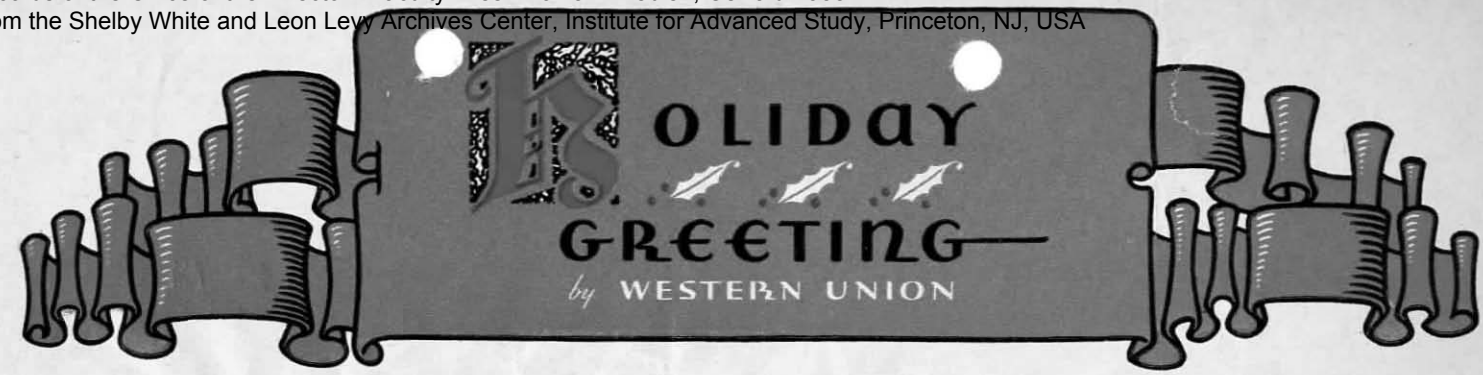

Veblen

NAC17 31 NL GTG COLLECT=LYNCHBURG VIR DEC 22

DR ABRAHAM FLEXNER=

:20 NASSAU ST PRINCETON NJ=

:BLEICK HAS NOT WORKED WITH ME PERHAPS CONDON KNOWS ABOUT HIM I HAVE NO BASIS FOR OPINION ABOUT NEXT YEAR CAN THE QUESTION NOT WAIT TILL AFTER VACATION MERRY CHRISTMAS=

VEBLEN.

1228 A

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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to December 22, 1933

Professor Oswald Veblen
c/o Professor S. A. Mitchell
McCormick Observatory
University of Virginia
University, Virginia

Bleick wants to apply for Henry Fellowship Our opinion of him asked What can I say Please wire Are we likely to want him next year He would like to stay Warmest greetings to you and your wife

Abraham Flexner

.60
.90

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

December 18, 1933

E.I.B.

Dear Mrs. Bailey:

I have heard from Professor Zariski that he is to receive a leave of absence from Johns Hopkins University at half pay. This makes a commitment of $2,000, subject of course to the action of our Trustees.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

Oswald Veblen

Mrs. Esther S. Bailey
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

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

December 13, 1933

Dear Mrs. Bailey:

I have written to Professors Morgan Ward of the California Institute of Technology, J. L. Walsh of Harvard, and O. Zariski of Johns Hopkins, telling them of the action of the professors in recommending "grants-in-aid". In each case I have made it clear that this is subject to the proviso that the money be actually appropriated by the Trustees.

Noted E.S.B.

The commitments amount to $1500 for Ward, and either $3000 or $3500 for Walsh. In the case of Zariski the amount is as yet undetermined - it will be somewhere between the other two amounts.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

Oswald Veblen

Mrs. Esther S. Bailey, Assistant Secretary
Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street, Princeton, N.J.
OV:GB

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

November 17, 1933

Dear Doctor Flexner:

I spoke with Dr. Lowan and he understands that the Institute has no fellows. He also now understands that we do not care for publicity.

What really happened is the following. The Institute of Physics lets the newspapers have advance copies of articles which are appearing in the Physical Review. By this means the science editor of the Herald-Tribune got hold of a copy of Lowan's thesis, which is being published in the Physical Review. From Columbia University that newspaperman got Lowan's address and came to see him, saying that he wanted a little additional information about the age of the earth, or words to that effect. Lowan did not expect that he would be connected with the Institute in any way, because this work was done entirely at Columbia. When the article came out he thought it would be desirable for you to know about it, and he had an interest in finding out how you looked on such questions. I explained to him what your point of view was.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen
p.13.

Oswald Veblen

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

November 16, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

Dr. Lowan left the enclosed with Mrs. Bailey today. Would it be a good idea for you to tell him that in the first place he is not a fellow of the Institute and in the second place that, if he took any part in procuring this publicity, he has injured himself?

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
210 Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

November 1, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

Mr. Nauheimer has been pestering me for an appointment with Professor Einstein, which I have declined to make. Could you look at the enclosed and tell me whether I am doing any violence to science in keeping them apart?

A brief reply to me will suffice.

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, N.J.
AF:GB

October 20, 1933.

Dear Veblen:

Many thanks for your letter of October 19th. There is nothing conditional about our car. I have told Dresden definitely that I will be glad to send it over to meet the Laconia whenever it arrives.

I think you are entirely right that the most convenient thing would be for you and Dr. Dresden to drive down to Princeton with the Weyls, stop over long enough for Weyl to see people and make any tentative arrangements needed, and then bring them on to Swarthmore. It would undoubtedly facilitate matters if you and Dr. Dresden were both with them, but if you are held in Princeton by your seminar, Dr. Dresden is prepared to meet them at the ship and bring them down.

I am perfectly delighted that you are coming over for Weyl's first lecture, and I hasten to say that my wife and I would love to have you and Mrs. Veblen, if she comes with you, dine with us that evening at 6:45. We shall have the Weyls, the Flexners, Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld.

Can you stay for the night? If so, I shall be glad to make arrangements for you to stop with one of the members of our faculty. Our own guest rooms will be full, but a family just across the street will be delighted to have you. The lecture is on Friday evening, October 27th.

Looking forward with pleasure to seeing you, I am

Yours sincerely,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, N. J.

October 20, 1933.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I have fixed up with Dresden and Veblen an arrangement by which Dresden is to meet the Weyls in New York, with the understanding that Veblen will be there also unless their arrival conflicts with his seminar on Tuesday afternoon. I am sending our car over to bring the whole party to Swarthmore via Princeton. This will make it easy for the Weyls to stop in Princeton long enough to speak to you and to make any tentative arrangements which they wish. They can then come on to Swarthmore in the car without any trouble about looking up trains. I do not know what they intend to do with their boys, whether they will leave them in Princeton or bring them on to Swarthmore, but we can easily make arrangements for them either way.

We are all of us looking forward with keen pleasure to having you here for Weyl's first lecture.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner, Director
Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, N. J.

FA

October 2, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

Next Monday (October 9) is the date of our Board meeting in New York, and, as Mrs. Bailey is Secretary to the Board, she will have to be away from Princeton that day. I should like very much for you to arrange to let Miss Blake to be here the entire day rather than a perfect stranger, as Miss Blake is already familiar with the routine of the office, can answer the telephone, attend to telegrams, if any, etc.

Always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
School of Mathematics
Fine Hall, Princeton, N.J.

AF:DSB

September 27, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I inquired of Simon as to the procedure which the Institute had worked out in respect to reprints. Though the matter is a very simple one at the moment, it may, as we expand, become an item of considerable importance. He writes as follows:

> "About reprints. As each division has a budget for supplies and expenses, the head of the division can, if he desires, use part of it (usually a small part only) for the purchase of reprints. The divisions act very differently, according to the temperament and notions of those in charge. Each division sends out its own, to its own selected group of institutions or men."

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

(FOUNDED BY LOUIS BAMBERGER AND MRS. FELIX FULD, 1930)

TEMPORARY OFFICES
~~100 EAST 42ND STREET~~ ~~201~~
~~NEW YORK, N. Y.~~

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

Brooklin,
18 Sept. 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

I have yours of the 15th with Weyl's report on Courant & Neugebauer. Shall await Courant's decision with interest.

I have just written to a National Research Fellow, Dr. R. S. Martin, to say that I will be glad to receive him. His status may be a bit indefinite as he has also written to the Dean of the Graduate School "about coming to Princeton." I am sending him a copy of Bulletin No. 2.

It now looks as though we should be in Princeton by the middle of next week.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

150 East 72nd Street
New York City
September 14, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I asked Weaver to cable Paris for the purpose of finding out whether Courant had definitely accepted the Cambridge offer. Weyl's statement to me was not absolute.

I think you are correct in saying that the Institute cannot take over the Zentralblatt; if that should be involved in offering the year's engagement to Neugebauer, Copenhagen would be far better for him. Until we hear definitely about Courant and Neugebauer, we shall have to wait.

I shall follow your suggestion and limit the conference on October 2 to you and your immediate associates. This will be the only meeting we shall have for our opening - or closing - ceremonies.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County
Maine

AF:ESB

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

11 Sept. 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

There was no qualification to Weyl's statement that Courant was going to Cambridge. As I wrote before I think the best way to make absolutely sure would be through the Rockefeller Fn.

I feel no doubt that Neugebauer is better in the Hist. of Math. than anything we have in this country. Last spring, before I left, I tried to get Cappps, Eisenhart, and others to take him into the Univ. in an interdepartmental position. What may come of that I don't know.

From our point of view the chief difficulty in Neugebauer's case would be that he is Editor-in-Chief of the Zentralblatt für Mathematik, published by Springer, ~~and~~ which has continued without interruption. I had thought that if the Zr should be

[illegible] the Society [illegible] it and Neugebauer over. But it would be very expensive*, and I am not ready to recommend using the Institute money for the purpose. On the other hand, it would be a pity to take N. away from this job. Perhaps the best solution would be that hinted at, I think, in ~~your~~ one of the letters from Harald Bohr — to move N. to Copenhagen.

I think K. Reidemeister of Königsberg would be my first alternate for Courant, and R. Brauer, ~~of~~ also of Königsberg, my second.

However, I have long had it in mind that we ought to do something better in the History of Science ....

If you feel that this is the time to take a step toward a permanent start, using Neugebauer, I think the first step would be to get all possible infor-

---

*I don't believe the Rockefeller foundation would cooperate, but you would know how to find out.

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

mation from Harald Bohr. Weyl and von Neumann might also be asked to get the "dope".

You see I am at sea! Reidemeister and Brouwer simply represent mathematics of a higher order.

I shall write to Miss Stifford to say that her tuition will be remitted. She understands the situation quite well — also I don't think she will raise any serious sex problem! Another young woman wrote me recently that she is coming, but I wrote back and stipulated that she must submit credentials & convince me that she should be admitted.

I think the meeting on Oct. 2. should be confined to yourself and those of the professors in the Institute who are in Princeton

The question of [illegible] to be talked over with Eisenhart before then. But I suppose this meeting is the real "opening" of the Institute, or are you having other ceremonies?

Yours,

Oswald Veblen

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

(FOUNDED BY LOUIS BAMBERGER AND MRS. FELIX FULD, 1930)

TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

Brooklin,
9 Sept. 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

Your letter telling me the action about Weyl came this afternoon. As it said you were writing to him and as his letter indicated that he was waiting in the Tyrol, and Mrs W. in Göttingen, I thought it best to suggest that you cable him — though I felt it rather officious on my part. I was much relieved to have your reply and to hear that you already have his acceptance.

My expectation is that Weyl will take his position very seriously as a full-time job. In fact the trouble last winter was, in part, that he was taking it too seriously. Just the same, I shall write to him along the lines that you suggest. In fact, I had just finished such a letter to him when I received your telegram. But I ~~[illegible]~~ must rewrite it.

Enclosed herewith is a letter received from Lorentz in response to my letter to him about full-time and part-time.

As to Comment, I think your proposal

an excellent one — to send him to Cambridge or Yale for the second half year. I presume, however, if he has the lectureship at Cambridge already, as Weyl wrote, the problem is solved anyhow. Doubtless Weaver can find out how that stands without delay, for the Rockefeller Fdn is concerned in that arrangement. According to Weyl, Courant was already back from Turkey and was choosing the Cambridge job in preference to the Turkish one.

I, of course, intend to be completely silent about Weyl. It would probably be as well if you informed Eisenhart, partly as it has a bearing on the assignment of rooms in Fine Hall.

I strongly urge W. to come on the quota, in my letter which I have written since finishing the last paragraph above.

I will try to respect your incognito. Hope that you can still snatch a few days of rest.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

150 East 72nd Street
New York City

September 9, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

In reply to my cable to Weyl I have this morning received from him the following cable:

"Warmest thanks for your confidence
Hope for long and happy collaboration"

I have added to my letter, which was to be mailed this morning to catch the Europa, the following postscript:

"Since dictating the above, I have received your cable, and I am happy to express my own gratification and to feel that you and your family are relieved of all future anxiety.
I shall let Veblen alone know that I have heard from you - no one else, until you ask me to make an announcement."

I also received in the morning mail your letter regarding Miss Stafford. I concur in the remission of tuition fee. Does she understand that Princeton University does not admit women students and that she is our only woman student? I agree with you that it would be a mistake to make a grant-in-aid to a part-time student, who is earning her living otherwise.

Is there any way of finding out positively whether Courant has accepted the Cambridge post?

With all good wishes to you and your wife,

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County
Maine

AF:ESB

150 East 72nd Street
New York City

September 8, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have written Lefschetz the enclosed letter.

I meant October 2 for the meeting. You can ask anybody you please. Do you think it would be well to have Eisenhart and Lefschetz in order that such arrangements as we make may not conflict with their schedule, or are you so familiar with their schedule that there is no such danger?

Aydelotte telephoned me yesterday that Dresden had had a letter from Weyl from the Italian Tyrol. He says that it is as good as settled that Courant will go to Cambridge, which is a little less certain than your telegram, which arrived shortly after. If this is correct, my disposition would be to invite Neugebauer, because he would bring to this country something absolutely new, namely, the historical and humanistic side of mathematics. The success of the Institute of the History of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins with its liberalizing influence over the faculty as well as the students encourages me to try this novelty. Mathematics is something more than an affair of today and yesterday. It is a part of the cultural history of the race. Sarton has been urging me to do this and in speaking of Neugebauer as compared with himself says that he (Sarton) is a mere amateur compared with Neugebauer. Let me know what you think of this suggestion.

The weather here is so favorable, and I have so many things to do, though I am doing as little as possible, I do not believe it would pay to go back to Canada for a short period.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

September 8, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

Thank you very much for your letters. I am very sorry to learn that you have sprained your ankle, but you can be glad that you don't have to have your tonsils removed in order to effect a cure. It is very difficult for me to feel any sympathy for anybody for anything, unless (1) he is the victim of the Nazis, (2) he has had to have his tonsils out.

The Executive Committee met yesterday and authorized me to make Weyl a permanent offer somewhat different in form from the preceding offer but, in my opinion, real ly more attractive. I shall write him on the subject. Of course, this matter must be kept absolutely confidential between you and me. I shall not mention it to another person except perhaps Eisenhart, if, in your judgment, that is desirable, for, if it should leak out in Germany that Weyl is bringing his wife and children to this country to stay, they might all be held in Germany. Whether or not he can remove his household goods at all is, I think, questionable, but of course he will have to manage this. All we can do is to keep absolutely "mum", and I am sure I can rely upon your discretion not to mention it to a single soul until Weyl and his family have reached America. His appointment at the Institute will, if he accepts, start January 1, 1934, thus giving him a few weeks to make his living arrangements in Princeton.

I have no objection to your writing him, but I should like you to state that I have mentioned the matter to you in perfect confidence for his sake and

that of his family and that you and I will mention it to no one until they all arrive in America. I wish very much also that you add in some way that we will look upon his acceptance as indicating that he intends to make America his home. I hope that, like von Neumann, whom you may instance, he will become an American citizen. Of course, he will be free in the future to accept an invitation to go elsewhere, if he chooses, just as you and the others can, but as long as he is in the Institute, he is on rigorous full time, that is, he will not accept multiple professorships the way Einstein has been led to do, though of course he enjoys academic freedom in respect to lectures, papers, etc. I am anxious that he should understand the spirit of the thing, the fact that we have made the salaries and retiring allowances high and the vacations long in order that men may work under favorable conditions. If a man sacrifices his long vacation regularly or often, I think the spirit of the Institute will be compromised. We ought to do as well as the Rockefeller Institute, which in the course of thirty years has never had a single violation of spirit. You can tell him these things, I think, better than I.

I saw Weaver the day before, and he said that the Rockefeller Foundation would appropriate $3,000 to meet an appropriation of an equal amount from the Institute for Courant. I appreciate thoroughly your point. It occurs to me that this can be best met by asking Courant to come to us for the first half of the year and by lending him without expense either to Cambridge or to Yale for the second half year. How does this strike you? I was told by Weaver that at the moment Franck and Courant are probably in Turkey, advising the Turkish Government about a new university, but they will be back in Göttingen by the time a letter from us reaches them. Weaver thought that Yale might very well use Courant permanently, though of course he did not say so. He had little hope of Leland Stanford. Can you think of anything better than my suggestion? I shall not write Courant until I have heard from you.

The weather is mild here, so that I shall not return to camp, but I shall stay here incognito. I have communicated with nobody except Weaver, though of course,

if needed, I am physically able to do anything that isnecessary.

Mrs. Bailey has paid one visit to Princeton and is going again Saturday. She will move down about the 15th, and I shall follow a week or ten days later.

