

Chesapeake, and other continental drainage systems. Veatch ascribed these canyons to subaerial erosion, inferring depression of sea level by several thousand feet. By the 1950s, however, most geologists considered them the work of submarine density currents. Veatch's *Quito to Bogota* (1917) provided an account of his experiences in South America.

Veatch was active professionally as a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Geographical Society, the Seismological Society of America, and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. He was a fellow of the Geological Society of America, the Geological Society (London), and the Royal Geographical Society. In 1920-1922 he served as a councilor of the Society of Economic Geologists and was president elect when he died. He also was a member of the Mining and Metallurgical Society of America's Committee on Foreign Mining Policy (1921-1922) and the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers' Petroleum Committee (1919), was active in the Council of Foreign Relations, and belonged to the Cosmos Club. He died at his home in Port Washington, Long Island, New York.

• For useful sources of information about Veatch, see L. C. Snider, "Arthur Clifford Veatch (1878-1938)," *Bulletin of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists* 23, no. 4 (1939): 621-22; William B. Heroy, "Memorial to Arthur Clifford Veatch," in the Geological Society of America, *Annual Report for 1941* (1942): 201-9, which includes his bibliography; William R. Brice, "Gilbert Dennison Harris: A Life with Fossils," *Bulletin of American Paleontology* 109, no. 350 (1996), includes an extensive summary of Veatch's life and his professional association with Harris; Edgar Wesley Owen, *Trek of the Oil Finders: A History of Exploration for Petroleum* (1975), includes an analysis of Veatch's contribution to petroleum development in the Gulf Coast of North America. An obituary is in the *New York Times*, 25 Dec. 1938.

RALPH L. LANGENHEIM, JR.

VEBLEN, Oswald (24 June 1880-10 Aug. 1960), mathematician and mathematical physicist, was born in Decorah, Iowa, the son of Andrew Anderson Veblen and Kirsti Hougen. His father was a teacher at Luther College in Decorah (1877-1881) and later professor of physics at the University of Iowa. One of Oswald Veblen's uncles was the economist and social theorist Thorstein Veblen. After receiving a B.A. from the University of Iowa in 1898, he remained there for an additional year as a laboratory assistant in physics. Following a year of study at Harvard University he was awarded a second B.A. in 1900. He then entered the University of Chicago as a graduate student in mathematics and there received his doctorate in 1903. His dissertation "A System of Axioms for Geometry" was prepared under the supervision of Eliakim Hastings Moore, who notably influenced his early thought and work. Veblen remained in Chicago (1903-1905) as an associate in mathematics, and there, together with Moore, influenced the doctoral research of Robert L. Moore. In 1905 Veblen went to Princeton University

as one of the new preceptors appointed by university president Woodrow Wilson to raise the level of instruction and scholarship. In 1908 he married Elizabeth Mary Dixon Richardson, the sister of Sir Owen Richardson, then professor of physics at Princeton, who was later the winner of the 1928 Nobel Prize in physics; the couple had no children.

Veblen was promoted to professor of mathematics at Princeton in 1910 and held the Henry B. Fine Professorship of Mathematics from 1926 to 1932. During World War I he served as a captain, later major, in the army and was assigned to the Ordnance Department at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. In 1932 he was the first professor to be appointed in the School of Mathematics of the newly founded Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. In this capacity he was instrumental in choosing the other original institute members—James W. Alexander, Albert Einstein, John von Neumann, and Hermann Weyl. Veblen remained active in the affairs of the institute until his retirement in 1950. An exchange professor at Oxford University in 1928-1929, he also lectured at Göttingen, Berlin, and Hamburg in 1932. The latter experience gave him a firsthand glimpse of the approaching turbulence in Germany, and he subsequently worked tirelessly to help place the refugees who came to the United States. In 1939-1940 he was also one of the founders of the journal *Mathematical Reviews*. During World War II he resumed his military duties as a section head at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds (1941-1945) and recruited many distinguished mathematicians to work on problems at the Ballistics Research Laboratory, also in Maryland.

Veblen was much honored and respected during his lifetime. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1919. From 1920 to 1923 he served on the National Research Council, and on his advice it initiated a program of postdoctoral fellowships that encouraged the development of research within the American university community. He was president of the American Mathematical Society in 1923-1924 and did yeoman service in resolving its financial difficulties and achieving formal incorporation. Veblen was also chosen president of the first postwar International Congress of Mathematicians, held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1950.

In a broad sense, almost all of Veblen's research was concerned with geometry. Although he did discover new results of some significance, the most important aspect of his work rests in the conceptual approaches he devised in formulating an area, or a specific topic, in mathematics. These formulations, even if they were not the ultimate ones adopted, always identified the key ideas and served as catalysts for future progress. Hence, the influence of his ideas on mathematical thought, especially in the United States, during the first half of the twentieth century was enormous. His research activities can be divided into five general phases, which overlap chronologically and conceptually with each other. The first of these (1903-1918), an immediate continuation of his doctoral work on the

foundations of geometry, included an extensive investigation of projective geometry, in particular finite geometries, in collaboration with William H. Bussey (1906), Joseph H. M. Wedderburn (1907), and John W. Young (1908). This culminated with the appearance of the monumental two-volume *Projective Geometry* (1910, 1918) by Veblen and Young (Veblen was the sole author of the second volume). These books were widely read and are still regarded as the definitive exposition of the subject.

In 1911 Veblen also proposed an elegant formulation of Euclidean geometry. His work on geometry then led to a corresponding concurrent period of study on the foundations of analysis (1904–1908) and his influential textbook, with Nels J. Lennes, *Introduction to Infinitesimal Analysis: Functions of One Real Variable* (1907). This was the first American text to consider explicitly the conceptual aspects of calculus, and it was of great importance in introducing rigor into the classroom. In 1905 he also gave the first correct proof of the celebrated Jordan Curve Theorem.

The third period (1912–1924) was devoted to topology (*analysis situs* in the vernacular of the time), the topic of his colloquium lectures of 1916 to the American Mathematical Society. Published as *Analysis Situs* (1922), the lectures give a systematic exposition of Henri Poincaré's great work of 1892–1904 on combinatorial topology and gained worldwide recognition. In America, the work essentially gave rise to the Princeton school of topology, which was subsequently led by Veblen's colleagues Alexander and Solomon Lefschetz.

The fourth period (1922–1932) began when Veblen and Luther P. Eisenhart cooperated to found the Princeton school of differential geometry. This school actively studied higher-dimensional geometries, i.e., the mathematics of relativity, and had many students. Veblen's work was summarized in two brilliant tracts: *Invariants of Quadratic Differential Forms* (1927) and *The Foundations of Differential Geometry* (1932). The former is an elegant précis of Riemannian geometry, while the latter, written in collaboration with his student John H. C. Whitehead, is a critical study of the structure of those mathematical systems that may be termed geometry. It also contains the first formal definition of the seminal notion of a differentiable manifold. The final period (1930–1937) of Veblen's mathematical work was devoted to mathematical physics, especially projective relativity and spinor theory. The first of these resulted in a monograph, *Projektive Relativitätstheorie* (1933), while the second was sketched in *Geometry of Complex Domains* (1936), a set of lecture notes written with his pupil James W. Givens. Each of these required elaborate geometric investigations, which were never completed although Veblen worked on them well into his retirement.

An engaging person of great modesty and personal charm, Veblen ultimately became a senior statesman of American mathematics. His friendly manner and warm smile endeared him to both his contemporaries and several generations of younger mathematicians.

His devotion to Princeton and the institute was legendary. Suffering in his final years from partial blindness, he invented several devices to aid the visually impaired, one of which was produced by the American Foundation for the Blind. In 1961 the American Mathematical Society created the Veblen Prize for Geometry, which is awarded every five years in his honor. Veblen died peacefully in his summer home in Brooklin, Maine.

• Veblen's papers are in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress and include an extensive correspondence with his colleagues and coworkers. His retiring address as president of the American Mathematical Society, "Remarks on the Foundations of Geometry," *Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society* 31 (Mar.–Apr. 1925): 121–41, and "Certain Aspects of Modern Geometry," *Rice Institute Pamphlets* (1934), contain lucid examples of his mathematical style and views. A biographical notice by R. C. Archibald appears in *A Semicentennial History of the American Mathematical Society, 1888–1938* 1 (1938): 206–11, and includes a complete list of his doctoral students and publications up to 1938. Obituary notices are in the National Academy of Sciences, *Biographical Memoirs* 37 (1964): 325–41, the *Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society* 69 (Jan. 1963), and in the *New York Times*, 11 Aug. 1960.

JOSEPH D. ZUND

VEBLÉN, Thorstein Bunde (30 July 1857–3 Aug. 1929), economist and social critic, was born in Cato Township, Manitowoc County, Wisconsin, the son of Thomas Anderson Veblen and Kari Thorsteindatter Bunde, farmers. Veblen's parents had emigrated from Norway in 1847 and, after three earlier attempts at farming in Wisconsin, settled permanently in 1865 on a farm near Northfield, Minnesota.

Veblen was, for his times, unconventional in his lifestyle, unorthodox in religious matters, and heterodox in his social, political, and economic thought. As an adult he was always an outsider, especially in American academic life where he tried, and failed, to make a successful career. Consequently, students of Veblen's work have paid much attention to his family background, childhood, and early adult years in efforts to understand his alienation from society and his almost masochistic attitude toward meeting the minimum requirements for success in his chosen profession. The alienation is frequently seen as a key to understanding Veblen's work and, perhaps, as the source of the undoubted originality of his view of the society and economy of the nineteenth-century Western world. However, Veblen's eldest brother, Andrew (there were in all twelve children, of whom Thorstein was the sixth), had an unspectacular but successful academic career as a mathematician and physicist. Obviously, the two as boys experienced a similar social and familial environment.

Veblen's childhood and adolescent years were spent on farms in rural communities largely populated by first-generation Norwegian Lutheran immigrants; the nearby towns were settled by native-born Protestants mainly of English descent who controlled the local

HISTORICAL STUDIES LIBRARY
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PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

ITEMS REMOVED : VEBLLEN, OSWALD 1940-1971

1) "Oswald Veblen," by Deane Montgomery, reprinted
from the Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society,
Vol. 69, No. 1, January 1963 : pp. 26-36.

10-20-99

A copy of "Oswald Veblen" by Deane
Montgomery was placed in 1960.

LISA COATS

April 16, 1971

Miss Fern Moss
Assistant Picture Editor
Encyclopaedia Britannica
425 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Miss Moss:

We are sorry for the delay in responding to your letter of April 2 but we have been trying to obtain the pictures you asked for. However, we have not been able to locate photographs of Professors Veblen and Weyl and regret that we cannot be of help to you.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Elisabeth Balsa



ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA

425 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611

April
2
1971

Information Office
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Sirs:

We are currently gathering illustrations for a number of biographical articles in the Encyclopaedia Britannica and would appreciate your sending black and white photographs of:

VEBLEN, OSWALD (1880-1960) -- in 1950 Mr. Veblen was made Professor Emeritus at the Institute for Advanced Study

WEYL, HERMANN (1885-1955) -- from 1933-51, Mr. Weyl was a Professor at The Institute for Advanced Study.

Both men were professors in the field of mathematics.

Any information regarding the above illustrations will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Fern Moss

(Miss) Fern Moss
Assistant Picture Editor
Art Department

FM/lr

File Veblen

5 January 1961

Cancelleria
Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei
Via della Lungara 10
Rome
Italy

Gentlemen:

In response to your questionnaire addressed
to Professor Oswald Veblen, I regret to inform
you that Professor Veblen died on August 10,
1960.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Wilder Hobson
Secretary to the Director

[Faint, illegible text, possibly a list or index]

ALLA CANCELLERIA
DELL'ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE DEI LINCEI
ROMA

Veblen 8/10/60

Nome e Cognome

Professore di

nell'Università di

Città Stato

Ordinario, fuori ruolo, a riposo, emerito

Nome e Cognome della Consorte

Indirizzo o indirizzi (abitazione, Istituto) che si desidera

figuri o figurino nell'Annuario

.

