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UBCHEA ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
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Yenching
Corrts.
Hill, Henry E. 1921-1924

Dr.Eric North.

OFFICERS OF THE TRUSTEES

LUTHER B. WILSON
PRESIDENT
ARTHUR PERRY
VICE-PRESIDENT
EDWARD LINCOLN SMITH
CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
E. M. McBRIER
TREASURER
ERIC M. NORTH
SECRETARY

PEKING UNIVERSITY

INCORPORATED

PEKING, CHINA

NEW YORK OFFICE
156 FIFTH AVENUE

H. K. CASKEY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

J. LEIGHTON STUART
PRESIDENT
HENRY W. LUCE
VICE-PRESIDENT
W. REGINALD WHEELER
SECRETARY

August 18,1921

To the Finance Committee,
Trustees of Peking University,
New York City.

Gentlemen :-

Dr. John B. Hill of Queens, L. I., came in this morning to introduce the subject of his brother's going to Peking. Mr. Henry E.Hill is an architect of thirty-five years standing and would be willing to go to Peking on a missionary's, or a little larger than a missionary's but not greater than a married missionary's, salary. The information which we have in hand in regard to this architect, as supplied by his brother, is as follows:-

"He is a bachelor, fifty-eight years of age, in good health. Son of the Rev. Dr. Timothy Hill, brother of the Rev. Dr. John B.Hill, Cragsmoor, N.Y., home address Queens, Long Island.

He studied architecture for two years in Washington University, St.Louis, and two years in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Has had thirty-five years' experience in his own and other architectural offices, mainly in Kansas City. At present with Charles A.Smith, for many years architect for the Board of Education in Kansas City. Has had most experience in church and school architecture, particularly in design and decoration. Has also had much to do with the design of several of the largest residences in Kansas City as well as the usual run of residences and business work.

Member of the Second Presbyterian Church, Kansas City of which he was for several years Financial Secretary.

Traveled for a year in Europe studying architecture. Has very extensive architectural library.

Could go out this fall."

It seems to me that this is the man we have had in mind

to help in the construction of the University buildings, a man of known architectural ability and still one willing to work on a mission basis.

I would like your authorization to begin correspondence with Mr. Hill and if he is ready to go out to the field this Fall, as his brother thinks he will be, to engage him to begin work at as early a date as possible, having him collaborate with us here in New York both on the school buildings which Murphy, McGill and Hamlin are drawing and on the residences for which no provision has been made so far. In regard to the residences, a recent letter from Dr.Galt, who is acting as Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Board of Managers in my absence, says -

> " It seems best to us here that the residences be designed by an architect who might come out on a missionary salary. "

It has been in the background of both Mr.Black's and my thought ever since our conference in New York began that with the four buildings designed by Murphy, McGill and Hamlin, a good many of the buildings which we have called repeat buildings could be designed by our own architect if there were one on the field, this saving the University a good deal of money.

In writing this the question of stenographic help also comes to mind. It was understood on the field that the Construction department would need the experienced services of at least one secretary. May we have your authorization to engage someone here in New York in order that she may go out with us in October ?

Very truly yours,

J McG G VH

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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RECEIVED AT

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ERIC NORTH

38 150 FIFTH AVE NEWYORK NY

HAD CONFERENCE WITH TWO OF THE LEADING ARCHITECTS WITH WHOM MR HILL HAS WORKED THEY SAY HE IS A HIGH CLASS MAN IN HIS PROFESSION FOR CHURCH AND MISSION BUILDINGS HE IS VERY FINE HE IS IN GOOD HEALTH AND A CONSTRUCTIVE THINKER HE IS PERFECTLY HONEST AND RELIABLE

JAMES B WELSH.

TIME OF RECEIPT SHOWN ON THIS MESSAGE IS EASTERN STANDARD TIME

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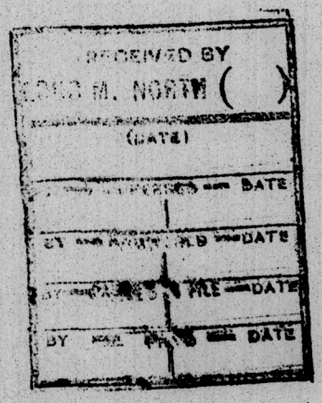
KANSASCITY MO 16

ERIC NORTH 72+10

063 150 FIFTH AVE NEWYORK NY

ANSWERING YOUR TELEGRAM STOP HENRY HILL ADMIRABLY ADAPTED FOR CHINA STOP HEALTH GOOD STOP CONSECRATED CHRISTIAN DESIRING TO SERVE STOP WILLIAM WIGHT OF WIGHT AND WIGHT ARCHITECTS IN WHOSE OFFICE HE HAS WORKED FOR SEVERAL YEARS SAYS HE IS EXCEPTIONALLY QUALIFIED FOR THE POSITION

HENRY MARCOTTE.


RECEIVED BY
DAVID M. NORTH ( )
(DATE)
DATE
DATE
DATE
DATE

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Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

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WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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ERIE M NORTH 1224

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS 156 FIFTH AVE NEWYORK NY

I WILL PLAN TO BE IN NEWYORKCITY NOT LATER THAN SATURDAY AFTERNOON SEPT 24

HENRY E HILL.

TIME OF RECEIPT SHOWN ON THIS MESSAGE IS WESTERN STANDARD TIME

TRUSTEES OF
PEKING UNIVERSITY

The Trustees of Peking University and Henry E. Hill enter into the following contract, as evidenced by their signature underwritten:

That Henry E. Hill enter the employment of Peking University as architect for the Construction Department, for the term of three years beginning October 1,1921.

That his salary for this period shall be $1,000 U. S. gold per year or its equivalent in Chinese currency at the rate of two dollars local currency to one dollar gold.

That the expenses of his journey from his residence in Kansas City,Mo. to Peking, China, and three-fifths of his return thereto shall be borne by the University; provided that if for any cause for which the University is not responsible Mr. Hill return to America or otherwise leave the service of the University before the completion of the three years the University shall not be liable for the expense of the return journey;provided further that if Mr. Hill leave the service of the University within less than one year after the beginning of the term of service, for causes for which the University is not responsible, he shall refund to the University the cost of transportation to Peking. Such outgoing and return expenses shall cover such items of travel as are customarily included in similar allowances to missionaries.

That the University shall provide in Peking suitable housing equivalent to that of other members of the American staff of the University but shall not be otherwise liable for expenses of residence in Peking.

That this contract may be renewed at its termination for a shorter or longer period in which case the Board of Managers in Peking shall have power to act for the Trustees and one-fifth return passage

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That this contract may be renewed at its termination for a shorter or longer period in which case the Board of Managers in Peking shall have power to act for the Trustees and one-fifth return passage shall be added for each year of renewal.

For the Trustees Luther B. Wilcox

Henry E. Hill

September 28,1921

Witness Mrs Hill

7

TRUSTEES OF PEKING UNIVERSITY

Lynn Avenue, Queens
Long Island. N.Y., Sept 28, 1921

Rev. Eric North D.D.,
150 Fifth Avenue.
New York City.

Dear Sir:- After reflection I submit my name for architectural work in China, hoping that I may be useful there. I pray that wherever my lot is cast there may come a deeper, fuller christian life.

As I understand it there are blanks you submit to candidates. These I hope to receive at your convenience.

Very respectfully yours,
Henry E. Hill.

P

Memo. on Contract with Mr. Hill.

See Min. Ex. Com. 9/29/21 page 57.

Salary $1000 Gold, at two for one.

