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Walter G. Whitman  
1925

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# GENERAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY

WALTER G. WHITMAN  
EDITOR AND MANAGER

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL  
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

TRANSFER

January 12, 1925

Reed  
20 Jan  
P. S. Williams

Mr. J. E. Williams, Vice-President  
University of Nanking  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York City, New York

My dear Mr. Williams:

Since writing you on October 1, in reply to your letter of September 29, I have not heard from you. When I received your letter, I thought that possibly you wanted someone to undertake the work at Nanking right away. If you have not made other arrangements, and there is a possibility that you may desire my services, will you let me know at your convenience.

I have had a conference with Professor Mabee, who is on leave from Shanghai College, to learn from him about needs and conditions. He spoke of the splendid work which Professor Twiss did when he was in that section. I have read one report made by Professor Twiss, but should wish to consult with him further if I were to undertake the work.

If I were to go, I would like to know, as far in advance as possible, in order to study the problems and to better prepare myself for the special work required there.

Very truly yours,

*W. G. Whitman*

WGW:AJS

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GENERAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY

Volume 1  
Number 1

1925

1. The Nature of Science

2. The Scientific Method

3. The Role of the Scientist

4. The History of Science

5. The Philosophy of Science

6. The Social Sciences

7. The Arts and Humanities

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Born in Norway, Me., May 4, 1874.

Degrees - A.B. from Tufts College in 1898; A.M. from Columbia University in 1907.

Teaching - High schools, 1898-1905; Ethical Culture School 1905-1910; State Normal School, Salem, Mass., 1910-1913; State Normal School, Salem, 1915-1925.

Instructor in Summer Schools - Columbia University 1906-1912; Teachers College 1913; Hyannis, Mass., State Normal School 1915-1916; University of Pittsburgh 1917-1919; Hampton Institute 1924-1925.

Editorial Work - Science editor for American Book Company 1913-1915. Founded General Science Quarterly in 1916 and edited it since.

Science Organizations - Secretary and Vice-President of New York Physics Club 1909-1910; President of New England Association of Chemistry Teachers, two years, 1912-1913; organized General Science Club of New England and was its President three years, 1916-1920.

Author - Joint author with R. H. Williams of "Laboratory Exercises in General Chemistry".

Joint author with G. W. Hunter of "Civic Science in the Home".  
 " " " " " " " " "Civic Science in the Community".  
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 " " " " " " " " "Civic Science Manual".

Author of "Household Physics".

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TRANSFER

Nanking

UNIVERSITY OF NANKING.

June 11, 1925.

Professor Walter G. Whitman,  
State Normal School,  
Salem, Mass.

My dear Professor Whitman:

In accordance with our conversation of last Friday, I am writing you fully concerning the University of Nanking position.

The University of Nanking desires for a term of three years, if possible, a visiting professor of science who is primarily interested in the problems of teaching the sciences and showing others how better to teach them. The University desires a man who is primarily a teacher and who is interested in helping other men to be better teachers, and who is not merely interested in technical research. The fields of interest involved are chiefly those of physics, chemistry and biology. The plan of work would be as indicated in the following outline of duties for the visiting professor:

- "I. To teach one course each semester in elementary science, say physics one semester and chemistry or biology the second semester, and use these classes demonstration teaching in science.
- "II. To visit the classes then going on, taught by other professors and assistants, visit their laboratories and work constructively with these teachers on plans and methods for improving their science teaching.
- "III. To co-operate with the department of education in giving courses on methods of teaching science, to which courses our own teachers and assistants in science; teachers and assistants in science in Ginling College and of Southeastern University would be admitted. And as far as possible time and strength permit, co-operate with Ginling and with Southeastern in improving science teaching."

The general character of the University and its work you will gain from a number of pamphlets and reports which I am sending you under another cover. I enclose, however, a copy of the preliminary statement of information for those who are candidates for positions at the University of Nanking, drawn up primarily, as you will note, for those who are going out as beginners for permanent appointments, and you will make due allowance for this, in reading this statement.

The University is in a position of very genuine strength in China in which it has been able to carry on its work in the present confusion, which we do not expect

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June 11, 1925.

to continue or become more serious. I enclose also a memorandum as to the training and experience of the men who are teaching science with whom you would, of course, be primarily associated and whose work, together with that of their associates and assistants, you would be endeavoring to stimulate.

You will recognize that the opportunity is not one for doing a routine piece of work, but for making a somewhat unusual contribution to the development of the effectiveness of a promising university in a strategic position with reference to its influence upon a large and growing constituency, having a relation on the one hand to the secondary and primary schools, to which, no doubt, many of its graduates will go as teachers, and on the other hand to the scientific professions, into which others of its graduates will go after further training.

