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Midwest China Oral History Interviews

Franklin Wallace

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FRANKLIN WALLACE
ORAL HISTORY ABSTRACT

EARLY LIFE: education; interest in China; accepts faculty position at Lingnan University, Canton, 1933.

CHINA EXPERIENCES: first impressions of Lingnan campus; student disturbance at the university, 1934; attends a meeting of the China Science Society in Kwangsi, 1935; lifestyle of Lingnan; the science program at Lingnan; medical problems in the Canton area; impressions of the missionary movement.

INTERVIEWER: Sarah Refo Mason

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+ Complementary archival and museum material from Franklin Wallace is also housed in the Midwest China Oral History, Archives, and Museum Collection.

INTERVIEW

INTERVIEWER: Dr. Wallace was a professor of biology at Lingnan University from 1933 to 1937, and since that time he has served on the faculty of the University of Minnesota. Could you begin with a sketch of your early life and education and how you happened to go to China?

WALLACE: I am a native of Minnesota, graduating from Carleton College in 1928. I received my Ph.D. in zoology, specializing in parasitology at the University of Minnesota in 1933. My first job after that was at Lingnan. There were two connections which took me to Lingnan. One was Professor W.A. Riley, my advisor, who was then on the Lingnan Board of Trustees. He had been in China for a year previously. The other was H.T. Chen who had been a graduate student for a time at Minnesota. He was then head of the Department of Biology at Lingnan. With those two connections, I learned about a position there and went there in September of 1933. I taught various courses in biology: comparative anatomy, invertebrate zoology, genetics, histology; and did some research in parasitology, which is my main interest. Dr. Chen taught the course in parasitology.

I: You did some research in Canton on tropical parasitology?

WALLACE: The research I did was mostly with animal parasites. I did very little with human parasites. I identified the local snail host of Fasciolopsis buski and then did diagnostic work for the Canton hospital for a time. A young man,

a technician, from the Canton hospital came over three times a week, I think, and worked with me on diagnostic problems.

I: You trained him to do this?

WALLACE: Yes. He had had some training, but I helped him with it.

I: Was that when Oscar Thompson was at the Canton hospital?

WALLACE: Yes. Dr. Thompson, and Dr. Cadbury. I knew them both very well, perhaps had a little more to do with Dr. Cadbury, but I knew them both.

I: Was the Canton hospital linked with Lingnan University eventually?

WALLACE: Yes, it was. Whether during the time I was there or previously it was connected in some way I can't tell you exactly.

I: I believe there was a school of medicine, was there not?

WALLACE: That may have started my last year there. I am not sure that it was actually operating when I was there. But the Canton hospital had some connection between them.

I: What was your first impression when you arrived on the Lingnan campus?

WALLACE: The campus was very beautiful. My concept of China came from having read The Good Earth, and so my only vision of China was of dust and barren fields. The tropical vegetation and the really beautiful park-like campus was quite a surprise to me. It is a lovely campus with well-built buildings, picturesque tile roofs and well-planted with trees and shrubs.

I: Had someone planned that campus? Have you ever heard anything about that?

WALLACE: I don't know any details about it. I am sure that a lot of planning and thought went into it.

I: And much of the funding came from the United States?

WALLACE: I presume so because it had been funded entirely, I think, from this country until 1927, when it was turned over to the Chinese Board of Trustees. I am sure most of the buildings were built with American funds. But there were some buildings--there was one dormitory, I remember, which had been built with funds from overseas Chinese. I think that particular building was called Wah Kiu.

I: And were there overseas Chinese students there?

WALLACE: Yes, many of them. My wife, who came a year after I did, taught in the western school for the first year. After

that, she was transferred to the Department of English where she taught English for two years. She was put in charge of the sub-freshman English. These were people who didn't measure up to the admission standards of Lingnan. Strangely, in that class she had one or two overseas students; one, for example, although he had been brought up in Nebraska, was still deficient in English.

I: How did you find the students? Were they quick and eager?

WALLACE: I would say about the same in actual intelligence and the ability to comprehend, and so on. There were certainly some very, very good students, and some that were not so good. The language problem is always present. I taught, of course, in English. When I lectured, I would wonder from time to time how much was getting across. I do remember one time I was lecturing in embryology, and I wondered if a word was getting across. I asked a boy in the front of the room if he knew what the mesenchyme was. He looked at his watch and sighed and said, "There are 20 minutes more."

