Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

V-6

REPORT CONCERNING NEW PERMANENT APPOINTMENTS
IN THE
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

I. Theoretical Physics

The School of Mathematics is of the unanimous opinion that theoretical physics not only should continue to form a part of its scientific activities, but should even be reinforced. The entire history of physics since Galileo bears witness to the importance of the function of the theoretical physicist, from whom the basic theoretical ideas originate. A priori construction is in physics as essential as empirical facts. Of course the theorist must have contact with the discoveries and findings of experimental physics, but it is enough that laboratories exist in the civilization in which he lives; it is by no means necessary that he be associated with a laboratory at the place where he works. The war has made industry, government, and people in general, more acutely aware of the vital role of physical research. But in view of the forces which shape public opinion and action, it is not to be expected that pure theoretical physics on the advanced level which we wish to promote, will greatly benefit from this wave of popularity; on the contrary, in the interest of a sound balance, it will be more essential than ever for an institute of our character to emphasize the less popular theoretical side of science.

Adopting this general viewpoint, the School of Mathematics recommends appointment of one new professor of theoretical physics, and after surveying the leading men in the field here and abroad whom we might have a chance to win for the Institute, it proposes to offer the professorship to Dr. Wolfgang Pauli, with Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer as a second candidate. Indeed, all available evidence seems to point to Pauli as the best possible choice. Quick action is

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desirable in his case since otherwise we may lose him forever.

Pauli is forty-four years old, married, of Austrian nationality. He took out first U.S.A. naturalization papers when he came here in 1940. Stages of his academic career: Assistant at the Universities of Göttingen and Copenhagen 1921-1923; Privatdozent at Hamburg 1923-1928; full Professor at the Technische Hochschule, Zürich, 1928-. During the year 1935-1936 he was Visiting Professor at our Institute, and he has been a member since 1940. But he still holds his professorship in Zürich.

Pauli's first papers were on general relativity and contained interesting contributions to Einstein's field theory of gravitation and its more speculative extensions. His article on relativity (250 pp.) in the Mathematical Encyclopedia is a mature and masterly work which shows the author in full command of both the mathematical and the physical aspects of the subject; and yet it was the work of a young man of 20. Pauli later returned to the theory of relativity on one or two occasions. But his main work, by which he should be judged as a creative theoretical physicist, is in quentum physics.

Here it is natural to distinguish the periods before and after the Heisenberg-Schrödinger break-through to a consistent quantum theory of the atom (1925). In the time before this dramatic event, one had to operate with Niels Bohr's models and a compromise that Bohr vaguely formulated as the principle of correspondence, and to find one's way through the maze of known spectroscopic facts, more by divination ("Schnauze" Pauli would say) than by theory. It is remarkable that in this period Pauli scored some of his greatest successes. The model of the ionized hydrogen molecule first computed by him may still be on exhibition in the Deutsche Museum in Munich if it is not destroyed by bombs. He made important contributions to the quantum theory of radiation and of the thermic equilibrium between radiation and electrons along lines suggested by

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Einstein's conception of the photon. He saw that the so-called hyperfine structure of spectral lines is probably to be ascribed to the structure of the nucleus rather than to the electronic shell of the atom,- a conjecture now definitely confirmed, but surprising at a time when the physicists' whole attention was concentrated on the shell. But above all, his investigations concerning the Zeeman effect gradually led him to the discovery of the exclusion principle, according to which no two electrons may be in the same quantum state. This was a very bold conception. The exclusion principle, strange and incomprehensible as it is from the standpoint of classical physics, is decisive for an understanding of the periodic system of chemical elements. It is a lasting achievement, which will hardly be affected by any future changes of our physical theories. Pauli applied this principle to the statistics of particles in a degenerate gas, thus explaining the paramagnetic properties of such gases. A paper on the paramagnetism of metals laid the foundation for the whole quantum-mechanical theory of electrons in metals. His article on quantum theory in the Handbuch der Physik (about 300 pp.) contains many results which at the time could only be conjectured, or made plausible by heuristic arguments, but which have later been confirmed by wave mechanics.

After Heisenberg's formulation of quantum mechanics in terms of matrices (but before Schrödinger developed the wave picture) Pauli showed that the new quantum mechanics explains the spectrum of the hydrogen atom. Evidence had accumulated that an angular momentum must be ascribed to the electron. The nature of this momentum, which was radically different from that of a spinning top and not to be accounted for by classical concepts, was first correctly described by Pauli. Probably this is his greatest accomplishment in the period subsequent to the Heisenberg-Schrödinger revolution. With Pauli's and Heisenberg's investigations on the quantisation of the field equations, wave mechanics passed from

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the theory of a single particle to that of the interaction of an indefinite number of particles,- a step of fundamental importance, for which Dirac's quantum theory of radiation had paved the way.

The new wave mechanics had rendered Pauli's older article on quantum theory obsolete, but in 1933 he wrote for the same Handbuch his Allgemeine Principien der Wellenmechanik which, along with Dirac's book, is considered by the physicists as the most authentic account of wave mechanics.

The electronic spin was incorporated in Dirac's 4-component equations for the electron, which superseded Schrödinger's scalar wave equation. Nevertheless the latter retains a certain interest. Indeed, Pauli showed that after quantization it describes pairs of particles of opposite charge and without spin. The discovery of new elementary particles by the experimental physicists (cosmic radiation) gave new meaning to such possibilities. Pauli extended them so as to cover particles with arbitrary spin values. These studies naturally developed into investigations on the theory of the mesotron which have occupied him during the last years. The mesotron is now a generally accepted particle in nuclear physics, but since the whole subject is in a rather unsettled state, it is impossible to say at the present moment whether Pauli's clue is the right one. The same holds for a suggestion of his which he never published, the neutrino, a hypothetic particle having no charge and mass, but the electronic spin.

This brief account is far from complete. Pauli's work has been of great influence on the development of physics during the last twenty-odd years. "It is difficult to imagine" says Professor Rabi, "what the history of physics would have been without the influence of Pauli during this period." Not a small part of it has been by correspondence and discussion.

Pauli is distinguished among theoretical physicists by his highly developed organ for mathematics. As physicist he has a wide horizon, his judgment is penetrating, critical and objective. In particular, his accurate in-

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stinctive estimate of the relative weight of relevant experimental facts is an unfailing guide for him in his theoretic investigations. He has never been content with developing more or less foreseeable consequences of established theories, but almost every one of his papers contains a new idea, often of high originality. In view of the discontinuous leaps by which theoretical physics develops, the stream of his scientific production has been remarkably steady. The way in which he managed to obtain results of lasting value during the twilight of atomic physics before 1926 gives hope that he will be no less successful in its present difficult period of transition.

In his youth Pauli had the reputation of an enfant terrible among physicists. He is keenly interested in men, and watches them with open eyes. He used to show by witty remarks how he saw through people's pretences. But all his Mephistophelean garb could not hide his inherent good nature. As the years passed by he has become much more mellow,- a development welcomed by some, regretted by others of his many friends.

Pauli is deeply interested in younger research physicists and their training, and devotes much time, imagination and energy to discussions with them. He is accessible to them, he is generous with fruitful suggestions, collaborates with them, and surveys their work. He is less successful in the classroom, but this is no handicap for the position for which we want him, and for which he is eminently fitted. Although he was under no obligation to do so, he has during the last years advised and helped the temporary members of our School of Mathematics, and has also taken care of the research work of a number of younger theoretical physicists in the University.

J. Robert Oppenheimer is forty years old, married, of American nationality. The University of California had him as Assistant Professor 1929-

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1930, and Associate Professor 1930-1935; at the same time he was Associate Professor at the California Institute of Technology 1928-1937. Since 1935 and 1937 respectively, he has been full Professor at both institutions.

With remarkable success Oppenheimer has participated in the development of quantum mechanics and its methods by treating important special problems. Examples: Quantum theory of molecular spectra. Scattering of particles by the nuclear field. Polarization of radiation generated by the impact of electrons. Emission of radiation by free electrons passing through a nuclear field (generation of continuous X-ray spectra) and application of the inverse process to the absorption of radiation in the interior of stars. Cold emission from metals. Relativistic wave equation, with emphasis on the theoretical difficulties arising from the local fields of the particles. Pauli principle, and gas statistics (jointly with P. Ehrenfest; the statistics is found to depend on the parity of the number of bound electrons). Oppenheimer has his share in Dirac's bold interpretation of the absence of an electron in a given negative energy state as the presence of a new particle, the positron, in the corresponding positive energy level.

Since about 1930 the center of gravity of Oppenheimer's work has shifted to nuclear physics. He has studied the genetic relationship between the several elementary particles and radiation, for instance the perturbation of the process of radiation by generation of electron-positron pairs. Perhaps his most original ideas are contained in his papers on the decomposition of deuterons by impact, and on the multiplicative showers of particles which are such a surprising feature in cosmic radiation.

Everywhere, and in particular in this latter work, he shows considerable strength in pursuing a theory into its last consequences, those consequences which are decisive for the whole theoretical foundation. It is characteristic of Oppenheimer that so many of his papers are written in collaboration with other physicists.

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During the war he has done excellent administrative work under formidable political and objective difficulties, and without losing any part of his scientific insight and integrity.

Oppenheimer has been a very great influence in the United States in spreading the knowledge of quantum mechanics. He has an enormous capacity for influencing young people, and has founded the largest school of theoretical physics in this country. His interests are broad, he surrounds himself with a brilliant social circle, and his students are very enthusiastic about him. It may be that he is somewhat too dominant, and his students tend to be smaller editions of Oppenheimer.

In comparing Oppenheimer with Pauli, it is safe to say that Pauli's command of the mathematical apparatus was, is, and will probably always be far the greater. Regarding qualitative insight, O. since he reached his full stature, comes closer to P. In inspiring other physicists, they are on the same level, perhaps O. even a little above P. as far as their influence on experimentalists on the spot is concerned. But certainly O. has made no contributions to physics of such fundamental nature as Pauli's exclusion principle and analysis of the electronic spin. Physicists outside our own circle agree with this opinion, or express themselves even more strongly to the effect that Oppenheimer is one in a series of younger physicists of nearly equal rank -- the names of Gamow, Bethe, Wigner and Heitler are mentioned -- but that they are all several degrees lower than Pauli in originality, depth and lasting influence.

The following is another quotation from Professor Rabi:

> "In the particular situation in which the Institute finds itself, that is a place where people go for post-doctoral study and where established professors go for a sabbatical year, Pauli is more suitable because of his great powers of critical evaluation of a problem and his fundamental point of view.
>
> As a close neighbor of the Institute for Advanced Study I can say with the greatest sincerity that I would regard the appointment of

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Pauli to the chair of theoretical physics in the Institute as a tremendous help to myself and to the whole community of physicists in the metropolitan region. He would be a great integrating influence and by his presence and example greatly raise the intellectual level of theoretical physics in this community. Oppenheimer, although he would be a great addition to the community, is not sufficiently above the others to have the same effect. Pauli for many years has been the conscience and the criterion of truth for a large part of the community of theoretical physicists."

After this report had been drawn up, the following letter was received from Professor Dirac in Cambridge, England:

"In answer to your cable, I would say that Pauli has achieved results of a higher order of importance that Oppenheimer has. One has only to think of Pauli's exclusion principle, or Pauli's original theory of the spin of the electron. I believe these achievements almost won a Nobel Prize for Pauli. Pauli has continued to produce results which form foundation stones in the building up of general quantum theory, and he shows a power of criticism and of penetration to the essential features of problems which is surpassed by no-one.

Oppenheimer has done valuable work in the theory of scattering and in quantum electrodynamics. His powers are perhaps greater than is generally recognised, because his style of writing things up is obscure, so that his work is not read so much as that of rival researchers. Oppenheimer is a man of great ability with a keen physical insight, though not in the same class as Pauli.

Oppenheimer has been holding a position of great responsibility during the war, and this would make him specially well qualified to run a large school of research. But unless you attach very great importance to this qualification, I would say there is no doubt that Pauli has the stronger claims."

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

October 15, 1947

Dear Professor Siegel:

On mature consideration it seems to us that your re-instatement on the basis of full salary should be as of July 1, 1947 rather than as of October 1. This means that the Institute owes you the balance between half salary for three months and full salary for three months; namely, $1,875. You may expect a check for that amount as soon as Miss Trinterud is able to put it through the Treasurer's Office. I hope this will be of some assistance in the purchase of your house.

In this connection I should like to repeat in writing the advice I gave you this morning that you be extremely careful about all the legal technicalities incident to the purchase of real property in the United States. Professor Veblen has had a great deal of experience in these matters and aside from Miss Trinterud would be the best possible person to advise you. I think you would be very wise to discuss both with Mr. Veblen and Miss Trinterud every step you take before you take it, especially the payment of money. If you pay something down on a house the title to which is not clear, the probabilities are that you will never be able to get it back. Furthermore, I am sure that the trustees of the Institute will insist upon an absolutely clear title before executing the mortgage they promised.

