

Veblen
IV-20

October 19, 1939

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have just had a talk with Morse on the subject of rooms. He tells me he is perfectly satisfied with his present room, which is advantageous both for him and Miss Blake. It brings him closer to the library and it saves Miss Blake the necessity of going up an extra flight of stairs. The mere fact that the third-floor room is handsomer seems to him as well as to me something that is not sufficiently important to over-balance the compactness which exists under the present arrangement. So we will let the matter stand as it is until some change of conditions arises which justifies a re-shuffling of rooms.

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fuld Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/MCE

October 13, 1939

Dear Professor Veblen:

Professor Fubini came to see me this morning to pay his respects, and in the course of our conversation it developed that he might want to bring his books to Fuld Hall and work here. Inasmuch as there are several vacant rooms, I told him that I was sure that there would be no objection to his working here rather than in Fine Hall, where the workers are more numerous. Should the space be required in the future for some other purpose there will be no difficulty about changing the arrangement.

I am writing you this because I understand that you are not in town today. I hope next week, if my throat is more normal, to have an opportunity to talk with you, but I will call Miss Blake and make an appointment that is mutually convenient.

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/MCE

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1207-A

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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

SEPTEMBER 14, 1939 19

To PROFESSOR OSWALD VEBLER

Street and No. BROOKLIN

Place HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

MOVING TO FULD HALL PROBABLY EARLY NEXT WEEK

HERMANN WEYL

Official

Sender's address
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THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY
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MAY 3, 1939

19

To. PROFESSOR T. H. HILDEBRANDT

Street and No. ANGELL HALL, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Place ANN ARBOR, MICH.

BUSEMANN HAS BEEN OFFERED ANOTHER POSITION BUT WOULD PREFER MICHIGAN STOP IS HE SERIOUSLY UNDER CONSIDERATION

OSWALD VEBIEN

Sender's address
for reference

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY
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Sender's telephone
number

May 17, 1939

My dear Professor Veblen:

In accordance with your request I am sending you the budget for 1939-1940 of the School of Mathematics as approved by the Budget Committee as follows:

Salaries	\$101,030.00
(including Glese or successor, 6 assistants @ \$1,800.00, and librarian in addition to regular staff)	
Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America	4,500.00
Technical Assistance	400.00
Stipends	17,500.00
Annals of Mathematics	2,750.00
Mathematical Publication	300.00
Subscription to American Mathematical Society	200.00
Subscription to Journal of Symbolic Logic	100.00
Contribution to Fine Hall	3,000.00
	<u>\$129,780.00</u>

I shall appreciate it if you will destroy the memorandum I sent you regarding the proposed budget the other day.

Very sincerely yours,

ESTHER S. LINDENBAUM

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey

ESB

P.S. The letter regarding your assistant for next year was not lost. Dr. Flexner has already dictated a reply.

E.S.B.

March 20, 1939

Dear Professor Veblen:

In Dr. Flexner's absence I have received your note of March 18 regarding a stipend for Dr. William W. Flexner. The amount is not stated, and I wonder if it should be \$1,800, as he is married. However, at the January meeting of the Board of Trustees only \$17,500 was authorized, and as yet the Treasurer has not indicated that a larger sum will be available.

The commitments for 1939-1940 to date are as follows, if my records are correct:

American Mathematical Society	\$2,500.00	
Dr. Kurt Gödel	4,000.00	
Prof. Garrett Birkhoff	1,075.00	
Prof. Paul A. Smith	2,500.00	or \$2,250.00
Dr. Valentin Bargmann	1,500.00	
Prof. Stephen C. Kleene	1,250.00	
Prof. Henry Margenau	800.00	
Dr. Walter H. Barkas	1,800.00	
Prof. H. Lyle Smith	500.00	
	<u>\$15,925.00</u>	

The balance is thus \$1,575.00 unless Professor Paul A. Smith releases \$250.00 by receiving the smaller figure given.

Very sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

ESTHER S. BAILEY

ESB

February 14, 1939

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have yours of the thirteenth regarding further room assignments. It seems to me that the room on the first floor marked assistant could be assigned to Professor Mayer. The adjoining seminar room could be cut in two so as to have two silent rooms for conferences.

As to visitors, I believe we ought to wait until the returns are all in from the other schools. We are not yet sure that Gödel will be here for a full year, but we are sure that Birkhoff will be here only half a year. For the time being I believe we have gone as far in definite assignments for the mathematicians as we can go until we have made sure that the permanent staffs in the other schools are taken care of. Then we shall have to make the best possible use of the space that is left.

I did not understand that we were going to have a full-time librarian at the outset. If there is not a professional librarian, there will be another vacant room at our disposal.

Always sincerely,

AF:ESB

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton, N. J.

COPY FOR DR. FLEXNER

From letter of February 13, 1939, from O. Veblen to K. Gödel

I am glad to hear that you have accepted the invitation for next year, and I have spoken with Dr. Flexner about the question which you raised. His suggestion, with which I agree, is that it would be best to discuss this problem when you stop off here next spring; and in the meantime it would be better for you not to make any definite commitments.

Dr. Flexner also authorizes me to say that there will be a room available for you in the new building, which we expect will be ready next autumn.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

FINE HALL

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

February 13, 1939

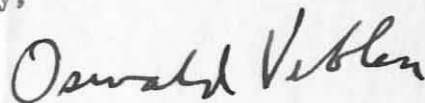
Dear Doctor Flexner:

May I submit the following remarks about the rooms in Fuld Hall:

1. Should not a room be assigned to Dr. Walther Mayer?
2. Four rooms at the four corners of the Fine Hall library were reserved as talking rooms -- rooms to which users of the library could adjourn for conversation. They have proved to be very useful for the purpose intended, and also have made it much simpler and easier to maintain quiet in the library itself. It is possible not only to require silence in the library, but also to point out that there is a definite place in which necessary conversations can be held. The rooms have been retained for their original purpose in spite of many requests that they be used for other purposes. In Fuld Hall, on the second floor at the east end of the library, the room which in my copy of the plans is labeled Seminar, was intended for a talking room, and also one of the two rooms at the west end of the library, - either the one next to the librarian's room or the one labeled Assistant.

3. Already three stipends have been granted to mathematicians of such eminence that they ought if possible to have rooms in Fuld Hall; namely, Gödel, Paul A. Smith, and Garrett Birkhoff.

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

February 10, 1939

Dear Professor Veblen:

Thank you for your very lucid account of the situation in respect to the proposed international journal of mathematics, which I shall forward to Mr. Fosdick. It seems to me perfect in form and content.

I spoke with both Johnnie and Morse as well as you yesterday on the room question. It seems to me that the mathematicians are taking hold of the problem by the wrong end. All we can possibly do at this time is to assign rooms tentatively to the permanent staff. I have no way of knowing now whether the permanent staff of one or another of the three schools may not increase within the next year. If so, I may retain my office here or go to 69 Alexander Street. I am quite indifferent as to where I am.

There are other points. If the permanent staff in mathematics is distributed over three floors, Miss Blake may have to go up and down two flights of steps for the purpose of reaching whoever happens to be on the third floor, which would involve so great an inconvenience and loss of time as to outbalance the importance of a third window. There are human as well as other considerations that must not be lost sight of - compactness, ease of access of members within the several schools and easy access to books being very important among them.

Professor Veblen

February 10, 1939

2

I think the mathematicians may have also lost sight of another point. The mathematical group has undoubtedly brought to this country some very great figures in the field of mathematics, but the other two groups have done likewise in their fields. For example, hardly had the appointment of Stewart and Warren been announced when we received word that Henry Clay, financial adviser to the Bank of England, and Professor Jewkes, professor in the University of Manchester, who has recently made a personal study in Russia, were coming to Princeton for two months. This morning I received a letter from an Oxford professor, formerly a professor at Vienna, to the effect that he also is coming. The same thing has happened in the School of Humanistic Studies with men like Wade-Gery. None of these men is as great as Bohr, but they out-top others who are not in the same class as Bohr. Besides, most visitors stay a limited period. Hence we cannot now say that there will be three or four or five rooms for distinguished mathematicians. The one thing we can say is that when we are confronted with the necessity of providing for distinguished visitors, for a week, a month, two months, or a year, we will do everything in our power in the future as we have in the past to make suitable arrangements for them.

Please let Professor Morse see this letter, for I do not wish him to feel that I have arbitrarily overruled anyone.

I may add that, unfortunately, in dealing with the humanists we shall have to scatter them, but this is due to considerations beyond anyone's control, for the requirements of Meritt, Lowe, and Herzfeld are such that if we had put them in one building it would have involved new plans for the entire structure.

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS, FINE HALL
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

February 9, 1939

Dear Doctor Flexner:

I enclose herewith the letter which you requested this morning. In case you wish to use it with Mr. Fosdick, I should be very glad to revise it as your experience and wisdom may suggest.

With many thanks for your help in this matter,

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

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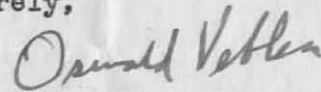
January 31, 1939

Dear Mrs. Bailey:

May I suggest, in response to your letter of
January 30, that the resumé of my remarks be amended
to read as follows:

"Professor Veblen, while agreeing in
the main (particularly with the strong emphasis
on the autonomy of the three schools), thought
that occasional faculty meetings would be ad-
vantageous inasmuch as they would familiarize
all members of the faculty with matters concern-
ing the Institute as a whole."

