APPENDIX NO. 3

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CHINESE STUDIES

February 16–17, 1929

The first meetings of the Committee on the Promotion of Chinese Studies were held in the Executive Offices of the American Council of Learned Societies on Saturday and Sunday, February 16 and 17, 1929. The meetings comprised three sessions, of which the first was called to order on Saturday at 10 A.M. There were present, Mr. Laufer, chairman, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Goodrich, Mr. Hodous, Mr. Hummel, Mr. Latourette, Mr. Porter, Mr. Swingle, Mr. Willcox, and Mr. Graves, secretary, as well as, by invitation of the Committee, Mr. Leland, permanent secretary of the American Council of Learned Societies, Dr. P. W. Kuo, director of the China Institute in America, Mr. E. C. Carter, secretary of the American Council of the Institute of Pacific Relations, and, during part of the sessions, Mr. C. Walter Young, of George Washington University.

The Proceedings of the First Conference on the Promotion of Chinese Studies, held in New York on December 1, 1928, whose activities this present Committee was created to continue, were approved.

The following memorandum was adopted:

To the Executive Committee of the American Council of Learned Societies:

The persons named below constitute themselves, at your invitation, your Committee on the Promotion of Chinese Studies. This Committee, at its first meeting, February 16, 1929, desires to express its sense of the honor thus conferred upon it. It constructs its function to be to advise the American Council of Learned Societies, through the Executive Committee or the Advisory Board of that body, in matters pertaining to Chinese Studies in the United States, and to assist in the promotion of those studies. It will pass judgment on specific projects or programs submitted to
it by the American Council of Learned Societies, consider and make recommendations concerning proposals emanating from any other source whatsoever, and advise upon or supervise the execution of such enterprises as the Council may undertake in the field.

To these ends it adopts the following memorandum of organization and procedure:

I. It will be pleased to suggest to the American Council of Learned Societies from time to time, the names of such other persons as might be advantageously added to its membership.

II. It holds itself subject to call by the American Council of Learned Societies, expressed through its chairman, at times and places determined by him, unless previously determined at a meeting of the Committee. Two-thirds of its members shall be considered a quorum.

III. It will make its decisions in accordance with the votes of a majority of the members present, if taken at a regular meeting, or of a majority of the whole number of the Committee, if taken by correspondence.

IV. From time to time it may appoint to assist it sub-committees, whose members need not be members of the Committee.

V. For the period of one year or until other arrangements shall be made it accepts the offer of the American Council of Learned Societies to provide for the maintenance of a secretariat for the Committee and for the expenses involved in its meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Berthold Laufer, chairman
Carl W. Bishop
L. C. Goodrich
Lewis Hodous
Arthur W. Hummel
K. S. Latourette
Lucius C. Porter
Walter T. Swingle
Walter F. Willcox
Mortimer Graves, secretary

Mr. Swingle pointed out that the importance of the institutions on the Pacific Coast now engaged in the promotion of Chinese Studies and the proximity of that area to China made the creation of a truly American committee impossible without the inclusion of at least one representative from it. The justice of Mr. Swingle's contention was obvious, and after a canvass had disclosed several names it was
Voted, to recommend to the Executive Committee that Mr. Esson M. Gale, chairman of the Division of Oriental Languages of the University of California, Berkeley, Calif., be added to the Committee on the Promotion of Chinese Studies.

It was the sense of the Committee that there would be serious danger in much increasing its size and that the question of associate or corresponding members should be deferred until it became obvious that such members would have a function to perform.

The Chairman emphasized the importance of drafting a general statement explaining the aims of the Committee. He felt that much would be gained by the adoption of a few succinct sentences almost in the nature of slogans, whose value in dignified publicity he instanced by several cases.

Voted, that the Chairman, Mr. Latourette, and Mr. Porter constitute a sub-committee on publicity to draft a statement of the aims and objects of the Committee for presentation to it at its next meeting.

Voted, that the plan for a Manual of Chinese Studies, proposed at the First Conference and referred by it to this Committee, be held over for further consideration.

