

1934

March

✓ G<sup>EST</sup> O<sup>RIENTAL</sup> L<sup>IBRARY</sup>

F<sup>ACILITIES</sup>

S<sup>WANN</sup>, N<sup>ANCY</sup> L<sup>EE</sup>

B<sup>IOGRAPHICAL</sup>

Dr. Swann's description of Gest Oriental Library.  
Reprint on Translation of sections of it.

Gest Oriental Library--Vault file, Miscellaneous Material

1936-37

✓ G. E. S. T. O. R. I. E. N. T. A. L. L. I. B. R. A. R. Y.

F. A. C. I. L. I. T. I. E. S.

See memo 1936-7 chronological file A. C. L. S.

A. C. L. S. on Far Eastern Studies in American universities  
for studies in philology Chinese and Japanese.

*Feb. - June*

*WEST ORIENTAL*  
✓ LIBRARY (~~HISTORIAN OF THE LIBRARY~~)

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY  
MC GILL/(TORONTO)

ROCKEFELLER

MORGAN, A. E.

DODDS,

FLEXNER, A.

STEPHENS, DAVID P.

Facilities

Relations WOAI

Foundations

Biographical

Flexner wrote A. E. Morgan, Principal McGill University  
February 12, 1936 asking him the relation between the  
Library, McGill, and Gest. He promises not to complete with  
McGill for the Library if ~~it~~ McGill is in the position to  
utilize it. Morgan responds February 14, giving the history.  
Gest deposited the Library several years ago with the understanding

that he intended to present it to the University. Afterwards, however, he became financially needful and asked the University to lend him money on the pledge of the Library. The University felt itself unable to do this and on May 12, 1932 entered into an agreement to purchase the Library from Gest for \$15,000 with the proviso that Gest would be able to repurchase it not later than April 30, 1934. Gest approached the ~~Library~~ University subsequently for further money. The University lent him \$10,000 on mortgages on other property, and extended the option to repurchase to April 30, 1936 at \$15,000. Morgan insists the Library, therefore, belongs to McGill which is anxious to keep it in the hope and belief that it would be the nucleus of an important School of Oriental Studies in the near future. The University had spent what Morgan estimates to be \$60,000 to encourage Chinese studies, but no such encouragement is going on then, at the time of writing. Morgan would feel that the University were treated shabbily if someone else helped Gest by giving him money to clear his debt and a little bit on the side. On the other hand, if Gest really gets a purchaser for the Library who will ~~yield~~ yield

him a substantial amount of money, he could not complain. Flexner replied with a candid statement of circumstances: \$135,000 offering price, etc., and asks Morgan's advice whether ~~xxxxxx~~ Flexner in the circumstances should go ahead and try to raise the money.

Morgan repeats that he couldn't grumble if Gest exercised his legal right to repurchase, nor could "we make legal objection to anyone assisting him to that end. If, however, another learned institution were to use its funds to enable him to make a profit and at the same time to remove an asset of learning from this University we should feel hurt.

Finally the two men, (March 2, 1936,) met at luncheon at President Dodds' April 7, 1936. What transpired there is not clear.

Meanwhile, Flexner got in touch with Stevens of the General Education Board, sending a copy of Morgan's letter dated February 14. Stevens thought in the circumstances, that is, McGill's accumulated investment in the Library, the General Education Board should be neutral. He did not share

Flexner's fear that there was danger of dispersion of the collection, a point which Flexner had emphasized in sending Morgan's letter to Stevens on February 19, 1936. Then Flexner said: "If Harvard, Yale or Chicago were in position to acquire this Library, or if McGill were in position to keep it, I should willingly withdraw. Inasmuch...as it appears that none of them is for the moment able to acquire and develop it, and inasmuch as Princeton has already developed an admirable Department of Chinese Art with which it could be affiliated, I should like the Institute for Advanced Study to possess it. It would enable us to make a natural extension in the field of the humanities, thus extending our cooperation with Princeton University." Flexner estimated in addition to the cost price of \$135,000 salary of the Curator and place to house the Library together with one or two professors total of \$500,000 ultimately. However, he contemplates only aid from the foundation for \$135,000 to purchase price and hopes that he can raise from friends \$50,000 to \$60,000 of that though he has no assurance.

On March 3, Stevens says McGill owns the Library, and it is accessible for use by mature scholars. Stevens is unwilling to take it up with the Committee of the Foundation. His ~~xxxx~~ interview with Morgan has convinced him that he should not follow Flexner's tentative suggestions. Flexner to Stevens, March 16, 1936. It looks to him as if McGill is playing the dog in the manger; that is, it cannot buy the Library itself, and they are preventing acquisition on proper terms by anyone else. He suggests if Stevens will not take the matter up with the Rockefeller Foundation in the interests of the Institute, it should consider making an appropriation to McGill. "My main concern is, as you see, not a selfish one. A library of this sort should simply not be dissipated." He does not regard as a vital factor the fact that McGill if it acquires it will not be able to appoint a staff for some years which can make adequate use of it.

On April 4, Stevens after talking with Mr. Gest writes Flexner April 4, 1936. There are three comments which are significant: (1) Collection still in China and certain objects at McGill are not included in the lot covered by the agreement

expiring on April 30. \$30,000 Gest considers a reasonable valuation for these. (2) If Gest has that sum he would be able to clear the account at McGill and so be in a position to deal either with them or someone else. (3) Gest is ready to cooperate with McGill if Morgan has a plan for using the books; if the Library goes to McGill under present terms, Gest "is through." His appearance since Stevens saw him in January gives meaning to this comment. Stevens closes with the following: Another institution will not find it easy to consider any step interfering with the plans of McGill, but "McGill shows no sign of having power to make a plan, and I have some hope that the other men at McGill will see how the case has been put on the footing that may be very unhappy for them as well as for Mr. Gest."

The matter rested until May when Flexner wrote Stevens saying that since his attention was originally directed to the collection by Mr. Gerould, the Librarian of Princeton, Professor Morey, head of D. A. A. of Princeton spoke to him pointing out that Princeton has already made a start in Oriental studies and that the acquisition of this



Library by either the Institute or the University to be used in common, "as are all our facilities, opportunities, and faculty, would create the possibility of establishing in Princeton a center for Oriental studies." Emphasizing that U. S. relations with the Orient are destined to become more intimate, it is important that the Library be preserved. He has got an opinion ~~wik~~ from Mr. Hummel, Chief of the Division of Orientalia in the Library of Congress which says G. O. L. is second best in the country to the Library of Congress collection. They have tried to acquire it for the Library of Congress but have failed. He explains his position, (Flexner explains his position) as still being mainly a concern that the Library should be acquired by one of the great universities which could be relied on to use it and to build it up, and not necessarily that it should be brought to Princeton. Other institutions are interested but unable to ~~make~~ purchase. Gerould is assured him that if it can come to Princeton, fireproof space for housing will be provided if the Institute acquires it.

The price has come down from \$135,000 to \$130,000. Again Flexner raises the question of the Foundation ~~bringing~~ giving

half the sum. ~~Texts~~

Stevens, June 13, informs Flexner that Gillis has about \$40,000 worth of books in China to be paid for. This may be true or not, he doesn't know.

Flexner June 17, said that he understood from Gest that these books had already been paid for.

On June 23, Norma Thompson, secretary, writes Flexner of the action of the Executive Committee of the Rockefeller Foundation in making \$62,500 available to the I. A. S. towards the cost of the Gest Chinese Research Library upon condition that the Institute secure the balance of such cost and at least half thereof, and upon the further condition that the collection if purchased remain at Princeton University.