There was one peculiarity that the students had. This happened, not just once, but a number of times. Whenever a student broke anything in the laboratory, he could not admit that he had broken it. This would be contrary to everything. So repeatedly a student would come and say, "This beaker was very easily broken." That was the only way you could save face if you broke something.

I: But they would call your attention to it?

WALLACE: If they needed a new beaker.

I: How would you rate the standards of science instruction? Very often Christian colleges have been charged with not being up to standards.

WALLACE: I think they were the same as our standards here.

I: What interaction do you remember with the Chinese students?

WALLACE: I do remember one occasion when there was a kind of a disturbance which showed the underlying tension that we were unaware of most of the time. There was an arts and science series of lectures, and one of these was a visiting professor. I think he was from Hong Kong. He was going to speak about Vesuvius and the ruins of Pompeii. This was scheduled in Swasey Hall, the main auditorium, and it was, as you might guess, a fairly dull subject. Someone made a terrible mistake and posted a notice that there was to be a film shown, a movie. A notice was posted and so Swasey Hall was filled up with mostly middle school students and some college students who came to see this movie. What was happening, of course, was a lecture on Pompeii, illustrated with lantern slides.

All of the faculty and distinguished people and guests from the city had been having dinner at various houses. When we all arrived at the auditorium, it was full and there were no seats left. It was also perfectly evident that these middle school kids were not going to sit quietly through an hour and a half lecture on Pompeii, and so various people tried a hand at doing something about it. Someone stood up and, I think in English (one of the American professors), said that there seemed to be some misunderstanding but that this was not going to be a movie. He said that it was to be a lecture about an ancient city in Italy, given in English, a rather dull subject which would be illustrated with lantern slides. Well, of course, this was perfectly futile because these kids had come to see the entertainment, and they were not going to get up and walk out for anything. Then, I think, some official of the middle school tried to persuade them that this was not their lecture, and nothing changed anything. The kids all sat there.

Finally, someone had an idea, although it was not very bright, that they would take the projector and go over to the largest lecture room in the science hall. So someone had an announcement that the meeting would be held in the science hall for college students and faculty and guests very pointedly omitting the middle school students. Someone picked up the projector and we trooped off to the science hall lecture room and started hearing about Pompeii. The lecturer des-

cribed the civilization of Pompeii, and so on, with pictures. Just as he got to the eruption, and started describing the eruption, we were aware of noises outside and a rock came through the window.

We could hear more and more of this rumbling outside. A number of people went out to try to quiet the boys down. This, of course, was perfectly futile, too. I think it was Mr. Brownell, and I hope I have the story straight, but one boy was getting ready to pitch a brick through the window. The boy put his arm back with this brick or rock to pitch it through the window, and Mr. Brownell touched his arm to try to dissuade him. That was enough. That set off the whole thing. The boys rushed back to the dormitory and trooped up and down halls and said, "Everybody out!" An American touched one of the boys, and so the whole middle school was out and imprisoned us. The lecture went on to completion, but when it was over, we couldn't get out. The whole middle school was there. Then there was a long and rather pointless argument between the students and various members of the Chinese staff who were trying to make some arrangement with these boys. The staff was talking from the second floor landing down to the students at the entrance of the building. Finally somebody had a bright idea that they couldn't very well discuss it there. We ought to go back to Swasey Hall. So everyone was put on his honor not to leave, and the students made a

deal: the guests from Canton would be permitted to leave through a narrow passage made in the crowd. They went down to the launch and back to Canton. The rest of us, on our honor, went over to Swasey Hall. There the entire staff and faculty and administration of the university sat in the hall with the students, and a crowd of the students got up on the stage (I suppose it was a student organization) and started proceedings. They held a trial. We sat there while this very orderly trial was held. People were recognized from the floor, and one by one, each spoke his piece. Various officials spoke. I remember Mrs. Chung, the wife of the president, spoke. I don't know where the president was. I think he wasn't there. The head of the middle school spoke-- many people spoke. These middle school kids recognized people, one after the other, and they had all sorts of suggestions. There were suggestions that Mr. Brownell should be dismissed immediately, deprived of all retirement benefits, or anything else that he had coming to him, and sent back in disgrace to the United States, and so on, and so forth. That was one of the proposals. And so these proposals and counter proposals went on and on, and people spoke about Mr. Brownell's long history of selfless service. Finally, I can't remember the details, but finally he apologized very gracefully. Then, after that, I don't remember what else was done, but we had a holiday the next day and that was the end of it, as far as I can remember. This all took place on the Friday before Decem-

ber 16, 1934.