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Mrs. Esther S. Bailey
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

January 30, 1939

My dear Professor Veblen:

I have prepared the following brief statement of the remarks made by you at the last meeting of the Board in the discussion of the report of the Director. If any changes seem to you desirable, I shall appreciate it if I may have them promptly before the minutes are mimeographed.

"Professor Veblen, while agreeing in the main, thought that occasional faculty meetings would be advantageous inasmuch as they would familiarize all members of the faculty with matters of progress."

Sincerely yours,

ESTHER S. BAILEY

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey

ESB

January 30, 1939

Dear Professor Veblen:

I would suggest that in the near future the mathematical group should meet to discuss the way in which it can keep up its active relationship with the Princeton mathematical group after Fuld Hall is ready for occupation. When you come to a conclusion I shall be happy to talk with any one or more of you who may be charged with explaining your ideas.

There are two points which it seems to me must not be lost sight of. There is no possibility that we will be financially in position next year to provide at Fuld Hall library facilities - perhaps not even library facilities of a meagre sort. Hence any arrangement adopted must keep in mind the possibility of utilizing the library of Fine Hall to about the same extent to which it is now used.

The other point is the importance to our group, as to the Princeton group, of preserving the functional unity of the two groups.

When you have settled among yourselves and consulted with me about the way in which these two problems can be met I will arrange and we will have a conference with him. (??)

is it?

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

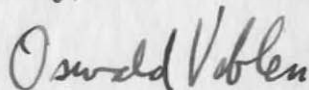
THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS, FINE HALL
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

October 6, 1938

Dear Doctor Flexner:

I have a letter from Professor T. Y. Thomas (Mathematics Department, University of California at Los Angeles) offering the Institute a number of volumes of the Physical Review for its library. I think he would appreciate it very much if you should write him a note accepting the gift. The books are already in Fine Hall, and we can take care of them here.

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB



KEEWAYDIN CLUB

Naples, Florida

J. H. RUSH, DIRECTOR

GENERAL OFFICE: PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

11 Jan. 1939

Dear Dr. Flexner:--

To the enclosed letter I have replied that I am delighted that he it now seems that he is going to be able to accept, that I see no reason why he should not apply at once for leave, but that in the interest of caution I suggest that he wait till I write him from Princeton. I should like to speak with you, if I may, as soon after I return as possible so as to write to him as intelligently as possible. ^{seriously} I have full powers from my mathematical colleagues. At present I expect to be in Princeton on the 20th.

The weather here has been extraordinarily fine, we have had some delightful walks on the beach and swims in the Gulf, and I have got some stuff written. We had visits from Louie, Herbert & the other Commonwealth fellows, but missed Johnny & Klara. Hoping that your vacation has been as pleasant, though I doubt whether it can have been as quiet,

Sincerely,
Oswald Veblen

129 Kline Road
Ithaca, New York

January 4, 1939

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have spoken to Dean Ogden and Professor Carver (chairman of the mathematics department) about a leave of absence for next year to take a fellowship at Princeton and they both seem sympathetic to the idea on the basis that it shall be without pay, though it will not prejudice my right to a sabbatic later should I wish to take it. So this being the case, I shall if you so advise, apply formally to the President for leave of absence.

I am very grateful to you and the other members of the Mathematics Department for giving me this opportunity and I shall try to make the most of it.

Hoping that you and Mrs. Veblen will have a very happy
New Year,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William W. Flexner

December 12, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

Thank you for yours of the 9th. Don't fear, you are not adding to my cares. There is no reason why at the next meeting of the Building Committee the situation as respects the Institute lots should not be reviewed if you choose to bring it up. The number of lots sold is so few and the conditions under which they are sold so highly special - for example, every deed contains a recapture clause - that I should not think we are in danger of injuring the market, but, as I have said, don't hesitate to bring the matter up for discussion at a meeting.

There is in Professor Wheeler's case this also to be said: he has been a member of the Institute, and he is getting a lot much smaller than the other lots around the driveway.

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/MCE

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS
FINE HALL
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

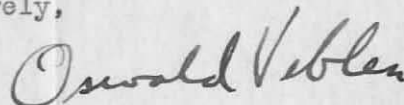
December 9, 1938

Dear Doctor Flexner:

I don't doubt that you are right about the policy with regard to the building lots having been agreed to at a meeting of the Building Committee. Nevertheless it seems to me that it would be desirable to discuss some aspects of the problem as it exists at the present time. There is the question, among others, as to the terms on which lots should be disposed of to outsiders. For example, lots on Battle Road are worth between \$5000 and \$10,000 each. Is it advisable to go substantially below the market price? The public reaction to this will be quite different when the purchaser is a member of the Institute from what it would be if he were an outsider.

I don't want to add to your cares, but I think it possible that future embarrassment might be avoided by a little more discussion of the procedure which is contemplated.

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

December 16, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

Dr. Flexner handed the enclosed letter to me just before he left for his Christmas vacation asking that I return it to you. If you wish to acknowledge it now or have Miss Blake acknowledge it, he approves of your saying that it will be brought to his attention upon his return to Princeton about the middle of January.

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

ESB

CHARGE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY, 20 MASSAU STREET

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FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

NOVEMBER 26, 1938

19

To **HARDY**

Street and No. **TRINITY COLLEGE**

Place **CAMBRIDGE (ENGLAND)**

TAMARKIN COURANT AND I HAVE RESIGNED WAS THE COMMUNICATION

VEBLEN

From Zentralblatt

Official

Sender's address
for reference

WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS ARE APPROPRIATE GIFTS
FOR ALL OCCASIONS.

Sender's telephone
number

December 7, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

The question raised in your proposed note of December 6 to Mr. Maass, a copy of which you sent me, was, unless my memory is terribly at fault, decided when Mr. Black laid out the plot upon which Meritt and the others have built, namely, that it is in the highest degree desirable that some Princeton University people and preferably some townspeople also should be permitted to build there if land is available, in order that we might not have a solid block of Institute people living in such close contact. Mrs. Bailey recalls that you were absent from one meeting of the Building Committee, and it is probable that this decision was reached at that meeting.

As a matter of fact, I have after communicating with Mr. Maass and Mr. Bamberger informed Professor Wheeler of the Department of Physics that he can have the piece of ground between Panofsky's house and Saunder's house, which has been made available by a re-survey of the property at the corner.

If you know of any Institute professor who would like to acquire one of the lots please tell him to communicate with me, for of course we will be happy to accommodate our own people in preference to anybody else,

Professor Veblen

December 7, 1938

- 2 -

though I hope that with the new lots made available by Larson's new road we shall get a sprinkling of University people and townspeople in the development also.

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/MCE


THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS
FINE HALL
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

November 30, 1938

Dear Doctor Flexner:

I have just received the enclosed letter from the head of the Mathematics Department at Brooklyn College with regard to Dr. Willem J. van Stockum, whose present address is 948 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. I should therefore like to recommend, in accordance with our previous conversation, that Dr. van Stockum be appointed as my assistant for the second term of the present academic year, with a salary for this period of \$1000. This is a little more than half of the standard salary, but I think it is justified by the additional expense which Dr. van Stockum will be under, and by the fact that he is already engaged, and will during the Christmas vacation be engaged, in preliminary work on his new duties.

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

BROOKLYN COLLEGE

Bedford Avenue and Avenue H

Brooklyn, N. Y.

November 29, 1938

Professor Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

My dear Veblen:

I am happy to be able to inform you that the President of Brooklyn College is willing to recommend that Dr. Van Stockum be granted a leave of absence, for one term starting January 23, 1939. It is merely a formality for the Board of Higher Education to ratify this recommendation. This will in no way effect my previous recommendation for his advancement here at Brooklyn College. I trust that the delay in securing this arrangement has not caused you any inconvenience concerning Van Stockum's appointment at the Institute for Advanced Study

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Harris F. MacNeish

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NOVEMBER 14, 1938 19

To PROFESSOR OSWALD VEBLER

Street and No. CARE PROFESSOR LAWRENCE M. GRAVES

Place ECHEART HALL, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, CHICAGO, ILL.

TAMARKIN SUGGESTS IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION BY YOU AND HIM FROM ZENTRALBLATT
AND THAT YOU WRITE TO HARDY JULIA AND NEVANLINNA SUGGESTING SAME ACTION

GWEN BLAKE

Chas H.S.

Sender's address
for reference

WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS ARE APPROPRIATE GIFTS
FOR ALL OCCASIONS.

Sender's telephone
number

November 25, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have your two letters of November 22 and 23, the first in regard to Fubini, Birkhoff, and Smith. You may recall that the Budget Committee advised that any funds not used for the specific purpose for which they were appropriated should be returned to the treasury, and a small amount of money has this year been turned back. I shall, however, ask Mr. Leidesdorf and indeed urge him to waive this point, for I think that under existing conditions we cannot be too technical. We don't want the Government of England or of France or any other country to be too technical in dealing with these people, and neither should we be, in my judgment. I shall let you know the result in Fubini's case at the beginning of next week, for I am to see Mr. Leidesdorf on Monday.

Of course, I approve of the action recommended in the cases of Birkhoff and Smith. In writing them I should, however, word the letter a little different from your wording. I should not say, "We hope to offer stipends in case funds become available." I should say definitely that you wish to invite them, but inasmuch as the Board will not act upon the question of stipends until January, you cannot make a positive statement until after the meeting of the Board on January 23.

As to Lukacs, I leave the matter entirely in the hands of the mathematical

O.V.