Give my greetings to your wife.

Always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County
Maine

AF:ESB

P.S.
Weyl and his family ought to apply for numbers on the quota which I think is not filled. They are thus in position to become American citizens without difficulty, as Ladenburg has done. You may recall that Ladenburg did not come with the quota number so that, while he was in Princeton, before he accepted the professorship permanently, I had to get the American Ambassador whom I knew to secure a number for him. Then he took out his first papers and thus came under the protection of the American Government. Don't you think Weyl would be wise to do the same? If so, please explain to him. A.F.

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DR ABRAHAM FLEXNER=

150 EAST 72 ST=

LETTER FROM WEYL SAYS THAT COURANT HAS LECTURESHIP AT CAMBRIDGE FOR THREE YEARS SAME AS BORN=

VEBLEN.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

(FOUNDED BY LOUIS BAMBERGER AND MRS. FELIX FULD, 1930)

TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.
CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

Brooklin,
Hancock Co.,
Maine
6 Sept. 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

I have a letter from Miss Anna A. Stafford saying that she has received her Ph.D. from the Univ. of Chicago and reminding me of a promise to try to get her a remission of the tuition fee. As you have doubtless forgotten the circumstances I recall them:

She wrote me early last spring saying that she would like to come and describing her work, which is in Alexander's field. He was quite interested in it and thought it showed promise, but we felt that she was hardly advanced enough to recommend for a grant-in-aid of a substantial sort. When she was in Chicago she came to see me and I told her frankly the situation — stressing the probability that she would get little or no personal attention. She said that she wanted

to work independently but would like to attend Alexander's seminar and pick up what she could. She would get back her position in a school within motoring distance of Princeton, but could I get her tuition remitted? I said I would do the best I could (or words to that effect) once the Ph. D. problem was out of the way. She seemed to me to be distinctly with encouraging and for a person who might prove worth while. The difficulty was that I had no great confidence in her professor at Chicago (a Mrs Logsdon) So I thought it best to see what she could accomplish in a year under her own plan.

I think Alexander would favor a grant-in-aid somewhat larger than the tuition fee.

If your scruples about half-time make you hesitate we can leave the problem open till Alexander and I are back in Princeton. But I feel perfectly sure that we should keep the door open to people of the sort I hope this young woman to be.

As to professors and recipients of grants-in-aid of the usual sort I am all for full-time, of course.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

(FOUNDED BY LOUIS BAMBERGER AND MRS. FELIX FULD, 1930)

TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.
CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

Brooklin, Maine,

1 Sept. 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I favor offering Hermann Weyl a chair in the Institute because he is one of the very best mathematicians of our generation. This, as you know, is the general opinion among mathematicians, but I am basing my statement on first-hand knowledge. I have read much of Weyl's work and found it very original and rich in ideas.

Weyl's work ~~is~~ has contact with that of the other mathematical professors in the Institute without overlapping too much with any of them. He is well known to all of us and we will all be delighted to have him as a colleague. His oscillations of last

winter have hardly influenced our feelings at all.

The argument in favor of a temporary appointment for Courant is a quite different one. I feel that it would be well for the Institute to help in defending the cause of scholarship against the brutal attacks that are being made on it in Germany. Courant is a distinguished figure because of his position as director of the Mathematical Institute of Göttingen, and because of his friendship with leading mathematicians like Hilbert, Bohr, and Hardy.

He is however not himself a mathematician of the caliber for a permanent position

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TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

in the Institute, nor should I like to see the policies which he instituted in Göttingen followed in our institute. Therefore I think that any action in his case should be carefully guarded so that its temporary character will be unmistakable.

May I venture to suggest that if an appropriation is made for this purpose it be in such form that it can be applied ~~the~~, at your discretion, to the relief of one or more other mathematicians? There are plenty of other good ones in distress.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

(FOUNDED BY LOUIS BAMBERGER AND MRS. FELIX FULD, 1930)

TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.
CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

Brooklin, Hancock Co., Maine.

1 Sept. 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

Your of Aug. 30th has just reached me and I think I had better write you another letter about Weyl & Courant to take the place of one I sent to Magnetawan a couple of days ago. (Letter Elizabeth has read it over and agrees it isn't as good as the other) If both reach you in time for your meeting you can take your choice!

Do you suppose that the double purpose of helping Courant and avoiding a situation in which he would have nowhere to go, at the end could be accomplished by making the appointment at the same salary that you contemplated but only requiring residence for part of the year. Another possibility would be to make a joint action with Cambridge (Eng.) by which he would reside part of the time in P. and part of the time in C. I could perhaps

haps negotiate this with Henry. (I managed to respond to his appeal for Bohnes in such a way that B. has an appointment from the Univ. next year)

As to living quarters: There is a list kept in Stanhope Hall, where there are a number of business offices. Also Mrs. Eisenhart usually has a number of addresses.

Lefschetz writes that it will soon be necessary to turn some money over to the Intourist office in New York for passports, tickets etc. for Pontrjagin and his mother. I am sending him your agent and his mother's address. (I wonder whether it would expedite matters if Mrs. Bailey called at this office also so as to have a better insight into the whole affair. I hope she will pardon so many suggestions!)

Shall be glad to call that meeting in my office at 10:30 — do you mean Oct 2 or 3? I should have said Oct. 2. I presume you mean that you want to see Alexander, von Neumann and me at this time. Anyhow it can all be arranged when we are all in P.

Sorry you had to come back to N. Y. so soon.

As ever, (except for one leg)

Oswald Veblen

Hotel Plaza, New York City
August 30, 1933

Dear Veblen:

I had to come down to New York on business and brought yours of the 25th with me. I thoroughly agree with your position about Einstein and Science Service and have written Mr. Davis the enclosed.

Simon always says that, if an institution does something, the problem is not to gettpublicity but not to get excessive publicity, and surely we ought to keep still until as an institute we have accomplished something.

I do not know what Mrs. Bailey can do about getting information as to living quarters. There must be some official in the University who has a list of available places, and Mrs. Bailey will of course do all in her power besides.

I have heard from von Neumann, who is apparently having difficulty about bringing some of his household goods. I am sending him all sorts of official certificates, which I think will help him get them released.

There is no occasion for you to hurry back to Princeton. If you can run down a few extra spinors (whatever they are - and that you must explain to me later), stay in Maine and chase "'em" to their lair.

With warm regards to Mrs. Veblen,

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

P.S.
I should like to have an informal meeting of the members of the staff of the School of Mathematics October 3 at 10:30 a.m. at Fine Hall in your room. Will you undertake to call the members together? I am afraid that Einstein and Mayer will not return until a few days later, but that will not matter.

I shall be at the Plaza till Saturday, after that 150 East 72nd Street, till further notice.

A.F.

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin, Hancock County, Maine

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

30 Aug. 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

I have written to Mr. Lowman as you requested, to make sure that he understands the full-time character of the work at the Institute, adding that I felt no real doubt ~~on the~~ about his attitude.

Also to Mr. Chen I have written to say that he will be admitted. He seems to me likely to be worth while. I added my usual caveat that he must not expect personal attention.

Herewith is ~~also~~ enclosed a letter on the subject of Weyl and Courant which I hope will serve your purpose. I have tried to be quite frank, at any rate, for what we do now is doubtless much more critical

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

than similar acts will be ~~taken~~ at a later stage of the institute's history. I am sending the letter to Magnusson, but will send another to Princeton if I have reason to judge that this will not reach you ~~in time~~ in time.

About Comment I feel that he ought to be either where he is well placed to watch the situation in Germany and seize the best opportunity for going back or where there is scope for his organizing power. I fear that this power would be lacking in our institute though it is just what would be needed in many an American university.

Could some plan be worked out by which we helped ~~to~~ in the project of keeping Hardy in Cambridge? The fact that Hardy appeal to one was the basis for finding a place in Princeton for Bochner would perhaps give me a right to approach Hardy with any proposal which we might have. The trouble is that I don't know just what to suggest.

In spite of my condescending remarks about the saw I have recently been using the brush-saw to on some dead spruces. On dry dead

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

wood there is something to be said for a saw, but it is as much fun as an axe with green wood. But now my stye is cramped both with saw & axe. Last night I made a leap in the dark. Now my right ankle is ~~sprained~~ bandaged up tightly and the doctor says it must remain so for two weeks. This afternoon I was reduced to sitting on a stool and cutting up young trees with clippers after Elizabeth had carried them in for me. But tomorrow I expect to go out and clear out a lot of lower branches.

Best greetings,

Sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

(FOUNDED BY LOUIS BAMBERGER AND MRS. FELIX FULD, 1930)

TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.
CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

Brooklin, Maine

30 August, 1933.

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

My chief reason for thinking that it would be wise to invite Hermann Weyl to a professorship in the Institute is that he is one of the most eminent mathematicians of our time. This, as you know, is the general opinion in mathematical circles, but I speak also from personal knowledge. I have read a good deal of Weyl's work and found it rich in ideas and very original.

In the second place he is known and respected by the other professors in the Institute. I am sure that they would all welcome his appointment and regard it as a most welcome addition to our strength. His field of work has contacts with

those cultivated by the rest of us, without overlapping any of them too much.

The oscillations in which he indulged last winter and which some of our trustees may find it hard to understand, will not affect the attitude of the mathematical group toward him to any appreciable extent. They would forgive much more than that from Weyl without an effort.

The case in favor of a one year appointment for Richard Courant is quite different. One has the feeling that an institution of learning, when it is able to do so, should give some sort of help against the attack on the cause of scholarship which is now being made in Germany. Courant is one of the most notable men under attack because

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of his position as director of the Mathematical Institute of Göttingen and because of his intimate relations with such distinguished mathematicians as Hilbert and Bohr.

He is not himself a mathematician of the first rank nor is the type of organization which he built up at Göttingen one which I should care to see imitated in our institute. For this reason I hope that whatever action is taken will be carefully guarded so that there can be no misunderstanding about its temporary character.

May I suggest that if an appropriation is made for this purpose it be in such form that it could be applied, at your discretion, to one or more other persons if consent should be taken care of in some other way? There are other very able men who have not been provided for.

Yours sincerely Oswald Veblen.

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

25 Aug. 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

I have answered the enclosed letter by saying that I am forwarding it to you, and that if you feel it desirable you will give them a statement. I also added (since I know Mr. Davis) that I fear anything with which Einstein is connected will get too much rather than too little publicity, and suggested that it might help us if he could arrange to have the atoms smashed, somewhere else, about Oct. 1st. But doubtless it would be worth while to give them something from your office so as to forestall foolish statements.

Have you thought of asking Mrs. Bailey & her assistant to accumulate some information as to suitable living quarters for the

This question comes out because I have just answered a letter from Jessen, asking about living quarters, by suggesting that he go ~~first~~ to 20 Nassau St. when he arrives and there ~~find out~~ inquire how to find me and how to get settled in Princeton.

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

Yesterday I had a letter from von Neumann who was in Budapest and was feeling that he would like to get back to Princeton. He had nothing new about the German situation, but did make the remark that he considered ~~that~~ R. Brauer (formerly of Königsberg, I think) the best of the younger mathematicians who have been displaced. I know that Weyl had Brauer high on his list a year ago and that ~~many other~~ Brauer's general reputation is very good, but I don't know his work at first hand.

I had been intending to get back to Princeton shortly after the middle of Sept.

I'd like to be much still down on

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HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

Spinoza and am so tangled up with it that I am now disposed to hang on here till the end of Sept. Please let me know if you need or want me in Princeton earlier than that.

Best greetings to Mrs. Flexner and yourself,

Oswald Veblen.

Magnetawan, via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada

August 22, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

Will you please take such action as you think desirable in reference to the enclosed communication from Mr. Si-Ping Chee?

There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee about the middle of September to deal with the Weyl and Courant matters. Would you send me a memorandum which I could present to the Committee, expressing your reqsons for wishing a permanent appointment for Weyl and a temporary one for Courant?

I enclose letters recently received from Mrs. Bohr and Professor Bohr. Hilbert's letter I sent on to Wilbur in the hope that it might influence him. When he returns it to me, I will let you see it. It is really magnificent.

Always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County
Maine

AF:ESB

Magnetawan

August 21, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I sent you a wire yesterday to the effect that I am very hopeful - though I count no unhatched chickens - that we shall be able to arrange a permanent appointment for Weyl and a year's invitation to Courant, though I do hope that Courant will be reinstated in Göttingen.

In reference to your other letters I suggest that you write Lowan in regard to the full-time point. While I agree with you that we do not want to establish too many precedents, I think there are one or two things that we will have to insist upon, and full time during the abbreviated academic year is one of them, and that ought to apply not only to workers but to members of the faculty. Of course, I do not mean that you or Alexander or Einstein should not during the term attend scientific meetings or make scientific addresses, but I do mean that the taking on of additional chairs and professorships, as Einstein has done, does not seem to me to harmonize with the spirit of our undertaking. However, this is a matter which I shall take up with Einstein in the course of the year. I beg you not to mention it to anyone.

I think you are right that Alexander's assistant should not be included in the grants-in-aid, but there was no other way of providing his salary for the coming year. You are quite right in saying that the assistants must be kept separate from the grantees. On the other hand, I have no intention of disturbing the budget, which the Board adopted last spring. I think it is necessary for you and your associates

to realize that a limit has been fixed for grants and that therefore you must pick and choose with great care. It would make a very bad impression upon the Board if I should go back to them at the end of September and ask for small appropriations for this or that. The foregoing does not apply to the Weyl or Courant appropriations, which are major matters, though even in those cases I feel that I have to justify the recommendations which I expect to make.

Mrs. Bailey has just returned from her vacation and will pay promptly the July 12 bill to the National Academy of Sciences.

With all good wishes to you and your wife,

Ever sincerely,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County
Maine

AF:ESB

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

19 Aug. 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

Many thanks for the telegram which reached me this afternoon. I feel quite at ease about the Weyl question. If the appointment goes through it will be a fine stroke for the Institute, and he should know the result early enough to take the necessary measures in Germany.

About Comment I feel that I ought to suggest that every precaution should be taken to make it clear that the engagement is for one year only. While it is very desirable that he should be helped now ~~it~~ he is not at all the type

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HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

we want permanently — and evidence has been accumulating that he will be much harder to place elsewhere than I had thought. This in spite of my conviction that there are several places where he would be very useful.

He has four children, and it occurs to me that they would all be better off if Mrs. C. and the children were to stay in Switzerland where the education of the children could be continued without so sharp a break as if he brought them over here.

You have established such sympathetic relations with Courant that you will know how to make the situation clear to him. I find it a terribly perplexing one. Doubtless I feel it more in consequence of the amount of

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

correspondence I have had over this German question this summer. (I could have employed a stenographer for at least one full day a week)

As Elizabeth remarks, the sad thing about your telegram is that it seems to imply that you are coming back from Canada sooner than we had expected. You will have had all too short a vacation this year.

As ever,

Oswald Veblen

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

12 Aug. 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

I have not answered your of the 2nd sooner because I do letter writing by dictation and don't get time away from my other work until a sufficiently strong pull comes. Then I usually write several.

The list of grants-in-aid is clear. But I think that when there is a chance to readjust it, 2 offices should be taken off this account, so that the function of an assistant ~~should~~ may be kept distinct from that of the grantees. ~~Also~~ I may bother you about this again next month, for it is quite likely that very good candidates may turn up to be chosen around the end of the summer. I have in mind one very good American possibility at present, and two of the displaced German

BROOKLIN

HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

Either the Rockefeller Found or the P. department might have collaborated with us on these. But, please don't bother about this now. It is a matter to talk over when I turn up in Princeton shortly after the middle of September.

There was a letter from Mr. Lyle of the R. Found to say that Dr Berge C. Jessen arrives in N.Y. on Sept 23rd.

Today Mr. Ed. Katzenbach former Attorney General of N.J. is coming to the Mountain House for lunch and I will see whether he can help us re. Portajoyeux. He has been helpful to Eisenhart & me at various times in the past.

I return Mr Mears's letter herewith. I have, of course, written Hugh not to expect action till September & your cable and the rest. It will be all to the good if something is done

I also enclose a copy of a letter from Blichfeldt to the (Chairman of the Math. dept at ~~Princeton~~ Stanford) to Mr. Weaver, which shows what they are doing. This came from Blichfeldt himself. Though R. G. D. Richardson I have a copy of Blichfeldt's reply to Wilbur regarding Courant

"Professor Courant of Göttingen is a very active man, age 45, of fine business ability, an excellent teacher, and a mathematician of prominence, though not of the rank of Caratheodory, Harald Bohr, Schur, etc.; on a par with the rank of quite a number of mathematicians in this country. He is not quite an analyst of the attainments and originality that we had hoped to get for Stanford sometime.

"At the solicitation of Harald Bohr

Professor Hardy of Cambridge, England, made efforts to secure a position for Courant at that University, but without success."

BROOKLIN

HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

Schur is 58, very distinguished both in fact and in appearance. Bieberbach ~~one of the ones~~, the leading younger mathematical professor at Berlin, had the courage to speak publicly in Schur's behalf in his opening lecture, last May.

I am replying to Blichfeldt that they would be lucky to get either Schur or Courant, just as I think they would be stronger now had they taken on men whom they could get some years ago instead of wasting their time on impossibilities.

Under the circumstances I have not written to Courant.

Haven't you confused the bill for refits which you say has been "already passed" with one that looked very much like it? Half of one word in the title is different!

Yours, Oswald Veblen

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

12 Aug. 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I sent you the Lowan letter without comment because it answered the question you had in mind about his Ph.D. degree. The letter was written before he obtained the grant-in-aid. With the latter, I think there will be no question about part time work. My understanding is that he is full-time.