University provide outgoing expenses, living accommodations and 3/5 of return travel at end of three years, 4/5 at end of four years, in full at end of five years should extension of temr to four or five years by mutually agreeable.

Contract with Miss Mason same as above with excention of salary which is $900 Gold, at two for one

Secretarial worker on Univessity staff with major consignment to the Construction Bureau.

Lund Gerrow 1500.
Hill 1000.
Miss Mason 900.

Travel 350.

~~3750.~~ 3750.
300
4500

$20000. on Statute and alt.

= Int Admin - Interior
2 = Science Bldg. Interior
10 = Residence Plans

TRUSTEES OF
PEKING UNIVERSITY

October
Third
1921

Mr. Henry K. Hill,
Board of Foreign Missions,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Hill:

It gives me great pleasure to convey to you formally the action of the Executive Committee of the Trustees of Peking University as follows:

> "Voted: That Henry K. Hill of Kansas City, Mo., be appointed resident architect of the University for a term of three years, annual salary to be $1,000 Gold, guaranteed at an exchange of two for one, the University to provide outgoing expenses, living accommodations, and three-fifths of the return travel expenses at the end of three years, four-fifths at the end of four years, and full at the end of five years if the extension of the term to four or five years should be mutually agreeable. This action to take effect on satisfactory medical report."

Permit me, also, to acknowledge receipt from you of the contract embodying these provisions, which you have signed, a copy of which with the signatures of the representatives of the Trustees will be forwarded to you within a day or two.

I regret that absence from the city during the first three days of this week will prevent my being in touch with you then. You may be assured that we will give immediate attention to any matters which you desire to have information upon and we shall do as much as we can to assure your getting steamer accommodations in the period early in November in which you expect to sail. I trust you have cleared matters fully with Mr. Gibb including practical items with reference to shipment of goods and other points.

Cordially yours,

P

January
Eight
1922

Mr. Henry E. Hill,
Peking University,
Peking, China.

My dear Mr. Hill:-

I have been directed by the Finance and Property Committee of the Trustees to carry out the very agreeable task of expressing to you our hearty appreciation of the work you have been doing for the University in the many plan which you have drawn. We have all here been greatly pleased with the rapidity with which you have taken hold of the problems of the University and the Chinese architecture. Your plans have taken us quite a ways toward the solution of some of the problems which the University is facing with reference to what our buildings should be.

I think we all recognize that the residence plans were a particularly fussy matter because of the questions of accommodation and exterior appearance that are together involved, and yet itsis surely very important that the homes of the faculty be appropriate to their environment and to the comfort and hospitality which such homes should afford in an educational institution. We are greatly cheered by the hope that land for these will be available soon and will be thinking with much interest of the problems involved in laying out the residence site. I presume that it will be much like the planning of a town, though a very small one.

I take it from what has been reported to me by Dr. Stuart that you have been somewhat disappointed that more extended comments upon the residences had not come to you from the Trustees. As a matter of fact we have delayed giving close attention to the plans for individual residences partly because the land matter was still problematical, but more particularly because we had not had from the field a clear and definite recommendation as to how the architectural features of the residences should be worked out, that is, whether the buildings should be all foreign, all Chinese, all Chinese exteriors and foreign interiors, or a combination of pure Chinese buildings, Chinese exteriors with western interiors, and western types arranged harmoniously over a residence site lay-out. We have also needed to know, if the latter was a plan that seemed practicable, approximately what number of each style would be required, and a fairly close esti-

mate of the cost and accommodations of the different types drawn, set up in a clear schedule so that we could look at each plan with the total project in mind. I am sure that you will recognize that, without this, to a large degree our study of the individual plans would have been not as complete as it should be to be of actual conclusive value.

Your studies of the Chapel and Administration buildings have helped clearly to show us the issues involved in the problem of auditorium space. We have had no final discussion of the matter here yet, but are revolving in our minds the theory as to whether the Chapel should not be a smaller and distinctly religious building, and whether the general auditorium for other than religious purposes ought not to be housed in some one of the other buildings. But these matters are less pressing because the funds are still some distance in the future.

We have felt decidedly hampered in the conception of what to do for the Library by the gift that seems to make it necessary to put the library in a building by itself and that one of the smaller buildings, even though some of us feel that it will in time outgrow that space.

There has been some question in our minds as to whether it was not desirable to have buildings #10 not too greatly difference from building # 9 in its exterior, but until there is more indication that the funds will be in our hands in the near future the matter of the Library is not pressing.

I have been very much disturbed by the representation from President Stuart that you are under the impression that your plans have been submitted without your knowledge to Murphy, McGill and Hamlin for criticism, without opportunity for you to express your views or to support the conception which you have embodied in them. I am sure that I do not know from what source you have received such an impression for, with one small exception, I can say that none of your plans have ever been supplied by the Trustees to Murphy, McGill and Hamlin, or by anybody else for consideration. In fact none of them have ever been shown to Murphy, McGill and Hamlin except the one to which I referred above, in connection with the decision of the Woman's College faculty to reduce their academic buildings from seven to five. A sketch was sent on to us from China. It did not bear your initials or your trademark and I did not suppose it was a sketch by you, but simply an automatic condensation of the quadrangle by taking out two of the buildings on the longer sides. And it was necessary in order not to delay matters to secure some judgment on this quadrangle. Accordingly, at the direction of the Yenching College Committee, which has full control of the buildings and layout, I took this sketch to Mr. Hamlin with the request that he see whether there was anything in it that seriously disturbed the effectiveness of the general lay-out which they had prepared. The result you know. With this blueprint I took the small black and white print of a rough sketch of the lay-out of the first floor plan and perspective of the Woman's College dormitories that came with the blueprint. This I took simply in order to see that, in Mr. Hamlin's consideration of the academic quadrangle, the plans which were under consideration for

the dormitory group could be kept in mindin order that the relation between the two groups could be harmonious. But I did not submit this to them for criticism and brought it away with me after our conversation concerning the academic group. The only comment,so far as I recall, that was made at the time by Mr. Hamlin was the question as to whether it might not be best to set the dormitories so that they were not all in a row and eliminate the extreme regularity which is, I presume, inherent in any plan that follows the Chinese style.

I hope, therefore, that you will disabuse your mind of any mistaken impression that you may have had that we have been submitting your plans to the criticism of Murphy, McGill and Hamlin, or that we would have thought of submitting them to them without giving every opportunity for the points of view of the conception which you had put into the plans being fully considered and represented.

Of course, to the Woman's College buildings the Trustees have a somewhat different relation than they have to the other buildings. The control of those buildings is in the hands of the Yenching College Committee and the Trustees cannot hinder that Committee from having its plans done in any way in which they may desire, except to insist that the plans shall not be out of harmony with the rest of the University. The Yenching Committee is anxious that the development of the plans shall be harmonious and have expressed themselves definitely as feeling that the matters affecting the external appearance of the buildings in the lay-out should be passed upon by the firm which originally drew the lay-out. If the ladies insist, whatever the judgment of the Trustees might be, they cannot prevent the ladies from having the matter handled in the way they want it handled. So that it is entirely likely that the Yenching College Committee here will have the dormitory plans considered as to their general character by Murphy, McGill and Hamlin. You can be sure, however, that we will take every measure to see that the considerations which you present with reference to these plans are before the Yenching College Committee and are given due weight in any consideration of possible adjustments in the plans.

I trust that you will recognize and sympathize with the difficulties that arise from having a more or less independent group control the handling of a section of the plans.

I had a very pleasant conversation with your brother who came to see me a day or two ago and explained this entire matter to him and I think that he understands the difficulties involved in connection with the architectural features.