As I indicated to you in our conference, the funds which are available for this purpose are somewhat limited, and we recognize that it would be too much to expect one in an active teaching position to be able to secure a leave of absence for as much as three years. I have, however, understood from my conference with you, that you would be prepared to ask for leave of absence for a single year, with the expectation that there would be no difficulty in getting that granted, and with the further intention of asking for leave of absence for a second year, before the expiration of the first, so that on your part, if you accepted our proposition, you would go out with the intention of staying two years, provided you could secure the necessary leave of absence. The financial aspects of the proposition are these:

The University would furnish the costs of outgoing and return travel of yourself and Mrs. Whitman and a salary of U.S. \$8,700. a year; medical services free; rent of house to be charged to salary at approximately U.S. \$25. a month. We recognize that, if the term was limited to a single year, the costs of round trip travel for the children (approximately U.S. \$2,000) would probably be too heavy for you. Therefore, if the term turns out to be a single year only, we will take care of the travel costs of the children one-way. This would mean that your costs for the travel of the children will be approximately U.S. \$1,000. each year. If it is found practicable for you to share a part of a house, the rent would be appreciably reduced.

You will note that living costs are very much less in China than in the United States. I estimate that the net income to you will be about ten percent better than that of other members of the staff similarly situated as to number of years of teaching and number and age of children. I am sure that those whom you would so number as your Nanking friends would do everything possible to make you and your family comfortable.

Please note that I have estimated the travel costs for the children on my recollection that they are thirteen, eleven, and one year old, respectively. This means that in crossing the continent, the thirteen year old would go at full fare, the eleven year old at half fare, and the baby, free, but crossing the Pacific, both the thirteen and eleven year old children would go full fare, each, and the baby at one-tenth full fare.

It would be a very great satisfaction to us if you could find it possible to accept this appointment, and I am sure that you will understand and share in the high Christian purposes of the University in its effort to realize in its students and staff the highest ideals of Christian character and influence. In the hope that you will be able to accept, I am trying to secure tentative reservations for two state-rooms for the latter part of August.

You will be interested in noting the reference on the fourth page of the Candidate Statement as to the facilities for school for the children in Nanking. I also enclose a memorandum concerning personal equipment and furnishings that will be of interest.

If there are any questions or suggestions which you would like to make, please feel entirely free to write us. We want to have all the matter clearly understood, and we will do all we can to make the whole process one of comfort and satisfaction.

I want to express to Mrs. Whitman and yourself my appreciation of your hospitality while I was in Salem.

Hoping to hear from you at an early date, I am

Faithfully yours,

Secretary,  
University of Nanking.

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HOLLY TREE INN  
HAMPTON INSTITUTE  
HAMPTON, VA

TRANSFER

June 23, 1925

My dear Dr. North:

I am rather inclined to think the same thing for me to do is to withdraw from the China muddle for the present. It looks as though almost anything might happen within the next year. Pres. Bowen's silence is very likely due to his eagerness to report his faith in a serene prospect but his inability to do so at present. I have talked with

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a number of people who  
have spent several years in  
China. They all advise against  
taking a family there now. Some  
would not even go themselves  
Others would go without dependents.

The science teacher whom we  
expected to take my work in  
Salem must decide at once,  
we expected to decide it last  
Friday. He has two good offers  
and he cannot afford to pass these  
by unless he is sure of coming  
to Salem. They were to let me  
off in Salem on condition they  
get a satisfactory substitute.  
I can hardly look up another



in the short time left.

I was ready a week ago to sign up if a favorable report had come from Nanjing. But so much trouble is reported since then that I believe even you would "unofficially" say it is unwise to go there at present.

I hear that one Prof. has been stoned out of Nanjing. Ocean travel is off schedule and there are many complications.

In the face of all the doubt about conditions I feel that perhaps I owe it to the family to decide against going. I should not wish to go alone. Possibly at midyear - or another summer if things become stabilized you might still wish me to go.

Sincerely  
W. E. Whitman

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Deck  
Sailing Aug 31  
will protect salary

Hampton, Va

TRANSFER

June 27, 1925

From Dr. North:

I have your telegram. I think I am safe in trusting Dr. Bowen's judgement. I do not of course wish to take undue risk with the whole family. Neither do I wish to give up one place and not to have another. According to your terms salary begins on date of sailing, but should conditions get worse in China the sailing date might be delayed or I might not sail at all. even though I've given up my place in Salem. Now I cannot afford to lose a month or perhaps more salary.

We shall probably leave the baby in the care of friends. The two children to go are 10 and 11 years of age.

I will write to Mr. Pitman, Prin. of the Normal School, to see how the situation stands regarding a substitute. I have not written him since I told him I was awaiting advice from Nanjing. If he can let me off I believe I'll go, providing conditions continue to show some improvement. Better give me instructions about passports etc. and all the information I ought to have.

