

REVIEWS OF

THEORY OF GAMES AND ECONOMIC BEHAVIOR by JOHN VON NEUMANN and OSKAR MORGENSTERN

ON FILE IN PROFESSOR VON NEUMANN'S OFFICE

Psychological Abstracts, February 1945, No. 500. By T. G. Andrews

View (N.Y.), Series V, No. 1, March 1945, P. 43. By Claude Chevalley

American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 50, No. 6, May 1945, PP. 558-560. By Herbert A. Simon

Annals of American Academy of Political and Social Science, Vol. 239, May 1945,
PP. 209-210. By E. J. Gumbel

The Times (London), Literary Supplement, June 23, 1945

Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society, Vol. 51, No. 7, July 1945, PP. 498-504

By Arthur H. Copeland

Mathematical Gazette (London), Vol. 29, No. 285, July 1945, PP. 131-133. By C.A.B. Smith

Journal of Farm Economics, August 1945, PP. 725-726. By Robert W. Harrison

Mathematical Reviews (IAS Library) By Abraham Wald. Original end of a long review
in collection of clippings.

American Economic Review, December 1945, Vol. XXXV, No. 5, PP. 909-925.

By Leonid Hurwicz

Journal of American Statistical Association, June 1945, PP. 263-264.

By W. Edwards Deming

Science and Society, Fall 1945, PP. 366-369. By Louis Weisner

New York Daily Mirror, March 11, 1946, PP. 5 and 12

New York Times, March 10, 1946, PP 1 and 36.

Newsweek, (business section) March 18, 1946

The Princeton Herald, Vol XXII, No. 19, March 15, 1946

Commentary, Vol I, No. 5, March 1946, PP. 80-84. By Ben B. Seligman

Philadelphia Record, March (11-17) 1946.

Journal of Philosophy, Lancaster, Pa., September 27, 1946, PP. 550-554

London Daily Express, Tuesday, March 12, 1946

Bobson's Business Service-Confidential barometer letter, Vol 37, No. 11, P. 2,
March 18, 1946

The Daily Princetonian, Vol. LXX, No. 29, Page 1 and 2, March 12, 1946.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

PRESIDENT'S ROOM

October 18th, 1943

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

In Dr. Dodds' absence I wish to acknowledge with thanks
the receipt of your letter of October 15th, enclosing the
Institute's check for \$500 for the von Neumann-Morgenstern book.

Yours very sincerely,

Margaret Regan
Secretary to the President

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

October 7, 1943

Dear Harold:

I have your letter of October 6th and have just signed a voucher for a check for \$500, payable to you personally, for use in the publication of the work by von Neumann and Morgenstern. I shall have the check down from New York in two or three days. Let me say again how delighted I am that the publication of the book is assured.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

President Harold W. Dodds
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

FA/MCE

October 15, 1943

Dear Harold:

Herewith the Institute's check for \$500 for the von Neumann-Morgenstern book. Let me say again how warmly I appreciate your effective efforts to provide for the publication. I told Morgenstern that I thought he and von Neumann owed it to the non-mathematical public to produce an explanation in popular language, which he is seriously thinking of doing.

I have a telegram from Wright this morning saying that he has a heavy load of Navy teaching but that he will try to get leave to come east next month to talk things over.

Yours sincerely,

President Harold W. Dodds
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

FA/MCE

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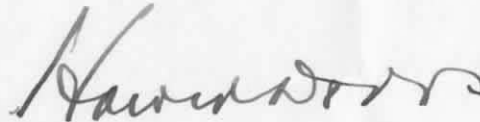
PRESIDENT'S ROOM

October 6th, 1943

Dear Frank:

If you will send me a check for \$500,
pursuant to our telephone conversation some time
ago, the complete sum of \$2040 will then be
available for the publication of the work by
von Neumann and Morgenstern.

Faithfully yours,



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

Handwritten note:
Haven Oct 10 -

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September 20, 1943

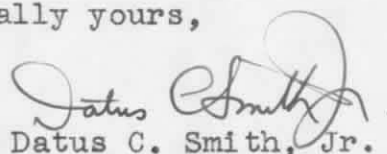
Dear Mr Aydelotte:

I was delayed in getting your message regarding the von Neumann and Morgenstern project, and hence am tardy with this note to express my deep appreciation, and that of the Press, for the contribution the Institute has undertaken to make toward the underwriting for the book.

I have not yet talked with President Dodds, but as I understand it from Mr Morgenstern, other funds were provided from some source, and the Institute has offered to contribute the final \$500.