I: In general, were relations fairly good between the Chinese and Westerners at Lingnan?

WALLACE: Yes. I am not aware of any other incident. There was this underlying tension which came to the surface when a crowd got worked up for some reason, and then it wouldn't take much to make trouble. Otherwise, normally, relations were very good. I can't remember any unpleasant encounters of any kind.

I: The tension, I suppose, was a reflection of the general tension in the country between Chinese and Westerners?

WALLACE: Yes, I suppose. During the summer of 1935, we went to the meeting of the China Science Society. This was rather unplanned on my part because we were living for the summer on Cheung Chau, Hong Kong. H.T. Chen came down to visit us for a weekend and said there was this meeting of the China Science Society in Kwangsi Province. That the province would serve as host. All we would have to do would be to get ourselves to Wuchow, and then we would be transported and fed and housed for the week or so of this congress, and we ought to do it. I said, "That's fine, but I am not a member." "Well," he said, "just send your money up to this office in Shanghai and then you will be a member and you can go." So I sent 10 dollars Mex to this office in Shanghai, and at the appointed time we

went down to Hong Kong and got tickets on the boat to Wuchow. We presented ourselves at the university campus in Wuchow, where this big crowd of people from all over the country were registering. Wuchow is at the confluence of the Kwei River and the West River (Si Kiang) in Kwangsi. There is a university there.

We went to the registration desk. They had never heard of us; we were not members, and they had no mention of us. The man said, "Well, that's all right. You can just register and pay your 10 dollars here, and then we'll refund it when they get it from Shanghai." And that's actually what happened. I paid them another 10 dollars and later on the original fee was refunded from Shanghai. So we joined this crowd of many hundreds of people who had traveled, I think, two nights and a day on a very crowded boat. There were several of these little boats which went up to Nanning, then the capital, and is, I guess, still the capital. We had been told that Kwangsi was a very progressive and ambitious province, which it was, and they put on a very good show with these lectures all day and meetings on all branches of science.

I: Were there western and Chinese lecturers?

WALLACE: If I remember, there were seven foreigners: Mr and Mrs. William Hoffman (William Hoffman was also a professor of biology at Lingnan University); my wife and I; Dr. Reeves,

a woman biologist from Ginling College; and Margot Grzywacz, a German lady who taught languages at National University of Shantung in Tsingtao. I think there was one other. I can't remember now who that was, but I seem to remember there were seven foreigners in total, plus three or four Japanese. The rest were all Chinese. Dr. Reeves gave a paper, but I don't think that either Hoffman or I did.

There were banquets and tours, and so on. We met the governor of the province. At that time the two head men-- one was governor and the other had some official capacity-- were both well known generals. We called one of them Bak Chung-hei, in Cantonese, but it was Pai Chung-Hsi in Mandarin, who later came to fame during the Japanese war. We were taken in the foreign group to meet them. The other one was Huang Yu-Chu.

After about three or four days of meetings in Nanning, we were taken for a trip in buses. There were so many people that this bus trip was done in two stages, I think. One group left a day before the other, stopping at Liuchow on the way and finally to Kweilin, which is a very, very scenic place with the limestone, perpendicular mountains which are the prototype of all Chinese scenes. So we saw that. I think our time in Kweilin was mostly spent sightseeing. I think the scientific sessions, etc., except perhaps for one meeting in Kweilin were all in Nanning. We did sightseeing in this very

pretty city. Then we were taken down the river in boats; riverboats floating with the current but rowed when necessary.

I: What river was this?

WALLACE: The Kwei River. This trip down the river was very, very scenic because of these perpendicular limestone mountains with flat ricefields on the river between them. Then we went back to Wuchow and then again on a riverboat to Hong Kong.

I: Was the meeting useful to you in terms of science?

WALLACE: Not very. I understood very little. I think a few of the papers were read in English but most of them in Mandarin. Of course, we knew a little Cantonese at that time, but not enough to follow a scientific paper. In Kwangsi Province we found that the river people, the boat people, and those who lived right along the river seemed to speak Cantonese, but in the cities, away from the river, they had some variation of Mandarin that they spoke. Even in Kwangtung Province, the Cantonese dialect is limited to Kwangchow and up the river valley from that.