Telefono o telefoni - idem

Eventuali altre indicazioni circa il recapito a cui inviare

la corrispondenza e le pubblicazioni

.

FIRMA DEL SOCIO

.

ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE DEI LINCEI

Circolare N. 32018

AI SIGNORI SOCI
DELL'ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE DEI LINCEI

Illustre Professore,

poichè è in corso la revisione e l'aggiornamento dell'Annuario di questa Accademia, nonchè il completamento delle schede personali dei Soci, mi pregio inviarLe l'unito modulo con preghiera di voler restituirlo alla Cancelleria debitamente riempito con cortese sollecitudine.

La ringrazio e La prego di voler gradire i miei migliori ossequi.

IL CANCELLIERE

Ernesto Gianni

Roma, 23 novembre 1960

Fac Veblen

December 14, 1960

Mrs. Oswald Veblen
Herrontown Road
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Mrs. Veblen:

At a recent meeting of the Admissions Committee you were elected to special membership in the Nassau Club.

The Officers of the Club join me in welcoming you and expressing our hope that you will make use of the Club and find its associations pleasant.

We are listing below the privileges extended to ladies:

- A. Use of the Women's Cocktail Lounge at all times when the Club is open.
- B. Use of the Main Dining Room every evening and Sunday noon.
- C. Luncheon, dinner parties and teas may be served in private dining rooms at all times upon reservations.

Sincerely,

Rudolf A. Clemen
President

Veblen

18 November 1960

Chairman, Admissions Committee
The Nassau Club
6 Mercer Street
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Sir:

I have been asked to support the application of Mrs. Oswald Veblen for membership in the Nassau Club. It is a pleasure and an honor to do so.

Mrs. Veblen is the widow of Professor Veblen, one of the original members of the Faculty of the Institute for Advanced Study, and for many years a valued member of the Princeton community, as Mrs. Veblen herself has been, and is.

I see every reason why your Committee should take favorable action on this application, and am glad to have this opportunity to recommend that you do so.

Re also signed card

Very sincerely,

Robert Oppenheimer

29 November 1960

Dear André:

You have, I think, a copy of Deane Montgomery's note in which he tells us that Veblen is leaving his library to the Institute. Judith would appreciate it if she could also call on you for advice if she should need it. As far as physics goes, I would be glad to do anything that may be necessary.

Robert Oppenheimer

Professor André Weil
The Institute for Advanced Study

cc: Miss Sachs
Professor Montgomery

Former Fac Veblen

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

November 28, 1960

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton
New Jersey

Dear Robert:

Yesterday Mrs. Veblen told me that Veblen's
Mathematics books and reprints are to go to the Institute.
If there are things which the Institute does not need,
then I believe she would like them to go to some other in-
stitution, perhaps a smaller college which would appreciate
them.

Sincerely,



Dean Montgomery

DM:aj

cc: Prof. Baurling
Borel
Godel
Morse
Selberg
Weil
Whitney
Judith Sachs
Minot Morgan

Fac Veblen

28 October 1960

Dear Deane, dear Pan:

Thank you for preparing our Faculty letter to Mrs. Veblen. I thought it superlative, and am most grateful. It may please you that the Institute's Trustees have asked to be associated with the words you wrote.

We have sent it on to Mrs. Veblen with a note to this effect, but I have not told her of the authorship. You should feel free to do so.

Very sincerely,

Robert Oppenheimer

Professor Deane Montgomery
Professor Erwin Panofsky
The Institute for Advanced Study

27 October 1960

Dear Mrs. Veblen:

It is my duty, and my wish, to transmit to you this brief statement from Professor Veblen's colleagues who are members of the Faculty of the Institute for Advanced Study.

I have also been asked to tell you that the Trustees of the Institute wish to be associated with this statement, and have asked me to let it stand also as their tribute to Professor Veblen.

With warm good wishes,

Robert Oppenheimer

Mrs. Oswald Veblen
Herrontown Road
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Mrs. Veblen,

We of the Faculty wish to tell you of the sadness the death of your husband has brought to us. We are acutely conscious of the loss to the Institute and to the world of learning of ^{His} ~~one~~ of its major figures.

Oswald Veblen was of great influence in developing the Institute as a center for postdoctoral research, but this was only a part of a career extending back for half a century to the time when scholarly work was in its infancy in Princeton and the United States. His effect on mathematics, transcending the Princeton community and the country as a whole, will be felt for decades to come; but his interest and influence went far beyond his own field and he was a powerful force in establishing the highest academic standards in general.

He loved simplicity and disliked sham. He placed the standing of the Institute ahead of his personal convenience. He possessed the art of friendship, and his assistance was decisive for the careers of dozens of men. His helping hand is remembered with gratitude in many academic communities all over the world.

We are grateful for his great strength and courage, for his unusual wisdom, for his unflinching integrity and honesty, for his uncompromising ideals, and, not least, for his generous friendship.

We are aware that your love and devotion sustained him for more than fifty years, and that your warmth, hospitality, and active interest were of great importance to him and to all of us. We send our deepest sympathy to you.

Fac Veblen

We of the Faculty wish to tell you of the sadness the death of your husband has brought to us. We are acutely conscious of the loss to the Institute and to the world of learning of a major figure.

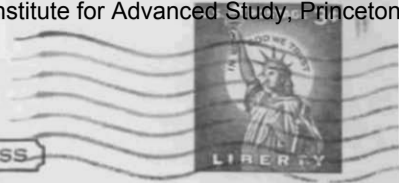
Oswald Veblen was of great influence in developing the Institute as a center for postdoctoral research, but this was only a part of a career extending back for half a century to the time when scholarly work was in its infancy in Princeton and the United States. His effect on mathematics, transcending the Princeton community and the country as a whole, will be felt for decades to come; but his interest and influence went far beyond his own field and he was a powerful force in establishing the highest academic standards in general.

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We are aware that your love and devotion sustained him for more than fifty years, and that your warmth, hospitality, and active interest were of great importance to him and to all of us. We send our deepest sympathy to you.

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 32 / Veblen, Oswald 1940-1971
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Director of Personnel
Institute of Advanced Study
School of Mathematics
Princeton, New Jersey

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 32 / Veblen, Oswald 1940-1971
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

Date Sept. 26, 1960

Gentlemen:

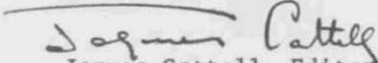
We have received a report of the death of the following individual who is scheduled for inclusion in the 10th Edition of AMERICAN MEN OF SCIENCE:

Dr. Oswald Veblen

Since it is our policy to include only biographies of those living, it is necessary that we obtain confirmation of this report. We cannot print obituary lines without confirmation.

Your prompt reply with dates on the return postcard will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,


Jaques Cattell, Editor

CLASS OF SERVICE
This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

SYMBOLS
DL=Day Letter
NL=Night Letter
LT=International Letter Telegram

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

1201 (4-60)

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination

PA005 SYA116

1960 AUG 21 AM 8 19

SY CDU116 TG2408/BMW313/DS521 30 PD INTL=CD BOMBAY
VIA MACKAY 20 1755=
:LT DOCTOR ROBERT OPPENHEIMER=
INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY PRINCETON (NJER)=
DEEPLY GRIEVED AT THE PASSING AWAY OF PROFESSOR VEBLEN
STOP PLEASE CONVEY OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY TO MRS VEBLEN=
BHABHA CHANDRASEKHARAN RAMANATHAN.

*copy sent to Mrs. Veblen
8/22/60*

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

Veblen

cc: Miss C. Higbee
Miss S. Modzelewski

MEMORANDUM

TO Dr. R. Oppenheimer

FROM M. C. Morgan, Jr.

SUBJECT Pension Arrangements - Mrs. Veblen

DATE August 16, 1960

The way I read the minutes of the Board of Trustees with regard to Veblen's pension arrangements, we should continue to make the following payments to his widow:

1. With regard to his regular pension, which totaled \$8,000, made up as follows:

T.I.A.A.	\$1,799.64
IAS	6,200.36

- (a) T.I.A.A. payments continue at the same rate.

- (b) by action of the Board at the October 10, 1932, meeting, Mrs. Veblen's pension continues at the rate of \$5,000 a year including the T.I.A.A. payments, or \$3,200.36.

2. The arrangement made for the payment of \$2,500 a year as a supplementary annuity in recognition of his gift of 58 Battle Road to the Institute contains a survivor clause and should be continued at the same rate.

Respectfully submitted,

Minot

Minot C. Morgan, Jr.

lw

No change this month. M.C. to wait and talk with Mrs. Veblen.

Veblen

DOMESTIC SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent as a fast telegram	
TELEGRAM	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAY LETTER	<input type="checkbox"/>
NIGHT LETTER	<input type="checkbox"/>

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WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

1206 (4-55)

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise the message will be sent at the full rate	
FULL RATE	<input type="checkbox"/>
LETTER TELEGRAM	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHORE-SHIP	<input type="checkbox"/>

NO. WDS.-CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	TIME FILED

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

Wire sent to Trustees 8/10/60

Deeply regret to inform you that
Professor Oswald Veblen died suddenly today in Brooklin, Maine.
He is survived only by his wife. There will be no services.

Samuel D. Leidesdorf.
Chairman, Board of Trustees
The Institute for Advanced Study

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 32 / Veblen, Oswald 1940-1971
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

Veblen

The enclosed obituary will appear in the BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN
MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY.

Oswald Veblen

by Deane Montgomery

Professor Oswald Veblen died at his summer home in Brooklin, Maine, on August 10, 1960. He was survived by his wife, Elizabeth Richardson Veblen, and by four sisters and one brother. He was born in Decorah, Iowa, on June 24, 1880, and was the oldest of a family of eight children, four girls and four boys.

He was one of the most influential mathematicians of this century, partly through his contributions to the subject and partly through the effect of his remarkable judgment and force of character. He had an unflinching belief in high standards and was prepared to stand for them irrespective of his own comfort or convenience. He contributed in a decisive way not only to excellence in mathematics but to excellence in American scholarship in general. He was one of those mainly responsible for carrying Princeton forward from a slender start to a major mathematics center. There can be but very few who play such a large part in the development of American and world mathematics.

Shortly after his death the faculty and trustees of the Institute for Advanced Study joined in writing of him as follows:

"We are acutely conscious of the loss to the Institute and to the world of learning of a major figure.

"Oswald Veblen was of great influence in developing the Institute as a center for postdoctoral research, but this was only a part of a career extending back for half a century to the time when scholarly work was in its infancy in Princeton and the United States. His effect on mathematics, transcending the Princeton community and the country as a whole, will be felt for decades to come; but his interest and influence went far beyond his own field and he was a powerful force in establishing the highest academic standards in general.

"He loved simplicity and disliked sham. He placed the standing of the Institute ahead of his personal convenience. He possessed the art of friendship, and his assistance was decisive for the careers of dozens of men. His helping hand is remembered with gratitude in many academic communities all over the world.

"We are grateful for his great strength and courage, for his unusual wisdom, for his unflinching integrity and honesty, for his uncompromising ideals, and, not least, for his generous friendship. "

In 1955 on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Institute Mr. Herbert Maass, then Chairman of the Board of Trustees, stated, "... we were the fortunate beneficiaries of the services of Professor Oswald Veblen, formerly of Princeton University, who aided greatly in the establishment of the School of Mathematics and who ever since has been a tower of strength in maintaining the high standards originally set for the Institute. "

Although Veblen had far more friends and admirers than most men, it was of course inevitable that there was occasional friction with those who either did not understand or who found it expedient not to follow his shining academic ideals. Anyone familiar with the academic scene knows that the pressures against quality are formidable, and that the battle for excellence has no end. Excuses for weakness and pettiness in academic matters are so familiar as to be trite and are usually presented under the pretense of one or another noble motive, but for Veblen there did not exist a valid excuse for a choice of anything but the best.