Nov. 25, 1938

2

group. Professor Einstein asks very little, but, as you know, it is my policy to be guided entirely by the wishes of the group whenever it is possible.

As to Douglas, I did not encourage him to believe that the group would grant him a stipend. I said what I always say, that the granting of stipends is in the hands of the mathematical group. I do not believe that our responsibility in this matter can be divided. Either the group must take it or I must take it. We cannot have the unpleasant part of it on the shoulders of either one or the other. Therefore whenever I am approached, whether it is Bohr or Douglas, I have consistently referred the matter to the group involved and followed their recommendations. I explained to Professor Douglas that I had no initiative in the matter. On the other hand, I was undoubtedly sympathetic with him as I knew he had been in bad health, and it is quite possible that he read more in my words than I intended to convey or than I really could be held to convey. I would suggest that you say to him that the whole matter of stipends is in a state of flux and that on account of the uncertain financial condition in the country the appropriation for 1939-1940 usually made in the autumn cannot be made until January and that this year's funds are exhausted. Under no circumstances would I wish the mathematical group to make any allotment of funds which did not represent their sincere desire and judgment.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

FINE HALL

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

November 23, 1938

Dear Doctor Flexner:

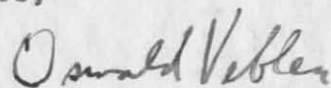
Professor Douglas came to me yesterday saying that he had consulted you about the possibility of a stipend for the second term of this year. He indicated that you thought it was possible to grant such a stipend, and that you were inclined to favor it, but referred him to me. I was surprised because I had understood that the financial situation would preclude any but the most urgent request, and I told him that I would consult you again before taking up the question with my colleagues.

The problem is complicated by the fact that Douglas is seeking for any possible means of attaching himself permanently to the Institute. While he is in my opinion a very good mathematician, as I have already written to you, I should not favor giving him a permanent appointment because (1) I think that we could find scientifically better candidates, and (2) I think that his instability of character would cause us unending trouble in the future. On the other hand I want to be careful, since he is very sensitive, to do nothing to wound his feelings or to hinder his scientific career. (The fact is that he would have gone under long ago had it not been for the help which your brother Simon and I managed to get for him through the National Research Fellowship Board.) If it were not for the certainty that he would regard it as an entering wedge, I should like very much to see him receive a stipend.

May I speak with you soon and get your advice before anything else is done?

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB



Oswald Veblen

P.S. I should certainly prefer to use any small amount of money that might be available, for Professor Fubini, or for some similar purpose.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

FINE HALL

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

November 22, 1938

Dear Doctor Flexner:

There was a meeting of the mathematical professors of the Institute this morning from which come the following recommendations:

1. We have received from Professor Levi-Civita a letter suggesting that Professor Guido Fubini, formerly of Turin (whose address now is Albany Hotel, 202 Rue de Rivoli, Paris) be invited to the Institute as a temporary member for the remainder of the present academic year. Professor Fubini is characterized by Levi-Civita as the leading analyst of Italy after Volterra (Volterra is now an extremely old man). It was generally agreed that Fubini is a mathematician of very high distinction, who would be a real addition to our group. It was decided to request you to issue this invitation if any funds can be found which are available for the purpose. We think that such an amount as \$500 or perhaps \$750 might possibly serve. Professor Fubini's wife and two sons are with him in Paris.

2-3. It was also agreed to make two recommendations for stipends for next year, contingent of course on the funds becoming actually available. In both cases it is desirable to communicate our intention to the candidates in question as soon as possible, because they are making their arrangements for next year. (2) The first of these is Garrett Birkhoff, who was to have had a stipend this year, but postponed it on account of his marriage. He now would like to have a stipend for the second half of 1939-40 on the fifty-fifty basis. I do not know what his salary is, but the amount would certainly be a reasonable one. (3) The other case is that of Professor Paul A. Smith of Columbia University, who is one of the best of the younger topologists in this country and a man whose work is closely related to that of Alexander. This also would call for a reasonable amount from the Institute. What we should like would be that you authorize me to write to these two men in general terms

Dr. Abraham Flexner - 2

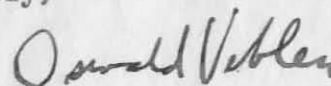
November 22, 1938

that we hope to offer them stipends in case funds become available.

4. Finally, there is another recommendation of an entirely different sort. It is a proposal by Einstein to help a young mathematician of only moderate distinction without bringing any financial responsibility upon the Institute. Dr. Eugen Lukacs's wife is now in this country, having been able to come with an Austrian passport. Her husband, however, is a Hungarian citizen and was not able to get a passport on account of quota restrictions. The American Consul is ready to give him a visa if any kind of official-seeming justification for it is available. Einstein's suggestion is that this man should write to us applying in the usual way for admission as a member; and that in response he should receive the usual invitation to become a temporary member. Dr. Lukacs wrote a good dissertation for his Ph.D., but is not a man whom we would offer a stipend or any other financial assistance. Nevertheless, we recommend that Einstein's plan be carried out. It will involve the Institute in no financial responsibility.

I shall be very glad to explain any of these matters further if you so desire.

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

October 17, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

Of course I am delighted to have Douglas enrolled as a member of the Institute for the present year. I do not see how we can do anything about a salary or permanence as a member, though nothing would give me greater pleasure than to endorse a grant for a limited time in his behalf. I have had a note from him this morning and he is coming over to see me in the very near future. I remember very clearly his previous visit to Princeton and the high esteem in which he was held by the members of the group.

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey
AF/MCE

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

FINE HALL

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

October 14, 1938

Dear Doctor Flexner:

A couple weeks ago Professor Jesse Douglas, who was a temporary member of the Institute in 1934-5, turned up here in Fine Hall and told me that he was intending to spend some time in Princeton continuing his mathematical work. I welcomed him, and Eisenhart did also offering him the privileges of the Professors' Room, which he has been using since then. On Wednesday he gave the opening lecture of the year at the Mathematical Club, and did it extremely well. Douglas has been a member of the Mathematics Department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, but a couple of years ago he had to stop his work because of a nervous breakdown. Since then he has been on leave of absence recuperating at his home in Brooklyn. I was therefore very much pleased to see him returning in a good state of health.

Some days ago he came to me with the suggestion that he would like to be on the list of temporary members of the Institute. I said I should be glad to recommend that he be added to our list, but inquired about his status at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He said that he supposed that by this time they must have engaged other people to carry his work. As a result of this conversation he wrote to Professor Phillips, and yesterday came to me again with the reply from Phillips, a copy of which I enclose herewith. I am sure that what Phillips says is perfectly sincere, because I have heard essentially the same opinion about Douglas expressed by Phillips and Compton and Wiener, all of whom have a high regard for his scientific merits.

After reading this letter I told Douglas that I should now be glad to recommend that he be enrolled in our list for the present year. He then said that what he really wants is to become in some way a permanent member of the Institute, and asked whether I didn't think that he had better

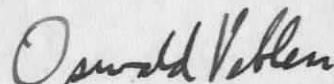
Dr. Abraham Flexner - 2

October 14, 1938

talk with you quite frankly about that. His idea is that he would not ask for any except a very small salary, but he states that he likes all the conditions of work here, and is so completely devoted to his research that he would value the scientific opportunity above everything else. I told him that I thought it extremely unlikely that he would get a favorable response from you, since you had had similar applications from a great many very eminent scientists and had always been inflexible in sticking to your program for developing the Institute. After discussing the question further we agreed that the best plan would be for him to write and ask you for an interview, and for me in the meantime to warn you of the circumstances. I told him that I would make no recommendation whatever.

I am writing you at length about these circumstances because I hope that you will talk over Douglas's whole problem with him, and give him the benefit of your advice. Throughout our discussion he was very reasonable and pleasant, and he is really an extremely good mathematician and devoted to his scientific work.

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

C O P Y

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

October 11, 1938

Professor Jesse Douglas
Nassau Tavern
Princeton, N. J.

Dear Professor Douglas:

In reply to your letter asking about the possibility of keeping your name on our records as on "leave of absence": I am sorry to say the catalogue has already appeared without your name; to put it back on the list would require that the Executive Committee take the rather extraordinary action of reappointing you with a status of "absent on leave". I have talked with Dean Prescott about the matter and we do not think such action would help much in getting you a position elsewhere. It seems to me the best we could do is to loyally back you for such a position, accompanying this action with a frank statement of the situation. That, as I understand it, is briefly as follows:

We consider you one of the ablest mathematicians in the United States and the best lecturer on Analysis we have had. As a member of this department you were entirely cooperative and had the goodwill of all of us.

Since you left, other young men have been brought into the department using for that purpose the appropriation formerly made for your salary. To bring you back, it would be necessary to get a new appropriation. With all the departments demanding more than the Institute can give and our own needs adequately provided for, such action would be exceedingly difficult to obtain. Consequently, the best we can do is to help you in every way we can to get a position elsewhere which corresponds in rank and salary to your real attainments and distinction. In the meantime, we are all delighted to hear of your improvement in health.

I am sending, under separate cover, two copies of the February 1936 Journal about which you inquired sometime ago.

Very sincerely yours,

H. B. PHILLIPS

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

FINE HALL

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

October 11, 1938

Dear Doctor Flexner:

I have just received your note of October 7, and will turn the volumes of the Physical Review from Tracy Thomas over to Miss Blake to care for.

