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Yenching  
Corres  
re. Natural sciences  
endowment gift from  
Chow Tso-min 1929-1930

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Natural Sciences Endowment gift  
From Chow Tso-min

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January 22, 1929

Memo

~~Stuart~~ The China Medical Board granted funds for premedical  
units for five years including 1929. Greene and Gee of Rockefeller  
Foundation now ready to recommend capitalization of present grant in  
form of \$250,000 provided Yenching can secure equal endowment for  
natural sciences. But the departments say this is quite inadequate.  
Dr. Stuart hopes that Rockefeller Foundation under the leadership  
of Dr. Max Mason might agree to add \$250,000 provided Yenching secures  
a total of \$500,000. Dr. Stuart says \$1,000,000 endowment for three  
natural sciences and geology and mathematics would provide for ex-  
cellent undergraduate and some graduate work. Gee says Yenching has  
best teachers and doing best work anywhere in China.

Dr. Stuart suggests discovering some foundation or individual  
open to such an appeal. Present support lasts until end of collegiate  
year June 1930. Possible action by Rockefeller Foundation must be  
kept entirely confidential.

O.D.W.

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October 15, 1929.

Mr. N. Gist Gee,  
The Rockefeller Foundation,  
Peping.

Dear Mr. Gee:

It gives me pleasure to inform you that there has been deposited to my credit for Yenching University at the Kincheng Bank the sum of Local currency six hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (LC\$625,000.00) to meet the conditional grant of Gold \$250,000.00 from the Rockefeller Foundation for the maintenance of our Pre-medical Sciences, this being the estimated equivalent at the current rate of exchange. The Chinese donor requests that at least until the transaction is completed there be no unnecessary publicity in connection with his contribution. Trusting that this statement will be acceptable to you and to the officers of the Foundation in New York City, and with the heartiest appreciation of the generous interest all of you have shown in the problems of this institution I am

Very sincerely yours,

President

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C O P Y.

October 15, 1929.

Dear Dr. Stuart:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of to-day's date which has just come to hand.

I am writing at once to Dr. Max Mason requesting that the Rockefeller Foundation grant of \$250,000 be paid to your trustees in America. Doubtless this will be done upon the receipt of my letter.

I wish to congratulate you most heartily upon this magnificent gift and I trust that it is only the beginning of an awakening of interest on the part of wealthy Chinese in worthy educational and scientific endeavor in China.

With kind regards, I am

Very sincerely,

(signed) N. Gist Gee

Dr. J. Leighton Stuart  
Yenching University  
Peiping, China.

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學大京燕  
YENCHING UNIVERSITY  
PEKING, CHINA.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

TELEGRAPH ADDRESS  
"YENTA"

October 18, 1929.

My dear Olin:

I am inclosing herewith copies of two letters which will rejoice your heart as they have mine. The matter is, however, far from settled as I must take up certain conditions with the Chinese donor. My special purpose in writing you now is to make clear that if the effort which Porter and I asked you to make with Dr. Nichols develops favorably, this Chinese gift can easily be diverted to something else. Do not, therefore, let this make any change in that undertaking. Furthermore, we are taking up at once with the Rockefeller Foundation a second conditional promise of one quarter of a million dollars for advanced work in all the Natural Sciences to be paid to us when we have secured a similar amount. Any such prospect as Dr. Nichols could, therefore, be kept in mind for this second step if approved at 61 Broadway. This development is another reason why I am inclined to go straight to New York on arrival on the Pacific Coast. I shall expect word from you in Japan on this whole matter. For the present it would be well to give no publicity to this Chinese contribution, although if things work out favorably it can be used to fine effect later on.

Looking forward to seeing you before long,

Very sincerely yours,

*Heighon Stewart*

CHINA MEDICAL BOARD, INC.  
PEPING, CHINA

PAUL MONROE  
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RICHARD M. PEARCE, M.D.  
SECRETARY  
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RAYMOND B. FOSDICK  
PAUL MONROE  
RICHARD M. PEARCE, M.D.  
ANSON PHELPS STOKES

November 20, 1929

Dear Dr. Stuart:

