

Shen, Eugene  
China Institute in America

*Incorporated*



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119 West 57th Street  
New York City

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By DR. EUGENE SHEN and Revised by DR. FRANCIS K. PAN.

AS apparent to all workers for international goodwill, the cultivation of an adequate understanding between the peoples is principally an educational process, and, therefore, calls for cooperation among the educational leaders and organizations of the various nations. A movement of this kind has been on foot for some years. European countries such as Great Britain, and France, have maintained in the United States centers for the dissemination of information and the promotion of closer international relations. Likewise, the United States has established abroad institutions of similar nature.

In the Far East, international relations have come to play an increasingly important part. It is gratifying to note that the history of Chinese-American relationship has been marked by a sustained feeling of friendliness. Such mutual goodwill, however, should be grounded in a broader and deeper understanding of each other. This is by no means an easy task. China, on account of her historical differences from the West, is not readily susceptible to interpretation by any casual observer, but can only be understood by the most critical, deep-thinking, and far-sighted individuals. Some Chinese and Americans have for a long time in the past tried to acquaint the American public with things Chinese, but positive, progressive, and organized efforts have been lacking, especially in the field of culture. This need is at least partly met by the creation of the CHINA INSTITUTE IN AMERICA.

The idea of the China Institute was originally conceived by Professor Paul Monroe. In May 1926, the Trustees of the China Foundation for the Promotion of Education and Culture adopted the proposal of Professor Monroe. This Foundation was created in 1924 in China to administer the funds from the Second Remission of the American portion of the Boxer Indemnity. Together with the Metropolitan Library and Department of Social Research in Peiping, the Institute represented one of the direct enterprises undertaken by the Foundation, and was to function along the following lines:

1. To disseminate information concerning Chinese and American cultures.

2. To promote closer relationship between Chinese and American educational institutions.
3. To assist Chinese students in America in their educational pursuits, and to interest American students in the study of things Chinese.
4. To stimulate general interest in America in the study of Chinese culture.

The Board of Trustees elected as the Director of the Institute Dr. P. W. Kuo, former President of National Southeastern University, Nanking, to whom credit is due for the initial drafting of the plan of organization. Under his leadership, the Institute has proved its usefulness, and won the approval of many Chinese and American leaders. Its activities can be best summarized according to the four divisions outlined as follows.

1. In the first place, the Institute has acted as a clearing house for inquiries concerning Chinese and American education. As far as possible, such inquiries have been answered through printed material and by furnishing reference to other sources. It has been a frequent experience to furnish American teachers with materials for their use in classes. An outstanding event which may be mentioned under this topic was the organization in 1926 of the Chinese educational exhibits in the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. The exhibits were shown by the Institute upon the request of the Chinese National Association for the Advancement of Education which was responsible for the collecting and sending of the material. They were intended to convey to the American public the idea of the continuity of Chinese culture, of the rapid progress in modern education, and of the evolution of a new Chinese civilization as a result of contacts with the West. They received considerable attention from visitors and called forth many favorable comments. The International Jury awarded a Grand Prize to China "for the development of a comprehensive system of public education," and the Institute received a Medal of Honor for "its unique and original presentation of the Chinese Educational Exhibits." Diplomas were also awarded to the thirty-five educational institutions and organizations which collaborated in furnishing the material for the exhibits.

2. For the past several years educational work in China has been carried on under such adverse conditions that to exchange professors between Chinese and American universities has been more or less difficult. Nevertheless, the China Foundation was able to secure Professor J. G. Needham of Cornell University to lecture and direct research in biology, and the Chinese National Association for the Advancement of Education invited Professor W. H. Kilpatrick of Teachers' College, Columbia University, to make a lecture tour on education. Other American Educators who visited China were assisted by the Institute. Similar assistance has been extended to a number of Chinese educators visiting

America. During 1929 and 1930, among those who came over were Mr. Y. C. James Yen, Director of the National Association for the Mass Education Movement, and Professor William Hung of Yen-ching University, who has been with the Harvard-Yenching Institute at Harvard University. Dr. Hu Shih has been invited to lecture at Yale University. Professor P. C. Chang of Nankai University will be lecturing on Chinese culture at Chicago University during the spring session of 1931. The Institute has also assisted several American universities in securing professors and instructors in their departments of Chinese.