Since our telephone conversation some time ago I have done nothing further about the question of an assistant. There is no one among the recipients of stipends who would be specially useful to me, and, indeed, at the present time the only candidate who occurs to me as suitable is Mr. van Stockum, whom I have already mentioned to you. He is now in the employ of the Prudential Insurance Company, but dislikes that kind of work and would like to get into academic work. He is the son of a Dutch father and an Irish mother, educated in Canada and Great Britain. He is very presentable and will be easy to place. His training would fit him very exactly for my work. I have not seen him or had any communication with him since last spring.

I had a short talk this morning with Eisenhart about Mr. deWet, the Commonwealth Fellow from South Africa. It turns out that he would like to have a Ph.D. to take back with him at the end of his two years in Princeton, and therefore it would be natural to transfer him from the roll of the Institute to that of the University. Since, however, he is at present concentrating on work with me, Eisenhart and I thought it might be best to let him be listed both in the Institute and in the University if this meets with your approval. He seems to be rather a promising man, and to be well prepared for what I want to do.

Incidentally, there is another young South African here, enrolled in the Mathematics Department of the University, by the name of Hochschild.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

Oswald Veblen

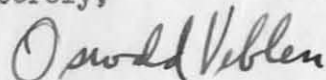
THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS
FINE HALL
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

October 6, 1938

Dear Doctor Flexner:

You will perhaps have noticed that my letter of October 4 contained no recommendation of any sort. It merely gave you the result of an investigation which was carried out by Professor von Neumann and discussed by the mathematical group. I think it will be useful to have these figures in mind in deciding to what, if any, extent mathematical activities should be transferred from Fine Hall to Fuld Hall. I think we shall best avoid hasty conclusions by understanding as many of the circumstances as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

October 7, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

I shall be delighted to write Thomas, as you suggest. I imagine that Miss Blake has affixed the Institute bookplate in the volumes that Thomas has generously contributed to us.

I wonder whether you have made any headway in finding among this year's recipients of stipends a suitable assistant. If not, please let me know and I will see what, if anything, can be done to provide the minimum sum necessary.

Always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/MCE

October 5, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have yours of October 4. Inasmuch as the sum which Mr. Bamberger was willing to provide for the new building has already increased from \$300,000 to practically \$400,000, as we knew in our hearts would be the case, it would be, in my judgment, not only inadvisable but perhaps fatal to broach the question of further expenditures such as your note of October 4 suggests. One reason why Mr. Bamberger is giving us no more endowment at the moment is his natural concern that the building and equipment at the Olden Farm may outrun our estimates.

I have myself an additional reason for opposing the creation in the new building at this time of a \$40,000 library and an annual expenditure of \$5000 for books, namely, that if money can be obtained from outside sources it shall go into men and not into books or fixtures or buildings. Moreover, I wish that there should be left the strongest possible motive for a continuation and strengthening of the relations between our mathematical group and the University group. In the years left to me as director I propose to countenance no more capital expenditures that can possibly be avoided. I do propose to do everything in my power to procure funds to attract men, for it is upon men and

Professor Veblen

October 5, 1938

- 2 -

not upon physical equipment in any sense of the word that the vitality and importance of the Institute and the University rest.

We are concerned with the problem of devising expedients which will keep the Institute and the University interlocked. This is the wish of President Dodds, Dean Eisenhart, and the Princeton Trustees, as well as the understanding which I have with the founders of the Institute. There are several ways in which I can imagine connection with the University and its resources being maintained: (1) a Ford car, which can either transport a worker or books; (2) rooms in our own building for the use of the research workers in Princeton, and continued occupation by some of our men of rooms in Fine Hall, McCormick Hall, and elsewhere. Let us bear in mind that never for a moment is it contemplated that the Institute shall be independent of the University or the University independent of the Institute, and at the outset my concern is to forge more strongly the bonds - not to weaken them, as the creation of a modern mathematical library at once would unquestionably tend to do.

A few books and magazines every man will undoubtedly want for himself, as he does now. Beyond this we do not at this moment have to act.

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/MCE

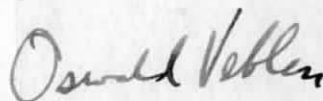
THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS
FINE HALL
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

October 4, 1938

Dear Doctor Flexner:

In thinking over the remarks made by Mr. Maass at the meeting of the building committee last week, about the additional expenses which will be entailed on the Institute by the construction of Fuld Hall, it occurred to me that he might possibly not have taken sufficiently into account the purchase of books and periodicals. This was the first question into which the mathematical professors went carefully when the building problem was broached a year ago. They estimated that an initial outlay of \$40,000 would be needed to establish the indispensable part of a mathematical library, and that an annual allowance of \$5000 for books and periodicals would serve to keep it up to date and to supplement from time to time the less urgent basic equipment which had not been purchased at the outset. This was all on the assumption that the library at Fine Hall would continue to be the source of the older literature.

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

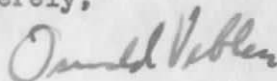
THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS, FINE HALL
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

September 30, 1938

Dear Doctor Flexner:

I think you will take some interest in reading the enclosed letter from Dr. Ketchum, who, you will recall, was here for two years. The opinion seems to be gaining that when it is possible for one of the temporary members to stay for two years, the second year is more valuable than the first.

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

October 10, 1938

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am returning to you herewith

Dr. Ketchum's letter of September 28, which

Dr. Flexner was very glad to read.

Sincerely yours,

ESB

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

14 Sept., 1938

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

I have just heard from my assistant, Dr. Calkin, that he has accepted an assistant professorship at the Univ. of New Hampshire at a salary of \$3000. Some days ago I had told the Professor Slobin of N. H. that I would release Calkin, for the opportunity seems, on the whole, one which Calkin ought to grasp.

If I may, I should like to consult you about the choice of a successor when I return to Princeton - next week. Just now I am thinking

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

about a young Dutchman named Haentjen
who would have been glad to come a
year or two ago. He has done some
good work in a field related to my
present one. But I should like to consult
you before taking any step.

We should be in Princeton on Wednes-
day or Thursday of next week. Elizabeth
join in best greeting to you & Mr. Flexner.

As ever,

Oswald Veblen.

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

17 Aug. 1938

Dear Dr. Flepner:..

I have written to Bödel as you requested in your letter of the 12th. I appreciate very much the trouble that you have taken, and hope that he will also.

I am glad you liked Benson's latest plans, for they seemed to me to fit our present needs very satisfactorily. If the costs are as he anticipates it seems to mean that we are further along than we expected to be at this time.

Here the summer is passing very happily so far as I am concerned.

than otherwise BROOKLIN HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE to mathematics,
and there is not enough of it to
keep us away from the rocks and
the trees. I think I have several times
told you how much I value these long
periods of serene study separating
the intense activities of the Institute in
sessions, ~~but it is just as well to~~
~~refer once in a while to these prominent~~
Taylor (H.S.) was here a couple of
weeks ago and told me something about
the new ^{calendar} ~~calendar~~ which is to go into
effect in P. Univ. a year from September.
He said that its bearing on the graduate
school schedule has not yet been

then something like our ~~first~~ ^{will give} interview
at Christmas.

BROOKLIN

HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

I hear from Professor Phillips that
Clifford has accepted an instructorship at
M.I.T.

Johnny wrote some time ago that he
had heard that Flores is commanding
a battery in the defenses of Madrid. The
same news now comes via Lefschetz & Miss
Blaker. Flores is also doing a little mathematical
work between times. Lefschetz also passes
along a request from Prof. Bachiller of
Madrid that we should send them copies
of our mimeographed notes to be paid
for after the War. It would cost us
very little to send them on gratis and I
hope that we can do it. — In haste for lunch, O-V.

September 26, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have your kind note of September 23
in reference to Mrs. Torrance, and I shall have
Miss Eichelser inform Mrs. Torrance that she has
been admitted as a member of the Institute for the
current academic year.

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/MCE

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS
FINE HALL
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

September 23, 1938

Dear Doctor Flexner:

I should like to recommend that Mrs. Charles C. Torrance be admitted as a member of the Institute for the current academic year. Mrs. Torrance is the wife of Dr. Torrance whom you will remember as having been Johnny's assistant for the year 1933-34. Dr. Torrance is here now on leave of absence from Case School, to spend another year in research and study. Mrs. Torrance has practically completed the requirements for the Ph.D. in mathematics at Brown University. Her thesis is now in the hands of Professor Tamarkin, a portion of it having already been published in the *Fundamenta Mathematica*. So, although she has not actually received the doctorate, I think that she satisfies the spirit of our requirements in the same sense in which certain of our visitors from England have been judged to satisfy it. This is the basis of my recommendation.

Mrs. Torrance's address is 71F West Palmer Square.

Sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

copy 2.B

September 14, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am enclosing two notes which have just come from Dr. Gödel. In my opinion, it would be best if you would write him a line to the effect that we shall send someone to meet him at the dock armed with the requisite funds. The less I have to do with "Hopag" in these days the better pleased I am.

With all good wishes to you and Mrs.

Veblen,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin, Hancock County
Maine
AF/MCE

Letter from Mr. Saunders returned
to Professor Veblen

Magnetawan, via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada
August 27, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

Thank you for yours of August 21 and its enclosure. Mr. Saunders has also written Meritt. Why he should bother either you or Meritt I have no idea for in the spring when he and his immediate neighbor raised the question of locating Professor Panofsky's house on the first lot, I at once told them that we would reserve that lot in perpetuity so as not to interfere in any wise with others who had houses on that street.