With most cordial good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

FRANK AYDELOTTE

Professor Carl L. Siegel
The Institute for Advanced Study

cc Professor Oswald Veblen

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
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PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

October 11, 1947

Professor Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Oswald:

I am rather disturbed about this question of Siegel's salary. In the ordinary way of things when we gave Meritt leave of absence to go to Oxford and Panofsky leave to go to Harvard, we did it in each case on the basis of half salary.

In Siegel's case, it was not certain that he could go to Germany and we consequently gave him leave for ninety days on full salary while he made the attempt. This leave on full salary was further extended so that he had about half the year before the payments were reduced to the ordinary half-salary basis. I am only too glad to do anything for Siegel that we fairly can but I must say that it seems to me that he has been rather more generously treated than other members of the Faculty already. It seems to me that in matters of this kind, the Institute should be scrupulously fair.

If there are any elements in the problem to which I am not giving due weight, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Frank Aydelotte

Copy to Dr. Oppenheimer
Miss Trinterud

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October 10, 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE:

When the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee of September 29, 1947, were read to the Faculty there seemed to be some disagreement about paragraph (4). I should be grateful if members of the Committee would give me their ideas as to how this paragraph should read. The minute as made was as follows:

"(4) The proposal for a nursery school for children of members living in faculty apartments was approved and details were left to Miss Miller and the Director."

FRANK AYDELOTTE

COPY

Copy to Professor Meritt
Professor Stewart
Professor ~~von Neumann~~
Veblen

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Memorandum

To Professor Carl L. Siegel Date Oct. 6, 1947

From Luella Trinterud Re

I took up with Dr. Aydelotte the matter of your return to full salary as of September 21st, but he stated that the check you received for September at half rate was to cover that month and that you would return to full salary as of October 1st. I trust this arrangement will be satisfactory to you.

Luella Trinterud

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

July 7, 1947

Professor Oswald Veblen
c/o R. A. Bowden
Brooklin
Hancock County
Maine

Dear Oswald:

Many thanks for your letter. I think Santaló is one of the best of the Latin Americans and that we ought certainly to admit him to membership in the Institute.

Siegel is apparently having a pretty bad time. I sent you a copy of Miss Braun's letter and can only wish that she had not been so vague about the cause of the trouble.

I will look up the latest information about Young's address and will send him a carbon copy of my letter.

I am glad you are having a good holiday. Marie has got it on her conscience that we should move out of Olden Manor by the middle of July though we actually said to the Oppenheimers that we could not promise to get out until September. Nevertheless we are going to move as soon as the new house is properly painted and a large number of additional bookshelves built. Mrs. Foerster is moving out today and we shall be free to go to work in earnest though we have already been treading on her heels. Our present plan is to move our stuff over but not to try to arrange it too carefully until after we have had six weeks or two months in Waterford.

Meanwhile I am moving my Rhodes Scholarship office in with Lowe and there is more activity in that little nook of the Institute than there has ever been since Fuld Hall was built.

With kindest regards to you both,

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

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(OV) Aydelotte

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

7 July, 1947

Dear Frank:-

(1) I remember Santaló's name as that of one of the few active mathematicians in South America, but I don't remember any of his work in detail. In general grounds we ought to receive and encourage such a man. Therefore I should be glad to sponsor him for admission and to receive him as a Guggenheim fellow.

(2) My impression is that L.C. Young is now in England. I should think that his address would be in ~~Paris~~ the hands of von Neumann's secretary. If not, Miss Blake may have it. Otherwise Rabi. ~~Yo~~ I have not heard from Young directly, but I ~~think~~ am afraid that the letter to South Africa may be a long time reaching him.

(3) I am inclined to postpone any action about extending Corson's membership till September. I doubt whether we ought to use membership as a demonstration of confidence in integrity alone.

Elizabeth will take this with her to Blue Hill. We are taking things rather easily, in comparison with last summer's daily engagement with Siegel. My only word from him is what you have passed on.

With best greetings to yourself & Marie from us both,

Ever,

Oswald Veblen

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(OV) Aydelotte

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
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PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

June 27, 1947

Professor Oswald Veblen
c/o R. A. Bowden
Brooklin, Hancock County
Maine

Dear Oswald:

Corson has just been in to see me and I have tried to comfort him as best I could. I told him that I would assemble in my files all the correspondence in relation to this business so that Oppenheimer or anybody could dig it out if any question of Corson's integrity should ever arise. I remember seeing a letter from Tate to you of which I do not have a copy. If you have it with you and would send it to me, I should be glad to have a copy made to attach to Corson's dossier.

Incidentally Corson feels that it would be a great vindication to him if we would be willing to extend his membership in the Institute for the first term of the academic year 1947-1948. He feels that this would be in effect an endorsement by us of his integrity. Personally I think we ought to do it. I told him that I could not do this on my own responsibility but that I would bring the matter up at the first meeting of the School of Mathematics in September. I wish you would think it over and let me have your opinion as to whether this is an action which we could take.

We have had a wild time at the Institute during the last week but so far as I can make out everything is safely over and a good time was had by all.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Frank Aydelotte

Copy to Miss Blake — in (Sec) file

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HIGHLAND PARK FLORIDA CLUB
LAKE WALES, FLORIDA

January 12th, 1947

Dear Oswald:

I am perfectly delighted to see this ~~abstract~~ ex from Siegel's letter to you. As you ~~see~~ say, it is clear cut, and I think we can count on him. Without any authority, I took the liberty of telling Miss Miller to continue Siegel on full salary, until my return, and I expect to bring the matter up to the executive Committee at its meeting in February.

Siegel is a funny person. I can think of a very easy way to get Miss Braun into the United States. That would be for them to get married immediately. I see no indication from his various letters, that he intends to do that, and I propose therefore, to push the matter of her entrance in the ordinary way. I will get on that as soon as I get back.

We are having a wonderful holiday, and are only just now realizing how much we needed it. I hope you and Elizabeth are going to get down here soon.

Sincerely yours,

Frank Aydelotte

Prof. Oswald Veblen,
Institute of Advanced Study,
Princeton, New Jersey

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Aydelotte

January 9, 1947

Dear Frank:

I am enclosing for your information a portion of a letter dated December 3 from Siegel. I think it shows, perhaps even more clearly than his letter to you, that he now has really made up his mind. I think the last sentence which I am quoting is very significant in view of my previous observations about Siegel's strong sense of responsibility. I think that we may find him extremely helpful in the everyday affairs of the Institute as well, of course, as one of our great protagonists of mathematics.

It is, however, clear now from both of our letters that his return is conditioned on Miss Braun's coming to the United States. In view of the slowness of the process that has so far been used toward bringing her over, I wonder whether there is anything that you could do through your acquaintances in Washington?

I hope that your sojourn in Florida is proving most delightful. With cordial greetings from Elizabeth and me to Mrs. Aydelotte and yourself,

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Highland Park Florida Club
Lake Wales, Florida
OV:GB

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
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PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

COPY

December 17, 1946

Herbert H. Maass, Esq.
20 Exchange Place
New York 5, New York

Dear Mr. Maass:

In response to Mr. Leidesdorf's telephone message, I sent telegrams to the members of the Executive Committee yesterday saying that you wished to cancel the meeting scheduled for today. The most urgent matter which I intended to bring to the Executive Committee was the final confirmation of the appointment of Professor Thompson which Mr. Leidesdorf thought had been fully covered by the action of the Committee a month ago.

I have, furthermore, received a request from Professor Alexander that he be granted leave of absence on half-salary for the calendar year 1947 in order to devote his full time to writing. Inasmuch as the principle of sabbatical leave was approved by the Trustees in the early years of the Institute, this request seems to me one which should be granted. With your approval I will tell Professor Alexander that he may assume leave will be granted and that this action will be affirmed at the meeting of the Executive Committee in February.

I thought it best at the last meeting of the Faculty for the present term to review the arrangements which had been agreed upon for my retirement as of October 16, 1947 and to state that I definitely proposed to retire on that date. It may interest you to know that we last summer purchased a house in Princeton (88 Battle Road) where we propose to live after we leave Olden Manor. While the arrangements for my retirement have, of course, never been kept secret, it seemed to me much more dignified and clear-cut to make this announcement which will doubtless soon become public property.

I informed the Faculty of the very kind invitation of your committee two years ago that I should continue to keep my offices at the Institute after my retirement. It seems most convenient for me to move in with Professor Lowe who will need less and less space as he completes his work and who can, therefore, make more and more room for me.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Copy to members of the Board of Trustees

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Copy to Aydelotte

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

October 15, 1946

Oct. 14/46

Dear Oswald:

I think the minutes are admirable and have only one or two suggestions to make as follows:

1. I should copy the whole letter from Ayres as an appendix to the minutes. I felt that the extracts which I read gave the members of the Faculty an inadequate idea of the point.

I agree with you about the question of bringing so small a matter up to the Trustees and suggest the wording "It was accordingly recommended by the School to the Director that this request should be met."

9. I have dug up the correspondence between Dr. Flexner and Professor Dirac but question whether these minutes ought to be burdened with it. The point is adequately made by you in two sentences.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Professor Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

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Veblen, Aydelotte

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

October 10, 1946

Dear Oswald:

In connection with the minutes of the School of Mathematics, was not the application of this man Rosenthal from McGill mentioned? I do not find his name in the minutes. He is an applicant for 1947-1948 and we should normally act on him in February. My only concern is that his name should not be forgotten.

I think the time of the Department could be very effectively saved if in preparation for such a meeting as we had the other day some kind of typed agenda could be prepared with the name of each candidate to be considered and the pertinent facts about him.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Professor Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Copy to Professor Hermann Weyl

FA:jsr

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

(OV) Aydelotte V-3

August 22, 1946

Dear Frank:

Whatever one may think about this new venture of Einstein's, it seems to me that it would be inadvisable to say anything to him which could be interpreted as a reproof. Technically of course he is in the wrong. In a deeper sense, however, it is the Trustees and first Director of the Institute who are in the wrong. Einstein should have been made a member of the Board of Trustees in the very beginning, and his advice should have been sought on every important question of policy, not only informally but in such a way that it would be clear to the public that he was assuming responsibility. He should have been identified in the minds of the public, and particularly in the minds of that part of the public to which the new appeal is being sent, not only as a participant in the execution of the plan of the Institute, but as one of the primary sponsors of our program. It is going to look very queer in the future that he should not have assumed this sort of responsibility.

It is rather late in the day to do anything about it now. But if my advice were heeded he would be appointed to the Board of Trustees at the next meeting and he would shortly thereafter appear as one of the principal officers of the Board. Some such action as this might indeed mitigate some of the harm which Mr. Maass anticipates.

Sincerely,

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
OV:GB

Oswald Veblen

P.S. Einstein has never said a word to me about his lack of influence in the councils of the Institute, but Miss Blake has kindly unearthed the following quotation from Infeld's autobiography, Quest, pp. 302, 303, 304:

"I hoped to obtain a fellowship from the institute for the next year. *** I knew that Einstein would do whatever he could, but I also understood that the chances of his being able to help me were very small. Strange as it seems, Einstein's support often means much less than that of many incomparably less famous professors. In Princeton his influence was amazingly small. He told me:

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

'My fame begins outside Princeton. My word counts for little in Fine Hall.'

* * * * *

'Tell me, Miss Dukas, is there any announcement of an institute meeting?'

He discovered that the meeting was two weeks away. He slowly read the announcement:

'There is an item on fellowships. No! It cannot be difficult to secure another fellowship for you. You ought not to worry at all.'

* * * * *

Two weeks passed, and in our talks we did not mention the subject again. It was not until the day before the meeting that I reminded Einstein, for fear that he might have forgotten it altogether. But it was unnecessary. He had kept the date well in mind and said to me: 'Don't worry. I won't forget to go, and I am sure you will get the fellowship — I will fight like a lion for you.'

The meeting was scheduled for the next morning. I was working quietly at my desk when at twelve o'clock the telephone rang. I thought:

'It must be Einstein. How considerate of him not to leave me in suspense.'

I heard his voice on the telephone:

'I don't want you to be depressed, although the news sounds bad. You did not get a fellowship for next year. I have some ideas about what to do, and you don't need to worry. We shall talk it over this afternoon. But I want you to feel sure that we shall find some way out.'"

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

April 28, 1946

Dear Oswald:

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

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

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

FA:mh

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

(OV) Aydelotte

November 26, 1945

Dear Frank:

I should like to call your attention particularly to the last sentence of paragraph 9 in these minutes, which is the result of a conversation with Morse. I think the matter may not have been stated as explicitly as I have put it in the notes, but I have put it there in order to get a decision. Otherwise Miss Blake would have to keep a special account of these expenses.

Math. Sch.
Nov. 21/45

Sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspo
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton,

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

October 9, 1945

TO MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY:

The Board of Trustees has been very generous in approving without exception all my recommendations for leave of absence to members of the Faculty for war work without asking questions as to the nature of the work which a given individual wished to undertake. I should like now to make a summary report to the Trustees at the meeting on October 19th of the contribution which members of the Institute Faculty have made to the war effort.