Alexander & I are interested in a Miss Sanford who is going to have a teaching position some miles away from Princeton & come over in her Ford to see Alexander & talk with him about her work. I think it would be better not to have any set policy at first and wait to see what our experience is.

But I don't need a precedent for dropping!

As ever,
Oswald Veblen

Magnetawan
via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada
August 2, 1922 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have today your two notes of July 29. Meanwhile, as a result of Aydelotte's visit, I have asked him to see Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld and talk over a number of matters and incidentally the Weyl matter. I also explained the matter to Mr. Maass, and I am enclosing the letter which shows his reaction. Please return it. I hope and believe that the thing can be ironed out so that Weyl can bring his wife and children with him. If Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld were young, the incident would give me concern. As it is, I do not feel that there is anything for us to worry about, so far as the future of the Institute is concerned. With a board constituted as ours is, the academic point of view will prevail in academic matters.

In respect to the grants in aid, etc., I find on discussing the question with Mrs. Bailey that my answer to your inquiry was not correct, ad I did not make myself clear to her. When Mrs. Bailey said that the appropriation had been exceeded, she was referring to the $15,000 appropriation. Including the $5,000, you will see that with the grants to Peterson, Lowan, and Zippin we have now allotted $18,500, leaving ~~amargin~~ margin of $1,500, which I think we should keep for several reasons: (1) it is not impossible that some of the men may find the allowance made to them inadequate, in which event we should have to supplement it during the year; (2) some quite unexpected emergency may turn up. As a matter of general

policy, I think it sound not to expend in advance every dollar appropriated, for no one can foresee, especially at the outstart,how things will work out. I am inclined therefore to go no further in this direction until we see whether our calculations are correct. I have been very punctilious in making the budget not deliberately to allow myself any privilege at all when it comes to the spending of money. That seems to me to be sound administration,for it will keep me and the Institute out of financial trouble. It was the policy invariably pursued at the General Education Board and looking over a period of twenty years' experience I am sure it was right.

Now as to Zippin, Alexander said inthe first place that he did not wish an assistant. In June,that is, after the budget had been passed, he told me that he had found a man, Zippin, whom he desired to have as an assistant. The only money on which I could lay hands was included in the $5,000, as I recollected it, and I therefore authorized him to proceed. I should have notified you at the time, but the tonsil episode intervened,and I failed to do so.

As to the dates of payment to persons on permanent appointment,no change is necessary, since with the exceptionof Alexander and Einstein the salaries are already in operation and will be paid just before the end of every month. As for the younger men, we can perfectly well make the first payment on September 30, as you suggest. As a matter of fact, I had already mentioned to Mrs. Bailey the desirability of doing precisely what you suggest.

I am very happy that you find the time schedule favorable. That is a point which has long seemed to me a distinct desideratum in our scheme of higher education.

I have written Einstein and shall in due time write all the others that we shall have the initial meeting of the Members of the School of Mathematics in an informal way in Fine Hall at 10:30 onthe morning of Monday,October 2. I should like them each to state the way in which he would like to carry on his activities and

the way in which we should deal with the workers, who will also be in Princeton at that time.

I enclose a letter which I have had from Wilbur. Perhaps you can see some way of sending this message onto Courant.

Mrs. Bailey is going on her vacation Friday, so that I will be a pretty rotten correspondent until she comes back. What with the Lindbergh enterprise, the Institute, and cranks whom I like to treat gently, Mrs. Bailey has had a pretty full day ever since we came here.

Mrs. Flexner joins me in warmest greetings to you and your wife.

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

P.S. The figures are as follows:

Grants in Aid 1933-1934

A. A. Albert	$ 2,000
W. E. Bleick	750
K. Gödel	2,500
" Travel	500
A. N. Lowan	750
L. S. Pontrjagin	1,800
" Travel	1,200
T. Y. Thomas	2,250
E. R. Van Kampen	2,500
R. L. Wilder	2,000
Dr. Zippin	1,500*
	17,750
T. S. Peterson	750
	$18,500

* Assistant to Professor Alexander

A.F.

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin, Hancock County, Maine

AF:ESB

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Magnetawan, via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada
July 31, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

In going over the list of workers admitted for next year I notice that Dr. Lowan makes no statement to show whether or not he has actually received his Ph.D. degree. In case he has not received it, I wonder if he could work both under our group and the Princeton group (receiving of course the grant which we have awarded him) and get his degree from Princeton. [I don't want to begin giving Ph.D. degrees, for I don't want to involve the staff in theses, examinations, and all the other paraphernalia. There are plenty of places now in which men can get a Ph.D. degree. Our work ought to be beyond that stage.]

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County
Maine

AF:ESB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

(FOUNDED BY LOUIS BAMBERGER AND MRS. FELIX FULD, 1930)

TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.
CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

Brooklin, 29 July, 1933.

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

After receiving yours of the 24th I wrote to Weyl strongly urging him to postpone accepting the Madrid offer till he has seen you in September. I pointed out that in case nothing was done for him by the Institute he would be in a position to explore other possibilities in this country if he did not go back too soon after a Swarthmore engagement.

One great advantage of early action by the Institute would have been that he could have brought his sons over, and begun the process of acclimatization.

I don't think it necessary to do anything further for Vanderslice. I have explained the arrangements to him and he understands them.

However, I believe it would be wiser to begin all salary payments on Oct. 1st rather than Oct 31st. A fair proportion of the

newcomers will be short of funds, and we will have to help them out with loans till the first salary payment is due. I think it is the general practice in universities to pay on the 1st of the month. I know it is done for N.R. fellows.

There must be some misunderstanding about Mrs. Bailey's report that we have exceeded the amount appropriated for grants-in-aid. Before the Peterson and Lowan appointments we were, I think, $500 beyond the original $15000. But after these appointments there ought to be over half of the additional $5000 still available. It would not be correct to charge Z iffin to this account, for he is on the same basis as the other assistant.

(Could you ask her to let us know the figures?)

It looks as though the time-table of the Institute were going to work very well for people like myself. Two terms of intense activity in contact with other people, separated by two intervals, one short and one long, for quiet individual work. I can't say how good the work I am doing this summer will turn out to be, but, at least, I have the chance to get on serenely with it for a longer time than I could have done before.

Yours,

Oswald Veblen

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

29 July 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

This is just to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 25th with the copy of your cable to Weyl. I hope it will work out so that Weyl can start in with us right after his Swarthmore engagement. I think he will be a healthy stimulant for all of us.

Sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

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Magnetawan
via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada

July 27, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

Thank you for sending me Weyl's letter, which I return herewith. It came fortunately at a moment when President Aydelotte, who is Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Institute, is visiting us for a few days. I have showed him the entire recent correspondence regarding Weyl and asked him for his independent opinion. He was rather amused by the attitude which Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld had taken but thought that I was wise not to push them. He proposes, however, inasmuch as he is going from here to Swarthmore on August 1, to see them himself and suggests that he call a meeting of the Executive Committee which could act on the matter and thus relieve Weyl's mind at the earliest possible moment.

This morning I received from Ladenburg a telegram from London, which reads:

> "Very urgent official invitation to German professors be expedited as they may not be allowed to leave."

I am wondering just how the matter of Courant could be arranged. I believe the Rockefeller Foundation would give us half of a $6,000 for a year if we provided the other half in the event that the Stanford possibility does not mature. I am writing Mason by this mail and asking him. This matter also could be brought before the Executive Committee. I need not tell you how deeply I sympathize with all these people, and in fact I am doing everything I can, situated as I am here, to coöperate with Duggan, but the tragedy is like an earthquake or a flood -

beyond human management.

I continue to improve and am gradually resuming my usual routine. My weight is practically up to normal, and I am taking as long walks as I have ever been in the habit of taking. Thenext few days I shall gradually resume the cross-cut saw, which will be a sort of Declaration of Independence. We have been very much favored by the weather, which has been perfectly lovely.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County
Maine

AF:ESB

P.S.

Duggan has sent me a confidential memorandum, dated July 24, showing the arrangements which have been made thus far in this country and England for German professors.

A.F.

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Magnetawan
via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada

July 25, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

President Aydelotte has just come to pay us a brief visit, and he and I have talked over the Weyl matter. He is Chairman of the Executive Committee and thinks that I did right in not pressing the matter of Professor Weyl by mail on Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld. He is also strongly in favor of our inviting him to join the group. He will call a meeting of the Executive Committee just as soon as I go back to New York. I am cabling Weyl as follows:

> "Haveconferred with Aydelotte who as Chairman of Executive Committee of Institute will call meeting middle September. Will communicate with you by cable immediately thereafter."

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County
Maine

AF:ESB

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Magnetawan, via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada
July 24, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have just had a telegram from Mr. Bamberger showing that he hesitates about Weyl, fearing, I think, that he may be an unstable factor or in poor health. Inasmuch as I have no legal right to act, I believe it is wisest to defer action until I can bring together the Executive Committee on my return to New York about the middle of September and explain to them the entire situation. I think that you could write Weyl asking him to postpone an answer to Madrid until he has had a chance to talk with me when he comes to Swarthmore in the early fall. With tactful management I believe that it will all come out well in the end.

With all good wishes and warm regards,

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin, Hancock County
Maine, U.S.A.

AF:ESB

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

22 July 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

Prof. Dr. P. Scherrer,
Physikalisches Institut der Eidg.
Technischen Hochschule, Zürich
Gloriastrasse 35, is the address on a
letter from Scherrer, but on one from
Weyl in his case it is Rieslingstr. 8
which is doubtless the home address.

Meantime a letter from Weyl
written in Zurich on the 8th has arrived
and I am enclosing it, though I am not con-
vinced that it is the one referred to in his
cable to you. However it throws a good
deal of light on his situation and the feeling

Dear Flexner: Cordially yours, I hope.

The remark that you would hardly be human if you didn't feel it necessary, after his behavior last Winter, to make your decision depend on the personal impression which he makes — is rather touching!

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

Anyhow, I think all your present move is a wise one. From our point of view as well as his I think it would be best for him to not go to Madrid. He ought to stay in Princeton & begin the process of acclimatization. Also he ought to bring his sons over and let them get Americanized as fast as possible. I hope Mr. Bamberger agrees.

Elizabeth joins in best greetings to you & Mrs. Flexner.

In haste & thought I don't know when the mail goes!)

Oswald Veblen.

xxxxxxxxxxx Magnetawan
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx via BurksFalls
xxxxxxxxxx Ontario, Canada
July 21, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

Many thanks for yours of the eighteenth notifying me that the Rockefeller Foundation has granted a fellowship to Dr. Ruse to be spent at the Institute.

I am also glad to know that Weyl will arrive in Swarthmore in the early autumn.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

P.S.
Dr. Vanderslice will receive the last installment of the $1,000 appropriated on July 31. His next salary check will be due on October 31. Should we make some provision for him for the months of August and September? A.F.

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin, Hancock County
Maine, U. S. A.

AF:ESB

xxxxxxxxxxx Magnetawan
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx via BurksFalls
xxxxxxxxxx Ontario, Canada
July 21, 1933

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Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin, Hancock County
Maine, U. S. A.

AF:ESB

Magnetawan
via Burks Falls
Ontario
Canada

July 19, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have your interestingletter of July 16 with its quotation from Ladenburg. The change in respect to the nomination of professors is really a deadly blow and can mean only that the government expects to use the universities as part of its political machinery.

As to Courant, I think you are right. We ought to do something in coöperation with the Emergency Committee. I have heard, however, in confidence that he is going to be asked to come on a permanent basis to Stanford, and I have written Wilbur a letter, commending the proposed action.

Both Lowan and Peterson have accepted, so that, according to Mrs. Bailey's figures, we have exceeded the amount appropriated. I do not think it would be wise or right for me to go further on my own responsibility especially in view of the irregular fashion in which I am endeavoring to handle the Weyl matter.

You may not know that Alexander has asked tohave an assistant, and Dr. Zippin has been given the appointment in that capacity.

Mrs. Flexner's accounts of Austria are very disquieting. The persons whom she saw were of course all anti-Hitler and were living in dread. On the other hand, the likelihood of a Hitler movement is diminished by the apparent economic failure of the Hitler regime in Germany. I am reading two books on the French Revolution, and it is astonishing how closely parallel the German movement of today runs to the French movement of 150 years ago. The world learns slowly and little.

Professor Veblen July 19, 1933

I am continuing to improve. Yesterday I had a two-mile walk without the slightest fatigue. I do not as yet feel inclined to do much with my head. Occasionally I suspect that by mistake a considerable part of my cerebrum may have been removed, but others who have had my experience tell me that this is a very common aftermath and that I will wake up some morning and feel like writing a book.

Mrs. Flexner joins me in warmest greetings to you and your wife.

Ever sincerely,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County
Maine

AF:ESB

P.S. July 20

When you write Weyl, I wonder whether you would feel like emphasizing two points: (1) that the proposed salary is sufficient to enable him not only to live comfortably and happily but to carry a fair amount of life insurance, by which his pension would of course be supplemented; (2) that I (Flexner) am strongly of the opinion that in view of the unusual salaries members of the staff are expected to follow the full-time principle, which has always been followed at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and in many of our reorganized medical faculties, namely, that they will not engage in merely remunerative activities. Of course, if a man writes a book or is paid for a scientific lecture or article, there is no objection, but the Institute wants to free itself absolutely from the profit-making motive which in certain American faculties, as in certain German and other faculties, has done infinite harm. This point is emphasized in Bulletin No. 2, but I do not know that it can be made too clear until custom renders it impregnable as it is at the Rockefeller Institute.

A.F.

I am continuing to improve. Yesterday I had a two-mile walk without the slightest fatigue. I do not as yet feel inclined to do much with my head. Occasionally I suspect that by mistake a considerable part of my cerebrum may have been removed, but others who have had my experience tell me that this is a very common aftermath and that I will wake up some morning and feel like writing a book.

Mrs. Flexner joins me in warmest greetings to you and your wife.

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

P.S. July 20

I marvelat your temerity in sending me that photograph! Do I look like that?

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County
Maine

AF:ESB

xxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxx

Magnetawan
via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada
July 19, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I received yesterday the following cable from Professor Weyl, dated Zürich, July 17:

> "Have obtained permission to accept invitation from Swarthmore. Will follow your advice and plan in all respects hereafter. Letter to Veblen on the road."

I do not happen to know Scherrer's address. Is he in Zürich or Göttingen? I have not yet heard from Mr. Bamberger, because a letter which crossed mine tells me that he and Mrs. Fuld are making a short trip.

With all good wishes to you and Mrs. Veblen,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin, Hancock County
Maine

AF:ESB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

(FOUNDED BY LOUIS BAMBERGER AND MRS. FELIX FULD, 1930)

TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.
CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

Brooklin, 18 July 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

This letter from Tisdale will doubtless interest you. Ruse is an Oxford graduate whom I have known about for three or four years. He is not a world-beater, but seems to have possibilities and is very pleasant personally.

Dresden writes me that Weyl has cabled them that his leave for the Swarthmore lectures has been granted. His lectures are scheduled for Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17, 23.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

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100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.
CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

Brooklin, Hancock Co., Maine,
16 July, 1933.

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

We were very glad to have such good news of your health and of Mrs. Flexner's. Please give her our best greetings. It will be interesting to hear her account of affairs in Austria. Just a few days ago I had a letter from one of the professors there, written from Brünn where he had gone to give some "guest-lectures", which was very pessimistic. But it was followed by another written after he returned to Vienna saying that things had improved a lot in the meantime.

There was a letter from Lefschetz in the same mail with yours from which I inferred that he was still in Princeton. So I wrote to him about Pontrjagin and propose to wait till I hear from him

before doing anything else. It is possible that all we need to do is to send on some money for P's travel expenses.

Could you ask Mrs. Bailey to let me know ~~when we do~~ how much is left of our appropriation for grants-in-aid? I understand that one was made to Mr. Lowman on Alexander's recommendation, but I have not heard what was done about Mr. Peterson. According to the letter from Lefschetz, Alexander has sailed for Europe. So I will have to look after any further applications, and there is at least one further good one in the offing.

[Lichtenberg sends greetings to you in a letter written from Switzerland. He says that a considerable number of German scholars have been invited to England]. I judge that more physicists than mathematicians will be taken care of there — corresponding to the greater influence of the English physicists. Max Born (Göttingen) is invited to Cambridge for 3 years. It is he who said, according to Weyl, that he would not in any case return to Germany. [Also Polanyi has been appointed to ~~the~~ a permanent chair of chemistry at Manchester. His case is highly analogous to that of Weyl, for

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he had been offered this chair more than a year ago, had made a lot of difficult conditions, and then, finally, last winter or spring had declined the chair. Taylor told me just before he sailed that the Manchester people were disgusted and said they were not going to have anything further to do with Polanyi....)

Ladenburg says that Courant has not yet had any offer, and in fact the only call from America that he had heard of was the invitation of Frank to the Hopkins for part of the year. Compton told me that M.I.T. and Harvard are asking Frank for the 2nd half year through the Emergency Committee.*

If nothing else turns up for Courant, could we not ask for him through the Emergency Committee? There would be no question of a perma-

* M.I.T. is the first institution to make requests for a mathematician through the Emergency Committee. They are taking Szegö for a year. This is a footnote to your correspondence with Compton!

ment position, and I feel we ought to cooperate with this committee in the same way that the universities are doing. Princeton has asked for Bochner, Reidemeister, Neugebauer as 1st, 2nd, 3rd choices. Also I was pleased to see that Dodds, the new president, has joined the committee. Bochner is a young man who fled from Munich & is now in Camb., Eng. This question about Courant does not require an immediate answer. I have had it on my mind for several weeks & perhaps will write more definitely later. I still get a good many letters describing the situation as it develops, and thought I would wait till I felt sure what it is best to recommend.