As far as the telephone poles are concerned, I myself did not like their position, though there are many others precisely of this kind on Battle Road, if I remember correctly. I instituted an inquiry and was informed by Mr. Sincerebeaux that it would cost several thousand dollars to bury the lines and remove the poles. As this expense would have fallen on Riefler, Panofsky, and Weyl, I did not think we were justified in incurring it. If Mr. Saunders wishes to participate, the situation may be changed.

I shall look into the question of the maintenance of the grounds, though it seems a little odd to me that Mr. Saunders should raise this question as the entire tract was uncared for by anybody over a period of a century or more. As far as pressure is concerned, Mr. Saunders is barking up the wrong tree. We have already shown our good will and shall do anything that is reasonable, but nothing under pressure from him or any one else. It may be just as well, should he see you, to let him understand that fact. We want to be good neighbors, but good neighbors and pressure are like oil and water, they don't mix.

I hope that all goes well with you and Mrs. Veblen.

We are having superb weather and thoroughly enjoy the first signs of autumn.

Ever sincerely,
ABRAHAM FLEXNER

P.S.

I was greatly interested in your previous note of August 17 but not able to answer it because the camp was full of guests, and also because both Mrs. Flexner and Mrs. Bailey had injured themselves. Both are, however, doing well. By all means send Professor Bachilles of Madrid copies of our mimeographed notes and assure him that we are delighted to present him with them with our good wishes for him, Flores, and their associates.

A.F.

AF:ESB

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

21 Aug. 1938

Dear Dr. Flexner: -

I am not personally acquainted with the writer* of the enclosed letter. He lives in the house facing Battle Road and next to the tract on which Panofsky is building. I have replied by saying that I hope ~~to see him~~ he will see me in the fall, assuring him of the good will of everyone in the Institute, especially yourself, and saying that I have sent his letter on to you.

As ever,
Oswald Veblen.

* I believe that he teaches in John Hunt's school.

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

4 Aug. 1938

Dear Miss Eichelser :-

Thanks for your letter about Dr. Bödel which has just reached me. I have written to Mr. Bailey to suggest that she write off to send the transportation & cost of over \$100 and ask for a telegraphic reply.

I hope that your vacation turns out to be a most delightful one.

Yours sincerely,
Oswald Veblen.

BROOKLIN

HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

Meeting of Building Comm July 20, 1938

R.R. & Pullman $\$$ 37.70
Ellsworth to New York & return

Meals 4.65

Meeting of July 25

R.R. & Pullman 37.70

Meals 5.35

85.40

Treas.

Wor. Newcomb & Essex Bank Co.

Aug. 23, 1938

no. 2511

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

1206-A

CHECK
ACCT'G INFMN.
TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

July 7, 1938

Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County, Maine

Can you attend meeting Building Committee July nineteenth or twenty-first
Nineteenth most convenient for Aydelotte

Abraham Flexner

914

Charge Institute for Advanced Study

WESTERN UNION MESSENGERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE DELIVERY OF NOTES AND PACKAGES.

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

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PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

1206-A

CHECK
ACCT'G INFMN.
TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

July 8, 1938

Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County, Maine

Meeting Building Committee changed to July twenty-first Letter follows

Marie C. Eichelsor,

529

WESTERN UNION MESSENGERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE DELIVERY OF NOTES AND PACKAGES.

July 8, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

President Aydelotte has found that he has another appointment on July 19th which makes it impossible for him to attend the meeting of the Building Committee as arranged, so we have changed the meeting to Thursday, the 21st, at the same hour and place - 9:30 at Mr. Leidesdorf's office.

We hope this will be agreeable to you.

Sincerely yours,

MARIE C EICHELSEER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County, Maine

July 7, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

Thank you for your prompt reply to our telegram. The meeting of the Building Committee has been arranged for Tuesday, July 19, at 9:30, at Mr. Leidesdorf's office.

I hope that you and Mrs. Veblen are having a delightful holiday.

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County, Maine

AF/MCE

July 1, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

Anne and I landed after a smooth and restful voyage on Monday last, and Anne told me last night that she had had a welcome letter from Mrs. Veblen. I came down to Princeton Tuesday morning, though I had to return to New York to see Mr. Maass and Mr. Leidesdorf and Mr. Bamberger yesterday, but I came back to Princeton on the ten o'clock train last night.

I am going over my mail and learning from Mrs. Bailey just what has taken place in my absence. I am delighted to say - though I knew it in advance - that she has handled everything perfectly. I have written Professor Arnold, as you suggest, and shall today write to Miss Stanley.

I do not believe that there is any reason for a meeting of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds at the present moment, and, if any meeting is required during the vacation Mr. Maass will send word to you, Aydelotte, and myself. Meanwhile Mr. Bamberger has indicated his willingness to increase the amount available for a building to what Mr. Maass regards as a sum which will enable him to procure for us a building that will be adequate to our needs - dignified and satisfactory in equipment, etc. It will be, I presume, necessary to reduce the size of studies, but this is, as I assume you realize, no surprise to me. I have never thought that we could build on the scale of the memoranda with the sum of money which we are justified in putting into bricks and mortar. Now that times are hard, I feel more

Professor Veblen

July 1, 1938

2

strongly than ever the supreme importance of saving every dollar for endowment, though of course I also realize that the initial building must be of such a character as to be worthy of the purposes for which it is to be used. In this connection you will be interested in the fact that the Manchester Guardian of June 3 contains a long article on recent developments in higher education in the United States in which the Institute figures most prominently.

The outlook in the matter of income is even less favorable than it was when I went away. Perhaps you noticed in this morning's Times a statement to the effect that the New York State Insurance Department had written off about three billion dollars of railroad bonds which have hitherto been regarded as proper investments for savings banks and insurance companies. When I wrote from abroad about Rosenfeld, I was under the impression and cherished the hope that we would be in position to comply with Bohr's very reasonable request, but at the moment I hesitate to write Mr. Galpin because I really do not see what we can do beyond what was provided in the budget. You know my disposition would be to do anything that you and your associates and men like Bohr wish, but until business improves and the November elections are over, I am inclined to think that we, like other institutions, will have to sit tight and stand pat.

I shall have to be in Princeton a few days going over matters with Mrs. Bailey and reviewing the correspondence of the last two months.

Anne is going to Canada Tuesday evening, and I shall follow Wednesday, or Thursday at the latest.

The trip did me no harm physically and accomplished its purposes in so far as the Institute is concerned, but I am naturally tired, for the past year has been unrelieved by any vacation of any sort.

Please give my warmest greetings to Mrs. Veblen and believe me, with all good wishes,

Ever sincerely, **ABRAHAM FLEXNER**

58 BATTLE ROAD
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

28 June 1938

Dear Dr. Flemer: -

Many thanks for
your kind and sympathetic note
from London

I have not yet heard
what is going to be done about
a meeting of the Building Comm.
and so don't know whether I shall
see you before you leave for Canada.
In any case, Elizabeth joins me
in hoping that you and Mrs. Flemer
can enjoy your well-earned vacation

and for yet as much as a mile of
the timberland 58 BATTLE ROAD
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

would. Here,
in the woods by the sea, it seems very
far away, though I bring it in every
day by means of the news-boards
and I have several letters from
and about Austrian refugees which
I don't know how to answer.

I should like to recommend
for enrollment as a ~~new~~ member
of the School of Math. for 1938-39

Miss Gertrude K. Stanley
Westfield College
Univ of London

I met her while I was in Oxford and

profit by ~~to~~ **58 BATTLE ROAD** *study in Princeton.*
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

She will stay only for a part of the year.

✓ Also for enrollment, Prof. Herbert
E. Arnold, Wesleyan Univ.,
Middleton Conn. about whom I have
already written to Mrs. Bailey. I now
have his formal application which I
am sending on to Dr. Calhoun for
Miss Blake's files.

I have had no word from Mr.
G alpin as to what the C. R. B.
was able to do to help Prof. Rosenfeld.
Would it not be in order for you to

desire to make ^{58 BATTLE ROAD} his visit as
^{PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY} pleasant and scientifically profitable
as possible and would therefore be prepared
to supplement what Prof Rosenfeld re-
ceives from Danish and Belgian sources
by a stipend of (~~\$500~~ or ~~\$1000~~ or ~~?~~)? I
think it would be desirable on general
grounds that we should be paying a part
of Rosenfeld's stipend. Perhaps a telephone
inquiry to Mr. Salpino's office would
elicit the information necessary to determine
the amount needed.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

The Sharon Inn
Sharon, Connecticut

22 June 1938

Dear Mrs Bailey :-

I have written Mr Messer that I have no engagements and therefore can come on any date, providing I have sufficient notice to ~~let~~ give me time to come by train from Ellsworth to New York.

Enclosed is a letter giving, in my opinion, a sufficient recommendation for the admission of Prof. Arnold as a temporary member of the School of Math. for 1938-39. I believe that there is a letter of application

The Sharon Inn
Sharon, Connecticut

from him in my files or
those of Miss Blake. Dr
Calvin should be able to
find it either in the file in
my room or in Miss Blake's —
probably in the latter. Would
you mind asking him to find
it and then I notifying Prof.
Arnold that he will be ad-
mitted?

