

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

October 15, 1942

A regular meeting of the Trustees of the Institute for Advanced Study was held at the Downtown Club, Newark, New Jersey, on Thursday, October 15, 1942, at 1:00 P. M.

Present: Messrs. Aydelotte, Edgar S. Bamberger, Louis Bamberger, Fulton, Hardin, Leidesdorf, Maass, Moe, Schaap, Veblen, and Weed.

Absent and excused: Messrs. Douglas, Flexner, Rosenwald, and Mrs. Fuld.

Mr. Hardin presided, expressing a welcome to the two new Trustees, Mr. Moe and Mr. Fulton.

The minutes of the meeting held on May 13, 1942, having been distributed, their reading was dispensed with and they were approved.

Mr. Leidesdorf supplied each Trustee with a complete statement of the finances of the Institute for the academic year 1941-1942 and said that if there were any questions at any time he would be glad to answer them.

Reporting for the Budget Committee, Mr. Leidesdorf said that the final figures for the academic year 1941-1942 showed an unexpended balance of \$1995.58 on the budget for that year. He said the committee had been very conservative in preparing the budget for the academic year 1942-1943 and had got it to balance only by very careful figuring and by making an allowance of only \$6000 for the con-

tingent fund, which he felt would probably be exceeded. The income from investments had been estimated at \$300,000, as against \$330,000 for the year 1941-1942, but it now looks, he said, as if it might be somewhat better than that figure.

Dr. Aydelotte pointed out that the budget could not have been balanced had not Mr. Bamberger consented to the use of \$15,000 of the library fund for general purposes. It was regretted, he said, that it was found necessary to resort to this expedient, but there was no other way in which the necessary expenses could be met. Even with \$15,000 from the library fund, it would be very difficult to operate the budget. If, as Mr. Leidesdorf suggested, the income of \$300,000 is exceeded, it may be possible to make the budget balance without using the \$15,000 from the library fund.

Mr. Maass had no report to make for the Committee on Buildings and Grounds beyond the fact that the Institute was negotiating with a possible purchaser for 69 Alexander Street.

The Chairman next called for the report of the Director.

In his report Dr. Aydelotte announced that the Institute had opened this year with thirty-five members, as compared with sixty-two last year, which was better than he had expected. It has been the policy of the Institute to encourage members to accept positions in war work or in teaching wherever they may be needed, and many men who would normally have been at the Institute this year have been called into these services.

While the group at the Institute this year is small, the spirit is excellent and the effect of the war has been to make men

appreciate more highly the opportunities open to them and to work harder on that account. Among the members are three Rockefeller Fellows, two Guggenheim Fellows, one Fellow of the Rosenwald Fund, one of the National Research Council, and one of the American Association of University Women. There is one Negro, who comes to the Institute from the Rosenwald Fund with an unusually brilliant record in mathematics.

The Director outlined in general terms the changes which the war is making in American educational institutions and summarized the important war work which is being done by members of the Institute faculty. Three members of the faculty are at this moment in England: Alexander, who is doing operational research for the Air Corps; Riefler, who is assistant to the American Ambassador in London, with the rank of Minister; and Mitrany, who has been at Chatham House, Balliol College, Oxford, since 1939, but who expects to return to the Institute in the near future. Meritt and von Neumann are in Washington, where Meritt is Associate Director of the Foreign Nationalities Branch of the Office of Strategic Services, while von Neumann is a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee for Aberdeen Proving Ground in addition to doing operational research for the Navy. Other members of the faculty who are in war ~~work~~ are able to spend part of their time in Princeton. Earle is engaged upon special tasks for the General Staff and the Military Intelligence; Morse is consultant to the Department of Ordnance; Panofsky assists Meritt in the reading of Italian newspapers; Stewart and Warren are consultants to the Treasury; Veblen is consultant to the Ballistics Research Laboratory

at Aberdeen; and the Director is acting as Chairman of the Committee on Scientific Personnel of the Office of Scientific Research and Development.

