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COLLEGE FILES
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Yenching
Corrs.
Weigle, Luther A. 1935
Welch, Edgar T. 1937-1939

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Statement prepared by Dean Chao and given
to Dr. Luther Weigle at Kuling
July 1935

YENCHING

The School of Religion

Yenching University

I. Aim

"The aim of the School of Religion is to help in laying the foundation of Christian thought for China and in building up Christian life in China, through men and women with a vital personal Christian experience, a progressive Church consciousness, a passion for individual and social regeneration, with the historical sense and the scientific attitude and technique."

II. Connection with Yenching University

Being an integral part of Yenching University, the School of Religion

1. has access to its extensive library and laboratory facilities;
2. has the cooperation of the undergraduate and graduate Faculties of the University in carrying on its work; and
3. has numerous opportunities of contact with Chinese educational groups.

The students of the School mingle with college men and women of all types, and in all kinds of intellectual and social activities, and thus enjoy the freedom and the broadening outlook of the University atmosphere and life. Religious life takes deep roots in an environment in which it faces criticism and encounters various currents and cross-currents of thought.

III. Freedom and Scientific Inquiry

Situated as it is in a University, the life of the School of Religion has from the beginning of its existence been fostered by possessing complete intellectual freedom. Its Faculty holds

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this freedom as a sacred trust, and is able thereby to carry on original, creative work in various lines--in research, in experimentation, and in writing. In its academic spirit and standards the School aims to be on a par with any other type of thoroughly organized graduate work in a maturing modern University. Its Faculty is expected to do creative research and its student body standardized graduate work.

IV. Distinctive Function:

(1) To share with its own students and other young men and women who come under its influence a clear vision of the Christian faith, of the Church Universal, and of the Chinese Church that is to be, and to this end.

(2) To educate those of high intellectual calibre and of strong moral purpose to be prophets--whether as theologians, historians, educaters, writers, reformers, or ministers of the gospel for the Christian Church and the Christian Movement in China.

(3) To carry on research work in

(a) The relation of Christianity to Chinese culture.
(b) Comparative religion--comparison between Christianity and other religions, especially those long existing in China.
(c) Biblical, theological, historical, philosophical, social and practical problems.

(4) To do creative work in Christian literature and the translating of Christian books.

(5) To conduct experiments in Christian worship, in religious education, in social service, etc.

(6) To serve as an agency of self-criticism for the Christian Church in China.

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(7) To attempt to formulate a theology, (including a philosophy of life) true to the Christian revelation and in harmony with the genius of the Chinese people to whom God has also given His own witness.

In view of its distinctive task, the School of Religion lays emphasis both on thoroughgoing academic work and on professional training, but frankly acknowledging that its main contribution lies in the direction of the production of creative scholarship.

V. Curriculum

The curriculum is both subject-centred and student-centred. It does not place emphasis on a set curriculum and it tends toward not having rigid requirements of this kind. It aims at doing work in Biblical literature, History of Religion (with the main emphasis on History of the Christian Church), Philosophy of Religion (with the main emphasis on Christian theology), Religious Education and Psychology of Religion, and other practical subjects.

Each student, admitted to the School on the strength of his capacity to do graduate work, is treated as an individual and is given a special course of study to follow, determined by his special interests and needs. For example, if a graduate of a government University, without a foundation in the knowledge of Christian truth but having majored in philosophy, should want to enter the School, he will be given a study program in Biblical literature and History correlated with a central subject, such as Christian theology. In three years' time he is expected to acquire a basic knowledge of the subject and to be well on his way to competent scholarship in it.

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The School will take in students who have graduated from

(1) Theological colleges,
(2) Christian colleges,
(3) Non-Christian private and government universities.

VI. Methods

(a) Religious and intellectual fellowship between faculty and students.

(b) Tutorial guidance given to each student.

(c) Thorough-going academic, unprejudiced and sympathetic study of subjects.

Note: During the last decade, students of the School have done research work in and written theses on such subjects as:

1. The contribution of the Church towards European Culture in the Middle ages. (An answer to the Anti-Christian idea that the church of that time was detrimental to culture.)

