

Mail: Box 403

Mt Kisco, N. Y.

C O P Y

SPRING HOLLOW,
Fox Lane, Bedford,
Westchester County, N. Y.

June 4th, 1933.

G. M. Gest, Esq.,
The Gest Chinese Research Library,
McGill University Library,
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Gest:-

Your kind letter of May 10th has just reached me here. Of course I have heard a great deal about your wonderful Chinese collection. I regard it as perhaps the most important contribution that has been made toward making up for the deplorable lack of attention to Far Eastern civilization in American universities. This is a point to which I have been giving much attention during the last few years, in collaboration with the American Council of Learned Societies and Harvard and Columbia Universities. I started the Society for Japanese Studies in 1929 and suggested to the A.C.L.S. the formation of a committee on Japanese parallel to their committee on Chinese. The two are now quite properly to be combined, with a salaried Director, and I have strong hopes that a programme of research, translation and language teaching will soon be inaugurated in co-operation with the two universities I have mentioned, and perhaps with others.

Only the accident of an unexpectedly long visit to this country this spring and summer has involved me to some extent in these plans, but from now on I shall not be able to do much as I have established my residence permanently in Great Britain. My place has been more than filled by Mr. Louis V. Ledoux as Chairman of the Society for Japanese Studies and also as Chairman of the Townsend Harris Committee of the Japan Society and Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Institute of Japanese Studies at Columbia University. Both Mr. Ledoux and I recognize the essential unity of Chinese and Japanese studies, not only because Japanese culture is derived from the Chinese but also because Japan is now the most active center of scholarship in essentially Chinese studies, especially in the fields of religion, philosophy, literature, philology and art. It is too early to claim any substantial accomplishment in these directions on the American side, except perhaps in the field of art, but I believe the movement has a real start and that great things will come from it.

I should be delighted to receive any descriptive material about your Library that you care to send me and I have hopes of visiting it toward the end of July if I may be permitted to do so.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) JEROME D. GREENE.