Veblen was a grandson of Thomas Anderson Veblen and Kari Thorsteinsdatter Bunde Veblen who moved in 1847 from Valdres, Norway, to Ozaukee County, Wisconsin, on the western shore of Lake Michigan, just north of Milwaukee. (Wisconsin became a state in 1848.) They lived here and in the nearby counties of Sheboygan and Manitowoc until they moved in 1865 to a farm in Rice County, Minnesota, about fifty miles south of Minneapolis. They had twelve children, and the family lived under the rugged pioneer conditions of the Northwest at that time. One of their children was Thorstein Bunde Veblen (1857-1929) who became a distinguished economist and social theorist. Another of their children was Andrew Anderson Veblen (1848-1932). In 1877 Andrew Veblen

married Kirsti Hougen (1851-1908) and to them Oswald Veblen was born in 1880. Kirsti Hougen emigrated in 1856 from Hallingdal, Norway, to a farm in Western Goodhue County, Minnesota. The Hougen and Veblen families lived on farms not far apart in the vicinity of Nerstrand, Minnesota. In this area Norwegian settlers were in an overwhelming majority and even now Norwegian is often spoken when neighbors meet.

At the time Oswald Veblen was born, his father was teaching mathematics and English at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. The father did graduate work at Johns Hopkins from 1881 to 1883 and in 1883 moved with his family to Iowa City, Iowa, and began teaching mathematics and physics at the State University of Iowa. It was in Iowa City that Oswald Veblen received his grade school and high school education in the public schools and where he was graduated B. A. in 1898 at the University. As a student he won a prize in mathematics and another in sharpshooting. During these early years he took a trip by boat down the Iowa and Mississippi rivers and he often spoke of this trip with pleasure. The year following his graduation he stayed on at the University as an assistant in physics and conducted some of his father's courses when his father was ill with typhoid fever. Immediately after this year he went to Harvard where he was graduated with a second B. A. in 1900.

He went to Chicago in 1900 to begin his graduate work and at this time Thorstein Veblen was an assistant professor of political science there. At Chicago he took courses in mathematics from Bolza, Maschke, and E. H. Moore, and he also took a course in philosophy from John Dewey. He received his Ph. D. in 1903 with a thesis on the foundations of geometry written under E. H. Moore. He continued at Chicago for two more years as an associate in mathematics. The University of Chicago had opened in 1890 and quickly assembled a strong faculty in mathematics. It was at about this time that it first became possible to obtain good graduate training in mathematics in the United States; before this period it had been

necessary for Americans to travel to Europe for advanced work in mathematics. Some of the other mathematics students at Chicago at about this time were Birkhoff, Lennes, and R. L. Moore. Birkhoff took his Ph. D. at Chicago in 1907. R. L. Moore received his Ph. D. under Veblen in 1905. Birkhoff and Moore later taught for a time at Princeton when Veblen was there.

Veblen was brought to Princeton University in 1905 by the then President of the University Woodrow Wilson and by Dean Henry Burchard Fine as one of the new "preceptor guys"; these were being added to increase the academic strength of Princeton. He was promoted to full professor in 1910 and Henry Burchard Fine Professor in 1926. In 1932 he was appointed a professor at the Institute for Advanced Study which had just been founded and located in Princeton. He kept his professorship at the Institute until he was made emeritus in 1950. After that he continued his constructive interest in mathematics and the Institute through contact with his colleagues and through his position as a trustee of the Institute.

His contributions to Princeton University and to the Institute like those to the academic scene in general were enormous. He was one of the main forces in building the University mathematics department. Some of his own students who were added to the University faculty were J. W. Alexander, A. Church, and T. Y. Thomas. He played an important part in the appointment of Lefschetz and other distinguished men, and in the building of Fine Hall, the mathematics building at the University donated by the Jones family. At the Institute he was largely responsible for the selection of its early mathematics faculty which, in addition to himself, contained Alexander, Einstein, Morse, von Neumann, and Weyl. Moreover, he was largely responsible for determining the Institute policy of concentrating on postdoctoral work, his ideas on the subject having taken form by his experiences at the University. He was

a trustee of the Institute from its early days until his death (for his last few years he was an honorary trustee). He played a large part in arranging the purchase by the Institute of the tract of land it now occupies.

It was at his suggestion that the National Research Council started granting postdoctoral fellowships in mathematics in 1924. This suggestion has had a great influence on the careers of scores of young men. The committee of selection for many years consisted of Birkhoff, Bliss, and Veblen. Funds for fellowships of this kind now come from the National Science Foundation. This suggestion of his was typical of his constant helpfulness and encouragement to others, especially to young men and to the talented wherever found. His work on the committee for selecting fellows was done conscientiously and thoroughly. His file contains a carbon copy of a three-page letter written to the other committee members shortly before one of their annual meetings. His letter mentions that he had spent three full days studying the applications, that he had written to many colleagues in this country and abroad for their advice on many of the applicants, and that he had consulted about the matter with several people in Princeton. He went on to make a preliminary ordering with a few comments on his estimate of each of the candidates. It is clear that the decisions of the committee were not made in a casual manner. His ability to detect talent was well known, and it was evidently based in part on a thorough search.

In the years immediately after Hitler's rise to power Veblen was a central figure in helping to relocate many distinguished foreign mathematicians in the United States. His help was mainly on a personal basis, but partly as a member of committees. His files contain a large correspondence on this subject with men from all parts of this country and many countries abroad. There are

numerous letters to and from Harold Bohr and G. H. Hardy, both of whom were active in this direction. Years later he occasionally received words of thanks from men he had forgotten he had helped. Subsequently he was influential in founding Mathematical Reviews and devoted a great deal of energy in this direction.

Veblen was a great admirer of England and continental Europe. At the same time he was an equally great admirer of all that was good in the American tradition and was often quick to comment on American achievements.

In writing obituaries of Dean Fine of Princeton and G. D. Birkhoff of Harvard he revealed something of himself, and many of the things he said of them could well be said of him. His comment on an address by Birkhoff was as follows:

"Among the unconscious revelations of the address on 'Fifty years of American mathematics,' one of the most vivid is that of the depth and sincerity of Birkhoff's devotion to the cause of mathematics, and particularly of 'American mathematics.' This, along with his devotion to Harvard, was always a primary motive. It may be added that a sort of religious devotion to American mathematics as a 'cause' was characteristic of a good many of his predecessors and contemporaries."

His opening remarks in his obituary of Dean Fine are given below:

"Dean Fine was one of the group of men who carried American mathematics forward from a state of approximate nullity to one verging on parity with the European nations. It already requires an effort of the imagination to realize the difficulties with which the men of his generation had to contend, the lack of encouragement, the lack of guidance, the lack of knowledge both of the problems and of the contemporary state of science, the overwhelming urge of environment in all other directions than the scientific one. But by comparing the present average state of affairs in this country with what can be seen in the most advanced parts of the world, and extrapolating backwards, we may reconstruct a picture which will help us to appreciate their qualities and achievements."

In 1928-29 Veblen was an exchange professor at Oxford and in 1932 lectured at Göttingen, Berlin, and Hamburg. He and his wife traveled to Europe frequently.

He was president of the American Mathematical Society during 1923-24. At this time the Society was in a financial crisis and Veblen was very effective in helping to meet this crisis and to establish an endowment fund. He was president of the International Congress held at Harvard in 1950. This honor touched him very deeply and he evidently took it to be, as it was, a recognition of the tremendous effort and devotion he had given to mathematics and scholarship. His brief remarks in opening the congress are well worth reading for their wisdom and insight. He received honorary degrees from Oslo, Oxford, Hamburg, Chicago, Princeton, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. He was an honorary member or fellow of learned societies in the United States as well as a number abroad including Denmark, England, France, Ireland, Italy, Peru, Poland, and Scotland.

Veblen married Elizabeth Richardson of Dewsbury, Yorkshire, England, in 1908. They met when she was visiting her brother, Owen Richardson, who was teaching physics at Princeton at that time. Later Owen Richardson was a professor at King's College, London University, and was awarded a Nobel Prize. Veblen was related by marriage to another Nobel Prize winner, Clinton Joseph Davisson, the husband of Mrs. Veblen's sister, Charlotte Richardson.

During the first world war Veblen was a captain and later a major in charge of range firing and ballistic work at a Proving Ground. In the second world war he helped build up a research team at Aberdeen for work on ballistics.

In the last few years of his life he was partially blind although he retained some peripheral vision. He grew interested in developing devices to help himself and others with a similar affliction to read. One

of these devices was put into production by the American Foundation for the Blind. Toward the end of his life he suffered from a strained heart and this finally caused his death. Although these illnesses were discouraging, he remained cheerful and maintained his usual interests and activities on only a slightly reduced scale. His mind and judgment continued to be unusually keen and penetrating, and his conversation was as rewarding as ever.

One of his hobbies was photography and another was a layman's interest in archaeology. Through all of his life he was fond of woods and the outdoors. He and Mrs. Veblen gave a tract of 80 acres to Mercer County, New Jersey, which is called the Herrontown Arboretum and which is intended to provide for walks in a natural wooded section of New Jersey.

Veblen was unusually helpful to other mathematicians and throughout his life he took a special interest in young mathematicians. He and his wife were generous with hospitality. Most of the mathematicians and a great many other academic people visiting Princeton during several decades were guests either in their Battle Road home or, in later years, in their home on Herrontown Road.

In spite of his great efforts on behalf of mathematics and scholarship, his own direct contributions were solid and very substantial. One of his earliest papers [2] was on the Heine-Borel theorem. In it he observed that this theorem could be used instead of the pinching process in the proof of some of the theorems on limits and continuity in analysis. This observation was exploited in the book INTRODUCTION TO INFINITESIMAL ANALYSIS, FUNCTIONS OF ONE REAL VARIABLE [15] which he wrote with N. J. Lennes, a book which was quite influential in introducing students to rigorous proofs of the theorems of advanced calculus and elementary real function theory. This subject in this country was a rather new one at the time.

His thesis [5] on the foundations of geometry was the beginning of his first major interest in mathematics. More than that it remained influential in most of his interests throughout his life for almost all of his work was connected with geometry, and in all of it he was greatly concerned with precision and completeness. He had the ability to see the foundations in a clear and relevant way without wandering into ramifications beyond the requirements of mathematics. His thesis contains a footnote thanking his director E. H. Moore and also thanking N. J. Lennes and R. L. Moore for critically reading parts of the manuscript. His axioms were stated in terms of points and order. There were 12 axioms which were proved to be independent and categorical. His thesis led on to a number of papers over the next several years on such related subjects as finite projective geometries and axioms for projective geometry. Perhaps this direction of his interest may be said to have culminated in the two volumes of PROJECTIVE GEOMETRY of which volume I was written with J. W. Young. Formally Young is also a joint author of volume II, but he, in reality, was unable to participate in the writing because of his other duties. These two books were widely read.

Veblen was a firm believer in the abstract approach to mathematics. In his work on geometry he attempted (and in the preface to the second volume of PROJECTIVE GEOMETRY enjoined others) to "not merely prove every theorem rigorously but to prove it in such a fashion as to show in which spaces it is true and to which geometries it belongs". The two volumes on PROJECTIVE GEOMETRY carry out this program in admirable fashion. "All the theorems of volume I are valid, not alone in the ordinary real and the ordinary complex projective spaces, but also in the ordinary rational space and in the finite spaces." Moreover the list of assumptions under which each theorem is true is stated, and from this the relation between projective geometry and algebraic structure may be discerned.

Along with his interest in the foundations of geometry he developed an interest in algebraic topology, or analysis situs as it was then called and by 1912 was writing papers on this subject. At the time it was not widely pursued and it was interesting to hear Veblen's comments on the feelings of the men striking out in this comparatively new field. Veblen's work was of much greater influence in encouraging others in this direction than is generally realized today. His papers and his Colloquium lectures on the subject were influential over many years. These Colloquium lectures were delivered at Cambridge in 1916 and were published in 1922. For many years they remained the best introduction to the subject.