I: Did you have language training at Lingnan?

WALLACE: I had a student teach me. I think every day most of the time, or at least three times a week.

I: What about everyday life on the campus? Was that a rather pleasant or different experience in any particular way?

WALLACE: Yes, I should say, very pleasant. Everyone had servants, of course. We lived in an apartment. Most of the families had houses with much more household to maintain, but we had an apartment with one cook-housekeeper who planned the noon lunch herself which was Chinese food, so we never knew what we would find at lunch. My wife planned a western type meal for dinner which was prepared by this young servant we had who was a relative of an older established servant to one of the older American families. So our cook had access to instruction and coaching. We had a modest social life--going to dinner at each other's houses, and the occasional arts, science, and musical events that we had.

It is hard now to remember about the mail situation. We would follow the arrival of ships in the paper, and we would know when a ship was expected in Hong Kong. Then the next day, or sometimes two days later, we would expect letters from home. These would come not as often as once a week, I think. Every week or 10 days or sometimes two weeks, we would get letters.

I: How long would they take to get there? About a month? Was this before air mail?

WALLACE: Air mail began while we were there, and I have a few covers from the first clippers. That started, I think, in my last year there. But most of our mail came by ship, and I suppose it was three weeks more or less.

We took one trip besides this trip in Kwangsi. We took one long trip in the last year, 1937, from Canton to Peking. The railroad from Canton to Hankow had been finally completed only in that year. It had started many years before, but was incomplete. So with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Refo and Baldwin Lee and his sister, Helen Banta, six of us took the night train from Canton to Hankow. My wife and I left the train at Changsha and spent a day there with Francis Hutchins and his wife, Louise Gilman Hutchins, who is a doctor. Mrs. Hutchins was working as a physician in a hospital there in Changsha, and he was the head of Yale-in-China. They showed us around the city. The thing I remember is that everything that we were shown was the destruction by the army. I can't remember what they were called then, but subsequently I learned it was the Communist army on its Long March from Kiangsi Province, I think, into Yenan. They showed us burned out and bombed out buildings all over the city. That was the thing that was mainly on their minds as they showed us around Changsha. After only a day there, we again took a night train and went to Wuhan. Then after a night there took a train--I can't remember how long, perhaps 36 hours--to Peking.

Peking, in those days, was absolutely impressive with the great walls and gates, and so on, some of which, I am afraid, are gone now from what I gather. We spent a week seeing the sights of Peking and visiting friends at universities there and the Peking Union Medical School. We stayed at the Peking Language School, which was a wonderful institution, with many interesting people and a great library.

I: What kind of library did they have?

WALLACE: I didn't have much chance to look into it, but it was reputed to be a great library on Chinese language and literature and history, and all that.

I: Did they have some quite advanced students there?

WALLACE: Oh, yes. I think at all levels, but its purpose, of course, was to train missionaries, and others, but mainly, I think, missionaries. It was intense language training. People would spend two years or more there, so they really, really learned it.

I: Was that the same language school that foreign service officers would go to?

WALLACE: I don't think so. I really don't know.

I: What did you do in the summers there in China? I suppose these trips occupied a few of them.

WALLACE: I think for two summers we rented a cottage on Cheung Chau Island in Hong Kong. That's a lovely place--a little fishing village. I collected some marine animals to take back for teaching at the university. It was a wonderful vacation. It had beaches there.

I: Could you talk a little bit about the science program at Lingnan, in a general sense, and what it might have contributed to modernization in China?

WALLACE: It was patterned very much after the curriculum of American colleges at that time. The biology courses that we had were pretty much the same as I remember at Carleton or here at the university. The courses in general biology, botany, invertebrate zoology, entomology, vertebrate zoology, genetics, embryology were all pretty traditional, as they were taught at that time. There were, of course, the departments of physics and chemistry. Dr. Henry Frank¹ can tell you much more about those. Many of our students were pre-medical students.

I: Was that a large percentage?

WALLACE: Reasonably large, yes. I think that many of them wanted to be doctors. That's one of the obvious applications or fields to get into.

I: Was the college coeducational then?

¹Dr. Henry Frank was a professor of chemistry and physics at Lingnan University, and later provost, during the post-World War II period.

WALLACE: Yes.

I: Did the women take leadership in campus activities, or were they not assertive?

WALLACE: No, I think there were a good many of them that took leadership.

