

321 4906

UBCHEA ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
RG 11

Yenching
Corres.
Boynton, Grace 1938-1940

3
2
1
4
9
0
6

0462

Hotel Bellevue
Boston

5 January 1938

My dear Grace:

It has been a very real pleasure to have your excellent manuscript of last summer to work with in our campaign of this autumn. You will know before this note reaches you that Margaret Speer helped me in minor matters of editing and that we were able to secure from Miss Daniels a few valuable additions in the way of illustration to the manuscript. We printed it on a Boston press, and have been able to use very profitably an edition of three thousand copies of the booklet. Your family received limited numbers, as suggested by Miss Daniels acting as ring-master for the family!

I hope that the use which we have been able to make of your diary of the summer weeks will give you confidence to entrust us with further material when the inspiration comes to create it. Those who have expressed enthusiasm for the recent booklet have covered a wide range of personalities and interests, as you will realize when I tell you that Wellesley women are asking for further copies, and that Mr. McBrier thinks it is great.

I could write a long letter this morning if there were time, for my heart is full as I think of you and of Yenching. But the morning's tasks are urgent, and not all of them as attractive as talking to you across the Pacific.

My affectionate good wishes for 1938.

Yours sincerely,

Grace Boynton

0463

3
2
1
4
9
0
6

over

Temporarily at
Hotel Bellevue
Boston, Mass.

26 January 1938 .

Dear Grace:

I have already written to you of the helpful interest which your journal of the summer has created on behalf of Yen-ching. I cannot speak too strongly of the kind of service which material of this kind renders to the difficult task of money raising. After talking yesterday afternoon with your sister-in-law, Mrs. Russell Boynton, I vowed that I would delay no longer in writing you again and urging that you send us something similar as soon as you can possibly find the time to do so.

You already know that we have made good use of 3,000 copies of the booklet of your summer journal. These have gone both to Wellesley faculty, undergraduates and alumnae, and to other friends or potential friends of Yen-ching. There is no question at all but that the most valuable kind of follow-up for this booklet would be something else in journal form from your pen, giving the wise and courageous history of Yen-ching during the first months of this academic year. If it could reach us as soon as the mails can bring it after this message reaches you, it would consolidate the gains you have helped us to make in the early months of the year, would answer questions and still doubts which may have arisen since then, and would help us to make certain important personal calls connected with the later weeks of the financial year. I am hoping that there will be photographic material available to light up the text, as we were able to do with the kodak pictures Miss Daniels lent us for this first booklet.

Affectionately yours,

(Mrs. T. D. Macmillan)

Miss Grace M. Boynton
Yen-ching University
Peking

See over

0464

26 January 1938

Dear Grace:

Having recorded my fervent desire for material to supplement your charming summer diary, I am writing confidentially in regard to certain values on the debit side of the scale in our present work. You will understand that I am speaking to you thus frankly because you and I share this glorious common task of standing by Yenching in these trying days.

Three days ago I met a Newton woman who sees a good deal of the Russell Boyntons, and it was she who brought your sister-in-law yesterday to a Ginling meeting in Newton. On both of these occasions I caught echoes of the sheaf of family letters which your own inner circle has recently received. I feel moved to emphasize the fact that confidential messages these days -- however carefully guarded -- rather quickly reach an infinitely larger circle than one would imagine possible. If, in the very natural expression of need for sympathy and understanding of those who are closest to us, we record serious doubts as to the vitality and perpetuation of any part of our work, this atmosphere soon spreads throughout the part of the community which is reached by the message, some of it very indirectly. In other words, there is no such thing as confidential messages these days which are kept within a small circle, and unless one's nearest and dearest are optimistic and sturdily confident that one's work is a legitimate object of financial support, there is something subtly disintegrating in the effect of that lack of confidence. You will know, without my even saying so, that these observations would apply to letters from other members of the Yenching faculty to their home circle, and very especially do they apply to President Stuart's communications to his Trustees. It is not my intention to suggest that one should deny one's self frank expression of conviction or that one should in any way violate the finest standards of honesty in what one writes, but I am moved to make these observations about the speed and extent of dissemination of all the information coming from China these days, even when it is supposedly confidentially written to one's own family.

Affectionately yours,

Miss Grace M. Boynton
Yenching University
Peking

0465

March 15, 1938

3

2

1

4

9

0

6

0466

March 15-1938

Your first letter speaking of my report of the summer was gratefully received. Yours of Jan. 16 is just in. Many thanks for the information about the speed with which ~~walks and runs~~ ~~gets around~~.
Vertumn sap! I do not mean to be a sap in any sense. Certainly I would not "sap" support for G. I'm afraid the piece of work you suggest is not the sort of thing I can do well. I am not close enough to the administration to see the whole forest. All I notice is a few trees which would not command any especial interest. But A.M.B. says the whole. I will confer with him about your request. He could give exactly what you want.

Do not hesitate to send me further comments which occur to you. I trust not to need again the vertumn sap - but shall be glad to have it if I do.

I need not tell you that I am solidly behind our present task & I am increasingly convinced that we are wisely led.

G. H. S.

0467

3
2
1
4
9
0
6

CARTE POSTALE—CHINE.
片信明政郵國民華中



Mrs. T. D. Macmillan
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City
N. Y.
U. S. A.

3
2
1
4
9
0
6

0468

13 June 1938

Dear Grace:

Bless you for your card of March 15 with its humor and its serious observations. We have had no doubt all along of the truth of your final phrase -- "I need not tell you that I am solidly behind our present task, and I am increasingly conscious that we are wisely led" -- but in these tense times a reiteration of such comfortable faith cannot come too often.