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

I presume that the address

Prof. ~~B. H. Camp~~
H. E. Arnold
Wesleyan College
Middletown
Conn

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

19 June 1938

Dear Mrs Bailey :-

I think it might be well to send the list as you have it to Miss Hull leaving it to Miss Blake to send a revised list later on. The only ^{which I recall} ~~arrangement~~ addition to those I mentioned in your letter of the 15th is that of DeWitt, a Commonwealth Fellow the information about whom came through Dr. Flexner.

The copies of the letters which I dictated as I left Princeton have also reached me. I appreciate very much the help you gave me. Pres. Compton had no useful suggestion regarding Prof. Kötter and I have not yet heard anything from Mr. Gundersdorf.

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

Since I have no engagements here I can fit in with any arrangement about a meeting of the Building Committee.

We had a pleasant trip and found our place here in reasonably good order. By now we have settled into the usual quiet routine.

With best greetings from
both of us,
Yours sincerely,
Oswald Veblen

June 11, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have just had a letter from Mrs. Bailey, which brings me shocking news. Anne and I sympathize with you and your family profoundly in the tragic loss of your brother. What can one say? "In the midst of life we are in death." That was said long ago and is as true now as it has been for centuries past. Please believe that we are both deeply concerned for you and Mrs. Veblen and that we would do anything in our power to mitigate your grief.

I have had a busy and very interesting time in England and on the continent, and I am hopeful that, with the help which has been freely and candidly given, we may do something new and worthwhile in the field of economics. It is gratifying to find how many really first-rate men have open minds and are eager for the success of an institute which has no bias or preconception. The work of our mathematical group is thoroughly well known - indeed in circles in which I had not expected to find knowledge of it.

We are planning now to return on June 22, arriving in New York about the 27th. I shall notify Mr. Maass in order that he may call a meeting of the Building Committee any time thereafter that will be convenient to him and you and Aydelotte.

Mrs. Bailey has sent me a copy of a letter from Bohr. It would seem to me that if the sum involved is a modest one we should do whatever is in our power to enable him to bring Professor Rosenfeld with him. If the matter has to be decided before I return on the 27th, I leave the decision in your hands and Mrs. Bailey's.

Anne joins me in affectionate greetings and all good wishes to you and Elizabeth.

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

JUNE 17 1938

May 31, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am sending you herewith check of the Institute for \$13.80 to reimburse you for expenses in connection with the Committee on Buildings and Grounds.

I am also sending you a copy of a letter to Dr. Flexner from Dr. Chevalley. I shall be glad to reply to him that he may be excused unless you wish to do so.

Sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

ESTHER S. BARLEY

ESB

May 21, 1938

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

My dear Professor Veblen:

The Institute has not yet reimbursed you for your traveling expenses in attending a meeting of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds on May 4. It may be that you have incurred expense in attending other meetings of which I do not know. I will appreciate it if you will let me have a statement before June 15.

You will be pleased to know that Dr. and Mrs. Flexner reached London safely on Monday, May 16, after a "perfect voyage".

Sincerely yours,

WALTER S. BARLEY

ESB:MGH

May 13, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

Thank you for your note of May 10 sending Professor Whittaker's letter. I am forwarding to Dr. Flexner a copy of it, as I am sure it will interest him.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter from Professor Courant. In general, as you know, a special arrangement is made every year when expenditures are involved. We can pay this item out of petty cash fortunately, but there might not have been a balance and then Dr. Busemann would have been embarrassed. Do you think in replying to Professor Courant I should suggest that authorization be given every year when the Institute is to be called upon to take care of bills - or should I simply pay this, writing Professor Courant that we are doing so, and when I next see him tell him of the "inner workings" of petty cash? I tried to get you on the telephone to ask your advice. However, I hope that this note is clear and that you will counsel me.

With much appreciation, I am

Sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

ESTHER S. BAILEY

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS
FINE HALL
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

May 2, 1938

Dear Doctor Flexner:

I find on looking over the correspondence, that Professor Hedlund informed me in a letter of October 6, 1937, that his present salary is \$3700 and that Bryn Mawr will give him sabbatical leave next year at half of this salary. A letter from Morse to you dated November 8 transmitted a recommendation from the mathematical group that a stipend of \$1750 be granted; and the same mistake appears in the letter from Morse to Hedlund. It was our intention to recommend a stipend equal to half of Hedlund's salary, which would be \$1850. I have not tried to determine whether the mistake is due to our imperfect knowledge of arithmetic, or to some other imperfection in our organization.

I wonder whether it would be possible to rectify the matter by increasing Hedlund's stipend to \$1850?

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS, FINE HALL
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

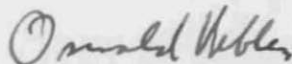
May 2, 1938

Dear Mrs. Bailey:

Many thanks for your thoughtfulness in handing me the Antioch book; also for the detailed statement about the budget.

I have looked over the minutes and have no corrections to offer.

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Mrs. Esther S. Bailey
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

May 3, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

Thank you very much for your letter of the second regarding Hedlund. Mrs. Bailey will write him to the effect that his stipend will be \$1,850 next year.

I shall send your letter regarding Kelly to Meyer and suggest that he talk with Kisenhart on the subject.

I saw Mr. Bamberger yesterday, and, while he and Mrs. Fuld are very much interested in the building, he is strongly in favor of reducing the cost as much as possible, in the interest of saving money ultimately for endowment - a point of view with which I am completely in accord, as you know.

I also have talked over with him and President Rodde the idea of going to Europe for the purpose of getting first-hand knowledge of these various new steps in the field of economics. Both agree that it would be infinitely worth while so we have decided to sail on May 11.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey
AF:RCA

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

April 27, 1938

My dear Professor Veblen:

In accordance with your request I am sending you the following detailed statement regarding the budget of the School of Mathematics for 1938-1939:

Salaries	\$100,650.00
6 professors, 1 associate, 6 assistants 1 secretary, 1 librarian	
Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America	4,479.00
Technical Assistance	1,000.00
Stipends	30,000.00
Annals of Mathematics	2,750.00
Mathematical Publications	300.00
Subscription to American Mathematical Society	200.00
Subscription to Journal of Symbolic Logic	100.00
Contribution to Fine Hall	<u>6,000.00</u>
Total	<u><u>\$145,459.00</u></u>

Sincerely yours,

OSWALD S. VEBLEN

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey

ESB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS
FINE HALL
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

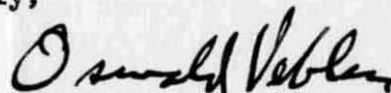
April 8, 1938

Dear Doctor Flexner:

Since the subdivision of the lots makes a substantial financial difference to the Institute, and since the last paragraph of your letter of April 6 suggests that the possibility still exists of making an adjustment, I feel that I ought to make this comment: I think that the "back yard" argument does not apply in the Battle Road neighborhood, for practically all of our back yards are as presentable, or more presentable, than our front yards. I do not have a copy of the map showing the subdivision, and therefore do not express any final opinion as to what is the best solution. But if it is at all possible, I should like to see the price of a lot saved for the Institute.

I am writing to Professor Menger to get the Notre Dame point of view before I send a reply to Dr. Gödel.

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

April 6, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

Thank you very much for leaving Mr. Larson's plans with me. I have not myself examined them, nor shall I show them to anyone else. I shall keep them until Mr. Larson has replied to my letter and unless there is some good reason to the contrary return them to him with the explanation that it is impractical for us to criticize the plans of four different architects in the way in which he suggests, and it would be unfair to do that for one and not for the others. I happened to see Mr. Maass in New York yesterday and told him briefly of the incident, though not, of course, making or implying any criticism of you. He thought that my position was correct.

In writing Mr. Larson I shall also tell him that the decision of the committee will not be based upon a detailed study but rather on the committee's judgment as to the general suitability of the plans and personality of the architect selected.

The Panofsky incident is not worth considering except as showing how important it is not to stir these people up after a decision has been deliberately reached. The fact is that Mr. Sincerbeaux and Mr. Black, in laying out the plot, should have borne in mind the importance of keeping a strip of lawn continuous with that of the adjacent houses. If Professor Panofsky's plans

Professor Veblen

April 6, 1938

- 2 -

were now changed and lots 1 and 2 merged it would simply mean that whoever builds on Lot 3 would look into their back yards.

With all good wishes,

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/MCE

P. S. I am enclosing copy of a letter which I received this morning from Dr. Gödel.

A. F.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS
FINE HALL
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

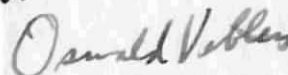
April 5, 1938

Dear Doctor Flexner:

I left Mr. Larson's plans at the Inn last evening on my return from Philadelphia. They were seen by no one but myself while they were in my possession.

Your remarks about the Panofsky incident in your letter dated yesterday are evidently based on a misunderstanding, for I always follow the procedure which is recommended in the last paragraph of that letter. What actually happened in this case was that in the course of a social call by my wife and myself on Mr. and Mrs. Panofsky, they brought the conversation around to their building enterprise and told us about the relocation of their house and the reasons for it. I remarked that I thought there might have been another way of meeting the problem which would have been less expensive to the Institute, and explained the simple geometrical point which is involved. After that I dismissed the question from my mind, but Panofsky tells me that he thought it over and came to the conclusion that he ought to make it clear that he would not object to this alternative solution, which he thought might have been overlooked in the previous consideration of the subject. So he telephoned directly to you, without consulting me.

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

April 6, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

Thank you for your note of the fifth.

Dr. Flexner appreciates your willingness but says that it will not be necessary for you to change your plans regarding attending the meeting of the American Mathematical Society at Charlottesville, Virginia, as there will be no special business here next week to require your presence.