The proposal for a world-wide Survey of the Organization of and Facilities for Chinese Research, recommended as desirable by the First Conference was discussed. Mr. Carter described the work undertaken by the American Council of the Institute of Pacific Relations in compiling a list of the 289 courses in Far Eastern Studies given in 110 American colleges and universities. This list with much accompanying material, including an analysis of the information contained in it and an introduction by Professor Harley F. McNair, of the University of Chicago, will be published about April 1.

The discussion was interrupted at 12:15 for luncheon at the Library of Congress at which were present the Hon. Nelson T. Johnson, Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Stanley K. Hornbeck, Chief of the Division of Far Eastern Affairs, Mr. F. W. Ashley, Dr. Kiang Kang-Hu, and Dr. J. Franklin Jameson of the Library of Congress.
After a visit to the Oriental Collection of the Library of Congress, the Committee re-convened at 3 o'clock in the Executive Offices, where it divided itself into two sections each to discuss in detail a part of the program presented to it. At 4:15 it met again as a whole to act upon the recommendations of its two sections.

Voted, that the Committee is of the opinion that there should be undertaken a survey of the present resources and organization of Chinese Studies throughout the world, on the basis of the "Proposed Outline" submitted to the Committee, and requests the chairman to appoint a sub-committee to draft a plan for the execution of the survey, including estimates of its probable cost, and of its requirements in personnel, time, headquarters, and centers for gathering information, to inquire into the possibilities of cooperation from other organizations, institutions, and agencies, and into possible sources of support, to make recommendations as to the choice of a director, and to report to the Committee at its next meeting.

It was estimated roughly that two years' time and an expenditure of $30,000 would be needed to complete the work. It was also pointed out that the work fell naturally into three divisions, one respecting the United States, one Europe, and one Asia, in the order of difficulty of securing the requisite information. The Survey might accordingly appear in three parts covering the areas named in that order.

The Chairman appointed Mr. Swingle, Mr. Hummel, and Mr. Bishop to this sub-committee.

Voted, that a directory of sinologists throughout the world be included as part of the Survey.

It was the sense of the Committee that a Second Conference on the Promotion of Chinese Studies, to be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society, is desirable and Mr. Porter, for the sub-committee on collaboration with the American Oriental Society in arranging for the presentation of papers on the Eastern subjects, reported that he had secured definite promises of six papers and tentative promises of others. The Committee felt that it would be desirable to present most of
the papers at the general sessions of the American Oriental Society and to convert the proposed Far Eastern session, of Wednesday April 3, into a "round-table" discussion, initiated by one or two short papers. The Secretary was directed to draw up a suitable program for discussion in accordance with the sense of the Committee.

Voted, that the Committee hold a meeting during the sessions of the American Oriental Society in Cambridge, April 2–4, 1929.

It was the sense of the Committee that the most suitable time for such a meeting would be Wednesday evening, April 3.

Voted, that in consideration of the successful activities of the Institute of Pacific Relations in stimulating interest in Chinese Studies, the Committee in general confine its efforts in that direction to collaboration with the Institute on the latter's initiative.

Voted, that the American Council of Learned Societies be requested to express to the American Council of the Institute of Pacific Relations and to the China Institute in America the Committee's most cordial appreciation of the collaboration of Mr. E. C. Carter and Dr. P. W. Kuo in the meetings of the Committee.

Voted, to instruct the Secretary to compile a comparative table of the more common systems of the romanization of Chinese characters.

Voted, that the Committee adopts for the present for its official correspondence and publication the Wade system of the romanization of Chinese characters.

Voted, that the Secretary be directed to secure from the leading colleges and universities of the United States a statement of their attitude towards the use of the Chinese language by Occidental students in satisfaction of an entrance requirement.

Voted, that the Secretary compile such information as is available regarding syllabi of courses in Chinese language, literature, and history offered at universities and colleges for presentation at the next meeting of the Committee.

Mr. Bishop pointed out the difficulty encountered by Americans educated in China in having their credentials accepted by American colleges and universities, particularly where the matter consisted of offering Chinese in place of another foreign language in satisfaction of an entrance requirement. Mr. Porter added
that, as a result, many American and British schools were reluctant
to teach the Chinese language. The discussion of this matter
was exceedingly enlightening and seemed to suggest that an
inquiry was necessary to determine at what point the problem
could be best attacked.

The Committee adjourned at 6:15 for dinner, after voting to
resume its session at 9:30 A.M. Sunday.

The Committee re-convened for its third session on Sunday,
February 17, at 9:30 A.M.

Voted, that the Committee requests the Chairman to appoint
a sub-committee to direct an enquiry into the present state of
education in America and in American and British schools in
China with reference to training for teaching and research in
Chinese Studies and particularly with respect to questions of en-
trance requirements, scholarships, and fellowships, and to report
to the Committee with recommendations when the enquiry shall
be concluded.

The Chairman appointed Mr. Goodrich, chairman, Mr.
Porter, and Mr. Hodos to the sub-committee.

It was the sense of the Committee that the inclusion of Far
Eastern manuscripts in a general catalogue of foreign manu-
scripts in American depositories such as is proposed by the
American Council of Learned Societies would greatly increase
both the time and the effort required for the compilation of such
a catalogue, and that it is desirable that Far Eastern manuscripts
be catalogued by themselves.

Voted, to recommend to the American Council of Learned
Societies that a short notice on the existence, quantity, and
character of Chinese manuscripts in the United States be appended
to the proposed Catalogue of Foreign Manuscripts in American
depositories.

Mr. Lauffer presented a proposal, which had been mimeo-
graphed and distributed, for the collection of information re-
specting folk-lore and vital statistics in China. He suggested the
compilation of a brief manual and a questionnaire indicating the
information desirable and the proper method of collecting it
which should be distributed to missionaries, teachers, and others in China, and volunteered to undertake the preparation of such a manual if the Committee thought the procedure advisable and felt that its publication could be arranged. Discussion brought out the opinion that the vital statistics thus collected would probably be of little value. Mr. Hummel pointed out that such a survey of folk-lore could be made without arousing any such suspicion on the part of the Chinese as they usually attach to answering questionnaires. Mr. Porter added that it would bring home to a host of persons working in China, but unable to read Chinese documentary material, the fact that they could make valuable contributions to our knowledge of Chinese life from their own stores of information.

Voted, that the Committee believes a survey of the folk-lore and social organization of China such as proposed by Dr. Laufer to be of the utmost importance, accepts with pleasure Dr. Laufer's offer to prepare a suitable manual and questionnaire for the compilation of the necessary material, and appoints Mr. Hummel, Mr. Bishop and Mr. Hodous a sub-committee to assist Dr. Laufer in its preparation.

The Library of Congress and the Field Museum of Natural History were suggested as suitable depositories for the material thus collected.

The Committee expressed its approval, in principle, of a further proposal of Mr. Laufer for the establishment of an Institute of Oriental Research.

Voted, that the Committee is of the opinion that the establishment of a series for the publication of monographs and short studies in Chinese subjects would be of great value in promoting interest in that field and in making new contributions to learning.

Voted that a sub-committee be appointed to investigate and report upon the compilation of an annual Bulletin or report on the progress of Chinese Studies in the United States.

Mr. Laufer, Mr. Latourette, and Mr. Bishop were asked to serve on this sub-committee.

The Committee realized the importance of work on bibliographies and indexes and discussed at some length these matters,
together with others, such as the securing of copies of manuscripts
in Chinese depositories and the establishment of an international
library of translations of Chinese works, without, however, rec-
ommending any action at the present time.

Voted, that the Committee on the Promotion of Chinese Studies
in concluding its first session desires to put on record its deep
appreciation of the interest and effort of the American Council
of Learned Societies in initiating this new attempt to secure in
America more adequate recognition of the significance of Chinese
culture for modern civilization;

The Committee further expresses its indebtedness to Mr. Waldo
G. Leland, Mr. Mortimer Graves, and their staff for the careful
work given to the preparation of the meetings already held and
the assurance of continued help in the future.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at
1 P.M.

Berthold Laufer, chairman.
Mortimer Graves, secretary.