

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

October 14, 1935

A regular meeting of the Trustees of the Institute for Advanced Study was held at the Uptown Club, 60 East 42nd Street, New York City, on Monday, October 14, 1935.

Present: Messrs. Aydelotte, Edgar S. Bamberger, Louis Bamberger, Carrel, Flexner, Friedenwald, Hardin, Houghton, Leidesdorf, Maass, Straus, Veblen, Weed, Mrs. Fuld, and Miss Sabin.

Absent and excused: Mr. Stewart.

The Chairman presided.

The minutes of the annual meeting and the regular meeting held on April 22, 1935, having been distributed, their reading was dispensed with, and they were approved.

Mr. Maass, Chairman of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds, reported that at the request of the Committee he had made a deposit of \$10,000 with the Princeton Bank and Trust Company to be used in acquiring properties which form an integral part of the plot upon which the Committee on Buildings and Grounds had secured options, the same to be expended under the direction of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds in the acquisition of such part of the property as was then under foreclosure and the sale of which was imminent. Thereupon, on motion, it was

RESOLVED, That the action of the Treasurer in making such deposit for the purposes above set forth and the application of the same under the direction of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds be and hereby are in all respects ratified, affirmed, and approved.

The following report of the Director was presented and, on motion, ordered to be incorporated in the minutes of the meeting:

Since the report, which I submitted to the Board at its April meeting, the long vacation has brought an external lull so that there is nothing of a striking nature that I can record at the beginning of this, the third working year of the Institute for Advanced Study. But this does not mean that the individuals associated with the Institute have been idle. Quite to the contrary. Several of the workers remained in Princeton during the entire summer in order to complete in the library at Fine Hall work upon which they had been engaged during the preceding months. The members of the mathematical group mingled rest and work during the long summer vacation, some of them in this country, some of them abroad. While Professor Veblen was alternating the chopping of wood with mathematical thinking in his summer home in Maine, Professor Weyl was combining his recreation with contacts with mathematicians in Cambridge (England) and on the continent outside of Germany. Professor von Neumann gave a course of lectures on the invitation of Professors Hardy and Fowler at Cambridge (England) and subsequently with Professor Alexander and Professor Lefschetz attended a mathematical congress in Moscow. Professor Einstein wrote me that he was spending his mornings at work at Old Lyme, Connecticut, and his afternoons in sailing a boat on Long Island Sound. In a very important sense, therefore, the work of the Institute never ceases, though I have made no particular effort to keep up with the different methods by which those connected with it, whether as professors or workers, spend their time.

It is gratifying to report that of the workers last year some have returned to the posts from which they had leave of absence, a few continue at the Institute, while others have succeeded in obtaining places,

despite the continuance of the depression. Dr. Brauer, who was Professor Weyl's assistant, has received an excellent appointment as assistant professor in the University of Toronto. Dr. Vanderslice, who was Professor Veblen's assistant for two years, has accepted a post at Lehigh University; Dr. Jacobson, formerly Professor Weyl's assistant, a position at Bryn Mawr College. Dr. Podolsky has a position at the University of Cincinnati, Dr. Maria at Duke University, Dr. Deane Montgomery at Smith College, Dr. Nathan at the College of the City of New York, Dr. Sagen at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Schönberg at Swarthmore College, Dr. Zener at Washington University, etc. Professor Walsh has been promoted to a professorship at Harvard, and Professor Ward has been promoted in rank and salary in the California Institute of Technology. It is thus apparent that already experience at the Institute is recognized by colleges and universities as an additional qualification for academic appointment. I have recently been shown the manuscripts of two papers on university education in the United States, both written by prominent mathematicians and both pointing to the creation of the Institute as the next logical step that was needed to round out American facilities in higher education.

I do not report the above with any spirit of complacency, for I realize that eminence is something to be maintained by continuous effort. If we have been fortunate in our original appointments in the field of mathematics, we will not continue fortunate unless we keep clearly before us the ideals and aims which led to the formation of the mathematical group.

Professor Morse, who became a professor in the School of Mathematics on the first of July, is living at the Graduate College of Princeton University and is entering with enthusiasm into the life and work of the Institute. He is proposing to offer a seminar in his own

field and in addition during the winter to complete the preparation of a monograph which will be published in Paris.

The number of workers during the present year is about the same as the number last year. It includes scholars of reputation from England, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, Poland, and a number of mathematicians holding important academic posts in American universities, and several younger men who show promise.

The two new schools - the one devoted to humanistic study and the other devoted to economics and politics - are still embryonic. Professor Panofsky spent the summer working in Italy in the Vatican Library at Rome and is now working in Princeton. Professor Meritt is at the moment in Oxford on the invitation of Professor Gilbert Murray to lecture there. He will go later to Athens for the purpose of gathering material for the study of recent excavations in the Agora, probably the most important piece of excavation that has been attempted in many decades. He has been designated by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens as the person to study all inscriptions, and he will bring with him on his return to Princeton complete impressions of all inscriptions that have been unearthed since the excavations began several years ago. These reproductions will be the property of the Institute and will constitute the most considerable body of Greek inscriptions to be found in any single institution in the world with the exception of the collection at Berlin, which unfortunately for Hellenistic scholarship has in recent years been allowed to decline.

Of the members of the School of Economics and Politics, Professors Riefler and Mitraný are already in Princeton. Professor Mitraný was detained a fortnight in order to attend an international conference that had been called to meet in London. Professor Earle

is well on the way to convalescence and may be in Princeton in the course of the autumn or winter. His recovery is, according to his physicians, complete, and he needs now only the patience which will restore his strength. I have urged him to go slowly so as to avoid any possibility of a recurrence, and in this effort his physicians have coöperated.

Beyond this general statement there is nothing definite to be added to the report which I submitted in April. It is clear that the budget which was adopted in April will prove to be slightly in excess of our actual needs. I shall in the course of the meeting submit a motion dealing with this subject.

The Committee on Buildings and Grounds found itself compelled to act suddenly during the summer and before this report is reached in the course of the meeting will have asked that its action be ratified. It will also be in position to submit a further recommendation.

I trust that by the time the midwinter meeting takes place I may be able to acquaint the Board more definitely with the activities of the Institute during the first term and with plans for the following year.

The relations between the Institute and Princeton University continue to be ideal. One cannot but marvel that an institution like Princeton University almost two hundred years old should so readily and so generously have accommodated itself to the needs of the Institute, which is just in the making. President Dodds, Dean Eisenhart, Mr. Wintringer, Dr. Gerould (librarian), and all the members of the faculty have manifested the utmost interest in the development of the Institute and have done everything in their power to facilitate its co-operation with the University.

Mr. Hardin, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that the report of the Finance Committee would appear in the report of the Treasurer.

The Treasurer presented a detailed report of the finances of the Institute, including a balance sheet as at June 30, 1935, statement of income and expense for the year ended June 30, 1935, and estimated budget for the year ending June 30, 1936. Copies of this report were distributed to the Trustees.

On motion, the report of the Treasurer was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

Mr. Maass, Chairman of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds, presented the following report:

The Committee on Buildings and Grounds desires to report that after a survey covering a period of almost two years, having in mind the advantage of proximity to the Princeton Library, accessibility to Fine Hall, and other kindred considerations, it has concluded to recommend the acquisition of a site.

Conversations conducted by the Director with the authorities of Princeton University indicate a willingness on the part of the University to cooperate in the choice of a site which, by reason of its contiguity to the property now owned by the University, would lend itself admirably to future developments. The acquisition of the property in question would tend to insure the permanence of a development of both the University and the Institute without fear of encroachment by private building enterprises and afford a substantial measure of protection to landscaping and architectural features of the entire project.

In conformity with this tentative understanding, the Institute has secured options on extensive properties totalling almost two hundred acres, which, while not in the Borough of Princeton, are in

substance an extension of the University's real estate holdings. Located outside of the Borough, they have an advantage of lower assessed valuation and low taxation, the assessed valuation presently being \$34,075 and the taxes about \$1,000 per annum.

To enable us to obtain these options, the Treasurer made a deposit of \$10,000 in a special account with the Princeton Bank and Trust Company, of which \$3,100 was used to acquire one piece of property then under foreclosure and the sale of which was imminent; the balance of \$6,900 remains unused. Options on the remainder of the property run until the end of November and entail a total expenditure of about \$175,000. When the exercise of these options will have been completed, there remain to be acquired two or three smaller properties for which at present no negotiations are under way, but the cost of which should not exceed an additional \$75,000.

The Committee, therefore, recommends that an appropriation not to exceed \$250,000 be authorized to be expended under the direction of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds, in its discretion, for the acquisition of the properties now under option and such additional properties as may be deemed requisite.

The report of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds was accepted and thereupon, on motion, it was

RESOLVED, That a sum not exceeding Two hundred fifty thousand Dollars (\$250,000) be and hereby is appropriated that the Committee on Buildings and Grounds, in its discretion, may acquire properties now under option and such additional properties as may be deemed requisite for the Institute for Advanced Study.

The Director stated the advisability of having the assurance of appropriations for grants made a year in advance in order that the professors in the School of Mathematics might have sufficient time to make arrangements with universities regarding leave of absence of candidates for grants and

requested that the policy heretofore pursued should be followed.

Thereupon, on motion, it was

RESOLVED, That the sum of Thirty thousand Dollars (\$30,000) shall be included in the budget for the year 1936-1937 to be distributed as follows: Twenty thousand Dollars (\$20,000) for grants in the field of mathematics and Ten thousand Dollars (\$10,000) in the field of mathematical physics.

The Director stated that it was evident that the actual expenditures for 1935-1936 would be somewhat below the estimated budget and, inasmuch as the two new departments would have certain needs in the way of furniture, books, etc. that were not covered in the budget, he requested authority to transfer unexpended sums up to the amount of the budget voted. Thereupon, on motion, it was

RESOLVED, That the Director be and hereby is authorized, in his discretion, to transfer unexpended sums up to the amount of the budget voted.

The Director reported that he had conferred with the President of Princeton University regarding the desirability of creating a committee of five trustees of each institution to confer at their pleasure regarding questions of interest to both institutions, whereupon, on motion, it was

RESOLVED, That the Chairman be and hereby is authorized to appoint a committee of five Trustees of the Institute for Advanced Study to meet with a similar committee appointed by the Trustees of Princeton University.

The Chairman stated the desirability of holding a meeting at Princeton, and after discussion it was, on motion,

RESOLVED, That the annual meeting be held in Princeton, New Jersey, before April 15, 1936, the precise date to be set, in the discretion of the Director.

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