Gradually he became more interested in differential geometry. From 1922 onward most of his papers were in this area and in its connections with relativity. In addition to his papers he wrote three short books on this subject, one of them in collaboration with J. H. C. Whitehead. Throughout all of his work he insisted on clarity. It was this trait which helped put algebraic topology on a firm foundation, for although the subject had already received brilliant contributions from Poincaré and others, some of its tools and concepts remained somewhat vague. His work on axioms for differentiable manifolds and differential geometry contributed directly to the field and helped to create the setting for the lively developments to come. In fact some of the concepts to come can be found in these books. A great deal of his effort for the last several years of his scientific career was spent on spinors. Much of this has never appeared, partly perhaps because of his insistence on clarity and precision.

Veblen remained rather youthful in his point of view to the end, and he was often amused by the comments of younger but aging men to the effect that the great period for this or that was gone forever. He did not believe it. Possibly part of his youthful attitude came from his

interest in youth; he was firmly convinced that a great part of the mathematical lifeblood of the Institute was in the flow of young mathematicians through it. He felt too that the main justification for the Institute was in whatever impact it had on the academic scene, especially the American academic scene.

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Veblen

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

sent 6/23/60, to be delivered 6/24/60

Oswald Veblen
Naskeag
Brooklin
Hancock County
Maine

Happy birthday and congratulations for this anniversary.

Kitty and Robert Oppenheimer

Fac Veblen

27 May 1959

Dear Professor Veblen:

At present the short road leading from Maxwell Lane up to the knoll where the Maxwell House stood, and where Weil's house and Strömberg's now stand, is called Portico Lane. This name does not very much appeal to me. It seems to raise unnecessary problems for future archaeologists, if any. Would you be friendly to the notion of calling it Veblen Lane?

Very sincerely,

Robert Oppenheimer

Professor Oswald Veblen
The Institute for Advanced Study

*V. Said no, would rather
wait until dead.*

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

April 18, 1958

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer
The Institute for Advanced Study

Dear Oppenheimer:

I have just had the pleasure of listening to a reading of André Weil's letter to Warren Weaver.

I am suggesting to Weil that the practical way for the N.S.F. to do something like what he proposes in the way of endowed professors would be for the Foundation, from its appropriation for a particular year, to buy a suitable life annuity for the professor in question.

This suggests further that the same device might be used to set up professorships which would help to use our facilities for three terms instead of two. I have had a couple of intimations from mathematical professors that they would like sometimes to exchange one of our present terms for a summer term. Perhaps the three term subject is more feasible than I thought when I brought it up.

As ever,

Oswald Veblen

OV:mn

Oswald Veblen

*Faculty
Veblen*

April 7, 1948

Veblen, Oswald

A.B. 1898 Univ. Iowa	Hon. D.Sc. 1929 Oxford
A.B. 1900 Harvard	Hon. Ph.D. 1929 Oslo
Ph.D. 1903 Univ. Chicago	Hon. Ph.D. 1933 Hamburg
	Hon. D.Sc. 1941 Chicago

Born June 24, 1880, Decorah, Iowa
Citizenship and nationality - USA

Married

Princeton home address - 58 Battle Road

Telephone 958 (or 2663-W)

Permanent address - IAS

Societies: NAS 1919- ; Am. Acad. Arts and Sci. (Fellow); AMS (Pres. 1923-4); MAA;
Am. Phys. Soc. (Fellow); Circolo Mat. di Palermo; Foreign correspondent Academia
Nacional de Ciencias Exactas of Lima, Peru 1940- ; Hon. Fellow Roy. Soc. Edinburgh 1943-
Hon. Member London Math. Soc. 1939-; Hon. Member Bureau, Société Math. de France 1937- ;
Am. Philos. Soc. 1912- ; AAAS (Fellow); Roy. Irish Acad. Sci. Dept. 1945- ; Roy. Danish
Acad. Sci. and Letters (naturvidenskabelig-matematiske Klasse (foreign member) 1946-;
Polish Acad. of Sci. and Letters Class of Math. and Natural Sciences (foreign mem-
ber) 1946- ; Accademia dei Lincei (foreign member) 1947-
Chm. NRC Div. Phys. Sci. 1923-4

Positions held:

Univ. Iowa - Lab. asst. Physics 1898-99

Univ. Chicago - Fellow 1901-03; Asso., Math. 1903-05

Princeton Univ. - Preceptor 1905-10; Prof. 1910-26; Henry B. Fine Prof. 1926-32

IAS - Prof. 1932-45; Emeritus 1945-

Capt. and Major, Ordnance Dept., US Army 1917-19

Chm. Div. Phys. Sci. NRC 1923-24

Deputy for Savilian Prof., Oxford, 1928-29

US Army and Navy 1942-5?

Veblen

1. I think that the success of the School of Mathematics is very largely due to the service which it renders to the academic community of the United States. Universities and colleges of all sorts send their young teachers who have passed the Ph.D. stage to the Institute for further training and development. In a very large number of cases these young people are destined to spend most of their lives on rather elementary teaching, even on teaching more elementary than that given to freshmen in Princeton University. While at the Institute they are, of course, concerned with highly abstract and even esoteric studies, but it has come to be recognized that teachers who have an outlook into the modern and growing parts of mathematics are extremely valuable for the purposes of instruction. The development of such a relationship between the Institute mathematicians and the academic community was a conscious purpose and program of the School of Mathematics from the early days of the Institute onward. Indeed, there were those who felt that the stream of young mathematicians flowing through the Institute was its life blood.

2. I do not believe that mathematics is the only field in which this sort of relationship to the academic world is possible and important. In particular, I feel sure that if the School of Historical Studies would devote a larger portion of its funds to youth, perhaps even at the expense of not having so many distinguished foreigners, it would soon feel the effects of new life blood. Of course, I recognize that the School of Historical Studies is already doing important work of the sort that I propose, but I think it ought to do much more and, indeed, that the professors should consider their relations to young Americans as a primary obligation.

I should, perhaps, add that this does not mean that the Institute should specialize in branches of history that are taught in the colleges. Far from it. It is just as important that young teachers of American history should be exposed to the history of Byzantine art, or to the career of Frederick II, as that a young teacher of algebra to freshmen should be exposed to the Riemannian geometry or to algebraic topology.

3. I also should like to register a mild disagreement with the idea that present-day mathematics has not been influenced by the natural sciences. There is a whole generation of mathematicians who were inspired by the work of Einstein, Bohr, and Dirac, and there are others who are making respectable contributions to economic theory. As to the remark that modern physics does not expect any further help from mathematics, I would only say that during my early days in Princeton I used to hear from no less eminent a physicist than Sir James Jeans that it was futile for a physicist to study differential geometry or the theory of functions of a real variable. This was on the eve of the epoch of the theory of relativity and the quantum theory. Who knows whether we are not even now standing before an epoch in which physics will draw its tools from algebraic topology?

4. On the subject of the library, experience teaches that library buildings become overcrowded much more rapidly than the best librarian's estimate when buildings are being proposed or planned. The basic problem is one of

organization. The library is an organism and ours, for example, has a purchasing department which is analogous to the mouth of an animal, and a cataloging department which performs some of the functions of digestion. We all know, however, that a living organism must have some method of getting rid of superfluous material, and the higher the organism the more urgent the need. I think that we should have one full-time employee whose concern it is to get rid of books which no longer are sufficiently needed to justify retention, and that this person should be supplemented by a faculty committee which is continuously studying the problem of obsolescence.

There are hundreds of college and university libraries which are hungry for books and would be delighted to receive most, if not all, of the books which a careful study of our needs would release. The books should be given away free and, as someone suggested, in the case where there is a professor who holds out against the release of a particular book, the book might be given to that professor.

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 32 / Veblen, Oswald 1940-1971
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

Mr. Kissam, 15 Newlin Road, called and asked if you would do this. 3 people are required to sponsor widows, and the 3rd ~~is~~ will be George Cook. I have drafted a letter of recommendation.

Mr. Kissam seemed to be in a hurry about putting this through, and asked if the card could be returned to him tomorrow. The letter goes directly to the Club.

Fac Veblen

March 20, 1958

To: Professors Beurling, Borel, Gödel, Morse, Selberg, Whitney.

Dear Colleagues:

Veblen has mentioned two ideas about the Institute which occurred to him as a result of a discussion he had with Leon Cohen and McShane, both of whom expressed interest. The first of these ideas could be carried out only if new capital were available, and therefore can be considered only as a vague possibility.

1. The Institute should establish a summer term in mathematics (or in any subject wanting a summer term). This would require two or three more faculty members in mathematics and any professor on duty in the summer would be free for one of the winter terms. It would require funds for summer grants as well as for new faculty. This plan would use our facilities more fully and might be useful to mathematicians free in the summer but not during the year.

2. The Institute should apply to NSF for a two or three-year grant for Siegel, who plans to retire at Göttingen soon; presumably the grant for Siegel would be \$18000 per year.

Since the second proposal seems well within reach we should discuss it, and I would be glad if you would send comments on it to Miss Underwood.

Sincerely,

Deane Montgomery

DM:MMM

cc: R. Oppenheimer ✓
A. Weil

cc: Baurling
Borel
Gödel
Morse
Oppenheimer ✓
Selberg
Whitney

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Chicago 37 - Illinois
Department of Mathematics

March 25, 1958.

Dear Deane,

I do have a number of comments to make to the two ideas mentioned in your recent letter.

As to Summer programs: When the A.M.S. has organized Summer "labor camps", it has wisely selected suitable spots in Maine, Colorado, etc. There is a lot to say about those labor camps, and I am not sure that they are unmixing blessings, although I have heard that some of them were really successful. My general impression is that a point of saturation has already been reached, and that we have, in the U.S., at least as many summer institutes and summer programmes as can be tolerated, or perhaps more. However, if a group of people can be found, some inside our Faculty and some outside it, who feel that the Princeton summer would create a favorable atmosphere for their work, I see no reason why one should try to prevent them from experimenting with this idea; and I should not oppose our trying to get support for them from outside sources, if need be. On the other hand, I should be very much opposed to any arrangement which would make it necessary to appoint two or three, or even one, Faculty member in our school within a short period of time. For in that case, if it happened that the type of man whom we really want is not available at the moment, we should have to make the next best choice, and the next best might not be nearly good enough for an institution like ours. A University has to make replacements, when they have vacancies; frequently they are then stuck with a second-rate man (and anyone who is not really first-rate cannot be better than second-rate); this is almost inevitably the beginning of the downfall. We are very fortunate not to be in that position. Why should we gamble with the future of the Institute by putting ourselves in a position where we would have to make appointments?

As to Siegel: Everybody knows that, for many years after leaving Princeton, he was extremely bitter about the Institute, and carefully avoided Princeton whenever he came to America. By now, he may have mollified; but it would be very unwise to do anything without first sounding him out personally (I mean, not just by letter). Also, I thought that Göttingen was still making efforts to persuade him to stay on for a while, and not to insist on premature retirement; any step we might take at this juncture might be interpreted unfavorably in Göttingen. Anyway, he has just left for Japan, and won't be back until May. Perhaps Selberg will go and visit him during the Summer? This would be the best way of finding out how he reacts to the idea, and also whether he is still sufficiently active mathematically to make the plan a desirable one from our point of view; as to this, I must mention that, when I visited him in 1956, I noticed in him a marked disinclination to discuss mathematical topics, and some recent correspondence with him has rather confirmed that impression. I suggest that nothing be done until Selberg visits him, if he plans to do so, or at any rate until we have more definite information about Siegel's intentions and about what goes on in Göttingen.

Yours sincerely

/s/ A. Weil

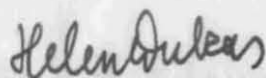
A. Weil

Princeton N.J., September 6th 1957

Dear Professor Veblen:

enclosed I am sending you a copy of the copy
of Professor Einstein's letter to you of April 30, 1930
concerning the engraving in the Common Room of Fine Hall.
I wish to thank you also for the very valuable information
you have given to me about this matter.

Yours very sincerely,



Helen Dukas

encl.

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fuld Hall

P.S. I have a lengthy handwritten letter in the files which
you wrote to Professor Einstein from Paris in 1927.
Would you care to have a photocopy made of it?

den 30. April 1930

Herrn Professor Dr. Veblen
Universität Princeton
U.S.A.

Sehr geehrter Herr Veblen!