Sincerely yours,

ESTHER S. BAILEY

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS, FINE HALL
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

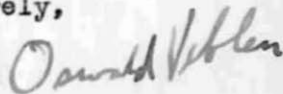
April 5, 1938

Dear Mrs. Bailey:

I have your notice of the annual meeting of the corporation and the trustees on Monday, April 18, and I expect to be present.

I am planning to be away from Princeton for the last four days of the week ending April 16, to attend a meeting of the American Mathematical Society at Charlottesville, Virginia. However, I could change this plan if there should be any business here which in Dr. Flexner's judgment would make it desirable for me to be in Princeton.

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Mrs. Esther S. Bailey
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

April 1, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am writing this line to confirm
the appointment of Dr. Calkin as your assistant
next year, with a salary of \$1800.00.

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/MCE

March 30, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have spent the last two days in New York and Newark discussing the financial situation with particular reference to our budget. In view of the steady decline in the income from securities and the inevitable indefiniteness regarding the amount that will be required to build Fuld Hall, I am under the necessity of recommending to the Budget Committee (when it meets) a budget from which every possible item has been excised though nothing, I believe, that will really impair the quality or extent of the opportunities we offer next year. The one change in the mathematical budget is the excision of the sum of \$1,000 for occasional lecturers. The sum already pledged for stipends will remain, but I shall suggest to the Budget Committee that no commitment for the following year be made until the January, 1939, meeting of the Board, by which time either conditions will have improved, or at any rate we shall know more clearly precisely what we can count upon. Perhaps also by that time the amount required for the new building will have been definitely settled. Of course, nothing will come out of our current income towards the payment for the new building, but indirectly we are nevertheless affected by what may prove to be a considerable non-productive investment. I shall in due time ask each of the three schools

Professor Veblen

March 30, 1938

2

to incur no expense not authorized for next year without prior conference with the office.

Should any appointment made for next year lapse, please make no commitment as to a substitute appointment without prior conference with me.

Thank you very much for sending me the list of young men who would be desirable as recipients of stipends. Of course, it must be obvious to you, as it is to me, and it ought to be made obvious to mathematicians all over the country that what we can do is only a part of what ought to be done. However, I realize the fact that other institutions have far more vast commitments than we have so that they are probably no more able to expand than we are.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

April 1, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am writing this line to confirm
the appointment of Dr. Calkin as your assistant
next year, with a salary of \$1800.00.

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/MCE

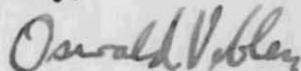
THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS, FINE HALL
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

March 29, 1938

Dear Doctor Flexner:

With your permission I should like to continue Dr. Calkin as my assistant for another year. I believe I spoke with you about this over the telephone some days ago, but I am writing this note so that your records may be clear on the subject.

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS
FINE HALL

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

March 25, 1938

Dear Doctor Flexner:

This letter is intended to confirm and supplement the telephone conversation which we had a day or two ago, in which I referred to the regret which the mathematical group feels in having to decline a number of very promising candidates for stipends. It is based on a discussion which I have had this morning with Professor Morse.

First of all, I must say that we seized the opportunity created by the fact that Professor Rabi can come for only one semester, in order to recommend Dr. Serbin, because all of us who have come in contact with Serbin have been impressed with the use which he has made of his opportunities this year, and have come to feel that he gives promise of becoming a mathematician of very high caliber.

I should like also to mention three other young men whom we regret not having been able to help. One of them is Donald T. Perkins who is taking his doctorate at Yale under Professor Ore and who is also highly recommended by Professor Hille who places him on a par with Marshall Hall, whom you may remember. I will say nothing further about him because he has already been given a Benjamin Peirce Instructorship at Harvard.

There were three highly recommended candidates from the University of Chicago, of whom the one who appealed most strongly to us was Dr. Sam Perlis, a pupil of Professor Albert who writes of him, - "I think he has greater promise for future research than any of the people I have had here in the past few years. In this he will be aided by rather unusual critical mathematical ability."

Another man in whom we are interested is Max Shiffman of New York University, who is working with Professor Courant and doing important research on the problem of Plateau. Professor Morse regards him

Dr. Abraham Flexner - 2

March 25, 1938

as the best young man in that field. We had a cablegram from Professor Flanders of New York University, who is now in Copenhagen, saying "Consider him [Shiffman] best candidate in my experience".

My own impression, based on long experience on the Fellowship Board of the National Research Council, is that there is a very considerable amount of really good material in the list of candidates whom we have declined.

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

FINE HALL

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY


March 28, 1938

Dear Doctor Flexner:

Professor von Neumann has called my attention to another case of a somewhat different sort, which I might well have mentioned in my letter of March 25. This is Mr. Hsien Yu Hsu, from the staff of Yen-ching University in Peiping, which Johnny informs me is more likely to survive than most of the Chinese universities because of its American control. In fact it is the only one which is still operating in the occupied zone.

Mr. Hsu is now at the end of two of his three years of leave for study in the United States, after which he will return to his post at Yen-ching University. During the first two years he has worked as a graduate student, with a Fellowship, at Washington University, St. Louis, where he is taking his Ph.D. under Professor Szegő (Szegő is now leaving Washington University for a post at Stanford). Professor Szegő has written in very enthusiastic terms about Dr. Hsu, in the hope that he may continue his work, at the Institute. Under present circumstances this would require some small stipend. I have also heard about Mr. Hsu from Norbert Wiener, who is extremely enthusiastic about him and regards him as much better than any of the Chinese mathematicians whom we have yet had to do with. From the comparisons which Wiener makes with young American mathematicians it seems clear to me that Hsu must be a very promising case and a man who may easily have an important role in the future scientific history of China.

Very sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

April 4, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

I confess that I was vexed with Mr. Larson when I received his letter of April 2, a copy of which I enclose. Quite aside from any formal considerations, to which, as you well know, I pay no attention whatsoever, I am by no means clear in my own mind how far we can henceforth go in consultation with professors of the faculty, as Mr. Larson suggests. That is something that the Building Committee as a whole will have to consider. If sixteen professors are each to have a "crack" at the plans of the four architects the probabilities are that the plans will not be agreed on until doomsday.

Will you please send me by messenger this evening, to the Inn, the plans which I understand from Miss Blake you received this morning?

There is another point which I think ought to be cleared up in the interest of good administration: Professor Panofsky called me up last evening to say that you had called on him and made a suggestion involving a total re-arrangement of the plans for building his house. This procedure seems to me to be very bad administrative technique. Matters of this kind should be cleared over my desk or that of Mr. Maass. If the several members of the Building Committee are free to approach any of the architects or the

Professor Veblen

April 4, 1938

- 2 -

professors building houses, without my knowledge, we shall get into
inextricable confusion. I have no love for formalities, but I do have a
strong feeling that the way to avoid trouble and to save time is to have a
simple procedure rather than the complex one involved in a suggestion from
you to Professor Panofsky, from Professor Panofsky to me, and perhaps from
me to Mr. Maass. What I did in the Panofsky case was done on the authority
and with the knowledge of Mr. Maass after a protest from neighbors whose
good will it is important for us to keep. The solution arrived at was not
mine or that of Mr. Maass, but a solution agreed on by Mr. Comstock,
Professor Panofsky's architect, Mr. Sincerbeaux, and the neighbors most
deeply concerned. I told Professor Panofsky last night that under no cir-
cumstances would I reopen the question.

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/MCE

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS
FINE HALL
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

February 21, 1938

Dear Mrs. Bailey:

I enclose herewith a bill of \$220. for the 40,000 pine seedlings which are to be planted down below the old trolley line. We spoke about this not very long ago, and I should be obliged if you could send it through the proper channels for payment. It comes under an appropriation of \$1000 for the Building and Grounds Committee which was arranged for by Mr. Maass.

With regard to the planting, after consulting Professor Riefler I have accepted a bid of \$490 from Mr. Austin D. Morrell. This was the lowest of three bids which were kindly obtained for us by Mr. Stanley Bergen. The highest bid was \$600.

I expect to pay Mr. Morrell also something like \$10 extra for bringing the trees from Washington's Crossing to Princeton on his truck.

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Mrs. Esther S. Bailey
P.O. Box 631
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

Veblen

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

FINE HALL

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

February 16, 1938

Dear Doctor Flexner:

Thank you for your kind letter of February 14 and for the trouble which you have taken in studying out what was said in our correspondence in regard to the invitation to Bohr. I realize better than before how easy it is to carry on a conversation without a complete agreement as to what was actually meant. I am obliged for your offer to explain the matter to my colleagues, but I think I shall have no difficulty on this score and shall have explained it to some of them before your receive this letter. The positiveness of my impression that Bohr was not on the stipend fund was due to the way in which the matter came up and to the considerations which I think I remember as having entered into the determination of the amount to be paid. This was of course confirmed by the way in which I reported the matter to my colleagues at the time of our conversations. I see no reason, however, for trying to put down such intangible considerations when there is no essential disagreement as to what ought to be done. I know that you want to deal as generously as possible with the School of Mathematics, and you know that I don't want this to be done at the expense of the best interests of the Institute as a whole.

