

MANNING LETTERS (Thomas Manning)

This collection was in 1968
said to contain

3 original letters in Chinese

3 translations

acknowledgement from Miss R. B.
Manning

letter from RAS Secretary

In 1997 a note was added from
Godfrey Goodwin, Hon-Librarian,
to say that it was found to
contain only 2 original letters
and translations.

TM 15147
13. Lincoln Terrace

Felixstowe

Nov. 16/68

Dear Miss Crawford -

Thank you so much for getting these Chinese letters translated & sending them. I shall send them to Mr Victor Allan - who is writing a life of Thomas Manning & he will be tremendously interested - as I am - as it is known that T.M. lived with a Chinese Roman Catholic family who appears to have "adopted" him, as there are other letters mentioning his "father & brothers & sister" & who were constantly giving him good advice & hoping he would give up his idea of visiting Tibet -

This letter to "Brother Thomas" & Thomas Chao - may show the name he

took in his disguise - He lived a
great many years in China - enough
apparently to enable him to pose as
a Chinaman & get to the Dalai Lama's
palace! I will let you know how far
Allan considers these letters come into
the story - as not much is known about
his Chinese friends - T.M. was born in
1772 & would have been "over 30" as
"Father" says in 1802 - 1811 when he
was in China - Thaubyon again - also for
the card of your lectures - I will send
it to my cousin Prof. C.A.W. Manning who
lives in Baginwater & might be able
to attend some. Anyway he is
interested -

Yours sincerely

Ruth B. Manning

7th November 1968

Dear Miss Manning,

I enclose the translation of the letters in Chinese text, which you left here some months ago, and I am only sorry that it has taken so long to get them translated. They are rather sad little letters and one wonders how they got into the possession of your great-great-uncle.

I enclose a card of our coming lectures in case you are likely to be in London and would care to come to any of them.

Yours sincerely

Secretary
(Miss D. Crawford)

Miss R.E. Manning, A.R.R.C.,
13, Lincoln Terrace
Felixstowe
Suffolk.

To: Meng Sheng-hsiu 孟生秀

My dear Son,

I have heard nothing from you since you left home more than three years ago. I very much want to know what business you are doing now. Your elder brother has often shown concern for you and was told that you were earning you living as an interpreter (?) in Canton. We don't know whether it is true.

It is time for you to examine your own deeds and actions. God determines everything. Those who accord with Heaven shall have eternal life; those who rebel against Heaven perish. You will be blessed only if you obey the ten commandments and observe the prohibitions.

I am now more than sixty years old. My days are numbered. As you are approaching thirty, why don't you think more about the life to come?

I long for your letter. Give your reply to the man who delivered this letter as soon as possible.

Father.

字示吾^兒通生秀知悉自尔出外三年有餘並無回信不知尔今作何事業
我實不放心尔兄常上思念又且耳聞尔今現在廣東省城常通師
生理却未見來信今見字可該仔細思想凡人舉動行為莫非 上主
之命其不^知順天者存逆天者亡捉要安順守誠遵規 主必降福

况我今年過六十早晚難保尔今年近三十何不思身靈後系大事
今得此便示字省知將尔今作之事寫明速交原人代來 父日望
之

吾兒孟生香叔

中

山

子

To: Thomas Chao 多默趙

Dear Brother Thomas,

I hope this letter finds you in the best of spirits.

It has been more than three years since we parted from each other with tears. I do hope you have enjoyed good health. As you have been travelling extensively and would be weary from your ceaseless exertions, not to mention the climate disagreeing with you, I have been very worried. There is no way to comfort myself but to read the Scripture and pray; I pray to God constantly that you will be blessed with safe journey and good health. This is my comfort and my support.

In March, year 13, happily a Mr. Yang brought me your first letter which informed me that you had gone to Canton with a Mr. Ting and everything was going well with you, so my anxiety was eased a bit. Two months later, Mr. Ting came to Peking from Canton with your letter in which I learned that you had a pleasant journey to Macao. I thanked God for his grace and tried to send you my regards but couldn't find a suitable messenger.

In January, year 14, I was delighted to learn that a Mr. Anthony Hung was going to Canton. I immediately entrusted to his care a letter, some Chinese medicine, two embroidered cases and some cakes of soaps for you. I don't know whether you have received them. In May, a Mr. Sung came from Canton with your letter. I learned only then that you had left Macao because of the riots against the foreigners. But I don't know exactly where you went to. I feel very uneasy about you. In November, I asked a Mr. Thomas Chiang to take a letter to you in Canton. I wonder if you have received it.

Now (December, year 15) Mr. Anthony Hung is leaving for Canton.

7/15/47

I ask him to take you this letter. I don't think it is after all safe for you to stay there. My brother! you were always perceptive. You know quite well the difference in value of body and soul. I am sure you will certainly not give up an eternity of happiness for any temporary glory on earth. Therefore do make up your mind to come to Peking as soon as possible; and then I shall be content.

Your sister,

Mary. 瑪利亞

P.S. Elder brother John, younger brother Paul send you their best wishes and also hope you will be able to come to Peking.

字候

多默趙賢弟安好神平安自那日你灑淚別後至今三年有餘未知我弟身體建壯否愚姐想我弟為受遠路之苦如今要受遠路風稱晝夜勞苦再加水土不和恐我弟形體久受愚姐想到其間晝夜不寧實在沒有別的法子以慰我心惟有早晚念經祈求

上主施恩保佑我弟在外一路平安實為我之安慰我之倚靠也至十三年三月內幸得楊老爺帶來我弟之書方知我弟同丁三爺上廣說我弟形體建壯甚好愚姐之心稍寬畧之放下至九月內有丁三爺從廣來京帶我弟之書以知我弟到奧一路甚屬平安愚姐彼時感謝上主之恩也愚姐意欲致書問候怎奈並無妥當之人奈何至十四年正月內有安多尼洪爺來廣愚姐喜之不尽急刻拜托於他帶書一封併帶來靈保如意丹五錢梅花點古丹伍拾個人馬平安散兩瓶襪套兩個胰子幾塊未知我弟見了否至十四年伍月內有宋老爺從廣來京帶我弟之書以知紅毛奧門大亂我弟離開此處等語但不知我弟准在何處實使我不放心也至十四年十一月內有多默將爺帶書一封不知我弟見了否至今歲十月內安多尼紅爺從京來廣故致書問候愚姐想我弟在彼處終屬不妥論我弟素明道理深知靈視肉身貴賤的分別豈肯為世上一時之榮光丟了永遠之福樂愚姐想我弟斷不肯如此所以我盼望老弟早定主意來京滿我之愿也

愚姐瑪利亞拜

哥、若望 三弟保禄俱各

問候俱盼望我弟來京為愿也

平安問好信煩駕帶至廣轉

交

為感

多默趙賢弟玉展

年

年

年