There were also the overseas Chinese students. I think that Lingnan had made quite a point of attracting overseas Chinese for two reasons, or several reasons: One was that they felt that the children of Chinese in other countries should have a chance to get a Chinese education, or learn about their background and their own roots. Another reason, of course, was that Canton was traditionally the city of China with most connections to the outside world. Another very real reason is that many of the overseas Chinese had done well and had made money and so they solicited funds from them, too. There was a conscious effort, and there was a considerable group of students from other countries. The university made special provision for them with special courses in Chinese language. Some of them didn't have good training in Chinese language. Those from the bigger centers, such as San Francisco and Seattle, I think, would have a good background in Chinese, but there were many from other parts of the United States and from other countries that had very little language training. So there were special courses at several levels for the overseas Chinese. Also they had their own English classes, and most of them were better

qualified in English than the average. They had their own sections of English and their own sections of Chinese.

I: So they were a little separate, then, from the other students?

WALLACE: Yes, in many ways. I am trying to remember if they had their own dormitory. There is one dormitory that was called Wah Kiu Hall, which, I think, was financed from overseas, but I do not know whether overseas students were housed separately.

I: Was there a dairy herd at Lingnan?

WALLACE: Yes. Yes, the agricultural college was a pretty big enterprise. I can't tell you very much in detail about it, but they did have a dairy herd and they had a little dairy store so that we were able to get fresh milk and butter, and so on. I guess that right in the central city of Canton you could get that from the Hong Kong Dairy Farm as well, but Lingnan had a good supply of those things.

I: Did Chinese faculty use milk and butter?

WALLACE: I don't think they used much. Maybe for the children, yes, but certainly they wouldn't use much.

I: Was the agriculture college separate from the science department or was it closely related?

WALLACE: We all knew each other and I guess had some joint meetings and seminars, but I cannot tell you anything very directly about it. The agriculture college had a strong program in horticulture, a strong program in dairy, but I can't remember what else. It was a pretty complete college of agriculture. (There was a college of engineering, but I didn't know very much about what they did.)

I had less connection I think with the college of engineering. I guess none of the students in my classes would have come from the engineering college.

I: I am curious about this dairy herd and whether this was a conscious effort to try to introduce the practice of eating butter or drinking milk, and so on, or whether it was a convenience for the foreigners.

WALLACE: Oh, I am sure that they must have been trying to introduce it. That would be the reason, and the select animals were water buffaloes. I think they were selecting them, trying to get good milk producers. They don't produce much milk, but it's very high quality and very rich.

I: In some places I know missionaries used goats.

WALLACE: I don't remember any goats. No, they had this herd of water buffalo. There may have been some other cattle in it, but I am not sure.

I: I suppose that in the case of your department, the establishment of advanced study in biology was part of a program for modernization at the time through the introduction of modern medicine. Was that every talked about in those terms, and was this desired by the Chinese leaders at the time?

WALLACE: I guess everyone took it for granted at the time that science was great and that we should use it in ther modernization of China. But we were not particuarly aiming or told to aim at practical immediate problems. My recollection is that the administration, Dr. Henry² for example, was interested in just natural history description of the animals and plants of China and that that actually was a big part of the work. Again, I am getting into the areas of Dr. Hoffman at the museum and Dr. Metcalfe of the herbarium, and others. Simply the description of the plants and animals of China which was, and still is, an enormous field to be done.

I: And Mr. Floyd McClure waa doing his bamboo work, describing the different kinds.

WALLACE: Yes, Mr. McClure and his bamboos. That, of course, also has a very practical side because I guess all bamboos are useful in one way or the other, and so anything that he learned

² James Henry was provost at Lingnan University during the period Franklin Wallace was a professor there.

³ Mr. Floyd A. McClure was employed by both Lingnan University and the United states Department of Agriculture to conduct research on bamboos. See "The Bamboos. A Fresh Perspective" by F.A. McClure, Harvard Univ. Press, Cambridge; 1966.

about bamboos was extremely valuable and practical. But his work still was mainly, I believe, describing or identifying the different kinds and, of course, cultivating them in the garden.

I: Was his bamboo garden on the campus?

WALLACE: Yes.

I: I think he was paid partly by the United States Department of Agriculture.

WALLACE: Perhaps so. I remember hearing that.

I: Did he try to find bamboos that were more useful than others, or to develop a stronger variety?

