8-15-1918

Letter from May-ling Soong Chiang, 1918-08-15, Shanghai, China, to Emma Mills

May-ling Soong Chiang

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Recommended Citation
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Transcription

491 Avenue Joffre
15 August, 1918

Dearest Dada:

You certainly have been on some spices lately: Every one of your letters shows you in such high spirits over being a farmerette or rather because of your occasional relapse into a New Yorker that I am most envious of you. If you are having as hot weather as we are though, I cannot very well see how you possibly could work in the fields.

My family are most anxious to have me go off to [Wokansan] for part of the summer anyhow with some friends. It would no doubt appeal to you, for part of the journey must be made on a houseboat. For that very reason, i.e. house-boat part of the journey, however, I am most un- [page break] enthusiastic. I do so hate a house-boat trip under this broiling sun. Of course after one gets to [Wokansan], though, it would be ideal - But however, the getting there and back. At first I was quite keen on the idea of going off: but now the hotter the weather becomes, the more do I shrink from getting ready to go off. I have not decided whether I am going or not.

In my last letter, I wrote you that two of my cousins are coming to America. I sent you some white handwoven Chinese linen, and some lace for collars and cuffs. There is nothing as wonderfully cool as this linen for shirtwaists, and I think you can get a couple of them out of the material. By the way, my waists shrank so from the
first washing that I thought it best to 
shrink the material for you, and as the bright 
idea did not occur to me until the very 
last moment, I didn't even have time 
to iron out the material. You will there-
fore please excuse this hastiness on my 
part.

I received such a nice sweet letter 
from Annie K. The poor dear seems dread-
fully tired though. If you are in N.Y. 
again this summer, I wish you would 
look her up at Columbia. She was [looking] [page break] 
to me at college in spite of the fact that she 
could not quite make out whether I was 
a fool or only damn lazy. A little of both, 
don't you think?

By the way, by the same mail, I am sending 
you an article I wrote for the China Uni-
versity Club. It made quite a bit as the 
Shanghai Gazette copied it, and as it was 
the only article in the whole lot that 
was copied. At present I am deliberating 
over some articles in the nature of social 
reforms for certain of the evils in Shanghai. 
I wish you were here to help me sort out 
the essentials from the rest of my thoughts. 
I am also deliberating on writing on "American [page break] 
women as College Students." You see, 
I think I ought to do best in matters 
I know first handed. It is easier 
for me to write narratives than 
formal articles, and for this reason, 
I am starting a course in Wellesley 
for my sole benefit. I want to get 
the swing and rhythm of Analytical 
Writing.

I wish you were here to help 
me get started. I feel so brimful 
of ideas: notwithstanding the 
fact that I am so awkward 
in expression.

With love -
Daughter
Address me to 30 Seymour Road
Shanghai

I haven’t moved yet: but Mother has, so the mail will be safe there. By the way, please continue the subscription of the following magazines for me.

1. Sat. Eve. Post
2. Ladies Home Journal
3. The Lit. Digest
4. Scribner’s
5. Atlantic

And please get me the following new ones.

1. Harper’s ([monthly] not Bazaar)
2. Woman's Home Companion

And when the New Republic runs out, please also continue that.
Please tell me how much the whole bill will amount to: and I’ll remit by return mail.

Daughter
Distract Doda:
you certainly have been on some
journey lately! Every one of your letters shows
you in such high spirits even being a
farmerette in Russia because of your
occasion of release into a new sphere that
I am most envious of you. If you are
leaving us homeward as we are
even, I cannot as well as have
you possibly could work in the fields.

My family are most anxious to
have us to go off to Inskourn for
part of its summer any town with some
friends. It would not demand appeal to
you, for part of the journey must be
made on a houseboat. For that very
reason, i.e. house-boat part of the
journey, however, I saw well by -
enthusiastic. I do so love a house-boat life under this breeding sun. Of course often one gets to Wokansaw, though, it would be ideal. But heavens, the selling these and back. At first I was quite keen on the idea of going W; but now the hotter the weather, heavens, the more do I think from selling ready to go 6th. I have not decided whether Sam going or not.

In my last letter, I asked you about how my cousins are coming to America. I sent you some white hand-woven cloths, linen, and some lace for collars and such. There is nothing so wonderfully right as these linens for the waist, and I think you could get a couple of them out of the material. By the way, my waist shrank so from the first washing that I thought it best to bolt the material for you, and so the bright idea did not occur to me till the very last moment. I didn't even have time to iron out the material. You will please excuse this hardiness on my part.

I received such a nice dear letter from Anne.K. The poor dear seems dreadfully tried though. If you are in Fl. again this summer, wish you would look her up at Columbia. She was cooking...
Dear Dad,

You certainly lost your ability to write: as a rule, I was always careful not to write anything which could harm your character. If you are really in need of refuge, I shall do what I can to help you. If you are not, I am sure you will not need my help. I am writing to you because I want to know what you think of me. Do you think I have made any progress in my writing? I am so anxious to hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

P.S. I was at the Chinese club last night and met a man who had been to America. He told me some interesting stories. I hope to write about them in my next letter.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
women as College Students?—you see, I think I ought to do best in matters I know first-hand. It is easier for me to write narratives than formal articles, and for this reason, I am starting a course in week-ends for my sole benefit. I want to get the swing and rhythm of analytical writing.

I wish you were here to help me get started. I feel so brainful of ideas; but understanding the fact that I am so awkward in expression...

with love —

daughter —

address me to 30 Raymond Road

Cambridge

I haven't moved yet; but
teacher
has, so the mail will be says then. By the way, please continue the subscription of the following magazines for us:

1. Dat. Sw. Post.
2. Ladies Home Journal.
3. The Kit. Digest.
5. Atlantic.

And please get us the following new ones:

1. Harper's (monthly, not Boazar)
2. Woman's Home Companion.

And when the new Republic next out, please also continue that.

Please tell me how much the whole bill will amount to, and I'll remit by return mail.

Happily,