I should be grateful if you would dictate to your departmental secretary a detailed statement of the war work in which you have been engaged, giving dates, name of the organization served, your own position and a brief statement of the nature of the work you have been doing. I should be glad to treat as confidential between myself and the Trustees any details which should not yet be revealed to the public.

FRANK AYDELOTTE

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspo
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton,

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Fuld Bamberger

January 3, 1945

Members of the Faculty will be interested in the resolutions concerning Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Institute at their meeting on December 5, 1944. I send you herewith a copy for your files.

FRANK AYDELOTTE
Director

FA:jsr
Enclosure

Please file,
O. V.

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

December 11, 1944

Dear Frank:

When Professor Alexander was appointed to the Institute Faculty, he was bracketed with Professor Lefschetz of the University Faculty. Dr. Flexner asked me for my opinion as between Alexander and Lefschetz. I declined to say that one was more suitable for the Institute Faculty than the other. Their work was closely related and it was clearly understood that the one of them who was not chosen for a position in the Institute would become my successor as the Fine Professor of Mathematics in the University. Dr. Flexner decided to ask Dean Eisenhart to choose which one would stay on the University Faculty. Eisenhart discussed the problem with me and the decision was finally made on non-mathematical grounds that it would be better for Lefschetz to stay in the University and Alexander to come to the Institute.

As a result of this situation, Dr. Flexner said to Alexander and to me that he thought that it was better for Alexander to accept the same salary which Professor Lefschetz would be receiving in the University for the first couple of years, after which he would be put on the same status as the other mathematical professors who at that time were Einstein and myself. Weyl had been offered a position on the terms which he ultimately accepted, but was still hesitating.

When von Neumann was appointed a little later, Flexner felt, with justice, that he could not be placed in a higher bracket than Alexander and therefore there was the same understanding about his appointment as about Alexander's.

So far as I can recall, nothing was put into writing in either case. The assurances which Dr. Flexner gave to me and to both Alexander and von Neumann were discussed by us frequently at that time and were regarded by us as completely binding.

Yours sincerely,

Signed: OSWALD VEBLEN

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

November 10, 1944

Dear Frank:

In response to your inquiry, may I give you the following remarks about two of my colleagues, perhaps prefacing what I say by the remark that both of them belong in a very short list of the leading mathematicians of the world. It would be very hard to find a mathematician anywhere who is worthy of the name, who does not know about both of them and about their work.

Alexander belongs in the rare category of those who contribute a relatively small number of very deep ideas. Each of his papers contains a result which mathematicians in general had been trying without success to obtain, or initiates a line of thought which had not previously existed. The papers and books which have been written about his work exceed enormously in volume what he has written himself. His main field is topology, and perhaps his most famous result is what is known universally as Alexander's duality theorem. This is, however, only one among many of his contributions.

Morse is a more prolific writer, and not so much of a perfectionist as Alexander. His work nevertheless is known all over the world, and has been the subject of many other books and articles; for example, Variationsrechnung im Grossen (Theorie von Marston Morse) by Seifert and Threlfall, Leipzig and Berlin, 1938, is devoted almost entirely to analysis and amplification of some of Morse's discoveries.

Both of these men long ago received the principal distinctions which are open to mathematicians in this country. Of these I will mention only membership in the National Academy of Sciences; this body contains only a limited number of the leading scientists in each field, and their work is scrutinized very carefully before they are chosen. I may add that all professors in the School of Mathematics in the Institute are members of the Academy.

One final remark. Both of these men are now engaged full force on scientific work which, when it becomes known to the world, will reflect the highest credit upon the Institute.

Sincerely,

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Institute for Advanced Study
OV*GB

Oswald Veblen

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

O. Aydelotte

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Waterford, Conn.
22 August 1944

Dear Elizabeth:

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

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

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

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Waterford, Conn.
16 August 1944

Dear Oswald:

I have just asked Jane Richardson to find out whether you have left for England or whether you are still in this country. If you are still here and if you are likely to be returning from England some time in the latter part of September or the early part of October, would you be willing to bring over the annual Christmas letter which Dr. C. K. Allen, the Warden of Rhodes House, Oxford, issues to Rhodes Scholars? Dr. Allen prepares this letter, has it put into type and sends me a few specimen copies which I then have reproduced in the United States by the photo offset process for distribution to American and Canadian Rhodes Scholars. There is always an agonizing period when we do not know whether the mail will get the letter here in time for distribution at Christmas. If you are coming back and could bring it, it would save two or three weeks. If it works out that you can do this, will you please send a line to the Warden of Rhodes House as soon as you arrive in England, telling him that you could bring the letter over, and I am sure he will be most grateful for your assistance, as I shall myself. The dates are much more flexible than you may conclude from my schedule above. Actually I brought the letter home with me last year November 20th and that proved to be time enough. On the other hand, if Allen sends it by mail he has to get it off by about the first of October to make sure of my getting it in time to reproduce before Christmas.

With warmest good wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Frank Aydelotte

Professor Oswald Veblen

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

February 22, 1944

Dear Frank:

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Institute for Advanced Study
OV:GB

Oswald Veblen

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

January 26, 1944

Dear Oswald:

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

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Professor Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

FA/MCE

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

December 22, 1945

Dear Frank:

This is to acknowledge your letter of December 16 containing the formal notification of the action of the Executive Committee with respect to my retirement. I think you know already how much I appreciate the kind treatment which I have always had from the Trustees of the Institute, and in particular your own part in it.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Institute for Advanced Study
OV:GB

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

December 16, 1943

Dear Oswald:

This is only a formal notification of what you already know, namely, that the Executive Committee at its meeting on December 14th voted, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees, that because of your distinguished service to the Institute the rule of retirement at sixty-five shall be waived in your case and that you may, at your option, continue upon the active list until you have reached the age of seventy.

The Executive Committee further voted "that the Trustees shall make no conditions for men on the retired list as to their place of residence or the activities in which they may engage, except that Professors Einstein, Veblen, and Weyl, for whom unusually favorable pension arrangements have been made, shall not identify themselves with another institution without the approval of the Trustees."

The action of the Executive Committee in your case and in the others which came before it gave me great satisfaction and I know from his remarks after the meeting that Mr. Bamberger shares my feeling.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Professor Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

FA/MCE

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
1530 P STREET NW.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

VANNEVAR BUSH
Director

December 29, 1942

Dr. Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Oswald:

You will be interested in the enclosed letter, but I don't think it will surprize you. I began to see, and said to you some months ago, that I thought this work too important to be entrusted to any man who could not give his full time to it. Upon reflection, it is quite clear to me that I would not be justified, even from the point of view of the war effort itself, in giving up all my other responsibilities for this, and I consequently felt that I had no option but to resign.

What would you think of Harvey Lemon as my successor? Is it more important than what he is doing at Aberdeen and could he serve even Aberdeen better if he were stationed here?

Sincerely yours,

Frank Aydelotte

FOR VICTORY
BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

copy

December 23, 1942

Dr. Vannevar Bush
1530 P Street N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Van:

I have very regretfully come to the conclusion that I must resign as Head of the Office of Scientific Personnel of the OSRD. When I suggested to you the organization of this Office last Spring, I had no idea of undertaking the active conduct of it, and I accepted this responsibility on your urgent invitation and Conant's, with many misgivings on the score of the amount of time it would take.

The work of the Office has, as I expected, constantly increased in amount and in importance to such an extent as to demand that the head of the Office should be on the job for full time. I see no possibility of my being able to do that, nor do I think that a man of the caliber needed could fairly be asked to undertake the job unless he were placed in responsible charge. For this reason, I feel that I ought to submit my resignation and offer my services to you in the securing of a suitable individual to be my successor.

In my opinion, this is a suitable time for a change to be made. Certain preliminary jobs which you assigned to me last March have now been completed. Policies have been laid down in regard to insurance and compensation. The Committee has been organized and is now in working order. At the same time, the problem of technical manpower, the difficulties of which you yourself began to feel over a year ago, are now widely realized, and a great many proposals, some wise and some unwise, are being put forward for dealing with it. The interest and responsibilities of the OSRD in connection with this problem are so great and so important as to demand the full-time services of the best man you can possibly secure for this job.

In view of my own numerous responsibilities, some of which are also connected with the war effort, I have had the feeling from the beginning that my own most useful service to the OSRD would be on occasional and advisory jobs which I could do without assuming the responsibility for the full-time conduct of an administrative office. If there are any further tasks of this limited kind which

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you wish to assign to me in the future, I shall be delighted to place myself at your disposal. I have a very wide personal acquaintance among the scientists who are engaged in the work of the NDRC and the OSRD, very much enjoy working with them, and feel the deepest admiration for the contribution which they are making toward the war effort. It is just because of my strong feeling of the importance of this personnel job and my realization that with my other responsibilities I cannot give to it the full time which it needs, that I submit my resignation.

With warmest good wishes for the continued success of the magnificent work you are doing, and with a sincere desire to be useful to you in any way within my power, I am

Yours very sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

September 14, 1942

Dear Frank:

My status in the Army organization is that of "Consultant". The work which I do in the Ballistic Research Laboratory at the Aberdeen Proving Ground is well described by this word and also by my title in the organization chart: "Liaison and Coordinator of Scientific Research". Up to the present (but I hope not in the future) I have spent a great deal of time in seeking out suitable personnel. The success which has attended these efforts is very largely due to the cooperation which we have had from yourself, and I should like to express the gratitude which is felt by those responsible for the direction of the Ballistic Laboratory.

The work which I am trying to do for the Navy comes under the head of "Operational Research". It would be very hard to describe this at present, and it is very problematical what if anything will come out of it.

Sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
OV:GB

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

September 2, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY:

The Institute calendar for the academic year 1942-1943 will be as follows:

September 21	First term begins
December 19	First term ends
February 1	Second term begins
May 1	Second term ends

The first faculty meeting will be held in the Board Room on Monday afternoon, September 21st, at five o'clock. The dates for the faculty luncheons for the first term, as fixed by faculty action last year, would be Thursdays, October 1, November 5, and December 3. Since, however, eleven members of the faculty are now doing part-time or full-time war work and since during the summer it has apparently proved easier for the majority of these individuals to be in Princeton on Monday, I shall raise the question at the faculty meeting as to whether Mondays might not be better days than Thursdays for these monthly luncheons. I very much hope that the members of the faculty who are engaged in war duties will arrange, if possible, to attend the regular faculty meetings and monthly luncheons in order to preserve as much as possible of the continuity of the work at the Institute.

It is inevitable that the war should interfere seriously with the work of the Institute and it now looks as if the number of members would be approximately half what it was last year.

The lunch room, which has been open all summer, is closed for the first week of September and will re-open on September 8th with Mrs. Dilks in charge. Tea has been served as usual throughout the summer and will continue during the coming academic year.

A mimeographed list of faculty and members of the Institute will be ready for distribution shortly after the opening of the term.

FRANK AYDELOTTE, Director

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

(OV) Aydelotte

August 31, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY IN WAR WORK:

I am anxious to present to the Trustees in October as full and detailed an account as I can of the contribution which the Institute is making to our war effort. To this end I should be grateful if you would send me as soon as possible a statement on the particular work which you are doing and a rough estimate of the division which you make between time at the Institute and time spent at Washington or elsewhere on war duties.

The Trustees are eager to place the services of the members of the faculty at the disposal of the government to the fullest extent possible, but I wish to make in the case of each individual a specific statement as to the work he is doing and recommend leave of absence for whatever fraction of his time is necessary. I should be grateful if you would make the statement as full and detailed as is possible without betraying governmental secrets, and I shall ask the Trustees to treat my statement as confidential. I am very proud myself, and I am sure the Trustees will be proud, of the contribution which the Institute is making to the national effort.

FRANK AYDELOTTE, Director

My status in the Army organization is that of "Consultant" and I hold the title of Coordinator of Scientific Research in the Ballistic Research Laboratory of the Ordnance Department at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen Md. The work is well described by the title, but I have also spent a great deal of time also in seeking out suitable personnel. In this quest

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

March 9, 1942

Dear Frank:

This is just to remind you that I suggested that you might like to add to your list the name of Irving Langmuir of the General Electric Company.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
OV:GB

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

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

October 24, 1941

Dear Frank:

The main change which I have to suggest for your report is one which I think you had already decided to make; namely, to collect the remarks on extracurricular activities on page 4, and strike out the references to them in other places. This would mean, in particular, bringing to page 4 the two middle paragraphs of page 10, and the last paragraph of page 6 and that of page 7.