Sincerely,  
W. G. Whitman

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June 27 1925

TRANSFER

PROFESSOR W G WHITMAN  
HOLLY TREE INN  
HAMPTON INSTITUTE  
HAMPTON VIRGINIA

FOLLOWING CABLEGRAM RECEIVED QUOTE SITUATION IS IMPROVING SEND WHITMAN END QUOTE  
DO YOU REGARD IT AS TOO LATE OR UNWISE TO CHANGE DECISION OF YOUR LETTER JUNE  
TWENTY THIRD BOWEN EVIDENTLY REGARDS SITUATION AS NOT SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS TO CAUSE  
ALTERATION OF PLANS WE HAVE NOT EVEN HEARD RUMOR CONCERNING STONING IN NANKING  
BUT I DO NOT WANT TO URGE YOU AGAINST YOUR JUDGMENT IF YOU HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS  
PERIOD WIRE ME MONDAY WHAT YOU THINK BEST

ERIC M NORTH

0895

Holly Tree Inn  
Hampton Institute  
Hampton, Va.

TRANSFER

July 13, 1925

My dear Dr. North:

I have my release from Salem and now expect to get ready for the boat sailing from Seattle Aug 31. I suppose we shall get tickets through from Boston or perhaps from Salem if possible so as not to be bothered with the baggage.

1. I am wondering if we need to take bedding, and any household equipment. Shets blankets
2. Do you know if they have gas in the science laboratories or are they dependent on alcohol lamps?
3. Do orders for books and magazines come from the University to you? I wish a set of bound volumes of General Science Quaterlies. The 8 volumes <sup>bound</sup> cost \$20. These are for library reference. I shall furnish free a large number of unbound copies, but we ought to have one complete reference set. I shall wish to make quite extensive use of these.
4. Do the students buy text books - depend on lecture notes or library reference? Good material

I am looking forward now with much enthusiasm for the start and I hope we can get ready in time to make the boat

Very sincerely

W. J. Whittier

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UNIVERSITY OF NANKING.

July 18, 1925.

Professor Walter G. Whitman,  
Holly Tree Inn,  
Hampton Institute,  
Hampton, Va.

My dear Professor Whitman:

I am delighted to have your letter of July 13th and to learn that you have been released for the Nanking position. I have been continuously in touch with the China news, and opinions here about it, and find that although judgments as to the turn the political negotiations are likely to take differ, there seems to be no ground for anxiety concerning the safety of missionaries in China, particularly the American group.

You may hear that the Presbyterian China Council has asked the Board to defer the sailings of missionaries who were due to go out in August. This, I think, is because they have a rather large number, some sixty or seventy missionaries, of whom some will be going to Canton or others to some interior points, which makes it wiser to hold up the group. There is nothing in any news from Nanking to cause us concern, and the general position of Americans with reference to the future negotiations seems to be particularly good.

Answering your specific questions - first: with reference to bedding, I would recommend that you take sheets and blankets, and if any member of the family is particularly attached to a certain type of pillow, I would recommend taking that. I do not think of any other household equipment which would be worth the cost of transportation, unless there are some quite small items which Mrs. Whitman finds particularly handy. Of course, she will reckon on the fact that most of the cooking and housework will be done under her direction, by servants.

Second: In the science laboratories, there are one or two which use gas, and the others are dependent upon alcohol lamps, but there is now in process of construction, a special gasplant to replace these temporary provisions. Whether this will be completed by the time you arrive, I am not sure, but it ought to be finished during the next year.

Third: Orders for books and magazines are issued by the Librarian or the department concerned, in Nanking, and sent to us for placing or payment to the publishers here. I do not recollect the purchase of volumes, and have no record of a subscription to the General Science Quarterly. I shall, however, take the responsibility for the purchase for the Library of the eight bound volumes, with the understanding that if we find that this duplicates a set already there, we can return it. Will you please arrange to have these sent by book post, registered, to "University of Nanking Library, Nanking, China" and billed to the University of Nanking - 150 Fifth Avenue - New York City, in duplicate?

0898



July 18, 1922

Fourth: The students do use textbooks, and they use the Library considerably, but there is a good deal of dependence upon lecture notes, first and last; the method varies, of course, with the individual instructor.

As I think I have written you, we have booked your passage for yourself, Mrs. Whitman and two children, on the President Madison, Admiral-Oriental Line, sailing from Seattle on August 31st.

Please let me know by return mail the birth dates and years of birth of the two children. This is in order to satisfy the steamship company that they are in the proper age limits.