Ladenburg wants his letter held extremely confidential, but it contains the following: "Nach einer eben erschienen Verfügung des Ministers Rust wird den Fakultäten das Recht Vorschläge für Neubesetzungen zu machen, genommen. Sie dürfen nur noch Stellung zu den Vorschlägen der Regierung nehmen, das bedeutet, die Regierung teilt der Fakultät mit, wen sie ernennen will, die Fakultät darf ihre Meinung äussern, aber die Regierung kann natürlich dann ernennen, wen sie will. Damit ist der Fakultät eins ihrer wichtigsten und vornehmsten Rechte genommen."

I didn't mean to write so long a letter, but just flowed on. I general lot letters accumulate for a coupl of weeks, but thought I ought to attend to the Pontryagin matter promptly.

As ever, Oswald Veblen.

Bar Harbor, Hancock Co., Maine.

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CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

12 July, 1933.

Dear Mrs Bailey:-

Here are a couple of photographs which we thought might interest you.

Miss Fleming sent me your letter of July 1 to her about my reprint bill from the Nat. Ac. of Sc., since she has never had anything to do with these bills. The bill should be paid directly to the National Academy of Science. There is likely to be another one like it during the summer, but I think it might be best to pay this one now. ~~at~~ It makes very little difference, however.

Here is also another bill, for the binding of the periodicals which I am giving to the Institute. It should also be paid direct.

Thus far I have not received the ~~usual~~ deposit slip which would show that my salary was deposited on June 28 as usual, nor have I had any notice from the bank. We feel a bit embarrassed ~~by~~ because my wife sent out a lot of checks on the 1st

of July which will overdraw our account if the salary ~~the~~ check has been delayed for any reason. June is the month for my largest Insurance and Tax payments. Since ~~yo~~ Dr. Flexner's cruise is so far out of the way, I think I shall drop a line to Mr. Leidesdorff or Mr. Schur if I don't hear anything in the mail this afternoon.

I hope that you are finding nice weather and that Dr. Flexner is getting as "peppy" as he claims he is. Here it is a beautiful day, after a lot of much needed rain, and Monday's cablegram from Hegel is the only real excitement we have had for quite a while.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

P.S. The salary notice has just come from the bank

xxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Magnetawan
via Burks Falls
Ontario
Canada
July 14, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am greatly moved by your letter and by Weyl's. On the strength of them both I have written Mr. Bamberger because I do not like in view of past circumstances to take action without his knowledge, and indeed I have no legal authority to do so. Should he concur, I feelsure that the Executive Committee will ratify the action. I will communicate with Weyl and with you by wire as soon as I have a reply. I am sending you a copy of my letter to Mr. Bamberger.

I am gaining day by day, and Mrs. Flexner thinks that I look as well as I have ever looked in my life.

With kindest regards to you and Mrs. Veblen, in which Mrs. Flexner joins,

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin, Hancock County
Maine

AF:ESB

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx Magnetawan
xxxxxxxxxxx via Burks Falls
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx Ontario
Canada

July 11, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I received this morning the enclosed from The Open Road. The previous letter was sent to Lefschetz, whose present address I do not know. Inasmuch as I do not know Pontrjagin's full name and address and have not the files here, I am wondering if you have any way of giving Miss Heiman the information which she needs in order to make the arrangements which you and Lefschetz desire.

I send you also a letter from Lefschetz which I have been unable to answer up to now. As Lefschetz has probably left for his vacation, I confess I do not know what to do. You are free to write to Weaver in Paris if you think that is a more expeditious way of handling the matter than The Open Road.

I am mending quite rapidly in the calm, delicious weather of the Canadian camp. My nephew, who is a physician, came up here with me and thinks I am a star patient. Mrs. Flexner is returning within the next day or two. She reports herself as really well, the first time in several years when she has been so sanguine about her condition.

I hope that you and Mrs. Veblen are enjoying your open life and that you are not doing any undue amount of mathematics.

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin, Hancock County
Maine, U. S. A.

AF:ESB

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CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

10 July 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

This morning, as Elizabeth and I were going along a new path (the "Grande Corniche") which I have cut out by the shore, we heard a shrill voice calling. It was Mrs. Bowden who had come down to give us the following cablegram to her husband, Roy Bowden: "Please tell Veblen: Situation so threatening that I should accept visiting professorship Madrid December to April with regular leave from Goettingen if possible. Cable advice to Scherrer. Weyl"

After thinking over two or three alternatives I have composed the following cable in reply. "Have written to Flexner in Canada. Communications slow. Advise delaying Madrid as long as possible."

A few days ago I received a letter

from von Neumann dated June 19th. He had been in Germany for a few days and had visited Weyl "who as well as Mrs Weyl, is very unhappy of the present state of affairs in Germany, although his position seems not to be endangered. He told me how much he would like to leave that country for ever, and how he is hoping that there may be some opportunity for him to come back to Princeton. I brought a letter from him for you with me, as it seemed not advisable to send it by the German mail."

The letter from Weyl is enclosed herewith. I had been meaning to send it to you anyhow, and it now seems to me that it would be well for you to compare it with the cablegram. My impression is (1) that the situation in Goettingen must have got worse rather than better (2) that the Madrid offer has become

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definite and (3) that Weyl wants to be sure of being away from Göttingen at least for next year. I still think that he would be a tremendous addition to our forces and that he will be all the more useful now that both he and his wife are in no doubt about wanting to come. How would it be to offer him a grant-in-aid for the remainder of the year after his Swarthmore engagement?

His remarks on the last page ~~of his~~ and a half of his letter are particularly relevant to the ~~[illegible]~~ cablegram. Also I think you will find the postscript from Mrs. Weyl to the point.

Elizabeth joins in best wishes & greetings — don't Mrs. Flexner if she is there to receive them.

As ever,
Oswald Veblen

July 1, 1933

My dear Miss Fleming:

I had hoped to see you in Princeton after our moving there on May 25, but on account of Dr. Flexner's illness I was obliged to go to Baltimore in June and now I shall not get back to Princeton until the autumn. I am glad to say Dr. Flexner is gaining steadily, and he will carry on the Institute affairs from his place in Canada.

In a recent letter Professor Veblen encloses a typewritten carbon slip from National Academy of Sciences for reprints amounting to $15.49. I am not sure whether this is to be paid by me now or whether Princeton University has paid it, and I am to reimburse Princeton University. Of course the Institute will pay for the reprints (No. 4 Vol. 19), but which organization? If Princeton University or the National Academy of Sciences, are there likely to be other bills from these organizations during the summer? If so, I should prefer to send one check for the entire amount at the end of the summer. At your convenience, can you address me to Magnetawan, via Burks Falls, Ontario, Canada?

With much appreciation and with all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ESTHER S. BAMBERGER AM FLEXNER

Miss A. Fleming

July 1, 1933

My dear Miss Fleming:

I had hoped to see you in Princeton after our moving there on May 25, but on account of Dr. Flexner's illness I was obliged to go to Baltimore in June and now I shall not get back to Princeton until the autumn. I am glad to say Dr. Flexner is gaining steadily, and he will carry on the Institute affairs from his place in Canada.

In a recent letter Professor Veblen encloses a typewritten carbon slip from National Academy of Sciences for reprints amounting to $15.49. I am not sure whether this is to be paid by me now or whether Princeton University has paid it, and I am to reimburse Princeton University. Of course the Institute will pay for the reprints (No. 4 Vol. 19), but which organization? If Princeton University or the National Academy of Sciences, are there likely to be other bills from these organizations during the summer? If so, I should prefer to send one check for the entire amount at the end of the summer. At your convenience, can you address me to Magnetawan, via Burks Falls, Ontario, Canada?

With much appreciation and with all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ESTHER S. BAMBERGER AM FLEXNER

Miss A. Fleming

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CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

Brooklin, Hancock Co., Maine

22 June, 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

I was, on the whole, relieved to hear from Mrs. Bailey that you have had your tonsils out, for I have not thought you looked well this year and have thought that you needed to take better care of your health. And this, quite apart from the success of the operation, is pretty sure to lead to your doing it. Anyhow, here's to a rapid recovery and a good vacation!

From Mrs. Bailey's account it did not seem as if you were going to

have time for a visit to Brookline, but I still think it would be a ~~fine~~ good place for you to stop a short time, and it would be a ~~good place~~ great pleasure for us. The invitation still holds!

We ~~have~~ are now pretty well settled in our routine, though the workmen have not quite finished, and my spinning is going fairly well.

For your consideration sometime when you feel like it I enclose a bill for reprints. My idea is that reprints should be paid for and sent out by the Institute. In the past I have paid for the reprints ~~but~~ and the University has paid the postage and clerical expenses. This works all right in my case. But some people, as, for example, Alexander, will often send out no reprints or very few. The whole business should be, I think, in the hands of the secretary for the mathematical group. She might keep a blanket address list for the whole group and a supplementary

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list for each professor. She could also take charge of a collection of reprints for the Institute.

The Physical Review charge reprints to institutions rather than individuals, as a matter of principle.

Yours sincerely,

The reprints referred to in this bill are being sent out by Miss Fleming.

Note

BROOKLIN

HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

17 June 1933

Dear Mr Bailey:-

I am very sorry to hear that Dr. Flexner is not well. Please let me know how he gets along.

There is no occasion that I can see for his writing anything in answer to my recent letters. They merely transmitted information that I thought would interest him.

Here is another matter for his attention when he is well enough to bother with it – fortunately a very simple matter. I wish to recommend Dr. Robert L. Echols, 55 Christopher Street, New York,

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

for admission to the Institute as a student or "worker" – I am not sure whether the terminology has been settled. Dr. Echols is a Ph.D. from the Univ. of Virginia where his father is Professor of Mathematics. The young man has been to see me twice and has written several times. He makes a very good personal impression. I discouraged him from applying for a grant-in-aid because he has no published work to show, but encouraged the idea of coming on his own if he could

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

because he seemed to have a good deal of initiative and determination.

Hoping to have good news of Dr. Flexner,

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

(I still have plenty of Institute boys)

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CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

Brooklin,
Hancock Co.,
Maine.

13 June 1933

Dear Mrs Bailey:-

Thanks for yours of the 9th enclosing check for $5.95.

I enclose a letter regarding Dr. Blumenthal, who is to be with us next year, which may be useful for your records. May I suggest the advisability of your starting a card ~~index~~ index which will contain a record of the ~~data~~ personal history of each person connected with our scientific staff? Miss Fleming can show you what I mean. The P. ~~Math~~ dept. has kept such personnel cards for a number of years and I have found them very useful in writing letters of recommendation and in other ways.

Mrs Bleber - 93

When I left Princeton I neglected to leave a forwarding address with the telegraph office. Would it perhaps be well to ask them

to deliver all telegrams (especially cables) to you, so that you, or whoever you leave in charge could open them and use his judgement about forwarding them by mail or retelegraphing them. Telegrams for me can be sent to Roy A. Bowden, Brooklin, Maine and put in the form: "Tell Veblen ....."

This is all on the assumption that you are keeping someone in your office through the summer. Otherwise you can arrange with Mrs Fleming about forwarding mail. In any case I suppose that you will want to arrange with her about my telegrams as she is looking after my other mail. I take my request about telegrams is simpler than it sounds. Very likely there won't be any telegrams!

With best regards from us both,

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

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CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

6 June, 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

Here is a letter from Compton about Prof. Szász which I answered by suggesting that they try to get the Rockefeller Foundation to pay half.* I am not sure, however, but that it would be wise to enter into one or two such arrangements where they are clearly temporary. For example, in this case, to have Szász come to Princeton for part of the year. If the position is so clearly a travelling one it will make the obligation less to each institution concerned. It might be better for any two institutions to take ~~half a~~ two halves

* and adding that I thought it would be against your policy to phrase in such an arrangement.

of men each rather than one man each.

I return your correspondence with Vienna so that you may have the whole case before you. I hope there will be nothing for you to do. But I thought it just as well to indicate my lack of conviction as to the best policy.

Yours,

Oswald Veblen.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

When I was in Chicago, Dr. Albert remarked that he should be glad to have a note of his appointment for a year in the Institute appear in the Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society where such things are usually recorded. I think it would be a good idea to send a list of these grants-in-aid to Professor E. R. Hedrick, University of California at Los Angeles, California, who is Editor of the Bulletin. There ought, however, to be a distinction between cases like that of Albert and that of Bleick. Perhaps the simplest thing would be to leave the latter out entirely. In this sort of announcement I would not send the announcement in regular form to Hedrick but merely a note stating what the appointments are and then let Hedrick put the thing in in his own way.

Sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

I have turned everything regarding personnel that is still outstanding over to Alexander, and think that we have talked everything over so that he can handle anything that needs to be done. He will doubtless be here for another month.

May 31, 1933

Dear Professor Wiener:

Thank you for yours of the 18th, which I have been unable to answer more promptly because the moment it came we were getting ready to move our temporary New York offices to our permanent abode here in Princeton.

I shall forward the correspondence to Professor Veblen. This is one of scores of letters which I have received which have driven me almost to distraction. I have had some correspondence with President Compton on the subject of dismissed professors and also with President Mason of the Rockefeller Foundation, who has told me that the Foundation will coöperate with any university which desires to secure the services of dispossessed professors. I wonder if on these terms there is anything that you know of which would give Professor Szász a post sufficient at least to sustain him.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

AF:ESB

O. Veblen

xxxxxxxxxxx 20 Nassau Street
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx Princeton
xxxxxxxxxx New Jersey

May 29, 1933

Miss Agnes Fleming
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, N. J.

My dear Miss Fleming:

I send you herewith the Institute's check drawn to the order of Princeton University to cover postage, etc. for Professor Veblen.

$25

Very truly yours,

ESTHER S. BAILEY

May 29, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am sending Hedrick and Cattell a note, of which I enclose a copy. I prefer not to say anything about grants in aid, because, if we do, we will simply invite applications from Tom, Dick, and Harry with the result that you and Alexander will spend most of the time disposing of them. I believe that a "gumshoe" hunt on your part will be a more effective way of finding the type of person you are seeking.

We moved to Princeton Thursday. I was sorry to have just missed Levi-Civita. I have seen the Lefschetzes and Eisenharts and Alexanders and Ladenburgs. The offices are very neat and comfortable, quite adequate to our purposes. Their simplicity, as compared with the beauty of Fine Hall puts the Director in a subordinate position - where he properly belongs!

I have good news from Mrs. Flexner and Eleanor. They are now together in Austria and will in a month or a little more join me in Canada.

I am quite comfortable at the Inn where I don't know a human being.

Mrs. Bailey will add a postscript for Mrs. Veblen's benefit regarding the disposition she has made of herself.

With all good wishes to you both,

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

P.S. Dear Professor and Mrs. Veblen: This is just a line to tell you that I am very happily located at Mrs. Carnochan's and I am most grateful to you for the suggestion.

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CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

May 22, 1933.

Mrs. Esther Bailey
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

My dear Mrs. Bailey:

According to my account, I have spent $12.76 on telephone calls and cables on Institute business. The telephone calls are checked on the enclosed bill. In addition to these, there was a cablegram to Weyl which cost $3.56.

I have been freely using the Princeton Mathematics account for stamps etc. and this is all perfectly in order. I find, however, now that their account is going to run a little short. I think that it might be a good idea to send Miss Fleming something like $25 on account of our business. This will not cover my expenses for the year by any means because there is still a large number of reprints to send out some time next month on my behalf. But I think it will be enough to make her accounts come out even and that is all that is necessary. In fact it is best not to reckon these things up too closely.

Sincerely yours,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

Agnes Fleming

Veblen

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NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

May 22, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I return herewith your correspondance with and about Courant. Courant's letter seems to me an admirable one from the point of view of dignity and restraint. Ladenburg, who was in to see me a few minutes ago, says that he has had letters which lead him to expect that most of those dismissals will not become definitive until next October and by that time the results may be very much mitigated. I should think, however, that it is very likely that a man like Courant would prefer to leave, no matter whether he is formally allowed to stay or not.

re Your mark in your letter to President Gates about Courant's Huguenot ancestry might possibly be misunderstood. There is no doubt that Courant regards himself as a Jew.

I have had a letter from a Dr. C. B. Morrey applying for a position in the Institute and have replied by saying that in case he wishes me to, I will recommend him to you for a grant in aid of $750. I know him to be a very promising mathematician and Alexander concurs.

I have also answered an application from a Dr. T. S. Peterson at Pasadena in a somewhat less definite way. He is to send full information to Alexander. I am rather interested in him because his training ought to prepare him pretty well to follow the work that I am interested in just now. But I should like to have a little more information about him from the people with whom he has worked recently.

It looks now as if the relief work for the Jews and Liberals who are dispossessed in Germany would be handled through the office of the International

Institute for Education. At least that is what Dr. Duggan seems to think and my colleagues here think it is probably best not to interfere with that arrangement.

Elizabeth and I have now gathered up all the loose ends and should slip away from Princeton tomorrow or the next day. Our address is to be: Brooklin, Hancock County, Maine. I suppose that by the time we get to Brooklin, it will be in order to write to you at 20 Nassau Street.

Please give our best greetings to Mrs. Flexner and save some of them for yourself.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

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NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

May 19, 1933.