It might then be well to introduce a transition paragraph something like the following, after the first line of page 4a:

> "The mathematicians themselves are rather emphatic in regarding such work as organizing and administering research projects as 'extracurricular'. Also they regard the type of work that they do for the Government as strictly temporary no matter how inevitable and necessary it may be at the present time. Their real work is with the foundations of mathematics and mathematical physics, with the discovery and development of those principles of mathematics which will give deeper harmony to mathematics as an art, and greater power as a science. This is in accordance with the basic conception of the Institute; namely, that it is concerned with the long-term problems of scholarship, and not with the incidentals and the accessories."

Two minor remarks:

1) Referring to page 8, van Stockum is now in the Canadian Air Force;

2) Referring to page 10, the word "elegant" is used by mathematicians as primarily conveying an esthetic judgment.

My general comment is that you have handled a difficult problem very successfully.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

Oswald Veblen

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Institute for Advanced Study
OV:GB

P.S. Referring to page 4, it is the American Journal of Mathematics of which Weyl is an editor.

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

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W SEP 26 PM 55

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter
NT=Overnight Telegram
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CBD165 31 DL=PRINCETON NJ 26 128P

OSWALD VEBLEN=

HOTEL SHORELAND=

GLADLY AUTHORIZE OFFERING KOLISH FIFTEEN HUNDRED DEEPLY REGRET DUTIES HERE MAKE MY ATTENDANCE CHICAGO CELEBRATION IMPOSSIBLE HOPE YOU WILL BE WILLING TO REPRESENT INSTITUTE AT FORMAL MEETINGS ON SUNDAY AND MONDAY=

FRANK AYDELOTTE.

KOLISH.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

September 22, 1941

Dear Oswald:

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Professor Oswald Veblen
Hotel Shoreland
Chicago, Illinois

FA/MCE

* We now think it will be necessary to give up the dining room only for one term. That will give us a chance to improve the facilities.

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

September 19, 1941

Dear Oswald:

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

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

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

Negro
Howard U.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Professor Oswald Veblen
Hotel Shoreland
Chicago, Illinois

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

September 8, 1941

Dear Oswald:

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

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

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

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

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

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Lynch Homestead
Stockbridge, Mass.
4 August 1941

Dear Oswald:

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

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Oswald Veblen, Esq.
Brooklin, Maine

Warmest thanks for the carbon of your letter to Kellogg which came today. It will be useful

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

28 July 1941
Lynch Homestead
Stockbridge, Mass.

Dear Oswald:

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Dr. Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Maine

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

Yours sincerely,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Maine

FA:MR

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

Ed Aydelotte

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

May 12, 1941

Dear Oswald:

Confirming our conversation, it gives me pleasure to assure you of grants of $200.00 each for Dr. Givens and Dr. Taub for work in the summer of 1941 in view of the fact that Dr. Givens will not be able to accept the stipend granted him for the year, 1941-1942. If you will speak to Mrs. Bailey, she will make arrangements with you for the payment of these sums. I am sorry that you will not have Dr. Givens here next year, but the relief to the budget is considerable.

Yours sincerely,

FB

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fuld Hall
The Institute for Advanced Study

FA:ESB

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

March 7, 1941

Dear Frank:

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
OV:GB

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(Ov) Aydelotte

February 20, 1941

For Bulletin No. 10

In 1940-41 Professor Einstein pursued his investigations in general relativity, and he intends to continue in this direction during 1941-1942.

In 1940-1941 Professor Veblen studied the theory of binary spinors in collaboration with Professor Taub and Dr. Schwartz. In 1941-1942 he intends to continue along this line, and if the work develops favorably to join with Professor von Neumann in a seminar on algebraic devices in projective geometry.

In 1940-1941 Professor von Neumann gave the following lectures: In the first term, a course on the theory of invariant measures in groups, and also a series of lectures on the theory of games. In the second term he lectured in collaboration with Drs. Ambrose and Halmos on the ergodic theorem and connected topics. He expects to lecture in 1941-1942 on topics in the theory of linear spaces and in the theory of measure.

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

February 17, 1941

Professor Oswald Veblen

Fuld Hall

My dear Professor Veblen:

In Bulletin No. 9 of the Institute the following statement was made in reference to what you proposed to do this year:

> In 1939-1940 Professor von Neumann lectured on selected topics in operator theory. He and Professor Veblen collaborated in a seminar on spinor fields of particles of higher spin. The same subjects will probably be continued in 1940-1941.

I wonder if you would be good enough to let me have a revision for Bulletin No. 10 upon which we are now working.

Will you also let me know what statement to make regarding Professor Einstein's work? The following appeared in Bulletin No. 9:

> theorem.
> In 1940 Dr. Gödel reported on his researches on the continuum problem and in 1940-1941 will prob-

I should also be glad to have statements regarding the work of Professor Pauli, Professor Siegel, Dr. Gödel, and other members of the School of Mathematics who should be mentioned in the forthcoming bulletin.

Sincerely yours,

F.A.

FA:ESB

Frank Aydelotte, Director

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(OV) Aydelotte

February 10, 1941

Doob to OV Feb. 8/41

Dear Frank:

Shall I tell Doob that he ought to send a letter of acceptance to you in order to keep the record straight? Or will this one suffice?

Since it appears that now would be a very good time for getting the question of principle involved in the Blackwell case clear, would it not be a good idea if someone here should write to the Rosenwald Fund to say that we should be glad to receive Blackwell in case he is appointed?

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

Dr. Frank Aydelotte

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NEWCOMB CARLTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

Lake Wales, Fla.
January 16, 1941
Day Letter

Dr. Oswald Veblen
c/o Island Inn
Sanibel, Fla.

What day are you leaving and do you drive via Lake Wales. If so delighted have you stop for night on your way. We remain here until middle of next week. Many things to discuss but they could wait until we return if stop here not convenient.

Signed,

Frank Aydeotte

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

September 24, 1940

Dear Oswald:

I am meditating a permanent book for the minutes of meetings of the faculty, and I should like this record to go back to the very beginning of the Institute. Would you be willing, when time serves, to consult any notes that you have and prepare for me the best minutes you can of those early meetings, including names of those present, any discussion, and actions taken? In any case where your own memory may fail you, perhaps you can get information from other individuals who were present.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fuld Hall

FA:ESB

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

August 18, 1940

Dear Oswald:

Will you give me your advice on the enclosed letter from Einstein? It looks to me extremely difficult to do anything. We have presented so many special cases to the foundations that it is difficult to go outside the regular facilities for bringing refugees from the war zone. I have always had, furthermore, a serious question in my mind as to whether Bertrand Russell would fit into the group at the Institute. I should be glad to have your confidential opinion on this point.

We are going on merrily here. I am asking von Neumann to meet Pauli when the EXETER arrives at the end of this week. One of our League of Nations economists is already here. Loveday hopes to come by Clipper this week, and quite a group are in Lisbon trying desperately to get passage on one of the ships of the American Export Line.

We have not been away as yet. I have had to cancel engagements for a conference on Renaissance research at the Huntington Library, as well as the Phi Beta Kappa Council at Berkeley. We hope, however, to run off to New England for a little golf next week but can hardly get as far as Maine.

Yours sincerely,

FB

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin, Hancock County
Maine

FA/MCE

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

July 31, 1940

Dear Oswald:

Many thanks for your letter of July 29. The publicity man of Princeton University put in that note about Fine Hall on his own, so far as I know. I should have much preferred no newspaper announcement at the moment until we succeeded in getting the members of the Economics group safely out of Geneva across the unoccupied section of France. The fact is that members of the Economics section ought to be given offices here at the Institute. I know our economists will do everything in their power to make them comfortable, and I hope that the members of the mathematics and humanistic schools will be willing to let a considerable number of the members' studies on the third floor be devoted to the League of Nations Economics section, together with perhaps one or both of the small libraries.

I agree with you that it would be a great mistake to send the Economics group to Fine Hall, and I hope you will stand firmly by that position in speaking to Eisenhart or anyone in authority. Brakeley said that he was afraid Princeton University could not do much in the way of providing offices there, and I quite understood that. My thought was to house the Economics section in the Institute and the Public Health section at the Rockefeller Institute and Opium Control possibly at 69 Alexander Street, calling on the University for library facilities and other things of that kind which they can easily furnish.

We moved over last week and are slowly getting settled. I have nearly finished arranging books, which was the biggest job. We are beginning on pictures today and meanwhile are continuously edging painters, plumbers, paper-hangers, and other such gentry out of the house. As soon as we get things arranged and the League of Nations and the British children provided for, Marie and I hope to run off for a little golfing holiday, putting our clubs in the car and stopping where it seems pleasantest.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County
Maine

FA:ESB

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

(Sept) Aydelotte

July 24, 1940

Professor Veblen:

Dr. Aydelotte asked me to tell you that he does not see any way to help Mrs. Tarski or Professor Edoardo Volterra and therefore has not written you, but if you do see a way to let him know. He says he does not want to use up our credit with the State Department to no end. So I'll try to get some draft to you about Volterra.

He says they slept last night in Olden Manor, not too comfortably. As far as I know he was in this morning only time enough to get the Pólya matter going. He would rather not ask the Rockefeller Foundation for as small items as Polya's salary.

P.B.

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

C O P Y

16, Bishopswood Road,
Highgate, N. 6

15 July 1940

Dear Aydelotte

Thank you so much for your letter of 6 June sent by the Clipper, and the copy sent by the boat. As a matter of fact I had a very quick journey and got home some days ahead of either.

We are all in good heart, as Winston says. Now things will slowly get better, with ups and downs. My plans seem to have come off, so far as this end is concerned. R.H.Fowler is going to Ottawa this week -- you must see him some time, Veblen knows him well -- and other arrangements with Canada are being made. It seems that a flying boat service direct to G.B. is to be started. And I expect you have heard from Lothian about the other plan: we are now waiting for his reply.

I wish I could see you again -- letters are too slow and one must remember the possible censor -- but Fowler can tell you how things are. I have various jobs to do -- including attendance on Parliament: -- and much as I love Americans I am very glad to be back.

Otto Meyerhof and his wife and son are in Toulouse (Care Professor Soula, Physiology Dept., Medical School). He sent me telegrams asking me to get him here -- but it was quite impossible. I have cabled to Alan Gregg and to Conant asking them to try to get him to America.

It was suggested to Lothian that he should consult you, Frankfurter and Bush. In the end people became very keen about it here. I believe our experience could help you greatly, and certainly your resources can help us. People here have realized that most Americans feel they are in the same boat; and understand that the better prepared you are the better for everybody -- except Hitler and his gang. So if this co-operation comes off I believe, from our side at least, it will be very ready and whole-hearted.

With kindest regards to you both,

Yours ever,

A. V. HILL

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
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PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

July 8, 1940

Dear Oswald:

I have had an interview with von Mises recently about this new Journal of Applied Mathematics for which I had suggested Bergmann as managing editor. At my suggestion Bergmann went from Ann Arbor to Cambridge, interviewed von Mises, who, I understand, is to be offered the job provided von Mises can find the funds for a salary.

Von Mises urged very strongly upon me that the Institute should support the new journal by paying Bergmann's salary for one year at the rate of $1,500 or $1,800 with the expectation that after one year the journal would be able to find funds from other sources to continue. If this were done, it would have to be practically a continuation of Bergmann's stipend. Do you think that is something which the School of Mathematics should do if the money could be found?

I am sending a copy of this letter to Professor Weyl, and I should like to have your joint advice.

Bergmann would have a chance for a one-semester job at North Carolina, even if this did not go through.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County
Maine

FA:ESB

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

5 July 1940

Dear Oswald:

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

FC

Dr. Oswald Veblen
Brooklin, Hancock Co., Maine

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

V-6

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

June 21, 1940

Dear Oswald:

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

FC

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin, Hancock County
Maine

FA/MCE

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, P

This memorandum is very confidential

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

Night Letter - June 15, 1940 - 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Harold W. Dodds, President, Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.

My dear Mr. President:

In reply to your cable of June twelfth I wish to express my own and my collaborators' profound gratitude for the generous invitation sent to me by you together with the director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and the director of the Institute for Advanced Study to whom I beg you to transmit this cable. We are deeply touched by your appreciation of the services rendered hitherto by the secretariat's technical sections and by your anxiety to see those services continued. My own desire to secure this object, having due regard to the responsibilities of my position, has led me to maintain at the disposal of the states members of the League a staff embodying the experience and competence acquired during the last twenty years. The statutory seat of the League being established at Geneva, I am certain that you will understand it is not within my power bracket(a) bracket even provisionally to alter this arrangement unless compelled by force majeure or bracket(b) bracket to transfer all or part of the secretariat unless the initiative were taken by one or more states. These would then have to envisage all responsibilities attendant upon such initiative, the final decision remaining subject to the approval of the states members. Heartened and encouraged by American friends sympathetic concern for which we are all grateful.