I have already sent you Travel Directions. Please advise me when you return to Salem, and your house address there, in order that communications may reach you most promptly. Please note the urgent recommendations with reference to vaccination and inoculations.

In planning what to carry, you will note that as the children are both under twelve, you will have the equivalent of three adult fare tickets, and, therefore will be entitled to 1,050 pounds of baggage, to be checked on your tickets. This matter is explained in the travel directions, and we will see that your steamship tickets and the funds for travel expenses reach you in time for your comfortable completion of the arrangements.

I have noted with interest your plan to leave the youngest member of the family in this country; I am sure you will miss the baby.

Cordially yours,

Secretary,  
University of Nanking.

EMN/KJL

0899

# GENERAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY



WALTER G. WHITMAN  
EDITOR AND MANAGER

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL  
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

TRANSFER

July 19, 1925.

My dear Dr. North.

I am not sure that we have filled out the "Clergy fare" blanks properly - if not return them with "instructions". I left blank the address - where to send certificates. I suppose to me but thought possibly they might go to you + then to me - ~~is~~ it all right for us to go via Canadian Pacific and start from Boston west. There is no need of our going via N.Y. is there? NO

The "clergy fare" I see does not affect the children's fares.

Right

~~Yes~~ We haven't found anyone yet to take care of the baby and we may take him <sup>to China</sup>. I hope one of the state rooms on the boat will be suitable for two and the baby, on the chance of his going. I've put him into the passport so that we can take him if we wish. Star for Baby

Can you tell me if the University of Nanking has electric light - and if it is the ordinary 110 - 120 volts? I have a small lantern that I would like to take.

The Pres. Madison sails on Monday. Should we plan to reach Seattle Friday? Yes  
If boat stops at Japan any length of time, what must we do to be able to go ashore? Should our passports indicate that? Yes

Cordially  
W.G. Whitman



Nanking University

July 31, 1925.

Dr. W. G. Whitman,  
10 Naples Road,  
Salem, Mass.

My dear Dr. Whitman:

Answering your letter of July 19th: there is no need for you to go by way of New York. The clergy fare does not affect the children's fares and as they are under twelve they could go for half fare. A baby could go free on the railroads. The transportation for the baby on the steamer will be one-tenth of the regular fare. The children will cost full fare.

We will get the tickets and send them to you as soon as you let me know the exact dates of birth of the children and whether you expect to take the baby with you or not. I am sure that you will find the staterooms quite satisfactory for taking care of the baby. You should undoubtedly reach Seattle on Saturday if the President Madison sails on Monday.

I believe there is no difficulty about going ashore in Japan. You can find out processes on the steamer. It would be well on the whole for you to have Japanese visas on your passports.

With reference to the electric current I think you can safely figure on the 110 to 120 volts though I know they have had, in recent years, some trouble with the plants not providing sufficient voltage during daylight hours.

The clergy applications are all right and we will see that the permits are sent to you as soon as we can get them.

Cordially yours,

EMN:K

0901

UNIVERSITY OF NANKING.

August 12, 1925.

Walter G. Whitman,  
State Normal School,  
Worcester, Mass.

My dear Mr. Whitman

In the absence of Dr. North on his vacation, I am writing to acknowledge your letter of August 8th. As your port in China will be Shanghai, and as you will probably want to stop there a day or so, before going on to Nanking, there is no reason now apparent why you should not find it practicable to visit the college there, as suggested by Mr. Mabee. We are advising President Bowen of the date of your sailing, so that you will probably find some word from him for you in Shanghai, which may affect your plans. It would be well for you to communicate with him by telegraph, however, upon your arrival in China. I believe that Dr. North has already advised you to go to the Missionary Home, upon your arrival in Shanghai.

We have noted your statement that you were leaving the baby in this country. Will you let us have the name of the family with whom your child will be, so that we may have the information in our files? If at any time you should wish to cable to this country, you could cable through the University, and the message would be delivered to this office in code, and could then be decoded, and telegraphed on, as you might wish. This method would save you some expense.

We are now enclosing a check for \$800. to cover your travel expenses and the allowances for yourself and family. Your tickets will be forwarded shortly.

Cordially yours,

0902



Nanking

Salem, Mass

TRANSFER

Aug. 17, 1925

to Eric M. North.  
N.Y.C.

from Mr. North.

I wonder about the delay in the steamer tickets. I am waiting until they arrive to get my rail transportation. There is less than a week left and if there is any delay about using the Clugy permits, it may make a rush at the end. I wish to send the baggage from Boston Saturday.

In reply to yours of Aug. 12. The baby, H.C.W. is left in charge of my sister, Mrs. F.H. Noyes, Norway, Me. but is being taken care of by Mrs. H.L. Drake of Norway.

Check for \$500, received -

Sincerely

W. Whitman

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