Mrs. Esther Bailey
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

My dear Mrs. Bailey:

I am sending you herewith material which I have received about a Miss Ozburn. Her scholastic qualifications seem to me to be quite good. I think the question as to whether she would satisfy the other conditions which we need could be settled much more satisfactorily by you than me. So I am turning the whole matter over to you.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

May 18, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I received this morning a note from Miss Katherine Ozburn, who sends me a copy of a letter she sent you. I have no recollection of having suggested that she write you, though of course I have no objection to her doing so.

I have also received a copy of the letter which you wrote McClung, and I am sending you copy of a letter which I wrote President Gates.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Princeton, N.J.
AF:GB

May 11, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I shall follow your suggestion, and when I hear from the National Research Council I shall write Mr. Blumenthal and inform him that he has been admitted to the Institute.

I should think Finley an excellent choice for the committee you have in mind, but the matter is not one which I myself can pursue.

Mrs. Bailey is planning to move the office to Princeton May 18. Thereafter, our address will be 20 Nassau Street.

I know of no particular message which we can send to Weyl at this time. Perhaps you have something in mind which does not occur to me.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Prof. Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, N.J.
AF:GB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

May 10, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I am enclosing a letter from Mr. Blumenthal who is coming next year as a National Research Fellow. I presume that you will receive some kind of an inquiry from the Board as to whether you wish to admit him. I think he is a promising mam and hope that he will be admitted to the Institute.

I heard from Mason to the effect that Fosdick will not act on our committee and the idea now is to see whether Vincent will do so. Mason has offered to telephone to him on the subject. Taylor and I and perhaps one or two others are coming in Friday morning for an engagement with Mason at 10:30. If you are not too busy, I at least, would like to look you up during the day. I should like to get this matter under way and into the hands of someone else as soon as possible. The people here with whom I have spoken, (Taylor, Conklin, Eisenhart, Alexander, Capps) all feel that the plan for the committee is a good one and only requires leadership from what might be called the New York end.

One point about which I should like to speak with you is the question whether we should send messages to Weyl in the keeping of Taylor when he goes to Germany.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

Vincent declines. Capps is writing to John Finley.

May 10, 1933.

Dr. Simon Flexner
Rockefeller Foundation
66 Street and York Avenue
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Since our conversation in Washington about the problem as to what can be done to help the Jews and Liberals who are driven out of their positions in Germany, I have talked with a few of my colleagues here and some others. The idea which seems to receive most favor is that of having a committee for the natural sciences which should be composed in a large part of what the Germans would call Aryan scientists, together with a few men of affairs who would know how to raise funds. The idea would be to distribute the German scientists who are helped in various countries in such a way as not to cause an undue concentration anywhere but so as to allow them to continue their scientific work. The scientific membership of the committee could be selected in such a way that the committee would possess first hand knowledge of the individuals who are to be helped.

No formal protest of any sort would be made but the existence of the committee and the nature of its membership would, I think, in the course of a year or two, have a good deal of practical value as a protest.

I went to see your brother about this matter day before yesterday and he sent me to Mr. Fosdick whom I asked whether he would be willing to serve as chairman of the committee. He brought forward the difficulty which I had of course expected that he was so closely connected with the Rockefeller organizations and said that he would like to talk the matter over with Max Mason. Mason telephoned to me yesterday morning about the general question without saying anything about Fosdick. I put the question to him rather strongly by saying that I did not know where else to go in order to find the necessary leadership for such a committee. Mason promised to call me up later in the day but no message has yet come from him. I hope to hear from him today but I thought I would like to get this letter

off to you so that you will be prepared in case I try to consult you about the matter tomorrow or the next day.

I am hoping to leave for Maine some time next week but would like to see if someone capable of carrying out some sort of a relief undertaking for the German scientists can not be enlisted before I go. Do you suppose that Vincent might do it?

Yours sincerely,

O. Veblen.

OV/AF

Princeton, New Jersey.

May 10, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

In writing to you yesterday I neglected to authorize you to proceed with binding the periodicals in the way you suggest.

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Prof. Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, N.J.
AF:GB

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CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

May 9, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I am returning herewith the letter from Mr. Beth. As I told you yesterday, I have seen a copy of the Frankfurter Zeitung which contains a complete list of the professors who were turned out at Frankfurt and other places. This list does not contain Professor Hellinger's name. I therefore think there is some hope that he has not been driven out.

I tried to reach you by telephone yesterday afternoon after I left Mr. Fosdick but it was too late. He seemed to approve of our plan and wishes to talk it over with Mason. I think at the very least, we will have accomplished something by bringing our point of view more clearly to the attention of the Rockefeller group. I should like, if possible, to get something started within a few days so that I can get off to Maine and my spinors.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

If Fosdick won't do it, how about Vincent? Have you any other suggestion. It is essential to find someone of this type to take charge if the whole idea is not going to fail.

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CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

May 6, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Eisenhart is very pleased with the way in which you have handled the matter of the compensation for the use of Fine Hall and I am also, of course.

Shall I go ahead and arrange for the binding of the periodicals which I am turning over to the Institute? I should think a buckram binding would be most practical. This costs something like $1.50 a volume here. It is what I have been using for my own books.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

May 6, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I received Silverman's telegram yesterday afternoon, and this morning comes your letter, which seems to be at variance with it. I continue to believe that the honors go to the musicians and the British authors rather than to the American scientists. But I also admit that I may be mistaken. Whether a committee could, under existing circumstances, raise any considerable sum of money I confess I do not know.

Recurring to Silverman's telegram, I think you can say: first, the number of those who have lost their posts in Germany is so great that under conditions existing in America there is no human possibility of taking care of them; second, that the mathematical group of the Institute is settled for next year and there is nothing that the Institute can do that will be of any moment.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:GS

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CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

May 5, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I talked with Taylor about Dr. Farkas this morning. Taylor regards Farkas as a very good man and indeed has borrowed the copy of Farkas' last paper which is on a subject closely related to Taylor's own work. He was not, however, able to suggest anything that could be done immediately for Farkas.

We also discussed the general question about what could be done to help some of the dispossessed. Taylor thinks as do practically all of the people whom I have consulted, that it would do more harm than good to make any sort of formal protest. On the other hand, we agreed that some kind of a committee to raise funds for the purpose of enabling some of them to live and continue their scholarly work in the countries adjacent to Germany or elsewhere might be feasible. The existence of such a committee would in itself be an eloquent protest. I suppose that the actual funds would mostly come from the wealthy Jews but it might be helpful to have a number of scientific men on such a committee. I think there would be no difficulty in finding several such people in this neighborhood.

Taylor himself is sailing for England in about two weeks and expects to make a visit to Bonhoeffer in Germany. He would be glad to serve as a sort of laison officer for such a committee if it is desired. If you thought it desirable, we could doubtless get him to make a visit to Göttingen.

Taylor says that there already is a committee of this sort in Chicago of which President Hutchins is the Chairman. He suggests that Raymond Fosdick might be a suitable man to head a corresponding committee in New York.

I have written to Julian Coolidge at Harvard to see how he would react to the idea of such a committee. You ~~might~~ may recall that he and I collaborated in raising the endowment fund for the Mathematical Society.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

OV/AF

May 5, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I shall take up with the Executive Committee at once the question of endorsing the arrangements which you and Eisenhart have arrived at. It seems to me at least fair to the Institute and generous on the part of the University.

I had a letter from Haber a few weeks ago, asking me to find a place for one of his assistants who he thought would have to be dropped. Apparently he was not uneasy about his own post. Now, alas, that has gone: doubtless, because he had a Jewish great grandfather, or something of that kind.

It is not possible at this time to go ahead with another department. First, I want a year in which to see how the Mathematical School works out. Second, I am not sufficiently familiar with the personnel available in this country or in Europe in other departments. Third, profoundly as I sympathize with Germans, I do not believe that we can have our hands forced by the happenings over there - anything we can do would be only a drop in the bucket - and we must proceed as we proceeded with you and Alexander, by giving opportunities to Americans, if it is possible to find them.

There is no nationalistic feeling in this. Only a profound concern that we may in the long run build up in America a

cultural center comparable to those of Europe. Neither Oxford nor Paris, nor Rome, Berlin or Vienna would be what it is if it had started solely with foreign talent, - though they have always, all of them, utilized and absorbed foreigners.

We must not forget that we are training young Americans for academic posts, and we would simply suppress American effort if they were cut off from these posts.

The financial details I leave to be arrangedbetween you and Mrs. Bailey.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:GS

P.S.-Since writing the above I have conferred with the Executive Committee and I am writing Eisenhart that we propose to pay $6,000 a year in monthly installments of $500, beginning September 1.

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CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

May 4, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I return herewith the letter from Weyl and the correspondence with Dr. Bleick. I have kept the copy of your letter to Dr. Zangger but I will return it if you wish. I should think this letter would put Weyl at his ease as far as it is possible to do so. His fear that he would have to take over the Directorship of the Institute at Gottingen is probably well founded for Bohr's information that Courant has been "given a leave of absence" seems to be quite definite. I have suggested Courant's name in a couple of places where they need a man to build up a mathematics department. He would be ideal for such an undertaking.

I think it very likely that Neugebauer will also be dismissed because he is well known as a radical in politics. I believe it is quite true that he occupies a unique position as an historian of mathematics.

I am going to talk with Taylor of our Chemistry Department about Farkas. I seem to remember that the chemists think very highly of him. I suppose you noticed in the morning paper that Haber himself has resigned.

I can't help returning to the point that if the funds could be made available ~~to spend~~, now would be a golden opportunity for starting some of the other departments. But this idea is so obvious that you have doubtless already considered it from all points of view.

Mrs. Bailey's account of the grants in aid in her letter of May 3rd agrees entirely with my notes on the subject except that there should also be set aside $1200 for travelling and extra expenses in the case of Pontryagin. You will recollect that we agreed with Lefschetz that a total of $3000 should be available for this case and we decided to make the stipend small in order

to have a good large reserve on account of the pecularities in his situation. Contrary to what I wrote in one of my letters last week, this means that we have now disposed of $500 out of our additional $5000.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

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4 May 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

I have spoken with Eisenhart about the arrangements in Fine Hall. We agreed without difficulty that there would be a room for each of the professors; that Vanderslice would have to share with someone else, presumably Torrence; that the junior group would be treated evenly except that Mayer would get special consideration; that it is better to keep the arrangements for the junior people fluid for a while longer.

Eisenhart thought that

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$5000 would be about right as the yearly contribution from the Institute. I think it should be at least that. It would be to our advantage to make it large enough so that the Univ. authorities and the mathematical-physical group would be loath to see the arrangement terminated.

About the use of the money Eisenhart means first to consult Miss Jones, who will be interested in its being used for the purposes which the donors of Fine Hall had in mind,

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and then his Trustees committee.
This step will of course wait until he hears from you.

Ever,
Oswald Veblen

Mr. Shelton

May 3, 1933

My dear Professor Veblen:

I have compiled the following list from the material which we have received. In some cases I am not sure of the exact amounts or the dates when first payment should be made. Will you please let me know regarding these items and also if there are any additional names that should be included?

Grants in Aid, 1933-1934

Name	Amount of Grant	Date (first payment)
A. A. Albert Chicago	$2,000.00	July 1933
W. E. Bleick	750.00	October 1933
K. Gödel	2,500.00	October 1933
(Travel)	500.00	?
L. S. Pontrjagin	1,800.00 travel 1,200	?
T. Y. Thomas	2,250.00	October 1933
E. R. Van Kampen	2,500.00	October 1933
R. L. Wilder Michigan	2,000.00	?
	14 3 000	

I am sending you the correspondence with Mr. Bleick and his acceptance, which Dr. Flexner wishes you to see. Won't you please return these letters at your convenience?

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

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May 3, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I enclose herewith a letter from Professor Wilder formally accepting the grant-in-aid.

According to my calculations, the grant to Mr. Bleick exactly uses up the original $15,000 and we have not touched the $5000 appropriated at the last meeting of the Board.

Dresden writes me that he will be in Princeton next Sunday and I expect to return his letter from Weyl to him at that time.

Professor Bohr was here yesterday and this morning and talked with several of us about the German situation at great length. I gather that he also told you all of the essential details. I hope I may have a chance to talk with you about these matters again before long.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

May 2, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I wonder if there is anyone at Princeton who would be interested in the enclosed which comes to me from Professor Farkas at Dahlem.

We are certainly in the devil of a fix. Unable to care for our own younger men, we are pressed by applications from foreign countries. It seems to me clear that we must in the first place endeavor to find work for those whom we have encouraged to train themselves in this country on the theory that, if they were worthy, there would be jobs waiting for them. Until we have done that, what else can we do? Our opportunities for making places for foreigners are therefore at the moment limited to a few outstanding personages such as Einstein and Weyl, from whom, by the way, I have another letter which I am enclosing with my reply thereto. As you will note, I am not writing him to Göttingen, but I am replying to him via Professor Zangger.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

May 1, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am sending you today copy of a letter which I have written Mr. Bleick; and also a letter of April 20 from Weyl to Dresden. Will you please return the latter to me or to Dresden as you prefer.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Prof. Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, N.J.
AF:GB - E

April 27, 1933

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

My dear Professor Veblen:

Your letter of March 6, 1933, stating that you desire to donate to the Institute for Advanced Study sets of back numbers of scientific journals and to add subsequent volumes to these sets, was presented by Dr. Flexner to the Board of Trustees at the meeting held April 24. I am authorized to inform you that the Trustees accepted the gift with pleasure and requested that their thanks be expressed to you. The journals will be bound at the expense of the Institute and properly labeled with the Institute bookplate.

Very truly yours,

ESTHER S. BAILEY

Assistant Secretary

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CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

April 20, 1933.

Mrs. Esther Bailey
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

My dear Mrs. Bailey:

Could you send two copies each of Bulletin number 1 and 2 to my sister, Miss Gertrude Veblen, Hampshire Arms Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is a librarian and has had a good many inquiries which this would help her to answer.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

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CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

April 12, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I think you will be safe in replying to Mr. Katz, whose letter I am returning herewith, by saying that his work lies outside the field of interest of the Institute.

I communicated with Aydelotte as you suggested but his Committee decided that it was not advisable to renew the Swarthmore invitation to Weyl for next year. I expect that Aydelotte will talk with you about the matter when he sees you. After consulting Eisenhart and Lefschetz, I sent the following cablegram: "Have consulted Flexner. Offer can not be renewed now. Shall I seek another arrangement even if temporary?"

The point of the last sentence is that in case Weyl is in real difficulties, I think it not unlikely that something could be done about it. At least, I should wish to try. His cablegram, however, is explicitly answered by my second sentence. What I received from him I enclose a copy of.

I enclose herewith the letter from Bernays which I have answered by saying that there is no opening in the Institute.

I am leaving tonight for Chicago and Minneapolis and expect to be back in Princeton in time for your visit.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

Elizabeth has just read over the 'phone a letter from W. which I mean to forward to you.

Copy of cablegram from Weyl for Dr. Flexner.

"Ist erneuerung des rufs auf Mai denbar dann brauchte ich nicht Zurueck und kaeme direkt schwierigkeit visum familie in Deutschland umstaende draengen briefe unterwegs erwarte provisorische Antwort an Plancherel."

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CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

April 6, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I should be glad to anything that I can to assist the Committee on Site on its visit next Saturday. If you could let me know by telegram or telephone the train on which you arrive, I will meet you with my new car.

I have just heard from Professor Wilder that his leave of absence has been granted by the University of Michigan and that he is ready to accept the grant in aid offered him in my letter of January 7th. I enclose herewith a copy of my letter of January 7th and also a copy of a statement about his salary contained in a letter from him to me dated December 28th. In reply to ~~this~~ last letter I have asked him to send me up to date information on this point.

I am not sure whether it is ~~best~~ better for you to correspond directly with Wilder or with the Chairman of his Department, Professor J. W. Glover.

I agree perfectly with what you say about the admission of students to the Institute and it is on exactly that basis that I recommend that Mr. Bleick be admitted. Whether Mr. Bleick should receive any sort of a stipend is a question which ought to wait until we have had a chance to discuss the question further. I think he should receive one if one is available and if we stick to the program which we discussed a couple of months ago. I think there is no particular hurry about that question but I believe it would be advisable to admit him as a student without much delay.

In yesterday's mail there was a long letter from Weyl and a short but significant one from Bernays of Gottingen which I should like to discuss with you when I see you.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

April 7, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am enclosing a letter from Miss Mabel Schmeiser, with a copy of my own reply thereto.

Your letter to Wilder seems to me to be entirely satisfactory. I am afraid we may get our wires crossed if we both correspond with him. I shall leave the matter in your hands.

I am very happy indeed that my letter clears up the question about admitting students, - or workers, as I prefer to call them.

I hope that the weather is good tomorrow so that we can make the trip to Princeton. Ifit is bad we shall call it off.

I wonder just what Weyl and Bernays wrote you.

My mail abounds in complimentary notes about the little bulletin. Without intending to do so, I have evidently done something unusual, - namely, mentioning the professors without a long rigmarole about their previous posts and performances. It will appear from my correspondence that it pays not to advertise, contrary to usual academic practice.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:GS

COPY FOR DR. FLEXNER

January 7, 1933.

Professor R. L. Wilder
1308 Olivia Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Dear Wilder:

I had a talk with Dr. Flexner yesterday and as a result I am authorized to make you the following offer. In case the University of Michigan grants you sabbatical leave at half pay, the Institute for Advanced Study will give you a position for the academic year 1933-34 at a salary sufficient to provide the other half. Thus you will be able to spend a year in the Institute at the same salary as you would have had in the University.