On my return to Peiping, I had a chance to see the information which has been collected by your science departments as a basis for an appeal to the Rockefeller Foundation for additional funds. The material was assembled too late to reach you before I left Kyoto. If I understood you correctly when I discussed the matter with you in Kyoto, you stated that the additional funds were desired to provide an endowment, the income of which would cover that part of the science budgets which had hitherto been borne by the University itself, over and above the amount provided by the previous agreement with the Rockefeller Foundation for maintenance expenses. I understood you to say further that this new campaign was not intended to provide for expansion or primarily for research. On discussing the matter with Mr. Gee, I found that he had an entirely different impression, based on his conferences with members of your staff. He understood that the project was for a very considerable expansion of the science work, and that it was expected that with this expansion, a considerable extension of research work of a modest type would be made possible. The figures presented by your science departments to Mr. Gee seem to confirm this understanding. We are informed that the total budget

Dr. Stuart - 2

November 20, 1929

for the departments of biology, chemistry, and physics, with their contributions to general operation and maintenance, amounts in the current academic year to Mex. 85,455.60, of which Mex. 28,753 is derived from the appropriation of the Rockefeller Foundation. The budgets for the same three departments in the new project amount to a total of Mex. 131,860, and this figure does not appear to include the contribution for general operation and maintenance of the University, which is included in the budget for the current year. The whole project now before us includes a further sum of Mex. 36,416 for maintenance of the departments of geology and geography, and mathematics, making the total budgets of these science departments Mex. 168,276.

The project before us then very definitely looks towards a considerable development of the three departments towards which we have been contributing, and towards the endowment of which the Foundation is to provide the sum of Gold \$250,000.

In view of the fact that we have no official information that the project presented to us by the science departments has received your approval, I find it almost impossible to take the matter up with Dr. Mason, even in the tentative manner which I had in mind when I spoke to you in Kyoto. If it is not your intention to support a proposal for expansion of the science work, it is obvious that no such large additional endowment as has been suggested will be necessary, since I am informed that on account of the fact that the part of the endowment invested in China will bring a relatively

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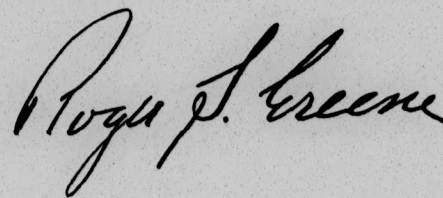
Dr. Stuart - 3

November 20, 1929

high return, the endowment already in sight covers nearly the whole of the present cost of maintenance of the departments of biology, chemistry, and physics, at present rates of exchange. It would seem, therefore, that an appeal for funds should be based on plans for expansion of the work.

I am writing you in this manner simply to explain why I cannot take up the matter with the Rockefeller Foundation until the problem is clarified.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. J. Leighton Stuart  
c/o Trustees of Yenching University  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

RSG-RP

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Yenching University  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York

November 22, 1929

Memo to Miss McCoy:

The letter from Doctor Stuart regarding a gift from a Chinese source to meet the condition of the Rockefeller gift was a complete surprise to me. I haven't one particle of information concerning it except what is contained in Doctor Stuart's letter and the accompanying copies. I imagine there must be rather serious conditions attached to the Chinese gift, since Doctor Stuart would hardly be so cautious in referring to it if that were not the case. He has written Mr. Garside suggesting that if the Rockefeller Fdn. pays over the \$250,000 in accordance with the request of Mr. Gee this money should be invested in short term securities. This obviously suggests that Doctor Stuart is not absolutely confident that the Trustees of the University would agree to the conditions established by the Chinese donor.

O. D. W.

ODW\*KK

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J.L.S.  
✓ X to Endowment  
✓ X natural science  
✓ X Rockefeller

November 22, 1929

Dear Leighton:

I am tremendously stirred by your letter of October 18th and accompanying copies of letters, indicating the deposit of \$625,000.00 L.C. in a Chinese bank for Yenching University. We eagerly await further information regarding this.

We have not as yet heard anything from the Rockefeller Foundation here as a result of Cist Gee's letter to the Foundation to which he refers in his letter of October 15th to you.

I do hope you have had some encouragement at Honolulu. Dr. Jenney stands ready to help you later in California.

At the moment I am at the crucial point in a special effort for Lingnan University in some of the suburbs of New York City. The next few weeks will determine whether money can be raised successfully for an institution in China by the intensive campaign method used for local institutions. The long period of preliminary work done by Mr. Berthoff, the young man I engaged on a trial basis for Lingnan, is now being followed by a more intensive effort in which James Henry and others are engaged. I have just succeeded in securing temporarily a man who seems an extremely promising person for permanent service in behalf of Lingnan. He is joining with Henry in this effort. If the test proves successful, there is no reason whatever why it should not be duplicated in similar suburbs of large cities all over the country and the preliminary work hereafter could be very much briefer than it has been in this case, since the young man who has done this work has in the process cut his eye teeth and would be much more efficient in future. I cannot but hope that some form of pooling of interests between Yenching and Lingnan may prove to be feasible, though I must repeat what I have already said to both you and James Henry-- that the initiating of such a pooling of interests should obviously come from the two American heads of the Universities and not from this office.

Looking forward eagerly to seeing you, I remain

Dr. J. Leighton Stuart  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Cordially yours,

Assistant to the President

1075

~~April 11, 1930~~

C O P Y

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION  
61 Broadway, New York

The Natural Sciences  
Max Mason, Director.

November 22, 1929

Dear Mr. Garside:

I have recently had a letter from Mr. Gee recommending that payment be made of our grant of \$250,000 toward the endowment of the Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Physics of Yenching University, in view of a gift of LC\$625,000 which has been made to the University to meet the conditions of our grant. I am accordingly asking Mr. Beall to send a check for \$250,000 to the American trustees of Yenching University.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ MAX MASON

Mr. B.A. Garside  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

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~~April 14, 1930~~

C O P Y

November 27, 1929.

Dr. Max Mason  
The Rockefeller Foundation  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Mason:

We acknowledge with sincere thanks the receipt of your letter of November 27 stating that you are asking your Comptroller to send a check for \$250,000 to the Trustees of Yenching University in payment of your grant toward the endowment of the Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Physics of Yenching University.

I will report this action of the Foundation to the University's Board of Trustees at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

BAG-H

CC: Promotional Office

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Rockefeller

nothing further to do  
on this at present  
JPS 43-30

December 21, 1929

Dear Mr. Greene:

I only arrived here Thursday and find your letter of November 20th regarding the additional appeal we are making to the Rockefeller Foundation for science work. I also have a letter from Dr. Stanley Wilson on the same subject.

I regret very much that I am responsible for unintentionally causing a misunderstanding as to the purpose for this second endowment, if granted. What I had intended to emphasize in conversation with you in Kyoto, was, that even with the \$250,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation and its equivalent in the Chinese gift, we would not be providing for all of the pre-medical departments as being actually carried on by us at present, the total budget for which this year, is silver \$85,000. My point was that in endeavoring to secure additional funds, it was not wholly for new work in graduate and research courses, which might be regarded as an unnecessary luxury, but was at least in part to secure relief in carrying on the basic work in these and the other natural science courses. The graduate work that we are planning to undertake seems to be almost required if we are to satisfy the demands of the students who are coming to us in increasing numbers, and is with no thought of going beyond requirements for a Master's degree.

I am in entire sympathy with the program as drafted by Dr. Wilson and his colleagues and had no thought of saying anything that would conflict with their ends as described in the material prepared by them. It is natural that I, more than any one else, feel oppressed by the harassing burden of carrying on the work that we are now doing efficiently and without running into annual deficits.

I shall hope to see Dr. Max Mason when he is ready to give me the interview and shall explain to him why there has been a delay in your writing on the subject. He will doubtless await your letter before making any decision as to his own attitude.

With cordial regards.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Roger S. Greene  
China Medical Board, Inc.  
Peking, China

President

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CABLEGRAMS: { INTRMISSION, NEW YORK  
INMISCO, LONDON

CODES: { MISSIONS  
CHINA INLAND MISSION

TELEPHONE: { NEW YORK: CALEDONIA 9137  
LONDON: SLOANE 1425

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SOCIÉTÉ DES MISSIONS ÉVANGÉLIQUES DE PARIS  
CONFERENCE OF MISSIONARY SOCIETIES IN GREAT  
BRITAIN AND IRELAND

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF INDIA, BURMA, AND  
CEYLON  
NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF JAPAN  
KOREAN NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL  
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ASSOCIATION OF MISSIONARY SOCIETIES IN SWITZER-  
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Chairman: JOHN R. MOTT, 230 Park Avenue, New York City  
Secretaries: J. H. OLDHAM; WILLIAM PATON, 2 Eaton Gate, London, S.W. 1  
A. L. WARNSHUIS, 419 Fourth Ave., New York City

April 7, 1930

Rev. J. Leighton Stuart, D.D.  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

Dear Dr. Stuart:

Ever since the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Yenching Trustees on March 28, I have been troubled in mind because I appeared at that meeting to be opposed to your proposal regarding the gift of Mr. Chow. Personally I was sorry that the matter was presented without any explanatory memorandum nor with any definite recommendation. Since the meeting some months ago at which you first reported on this proposal, I have not heard any discussion of it or received any written statement regarding it. I want to assure you that my mind is quite open still concerning the action the Trustees should take. What I really want is a full statement of the issues so that the Board can act with as much knowledge as is obtainable and reach a decision based upon their best judgment. I think this is what we shall now get from the special committee appointed for this purpose.

If I may add a word now, I would express the opinion that the judgment of the Trustees should not be based upon what anybody may say about Chinese psychology. Of course, they may have slightly different ways of doing things, and certainly they are unusually sensitive at the present time about the way foreigners deal with them. But that has to do principally with the form and manner in which our action in this case is reported to Mr. Chow. If our action is fundamentally right, I am sure that it can be so presented to Mr. Chow as to satisfy his psychology.

I think we can make plain that the Trustees are prepared to entrust the administration of funds to responsible Chinese management. Are we not doing that increasingly from year to year? Doubtless we can do more. What we ought to do is work out the best way by which all the current income of the University can be administered by a Chinese Board in Peiping. If that cannot be done now for the whole income, we can do it for part and plan for the gradual but definite transfer by stages so that before long the whole income can be so administered.

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At the same time, can it not be made plain that the trusteeship of the endowment obtained by the Board in America is a responsibility not easily transferred to others? While the Trustees hold these capital funds and care for their safe and profitable investment, they may from year to year forward the income to a Board in China for their use.

I am concerned about a larger question than the present proposal, for I am anxious that we should act on principles that can be applied in the future when, as we hope, much larger funds will be given to the Chinese. This case should not be an exception to but a precedent for future action.

Can we not work out some plan by which the income of the \$250,000 given by the Rockefeller Foundation and the gift of Mr. Chow can be administered by a responsible Board in Peiping, the capital of Mr. Chow's gift to be invested by them in accordance with their best judgment?

With cordial greetings,

Yours faithfully

*Al Warrushin*

ALW/ecc

1080



Yenching University  
New York

April 10, 1950

Mr. George G. Barber  
Mr. Van Santvoord Merle-Smith  
Mr. B. A. Carside

A Sub-committee of the Finance Committee appointed to draft plan for handling the proposed gift of Mr. Chou Tso-Min.

Gentlemen:

I have been giving still further thought to this delicate and difficult problem. I hesitate to send you this written communication since one may easily state things too baldly in writing where they might be stated with better discrimination in a verbal way. Nevertheless, I venture to write because I think the matter fundamental to the interests of Yenching University.

The opinion I venture to express to you regarding this matter is based partly on my reflection after conversations during the past few weeks with President Stuart; partly upon my own understanding of Chinese psychology and practice in such matters; and, partly upon a conversation I arranged yesterday with Mr. Philip Fu. I would like to emphasize the fact that I arranged for this conversation and very earnestly requested Mr. Fu to discuss with me fully and confidentially, giving me all the information he had about this matter, and expressing to me his own judgment as to the whole situation. He was a little reluctant to discuss the question for fear it might seem that he was personally interested in sharing in the negotiations or decisions. Mr. Fu has been of great service to President Stuart in establishing contacts with wealthy Chinese and cultivating their interest, and has in this way raised a considerable sum of money among Chinese for Yenching besides this prospective gift from Mr. Chou. He established the contact between President Stuart and Mr. Chou about three years ago and assisted in getting the two men thoroughly acquainted. Mr. Chou was a warm friend of Mr. Fu's father, and Mr. Fu feels that he knows Mr. Chou thoroughly. Nevertheless, he was, as I said, anxious that no impression should be given that he was endeavoring to participate in this discussion.

I take full responsibility for talking the matter over with him, and I really wish that I had done so earlier and that I had arranged an interview between Mr. Fu and the members of this committee.

For my present suggestions, however, Mr. Fu is not responsible. They are my own personal suggestions. I respectfully urge that the sub-committee give them serious consideration.

Apr. 10, 1950

I do not believe that Doctor Stuart will be able to handle this delicate negotiation with Mr. Chou if the trustees require anything in the nature of a binding written guarantee either by Mr. Chou or by his bank for the safety of the money entrusted to him. Unusual as the situation may appear to be from the point of view of a New York business man, I believe it is one in which the absolutely vital interests of Yenching University can be conserved only by taking an action which might look and might seem entirely unbusiness-like from our point of view. While I cannot prove any statement whatever regarding Mr. Chou, I have come to the conviction that he is probably the most important single Chinese friend of Yenching University and that anything done to cement his friendship for the University will be of enormous advantage in the immediate and the distant future, and that anything done to alienate him would be of equal damage to the University.

I believe this is a situation which ought to be handled in the same manner in which a country handles a delicate diplomatic negotiation under circumstances where it is unavoidable to appoint a minister plenipotentiary and leave negotiations entirely to him. The more the trustees endeavor to go into express details as to the kind of agreement which must be negotiated the less likely is the success of the negotiation--I do not mean only in the actual immediate transaction, but in the full benefits for the future.

I very seriously recommend that the Finance Committee advise the Board of Trustees to appoint the President of the University a sub-committee of one with full power to arrange for the handling of this entire matter with the sole proviso that Messrs. Bennett of the International Banking Corporation, Dwight W. Edwards of the Princeton-Yenching Foundation, and Mr. Roger Greene, constitute an advisory committee, and that the President will not enter into any agreement with Mr. Chou which is not approved by a majority of this advisory committee of three members. I believe that the Rockefeller Foundation should be requested to give its consent to this handling of the fund given by the Foundation, but the action of the trustees should not depend upon getting anything more than consent from the Rockefeller Foundation.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant to the President

ODW\*KK

2nd Sep 30

(Excerpt from minutes of Yenching Executive-Finance Committees  
meeting, April 14, 1930)

Investment of Endowment Fund for Work in the Natural Sciences

The Committees gave consideration to the conditional gift by Mr. Chou Tso Min of L.C. \$625,000 as an endowment fund for Natural Sciences which would be considered as matching the Gold \$250,000 received from the Rockefeller Foundation for the same purpose. Study was given to the recommendation of the Special Committee on Gift from Chinese Donor (attached hereto as Exhibit A) and to the memorandum prepared by Mr. Van S. Merle-Smith on January 24, 1930 (attached hereto as Appendix A). After a thorough discussion of various viewpoints, it was

EF-2790 VOTED that the Executive and Finance Committees submit to the Board of Trustees, with their recommendation of its approval, the following resolution:

RESOLVED (1) that the proposed gift of L.C. \$625,000 from Mr. Chou Tso Min to constitute one-half of an endowment fund of Gold \$500,000 for work in the Natural Sciences be accepted, provided that the terms of the gift can be mutually agreed upon.

(2) (a) that there be created in China a special Committee on Investment of the above endowment funds, responsible to the Trustees of Yenching University, consisting of the following four members:- Dr. J. Leighton Stuart, Mr. C. R. Bennett, Mr. Dwight W. Edwards, and Mr. Roger S. Greene; with the understanding that if and when any one of these four members may be temporarily absent from China the remaining three be empowered to choose a temporary substitute to serve during his absence;  
(b) that this special Committee on Investment be authorized to negotiate with Mr. Chou Tso Min as to the arrangements under which these endowment funds for work in the Natural Sciences shall be invested.

(3) that the Rockefeller Foundation be asked to give its approval or assent to placing in the hands of the special Committee on Investment, created as above, the Gold \$250,000 received from the Rockefeller Foundation as endowment for work in the Natural Sciences; and that if and when the Rockefeller Foundation approves or assents to this procedure, the Treasurer of the Trustees of Yenching University is hereby authorized to place this Gold \$250,000 in the hands of this special Committee on Investment.

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION  
61 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY

April 16, 1930

My dear Mr. Garside:

I have the honor to inform you that the Trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation, at their meeting of April 16, 1930, adopted the following resolutions:

RESOLVED: that the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand dollars (\$250,000) be, and it is hereby, appropriated to YENCHING UNIVERSITY toward the ENDOWMENT of the SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS; on condition that the University shall secure cash from other sources prior to June 30, 1935, an equal amount for the same purpose.

RESOLVED: that Sixty-two thousand five hundred dollars (\$62,500.), or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and it is hereby, appropriated to Yenching University in SUPPORT of the work of the SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS during the five year period July 1, 1930, to June 30, 1935, payments to be made on annual installments of \$12,500, provided that, and so long as, the University secures an equal sum each year from other sources, including income on new endowment received subsequent to this action, for the same purpose, these payments to continue only until such time as the capital sum of \$250,000 provided in this resolution above shall have been paid.

Yours very truly,

/s/ NORMA S. THOMPSON

Secretary.

Mr. B. A. Garside, Secretary  
Yenching University  
150 Fifth Ave.,  
New York City

NST:BB

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