

October 26th, 1932.

The Secretary-General,  
The League of Nations,  
GENEVA, Switzerland.

Sir,

Some years ago this University, recognizing the necessity for increased knowledge of China, its culture and its people, in western countries, took under consideration the formation of a Department of Chinese Studies.

Continued examination of the project showed us that the time was ripe for such a development in Canada. We found that Occidental nations were realizing more and more fully the historical and cultural connection between China and the West, the interest and value of Chinese literature and Chinese culture, and the economic and political importance of China in the modern world.

It appeared to us at the same time that since, by reason of the short Northern Pacific trade route, Canada was a nearer neighbour to China than any other western country, since our commercial contacts were increasing and since no political questions separated the two countries, Canada was an eminently suitable place for a new school of Chinese Studies.

Believing, as we all do, that intellectual co-operation and mutual understanding contribute largely to international peace, we felt that such a development might in the end have a value apart from its cultural importance.

We were fortunate in the fact that at the same time as these plans were under consideration, Mr. G. M. Gest deposited in the University the