

1955

Science and Scientists

He Changed Medical Schools

By Earl Ubell
Science Editor

Last week deans and representatives of fifty-seven of the nation's eighty-one medical schools applauded a thin, eighty-nine-year-old layman whose eyes still flashed the fire of a young man.

Abraham Flexner, a man who once said he was never fit to teach at any university, was being honored all over again for having almost single-handedly revolutionized medical education in this country.

The tribute went to Dr. Flexner (all of whose doctorate degrees, including the M. D., are honorary) at a Waldorf-Astoria dinner sponsored by a committee set up to publicize Medical Education Week last week. The tributes called attention, as Dr. Flexner had forty-six years ago, to a plight of the nation's medical schools.

Problem Now Financial

Dr. Flexner's expose of the M. D. diploma mills, of money-grubbing self-styled "professors" and of filthy hospitals led to the demise of a score of "medical schools." Within twenty years there was not a single substandard school in the country.

Now the remaining schools, raised to a level of unmatched competence by the benefactions of many rich men and foundations, are again facing a problem. This time it is financial, not curricular.

Each year since the end of World War II, medical college budgets have risen to a total of \$11,000,000 annually and the schools have been hanging on by their financial fingertips. More and more of them are eyeing the possibility of large Federal grants.

The Ford Foundation and the Commonwealth Fund have given almost \$100,000,000 recently to improve this financial condition. Yet, as Dr. Flexner said when he was honored at the dinner, unless foundations and corporations step into the breach, the government will have to. The National Fund for Medical Education is tapping the corporations.

Economic Plight

The Eisenhower administration has suggested a \$250,000,000, five-year building program for medical and dental schools to free some of their other funds for operating expenses. If carefully administered, that project should do as much for the medical schools as a previous government grant did for hospitals.

The economic plight of the medical schools today is as real a danger as the poor standards that obtained at the turn of the century. However, while financial statements do not make for exciting reading, Dr. Flexner's expose did.

It began when the late Dr. Henry S. Pritchett, president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, asked Dr. Flexner, in 1908, if he would do a study of medical schools.

At first Dr. Flexner, who had headed a successful boys preparatory school and, at the age of forty, dropped it to go on an intellectual forage to Harvard and Europe, thought Dr. Pritchett had confused him with his brother, Dr. Simon Flexner. Dr. Simon was then a medical researcher of the Rockefeller Institute.

But Dr. Pritchett said he was looking for an unbiased layman who would not be constrained to be "nice" to doctors. Abraham Flexner accepted the job, visiting 154 medical schools in rapid order. What did he find?

School after school had loose entrance requirements so that many medical students did not even have high school educations.

There were poor laboratory



ABRAHAM FLEXNER
Rebel in Medicine

facilities or, sometimes, none. Once Dr. Flexner asked for the laboratory and the dean showed it to him—a pulse recorder.

Students often did not see a patient from the beginning of their education to the end.

Progress Initiated

If students paid their fees, they were graduated. Huge profits were accumulated by the "professors."

Such was the training for people who were being turned loose

upon the public as physicians and which the American Medical Association had tried to improve by its own investigation of the schools.

Dr. Flexner and the foundation received bitter complaints from many medical schools. One dean said that Dr. Flexner had spent only a day at his school, but the dean was counseled that the school had been lucky.

Out of Dr. Flexner's report—called "Bulletin Number Four"—came a far-reaching program because he found one school that was trying to do a job: the Johns Hopkins Medical School, with high standards and great teachers. On that model he suggested that new medical schools be created.

Fortunately, Frederick T. Gates, who represented John D. Rockefeller sr.'s philanthropies, read the bulletin and recognized it as a workable program. He engaged Dr. Flexner to spend \$50,000,000 on medical education. In the next twelve years, other wealthy men followed that example and \$700,000,000 was raised. The deed was done. America was to have well-trained doctors.

2 May 1956

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Heartiest congratulations on the many and well deserved tributes which are being paid to you these days. I hope you will continue for many years to be able to enjoy them.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Dr. Abraham Flexner
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
522 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

ROOM 628

VANDERBILT 6-0674

April 17, 1956

Dear Frank:

Thank you for your letter of the eleventh and for the copy of The First Fifty Years of the Rhodes Trust and the Rhodes Scholarships, which I am sure that, when I get to it, I shall find interesting and informative.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

A. F.

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
88 Battle Road
Princeton
New Jersey

AF:ESB

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
522 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

ROOM 628

December 2, 1955

TELEPHONE
VANDERBILT 6-0674

Dear Frank:

I read with interest your letter of November 30, and I wish that I were in position to furnish you with some suggestions as to how Swarthmore may hope for further financial endowment. As a matter of fact, I am completely out of touch with foundations and with individuals so that I have no idea to whom you could appeal with any prospect of success.

The country is richer than it has ever been, and both individuals and industry are in position to assist as never before. I would be glad to help you in your efforts for Swarthmore, but, alas, I have no contacts, and I do not know to whom or to what to turn.

With every good wish,

Ever sincerely yours,

A. F.

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
88 Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

30 November 1955

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I remember with such gratitude what I got from your suggestions twenty-five or thirty years ago about funds for Swarthmore that I take the liberty of writing to you again. I don't want you to do any work, I only want ideas. I am no longer president of Swarthmore, of course, but I am a life trustee and the interests of the college are very much on my heart. Due to your ideas and to my energy in carrying them out, Swarthmore College has had an extraordinarily successful career for over a quarter of a century. I remember that Eleanor graduated with High Honors in 1930 and somebody told me recently of an article about American colleges which alluded to Swarthmore as the "most intellectual." If that is true you are more responsible than anybody else.

You know, of course, what is happening in education, how prices have gone up and how both foundations and business organizations have begun to realize that they must do something to help higher education. The need for that help is felt very strongly at Swarthmore.

The alumni are doing what they can and the Alumni Fund gets larger every year. It amounts now to something over \$100,000, but that is not enough. What we need is some solid contributions of endowment funds which will stabilize the college finances and enable the Board of Managers safely to expand and improve the professorial group.

I am eager to keep the college small and I hope that you will agree, but to do this we must, as I say, very much enlarge the endowment fund.

One service which Swarthmore College has rendered to education over all these years is to serve as a kind of center for the Rhodes Scholarships. You can get a quick idea of this from a short article in the current edition of the Swarthmore Phoenix which I enclose. A foundation which gave a gift to Swarthmore could consider that it was serving as well the very important interests of the Rhodes Scholarships.

Let me repeat that I am not asking you to do any work, but I would be most grateful for any ideas which you can give me and which I could put into operation.

I hear the finest things about you and about Eleanor.
With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Abraham Flexner, Esq.
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Frank Aydelotte

DOMESTIC SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent as a full rate telegram	
FULL RATE TELEGRAM	SERIAL
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER

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WESTERN UNION

1207

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent at the full rate	
FULL RATE	DEFERRED
CODE	NIGHT LETTER

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

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

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

To Elso 19

Street and No. _____
Care of or _____
Apt. No. _____ Place _____

Do not have Dr Flexner address her. Please send him following telegram. Dr Aydelotte who is in Florida asks me to convey to you and your daughter his affectionate regard and heartfelt sympathy over Dr Flexner's death and especially for long illness which precedes it. Unquote

Sender's name and address (For reference)

Sender's telephone number

DOMESTIC SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent as a full rate telegram	
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CODE	NIGHT LETTER

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

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

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

To Frank Aydelotte Jan. 13 1955

Street and No. _____
Care of or Apt. No. _____ Place _____

MRS. FLEXNER DIED LAST TUESDAY
IN PROVIDENCE, R.I., AFTER LONG ILLNESS

ROBERT OPPENHEIMER

*Deeply grieved to hear sad news of
Aunt's death Heartfelt sympathy
~~pleasure~~ and affectionate regards*

Sender's name and address (For reference)

Sender's telephone number

THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1955.

ANNE C. FLEXNER, A PLAYWRIGHT, 80

Wife of Former Director of
Advanced Study Institute
Dies—Wrote 'Aged 26'

Mrs. Anne Crawford Flexner, playwright, and wife of Dr. Abraham Flexner, died Tuesday in a hospital in Providence, R. I., where she had been ill for several years. She was 80 years old.

Mrs. Flexner was born in Georgetown, Ky., the daughter of Louis G. and Susan Farnum Crawford. She came to New York in 1897 with her husband, who is director emeritus of the institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N. J.

In 1901 Mrs. Flexner's first play, "Miranda of the Balcony," was produced. Mrs. Minnie Madlern Fiske appeared in it. Two years later Mrs. Flexner's dramatization of "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," was presented on Broadway. She wrote several other plays which were produced, including "The Marriage Game," and "A Lucky Star," in which Willie Collier appeared.

"Aged 26," a play based on the life of the poet John Keats, was Mrs. Flexner's most recent play. It was produced in New York in 1936.

Mrs. Flexner was a graduate of Vassar College. She helped found the American Dramatists, which she served as vice president. She was also a board member of the Dramatists Guild of the Authors League, and a member of the Cosmopolitan Club.

Surviving are her husband and a daughter, Miss Eleanor Flexner, both of New York, and another daughter, Mrs. Paul Lewinson of Arlington, Va.

Mrs. A. Flexner, Playwright, 80

Special to the Herald Tribune

PROVIDENCE, Jan. 12.—Mrs. Anne Crawford Flexner, eighty, playwright and wife of Dr. Abraham Flexner, retired director of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton, N. J., died yesterday at Butler Hospital. She lived in New York City at the Stanhope Hotel, Fifth Ave. and 81st St.

Mrs. Flexner's major success was her dramatization of "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," popular comic-sentimental novel about the widow who laughed at misfortunes. Mrs. Flexner was a friend of the author, the late Alice Hegan Rice, in Louisville, where the story had its setting.

The play ran on Broadway for 150 nights, a long run in those days; toured European capitals and Australia, and had years of popularity among amateur groups.

In 1912 Mrs. Flexner had another success with "The Marriage Game," in which Alexandra Carlisle starred. Her final Broadway production was "Aged 26," a play about John Keats, which opened in New York in 1936.

Mrs. Flexner was born in Georgetown, Ky., and was graduated from Vassar College in 1896. She had been active in founding the Dramatists Guild of the Authors League and was a board member for many years.

Surviving, besides her husband, are two daughters, Miss Eleanor Flexner and Mrs. Paul Lewinson, and a sister, Miss Esther Crawford.

5 October 1953

Dear Dr. Flexner:

This is just a line to tell you that I am going off to England again on Thursday to receive an honorary K.B.E. from the Queen on October 20. I don't know whether I am more surprised or delighted.

I shall, of course, see a great many people who know you and they will all want news of your health. I hope I can tell them that you are getting on well.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Dr. Abraham Flexner
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

12 November 1951

Dean Dean Flexner:

Hearty congratulations on your 85th birthday. No one looking at your picture in the New York Times yesterday could possibly believe you are 85. It would be easy to believe from that picture that you were about to publish another book.

I hope to look in to see you very soon. The fact is that the Rhodes Scholarships, in which I am still active, seem to take more time every year. It is about time for me to retire from that job.

With kindest regards, in which Marie joins, I am

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Dr. Abraham Flexner
522 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

FLEXNER, NEAR 85, IS AGAIN A STUDENT

Educational Reformer, Taking
a Course at Columbia, Adds
Also to His List of Books

For the inquiring mind of Dr. Abraham Flexner there is no such thing as retirement. On the eve of his eighty-fifth birthday the educational reformer has enrolled in a Columbia University course in "Russian Institutions" and has added a new book to the list of his publications.

"When you have someone like Dr. Flexner in your class, it's like putting a burr under a horse's saddle," one of Dr. Flexner's Columbia teachers said recently.

For the last half-century Dr. Flexner has been a burr under the saddle of American education. His critical studies of teaching methods have stimulated important reforms. But, although he has earned the esteem of the educational world for his work with the Carnegie Foundation, the Rockefeller General Education Board and the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study, the educator disparages his contributions.

"I was lucky to have been associated with such institutions," he said in his book-filled Fifth Avenue office yesterday.

Completed College in 2 Years

Born in Louisville, Ky., the sixth child of immigrant Jewish parents, Abraham Flexner by "a lot of hard work" was graduated from Johns Hopkins University in two years. He became assistant principal of a Louisville high school before he was 20. He introduced new methods of teaching into his own school with such success that he went on to further study abroad.

In 1910 he made his famous report for the Carnegie Foundation on medical instruction in the United States, and is credited thereby with having helped to make American medical education the world's finest. From 1913 to 1928 he disbursed funds through the Rockefeller General Education Board which, he has said, "directly and indirectly added half a billion dollars or more to the resources and endowments of American medical education."

Soon after he had "retired" as director of the General Education Board's division of studies and medical education, he was named the first director of the Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies. He finally really retired from that post in 1939, since then devoting his time and energy to writing and organizational work. "While it was all interesting when I was in it," Dr. Flexner said yesterday, "I suppose I found the medical survey the most interesting."

WILL BE 85 TUESDAY



Dr. Abraham Flexner

The New York Times Studio

Three Years on Newest Book

"I have just sent off a book on which I have been working the past three years. It is titled 'Funds and Foundations,' and is a critical study of the work done since early this century by the Rockefeller and Carnegie boards and a few of the smaller foundations. I don't think I will write a

new book for a while. I'm just going to rest."

Resting for Dr. Flexner sounds like a full schedule to the average person. He has been studying art and American literature at Columbia, and now has undertaken the Russian Institution's course "because Russians are very important to us today and we need to understand them."

There will be no special celebration Tuesday when Dr. Flexner becomes 85 years old. He said he would stay in his Eighty-sixth Street home, and added, "If anyone tries to make an occasion of it, I'll leave town."

October 10, 1950.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I have thought very carefully over our telephone conversation of yesterday in which you suggested that I should urge Alan Valentine to withdraw from the position which he has just accepted as Head of the E.S.A. Perhaps that would be the wise thing for him to do, but I have too little knowledge of what the position involves and too much admiration for Alan to feel prepared to make such a suggestion to him.

It did Marie and me both a great deal of good to hear your voice over the telephone and I wish we saw you once in awhile.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

→ Dr. Abraham Flexner
Care the Carnegie Foundation
522 Fifth Avenue
New York 18, New York

June 29, 1949.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

June is an appalling month, as you know from your long experience, and I have only just today gotten around to follow up my letter of June 1, but send you these two articles of Bill's under separate cover.

Are you going to Canada again this year, and if so, when do you leave. I very much hope to get over to see you before you leave New York, if that is possible. Otherwise I shall try to do it sometime in the fall. I have a kind of recollection that you wait until the black flies are over, and I hope it may still be possible to catch you in New York before you go.

With affectionate regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner
522 Fifth Avenue
New York 18, New York

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Flex

June 1, 1949.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Many thanks for your kind letter of May 27. I am sending your congratulations on to Bill.

I am glad the Oxford books reached you safely, and I hope you will say to your friend that if he has any questions which do not appear to be answered in these two volumes, he must feel free to write to me at any time.

I appreciate your kind invitation to lunch, and shall not fail to let you know the first time I am free in New York.

With much love from us both, I am

Yours sincerely,

→ Dr. Abraham Flexner
522 Fifth Avenue
New York 18, New York

P.S. You may be interested in a couple of Bill's recent articles, which I send you under separate cover. ^{shall}
1

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
522 FIFTH AVE.
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

May 27, 1949

Dear Frank:

I have your kind note of May 26. I had not heard that Bill is Chairman of the History Department of the State University of Iowa. I am delighted at his promotion, which must be a source of great gratification to you and Marie.

The Oxford books have just arrived. Thank you very much for them.

Let me know when you are to be in town that we may have lunch together.

With love to you and Marie,

Ever sincerely,

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
The Rhodes Scholarship Trust
Princeton, New Jersey

A. J.

AF:ESB

NEW YORK, N. Y.
TIMES
MAY 13 1949

Flexner, 82, Now Is Happy Student At Columbia, Once Butt of His Scorn



Dr. Abraham Flexner and a classmate, Mrs. S. R. Gaston, attending a lecture.

By CHARLES GRUTZNER

Dr. Abraham Flexner, whose thunderings against Columbia and other large universities rocked American halls of learning two decades ago, was found last night to be one of the most enthusiastic students in a fine arts course at Columbia University.

In an interview that was cut short when class work began, the 82-year-old director emeritus of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton, N. J., told how he had been taking about four hours studies a week at Columbia and enjoying it immensely.

Flexner was more willing

to talk about the joys of Prof. Everard M. Upjohn's lectures on the history of art than his earlier characterizations of many universities as "diploma mills" and "drug stores."