~~D~~, Gest Oriental Library, Miscellaneous Correspondence, M-Z

1936

2/28

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

Letter from Hendell to Gerould, Feb. 28, 1936,  
regarding the Gest Library.

Filed in Vertical file under "G" for Gest Library.

Gest Oriental Library--Vault file, Corresp. with Dr. Gerould

1936

3/16

CARNEGIE CORPORATION

Foundations

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

Flexner to F. P. Keppel suggesting that if Carnegie Corporation couldn't give IAS money to purchase Gest Oriental Library why not give it to McGill? His interest unselfish. He simply does not want Library divided and Gest himself deserves some consideration.

Vault File, GOL Miscellaneous Correspondence, A-L

1936

6/15

STIPENDS

Academic Personnel

✓ GUEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

MATHEMATICS

Academic Activities

SCHOOL OF HUMANISTIC STUDIES

Academic Organization

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WOA

\$20,000 and \$10,000 for grants, mathematics and mathematical physics respectively for the year 1936-1937.

The \$6,000 tentatively appropriated by the Trustees April 13, 1936, \$6,000 for the School of Economics and Politics and the School of Humanistic Studies was because of bettered financial situation of the country approved, and Riefler was to travel to ~~Europe~~ England and France, and Panofsky to Madrid.

\$3,000 was appropriated for the renovation of  
69 Alexander Street.

Director reported that the School of Humanistic Studies had used the libraries of Princeton University liberally, both in Fine and McCormick Halls, for which the Institute had "made no payment whatsoever." Such books as the Institute had acquired have been incorporated in the Princeton University Libraries, with the Institute bookplates and a separate card catalog. The Director reported that the Gest Oriental Library was for sale for \$130,000, of which the Rockefeller Foundation was willing to pay \$62,500, and the Committee authorized the purchase.

Trustees' Minutes, Executive Committee, 1936, 6/15

1936

10/13

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY (p. 7-8)

Facilities

SCHOOL OF HUMANISTIC STUDIES

Academic Organization

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS (p. 8-10)

MEMBERS

Academic <sup>Personnel</sup> ~~Activities~~

Report of Director (p. 3-7)

Trustees' Minutes, 10/13/36

✓GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Fleener to Maass"

"As to Dr. Swann: The Gest Library will always need a curator who is thoroughly familiar with the Chinese language and literature, and I have had since the Board meeting two conferences with President Dodds and one with the Chinese scholars of the Princeton faculty in respect to the Library, which will undoubtedly in the course of time form the nucleus of a school of oriental studies - something that does not exist in this country and is badly needed...At the meeting I recommended a permanent appointment for Dr. Swann therefore similar to the permanent appointments of the professors."

...

"Yesterday I had a long talk with President Dodds as respects the golf course. He has not been idle at any time since the negotiations began, but he has had to move very diplomatically. There are two parties whom he must carry with him: one, the Board of Trustees of Princeton University who were unanimous in wishing to accommodate us in the way we desire; two, the Class of 1906 which presented the golf club known as the



Springdale Golf Club with the club house. There are a number of old-timers in this group on the Club House Committee who are extremely reluctant to have this memorial touched in any way. The architect is dubious about the feasibility of removing the building as it now stands, though it can be done. President Dodds suggests that, if we can authorize him to offer the Class of 1906 a somewhat improved and modern club house to be located at the far end of the Princeton Inn, the Class of 1906 will feel that they are getting quid pro quo, and he will be relieved of a large part of one of these personal situations which are difficult to handle in a university. The cost (at) us of building an improved golf club house to be known as the 1906 Club House would be between \$20,000 and \$25,000. The University will not need any part of the Olden Farm to replace any damage done to the golf club, for they own land at the far end of the golf course which can be used for that purpose and thus avoid crossing the road to the Olden Farm."

Source: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

1937

4/19

GENERAL

Finance

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

LOWE, E. A.

Biographical

HERZFELD

aul Flexner is looking for space for the books of Lowe and Herzfeld in the Gest Oriental Library, and is having difficulty finding it.

The University is assisting.

Trustees Minutes, 4/19/37, p. 8

1937

GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

ROCKEFELLER

Foundations

Flexner (Princeton) to Fosdick (Rockefeller Found., NYC)

"I have just returned from a two days visit to Washington in the course of which I had a very interesting conversation with Mr. Hummel, who is Curator of the Chinese Section of the Library of Congress, and with Mr. Putnam, the Librarian. Reflecting on what passed between us, I have an idea regarding the Gest Collection towards the purchase of which the Rockefeller Foundation made a liberal grant to us. Before I do anything or mention the matter to any one else I should like to get your opinion, for the point I have in mind concerns the Foundation as well as the Institute. Can you let me know what day in the next week or two I can see you for a brief talk? I do not think it will take you long to make up your mind.

"..."

File II-23

1936

GENERAL

Finance

GIFTS

FOUNDERS

Corporation

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

Gest Oriental Library value assets  
Paid 7/3/36 Rockefeller Foundation

\$135,455  
62,500  
\$ 72,955

I. A. S. share paid out of founders gifts--not separately by  
founders.

Treasurer's Report

1938

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

SWANN, NANCY LEE

Biographical

The date of the agreement which is letter form is apparently February 23, 1938.

The formal agreement provides for a total sale price of \$132,250.00, of which on February 17, 1938, ~~\$40,000~~ \$40,000, \$60,000, and \$10,000 had been paid in cash to Mr. Gest, together with an additional \$10,500, or a total of \$120,500. Of the balance, \$11,750, he directs by the agreement the payment of \$1,007.50 to Dr. ✓ Nancy Lee Swann, Curator of the collection, Lillian H. Gest, \$8,743.93, his wife from whom he is separated and G. M. Gest, \$1998.57, The residual amount. The first payment is \$40,000 and appears to have been made June 30, 1936; the second payment, \$60,000, August 17, 1936; the third \$10,000, March 22, 1937; the balance was paid to Gest directly was paid in November and December, 1937.

D File, Documents in Connection with Transfer of Gest Chinese Library to  
Institute for Advanced Study

1939

5/8  
5/9  
5/10

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

GENERAL (BY-LAWS)

Corporation

MAASS, HERBERT H.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Maass to Flexner, May 8, 1939.

Refers to the \$250 which he loaned Mr. Gest, and wants it back. Also, questions proposed by-laws eliminating ~~xxxxx~~ ex officio membership on standing committees of the corporation.

Flexner to Maass, May 9, 1939.

Mr. Bamberger called attention to the fact that there were so many ex officio members that it was difficult to transact business expeditiously when resolutions had to be circulated for many signatures. Bamberger had suggested the omission of ex officio members, and his request I brought the matter up at the January meeting, says Flexner, for a notice of the intent to amend the by-laws was given to restrict ex officio membership

to include only the founders and the chairman as ex officio members of committees.

Maass to Flexner, May 10, 1939.

Maass reminds Flexner that at the time of discussion in January of the amendment to the by-laws, he thought to remove all ex officio members from the various committees would be a great mistake because it would frequently prevent <sup>getting</sup> a quorum together. "Therefore, I believe that in every instance the Chairman, or, in his absence or inability to attend, the Vice-Chairman should be ex officio A MEMBER of each committee. This would in effect reduce the number of ex officio members, BUT still leave one representative of the officials on each committee."

*and the Director?*

D File, Herbert H. Maass, 1939-1946

5/13

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

ROCKEFELLER

FLEXNER, A.

WEED, LEWIS H.

Facilities

FOUNDATIONS

Biographical

Flexner to Weed, May 13.

He submits the budget showing the Gest Oriental Library a separate item since it cannot be housed in Fuld Hall. "I should have said yesterday when the question of storing the Gest Library was raised that, if any such step were taken, the Institute would be compelled to return to the Rockefeller Foundation the sum of \$62,500.00, contributed by the Foundation to the Institute on condition that the Library should be open equally to the scholars of Princeton University and the Institute."