2. Pauline Chronology.

3. The Martyrs of Hopei

4. Litigation Cases from the Nanking Treaty of 1848 to the Boxer Troubles of 1900.

5. A Critical Study of Eucken's Conception of Christianity.

6. The Idea of the Kingdom of God in the New Testament.

7. Comparative Study of the Christian Conception and the Chinese Conception of the Family.

8. St. Paul and Hsün Tse in their Conceptions of Human Nature.

9. A Survey Study of the Religious Education in a Rural District in Hopei Province.

The above list is sufficient to indicate the range of research work and the contribution towards Christian thought and history that the School has been doing. This type of work, carried on in cooperation between the faculty and the students is looked upon as a living and growing joy. As a norm, the student studies three years in the School and receives as a result of satisfactory work, the degree of Bachelor of Divinity. The degree, however, is optional and may be withheld by the faculty for various reasons. A student may study in the School from one to four or five years, if need be.

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VII. The Question

Is a graduate School of Theology, like the School of Religion in Yenching University, really needed in China now, or in the predictable future? If its existence and development are sufficiently recognised in a national scheme of theological education, then the logical thing is to have it adequately supported and freed from its present curtailments and handicaps. It cannot continue its existence much longer under the present financial difficulties. What will its friends and supporters do about it?

0044

YENCHING

October 14, 1935

ack - 10/16/35

Dean Luther A. Weigle
Yale Divinity School
New Haven, Connecticut

My dear Dean Weigle:

Let me first of all tell you how much I enjoyed the conference in Newark on October 7th. I felt that you succeeded in giving us a very clear picture of the whole field of education of religious workers in China, and indicated very concretely the lines along which we should move in future.

I am writing today to ask you to say a good word on behalf of the Yenching School of Religion, for our use in approaching a possible donor. We are presenting to the Davella Mills Foundation, Post Office Box 150, Montclair, N. J., a request for an endowment fund of $25,000 for the Yenching School of Religion. At the time Mr. Sherwood and I had our conference with you in the Hotel Prince George, I believe you made some comment to the effect that if some philanthropically inclined individual or foundation could make a substantial gift toward the support of the Yenching School of Religion they would thereby be rendering a very valuable service to the Christian cause in China.

If you are willing to give us a cordial statement along these lines which we can submit with the request we are presenting to this Foundation on Wednesday of this week, we would be very grateful.

Very sincerely yours,

BAG:MP
Encl.

0045

YALE UNIVERSITY
THE DIVINITY SCHOOL

LUTHER A. WEIGLE, DEAN — NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

October 26, 1935

ack 10/29/35

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

Dear Garside:

Please forgive me for being so slow to write you. I was away from home when your letter arrived and did not get to see it until after the date which you stated as the time for submitting your request to the Davella Mills Foundation. I enclose a letter now which I hope you may still find usable.

As ever,

Sincerely yours,

W/W

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0047

YALE UNIVERSITY
THE DIVINITY SCHOOL

LUTHER A. WEIGLE, DEAN

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

October 26, 1935

Rec'd 10/29/35

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

Dear Mr. Garside:

In answer to your inquiry I am writing to say that the forthcoming report on "Education for Service in the Christian Church in China" will include a definite recommendation that the Yenching School of Religion should continue and develop the service which it has been rendering to the Christian movement in China. It is the unanimous judgment of myself and my colleagues on the Survey Team that the Yenching School of Religion has made and is making so notable a contribution to Christian scholarship and to the raising of the standards of Christian service in China that it would be a calamity should this School be obliged to close.

I have all confidence in the developments which are likely to take place at the Nanking Theological Seminary in view of the resources now at the command of that institution, but I feel that there is not only room but need for the continuance of the Yenching School of Religion as a graduate school of theology. It has upon its Faculty a remarkable group of Christian scholars. It will be a number of years before Nanking or any other institution can command a group of like ability. A giving up of the Yenching School of Religion would be a hard blow to the intellectual prestige of Christianity in a country where, as you know, intellectual prestige means a great deal. We can not depend upon the Christian colleges and universities, through their A.B. work, under governmental limitations, to do what must be done to maintain and upbuild scholarship in China in those fields which are of direct bearing upon Christian theology. The post-graduate school of theology, like Yenching, has resting upon it a burden which in Christian countries is borne in part by the universities generally. The Yenching School of Religion has rendered heroic and effective service in a pioneer way and I feel it to be of the utmost importance that that service be continued and developed.