Ich erinnere mich an meinen damaligen Ausspruch und an die Gelegenheit, bei der ich ihn getan habe. Ich habe nichts dagegen, dass Sie ihn in der gedachten Weise verwenden und betrachte dies als einen besonderen Beweis freundlicher Gesinnung.

Ich möchte Ihnen aber doch zu bedenken geben, dass dieser Ausspruch dem Leser, der die Gelegenheit seiner Entstehung nicht kennt, leicht frivol erscheinen könnte. Man könnte den Gedanken zum Beispiel so ausdrücken: Die Natur verbirgt ihr Geheimnis durch die Erhabenheit ihres Wesens, aber nicht durch List.

Es grüsst Sie freundlich

Ihr

"E.

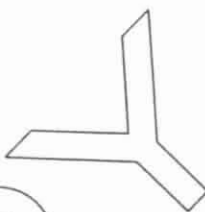
Veblen

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

January 29, 1957

Dr. Graham DuShane, Editor
SCIENCE
1515 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington 5, D. C.



Dear Dr. DuShane:

I do not feel able to write an obituary notice of Dr. Aydelotte. On the other hand, I think it is very desirable that there should be a notice of the sort you described in your letter of January 28. I therefore took the liberty of asking the advice of Dr. Aydelotte's successor, Dr. Oppenheimer. We both agreed that if you could get Mr. Henry Allen Moe of the Guggenheim Foundation to do this, you would have something like an ideal solution of your problem.

I am sorry that I cannot help you by writing the notice myself and I hope that you will not consider my suggestion of someone else as too officious.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OVcd
cc: Dr. Oppenheimer

Face Veblen

10 December 1955

Dear Oswald:

I am very much mystified about this difficulty of yours with Oppenheimer and hope to have a talk with you about it soon. I tried to get hold of you when your note came. Since then I have been confined to my bedroom again. If you come this way and have time to stop I should love to see you. About four o'clock in the afternoon is the best hour for me.

I am asking my secretary, Elsa Jenkins, to type this letter and sign it for me.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Dr. Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study

Professor Veblen called to say that he was planning to sail
March 13th and to ask if that were all right with you from
the standpoint of the Institute and Faculty; was there anything
you wanted him to do?

Veblen

49-50

Veblen

1800.

TIAA

6200.

Pension
inst.

7000.

Special
Famberger
gift

50-51

1800.

TIAA

6200.

Pension Inst.

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

25 Sept. 1950

Dear Oppenheimer:-

I have just filled out a card to the effect that I will be in Glasgow from the 16th to the 23rd of next June. The occasion is the fifth centenary of the University of G. and I am to receive an L.B.D. I thought I should report this to you since the Institute will presumably be invited to the commemoration.

We are now drawing water from the new well, 102 feet deep, of which all but about 5 feet are through granite. I didn't have a beige counter handy.

I expect to be at the Institute early next week.

As ever,
Oswald Veblen

7 - Veblen

April 24, 1950

Memorandum to the Comptroller

From the Director

This will instruct you, in accordance with action taken by the Budget Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Institute, to pay to Professor Oswald Veblen the sum of \$2,500. This sum represents a long-standing delinquency in the payments made to Professor Veblen during his first year at the Institute. It is subject to Federal income taxation. The sum should be paid at once; and you are authorized to transfer the amount from the contingent fund in the budget, and to make payment therefrom.

**Copy to Professor Veblen
Mr. Leidesdorf**

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

*Fac
Veblen*

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

March 27, 1950

Dear Mr. Leidesdorf:

I am sending you under cover all of the excerpts from the minutes of the Trustees bearing on Professor Veblen's case. I need also to send to you an account of his views.

Veblen asserts, and has been able to verify, that he accepted no payment from the University after July 1, 1932. Such payment was in fact made and he returned it. This is contrary to the minute of October 10, 1932. Veblen says that he pointed out to Dr. Flexner that he was being deprived of two months salary. Dr. Flexner assured him that this would be made up "at the other end". However, neither in the resolution of June 8, 1943 nor in the arrangements established on December 14, 1943 was there any record of this discrepancy, and the payments actually made to Professor Veblen subsequent to his 65th birthday were treated as though his initial retirement occurred at the end of June, following his attaining the age of 65.

The case in question seems to me straightforward. Nothing in the record justifies Professor Veblen's claim. His own memory seems to be clear; and I think that we should accept his word.

With every good wish,

Robert Oppenheimer

Mr. S. D. Leidesdorf
125 Park Avenue
New York, N. Y.

March 27, 1950

Dear Mr. Leidesdorf:

I am sending you under cover all of the excerpts from the minutes of the Trustees bearing on Professor Veblen's case. I need also to send to you an account of his views.

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Robert Oppenheimer

Mr. S. D. Leidesdorf
125 Park Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 32 / Veblen, Oswald 1940-197
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University

File re pension sent Leidesdorf, Strauss,
and Maass.

3/15/50

Dr. Oppenheimer:

Luella thinks this letter just right. Veblen had Mary McNamara look up appointment last week; Leidesdorf said decision was up to you. Apparently they thought two months not worth bothering about.

Special gift for Einstein and Veblen was \$7000. a year each from 65 to 70. Veblen is being paid this \$7000. plus \$6200. from pension fund plus \$1800. TIAA. from July 1, 1945 to July 1, 1950. We would have to put in budget \$7000. portion for July and August.

It would not seem worth refusing unless it set a precedent. Most of later appointments are on July 1st basis.

Perhaps I could ask Professor Veblen on my own about note on attached minutes - saying his Princeton University appointment terminated August 31, 1932 - he told me he thought it was July 1st.

EWL

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

March 15, 1950

Handwritten notes and calculations:

7. 1 1 x 1 7 + 0
8 x 2 5 x
~ 2 1 x
6 1 1 x
6 5 C x

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have examined the various actions of the Trustees concerning your appointment, and Miss Trinterud has communicated to me the record of her payments to you. It appears that the date of retirement of any member of the faculty is to take place the first of July following his sixty-fifth birthday (Special Meeting of the Trustees, June 8, 1943); this, irrespective of the date of the original appointment. Thus the special gift made to enable you to continue your work at the Institute, and receive full salary, was to apply from July 1, 1945 to June 30, 1950.

According to Miss Trinterud's records, payments made to you were actually charged in accordance with this understanding. I therefore believe that to extend payments beyond June 30, 1950 would require action on the part of the Trustees. Do you wish me to request such action?

Robert Oppenheimer

Professor Oswald Veblen

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

*Fac
Veblen*

Information for Dr. Oppenheimer:

1. I learned from Courant that although all other arrangements are very satisfactory at Brown University, Neugebauer is receiving a salary of only \$6000, and is finding it pretty tough going for his family. For example, he does not feel able to go to scientific meetings which he would otherwise like to attend.

2. Dirac remarked to me the other day that after two years he will be eligible for leave of absence from Cambridge for a term.

O. V.

Oswald Veblen

OV:GB

April 20, 1948

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

*For
Veblen*

March 14, 1950

Dear Oppenheimer:

Might it not be of interest to the committee which is supposed to study our rules of procedure to see the enclosed letter which my wife received from a Vice-President of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation? The paragraph on "incentive compensation" is hardly relevant, but the one in defence of the policy of having a board of directors composed entirely of employees seems to me to be amusingly parallel to what I have been saying from time to time.

It also reminds me of the conversation I had a few days ago with Eisenhart who, as you know, retired a few years ago after having been various kinds of a dean in Princeton University. We recalled that when we first came to Princeton the Board of Trustees of the University was still in a transition stage from Presbyterian clergymen to a group of wealthy businessmen. Most of my years in the University were spent under the rule of the latter group, the most notable of whom were Moses T. Pyne, Cleveland H. Dodge, Thomas D. Jones and David B. Jones. These men all made large pecuniary contributions to the support of the university.

During the last fifteen or twenty years the control has passed into the hands of a quite different group, a subgroup of the large administrative and managerial group whose members hold most of the higher administrative posts in the Government as well as the directorships and executive offices of business, insurance, and educational institutions. The members of the larger group generally hold several directorships each, and pass rather freely from one type of administrative activity to another. There is a certain cohesion in the group and a common code of ethics which is in some respects stricter than that of the population in general. The group has some points of similarity with the Communist "Party" in Russia, which rules that country by virtue of the fact that the administrative jobs are mostly in the hands of its members.

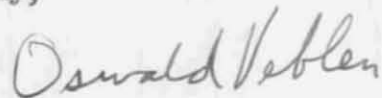
So far as university administration is concerned the most notable difference between the present type of trustee and the immediately preceding "big" businessmen, is that the members of the present group do not seem to feel an obligation to go into their own pockets for the support of the universities. They do, however, in most cases display a rather high sense of responsibility.

Dr. Oppenheimer - 2

March 14, 1950

Could it be that in other organizations than the Bethlehem Steel Corporation there is beginning to be felt the need of something in addition to general wisdom, responsibility, and high principles in the Directorate?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Oswald Veblen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Oswald Veblen

OV:GB

C O P Y

BETHLEHEM STEEL CORPORATION

25 Broadway
New York 4, N.Y.

R. E. McMath
Vice President

March 9, 1950

Dear Mrs. Veblen:

I acknowledge receipt of your proxy for use at our Annual Meeting, which will be voted in accordance with your instructions, and also of your letter of March 3rd.

With regard to your comments concerning the incentive compensation of the executives of the Corporation: The question of what constitutes the best method of compensation for management is a difficult and complicated one upon which there is much difference of opinion. From our experience we have reached the conclusion that it is advisable to have a part of the compensation of the executives dependent upon results accomplished, rather than to have all their compensation consist of a fixed salary. We believe that the results of the operations of the Corporation have shown that that method of compensation has been in its best interests and in the best interests of its stockholders.

Referring to your comment concerning the fact that all the directors of the Corporation are also employees: The question of whether it is advantageous for a corporation to have its board of directors composed of its management is also one on which opinions differ. As you know, the board of directors has the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the business of a corporation. The board must decide questions of policy which are often complicated and technical in character. Those questions differ widely with different businesses and experience in one business is not necessarily helpful in the running of another business. A director, therefore, should have not only intelligence, good judgment and business experience but also a thorough knowledge of the particular business in

-2-

which the corporation is engaged. Modern business has become so complicated that it is extremely difficult for a director to have that knowledge without devoting all or substantially all his time to the business of the corporation. It is for those reasons that we have determined that a board made up entirely of the Management is in the best interests of the Corporation. After all, I am sure that you will agree that directors should not be criticized because they are in the employ of the particular corporation, if the results of the operations of that corporation are satisfactory.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) R. E. McMATH

Vice President

Mrs. Elizabeth M. D. Veblen
Herrontown Road
Princeton, New Jersey

12/7/47

Dr. Oppenheimer:

Professor Veblen said he thought:

- (a) None of the matters you listed should be referred to Standing Committee.
- (b) Does not think Faculty would wish to specify salary raises for themselves. If (2) Montgomery matter has been acted on by Faculty, as appointments always should be, only question for Faculty would be Mayer.

He mentioned fact that name "Permanent Member" has been mis-used. Is sure Mayer should be one, and would be willing to have his title so changed. As a member, his salary would be a subject for Faculty, as I understand it.

Neither Godel nor Alexander for Faculty.

- (c) All four questions are appropriate for Trustees. (But Montgomery appointment, or any appointment, only referred after Faculty discussion.)

Professor Veblen thinks all such matters are finally determined by your interpretation - of whether they should be referred to these particular people.

Note: The last Mathematics Meeting minutes are attached, and the figures on Mayer.

EWL

7 - Veblen

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

December 4, 1947

To: Professor Veblen

From: Robert Oppenheimer

The Faculty of the School of Mathematics has the following personnel and salary questions open:

1. An increase of Godel's stipend from \$6,000 to \$9,000 a year.
2. The appointment of Montgomery as Permanent Member "on his own terms" but with a compensation not to exceed \$8,000 a year.
3. A leave of absence for Professor Alexander to be coupled with an appointment as Permanent Member with a compensation of \$7500 a year.
4. An increase in compensation for Mayer.

check some
no

Of these items, which should be discussed (a) in the Standing Committee, (b) at the Faculty Meeting, (c) by the Board of Trustees?

Do any of them need further discussion by the Faculty of the School of Mathematics?

- (a) none
- (b) 2
- (c) all four

NO

RO

RO

all opinions
very mildly held by
O.V.

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*File
Veblen
Sincerely*

COPY

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Rome, Italy, 10 September 1947

Prof. Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Studies
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Oswald,

Prof. Enrico Bompiani writes me that you have been elected Foreign Fellow of the Accademia dei Lincei and wishes me to convey this news to you and assure you of his highest consideration.

We will be companion lynxes because I have been elected too!

Best wishes and congratulations.

Sincerely yours,

G. R. MOREY

December 16, 1946

Dear Oswald:

"The American Scholar," the magazine published by Phi Beta Kappa, recently had a "Portrait of Nielson" written by Marjorie Nicolson. The editorial staff has now decided that they want to publish each quarter a portrait of some living scholar and they have decided to begin with Einstein. They put up to me the question as to who should write it and I had no hesitation in saying that you would be the best man in the world if you would be willing to do it.

They would like an article about 2,000 words long and would like it to include some description of a man's personal characteristics as well as an estimate of his importance as a scholar. Certainly nobody has known Einstein longer or more intimately than you have and I think it would be a wonderful thing if you could find time to do this article.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

C O P Y

2

November 7, 1946

Dear Miss Hull:

Professor Oswald Veblen has this year been elected to membership in the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters (naturvidenskabelig-matematiske Klasse): and in the class of Mathematical and Natural Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters.

Professor Hermann Weyl has been elected a Corresponding Member of the Zürcher Naturforschende Gesellschaft in Zürich, and a Foreign Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Sincerely yours, *

Secretary, School of Mathematics

Miss Evelyn M. Hull
American Mathematical Society
531 West 116th Street
New York 27, New York

April 28, 1946

Dear Oswald:

Hearty congratulations on your election to the Royal Danish Academy. I look forward to seeing you later this morning, but meanwhile I want to record my congratulations.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Oswald Veblen
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

FA:mh

Air Mail

April 16, 1946

My dear Nielsen:

I wish to accept with many thanks the election as a member of the naturvidenskabelig-matematiske Klasse of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters. I need not say to you how much I appreciate this evidence of the friendship of my Danish colleagues. I shall be very glad to receive the publications which are mentioned in your letter.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

Professor Jakob Nielsen, Secretary
Det Kongelige Danske Videnskabernes Selskab
Dantes Plads 35
Copenhagen V, Denmark
OV:GB

Veblen

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

October 17, 1945

Memorandum for Dr. Aydelotte:

On April 28, 1942, I became a consultant to the Army Ordnance Department, attached to the Ballistic Research Laboratory at the Aberdeen Proving Ground. In the beginning I was supposed to come occasionally to give advice, but before long I found myself spending four or five days a week in Aberdeen and working on the problems which came up, most of the rest of the time. I had been an Ordnance officer in World War I. The work consisted chiefly in studying technical problems in a general way, advising the authorities on procedures and personnel needed for their solution, and actually finding and recruiting the key personnel. The generous support of the Institute and the fact that my position as a consultant left me independent of many of the usual military restraints was a great help.

About the first of July 1942, I accepted a personal contract with the Navy Department, to work with an operational research group on Submarine Mine Warfare. The Naval people wanted the same kind of advice and help that I was giving the Army. I entered on it only after discussing it with the Army Ordnance authorities and agreeing that it would not cut my work for the Army below a specified minimum. As it worked out, this operational research unit served as a nucleus from which operational research personnel was provided to other branches of the service, including particularly the Army Air Force. This work came to an end on July 1, 1943.

For some time I had been informally helping the Armament Officer of the U.S. Strategic Air Force in Europe to find scientific personnel to help in his work. I spent the period between August 13, 1944, and September 24, 1944, on temporary duty in Europe attached to the Air Force, studying a number of problems which were critical at that time. This involved a great deal of travel in England and France.

In February 1944 I became a consultant and later on a member of the Applied Mathematics Panel of NDRC. This work was closely analogous to what I was doing in the Army, since it consisted in studying the general aspects of the work and helping to make decisions.

OV:GB

Oswald Veblen

December 4, 1944

Dear Oswald:

The number of members of the Institute as printed in successive bulletins for the last twelve years has been as follows:

1933-34	23
1934-35	35
1935-36	45
1936-37	58
1937-38	40
1938-39	46
1939-40	46
1940-41	52
1941-42	53
1942-43	28
1943-44	19
1944-45	25

This does not include assistants, who are of course somewhat in the same category. If they had been added in, the numbers might have been increased from six to ten in some years.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Professor Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study

FA:KK

Please excuse this scrap of paper: -

I have had no further word
from Oswald beyond a cable
on the day after the one I
~~wrote~~ wrote to you about. The second
one merely said "Am well".
Perhaps he thought the first
might not arrive.

With love to Marie & hoping
that you are both having a
wonderful vacation

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Veblen

58 BATTLE ROAD
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Aug 24. 1944

(H. man. Trans.)

Dear Oswald,

Many thanks for your letter. The
address Oswald left me was the same as
Prof. Synges - and probably Prof. Jenkins -
Dr Donald Veblen - Civ. Advance.

H. Q. A.S.C., USSTAF,

APO 633, New York, N.Y.

I always write Professor instead of Dr. in my
letters because I found in Aberdeen that
I got been much more easily when using
the larger title. Perhaps England might
respond differently.
Miss Blake tells me that the word

they had planned and the doctor had ordered. As the hay fever season has been much more violent with some of my friends here this year I wonder whether this is necessary.

I don't think Oswald will be back before Oct 1st - at least I shall be glad if he gets back by that time. He left New York probably on Aug 13th - certainly not before. The cable I got was sent on Aug 15th or 16th. [I think 15th but can't verify this as I am at the Institute.] As his orders were for 30 days, - and that usually means a week or so more, according to the experience of the men at Aberdeen - ~~and~~ ^{then} the usual delay in getting transportation home, I really don't see that I can expect him much before the beginning of October.

Waterford, Conn.
22 August 1944

Dear Elizabeth:

I am delighted that you have heard from Oswald, and you will be interested to know that Mrs. Jenkins, who is with us, had a cablegram from her husband some time since. I had hoped to catch Oswald before he left to arrange to have him bring something back for me, but perhaps I can arrange that from the other side. Do you have an APO number for Oswald, or what kind of an address can I use to reach him?

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, N.J.

Memorandum

Aug 16th 1944

Dear Frank,

I had a cable from
Oswald yesterday - which
so far as I can remember
said "Feeling fine" - anyway
if those were not the
exact words, that was
the meaning.

Oswald was ordered to

I know that he did not
leave that day, because
he telephoned me that
evening about 10 o'clock. This
was against regulations, so
I suppose I should not
mention it.

However that is the
last I heard from him
until the cable came

on Sunday.

As he absolutely refused to have any clothing at all except of the good warm British variety I was afraid that he would be starving on his head if he remained long in New York! I was fully determined to go to New York early on Monday morning with a comfortable suit if he

was still around the morning
night — we had had an argu-
ment on the clothing question —
and I lost out.

I hope Waterford is cooler
than Princeton — actually I
don't seem to mind the weather
so very much — but it really
isn't exactly what we would
choose. The sitting room never
gets below 80° — and that is
the coolest room in the house.

Give my love to Marie, I hope
you are both having a good
vacation.

Kindest regards from Elizabeth Veblen

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

August 1, 1944

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, N. J.

Dear Frank:

Many thanks for your letter of July 27.
I have copied down the addresses which you gave
me and, if the opportunity arises, I hope to make
use of them. It looks as though Jenkins and I
might arrive at about the same time although we
are not likely to travel together.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

Oswald Veblen

OV/h

July 27, 1944

Dear Oswald:

I am sorry you are not going to get your holiday in Maine, but I congratulate you on your very interesting chance to go to England. I understand it is for one month and I very much hope they will not keep you longer.

I told Elizabeth that I wanted to give you some letters of introduction but she said she thought you would prefer not to have them. If you get to Oxford, I hope you will call on Dr. C. K. Allen, Warden of Rhodes House; Lord Elton, Secretary of the Rhodes Trust, also at Rhodes House; Adams, the Warden of All Souls; Lindsay, the Master of Balliol; and Henry Clay, the new head of Nuffield College. If you say that you are doing so at my suggestion, no letter of introduction will be necessary.

If Mollwain of Harvard, the present Eastman Professor, has not left before you arrive, I hope you will see him at Balliol. I very much want him to spend some time at the Institute in the School of Economics before he finally retires.

Incidentally, we are considering Ben Meritt for the Eastman Professorship for the first year after the war. I thought you ought to know this in case it should be mentioned, but it is confidential and you need not mention it unless someone speaks to you about it.

Warmest good wishes for a safe and interesting time.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Prof. Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey

FA:KK

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

February 22, 1944

Dear Frank:

Many thanks for your kind letter of January 26. I hope that you will also convey my deep appreciation to the anonymous donor.

As I said to you the other day, this arrangement with regard to my retirement and that of Einstein is particularly gratifying in that it makes a substantial part of the salaries which we have been receiving available for other Institute purposes. I am sure you will not misunderstand me if I take the liberty of saying that I think the two purposes which should have priority are (1) that of fulfilling the commitments that were made many years ago to three of the mathematical professors, and (2) that of providing for suitable successors to Einstein and myself. I recognize of course that both of these purposes have to be considered in their relation to a balanced budget.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Institute for Advanced Study
OV:GB

Oswald Veblen
Oswald Veblen

January 26, 1944

Dear Oswald:

This is only a formal notification to you of what you already know, namely, that the Board of Trustees at their meeting on January 25th approved without change the action taken by the Executive Committee on December 14, 1943, concerning the conditions of your retirement. These conditions are exactly as stated to you in my letter of December 16th with the pleasant addition that the Institute has been assured of an anonymous gift covering the difference between your salary and the pension promised you during the years of your continuation, so that this will not be a drain on the Institute budget.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE

Professor Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

FA/MCE

out Board Meeting

ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH

22 George Street

Edinburgh, 2

July 7, 1943

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that, at the Ordinary Meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, held on July 5, 1943, you were elected an Honorary Fellow of the Society.

The Diploma of Honorary Fellowship will be forwarded to you at an early date.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd) James Kendall

General Secretary

Professor Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A.

May 28, 1942

May 30, 1942

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

It gives me great pleasure to certify that Dr. Oswald Veblen is a Professor of Mathematics in the Institute for Advanced Study, that he is a man of high ability and fine character, and that he has the best possible standing in this community. Professor Veblen is a mathematician of world-wide reputation and he is in addition a man who has a great concern for the public welfare, which has earned him the respect and esteem of all the citizens of Princeton who in any way come into contact with him.

Professor Veblen has lived in Princeton for more than thirty-five years. He was a Professor of Mathematics in Princeton University for something like twenty-five years before the Institute for Advanced Study was founded and he has been a Professor and Trustee of the Institute since the time when it was first organized. He is a man who can be counted upon to fulfil conscientiously any responsibility which he may undertake.

DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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

April 8, 1942

Dr. Aydelotte:

I have checked up with Alexander, Morse, von Neumann and Weyl. They are all in favor of your going ahead and making the best arrangement that you can with the Rockefeller Foundation about the stipends for Siegel and Gödel.

We also think that it would be very desirable to do something about the case of Dr. Chern, who appears to us to be the most promising Chinese mathematician who has appeared on the horizon.

It also occurs to me that it would be desirable if you could talk over the case of Tarski with Dr. Hanson on the basis that with a little supplementary help from the Foundation he would be taken care of at Berkeley for the duration of the war.

O.V.