The primary purpose of such an appointment would be, of course, to give you an opportunity to get on with your scientific work. You would, however, be likely to be called on to help members of the Institute in their work. For example, there may be some work to do in connection with the Annals of Mathematics.

I hope thiw will afford a solution of your problem.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) O. Veblen.

Statement from Professor Wilder's letter of December 8, 1932, to Professor Veblen.

"For the past three years I have received $4000 annually, and according to agreement was to have received $4500 this year. Instead, due to a decrease in university funds, I have taken an 8% cut on my former salary, so that I now get $3680. It looks as though we shall take a further cut next year, although we shall not know definitely until some time after the state legislature meets in January."

April 5, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am wondering precisely what qualifications lead you to think that Bleick deserves a grant in aid of $1,000. Can you send me a line of explanation? There is nothing we can do as to further grants in aid until the Board meets on April 24.

The question of admitting students is, I think, a simple one. There is a certain amount of money available for grants in aid. This the mathematical group will administer, and I shall simply exercise a formal oversight, as I think I am in duty bound to do. Beyond this you can admit anyone who seems to you thoroughly worth while at his own expense, if such people there be. My great concern is that you should not burden yourself with routine. Keep all the time you need for your own development and for coöperation with the selected persons whom you want to help in your own way, giving some of them of course not much time and others as much more as they seem to you to need. Can you improve upon this suggestion? If so, do not hesitate to do it.

If the weather is fair, the Committee on Site wishes to visit Princeton next Saturday. I will wire you the hour at which we shall arrive at the Princeton Inn.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

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April 4, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I expect to be back from Chicago by Wednesday the 19th but shall probably start for Washington on the following Saturday. In all probability I can be at your service on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. So far as I can see now these three days will be equally good for our talks. I think it will be best for me to try to keep them all free. This also has incidental advantages for me which you can imagine.

I have a letter from Mr. Bleick asking whether he will be admitted to the Institude as a student next year. I presume that it is necessary for him to make his plans somewhat definitely. So I am replying by saying that I will recommend to you that he be admitted and I am also sending him a copy of Bulletin number 2.

How should we handle this question of admitting people as students?

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

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Ab

April 3, 1933.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I wasn't able to draw any clear inference as to Mr. Brigham's quality from his note on the trisection problem. I could probably tell much better by talking with him and should be glad to do so if he will come to see me.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Oswald
Veblen
IV-21

April 1, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

It really takes a professor of mathematics to arrange dates.

I have very foolishly agreed to make a speech here, - a thing which I practically never do, but I could not refuse an old friend, - on the evening of Tuesday, April 18.

Mrs. Flexner and I will go to Princeton Wednesday, the 19th, and stay until Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning. As I figure it, you and I can easily get in a day during this period. If my mathematics are at fault, won't you please let me know?

Mrs. Bailey will come down on one of those days in order to look around at office possibilities. Perhaps she can do that best the day you and I have our confabulation. What day do you prefer?

Always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

P.S. When you have reached a conclusion, please tell Eisenhart and Alexander. A.F.

AF:GS

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

March 30, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

Do you think that Mr. Brigham shows in his approximate trisection evidence of mathematical ability good for something much more than problem solving? Would it pay him to try to see you?

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

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CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

March 29, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I have glanced at the note about Mr. Frank Brigham. It is an approximate trisection of an angle. It is a subject which has been much discussed. What he has looks like an ingenuous device and while I have not verified the details, it has all the earmarks of being correct. There is, of course, no mathematical interest in this sort of thing at the present time so far as I can tell. It belongs, as classified in this journal, under the head of "problem solving".

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AD

March 29, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

Thank you for letting me know about your dates in April. I shall so time my visit to Princeton as not to conflict with them.

Miss Scheuber has had six years of German and three years of French. It may be that during her eleven years of work in this city she is rusty, but, if, after she sees you, you approve of her, I shall suggest that she polish up her foreign languages.

The Institute will undoubtedly carry the entire salary of Dr. Vanderslice next year, but under existing conditions let us promise nothing further to anybody until the skies are clearer. I do not believe you have any conception of the amount of uneasiness that prevails in this city. I do not know to what extent it is really justified. All I can do is to play safe.

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

(FOUNDED BY LOUIS BAMBERGER AND MRS. FELIX FULD, 1930)

TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

March 28, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I have your two letters of March 27th. Dr. Vanderslice assures me that he is not married. This inquiry reminded me of the fact that next year he should be carried fully by the Institute. So far as I can judge now, $1500 will be a suitable salary. I should expect, however, that in general we should have to pay a larger salary than this for an assistant of the sort that I should like to have.

I just wanted to be quite definite about the status of the $5000. I will go ahead and try to have ready a set of recommendations when the time comes without having made any thing that looks like a commitment.

It sounds as if Miss Schueber would be quite suitable. The only qualification which you did not mention was that with respect to other languages than English and with her education I suppose it is likely that she could learn French and German if she does not know them already.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

P. S. Your telegram about the Bulletin No. 2 has just been received and Miss Fleming is returning the package according to your request.

OV/AF

1228 A

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March 28, 1933

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Please return to Oxford University Press 114 Fifth Avenue New York package of Bulletins Number two that pages may be cut and size made to conform to first Bulletin

Abraham Flexner

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

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WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS SOLVE THE PERPLEXING QUESTION OF WHAT TO GIVE.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

(FOUNDED BY LOUIS BAMBERGER AND MRS. FELIX FULD, 1930)

TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

March 27, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

My dear Dr. Flexner:

I think I had better let you know about two engagements which I have next month which will take me away from Princeton. The first is to attend the meeting of the American Mathematical Society in Chicago on the 14th and 15th. One of the sessions is to be in commemoration of my old teacher, E. H. Moore, and I am to make one of the speeches. I expect also to read a paper on spinors on the regular program. Very likely I shall stay a day or two after the meeting and make a visit to my sister in Minneapolis. At the end of the month there are the meetings of the American Philosophical Society and the National Academy of Sciences running along from the 21st to the 26th. I expect to be in Washington for the Fellowship Board meeting on the 23rd. The mathematical members of the Board will probably have a preliminary caucus in Chicago on the 15th or thereabouts.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

OV/AF

Chicago April 14, 15
Minneapolis April 16, 17 ?
meeting April 21 - 26

March 27, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am very glad that you and I see eye to eye on this question of the form which our responsibility should take. Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld were very anxious from the outset that no distinction should be made as respects race, religion, nationality, etc., and of course I am in thorough sympathy with their point of view, but on the other hand if we do not develop America, who is going to do it, and the question arises how much we ought to do for others and how much to make sure that civilization in America advances. The matter has been very, very much on my mind, and I do not know that any two persons would solve it in exactly the same way. I can only say that I am glad to be assured that you realize that my mind is as wide open as it can possibly be, and in these days in view of the incredible things happening in Germany we do not wish to brand ourselves as nationalists in any way whatsoever.

I have been talking with Tisdale on the telephone. He is going out shortly on a tour which will include Princeton. That will give you and Lefschetz a chance to talk with him.

For the convenience of the Treasurer Mrs. Bailey makes requisitions twice a month. This has enabled us to keep down organization and overhead. These requisitions are made about the 10th and 25th of the month, so that Princeton will

receive the first quarterly payment on account of the Annals about April 15. Subsequently the checks will be sent on the first day of each quarter.

Mrs. Bailey has been also looking about in order to find a person who could be equally useful to the School of Mathematics and to herself when the mathematicians did not require her help. She has tried to find an educated woman with a leaning in the direction of mathematics who has had secretarial experience. With the help of her college dean, she has found a Miss Scheuber, a graduate of St. Lawrence University (with high honors), who majored in mathematics and science. Miss Scheuber has had only one position which she has kept during eleven years and has been promoted straight along. I saw her the other day. She is an excellent stenographer, though the material which I dictated to her was very unfamiliar, is pleasant and very presentable - about thirty-five years of age, I should think, and a resident of New Jersey. Of course, Mrs. Bailey will see Miss Gray when she goes down to Princeton, but I have the feeling that with Miss Scheuber we will be taking no chances and that you and your associates will have a really first-rate person to help you. Of course, before she is engaged, you and Alexander at least will have the opportunity to see her.

No action has yet been taken in respect to the appropriation of $5,000 which you suggested, inasmuch as there has been no meeting of the Board and will be none until the 24th of April. I have of course no power to authorize any commitment in advance of action of the Board. Under ordinary circumstances, I should feel very sure that there would be no difficulty, but there is so much nervousness here over the financial situation that I feel that in the matter of expenditures I must defer to those who know more about investments, income, and outlook than I [illegible]. In the long run - which I h[illegible] will not be a very long run -

everything will be all right, and for the present everything is surely all right with us, but the one thing that I do not want is that you or I or any person connected with the Institute shall ever have the slightest concern as respects money.

With all good wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.
CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

March 25, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I forgot to answer two of your inquiries in my letter yesterday.

I think that the payment to the American Mathematical Society should be made at once and should be continued annually.

The payment for the Annals of Mathematics I think might well be made quarterly beginning the first of April. The check should be made out to the Treasurer of Princeton University and accompanied by a statement that it is for the account of the Annals of Mathematics.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

(FOUNDED BY LOUIS BAMBERGER AND MRS. FELIX FULD, 1930)

TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

March 24, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I think I agree with you completely in your attitude with regard to American versus foreign appointments. The considerations which you adduce seem to be decisive. Also I appreciate your desire to be cautious in view of the present economic situation.

I have been expressing interest in Dirac in spite of the very small chance that he could be moved because he is a) young, b) extremely able, and c) interested in questions which are close to those being studied by Einstein, von Neumann and myself. I really think that the most we could hope to do would be to get him here for a single term once in a while.

I mention Wiener largely because of a desire to be fair. He seems to be now the most deserving American who is available and he would bring into our group an element which we lack (the sort of analysis of which Hardy is an exponent).

Should we wait with further junior appointments until the additional $5000 has been actually appropriated? I have about come to the conclusion that Mr. Bleick should be given a $1000. scholarship or fellowship. He will receive the Ph. D. in Chemistry this year and wants to continue in mathematical physics. There would be no point in his taking a Ph. D. over again. Therefore, as he looks like an able man, I think he would be an appropriate student for the Institute and just about at a good point in his development to make use of the opportunities.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

March 20, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

Being housebound by the storm yesterday I got to thinking about my note to you, dated March 17. I wondered if you would interpret it as meaning that I am at all nationalistic. Of course, I am not, but I do not see how we can lose sight of the fact that, whatever we may do for foreigners, we must try to develop American culture and civilization. Take yourself and Alexander, for instance. Is it not something that we can give two Americans like you the opportunity to do the best that lies within you? Would we be doing as well if we had instead of you two German Jews, let us say, for whom God knows I should like to do everything in my power? Where shall we draw the line? I do not know. Perhaps no two persons would draw it in the same place, but this I know that, if America is to be worth while, we must in the course of time create an American culture comparable in volume and value to English culture, French culture, Italian culture, and German culture. We can only do this if in the main we seek out Americans and give them every opportunity. Meanwhile, I think we should lose no opportunity to supplement what Americans can do by drawing sometimes temporarily, sometimes permanently, upon the best that other nations have produced.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen

March 17, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I thank you for yours of the 16th. I shall be very happy indeed to bring Lefschetz and Tisdale together as soon as I get in touch with Tisdale.

I have been giving a good deal of thought to our conversation of the other day, namely, as to the development of the mathematical group. It seems to me that we must leave open the question of expansion for the reasons which I gave you at that time. There is another consideration, however. We have got to fulfill two functions, namely - (1) enable our professors to continue their research under the most feasible possible circumstances; (2) enable them to train a few young men, mainly Americans. If we can not, in other words, make an American contribution to mathematics, the contribution which we can make by taking care here and there of a foreigner will be very slight. We have got to do what the Germans did during the 19th century, namely, make American Wissenschaft respectable. That is our prime and essential function. Hence we must look about among our 120 millions of Americans for young men who may be worthy of development.

Mrs. Flexner quite understood why you had to run away. We both hope we can very soon make our visit to Princeton.

I hope that Professor Einstein was not too trying today.

With all good wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

March 18, 1933

P.S.
Since dictating the above I have yours of the 17th regarding Dirac. I do not feel inclined to make any move at the present moment. Our first task is, I am sure, to get the present mathematical nucleus to work. Dirac is young and will be available almost any time in the future.

Please let me know when we should remit to the American Mathematical Society, also when we should make a payment to Princeton University in connection with the Annals of Mathematics and whether a check for the whole amount, semi-annual, or quarterly payments. A.F.

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF: ESB

THE NASSAU CLUB
PRINCETON, N.J.

17 March 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

Einstein says that he considers Dirac the best possible choice for another chair in the Institute. He would like to see us try for D. even if the chance of getting him is very small. He rates him ahead of everyone else in their field. He places Pauli of Zurich second, apparently.

On further consideration of ways and means, he thought it might be good policy to invite him for a term, say, so as not to ask for a major decision at once. Why not invite him for the term from Oct. to Christmas at $5000? These ~~is rates~~ are

the terms on which he was in Princeton in the fall of 1931.

It would be extraordinarily interesting to see the two of them in action together.

Dirac would be no problem. He knows how to look after himself in Princeton.

The younger Mr. Bamberger seems very nice.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

March 16, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
100 East 42nd Street
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I return herewith your letters from Lillie and Tisdale.

I have spoken with Professor Robertson about Rashevsky. He is, as I am, disposed to agree with what Lillie says except as to the matter of "realism". We don't either of us know anything that Rashevsky has done in relativity theory or quantum theory which has forced itself into general attention. Our impression is that his contributions remain rather speculative. On the other hand, there seems little doubt that he is competent in several directions and gifted with some originality.

I think it would be a good idea to have Tisdale make a visit to Princeton if he can find time to do it. I should like, if possible, to get him into a better relationship with Lefschetz.

I hope that you will soon be in shape to make the long deferred visit here. The weather is beautiful today. Also please present my apologies to Mrs. Flexner for rushing off so unceremoniously last evening.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen
J.

OV/AF

March 14, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

Yours of the 13th comes this morning just as I was getting ready to send a word to you. I had an attack of the grippe about two weeks ago and am not thoroughly recovered from it yet - the bad weather being doubtless an important factor in holding me back. The doctor has absolutely put his foot down on my going to Princeton for a few days at the end of this week, which I had looked forward to doing. I shall, however, come down and have a talk with you and Alexander and look about for offices just as soon as the weather is propitious.

I do not believe that I shall have a moment's opportunity to talk with Einstein during his brief visit to New York. In addition, as I wrote you yesterday, I believe it sound policy to make no further moves until the financial situation is a good deal sounder than it now is.

Mr. Maass and President Aydelotte, who have the site question in hand, have both been active, but unluckily Mr. Maass also has been ill for the past two weeks, and it will be another week or so before he is able to move about freely. Mr. Maass, who is himself impressed with the feasibility of some of the proposed sites, has, I think, the feeling that we will gain financially rather than lose by waiting.

Always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

(See next page.)

P.S.
I am enclosing a letter from Tisdale.
A.F.

P.S. # 2
Many thanks for your reprint on Projektive Relativitätstheorie. I shall read myself to sleep with it tonight.
A.F.

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

13 March 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

May I remind you that you were going to consult with Einstein about the desirability of P. A. M. Dirac for a chair of Mathematical Physics?

I have become much more favorable to Norbert Wiener than I was. Would favor him for a post coordinate with Alexander and von Neumann if you judged further expansion in Math. justifiable. He covers a distinct field of his own.

If we are going to have ins-

up the land question. At least two of the proposed sites seem good to me.

None of these remarks require an answer.

Ever,

Oswald Veblen.

March 11, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am sending you a letter which I have just had from Professor Weyl and a copy of my answer thereto. Please return Professor Weyl's letter.

I hope you experienced no difficulty in cashing your salary check. Mrs. Bailey and I have had ours returned to us, so we are both "broke" but happy. We have redeposited them and they will be all right in a few days.

You will now understand why I was uneasy months ago when I wrote you that I felt by no means sure that this country would remain on the gold standard. With all the pretense to the contrary, we are off the gold standard. Luckily the Institute has so wide a margin that you need fear absolutely no fear, but I propose to limit our expenditures rigidly in order that there may never be the slightest doubt or worry concerning our ability to meet our obligations.

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

March 8, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

A slight attack of the grippe interfered with my replying to yours of the third and sixth.

The delay in sending the salary checks was due to the fact that Mr. Leidesdorf was out of town and that the matter was held up pending his return. It does not mean that we are financially embarrassed. I shall see to it in future that the Assistant Treasurer attends to matters of this kind in Mr. Leidesdorf's absence.

Mrs. Bailey will see Miss Gray on her next visit to Princeton when we will have to look out for office quarters for ourselves next year.

I think you are extremely generous in the matter of the scientific journals. I feel perfectly sure that the Board will accept your offer, which I shall bring to their attention at the forthcoming meeting. We have already had 10,000 bookplates made, so that the journals can be properly marked.

When I come to Princeton on the 18th or 19th, I shall talk to you on the subject of the Cambridge appointments.

Mrs. Bailey tells me that in making your income tax report you should put down the total amount without deduction of your contribution towards the retiring allowance. When you do actually retire, your retiring allowance

will be exempted from taxation should the present law then be in existence. Mrs. Bailey figures that you have thus far received from the Institute $5,000, salary for four months, September 1 - December 31, 1932.