Yours very truly,

Avenol, Secretary General

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MEMORANDUM

June 7, 1940

At the suggestion of Mr. Riefler, a luncheon meeting was held today with the following men present: Mr. Brakeley, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Riefler, Mr. Aydelotte, and Mr. Arthur Sweetser of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, who has just returned from Geneva. Mr. Riefler and Mr. Sweetser had recently held a conversation in Washington which Mr. Riefler wished to bring to the attention of the authorities of Princeton University, the Institute for Advanced Study, the Princeton branch of the Rockefeller Institute, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Mr. Sweetser informed the group that because of possible contingencies in Switzerland there was likelihood that the League may be required to consider the desirability of seeking quarters in another country, which, in his opinion, should be a neutral country. While he disclaimed having any official authority to put forward any suggestion in the matter, the question had arisen in his mind whether in view of the statements regarding the technical work of the League made by both President Roosevelt and Secretary Hull, it might be possible for these technical activities to come to this country.

It was agreed that if such a transfer was made Princeton would be an ideal location for these activities. It was thought that the best procedure would be to lay before the Boards of Trustees of Princeton University, the Institute for Advanced Study, and the Princeton branch of the Rockefeller Institute the question whether they would be willing to consider extending an invitation to the League to move the technical sections from Geneva to Princeton. It was understood that

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such an invitation, if issued, would involve no financial responsibility, the technical sections paying their own cost of transportation and their running expenses in Princeton, as they do in Geneva. It was further agreed that the institutions could take no responsibility for the future of the personnel of these sections in the event that they should cease to be connected with the League. The technical groups involved would be the section on economics and finance, the opium section, and the health section. Mr. Sweetser felt that it would be important to keep all three groups together if possible. The total personnel would probably amount to about eighty, though as to this figure he could not be definite because of uncertainty as to the number of members of the clerical staff who would be brought from Geneva to this country. Mr. Sweetser reported that racially this personnel was predominantly neutral rather than belligerent, with a large representation of Scandinavians.

It was agreed informally by those present at the luncheon that the following steps should be taken:

1. An informal approach should be made to the Boards of Trustees of the three institutions to ascertain whether they would consider it wise to take steps leading to an invitation to the technical sections to come to Princeton. If the three Boards of Trustees agree, it would perhaps be best to designate members of a joint committee which could consider the steps to be taken.

2. If agreement were reached on point No. 1, it would then be necessary to approach the United States government to secure approval of the invitation before it was actually presented to the League.

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3. If these steps met with approval it would then be time to extend a formal invitation on behalf of the three institutions concerned to the Secretary General of the League to move the technical sections to Princeton.

Mr. Walter W. Stewart, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation, assured the group of the deep interest of the Rockefeller Foundation in the work of the technical sections of the League and the importance which the Foundation attaches to the preservation of the records of these sections and the continuance of their work.

It was believed that the national committee which is being organized by Miss Woolley for the support of the technical sections of the League should at the proper moment be informed of this invitation and its cooperation asked.

FRANK AYDELOTTE

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

(IAS) Aydelotte

V.3

June 5, 1940

Dear Frank:

I discussed a little more with A. V. Hill before he sailed the question about Dirac. Hill thought that this would not be the kind of thing in which the Pilgrim Trust would be interested, and furthermore he thinks that the immediate military advantage is not worth considering. Therefore I told him that so far as we are concerned I thought that the Pilgrim Trust idea had better be dropped. He said, however, that he would find out whether Dirac is doing anything that is really important in the way of war work, and if it turns out that he is not he (Hill) would be willing to intervene in favor of getting Dirac to accept in case an invitation should come to him.

Hill's point of view seems reasonable to me because the Uranium question or any other theoretical investigation can have an influence only in the long run. He is in no state of mind to be interested in the preservation of the tradition of theoretical physics in case of an unfavorable outcome of the war.

I am writing a note to Weaver telling him of this situation, as I promised him I would.

Weaver told me that the Rockefeller Foundation had expressed willingness to underwrite a two-year invitation from Brown University to Harald Bohr. I told him that Courant was making an endeavor to raise funds for an invitation from our Institute for Jakob Nielsen.

Alexander has not yet chosen an assistant. He would be willing to help in the Copenhagen situation either by letting the money for this purpose be used for Nielsen, who is of course too old and distinguished to be listed as an assistant; or perhaps by appointing Fenchel as his assistant.

I think that Weaver also has it pretty clearly in mind that Niels Bohr, Harald Bohr, Jakob Nielsen and Warner Fenchel hang together so closely that it may almost be said that they constitute a single problem.

My address after today will be Brooklin, Hancock County, Maine.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Frank Aydelotte

Oswald Veblen

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

Copy for Prof. Veblen

(Cov) Aydelotte

May 28, 1940

Dear Frank:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

C O P Y

THE COMMONWEALTH FUND

May 27, 1940

Dear Dr. Veblen,

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

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

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

With cordial regards,

Sincerely yours,

BARRY C. SMITH

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

C O P Y

May 27, 1940

Dear Veblen:

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

Very cordially,

WARREN WEAVER

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

(OV) Aydelotte

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

27 May 1940

Dear Oswald:

Your letter to Dewey is exactly right, and so far as I can see there is no necessity for my adding anything to it.

I got the copies of the Bulletin this morning and think these staples quite adequate and very much to be preferred because of the time and money which they save. The Bulletin looks all right to me, except for the note about applications for admission. I question whether it should not be on the preceding page, ~~but~~ somewhere below the calendar. What do you think?

I have been expecting daily some word from Felix Frankfurter, but have not yet received it. I hope to see him, then Hill before Hill sails, and if you have not yet gone to Maine by the time Hill gets back to this part of the country, I think it would be useful if he could have a talk with you.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Professor Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

C O P Y

May 26, 1940

Dear Mr. Strauss,

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

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

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

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

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

With cordial regards

Sincerely yours,

(RICHARD COURANT)

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

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

(OV) Aydelotte

April 10, 1940

Memorandum for Dr. Aydelotte:

1. Professor Stewart thought it essential that any communication suggesting that either of the Bohrs be brought to Princeton should come directly from you as Director. He has merely told officers of the Rockefeller Foundation that we here are interested in the fate of the two Bohrs.

2. He recalled that the Rockefeller Foundation had in April 1937 declined a request from Dr. Flexner that they should provide funds for calling Niels Bohr and Dirac to Princeton. The reason for this declination is probably a good basis for a request at the present time. Miss Eichelser has looked up the correspondence on the subject and it is attached herewith.

3. I showed Professor Stewart my letter to you dated March 15 and the letter signed jointly by von Neumann and myself dated March 23. I raised the question whether he did not think it was reasonable to anticipate the possibility that Germany would take possession of its other small neighbors,- in particular, why should we not take steps to move Pauli, at least temporarily, away from Zürich, since he would play an important role in any program for theoretical physics? Stewart thought that this was a sensible idea. He suggested that it would be well to talk the whole question over with Mr. Fosdick, making use of these two letters which show that we have been thinking for some time about the problems involved.

not in files

OV:GB

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

(Pers) Aydelotte

May 28, 1940

Dear Frank:

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No - do not send - May 29/40

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

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

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Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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(OV) Aydelotte

May 25, 1940

Dear Frank:

Here is a letter from John Dewey together with a copy of my reply. I am not sure that I have ever told you that for my Ph.D. at Chicago I took philosophy as a minor and Dewey was my chief teacher. I have always kept a very high regard and admiration for him, which however does not extend to all his prefaces to other people's books.

As ever,

Oswald Veblen

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

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

(OW) Aydelotte

V-3

March 23, 1940

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

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

The Dutch physicist, P. Debye, who has been Director of the Physics Institute of the Kaiser Wilhelm Gesellschaft in Berlin (supported by the Rockefeller Foundation), has been sent abroad by the German authorities in order to free his Institute for secret war work. When one of us met him at dinner the other evening, he made no secret of the fact that this work is essentially a study of the fission of uranium. This is an explosive nuclear process which is theoretically capable of generating 10,000 to 2,000,000 times more energy than the same weight of any known fuel or explosive. There are considerable deposits of uranium available near Joachimsthal, Bohemia, as well as in Canada. It is clear that the Nazi authorities hope to produce either a terrible explosive or a very compact and efficient source of power. We gather from Debye's remarks that they have brought together in this Institute the best German nuclear and theoretical physicists, including Heisenberg, for this research--this in spite of the fact that nuclear and theoretical physics in general and Heisenberg in particular were under a cloud, nuclear physics being considered to be "Jewish physics" and Heisenberg a "White Jew".

There is a difference of opinion among theoretical physicists about the probability of reaching practical results at an early date.

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This, however, is a well-known stage in the pre-history of every great invention. The tremendous importance of the utilization of atomic energy, even if only partially successful, suggests that the matter should not be left in the hands of the European gangsters, especially at the present juncture in world history.

Work of the sort which the German physicists are supposed to be doing has been going on for some time at Columbia University under Professor Fermi and Dr. Szilard, but at a slow rate because the expense of the experiments exceeds a normal departmental budget. Some effort, not entirely successful, has been made to enlist the help of the United States Government, but this process is slow and cumbersome and has met serious obstacles. It seems to us, therefore, that the problem is one which might well be brought to the attention of the Rockefeller Foundation, which would be in a position to act in a simple and direct manner. We are not prepared to suggest a very definite way of attacking the problem, but suppose that if the officers of the Foundation were interested they would consult with physicists who are familiar with the practical questions involved.

We have quoted Professor Debye rather freely in writing to you, but obviously we should have to be very cautious in using his name any further. In any case his only role was unintentionally to stimulate us to bring up a question which we have had on our minds for several months, without knowing exactly what, if anything, to do about it.

Very truly yours,

OV

OV:MGH

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Director: ABRAHAM FLEXNER

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OSWALD VEBLEN
LEWIS H. WEED

LIFE TRUSTEES
LOUIS BAMBERGER
MRS. FELIX FULD

February 1, 1940

Dear Professor Veblen:

In Bulletin No. 8 of the Institute, issued in March, 1939, the following statement was made in reference to what you proposed to do this year:

> In 1938-1939 Professor Veblen lectured on spinors and projective geometry, and Professor von Neumann lectured on continuous geometry. In 1939-1940 they intend to collaborate in a seminar on various questions related to operator theory.
>
> Professor Einstein will pursue his investigations in general relativity.

I wonder if you will be good enough to let me have a revision for Bulletin No. 9 upon which we are now working.

Will you also let me know what to say about Professor Einstein's work for next year? The following statement appears in Bulletin No. 8.

I shall be glad to have suggestions regarding the distinguished members in the School of Mathematics, 1939-1940, for inclusion in Bulletin No. 9.

Sincerely yours,

Frank Aydelotte

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fuld Hall

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

HIGHLAND PARK FLORIDA CLUB
LAKE WALES, FLORIDA

22 Jan 1940

Dear Oswald:

Seven members of the Board cannot attend Jan 29, at first intimation of this I wired you at Sanibel but you could not be reached. Office usual telephoning & telegraphing all trustees except governors for opened on meeting New York Feb 24. I am terribly sorry I cannot reach you with this news, especially as I think

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you are perhaps coming up to Princeton
somewhere in this part of Florida
and I should be very glad
to have you pass a day or
few days longer. I shall
stick to work on my Columbia
lectures until ~~Thursday~~ Wednesday
& reach Princeton Thurs the 30th.

yours
Oswald Veblen

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

WESTERN UNION

1223

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter
NT=Overnight Telegram
LC=Deferred Cable
NLT=Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

THE MESSAGE SENT TO PROF OSWALD VEBLEN SANIBEL FLO SIGNED AYDELOTTE WAS FORWARDED FROM SANIBEL TO HIM AT PRINCETON NJ AND PRINCETON NJ ADVISES HE IS ENROUTE FROM FLORIDA TO PRINCETON ARRIVING SATURDAY OR SUNDAY AND THERES NO FORWARDING ADDRESS AVAILABLE AS TO WHERE WE CAN LOCATE HIM

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HIGHLANDS GOLF & TENNIS CLUB
LAKE WALES, FLORIDA

3 Jan 1940

Dear Oswald:

Our Trustees Board meeting has been postponed to w or therefore staying here until about Jan 13. Do you leave on the 10th could you & Elizabeth spend that night or the next with us here? We should love to have you and it would be useful to talk over some of the problems that will

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

to confronting us in Princeton the next week.

I wonder if you could telle Bo for the Board meeting in Princeton but they will probably want it in New York to make it easier for Mr. Bamberger.

Hoping to see you next week I am

Yours ever

Frank Aydelotte

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

HOTEL ROOSEVELT
LAKE WALES, FLORIDA

LAKE WALES FLA.
DEC 28
1 - P M.
1939

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
3 CENTS 3

Professor Oswald Veblen

Island Inn

Sanibel

Florida

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

HIGHLAND PARK FLORIDA CLUB
LAKE WALES, FLORIDA

28 Dec 1935

Dear Oswald:

Many thanks for your letter of Dec 25 which came yesterday. When do you return? Not, I am afraid, before we leave for France. Our time is so short and I have so much to do that I hesitate to try to drive down to Sanford, much as we both should like to do so. I have various matters on which I want to get your advice, but

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there will be time in Princeton.
I am planning to spend
the whole week Jan 15-22 at
the Institute getting things in
order for the Board meeting.