"There must have been changes in educational methods," Dr. Flexner said in reply to a question. "I don't know just what the changes have been. I haven't been active in the field in the last ten years."

Two winters ago Dr. Flexner went quietly to Columbia one evening and enrolled in Fine Arts 5, in which Dr. Upjohn traces art, with lectures and picture slides, from ancient times through the Renaissance. Last winter he went back as a repeater in Fine Arts 5, not because he found it difficult but because he liked it so well he wanted to go over it again. This spring he enrolled in Fine Arts 6, which carries the subject to modern times.

Dr. Flexner also is taking a course in literature of American history given by Prof. Allan Nevins. He has taken a course on Chaucer and the Literature of the Middle Ages, too.

"The best thing a man can do after he has retired is to study," said the noted educator. "You can always learn from abler men in many fields. I had never met anyone who knew more about the history of art than Dr. Upjohn."

Dr. Upjohn tried to turn the talk to another subject, but the slight, bald student showed the same vigorous determination with which he pursued his educational crusade in earlier years. He wanted to talk about Dr. Upjohn and no one was going to side-track him.

"You should read Dr. Upjohn's new book, 'History of World Art,' it just came out two weeks ago," Dr. Flexner said. Dr. Upjohn interjected gently that it wasn't his work alone, that it had been published in collaboration with Mrs. Jane Gaston Mahler and Prof. Paul Wingert.

"When you have someone like Dr. Flexner in a class, it's like putting a burr under a horse's saddle," Dr. Upjohn said later. Many of the works of art and architecture discussed in the course had been viewed by Dr. Flexner in his travels, and he had strong opinions on just about everything.

As the lecture hall began to fill up with young men and women classmates, Dr. Flexner ended the interview. There was no reason for it to interfere, he said, with the classwork. Last night's was the last lecture of the term in Fine Arts 6.

Dr. Flexner has been busy since

his retirement as director of the Institute for Advanced Study in 1939, with books, reading some and writing others. To the more than half dozen works on educational and medical subjects published previously, he added in 1940 his autobiography, "I Remember," and in 1946 a biography of Daniel Coit Gilman, the first president of Johns Hopkins University.

In one of his books, "Universities—American, English, German," he attacked large institutions, notably Columbia, Chicago and Wisconsin, saying they harbored "educational quacks." All that seemed far away last night as Dr. Flexner sat between two pretty girls and sipped joyously at the fount of learning as Dr. Upjohn spoke of fine art.

26 May 1949

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Many thanks for your letter of May 23. There are a great many things which I should like to talk over with you and which are not suitable for inclusion in a letter.

Bill would want to be remembered to you if he knew I was writing. Have you heard that he is now chairman of the History Department at the University of Iowa, and so far as I can see making a famous job of it.

With love from Marie and me, I am

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City 18

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
522 FIFTH AVE.
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

May 23, 1949

Dear Frank:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of May 19 with its enclosures. When I asked for the catalogue of Oxford, I knew that the University did not issue a catalogue in the American sense. The handbook will be precisely what my friend wants, and I am grateful to you for having one sent to me.

I am also deeply touched by what you said on the occasion of the Lord and Taylor award. It was extraordinarily generous of you. I wish I had some influence with the Institute today. Some day when you are in town, have lunch with me, for there are things that I should like to talk with you about rather than write.

Give my love and good wishes to Marie and Bill.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
The Rhodes Scholarship Trust
c/o The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

a. J.
7. 95

May 19, 1949.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

It was a great pleasure to talk with you over the telephone yesterday, and I enclose herewith a copy of my Lord and Taylor speech accepting the award, and giving you the credit which you so richly deserve.

I did not take the trouble to explain to you over the telephone what I think you know already, that the University of Oxford has no such thing as a catalogue in the American sense. There is instead an Oxford University Handbook which I think would be most useful to your friend. There is also a volume entitled "Examination Statutes", which is a kind of syllabus of the examinations required for the various degrees. I am having both volumes sent to you from the Oxford University Press, with my compliments. If your friend is sufficiently interested in the University of Oxford, there are certain other things that he might read. One is a volume entitled "Oxford" by Christopher Hobhouse, which can be obtained from the Oxford University Press in New York, and another is my book "The American Rhodes Scholarships", which can be obtained from the Princeton University Press. It may be, however, that the Handbook and the Examination Statutes will give him all he needs.

Yours sincerely,

→ Dr. Abraham Flexner
522 Fifth Avenue
New York 18, New York

5/19/49

Dr. Abraham Flexner
522 Fifth Avenue
New York 18, New York

(all mail to go to office)

Home address:

20 E. 76th Street
New York 21, New York

From his secretary:
Mrs. Esther Bailey
34 Mercer Street
Princeton, N.J.

Phone: Princeton 114

29 October 1946

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Marie and I send you warmest thanks for the book on Gilman, which arrived this morning. I am delighted to have it and shall read it with the keenest interest. So far I have only had the opportunity of leafing through it, but even that quick examination shows me how much of your educational philosophy has gone into it.

With affectionate regards from us both to Anne and yourself, I am

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City 18

THE ORIGINAL
ROMEIKE
PRESS CLIPPINGS

220 W. 19th St., NEW YORK 11, N.Y.
Tel. CHelsea 3-8860

Cir. (D 358,813) (S 708,754)

This Clipping From
NEW YORK, N. Y.
HERALD TRIBUNE

JUL 22 1947

Mary Flexner

Her Brother, Bernard, Was Leader
In Palestine Aid in the 1920s

Mary Flexner, seventy-four, sister of the late Bernard Flexner, former president of the Palestine Economic Corporation, and of the late Dr. Simon Flexner, organizer and first director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, died yesterday at the Rockefeller Institute Hospital, York Avenue and Sixty-first Street. She lived at 1000 Park Avenue.

Miss Flexner was born in Louisville and was graduated from Bryn Mawr College. Her brother, Bernard, who was a leader in promoting the economic rehabilitation and development of Palestine in the 1920s, established in 1928 a \$50,000 lectureship in humanities in her name at Bryn Mawr.

Surviving are a third brother, Dr. Abraham Flexner, former director of the Institute for Advanced Studies, at Princeton, N. J., and a twin sister, Mrs. Julius L. Baldauf.

THE ORIGINAL
ROMEIKE
PRESS CLIPPINGS

220 W. 19th St., NEW YORK 11, N.Y.
Tel. CHelsea 3-8860

Cir. (D 538,914) (S 1,002,765)

This Clipping From
NEW YORK, N. Y.
TIMES

JUL 22 1947

**MISS MARY FLEXNER,
SISTER OF EDUCATORS**

Miss Mary Flexner of 1000 Park Avenue died yesterday after an illness of seven weeks in the hospital of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, York Avenue and Sixty-sixth Street, of which her brother, the late Dr. Simon Flexner, was for fifteen years director. She was 74 years old, a daughter of Morris and Esther Abraham Flexner of Louisville, Ky.

In May, 1928, another brother of Miss Flexner, the late Bernard Flexner, New York lawyer, with whom she made her home for years at the Park Avenue address, established in her honor at her alma mater, Bryn Mawr College, the Mary Flexner Lectureship on Humanities. The sum of \$50,000 was provided for the purpose.

Since then Miss Flexner had devoted much of her time to the selection of lecturers and other arrangements connected with the carrying out of the purposes of her brother's gift. Arnold J. Toynbee, the British historian, last holder of the lectureship, gave six lectures at Bryn Mawr last spring on "Encounters Between Civilizations," and packed the 1,000-seat hall on every occasion.

Miss Flexner had been a supporter of various philanthropies, notably the Henry Street Settlement on the lower East Side.

She leaves a brother, Dr. Abraham Flexner of 150 East Seventy-second Street, director emeritus of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, N. J., and a sister, Mrs. Julius L. Baldauf of Chicago.

THE ORIGINAL
ROMEIKE
PRESS CLIPPINGS

220 W. 19th St., NEW YORK 11, N.Y.
Tel. CHelsea 3-8860

Cir. (D 277,172) (Sat. 209,766)

This Clipping From
NEW YORK, N. Y.
SUN

JUL 22 1947

Mary Flexner.

Mary Flexner died yesterday in the hospital of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, York Avenue and 61st Street, which her brother, the late Dr. Simon Flexner, organized and directed for fifteen years. Another brother, the late Bernard Flexner, a lawyer, was president of the Palestine Economic Corporation. Miss Flexner was 74 years old and lived at 1000 Park Avenue. She devoted much of her life to philanthropic and educational activities, including the Henry Street Settlement. She is survived by a third brother, Dr. Abraham Flexner, director emeritus of the Institute for Advanced Study, at Princeton, and a twin sister, Mrs. Julius L. Baldauf.

Mr. Abraham Flexner

Hotel Adams

2 East 86th St,

New York City

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
522 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

On the occasion of his eightieth birthday, Mr. Abraham Flexner received letters, cards, telegrams, flowers and books from numerous friends.

He regrets profoundly that it would be very difficult for him to write each of his friends a fitting acknowledgment.

Mr. Flexner assumes that you will be kind enough to accept this impersonal note as evidence of his deep appreciation.

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
522 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

May 10, 1946

Dear Frank,

Your telegram was, I think, the first that I received after Simon passed away. Thank you very much for your sympathy and friendship, which I value.

Simon and I were more than brothers. We were friends and collaborators. For the last sixty years we worked together. I shall miss him deeply.

With every good wish,

Sincerely your friend,



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

AF:GH

D A Y L E T T E R

May 3, 1946

To: Dr. Abraham Flexner
150 East 72d Street
New York, N. Y.

Deeply grieved to hear sad news of death of your brother Simon. He had a great career and made contributions of unique value to American medicine. It is a great satisfaction to me to have had him on the roll of Eastman Professors. Heartfelt sympathy to you and the ~~remaining~~ members of your family.

Frank Aydelotte

FA:KK

COPY

October 17, 1944

Dr. Abraham Flexner
522 Fifth Avenue
New York 18, New York

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I have your letter of October 11th and very much regret that you felt impelled to say what you report you said to Penofsky. In such a matter as this it seems to me that we ought to agree to follow the procedure sanctioned by academic usage, by which Trustees deal with members of the Faculty through the Director. To have done so in this case would have avoided the misunderstanding under which I am sure you are laboring.

This dispute does not seem to me to be a suitable question to refer to the Trustees but if you insist that they should discuss it, I shall, of course, be prepared to supply them with full information. Fortunately, we have a Committee on Institute Policy. I am handing your letter to the Chairman together with a copy of this reply and shall be prepared to follow the instructions of the Committee as to whether or not the matter should be brought up at our next meeting.

Yours very sincerely,

FRANK AYDELLOTTE

FA:jar

COPY

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

School of Humanistic Studies

Princeton, New Jersey

October 12, 1944

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

Dear Dr. Aydelotte,

Without attaching too much importance to the matter, I think it proper to inform you of an interview with Dr. Flexner whom I saw yesterday in his office in New York after he had asked me by letter to see him on "a matter that would be of great interest to me."

After the exchange of the usual amenities, Dr. Flexner asked me how my work was proceeding, to which I answered that I, so far as I could judge, was very pleased with it. Dr. Flexner then asked with whom I was working together, to which I answered that my work was most closely connected with that of Dr. Frankl, who had kindly assisted me in the preparation of my new book and to whose forthcoming article in the Art Bulletin I am contributing a special section. Thereupon Dr. Flexner said: "And what about Dr. de Tolnay?" I answered that I had not seen or spoken to Dr. de Tolnay for more than a year. Dr. Flexner said: "I'll tell you what you will do: you will at once go to Dr. de Tolnay..." At this point, I am afraid, I interrupted Dr. Flexner and told him that this was unfortunately impossible because Dr. de Tolnay's attitude prevented me from ever reestablishing a personal contact with him. After this brief statement Dr. Flexner said, and I quote: "Well, if you don't, one of you two will lose his job."

I felt that this remark did not constitute a basis for further discussion. But in deference to Dr. Flexner's age I refrained from any comment, rose, bowed and bade him good morning.

I have no way of knowing whether and on what grounds Dr. Flexner intends to take official steps in the direction indicated in his remark. I should like, however, to place my version of the interview on record as long as it is fresh in my memory.

Very sincerely yours,

Signed: ERWIN PANOFSKY

Erwin Panofsky

COPY

Abraham Flexner
522 Fifth Avenue
New York 18, N.Y.

October 11, 1944

Dear Frank:

About a fortnight ago I asked Professor Panofsky to come to see me when he was next in town. He came about eleven this morning. We had a friendly chat about our families, the Institute in general, and then I asked him who was working with him. He named Frankl. I asked him about de Tolnay. He replied, "I have not spoken with de Tolnay for over two years, and I shall not speak to him again as long as I live."

I told him I was surprised that an older man would take such an unfriendly attitude towards a younger man, who was also a refugee. He replied, "I will have nothing to do with him as long as I live."

I said, "Professor Panofsky, "do you expect this lack of harmony to continue indefinitely?"

He replied, "As far as I am concerned, it will." He then rose to go, and I said, "Does Dr. Aydelotte know about this situation?"

He replied, "I think he does."

I said, "I shall ask Dr. Aydelotte to bring it to the attention of the Board at its next meeting, but, in my judgment, the Board will decide that one or the other of you must go, and I suspect that the decision may be favorable to the younger man." However, I told him I should do nothing until I heard from Dr. Aydelotte. Thereupon he dashed angrily out of the room saying "good bye" as he left.

I am telling you this because I think it is a matter which you should take up with Panofsky at the earliest possible moment. Panofsky's attitude is ungenerous, and in my opinion he is probably envious of the younger man, though I do not as a matter of fact know how they happened to quarrel.

With best wishes to you and Marie,

Ever sincerely,

Signed: A. F.

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

AF:ESB

Flexner

December 22, 1942

Dear Dr. Flexner:

In response to your telephone call, I can give you in very brief form a comprehensive statement of the financial position of the Institute at this moment.

We have not balanced our budget out of our own funds since 1938. The result of each year's operations since that time, as given in the auditor's report, is as follows:

1937-38	Surplus	\$16,110.28
1938-39	Deficit	25,570.41
1939-40	"	36,820.99
1940-41	"	2,348.14
1941-42	Surplus	1,995.58

The deficit for 1939-40 would have been still greater except for the fact that the Institute paid me no salary that year. The deficits for 1938-39 and 1939-40 were due partly to new salaries in economics and partly to the operation of Fuld Hall and other additional expenses for which no additional income was available. Our comparative solvency in 1940-41 and 1941-42 was due to our having obtained additional temporary income, partly from Mr. Bamberger and the Rockefeller Foundation and partly from the Carnegie Corporation.

Expenses added since 1938 without any corresponding addition to our resources are (excluding minor items) the following:

Two salaries in economics	\$30,000
Contribution on these to	
Teachers Ins. & Annuity	1,500
Economics stipends - approx.	10,000
Operation of Fuld Hall	20,000
Director's Pension	12,000
Library	25,000
	<u>\$98,500</u>

- 2 -

This, however, is not quite the whole story. We shall in a few years time be compelled to provide in our budget an annual sum for repairs and renovations to Fuld Hall and for pensions. We ought, furthermore, to increase the amount which we devote to stipends.

The situation in regard to retirements is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Professor</u>	<u>Pension Promised</u>	<u>T.I.A.A.</u>	<u>Inst. Budget</u>
June, 1944	Einstein	\$8000	\$1909.44	\$6090.56
June, 1945	Veblen	8000	2439.00	5561.00
June, 1945	Lowe		2650.44	
June, 1945	Herzfeld		780.80	

It is my opinion, and I know it is yours, that every consideration of humanity and of the prestige of the Institute demands that we add something to the amounts which Lowe and Herzfeld will receive from the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association. If we brought the pensions of these two men up to \$4000, our pension load for professors, beginning in June, 1945, would be \$16,220.32, or, including your own pension, \$28,220.32. If we were content to bring Lowe's and Herzfeld's pension up to only \$3000, which is all that Stewart thinks it safe to do with our present resources, this amount would be reduced by \$2000.00.

The upshot of all this is that we are running at least \$125,000 behind at the present moment, which is the interest on \$4,000,000. I hope, however, that Mr. Bamberger's generosity will extend not merely to the point of covering our present commitments but will make some provision for such interesting extensions as the development of Oriental studies, Latin-American studies, and work in other fields in which I think the Institute might make a great contribution. I have not talked much with Mr. Bamberger about such developments because I did not want to frighten him, but my own opinion is that the plan which you laid down for the Institute and its method of approach to scholarship is so effective, so much needed, and promises such fruitful results that it would be nothing less than a tragedy if we were not going to be able to enter other fields. We need not enter them all at once and we can exchange one subject for another, but we need some margin in order to do anything.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Carnegie Foundation
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City
FA/MCE

October 27, 1941

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I had time on the train to read the Life of Dr. Welch slowly and carefully, and, indeed, much of it twice. It is a magnificent piece of work. I enjoyed every paragraph and I learned a great deal from it, not merely about medicine but about other things as well. Just as I was able to use many suggestions which I got from one of your books about medical training for the improvement of our engineering course at Swarthmore, so I find much in the Life of Dr. Welch which I can use at the Institute.