WALLACE: My understanding is that to truly identify a bamboo you have to have the flower and they only flower at long intervals, not every year. In order to get a complete description, it was necessary to bring the plant back and plant it. Then whenever it did flower, you would harvest it and then you would have the flower to make a complete description. I think that was his main purpose. Of course, among them they had many that were very useful, both for food and for construction.

I: What would have been the interest of the United States Department of Agriculture?

WALLACE: I don't know. But, of course, Mrs. Ruth Drury McClure

would know. She is in touch with all of this.

I: Were there particular diseases local to the Kwangtung area that the Sun Yat-sen Medical School was particularly interested in?

WALLACE: Yes. Of the worm diseases the liver fluke, Clonorchis sinensis, is especially characteristic of the Canton area, mainly because of the custom of eating raw fish. That custom is almost entirely limited to the Cantonese. While the parasites exist pretty much over the country, I think, the human infections are characteristic of the Cantonese who have this custom of eating the raw fish. So Clonorchis sinensis was a very important infection there. While I was there, Dr. H.F. Hsu, now at the University of Iowa, at Iowa City, came for a period of a number of weeks to conduct research on this parasite, and he was given space in some of our laboratories. He had an assistant with him and they continued studies that they had started up north. He was from Peking Union Medical College at that time.

I: Did they specialize in treating this at the Canton hospital?

WALLACE: I don't know if they did. There isn't any very good treatment, or there wasn't at that time. It's a well known condition, and I guess the main emphasis would be on prevention, which is very easy if they just quit eating raw fish.

I: Was preventive medicine a big emphasis among the missionary hospitals?

WALLACE: I can't say how much there was of that. I don't know very much about that. I think the missionary hospitals, from what little I do know about them, were mainly concerned simply with treating people that came in. But they were also involved in prevention and learning the sources of some of these things.

Dr. Frank Oldt had been in a hospital in an outlying town, Siulam. That was the great center for this liver fluke infection. He had made some investigation on that in past years. Malaria occurred, although not commonly. Dr. William Cadbury at the Canton hospital was making some studies of malaria in the area right around the university.

I: Did he come up with anything?

WALLACE: I think his studies were about the incidence and occurrence. I don't think he contributed anything to treatment. Treatment was well known then.

I: I've been curious to know whether these doctors in China were maybe ahead of doctors in the U.S. on certain things such as tropical diseases.

WALLACE: I am sure that if they knew anything about them they were ahead of the doctors here who have no knowledge of them at all.

I: Do you think that they just went ahead on their own findings? Where would they get help in finding out about tropical diseases? From the Chinese doctors?

WALLACE: Oh, no. All the information is available and, of course, the drug now, I think. You are speaking about the 1920s? About the amoebic dysentery? Some new synthetic drugs were introduced, I think, in Germany during those years, just coming into use and I don't know how they would learn about them. Perhaps simply from advertisements from the drug companies.

I: Would Peking Union Medical College be a source of information?

WALLACE: I am not at all sure that that would be a very great source to Canton. That's so far away. I don't think they had much communication, but I think the physicians there at the Canton hospital were very good men and well-trained. They had probably read medical journals and would hear about new things. They might get more information from Hong Kong than they would from Peking. It's very far away, of course.

I: Was there much research in medicine going on in Hong Kong?

WALLACE: Not that I know about, but I did not have contact with medicine there. Dr. G.A.C. Herklots was head of the

biology department there in Hong Kong, and he was a very, very active fellow working on a variety of things.

I: Where was he located?

WALLACE: The University of Hong Kong. He published the Hong Kong Naturalist, which described all sorts of things: plants, animals, fish--a very active man.

I: Was he British?

WALLACE: Yes.

I: You were doing some research on parasitology. I understand you identified the snail host of Fasciolopsis buski, an intestinal fluke. Where is your work published or available, as well as the work of your Chinese colleagues?

WALLACE: Some was published in the Lingnan Science Journal. There is quite a bit of parasitology in that. Then other things were published in journals all over the world. While I was there, Dr. H.T. Chen published a description of what is now known as Angiostrongylus cantonensis, a nematode worm, which he discovered in the rat. Many years later it was found to cause human infection, very serious human infection. Many of the islands of the Pacific had it. This has become a subject of considerable interest in Hawaii. A number of people in Hawaii have worked on it, but it's found all over

the Pacific islands. He described it first, but no one knew at that time how important it was.