In the circumstances I heartily agree that you should notify the other prospectus underwriters with whom you were in correspondence that the matter has now been taken care of in other ways.

Cordially yours,


Datus C. Smith, Jr.

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

September 16, 1943

Dear Professor Goodchild:

I very warmly appreciate your letter of August 17th concerning the book by Morgenstern and von Neumann. I am happy to say, however, that the problem has been solved by contributions from various sources here in Princeton, so that the Press will be able to publish the book without appealing to the A.C.L.S.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE, Director

Professor Donald Goodchild
American Council of Learned Societies
1219 Sixteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

FA/MCE

RML May

CARNEGIE CORPORATION
OF NEW YORK
522 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK
18, N. Y.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

September 14, 1943

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

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

In behalf of Dr. Jessup, we reply to your letter of August 20. We are sorry that, under the present policy of the Corporation, the Trustees have not set aside funds from which an allocation can be made in aid of the publication on mathematical economics to which you refer.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Leister

RMLgh

Secretary

September 9, 1943

Dear von Neumann:

It gave me great pleasure to be able to send you the following telegram:

"Delighted inform you publication of your book assured Letter follows"

President Dodds called me up this morning and said there was a source from which further funds could be found. He was not quite clear whether these would come from Princeton University or from Princeton University Press. In any event, only \$500 was left to make it possible to publish the book. Under the circumstances, I called together the Standing Committee and they voted unanimously that that amount be appropriated from Institute funds, which will be done.

I am delighted that this solves the problem and look forward with great pleasure to the publication of the volume, only regretting that I shall never be able to understand it myself. In that connection I wonder if you and Morgenstern ought not sometime to arrange to have a shorter explanation of your thesis in popular language - perhaps an article. Something of that sort appearing shortly after the book might assist materially in its sale.

Yours sincerely,

Professor John von Neumann
Claridge Hotel
Atlantic City, New Jersey

FA/MCE

The
CLARIDGE HOTEL

"The Skyscraper by the Sea"



GERALD R. TRIMBLE, GENERAL MANAGER

Atlantic City, New Jersey

Friday, September 10.

Dear Doctor Aydelotte,
may I thank you most warmly
for the very kind efforts which
you have made in the matter
of Dr. Morgenstern's and my book,
and also for having been so
good to inform me very promptly
of the final success. I feel very
much indebted to you for the
helpful goodwill which you
have shown throughout this
affair.

I appreciate very much
your suggestion of publishing
an unmathematical and
abbreviated version of our
book as soon as possible.

Morgenstern also felt for some time that this would be most desirable, and I agree with you both. We shall certainly undertake this work soon, but I have to admit that it will have to be more than 50% Morgenstern's responsibility. I hope that we may from time to time ^{have} your advice, whether the nonmathematical version promises to fulfill its purpose.

Thanking you once more,

I am very sincerely yours,

John von Neumann.

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

September 9, 1943

Professor John von Neumann
Claridge Hotel
Atlantic City, New Jersey

Delighted inform you publication of your book assured
Letter follows

Frank Aydelotte

CARNEGIE CORPORATION
OF NEW YORK
522 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 18

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

August 23, 1943

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

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

In the absence of Dr. Jessup, I am acknowledging your letter of the 20th relative to a grant for assistance in publication of a book on mathematical economics. This will be brought to Dr. Jessup's attention on his return. I might add that it has not been the policy of the Trustees recently to make grants for publication purposes. I am sure, however, that Dr. Jessup will write you about this matter within a few weeks.

Sincerely yours,

Eliza Gaylord

EG

von Neumann
Morgenstern
book

20 August 1943

Dear Walter:

Would it be possible for the Carnegie Corporation to consider an application for assistance in the publication of a book on mathematical economics? There is some question as to whether this book would fall within the scope of the ACLS, and I wonder whether in such case the Corporation would be willing to consider a direct application.

Professor John von Neumann of the Institute for Advanced Study and Professor Oscar Morgenstern of the Department of Economics of Princeton University have collaborated on a volume which makes a new and revolutionary approach to economic phenomena based on several papers which von Neumann has published in the last fifteen years on the mathematical theory of games of strategy. The purpose of this volume is to demonstrate that the same rigorous method can be applied to economic phenomena. The volume is said by competent judges to be an extremely important contribution to the subject.

The Princeton University Press would like to bring the volume out, but they cannot afford to do so unless they have a subsidy of about \$3,000. Of this \$1,000 has been raised, and we must now find the other \$2,000. If it would fall within your policy to entertain an application of this kind, I should be glad to send you most impressive testimony as to the interest and importance of this volume.