I have just written your brother of my enthusiasm for the book and my debt to it. It is, indeed, a great achievement and ought to get a Pulitzer Prize.

I had a most delightful six days in California. I attended the inauguration, received an honorary degree, spent two days at Huntington Library discussing Institute problems and two days at the University of California on the same errand. It was, on the whole, a pleasant and profitable journey, and your gift of your brother's book made the hours on the train the best part of it.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner
The Carnegie Foundation
525 Fifth Avenue
New York City

FA/MCE

April 7, 1941

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Do you expect to be at the Carnegie Foundation Wednesday morning and would you have time for a short talk with Richard Storr, a graduate of Swarthmore in the class of 1937, who is working on the history of graduate education in this country?

I think Storr has had some correspondence with you on the subject. At any rate, the center of his whole study would be Gilman's work at Johns Hopkins, and I told him there was no one who could give him as much information on that subject as you.

Since Storr has to be in New York on Wednesday in any case, I am asking him to call at the Foundation and ask whether it would be possible for you to see him. If you are not there or are not able to see him perhaps you would just leave word with the girl in Jessup's outer office.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Carnegie Foundation
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

FA/MCE

6 May 1940
Dictated May 5

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I had a very satisfactory interview with William Rosenwald and he seemed sympathetic but raised the question as to whether it would not be better for them to appropriate the money to the Committee for Displaced German Scholars rather than to the Institute directly. I told him I thought we could make more effective use of it if the money was given directly to us.

Mr. Rosenwald asked me for certain figures which would show the contribution which we are making to the problem already. Mrs. Bailey got these figures up for me this morning, telephone them to me and I enclose copy of a letter which I am writing Mr. Rosenwald and which it may be convenient for you to have if you have any conversation with his sister.

I discussed the tea on May 13th with the faculty on Friday and with such Trustees as I could get hold of. Members of the faculty felt that it would be a mistake to plan a large tea on such short notice, that there was danger of our leaving out some people in Princeton who ought to be invited and that on the whole it would be wiser to make this a family party of members of the faculty and Trustees, waiting until next year when Marie and I are settled in Princeton before we try to entertain members of the Princeton faculty. Marie feels very strongly that she would rather do it this way. I am accordingly saving the extra list of names which you sent together with those I have received from other members of the faculty and Trustees for use next year, inviting only our own group this time but considering the large party merely postponed. I imagine Anne will think this is a wise solution.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner
150 E. 72nd Street
New York City

6 May 1940

Dear Miss Schorr:

I enclose the figures about our budget which Mr. Rosenwald requested. I have put them in the form of a letter to him which I enclose herewith. If by any chance everything is not clear you could get me on the telephone Tuesday or Wednesday at Swarthmore 200, or Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Princeton 2580.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Pam L. Schorr
care William Rosenwald, Esq.,
122 East 42nd Street
New York City

27 February 1940

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I am delighted to hear that the book is finished and that proofs will be coming along in a few weeks' time. Needless to say I look forward with the keenest pleasure to reading it in its entirety.

I note your point about exchanging catalogue cards with the Princeton University Library. I have already been in touch with Mr. Heyl about this, and we shall of course be glad to furnish them with the cards of our library if they so desire. I have already exchanged several letters with Boyd, the new Princeton librarian, and expect to work out with him every possible method of cooperation so as to bring about a maximum of economy and convenience for both institutions.

Thank you very much for your willingness to see Bush. As soon as you have done that I want to talk about Capps and Tedesco. Morey I see almost every week, and I am anxious to know what your suggestion is in regard to him.

My old elbow is creaking along. It is a case of an injury which I had as a boy and which has bothered me more or less all my life. In Florida at Christmas time, trying, on the advice of the experts to put a little more right hand into my swing and thus get a little more distance, I threw it out in some way so that it has been quite painful since then and threatens to be a serious detriment to my golf. This last is of course the only thing I worry about. It has been extensively examined and X-rayed in Philadelphia, and goes into a plaster cast this afternoon. If that does not do it any good, the doctors talk about an operation, which I have said I would be willing to have only if they would stake their professional reputation that it would reduce my average score by five strokes.

In two weeks we shall have the decision of the Rockefeller Foundation. All the negotiations have served to increase my optimism about the result, but of course these things are not settled until the final vote is taken. I felt that it was no use trying to prepare a budget until then, and as soon as the result is known I want to talk over with you all our plans for next year.

With affectionate regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner
150 East 72nd Street
New York, New York

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
150 EAST 72ND STREET
NEW YORK CITY

Feb. 16/40

Dear Frank:

I was happy to get your letter & sought to have replied sooner, but I have been trying to finish my memoirs, — and today the job is done. A few weeks hence, when it comes to reading the proof, you'll wish you had never been born!

I am glad that you have already been in contact with Heyl & that you & the new Librarian are friends. Did I suggest that every book in our own library should have a card in the Princeton library marked "Judd Hall"? We have been doing that sort of thing even before we had our own building. Mrs. Bailey & Louis Eidelberg know the precise procedure.

I shall be delighted to see Beards for you, for I had the conversations with Merriam; but

my present regime is a visit to the doctor at
noon daily & absolute rest of the vocal chords.
But in a week or two I should be able to talk to ^{Busch} ^{McClellan}
However I can talk in whispers & did so with ^{Rowen} ^{Wells}
Simon yesterday, so I shall be happy - more than
you think - to see you if you come to town
next week. In addition to Capt & Sedasco, I want
to visit a man that will be a few years making
about money, it would be an advantage if you
could see him for a talk before you & I met; but
perhaps you & he have already met.

I am distressed about your elbow: what
happened? Is the joint involved? I hope not.

Pandjisky, representing the faculty, did a
touching thing this week; but that you must
see. Anne has seen some of the Princeton people who
have met you: they like you. Also Priest (former
Princeton) heard you at the Nassau club & finds
you an A. All this is very gratifying to me.

Our love to you, Marie & Bill.

My throat is really better. ^{Yours affectionately,} A. J.

13 February 1940

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I am much relieved by the statement in your letter of February 9th that Dr. Crowe finds nothing serious the matter with your throat and only condemns you to silence.

I feel very fully the force of your remarks about the library, and you will be interested to know that I have already had a conversation with Mr. Heyl, the acting librarian, on just this subject of how the two libraries can be made to complement each other rather than to replace each other. Certainly it would be a wicked waste of money to duplicate library facilities, except for such tools as would be needed daily and hourly in each place and might even be duplicated in a departmental library. I should dearly love to be able to make the Institute library add materially to the resources of Princeton by acquiring books germane to our work which the Princeton library does not possess. We shall certainly be on the lookout for such material, and I have no doubt that we shall eventually secure a considerable amount of it. We have an arrangement with Mr. Heyl by which, now that we have a library, we shall make interlibrary loans from the Institute to Princeton and from Princeton to the Institute, which will be a convenience to everyone concerned.

I am sorry to say that the Carnegie institution has cut Lowe's appropriation down to \$1000 for this year. I have not approached them on the subject, preferring to leave the matter to you, and of course I do not want to urge you to do anything that would in any way tax your strength or your voice. Do you expect to be able to get down to see Bush any time in the near future? Or would you prefer to have me do it? I hope to get over to New York next week to see you to talk about this and several other matters, including Capps and Tedesco. I had a very useful conversation with Edgerton of Yale about Tedesco yesterday.

At the present moment I am, in my spare time, having doctors fussing over my elbow. There is some talk of an operation which, if performed, would not be very serious. I have said that I would submit to the operation, provided Dr. Riesman and Dr. Moore would stake their professional reputations that the result would be to cut at least five strokes off my score, but that I would not consider myself justified in undergoing an operation for less than five strokes. There the matter rests for the moment.

With affectionate regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Dear Mr. Flexner:

I am most pleased by the statement in your letter of a library for Dr. Crowe finding serious errors in your report and only a few in the matter with your report and only a few in the matter with your report.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
150 East 72nd Street
New York, New York

I feel very truly the library will be interested to know about the library, and you will be interested to know about the library, and you will be interested to know about the library. I have recently had a conversation with Mr. Hay, the acting librarian, on this subject of how the two libraries can be made to supplement each other rather than to compete with each other. Certainly it would be a wicked waste of money to duplicate library facilities, except for such tools as would be needed daily and hourly in each place and might even be duplicated in a departmental library. I should dearly love to be able to see the Princeton library and a certain to the resources of Princeton by acquiring books certain to our work in the Princeton library does not possess. We shall certainly be on the lookout for such material, and I have no doubt that we shall eventually secure a considerable amount of it. We have an arrangement with Mr. Hay by which now that we have a library, we shall make interlibrary loans from the Institute to Princeton and from Princeton to the Institute, which will be a convenience to everyone concerned.

I am sorry to say that the Carnegie Institution has not lowered its appropriation down to \$1000 for this year. I have not approached them on the subject, preferring to leave the matter to you, and of course I do not want to urge you to do anything that would in any way tax your strength or your voice. Do you expect to be able to get down to see Bush any time in the next future? Or would you prefer to have me do it? I do not get over to New York next week to see you to talk about this and several other matters, including Gappa and Tedesco. I had a very useful conversation with Edgerton of Yale about Tedesco yesterday.

At the present moment I am, in my spare time, having doctors tussling over my elbow. There is some talk of an operation which, if performed, would not be very serious. I have said that I would submit to the operation, provided Dr. Hiesman and Dr. Moore would stake their professional reputations that the result would be to cut out at least five strokes off my score, but that I would not consider myself justified in undergoing an operation for less than five strokes. There the matter rests for the moment.

150 East 72 Street
New York, N.Y.

February 9, 1940

Dear Aydelotte:

Thank you for yours of February 2nd. I saw Crowe in Baltimore and spent a week in Atlantic City. There doesn't seem to be anything to be done about my throat except to "shut up," and when I do have to talk as I am doing now, doing it in a low tone. Thank you for your good wishes. How much therapeutic value they have I will let you know later!

I am glad the library is beginning. I have a feeling that it may work in one of two ways: either to bind the Institute more closely to Princeton, or to pull it away. The future of the Institute really depends on ever closer cooperation with able men in Princeton, and that of course will be equally important ~~to~~ Princeton itself. Books have short lives. An institution like Princeton has to have a big library. The Institute library will have to duplicate some things which the men will be apt to need at any time. But in the main I hope the library will be an addition to what Princeton possesses, so that the Princeton men will get in the way of coming to our library, just as our men will keep up going to their's.

I can't go to Florida now, for I am going over the final typing of my book, of which you have promised to read the proof. I hope it will not be too much of a chore.

With every affectionate good wish for you and Marie, I am

Always sincerely yours,

a. f.
—

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

17 January 1940

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Under separate cover I am sending you a better photograph for your book than the one which you showed me on Sunday. It is a shiny print, which is best for reproduction. I shall see you in Princeton before you see this, but I thought it would be most convenient for you to have this at your house. Please call your printer's attention to the point of giving credit to Bachrach.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner
150 East 72nd Street
New York, New York

January 10, 1940

Dr. Abraham Flexner
150 E. 72nd Street
New York City

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Many thanks for your kind telegram about your conversation with Mr. Bamberger concerning Olden Manor. I appreciate very much your intervention in this matter, which would have been awkward for me to arrange.

I shall telephone you sometime on Monday, January 15th. I have an appointment with Joe Willits that day and hope very much to get something settled. My engagement is for 4:30 so you may expect a message from me sometime in the afternoon or early in the evening.

Everything goes well here and we are having a wonderful vacation, but the life of a golfer is a hard one. Just as I thought I had the game in my pocket and had made thirty-nine for the first nine holes yesterday, I made some kind of awkward drive on the tenth tee which actually jerked my right elbow out of place. A local osteopath snapped it back and he says I shall soon be as good as ever, but I feel very sad at missing so beautiful a chance to break eighty.

With affectionate regards, I am,

Yours sincerely

Frank Aydelotte

FA/db

WILLIAMSBURG INN
WILLIAMSBURG
VIRGINIA

| O |
Mrs. Full

| O |
Mrs. Full

| O |
Mrs. B.

| O |
A.F.'s bust

Cannon Room.



These steps lead down into the lounge, facing the window
and the four panels ~~are~~ The 3 oval reliefs hang.
A.F.'s bust which now stands ~~at~~ X should be
moved across the room to where the arrow
points, & should stand with its back to the
light and not in the corner, please.

January 10, 1940

Mrs. Abraham Flexner
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Anne:

We were somewhat alarmed to see the letterhead of your letter of January 8. I do hope that these wonderful doctors in Johns Hopkins will not find anything really the matter with you, and that you will be going strong by the time we return.

I feel tempted to discharge the entire housekeeping force of the Institute. Almost the last thing I did was carefully to place the bust in the location specified on your diagram, where it looked extremely well. Some busybody must have put it back in the original place. As soon as I reach Princeton January 18th, I will restore it to the location you specified, and shall then be glad to see you and the sculptor at any time you find it possible to come down. I suggest January 25th or 26th.

Our holiday here has been a life saver. The weather has been cool, but clear and perfect for golf. The only tragedy concerns a certain failure to break eighty, about which I have written Dr. Flexner in detail.

Looking forward with great pleasure to seeing you soon, I am,

Yours sincerely

Frank Aydelotte

FA/db

January 8, 1940

Dr. Abraham Flexner
150 E. 22nd Street
New York City

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I was delighted to get your letters of December 31st and January 4th, and I cannot tell you how pleased I was to have a sight of Mr. Houghton's letter to you, which I return herewith. I went down to Miami Saturday for a long talk with Mr. Houghton, lasting from five in the afternoon until nearly eleven at night. I am glad to tell you that he is making a splendid recovery and there is every reason to expect that in a month or two his sight will be better than it has been for some years. He feels tremendously encouraged, as he naturally would, talks about resuming golf, and is willing to continue as Chairman of the Board of Trustees as long as his health is good. I know that both you and Mr. Bamberger will be delighted with this news.

I am also glad to confirm the news which you had from Mrs. Bailey that Henry Turner and Charles Jenkins postponed the meeting of the Swarthmore Board for which I thought I had to return, giving us another week here. We return on the 14th, I see Joe Willits on the 15th, and I shall be busy that week preparing things for the Board meeting January 22nd.

Congratulations on the conclusion of your autobiography. I think it is wonderful that you were able to get the manuscript ready at the time promised, and I look forward with the keenest pleasure to the privilege of reading it in proof.

I have thought a great deal about the title and talked it over with Marie at length, and we are agreed that your own instinct is right and that you should call it "I Remember, I Rember". That sounds fresh and interesting and will attract readers who would be a little repelled by Schuster's suggestion. I am sure that anyone who begins the volume will never lay it down until he has finished it, and you don't want a title which will frighten away the kind of lay men who would feel

Page 2

Dr. Flexner

instinctively that they could not understand
"The Frontiers of Learning."

Thank you very much for paving the way so beautifully for me with Kappel. I deeply appreciate his generosity in the past and we shall need his help in the years to come.

I have just finished reading the proofs of my final report to the Board of Managers of Swarthmore. I shall have it ready to send to you in two or three weeks. I feel many regrets at leaving Swarthmore, but at the same time a certain peace and satisfaction which merges beautifully with the dreams I am dreaming for new activities at the Institute. Swarthmore has been good preparation, but I am delighted to devote the rest of my life to the possibilities involved in carrying on the work at Princeton. As I am saying in my report to the Board January 22nd, the more I reflect upon the problems of the Institute, the greater is my admiration for your achievements in planning and organizing it.

With affectionate regards in which Marie joins, I am,

Yours sincerely

Frank Aydelotte

FA/ab

THE JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL

Monday, Jan 8.
(1940)

Dear Frank and Marie:

I do hope you both, and Bill,
got our New Year's good wishes, and realized
how happy we were to think of you in summer,
enjoying a real and ^{an} interrupted vacation,
and I am especially delighted that it is
to continue up to its legitimate end —
the 14th of January!