Probably my greatest neglect, among innumerable omissions, is in the field of letters to my friends in China. One source of the silence is the vanity of hoping for freedom to speak one's mind, and another is the feeling that one has nothing to say except that days are spent in planning to increase the income for our colleges. Although that task is anything but a dull one, the interest which it contains would be difficult to put into a letter worth your reading.

Now and then there are incidents in the days which I should so like to share with you, and I am hoping that Stephen Tsai will sit down and gossip with you and pass on some ^{of} our leisure enjoyments as well as our serious tasks. He is now tossing -- I hope enjoyably -- on the sea between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Just after I had said goodbye to Stephen in Chicago the other day, I treated myself to my first glimpse of Malvina Hoffman's bronzes in the Natural History Museum. It almost made it possible for me to imagine myself momentarily in Peking; you are well aware of her having used as models several of our friends, both humble and exalted.

I wish I might feel that the summer was to bring freedom to you in your visits to well loved parts of the hill and seashore country. But I am confident that you will work out a restful and refreshing holiday, even if it is spent within a stone's throw of the old Yuan Ming Yuan.

Affectionately yours,

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan

Miss Grace M. Boynton
Yenching University
Peiping
China

0469

C
O
P
Y

Yenching University
Peking West
July 22, 1938

Dear Friends at Home:

Perhaps some of you have not heard from me for a long time. I hope you have been indulgent to me, realizing that there is a censorship problem, but there is yet another problem which is psychological. I find myself, in the face of the year that has passed almost numb mentally; and when I go to my desk to write, I sit and stare at a piece of paper without knowing what to put down on it. But now our vacation days have come, I must try to say something.

First of all I must speak of our great reason for feeling that we in Yenching have been most fortunate in the year that is just past. It is now a year since the outbreak of hostilities, and as I turn the pages of last summer's diary, I note how frequently I recorded feeling that Yenching's life must then be regarded as finished, as something that could never exist again. Now, on these anniversary days of the initial tragedy, I am still in my garden, which I call after the Chinese fashion "The Garden Over Against the Hills" because it faces to the rise of the range to the west, and I can look back on a year of steady work, of faithful comradeship, of the achievement of which Paul spoke, I think when he said "And having done all to stand." That's really what we in Yenching have been doing in these last months---standing fast. Perhaps we have come near the end of this particular stand now---I will speak of our prospects in a moment---but this year just gone by is a good one to remember, a year of faithfulness and loyalty and courage, in a year when the world around us has been collapsing.

You can understand that the horrors and discouragements of the Chinese defeats and retreats have weighed us down. We know that we do not get very complete or accurate news in our controlled press, and we have to wait a month for home magazines and newspapers to tell us what has been going on very near at hand. Sometimes these papers have pages cut out before they reach us! So you are much more promptly and fully informed than we are. Still we have had to know, of course, how the Japanese occupation has rolled over China, and how city after city has been taken and how the people in town and country have suffered. We have our little problems of relief here in Peking, but they are nothing compared to the miseries of central China. Now the dykes have been opened, and whole populations have either been drowned or forced off the land of their ancestors to join other millions of wanderers. When I think of all this, my mind goes blank. I don't know what to write because I seem unable to think about so colossal a horror.

In Yenching we have felt the plight of the nation, but we have gone on trying to maintain the values of a normal education; we see that elsewhere circumstances make education practically impossible. The institutions in the part of the country which is being bombed, flooded, and over run with refugees can hardly do any academic work. Often teachers and students have had to travel from place to place, and you cannot take libraries and laboratories on trek. Here in the north, Yenching has been almost the only University in session because all the others have either closed or moved. (There have been

0470

two other colleges carrying on in Peking this winter: they are also under foreign administration.) So you see, our students have been pretty nearly unique in being able to study at all, and many of them have travelled great distances and taken great risks in order to have that privilege.

That we have been able to remain in session with almost complete academic freedom (which is not enjoyed in Japan itself) is due to our president Dr. Stuart, and to him alone. He has had constant dealings with the Japanese authorities both civil and military and he has steadily said No, to attempts to make Yenhsing share in parades forced upon the local schools which are then shown in moving pictures to the people in Japan to deceive them about sentiment here; attempts to search our buildings and our homes, to arrest our teachers and students, to control our curriculum, to make us employ Japanese professors. Dr. Stuart has not only succeeded in keeping us free of all these things (and of course he has had the good help of our Embassy) but he has made personal friends among the puppet government Chinese and even among the Japanese authorities themselves.

But his success, remarkable as it is, cannot be counted upon to continue indefinitely. The Japanese have factions among themselves, and the men hitherto in charge in Peking have been known as "moderates." The rumor is now very persistent that the Extremist group, the "younger officers group", who were responsible for the political murders in Japan a few years ago, are now to come into power. If they do, the President may no longer be able to hold Yenhsing safe. Well, we must live one day at a time; but anyhow, the past is secure, and we do have our 1938 commencement behind us when we gave degrees to a class about half as large as usual, but a class that we had brought through to the conclusion of a complete college course.

Another factor which may have a great influence upon our future, is the attitude of our young members of the faculty, and our alumni. These modern minded men and women feel that other things are more important now than academic activities; consequently some of the other "best teachers" feel they ought to carry on here, and are doing so - some of the best of our faculty are leaving us, and going to "real China" where they are offering themselves for any service in the emergency for which they are fitted. Several of them have been summoned by the Central government for specific pieces of work. Our alumni in Central and South China are most of them in some sort of national employment and they bitterly resent having Yenhsing go on in the north. They feel that we are helping the Japanese occupation and it is very difficult to convince them that we have not been forced to help with Japanese propaganda, etc. They clamor for Yenhsing to move south and identify herself with the national cause. Can you see how many bewildering aspects there are to the problem of our future? Will the Japanese allow us go on at all? Will students dare come to us? Can we find teachers who will not be regarded as traitors by other Chinese? Ought we to take the chance that students and teachers alike may be caught in a net and suffer violence as has happened in Korea and Manchuria? Can we render a Christian service to the young people of the north who have no way to leave, and suffer in the Japanese controlled schools? Aren't these questions to make one's head ache? And then there is a further question, if Yenhsing stops, what ought we missionaries to do?

Well, I for one, take one thing at a time. Shadowed as the future is I do expect that Yenhsing will have one more year at least, and I go on planning to do my best in that year. We are holding entrance examinations this week in Tientsin and Peking and I hear that over a thousand students will sit for them. That shows that young China certainly wants to come to us.

I suppose you may wonder what the situation is here with regard to personal safety. Probably you have read reports of the behavior of the Japanese army in Nanking and other places, and wonder how things are here. Well, I believe that we missionaries do well to speak only of what comes under our personal observation, and mine is a rather secluded existence. I remain in the campus or in generally frequented public places in Peking, and I have not seen a single instance of a soldier maltreating a Chinese. I have had an account from an old student who was imprisoned on a political charge (which was finally dropped and the student released after five months) of that prison experience. It was a brutal business. It involved indignity and cruelty. This is the most distressing thing which has come to my personal knowledge. In general, as military occupations go, I feel Peking is fortunate. Surface conditions are not far from normal, although we have a currency which is forced upon us with no backing but the sword, and we are facing a serious coal shortage. But there is fear everywhere, and good reason for fear.

Our students have been very quiet but they have been very thoughtful. I had an experience with one of mine this Commencement which pleased me very much. Let us call him Wang - the Chinese equivalent of Smith. He was a senior majoring in English and he did his senior thesis with me so I know him fairly well. Before the war started, he was a rather commonplace lad who seemed utterly devoid of any ideas of his own although he worked hard. He comes of a wealthy merchant family, but to his credit he it said that he never was guilty of ostentation. Well, last autumn he was one of the few senior students to turn up, and the first thing I heard from him was that he had become a Christian. He was very quiet about that, as about everything else. His Christianity seemed to show itself in increased faithfulness and humility. He did a splendid thesis--much better than I had expected, and after Commencement when I was in my office he came in and said he wanted to talk with me about his future. Should he go to Tientsin and look after family property? Should he continue studying here? Or? Was there something he could do for the nation? He could support himself at whatever he did.

One of my principles in this very confused world is not to present young people with advice about matters which may mean trouble for them while I, the glib advisor, go scot free. But I looked at that boy and I said "Are you in earnest about serving the Nation? Can you eat bitterness? Will you give up a comfortable life and be glad to do it?"

He said nothing but looked back at me. I turned to my desk and wrote him a note of introduction to one of my Chinese friends who was leaving in a few days for the far northwest where an experiment in popular education is being set up with British Bomer Indemnity Funds and under the supervision of a Yenhsing professor--an Englishman. This experiment offers college graduates a chance to go to the people--a thing that is very difficult in the old Chinese system where an immense gulf yawns between the learned and the man on the land. But the experiment involves real hardships. Wang was off like a shot with my note. The man I sent him to, agreed to let him go along, and the boy came to a final dinner with me and two of his classmates simply radiant. His friends could hardly believe their ears when they heard that rich, scholarly Wang was going to this pioneer life. He chuckled in glee over their astonishment. He told me he was to leave with an advance guard of the experimenters, and that he must travel steage and could take no books because of the difficulty of getting books past the Japanese who search all Chinese leaving Tientsin, and what that meant to a boy who never had his nose out of a book, I know! Then he went away, and he is to have his part in bringing into existence a new and better order of things. It is a joy to have had some share in his training.

-4-

I am more glad than I can say, to be here just now. I am especially glad my furlough is still two years off, for it would be very hard to be away from my job when so much is at stake, and such great changes and new developments may be expected. Whatever comes, I want to be a part of events, and not an anxious visitor in the west with no way of putting my full attention on much of anything but news and mail from China!

I'm afraid this letter sounds rather "mumb"--in fact you might be justified in putting a "d" in the place of the "n". But it goes with warmest greetings to each of you.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Grace M. Boynton

Dear Eva,

It was very nice to get your letter and I have had the interesting evening with Stephen Tsai which you predicted I should so much enjoy.

I've spent the summer on the campus in my garden, which after three years of care is beginning to be really beautiful. Wish you could see it! I'm going off tomorrow for two weeks at Pei Tai Ho just to get a bit of a change and then we begin what will be a big year! JLS has pressed the Admissions Committee to admit a whacking lot of students, and they are of grand calibre - since we no longer are competing with Peita and Tsing Hsu. No matter what happens this coming year, we shall make a record for Yenching of which I do believe our friends will be proud. When I saw "we" I really mean the master mind, of course. But he has a solid following. I hope all goes well with you. I often think of that midnight drive as ours!

Affectionately,

G. M. B.

0473

3
2
1
4
9
0
6

GRACE M. BOYNTON
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEIPING WEST

Gr. 5-6324
Mrs. Cortis

August 22-1938

Dear Ma,

Last spring Miss Kao Chuen chi who has now gone to study in America, made an interesting report to the Women's College Faculty about the part which Yenching has been taking in local relief. It was felt that this might be of interest at home, and I am forwarding it in a very sketchy form so that you may see what can be culled from it - if anything. I imagine that a few of these

0474

human interest items might find a place in the Yenching News.

I hope you are not as hot and sticky as I am at the moment. I'm just back from two weeks at Pai Tai Ho, but my "pep" fades away in a climate which emulates the Turkish Bath:

By the way, I will slip in a picture taken in my garden a week or two ago, for you personally. Photographs of me are always something fierce (literally!) and I am quite charmed to have achieved a photograph of me which is really of something else:

affectionately

cc
Grace

0475

30 September 1938

Dear Grace,

My deepest gratitude goes out to you for your thoughtfulness in sending on a copy of Mrs. Wu's report on the Yenching Relief Project. We have already begun to make it useful, and it will help in our first meetings with Mrs. Wu, herself, to have had this introduction to her work for Yenching last year.

I am hoping that the next fortnight will bring further news from Yenching, particularly as to the opening of the College year, for we will be getting out a second news bulletin about the middle of October and in it wish to report definitely on the beginning of work on your campus. Anything which you write of the special features of your work and the life about you will have special value, so do not forget us.

Thank you so much for the photograph, which has definite charm. It might not satisfy one who did not know you, but to me the composite of you and the lotus is a delightful one.

Affectionately yours,

EBM:E

Miss Grace M. Boynton
Yenching University
Peiping West China

0476

3
2
1
4
9
0
6

The Opening of Yenching University, September 1938.

The cable messages from Yenching have doubtless given the news that she opens this year with the largest enrollment in her history. The staff and equipment are planned for 800. To date (September 6) she has over 900 and may run close to a thousand before registration closes ten days from now. Over 400 new students have been accepted, and these are of unusually good academic quality. The old students, many of whom dropped out when we became occupied territory, are now coming back, some of them without sending word in advance. They travel long distances at great hazards, and turn up unheralded, for are they not coming home? The fact of Yenching's communal life emerges powerfully in the attitude of these young people, who have no shadow of a doubt but that they belong here, and that Yenching will burst out of her walls rather than turn them away. Which is quite literally true, for all expedients are being used to meet the steady influx. Double-decker beds are being installed in the dormitories; the long attics are full of cots; the ping-pong room of the men's gymnasium is now dormitory space. Extra houses are hired in the surrounding villages. The competent controller and his staff solve problem after problem, and the busses roll out of the city brim full of young men and women who are proposing to finish their education.

It is the custom here, for the faculty to meet with the President before the session begins, to consider any aspect of the ensuing year which needs corporate attention. No Yenching teacher proposes to miss that appointment. But many of the families have their vacations at Peitaiho, the sea shore resort which is only eight hours by train from Peking when conditions are normal. This year those on vacation heard of disquieting developments on the railroad. Trains were delayed; tracks were torn up; and travellers at night expected to be disturbed by shots. Some took warning and returned early with no experiences to report except the impression that anyone who had barbed wire for sale must be making a fortune. Most of the families, however, remained for the special car engaged to bring them down. The eight hour journey lasted for forty-eight, and included stops for the repairing of track, and shooting at night. When one traveller was asked what the trip was like he replied feelingly:

"Well, it was war, and you know what war is."

All the same, it might have been worse, which is a reflection that constantly occurs to us whenever anything happens in our midst.

The travellers arrived in pouring rain on the morning of the Pressessional Conference, and without stopping for sleep, which sitting up all night made desirable, everyone attended the session as planned. Here they met new arrivals from abroad. Several have come back with the doctor's degree. It is interesting to note the institutions by which the degrees were conferred: Columbia University, The University of London, and the Royal University of Rome.

The main business of the session was to hear the message of the President. At this time, and at the Vesper service which followed on Sunday, he gave us a trenchant view of our situation.

We have extraordinary good fortune for the moment. Among our sister Universities we are almost alone, in expecting to go on for a time in a normal way. We face a year of testing for the nation, and our fate is bound up with the shattering events which make history. Probably before next June there will be some indication of what we may expect for the future. In the meantime we must reckon with the fact that this charmed life may cease at any time. The end may be sudden and catastrophic; or it may be more like slow strangulation; or, we may survive into a new day. But

whatever happens we must go on

0477

whatever happens we must go on steadily, bound together by our common stress and by our stirring opportunities. And we must put away fear.

"After all", said President Stuart, "There is nothing to be afraid of; we may have to close. In doing that we shall bear witness to our loyalty to the ideals of the scholar's freedom and the patriot's duty. If we go through some manifestation of violence, that is no more than has been suffered by the whole nation of which we are a part."

He added a warning in regard to espionage which is already present among us. He did not use the expression but when he had finished it was as if he had said:

"Gentlemen, to your stations."

Grace M. Boynton

September 6, 1938

3
2
1
4
9
0
6

0478

學 大 京 燕
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEKING, CHINA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 30, 1938

TELEGRAPH ADDRESS
"YENTA"


Miss Elvena Van Sciver
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.
U. S. A.

Dear Miss Van Sciver:

Dr. Stuart asks me to send the enclosed copy of
our Christmas account this year. It was written by
Miss Grace Boynton.

With best wishes for a Happy New Year,

Sincerely yours,


Secretary

0479

High Lights on the Yenching Christmas of 1938

Sunday, December 18

The singing of The Messiah in Bashford Auditorium. A chorus of over 250 of whom only seventy odd had sung the music before. Comment in Freshman theme: "I saw Mr. Wiant was perspiration." Two student soloists, carefully trained, revealed very fine voices. In the middle of the Hallelujah Chorus, Lucius Porter turns up from three months service as emergency man for his Mission in the interior of China. Audience attentive and large.

Monday, December 19

An evening program in Boyd Gymnasium given by the students of Miss Mary Brandt and called the Dance Club Christmas Service. A very beautiful spectacle of posture, costume and movement was produced to the music of familiar Christmas hymns. An act of worship in a lovely guise.

Tuesday, December 20

News of loans from America and Great Britain to China. General encouragement.

George Taylor hears on the bus that he has a son. Gateman stops bus as it starts through Alumni gate, to impart the telephone message. Great enthusiasm. Impromptu rendition of "Unto us a child is born" by members of Messiah chorus enroute for concert in town. Concert a success. Proceeds given to relief. (George modest but triumphant.)

Wednesday, December 21

Parties for the girls working in the embroidery craftshops conducted by Yenching women.

Last rehearsal at 6:00 a.m. of the pageant to be given on Friday. Coaches and cast wear expressions of conscious rectitude as they complete six weeks of early rising.

Thursday, December 22

Heavy snow begins to fall. Beautiful hushed campus under heavy skies. English instructors sharpen pencils for the correction of compositions about "the sceneries". Local soup kitchen announces extra Christmas gift money from Yenching. Carol singing epidemic on campus.

Friday, December 23

Still snowing. Kindergarten program. All children star in all acts.

In Men's and Women's dormitories students and members of the faculty gather for festive meals before adjourning to Bashford Hall to see the pageant The Road to Bethlehem. Place packed. Final scene a moment of beauty seldom equalled on Yenching stage.

Saturday, December 24

The workmen's Christmas entertainment. An audience which included families and achieved the cozy number of about 1500 people. Later in the afternoon the Candle Light service which is traditional. A tableau of Mother and Child with attendant angels, posed from a painting by a Chinese artist who paints Christian ideas in Chinese terms. The Chinese costuming and the Chinese models were a new departure.

Eight to ten p.m. the itinerant Carol singers were on their rounds. Splendid starlight and superfine cold for this unusual "white Christmas". No pity wasted on the singers who got hot drinks and fires wherever they stopped.

Sunday, December 25

The President's Christmas present - news of the release of a freshman student imprisoned ten days ago on political charges. Before the Day was out, his brother and sister who had also been held at home, although not actually taken to jail - were again on campus.

University service. Nine baptisms - five children and four adults. The children came from the following families: one Yenching graduate who with her husband returned for the christening of her child; two faculty families, one workman's family. The four adults included three students and one servant. Sermon by the President.

Late afternoon carol singing to the music of the new Hammond organ a precious acquisition. In the evening Faculty Open House. Students called in large and small groups. One cook reported three hundred tea cups washed at one house. One student managed to make ten calls in the two hours.

Monday, December 26

The President entertains all the children on campus. Over three hundred invitations were sent out, and there were no regrets! A good time was had by all, but particularly, it was learned, by the President himself.

Tuesday, December 27

Yenching returned to classes.

學 大 京 燕
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEKING, CHINA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 30, 1939

TELEGRAPH ADDRESS
"YENTA"

Miss Elvena Van Sciver
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

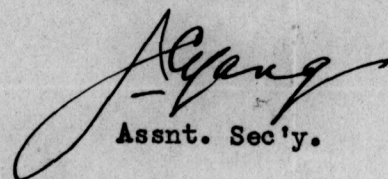
Dear Miss Van Sciver:

Dr. Stuart asks me to send the enclosed article to you for
whatever you wish to do with it. It is written by Miss Boynton.

The successful Christmas week is over but it seems that we are
still in the midst of the Christmas tide.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,


Assnt. Sec'y.

3
2
1
4
9
0
6

0482

Dec. 30, 1939

Perhaps the most delightful thing about Christmas is the way it repeats itself and the season at Yenching has now a well established pattern. It begins with the Messiah concert which comes in the week before the twentyfifth. This year an eager audience filled Bashford Hall on the night of Sunday the seventeenth, and interest was greatly stimulated by the fact that three of the soloists were to be students. Their performance was a matter for congratulations to the young singers and their teachers. On the Tuesday night following more than a thousand people crowded into the Peking Hotel for the performance in town and the very favorable write-up in the paper next day commented upon the fact that the Messiah audience is the largest number of people who assemble indoors in Peking for any purpose whatsoever.

No one in occupied China can forget the nation's ordeal, or the refugees from war and flood, and on our campus a sense of Christian responsibility for the suffering all about us has had new manifestations. There are refugee-camps in our vicinity, for which the Messiah concerts were able to raise a thousand dollars. On the Thursday before Christmas, students and faculty alike ate a bowl of millet porridge for lunch and turned in several hundred dollars for poor relief. The entertainments of the community from the kindergarten, to the Christmas pageant given by the students, were made occasions when food, money, clothes and toys were collected and then distributed where they were most needed. Christmas expenses were scaled down; Christmas giving was scaled up.

The services of the University have never been more beautiful, and never better attended. On the morning of the twentyfourth, twenty-five students were baptized, and the ceremony was followed by a memorable sermon from the President in which he made a realistic admission of the apparent eclipse of spiritual forces in the modern world, only to conclude with a masterful and convincing assertion of their abiding presence and power. That Yenching exists at all is strong evidence of his main contention. His listeners knew that the continuance of their work is a translation into fact of a great and undismayed faith.

On Christmas night members of the faculty open their homes to the several hundred student callers. This year those who passed from door to door were largely members of the "small groups" of the Yenta Christian Fellowship. They are thirty three in number and account for over 36% of the whole University registration. They have very individual names and one found oneself shaking hands with "Salt and Light" "The Eight Men" "The Green Club" "Watchers for the Dawn". The evening happened to have a full moon of extraordinary mildness and beauty, and one group at the President's House produced a member who was much respected by his comrades on account of the poetry which he writes and publishes in very well known papers. The poet was urged to produce something in honor of the occasion and unlike most gifted ones did not seem to feel any difficulty about composing on demand. The next morning a "copy of verses" was on my desk of which I translate the closing lines:

The suffering of this present time

Is for the holy birth of a better tomorrow.

0483

From Miss Grace M. Boynton, Wellesley 1912,
Professor of English at Yenching University

Yenching University, Peking
March 29, 1940

Dear Yenchinians:

Easter was early this year--you know. But the clerk of the weather has seemed to have more sense about the whole of our cold weather than he often does. We have been tremendously fortunate in the mild open winter because of the thousands of shelterless people who were refugees from the flood and other misfortunes of this region. To be sure, things were mighty grim in Peking for the last few weeks of cold. Twenty suicides a day, suicides of despair, were reported by one paper, and cases of collapse on the streets were so frequent that most of us have seen the dead bodies. But we had only two really cold snaps-- neither of which lasted long. Lots of people are still alive who would have perished under usual conditions. And when it came to Holy Week and Easter, the sun got warmer and warmer, and the hills bluer and bluer, and the apricot trees actually came into full bloom on the morning of the 24th itself so that conditions have never been lovelier for our Yenching observations of the triumphant holy day.

We have now on campus so much serious-mindedness, so large a membership in the Christian Fellowship, and so many small groups, that Yenching, ever on the alert for soul-searching, begins to query, "Are we working up too much pressure in religious matters?" This year we had fourteen adult baptisms at Easter, and I have personally calmed scrupulous soul-searchers with the arithmetical reminder that fourteen out of five hundred unbaptized does not seem to verge upon unwholesome hysteria! But it is true that there is great religious interest. Gardner Tewkesbury who was here not many weeks ago, told me he had never seen it so great, and he regretted that we do not do more about it. When I compare his concern with the concern of those who distrust mass movements in the spiritual realm, I feel that Yenching pursues a wisely even course. The door of the fold is wide open; the welcome is outgoing. But as yet we have not a great emphasis upon sheep dogs to drive the flock! Our sheep dogs, if I may push the simile a little further, seem more on the watch for the wolf than concerned with regimenting the lambs! I am struck at the moment with Jesus' metaphor, "I am the door of the sheep" in which He represents Himself as Opportunity, not as Pressure.

Does this seem an odd post-Lenten meditation? Let us return to Lent.

We have special services on Wednesday afternoons in Sage Chapel, led by Dr. Porter, Dr. Li, and Mr. Fulton. (Special services, by the way, seem the function of Sage Chapel now, for we are all enjoying the joint morning chapels at Ninde Hall, and I believe we shall not in the future have two services at the daily chapel hour.) In Holy Week there were services every day. On Thursday evening the solemn celebration of the Last Supper and on Friday the service of meditation. Both were clear nights, and airplane engines droned over us as we took the bread and wine and listened to the Passion Chorale. At these times those of you who have worshipped with us and are now far away were very present to us.

0484

The sunrise service on Easter morning brought about two hundred people to the hill top in the Korean garden. The Lenten moon set in mackerel silver cloud over the western hills, and the Easter sun rose in red bars of light through horizon mist. We have the trumpet announcing the Easter hymn and two violins to lead the singing and these things drowned out other crisp noises to the northeast!

You all can picture the outdoor Easter service. It was a high and solemn festival. At its close the community picnic was larger than ever. More than sixty groups scattered over the hills or settled by the lake-side together, and they stayed rather longer than usual in the perfection of the mild windless day with gorgeous sun which as yet did not sting. In the evening at Ninde Hall, Nancy Cochran made possible a beautiful service which I hope may become a tradition with us. She used the music of a Palestrina Mass, and at one point introduced a "trope" which is the very simple dramatization of the words of the angel to the three Marys at the tomb, in the manner which was used in English cathedrals about the year 900 to bring home to the unlettered the Easter wonder, "He is risen." The simplicity and reverence of the presentation against the spring blossom and candlelight in the chancel was very moving.

So this is the way Easter has been kept this year. Other news is not very plentiful. Dr. Stuart is away. The refuge for the flood sufferers in Haitien has been splendidly managed, and is just now closed. Flo Wilson and Eric left for America and Sherm and the two boys follow in July for the beginning of their furlough year. Doris Cummings is leaving Yenching in June to become the secretary of Dr. Lyman of cherished memory. And what else? Marnie has about 25 women on the docket to house next autumn, and at present only 15 places to put them in, but being Marnie, she plans, like the Pharoah in Green Pastures, to "lean back an' pass a miracle," while we admiringly sit around and watch her do it.

As for me, I'm due to go on furlough too. My little Pao-tzu, Yang P'ing's five year old who has been with me for two winters, will return to her mother in Hongkong; and my cousin, Miss Chapin of my Mission, who has come to retiring age, will live in my house. I expect to stay near Boston for the first part of furlough year, and do some work in one of our large university libraries during the second semester before returning to China. Anyone who wants to communicate with me, may address me in care of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

Perhaps I shall be seeing some of you? Tsai ohien!

Grace M. Boynton

Commencement at Yenching (June 1940)

Commencement at Yenching has passed off quietly this year. The Baccalaureate sermon was delivered by President Stuart in Minde Chapel, and the service closed with a hymn which has become traditional for Yenching's last service of worship, -- Johnny Bunyan's Song of the Pilgrims.

On Commencement Day, the serenity and beauty of the campus, with its crowds of high-spirited, hopeful young people, presented a sharp contrast to the appalling world situation which was in the mind of every one as the exercises took place.

The Commencement speaker was Dr. Ernest H. Lindley, who has been spending some months in China. Dr. Lindley has been connected with State Universities during his long and distinguished career, and was President of the organization of presidents of State Universities. The theme of his address was **New Frontiers and New Pioneers.**

He began by pointing out the physical insignificance, and the mental superiority of man. Animals cannot respond to a changed environment, but if man is to survive, this is what man must do. Dr. Lindley distinguished three "pillars of civilization": the fidelity of those who are given a trust in such responsibilities as those of the family and the state; the skill of the competent, and the courage of the individual. Man, he said, in his struggle with new conditions, can create new realities.

Dr. Lindley recognized the problems of change which confronted the outgoing class, and his final appeal to them was not to evade reality, and not to seek security.

*Gene
Boyer*

0486

3

2

1

4

9

0

6

August 22, 1940

Dear Grace:

I was very glad to receive your note written on the Coolidge, and to have the notes of Dr. Lindley's commencement speech. We were sorry to find the notice of his death in this morning's papers.

There is a very special commission for assistance to the Committee for the Yenching Women's College which I have been ~~suggested~~ to pass on to you at the first possible moment. It would be easier to talk through the plan with you face to face than to put it on paper. If you have now reached New England, perhaps we can meet sometime soon. Will you let me know?

Affectionately yours,

Miss Grace Boynton
American Board of Commissioners
for Foreign Missions
14 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts

0487

3

2

1

4

9

0

6

Aug. 22, 1940

AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES

New York · California · Orient · Round the World

on board

S.S. President Coolidge
morning San Francisco.

Dear Eva,

Before I left anchoring, the
President asked me to write up
commencement - with especial reference
to Dr. Findly. J.L.S. said it would
be in time if I did this little
chore on ship board, so I have, and
enclose it herewith. (My typewriter
got jammed in my trunk and
doesn't space properly, but then I don't
type very well under the best of circum-
stances !)

I am not sure what I shall do
when we land. I may stay in

0488

3
2
1
4
9
0
6

California for a Congregational Meeting
in Berkeley on the 15th of August. I
may go directly to the family in
Maine.

anyhow, I hope I shall see you in
New York one of these furlough days. My
address will be c/o the Board at 14 Beacon
Street. I expect to live at Auburndale,
but I suppose I may do some moving
around.

Greetings!

affectionately

Grace Bryntun.

THE PARSON'S PARADISE
FIVE ISLANDS
MAINE

August 25-1940

Dear Eva,

Why aren't you on vacation like all other well regulated people? I was perfectly delighted but almost shocked to receive yours of August 22nd. indicating that with you it is business as usual.

Of course I am at your service for the Commission connected with the Yenching Women's College. I have a horrible suspicion that it is publicity of some sort, but I'll do my best, whatever it is. As for my movements - I expect to be here until after Labor Day, then in the vicinity of Boston for October, then near New York for November. Later I hope to get to The Congressional and

0490

3
2
1
4
9
0
6

Huntington Libraries for study.

When I last wrote you, I supposed my address would be the Board House at Auburndale. But the old family home is still un sold, and my eldest brother is there with a most competent house keeper, so there seems to be no reason why I should not accept his brotherly invitation and enjoy the dear old place on this my third furlough. Therefore, until future notice my address will be

46 Powder Horn Road - Medford - Mass.

and so - to our early meeting! I look forward so much to seeing you that I can bear whatever job you have in store for me.

affectionately

Grace M. Bryntun.

August 30, 1940

Dear Grace:

The schedule which your nice note of the 25th brings to me, is delightfully oblivious of the existence of September. You say that you will be in Maine until after Labor Day "then in the vicinity of Boston for October": I am hoping that the weeks in Medford will give you a chance to do the thing we have been saving for you, namely, a description of the Yenching campus events (for Wellesley alumnae consumption) which can be spoken of as analogous to those special days on the Wellesley campus - float night, tree day, and so on. A proposal was made by one of the finest of the Wellesley alumnae who knows China, Hilda Crosby Standish of Hartford, and we hope to use it in the Wellesley-Yenching publicity of the autumn, if you can supervise its creation. Does it appeal to you?

Affectionately yours,

Miss Grace Boynton
The Parson's Paradise
Five Islands, Maine

3
2
1
4
9
0
6

0492

GRACE M. BOYNTON
46 POWDER HOUSE RD.
MEDFORD, MASS.

August 31-1940

Dear Eva,

yours of yesterday is just in. Sorry I didn't mention September! My sister, Marjory Rugg, is going to start off my garden lectures by inviting a lot of our friends to a luncheon at the College Club, 40 Commonwealth Ave. Boston - on Thursday, September 12, at one o'clock. At half past two I am to give "The Garden Villa of the Seventeenth Prince". Now could you possibly come over for this event? If I might hope you could, I'd suggest that you arrive the evening before, so that we might consult about this Wellerly-gardening publicity. It happens that the Board is having a training conference at Anturndale, beginning the evening of the 12th, so I'll have to go to that after my talk is finished and it lasts until Sunday noon. Hence it would be very nice if you could come early - in case you can come at all. I feel diffident about mentioning the idea.

0493

people seem to pop over distances so casually that I've decided to hint how very nice it would be to have you. I can put you up for a night if you come.

I'll turn the "Jensling year" suggestion over in my mind. The difficulty is that we don't have picturesque student customs which are traditional. There is a whole something happens, but it's sporadic except for the regular academic, religious, and athletic occasions which are run by the dear teachers. We may be able to make a story, but it will take a bit of doing. What about something like "Jensling's contribution to Free China?" We've got some people doing interesting jobs for the new day.

Except for Marjory's "do" and the Antun dale conference, I haven't much on hand for September at the moment. Of course I will work on anything you say.

affectionately,

Grace.

Yench. Univ.

6 September 1940

Dear Grace:

Your note of August 31 has been held until I should have heard from Miss Woolley in relation to a conference which has hung fire for a fortnight. She now writes, asking me to sit with her and a Doctor Alzada Comstock, here in New York during the afternoon of the 11th. There is a possibility, also, that I shall need to be rather immediately thereafter at a point in the Adirondacks, so that the enjoyment of your lecture on the 12th seems at the moment improbable. It is such a splendid opportunity that I dislike to close the door upon it.

Would Marjory like to include in her luncheon group and in the invitation to the lecture a new member of the Wellesley-Yenching committee who has shown unusual interest and desire to be of help. No doubt your sister already knows the present wife of former Governor Allen of Norwood who was Eleanor Wallace, Wellesley 1925. It is not necessary for me to tell you that Mrs. Allen can be a very effective distributing point of Yenching enthusiasm, and she herself is a delightful person. Your sister will know how to get in touch with her if this suggestion appeals to you both.

We do need all that you can tell us about the Yenching alumni who are now in Free China. We have had several references to them in Leighton Stuart's letters, sometimes tantalizingly anonymous references, and more definite sketches of their personalities and present work will help us tremendously. Please do write them down as you find the time.

I'm still hoping that you will think it possible to produce something of a story along the lines of Yenching's campus year. Even if customs on the Peiping campus do not seem picturesque in the Wellesley sense, I'll wager on you as being able to make them so if it is intellectually possible, even if the analogies are those of contrast rather than similarity. For instance, you might find it possible to describe a Western hills tramping picnic as already something of a tradition, and I had thought of the unpretentious ceremony of homage at the grave of the student martyr on your campus, - which, because of its politico-social significance, may well have kept a place in your campus program, although I have seen no reference to it in letters of the last year or two.

May we meet soon.

Affectionately yours,

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan

Miss Grace M. Boynton
46 Powder House Road
Medford Massachusetts

0495

46 Powder Horn Rd.

Medford, Mass.

Sept. 10 - 1940

Yours of Sept. 6 arrived in
duplicate - one on Sept. 7. Came
by Special Delivery Sept. 9. How-
come?

Sorry not to have you on the 12th.
Maryj had already asked
the Willesly-Jencks Mrs. B.

Can you give us a dead-
line for the material you want?
Sept. tips are developing - two
next week. I'll have to sit up
nights a bit if you are in a
hurry. How long should it be?
Can you send me some recent
publicity of the same sort as
a guide? Do you want pictures?
I'm afraid I can't furnish
those.

As ever -

G. M. B.

0496

3
2
1
4
9
0
6

GRACE M. BOYNTON
46 POWER HOUSE ROAD
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

December 30, 1940.

Dear Eva,

Well! That was a somewhat arduous session we had the other day, wasn't it? As I have thought it over (not in the middle of the night!) it has seemed to me that what I ought to be concerned about is: what is the way, if any, in which I can be of use to you people in the yearling office who are working so loyally for yearling? The months that are now past cannot be recovered. I am sure you do not wish me to change my plans for study in the months which are to come. I fear it isn't worth your while to try and break me into a whole new scheme of promotion which is strange to me, for just a few days at the end of February. So when does that leave us? I wonder if

0497

3
2
1
4
9
0
6

my China Garden talk contacts can be utilized for Yenching promotion? When I first thought of them I hoped they would do three things:

- (1) contribute to China Relief ^{for myself}
- (2) open the way for further study in that field
- (3) provide some new friends for the American Board and Yenching.

Of course I have been a bit shy about talking much about print time, because I first had to make good as a lecturer, and become acceptable to the Garden club people who do have money. If the lectures at Cambridge in February are not a flop maybe I shall have further opportunities. Would it be worth while to consider how such contacts could be made useful to Yenching?

I really do want to help.

Affectionately

Grace

COPY

289 Walpole Street
Norwood, Massachusetts

My dear Mrs. Macmillan:

I am replying to your letter concerning Grace Boynton's lecture and its usefulness to Yenching College.

I was not able to attend the luncheon and lecture as we had not returned to Norwood from the beach. I have done the next best thing and got the opinions of a few who were able to go.

The feeling seems to have been this. The lecture was charming and refreshing and as one put it, "seemed to give me a lift." One got a bit of Chinese philosophy and the feeling that no matter what may happen, there is a certain something in the Chinese that will never die out. Miss Boynton took a certain temple garden near Peiping, showed its location, etc., and followed this with the pictures of it. At the end, she showed how it looked today, - apparently it had suffered during the war.

She, of course, made no mention of the Chinese Colleges. One person said that she did give the impression that there was something in China indestructible and very much worth saving. This would be its only possible connection in an appeal for aid for the college. The ladies said everyone felt as if they had had a delightful hour.

I hope this helps and am only sorry it was impossible for me to go.

Very sincerely,

(Signed) Eleanor H. Allen
(Mrs. F. G.)

October 3, 1949

0499