Yours sincerely,

President Walter Jessup
The Carnegie Corporation
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 3395

CABLE ADDRESS: ACOLS

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MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, 1883
AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, 1884
AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION, 1885

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
1219 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W.
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August 17, 1943

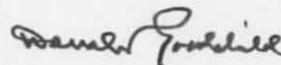
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HISTORY OF SCIENCE SOCIETY 1924
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MEDIAEVAL ACADEMY OF AMERICA, 1925
POPULATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, 1932

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

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

Upon my return from vacation I find your letter of July 21st to Dr. Leland, who will not return to Washington until the end of the month. I should think that the work of Professors Morgenstern and von Neumann could be considered for a subsidy by our Advisory Board, provided, of course, its funds are replenished. I enclose an application blank showing the kind of information that would be needed in considering a request for a subsidy. This could be done at the next meeting of the Board provided that application is filed by October 15th. I do not know whether application as ~~projected~~ is planned by The Institute for Advanced Study or by the Princeton University Press. I suggest that the Press, which is well acquainted with our system of aids to publication, would be the appropriate applicant. In order to save time I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Smith, and you and he can decide whether application is to be made, and if so by whom.

Sincerely yours,



Donald Goodchild
Secretary for Grants-in-Aid

American Council of Learned Societies

Application for Grant in Aid of Publication

Name of Applicant: _____
[Organization or individual assuming scientific and financial responsibility]

Address of Applicant: _____

Name of Author or Editor: _____

Title of Work: _____

Description of Work:

[To be appended. This statement, not exceeding 500 words in length, should indicate the scope, content, method, and significance of the work proposed].

Critical Estimates:

[To be appended. Statements on the quality of the proposed work from two qualified scholars who have read the manuscript in its final form].

What publishers and printers have examined the manuscript and submitted estimates of manufacturing and publication costs?

[Details to be appended].

From what sources, and in what amounts, is further assistance to publication now assured, either unconditionally or contingently upon aid from the American Council of Learned Societies?

Proposed publisher: American Council of Learned Societies

Proposed printer: Application for Grant in Aid of Publication

Specifications: _____

Number of copies: _____ Number of pages: _____ Trim size: _____

Type page size: _____ Size and style of typefaces: _____

Number of tables: _____ Line cuts: _____ Half-tones, etc.: _____

Paper: _____ Binding: _____ Proposed list price: _____

Estimated Costs:

Manufacture ----- \$

Publication and promotion ----- \$

Total ----- \$

Resources:

Subsidies ----- \$

Estimated sale over a period of two years @ \$ -----

Amount requested of ACLS -----

Total ----- \$

Remarks:

The complete manuscript is available for examination, and will be delivered on request directed to:

Signature -----

Date: -----

Copy to Hester (encl)

571 - Morgenstern

14 August 1943

Dear Mr. Wheless:

The book to which Time referred is a volume on mathematical economics by Professor John von Neumann of the Institute for Advanced Study and Professor Morgenstern of Princeton University. We expect it to be published by the Princeton University Press, and I am asking them to send you an announcement when it appears.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE, Director

E. L. Wheless, Esq.
829 Oneonta Street
Shreveport 46, La.

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August 9, 1943

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

In the matter of von Neumann and Morgenstern's mammoth manuscript "Theory of Games and Its Application to Economics and Sociology", I do not blame you for being a little confused as to the amount of money required. The history of the project is involved, but I think one or two details are relevant and should be explained:

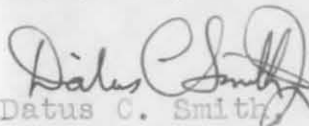
We accepted the manuscript without subsidy or any other stipulation in the fall of 1941, at which time the manuscript was believed to be virtually complete. At that time it had a manufacturing cost of \$1275. The authors were then in the last chapter and thought they had about completed their work. However, in the course of finishing this chapter they uncovered a rich vein of new material, and the manuscript was not actually completed for something like eighteen months. In the course of that revision the manuscript increased in size, and almost quadrupled in cost. The Trustees of the Press felt that it had passed beyond our unaided competence to publish. They did increase their own appropriation to \$1500, leaving \$3000 to be raised from subsidy. The University Research Fund Committee undertook to provide \$860 of that (they had previously given the authors \$140 for some kind of pre-manufacturing assistance, making the total \$1,000).

