would then know what amount there was available for educational purposes.

Such a gift to Lingnan would be very much appreciated coming just at this time, and we would be glad to apply this gift to the building program of the women's unit or the regular current expenses of the University as you may decide.

I want to again express my sincere appreciation of the kind and sympathetic interview which you granted me when I was in Monongahela, and I hope to have the pleasure of again meeting you sometime when I am in Pittsburgh.

A check should be drawn to the order of Trustees of Lingnan University and sent to 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

With kind personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,

John A. Murray Jr.
Field Representative

JAM/SL.

0578

June 3, 1931

Mr. Joseph A. Herron,
Alexander and Company,
Main Street,
Monongahela, Pa.

Dear Mr. Herron:

When I returned to our New York office a few weeks ago I learned that you had not been able to send in April the \$1,000.00 gift from the Finley Estate which you mentioned when I called upon you in your office in Monongahela.

I remember that you said at the time if the income from the Finley Estate did not warrant a gift of \$1,000.00 in April, then it would have to go over into the next quarter.

Lingnan University together with other institutions of a similar nature has been seriously handicapped during the past months of depression by its financial problems.

The summer is always a very difficult time as many of our regular contributions are not received until our friends return in the fall.

If therefore it will be possible for you to send us \$1,000.00 at the end of the present quarter which I presume will be about July 15th it will be greatly appreciated and will come at a time when it is most urgently needed.

Cordially yours,

John A. Murray Jr.

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ESTATE OF
J. B. FINLEY, DECEASED

EXECUTORS AND TRUSTEES:
MONONGAHELA CITY TRUST COMPANY
JOSEPH A. HERRON

MONONGAHELA, PA., JULY 13TH, 1931.

MR. JOHN A. MURRAY, JR.,
OFFICE OF TRUSTEES LINGNAN UNIVERSITY,
150 FIFTH AVENUE,
NEW YORK CITY.

DEAR SIR,-

IN REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF JUNE 3RD, 1931 TO
MR. JOSEPH A. HERRON CONCERNING A GIFT OF \$1,000.00, WHICH
HAS BEEN HANDED TO ME FOR REPLY, WISH TO ADVISE YOU THAT
MR. HERRON HAS BEEN QUITE ILL FOR SOME TIME AND IN AS MUCH
AS THE INCOME OF THIS ESTATE HAS BEEN COMING IN VERLY SLOW-
LY ON OUR MORTGAGE INVESTMENTS AND OUR DISTRIBUTIVE FUNDS
ARE AT THE PRESENT TIME ALMOST DEplete, IT WILL NOT BE
POSSIBLE TO GRANT YOU A GIFT AT THIS TIME.

YOURS VERY RESPECTFULLY,



BOOKKEEPER.

0580

CAMP SKYLAND
ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN

SOUTH HERO, VERMONT

July 15, 1931

Dear Mr. Wammataker:

We are now
in camp enjoying the great
out-of-doors. There has been
more than our share of rain
but we have made good use
of the clear days.

This morning
I received the enclosed letter
from the office of Mr. Joseph
A. Herron. It does not look
very promising for the immediate
future. I shall drop the
bookkeeper a note thanking

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CAMP SKYLAND
ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN

SOUTH HERO, VERMONT

Thank you for the letter and expressing
my regrets that Mr Herron
is ill.

I shall be glad to
keep the matter in mind
and if I happen to be in
Pittsburgh in the near future
I shall try to see Mr Herron.

It will not be long
before you will be leaving the
city. I hope that you will
have a pleasant voyage and
a restful vacation.

Cordially yours,
John H. Murray Jr

July 17, 1931.

Mr. H. K. Coulter,
Monongahela City Trust Company,
Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Coulter:-

In the absence of Mr. Murray I beg to acknowledge your letter of July 13, and to thank you for your kind attention to our request for assistance from the Finley Estate.

The difficulties during this period of depression, faced by us in our effort to support the most important Christian university in all South China, are so great that I venture to ask whether our appeal may not be listed at the present time for consideration when the next quarterly distribution occurs. I shall be grateful if you will let me know whether such a record can be made at this time.

With renewed thanks,

Cordially yours,

Olin D. Wannamaker
American Director

ODW:VB

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