With high regard, I am

Sincerely yours,

Luther A. Weigle

W/W

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0049

YENCHING

October 29, 1935

Dean Luther A. Weigle
Yale University Divinity School
New Haven, Connecticut

My dear Dr. Weigle:

We are indeed grateful to you for your very helpful letter of October 26th with regard to the Yenching School of Religion. While we sent in about ten days ago our request to the Foundation of which I spoke in my previous letter, we welcome an opportunity to remind them of the matter by sending them a copy of your letter.

Have you heard that President Stuart is now on his way to America? He is planning to reach New York shortly after the middle of November, and will probably remain in this country two or three months. His willingness to leave Peiping this autumn is in itself a very encouraging indication that the tension in North China has relaxed very greatly since the early part of last summer.

Very cordially yours,

BAG:MP

0050

EDGAR T. WELCH
WESTFIELD - NEW YORK

May 8 1937

Mr.E.M.McBrier,
150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Mr.McBrier:

I am planning to be present for the Executive Committee Meeting on the 20th. This coming week will be spent at the Battle Creek Sanitarium, Battle Creek ,Mich. and only being unexpectedly detained there will prevent my being in New York City.

Notice was received today of the plans for luncheon at the Parkside with Mr.John R.Mott, and I rather think this will cause some change in your plans.

Sincerely,

Edgar T Welch

McBrier wrote them

RECEIVED ALBENIAN
MAY 10 1937
E. M. McBRIER

0051

May 10, 1937

Mr. Edgar T. Welch
Battle Creek Sanitarium
Battle Creek, Michigan

Dear Mr. Welch:

I have yours of May 8th.

The notice regarding the luncheon meeting from the Board of Foreign Missions was not issued until after my invitations went out, and the luncheon arranged for.

I think I shall be obliged to have it just the same. There will be a number of the men attend my luncheon that would not attend the Board luncheon anyway; and to select a date where somebody does not want one for something here in New York is a pretty hard matter.

We will therefore hold the luncheon as originally indicated. I hope you can be present.

After making inquiry it appears that Dr. Diffendorfer is availing himself of Dr. Mott for the occasion in order that the latter may give his impressions of world conditions. He has just returned from another world trip. Of course it will be interesting, and I regret that the two meetings clash.

I have been trying for the last two months to get a certain date when it would be convenient for our people and, having selected this date, there is no alternative but to carry through the plan, inasmuch as I am leaving on June 2nd to be gone three months.

I hope we will have a helpful meeting.

Sincerely yours,

P.S. That was a strong article of yours - "More of the Junk You Already Have." Today I find the article in booklet form on my desk. Perhaps it came with your letter. Good work.

May 27, 1937

Mr. Edgar Welch
Westfield, N. J.

Dear Mr. Welch:

I wish to sincerely thank you for your willingness to serve on the Sponsoring Committee of the Frank D. Gamewell Professorship of Religion in Yenching University. The Committee now consists of the following:

W. F. Bigelow	c/o Good Housekeeping 57th Street & 8th Avenue, NYC.
William C. Evans	65 Overlook Circle New Rochelle, N. Y.
A. B. Hatcher	c/o Guaranty Trust Co. 140 Broadway, NYC
Frank A. Horne	c/o Merchants Refrigerating Co. 17 Varick Street, NYC
Robert C. Morris	c/o Bankers Trust Company 16 Wall Street, NYC
H. A. Reed	c/o Bankers Trust Company 16 Wall Street, NYC
Paul Sturtevant	c/o Baker, Weeks & Harden 52 Wall Street, NYC
Dr. Wm. J. Thompson	The Mayfair House Park Avenue & 65th St., NYC
Mr. William Boyd	250 W. Tulpehocken Street Philadelphia, Pa.
Dr. James R. Joy	Plainfield, N. J.
Edgar Welch	Westfield, N. J.
George B. Hodgman	c/o Watson White 149 Broadway, NYC
E. M. McBrier	150 Fifth Avenue, NYC

It is a great pleasure to have such a fine group of my best Methodist friends associated with me in this project.

I am leaving on June 2nd for England. I hope, as opportunity offers, you may be able to cooperate with Mr. Hedrick and his associates, to whom I have turned over the leadership during my absence. His assistant, Mr. Aydelott, is usually in the office.

0053

I am enclosing a few extra copies of the little circular which I trust you will either mail or hand personally to some of your friends whom you think we might interest in this very worthy undertaking. When the names of such people occur to you, will you please call Watkins 9-8703 and ask for Mr. Aydelott or his secretary, Miss Brown, and give such names and addresses, or drop a line to Mr. Aydelott at this address.

Thanking you sincerely, I am

Most truly yours,

E. M. McBrier.

EMMcB/B
ENCS.

0054

YENCHING

June 17, 1937

Mr. Edgar Welch
Westfield
New York

Dear Mr. Welch:

Under date of May 27, you have a letter from Mr. E. M. McBrier in connection with the Dr. Frank D. Gamewell Professorship of Religion at Yenching University. At that time he advised you that he would leave for Europe on June 2nd.

Prior to sailing, Mr. McBrier requested me to act as chairman of the Committee during his absence. This I will do, for I share with you and other members of the Committee, the high worth of our task in hand.

I am authorized by Mr. McBrier to announce that he will contribute $25,000 provided the remaining half of the $50,000 be secured. That truly was Bon Voyage to us on land. With this accomplished, what a celebration we could have on Dr. Gamewell's Eightieth Anniversary, August 31st.

Mr. W. S. Pilling of Philadelphia, I am happy to announce, has just become a sponsor.

K. A. Wee, Ph.D., in his doctoral thesis, Columbia 1937, states, from a Chinese source, "Although only one twenty-fifth of one per cent of China's population attend Christian institutions, twenty-five per cent of the nation's constructive leadership is from these institutions." Yenching University is in the very forefront in this overwhelming contribution. One-fourth of the inhabitants of the globe are in China. How much the Dr. Gamewell Professorship may add to the welfare of these 450,000,000 people, to us in America, and to future civilization, is left to your imagination, tempered by reason.

Will you please write me - tell me what you deem wise.

Sincerely yours,

WJT.A

William J. Thompson, Chairman

YENCHING UNIVERSITY

July 1, 1937

Mr. Edgar T. Welch
Westfield, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Welch:

Prior to Mr. McBrier's sailing, Dr. Thompson and I promised him that we would do our utmost to consummate the "Gamewell Professorship" before August 31 - Dr. Gamewell's eightieth anniversary. With Mr. McBrier's initial commitment of $25,000 and approximately $2,000 more that has been pledged, it seems quite probable that we may be able to complete the undertaking by the above date.

If you are going to be in New York in the near future, would you be good enough to advise me of the date, Dr. Thompson and I wish to counsel with you on procedure. You would doubtless have a half dozen persons in mind whom you think might find pleasure in participating in this most commendable enterprise. If you are not coming to New York, it might be best for me to combine a visit to Westfield with other calls which I may be making in Upper New York State.

Yours sincerely,

George C. Aydelott, Secretary.

GCA/B

0056

September 3, 1937

My dear Mr. Welch:

I returned to New York from Westfield and have been devoting practically all my time in an attempt to complete the Gamewell fund as soon as possible. Unfortunately some of our best prospects are away from the city until after Labor Day. I have made two trips to Philadelphia, and a similar situation prevails there, although I am working on two or three special cases.

Mr. McBrier was supposed to arrive yesterday, but we have not seen him in the office yet.

Following the conversation you and I had in the park, I had a short visit with Dr. Gamewell at the Lebanon. He is naturally much interested in the progress on the Gamewell Fund and I was pleased to report that we have been meeting with unusual success. I told him of my visit with you and of your liberal contribution, and he was most happy in your participation. He spoke especially of the fine dinner you had given for him and Mrs. Gamewell.

We are this morning in receipt of a subscription from Mr. Frank H. Ryder for $100, with many apologies because his financial position would not permit a larger contribution.

A few days ago we had a letter from Dr. Gamewell, after I had talked with him at Chautauqua, in which he insists that Mrs. Gamewell and he wish to contribute the $3,000 I mentioned. I am afraid he is going to have his feelings hurt if the Committee does not accept it. These matters will of course adjust themselves in due time.

With appreciation for your generous interest and with personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

George C. Aydelott

Mr. Edgar T. Welch
Westfield
New York

0051

EDGAR T. WELCH
WESTFIELD - NEW YORK

November 5, 1937
ack. 11/15/37.

Mr. Paul D. Cravath
National Emergency Committee
Christian Colleges in China
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Cravath:

Your letter of November 4 received, but it will not be possible for me to accept the appointment to the National Emergency Committee for Christian Colleges in China.

Sincerely Yours.

Edgar T. Welch

Edgar T. Welch

ETW:DLR

November 15, 1937

Mr. Edgar T. Welch
Westfield, New York

Dear Mr. Welch:

Thank you for your letter of November 5th. While we regret that it is not possible for you to accept membership on the National Emergency Committee for Christian Colleges in China, we sincerely appreciate your interest in Christian higher education in China, and are confident of your continued interest and good will.

Yours very truly,

Paul D. Cravath,
National Chairman

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YENCHING UNIVERSITY

December 27, 1937

Mr. Edgar T. Welch
Westfield, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Welch:

Two gifts of sizable proportions to the Gamewell Professorship have been under consideration for some weeks and we had hoped that they might be consummated by this time, but due to unavoidable delays a decision has not been reached in either case. No absolute assurance is given that either will be a favorable response but every indication points in that direction. Either one of them might well complete the fund of $4500 yet required. We hope that we may be able to announce the completion of this fund within the very near future.

I know how interested you are in the successful outcome of this undertaking and we are deeply thankful to God for your inclination and ability to be so substantially a factor in its success.

Even though China is in a state of heart-breaking confusion, most of our China Colleges are going steadily on, some of them with abnormally large enrollments due to the fact that most Government Colleges and Universities are closed. Yenching, where the Gamewell Professorship is to be established, is proceeding unmolested with an enrollment of about five hundred.

Very sincerely yours,

George C. Aydelott, Secretary

GCA/B

0060

February 8, 1938

Mr. Edgar T. Welch
Westfield
New York

My dear Mr. Welch:

I do not believe you have been advised that the full $50,000 has been subscribed to the Frank D. Gamewell Professorship of Religion. Mr. Aydelott reported to me your very generous promise of $2,000. Looking through the files I find that Mr. Aydelott's last letter was written to you on December 27th. At that time the fund was not completely pledged.

It is now pledged in full and many pledges are paid in full; a few of the larger pledges paid in part only but will be completed this year.

I asked Mr. Aydelott if you had indicated how and when you wish to make the payment of your pledge, and he said that you had not so indicated. If convenient, will you kindly advise us now so we can know just what to expect in the way of income during the current year.

I wish to say that I personally appreciate very much the substantial pledge that you made.

Sincerely yours,

E. M. McBrier

EMMcB:FG

0061

March 29, 1938

Mr. Edgar T. Welch
Westfield, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Welch:

I appreciated the opportunity of speaking with you over the telephone, but was disappointed at being unable to see you.

Mr. Tsai, Controller of Yenching University, and I went to Rochester and Detroit on special cases, and since he brought with him some very interesting recent pictures of the University and student activities, I had felt that you would be greatly interested in seeing them. There are 1200 feet of 16 m.m. film, and I had thought it might be possible to spend an evening in your home showing them to the enjoyment of yourself and family. That, however, may come later.

We are profoundly grateful that Yenching University, and other Christian Colleges in China have come through the hostilities unharmed. The American flag flying over them has doubtless had influence. The heroism displayed by our missionaries is as great as that of the early Biblical times, and the church has reason to be very grateful for their unselfish loyalty. Since many of the Government Schools and Colleges have been bombed or occupied by Japanese troops, it would seem that our Colleges are entering on their greatest period of usefulness.

When you come to New York for some of the Board Meetings, it will be a great pleasure to see you.

Yours very sincerely,

George C. Aydelott, Secretary.

GCA/B

0062

EDGAR T. WELCH
WESTFIELD - NEW YORK

May 3, 1938

RECEIVED ALUMNI
MAY - 5 19[illegible]
M. McBRIER

Mr. E. M. McBrier, Treasurer
Yenching University
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. McBrier:

Within a few days you will receive thru the Chase National Bank two $1000.00 bonds of the Inland Steel Company 3¾'s of 1961.

These are sent toward the endowment fund for the Gamewell Professorship of Religion, as promised.

Yours sincerely,

E T Welch
deh

Edgar T Welch

C A E
I wrote him
Three funds
ale above paid - mkt 106¼.
Better keep them
Sold accordingly.
9/10/38

U063

May 20, 1938

Mr. Edgar T. Welch
Westfield, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Welch:

I am writing you further regarding your letter of May 3rd addressed to Mr. McBrier, as subsequently the Chase National Bank communicated with us regarding two $1,000.00 bonds of the Inland Steel Company 3 3/4's of 1961. After complying with the instructions of the bank regarding certain steps to be followed, we received and now hold in our Custody Account these two bonds covering your contribution toward the Gamewell Fund for Yenching University. We are enclosing our receipt herewith.

In making this contribution toward the Gamewell Fund, you have assisted in a project which we hold as outstanding in its importance. Dr. Gamewell likewise in his many many years of service at Yenching is greatly honored, and the building up of a religious department does his heart and soul good. I am sure he joins with the Trustees of Yenching University in thanking you most heartily for this assistance.

Very truly yours,

CAE/B
ENC.

0064

April 14, 1939

My dear Mr. Welch:

I recall that last year you made a very generous and helpful gift toward the Canewell Professorship of Religion, which established the School of Religion in Yenching University, on a firmer basis than before. This gift was greatly appreciated by me. You have, without doubt, been receiving the reports from this office in regard to the progress of our campaign for current expenses. Due to the great needs of our twelve Christian colleges, we need to raise this year $330,000. The enclosed progress bulletin will indicate how far we have succeeded.

You understand that the united work of twenty-two denominations in the United States, Canada and Great Britain, are represented in these twelve universities. It is the greatest piece of united Christian work anywhere in the world so far as I know.

I am enclosing also the last copy of the Yenching News. The item of which I wish to direct your special attention, will be found on the second page. It shows the number of graduates that enter various activities; and you will notice that in education, "politics", which means government leadership, research, social and religious work, journalism and medicine, 90% of the graduates are accounted for. I should like to find some university in the United States that can show a record of 90% of its graduates who are so endued with Christian idealism that they give their lives for the betterment of their country and their fellow man. I think it would be hard to parallel this record.

Unfortunately the government cannot give subsidies as in the past. It is one great reason why we are confronted with the task of raising $330,000 for the current needs this year. I hope you may find it possible to make a generous subscription to our Christian colleges. I consider that a dollar in this direction will go further to promote the Kingdom of God, that in any other way that I could select.

I trust you may find time to carefully glance over the enclosed "Yenching News". You may possibly have received this before, but I realize how constantly such material coming to your desk cannot have your attention. This is certainly worthy of your prayerful thought.

Hoping you may find it in your heart to make a contribution, I am

Sincerely yours,

E. M. McBrier

Mr. Edgar T. Welch
Westfield, New York

Encls.

U065

EDGAR T. WELCH
WESTFIELD-NEW YORK

Hotel
RR
4/19/39

Return to
E M McB

April 15 1939

RECEIVED ATTENTION
APR 27 1939
E M. McBRIER

Mr.E.M.McBrier,
150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City

Dear Mr.McBrier:

Your letter of the 14th, regarding the needs of Yenching University, has been received.

In the 13 years since my father's death, I have been able to carry out certain things which he wished done. Foreign Missions have been a large beneficiary. Some years before he died my father gave to my brother Paul and me a block of stock in the Welch Grape Juice Co., the only stipulation being that he hoped the income would be used for benevolent purposes. After his death, this stock was sold and a Trust Fund established with the Chase National Bank--a ten year Trust. The distribution of this Trust--income and principal-- was completed last November. I gave this information to the Board of Foreign Missions at the time the last gift was made.

The large part of what I have been able to do in the past ten years has been because of this fund.

I wish I were able to assist Yenching University at this time , but I am not.

Yours sincerely,

Edgar T. Welch

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