

# DEAN BATES HAS INTERESTING LETTER CONCERNING BOXER

Chinese Symbol Was Purchased for  
Five Dollars Originally.

BOXER OVER 300 YEARS OLD

First Given to University; Now Spirit  
of Rivalry Among School  
Classes.

Dean Bates has given to the Index the following interesting letter which he has concerning the early history of Boxer, the famous Pacific idol and spirit of class rivalry. The letter is in reply to one Dr. Bates wrote to Mr. Walker who presented the famous dog to the university and which later became so keenly sought after by the respective classes. Boxer has without a doubt a long and interesting history, though at the present time he is somewhat dormant he may arise again.

Shaowu, Fukien, China,

April 12, 1921.

Prof. Henry L. Bates,

Forest Grove, Oregon.

Dear Professor:—

In my reply to your communication I said nothing about the brass or bronze unicorn, Boxer. I wished to get more definite information, but have not been very successful.

It was an heir loom in one of the old Shaowu families who came to Shaowu many generations ago. Such figures are used as signs by first-class drug stores, and stand on the counter. Our christian drug store which is high class has a crane carved out of wood which stands fully two feet high. The crane is the Chinese symbol of longevity. I have seen modern unicorns carved out of wood, but nothing that will compare with Boxer.

As to his age it is certainly not less than 300 years, and so he was a contemporary of the Pilgrim Fathers; but probably he was already frightening away the imps of disease when Columbus discovered America.

I paid five dollars for him; but doubtless he ought to be worth ten times or twenty times this amount at present.

Cordially yours,

J. E. WALKER.

P. S. On gala days Boxer would have sticks of burning punk down in his body, the smoke from which would pour out of his nostrils, and so add to his formidable appearance. J. E. W.