One question you might think
over: Do you think there is any
advantage in having the Director's
report written & read. I for
one written but my instinct
at the moment is to call it

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M. presenting points, 1, 2, 3 etc for discussion and action. I am also thinking (calling Committees — Bldg & Grounds, Budget, etc to meet the morning of Board Day, consider certain problems (like the proposed co-operative house) and report to the Board. It seems to me that this would save everyone's time & put our business through more promptly.

Merci joins me in warmest birthday & season's greetings & very happy New Year. Bill is for work on. Pelham comes today for 3 days only and I am going by train down to see Houghton in Miami next week.

Yours Frank Aydelotte

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SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

19 December 1939
Dictated Dec. 16

Dear Veblen:

I meant to get word to you yesterday that our address in Florida will be Highland Park Florida Club, Lake Wales, Florida. I should think you would be passing it in your car wherever you go, and it would give us great pleasure if you could stop for a night and have a good long talk, which it seems difficult to find time for in Princeton. We shall be almost alone in a club built for several hundred people, so that it would be easy to find room for you and Elizabeth any time that you might be passing.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Dr. Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

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(OV) Aydelotte

December 6, 1939

Dear Aydelotte:

DeWet and Guinand are both Commonwealth Fellows.

DeWet is working partly with Professor Wigner in the Physics Department of the University, and partly with me. We both think very highly of him, not only scientifically, but also because of his exceptionally good personal qualities.

A. P. Guinand is on the list of the Mathematics Department of the University, but not on that of the Institute. From what little I have heard about him I think that his name should be on our list also. I do not yet know him personally, but deWet tells me that they are coming to Florida together and I shall probably get acquainted with Guinand during that visit if not sooner.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

Dr. Frank Aydelotte

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The Rhodes Scholarship Trust.

OFFICE OF THE
AMERICAN SECRETARY.

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE,
SWARTHMORE, PA.

4 December 1939

Dear Veblen:

Do you know anything about two Rhodes Scholars by the names of J.S. de Wet and A.P. Guinand, who have come to the United States and are supposed to be studying at the Institute. Mrs. Bailey has not heard of them and I had no chance to check up with you before I left on Friday. I should be grateful if you could give me their addresses if you know them.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Oswald Veblen,
Institute for Advanced Study,
Princeton, New Jersey

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

November 27, 1939

Dear Doctor Aydelotte:

Professor Veblen has just telephoned asking me to send you the enclosed eight copies of the resolutions concerning Dr. Flexner's retirement which were drawn up by the committee. These resolutions have been agreed to by all members of the faculty who are now in Princeton.

Yours sincerely,

P.B.

President Frank Aydelotte
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, Pa.

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Director: ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Chairman
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MRS. FELIX FULD

Swarthmore, Pa.
22 November 1939

Dear Veblen:

I enclose a draft of the resolutions written as if they had, by agreement, been adopted both by the Board and by the Faculty. I should be grateful if you would revise them in every possible way that may occur to you, and let me have the results of your efforts Friday morning before the Executive Committee meets at noon. Show them of course to anyone who might be suggestive.

Yours hastily,

Abraham Flexner

Professor Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Erdös ?
Birkhoff

Chern + Bott
Pauli Bergy ?

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

The trustees and faculty of the Institute for Advanced Study take the occasion of Dr. Flexner's retirement to record their sense of permanent indebtedness to him. The character of the Institute has been determined by his great faith in the rôle of the creative scholar in society. It is this that led him, when he undertook to organize the Institute, to concentrate first and foremost upon the search for individuals, to insist upon complete freedom for those individuals in the pursuit of their scholarly objectives, and to endeavor to surround their lives with greater dignity. These ideals, deeply held, account for the boldness of the Institute's plan, the flexibility of its arrangements, and the severity of its standards. He built the Institute around its scholars and did not try to fit them into a pre-arranged institutional plan.

The embodiment of his ideals in the Institute constitutes the latest phase of a career which spans the period, from Gilman to the present time, during which American education and scholarship achieved maturity. In that career his experience was long and varied, first, as a successful teacher, then, as a brilliant investigator of educational and social institutions, and subsequently, as a wise administrator of philanthropic funds. All this experience he placed at our disposal. Whatever prestige the Institute enjoys or may enjoy in the future, whatever service it may render to scholarship, will be based upon the foundations established by Abraham Flexner. Exegit monumentum aere perennius.

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SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

16 November 1939

Dear Veblen:

I am most grateful to you for all your kindness in connection with the golf club.

As it hapens, I could not go to Princeton today, being laid up in bed with a cold. I hope to go in to the Philosophical Society tomorrow, and we can have a little talk then about the tea arrangements.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Frank Gilliland

Dr. Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

Aydelotte

November 13, 1939

Dear Aydelotte:

I think it is arranged that you will be nominated for membership in the golf club, probably by Dean Gauss and some other member of the University. The dues are $90 plus tax, which may be reduced to something in the neighborhood of $70 in case it is decided to give you the same status as a member of the University faculty. I believe that the question whether this consideration should be extended to the Institute has not yet been raised.

When we were speaking about the tea arrangements I forgot that Elizabeth is to be away on Thursday on a visit to a nephew in the Darrow School in northern New York. She will come back on Friday night to join me at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel. This visit to the Darrow School was postponed from last week so that she could attend Dr. Flexner's party.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

26 July 1939

Dear Veblen:

I have your telegram and letter and want to talk to you on the telephone on Saturday concerning plans for a meeting. I hope to have some word by then as to what time will be convenient for other people concerned. I think it possible that New York on Monday or Tuesday will be best. If convenient for you we should love to have you come straight from Providence to our house and we could then go over to New York together. I can send to meet you at the 30th Street Station whenever you arrive. If you took a night train Saturday night you would get to 30th Street about 7:40 the next morning, Daylight Saving Time, which would bring you to our house for breakfast.

If on the other hand, your business in Providence takes more than one day it would perhaps be better for you to come directly to New York on Monday.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte,

Professor Oswald Veblen,
care Dean Richardson,
Brown University,
Providence, Rhode Island.

P.S. It would probably be better for you to call me on Saturday since I do not know Richardson's telephone number. Our college office is closed on Saturday but I have a private telephone line in my office, Swarthmore 1851, which would get me any time Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon I shall be at my house, Swarthmore 195. If you would call me and reverse the charges that would be most satisfactory.

F.A.

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

Dear Aydelotte:- 23 July 1939

To confirm what I said on the telephone in answer to your inquiry this afternoon, I should be very glad to come to New York for a conference on the ~~Institute~~ I.A.S. directorship at any time, and to stay for several days if necessary. I ~~would~~ hope that the result of such a conference ~~would~~ will be an early meeting of the Trustees at which they would appoint ~~(2 or 3)~~ 2 or 3 members of a committee to recommend a new director and call a meeting of the Faculty to choose 2 or 3 other members of this committee. This ~~procedure~~ procedure is in accordance with the by-laws* and justified, even if the present director has not yet resigned, by the general expectation that he will soon retire. If, as I thought you said, F. Lesser had indicated to you (or to any

*which provide for a committee without specifying it members. The director is elected yearly and the trustees

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[illegible] early date there is all the more reason for prompt action. But in any case, there is no reason why the Trustees should not meet ~~out of the term~~ when the Institute is not formally in session, and I should think that it is their duty to meet as soon as ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ a reasonable number of them ~~be-~~ are convinced that there is important business to attend to. ~~some consciousness of a problem of this importance~~. An informal conference ~~would~~ should ~~effect~~ have the effect of ~~making~~ convincing the ~~[illegible]~~ ~~of this [illegible]~~. As to a meeting of the Faculty, most members are within easy reach, and those who have gone abroad have left proxies (with Einstein I believe) in view of the possibility of a summer meeting. I think a representative meeting could be held on relatively short notice.

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

With regard to the committee I, of course, cannot predict how long its deliberations would last, but if it is in existence before Oct. 1st ~~[illegible]~~

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~~unnecessary distraction. If its report were ready by that date, everything would be much better and acted on by the Trustees~~ everything would be much better both because of the reasons given in my last letter (which are powerful ones in view of the ~~character~~ respective behavior of the present director) and because of important decisions which have to be made in connection with the new building.

The next academic year will be much more profitable than it would otherwise be. ~~and~~ If the committee's report were ready and acted on by the Trustees by that date

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

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doubt in my mind is the reaction of

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

Mr. Bamberger & Mrs Fuld to the pleas for delay which are sure to be made. Even if the present director should succeed in standing on a legal right to serve out another year I see no reason why the new director should not be chosen this ~~Sep~~ summer so that he could study his problems for the following year, before the budget, etc.

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It is possible that the [illegible]
could ~~not~~ successfully stand on his legal right
to serve out the year for which he has been
formally elected. This however is no
reason why the Trustees should not (1) meet ~~this~~
~~summer~~, choose their part of a joint committee, (2) call a meeting
of the Faculty to choose its representatives on this
committee, (3) receive the report of the joint com-
mittee and elect the new director before Oct. 1st
The latter, if he could not take formal charge
before the following June ~~could find~~ would
have many useful things to do.

This letter is not to be confidential
You are perfectly free to show it to
~~these~~ any of the Trustees or the Faculty
if you wish.

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BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

17 July 1939

Dear Aydelotte:-

I have just received a letter from Earle dated the 13th, saying that he had written to you to urge that there shall be no hesitation in taking the necessary steps to make a change in the directorship of the Institute this summer. I should like to add my voice to his. A further delay would probably not harm me personally more than it would most other members of the faculty, but I fear that it would do the Institute as a whole very considerable harm. To allow the present tense and uncertain situation to continue

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to divide the faculty into factions, and to cause personal differences which may be hard to heal. ~~On the other hand, to settle the question quickly and decisively~~ This would be avoided if a new director were chosen ~~this summer. will enable~~

All of these dangers will be accentuated by the circumstance of our being brought together for the first time in the ~~[illegible]~~ new building

~~we all to~~ adjust ourselves to the new ~~[illegible]~~ administration with a minimum of doubt and ~~delay~~ disturbance ~~and without [illegible] unnecessary waste~~

I don't know exactly what steps are legally necessary, but I do think that a meeting of the Trustees followed by one of the Faculty, and thus to have a complete and clarified situation by October 1st. it is perfectly practical to have

Whether the new director would be able to take hold at once is from doubtful, but an interregnum would be relatively easy to bridge if we knew what was in view at ~~the end of~~ its end.

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(OV) Aydelotte

May 4, 1939

Dear Aydelotte:

I have just managed to see Conklin with the request that I might appear before the Publications Committee next Monday. He says, however, that there is too much other business coming before the committee, and is going to propose that the matter be taken up at a special meeting later in the month. He will also suggest that a special committee consisting of Urey, Keppel and myself, be requested to prepare the matter and present it to the special meeting of the Publications Committee.

Under these circumstances I will presumably not be in Philadelphia on Monday. I saw Maass and Leidesdorf however last night, and talked things over with them quite fully, and from my point of view satisfactorily. I got the impression that the discussions which have now taken place are probably sufficient for the present. When I see you again I hope to give you further details.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

(OV) Aydelotte

November 23, 1938

Dear Aydelotte:

Many thanks for your letter of November 21. And best wishes to you and Marie for your holiday in the South.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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(OV) Aydelotte

November 19, 1938

Dear Aydelotte:

A couple of weeks ago I spoke with Mr. Moe about the possibility of a Guggenheim Fellowship for William Flexner, who is now an Assistant Professor at Cornell. Mr. Moe seemed to welcome the idea. Young Flexner never got a National Research Fellowship because his father was Chairman of the Board which awarded these fellowships. At present his uncle will not allow funds of the Institute to be used for a stipend for him here in Princeton. On the other hand he is developing scientifically in a way which would justify his being given the sort of encouragement which normally comes to a young scientist at his stage of development. His work is just at a point where he would profit very greatly by a year at such a place as our Institute. I wonder whether you could, without embarassment to yourself, give me some idea as to whether there is any probability of his getting a Guggenheim award?

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

21 November 1938

Dear Veblen:

We should certainly welcome an application for a Guggenheim Fellowship from William Flexner. It would, however, be impossible for me to give you in advance any intimation as to what his chances of getting a fellowship would be for the simple reason that we have such a large application list that even exceedingly good men have to be denied. But I hope he will apply, and I can say to you frankly that your own recommendation would carry great weight with the committee.

I have not forgotten your concern about German refugees, and you will be glad to know that the American Friends Service Committee is taking the matter up in a very serious way. They will want you eventually to attend a meeting, but they thought it better to discuss the plans themselves first so that when you did go your time would be used to the best advantage.