The Finance and Property Committee of the Trustees do not feel that at this time they are able to take a definite action. I think that you will readily recognize that,with the limited opportunity which the Trustees had at the time of your appointment to see the results of your work in America in actual construction, coupled with the fact that you had not faced the problems involved in the Chinese style and that they could not in advance know how successful you would be with those problems, they could not wisely commit the entire future of the planning of the University to you, and I think it might properly be questioned whether it was wise, in so large an undertaking, no matter where carried out, to commit the entire project to one architectural mind, no matter how skillful.

The Finance and Property Committee have also felt that the matter could not be well and satisfactorily considered without a larger opportunity for personal contact and it is our good fortune that Mr. Franklin H. Warner, who is vice-President of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Executive Committee, will be going to Peking this Spring and will have opportunity to get into closer personal touch with you upon problems and points of view. It has, therefore, seemed wise to the Committee to defer further action until Mr. Warner has had opportunity to go over the whole matter on the spot.

Meanwhile I hope that you will be assured that we are very deeply appreciative of the patience, devotion and skill with which you are dealing with the problems not only of architecture, but of finding out what the faculty desires and of carrying into the plans the judgment of the faculty and of the Trustees. We are engaged in a great co-operative task for the Kingdom of God and we all, I know, are most anxious that it should be finely and worthily successful. I know that in this ambition you are entirely with us.

Faithfully yours,

EMN
CMH

Second Copy
Letter from Henry E. Hill

Address reply to

Hai Tien

July 11, 1922

Trustees of Peking University
150 Fifth Avenue
New York

Gentlemen:

A letter from Secretary North to Mr. Gibb relative to building, planning and operations of the Peking University requested that further details in regard to the plans be sent, and I am complying with that request.

Just after signing my contract I went up to the every library of Columbia College, one of the best in the country, to see what they had on Chinese architecture. They had practically nothing. Then in Shanghai in the office of the Fuchow Construction Bureau I saw three large portfolios of the architecture of Peking published by the Imperial University of Tokio, Japan. During the Boxer trouble the Japanese went into the hitherto closed Forbidden City, and photographed and sketched right and left. These volumes, in a presumably limited edition, are the result. While the gelatine prints and drawings are not up to the standards of the best American work, it is by far the best thing on the subject I have seen.

At the present time the Chinese Government does not openly give permission to use cameras in the Forbidden City, but such photos are sometimes surreptitiously taken. Through the intercession of Mr. Gibb and the American Legation, I was given government permission to photograph as I pleased in the three great courts on February 13th, 14th and 15th between the hours of 9:30 and 11:30 A. M. Surely the place is interesting.

It was evident, early in my stay in China, that there are two general kinds of roofing; the not over burned concave and convex unglazed style of the ordinary residences, and the vari-colored glazed concave with about three-fourth cylindrical cover tile of the temples and palaces. Both kinds are set in mud. While I have seen much of the cheap kind, I have never seen any of the glazed set. While the color and permanency of the Forbidden City leaves little to be desired, over the city there are many, many cases where the glazing is scaling off or fading very badly. Like some of the Chinese dogs, it has the mange. In many places weeds grow out of the roof. I am informed that the tile in the Peking Union Medical College cost $.30 a piece. If tile are set in cement concrete they probably will not have vegetable growth.

The book, "Peking", a sociological survey, by Sydney D. Gamble, publisher, George H. Doran, New York City, contains much information. His observations as to the orientation of living rooms, dust storms, etc. is borne out by my limited experience. The typical Chinese houses do favor the South and East exposure. Some small openings are put in to get a cross draft in the very hot days, but to a very limited degree.

In the absence of any communication from the trustees I assumed that we were to talk matters over here and do our best. In the laying out of the dormitories of the Women's College our aim was to get as much South and East exposure and as much privacy as possible. It is the intention to raise the ground adjacent to the buildings, so that the girls can look over the wall into the athletic field, but not vice versa. Again in order not to have service people meet the girls, the service roads are somewhat sunken, while the paths are bridged over by camel-back Chinese bridges. Whether it is best to surround the whole group of dormitories with a wall and have a gatekeeper in order to keep men away, or whether such a wall is unnecessary, is an open question with me.

Early in my stay in Peking I noted that, with the exception of a few small corner pavilions on the walls, roof valleys are very little used. Roofs do die out against vertical walls of higher stories, however, in a limited way.

Partly on account of the expense of large tile, but, as I understand more particularly to not make the mass of the dormitories compete in importance with the academic women's buildings, both Mr. Gibb and the women's faculty thought the women's dormitories should be roofed with the typical unglazed local tile. While there is a variety in pitch used with this kind of tile, the pitch generally used is decidedly lower than with the round tile (See my snaps 2051, 2051-2, 2136, 2134, 2119, 2173, 2064, 2203.

There are numerous examples of two story columns with a decorated apron at the intermediate floor level, see Lama Temple or Imperial City, vol. 2 - 108. The balcony shown on the athletic field side has no precedent that I know of. It may have to be restudied. In the temple or palace style of building they seem to use a clumsy sort of casement window. My windows are not detailed so heavily, but particular care was taken to have them dust and weather tight as far as possible. In the cornice and in general we tried to have as little wood work exposed as practicable. In order to give more dignity to the unit we have made the ceiling height of the dining rooms such as to equal the bed room wings. In general we believe the type of dormitory we have chosen is more livable and quite as economical on account of its small spans, as one opening off both sides of an East and West corridor.

We note your suggestion that the drawings brought to New York by Dr. Stuart were perhaps wooden and unpleasing. We would say that the question as to the number and position of the academic buildings of the Women's College did not originate with the Construction Bureau. The plans brought by Dr. Stuart were drawn up at the time when he was suddenly preparing to leave for America, and after only one or two hurried consultations with the Women's College committee. Since the receipt of your cablegram received June 6th, we have re-studied this problem as much as we can understand the cable in accord with your ideas; and our reasons for coming to the results which are laid out in the plans dated June 14th and which Mr. Gibb mentioned in his letter of June 20th, were about as follows:

We kept the athletic field about as originally drawn. As far as possible it seemed desirable to make the walks from the athletic field go straight into the academic group or gently curve. When there are sharp offsets in parths it almost always results in cutting across corners, unless they are protected by plantings or barriers. The circular roadway in front

of the Administration building and Club House was put in so that a one-way automobile road would not necessitate a wide paved turning space in front of these buildings. The North and South paths from the athletic field indicate a width for the court from East to West. Then in order not to make the radius of the auto approach too small for good speed, the area between the academic buildings was made square. In order to balance the grounds the foot path East of the Sage Memorial buildings was also made circular. Plantings in these circles was left for further consideration. It seems to me particularly desirable to screen the sunken road approaches to the dormitories from the North as much as possible by plantings, and curve them so that the refuse cart men will not have to meet the main roadways near the academic buildings.

I have tried not to be critical of the buildings already drawn by Murphy, McGill and Hamlin. I have, however, made a suggestion as to a change in two of them. It has the approval of the Grounds and Building Committee, and when it has passed the Women's Faculty Committee will come to the Trustees for final action before any changes are made here. It has been the general opinion of Mr. Gibb and the Women's Faculty Committee that that exterior of the Administration Building should be an exact duplicate of the Faculty Club House. In designing the latter Murphy, McGill and Hamlin have indicated blank walls at either side of the central openings on the East and West elevations. We here entirely agree that Chinese buildings never have these blank walls except at the corners where they are apparently needed for strength. After the corner bays all the other bays across the front of the buildings are made with window openings. To have copied this error into the Administration Building would have made parts of that building very difficult to light, while it can be very readily corrected in the Faculty Club House without any detriment to the layout of that building. In fact, to add additional windows in Study 1 and 3, and possibly in the Dining and Living rooms of the Faculty Club House, would be decidedly advantageous. The amount of re-casting of the design of the Chinese ceiling of the Social Hall will not be serious.

Just before Dr. Stuart left for America I made a sketch of the Library Building which you have seen. We felt that because the Dormitory rooms assumed for the boys' Dormitory were so small, and also because of the few books owned by Chinese students, a large part of the preparation done by students would be done in the reading rooms of the Library. Therefore the number of readers' seats was perhaps greater than would be given in libraries in an American institution. We have provided in the neighborhood of one reader's seat for every six students in the University. The book stack shown would accommodate about 200,000 volumes. The place assigned to stacks is in the darker portion of the building. It is probable that the special library on the southeast corner of the ground floor had better be preserved for Junior students of the Junior College and have an outside entrance.

The space assigned to catalogs will for the ultimate building be far too small, but this space can ultimately be given to the index cards and a space in the basement be assigned for indexing. We quite appreciate that this building is larger than will be needed for sometime to come, but we expect that the major part of the basement can be used for administrative offices, and perhaps one whole end of the main reading room can be divided by temporary partitions and used for class rooms or other purposes. As this is to be we understand a memorial building, we here feel it should be designed on such a scale that it will not need to be superceded because of having been originally designed too small.

In the Forbidden City (see my snap 2134) there are a series of terraced platforms with white marble railings (2108). One can imagine the barbaric splendor and commotion of an old time gala day in this court. Friends here tell about the Armistice celebration in 1918 when the new Republic's officials, the various foreign members, ten thousand Chinese troops, in addition to various Legation guards, paraded here.

With a climate like Peking's during the last part of the academic year, there will be times when there are open air musicals, oratorical contest, plays or lectures out of doors. The steps shown on my design might be used to seat such an audience. Now I do not think the Trustees will care to spend the money to have carved white marble balustrades for all the terraces, so I put plain walls in the lower offsets. Plants can ordinarily be grown in the terrace or in tubs, which can form somewhat of a screen to the toilets inside the terrace. I do hope that on the upper terraces you will have the typical carved white marble railings (see 2108). Time was such that I could not make a perspective before Dr. Stuart's departure. The fugitive colored, pencil drawing had to do instead.

Now in explaination of the Chapel-auditorium design sent you:- Several years ago Mrs. Phoebe Hurst paid for a spectacular, widely heralded international architectural competition for a group of buildings for the University of California at Berkley. The winning drawings were published in pamphlet form. A former M. I. T. student friend, Mr. John Galen Howard, was the author of one such design. There was a dignity to his domed auditorium which charmed me. It was in Roman style. I felt that whatever building we had ought to have considerable height in order to dominate the University group, and also to be equally pleasing from all sides.

For an exterior of a Chapel and auditorium building for the Peking University the octagonal building high on the side hill of the New Summer Palace gives a suggestion. On top of the pointed Chinese building such as the Temple of Heaven and Summer Palace there is a large, round bit of earthen ware, a finial. In the United States of America no flag flies about the stars and stripes but the flag of the cross during divine service. Why not put a cross on top of the Chinese finial?

At first I was inclined to use a greater number of roof aprons, if you will allow me the term, but further study seemed to make many undesireable. The exterior could not be studied as I wished, because th we felt something must reach the Trustees while Dr. Stuart was there to talk the matter over, so the drawing sent on is really the first one in anyway complete.

In order to save cubage the lower story height was cut down. The second story should, therefore, also have been cut down. As a Chinese builder has said, "It is too long in the waist." Arched windows in the inside are necessary to fit in with the dome. Outside Mr. Gibb did not like a round arch and I agreed with him, so we put in for the outside the part of an octagon shape instead. The slight difference between the octagon and circle can be hidden by the cusps so characteristic in Chinese arched openings. (See Imperial City plate 156) Near the entrance of the Pei Hai there are a number of glazed terracotta screens. They have rectangular fields with corners of a conventional foliage in the corners. I think these screens will give us all the cue we need

for study, and a Chinese effect. To have filled the large windows with strictly rectangular sash bars and mullions would have been un-Chinese. In the Imperial dais screen in the Chen-Ching Hall, Imperial palaces (plates 67 and 68, Vol 2.) is a form which was taken as the basis of what we used.

Mr. Howard had put in circular stairways near the outside of his design to go to his galleries. They seemed to me to interfere with the light which we ought to get from the sides, especially under the gallery made necessary to get the three thousand capacity for which we set out. A set of drawings published in the Architectural Forum for an auditorium in an Indianapolis, Ind. techincal school group by architect Van B.McConigle, gave me an idea of having radiating stairways or ramps at the corners of the octagon under the roof. They also furnish a stiff and uniform lot of buttresses for a dome shell. To be sure a dome now a days of reinforced concrete or Guastavino tile has very little thrust: nevertheless,the wind stiffening is a good thing in my estimation. With these radiating exits we can get good light wherever wanted.

When a mass of people come out of an auditorium after a meeting they can see but little of the stairs they traverse. Hence when low pitched inclined planes can be used, and we can get such and covered with rubber or cork matting, they are very much to be preferred to steps. The exits of the Kansas City Convention Hall are thus arranged.

Our domed shell can either be made from reinforced concrete or the Guastavino tile system economically, and still give supports for our octagonal outside. The ancient Romans used to use brick or brick and concrete for their domes. They put in sinkages or coffers as a basis, not only for ornament, but to save very materially in weight and expense. (See Despoys"Fragments of Architecture".) In visiting temples here in China, the flat ceilings are almost always paneled with square sunk panels, having a plentiful amount of color decoration. (See Kodak snap 2126 and 2125.) Now there is no reason to believe that the nearest approach to squares on a spherical surface, uniformly varied, would have been offensive to an old time Chinese architect, but I do not know of any such Chinese precedent.

The use of rolled steel cantilever girders are too common in columnless theater girders to need remark. As to the ceiling decoration under the gallery, not much thought was given to it.

A query has been raised about the accoustical results in such a domed room. I am not versed in accoustics. It is a specialty by itself. The late Professor Sabin of Harvard set in order experiments in accoustics which show that most rooms,originally poor accoustically, can be decidedly helped and rendered at least partly good by putting in sound absorbing surfaces in some parts, or sound reflectors in others. There are experts in this branch of work which can be relied upon.

Question has been raised by Dr. North as to the number of seats desirable for the Chapelauauditorium. In notes by Murphy, McGill and Hamlin in discussing the layout, Mr. Gibb told me that three thousand had been the number agreed on. Hence in absence of any instructions to the contrary that was the number provided for. The number of toilets has been called excessive. Possibly with good judgment it will be easy to leave some of them out. I hope that a colored glazed tile will be used on this building.

Plans for a Biology and Physics building and also a Chemistry and Geology, to fit the exterior of the Recitation building have been prepared. At various times professors from various institutions have looked over the plans and given suggestions and desires in the layout. Quite likely there will be further changes before the matter comes to the working drawings. There is no disposition I am sure by the Construction Bureau to use up the prerogatives of the Trustees as to the final plan, but it is desired to have the best possible arrangements before submitting the plan to the Trustees for their approval. I am not a scientist and cannot give any expert advice on these plans.

To design a building and have but little idea of its surroundings, orientation, views and neighborhood surroundings is not likely to prove successful. Therefore, to begin plans for a faculty residence I had to make certain assumptions. If the Trustees had only given me any ideas of their desires, we would have given careful attention to their wishes. But not a word from them until Dr. North's letter has been received, or any inkling of what was desired. From an indirect source I learn that the sketches were somewhat publicly on exhibit in the office of Dr. Luce. Now residence drawings were sent on and in all probability reached New York City in February. An ordinary letter from New York reaches me in from thirty to thirty-five days. Certainly if the sketches sent on were all wrong in point of view, there has been abundant time to have so stated. Again and again I have asked if any criticisms had been received. None had come Thursday when the 10th and last sketch had been mailed.

At numerous times the professors and their wives have been asked to criticise the plans and elevations, but not much has been said. In assuming sizes of houses, manifestly some members of the faculty and executors will have to have automobiles. It would be as extravagant not to provide garages for some as it would be to put in garages for the majority. Professors' salaries for many years to come will doubtless be such as to render luxuries not to be coveted. Peking University Professors are entitled to live with somewhat the comforts of the homeland, not only on their own account, but on account of its effect upon the Chinese people.

Anyone who has watched the servants obtainable here in China and the wages paid them, and their lack of versatility, cannot blame the Americans or English with keeping a greater number of servants than [illegible] in the homeland. A cook, a butler, and a gardener can be obtained for $9.00, $9.00 and $8.00(Chinese dollars)respectively per month, and they furnish and prepare their food out of that--less than the wages of a second girl in most parts of America in addition to her food. One person in looking over the plans criticised our having the doors to men and women's bed rooms so close together; but others of wide experience say that owing to the fact that the women servants are almost always elderly women, there is no trouble. Probably in some the amah has her meals served in her own room, while in others the servants will all eat in the kitchen. A servants' hall is not favored. It has been borne in upon me that Chinese food is often so oderous that it is extremely important to have the kitchen door so placed that all food has to pass out of doors in its journey to the dining room table. So I have in most cases you will notice placed such a runway under cover of a porch or loggia. According to American standards the closets in the kitchen have been a little under what would have been thought desirable in America, but they have not been deemed too small for China.

The average bedroom and dining room shown on plans will probably not be deemed excessive, on the contrary, they are apt to be undersized. Especially is this true when the salaries are such that prolonged vacation sojourning away from home is not the rule. Story heights are taken as low as probably is desirable, on account of heating in the winter months. At the same time attention was paid to try and have as many family rooms as possible open to the South and East. Window openings are taken pretty close up to the ceilings for summer ventilation. Please notice that second story halls are as small and simple in outline as possible to accommodate furniture. Sometimes it is desired to have the amah look after small children in the evenings when parents are out. Hence in the second story there is either a passage with two dowrs between the service portion and the family part of the house, or a passageway over a porch roof, so the amah can easily get to the children. Even among scholarly, cultured people there is quite a wide variation in the size of libraries, hence note the variety on our plans.

I did not realize until I came to sojourn on the Peking University site what a small distance it is down to water below the probable level of the first floor. Heating from a central heating plant may not be possible. Otherwise heating basements must be kept above ground water levels. In days gone by there must have been a considerable number of palaces in this vicinity, in the palmy days of the Empire. For their landscape effects they evidently had made use of considerable bodies of water.

Frequently before beginning a native house in Peking they will dig down through the debris of former ages to a layer of clean clay to get clay for their brick mortar. A footing trench for a common one-story house is dug down two or three feet below the surface, and on to this is put a layer of rather dusty earth mixed with a pulverized or air slacked lime. This layer is tamped into place by wooden tamps. Then water is dashed on it. For the common house a lot of old brick bats, the result of ages, are hauled to the site. These bats, begin upon the tamped footings with mud joints say ½" to ¾" thick, when above the finished grade a couple of feet. Cut stone of column bases for the posts of a wooden skeleton are set into place. These skeleton posts are built into brick bat and mud walls about 15" thick. Above the grade, say three feet or so at the corners, and say every eight feet apart, about two feet wide between, the walls, are faced with a soft burned, dove colored brick. About 6½"x 10½" x 2" bricks are used, with a scoring on the flat size. Bricks are cut at the scoring into halves, say about four halves to a whole one for the facing. The field of the brick above the base(See Snaps 2204 and 2173) is plastered with a fat lime hemp fiber and graphite obtained from the Western Hills. Sometimes a hydraulic cement spatter coat is put on for a finish. It is needless to say that many of such walls get tired and lay down. I never called to mind the scriptural wording " a bowing wall and a tottering fence" quite so much as here in China.

Common Chinese house floors are not much over two feet above the court or finished grade levels. They are paved with 8" x 8" to 10" x 10" square brick. (See 2090, 2080, 2145.) The skeleton posts for one story houses are about 8" or over in diameter. Unlike American or European construction they use no base or capital to their construction. In one story houses the column runs up to a cross beam. Longitudinally the post has at least two beams tenonned into it, the upper one to receive the rafters, the lower to act as a wind or lateral stiffener. The space between the columns, leaving about one quarter of the column circumference outside exposed, is filled in with bat, mud work with face brick finish and a wooden window sill.

ot infrequently the South and West sides have a second column about three or four feet back, as in 2087, and the two columns joined are joined by a horizontal beam tenonned through each. It is this proportion of logs of wood in their skeletons which lends itself particularly to reinforced concrete construction in a modern sense. This double beam is what makes the Chinese house. The lower beam in the palaces (see 2123) has a curved bracket under it. The common houses may or may not have this bracket. Notice in my snap 2123 they have a lot of cobhouse work under the cornice.

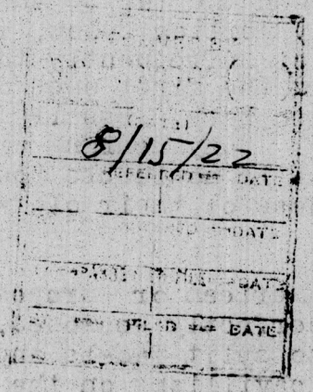
Now where you let the ceiling follow the roof as in most small one-story houses, there is not much extravagance in Chinese design turned to American uses--but where a two story house is used, either the ceiling of the second story must be excessively high, or the windows which must come below the lowest beam are impracticably low. Or if a level ceiling is used so the lowest beam comes about right for inside windows, then there is a great deal of extravagant and dark space, useless because dormers are not used to light Chinese roofs. This is in my mind one of the biggest arguments against the use of a two storied house--American in interior, but Chinese in exterior design with a balcony, two stories high as in the Lama Temple, Peking, or Imperial palaces (plate 133 V. 2.) I understand that Dr. Hopkins of the Methodist Hospital, Peking, says that for foreigners, bed rooms on the second story are noticably the most healthful.

For a general idea of the timber skeleton of a Chinese house see my snaps 2154, 2208 and 2210. For the roofs, rafters are put on in lengths from purlin to purlin. Upon these rafters is put a straw-matting (see snap 2175). Upon this straw-matting they put a horizontal reed mat about 1" diameter. Upon these reed mats they put a layer of mud and straw (see snap 2163) and upon this mud they put the common unglazed, conical segment tile alternately concave and convex rows up the roof. The sides of the ridges between the concave and convex tile up the roof have a sort of mud, fat lime putty and graphite mixture that is somewhat waterproof--at best is not very durable. (See snap 2177.)

The P. U. M. C. has slate roofs for their residence compounds. Slate is obtained in the Western Hills and make good roofs at a price less than what corrugated sheet iron will cost out here. As to the healthfulness and lightness of slate and tile roofs there can be no comparison.

In the office where we worked last winter we had paper south windows. I was most agreeably surprised, both as to the warmth and the mellow light for drafting. For the common houses they usually have a transom or meeting sash edge about halfway between the top of the window and the bottom; they they have a glass stationary portion below; while the upper is hinged at the top to swing out. Not unfrequently they have a second paper sash to put in front of or behind the first ones above mentioned. There is a great variety in the sash bars. Usually they leave a shortest span not over 5" made of paper. Many designs are fascinating (see snaps 2085, 2138, 2123, 2145.) It is noticable that the Chinese are breaking away from the picturesqueness of their old windows and getting larger glass portions.

I have noticed paneled doors in the American or European designed houses. It must be hard to get lumber perfectly seasoned, but the great extremes in humidity has a tendency to split panels and to make them shrink out of their grooves. In the pavillions on the walls, and in the Forbidden City, all woodwork is covered with a sort of fiber, paint, lacquer and varnish surface which keeps the wood free from


8/15/22
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humidity variations and, therefore, satisfactory. So far I have not studied out just what would be the most desirable detail for doors.

We will try and make some exteriors for practically the same plans as already sent you, in order that you can compare them.

I have tried to state conditions that confront us sanely, and tried with all concerned to get the very best possible results, all things duly considered.

Sincerely yours,

H/M

Henry E. Hill

燕京大學

PEKING UNIVERSITY
(YENCHING TA HSUEH)
PEKING, CHINA

CONSTRUCTION BUREAU
Hai Tien

August 30, 1922

Dr. Eric M. North
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Dr. North:

Before Dr. Stuart left for America tentative plans (P.U.C.B.s No. 11) for a Library building were prepared. Since this building was found to be too large, and as a different location (No. 10) was selected, blue prints No.1&2of Job 10, Sheets, 1 - 7 inclusive and water color 8w are herewith submitted for your inspection.

We assumed the size of the building to be the same as the measurements of the School of Religion (Job 9). These measurements were made on the outside of the first story lines and from the finished grade to the top of the lowest or starter tile of the corresponding building. Since a base of a few feet is used in buildings in the Forbidden City (see photographs of the Palaces of Peking, plates 30, 130, 132), I took a height of 4'4" from the finished grade to the finished floor of the upper one of the two stack rooms.

In order to have as much of the Chinese character as possible in the buildings, a height greater than is commonly used in America was taken from the apparent window-sill to the apparent floor. (See photographs of the Palace buildings of Peking, plate 64 and 30.) The level of the reading room floor was taken slightly below the apparent Chinese window-sill. As noted in a previous letter, the Chinese buildings have almost always at least two horizontal beams, one of\ top the skeleton posts and one or more below. (See photos of Palace buildings of Peking No. 55 and 56.) Usually the space between the two beams is not enough to allow for a story height of windows of any size, but the precedent set by photo of P. B. P. plate No. 98 of the Imperial City with its pierced and carved screen seemed to make a balcony story, Chinese architecturally possible in the height of building at our disposal. Note that in this example there is not any of this corbled cobhouse sort of ornament under the eaves.

The problem was to light the balcony sufficiently. We believe the windows shown will not be so far under the roof but that a fair amount of light can be obtained on a moderately bright day. The balcony floor (we assume the whole is to be of modern fireproof concrete construction) is taken as low down on the lower horizontal beam as is practicable. (See P. U. Construction Bureau Job 10, Sheet 7) The main library story windows are taken from as near the floor to the ceiling as is practicable.

In laying out the elevation the length of the long side was assumed to be divided into 31 spaces. Each space is equal to the

width of one sash from center to center, and the space across back of the pilasters is taken as the same. If no flat wall had been used at the ends, but columns similar to the rest, there would have been columns with respectively two, three, four, five, four, three, and two sash between. In order that the windows, which are to swing vertically, may be dust and water tight, we recommend a spring weather strip similar to that shown in Sweets' catalog in 14th Annual Edition, pp. 968, and 975, or one of the numerous other makes accomplishing the same result.

Nearly all Chinese temple windows have a wooden screening which cuts off quite a portion of the light. We propose to conform to some of the beautiful lines in Chinese precedents, but intend to make the window screens of metal in such a way as to have as large an area for light as possible. The upper or balcony sash should be set not too far back from the mullion faces in order that the shadows cast by reflected light be not too pronounced. The glass in these balcony sashes should be metal set; while a Chinese pattern can be used, the glass had better in the main be very translucent and the colors quite pale and even then sparingly used. The gable ends are to have metal set glass, so as to light down into the reading table space. (See photos P. B. P. plate 45)

We have assumed a stack room height of 8' - 0" from floor to floor as the minimum we can get along with. While this makes the apparent window sill on the exterior a little higher than we would like for appearance, we believe it will not be offensively high. On the New Summer Palace, Buddah's Hall building in the P. B. P., Tokio, Japan, 1906, see plate 98. A greenish hexagonal glazed tile is used, and such is a common practice in other buildings.

How shall we light our stack rooms and not pierce the bases? The hexagonal tile can have occasional wire glass set in movable frames, or the whole can be of unpolished wire glass. This may solve the light for the upper stack room.

Where the unpacking room is located in the height of the two stack rooms, a special treatment like the central south bay can be substituted in order to give light and air for this work room. If in future years the library grows so as to necessitate more stack room, the area at first used can have stacks inserted instead. To light the lower stack room, the windows of the west front are recessed, as is so common in both domestic and palace architectural use, thereby giving a greater step area. In this step area over the spaces between the book stacks can be put heavy wire glass set in tight fitting metal frames. The panes can be hinged so as to allow for ventilation.

The sidewalk lights set into cement could be used; but the great amount of leakage and repairs occasioned by such glass renders their use inadvisable. While the glass on the north will not have so wide an area, it is believed that they will be practicable.

The men's toilet we have placed off of the entrance vestibule. In order that sufficient head room to the toilet can be gained, the floor of this toilet will have to be sunk below the level of the upper stack room floor. For the librarian a coat room and toilet with special stair is put over the cataloger's room. To utilize the same soil pipe, a women readers' toilet is placed in the balcony, also over the cataloger's room.

In a climate such as Peking where the great extremes of humidity and dust are met with, each a special enemy of books, more than usual care must be exercised to have a dustless, dry air at all seasons of the year. Therefore, below the men's toilet we have planned for a fan room with air washing and drying features, to say nothing of providing an atmostphere refreshing for readers. We assume that outside heating steam and electric power will be available for a fan in the room below the men's toilet to blow air over steam coils by means of pipe to various points of delivery. We have placed a space under the roof over the panelled ceiling to collect the foul air from the various rooms, and there to be forced out of the building by another electric fan. During the night in the cold weather, or in excessively humid weather, the same dry and warm air can be circulated over and over through the rooms. This arrangement of ventilation is not studied out completely. We have assumed only that back of the end bays there will be sufficient vertical shaft space from which to lead flat ducts just under the ceilings. The supply pipes from the fan room will lead underground to these shafts.

From the findings in the School of Religions building the ground water level will be about 8' or 9' below the first or main floor. The first or main floor is about 3' from the finished grade. Then if we assume the same finished grade level at the library as at the School of Religion building our lower stack room floor will be from 1' to 2' above the ground water level. Special concrete and asphalt paper damp proofing, and a cellular space under the stack room floor for a circulation of air, and special fan room and air duct or earth construction will be necessary. While this will require considerable care in construction, there is nothing especially difficult or expensive about it. The outside walls of both stack rooms will have to have an air space of at least 3" all around it. While this height of ground water will occur in summer, it is our opinion that such water level will last only a short time during the summer wet season.