D File, Weed, Lewis H.



1940

1/22

✓GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

Director reports on Addition to Gest Oriental Library

Tr. Min. - 10/22/40 - p. 8

1940

3/12

HOUSING

Facilities

✓GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Maass to Aydelotte, March 12, 1940.

He discusses with Aydelotte matters which will be brought up in the Executive Committee: (1) The duplex houses for the occupancy of members of the Faculty. These were houses contemplated for the professors, who were expected to put up half the cost of the entire project. The two duplex houses for which he got figures that day are estimated to cost of \$70,000, exclusive of garages, lighting fixtures, wallpaper, screen, refrigerators, and other incidentals. He estimated it would appear that the tenants would have to supply approximately \$10,000<sup>or \$20,000</sup> and I am wondering ~~in~~ <sup>whether</sup> they are in a position to do so." He recommends that before making any report to the Building Committee or recommendations thereto, the entire cost and a proper allocation of amounts to be contributed by each of the four interested professors should be at hand.

(2) Olden Manor. He finds Aydelotte's and Mrs. Aydelotte's plans for Olden Manor's remodeling acceptable, but questions expense.

(3) The Gest Oriental Library. In February, 1939, Maass personally loaned Mr. Gest \$250 upon the understanding that he was then ~~largely~~ negotiating with Dr. Flexner to sell to the Institute the puppet collection of works of art which formed a part of the collection, but which had not previously been purchased by the Institute. Apparently the sale of these items to the Institute was concluded in May, 1939. At that time Maass' loan was repaid. He understands that the purchase of the puppets was accomplished by virtue of an anonymous gift. The entire matter was concluded with Mr. Gest through the Princeton office. He asked whether he is not correct in assuming that the Institute through this transaction now owns the puppet collection and the works of art.

D. File, Herbert H. Maass, 1939-1946

1940

3/23  
3/30  
4/8

✓GEST LIBRARY

Facilities

BRITTON, ROSWELL

Biography

EAGLETON, CLYDE

Clyde Eagleton (New York Univ.) to F. Aydelotte (Swarthmore) 3/23/40

"...

"For your information, and as my good deed for the day, I pass along a conversation I had the other day with a fellow at N.Y.U. named Roswell Britton. He is supposed to be a pretty good sinologue or sinologist or whatever they are called--Moe would know about that end of it better than I. At present, Britton is living a frustrated sort of a life teaching Mathematics at N.Y.U. because there are no jobs for scholars of ancient Chinese. He says that in connection with the Gest Library at the Institute, Flexner invited him to apply for membership, and that with Flexner's withdrawal he was left up in the air. He does not seem to be aggrieved or to feel that any promises were broken; he just had some hopes which are now suspended. If there are any opportunities in that field I think he would deserve consideration."

Aydelotte (Princeton or Swarthmore) to Eagleton (New York Univ.) Mar. 30, 1940

"...

"I talked Roswell Britton's case over with Dr. Flexner and got a somewhat different impression of the situation. Dr. Flexner feels, in the first place, that Britton is not a specialist in Chinese studies, but rather an amateur who has an interest in the subject but no scholarly credentials anything like up to the standard which we require here at the Institute. I understand from Dr. Flexner that there was absolutely no commitment of any sort on the part of the Institute. If we are able to develop Oriental studies here, it may be that Britton would find it a useful place to work, but if we go into that subject we wought, in accordance with our program, to get men who either are or promise to be leading scholars in the world in that field."

Eagleton (NYU) to Aydelotte (Princeton) Apr. 8, 1940

"...

"I am afraid I left the wrong impression as to Britton. He does not feel any claim as against the Institute--he merely had a vague hope; nor, I think, does he aspire to be one of the big men, but merely to assist. On the other hand, I had the impression that he is a promising young Sinologist--you probably know more about that through the Guggenheim Foundation. On still another hand, I don't see why the Institute should spend its money (unless there is plenty) on such work as this, as there are far more important studies that need to be made.

"..."

File II-15

1940

7/1

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

Maass to Aydelotte, July 1, 1940.

"Now as to the Gest Library, I have read your letter very carefully and do not care to assume responsibility for a decision. In my judgment the matter should be left to the Executive Committee. I had the distinct impression, which may have been entirely unjustified, that at some stage of the proceeding we had acquired from Mr. Gest the art collection. Originally when we bought only the library he, himself, told me that he was sending the art collection to Princeton although it remained his property, because he felt that it was an integral part of the library and that some day the Institute should acquire it. Later on, when he was in distress, I thought we had made an adjustment of the entire situation, which, among other things, gave us title to the art works. In view of the circumstances, I am sure you will agree that I should not pass upon the question myself but leave it, as suggested, for the Executive Committee."

D. File, Herbert H. Maass, 1939-1946

1940

10/14

GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

Resolved to return to Gest some objects of art housed in library but not part of Gest Oriental Library.

Tr. Min. - 10/14/40 - p. 6

1941-1942

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

FACILITIES

Material concerning the Gest Oriental Library.

Filed in Vertical File under "G" for Gest Library.

Gest Oriental Library--Vault file, Gest Oriental Library Committee



University procured funds for a new library it would be a simple matter to preserve the integrity of this Chinese collection, (2) He mentioned the fact that they were contemplating another building, and that the library might be housed in that. Meanwhile, 20 Nassau Street was available.

"No promise was made by me, or was exacted by the Foundation, to the effect that we should even in the near future undertake the development of the field of Oriental studies, for by the time of which I am now speaking the condition of the money market was such that I felt it would be useless to raise the question. On the other hand, by the time this was is over relations in the Pacific and in the Orient are going to be such that studies in the Oriental field will be timely and indeed essential. I may add that Mr. Putnam told me that if the Board was willing to house the books in the Congressional Library,..[the Library has ample s/pace] to house them without expense to the Institute and on such terms as would permit the Institute to bring the books back to Princeton if that seemed wise and desirable from the point of view of the Institute."  
Gest Oriental Library, Vault, Miscellaneous Correspondence A - L

1941

7/24

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

Facilities  
Relations WOI  
Foundations

Copy of an original of a letter, copy of which is in the Gest Oriental Library files. Correspondence A. to M., ~~recounting~~ recounting the history of ~~the~~ Flexner's relation with the Gest Oriental Library purchase.

FA Confidential Files, March 7, 1957

1941

9/4

✓GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

Aydelotte to Maass, September 4, 1941.

"Captain Gillis, who bought most of the books for Mr. Gest in China, has written me what I think is the correct explanation. At a certain stage in the formation of the library a certain Doctor Reese, who was assisting Mr. Gest, reported on the basis of what was supposed to be an actual count that there were 91,500 volumes. Using this figure a basis Captain Gillis added the number of volumes as purchased, bringing the total to 130,000. Basing his calculations, however, on the number of boxes occupied by the first part of the library when it was shipped from China, Captain Gillis was skeptical about the 90,000 and thought the figure should have been more like 60,000. Apparently Captain Gillis was right and the error was made in some way by Doctor Roses.

"It would never have been discovered ~~and~~ had not Dr. Swann (who never saw the whole library together until it arrived in Princeton) suggested that we ought to make an actual count, verifying the figures instead of taking them on hearsay. No checkup had been made at the time the collection was purchased by the Institute. I feel sure that Mr. Gest himself was acting on good faith in placing the number of volumes at 130,000."

D. File, Herbert H. Maass, 1939-1946

1941

9/4

GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

Maass to Aydelotte, September 8, 1941.

"I regret, however, that it took so long to discover the real facts. While I do not impute any improper motives to Mr. Gest, I think some attempt should be made to adjust the situation. Undoubtedly his financial position is such that he cannot make restitution of what now appears to be an excess payment, but it may well be that he or his daughter are possessed of other property which will fit in with the library and could be used in lieu of cash by way of restitution."

D. File, Herbert H. Maass, 1939-1946

1942

1/26

GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

Library costs IAS about \$7000 per year. Must stay in Princeton as condition set by Rockefeller Foundation, which paid half the purchase price of the library. Discussion of turning library over to Princeton University, as it is now housed there.

Tr. Min. - 1/26/42 - p. 3

1942

5/18

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

Director appointed to look into question of best use of library, and whether some disposition should be made which would ensure its great usefulness for scholarly purposes.

Tr. Min. - 5/19/42 - pp. 2-3

1942

10/15

GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

TRUSTEES

DIRECTOR

MAASS, HERBERT

WEED,

Facilities

Corporation

*Administration*

Biographical

"The point was made that if the Institute does not intend to establish a School of Oriental Studies it was unwise to continue the annual expenditure of approximately \$7,000 for the maintenance of the /Gest/ library, especially in view of the fact that the Institute has difficulty at the present moment in balancing its budget." Mr. Maass proposed that a committee of three be appointed to study the question. Committee to consist of Edgar Bamberger, Chairman; Mr. Moe and Mr. Veblen.

Tr. Min. - 10/15/42 - pp. 6-7

1942

10/20

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

MAASS, HERBERT H.

Biographical

WEED,

AYDELOTTE, F.

Aydelotte to Flexner, October 20, 1942.

Maass and Weed are urging upon the Board that it dispose in some way of the Gest Oriental Library immediately.

D File, Flexner, Abraham



1942

10/23

✓ G. O. L. ORIENTAL LIBRARY

MAASS, HERBERT H.

Facilities

Biographical

Flexner to Aydelotte.

I am not surprised to hear Maass continues to nag you on the G. O. L. but surprised that Weed should support him. As for Maass I had repeatedly during my nine years to sit down on him in the most summary fashion, and unless you do so in the matter of G. O. L. you will find that he will be a bigger nuisance as time rolls on. It is no part of the business of a trustee to dictate the educational policy of a college, a university, or a research institute.

FA Confidential Files, March 7, 1957

1942

11/4

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

POLICIES

Administration

FOUNDERS

Corporation

GIFTS

Finance

RE MAASS, HERBERT H.

Biographical

Maass to Aydelotte, November 4, 1942.

Expresses astonishment that the grant of the Rockefeller Foundation included a provision that the collection if purchased remain at Princeton University. "Dr. Flexner had always led me to believe that the condition was merely intended to imply that the collection be kept at Princeton and be made available at all times to Princeton University." Princeton should pay the cost of maintenance, since the Library is catalogued as a part of the library of Princeton University.

Also expresses surprise to learn the terms of Miss Swann's appointment as Curator, "and I am quite sure that none of

the trustees realized or appreciated at that time that she was being given a life appointment.

"Apparently the whole situation is in a very bad state, and it may well be that the committee will have to direct its efforts entirely to an attempt to have Princeton, as above suggested, assume the burden of maintenance, or in any event to share the same."

(The Minutes of Swann's appointment make it perfectly clear that she is a permanent member, she is appointed with the T. I. A. A. and retirement at 65. Maass' amazement is a little ill-founded).

Gest Oriental Library Files--Vault,

Gest Library Committee

1942

11/10

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

AYDELOTTE, F.

Aydelotte to Flexner, November 10, 1942.

They are apparently seeing each other frequently on Institute business.

"I also had a good meeting of the committee on the Gest Library and I am sorry that you could not be here to meet with them. I want the committee to talk with you and it would suit them best if you could meet with them Monday, November 23rd, at 2:30 in the afternoon. Since I know that you do not go down to your office in the afternoon, I should be glad to bring the committee (consisting of Edgar Bamberger, Moe, and Veblen) up to your apartment." At the meeting on November 9, Aydelotte presented all the facts known to him concerning the acquisition of the Library. The committee has been considering the importance of the Gest Collection and the great opportunity which adequate use

of this library would offer us to make a contribution to Chinese studies, "which are sure to have a larger place in American scholarship in the future than they have ever had in the past."

He has estimated for the committee that to make the Library of real use to scholars, it would cost from \$60,000 to \$80,000 per year. If we establish a work in Chinese studies, it would be sure to grow, and grow more expensive, therefore.

Such an additional financial support for anything is out of the question for the Institute, and the Institute will now have to decide whether it can continue to expend approximately \$7000 a year for the maintenance of the Library on its present scale. They find it apparent that Dr. Swann is a permanent appointee and not an annual appointment.

D File, Flexner, Abraham

1942

11/11

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

POLICIES

Administration

FOUNDERS

Corporation

GIFTS

Finance

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner to Aydelotte, November 11, 1942.

Makes an appointment to meet the committee on Gest Library (Moe, Veblen, Edgar Bamberger) for consultation on the Library.

"The ~~xxx~~ documents in the case completely settle the issue. We are obligated by every possible consideration of decency to the Rockefeller Foundation, to Princeton University, and to Dr. Swann, and any recommendation that looks to disposing of the library would be a disgrace to the Institute.

"I do not believe that it is possible or desirable at this

1975 -  
moment to figure out what an Oriental Institute may some day cost. It throws no light on our problem. When we began with mathematics on an endowment of \$5,000,000, I had no idea whether the Institute would have three mathematicians or seven. Still less did I know that without any request on my part Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld would subsequently give us \$3,000,000 more. Every institution in this country that is worth its salt has grown and expanded in unexpected fashion. You did not know when you went to Swarthmore that you would get the money to finance honors work, nor did you know how much it would cost. You had faith, and faith moves mountains. I have faith in the original conception of the Institute as Simon had faith in his original conception of the Rockefeller Institute. Little did he dream when Mr. Rockefeller gave him \$200,000 that before he retired Mr. Rockefeller would have given him between sixty and seventy millions. Our question is not the future, which we cannot foresee, but the present, and I am much more concerned about the present than I am about the future, for upon the present the future is going to ~~depend~~ depend.

"With every good wish,

"Very sincerely yours,

/s/ A. F.

"P. S. If the Institute survives and grows, I venture to predict that fifty years from now its historian will say that the two most far-sighted things I did were (1) the acquisition of the Gest Library and (2) the formation of an economic group of the type we now possess. Mathematics and the usual humanistic studies would have continued to prosper without the Institute, though of course I am glad we did and are doing them both.

/s/ A. F.

"Ask Weed whether when the Johns Hopkins Medical School began with an endowment of \$400,000, Dr. Welch bothered about its acquiring an endowment of \$15,000,000 in his life time; I can give you a score of similar examples. Money comes to those who deserve it."

/s/ A. F.

Gest Oriental Library Files, Vault, Gest Library Committee



1942

12/8

✓ GERT ORIENTAL LIBRARY

SCHOOL OF HUMANISTIC STUDIES

COMMITTEES

GENERAL

(ENGLISH LITERATURE)

(LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES)

SINOLOGY

Facilities

Academic Organization

Corporation

Academic Activities

Original of letter Aydelotte to Bamberger suggesting  
development ~~of~~ in Chinese studies and Latin American Studies.

(Letter is original; Aydelotte mentions he is ~~xxxxxxx~~  
carrying the letter to Bamberger that day. It is present in  
his files indicating either he didn't take it or that it may  
have met with a cold reception).

See ~~Source~~. Chrono. 1942, 12/8

PA (Elsa Jenkins) 3/19/57, File No. 1.

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

INSTITUTE HISTORY

Institute History

Absent from the files are the reports of Dr. Fulton and Mr. Schaap on the conference of April 4, 1943 at Princeton, as are also many copies of the report of the committee promised for the Board meetings of 1946 and 1947, except for the abbreviated final report outlining three alternatives for the disposition or use of the Library as contained in the Minutes of the meeting, December 19, 1947. This contained no substance.

Gest Oriental Library files

1943

1/11

✓GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

MOE, HENRY ALLEN

BAMBERGER, EDGAR

Veblen opposed Moe's amendments to proposed report January 27, 1942 of Trustee committee for study of Library which favors current budget and expresses belief that Gest Oriental Library may well afford the Institute one of its greatest opportunities. Preliminary work on report filed with Board, January 25, 1943.

Vault Files, Gest Oriental Library, Gest Library Committee

1943

1/18  
1/22

TRUSTEES

Corporation

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

AYDELOTTE, F.

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

Flexner to Aydelotte, January 18, 1943.

He is having throat trouble again, and is coming down to Princeton to stay at the Inn and sit on the veranda; also to see some people whenever he is able.

He encloses a letter which he hopes Aydelotte will read to the Board to get permission to insert in the minutes.

He urges the Institute not to part with the Gest Library or to attach conditions to gifts that are offered without condition. It is shortsighted.

Aydelotte to Flexner, January 22, 1943. He has no doubt

the Board will be willing to incorporate Flexner's letter in the Minutes. "You may want to change it when you see the actual report of the Gest Library Committee."

D File, Flexner, Abraham

✓GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

FLEXNER, ABRAHAM

FULTON, JOHN

Facilities

Biographical

Aydelotte discussed Gest Library report with Flexner who wrote a letter in reply. Flexner says the report "is admirable and disposes of the problem of the Gest Library not only for the present but for all time and settles the policy which every institution of learning must follow in accepting gifts germane to its broad purposes..."

"...Those responsible for the development of an institution of learning must possess three characteristics: (1) vision...; (2) faith...; (3) courage..." He goes on to cite John Hopkins University and how they started with little, using these characteristics and grew to be so much.

"If the idea underlying the Institute for Advanced Study is sound...then the Gest Library should be maintained at any cost...To surrender that Library now, even assuming that we can legally and morally do so, would be a blow to the Institute from which it might never recover."

Dr. Fulton said that after the war Chinese studies will be more important and that the IAS will be proud of its ownership of the Gest Collection.

Tr. Min. - 1/25/43 - p. 4 and appendix

1943

1/25

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

POLICIES

Administration

GENERAL

Relations WOAI

From the Director's report, he has canvassed the situation on the Gest Oriental Library during the three years he has been Director. The report of the Trustees committee consisting of Edgar Bamberger, Dr. Moe, and Veblen, is presented at the same meeting, and these are comments.

Aydelotte says the ownership of the great library carries the responsibility for providing for its proper use either by the Institute or by some other research institution. "The committee has emphasized that responsibility and has wisely not attempted to say at this moment what that use should be.

"All signs point toward the increasing importance of Chinese studies in the United States in the future and if the Institute were in a position financially to establish a school of oriental studies, or even to staff the library and equip

with the modern books needed to make it an effective place for research, we should be making a notable addition to the resources of American scholarship in what is for this country a comparatively new field. Whether it would be wise or possible for us to do this depends upon several factors: upon the financial resources of the Institute, upon the outcome of the war, upon the state of Chinese studies in other universities, and upon the scholars and students available."

of He says a survey is necessary of the library itself and what is being done and planned in the field in the country. He has discussed the matter with Dr. David Stevens of the Rockefeller Foundation, and received from him an offer from the Foundation to pay the salary of Professor Duyvendack of Holland, one of the world's leading authorities in this field, for two years for the purpose of making such a survey. During the way it has been impossible even to contact Dr. Duyvendack, and it is, obviously impossible, if they could contact him, to arrange for his leaving Holland at this time.



As to the expansion of the Institute, he has been thinking that Chinese studies will be only one of several fields which should be considered, and he is preparing to lay a report before the founders, which will be the result of conference with a wide circle of American and European scholars.

In the same minutes the report of the Trustees' Committee is set forth, giving the terms of its acquisition and the then cost of its maintenance. They recall, among other facts concerning the library that the Institute in Dr. Flexner's time, February 19, 1936, in ~~making~~ applying to the Rockefeller Foundation for assistance in purchasing the library undertook to pay the salary of the Curator and, in the course of time, the salaries of one or two professors in connection with the Library.

The Committee has conferred with Dr. Flexner whose feeling is that the Institute could go forward only on the basis of confidence in its own future and that the Library should be held in this spirit.

The Committee also discussed the problem with Maass and Leidesdorf. They agreed with the Committee that there is no practicable alternative at present open to the Institute but the continued maintenance of the Library at approximately the present modest scale, (about \$6500 per year). They also called for a complete understanding of all commitments made.

The Committee opines that the commitments require the Trustees to continue maintenance of the Library for the present, and that it is impossible to reduce the budget. They also decide that it is not possible to dispose of the Library or solve the questions concerned with such action at the present time; that the plans of the Trustees will have to be considered at some future date. "The Gest Library is one of the few great collections of Chinese books in the United States; the role of Chinese studies in American education and scholarship promises to be much more important in the future than it has been in the past and the responsibility of providing for the adequate use of this collection is a serious one.

"At the end of this report the Committee has added the relevant documents concerning the acquisition of the Library by the Institute, together with a tentative estimate of the probable cost of maintaining it as a center for research in Chinese studies in case that development should at some future time seem to the Trustees feasible and desirable."

See particularly Flexner's ~~xxxxxx~~ letter of February 19, 1936, Document No. 1, appended to this report; and Document No. 4, his report to the Trustees, October 13, 1946; together with his letter of January 23, 1943 to Aydelotte, Appendix C in which he vigorously looks toward the future and affirms the destiny of the Institute as expanding to cover a field of Oriental studies. The budget is not included in ~~xxxx~~ the appendixes.

Minutes Trustees, January 25, 1943, Appendix A and Appendix B

1943

3/22

✓ G<sup>E</sup>ST O<sup>R</sup>IEN<sup>T</sup>AL L<sup>I</sup>B<sup>R</sup>ARY

F<sup>A</sup>CILIT<sup>I</sup>ES

M<sup>E</sup>M<sup>O</sup> from Marie C. Eichelser to Aydelotte, presumably,  
on the Gest Library.

See Source.

FA (Elsa Jenkins) 3/19/57, File No. 4.

8/25

1743  
✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

SWANN, NANCY LEE

Biographical

GILLIS, COMMANDER I. V.

Commander I. V. Gillis, U. S. N. (Retired) is cataloguer of the collection, formerly of Peking, China, present address unknown (as of August 25, 1943). Last communication received from Commander Gillis was a delayed letter dated November 12, 1941, and Christmas Greetings mailed November 11, 1941, arrived April 10, 1942.

Nancy Lee Swann, Curator, to Gillis, August 25, 1943.

She writes on the index to the catalogue of the Gest Oriental Library, and the letter indicates great doubt that he will ever receive it since no one knows where he is, and apparently they have not heard from him since the Japanese tied up communications with China.

"We dream that you are able to have your typist with you, and binding go forward, because, as we wrote in a

communication of February 12, 1942, Dr. Aydelotte hoped that you would be able to have the entire lot of copies printed and bound put into tao just like the four copies which we received."

She goes on to say that they are making in the Library, "as we can, an index to the INDEX by Gest numbers, just for use here in the Library, and as I wrote to you earlier we have a card index of authors, filed by authors index numbers..."

"I try to get up to call on Gest twice a year, as he is now totally blind, and penniless: lives with his daughter. They have a pleasant place to live, and his daughter is good beyond description to him. I saw him this past June.

"The plan is still to have a building for the Library just as soon as the war is over, and to that end and for that purpose we move forward as much as we can. It would be nice to hear from you again, and I hope that this letter reaches you."

D File, Documents in Connection with Transfer of Gest Chinese Library to Institute for Advanced Study

1943

10/14

ORIENTAL STUDIES

Academic Activities

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

Aydelotte to Dr. Hu Shih, October 14, 1943.

Asks him if he would repeat if possible what he said in the spring of 1943 or mix any other presentation of the value character of the Gest Library in the fields of research for which it would be most useful. If he repeated, it would be that the Library is to a certain extent a collector's library that gaps would have to be filled in, and modern scholarly and reference material added to it to make it useful for research. He wants and a frank and businesslike description.

D, Sa - Sk

April - October

POLICIES

Administration

TRUSTEES

CORPORATION

LEWIS, WILMARTH

Biographical

AYDELOTTE, F.

✓GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

For memo on above headings see Chronological file under  
1945, April - October, or any one of the first four headings.

D, Lewis, Wilmarth S.



1945

April - October

POLICIES

Administration

TRUSTEES

Corporation

LEWIS, WILMARTH

Biographical

AYDELOTTE, F.

~~EXISTING~~ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

GENERAL

Publications

For letter from Lewis to Aydelotte October 25, 1945,  
regarding above headings (Gest Oriental Library and General  
Publications added here) see Chronological file 1945,  
April - October.

D, Lewis, Wilmarth S.

10/26

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

LEWIS, WILMARTH

Biographical

AYDELOTTE, F.

Aydelotte to Lewis, October 26, 1945.

"The Gest Oriental Library is potentially a great collection. I have had several Chinese scholars examine it for me, the most eminent of them being Dr. Hu Shih. They tell me that what we have is a collector's library and that we should have to make large additions of working material to make it suitable for scholarly research. I have been given to understand that \$100,000 might be sufficient for that purpose, plus of course an annual appropriation to keep it up to date."

About the Trustees' meeting in Newark, Trustees' meeting not at Princeton. This was determined by Mr. Bamberger's health, and they just haven't changed the system enough.

D, Lewis, Wilmarth S.

1945

12/18

ROCKEFELLER

Foundations

GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

DUYVENDAK

Biographical

Executive Committee of the Trustees asked Dr. Duyvendak to inspect Gest Oriental Library during Rockefeller-financed trip to Columbia University.

Executive Committee Meeting of Trustees, 12/18/45

1946-47

SINOLOGY

GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Academic Activities

Facilities

IAS correspondence on Gest Oriental Library with its  
committee, Boyd, Duyvenda, etc.

A, Home, Gest Library Committee, 10/17/56

1946

5/17  
8/2

✓ G<sup>EST</sup> O<sup>RIENTAL</sup> L<sup>IBRARY</sup>

F<sup>acilities</sup>

O<sup>RIENTAL</sup> S<sup>TUDIES</sup>

A<sup>cademic</sup> A<sup>ctivities</sup>

D<sup>UYVENDAK</sup>

B<sup>iographical</sup>

Duyvendak's report to Aydelotte dated above on Chinese studies (Last copy) and on Gest Oriental Library (8/2) and on Sinologists in America 8/2.

Filed in Vertical File under "G" for Gest Oriental Library.

A File, Gest Library Committee, 10/17/56, Home.

1946

5/23

✓GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Publications *Facilities*

DUYVENDAK, J.J.L.

Biographical

Dr. J.J.L.Duyvendak of the University of Leyden has been giving his full time to the Institute studying the possibilities of the Gest Library. He approved the publication of Miss Swann's book. Aydelotte has had an intimation that Duyvendak thinks the Institute has a great opportunity to make a contribution to Chinese studies.

Tr. Min. 5/23/46 pp. 10-11

1946

5/23

GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

SWANN

Biographical

"On motion, duly seconded and carried, it was voted that pending final disposition of the Gest Oriental Library, Miss Swann be retained temporarily as Curator after her retirement on June 30, 1946, this appointment to be month by month, and that she be granted a suitable honorarium for this service."

Tr. Min. 5/23/46 p. 13

148

6/12

ORIENTAL STUDIES (SINOLOGY)

✓GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

ESS BODDE, DERK

Academic Activities

Facilities

Biographical

Bodde's letter on Gest Oriental Library.

See source.

Gest Oriental Library--Vault file, Scholar's Suggestions for Posts



1946

8/2

✓ G<sub>EST</sub> O<sub>RIENTAL</sub> L<sub>IBRARY</sub>

O<sub>RIENTAL</sub> S<sub>TUDIES</sub>

D<sub>UYVENDAK</sub>

F<sub>ACILITIES</sub>

A<sub>CADEMIC</sub> A<sub>CTIVITIES</sub>

B<sub>I</sub>O<sub>G</sub>R<sub>A</sub>P<sub>H</sub>I<sub>C</sub>A<sub>L</sub>

Duyvendak's letter to Aydelotte on Gest Oriental  
Library and 50 Sinologists in America.

Gest Oriental Library, Vault file

1946

10/18

✓GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

It was suggested that Dr. J.J.L.Duyvendak's report on the Gest Oriental Library be circulated to all members of the Board of Trustees and that the matter be discussed in detail by the Executive Committee.

Tr. Min. 10/18/46 -- pp. 6-7

1946

10/18

GENERAL (Oriental Studies)

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Director's Report on Duyvendak's report.

*Activities*  
Academic Organization

Facilities

Tr. Min. 10/18/46 Appendix I pp. 4-5

1946

11/19

ORIENTAL STUDIES

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

FACILITIES

Committee discussed Professor Duyvendak's report on the Gest Oriental Library. Committee consensus inadvisable for the Institute to adopt recommendation to enter the field of Chinese studies unless new money could be found. The Committee not satisfied it was the right thing to do even then. A committee was appointed to consider the matter: Fulton, Chairman, Lewis, Schaap.

Executive Committee Minutes, 11/19/46

1946

11/19

GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

\* The Committee approved the payment of \$1,500 to Captain Gillis for 28 copies of his Index to the Gest Library. The IAS originally received a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation of \$2,500 for 100 copies of this Index. Most of them had been destroyed during the war. The IAS and Rockefeller Foundation felt this payment was just in view of the labor and expense incurred by Gillis. The remaining \$1000 of grant would be used for making photolithographic reproductions of Index.

Exec. Comm. Mtg. 11/19/46 pp. 3-4

1947-1949

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

SWANN, NANCY LEE

Facilities

Relations WOAI

Biographical

See correspondence between 1947-1949 regarding the Gest  
Oriental Library filed in Vertical File under "G" for Gest  
Oriental Library.

D File, Gest Library - Transfer

GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

ORIENTAL STUDIES

DUYVENDAK, J. J. L.

OPPENHEIMER, R.

FACILITIES

Academic Activities

Biographical

Letters regarding Gest Library and Proposed Plans with  
Reference to the Gest Library.

Filed in Vertical File under "G" for Gest Library.

Gest Oriental Library--Vault file,      Miscellaneous M - Z

1947

SINOLOGY

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

✓GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

FULTON, J. R.  
AYDELOTTE, F.  
SCHAAP  
BOYD  
DUYVENDAK

Academic Activities

Relations WOAI

Facilities

Biographical

Flexner to Aydelotte, 10/6/47. If well rounded studies on Far East can be undertaken (financially) at IAS Gest Oriental Library should stay Princeton. Otherwise go to another institution. Defers to Oppenheimer's consideration which Aydelotte suggested letter 10/4.

Schaap's notes to Maass 4/9/47 as member of Committee on Gest Oriental Library. Notes of conference 4/4/47, Stenographic. Important and extended. Duyvendak's recommendations of 1946 repeated by him. Boyd spoke, Lattimore, etc.

A, 10/18/56, Board of Trustees, October 9, 1947



1947

1/8

✓GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

BOYD, JULIAN

LEWIS, WILMARTH

Facilities

Relations WOI

Biographical

Boyd's letter to Lewis regarding Library and Oriental Studies.

Filed in Chronological file under 1947, 1/8.

A, Gest Library Committee, 10/17/56 Home

1947

4/4  
4/9

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

SCHAAP, MICHAEL

Biographical

Report of meeting of conferences on Gest Oriental  
Library.

Also Michael Schaap's own report.

G. O. L. better undergraduate than graduate library.

A, 10/18/56, File #44

1947

4/4

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

Conference on Gest Library, I. A. S. members and Princeton  
Bicentennial Conference members.

See Vertical file "G" for Gest Library.

*{ also A 10/18/56 - Board of Trustees - 10/9/47 (File # 44)*  
Gest Oriental Library, Vault file, Committee file

1947

4/4

✓ GERT ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

FULTON, JOHN F.

BIOGRAPHICAL

Except from the Diary of John F. Fulton, M. D.

Filed in Chronological file under 1947, 4/4.

Fulton's diary, Sterling School of Math

1947

4/18

GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

ORIENTAL STUDIES

Academic <sup>Activities</sup> ~~Organization~~

As Chairman of the Committee on the Gest Library Mr. Fulton reported on the results of a conference held to discuss the question of the importance and possible future development of centers for advanced research in the field of Chinese studies. Discussion of the report was tabled until the next meeting of Board.

This was because if the new director was not interested  
it would do no good to keep him on + augment service -  
Report not presented then or ever with minutes -

Tr. Min. 2/18/47 pp. 5-6

1947

10/7

GIFTS

Finance

AYDELOTTE, F.

Biographical

SIVIAN (?)

✓ GREAT ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

Aydelotte to Fulton.

Just received news of a bequest to I. A. S. which I have been nursing for 18 months or 2 years. Doesn't know amount but for general purposes and not for G. O. L.

A, 10/10/56, File No. 44

1947

10/9

GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

ORIENTAL STUDIES

Academic Activities

Dr. Fulton, Chairman of Committee on Gest Oriental Library, suggested his report be deferred to a later meeting of Board in order to give Dr. Oppenheimer a chance to become familiar with situation. The Committee thought the Library should be retained if the Institute was going to develop Far Eastern Studies; if not, it should be deposited in some institution which had developed Chinese Studies on a more solid basis.

*R.O. work asking report be deferred until he had had a chance to study it*

Tr. Min. 10/9/47 p. 12

1947  
GENERAL

Facilities

✓GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

GENERAL

Publications

CARNEGIE

Foundations

BENEFITS

Academic Personnel

SIEGEL

Biographical

VEBLEN, O.

Letter from Aydelotte to Oppenheimer, October 9, 1947, regarding above listed items.

Filed in Chronological File under 1947, 10/9.

A File, IAS

A File,



1947

10/24  
10/27

GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

FULTON, JOHN

Biographical

OPPENHEIMER, ROBERT

Fulton to Oppenheimer, October 24, 1947, enclosing a copy of a letter when he has written acknowledging one from Miss Swann on the library. Fulton compliments Oppenheimer on his brief statement at the meeting. "The circumstances were somewhat awkward and I can only say that, as one of the Trustees, I am completely in sympathy with your attitude toward the Institute and your plans for its future. Incidentally, I think you scored a ten-strike by making your first appointment in the field of the humanities.

He then asks Oppenheimer's views on disposition of the Gest Library, and says Harvard and Yale are both angling and he feels rather on the spot.

Oppenheimer to Fulton, October 27, 1947. He gives his tentative view to Fulton that since there seem to be at the

Institute little or no human resource qualifying for an effective study of Chinese, or much which would enable the Institute to take advantage of such studies if they were conducted here. He should be inclined to make the library available to an institution at which scholarly work in this field is already in progress. "We are already scattered ~~far~~ far more than makes for healthy intellectual life." ~~His~~ His tentative conclusion runs to Harvard rather than to Yale, though he admits that Fulton's interest in Yale is natural. His views are not official.

The answer to this letter is in Oppenheimer's personal file.

D File, Fulton, John

1947

12/2  
12/5  
12/6

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

DODDS, HAROLD

Biographical

LEWIS, WILMARTH

FULTON, JOHN

OPPENHEIMER, ROBERT

Oppenheimer to Fulton, December 2, 1947.

"Dodds came to see me a few days ago. He had heard rumors from New Haven that Yale hoped to acquire the Gest Library. He did not like these rumors. He said that it was the intention of Princeton University to keep the Library. Although it was true that for the last ten years they had found themselves unable to make use of it, they would like another ten years to try."

Oppenheimer says he found the facts on the commitment to Princeton in the huge file concerning the Gest Library. "The subvention ~~xxxx~~ of the Rockefeller Foundation...was made conditional, and apparently the conditions were accepted by us: that the Library would remain 'at Princeton University'. Thus we are full owners of the Gest Library, but our ownership is conditional on leaving it at Princeton University."

He adds these circumstances leave him speechless.

Wilmarth Lewis to Fulton, December 5, 1947.

He suggests disposition of the Library should wait on Oppenheimer's finding the facts. And thereafter if it proves that the Institute is free to give the library to the institution which will make the best use of it. In the ~~last~~ latest poll of the Association of American Universities Yale's Department of Asiatic Studies was placed first in the country. Yale's claims have been urged upon him, Lewis, who has urged that the claims be presented to Fulton. If, however, Princeton's claim is not paramount

Lewis suggests that he and Fulton should withdraw from the Committee since our Princeton friends will look at us with black suspicion.

December 6, 1947, Fulton to Oppenheimer.

Expresses agreement with Lewis' letter, copy of which he sends Oppenheimer. He thinks it would be well for the heretofore relations with the Rockefeller Foundation on this subject to be formalized either by the Director, or if the Director finds it embarrassing, by Fulton, himself, as Chairman of the Committee on the Library.

D, Fulton, John

1947

12/3

MAASS, HERBERT H.

Biographical

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

Maass to Oppenheimer, December 3, 1947, acknowledging copy of Oppenheimer's letter of December 2 to Dr. Fulton.

"I am quite sure that Dr. Fulton was fully aware of all the conditions under which we received the subvention from the Rockefeller Foundation to purchase the Gest Library. It is because of the conditional limitation upon this subvention, as well as the lack of use of the Library by the Institute, that I have been trying for over five years to correct a situation which was brought about both by the purchase of the Library at a time when it was useless to the Institute and of the limitation placed upon its use by the Rockefeller Foundation.

"I have already suggested to the Committee, of which Dr. Fulton is the head, that if the Institute does not plan Oriental studies, that it would be best that the Library be turned over to Princeton under any conditions that may be approved by the Board of Trustees of the Institute; preferably, however,

that we be repaid our expenditure in connection therewith."  
(A businessman's reaction).

D, Gest Oriental Library, Transfer

12/4

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

FULTON

Facilities

Relations WOAI

Fulton to Robert Oppenheimer. Rockefeller terms would permit removal of Library from Princeton University if University would release it. Princeton refused. (No use being made of it by academic year 1954-5. OHic Register) Maass wanted to collect \$62,500 from Princeton (12/3/47)

D, Gest Oriental Library Transfer



1947

12/11

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WOAI

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

Oppenheimer to Lewis, December 11, 1947, regarding  
the Gest Library.

Filed in Chronological file 1947, 12/11.

D, Lewis, Wilmarth

1947

12/16

GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

ORIENTAL STUDIES

Academic Activities

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations W.O.A.I.

Dr. Fulton read the terms of the grant made by the Rockefeller Foundation toward the purchase of the Gest Library. The suggestions were:

(1) "that the Library be kept in Princeton under joint support from the University and the Institute; (2) that the Library be sold to an institution which would put it to immediate use; (3) or that the Institute transfer the Library to Princeton without charge and without prejudice to its future. The Committee strongly recommended the last if it is determined that Princeton is not disposed to release the collection."

Dr. Oppenheimer reported that Pres. Dodds said the University had not made use of it, but did not want to release it. Dr. Oppenheimer thought it would not be wise for the IAS to found a School of Chinese Studies as it has none of the pre-conditions for such a School. There is not one outstanding man available for such an undertaking, and such a School would add at least \$70,000 a year to the budget.

Dr. Oppenheimer was to write Pres. Dodds with two suggestions: (1) that the Library be put to use; (2) that the IAS cease paying insurance and Curator's salary when new library was ready. Tr. Min. 12/16/47 pp. 1-2

6/4

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WOI

✓ GIST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

Letters regarding above headings filed in Chronological  
file under 1948, 6/4.

D, Gest Oriental Library Transfer

1948

6/9

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WOI

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

Letter from Dodds to Oppenheimer, June 9, 1948,  
informing him that the transfer of the Gest Oriental  
Library will be completed by July 1, 1948.

Letter is filed in Chronological file under 1948, 6/9.

D, Gest Oriental Library Transfer

1948

11/16

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

RIEFLER, W.W.

Biographical

The Gest Oriental Library was turned over to Princeton University, to be housed in the Firestone Library. The title remains with the Institute.

The IAS purchased the home of Prof. W. W. Riefler on Battle Road Circle for \$42,500.

Tr. Min. 11/16/48 p. 6

1948

11/16

✓GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

SWANN, NANCY LEE

Biographical

It was moved, seconded and carried that the IAS pay Dr. Nancy Lee Swann two months' salary at \$200 a month in lieu of two months' notice terminating her employment; and that the IAS no longer has any commitment to her.

Tr. Min. 11/16/48 p. 5

✓ LIBRARY (GEST)

Facilities

PRINCETON

Relations with O.A.I.

When IAS gave the custody of the Gest Oriental Library to Princeton University there were obligations undertaken by Princeton which they have not discharged. Difficult to raise these questions with Princeton.

Interview R. Oppenheimer - 10/14/55

1949

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

SWANN

Biographical

OPPENHEIMER, R.

BOYD

Dr. Swann complained of the fact that some of the cabinets belonging to the Gest Oriental Library had been taken on their arrival at Firestone and turned over to the Industrial Relations Department. She also complained about the lack of care with which the collection was being handled, the fact that it did not have an appropriate space ~~for~~ of shelving and place for objects d'art, etc. There is no letter from Oppenheimer in these files to Boyd, but there is a letter from Boyd saying somewhat casually that if anyone thinks the Industrial Relations Section can't make as good use of the cabinets as can the Gest Oriental Library, they will, of course, be returned.

Gest Oriental Library--Vault, Miscellaneous Correspondence A - L



1949

10/14

ORIENTAL STUDIES

Academic Activities

✓ GEST ORIENTAL STUDIES

Facilities

SWANN, NANCY LEE

Biographical

Letter from Nancy Lee Swann to Dr. Oppenheimer, 10/14/49,  
regarding the physical arrangement in the shelving of the  
Gest books being unsatisfactory.

Filed in SRRS:skg:skak Vertical File under G for Gest Library.

Gest Oriental Library, Vault files,

Swann

1949

10/26

✓ GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

BOYD, JULIAN P.

Biographical

SWANN, NANCY LEE

Boyd to Oppenheimer, October 26, 1949.

"I have talked with our own staff, and also with some members of the Faculty about Dr. Swann's letter on the Gest Library.

"Those who were responsible for moving the books tell me that all books are in precisely the same order in which they were moved from 20 Nassau Street. Some of the massive furniture and objects we have had to store temporarily on Floor B. The volumes that were boxed and found on the floor by Dr. Swann were being unpacked and placed on the shelves when Dr. Swann happened to observe the process and protested even more vociferously than she did in her letter. This surprised me, for I thought we were trying to do what she herself had advocated. Nevertheless, we shall follow her advice in the matter, recover the cases from the Industrial Relations Section which were made for these books, and install them on the second floor.

"Incidentally, do you know why none of the Institute's bookplates have never been placed in any of the Gest books that are bound in the Chinese manner? I enclose a copy of your bookplate. Dr. Swann informs me that it would be unthinkable to affix a bookplate containing a nude figure to a Chinese work of scholarship!"

1955-56

GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Facilities

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations W.O.A.I.

Hu Shih honorary Curator of the Gest Oriental Library with rank of Professor.

Official Register of Prince. Univ. 1955-56

1955

10/31

GENERAL  
FOREIGN  
SITE (Buildings & Grounds)  
FOUNDERS  
✓GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
GENERAL  
REPORTS  
FLEXNER, A.  
STEIN  
MAASS, HERBERT  
VEBLEN, OSWALD  
OPPENHEIMER, ROBERT  
GOTTMANN, JEAN  
LEIDESDORF, SAMUEL D.  
ELLIOT, T. S.  
TOYNBEE, ARNOLD  
LEVY, DAVID M.  
BIRKHOFF, D.  
EICKELSER  
WEYL, HERMAN

Academic Personnel

Facilities  
Corporation  
Facilities  
Relations WOAI  
Academic Organization  
Corporation  
Biographical

(See FLEXNER, A., Biographical - Interview of 10/31/55)

1955

11/21

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY (1, 2)

Relations WOAI

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS (3)

Facilities

✓GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY (3)

VEBLEN, O. (1, 2)

Biographical

EINSTEIN, A. (2)

BIRKHOFF (2)

FLEXNER, A. (1, 2, 3)

Interview with Oswald Veblen, 11/21/55. (One of 2 interviews of  
this date)  
Filed in Vertical File under Veblen Interviews.

1956

7/16

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES  
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS  
PROFESSORS  
MEMBERS  
FACULTY  
PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION  
ECONOMICS  
HARVARD  
✓GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
GENERAL  
OPPENHEIMER  
FERGUSON  
TOYNBEE  
ELIOT  
PLACZEK  
KENNAN  
DYSON  
STEWART  
VINER  
ALEXANDER

RIEFLER  
WARREN  
MAYER  
GODEL  
EARLE  
DOUGLAS  
STRAUSS  
FRANKL

Academic Organization

Academic Personnel

Academic Activities  
Educational Institutions  
Facilities  
Relations WOA  
Publications  
Biographical

Interview with Robert Oppenheimer, July 16, 1956.

Filed in Vertical File under Oppenheimer Interviews.

1956

10/24

DIRECTOR  
JOHN HOPKINS  
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS  
✓ GUEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY  
PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION  
INSTITUTE HISTORY  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
FLEXNER, A.  
LEIDENHOF  
BLUMSTONE  
MAASS  
VIBLIS  
HARDIN  
VON NEUMANN  
ALEXANDER  
DOUG  
MOSBY  
AYDELOTTE  
WARREN  
STEWART

Administration  
Educational Institutions  
Facilities

Academic Personnel  
Institute History  
Relations WDAI  
Biographical

Interview with Abraham Flexner, 10/24/56.  
Filed in Vertical File under Flexner Interviews.

Flexner Interview, 10/24/56