I am sorry to say that I have been up and down with a persistent attack of grippe for the last two or three weeks. Last week I got up to go to New York to a meeting, apparently overdid it, had to go back to bed, and Marie and I are leaving this morning for a little holiday in the South so that I can eradicate the last of these germs from my system.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Dr. Oswald Veblen
Princeton, New Jersey

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

October 13, 1938

Dear Aydelotte:

~~I saw~~ Larson ~~yesterday and told him about your engagement~~ will not be coming to Swarthmore this time. ~~He turned out that~~ He is not staying as long ~~this time~~ as he first intended, and will be going back to New York today and from there on to Hanover. He hopes to see you on one of his next visits. I judge that his conversations with members of the faculty yesterday resulted in no radical changes, but a considerable number of small ones. ~~I judge that~~ Most of my colleagues ~~are~~ seem well pleased with what they saw.

There is a new flood of ~~applications for refuge from victims of~~ letters from would-be refugees from the Rome-Berlin axis, and I cannot help feeling that since we and England have, to say the least, done nothing to hinder the new outrages, we ought somehow to make fresh efforts to help some of the victims. As far as I can judge, possibilities in the more important universities and colleges are about exhausted; but there must still be a ~~considerable~~ number of smaller ~~colleges and educational~~ institutions which could with profit to themselves receive some of the displaced scholars, in relatively humble positions. I wonder whether there is anyone among the Quakers who might undertake the job of exploring this possibility. There are, of course, a considerable number of difficulties, and ~~a certain amount of risk, involved~~. ~~As an illustration~~, I enclose a copy of a letter received this morning from Professor Kottler (fifty-one years old), whom I mentioned to you last summer. There was also a letter from one of the men at the German university in Prague which is of course practically certain to be discontinued, with no provision for its non-Nazi professors.

some risk of arousing anti-foreign and anti-semitic feeling,

but after reading the letters I keep feeling I ~~cannot help~~ feel that we ought to take some risks.

Yours sincerely,

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

Oswald Veblen

Write to Carolyn to get the letter

the attitude of mind of

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SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

30 May 1938

Dear Veblen:

Many thanks for your note with Herzfeld's very interesting comments. Obviously we have a number of intriguing suggestions to make to the architect, and I have no doubt that he will produce others on his own account.

I shall try to telephone Mr. Maass tomorrow and find out what his idea is about the next step. He tells me that he must leave his office at 4:30 sharp, and since I am afraid I cannot get there until 4:00 or possibly a little after, it is apparently useless to attempt to meet him, and I have accordingly telegraphed you to that effect.

It was delightful to have a chance to talk the whole matter over with you Friday, and I think that we accomplished a good deal in the direction of formulating the problem clearly.

I will let you know Maass' ideas as soon as I get them. It would be almost impossible for me to attend a meeting between now and the 13th of June. If you are anxious to get off to Maine, it might be better for you to go soon and plan to return sometime at the end of June (Aug 25th) or early in July, whichever seems most convenient for Dr. Flexner.

Yours sincerely,

Aydelotte

Dr. Oswald Veblen
Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

26 May 1938

Dear Veblen:

I am terribly sorry to hear of your brother's death and send you my deepest sympathy in which Marie joins. I remembered that your brother was a pilot and when I saw the name "Veblen" in the paper I instantly feared that it would be your brother who was involved, and on telephoning to your house in Princeton I found that this was the case.

You will not have much time for Institute building plans just yet, but I am sending you some material which I hope you will examine after your return.

Yours very sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Professor Oswald Veblen,
Battle Road,
Princeton, New Jersey

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26 May 1938

Dear Mr. Maass:

I have your letters of May 19th and 29th together with the Dram and Ferguson drawings. I am sending these latter on to Veblen together with a copy of this letter to say that in my opinion the Cram and Ferguson drawings are good, better I think than anything they have submitted so far, but that nevertheless I still hold the opinion that Larson has shown a better grasp of our problem than anyone else. If you expect to be in your office between four and five on Tuesday afternoon, May 31st, I should like very much to drop in on you for a short conversation on the whole situation, architects' plans, budget, and time schedule. It may be that Veblen can come over and talk with us. I have a meeting down town that afternoon at three and could reach your office about three-forty-five, Daylight Saving Time.

The reason I make this suggestion is that Marie and I spent a night with Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld recently and in the course of our conversation Mr. Bamberger stated that all the plans and estimates he had heard of went far beyond the figure which he originally had in mind. I asked him what his figure was and he said $300,000, including the $50,000 which he had already given for preliminary architectural study. He would really like us to build a building for $250,000, retain $40,000 for furnishings which, with the $10,000 spent on these four architects already would make a total of $300,000. I think Mrs. Fuld is less concerned about economy, but she is extremely anxious that no decision should be reached which would trouble Mr. Bamberger.

My own thought is that we should proceed immediately to cut down our plans to fit this estimate. I would accomplish this by having the architect make a plan which we consider adequate for the Institute eventually, some satisfactory part of which could be built for $250,000. The only thing I can think of is to lessen somewhat the size of the central building to come within the $250,000 limit, leaving off the wings entirely. It may be that a more leisurely meeting of the Building committee is called for.

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Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld both expressed themselves as hoping that we would take our time, both in the selection of the architect and in the planning of the building. I think they prefer that we should not go ahead too rapidly, but should consider every detail very carefully before reaching a final decision.

Yours sincerely,

(S) FRANK AYDELOTTE

H. H. Maass, Esq.,
20 Exchange Place,
New York City

Copy to Prof. O. Veblen

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

(OV) Bldg. & Site

May 9, 1938

Dear Aydelotte:

By this time I feel quite content that no change was made in the meeting of the Building Committee. Dr. Flexner spoke to me about the matter for a few minutes yesterday. He said that he had decided not to register any definite opinion about the architect, although he was clear that Larson is the best choice. He thought that you and I could deal with the matter in a tactful way and that there would be no harm if delays should result from our deliberations. Apparently he is no longer wanting to push the thing through to completion by some definite date.

After looking at the plans again, I am less favorable than I was to the idea of cutting down the central part of the building proposed by Larson. I incline to think that it would be better to leave off one or more of the wings if it is necessary to reduce the cost. I am planning to discuss this question with Herzfeld.

Yours sincerely,

President Frank Aydelotte
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, Pa.

Oswald Veblen

P.S. Since dictating the above, I have gone over the plans with Herzfeld. He thinks that Larson's plan is by far the best adapted to our needs, and also the best architecturally. He

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also agrees that the ones submitted by York and Sawyer are next. He does not like either of the other two.

With regard to the possibility of reducing expense on the Larson plan, he disagrees with my suggestion of leaving off one or more of the wings, and agrees with yours that we could do away with one of the floors of the main building. In looking at the drawings together, we agreed that the effect would not be spoiled and would perhaps be improved by leaving off the cupola and the superstructure on the top floor. This could be accomplished by merely shifting the dining room into the space which has apparently already been provided for it in the basement. Herzfeld also regarded it as possible alternatively to do away with the third floor. He thought that a considerable saving could be made by abolishing the colonnade on the north side of the building, and also the underground corridor. Moreover, a further saving might be made by reducing the basement under the two Humanistic wings.

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SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

5 May 1938

Dear Veblen:

Since my return from New York yesterday I find that it w uld not be possible for me to change the meeting from the 16th to Sunday, the 8th of May, since I must keep Sunday to interview one or two men whom I am considering for a position here. I believe the best thing to do is to let the program go through as scheduled. I felt very happy about our discussion yesterday, and I thought that the interviews on May 16th ought to make us quite clear about our decision. I intend to telephone to Dr. Flexner to ask him to register his opinion with the committee in writing before he leaves.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Dr. Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

(Veblen) Aydelotte

November 22, 1937

Dear Aydelotte:

I enclose herewith a letter from Mitrany which I thought it well to turn over to you in case any further question should arise about the choice of an architect. I have told Mitrany that we have already agreed on a list of architects who will be asked to submit plans.

E. B. Wilson writes me that he has sent a letter to Roland Morris which contains a discussion of the publication problem of the American Philosophical Society. In it he points out (1) that the publications during the past thirty years are not such as to reflect much credit on the Society; (2) that most publications of the type proposed, which are intended to be about scholarly results rather than to embody new results, are not likely to add much luster; and (3) that from his experience as Editor of the Proceedings of the National Academy he has evidence that there is scope for a journal which would give rapid publication to research papers running from 6 to 25 pages. I hope that Morris will see fit to lay this letter before our meeting next Friday, but I don't see much encouragement in the report of the committee on inquiry for the hope that our friends will adopt any program as realistic as what Wilson suggests.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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(OV) Aydelotte

October 19, 1938

Dear Aydelotte:

Many thanks for your letter of the 15th. I shall be very glad to appear before the American Friends Service Committee if it is thought advisable. I understand that they have already been helpful in a number of cases.

I shall be away until Thursday, the 27th, but shall be available at any time after that except for a short absence in the middle of November.

Very sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

15 October 1938

Dear Veblen:

I have thought about your letter of October 13th and believe the best Quaker body to do something about refugees would be the American Friends Service Committee. Whether they would be willing to undertake it or not, I do not know, but I think, if you were willing, I might possibly arrange for you to appear and make a statement at one of their meetings.

I also am flooded by letters and personal visits, and have succeeded in finding some kind of berth for a number of men lately. I have, however, now done about all that I can. The problem is an appalling one.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

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

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(OV) Aydelotte

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

1 June 1938

Dear Veblen:

It was a great pleasure to see you yesterday, and I enclose at once the letters from Larson and York and Sawyer, which I promised. They contain matters which will have great importance when we have selected the architect and decided the amount which can be put into the building, but until we reach that point there is not much we can say in regard to them.

I hope you will keep me posted as to your plans and that you will find it possible to get away to Maine before long.

With warmest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Oswald Veblen
Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

(OV) Aydelotte

March 31, 1938

Dear Aydelotte:

I had been hesitating about going to the meeting of the Committee on Publications, because what is going on at present seems futile and I doubt whether I can contribute anything further of use towards a new set-up. But it will be a real pleasure to lunch with you and Mrs. Aydelotte, and I should like to talk with you about Institute affairs. So I am accepting the luncheon invitation with great pleasure, and writing to Miss Noonan that I expect to come to the meeting of the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

(OV) Aydelotte

September 29, 1937

Dear Aydelotte:

Many thanks for your invitation to lunch next Monday. I had intended to write to you this morning asking whether we couldn't have a little talk before the meeting. I will try to follow your directions so as to be in Swarthmore at 1:10, and come to your house as quickly after that as possible. It will be a pleasure to see you and Mrs. Aydelotte again.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

(OV) Aydelotte

Fine Hall, February 22, 1937

Dear Aydelotte:

I wrote to Professor Archibald of Brown University to find out what he thought about Neugebauer's availability as a popular lecturer. His report is very discouraging. He is extremely enthusiastic about Neugebauer's work, but thinks that he could not present it in English in a manner which would meet the requisite conditions. So I think I had better withdraw that suggestion.

We hope to see you and Mrs. Aydelotte here in Princeton before long. I gather that Dr. Flexner is likely to be back by the end of this week.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

18 February 1937

Dear Veblen:

Many thanks for your letter. I take pleasure in sending you, under separate cover, a copy of the report of the Oxford Preservation Trust, which will give you a good idea of their work.

I had a talk with Mr. Leidesdorf in New York about the whole matter, and he feels that it is very important to have a meeting of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds as soon as possible after Dr. Flexner returns to consider the whole problem before any decisions are taken.

We should like very much to get over to Princeton, and shall let you know the first time an opportunity presents itself.

Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow, I am

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Professor Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Records of the Office of the Director / Faculty Files / Box 33 / Veblen, Oswald Aydelotte Correspondence, 1932-1947
From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

February 16, 1937

Dear Aydelotte:

If you could lend me one of your copies of the report of the Oxford Preservation Trust I should be very much obliged.

I haven't yet had time to look up any Neugebauer literature, but will write to you as soon as I can find anything relevant.

Herewith is enclosed a copy of a letter to Maass which contains all that I have to add to the report which I gave you the other day. I felt obliged, by my promise to Maass, to write this letter, but otherwise I have been letting the matter rest.

We are still hoping that you and Mrs. Aydelotte will seize the first opportunity to spend a day or two in Princeton. So far as I know now any of the next two or three week-ends would be convenient for us.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

Fine Hall, December 14, 1936

Dear Aydelotte:

I was very sorry that you were kept in by a cold. The question about a Comptes Rendus type of publication was postponed until you could be present at the discussion, but I found the meeting rather instructive as to the sort of proposals that come before the Publications Committee. I am more than ever convinced that we ought to take some positive measures to use the available money in a less wasteful way.