Institute for Advanced Study

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
NIGHT LETTER	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

COPY OF WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

September 26, 1941

Oswald Veblen
Hotel Shoreland
Chicago Illinois

Gladly authorize offering Kolish fifteen hundred Deeply regret duties here
my
make ~~impossible~~ attendance Chicago celebration impossible Hope you will be
willing to represent Institute at formal meetings on Sunday and Monday

Frank Aydelotte

This telegram was telephoned by Western Union September 25, 1941

Chicago, Illinois

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Have found a young man named ²Kolish who seems excellently qualified
to succeed Schwartz as my assistant Request authority to offer him
\$1500 Please wire Shoreland Hotel

Oswald Veblen

September 22, 1941

Dear Oswald:

This is a postscript to my letter of a few days ago to say that we have postponed the mathematics tea awaiting your return and are now proposing to hold it on Sunday afternoon, October 5th. We are asking all the faculty and members of the School. We are having the three Schools in turn this year, thinking that may work better than such a large tea as we gave last autumn.

I hope I am right in thinking that you are getting an honorary degree at Chicago, and if that is true I send you my heartiest congratulations. I hope to be there to see you take it, but I may be prevented from going at the last moment.

If the faculty decides that we have no choice but to give up the use of the private dining room this year I am proposing that the monthly luncheons be held at our house.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE

Professor Oswald Veblen
Hotel Shoreland
Chicago, Illinois

FA/MCE

September 19, 1941

Dear Oswald:

I realized that you would regret sacrificing the Board Room for this year, but I see no way around it. All the members of the Standing Committee feel that we should give it up and every member of the faculty with whom I have been able to talk agrees with the decision which the Committee has made.

There will be no chance of getting quickly from any foundation funds for housing the League; indeed, that is just the kind of purpose for which it is practically impossible to get money. The only solution of our problem would, in my opinion, be to buy the Maxwell property, but you know the difficulties of converting members of the Board to that proposal. I am nevertheless trying again.

Eisenhart called me this morning to ask whether we would be willing to give up the rooms we have in Fine Hall, which they need for some urgent purpose connected with defense, and take instead three rooms on the ground floor (106, 107 and 108). I consulted the only men available (Weyl, Morse and von Neumann) and they have agreed that we have no choice but to fall in with Eisenhart's proposal, though the rooms offered us are less desirable. I did say to Eisenhart that I hoped the matter could be reconsidered when the war was over.

I do not know whether you have heard that Blackwell is here and comfortably settled. Eisenhart telephoned me a few days ago to say that so far as Blackwell's participation in meetings at Fine Hall is concerned, the University proposes to make no distinction between Blackwell and any other member of the Institute. I was perfectly delighted with this arrangement and can imagine that Eisenhart had some difficulty in making it.

I send this letter to you at Chicago, where I am due to go myself for the exercises on Sunday and Monday, the 28th and 29th. It looks to me now, however, as if it were going to be very difficult, if not impossible, for me to get away. I shall send Woodward a telegram as soon as I am clear about my responsibilities here, and if I am not able to come I hope you will make explanations on my behalf any time that you have an opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Hotel Shoreland
Chicago, Illinois

FRANK AYDELOTTE

September 8, 1941

Dear Oswald:

Am I correct in thinking that you do not plan to get back to the Institute until about the first of October? I am writing because there are several matters that are coming up on which I would like your opinion. Morrell would like to take over such parts of the Institute grounds as we may designate to raise alfalfa, for which there is at present a good demand. It would, I think, be a public service to allow him to do this, and I am putting the matter informally to the members of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds. Please let me know your opinion. He could use the whole stretch south of the Institute building and also the cleared land over west of the Maxwell enclave. If you have any opinion as to how much of this we ought to let him have, I would be glad to have you write it to me.

I also ought to have a meeting of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds to consider Holden's plan for members' housing. Am I right in thinking that you were in principle in favor of a group of small pre-fabricated houses?

The Institute opens on Monday, September 22. I am calling a faculty meeting for five o'clock on that day. We are planning a tea for the faculty and members of the School of Mathematics for Wednesday, October 1. The first faculty luncheon occurs on Thursday, October 2, and the first meeting of the Board is on Monday, October 13. I very much hope that you and Elizabeth will be here in time for the Mathematics tea.

I hope your work has gone well this summer. I made some reference to the book which you are doing with Givens & Taub in my report on the School of Mathematics. May I say that the manuscript is finished? I very much hope so.

I want you to read over this report before I submit it to the Board and verify the accuracy of various statements which I have made. There will be time for that after you return to Princeton.

-2-

We have had a very good summer and I am happy to say that some progress has been made with the fourth floor so that we are now fairly ready for the events of the academic year. We are very much crowded as to space and have not yet been able to get certain League workers out of the Board room. It will be for the Standing Committee to consider whether we should be compelled to use this as a combined work room and dining room this year, a thing which I hate to do.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Maine

FA:MR

Lynch Homestead
Stockbridge, Mass.
4 August 1941

Dear Oswald:

Miss Blake got your telegram all right, but could not find the memorandum. She thinks it may be in a locked case to which you have the key. Under the circumstances I take it there is nothing to do but wait until you return in September. I dug out of Dr. Flexner's files some of your early correspondence which refers to the memorandum, but nothing which gives me full enough information for the historical part of my report. The more I think of it the keener I am to summarize this historical material. It would be easier for me to write and easier for the Trustees to understand than the explanation of the rather abstruse researches which are being conducted by the Mathematics School.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE

Oswald Veblen, Esq.
Brooklin, Maine

2nd August, 1941

Dear Professor Veblen:

Before Miss Blake left she turned over to me \$7.00 which you had left with her to pay a C. O. D. to come from The Casement Hardware Company of Chicago.

A package has arrived for your from them, but it did not come C. O. D., so I am holding the money for you.

I will also hold the package as no mention was made of having it forwarded.

Very truly yours,

BAM

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County
Maine

August 1, 1941

Dear Professor Veblen:

We have been so busy that I have only today been able to compile the following statements regarding reprints and typing for the year/ 1940-1941. For purposes of comparison I am including the items for previous years.

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

<u>Reprints</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Typing</u>
\$ 54.60	1933-1934	0
174.02	1934-1935	0
263.52	1935-1936	\$ 30.81
215.90	1936-1937	201.61
261.48	1937-1938	98.36
214.50	1938-1939	64.04
72.85	1939-1940	62.90
204.68	1940-1941	56.83

I know that you have always been interested in these figures so that I am sending them along even though you are on vacation. Miss Blake is away or I would give them to her, and I hesitate to leave them here for you to be held for several weeks.

If all goes well, I shall get away on Monday. As we are having sultry, humid days, I shall not object to spending some days soon in the vicinity of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

With kind regards to you and Mrs. Veblen, I am

Sincerely yours,

Esther D. Bailey

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County
Maine

ESB

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

March 7, 1941

Dear Frank:

This is to put down explicitly what Professor Weyl and I have been saying about the desirability of suggesting that the Rockefeller Foundation should give help to the British "Society for the Protection of Science and Learning", now housed in the Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge, England. This society was organized, as the "Academic Assistance Council", by a number of distinguished British scholars including Lord Rutherford (who was its President in 1934), at about the same time that the Emergency Committee was formed in this country. Mr. David Cleghorn Thomson visited this country as Secretary General of the Society in the spring of 1939. But in July 1940, the date of what is probably our most recent letter, its chief officers were

President - The Archbishop of York
Vice-President - Sir William H. Beveridge, K.C.B.
Chairman of the Executive Committee - Sir Frederic Kenyon, G.B.E., F.B.A.
Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee - Professor A.V.Hill, O.B.E., F.R.S.
Honorary Secretaries - Professor C.S.Gibson, O.B.E., F.R.S. and Walter Adams, B.A.

The Society has done very good work in caring for refugees, but is now in considerable financial difficulties. Professor Weyl and I have both had word from friends in England that this Society and other agencies there are no longer able to carry the load. On the other hand, when we have appealed to the Rockefeller Foundation for aid to individuals, they have told us recently that they were studying general means of helping refugees to stay where they are rather than by bringing them to this country.

Dr. Aydelotte - 2

March 7, 1941

It would seem that the simplest and most obvious way would be to give funds to the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning.

Both Weyl and I feel that we should not be likely to accomplish much by writing to the people with whom we have had dealings, but we hope that a word from you to Mr. Appleget might have some effect.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Oswald Veblen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Oswald Veblen

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
OV:GB

28 July 1941
Lynch Homestead
Stockbridge, Mass.

Dear Oswald:

I had a talk with Karl Compton some time back and he told me of a plan for an institute of mathematics at Princeton which you had worked out some time before there was any idea of an Institute for Advanced Study. I gathered from what Compton said that the Institute in its present form is practically a realization of that plan. Have you any memorandum about it which you could send me or which Miss Blake could find in Princeton? I shall be in Princeton Saturday morning and if you could send a telegram to Miss Blake before then, perhaps she could hand it to me.

In writing my report on the School of Mathematics, I think I ought to say something about the history of the idea and I very much hope that you will be willing to allow me to use any material of that sort which you have.

After wandering around Vermont and New Hampshire we finally settled on this farm house for the summer, and find that we made an extremely good choice. We are only five hours from Princeton, have beautiful surroundings, a good golf course near at hand, and plenty of friends to play with. Indeed the place is perfect in all respects except for the fact that it is a little too near a busy road. We don't mind that for one summer, but I should not like it forever. If it were not for this traffic, I think we should try to buy the house we are in.

I hope you and your assistants are getting on well with the book and that it will be finished by the end of the summer.

With kind regards in which Marie joins to Elizabeth and yourself, I am

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE

Dr. Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Maine

June 27, 1941

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County, Maine

My dear Professor Veblen:

I am sending you herewith
the checks for Dr. Taub and Dr. Givens as you
requested.

You and Mrs. Veblen have
escaped another heat wave. At least, I hope that
it is cool where you are, and surely it won't be
so warm in Maine when you arrive there.

With best wishes to you and
Mrs. Veblen for a restful summer, I am

Sincerely yours,

Walter S. Bailey

WSE

June 27, 1941

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Brooklin
Hancock County, Maine

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the checks for Dr. Taub and Dr. Givens as you
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so warm in Maine when you arrive there.

With best wishes to you and
Mrs. Veblen for a restful summer, I am

Sincerely yours,

J. Bailey

VSB

30th July, 1941

Dear Professor Veblen:

At the request of Miss
Blake, I am glad to send you Bulletins 1, 2,
3, 5 and 6. Number 4 Bulletin I understand is
out of print. Miss Blake tells me that you
already have 7, 8 and 9.

I hope you will call on me if there are any
other small commissions I can attend to for
you during her absence.

Very truly yours,

Bernetta A. Miller

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin, Hancock County
Maine

5 July 1940

Dear Oswald:

Many thanks for your letter of July 1st. I hope the arrangements for the Whitehead children will go through without difficulty. There is some confusion in the office of the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, and the arrangements at present are of course very cumbersome. I understand the State Department is considering some simplification of formalities, and I am trying to get some clear headed person with real executive ability placed in the office in New York to bring some unity into their work. I mention all this so that you will keep a personal eye on the Whitehead children and not trust them to official channels.

I thoroughly agree with you about Ingham. However good a man he is, it would be difficult to find a place so late as this unless by lucky accident.

I had lunch with Lothian a day or two ago. He thinks the English will be able to hold out. Luckily the French fleet is no longer a menace. We had a conference on the whole subject under Earle's direction at Princeton last week-end. The twenty-five or thirty experts started out by being largely non-interventionists, but by the time we had discussed the subject for two days it became clear to everybody that the only wise thing would be to send the American fleet to the immediate assistance of the English. I blurted this out in so many words to President Roosevelt a day or two later in an interview at the White House, and I believe that he would go along if only he felt public opinion would justify it. The situation is unfortunately one in which our national leaders ought to go ahead of public opinion instead of hanging behind it.

It looks now as if we should be settled in our house in Princeton by about the 20th of July, barring unexpected hindrances.

Just as I finish this I have Frau Pauli's letter, copy of which has gone to you. If the Swiss air service to Lisbon is restored, I shall be glad to ask Lothian for some kind of protection for him in Bermuda. I should anticipate no difficulty.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Oswald Veblen
Brocklin, Hancock Co., Maine

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

1 July 1940

Dear Frank:-

I replied to Whitehead's telegram by ~~ask~~ another cable asking him to find out whether the affidavits which I had already cabled to the American Consul in London were sufficient. Today I have written Dick to give him the name of the American Cons. and the information that children are actually being sent. No doubt, the ~~real~~^{greatest} difficulty is for the parents to convince themselves that it is best for the boy to come.