I: I suppose during the Pacific War the United States government might have gotten interested in it.

WALLACE: Well, perhaps. I don't remember how much interest there was in that during the war. Maybe it was after the war.

I: What was your general impression of the missionary movement? Could you comment on whether you considered yourself a part of it, or on the periphery, or how you viewed your own work in relationship to the broader movement?

WALLACE: I always considered that the American-funded colleges and universities in China were a part of the mission movement in a broad sense. But as far as being or considering ourselves actual missionaries, or teaching religion in any sense, I never considered myself in that category. I think most of the people that I remember working with, those in science, and so on, would not have considered themselves missionaries except in a very general sense or trying to benefit China and help them in some way. I do not remember discussions of religious matters or questions of doctrine or anything like that. Our view of religion, whatever we had to say or think about it, was not much different from what the faculty members of any American colleges. Of course, the church colleges would think much more about religion than we did there. We always were

non-denominational. We had no connection with any church. I've read since that the foundation of Lingnan was Congregational, was it?

I: Presbyterian.

WALLACE: Presbyterian. I didn't even know that! So we had no connection with any church. There were Sunday church services. The western faculty had weekly Wednesday evening prayer meetings. These were non-denominational. I couldn't tell you which church the various people might have belonged to. The one minister on the campus during all the time I was there was Rev. Rudland Showell, an Englishman. I think he was an English Methodist. He served as the chaplain.

I: Was there a church on campus?

WALLACE: Swasey Hall. That served as the church, and there were services there with different ministers presiding. I didn't go at all regularly, but I am sure there were services quite regularly, and I don't remember all what Mr. Showell did directly. He taught a few classes in mathematics or physics or both. So he had some small teaching duty, but his purpose in being there was to serve as chaplain. I can't remember what or how he actually discharged that.

I: Did he teach religion?

WALLACE: I am not sure if he did. The teaching that I remember he did was in either math or physics. I suppose he had some course in religion, too. But he was a very liberal person in many ways and also I think regarded the "good" that somebody would do, as serving religion.

I: Did you go there with some conscious intent of helping the Chinese--you mentioned that earlier--or was it primarily a science job?

WALLACE: Not really. It was a job.

I: Well, it was the Depression, too. Did that enter in?

WALLACE: Yes. It was a job and a chance to see another part of the world. Of course, my field of work was parasitology and China was, and still is, an important place with many important problems in that field, so that I looked on it as an opportunity to work in an interesting place.

I: I did have another question about those Wednesday prayer meetings. Did just Westerners attend those weekly meetings?

WALLACE: Mostly, yes.

I: Was that because it was in English?

WALLACE: Yes, I think that was mainly a matter of language. Some Chinese would come and sometimes one of them would be

invited to speak, and so forth, but by and large it was the Westerners. As a matter of fact, every Friday there was a faculty tea at someone's house. If I remember correctly, three Fridays out of the month it would be simply the western faculty. I think the Chinese faculty had their own tea. Once a month we would have a joint staff tea. That, of course, would be at one of the bigger houses and then both faculties would come together. And that, again, I think was mainly a question of language. Now the Chinese faculty members, of course, with few exceptions all spoke English very well. There were a few that didn't. The wives didn't all speak English well. And so it would be pretty silly to have tea every week without full communication. It might have been a good idea, but it was easier this way. It's pretty hard to carry on a tea-time conversation with very limited communication.

I: There was quite a separation in social functions?

WALLACE: Yes, yes there was.

I: But professionally the relations were pretty good?

WALLACE: Well, yes, and also socially, because when we had people to dinner almost always there would be some of the Chinese faculty and some of the American faculty.

I: So there was really a conscious effort to include Chinese and Americans?

WALLACE: Oh yes.

I: What about the percentage of the Chinese faculty and students who were Christian? Were most of the faculty Christian or not?

WALLACE: I haven't much idea. We didn't talk enough about religion to really be aware. Now I can think of a couple of the Chinese staff members who were very devout and obvious Christians. One of the older professors of chemistry was Christian--Chiu Yan Tze.

I: So there were some very strong Christians.

WALLACE: Oh yes. There were a number. However, I am sure they would be in the minority.

I: Evangelization obviously was not part of the program at Lingnan University?

WALLACE: No. No evidence.

I: Dr. Wallace, our time has come to an end. Thank you for your willingness to be a part of this collection.