I hope that it may be possible to have a meeting with Mr. Maass next Saturday, as I expect to be starting for the South early the following week.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

December 9, 1936

Dear Aydelotte:

Enclosed herewith is a memorandum by Riefler on the housing problem for the Institute. I wonder whether you would have time to glance at it before our meeting on Friday? If there were any chance of talking with you in advance of the meeting of our committee, I could take the train which gets to Broad Street at 11:39, and probably, with the aid of the subway, be at the Philosophical Society building at about ten minutes before twelve. I hope to be prepared also with some fairly definite ideas about the Olden house, perhaps in the form of blueprints.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

Aydelotte

October 17, 1936

Dear Aydelotte:

Nothing very definite was said at the meeting. A number of us made suggestions for the agenda, and said a few words in support of the proposals which we thought we should be likely to bring up. I promised to bring along samples of the Comptes Rendus and the Proceedings of the Academy, etc., to illustrate the sort of thing I had in mind. The other proposals were in such general terms that I hesitate to try to repeat them. Certainly no one went far enough to bring up any clear issue. I wonder whether I could not induce you to come up here on Friday night, October 23? We could arrange to have Conklin dine with us, or meet with us sometime during the evening.

We could also then talk over a little more leisurely some of the things about the Institute land program.

I had a very satisfactory conversation with Mr. Maass yesterday, and find that he is still quite ready to go ahead with Mr. Paris if a program can be worked out which is also pleasing to you. I should like very much to have a chance to discuss this with you.

Anyhow I will keep Friday afternoon and evening open for the present.

Yours sincerely,

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

Oswald Veblen

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

Aydelotte

April 23, 1936

Dear Aydelotte:

I have written to Professor Ashcraft about Schoenberg and hope very much that he will get the appointment. I think his chances are good because the original recommendation comes from Morse, who is a resident of Waterville and a trustee of Colby College.

Eisenhart showed me his letter from President Valentine some time ago and told me about his reply. He has promised to let me have a copy of the latter, because I should like to talk the question over with you a little further. The case is in some sense a sequel to that of Hoffmann about which I consulted you some months ago. The policy of Dean Gale, the head of the Mathematics Department at Rochester, has resulted in the dismissal of men like Hoffmann and Price, who are at least as good as those who can be secured to replace them, and in a serious decay of the morale of the department. I should like to talk with you about the matter for five minutes or so when we next see each other. You would know whether it is desirable to say anything more on the subject to President Valentine.

Sincerely yours,

Oswald Veblen

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

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

April 21, 1936.

Dear Veblen:

I am delighted to hear the results of your talk with Conklin. I talked the matter over with Roland Morris after your letter came, and he is eager to see us do something.

I am very glad to have an inquiry today from Professor Thomas B. Ashcraft of Colby College, Waterville, Maine, concerning Schoenberg for an instructorship in their department. If you care to write to Professor Ashcraft saying that you do so at my suggestion, I think it might help Schoenberg's chances.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

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

P. S. I feel skeptical about Conklin's suggestion about research professorships or fellowships similar to those at the Institute. A publication plan such as we discussed is going to take a great deal of money, and I should much prefer to see one thing done well rather than several things inadequately.

F. A.

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

Aydelotte

April 20, 1936

Dear Aydelotte:

I had a talk with Conklin last week and I think he will agree to some such program as we talked about, particularly if Mr. Morris is favorable to it. He is anxious to keep the grants, but agrees that something of the sort we proposed might well be done with regard to the question of publication. I did not mention the possibility of fellowships, because I thought he would feel that was a strong competitor with the grants.

At present I am planning to come down on Thursday night and stay at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel so as to be present at the meetings on Friday morning. It is not yet quite sure whether I shall go on to Washington on Friday or Saturday.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

April 8, 1936

Dear Aydelotte:

I have your letter dated yesterday, and have talked with Mrs. Riefler over the phone and accepted an invitation to drive down with them tomorrow afternoon. Riefler is out of town and we don't know his exact engagements, but we expect to arrive in plenty of time for dinner. If the weather should be bad or there should be any other reason for coming by train we will telegraph or telephone you.

It will be a pleasure to see you and Mrs. Aydelotte, and I hope we can think of something sensible to suggest to the powers that be in the Philosophical Society.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Stu

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
APR 1
11 30 PM
1936

BUY U. S. SAVINGS
BONDS
ASK YOUR POSTMASTER

Dr. Oswald Veblen

Fine Hall

Princeton

New Jersey

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced

PRESIDENT'S HOUSE
SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.

Apr. 3e

Dear Veblen:

Many thanks for your letter. I think I can possibly catch the 3.15 & will: otherwise I'll take the 4.00. It depends on how promptly I can get the toastmaster to call on me for my little speech. When it is over, I'll cut

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out without waiting
to see the other. I'll
telegraph you from the
Princeton station as I
take the train. It is
awfully good of you to
meet me at the
function.

Yours

Frank Aydelotte

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

Aydelotte

April 1, 1936

Dear Aydelotte:

I think we should have time to do a good deal if you got in by the five o'clock train. I will try to meet you at the Junction and thus save a few minutes. It would, of course, be much better if you could get the train which leaves New York at 3:15 and arrives at the Junction at 4:11. We should then have plenty of time for tea and a comfortable walk. I am delighted that you are coming.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

March 31, 1936.

Dear Veblen:

Your note came just as I was about to write you to suggest that very thing. I have a luncheon engagement in New York on Friday, which will keep me, I suppose, until three or three thirty. If I get the four o'clock train, getting down to Princeton about five, would that give us time enough for a walk around? The President's dinner is not until eight o'clock, so that we should have a clear two hours or a little more.

It is just possible that I might be able to get out of my lunch a little early and get down to Princeton around four o'clock instead of five. If I can possibly do that, I will send you a telegram from the Pennsylvania Station as I leave. Please let me know if you think this will work. If you send me a reply immediately, I shall get it before I leave for New York.

Looking forward with great pleasure to seeing you, I am

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, N. J.

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

Aydelotte

Fine Hall, February 25, 1936

Dear Aydelotte:

I have just sent the enclosed letter to Dean Ogden. I think it answers the question in your letter of February 21. I know that von Neumann will write him enthusiastically on the mathematical side.

Sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

Aydelotte

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

February 21, 1936.

Dear Veblen:

I enclose a letter from Dean Ogden, together with my reply. I think it might be a good thing if you wrote to him, saying that I had shown you this correspondence, and telling him anything you want to about Schoenberg. I imagine what they have in mind is an instructorship. Would you advise Schoenberg to accept that? If so, you might say so frankly to Ogden.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

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

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

COPY mailed to Professor Veblen

February 21, 1936.

Dear Dean Ogden:

I may have given you a false impression of Schoenberg's maturity. Although he took Dresden's place, he is quite a young man, and his title here is Acting Assistant Professor of Mathematics. He is a good man, but I think the important thing for him at the moment is not the rank at which he begins in an American permanent place but the opportunities for advancement.

Yours sincerely,

(S) FRANK AYDELOTTE

Dean R. M. Ogden
Cornell University
Ithaca, N. Y.

COPY

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

Aydelotte

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

February 17, 1936

My dear Professor Veblen:

I have your letter and enclose a copy of one I am writing to Dean Ogden today. I very much hope it will be effective. It would be very sad indeed if Schoenberg could not find some good permanent post at the end of this year.

Marie and I came back from Florida in the finest possible trim, and I have remained so, though Marie had a slight cold this week which kept us from going over to the Institute dance. I should like to have done it and walked around the new property with you. It begins to look today as if our snow, crust and all, were going to disappear rapidly but I look forward to getting over to Princeton in April, if not before. It seems a long time since we have seen you in Swarthmore.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

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

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

COPY

February 17, 1936

My dear Dean Ogden:

I have just learned that you are contemplating some appointments in Mathematics at Cornell and I take the liberty of writing you concerning Professor I. J. Schoenberg who has just been at Swarthmore during the time that Dr. Dresden was on leave of absence. Professor Schoenberg has proved so useful an addition to the department that we have kept him on for an extra semester, but we shall have no position for him after college closes in June.

Schoenberg is a Roumanian who had most of his mathematical training at Göttingen and at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. He is a good teacher and a man of great personal charm and he has a most attractive wife, a daughter of Landau.

If you are interested, you could obtain information concerning Schoenberg's mathematical attainments from Dresden or Brinkmann of our faculty or from Veblen of Princeton. We have been so much impressed with him here that we are eager to see him settled in a good permanent position.

Yours sincerely,

(S) FRANK AYDELOTTE

Dean Robert Morris Ogden,
Cornell University,
Ithaca, New York.

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

February 13, 1936

Dear Aydelotte:

Before Dresden left Princeton I made the following suggestion which I thought might be of help in finding a place for Dr. Schoenberg. In the Mathematics Department at Cornell there have been two or three deaths and retirements which make it necessary to take on at least a couple of new men. While the question is being studied by the Chairman of the Mathematics Department, I judge that the situation is such that the actual decisions will be made by the President and the Deans,- in particular by Dean Ogden.

On account of Schoenberg's foreign antecedents I don't think that there is much use of my proposing him to the head of the Mathematics Department, but if you could write to Dean Ogden or one of the other administrative authorities on the basis of your knowledge of Schoenberg's personal qualities and his success with undergraduates, I think it might be helpful.

I had hoped to talk with you about this matter at the meeting of our trustees last month, but of course this was impossible because of your cold. I hope that you are completely recovered by this time, and will soon be able to make one of your visits to Princeton. I have walked over the new property of the Institute several times since there has been a hard crust on top of the snow. This enables one to explore the woods down near the brook much better than one will be able to after the ground gets soft again. I wish that it would be possible for you to take this walk with me while the conditions underfoot are still favorable.

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

Elizabeth joins me in best greetings to yourself and Mrs. Aydelotte.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

December 3, 1935

Dear Aydelotte:

Please pardon me for not having replied sooner to your note of November 19. After I got back from my trip to Charlottesville I wrote to President Valentine and explained the Hoffmann situation to him as well as I could. I am very much obliged to you for having taken the matter up with him. So far I have had no reply, but I should hardly have expected one as soon as this. With many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

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

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

The Rhodes Scholarship Trust.

OFFICE OF THE
AMERICAN SECRETARY.

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE,
SWARTHMORE, PA.

19 November 1935

Dear Veblen:

I had a good chance to talk Hoffman's case over with Valentine at Rochester and found him very much interested. I told Valentine I would ask you to write to him directly, and if you will do so, saying that I suggested it, I think that would be the best way to make sure that he understands the situation.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Dr. Oswald Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

November 9, 1935.

Dear Veblen:

I have your letter about Hoffman, and am taking it along with me to Rochester. It will be rather a bad time to get Valentine's attention on a matter of this kind, but I shall try my best to do it and shall try to arrange to get him to invite you to write or speak to him about Hoffman. I take it you would have no objection to my handing Valentine your letter to me if I thought that the wise thing to do.

It is just possible I may be in Princeton again in a week or ten days, and if so, I shall look forward with great pleasure to taking another walk with you.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

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

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

AYDELOTTE

See letter Nov.8/35 from O.V. re BANESH HOFFMANN - filed Hoffmann in I.A.S. file

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

Weyl

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

August 21, 1933

Dear Veblen:

I have your letter of August 4th and am delighted to say that I had a very satisfactory conversation with Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld about Weyl. I think the ground is all clear now for Dr. Flexner to raise the question at a meeting of the Executive Committee in September. You will doubtless hear from Dr. Flexner soon as to just how and when he plans to bring the matter up.

When do you return to Princeton? I am looking forward with keen interest to the opening of the Institute October 1st.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte
Aydelotte

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin, Hancock County
Maine

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

Weyl

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

8 August 1933

Dear Veblen:

I am just back from Canada, and am going to see various people about the Weyl matter as rapidly as I can.

I feel myself very strongly the importance of securing Weyl at once, and it is simply a question of discussing the matter with various Trustees and securing their agreement. I hope to see Mr. Maass on Thursday, and Mr. Bamburg and Mrs. Fuld as soon thereafter as possible.

I shall be glad to keep you informed of the developments.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County, Maine

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

December 5, 1932.

Professor H. Weyl
3 Merkelstrasse
Gottingen, Germany.

Dear Weyl:

I was greatly pleased to see your cabelgram to Dr. Flexner which he received last Saturday. Everyone here who has heard of it is delighted that you are coming.

As things are working out, I am more than ever convinced that the Institute is going to be a great success and that you will never regret having joined it.

There will be no difficulty about giving all the lectures that you want in the University for of course the authorities will be glad to have you do it and you will have a much better audience than you did when you were here before.

Please give our best greetings and congratulations to Mrs. Weyl.

Yours sincerely,

OV/AF

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From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

HARNACK-HAUS
DER KAISER WILHELM-GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FÖRDERUNG
DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

POSTSCHECKKONTO BERLIN 75045
BANKKONTO:
DARMSTÄDTER UND NATIONALBANK,
DEPOSITENKASSE LICHTERFELDE-WEST

BERLIN-DAHLEM, DEN
IHNESTRASSE 16–20
FERNRUF: G 6 BREITENBACH 3641, 3642

Sat. July 16.

Dear Veblen:

I forgot to send on to you the following cable which I have just received from Dr Flexner: "Thanks have cabled Weyl in reply to mine "Göttingen – Flexner" You ought to have this in case Weyl consults you further or in case you want to pursue the matter until he.

Yours
Oswald Veblen