In our layout we have assumed that the east light will be agreeable for the librarians to work by, and that the position opposite the door is the logical place for the control desk and delivery of books. At one side immediately adjoining will be the librarians private room, with special toilet and safe; and the card index at the other side, that it can readily be referred to by the librarians. Leading from the lowest floor to the east balcony will be a book elevator for the use of the librarians, as well as stairways each side. On account of the position of the balcony, women readers' toilet, the alcoves to the left of the main entrance and the reading tables are marked for the use of women readers only. While this is not necessary, it is offered as a suggestion.

We have counted what we believe will be the maximum of readers' seats, and have noted same on drawings. On the south in the upper stack room there will be a space that can be well lit for three tables for some special investigators to work in comparative quiet. The only drawback is that the story height is a little low for this purpose.

This building is expected to have a structural frame of reinforced concrete so designed as to take all wind and vertical loads. The soil will doubtless be dryer than the School of Religion on account of being further away from the long used paddy fields, but concrete

pile foundations may still be required. The outside of weather screen wall beams and columns will be plastered above the granite base. Upon this will be put the paint and color composition as a basis for the Chinese architectural decoration, as mentioned by "Decoration of Palace Buildings of Peking", Tokyo, Japan, 1906, text, page 18, "Every building in the Forbidden City is painted with such exuberant and varied colors that they may be called 'polychromatic buildings'." Only the merest hint of color is attempted on our sketch. A substancial interior finish is contemplated with plenty of color in the flat ceiling. (See photo of Imperial Palaces of Peking, plate 47)

On the respective plans we have written the number of feet of shelving. In our calculations we have used the number of books per foot and the average number of shelves used in the Congressional Library in Washington, D. C. (See Kidder's Pocket Book, 16th edition, 1916, page 1617). What the special requirements may develop for Peking University is hard to say, but we assume that the tendancy is more and more to have Chinese books bound similarly to Occidental books.

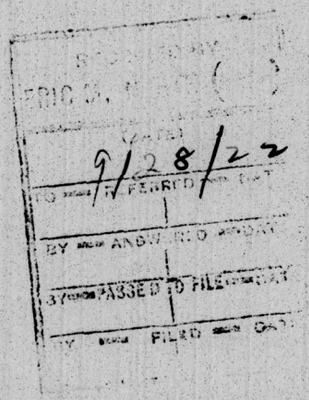
We assume that metal shelving of designs manufactured in America is the best, as it is compact and probably the most economical we can use.

The turtle monuments probably can be sacured second hand more cheaply than we can cut them, and by a little trimming can be made entirely satisfactory for our purpose.

Yours very sincerely,

H/M

Henry E. Hill



燕京大學

PEKING UNIVERSITY
(YENCHING TA HSUEH)
PEKING, CHINA

CONSTRUCTION BUREAU

47 Yang Jou Hutung
February 26, 1923

Dr.Eric M. North
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Dr. North:

Your letter dated January 8th and mailed January 13th reached me on February 23rd. I will not wait seven months and a half before replying, but I feel that I cannot give a suitable answer at this time as I hardly know what to say.

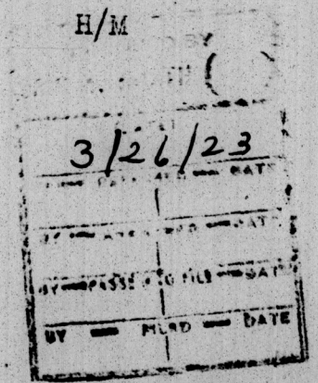
Your letter seems to imply that I am asking for a new contract and asking a favor of the Trustees. Instead of that I am simply asking a reasonable compliance with the contract already signed, instead of a shameless evasion, taking into consideration the conversation before witnesses before that contract was signed.

I have not been working today and will defer further answer to your letter until some future time.
Feb 27. Thope by the aid of some new spectacles to go to work tomorrow.

Yours truly,

Henry E. Hill

H/M



P

April 6, 1923.

Mr. Henry E. Hill,
Peking University,
Peking, China.

My dear Mr. Hill:

We were indeed very sorry to hear the other day that your personal effects and belongings had all been burned up in the fire which destroyed Mr. Candlin's house. Such a fire as that causes not only the destruction of ones goods but means the loss of a great many things which have a sentimental value as well.

The Trustees all deeply sympathize with you in your loss, and I am quoting herewith the action taken at a meeting of the Finance Committee held the day on which Mr. Gibb's letter announcing your loss was received:

> VOTED to express our sympathy and regret for Mr. Hill in his loss, and to authorize the Grounds and Buildings Committee to take whatever steps are necessary to meet Mr. Hill's immediate needs, it being understood that the Trustees will consider any recommendation which the Grounds and Buildings Committee has to make with regard to any further adjustment.

Of course there are a good many things that cannot be replaced, but the Trustees are anxious to do the fair thing in helping you to meet the situation. I have already communicated this action to Mr. Gibb.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Secretary,
Peking University.

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITIES
AUG 1923
POST OFFICE

Peking University Site
near Hai Tien Post Office
China, July 6, 1923.

To The Trustees of Peking University, New York.
President J. L. Stewart, Peking, China
and Mr. J. McG. Gibb, Hai Tien.

On account of differences of opinion regarding building construction and what is architectural practice. I herewith terminate my connection with Your University.

Henry E. Hill

1 pencil original
and 3 carbon copies.

September 14, 1923.

Memo for Mr. L. B. Moss:

Mr. Hill, the Peking architect, was in the Peking office today, and is very anxious to present to us a memorandum concerning very serious defects in the concrete work. He has asked a number of concrete engineers the questions he has in mind, and they have all said that he was right. You will remember that this dispute was one of the grounds for his leaving Peking.

He desires that some time six or seven days from date we will give opportunity for him to present the memorandum in the presence of some competent concrete engineer. In order that we may hear what Mr. Hill has to say in the judgment of an impartial engineer, he desires to be present himself; and whether he will send us the memorandum in advance or not I do not feel certain.

He can be reached by telephone by calling his brother, Hollis 6210-R. He looks to me tired and nervous. If you can land Ed. Black and someone whom he might suggest that would be very good.

E. M. NORTH

New York City,
September 19, 1923.

Trustees of Peking University,

150 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Gentlemen:

I left China with keen regret, and only because I considered that the construction used in the University buildings is unsafe, and that the defects to which I had objected were not remedied, and would continue. My reasons for calling the work unsafe are briefly as follows:-

1. Satisfavoty buildings cannot be constructed where plans are indefinite, and where numerous full-size details are neither followed nor made. To get good buildings, there must be a competent Superintendent, who will mercilessly insist upon good work. In my judgment no native contractor I saw in Peking is competent to pass upon building details.

2. Toward the end of my stay in Peking, faulty construction and failure to carry out drawings became more and more evident.

3. When concrete piles are driven, it is reasonable to suppose they are started vertically. When, after driving, there is a noticeable incline from the vertical, there must have been a rupture below ground. When the top of a driven pile is but a mass of naked and tangled metal, the pile was not properly reinforced, or not properly driven.

4. In reinforced beam-and-slab construction, the concrete is figured as monolithic. In the University buildings, the joist, or beam, has been cast first, and left to harden before the slab is cast. Such work is either

dangerous, or it wastes material. Where beam and slab are cast separately, top reinforcement and vertical stirrups will not take up the horizontal shear that would have been resisted by monolithic construction only. No one has claimed that in the University buildings the beam or joist alone is sufficiently strong to carry its required load.