Don't let the heading of this sheet cause
you any uneasiness, for it simply means
that I am enjoying the first real and un-
interrupted rest since last St. Patrick's day
when we returned from ~~Nassau~~ Nassau
to Princeton and learned what had been
going on ^{among certain of the Faculty} during our absence! I can't re-
member having had a quiet night's sleep ~~at~~
since then. ~~Worms~~ was lovely but just as I
had begun to recover from the farewell party
and the fatigue of getting off, she began

to feel that he must come over here to be
gone over, and tho' I begged him to wait
until he was stronger - he went, as you know,
was completely knocked up, and not able to
~~and~~ come back to Wmsburg, at all. But
and that James and her son's are one, and
and, still more, the MSS. of his book has gone
to Simon & Schuster's - he really ^{does seem} ~~is~~ ^{so}
very much better, and so much more like
himself, that I felt I ought to take myself in
hand, which is something I should have done
long ago, if I could have found the time. Dr.
Mayer is the most intelligent human being,
in his own domain, whom I have ever met,
he thinks there is a reason for everything and
doesn't rest until he finds it. He is "Each side of
Heaven" lying here in this quiet sunny room,
and watching him fret out, like a Sherlock
Holmes of a high and inspired order, everything
that has disturbed or made me unhappy in the
past few ^{months} ~~years~~, and doing battle to change or an-
nihilate it, because he knows that sleep will not
and cannot come to a disturbed and disquieted
mind. - - No, one thing he didn't discover,

THE JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL

and that was the shock that, Frank dear,
about a week ago, New York friends
came to tea with us, ^{at 150 E. 72nd St.} they had been down
to Princeton New York Ave, to see the open-
ing night of a play they were interested in, ^{there}
and the next morning they had hurried on
to get a glimpse of the new building. They
could not go all over Dill Hall, but they
did go into the Common Room, and
they demanded of me why on earth Urie's bust
which they had known & loved for years - looked
so dreadful in its new setting? From what I
could gather, it had not been placed with its back
to the light, but in a corner, where light struck
it from the side, with the to-be-expected, unfortunate
results. — I haven't the slightest doubt that
you carried out your promise to me to have it
put carefully away, where no one could get at it,
as long as you were in the South! — the riddle is
who knew where it was, and allowed it to be taken

THE JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL

out again, ~~and~~ ^{with} violating your orders?

Before I came away, I called up Mrs. Kamenkova, who has been ill, and heard from her that her husband was greatly upset about not having heard further from you, as to when he should carry out your wish to come to Princeton, on any day you might appoint. He is most eager to come, but I am going to beg you to let me know in advance what day you are going to ask him, so that I may come down with him, for unless I do, Mrs. Kamenkova would be obliged to come ^{to} with, as she cannot understand English nor speak it intelligibly. So all that I ask is that you will wait until I am at home again, which should be in another week from now, and give me notice by telephone, so that I can meet at the date which suits you best, & bring Mr. Kamenkov with me. (His wife should really not make the effort at all, & I have talked Station with him for so many years, that I can make him understand anything you want to say to him.) Of course, I should welcome a chance to come to Princeton - and to see you and Marie as soon as possible. With my love to you both, Affectionately yours,
Aimee

New York, Dec. 21/29

Dear Frank:

I spent a few days in Princeton this last week, for Mrs. Bailey had been taken down with Diphtheria or been sent to the Princeton Hospital. I found that, tho' quite ill at first, she was making a rapid recovery, & by the time I returned, she was able to go to field work & do a woman's work. Miss Eichelber was taking charge of everything with completely & there was little for me to do except to say "yes" or "no" at my house, now very near completion.

Returning to U.S. I had an
Lunch & a talk with Copleland - the
Dinner man. He had little idea of the
Institute, but I hit on a phrase that
hit the subject up for him. We can't,
I said, explain to the popular mind
what each man is doing, for they are
all working on the frontiers of knowledge.
What is known & incorporated in fact is
the Institute's starting point. Then
I told him the story of Eucken,
Lowe, Merritt & Von Neuman, - all
adventurers & pioneers. He is now to
revisit his article & see me again when
he has done it.

The Old Year goes out today: what
a year it has been! And the New
Year comes in. Hope it may bring
peace & security for us all. But from
you & mine I have a special wish. I
trust that this new adventure on which
you are embarking may mean a easier
and a happier period than you have
ever known. The Institute is still only
in its beginnings. You will get many
a thrill as it grows. And there is no
one alive to whom I could more
confidently commit its further up-
bringing. ^{to happy} New Year to you both
& to it, & a long succession of them.
I have seen Mr. Ben Lutz &

his trip to the printer on Tuesday. The Ben says if
advising about the Institute, you & Maria!
I haven't seen them for
so well and happy since the
taken ill. Must be very
good to us all, everyone!
Alone.

; both are well & well-
That the Directorship has
from my hands to yours.
are all well & all join in
greetings for the hours

Ever Affectionately,
G. T.

Dearest Marie and Frank: Every
word of the above goes for me too with my
especial love and admiration for two of the
best "aces" I have ever known! - Your
holiday sounds perfect - I do hope that
Bill has been enjoying it with you, and that
you will share our love and best wishes with
him! - I will be lucky to see you again but don't
hurry back. We both conclude & hope to get

Jan. 4/40
150 E. 72nd St.
N. Y. C.

Dear Frank:

Abraham

I was delighted to learn from Mrs. Bailey Sunday that you do not return until Jan. 14th.
Frank! There'll be lots to do when you return: get all the vacation pay in beforehand. Mrs. Bailey & Miss Eichler tell me that all is going smoothly, - so don't have a care!

It has been very cold up here - down to 12°, but Mrs. Vablen writes Anne that they are freezing in Florida! Hope you & Marie have chosen a more cozy spot.

Enclose a letter from Mr. Thompson
which will - and should - please you.
I hope he can be induced to say they are
as chairman. We need him rarely; but
then as so, on the dignity & sound
sense which he displays, as, e.g. at
the Cornerstone laying, at your election
etc. maybe - if you agree (as Stewart
does, for the suggestion originated with
Stewart) you can persuade him.

Monday noon - on the day & hour
promised - I handed in my manuscript
to the Publishers: "head of Author,"
said Schuster, "left his word". Here's
a problem for you & mine: I close
originally the title "I Remember, I
Remember Remember", for the book is the

story of my memories & their Kew-
sucky background. Schuster thought
the title a bit sentimental, as it is,
and that should be, dealing, as it does,
not only with myself, but with the eminent
men who have been my friends, - Gilman,
Welch, Pritchett, Nuttinck, Gates, your-
self & others who flit through its pages.
He (Schuster) rather liked "The Frontiers
of Learning", - but I think (so does
Anne) that that leaves too much to
teachers Colleges & educational institu-
tions; it would, I suspect, appeal to
a smaller audience, whereas the book
as written will, I think, be read with inter-
est by men like Mr. Hamburger or Mr.
Leidesdorff as well as by academic
folk. You can judge better than you
read the proof, as I hope you will be

willing to do, if you are not too busy.
But tentatively, what do you & Marie
think?

I called on Stoppel yesterday to con-
gratulate him on the marriage of his
daughter; I sent word by his Secretary:
"Tell him I want to see him & I don't
want any money". He saw me at once.
Before I left, I said: "Fred, I don't
want any of your money, but you
have been most helpful, never refusing
a request. I want you to know that I
appreciate deeply your attitude." He re-
plied: "I always look forward to
whatever you asked for". "That's fine,"
I said; "now I want you to treat
Aydellotte the same way. You will get
no 'sloppy' or half-baked requests from
him either. Be as nice to him as you
have been to me." "That I will" he
rejoined; "I have complete confidence in
him".
Our love to you, Marie & Bill. As ever
A. F.

Extract from Dr. Abraham Flexner's book on Universities
Oxford University Press 1930

(This volume is an expansion of three lectures on
Universities given at Oxford in May 1928 on
the invitation of the Rhodes Trust.)

Pages 217-218.

Progress might be greatly assisted by the outright creation of a school or institute of higher learning, a university in the post-graduate sense of the word. It should be a free society of scholars- free, because mature persons, animated by intellectual purposes, must be left to pursue their own ends in their own way. Administration should be slight and inexpensive. Scholars and scientists should participate in its government; the president should come down from his pedestal. The term "organization" should be banned. The institution should be open to persons, competent and cultivated, who do not need and would abhor spoon-feeding - be they college graduates or not. It should furnish simple surroundings - books, laboratories, and above all, tranquillity - absence of distraction either by worldly concerns or by parental responsibility for an immature student body. Provision should be made for the amenities of life in the institution and in the private life of the staff. It need not be complete or symmetrical: if a chair could not be admirably filled, it should be left vacant. There exists in America no university in this sense - no institution, no seat of learning devoted to higher teaching and research. Everywhere the pressure of undergraduate and vocational activities hampers the serious objects for which universities exist. Thus science and scholarship suffer; money is wasted; even undergraduate training is less efficient than it might be, if left to itself.

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What could be expected, if a modern American university were thus established? The ablest scholars and scientists would be attracted to its faculty; the most earnest students would be attracted to its laboratories and seminars. It would be small, as Gilman's Johns Hopkins was small; but its propulsive power would be momentous out of all proportion to its size. It would, like a lens, focus rays that now scatter. The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research is limited in scope; its hospital contains less than fifty beds. But its uncompromising standards of activity and publication have given it influence in America and Europe throughout the entire field of medical education and research. A university or a school of higher learning at the level I have indicated would do as much for other disciplines and might thus in time assist the general reorganization of secondary and higher education.

Athenaeum
551 South Hill Avenue
Pasadena, California

Dear Doctor Flexner:

Many thanks for your very interesting letter of January 27. I am very glad to get your report of Weed's opinion, and to know that it coincides with mine. I hope you now feel easier in your mind about the whole matter.

I look forward to receiving the minutes of the last meeting of the Board and to hearing from you of any further developments.

I am having a wonderful time here with the piece of Elizabethan research which I set out to do. I glanced hastily over the sixteenth century material in the Huntington Library some years ago, but I had no idea that it was as rich in that period as I now find it to be. I am also delighted to find that I am as much at home with these things as ever, and my work is a daily joy to me. I intend to keep it up from now on, getting some relief from administrative details at Swarthmore for that purpose. If I can possibly do it I want to get a month in the Public Record Office in London this summer on documents which exist nowhere else.

We have had a good deal of rain since we have been here, but Marie and I get out for nine holes of golf or for an hour's practice nearly every afternoon. The living arrangements in the Athenaeum are ideal for a student, and the whole group connected with the Library, Cal Tech, and Mount Wilson are showing us all the hospitality we find time for. Beyond all this I have filled my own cup of contentment to the brim by resolutely refusing to make speeches anywhere, with the one exception of a talk about my 'Elizabethan seaman' in the Library on Pounder's Day.

With kindest regards in which Marie joins to Ann and yourself, I am

Yours very sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey

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 above all upon the search for individuals, to insist upon complete freedom for those individuals in the pursuit of their scholarly objectives, and to endeavor to give genuine human dignity to their personal lives. 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 whole period from Gilman to the present time, a period during which American education and scholarship achieved its 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. More than most of his contemporaries he is entitled to say, as he lays down his work:

Exegi monumentum aere perennius.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

December 2, 1939

President Frank Aydelotte
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

My dear President Aydelotte:

I am sending you herewith the minutes
of the meeting of the Executive Committee of
the Institute for Advanced Study, held on
November 24, 1939.

Very truly yours,

Esther S. Bailey
Secretary

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

November 24, 1939

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Institute for Advanced Study was held on Friday, November 24, 1939, in Fuld Hall, Princeton, New Jersey.

Present: Mr. Aydelotte, Chairman
Mr. Edgar S. Bamberger
Mr. Stewart
Mr. Maass, ex officio

Absent and excused: Mr. Houghton
Mr. Bamberger
Mrs. Fuld

The Chairman, Mr. Aydelotte, presided.

The Executive Committee considered a draft of resolutions concerning Dr. Flexner and voted to refer it to the Faculty with the suggestion that the draft be revised by a Committee of the Faculty collaborating with the Chairman of the Executive Committee and that the resolutions be adopted after revision as joint resolutions of the Faculty and Trustees. The resolutions, as revised and approved by the Faculty at a meeting held on November 24, are appended to these minutes.

The matter of Dr. Flexner's salary, pension, and title having been left by the Trustees to the Executive Committee with power, it was voted that Dr. Flexner receive full salary for the remainder of the calendar year, 1939. It was voted that the resolution passed on January 9, 1933, that upon his retirement Dr. Flexner receive a pension of \$8,000.00 per year and that in the event of his death there be paid to his wife, Anne Crawford Flexner, should she survive him, during the period of her widowhood, a pension of \$5,000.00, be amended in respect to the amounts mentioned and that Dr. Flexner's pension be

fixed at \$12,000.00 per year beginning January 1, 1940, and that his wife, Anne Crawford Flexner, in the event that she survives her husband should receive a pension of one half the amount, that is, \$6,000.00 per year, during her widowhood.

It was voted that Dr. Flexner should be given the title of Director Emeritus, and it was suggested that the Trustees should at the proper time make such alterations in the By-Laws as would make it possible for him to be elected a Life Trustee.

It was voted that the deed executed by the officers of the Institute for Advanced Study and delivered to Professor Charles W. Bray for a strip of land adjoining Professor Bray's residence be ratified, approved, and confirmed, including the delivery of the deed.

The Director reported the circumstances under which he had authorized Mr. Riefler to go to Guatemala, but that Mr. Riefler for personal reasons had been unable to take advantage of this opportunity. The Executive Committee authorized the Director to act in his discretion if similar circumstances should arise again.

The Director reported that he had received a request from Professor Whitton of Princeton University for space in which to conduct a study of short wave radio propaganda under a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The Director reported that he had discussed this request with President Dodds, who had indicated that it would be a great service to Princeton University if the Institute would provide quarters to house this investigation. The Executive Committee thereupon authorized the Director to place at Professor Whitton's disposal such space as he needs

in the house at 69 Alexander Street, it being understood that the Institute will bear the expense of heating the house. This permission was granted for the present academic year with the proviso that it might be cancelled on sixty days' notice in case the property should be sold.

The Committee discussed the question of 69 Alexander Street and voted that the Director Emeritus or the Director of the Institute be authorized to take up with the President of Princeton University the question of the sale of this house to Princeton and offer the house to the University whenever there was suitable opportunity for sale at cost price on a four per cent mortgage for the full amount, with no down payment.

The Committee discussed the question of alterations of Olden Manor to make it suitable for a Director's House and authorized the Director and the Chairman of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds to obtain architectural plans and estimates from Mr. Larson.

There being no further business, on motion, the meeting adjourned.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND FACULTY

The Trustees and Faculty of the Institute for Advanced Study take the occasion of Dr. Flexner's retirement to record in this joint resolution their sense of permanent indebtedness to him. The character of the Institute has been determined by his 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 a dignified environment. 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.

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ABRAHAM FLEXNER
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

December 27, 1939

Dear Frank:

I did not receive until yesterday afternoon your letter of December 18, enclosing the draft of Copeland's article. I shall get hold of him this week-end, Friday or Saturday, and do everything in my power to make an interesting story out of what he has written. Of course, it is terribly difficult to explain to the ordinary person what the Institute is. I have had that problem over and over with Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld. What are we doing? What is it leading to? To get people to understand that the highest type of work is precisely the work which does not start out with a concrete objective is no easy job, though, of course, one must not take it too seriously.

I am delighted that you and Marie and Bill are having a pleasant vacation, and I hope that you will stretch it just as far as you can. I really do not see any reason why you should try to reach Princeton at the end of three weeks. Take another week or half week, for the rest of the year will be more or less hectic and you ought to store up as much energy as you can.

We had a very quiet and pleasant holiday. Jean came up to New York, and on Christmas day we had a dinner for twelve refugees. It was about the biggest affair we have ever pulled off in New York. They were all good sports and all of them are finding occupation or preparing themselves for useful work. One of them I knew years ago when he was a professor of medicine at the University of Vienna. He has now learned

President Aydelotte

December 27, 1939

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English, passed the State Board examinations, and gotten a teaching post of a minor kind in one of the New York medical schools. He said that he felt as if he were beginning life over again and that he and his wife and daughter (all of them were present) had no regrets, and they all were grateful that somewhere in the world there existed an island of safety such as America is.

I am touched by your references to my reports, and as you well know there is no one whose good opinion I value more highly.

In the course of writing the final chapter of the reminiscences I have come across all our correspondence about the Rhodes lectureship. It is interesting reading, for me at least, and shows more clearly than I had recollected how much I owe you and how naturally that experience led to the Institute.

I came down to Princeton yesterday morning because Mrs. Bailey had had a severe attack of grippe, and though I had kept in touch with the doctor I wanted to reassure myself. She is again quite well and spent an hour and a half at Fuld Hall yesterday. I am sure she will be thoroughly well by the time you return. Miss Eichelser is on the job, having returned from her family Christmas gathering in Massachusetts, as is Miss Wise and one or two others. The men are mostly away this week because it is the week in which the scientific societies meet in Washington, Ann Arbor, and elsewhere. Hence it is quiet as a grave down here, and I am poaching to the extent of getting Miss Eichelser to help me rid myself of some mail.

Anne, Eleanor, and Jean are all well and all join me in affectionate greetings and every possible good wish for the New Year and

President Aydelotte

December 27, 1939

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for many years to come.

Always sincerely,

A. F.

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Florida Club
Highland Park
Lake Wales, Florida

AF/MCE

P.S. Mr. Maass called me up a few days ago and after a most cordial exchange of greetings told me several interesting facts: first, that the total cost of Fuld Hall is \$60,000 less than the estimates; second, that a fund is assured - I think he said \$150,000 - for the purchase of books. I warned him not to mention it to the professors, but to tell only you, for if the professors know it the sum will be spent in short order and you will need an additional sum, whereas you can make inquiry as to the question of duplication of the Princeton library and what is needed here.

I also see that the Rockefeller Foundation, departing from the policy of recent years, has given \$500,000 to the Hopkins for endowment, provided they raise an equal sum. That I think is most auspicious fact for us.

A. F.



WILLIAMSBURG INN
WILLIAMSBURG
VIRGINIA

Nov 29/39.

Dear Frank:

I was shocked and amazed when my letter to you of Nov 25th was returned to me this afternoon, misdirected, as you see - and an unanswerable proof that I am really more tired than I had thought!

Everything has been beautiful and restful here, and I had thought that in a few days I should be quite myself again. Instead of which I seem to feel more fatigued every day. Abe's throat however is really improving markedly, and when we went to lunch with Mr. & Mrs. Rockefeller today, neither of them thought the hoarseness was noticeable. But he is going to spend 2 or 3 days in Baltimore seeing Dr. Crowe, and Julius Friedmann before we start back to New York, and I

shall stay ^{quietly} here until we go to New York.

I do hope that beyond your throat is entirely recovered. You did not mention it in the last letter of a few days ago which Abe showed me. And it is about that letter which I am writing ^{you} now, (as well as to apologize for my carelessness about the enclosed ^{now}.) I really cannot remember what is inside it, except concern for you being kept in bed, and the position in which I hoped you will arrange to have Abe's bust placed - doubtless you have done so already.)

But I do want to thank you, and, thro' you, the other members of the Board who were responsible for the great kindness and generosity shown to me, and even more for what you and they have done for Abe! It is a great honor, I feel, to be thought of in such a way, and I hope you and they will accept my very grateful thanks.

Do take care of yourselves! I wish you and Marie could take time to come down and play with us in this lovely place! With love from us both, as ever, Anne

Swarthmore, Pa.

27 November 1939

Dear Meritt:

The resolutions reached me this morning, and I am circulating them immediately to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees. I congratulate you and the members of your Committee on the remarkable improvement which you made in them. I have no correction to suggest, except possibly the addition of two or three words in the first sentence to make it read as follows:

"take the occasion of Dr. Flexner's retirement to record in this joint resolution their sense . . ."

It seems to me worth while in that way to emphasize the fact that this is a joint resolution of the Board and Faculty. I am sending a copy of this letter to Veblen and Riefler in order to learn whether they have any objection to the insertion of those words.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE.

Professor Benjamin D. Meritt
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Swarthmore, Pa.
27 November 1939

To Members of the Executive Committee:

I referred the rough draft of the resolutions concerning Dr. Flexner, which was considered by the Executive Committee on November 24th, to the Faculty at its meeting on the same afternoon. The Faculty approved of the idea of a joint resolution and requested that the draft might be referred to a committee consisting of Professors Riefler, Veblen, Meritt, and myself, for revision. I enclose the draft of the resolutions as recommended by the Committee and referred back to the Faculty and Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees. Please let me know whether you will be willing to adopt them in their present form. They seem to me greatly improved and admirably suited to the occasion.

FRANK AYDELOTTE.

Herbert H. Maass
Edgar S. Bamberger
Alanson B. Houghton
Walter W. Stewart

A. IAS(T)



WILLIAMSBURG INN
WILLIAMSBURG
VIRGINIA

November 25, 1939

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

Dear ~~D~~. Aydelotte:

I have just received your letter of November 24th and I want promptly to thank you and your fellow members of the executive committee for the generosity which you have shown in the action taken in respect to my remuneration and pension. I should be very happy if on the occasion of the next meeting of the executive committee or the next meeting of the board, you conveyed to your fellow members this expression of my very deep appreciation. I am flattered that the committee has given me the title of Director Emeritus and placed at my disposal a room in Fuld Hall. I am not quite clear as to the use which I can make of it but if at any time the Institute has need of the space, it is, of course, at your disposal.

I received yesterday your telegram regarding your interview with Willits. We have had an unfortunate series of breaks in our dealings with the Foundation on the subject. I spoke to Fosdick as soon as Stewart and Warren agreed to come and he told me that cooperation in this field was something that would make a strong appeal, he thought, to the Foundation for subsequently he wrote Mr. Stewart a letter of which Stewart gave me extract which I happen to have in my pocket book and which I am inclosing. Just at the time, however, that these things were taking place, Day went to Cornell and when Willits was appointed, Fosdick agreed to do nothing in that field until Willit had surveyed the previous activities of the Foundation. Willits made a tour of this country and subsequently of Europe in order to have first hand knowledge--a very wise procedure. He returned from Europe during the summer to think things over; I could not, therefore approach him on the subject until we



WILLIAMSBURG INN
WILLIAMSBURG
VIRGINIA

Dr. Aydelotte

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November 24, 1939

returned from Canada early in September. He asked me if I had any objection to his discussing the subject with Stewart and I encouraged him to do so. As Willets was new to the job, the question necessarily dragged. I had hoped that favorable action might be taken in December so that you would be relieved of all care on the subject of money, but I feel sure from what Fosdick and Willets have said and the high opinion~~s~~ they both entertain of our economic group that they will cooperate and render the question of finance an easy one for you.

My throat has improved a good deal since I came here despite the fact that in the course of a week, we have had only two sunny days. But I have gotten what is as important as sunshine, namely rest. Anne is feeling extremely well and both of us join in affectionate greetings and all good wishes to you and Marie.

Yours sincerely,

Extract from Letter of R.B.F. to W.W.S., dated July 18, 1938

Dear Walter:

I didn't have time in the elevator the other day to tell you how genuinely glad I am that you are going to team up with Flexner. It will give you complete freedom for the kind of thing you want to do, and I can imagine that under your leadership the Institute will make as significant a contribution to creative thinking in economics as it has made in mathematics. The thing for which I was trying to capture you really did involve at least some elements of administrative responsibility, and it provided no opportunity for personal participation in research. Flexner's position, however, meets both these objections, and, as I say, I am genuinely delighted that what seems to me like an ideal situation has opened up for you - delighted too that the Institute is going to have the advantage of your wisdom and guidance. Your position there will make your relations with the Foundation even more valuable, and I am looking forward with immense satisfaction to our teamwork together in the social sciences and to what I hope will be a closer tie between the Institute and the Foundation.

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.

Yours hastily,

Professor ~~Oscar~~ Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Swarthmore, Pa.
22 November 1939

Dear Mr. Maass:

I enclose a draft of the resolutions concerning Dr. Flexner, which I hope you and the other members of the Executive Committee will revise in every possible way at the meeting on Friday. If you have an opportunity to show them to Mr. Leidesdorf before we meet in Princeton, please do so.

It is my proposal that the resolutions when adopted should be referred to the Faculty in the hope that they will be willing to adopt them also, thus enabling us to send them to Dr. Flexner as a joint resolution of the Board and Faculty. I have worded them at the beginning as if that had already been agreed upon.

Larson is going to stop at Swarthmore on his way back from Louisville tomorrow and drive over with me Friday morning, and we shall be at Fuld Hall shortly after ten. Edgar Bamberger and Stewart can both come to the Executive Committee at twelve so that we shall be able to transact the business which now needs action.

Yours sincerely,

Herbert H. Maass, Esq.
888 Park Avenue
New York, New York

Swarthmore, Pa.

22 November 1939

Dear Meritt:

The task of drafting resolutions concerning Dr. Flexner was left by the Board of Trustees to the Executive Committee, of which I am chairman, and I am hoping that the Committee will agree upon a suitable form at a meeting in Princeton Friday noon.

It occurred to me as I thought the matter over that it would be very graceful if the Faculty would agree upon the same resolutions so that they could be presented to Dr. Flexner as a joint resolution adopted by the Board and Faculty. Does this idea appeal to you? If it does, would you give me your best opinion of the form which the resolution should take?

I enclose a draft which I hope you will feel free to mark up and revise in any way, and please feel free also to show it to anyone whose assistance would be useful. I have sent it both to Stewart and Veblen, and if you could let me have your suggestions at the Institute Friday morning (I shall be in my office by 10:00 or 10:30), I could have a fair copy made before the Executive Committee of the Trustees meets at the Nassau Club at one.

If you and others agree with my suggestion, my idea would be then that the Faculty should adopt resolutions (modified in any way they may wish) at the meeting which we are holding that afternoon.

Looking forward to seeing you, I am

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Benjamin D. Meritt
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

22 November 1939

Dear Stewart:

I enclose a draft of the resolutions regarding Dr. Flexner. Please revise and improve it in every way that you can. I could not get the thing out, even in this tentative shape, in time to send it to you at Washington, and I am sending a copy to you at Gladstone, New Jersey, and one to your office at the Institute, hoping that you will receive one or the other in plenty of time before the meeting of the Executive Committee at the Nassau Club at one o'clock on Friday.

I shall drive over early Friday morning, and be in my office shortly after ten.

It occurred to me that you will be the best person to propose at the Faculty meeting Friday afternoon that the Faculty should associate itself with the resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Board so that they could go to Dr. Flexner as representing the Board and Faculty.

Yours sincerely,

Walter W. Stewart, Esq.
Gladstone
New Jersey



WILLIAMSBURG INN
WILLIAMSBURG
VIRGINIA

Nov. 29/29

Dear Frank:

Yours of the 16th followed me here. I am glad that you have been prudent with your cold: make an inflexible rule on that point, for your own sake, for Marie's & for the Institute's. I shall not need "a few years" to "approve your contribution". I am sufficiently sure of your wisdom & good common sense to give it in advance.

We have had two superb days here & my throat improved instantly. Today it has been cold & rainy. I have stayed

in doors & read, - books & papers. Among
the ~~best~~ latter, I find the N.Y. Times
original news report & editorial on the
opening of the Institute. As it is all as
true now as it was then, I send it to
you as a matter that may interest you.

I could commend Williamsburg to
you & Marie with one big reservation:
no golf within less than ten miles!

Come join me in love to you
both.

Affectionately,
L,
A. S.

16 November 1939

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Many thanks for your kind letter and your telephone message of last night. I am still in bed, and I am profiting by the first lesson of the Institute to stay there for the moment until my cold is out of the way and I am all right again, all of which I expect will happen tomorrow or the next day.

I am most grateful for the kind messages which you pass on from Dodds and from Woodward, but most of all I am grateful for your advice and affectionate good wishes. I shall want to keep in touch with you at every step, and it will be the greatest reward that I could possibly have for my work at the Institute if you are able to say a few years hence that you approve of the contribution I have made.

Marie asks me to thank you for your letter and for the tickets. It was a deep satisfaction to us both to have you and Anne here on Saturday.

With affectionate regards, in which Marie joins, I am

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

November 14, 1939

Dear Marie:

Anne and I are now packing up with a view to leaving for the South Thursday noon.

I am leaving with Mrs. Bailey a set of two tickets for the so-called Princeton University Concerts, the series beginning December 8. As soon as you reach Princeton, Mrs. Bailey will see that you receive them.

I was sorry that I had to leave so soon last Saturday, but my voice, though better, has not yet reached the stage when I can talk in a large gathering. It was a beautiful occasion. Lothian's speech was admirable, and Frank carried off his part of the program with his accustomed dignity and ease.

With all good wishes to you both,

Ever sincerely,

Mrs. Frank Aydelotte
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

AF:ESB

A.F.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

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LIFE TRUSTEES
LOUIS BAMBERGER
MRS. FELIX FULD

November 15, 1939

Dear Aydelotte:

I received yesterday a letter from Woodward of All Souls, a copy of which I am sending to you herewith. It showed fine feeling that he waited until he could get back to All Souls to write me, for he knows how deeply I am attached to that venerable institution, but what pleased me most was the concluding sentence, and that I am communicating in a letter to Mr. Bamberger this morning.

Tomorrow Anne and I go South to stay until my throat is thoroughly healed. Then I shall come back and stop in Princeton to see whether there is anything that I can do for you. Meanwhile, if there is anything I can do for you while I am at Williamsburg or elsewhere - Mrs. Bailey will always have my address - do not hesitate to ask me. There will be little things coming up, all of which have a history but which your sound sense will solve as soon as you are acquainted with the facts. Mrs. Bailey and Miss Eichelser know the facts and the people, but if you wish my judgment at any time, do not hesitate to call upon me, for it would be no trouble to write you, leaving you absolutely free to come to your own decisions.

Monday I had a talk with Dodds, and I told him that, when you came to Princeton and had time, you would see him. He said:

"You and I have worked together for seven years and you have never done a thing or said a word to which any human being could take any exception, and I believe and indeed I am

President Aydelotte

November 15, 1939

2

sure that Aydelotte and I will hit it off as well as you have done."

He made one remark which I should perhaps pass on to you, though I know in my heart that it has already occurred to you.

"Aydelotte is stepping", he said, "from a college to something more than a graduate school. Hence he will have different problems to deal with and in a sense different kinds of people, but I have such confidence in him that I feel sure that he will make the adjustment at once."

Surely if ever a man was welcomed by his colleagues and his friends, you are he, and if ever a man started out with the blessings and good will of all concerned, you again are he. And now give my love to you and Marie, and I hope that you will have a long stretch of happy, successful, and productive work ahead of you, for I said to Dodds that you had one great advantage over me - you are in your own right a scholar and can be one of the humanistic group. I, alas, have never been a scholar, for two years at the Johns Hopkins between 1884 and 1886 do not produce scholarship, though they do produce and did produce a reverence for it which I am now leaving in safe keeping with you.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely your friend,

A.S.

President Frank Aydelotte
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

AF:ESB

C O P Y

October 22, 1939

ALL SOULS COLLEGE
OXFORD

My dear Flexner:

I must write to you from Oxford. I have had a day's leave here from my work. The work is most interesting - as far as work in a war can be interesting but it is heavenly to get back here, even though I have been attending college committees all the time!

I'm just sending this short note to give you every possible good wish for your time of retirement. Knowing you, I'm sure that this word retirement doesn't mean retirement from work, but I hope it does mean that at long last you will be able to study your own self, your health, the use of your time a little more than you have done for these many, many, many years past.

It must be a very deep source of happiness both to you and to your wife that you have been able to do so much solid, positive good in this world. In these times, when we are fighting for something much more than (though it includes) our own times, and fighting against evils which I had scarcely thought possible, it is for people like myself a very great consolation to have in mind careers like yours. It gives one hope for the future.

I won't write more now. I have to leave Oxford in a very short time, but I wanted to write this letter from All Souls College.

And just one word more - how glad I am that Aydelotte is succeeding you.

Yours ever,

E. L. Woodward

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

LAWRENCE HALL, KIRKLAND STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

November 15, 1939

Dear Dr. Flexner:

J. A. | As during the last weeks I have been very much immersed in my work, I did not hear before last Sunday, through Rufus Jones, that you had suddenly become ill and had given over the responsibilities of the leadership of the School for Advanced Studies to Dr. Aydelotte. Much though I admire your wisdom in selecting the best possible successor, my wife and I are nevertheless concerned over this news, and we sincerely hope that your illness is not of too grave a character and that even in a state of retirement you can indulge in your customary interests and help us to carry on the burden of education.

Here I again must say, please don't answer this letter. I hope that I can sooner or later hear from one of your many friends how you are, but I could not abstain from expressing to you and your wife our sincere sympathy and our hope that you will recover very soon.

With our best greetings,

Yours sincerely,

Robert Ulich

Robert Ulich

Dr. Abraham Flexner
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

20 October 1939

Dear Dr. Flexner:

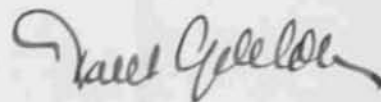
Many thanks for your letter of October 17th. Veblen telephoned me about the problem of the lights and the path, which latter I think rather important, and I therefore requested him to consult you and Larson and Maass before reaching a decision. I don't mind in the least having such questions brought to my attention. I am glad to save you in any way that I can in regard to such matters, more particularly as Veblen promised to attend to the details.

I have had too many things to do here to try to get over to Princeton this week, but if it is convenient for you, I shall try to come down from New York on Thursday, the 26th. If you can arrange for me to have a room at the Inn, I shall stay over night and come to Swarthmore on the 27th. I hope to have a chance for a good talk with you and time also to learn from Mrs. Bailey and Miss Bichelser how things are going.

I am perfectly delighted with the messages I have had from Dodds, Gauss, and a number of members of the Princeton Faculty, and Board of Trustees.

With much love to Anne and yourself, in which Marie joins, I am

Yours affectionately,



Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

October 17, 1939

Dear Aydelotte:

I have been overwhelmed with letters and telephone calls, the former of which I shall show you when you are here. Everybody concurs with Dodds that no better selection could have been made. You and Marie cannot imagine how happy I am that such is the universal verdict.

Except for letters of congratulation and regret, the mail is light, and I am disposing of it so that you may not be bothered by it when you come here. A few little questions about the building have arisen. If they are trivial I take care of them; if anything of moment is involved I shall, of course, leave it to you.

I had yesterday a long talk with Veblen - brought about quite incidentally - about the dinners and about his advice to Earle not to lunch with me. He had not a word to say in self-defence. He said things, however, not one of which is true. I do not believe that he is wilfully dishonest, but he is a queer duck with what Stewart calls "a twisted mind," and I am determined that you shall not be embarrassed by him as I have been embarrassed during the last six months. The way in which every member of the faculty spoke to Mr. Houghton and the letters and messages I am receiving from them show conclusively, as you will see, that Veblen is absolutely self-deceived.

President Aydelotte

October 17, 1939

2

He had, I suspect, not a motive but an ambition, which, fortunately, the Trustees have disappointed.

Give my love to Marie and believe me,

Ever affectionately,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

President Frank Aydelotte
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

AF/MCE

P. S. I am sorry to find that Veblen has talked to you over the telephone about several trivial things, all of which could wait, and that he has written Larson about them. Veblen was told yesterday not to bother you with trivialities, for in the case of really trivial things I would attend to them, as you had requested, and if they were not trivial we would simply hold them up until you come. It seems incredible that he should have misunderstood anything so plain - but there you have it.

A. F.

October 19, 1939

Dear Frank:

I have had a lot of letters and no end of telephone calls. I do not want to worry you with them. They flatter me far beyond anything that I deserve. I am, however, anxious that you should know how widely the choice of the Trustees in making you my successor has been approved; hence the enclosures.

Everything is running smoothly and automatically. Let me know at any time if there is anything that you would like me to do or not to do.

With love to you and Marie,

Ever affectionately,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

President Frank Aydelotte
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

AF/MCE

CONGRATULATIONS

by WESTERN UNION

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DR AND MRS FRANK AYDELOTTE=
SWARTHMORE PENN=

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES I AM EXTREMELY
HAPPY QUOTE MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND GUIDE YOU AND MAY
HE LET THE LIGHT OF HIS COUNTENANCE SHINE UPON YOU AND
GIVE YOU SUCCESS UNQUOTE=

:ABRAHAM FLEXNER.

1145A.

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1939 OCT 10 AM 10 18

NW79 40 DL=SWARTHMORE PENN 10 920A

DR AND MRS ABRAHAM FLEXNER=

150 EAST 72 ST=

DEEPLY APPRECIATE YOUR WARM HEARTED TELEGRAM DELIGHTED WITH REPORT OF DR FLEXNERS RELEASE LOOK FORWARD WITH HUMILITY AND ENTHUSIASM TO TASK OF CARRYING OUT HIS GREAT DREAM ON FOUNDATIONS HE HAS LAID MARIE JOINS IN MUCH LOVE TO YOU BOTH=

FRANK

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

Magnetawan, Canada

Aug. 25, 1939

F A

STEWART ARRIVES HOME TOMORROW TELEPHONE PEAPACK 4947

~~HAVE CANVASSED ENTIRE~~

HAVE CANVASSED ENTIRE MATTER WITH HIM SUGGEST YOU ARRANGE TO
CONFER WITH HIM IN NEAR FUTURE AFFECTIONATE GREETINGS AND
DEEP APPRECIATION

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE.

25 August 1939

Dear Stewart:

I have just received the enclosed telegram from Dr. Flexner, and should be delighted to see you whenever and wherever you find it convenient. I could meet you in Princeton, or should be happy to have you come over to Swarthmore for lunch any day that you suggest.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Walter W. Stewart
Gladstone
New Jersey

technical studies and to select suitable land for the colony.

With affectionate regards, in which Marie joins
25 August 1939

Yours sincerely,
Dear Dr. Flexner

I have just arrived and found your kind letter, and a few minutes later received your telegram concerning Stewart. I shall get in touch with him at once.

DR. ABRAHAM FLEXNER
MAGNACARTE
VIA BURK'S TRIP

Our experiences in Mexico were really **very, heartening,** especially the sympathy and understanding of the government officers with whom we conferred. All this is very surprising in view of the things one hears said about them.

We presented a memorandum of the conditions under which we were prepared to finance a small experimental colony of German refugees. We propose to begin with 200 families and to support them to the extent of \$200,000 the first year, plus the expenses of their trip from Germany. (Incidentally the Jewish organizations are prepared to put more money into the plan, but we did not want to give any Mexican officials that money was being thrown around loosely.) After an extended series of interviews with the President and various members of his cabinet, we received a favorable reply in the name of the President and signed by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Gobernacion. The latter, incidentally, happened to be an old friend of mine. He was President of the University in 1932 when I made an address in Spanish on Elizabethan literature, which the University of Mexico afterwards printed. Knowing your interest in the whole plan I enclose a copy of the letter, which is really our Magna Carte. We shall probably send Arthur Morgan and Dr. Rose down immediately to make the necessary

technical studies and to select suitable land for the colony.

With affectionate regards, in which Marie joins, I am
22 August 1938

Yours sincerely,

Dear Dr. Flexner,

I have just received and found your kind letter, and

a few lines in which you have expressed your interest concerning Stewart.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Magnetawan
Via Burk's Falls
Catario, Canada

I shall get in touch with him at once.

Our experiences in Mexico were really

especially the sympathy and understanding of the government

officers with whom we conferred. All this is very surprising in

view of the opinion our guests said about them.

We are under a tremendous of the conditions under which

we were to have to finance a small experimental colony of German

refugees. We were to begin with 200 families and to support

them to the extent of \$20,000 the first year, plus whatever expenses

of their trip from Germany. (Incidentally the Jewish organization

had been asked to put more money into the plan, but we did

not want to ask the Mexican officials and that money was being thrown

around loose.) We had a detailed series of interviews with the

President and other members of his cabinet, we received a favor-

able reply from the President and signed by the representatives

of Agricultural and Government. The latter, I did not know, had

to be an old friend of mine. He was President of the University

in 1932 when I made an address in Spanish on Elizabethan litera-

ture, which the University of Mexico afterwards printed. Knowing

your interest in the whole plan I enclose a copy of the letter,

which is really our Mexican Charter. We shall probably send Arthur

Morgan and Dr. Rose down immediately to make the necessary

25 July 1939

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Many thanks for your letter. I should love to do a book such as Simon and Schuster suggest on "How to Get an Education in College". It is something that is very much needed, but when I think soberly about undertaking any new responsibility I realize that I have my time mortgaged pretty far into the future.

I have these Sachs lectures which are going to be a big job and I have to put the lectures on the Rhodes Scholarships which I gave at Toronto into shape for the printer. These two jobs will take all the time I can spare from other things for the next year or so. I am keenly interested in both books and only wish I had more free time to concentrate on them.

The weather down here seems to have matched yours. Ever since our return it has been almost too chilly, but that defect promises to be overcome with great rapidity since it is now warming up with a vengeance.

I am putting things in order here to get away to Mexico next week. No one knows better than I do how many slips are possible in delicate negotiations of this kind, but I am, nevertheless, hopeful that something may come of the mission. The idea occurred to President Cardenas first of all. The colonizing of vacant lands is a very popular idea at the moment in Mexico, and certainly these refugees selected by the American Friends Service and backed by the J.D.C. would be a far more valuable and efficient group than the Mexicans are likely to get from any other source. In my opinion the Spanish refugees and the repatriated Mexicans from the United States would, as a class, be far inferior. Just because the project promises to be of value to Mexico itself I have hopes that it will go through.

With affectionate regards in which Marie joins to you and all the family, I am

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner,
Magnetawan,
via Burk's Falls,
Ontario, Canada.

12 July 1939

Dear Anne:

The water of Lake Almic is not yet dried out of our bathing suits as I sit down to thank you for a most delightful visit. Ordinarily a wet bathing suit does not make an especially congenial travelling companion, but the waters of your lake seem to preserve some of their silky charm, even in a damp bathing suit, or at any rate in our memories.

We had a comfortable trip home, went to a movie in Toronto, arrived in good time this morning, spent a busy day, and at five we sallied out - all three of us - to golf. Marie shimmered and shone, I had one of the best rounds of the year, and even Bill seemed improved, all of which I attribute to the peace and charm of your Canadian woods.

I come back to find various new problems on my desk including a joint request from the American Friends Service and the J.D.C. that I should go to Mexico next week to settle with President Cardenas certain details of the proposed colonization scheme for German refugees. I may have to go but I shall not decide for a few days. Under separate cover Marie and I are sending the Flexner family a vivid waker book about Russia. We enjoyed it partly because we knew the people, but I think it will give you an unusually clear impression of the human side of Russian life. I particularly want Eleanor to read it.

I am

With much love from us both to all of you,

Yours very sincerely,

Mrs. Abraham Flexner,
Magnetawan
via Burk's Falls,
Ontario, Canada

3 July 1939

Dear Mrs. Bailey:

Many thanks for your note. I am sorry to say that we have finally decided to give up driving to Canada after all. I found that Mrs. Aydelotte was a little tired and inclined to dread the long motor trip, so we are going by train tonight. I think on the whole we are wise to do so since we have to be back at a definite time, and I should prefer to drive up there when we were free to take it in as leisurely a manner as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Esther S. Bailey,
20 Nassau Street,
Princeton, New Jersey

3 July 1939

Dear Mr. Maass:

In accordance with our telephone conversation, Mrs. Aydelotte and I are going off to Canada today to spend a week with the Flexners at their camp, returning to Swarthmore on Wednesday, July 12th.

Yours sincerely,

(S) FRANK AYDELOTTE

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

Copy to S. D. Leidesdorf, Esq.

20 NASSAU STREET
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

July 1, 1939

Dear President Aydelotte:

I found the roads in Canada very good, and it is possible to drive 30 miles per hour in towns so that you can make excellent time. In my driving I have kept to main roads, although not always on the highways.

With all good wishes for a splendid trip, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ether S. Bailey

President Frank Aydelotte
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

20 NASSAU STREET
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

AF
—

June 27, 1939

Dear President Aydelotte:

Dr. Flexner asked me to write to you regarding the motor mileage to Magnetawan. According to my speedometer it was approximately 720 miles from Magnetawan to Princeton via Toronto. I should say that you could reach Magnetawan easily in the afternoon of the third day or in the morning if you drove at a high speed. It may be a more direct route to go to Clayton, New York, and cross the new International Bridge and go to Magnetawan via Kingston and Oshawa, although unfortunately I have not the mileage for that route. In Canada the speed limit in towns is 30 miles and in the country 50 miles, so that you can make excellent time.

Sincerely yours,

President Frank Aydelotte
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

Esther S. Bailey

ESB

29 June 1939

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I hear from Mrs. Bailey that the distance to Lake Ahmick is just over 700 miles. If the roads are good (I have just written to Mrs. Bailey to inquire about them), I am sure we could cover this distance in two days with the greatest ease since Marie and I change off every hour and thus never get tired as a single driver would. Under the circumstances we have decided that it would be good fun to drive up, starting on the morning of the 4th and arriving by dinner time on the 5th. If anything should happen to delay us enroute, we should of course send you a telegram.

Looking forward with great pleasure to the peace and quiet and good company of your camp, I am

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner
150 East 72nd Street
New York City

29 June 1939

Dear Mrs. Bailey:

Many thanks for your letter. You do not allude to the state of the roads, but I suppose that they are good or you would have said something to the contrary. If they are at all as good as the roads in the United States I feel certain that we could drive the 720 miles in two days and should enjoy doing it.

My wife and I have the advantage of a single driver in that we change off every hour, and thus can keep going all day without getting tired.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Esther C. Bailey
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

AF

10 May 1939

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Miss Abbett wrote to Mrs. Bailey to say that I would be at the meeting on May 22nd, but I do not think anyone answered your kind invitation to Marie also. This is just a line to say that you may expect us both. We shall drive over early Monday morning, reaching the Inn in good time for the meeting at eleven o'clock.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner, Director
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Interestingly that this
file does not contain
Flexner's letter to which
T-A's of 2/21/39 is answer,
nor his having no space
in 2/21/39 + at some point of
A who is to be his successor.
This does it contain Flexner's
letter to which T-A's 7/27/39
is answer -

Fchs

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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

OFFICE

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PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

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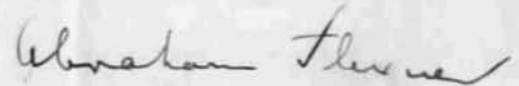
May 4, 1939

Dear President Aydelotte:

The annual and regular meetings of the Institute will be held at the Princeton Inn, Princeton, New Jersey, at 11:00 o'clock (daylight saving time) on the morning of Monday, May 22.

Following the meetings the dedication of Fuld Hall will take place at 12:15. We should be very happy if you and your wife can be present. After the brief ceremonies in which Mr. Maass, Mr. Houghton, President Dodds, and Miss Lavinia Bamberger will participate we shall all adjourn to the Princeton Inn for luncheon. Please let me know whether you and Mrs. Aydelotte can attend.

Very sincerely yours,



President Frank Aydelotte
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

AF:ESB

21 February 1939

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Here are the notes I promised you. I have checked up the facts and dates from old engagement books and think they are accurate. I had great fun thinking back over this series of events and putting them all together. I do not know how to express adequately the gratitude I feel to you for your part in all the incidents which I have recorded.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner, Director
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

A. Flexner

Please
prepare
along with
general
revision
— given to A

1st Draft
20 February 1939

Memorandum for Dr. Abraham Flexner:

In response to your suggestion I am very glad to write out a few notes on the interesting way in which our paths have crossed from time to time during the last thirty-five years, and I should like to express my own lively appreciation of the very wonderful help which every such crossing has given me in carrying out the plans which I held nearest my heart.

I was an instructor in Indiana University when the Rhodes Will was announced in 1902, and immediately decided that I would, if possible, qualify for one of the Scholarships to be provided at the University of Oxford. Information about the requirements was very hard to obtain, and it was not known in the Middle West when the Scholarships would go into operation. Meanwhile I finished my year at Indiana, went to Harvard in September 1902, took my Master's degree in 1903, and in September 1904 became an instructor in English in the Louisville Boys High School. There I learned ^{that} the first competition for the Rhodes Scholarships would be held in 1904 and that all candidates would be required to take a qualifying examination in Latin, Greek, and Mathematics, equivalent to Responsions. I had studied Latin in high school but not in college, and had never done any Greek. It was consequently impossible for me to apply in 1904, and it was necessary if I ever was to have a Rhodes Scholarship that I succeed in 1905 because of the age limit. The candidates of that year had to be under twenty-five on October 1st, and I was twenty-five on October 16th.

The problem of getting up sufficient Latin and

A. Flexner

3

Greek was a real one. I had no money and was compelled to continue my teaching. My program at the high school involved five classes a day and the reading of 125 themes ^{per week,} in addition to coaching the football team. I needed the best possible tutoring, but my salary was only \$1200 a year, so I was not exactly in a position to pay for it.

Everyone in secondary education in that part of the country knew of the wonderful things which you accomplished in your school, but I had the impression, which I imagine was correct, that the fees which you charged were entirely out of the reach of my pocketbook. Under the circumstances I summoned up my courage, went to see you, explained ^{you} to ^x exactly the situation in which I found myself, and asked your advice as to how to proceed. You were kind enough to interest yourself in the problem, and you took the position that if I only understood clearly enough how to go about it, one tutor would be as good as another, ^{if I understood how to go to work} that ^x all I would need ^{would be} ~~would be~~ ^{in a tutor} ~~a little help from somebody who knew Greek.~~ That I was fortunately able to get for a nominal sum from one of my colleagues who taught Greek in the Louisville High School. I saw ^{in a flash} ~~instantly~~ the merits of the plan of study you ^{proposed} ~~suggested~~, and ^{at once} ~~at once~~ put it into operation, ^{at once} with the result that I passed the examination ^{safely} (though I imagine with not much margin) at the appointed time, ^{Incidentally, I} ~~and~~ have used the same method successfully since that day in learning German, French, and Spanish.

While I was working away at Latin and Greek, I happened to be in Bloomington and an old friend of mine,

the head of the French Department, sent for me. He said that he understood I was preparing myself for this qualifying ~~examination~~ examination for the Rhodes Scholarships and he wished out of friendship for me to advise me to give it up. He had had me in French at college, and he was convinced of the fact that I did not have enough linguistic ability to pass this examination and ~~it would only~~ ^{he urged me not to} break my heart ~~in~~ ^{in a} ~~vain~~ ^{vain} attempt. ~~try~~. I thanked him for his advice, but took yours instead.

I went off to Oxford in 1905, returned to Indiana in 1908, went to M.I.T. in 1915, and thence to Swarthmore in 1921. During these years I followed your work, but I saw you only once or twice. The next time our paths really crossed was in 1923. ^{had} We had some correspondence about an essay of yours, "Factors of School Success," in which I found many ideas parallel to what I was thinking about myself at that time. The essay was very creditably reviewed by one of the undergraduate editors of our college paper, The Phoenix. In December 1923 or January 1924 you informed me that the General Education Board was considering a proposal for a comprehensive study of the teaching of English in the United States and that you were willing to recommend an appropriation for this purpose, provided I would act as chairman of the committee which was to conduct the study. I replied to you that I regretted very much to refuse to do anything you asked, but that my hands were pretty full at Swarthmore with problems connected with honors work which we had introduced two years before, that I would like to tell you what we were doing, and ask your advice as to which task you felt ^{to be} more important. You suggested that I come and see

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you in Atlantic City February 3, 1924. This I did. We had a long conversation about our plan for honors work at Swarthmore and the progress that it ^{had} made in two years. You said immediately that I should stick to what I was doing and forget about the study of the teaching of English. As I was about to leave you asked me whether ~~I~~ ^{Swarthmore College} had money enough to give the honors plan a thoroughgoing trial. I confessed that we did not, that the plan had involved certain additional expense, and we were already beginning to feel the pinch. Your reply was, "Why don't you ask us for money?" Needless to say I asked you on the spot. You suggested that I prepare a memorandum with figures and proposal in detail. This I did, and the result was a five-year subsidy from the General Education Board of \$20,000 for 1925-25, \$40,000 for the next year, and \$60,000 per year for the next three after that.

The arrangement was that if honors work was a success, the Board of Managers should undertake to add to ^{our} ~~the~~ endowment a sum sufficient to keep the income of the College at the level to which it had been raised. This would have required, at the interest rates then prevailing, \$1,200,000. The General Education Board had given no promise of any help toward the raising of this endowment, and the Board of Managers of Swarthmore College looked upon this promise of theirs as a very serious responsibility which it might be difficult to fulfill.

In 1929 we embarked on an endowment campaign for \$2,000,000. I had wanted to make the sum larger, but the Board were extremely doubtful of our ability to raise that much. The General Education Board generously promised

one third of the amount, \$675,000, other foundations gave ~~smaller~~ ^{smaller} sums, and the result was that the \$2,000,000 was ^{by June, 1929} raised, with surprising ease.

I knew that it would not be enough, and at the first Board Meeting ^{in the autumn of} 1929 I succeeded in persuading our Board to embark that year on another campaign for a similar amount. This resolution was taken on October 1, 1929. About the middle of the month the Stock Market broke and things became increasingly difficult during the year. Nevertheless by the beginning of the long vacation in 1930 the whole \$2,000,000 was pledged. The General Education Board had doubled their appropriation, other foundations had done the same, and we found a surprising generosity on the part of alumni and friends of the College. The pledges from the foundations were, of course, conditional upon our collecting the pro rata amount from other donors. We began these collections in the spring of 1930 and continued them through the depression. We had a very small margin pledged over the total amount needed, and financial conditions over the country at large grew steadily worse. Nevertheless by Commencement Day 1935 we had collected the entire amount, ^{had} and added \$4,000,000 in cash to our endowment fund. That visit of mine to see you in Atlantic City on February 3, 1924, ^{one of} was the most fortunate thing ^{at Swarthmore} that ever happened to the College.

During these years our contacts were very frequent. Eleanor was at Swarthmore, and you and Anne were often here to see her and to stay with us, and we profited greatly by your advice on ^{many college problems,} ~~all kinds of matters~~. I ~~was~~ thus ^{came} ~~enabled to~~ ^{at the end of} ~~come~~ to know you so well that when, ~~in~~ 1927 Lord Lothian said

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to me that he thought it was time for an American to be called to Oxford to give the Rhodes Trust Memorial Lectures, I replied instantly that you were the man we should approach. You were fortunately attracted by the idea and gave your famous lectures on Universities at Oxford in April and May 1928. We had a semester off, had been in Egypt and Spain, and returned by way of Oxford at just the right moment to hear the last of your lectures. It has always been a matter of the greatest delight to me that by ^{an} ~~the~~ extraordinary coincidence ~~the~~ proofs of these lectures, which you had given on my proposal, ^{were} sent to Mr. Bamberger, ^{and} resulted in your being called by him to organize the Institute for Advanced Study, ^{my} ~~my~~ service on the Board of Trustees of the Institute *has been* ~~one~~ one of the most interesting experiences of my life.

FRANK AYDELOTTE.

11 a AF
ofc.
21 FEBRUARY, 1939

Memorandum for Dr. Abraham Flexner:

In response to your suggestion I am very glad to write out a few notes on the interesting way in which our paths have crossed from time to time during the last thirty-five years, and I should like to express my own lively appreciation of the very wonderful help which every such crossing has given me in carrying out the plans which lay nearest my heart.

I was an instructor in English in the Louisville Boys High School when the first competition for the Rhodes Scholarships was held in 1904. I intended to compete, but at the last moment I learned that all candidates would be required to take a qualifying examination in Latin, Greek, and Mathematics, equivalent to Responsions. I had studied Latin in high school but not in college, and had never done any Greek. It was consequently impossible for me to apply in 1904, and it was necessary, if I ever was to have a Rhodes Scholarship, that I succeed in 1905 because of the age limit. The candidates of that year had to be under twenty-five on October 1st, and I was twenty-five on October 16th.

The problem of getting up sufficient Latin and Greek was a real one. I had no money and was compelled to continue my teaching. My program at the high school involved five classes a day and the reading of 125 themes per week in addition to coaching the football team. I needed the best possible tutoring, but my salary was only \$1200 a year, so I was not exactly in a position to pay for it.

Everyone in secondary education in that part of the country knew of the wonderful things which you accomplished in your school, but the fees which you charged were entirely out of the reach of my pocketbook. Under the circumstances I summoned up my courage, went to see you, explained to you exactly the situation in which I found myself, and asked your advice as to how to proceed. You were kind enough to interest yourself in the problem, and you took the position that if I only understood clearly enough how to go about it, one tutor would be as good as another, that all I would need in a teacher would be knowledge of Greek. That I was fortunately able to get for a nominal sum from one of my colleagues who taught Greek in the Louisville High School.

I saw in a flash the merits of the plan of study you suggested, and put it into operation at once, with the result that I passed the examination safely (though I imagine with not much margin) at the appointed time. Incidentally I have used the same method successfully since that day in learning German, French, and Spanish.

While I was working away at Latin and Greek, I happened to be in Bloomington and an old friend of mine, the head of the French Department, sent for me. He said that he understood I was preparing myself for this qualifying examination for the Rhodes Scholarships and he wished out of friendship for me to advise me to give up the idea. He had had me in French at college, and he was convinced of the fact that I did not possess enough linguistic ability to pass this examination, and he urged me not to break my heart in a vain attempt. I thanked him for his advice, but took yours instead.

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II

I went off to Oxford in 1905, returned to Indiana in 1908, went to M.I.T. in 1915, became American Secretary to the Rhodes Trustees in 1918, and came to Swarthmore in 1921. During these years I followed your work, but I saw you only once or twice. The next time our paths really crossed was in 1923. We had had some correspondence about an essay of yours, "Factors of School Success," in which I found many ideas parallel to what I was thinking about myself at that time. The essay was very creditably reviewed by one of the undergraduate editors of our college paper, the Phoenix. In December 1923 or January 1924 you informed me that the General Education Board was considering a proposal for a comprehensive study of the teaching of English in the United States and that you were willing to recommend an appropriation for this purpose, provided I would act as chairman of the committee which was to conduct the study. I replied that my hands were pretty full at Swarthmore with problems connected with honors work, which we had introduced two years before, that I would like to tell you what we were doing and ask your advice as to which task you felt to be more important. You suggested that I come and see you in Atlantic City, February 3, 1924. This I did. We had a long conversation about our plans for honors work at Swarthmore and the progress that we had made in two years. You said immediately that I should stick to what I was doing and forget about the study of the teaching of English. As I was about to leave you asked me whether Swarthmore College had money enough to give the honors plan a thoroughgoing trial. I confessed that we did not, that the plan had involved certain additional expense,

AF said
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III

During these years our contacts were very frequent. Eleanor was at Swarthmore, and you and Anne were often here to see her and to stay with us, and we profited greatly by your advice on many college problems. I thus came to know you so well that when at the end of 1927, Lord Lothian asked me to suggest an American to be called to Oxford to give the Rhodes Trust Memorial Lectures, I replied instantly that you were the man we should approach. You were fortunately attracted by the idea and gave your famous lectures on "Universities" at Oxford in April and May 1928. We had a semester off, had been in Egypt and Spain, and returned by way of Oxford at just the right moment to hear the last of your lectures. It has always been a matter of the greatest delight to me that by an extraordinary

coincident^{ed} the proofs of these lectures, were sent to Mr. Bamberger and resulted in your being called by him to organize the Institute for Advanced Study. My pleasure in these events was greatly increased by your invitation to me to act from the beginning as one of the Trustees of the new venture, which has already made so notable a contribution to the development of higher scholarship in the United States. Meanwhile, your book on "Universities" has exerted a more profound influence in the country than you can have any idea. It came at a moment when it was much needed, and there is equal need today for the revised edition which you have in mind.

FRANK AYDELOTTE.

19 November 1938

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Many thanks for your letter. We were terribly sorry not to get over to the concert, but life has been almost too full for me this fall. I have been on my back for sometime with a persistent attack of grippe, and have finally decided to take the doctor's advice and go off for a little holiday in the South in order to get the last of the germs out of my system.

I have seen Bettina Meyerhof once and was delighted with the way she is taking hold of her work at Swarthmore. I think she is a very fine person, and I am delighted to have her here.

Do you know anything about this refugee work which Matthew Woll is starting? I had a telegram from him asking me to join him, but am delaying my answer until I have a chance to talk to him in person. I have been urging the American Friends Service to try to do something for the refugees, and had in mind myself that I should like to do anything I could in cooperation with them. I must say that I think it the greatest humanitarian cause of modern times, and if some great effort could be made in this country to take care of those Jews who are fitted to begin life in a new environment, it would demonstrate that we do have something that could be called civilization.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner, Director
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

AF

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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

OFFICE

20 NASSAU STREET

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

November 18, 1938

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LIFE TRUSTEES

LOUIS BAMBERGER
MRS. FELIX FULD

Dear Aydelotte:

I am enclosing a letter which I have just had regarding Dr. Salomon. I presume you have had something to the same effect. —

None received yet. E.

This last week has been a hell on earth for everyone who has a heart. I have been overrun with letters and applications.

I can tell you in confidence, though the news has not been released, that Fermi, who recently won the Nobel Prize in Physics, is coming to ^{an} American university permanently.

We have an opportunity now to lift American scholarship to a far higher level than we thought possible when the Institute was founded. If the money were available it could be done immediately. I mean to talk to Mr. Bamberger on the subject when I next see him.

With all good wishes to you and your family,

Ever sincerely,

President Frank Aydelotte
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

AF/MCE

A. F.

*So sorry you have had this:
Take care of yourself or let
others do it!*

20 NASSAU STREET
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

November 14, 1938

Dear Aydelotte:

I had meant to answer long since your kind letter of November 1, but between a digestive upset and my birthday - not to mention a new flood of refugees - my mail is sadly in arrears.

We were very sorry that you could not come over on the 10th. We had a beautiful concert.

I have a father's pride in everything you say about Eleanor's book. I don't agree with her viewpoint entirely by any means, for I think she over estimates the economic factor. Love, hate, jealousy, and caprice are all dramatic elements that have nothing to do with social considerations. Psychology has perhaps as much to tell a dramatist as sociology. Nonetheless, I do agree with you that the maturity of many of her comments is startling, and she writes with vigor and a real mastery of her materials, which, by the way, is just what you said to me.

Give our love to Marie and Bill and believe me

Ever sincerely,

A. F.

President Frank Aydelotte
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

AF/MCE

P.S. Bettina Meyerhof stopped to see me yesterday as she and her aunt were driving down to Swarthmore, and I gave her a card to you. I had a good talk with Bettina and I shall miss my guess if she does not prove to be one of your star students.

A. F.

9 November 1938

Dear Eleanor:

I do not think you need to be in the least discouraged at the slowness of the papers in reviewing your book. My experience is that it usually takes a month or six weeks to get one reviewed, and I am ashamed to say that when I try to review one myself, I often take three months to the job. The Phoenix is publishing a review of your book, and you may be sure that it will get full publicity in Swarthmore. If it does not get a long series of good notices, I shall be very much disappointed in the reviewers.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Eleanor Flexner
150 East 72nd Street
New York, New York

November 8, 1938

Dear President Aydelotte:

I can't tell you how much I appreciate your kind letter about my book! In the first place every kind word is a help right now as the newspaper reviewers have apparently made up their minds to ignore it! - and as my publishers haven't done much about things either. So I have the feeling that literally nobody knows the thing is even out. I suppose that is always the case with a "first book" and that it will have to make its way slowly, but there is no denying it makes me sore just the same!

However no matter what sort of a reception it had had, your letter would have made me very, very proud and happy. Thank you ever so much. I feel fairly good about it as a job done, although I am painfully conscious of certain things I would now like to change for the better. I have no idea what I shall tackle next, but I suppose it always takes time to find something new after a long job.

I had advance notices sent to Prof. Hicks and to Bea Beach, in the thought that perhaps the play-writing and little theatre activities at Swarthmore might assure the book some readers in the college. I hope it has found its way into the library, and into the book shop. Forgive me mentioning such crass details, but I am discovering that one is one's own best promotion agent!

I am sure you and Mrs. Aydelotte come to New York occasionally, and I wish that when you do you would give me a chance to see you both!

Sincerely,

Eleanor Flexner

31 October 1938

Dear Eleanor:

I congratulate you on your book. It seems to me a remarkable piece of work. I do not know enough about the modern theatre to be able to comment on your treatment of various individual plays, but I have followed the development of the drama sufficiently to be absolutely convinced of the soundness of your thesis. I am very proud to have a book of that sort written by a Swarthmore graduate and a friend of mine. Incidentally, your comments on Kaufman, whose work I do know pretty well, seem to me superb.

Where do you go from here? I suppose this work will soon bring you journalistic opportunities, but I must say that I think a volume of this kind a much more valuable contribution to dramatic criticism than many hundreds of newspaper articles, and I hope that you will try jealously to keep for yourself time and strength for the kind of brooding over the whole problem which produced this book.

With affectionate regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Miss Eleanor Flexner
150 East 72nd Street
New York, New York

1 November 1938

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Many thanks for your letter. I felt quite certain that Professor Einstein's decision would be what you report, and I shall be glad to make the fullest explanation to the Contemporary Club.

It is a great satisfaction to me to hear that Mr. Maass is thoroughly convinced about Larson. I held that opinion very strongly from quite early in our negotiations, and felt at one time as if I had a little bit forced the issue. I was certain, however, that the question of expense was not a real argument as between architects, and the extremely favorable estimate which we have for this building of Larson's proves that point.

Marie is writing to Anne to say we are broken hearted that we cannot come over on November 10th. We thought at first that we might be able to break another engagement which we have for that evening, but it turns out to be impossible.

I have just read Eleanor's book and am delighted with it. The maturity of a great many of her comments seems to me really startling. I do not know the drama well enough to have an opinion on many details, but I am absolutely convinced of the soundness of her main argument. What a delight it is to see Eleanor developing so rapidly and so soundly!

Yours very sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner, Director
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

150, EAST 72ND STREET,
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Wednesday noon

Dear Marie:

Indeed I should have sat down at once after our telephone conversation last night to write you, but I was already in bed and so I lazily postponed it till this morning as you and Frank are not leaving until Thursday (how I wish you might have got away sooner before the harvest rather began!). But this morning I awoke to find Ida (my cook) with a suspicious throat. I had to whisk her off to the doctor, and while relieved to find it was not laryngitis, she was packed off to her room and bed, while I countermanded the meals, (except some simple things for her) and Eleanor and I go to the ^{club} ~~camp~~ for lunch, & (luckily) tonight to see Hamlet where we have to get dinner during an hour's intermission, near the theatre. It starts at 6 P.M. & is over about 11.30 - but is said to be worth it!

ADDRESS ONLY PLEASE


MR. W. FLEXNER

Abe and I came back feeling so relaxed, rested
and refreshed from our heavenly visit with you - and
a blessed interlude from refugees and telephones,
and such a satisfaction to see Frank looking so
well, after what he has been through, - and such
a comfort to know that you are off now for a heavenly
holiday by your own, into sunshine, golf, books and
other relaxations, in a house all to yourselves!

We are beginning already to talk eagerly of camp -
and that we can really count on you - and under these
grey, dull skies & biting wind, it seems an earthly paradise.

Thank you again and again, for being such angels
to us, and, if you can, forgive me for how so ill requited
your hospitality - as to break your cap, leave my coat,
two scarfs and a stocking (!!!) behind me. I am very much
ashamed of such a record - you wouldn't believe how hard I
really try not to forget things, - with all the trouble it makes for
other people!

Abe, to whom I have just talked on the telephone,
asks me to add his love and grateful thanks for a perfect
week end, to my own. Always affectionately, Anne Flexner.

 from THE REVIEW DEPARTMENT of
SIMON and SCHUSTER
Publishers: 386 Fourth Avenue, New York

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AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHTS: 1918-1938
The Theatre Retreats From Reality

by Eleanor Flexner
With An Introduction by John Gassner

Publication date: October 25, 1938 Price: \$2.50

Eleanor Flexner belongs to the new generation in the American theatre. Clifford Odets and Irwin Shaw write its plays; Orson Welles and Burgess Meredith direct and act in them; the Group Theatre and Labor Stage uncover new audiences. A new and living drama is appearing in the United States, and Miss Flexner is the first person to write a book of criticism in the same vein.

American Playwrights: 1918-1938 does not cover every dramatist or every important play of the past twenty years. It singles out certain representative writers--O'Neill, Anderson, Howard, Kaufman, Sherwood, to name a few--and analyzes certain representative plays--Winterset, for example. All these men have written important plays, but in recent years they have fled from the reality of social change. And now a new generation appears to take their places.

John Gassner, chief of the editorial staff of the Theatre Guild of New York, writes the preface. Then comes Miss Flexner's own introductory chapter on the commercial theatre in general and the American postwar theatre in particular. The first and longer half of the book is devoted to the men who created this theatre. The latter half deals with the trend of rebellion as illustrated by the work of John Howard Lawson, Clifford Odets, George Sklar, and others.

THE TRANSVALUATION OF BROADWAY

Miss Flexner offers new interpretations of our most important playwrights as well as introductions to the playwrights of tomorrow. This is the way she sizes up some of the outstanding figures on Broadway:

SIDNEY HOWARD. His forte is character portrayal and his characters have a greater importance than the plays in which they appear. But he persistently ignores the conditions under which human character is obliged to exist and function.

MAXWELL ANDERSON. He has shaped public taste rather than conformed to it. He attracts audiences by his craftsmanship and dramatic effectiveness and has used the theatre as an exalted tribune to expound his personal philosophy. But the seeds of his latter-day confusion and pessimism were already present in his early work. His career shows that fine words and poetic despair are not enough to nourish dramatic talent.

EUGENE O'NEILL. The fact that no aspect of life is barred from the theatre today on aesthetic grounds is due in great measure to the plays O'Neill wrote between 1919 and 1923. These were plays built around the conflict of character with character. Later, however, he became content to pose a situation implicit with conflict and let it degenerate into argument. Gradually the psychologist has submerged the dramatist.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Eleanor Flexner was born in New York City and has spent all her life there, with the exception of two winters abroad, one in France and one in England. She graduated from the Lincoln School in New York, and Swarthmore College, then spent a year at Somerville College, Oxford. Returning to New York she acted as assistant stage manager in several of Eva LeGallienne's productions, spent a season trying to establish a permanent acting company, another with a theatrical press office, and finally two years on the staff of New Theatre. She has written and translated plays, and read, stage-managed, and reviewed them.

24 October 1938

Dear Eleanor:

I am delighted to get a glowing announcement from Simon and Schuster of your book, which I understand has come out this week. I look forward with great pleasure to reading it, and am passing the news around among all your friends at Swarthmore. I was very proud to see recently in the book review section of the New York Times the imminent appearance of three Swarthmore books: one by Köhler, one by Mandelbaum, and one by you.

With warmest regards and congratulations,

I am

Yours sincerely,

Miss Eleanor Flexner
150 East 72^d Street
New York, New York



Simon and Schuster, Inc.
PUBLISHERS

Telephone ASHLAND 4-4300 Cable Address ESSANDESS

386 *Fourth Avenue* NEW YORK

October 20, 1938

Dr. and Mrs. Frank Aydelotte,
Swarthmore, Pa.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Aydelotte:

As an acquaintance of Eleanor Flexner's, we feel that you will be particularly interested to learn that we are about to bring out her first book, "AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHTS - 1918 - 1938", with an introduction by John Gassner.

The attached bulletin will give you some idea of the nature and scope of this book.

AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHTS will be published on October 25th, at which time it will be on sale at all bookstores.

Sincerely,
Simon and Schuster Inc.

SIMON and SCHUSTER, Inc.

20 NASSAU STREET
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

September 21, 1938

Dear Aydelotte:

I was surprised to find your letter of the 16th regarding Bettina Meyerhof. I have not heard from Meyerhof in months, nor do I know what his present situation is. I should suppose, however, that a letter addressed to him at Wilckensstr. 21, Heidelberg, would surely reach him.

The news from Europe is so depressing and discouraging that I have moments when I should like to chuck everything and spend the rest of my days in the South Sea Islands.

With all good wishes,

Ever sincerely,

A.J.
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President Frank Aydelotte
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

AF/MCE

As Eden the sole man of honor in
Britain? Surely, the list of cowards
or fools begins with Latham, the first
apparent was it end with Chamberlain?

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
MAGNETAWAN, VIA BURKS FALLS
ONTARIO, CANADA

Aug. 11/38

seen by Deloitte:

I have your note, ^{an enclosure} which I am returning. I had nothing to do with Conenkov's making the Einstein bust. But after it was completed in bust. But after it was completed in clay, I was invited to see it, - that I did. Its presentation to the Institute was discussed with me by Judge Lehman. I welcomed it for two reasons: (1) Einstein's own greatness, which I think ought to be visibly commemorated in the Institute. I hope other busts & portraits will from time to time be presented to us, so as to keep

names families as years roll on. (2)
I thought, in addition to Einstein's own
greatness, a presentation of this kind
would have symbolic value, - not to
be despised in this age of intolerance.

I had, however, nothing to do with
forming a committee or the selection of
Chase or Benjamin. Mrs. Lohd that most
of the money needed would be subscribed
by a few friends of Einstein, but who
they are, I do not know. I made a
modest subscription myself, but I
regret that this appeal has been sent
to trustees. I should have much preferred
that the gift, if made, come from the
outside entirely. Please ignore it, if

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
MAGNETAWAN, VIA BURKS FALLS
ONTARIO, CANADA

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You also have this feeling.

Larson spent Monday & Tuesday here. His new plans seem to me admirable. The front elevation is beautiful & the interior gives us all we need, now & for some time to come. The arcade I also doubt: will it darken the rooms inside? Mr. Meers has made some minor suggestions which Larson thinks sound. He certainly seems an easy person to work with.

Stewart is coming up on the 21st to talk Economics for a day or two.

Our weather continues lovely. We do wish you & Marie could have visited Abmie this year. Last week I spent

four days at Placid with Mrs. Bamberger
& Mrs. Fuld. They have a charming,
comfortable house - quite small - on
the Lake. He is effluent, etc, distinctly
better.

Gene & Eleanor join me in love
& best wishes to you all.

Ever Sincerely,

A. T.

Magnetawan, via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada
August 7, 1938

Dear Aydelotte:

I have letters from you dated July 22, 24 and 27, but I have really had no time in which to answer them, for I have made a visit of almost a week to Lake Placid to see Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld.

I am glad to report that they are both in extremely good health. The terrific heat which has been felt in New York and thereabouts has not penetrated to the Adirondacks, and still less to Canada.

You and your wife could not have done better than to spend a couple of weeks with us. You would have had beautiful, sunny, mild days, excellent swimming, fair fishing, balmy evenings and sound sleep.

I note what you say about the meetings of the Building Committee, which coincides with what Mr. Maass wrote me. I am still a little uneasy in mind about Veblen, for I think he has a hankering for rooms that are unduly large and unduly uniform. Larson has made some sketches which he wants me to see and I think perhaps he will be in Magnetawan some time this week. I shall let you know the result.

I hope that you have found Washington endurable, but don't get in the habit of spending summers doing research work in that beastly climate.

With all good wishes to you and Marie, in which Anne joins.

Ever sincerely, *a. J.*

INGLESIDE,
MAGNETAWAN,
ONTARIO.

Monday, July 18 / 38.

Dearest Marie: -

It was only a few days ago that we heard that Frank had given up his trip to Europe, so I write in haste to beg that you will both come to us, for as long a visit as you care, after you have given up your Maine house. Canada is more heavenly than ever, this year. The air and water perfect, and we are all in high spirits, having

INGLESIDE
MAGNETAWAN
ONTAARIO

The three children all with us at once, plus a friend
of Eleanor's, Helen Tenney, who drove up with them.
I (or rather her!) ^{is} just completing a cabin I am
building for Eleanor, and, ^{when she is away, to be used} as an Annex to the Boat-House
equally quiet, for guests who couch repose and retire-
ment! If I write like a prospectus of an English
watering place, it is better than you, if possible! It really
is a gem, about 200 yards further along the bank

INGLESIDE,
MAGNETAWAN,
ONTARIO.

of the lake from the boat house (on the additional land
we bought 2 yrs ago)
is ~~being~~ built of beautiful white wood, with fire for
cool weather, a cunning porch, and private "path-
ing pool" - Wes' is doing it all, and it will only cost me,
for materials, labor, & everything, just under four
hundred dollars. It is much the prettiest cabin of
the three and the best built, having cement posts
so it can't sink into the ground and a lovely green

roof that can't leak. I do hope you can both come, but
if building (and I here acknowledge its fatal charm)
has already seized upon you, do send Frank up, for
he won't be comfortable in the house while your alterations
are going on, and also I would give him perfect liberty
to write, work, or loaf, as he chose. So do send a wire
the moment the way seems clear for such a delightful
possibility, - any time will be equally convenient, and
we will make a member of the family of him & he can go
whenever as early as he likes! Lots of love from all of us
all of you - As ever, Affectionately, Anne.

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

5 April 1938

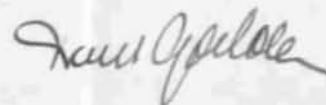
Dear Dr. Flexner:

Many thanks for your letter about Professor Meyerhof's daughter. I am very much interested in the idea of having her here, and have passed the material on to Mrs. Blanshard for immediate consideration by the Admissions Committee. She or I will write to you and Professor Meyerhof in a few days time.

I look forward with a great deal of interest to seeing you on Thursday. As I think over our building problem, it seems to me that it would be a great advantage to us if we could acquire the Maxwell property sometime within the next few months. I believe we need it, and if we are going to have it, it would obviously make a difference in the location of our buildings. I remember that you said you were in touch with Maxwell last fall. If you could do anything quietly to hasten the negotiations, I think it would be of great advantage to the Institute. It would probably be possible to plan our buildings in such a way that they would work satisfactorily on the land we have or could be extended to the Maxwell property if that were eventually acquired, but it would be simpler if we could have that tract in mind from the start.

I feel, furthermore, that the erection of our first building will add something to the price which the Maxwell property would bring in the market, so that if we bought it later, we should have to pay for values which we ourselves had created.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Abraham Flexner, Director
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

February 21, 1938

Dear Aydelotte:

I was delighted to get your letter, for I have been wondering how you and Marie have been faring.

I have not shown your letter or Weed's to the New York trustees who are uneasy, but I mean to do it some time when the opportunity favors.

I envy you the relief from your administrative job at Swarthmore and the opportunity to dig into the rich material at the Huntington Library. Whether you will get to London this year appears more doubtful this morning than it did twenty-four hours ago. It has been plain for a long time that Hitler and Mussolini are presuming on a supine attitude on the part of Great Britain, and our friend The Marquess of Lothian is by no means innocent, for he has not only called on Hitler and shaken hands with the murderer, but has been preaching peace where there is no peace. The same attitude appears in the columns of the London Times and permeates the upper classes in Great Britain. I think at heart most of them are not entirely unsympathetic with fascism and not sorry to see liberal ideas and labor unions get it "in the neck". However, they are, in my judgment due to a harsh awakening. The more they give in to Hitler the more he is going to demand of them. England's prestige on the continent is probably lower today than it has ever been in

President Aydelotte

February 21, 1938

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our lifetime, and if Chamberlain deserts the League of Nations in order to make a temporary peace with Hitler the English people may well hang their heads in shame.

I do not acquit the United States. I think that Roosevelt's "quarantine" speech should have been followed up, for if England and France get into a war against the fascist powers we will be inevitably drawn into it. We are now pursuing the tactics that Edward Grey pursued in 1914. Had Grey then asked Parliament to say that England would defend Belgium there might well have been no World War at all. Were we to say that we would join France and Great Britain as against Italy and Germany these two countries would sing a different tune. Both we and the English are better prepared for war than we were in 1914, and I should myself favor a very definite joint movement, just as we made a joint movement against Japan lately in the matter of battleships. We could make Brother Hitler understand that he cannot frighten the rest of Christendom.

I do not^{think}/that you have gained much in the matter of weather by going to California. It has been perfectly superb here. We had yesterday a light snow - the first of the season - and we have had a few days of cold weather. With the exception of this the sun has shone as brilliantly as on the Riviera and the shrubs are already beginning to show green.

Jean spent this week-end with us and this morning went to New York to spend a few days with Eleanor. Eleanor was here last week-end and is coming down again at the end of this week. Anne and I are both well and busy.

The Institute goes on smoothly. The architects are scratching their heads and thus far have produced practically nothing, but I think that by the time you return we shall have our first plans.

President Aydelotte

February 21, 1938

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Mr. Bamberger is splendid and Mrs. Fuld continues her slow improvement.

All of us join in affectionate greetings and all good wishes to you and Marie.

Ever sincerely,

FRANK AYDELLOTTE

President Frank Aydelotte
Athenaeum
551 South Hill Avenue
Pasadena, California

AF/MCE

1938?

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PA.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Athenaeum
551 South Hill Avenue
Pasadena, California

Dear Doctor Flexner:

Many thanks for your very interesting letter of January 27. I am very glad to get your report of Weed's opinion, and to know that it coincides with mine. I hope you now feel easier in your mind about the whole matter.

I look forward to receiving the minutes of the last meeting of the Board and to hearing from you of any further developments.

I am having a wonderful time here with the piece of Elizabethan research which I set out to do. I glanced hastily over the sixteenth century material in the Huntington Library some years ago, but I had no idea that it was as rich in that period as I now find it to be. I am also delighted to find that I am as much at home with these things as ever, and my work is a daily joy to me. I intend to keep it up from now on, getting some relief from administrative details at Swarthmore for that purpose. If I can possibly do it I want to get a month in the Public Record Office in London this summer on documents which exist nowhere else.

We have had a good deal of rain since we have been here, but Marie and I get out for nine holes of golf or for an hour's practice nearly every afternoon. The living arrangements in the Athenaeum are ideal for a student, and the whole group connected with the Library, Cal Tech, and Mount Wilson are showing us all the hospitality we find time for. Beyond all this I have filled my own cup of contentment to the brim by resolutely refusing to make speeches anywhere, with the one exception of a talk about my 'Elizabethan seamen' in the Library on Founder's Day.

With kindest regards in which Marie joins to Ann and yourself, I am

Yours very sincerely,



Dr. Abraham Flexner
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey