Roberta M. Ma

Sincerely yours,

Thanking you for your cooperation.

We at the Dean's Residence send the following information: To all members, old and new.

Dear Friends,

To all members, old and new.

YENT A BRANCH OF THE HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY

VENCING UNIVERSITY
Yenching University, Peiping, China
17 Oct., 1937.

Rev. John H. Leamon,
Melrose Highlands Congregational Church,
Melrose Highlands, Mass., U.S.A.

My dear Mr. Leamon:

No doubt you, and the many friends in the Melrose Highlands church, will be interested to know how Yenching University is faring in these troubled times.

The very first word of the "Lu Kou Ch'iao Incident", which was the beginning of the present conflict, reached me in the form of a little Chinese newspaper "extra" on July 8th, while I was in Peiping attending the Annual Meeting of the Chinese National Educational Association. No one knew then what turn events would take, but the Annual Meeting adjourned the following day and members from central and southern China hastened to leave Peiping.

Fortunately for us here at Yenching it was summer vacation and comparatively few of our 800 regular students were on the University campus. Also many members of the faculty were absent. This reduction in the size of the University community made the situation on the campus easier to deal with administratively. The atmosphere was of course tense with fear and anxiety, for here in North China we are not without background for the interpretation of such events as followed the incident of July 8th. During the period from July 8th to 28th many of the students and faculty who had remained on the campus went to Tientsin and points further south seeking places which promised greater safety. Of the foreign (non-Chinese) members of the faculty most families were at Paitaiho by the seaside for the vacation.

Besides Pres. Stuart, who has no family here, there were but two American families who remain here throughout the summer--Mr. and Mrs. Porter (Colleagues with us under the American Board) and ourselves. As the situation became more tense the latter part of July, the officers of the American Embassy urged all Americans to go into Peiping, and be ready upon signal to seek safety in the Embassy grounds. We who were here at Yenching felt that we could not abandon the University, nor our Chinese students and colleagues, and so, rejecting the Embassy's advice we remained here.

On July 27th and 28th matters came to a crisis. The Japanese army, after some severe fighting around the suburbs, took possession of Peiping without having to attack the city itself. Part of the suburban fighting was near us. Chinese army barracks are situated west of us, scarcely more than a mile from the campus. On the morning of July 28th Japanese bombing planes, coming from the east, passed at a low altitude directly over the University campus and dropped bombs on the barracks to the west of us. The explosions were loud enough to rattle the windows in our houses. Another similar attack was made the next morning, the 29th. Before noon the attack ceased and I rode over to the barracks on my bicycle, in company with some Chinese friends, to view the scene. The central part of the barrack buildings were badly wrecked, and some bombs had fallen on the houses and shops in the edge of an adjoining village. But no lives were lost as both soldiers and villagers were able to seek safety before the actual attack was made.
After the Japanese army took possession of Peiping the battle line moved southward, away from us, for we are northwest of the city. But one day there was a brisk skirmish between Japanese forces and a band of scattered Chinese troops, which took place about a mile south of us on the road toward Peiping. After this there were no more real battles near us, but for many days, even weeks, the sound of cannonading, and occasionally of rifle fire, could be heard in the foothills, valleys and passes of the mountains near us. I recall that on two consecutive Sundays Dr. T. C. Chao, Dean of our School of Religion, conducting the University church service, had to preach and pray accompanied by the sound of cannonading.

During the days of the crisis, described above, the Chinese population of the two large villages lying to the south and the east of the campus became alarmed and many of them sought refuge within the walls of the University compound. The number of refugees at one time reached the number of 2,000 or more. Some remained for a few days, some for a week or more, but as the panic subsided the last of the crowd were finally persuaded to vacate our buildings.

During the month following July 8th, besides the many local and temporary problems, we were constantly faced with the problem of the policy of the University for the near future. Should we, or should we not, plan to open the university for the new academic year in September? Who could forecast the future and say what conditions might surround us in the autumn? If we should misinterpret the signs of the times, announce the opening of the University in September and re-assemble our students and faculty only to place them and ourselves in a center of great danger—how could we meet such a responsibility? On the other hand, if we took counsel of our fears, and announced that we would not open in the autumn, only to find this region without serious disturbance during the academic year, how foolish we would feel, and what a waste of educational opportunity would be incurred! These were the considerations which confronted us during many meetings for the discussion of University affairs, held from time to time.

The time for the regular entrance examination of the University announced many months earlier had been fixed for the end of July. Not being able to hold them then, but with the growing conviction that we would be able to open in the autumn, we changed the date to Aug. 8th to 10th. At that date, much to our surprise, we found that of the 1,000 or more young men and women who had earlier made application, about 700 appeared for the examinations. As a place for the examination we had borrowed the premises of a school in Peiping, as being more convenient than our out-of-the-city site. The staff of our admissions bureau was much depleted, and so I was asked to help proctor the examinations—a new experience for me. I was assigned to a large room where about 160 young women were assembled for the ordeal. And ordeal it was, for more than one reason, for the weather was extremely hot and humid—Peiping's worst mid-summer weather. Of the 700 candidates admission was accorded to about 200.

By September 1st conditions in Peiping had become more settled, and many families who had left the city earlier were returning. For this and other reasons it seemed wise to offer a second opportunity for admission examinations. On this second occasion a few hundred more sat for the examinations, and a few tens more were admitted.

Registration began about September 16th, and owing to the special circumstances, had to be kept open for a month.
as well as among those recently admitted by examination, there was naturally much hesitancy about coming outside Peking's city walls to our campus—especially as a long and severe battle for the Nankou Pass was still in progress not more than 25 miles to the north of us, and there a good deal of banditry throughout the countryside. In view of these circumstances we deemed it reasonable to relax the rules regarding late registration, and as a matter of fact admitted students down to the middle of October. Most of our old students from central and southern China were unable to come north, but a few found ways of surmounting the difficulties and, early or late, appeared upon the campus. Recently I learned that the Registrar's office is in correspondence with more than a hundred students regarding return for the second semester.

The report of final registration now shows an enrolment of 499 students. Our regular number—a self-imposed quota—is 800. My own courses are proceeding much as usual, but with somewhat reduced attendance. I have a class in "Introduction to Education" which began with 10 students, and now has 21. A more advanced course, "The Philosophy of Education", began with 1 student and now has 11.

When we reflect on general conditions in China, and on China's struggle for existence, our hearts are heavy with sorrow and restless with sympathy. But here, being so far behind the battle line, conditions are quiet enough so that we can proceed with our work. The spirit in the University is good, both students and faculty giving themselves to the work with great earnestness. Much religious interest is noticeable and our Christian Fellowship (organized much like a University Church) has taken up the year's activities with much vigor.

In spite of excellent crops about us this year there is much poverty and destitution among the village population near by, due directly and indirectly to war conditions. Very early in the semester Pres. Stuart appointed a Committee on Relief Work, of which I am chairman. Contributions for relief work by the faculty have amounted to nearly $2000. We have opened a permanent office in a village near the campus and a secretary gives whole time to the work. Committee members give voluntarily of their time, and students of our Department of Sociology and of the Christian Fellowship are cooperating. Nearly 200 cases of need have already been registered in the office, and are under investigation.

Thus we are well started in the work of the year—unusual and distressing though the general conditions are. We hope we may be able to carry on through the year, and so adjust the operation of the University to whatever political changes the future may bring, as to maintain its fundamental Christian character and service.

With greetings and best wishes to all,  
Sincerely yours,  

[Signature]

Howard S. Galt
Dr. E. A. Gar Side
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Gar Side:

Your letter of November 8 reached Yenching in time to be read at the celebration of our forty years in China on the evening of December 8. Mrs. Gilt and I were quite overwhelmed at the preparations which had been made for that event. For ourselves, we had no plan to celebrate the occasion beyond that of inviting a few of our older friends to our home. When President Stuart some weeks earlier said that plans were under way for a celebration I was very much surprised and tried to head off the plans or at least keep them as simple as possible, but in spite of this, our friends here in this community put on quite an elaborate show. Your letter was read by the secretary of the Board of Managers while we were at the banquet table. Your letter caused mingled feelings of gratifications and embarrassment. I feel that you rather over-emphasized the things I have been trying to do during this period of service. I have been only one of a large number who have made their contributions to the development and progress of Yenching. An effort at faithfulness in the daily tasks is all I can claim. For the multiplication of the days until they reach the decades and a period of forty years I can take no credit. It certainly has been a rich privilege to be in China during this period of great change. There is a passage in Memoirs which I discovered many years ago, and which is constantly in my mind. It is to the effect that one of the greatest pleasures of the "superior man" is to secure the selected talent of the empire and educate them. Not that I assume that I am one of the superior men, but I have certainly had an opportunity to participate in the education of selected youth of China for many years, and while I deem it a great privilege, it has been a heavy responsibility, and I often think of the scores and hundreds of young people who have been in my classes who are now out in the different walks of life in China, performing their service for society or for their country, and so far as they are successful in their work, and I think a large number of them have been, it is gratifying to think that one has had some share in this great enterprise.

Your reference to the "score of thick folders of correspondence" when I was chairman of the Grounds and Buildings Committee brings back many memories. I, too, have a number of thick folders, but I am surprised when you say you have a score or more of such. I had not realized that the correspondence at that end would bulk so large. Although I enjoy work with grounds and buildings, I am glad that our University grounds and buildings now have reached a stage in which they do not require much attention and nature is doing her part to make the campus more beautiful every year. For one thing, we never cease to rejoice in the earlier decision to use Chinese architecture for the academic buildings. In this connection, I recall that you have not yet had an opportunity to come to China since the campus was completed, and I do hope something that opportunity may be yours. Your long and faithful service
in New York would, it seems to me, entitle you to the opportunity to visit the orient.

You refer to the possible publication of the manuscript on the History of Yenching University. This manuscript was sent home by the hand of Mr. Arthur Rugh, and I suppose has reached you ere this. I, for one, am not urging its immediate publication because of the various uncertainties. If it were to be published at once there may be some paragraphs in a few chapters which should be revised, in view of present political conditions here in the orient. If the publication is to be an attractive one, I presume we all agree that there should be some illustrations, and I presume you have on the whole, as good a set of pictures of the University in New York as we have here on the field, and the judgment of yourself or others at that end would be best in such a matter. As I say, I am not at all urging the early publication of the manuscript, but leave that for your judgment at that end in conference with President Stuart and others at this end.

Thank you cordially for your letter which was deeply appreciated, and with sincere personal regards,

Very truly yours,

Howard S. Galt

hsg o
The end of the Han Dynasty leading through the development of the
great dynasties down to a date near the end of the Ching Dynasty
(because foreign influences became effective in the development of Chinese education).

In trying to cover this long period, I am following first the materials assembled
quite systematically in the great Chinese encyclopaedia which bears the name
"Chin Ting Fu Chin Tu Shu Chi Ch'eng ( )."

The extensive section on schools and education in this encyclopaedia is like
a "source book" for these subjects. The materials assembled and usually quoted
verbatim are passages from the dynastic histories and other early writings.

Accordingly, the reading of these sections in the encyclopaedia enables one to
follow the general current of development dynasty by dynasty over the period
of approximately 1700 years. Following this main stream of development, I
am now working on the Ching Dynasty period. When I have completed the material
as assembled in the encyclopaedia and later material covering the Ching Dynasty,
then it is my hope to return again to the ancient period for a more thorough
study and to explore the materials down through the subsequent dynasties, which
may not be included in the source materials collected in the encyclopaedia.

This second and more comprehensive study will be followed perhaps, if time
permits, by a more systematic study of certain leading topics which may not
be adequately treated in a work based primarily on chronology. For example,
such topics as Huo Tse Chien ( ), Han Lin Yuan ( ), and
Shu Yuan ( ), may be taken up for special treatment.

It will be seen at once that the project is a very extensive one, and I
have no thought of completing it within a period of three or four years. The
objective, however, seems a worthwhile one, in as much as in so far as I know
there is no comprehensive treatment in English covering the older education
in China.

March 1, 1940