Today there was a letter from Norbert Wiener with a question which I had better mention because it may come to you through other channels. Wiener wants to find some sort of an academic niche in

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

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Institute during the 1st term of 1939-40.
BROOKLIN
Ingfan has HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE with him, his wife
and two children and Wiener thinks that
no useful purpose would be served by
his going back. I have replied that
the Institute has exhausted its mathematical
funds and that I think that Ingfan
would be ~~more~~ happier and wiser if
he went back to England leaving his
wife and children here — also that
Elizabeth and I would be glad to take
them into our house as our guests. Ingfan
is quite a good mathematician and would
probably fit in well in an American Univ.,
~~but~~ and I would be quite willing to see him re-
placed, but I don't think I would advise him
to make such a move at present.

From Elizabeth's brother to show your
children we offered Ingfan we got merely a

of "message" accompanied by the remark
 that England had successfully fought the whole
 of Europe before ^{BROOKLIN} and would do it
 again. ^{HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE}

I am sorry that the movement ^{to} help England
 from this country seem to be slowing down. Herbert
 Hoover seem definitely to have joined F and H in the
 the 5th column since he assumed in his Phil. speech
 that the Nazis are going to win and ~~that~~ urged that
 we prepare to be friends with them by hiding our sym-
 pathy with the Democracies. Also the Republican platform
 has a plank definitely against the project you + Will
 had in mind. I think that the English are going
 to give a good account of themselves and that
 we will do the same when our turn comes, but
 apparently there is a section of the well-to-do
 class in each country which ^{secretly} favors the "new
 order".

Elizabeth and I are very sorry that you are
 not coming to Maine - in spite of your important
 reasons for not doing it. Best regards to Mary,
 your sincerely,
 O. Veblen

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

28 June, 1940

Dear Mr Bailey:-

Thank you very much for getting out the various affidavits which were wanted for Henry Whitehead's boy. Today there was a cable to say that they are delaying action (lack of transport) but I have replied by asking him to check with the American Consul that all formalities are in order.

Herewith I also enclose the tax bill for Prof. Weyl's property. I presume that this goes to you.

My wife joins me in kindest greetings.
Yours sincerely,
Oswald Veblen

June 24, 1940

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that
Professor Oswald Veblen has been a professor
in the Institute for Advanced Study on permanent
appointment since September 1, 1932; that he
is in receipt of a salary of \$15,000.00 a year
and is assured a pension of \$6,000.00 a year
whenever he retires from active work.

Secretary

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 24th day of June, 1940

Notary Public of the State of New Jersey

June 24, 1940

Dear Professor Veblen:

Miss Blake has told me that you are in need of certain affidavits and asked me to prepare the kind we usually send. I am therefore enclosing affidavit in duplicate, which has been notarized.

The weather continues cool in Princeton, and many Institute persons are still here.

With kind regards to you and Mrs. Veblen,

I am

Very sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County
Maine

ESB

June 21, 1940

Dear Oswald:

Many thanks for your letter. I am sorry to say that it now seems very unlikely that the technical sections of the League will get over here. Avenol (whose reply I enclose) was unwilling to act on his own responsibility, and events in Europe are moving too fast for any complicated negotiations with the member states. The Rockefeller Foundation is trying at least to arrange for microfilming the records of the League, in the hope that they may be smuggled out of Geneva by some means.

I have been discussing today with such members of the faculty as are here the question as to whether we should try to do anything about displaced French scholars. I hope to see Kittridge, who is now on his way home, some time next week.

Lowe has finally decided to take the lot next to Weyl's, which I think a very satisfactory arrangement both for him and for us. It leaves the space in between free for a road or for building, as may seem wisest in the future.

We are due to get off to Maine on the 30th of June or the first of July, but I must confess that I am now beginning to feel a little uncertain about it. The American Friends Service Committee, of which I am now a director, is planning relief work on an unprecedented scale. The Rockefeller Foundation is anxious to do more for displaced European scholars, and altogether I may decide that I ought to stick to my office in Princeton for the present.

You have probably heard that John Nason has been chosen as my successor at Swarthmore. It is an excellent appointment, and I am very happy about it. I have a good deal to do cleaning up there and supervising the completion of repairs to Olden Manor so that we can move as speedily as possible. If we can accomplish enough at all these tasks to get away we shall be in Camden about the 1st or 2nd of July, and I will send you a line from there.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin, Hancock County
Maine

FA/MCE

Veblen

D. Reynolds

May 28, 1940

Dear Frank:

Miss Eichelser has just sent off a cable to Pauli making the inquiries which you suggested. She will of course send you a copy of this, and she has a full dossier re Pauli. Just a few minutes ago Warren Weaver called me up about a question having to do with Mathematical Reviews, and I took the occasion to ask him whether the Rockefeller Foundation had any means of communication which could be used. He thought it doubtful, but promised to think it over, and I said I would let him know the result of the present inquiry.

I enclose herewith a copy of the letter from Courant, May 26, to Lewis L. Strauss of Kuhn, Loeb and Company, to which I referred this morning. I think it would be very helpful in this connection if you would write to Mr. Strauss saying that the Institute would be very glad to extend an invitation to Professor Jakob Nielsen in case the necessary funds were available. In the conversation with Courant and myself, Mr. Strauss expressed great interest in the Institute, and I invited him to come and visit it.

It turned out that the University of Virginia was not able to extend the invitation, and I have written to Professor Hildebrandt of the University of Michigan to see if there is any possibility there. I do not think it likely, however, that anything will come of this. While it would be better for general reasons if Nielsen could be invited by one of the universities, we should like very much to have him here, both because his scientific work is closely related to what we are interested in, and because he is a very estimable person.

With regard to Harald Bohr, I received this morning from Warren Weaver the letter of which a copy is enclosed. On the telephone I let Weaver understand my hope that the action of the Foundation plus the efforts of Courant and his friends ought to solve the problem of the group at Copenhagen. Weaver received these remarks with evident satisfaction.

Dr. Frank Aydelotte - 2

May 28, 1940

You will find enclosed also a copy of the letter from Mr. Barry Smith, dated yesterday, which I think explains itself. I will send a copy to Hill and write him on the subject. I presume that Hill would be the right person to make the approach to the Pilgrim Trust, but that he would probably want a letter from you on the subject. But you will know better than I how to handle that.

I also told Weaver about the failure of the Commonwealth Fund to act, and said that while I didn't want to urge anything on him I wished that he would think the question over. He promised to do so.

I have just had a glance at a copy of Bulletin No. 9 which Miss Eichelser lent me. I agree with you that the note about applications for admission would better be on the opposite page, under the calendar. I wonder whether it is necessary to say anything at all about the money for stipends?

It looks now as if I might get off the day after tomorrow, but of course I don't want to leave so long as I can be of any real use here.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

President Frank Aydelotte
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, Pa.
OV:GB

C O P Y

May 26, 1940

Dear Mr. Strauss,

I have just had a telephone conversation with Veblen and another with the people at Brown University about the question discussed in our so gratifying conference last Friday, and I am taking the liberty of summarizing the present situation and of suggesting a *modus procedendi*.

Veblen's idea of having Prof. Nielsen invited to the University of Virginia had to be abandoned because he learned from them that they are considering another man from an invaded part of Europe (Poland) and could not do more. Instead, Veblen proposed to send Nielsen an invitation to the Institute for Advanced Study for one year. President Aydelotte has gladly agreed, provided that the Institute can obtain a guarantee for a contribution of approximately four thousand dollars in case that Nielsen accepts. If you can see your way clear to find a group of friends willing to give this backing I suggest that you send a message directly to Veblen or to President Aydelotte. Probably speedy action would then be possible.

As to Harald Bohr, who is not only the most distinguished Scandinavian mathematician but also the closest friend of Niels and without whom Niels would hardly come, an invitation to Brown University is pending and urgent negotiations for financial help with the Rockefeller Foundation are under way. Just how complete the Foundation's contribution will be is not yet decided, and it is probable that an additional sum will be needed. President Wriston of Brown University is very enthusiastic about the plan and might find the funds himself. If necessary, I should be very happy to approach some friends such as Mr. Leo Wallerstein. But we should be exceedingly grateful to know that in case of emergency we can fall back on you and your friends active help to a moderate extent.

In the case of Dr. Werner Fenchel, Bohr's assistant, we hope to get some support through Mr. Ralph Flanders of Springfield, Vermont, whom you perhaps know. However, it probably will be necessary to supplement this support somewhat. Fenchel's case is still in an exploratory stage, and should not delay action on the others. I may take the liberty of reverting to this matter at a later time.

I hope you will understand that the matter-of-fact way in which I have presented these matters of fact does not correspond to my deep feelings of gratitude.

With cordial regards

Sincerely yours,

(RICHARD COURANT)

Mr. Lewis L. Strauss
52 William Street
New York City

C O P Y

May 27, 1940

Dear Veblen:

Thank you for your letter of May 21st. I have received a long letter from Richardson as well, which also explains Neugebauer's concern. I have just written to Richardson, and have promised him that I will discuss the case of Harald Bohr with my colleagues here and report to him soon, the general idea being that it is probably very desirable to have some sort of definite offer outstanding to Harald Bohr, so that, among other things, Niels will be in a freer position to act, if and when that becomes necessary.

Very cordially,

WARREN WEAVER

C O P Y

THE COMMONWEALTH FUND

May 27, 1940

Dear Dr. Veblen,

I succeeded in getting before the Executive Committee, today, the matter discussed in our recent conference and I am very sorry to have to tell you, as I feared would be the case, that the Committee feels the legal restrictions under which the Fund operates make it impossible for us to make the necessary grant. We are all sorry for we should like to be of assistance in the matter.

It occurs to me that the English foundation, the Pilgrim Trust, might very well take favorable action on this request if it could be brought to their attention. I am sure that Professor Hill could arrange it and I am communicating with him to that effect.

It was a great pleasure to meet you the other day; and again I wish very much that we could be of assistance.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely yours,

BARRY C. SMITH

Shelby

8 May 1940

Dear Oswald:

I noticed the New York Times article, and I had a very useful conversation with Bush of the Carnegie Institute in Washington on the same subject, which I shall be glad to report to you tomorrow. I do not think we ought to ask Mr. Bamberger for any more money, but I have thought of one or two more possibilities.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

V. Veblen
Princeton 5 May 1940

Dear Frank:-

The first article in the news section of the N. Y. Times this morning is about the Uranium affair. When I was in Washington I learned (although this is being treated as a military secret) that the question is being investigated by a committee under direct orders of the President. This should make it sure that the experimental physicists will get the financial support that they need. But why should we not use it as an argument ~~to get up the~~ in favor of the project in ~~applied~~ theoretical physics which we discussed with W. Weaver? We can presumably do nothing further about Niels Bohr for the present — unless you should write him a letter confirming the offer if he decides to come after some weeks or months — but I am sure Pauli* would come at once if he were given the chance.

Do you suppose that Mr. Bamberger would respond to the argument that a group of Class I theoretical physicists in the institute might cooperate in an invaluable way with the experimenters in university laboratories and government proving grounds?

I venture to introduce this question among the many others that I know you have on hand because relevant events both here and abroad are moving rapidly.

*
of Zurich

As ever,

Oswald Veblen

Haverford College
Haverford, Pa.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

February 6, 1940.

Dear President Aydelotte:

Thank you very much for looking into the possibilities at the Institute in connection with our vacancy next semester. I have received complete credentials from Professor Veblen on a number of men, and we are considering these along with some others. I will let you know when a decision is reached. With many thanks, I am

Sincerely yours,

Carl B. Allendoerfer

CROSS REFERENCE

FILE: *Fac. - Veblen*

RE: *correspondance between
Aydelotte, Veblen, Courant, Strauss,
Weaver, Smith,*

LETTER DATED:

SEE: *Int. Gen. -
Theoretical Physics
1940 proposals.*