In accordance with the vote of the Trustees last year, the Institute has made the services of members of its faculty available to the government without compensation. Where for any reason it seems advisable for one of our professors to accept payment from the government, the Institute makes up the difference between this amount and the individual's Institute salary. Payments by the government to the members of our faculty will in this way afford some relief to the budget for this academic year.

The Trustees have reason to be proud of the contribution which the members of the faculty are making to the war effort. The Board of Trustees is likewise well represented in war work by Messrs. Douglas, Rosenwald, Fulton, and Weed.

The Director mentioned some interesting and important publications about to be issued by certain members of the Institute, including Professor Panofsky's book on Dürer, de Tolnay's on Michelangelo, and Siegel's important paper on symplectic geometry. von Neumann and Morgenstern of Princeton University are completing a work on mathematical economics, and Professor Lowe is just putting through the press Volume 4 of his Codices Latini Antiquiores. The members of Professor Earle's seminar have produced a great many articles dealing with the war, but their most important work is confidential and cannot be published until the war is over. Even the Director has contributed an article to the current number of the American Historical Review.

The faculty, after long consideration, voted last year to establish the position of Librarian of the Institute, which should be held in turn by members of the different schools, the Librarian receiving no extra compensation and not being expected to do any routine work. He is in fact chairman of the Library Committee, which is made up of a representative of each of the three schools, to supervise the purchase of books and have general oversight of the library. Professor Weyl has been elected the first Librarian, with Professor Lowe and Professor Earle the additional members of the Library Committee.

The two assistant librarians, Mrs. Halmos and Mr. Esterquest, have resigned and have been replaced by Miss Dorothy Reuss, who comes to us from the University of Ohio, and who is assisted by a young high school graduate.

The Director informed the Board that he had considered the whole question of the Gest Library, as directed by the Trustees at the May meeting, had consulted a great many individuals in whose judgment he had confidence, but that he was not ready to offer a definite report.

The Director commented enthusiastically upon the research work being done by the economics group of the League of Nations at the Institute. He outlined the measures which are being taken to economise in line with the regulations governing fuel oil, gasoline, and tires. He spoke also of the valuable addition to the scientific group at Princeton resulting from the opening of the great research laboratory built during the summer by the Radio Corporation of

America. Princeton is unique among university cities in the United States in the presence here of a number of strong independent research groups which, in addition to the university, create an interesting and lively intellectual atmosphere.

Mr. Hardin moved that the report of the Director be spread upon the minutes and the motion, being seconded, was carried.

At this point Mr. Hardin asked to be excused and Mr. Maass took the chair.

In discussing the Director's Report, the Trustees confirmed their action of last Spring by a motion, which was unanimously carried, that the Director should have authority to grant leave of absence to members of the faculty in war work on the terms outlined by him in his report.

The arrangement by which the librarianship be held by members of the Institute faculty in turn without salary and without the expectation of any routine work was likewise unanimously approved.

Mr. Maass and Mr. Weed raised the question as to whether it was wise to postpone decision concerning the Gest Library and the matter was discussed at length by the Trustees. The point was made that if the Institute does not intend to establish a School of Oriental Studies it was unwise to continue the annual expenditure of approximately \$7,000 for the maintenance of the library, especially in view of the fact that the Institute has difficulty at the present moment in balancing its budget. The Director emphasized the importance of the Gest Collection, the great interest in China and in Chinese studies, and the responsibility which rested upon the Trustees

of reaching a wise solution. The matter was in his opinion one which should not be dealt with hurriedly. Mr. Moe said that as a lawyer he had a natural desire to know the documents in the case, so that the Trustees might know just what was and what was not in their power to do. Mr. Maass proposed that a committee of three should be appointed to study the whole question of the terms under which the library was acquired and the curator appointed and to make a recommendation to the Trustees as to what should be the future of the library. This motion being approved, the Acting Chairman appointed a committee consisting of Mr. Edgar S. Bamberger as Chairman, Mr. Moe, and Mr. Veblen.

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

Edgar S. Bamberger
Secretary