I agree heartily with the general point of view which you lay down about the way in which a budget should be handled; namely, that once the budget has been adopted we should regard it as representing the outside limit of what can be spent. In this connection it might be well to let at least one member of each School look over the items in advance of its adoption, so as to provide against any possible oversight. In connection with the total of next year's budget, it is perhaps in order for me to bring out that, according

Dr. Abraham Flexner - 2

February 16, 1938

to the method of bookkeeping which was followed in the budget for the year ending June 30, 1938, the amounts allotted to the School of Mathematics in the last three years have been, for the years ending June 30,

<u>1936</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>
\$146,479	\$147,129	\$143,159

There has been a change in the way in which the items pertaining to Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association and the contribution to Fine Hall have been taken account of.

Yours sincerely,



Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

Statement regarding Budget of Estimated Expenses
of School of Mathematics
for the year ending June 30, 1938

School of Mathematics		\$143,159.00
Salaries	\$98,330.00	
Professors, Associate, Assistants,		
Secretary, Librarian	\$97,330.00	
Technical Assistant	<u>1,000.00*</u>	
Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association ..	4,479.00	
Occasional Lecturers	1,000.00	
Stipends	30,000.00	
Publications and Subscriptions	3,350.00	
Annals of Mathematics	\$ 2,750.00	
Mathematical Publication	300.00	
Subscriptions		
American Mathematical Society	200.00	
Journal of Symbolic Logic	<u>100.00</u>	
Contribution to work in Fine Hall	<u>6,000.00</u>	

*\$400 allocated to J. H. Giese for technical
work on Annals of Mathematics

February 16, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen

I am sending to you herewith the
statement regarding the budget for the School
of Mathematics which you wished.

Sincerely yours,

ESTHER S. BAILEY

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

ESB

February 14, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have just read over the correspondence regarding the invitation to Bohr. Your first letter is dated March 25, 1937. This is a letter to Bohr. It says nothing of his status, but it does say:

"I am taking the liberty to write to you informally about the question to find out whether you would be able to accept in case the funds are available."

This letter was sent to Bohr while he was in Berkeley. The next letter is written by you from Pasadena on May 19, 1937. You wrote as follows: "

"von Neumann writes that you approve of my now making the offer to Niels Bohr definite. But since there is no immediate hurry I should prefer to wait until I hear from him. The offer was \$6000 for one term, and in the enclosed letter Bohr accepts in principle for the autumn term of 1938."

The next letter is one from me to you, dated May 31, 1937. The second paragraph says:

"It seems to me that your suggestion of \$6000 for a three-month's term is excessive. * * * If Bohr spends three months in America it seems to me that he would be reasonably recompensed with a salary of \$5000 plus perhaps his transportation from Stockholm to Princeton and return. * * * I think we should bear in mind that the other schools are all going in course of this to wish to be able to extend similar invitations, and we cannot lose sight of the fact that at the moment our expenditures are pretty close to the end of our income."

Professor Veblen

February 19, 1938

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In your reply of June 14, 1937, you say:

"My letter to Bohr did specify \$6000 as the salary for one term. This was, however, not at my suggestion because the whole matter was initiated and the terms laid down by yourself, etc. I am recalling these matters in detail because I should never have thought of mentioning a stipend to Bohr without very explicit authorization. Nevertheless, I am convinced that your original suggestion was the right one."

Replying on June 25, I say:

"I am terribly sorry that before writing you as I did in reference to Bohr I did not carefully examine the correspondence. I do remember most of the details which you recall in your letter of June 14, but I evidently forgot the main thing - the salary proposed. Of course, under the circumstances I shall abide by our agreement, and I am writing Bohr by this mail to that effect. I quite agree with you that in view of the size of the honorarium Bohr should practically confine himself to Princeton during the term."

Isn't it clear that "honorarium", "stipend" and "salary" meant the same thing to me? I am, however, now see that they did not mean the same thing to you and that you were thinking of "salary" even when you used the word "stipend".

Everyone here in the office has heard me say time and again within the last two years, that I said in my report to the Board in April, 1937, and that I repeated in two letters to Mr. Bamberger at Murray Bay last summer, that in calculating our immediate financial needs mathematics should be construed as "stabilized". I used the same words, though less positively, about the humanistic studies, as they have so much less, though their field is a very wide one. For the economists I have done nothing beyond their salaries and a single stenographer. I have therefore emphasized in two successive reports to the Board and in the two letters to Mr. Bamberger, as well as in numerous conversations in New York and in Princeton, that mathematics is "stabilized" for

Professor Veblen

February 14, 1938

- 3 -

the present and that our next concern must be the development of the economic group. You have heard me read these reports and you have the minutes of the meetings in which my reports are repeated in full, and, of course, I meant what I said.

I also mentioned to Mr. Bamberger last summer the strong feeling of the mathematicians that we should add theoretical physics, and he authorized me to explore the ground. This I reported to you and your associates, and the result was a report signed by Professor Einstein and Professor von Neumann, but the general financial situation is such that I have taken no action.

It is, I think, clear that there failed to be a meeting of minds, and for this I am perfectly willing to take the full responsibility, for I am quite sure that I didn't make it sufficiently clear to you that whatever we did for Bohr and for Gödel, it had to come within the limits of the present budget; but that we would not exceed the present budget I have stated positively to Mr. Leidesdorf and Mr. Bamberger and to the entire Board. I am sorry to have left an ambiguous impression on your mind. When von Neumann spoke to me about Gödel I made it quite clear that he could be invited next year only on condition that he come within the existing budget.

A budget, whether viewed from the standpoint of the several schools or from the standpoint of the entire Institute, represents the outside limit of what can be spent: it does not mean that the entire sum allotted has to be spent. If the schools are to continue "autonomous" this principle must be rigorously observed, for the alternative would be concentration of correspondence regarding expenditures, as well as formal authorization of the same, in a central place, to which I am as averse as I know you are.

Professor Veblen

February 14, 1938

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I cannot believe that anything "disastrous" will happen as long as we have as large a mathematical budget as we now have, and it won't be an unmixed evil if the total number of persons working in Fine Hall is temporarily reduced.

I shall be glad to say anything to your associates that you desire in order to relieve you of responsibility for the misunderstanding which has arisen without any intention either on your part or on mine, and I shall also be glad to review the existing situation as regards completed and uncompleted pledges and correspondence and moral commitments with you and Morse later in the week, for I shall spend the next two days in New York.

Always sincerely,

ALEXANDER FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/MCE

January 29, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen:

Thank you for yours of the 26th in reference to young Schmayerson. I think it would be a good idea for you to write to Birkhoff. I do not think that my writing would carry weight - at any rate it should not, for I do not belong to the mathematical guild.

Before you discuss the question of Gödel with your associates see me again or talk with me on the telephone, for I have had an idea which may be of some value in connection with him. I hate more than I can say to place a limitation of this kind on you and your group, but in the present financial situation we have got to hew to the line.

I myself regret that we have embarked upon a building project, though we undoubtedly need a building, and I can appreciate that Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld would like to see us housed.

Do not let any of your colleagues have any fear about the future. That, I think, is as secure as it can possibly be in the case of any institution. It is only the present that is troublesome.

With all good wishes,

Ever sincerely,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

✓ 1938

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

BUDGET

Finance

GÖDEL, KURT

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner to Veblen, January 26, 1938.

He says that after the meeting on Monday, he had long conferences on finance, and it is obvious that until business conditions improve, and thus increase the dividends in our present endowment, we shall have to hold in abeyance certain plans which six months ago I'd regarded as likely to be fulfilled within the twelve-month period. This would mean postponing of the theoretical physicists and taking any salary paid to Professor Gödel from the \$30,000 stipend fund instead of making a further appropriation, for it is simply impossible under existing circumstances to increase the mathematical budget at all. Certain stipends committed by the School of Mathematics are not required because their people cannot come. Flexner has already notified Mr. Leidesdorf

that a \$1500 stipend for Bassi and a \$750 stipend released by Dr. Feenberg will revert to the Treasury.

"When an allocated sum laps^s in the course of the year, it goes back to the treasury, a point upon which I think I have made myself clear before. Inevitably, in an institution like ours a demand for funds will be incalculable and there will always be persons who can be substituted for others. I think, however, in the long run, we ~~will~~ will have a higher grade of appointments if we all realize that an appointment of a grant once made is final, and that in the event of its not being used, it is not to go into the second best, but back into the general fund."

4/17/38 Budget Com. adopted policy on this.

January 21, 1938

Dear Professor Veblen,

I am enclosing a letter which I had
this morning from Professor McShane and a copy
of my answer thereto.

re J. B. Paltus'

Ever sincerely,

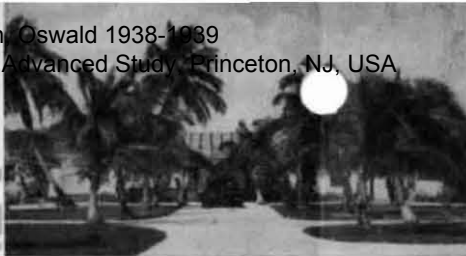
ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/MCE

Casa Ybel Hotel

CASA YBEL HOTEL CORPORATION, OWNERS



C. J. KNAPP, MANAGER.

SANIBEL, FLORIDA

ALSO OPERATING
GREEN LAWN LODGE
CAPTIVA, FLORIDA

13 Jan. 1938

Dear Mrs Bailey :-

This is to let you know that I have received the notice of the Trustees meeting and expect to be present. We have spent two weeks here very pleasantly — gathering sea-shells which are washed up on this beach in great profusion and ~~also~~ even doing a little mathematics. Tomorrow we pack the car and expect to drift gradually northward.

Elizabeth joins me in best greetings,

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.