Therefore, according to a strict interpretation of my instructions from the Trustees of the Press, the amount of subsidy yet to be raised is about \$2160. When Mr von Neumann and Mr Morgenstern told you that I thought I would be able to find an additional \$500, I imagine they had in mind my statement that we should not haggle over a few hundred dollars, and that if the total subsidy available should fail by a small margin to meet the amount stipulated by our Trustees, I felt certain that we could go ahead anyway, recovering the balance from initial sales income. However, I should imagine that if you are going to try the Carnegie Corporation on this, \$2000 would be as easy to get as \$1500.

1000

In any event, I am sure the authors appreciate your efforts in behalf of the book -- as I do.

Cordially yours,


Datus C. Smith, Jr.

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

829 Oneonta Street
Shreveport 46 La.

Aug 9 1943

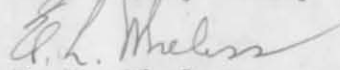
Princeton University
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton New Jersey

Gentlemen:-

Time Magazine, Aug 9 1943, page 58,
states that you are preparing for publication
a book giving "a mathematician's-eye view
of economic phenomena".

May I be put on a list to be notified
by the publisher when it is published, and
quoted a price?

Yours, Very Truly



E. L. Wheless

August 3, 1943

Dear Mr. Smith:

I have had several talks with von Neumann about the matter of the subsidy necessary for the publication of the book which he and Morgenstern have written on mathematical economics. I wrote to the A.C.L.S. and enclose their reply. Do you think the book would qualify under their rules?

The trouble with the American Philosophical Society is that they have a rule against assisting in the publication of books brought out by other publishers. They might be willing to publish the book themselves without a subsidy, but I don't believe there is any chance that they would contribute the needed \$1500 or \$2000 to the Princeton University Press.

The only possible remaining source of funds that I can think of is the Carnegie Corporation, and if you think it advisable I should be glad to make an application to them. Before I do so I should like to be quite certain as to the amount needed. I understand from Eisenhart that there is \$1000 available from Princeton University, and von Neumann and Morgenstern thought that you would be able to find another \$500. Is this correct and is the additional amount needed there-after \$1500?

I am sorry to say that I see no chance of the Institute putting up the money necessary. The members of our faculty bring out so many publications which require subsidies that we have gone on the principle that these subsidies must be found from outside sources, and I do not see how it would be possible to depart from that principle in this case.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE, Director

Mr. Datus C. Smith, Jr.
Princeton University Press
Princeton, New Jersey
FA/MCE

TELEPHONE: DISTRICT 3395

CABLE ADDRESS: ACOLS

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HISTORY OF SCIENCE SOCIETY, 1924
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MIDDLE AGE ACADEMY OF AMERICA, 1925
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Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

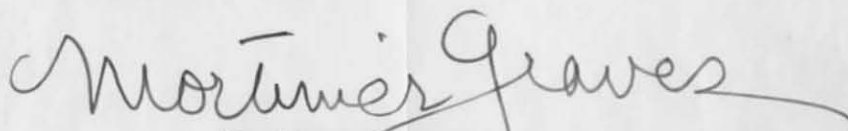
I have your letter of July 21 addressed to Dr. Leland respecting the possibility of assistance to the publication of an important work on mathematical economics.

From your description my guess would be that it would be very difficult to describe this work as belonging within the field of the humanities, though it undoubtedly has some implications which might be denominated philosophically. The burden of proof that it belongs in the field of the humanities, however, would rest upon the applicant.

Mr. Datus C. Smith is thoroughly familiar with the process of making application to this Council for assistance to publication, and if you feel that a case can be made for the inclusion of this work within the humanities, you could well leave the matter of formal application in Mr. Smith's hands.

Meanwhile, I should suggest that a more likely source of support might be the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia.

Very sincerely yours



Mortimer Graves
Administrative Secretary

MG:B

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

October 9, 1941

Dear von Neumann:

Warmest thanks for the opportunity of reading this interesting essay on mathematical economics, written by Morgenstern and yourself. This first part (the non-mathematical exposition) ought to be intelligible and interesting to a very wide circle of readers. I suppose a person like myself would not get anywhere with Part 2, though if that also has a non-mathematical introduction I should like to see it.

I am glad you are going to make the thing into a book rather than an article and I hope that as you work it through you will insert as many illustrations, both from economics and from games, as you can. I look forward to talking all this over with you tomorrow morning.

I was keenly interested in your suggestion that the mathematical theory of economics might demand the development of new branches of mathematics running parallel to the impulse which physics gave to mathematics in the seventeenth century. If you can get the mathematicians to take as much interest in that side of your paper as the economists are sure to take in the economic aspects, you would indeed be starting something of first-rate importance.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE

Professor John von Neumann
Fuld Hall
Princeton, New Jersey

FA/MCE