With all good wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

(FOUNDED BY LOUIS BAMBERGER AND MRS. FELIX FULD, 1930)

TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.
CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

March 6, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I return herewith your correspondence with Dr. Bender. It seems to me that he does not have enough achievement to justify giving him a grant of any kind. His paper seems to me like an outline of a program rather than a result on which we can base any judgment as to his competence. I have, however, to speak as a mathematician and not as a physicist.

I have not returned his reprint as I presume it is easier to stick it in my collection of such things than in yours. But if you let me know that you wish it returned, I will forward it at once.

Bound 6.

I have two or three sets of back numbers of scientific journals which I should be glad to present to the Institute on the following terms: They should be bound at the expense of the Institute and labeled either with a book plate or with an inscription on the binding stating they were property of the Institute and kept for the present in my office in Fine Hall available for my use and that of other members of the Institute. I would expect to keep up my subscriptions and add the subsequent volumes to the sets.

The following scheme has occurred to me as being perhaps a desirable one for bringing to the Institute a continuous supply of junior members. Several of the colleges in Cambridge (England) have research fellowships which pay their incumbents 300 pounds a year together with residence quarters and dinners. These appointments last for something like three years, one of which may be spent away from Cambridge at the will of the incumbent. It appears that a grant of approximately $1000 would be enough to enable the holder of one of these fellowships to spend a year in the Institute. I gather from conversations with two of these men who are now in the United States (one at Princeton and the other at M. I. T. working with Norbert Weiner) that there would be a

good deal of interest in such a plan. Possibly we might use a part of the $5000 which I understand is to be available this Spring in this way.

In making my income tax report, should I put down the nominal amount of my salary or should I put down the total received after the deduction to be paid toward the retiring allowance?

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

$ 1250 4 mos. Sept. 1 - Dec. 31
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100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.
CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

March 3, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I enclose herewith a letter which was forwarded to me by someone in Princeton University and obviously should go to you. I also return the statement about the Society of Fellows.

Last week I had a visit from a Miss Cray who would like to get a stenographic position in the Institute. She made a good impression. Also I know two of her brothers as hard working, respectable citizens.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

Princeton, N. J.

March 3, 1933

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

My dear Professor Veblen:

I am sending you herewith Dr. Vanderslice's salary check for the month of February 1933 and duplicate of deposit slip for your February salary less the 5% contribution to the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America.

Very truly yours,

ESTHER S. BAILEY
Assistant Secretary

February 18, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am sending you a letter which I have just had from Dr. Tisdale. Alexander and Lefschetz will also be interested in it. I send also a copy of my reply; also a long letter which I have just had from Courant, with copy of my reply. With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Prof. Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, N.J.
AF:GB - E

February 28, 1933.

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am enclosing some correspondence with Dr. Bender of Chicago. I do not suppose that it is of any importance. Send me a suggestion as to your judgment about it.

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/MCE

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

February 20, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I return herewith the letters from Tisdale and Courant, having shown them to Lefschetz and Alexander. With regard to the Courant letter and your reply, Lefschetz makes the remark that it probably will not be long now before the censor will be interfering with such letters.

I feel, by this time, that I have a pretty clear picture of Weyl's state of mind with the exception of the one point which I mentioned in my last letter to you.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

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TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.
CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

February 17, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

hopefully

I think I shall probably do nothing about Douglas. He seems to be getting on aptly with his work at his home in Brooklyn and at present I am inclined to think it is better not to disturb him. I expect to see him, however, at a meeting of the Mathematical Society at the end of next week.

As to Professor Simmons, the main work that he is doing here is with me. He is of only moderate ability but working in a direction in which I can help him without much trouble to myself. I am not enthsiastic at the idea of having him put down as our first student. I should be quite satisfied if it were your decision that the Institute does not open until next October and that such records as we keep will begin then. I should add that Simmons has had no previous connection of any sort with Princeton.

I have looked over the secretarial applications and talked over the telephone with Mrs. Creasey, who has been Dean West's secretary in the Graduate School office as long as I can remember. She tells me that Miss Perry is extremely competent in all the ways described in the letters of recommendation. There were, however, difficulties between her and other members of the force.

I am returning along with this material, the correspondence with Miss Howarth. It would be a great advantage to have someone with as good an education and scientific background as she possesses. But I suppose it is questionable whether she could handle the stenography work.

The fact is that our work can be handled by anyone who is a good stenographer and willing to take pains over details. It would be a great advantage if she knew some mathematics and a still greater one if she had a command of French and German. I am inclined to think that we will get a more satisfactory result if I leave the choice to you and Mrs. Bailey.

I spent last evening composing an answer to a letter from Weyl. He wrote from Berlin where, as he said, he was in the hands of a nerve specialist. He seems still to be in a state of mental depression and bad health. He feels that he has treated you and everyone else very badly and gave me something of an analysis of what has been and is his state of mind. It agrees quite well with what we heard from Courant and also with a letter which I had a week ago from Mrs. Weyl. I am still not clear, however, as to whether he feels that his final cablegram was a mistake due to his depression or whether in accepting he was acting contrary to his deeper nature. I wrote him a reassuring letter and told him a good deal about what has been done over the personnel question.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

February 15, 1933.

Mrs. Esther Bailey
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Mrs. Bailey:

Will you please send a copy of Bulletin number 2 to the following address:

Vivian Eberle Spencer
Webster Hall
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

E.S.B.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

February 15, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have yours of the 13th. Mrs. Bailey will send you a supply of the new bulletin when it is issued, in stamped envelopes as you suggest.

In reference to Professor Simmons: it seems to me this is altogether a question of fact. If he has actually been doing his work mainly with you, there is no reason why he should not be called a student in the Institute. On the other hand, I should not like to grant his request out of sheer amiability. Would you have taken him or not? Is he the sort of person who will do us credit as our first student? Has he done most of his work at Princeton in the Princeton group or with you? We ought to be very careful I think as to the readiness with which we lend the name of the Institute to persons who may wish to be enrolled in it.

Always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Prof. Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, N.J.
AF:GB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

February 13, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I have the applications for the clerical job which you sent me but have not had a chance to look at them yet and may not get to them for a couple of days. I am not sure that we need a full time person for this work.

Please say to Mrs. Bailey that I have no addresses to suggest at present for Bulletin No. 2 but that it might be well to send me a small supply of these Bulletins. It perhaps would be a good idea to enclose some of them in stamped envelopes ready to address and send out from here as occasion arises.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

P. S. There is a Professor Simmons of Northwestern University here working with me this term and he raises the question whether there is not some way of having himself enrolled as a student in the Institute. He would like to say that he has been such a student. I think there are likely to be a number of such cases and it might be well to think of some procedure.

OV/AF

February 8, 1933

My dear Professor Veblen:

We shall be very glad to send Bulletin No. 2 to anybody you may name in this country or in Europe. We have already on the mailing list of course our own staff and the persons to whom we are making grants in aid.

If Professor Alexander has any suggestions, I shall be happy if you will let me have them also.

Sincerely yours,

ESTHER S. BAILEY

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

February 7, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

This is a line to confirm our conversation in reference to Pontrjagin. It is understood that Lefschetz will conduct the negotiations with him in the hope of bringing him to the Institute next year by means of a grant in aid.

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

(FOUNDED BY LOUIS BAMBERGER AND MRS. FELIX FULD, 1930)

TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

February 6, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Thanks for forwarding the note about Miss Howarth. I have also received a letter from Shapley. I fear that the requirement for stenography and typewriting will exclude her.

On Saturday Lefschetz was talking with me about Pontrjagin. He is convinced that if we wait until Tisdale comes over, it will be too late to get anything done for next year. He says that any arrangements made with the Russian authorities require a lot of time and nogotiating. I think he is right. Also I think that there is very little chance of Tisdale doing anything because the Pontrjagin case runs counter to so many of his general prejudices. Lefschetz and Alexander would like to talk with you about the case some time.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

February 6, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am enclosing a letter which I have just dictated to Professor Gödel.

I should not think the personal assistants to the professors ought to be included in the $15,000 to be used for the grants in aid. This fund should be regarded as grants in aid to persons not officially connected with the Institute but rather as having permanent connections elsewhere. The Executive Committee appropriated $1,500 for Dr. Torrance. Your assistant will also be provided for in the annual budget, as well as Einstein's assistant.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.
CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

February 4, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I return herewith the very pleasing letter from Dr. Riddell.

I find that those colleagues here who know something about the Weyl affair immediately feel very much better about it when they hear that he and his family were suffering from the grippe. As a metter of fact, the grippe often seems to have a depressive after effect.

Yesterday I received a letter from Goedel definitely accepting the appointment. So I think it is now in order for you to write him an official letter. His appointment was to be for one year at $25000. Also we agreed that $500 was to be set aside for his travelling expenses.

2,500 C.S.B.

This leaves the Wilder appointment as the only one of this group which has not been definitely concluded. I wish now to raise the question whether the personal assistants to professors are included in the $15,000 which is to be used for these appointments. If so, the fund is practically exhausted when we make allowance for Wilder and the three assistants.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

P. S. Godel's address is: Josephstaetterstrasse 43, Vien 8, Austria.

OV/AF

February 1, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

Many thanks for yours of January 31. We shall give Alexander not only a period but a separate paragraph, as you suggest.

I am returning the letter from Courant, which is thoroughly satisfactory, and also a copy of a letter which I am writing him this morning. I am glad to know that you yourself have written Weyl. Please do everything in your power to buck him up. I heard last night from Aydelotte that Weyl's physician had forbidden his coming to Swarthmore. I do not see that anyone is to be blamed. Certainly we put no pressure upon Weyl to come, and his colleagues put no pressure upon him to stay. The incident is one of those unfortunate things which can only be deplored. The string of events was begun by Weyl himself when he wrote you that he would like to reconsider his declination of the Princeton offer. All we can do now is to help restore his morale.

The names of Thomas and van Kampen should, I think, be printed in next year's bulletin as persons who have been associated with the Institute during the past year. No institution prints the names of the students expected during the coming year. I should not think that they ought to be counted as members of the staff but rather as men whom we have assisted to come to Princeton in order to work with you and your associates, but that is little more than a

verbal distinction.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

P.S.
You will be interested in the enclosed note received from the head of the British Division who appoints the Commonwealth Fund fellows in Europe. May I ask you to return it? A.F.

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

January 31, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I have read over the copy of Bulletin number 2 and find nothing to criticize except that on page 3 Alexander and Einstein seemed to be separated only by a semi-colon. I think it might be better to put them into separate paragraphs.

I enclose herewith a letter from Courant which I think helps a great deal to explain the Weyl history.

Last night I met Professor Dresden of Swarthmore during the intermission of the Philadelphia orchestra concert. Dresden told me that they had had a cablegram from a physician in Berlin saying that Weyl is too ill to fill his engagement at Swarthmore. I wrote Weyl a short note to go by the Europa this morning but I fear it won't help much.

To return to Bulletin number 2, I notice that you have made no mention of the appointments like those of Thomas and van Kampen that have been definitely arranged. Does that mean that you do not want to count them as members of the staff of the Institute or does it simply mean that you would rather wait until a fuller list of such appointments is available?

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

January 31, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am enclosing a copy of an extremely cordial letter from Professor Morse. I feel very certain that if we play our cards skilfully, we shall establish an effective coöperation with the Harvard group.

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of Professor Blakeslee's letter. I do not feel that at the moment this is a field into which we can stray, though I think we ought to keep our minds open for unique opportunities.

With all good wishes,

Very sincerely yours,
ABRAHAM FLEXNER

P.S.
At your convenience won't you please return the letter from Dean Richardson? No hurry. A.F.

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:HSB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

January 30, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

The letter from Blakeslee of which I am enclosing a copy seems to me to bring up an extremely interesting proposition. Conklin tells me that Blakeslee's work does much the same for plants that Morgan's does for animals. He regards Blakeslee as a man of the first rank.

I have answered Blakeslee's letter by saying that I am sending you a copy of his letter which I know that you will treat confidentally and that I understand your policy not to go into fields which require much equipment during the first years of the Institute.

To be

I have never heard you say, however, whether your general policy in this matter would be modified by opportunities to get man whom you really want.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

January 28, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I heard favorably from vanKampen, whose grant in aid is to begin October 1, 1933.

I enclose copy of the letter which I am writing Bliss.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of
MATHEMATICS

January 27, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I enclose a letter from Bliss which has just arrived and would suggest that the next move is for you to write to Bliss stating our proposition. I understand that proposition to be that Albert be given a grant in aid of $2000 for our academic year 1933-34. I have talked with Alexander and von Neumann and they both favor the Albert appointment.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

January 27, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have yours of January 26. There could be no more striking contrast than is afforded by the communications from Morse and Bliss. I feel reasonably certain that we can educate American universities to coöperate with us if we proceed quietly, unostentatiously, and of course do a superior job. On the other hand, if our present policy proves futile, we shall have to think again. I cannot refrain from pointing out that Morse does not appear to have the slightest feeling of responsibility for Currier or for mathematics. Your brief note to him is admirable.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

P.S.
We must of course all be very careful to say nothing in criticism of Harvard or any of the institutions beyond these highly confidential communications between ourselves.

A.F.

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of
MATHEMATICS

January 26, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Many thanks for your letter defining the procedure with regard to junior appointments. I now feel that I understand clearly what can be done in further cases that are likely to arise and also that we are pretty sure to have the right sort of group of younger men with us.

Your letter to Morse seems to me an admirable statement of policy and I think there is a fair chance that we may be able to live up to it. I enclose herewith a letter from Morse which was awaiting me on my return home last night and also my reply to it which was dictated before I feceived your letter.

Another enclosure is a copy of a telegram from Bliss which was awaiting me on my arrival and also my reply to it. I think you will be pleased to see that your policy is apparantly going to work out in this case.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

For Dr. Flexner

Copy of a telegram from Bliss and my reply.

O.V.

Professor Oswald Veblen
Princeton University
Princeton, N. J.

Our University authorities would probably give Albert leave for next college year and pay half salary. Would expect him to be in residence summer quarters nineteen thirty three and four. His salary is four thousand. Let us know your decision as soon as possible. Am writing more fully.

(signed) G. A. Bliss.

Professor G. A. Bliss
University of Chicago
Chicago, Ill.

Have no doubt that Institute will pay Albert two thousand dollars. Will communicate with Flexner and make arrangements as soon as I get your letter.

(signed) O. Veblen.

January 25, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

In organizing the School of Mathematics for the next academic year you and Professor Alexander, who are now on the ground, can feel that you have at your disposal $15,000 to be used for grants in aid, fellowships, assistants, or loans, as you see fit. I shall at the April meeting of the Board ask a further appropriation of $5,000 to be placed at your disposal for what you call "minor appointments".

If you will let me know, I will inform the Treasurer as to who the persons are whom you have selected and how and when remittances are to be made beginning with the next academic year.

For the present I have the feeling that we should in the case of these temporary or short-term appointments avoid titles beyond those included in the actual resolutions of the Board. The experience of the next few years will doubtless help us in deciding details as yet undetermined.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

Princeton, N. J.
January 24, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

It is easy enough to put Einstein's statement into English but when it comes to elaborating, I confess that I am stuck. He says absolutely nothing as to whether he intends to give any lectures or have anything in the nature of a Seminar. Indeed he merely says that he intends to work with Mayer in a certain field. Interestingly enough, this is a subject on which I lectured in Princeton a year ago and shall probably be taking up again in my Seminar this year and next. My translation of what he says would be as follows.

"Professor Einstein and Dr. Mayer intend to discuss the theory of spinors and their application to field theory".

I can see how unsatisfactory this is for your purposes but I don't believe it would be safe to elaborate it further until Einstein has said something about what he actually is going to do. It is my belief that you do not want for your pamphlet what a man intends to do in his own research. What you really want is a statement of what he will do to make himself accessible to students and others. Perhaps Einstein would be willing to give you something more satisfactory if you sent him a copy of the manuscript for the Bulletin as it exists at the present time.

I am sorry but your letter dated the 21st only arrived a few minutes ago. I wrote yesterday the letter to Morse of which I sent you a copy.

With regard to the men whom we are inviting here for one year, I think it is a mistake to assume that the benefits will accrue only to them and to the universities to which they are attached. We have been doing this sort of thing with the research funds in Princeton on a smaller scale for many years and have found that it was very stimulating to our own work.

I think we must learn by experience how much it is necessary to do in order to attract such men. I should, of course, like to make the funds reach as far as possible but I don't think what has thus far been proposed is extravagant. If we can establish the principle that the universities who send us men for a year are commited to take them back at the end of that year, we will certainly be able to handle the junior personnel problem much more cheaply than we otherwise could.

What you say about the form of government impresses me very strongly. My own position is simply that we should give the people who administer our funds for us as little power as is consistent with efficiency. You are doubtless a better judge than I of how far it is necessary to go.

I am convinced that a Congressional investigation of American universities would uncover much worse conditions than any royal commission ever found in the English universities. In fact, I imagine that there are few business organizations, if any, which have not needed reorganization from time to time during the last 50 or 100 years.

On all these questions I feel fairly well at ease now that we have a good start, and expect to know more about them after a couple of years.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

January 24, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I enclose a copy of the letter which I have just written van Kampen.

I shall leave the matter of the nomination of younger men for the American Mathematical Society entirely to you and your associates.

I think we shall have to wait upon Tisdale. As you know, he will be in America in April, and I hope we may prevail upon him to act at that time.

I assume that before going further with Morse in the matter of Currier you will make sure that Harvard will do for him what Princeton is doing for Thomas.