3. In regard to Chinese students in America, the Institute has also tried to be of assistance in a number of ways. Considerable correspondence has been carried on to facilitate the admission of Chinese students in American colleges and universities, to give introductions and testimonies, to assist advanced students to secure opportunities for practical experience, and to adjust difficulties which have sometimes arisen with the immigration authorities. The Institute also participated in the administration of a loan fund which was specially created for emergency aid to Chinese students. Assistance to American students interested in Chinese studies has chiefly consisted in answering inquiries and furnishing references to original sources of information.

4. The general public in America has been very much interested in the study of China. The Institute has received a large number of requests for speakers on various topics. They have been as far as possible complied with, either by members of the Institute staff or by others recommended for their special qualifications. The Director, himself, since the establishment of the Institute, has addressed many audiences in different parts of the country. The lecture tour of His Eminence, Tai Hsu, the noted Buddhist scholar and philosopher, was arranged by the Institute. Such efforts cannot but create a clearer and more sympathetic understanding of China by the American people and the results must be far-reaching. Interest on the part of America in the study of Chinese culture has been shown by the establishment of the Harvard-Yenching Institute of Chinese Studies; the organization of a department of Oriental Art in the Toledo Museum; the creation of a Chinese National Room in the Cathedral of Learning of the University of Pittsburgh; and others. A number of Americans and Chinese have expressed their desire to create some organization on the Pacific Coast to cooperate with the Institute, and students in the University of California, interested in China, have organized a club for the study of Chinese culture. Even in high schools, students have been given opportunities to write and debate on Chinese topics.

Along with the efforts of the Institute and others in encouraging the study of Chinese culture, the American Council of Learned Societies has organized a special committee for the promotion of Chinese

studies as a result of a special conference called by the Council in December, 1928. The Institute was invited to participate in the proceedings. Conferences have been held in Washington, D. C., and Cambridge, Massachusetts and Toronto. The Director has been made a member of the Standing Committee.

Besides the activities summarized above under the four divisions, there are others in the program of the Institute which do not relate to any of the four divisions in particular. It may be worthwhile to enumerate a few of the important ones.

Publications: The publications of the Institute can be classified as Institute Bulletins and Special Bulletins. Of the first type, seven issues have been published. They are:

- a. China Institute in America (October 1926).
- b. China Institute in America (January 1927).
- c. China Institute in America (May 1927).
- d. Thesis and Dissertations by Chinese Students in America (November 1927).
- e. One Hundred Selected Books on China (March 1928).
- f. One Hundred Selected Books on China. Revised List (November 1928).
- g. Thesis and Dissertations by Chinese Students in America. Supplementary List (December 1928).

Two special bulletins published were "China Institute in America" (November 1928) and "Organic Law of the National Government of the Republic of China" (April 1929). Besides, the Institute has sent complimentary copies of "Chinese System of Public Education" to the libraries of American colleges and universities.

Dramatic and literary criticism: To correct possible misunderstanding as a result of impressions received from current publications and motion pictures in this country which often contain gross misrepresentations of Chinese life and customs, the Institute has spared no effort to bring the matter before the attention of the responsible parties. The Institute also reviews and criticizes text-books, novels, and miscellaneous manuscripts on China.

Cooperation with other institutions: The Institute has always emphasized cooperation with organizations having similar aims and objectives. An active relationship is maintained with the World Federation of Education Associations, Institute of International Education, Institute of Pacific Relations, Foreign Policy Association, American Friends of China,

etc. To other enterprises of public welfare, the Institute has likewise shown its helpfulness. The Institute is also cooperating with organizations in China, such as the National Association for the Advancement of Education, the World Chinese Students' Federation, and a number of colleges and universities.

Receptions: A description of all the receptions given by the Institute to distinguished visitors from China would be somewhat lengthy. It may suffice to mention those who have traveled in the United States during recent years. Among them are Mr. Frank W. Lee, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Y. C. James Yen, Director of the National Association of the Mass Education Movement, Dr. David Z. T. Yui, General Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Associations of China, Dr. Herman C. E. Liu, President of Shanghai College, Dr. Hawkling Yen, Associate General Secretary of the Institute of Pacific Relations, Mr. C. C. Lim, Manager of the China Basketball Team, Mr. K. P. Chen, Managing Director of the Shanghai Commercial and Savings Bank, Mr. Chang Kia-ngau, Governor of the Bank of China, and Chinese delegates to the Second Raw Silk Conference. To these and other visitors, the Institute has extended a cordial welcome and has offered its services. The Institute has also rendered assistance to Americans visiting China, including Messrs. H. K. Murphy and E. P. Goodrich, both advisors to the Chinese Government, Mr. Sidney Greenbie, President of the Floating University, and a group of journalists under the auspices of the Division of Intercourse and Education of the Carnegie Endowment.

Mei Lan-fang's tour: In February 1930, the famous artist, "Grand Abbot of the Chin Chung Dynasty," "Foremost of the Pear Orchard," and "Great King of Actors," Mei Lan-fang, and his company toured the United States for the first time, under the auspices of the Institute. Mei Lan-fang opened his repertoire in New York City. The success he achieved and the enthusiasm and welcome expressed by the public were to be envied by any visiting artist. Before Mr. Mei's arrival the Institute had organized a national committee of sponsors and did much to introduce Mr. Mei's art, which was altogether new to western audiences. Mr. E. K. Moy, a trustee of the Institute, directing the publicity on behalf of the Institute, edited a booklet "Mei Lan-fang," which has been widely circulated and read. The criticisms of the press have also been compiled in a pamphlet entitled "Mei Lan-fang: What New York Thinks of Him."

Until 1929 the Institute was one of the direct enterprises of the China Foundation. In January 1930 it was reorganized and incorporated as an independent institution known as the CHINA INSTITUTE IN AMERICA, Incorporated. While the China Foundation is still participating in its budget and program, the China Institute has become a joint enterprise

of the Chinese and American people. The program of the Institute embodies the following activities:

- I. To maintain:
  - a. An information service on China.
  - b. A reference library.
- II. To promote:
  - a. The exchange of professors and students between Chinese and American educational institutions.
  - b. The study of Chinese culture in America.
  - c. Lectures on Chinese subjects.
  - d. Conferences on Chinese-American problems.
  - e. Exhibits of Chinese art, education, etc.
- III. To publish:
  - a. Occasional bulletins devoted to articles of cultural interest relating to China.
  - b. Monographs on special subjects.

Owing to the fact that other duties prevent him from devoting his whole time to the work, Dr. P. W. Kuo has tendered his resignation from the Directorship of the Institute. The Trustees have decided to elect, upon consultation with the China Foundation, a Director from among prominent men of letters, philosophers, scientists, educators, and others of cultural attainments in China, at frequent intervals.

At the same time, the Trustees have elected Dr. Kuo Honorary Director of the Institute in appreciation of his services and requested him to devote as much time as possible to the furtherance of the purposes of the Institute.

Mr. Chih Meng has been elected Associate Director to take charge of the administrative work of the Institute. Mr. Meng, a student of Sino-American relations, has been General Secretary of the Chinese Students' Christian Association in North America during the past six years and has also been promoting friendly relations between China and America through lecturing and writing.

The work of the China Institute is of international interest. As contacts between China and the United States are increasing with time, the aims and objectives of the China Institute should meet with the approval and support of all those whose common endeavor is to promote understanding and goodwill among the peoples of the Pacific.

## OFFICERS OF THE CHINA INSTITUTE IN AMERICA

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P. W. KUO, Advisor Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Labor and founder and former President National Southeastern University, *Honorary Director*.

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of China.  
H. C. ZEN, Director The China Foundation for the Promotion of Edu-  
cation and Culture.

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CHIH MENG, Associate Director.

*Extracts of Letters to Dr. P. W. Kuo About the China Institute in America*

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CHAO-CHU WU, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of China to the United States, dated February 23, 1930:

"I have received your letter in which you outline the new plans of the China Institute in America and invite me, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, to be the Honorary President of the Institute. I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the honor the members of the Board have conferred on me. While conscious of my own limitations, I do not hesitate to pledge myself to the furtherance of the work of the Institute, whose past endeavors have earned for it an enviable reputation, both among Americans and Chinese. It is my conviction that under the able leadership of yourself and the members of the Board, the Institute will enter upon a new stage of usefulness and service, to which I shall consider it a privilege to contribute."

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NELSON T. JOHNSON, Minister of the United States to China, dated January 15, 1930:

"I have read over the bulletin setting forth the purposes of the new Institute and believe them worthy of support and accomplishment."

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CHIANG MONLIN, Minister of Education of China, dated February 15, 1930:

"I am much pleased to know that your program and activities as outlined in the bulletin tend to bring about even closer relations between the two friendly sister nations. It will be a pleasure to me to serve on the Board of Advisors with your kind cooperation."

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H. H. KUNG, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Labor of China, dated February 15, 1930:

"Knowing as I do the good work your Institute is doing in America for the promotion of friendly relations between China and America and the stimulation of interests in the cultures of the two Great Republics, I shall be very glad indeed to contribute my share to such a worthy cause. Please do not hesitate to ask me if there is anything I can do for the Institute."

T. V. SOONG, Minister of Finance of China, dated April 9, 1930:

"I wish to thank you for your letter advising me that I have been elected as a member of the Advisory Board of the China Institute in America, which I have much pleasure in accepting as I am deeply interested in the aims of the Institute."

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FRANK W. LEE, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, dated January, 1930:

"In my opinion, the China Institute in America during the last three years has done more than any other institution in helping the American people to understand China. I believe that the relationship between China and America will become more intimate as the time goes on and that agencies, such as the China Institute, should play an increasingly important part towards the promotion of friendly relations, and therefore should receive the hearty support of all."

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STANLEY K. HORNBECK of the Department of State of the United States, dated January 25, 1930.

"It will be my desire whenever and wherever possible to be of help in connection with the work of the Institute."

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KAY PITTMAN, United States Senator, dated June 18, 1930:

"I am in receipt of your kind invitation to become a member of the China Institute. I deeply appreciate this honor. I am in hearty accord with the work and aspirations of your Institute."

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H. C. ZEN, Director of the China Foundation for the Promotion of Education and Culture, dated February 19, 1930:

"I am very much interested to know that the Institute continues its work as an independent organization. With such eminent persons as Dr. Monroe and others as officers, I have no doubt that the Institute will continue its great success. For this I heartily extend to you my congratulations."

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EDWARD C. CARTER, Honorary Secretary of the American Council of the Institute of Pacific Relations, dated January 16, 1930:

"It is not necessary for me to assure you of my profound interest in the purposes of the Institute."

STEPHEN P. DUGGAN, Director of the Institute of International Education, dated January 28, 1930:

"Please understand that I am deeply interested in your fine work and that I shall be very glad to aid you in whatever way I can as a Trustee."

D. E. DOUTY, Vice President and General Manager of the United States Testing Company, dated March 12, 1930:

"I appreciate very much the high honor which your group of associates has conferred upon me and the opportunity which it affords for service in a field in which I am very keenly interested. I feel that my resources for assistance are very limited, but such as they are, will be entirely at the disposal of your organization."

BERTHOLD LAUFER, Curator of Anthropology of the Field Museum of Natural History of Chicago, dated January 17, 1930:

"I am very pleased to learn of my election as a member of the Board of Advisors of the China Institute, in whose work, as you know, I have always been keenly interested. I appreciate the honor very much and shall always be glad to be consulted by you on problems of mutual interest."

HERMAN C. E. LIU, President of Shanghai College, dated April 10, 1930:

"I am keenly interested in international relations, and I shall be very happy to serve on your Board. We are ready to cooperate with the Institute in a concrete way."

HENRY KILLAM MURPHY, Authority on Chinese Architecture and Architectural Advisor (1929) to the Chinese Government, dated February 16, 1930:

"I am thoroughly in accord with the aims of the Institute, as expressed in the excellent bulletin enclosed with your letter to me, and I take pleasure in accepting the election to its Board of Trustees."

L. C. GOODRICH, of the Chinese Department of Columbia University, dated November 28, 1927:

"I am much obliged to you for sending me the bulletin giving the titles of the dissertations and thesis written by Chinese students during their period of study in this country. This is a thing which needed publication and I am glad that your Institute has done the work."

C. F. YAU, Managing Director of Ton Ying Company and Authority on Chinese Art, dated January 24, 1930:

"I am very pleased to accept the election as a member of the Board of Trustees of the China Institute in America, and am willing at all times to cooperate with you in this splendid movement."

H. K. TU, Chairman of Naval Commission to the United States and Europe and former Admiral of the Chinese Navy, January, 1930:

"I fully endorse the various forms of activities of the China Institute in America, because they all lead to the increase of Chinese-American friendship. No lasting friendliness, in my opinion, can be maintained without the assistance of some agencies to remove possible misunderstandings by the dissemination of correct information about the nations concerned. I am glad to learn that the China Institute in America is doing so well in the promotion of closer Chinese-American relationship."

MRS. WILLIAM H. BUSH, founder of the Friends of China of Chicago, dated January 15, 1930:

"Since I visited in China in 1908, I have felt a deep and lasting admiration and friendship for her people whose culture I shall be happy to serve in this capacity, but feel entirely unable to advise such a splendid organization as the China Institute."