5. When rods are used in concrete beams, they should be of sufficient size and number to take up all the compression. Where the rods take up but a part of the compression, there is a tendency for them to kink and split the concrete.

6. When rods are put in to strengthen a column, special provision should be made at the ends of the rods to take up their loads; otherwise they will be dangerous.

7. Floorslabs sufficiently strong to take up the desired loads may be objectionable because of transmission of sound. Hence a joist system, with a plastered ceiling, is often necessary.

8. A scissor truss is likely to fail because of the splitting of its wooden tiebeam at the point of truss support. Where the bolts at the end of the tiebeam are subject to bending in addition to shear, the danger of splitting is increased.

9. When portions of a truss vertically over its supporting wall are encased in brick or concrete, it is likely to cause dry rot.

10. Individual footings should be used under piers in preference to a continuous footing, especially where the loads vary. This refers particularly to the Woman's Dormitory.

11. Wherever structural concrete rests on wooden beams, the shrinkage of the wood tends to crack the concrete. The danger from fire is also increased. Note the hip-rafter construction in the Woman's College Administration Building.

12. .The rafters in the School of Religions Building are insecure, because vertically butted over round wooden purlins and insecurely fastened.

13. The roof-tiles so far used are bound to leak in a few months.

14. Brick showing more than a ten per cent difference between their dry and their saturated weights are objectionable on account of strength, durability and health. The bricks used show more than a twenty percent difference in weight. In native buildings in China, deterioration is commonly noticeable at about three feet above ground.

On all the above counts, the work done on the University buildings is decidedly objectionable. There has been an absence of team-work.

Failure to order an immediate investigation and the necessary changes in the construction used will cause property damage and probably loss of life.

Respectfully submitted.

Henry E. Hill, Architect.

C O P Y

P

October 26, 1923.

Mr. Henry E. Hill,
802 Finance Building,
Kansas City, Mo.

My dear Mr. Hill:

After very many trials we were finally able to secure a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Peking University Trustees yesterday afternoon. When I called up your brother's home on Monday morning to apprize you of the fact he stated that you had been unable to remain in the city any longer, and had returned to Kansas City after two weeks here. It is most unfortunate that on account of the illness of some of the members of the committee and the absence from the city of others we were unable to secure an earlier meeting at which it would have been possible for you to be present. Your brother seemed to feel that we had hardly acted in good faith with you, but I can assure you that there is nothing of this sort, because there has been no opportunity to get the committee together. We indicated to you some time ago that we desired to have from you a written statement of the criticisms that you had to make with regard to the work in Peking. I understood from Dr. North that you desired to present these criticisms in the presence of an engineer before the trustees' committee. When I took up the question of securing an engineer the first question that they raised was as to whether the difficulties were of a structural character or whether the criticisms were on the design. They advised that we secure the written statement from you and then that matter would be made clear. We were unable to enlighten them on that point, and it made a difference as to what engineer should be secured. At the meeting yesterday afternoon the committee requested me to communicate with you, and indicate that they are still ready to receive your written statement if you are prepared to make it. I trust this statement may be forthcoming, so that we may have it for consideration at an early date.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary, Peking University

Southland Hotel
3517 Main Street. Kansas City, Mo., Oct 30, 23

Mr. Leslie B. Moss,
Executive Secretary,
China Union Universities,
150 Fifth Ave, New York City.

My dear Mr. Moss:— Your letter of Oct 26 came to me yesterday morning. As I remember it my train got to New York City Thursday ~~Oct~~ Sept 13 and the next day my brother and I called at Dr. Shelli's office Not finding him in we went a cross the hall to Dr. Luces office. My errand being briefly stated, Dr. Eric Luce soon responded to a telephone call in person. Dr. North wanted to have a statement in writing left with him. This was refused but I requested that some of the trustees be present with a reinforced concrete engineer of unquestioned ability, at which time we could go over the question of the building construction of Peking University. This request was asked inside of four days or a week. It was my understanding when we left Dr. North that such a conference would be held and he would telephone me in care of my brother 10106 Lynn Ave Queens as to the hour. About Sept 25 having heard nothing from Dr. North I called again at Dr. Luces office. The Doctor was out of the city. Mr. Baskey was handed a letter prepared meanwhile and again a request for a meeting in the presence of an expert. I refused to leave the letter with Mr. Baskey. Under date of Sept 27 Mr. Baskey replied asking me to re write the letter of Sept 19. I enclose a copy just as it was first written. In the

conversation with Mr. Caskey I did invite the verification of my statements If he thought there was any doubt in my mind about the facts he was very much mistaken. Mr. Caskeys letter was not replied to Dr. Shell wrote me a note saying that from Dr. Luce he had found out the cause of my call. As he and I anticipated a reply to my request to Dr. North I did not meet him. The least Dr. North could have done under the circumstances would have been to write me a note if the requested interview with an expert could not be arranged speedily. Sept 29th my letter of Sept 19th to the Trustees, with an additional note urging speed, was sent to Dr. Shell. Tuesday Oct 2nd there being no prospect of an interview I left New York for Kansas City. Two or three trustees and a expert could have set in motion all that I wanted. My resignation having been accepted by the committee Mr. Gibb, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Johnson, and Dr. Davis in Peking before my departure, I can see no reason why I should blindly have waited longer in New York.

Before going to New York I went to see Mr. L. R. Ash of the firm of Harrington, Howard and Ash, Consulting Engineers, 10th floor of the Leslie-Orear Building of this city. Mr. Ash stands very high as an engineer and a man. Since my return I have not talked with him but have left the enclosed letter and photographs with him. You can communicate and find out his opinion if you care to.

A letter from Mr. Gibb of date of Sept 26 says building construction is going on.

Very sincerely yours
Henry E. Hill

December 19, 1923.

Mr. Henry E. Hill,
Southland Hotel,
3517 Main Street,
Kansas City, Missouri.

My dear Mr. Hill:

I was very deeply chagrined this morning to receive a telephone call from your brother asking if I had received your letter with the pictures in it. I owe you a very sincere apology for not having acknowledged the receipt of your statement and letter with the photographs some weeks ago. The material was immediately handed on to various members of the Board of Trustees for their perusal and comment, and it has only recently come back to me. I am very sorry indeed that I overlooked the prompt acknowledgment of your courtesy in sending it to us. The trustees feel that the questions which you have raised are questions which should be properly considered by the engineers who are in charge of our building program. We appreciate very deeply your interest in the work at Peking and your evident willingness to give us the fullest information at your disposal.

With very best wishes for success in your work, and with the best wishes of the Season, I am,

Sincerely yours,

For the Trustees of Peking University

Secretary.

Downtown Hotel,
3517 Main Street,
Kansas City, Mo., March 29, 1924.

Mr. Franklin H. Warner,
52 Vanderbuilt Ave.,
New York City, N.Y.,

Dear Sir:- Upon reflection I will not send you a some what lengthy letter replying to your Lund, German & Cos. enclosure. The Lund letter is so full of false statements and ignorance as to be beneath contempt.

In the winter of 1922-23 I had a succession of bad colds, carbuncles, and a generally run down condition; I did get at times low spirited and dis-heartened. Bad University building construction and the refusal to investigate caused me to return to America, and nothing else. I resent your insinuation that I returned on account of my health. Collectively the trustees have shown utter indefference to time and expense to say nothing of the cause of Christian education. I appreciate very decidedly Dr. Stewart's courtesy and kindness in going with me to see Mr. Ash.

Yours truly Henry E. Hill