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

Princeton, N. J.
January 23, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
100 East 42nd Street
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I presume that the question of nominations for the American Mathematical Society under the Institute's Sustaining Membership may as well go over until next year. We can use it to nominate younger men who are attached to the Institute for membership in the Society.

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter of acceptance from van Kampen. May I suggest that it is now in order to notify him officially of his appointment?

I enclose also a letter from Tisdale which please return when you are through with it. I feel that if he waits until next summer that will be too late for next year. I should like very much to have Schnirlemann and Pontryagin here for our first year.

I also enclose a copy of a letter that I have written to Morse.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

Princeton, N. J.
January 23, 1933.

Professor Marston Morse
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Dear Morse:

I have talked with Dr. Flexner about Currier and find that in order to obtain consideration for him, it will be necessary to have definite assurance that there will be a place at Harvard for him to return to. This is being done in all analogous cases and there seems to be no reason for making an exception of Currier.

It looks now as though we should have a very good group of younger men next year. In the course of the negotiations that have taken place, we have arrived at much more definite ideas as to how to handle matters. I hope very much that we can establish good working relations with Harvard as we seen to be doing with everyone else.

Yours sincerely,

OV/AF

January 23, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have been giving a good deal of thought to your letter of January 18 and to the long conversation which we had on the day following. Let me lay before you the results of my cogitations.

1. As to the form of government. In Germany and France there is a governmental agency and in Germany a curator which relieve the faculty of an immense amount of administrative detail. In Oxford and Cambridge everything is done by the dons but with the result that in the last half century or so three times Royal Commissions have been appointed which have overhauled the universities. In addition, Curzon, when he was Vice-Chancellor in Oxford, wrote a scathing criticism of the university and in the last year or two a voluntary committee has been formed, made up of Oxford men, only a few of whom are dons, for the purpose of criticising and improving the conduct of the university. It does not seem to me therefore that either the continental universities or the English universities can be quoted in favor of an arrangement for throwing everything upon the professors. Moreover, if I can judge from the amount of work, mostly useless, that passes over my desk, I do not see how a group of scientists can manage a going and growing institution without serious sacrifice of their work. At this moment, for example, in the Institute the members of the School of Mathematics would not only be thinking of mathematics

and answering a lot of mail and inquiries with which they really do not need to be bothered, but they would be discussing what we should do next - classics, history, economics, or what not. The scheme under which we are proceeding aims to place the professors in positions of dignity and responsibility, to give them freedom from administrative duties, an adequate part in the development of the institution while at the same time utilizing laymen who can render important service, and someone whose main task it is to plan for future developments. I do not know whether this will work out or not, but it seems to me superior to the American or to the foreign organizations so far as I know them.

2. I cannot satisfy myself that it is right to give the name of associate to persons to whom we make grants in aid, for it does not seem to me to be fair. They belong to other institutions. They come to us primarily as workers. While the title of associates may improve their situation at the end of a year when they leave, I cannot help asking myself whether that is a thing to which we ought to be a party. Persons of this kind should, I think, be simply listed as receiving grants in aid. It will thus be understood that the rest of their means are derived from other sources.

Your letter does not state precisely what you have in mind regarding either Albert or Currier, but I do not believe that I could recommend to the Board that we should simply make an appropriation - which is what it amounts to - to Harvard and the University of Chicago in order to enable them to send Currier and Albert to work with us at Princeton. These are both rich institutions, thoroughly able to give their men additional opportunities, of which they themselves will reap the benefit. The institutions and the men should between them make the sacrifice. We have undertaken to deal somewhat differently with vanKampen, whether soundly or not I am not sure.

I feel strongly the importance of the point which I made as we were parting last week, namely, that we must proceed slowly in order to be as certain as we can that we set no precedents which will have to be undone or regretted.

With all good wishes and high regard,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

January 21, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am sending you a letter from Professor Einstein. Will you please put it into English and perhaps elaborate it somewhat in a way that Einstein would approve?

May I ask you to do nothing further in reference to Currier until you hear from me? I have been turning over in my mind everything that we talked about the other day, and some new points of view have occurred to me which I want to submit to you for consideration.

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

Princeton, N. J.
January 18, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

This letter is intended as a sort of memorandum for your use in studying the junior personnel problem.

T.Y.THOMAS

Associate Professor T. Y. Thomas has been granted leave of absence at half pay ($2250)for next year by the Princeton Trustees. I would suggest that it is now in order to notify him of his appointment in the Institute for one year at the same salary.

GOEDEL

I have received Goedel's telegram of acceptance and I am waiting for a letter before proposing any further action.

VAN KAMPEN

I have heard from Professor Murnaghan this morning that van Kampen's leave of absence has been arranged, but I have not yet heard from Van Kampen himself.

R. L. WILDER

I heard a few days ago from Wilder that the Head of his Department is taking steps to secure leave of absence at half pay for him and hopes to put it through at an early date.

A. A. ALBERT

I wrote a cautiously worded letter to Bliss to find out whether they would give him leave of absence at half pay and if so, what the amount would be. Before sending the letter, I received the inclosed letter from Dickson. I then added a paragraph to my letter to Bliss saying that there was, of course, the danger that Albert would become better known, and in particular, would become better known to the Princeton group but that I thought that this was a risk we ought always to take on behalf of a younger man. In point of fact, Albert is a prominent candidate for one of the vacancies in Princeton.

J. L. VANDERSLICE

I am very well satisfied with the work that Vanderslice is doing for me and shall want to keep him on at least one year more whether he gets his degree this year or not.

PALEY

I have heard a great deal about Paley from Hardy who regards him as the best man that they have had at Cambridge since Littlewood. He has a Rockefeller Fellowship this year and is collaborating with Norbert Weiner on a piece of work which they started while Weiner was in Cambridge last year. It had not occurred to me that Paley would want to stay away from Cambridge more than one year but I received a letter a few days ago from Tamarkin (Brown) suggesting him for the Institute. If he wished to come, he would certainly be a great addition to our group and would contribute an element in which we are at present weak.

CURRIER

I enclose a letter from Morse about Currier. One of the papers which Morse refers to impresses me as a very good one and I know that Von Neumann feels the same way about it. It seems to me, however, that the Harvard people ought to commit themselves more strongly on the question of taking him back at the end of the year.

SEIDEL

Seidel is the man from Harvard who wrote to you directly and sent you a copy of one of his papers which you turned over to me. It is outside my field of interest but Von Neumann has undertaken to look it over. The Harvard people regard him and Currier as about equal and next after Whitney among the younger group.

NATIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWS

There are several men who have written or been suggested to me, but

who all seem to be in the National Research Fellowship stage. I have replied to all these by intimating that they would do better to apply for National Research Fellowships. If there are any good ones among these who do not receive National Research Fellowships, I may want to bring them to your attention.

BARDEEN

Mr. Bardeen is coming to see me and Dean Eisenhart next Monday. I judge that he ought to try to get into Princeton as a graduate student.

BLEICK

If Mr. Bleick gets his doctor's degree at Johns Hopkins, I am now thinking that it might be best to admit him as a student in the Institute and perhaps to give him a small fellowship. I should think that Von Neumann's course of lectures would be exactly what he needs. There would be no point in his being a candidate for a degree in Princeton if he has already received his Ph. D. from Johns Hopkins.

H. LEVINSON

I heard about Levinson several years ago from Bliss and the impression that remains with me is that he is a man of only moderate ability. The book on relativity has never made any impression so far as I know. I will, of course, look it over more carefully if you wish when it comes. I feel practically sure that Levinson is not to be classed with the people whom we consider seriously. If he were to be considered in any capacity, I should think it would be Einstein who would have to be consulted. I am returning the letter from Mr. Becker herewith.

H. E. HOWARTH

I enclose herewith a letter from a Miss Howarth which strikes me as rather interesting. If she is a good enough stenographer and would like to take on the secretarial work which will be needed by the mathematical group, I think it might be worth while to try her.

I hope to see you tomorrow morning and to talk with you about some if not all of these cases and also to get some idea as to the limitations which it is now evident that you will have to set.

ADDENDUM

I find on reading this over that I have forgotten to mention McShane, who is now at Gottingen as an assistant to Courant and is highly recommended by several of the analysts.

Also I have said nothing about the five Russians whom we spoke about and who are to be classed with Goedel.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

DUPLICATE

January 13, 1933.

Professor O. Veblen
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, N. J.

Dear Professor Veblen:

I was very pleased to have your letter of January 7 and to learn that there is an opportunity of my obtaining a fellowship of $2500 at the Institute for Advanced Study. On talking it over with Professor Murnaghan, I find that it is possible for me to obtain leave of absence from The Johns Hopkins University for the academic year 1933 - 1934. Accordingly I am very glad to accept this fellowship.

Yours sincerely,

E. R. v. Kampen

E.R.van Kampen.

vK/M

January 13, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I enclose a copy of a letter which I have written Dean Richardson.

The Ruse case does not seem to me to be a strong one for an outright grant in aid amounting to, say, $1500. I think we should wait to see whether Eisenhart is able to make some sort of exchange.

I had a pleasant interview with vonNeumann this morning, and I anticipate no difficulties whatsoever in concluding arrangements regarding him.

I have cabled Weyl as follows:

> "Resignation accepted. Please regard matter as confidential until you receive my letter written today. Am returning your letter of third unopened."

I have written a letter of which the enclosed is a copy.

I am sorry that I had to cancel my acceptance of Mrs. Eisenhart's invitation for the other night, but I have had a very heavy week and find that an appointment had been made for dinner, which I cannot possibly change.

I shall be seeing you and Mrs. Veblen at the Philharmonic on Thursday evening.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of
MATHEMATICS

January 11, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
100 East 42nd Street
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I enclose herewith copies of letters which I have dictated to Mr. Bardeen and Dr. Ruse. I should really like very much to have Dr. Ruse come here because he is working in exactly the same field as I am and he has not yet had any proper guidance. I thought, however, it might be better to wait before suggesting anything to you until other possibilities were exhausted. I enclose his letter to me which please return to me when you have read it.

This morning I had a cabelgram of acceptance from Gödel. This is a comittment of $2500 for salary and $500 for travelling expenses, as you know.

The action with regard to the Annals and the Mathematical Society is very satisfactory. It is important to notice that it is with the American Mathematical Society that we are dealing and not with the Mathematical Association. The latter is the name of a quite different organization. The proper way to handle this is to write to Dean R. G. D. Richardson, Brown University, the Secretary of the American Mathematical Society and say that the Institute desires to apply for a Sustaining Membership in the Society and undertakes to pay dues of $200 a year for five years.

I shall have to be in Philadelphia most of Saturday for a meeting of the Committee on Policy of the American Philosophical Society but I am looking forward to seeing you at Eisenharts on Saturday evening. (This Committee has something to say about the disposal of a million or two of dollars which was left to the Society by the late Mr. Penrose.)

This sentence should have been omitted, but as the stenographer is gone, I won't bother about the error of taste!

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

OV/AF

January 11, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have yours of the tenth with the enclosed correspondence with Bliss, which I am returning herewith. Of course, we cannot possibly try to gather in all the good people, but if you think that Albert can get released with half pay, I think we might make him a grant in aid, provided the sum is not too large. Your letter contains no mention of his present financial arrangements with Chicago.

I return herewith your letter to Tisdale and other letters.

With all good wishes to you and Mrs. Veblen,

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Princeton University
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of
MATHEMATICS

January 10, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
100 East 42nd Street
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I enclose herewith an exchange of letters with Bliss. It is only the part which refers to Albert that I am interested in showing you at present but I thought it might be well for you to see exactly what I had written to Bliss and what his responses are.

You will recall that Albert is a man who is of interest to us from several points of view. I think it would be wise to do the same thing with Albert that we are doing with Thomas.

Please return the letters as soon as possible because I have not answered any part of the letter from Bliss and would rather not do so until I hear what you think about the Albert matter.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

January 10, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

At the Board meeting yesterday it was voted

1) to contribute $200 a year for a period of five years to the American Mathematical Association Soc

2) to contribute $2,000 a year for a period of five years towards the expenses connected with the publication of the Annals of Mathematics under the joint editorship of the Princeton mathematical faculty and the School of Mathematics of the Institute.

Both appropriations were made for a five-year period at my suggestion. If things go well, of course they will be continued indefinitely. If things should not go well, it is easier to have them run out than to have to terminate them.

Will you please let me know to whom I shall send formal notice of these two actions?

Always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Princeton University
Princeton, N.J.
AF:GB

January 9, 1933

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have been giving almost constant thought to the problems which we discussed on Friday, and last night I had a telephone conversation with Eisenhart. As a result, I am sending him and Professor vonNeumann the letters which I enclose. I hope that your judgment will approve. We must look at the entire situation like statesmen, and I believe that in so doing we should accomplish the utmost for the cause of mathematics. Eisenhart has been very broad and considerate, and I am anxious not to be less so.

I find on my desk this morning yours of the 7th with enclosures of letters to Wilder and vanKampen. On reflection I believe it would be better for us to call such grants as we make "grants in aid" so as to distinguish them from the Rockefeller or other fellowships. This is, however, a verbal matter which need give you no concern, in so far as your two letters go. The phrase, "grants in aid", really describes the status of the two men better, since in both cases we are aiding them and their respective universities.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Princeton University
Fine Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

AF.MSR

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of
MATHEMATICS

January 7, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
100 East 42nd Street
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I have just dictated the two letters of which I enclose copies in accordance with my understanding of our conversation yesterday. I have also talked with Professor T. Y. Thomas of Princeton, who is having sabbatical leave during the next academic year and told him that the Institute will take on the other half of his salary, namely, $2250. Besides this I sent a cabelgram with paid reply to Menger last night about the offer to Gödel. This is a comittment of $2500 plus $500 for travelling expenses.

The telephone charges showing on my bill for November and December which are chargeable to the Institute amount to $3.60.

I am feeling quite content today with the idea that a stable mathematical nucleus in the new Institute is assured. I intend (eleven o'clock) to send off the cable to Weyl in a few minutes. I have waited until now on the off chance that I might hear something to the contrary from you.

Please give our best wishes for a pleasant vacation to Mrs. Flexner.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

January 7, 1933.

Professor R. L. Wilder
1308 Olivia Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Assoc Pf
Sabbatical

Dear Wilder:

I had a talk with Dr. Flexner yesterday and as a result I am authorized to make you the following offer. In case the University of Michigan grants you sabbatical leave at half pay, the Institute for Advanced Study will give you a position for the academic year 1933-34 at a salary sufficient to provide the other half. Thus you will be able to spend a year in the Institute at the same salary as you would have had in the University.

The primary purpose of such an appointment would be, of course, to give you an opportunity to get on with your scientific work. You would, however, be likely to be called on to help members of the Institute in their work. For example, there may be some work to do in connection with the Annals of Mathematics.

I hope this will afford a solution of your problem.

Yours sincerely,

OV/AF

January 7, 1933.

Professor E. R. van Kampen
The Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear van Kampen:

I had a chance to talk with Dr. Flexner yesterday and as a result I am authorized to offer you a fellowship in the Institute for Advanced Study at a salary of $2500 for the academic year 1933-34. This is on condition that you be given leave of absence from Johns Hopkins University. The primary purpose of such a fellowship is, of course, to give you a chance to pursue your own scientific work. You should expect, however, to cooperate in the work of the Institute. For example, you may be called on for a certain amount of help by the Editors of the Annals of Mathematics. Since the Institute is a new thing, no routine has been worked out and we shall have to find out what our formal duties are by a process of experiment.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Professor Murnaghan with whom you will, of course, talk the matter over.

Yours sincerely,

OV/AF

Princeton, N.J.
1 Jan. 1933

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

Whitney decided to accept a job at Harvard, and so informed me when we met at Atlantic City.

In accordance with our conversation the last time you were in Princeton, I spoke first with Eisenhart and then with T. Y. Thomas about his spending his sabbatical leave at the Institute. They are both very much pleased with the proposed arrangement, namely that Thomas shall receive half salary from the ~~Institute and on the~~ Princeton University and

the exact amount from the Institute.

I know a good deal about Thomas's work and expect that he will make good use of the opportunity. His salary is somewhere near $5000, so that the cost to the Institute will be about $2500. I will ask Eisenhart what the exact amount is. Thomas is an Associate Professor.

The other man with whom I proposed making the same arrangement is R. L. Wilder of the Univ. of Michigan. Instead of broaching the question directly I wrote asking for details about his plans and financial circumstances. He had previously written to me about his desire to come here next year. His reply to my last letter is enclosed herewith. I would

suggest that the Institute offer to pay half his salary provided the Univ. of Michigan will pay the other half. His work is in Alexander's field and A. is very desirous that he should come. If the Univ. of Michigan turns out to be too niggardly to meet this offer, Alexander and I will probably recommend that the Institute provide a larger amount, but that question can wait.

There are the two cases in which you agreed in principle. Here is another: There is a young Dutchman, van Kampen, at the Johns Hopkins, an Associate Professor at about $3000. He has done good work in differential geometry (my field at present) and still better work in

Mr. Oswald Veblen, Hill

at Atlantic City on the question of spending next year at the Institute. I said that I knew his work so well that I should be glad to recommend it to you if an arrangement could be worked out. Later on I talked the case over with Prof. Murnaghan who is head of the Hopkins Math. dept. Murnaghan has taken the matter up with Joel Homer and written me the letter which I enclose. van Kampen has not been at the Hopkins long enough to be entitled to sabbatical leave. Alexander and I think that $2000 or $2500 would be well spent in this case.

Please return the enclosed letters.

Wishing you a happy New Year,

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen