

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

April 13, 1936

A regular meeting of the Trustees of the Institute for Advanced Study was held at Fine Hall, Princeton University, on Monday, April 13, 1936, at 11:45 a.m.

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

Absent and excused: Messrs. Edgar S. Bamberger, Friedenwald, and Leidesdorf.

The Chairman, Mr. Houghton, presided.

The minutes of the meeting of the Trustees held on January 27, 1936, having been distributed, their reading was dispensed with, and they were approved.

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

The report of the Treasurer was presented by Mr. Maass, in the absence of the Treasurer, and, on motion, was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

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

Institutions like nations are perhaps happiest if they have no history. In the report which I presented to the Board at its January meeting I gave a brief sketch in which I expressed once more

the ideals with which the Institute had been started and pointed out the response which the Institute had received both in this country and in Europe. There is really nothing to be added to what I then said except perhaps that the prospects for next year are just as gratifying as has been our experience during the last three years. Mathematicians will come in approximately equal numbers from various European countries and from many American universities, among which may be mentioned Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Duke, Tulane, Cornell, Yale, University of Wisconsin, University of Chicago, Lehigh, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Strasbourg, University of Göttingen, Louvain University, University of Amsterdam, Trinity College, Cambridge, etc. The School of Mathematics will thus participate in raising the level of the teaching of mathematics in still another group of institutions in this country and abroad.

A beginning will be made in the humanistic field, in which Professor Panofsky has been busy here this year. Next year Professors Meritt, Lowe, and Herzfeld will also be present, and each of them will have one or two outside scholars who will come to Princeton for the purpose of working with them and their Princeton colleagues.

Most gratifying of all is my ability to report that Professor Earle has completely recovered his health and that he is now spending a month in Princeton and New York. Despite his long illness his mind has never flagged and his eagerness to begin work is intense. Professor Riefler and Professor Mitranj have been working in their individual ways in the hope of finding a more promising approach to their several subjects than is generally current. As far as I can now see, neither will have workers associated with them for another year at least, perhaps longer, for they are dealing with the most tangled and difficult of subjects, and neither

of them is as yet certain that he has found a clew to the maze.

The Trustees of the Institute will be interested to know something of Professor Meritt's experiences this year. He had accepted an invitation to lecture at Oxford where his own field had not been cultivated afresh for many years. He was made an honorary Fellow of both Wadhams College and Trinity College and gave a series of lectures largely attended by Hellenistic scholars. Oxford is proverbially chary in the matter of conferring honorary degrees, but such was Meritt's success in arousing the enthusiasm of the Greek scholars in Oxford that long before he had finished his work two significant events had taken place: first, he had been requested by the authorities of the University to make a collection of inscriptions for them while engaged in making a similar collection to be used in Princeton, an invitation which he could accept without either trouble or expense; in the second place, despite his comparative youth, he was at a special convocation given the degree of Doctor of Letters. I should doubt whether it would be possible to find in the history of Oxford for many years past another example in which this rare degree had been conferred by the University upon so young a man. In conferring the honorary degree upon him Dr. Cyril Bailey, who is the Public Orator of the University, said that Professor Meritt had drawn "sermons out of stones and that his work promised an entirely new version of the history of the Athenian Empire, a subject in which scholars of all nations have for centuries been profoundly interested." Professor Meritt is now in Athens and will return to this country at the beginning of June with a complete collection of the inscriptions that have been assembled during the excavation of the Agora. Professor Meritt has secured permission to obtain facsimiles from the valuable collections in the Louvre, and the Archaeological Institute of America has without any request on

-4-

our part voted the sum of \$250 from its meager funds in order to enable Professor Meritt to carry on further the important work on which he is engaged. In addition, Mr. William H. Buckler, a Fellow of All Souls College, has presented the Institute with almost three hundred inscriptions of great value from Asia Minor. In a recent letter Mr. Buckler writes me as follows:

You are right in supposing that Meritt was highly appreciated in Oxford - I should say enormously.

Your school for advanced studies seems to be progressing brilliantly and its publications should soon be a service, even more than that of the institute of higher learning in Paris.

An eminent American scholar, who is writing a very important work in the humanistic field, has written me regarding Professor Herzfeld as follows:

Herzfeld has just finished a brilliant chapter for us. It is a great catch getting him for America. America has now definitely become the capital for studies in Near Eastern art and collectors. I hope we can hold on to it.

In making out the budget Mr. Leidesdorf and I have been influenced very greatly by financial uncertainties due partly to political and partly to other causes and, though our income during the coming year will somewhat exceed the income of the present year, it has seemed to us prudent not perceptibly to increase our appropriations, though there has been some slight redistribution of the amount expended. In view of the fact that Professors Earle, Herzfeld, Lowe, and Meritt will begin their work in Princeton next fall, I shall at the proper time submit a supplementary resolution authorizing the emergency expenditure of \$6,000, provided the financial situation justifies the additional outlay in order that I may be in position to assist the new departments in such wise as may be necessary and desirable during their first year. In general, I hope that the Institute will continue permanently to follow the policy of keeping an

unexpended balance annually, even though increased resources will entail gradually increased expenditure.

On the evening of April 3 President Dodds gave a dinner in order to bring representative trustees of the two institutions together for an informal talk. There were present four Trustees of Princeton University and five of the Institute. The evening was profitable from every point of view, but its most important aspect was the obvious and striking spirit of kindness and collaboration that had been developed during the past three years and that gives every indication of continuing permanently, thus furnishing to the American academic world an example of cooperation in the field of science and learning, the like of which this country has never known before. It does exist and has for centuries existed among the Oxford colleges and the Cambridge colleges, and there have been a few sporadic instances of cooperation of the same kind in this country, but cooperation upon the scale and the manner in which it is carried on at Princeton between the Institute and the University may to all intents and purposes be regarded as a new and extremely significant phenomenon. This it behooves us in the interest of scholarship and science to nurture with the utmost tact and sincerity.

Mr. Maass, Chairman of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds, reported that a very substantial acreage (upwards of 265 acres) had been acquired, including a piece of property on Alexander Street, which would give suitable access to an extensive area which would house the Institute and provide for other buildings as opportunity and needs arose, that the land owned by Princeton University and the Institute now comprised about 3,000 acres, that the Institute had invested in real estate approximately \$290,000, and that three of the five houses were in fairly good condition and could be easily converted into use for the Institute.

On motion, the action of the Committee was approved and ratified, and the Committee was authorized to proceed with its program.

Officers to serve until the next annual meeting were elected as follows:

Mr. Alanson B. Houghton, Chairman and President
Mr. Herbert H. Maass) Vice-Chairmen and Vice-Presidents
Mr. Walter W. Stewart)
Mr. Samuel D. Leidesdorf, Treasurer
Mrs. Esther S. Bailey, Secretary

Mr. Abraham Flexner was reappointed Director of the Institute, and the Secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for Mr. Flexner.

The Chairman announced the appointment of the following standing committee:

Executive Committee

Mr. Weed, Chairman
Mr. Edgar S. Bamberger
Mr. Leidesdorf
Miss Sabin
Mr. Louis Bamberger, Mrs. Fuld, Chairman,
Vice-Chairmen, and Director, ex officis

Finance Committee

Mr. Hardin, Chairman
Mr. Louis Bamberger
Mr. Leidesdorf
Mr. Maass
Mr. Riefler
Mrs. Fuld, Chairman, and Vice-Chairmen, ex officis

Committee on Nominations

Mr. Aydelotte, Chairman
Mr. Friedenwald
Mr. Straus
Mr. Louis Bamberger, Mrs. Fuld, Chairman,
and Vice-Chairmen, ex officis

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Maass, Chairman
Mr. Aydelotte
Mr. Veblen

Mr. Louis Bamberger, Mrs. Fuld, Chairman,
Vice-Chairmen, and Director, ex officis

7

Mr. Veblen made an oral report regarding the School of Mathematics, remarking that the economic and political conditions of the world had doubtless greatly accelerated its growth and indicating his belief that these general conditions should make it possible to develop certain other fields with similar success, that the numbers in the School of Mathematics were larger than originally anticipated, that contrary to what might have been expected by analogy with other educational enterprises this decreased rather than increased the responsibility of the individual professor, that the group was so large and contained so many brilliant individuals that subgroups of those interested in particular problems formed spontaneously, that each person concerned himself with his own problems and conferred with others who were interested, and that if instead of sixty members of the School there were ten or fifteen, the professors would feel more concern for each individual, and the load of responsibility would be very much greater than it was.

In response to a question, Mr. Veblen said a few words about topology, which is one of the subjects for which Princeton is famous in scientific circles, and described some of the ways in which the Institute's mathematical group cooperates with other groups in different parts of the world. He stated that these activities were of a spontaneous nature but were greatly facilitated by the presence of the ever changing, but thus far extraordinarily able and interesting, group of annual members.

A budget for the year, 1936-1937, was proposed as follows:

Budget of Estimated Expenses
for the Year ending June 30, 1937

Administration			\$ 36,310.00
Salaries	\$28,700		
Custodian charges	2,750		
Investment advisory service	3,600		
Rent	<u>1,260</u>		
School of Mathematics.			138,250.00
Salaries of			
Professors	\$82,500		
Associate and assistants	11,800		
Technical assistant	1,000		
Secretary	<u>2,400</u>	\$97,700	
Visiting lecturers		6,000	
Stipends		25,600	
Annals of Mathematics		2,750	
Subscription to American Mathematical Society	200		
Contribution to Fine Hall		<u>6,000</u>	
School of Economics and Politics			36,420.00
Salaries of			
Professors	\$32,000		
Technical assistance	1,000		
Secretary	<u>2,400</u>	\$35,400	
Rent		<u>1,020</u>	
School of Humanistic Studies			42,400.00
Salaries of			
Professors	\$31,000		
Assistant	<u>1,000</u>	\$32,000	
Stipends		9,700	
Athenian inscriptions and epigraphical library		450	
Subscription to Hesperia		<u>250</u>	
Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America			7,275.00
Equipment, supplies, books, repairs to 69 Alexander Street, etc.			4,000.00
Travel, communication, printing, entertainment, etc.			<u>4,000.00</u>
			\$268,655.00
Payments to be made to School of Humanistic Studies after June 30, 1936, chargeable to 1935-1936 appropriations lapsed			3,470.00
			<u>\$272,125.00</u>

On motion, it was

RESOLVED, That the sum of Two hundred seventy-three thousand Dollars (\$273,000.00) be and hereby is appropriated for the support of the Institute for Advanced Study for the year, 1936-1937.

In accordance with the statement made in the report of the Director, on motion, it was

RESOLVED, That if in the judgment of the Finance Committee such expenditure is justified by the condition of the finances of the Institute and the general financial situation of the country, the Director shall in his discretion be authorized to expend a sum not exceeding Six thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) during the academic year, 1936-1937, for the benefit of the School of Economics and Politics and the School of Humanistic Studies.

After discussion, it was deemed advisable to hold three meetings a year, as provided by the By-Laws, and, on motion, it was

RESOLVED, That the annual meeting be held each spring in Princeton, New Jersey, instead of in New York City, at a date to be determined after communication with the Members.

Mr. Weed asked whether or not a loan fund could be substituted for stipends; Mr. Veblen pointed out that the stipends were better adapted to the purposes of the Institute, inasmuch as the members were in general mature persons with many financial responsibilities.

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