

1931

12/14  
~~XXXX~~ 12/28

GENERAL (BY-LAWS)

Corporation

✓ COHN, ALFRED E. (Hospital of the  
Rockefeller Institute)

Biographical

BEARD, CHARLES

FRANKFURTER, F.

FLEXNER, A.

re-

Cohn's letters on his proposed draft of the by-laws of the Institute. (Not in files). Contain his statement that

Frankfurter and Beard approved of Cohn's draft of by-laws "not only in principle, but in detail.///...We corresponded with each other and discussed in person not only each several item, but the accompanying letter as well; both expressed our united convictions."

(So far no copy of these jointly submitted by-laws has turned up, nor has Flexner's correspondence with Cohn respecting them appeared).

Judging from the letter of December 14, Cohn:

(1) Eliminates Education Committee with the remark that not a committee, but the Director gets the Institute started;

(2) "Freed the faculty from the control of power, inevitably, inalienably, inextricably tied to money...A small representation, a minority, never in history established any rights." He apparently plumps for <sup>un</sup>academic freedom and leadership.

(3) "I have crossed out everything about degrees...They're another source of corruption anyway."

Frankfurter File I (History Files)

1944

4/19

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

✓ COHN, ALFRED E.

Cohn to Weyl.

He is advising Weyl on his asthenetic condition, and a dental operation which Weyl is undergoing. He goes on to say, "Of myself I can give a good account. I have come, so far as the calendar is concerned, to the end of my service. Officially that will terminate on July 1. I feel like a free man. At the same time I remember the story of the canaries which a well-meaning seaman released from their cages, out of the kindness of his heart, and with the mistaken belief that a cage is a bad place in which to live. I am, as yet, not out of my cage, and will, in point of fact, continue to keep my intellectual being in these same rooms where I have been for so many years. Under the circumstances my case differs from that of the canaries."

W (Weyl) File Co

1944

5/3  
5/5

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

COHN, DR. ALFRED E.

(The Hospital of the Rockefeller  
Institute for Medical Research,  
66th Street and York Avenue, New York)

They corresponded about Vansittart. Cohn has asked Weyl what he thinks about Vansittart's book The Lessons of my LIFE, and Weyl replies that he cannot take him seriously; that he has unrelated pokes and jabs in appraising the 40 years of experience in diplomacy which he has enjoyed, and that he is incapable of a rational and connected approach. He goes on to say, "I cannot think one can not understand Germany apart from its disastrous and tragic history during the past centuries. Should one blame her for taking religion so seriously that she reacted against the worldliness of Papism in the beginning of the 16th century by the Reformation. And yet the reform split the nation in two, and drew upon her head the terrible 30 years' war, fought on German soil by mercenaries from the four corners of Europe; by whose fault asks Vansittart. Only a fool can be satisfied with such a simple answer as his. And so it is with the Germans' latest

and greatest disaster, Hitler, I expect that in the times to come, not Germany, but the rising power of Russia will dominate the scene of world politics; whether 'punished' or not, Germany (like France) will cease for good to play the role of a great power. And whatever we do to Germany, I feel none too optimistic about the future of our children."

Cohn to Weyl, May 5, 1944.

Asks <sup>Weyl</sup> Cohn to write an essay on ~~the~~ <sup>this</sup> subject ~~of~~ because he makes such a new and valuable point on the problems.

W (Weyl) File Co

1945

3/10

10/4

10/11

GENERAL (GERMAN UNIVERSITIES)

Educational Institutions

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

✓ COHN, DR. ALFRED E.

Weyl to Cohn, March 10, 1945.

He recommends Robert Ulich, then at the Graduate School of Education in Harvard University who was in the Saxonian Kultus Ministerium as competent to appraise German universities, pre-war. Weyl ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ commends Ulich for consultant to the State Department in the process of re-educating Germany post-war. He recommends another as a mathematician and historian not an educationalist, Professor Otto Neugebauer, Brown University.

"I don't think that in general we scientists who emigrated from Germany could be of great help to this early stage. We might be more useful if advice is wanted about some definite universities, their personnel, and local conditions."

Former members of Göttingen Departments of Mathematics and Natural Sciences in this country as of the time of writing.

James Franck Chicago; Richard Courant, New York University;  
Otto Neugebauer, Brown University; Weyl.

In a second letter to Cohn, October 4, 1945, Weyl sends him a lecture on universities and science in Germany which he delivered to a group of staff officers who will be sent over for the administration of Germany. (Get copy).

Cohn to Weyl, October 11, 1945. Acknowledges with thanks and admiration the paper. He wishes Weyl had been a little more critical / "as you say you actually are, toward these aspects of life in German universities than your lecture permits one to understand. There were actually defects in the system. It is, I should agree, correct to say that what was best in it had to do with the Dozentur. If it had not been for certain other defects as well, the institutions that were founded outside of the university may not have been needed. You must...know the story of how the Kaiser Wilhelm Gesellschaft and its institutions came into existence. Unless I am mistaken, the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research was the stimulus which persuaded Professor Emil Fischer to see their development. Professor Fischer saw

at once when he heard of our Institute that Germany would be left behind if we succeeded. Is it going too far to say that without the Kaiser Wilhelm Gesellschaft and what it represented, that might actually have happened.

Weyl had expressed an interest in his meeting at Cohn's place with Felix Frankfurter, and deplored the fact that it was so short a time they were together. Cohn suggests they get together in Washington.

W (Weyl) File Co-



1946

4/22

GENERAL

Educational Institutions

WEYL, HEIMANN

Biographical

✓ COHN, ALFRED E.

Weyl to Dr. Alfred E. Cohn, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, NYC:

"It is nothing short of ~~amazing~~ scandalous that Hella and I have not yet thanked you for sending us a copy of your charming and thought-stirring little book on "Minerva's Progress". But not differences of opinion of which your kind dedication speaks are the cause of our procrastination, but rather the opposite: what can one say such if one is in such complete agreement with all your basic tenets? When I first began to read the book, your somewhat aphoristic style made it a little hard for me to follow the concatenation of your ideas. For one who is more familiar than I with the American intellectual background over the last fifty years this difficulty is probably nonexistent; and as I read on it even disappeared for me: apart from its personal charm I found that it quickens the reader's mind to realize the actual situation and its complexities as no more conventional and explicit exposition could have done. What you say about the relatively meager store of experience accumulated in a few milleniums, none of which we can afford to neglect or ignore, about its interpretation and distillation in our cultural life, the role of tradition, but above all the role of dissent as the very basis of democracy,--all this has my fullest consent. Perhaps I would be inclined to stress a little more the component of creative construction (so important in Art and theoretical science) in its interaction with experience.

"Your chapter on the financing and organization of research is extremely actual; I wish it would be heeded by those concerned! One cannot emphasize enough that only in an atmosphere of "freedom and solitude", as Humboldt said, creative minds can thrive; that as you say the objective ought to be diversity rather than efficiency, a risk of waste and indulgence to vagary being essential to the scientific life. I enjoyed your cutting remark: "Economy of statement is the end of the adventure of free inquiry -- not the beginning". You may be amused to compare a paragraph in a little speech of mine in honor of Wolfgang Pauli: the one that ends with the words 'not willing to accept efficiency as the ultimate criterion.' (I enclose a copy which you may keep or destroy as you please.)

"The other enclosure is a memorandum on mathematical education published last year in the American Mathematical Monthly; having no other copy I should appreciate having this one returned. Perhaps more important than all its recommendations is the point you make: that we must give teachers a social position in accordance with their crucial importance, pay them more liberally, protect them against the politicians, and free them from fears of insecurity. Teachers and investigators, as you say, must possess the social respect of leaders who are above conventional fears and prejudices -- not feel the timidity of social inferiors. Without this preliminary, all attempts to raise the standard of teaching are probably doomed to failure.

"The principle of equal opportunity for all -- which aims at eliminating natural selection by blind fate (at least within certain bounds and from a certain stage of development of the individual on) -- has its necessary counterpart in the respect for a hierarchy of values, in the differentiation of values and abilities, with which the diversity of

institutions and rational tests of selection must conform. That dispensation of chaotic Paradise which you describe on p. 50 is known to me only from hearsay. It is perhaps for that reason that I underestimate the contrast to people's attitude of today and am less optimistic than you that the lesson has been learned and burned in by the cataclysm of the last years.

"As to the place of science in the scheme of culture, I think that you slightly misunderstood Ortega's position. I do not think that he closes his eyes to the importance of science, nor that his outlook is essentially colored by Iberian and Catholic tradition. Being formed himself by the German system of university education, he warns against the dangers of copying it in Spain. Indeed, the teaching in the philosophical faculties of the German universities, as Ortega and I knew it, however excellently it worked for the ablest, went over the heads of 90 per cent. of the students; the job of teaching that must take account of the capabilities of the normal student was no longer well done; and I can well imagine that in Spain pretensions of scholarship all too often took the place occupied by good substantial scholarship in the German scheme. Hence Ortega's sober and realistic attitude towards the teaching part of the university. It is clear that his plans are not applicable to this country, the shortcomings of our colleges lying exactly in the opposite direction. The other decisive factor is his realization that modern scientific research needs a great mass of specialists and technicians whose general cultural level does in no way predestine them to a decisive influence upon the cultural education of youth. Thus Ortega lets the research institutes pitch their tents on the outskirts of the university (but they are there, and the creative scientist is respected as the exceptional creature he is!), and calls for a staff of synthesizers as the go-betweens between research and education. What he does not appreciate is the danger that without direct experience in research these synthesizers will easily degenerate into philosophic charlatans -- Ortega's own aberrations in the field of science which sometimes strike the level of puerility, are clear warnings! I still believe in the soundness of Humboldt's conception of the university based on the (institutional and personal) union of teaching and research. New conditions require new adaptations, but this ideal should never be lost sight of. Ortega's synthesizers are no acceptable solution for me. I am probably a little more than you on the side of tradition versus experimentation in questions of cultural organization. Certain basic requirements, like 'freedom and solitude' are indispensable; but within these limits there is admittedly a great variety of reasonable and workable possibilities. However, continuous fluctuation between them by trying out now this now that, would do no good. I believe the success of the German scheme of universities over a whole century was but partly due to its intrinsic soundness; it was equally important that (1) it was the result of an organic historic development, and (2) tradition allowed it to strike deep roots and to develop what fruits it could bear. In contrast, I feel very acutely the vacuum in which, for instance the Institute for Advanced Study, must grope its way. To use an analogy: the traditional musical forms, the sonata for instance, are probably not superior to a vast multitude of other possibilities that the historic development passed by; but concentration on few forms was necessary to bring to fruition all their potentialities of beauty. Remove these bonds of a strong form, adhered to over long periods and only slowly transforming, and not more diversified beauty but chaos may be the result.

"What you say on the role of Foundations was revealing to me in many respects. Here I have no experience at all, and I have never been aware of the dangers pointed out by you: interference at frequent intervals, the prodent-setting force of their decisions, the danger of encouraging 'mendicancy and mendacity'.

"Some months ago when you asked me for a few more copies of my lecture on German universities given last August to a Staff Officers' course in Princeton, none

were available. But since more requests came in later I had mimeographed copies made, but then forgot to send them out. I now send you a few;" but in the meantime they have probably become useless; if so, please throw them away! But before going so, look at what I say about the Technische Hochschulen; your remark on p. 46 is not quite correct. In the meantime the German universities have been reopened, and I have heard a number of interesting reports about Göttingen, Heidelberg and other places. The Neue Zürcher Zeitung of March 17, 1946, contains a good report of Göttingen. Did you see a copy of Jaspers's address at the opening of the Medical Department of Heidelberg University (August 1945)?

"Lately I have worked on preparing a second edition of a book on group theory, and on an English edition of an old book of mine published in 1926 in German on 'Philosophie der Mathematik und Naturwissenschaften'. I am giving a graduate course at Princeton University. My health has slowly but constantly improved during the last months.

"Will your way not lead you to Princeton in the near future? Hella and I should be very glad indeed to have you and Mrs. Cohn visit us for a day, if possible before this beautiful spring season comes to an end. Or must the Ten Broecks, Panofskys and we join what forces of attraction we possess to get you over here for a neighborly visit?

"Thanking you once more for the book, and hoping for an early intersection of our world lines, with greetings 'from house to house',"

1956

6/15

✓ COMFORT, HOWARD

Biographical

Interview with Howard Comfort, June 15, 1956.

Filed in Vertical File under Comfort Interviews.

Interview with Howard Comfort, June 15, 1956

1941

7/28

VEBLER, O.

Biographical

AYDELOTTE, P.

✓ COMPTON, KARL

Letter Aydelotte to Veblen, July 28.

CHIXE Karl Compton some time back told Aydelotte of a plan for an institute of mathematics at Princeton which Veblen had worked out some time before there was any idea for an Institute for Advanced Study. "I gather from what Compton said that the Institute in its present form is practically a realization of that plan. Have you any memorandum about it which you could send me or which Miss Blake could find at Princeton?"

V-6

1941

7/28

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

VEBLER, G.

Biographical

AYDELOTTE, P.

COMPTON, KARL

Aydelotte to Veblen, July 28, 1941. "I had a talk with Karl Compton some time back and he told me of a plan for an institute of mathematics at Princeton which you had worked out some time before there was any idea of an Institute for Advanced Study. I gathered from what Compton said that the Institute in its present form is practically a realization of that plan. Have you any memorandum about it which you could send me or which Miss Blake could find in Princeton? I shall be in Princeton Saturday morning and if you could send a telegram to Miss Blake before then, perhaps she could hand it to me."

Aydelotte says he would like very much to use anything Veblen has on the history of the idea of the school of mathematics. He addresses Veblen at Brooklin, Maine.

D File, Oswald Veblen

1957

2/27

GENERAL

Educational Institutions

✓ CONANT, JAMES B.

Biographical

James B. Conant second lecture, "Three Ways of Thinking."

Filed in Chronological File under 1957, 2/27.

1931

2/2

2/4

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Academic Personnel

POLICY

Administration

✓ CONEL, LEROY

Biography

Conel to Fleener (Conel of Best Univ. School of Medicine) 2/2/31

"...

"I believe you are right in regarding the German universities as most nearly conforming to the highest standards. In the organization of the Institute for Advanced Study you are, however, overlooking the source of their strength and excellence, namely, entire control of academic affairs by the faculty. In your organization the faculty is a submerged fifth, with a long line of officials holding power over them; they are actually called employees in Section 1, Article VII of your by-laws. Your Institute will never enjoy the academic atmosphere which prevails in the German and Scandinavian universities. While in Europe last year I talked with one Norwegian and two German professors who had recently refused offers of high-salaried positions in two of our best universities, principally because here they would not have the academic privileges that they enjoy at home.



"It seems unfortunate that in starting a new institute to emulate the German universities you are not using their plan of organization, but are adopting the American plan which, I believe, is the cause for many of the deplorable conditions you expose in your book, in that directors, deans and presidents, holding almost absolute power over the faculty, must make reports favorable to a supreme board of trustees, thereby advertising their institution and themselves, which is usually the more important to them..."

Flexner to Cons1 2/4/31

"Your letter of the second is gratifying and helpful. It is impossible to organize an American university in imitation of the German university, because in Germany there is a ministry which we do not have in the United States. My notion is that the Board of Trustees should perform some of the functions performed in Germany by the ministry, and I am also hopeful that the members of the faculty will be so helpful that their number on the Board will be gradually increased. You must realize that we are making an experiment. Nothing is easier than to change by-laws in an evolutionary spirit.

"..."

File II-5

1930-1933

✓ CONNORS, MYLES F.

Biographical

Myles F. Connors, 70 Pine Street, New York City, was  
the retained investment counsel of the Institute in the  
early years.

JRH Correspondence from May, 1930 to December 1933

12/18  
12/19

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Finance

INVESTMENTS

✓ CONNORS, NYLES F.

Biographical

HARDIN, JOHN R.

Nyles F. Connors to Hardin, December 18, 1935.

After Mr. Hardin had left the Finance Committee meeting, Mr. Samberger raised the question of possibly buying 200 shares of Schenley Distillers Corporation 5-1/2 per cent preferred stock. He said he had no objection to the Institute's holding the stock merely because of the nature of the business.

"Prior to the meeting I had made no inquiry into the issue because of a feeling that the Trustees might have some adverse reaction to this kind of an investment, and you know from Mr. Maass' brief comments before the meeting, that he also shared this feeling."

"The Committee is willing to purchase 200 shares at 100, if you approve." (He encloses the Prospectus).

Hardin to Conners, December 19, 1935.

He has read the Prospectus on the Schenley stock, "and while I hesitate to differ from the views expressed by the other gentlemen, as stated in your letter, I do not think the Institute should make this investment."

(It appears from a list of stocks placed in the custodianship of the National Newark and Essex Banking Company, January 24, 1936, that the Institute did not buy the stock).

JHE Correspondence from January, 1934 to December, 1936

1936

1/31

1/21

INVESTMENTS

Finance

✓ CONNORS, MYLES F.

Biographical

BAMBERGER, LOUIS

LEIDESDORF

Connors has written a letter January 30 (not in file) which evidently suggests substantial sale of high-grade bonds for the purchase of stocks.

"Mr. Bamberger and I discussed this morning Mr. Connors' suggestions for sale and acquisition. We both felt that Mr. Connors did not know of the accessions to the Institute's portfolio of the stocks lately transferred, a number of which are duplicated on Mr. Connors' present recommendations. The percentage of total stock investments ~~discussed~~ discussed by the Finance Committee is now exceeded by Mr. Bamberger's addition to our endowment.

"Under these circumstances Mr. Bamberger and I both felt that it was not desirable at this time to make sales of

high grade bonds as recommended by Mr. Connors. We are not pressed for income requirements, and the policy of constant conversion of good investments with high market value for the purpose of capital profit does not seem to me to be appropriate to our circumstances.

"I note that we have \$100,000 for investment at the present time. I have said to Mr. Bamberger, as indicated in telephone to your office, that I do not object to the bond investment in Mississippi River NINE Fuel and Cleveland-Cliffs Iron, recently recommended by Mr. Connors and included again in his latest report. In expressing myself I did not consider amounts, but Mr. Bamberger indicated that he thought that each should be limited to \$25,000. I am personally negative on this, but I think that Mr. Bamberger's views should govern."

JHH Correspondence from January, 1934 to December, 1936

1936

2/15

INVESTMENTS

Finance

✓ CONNORS, MYLES F.

Biographical

LEIDESDORF S. D.

Connors to Leidesdorf, February 15, 1936.

Overnight announcement has been made that L. Bamberger & Company 6-1/2 per cent Preferred stock is to be retired at 110 and accrued dividends as of April 15, 1936.. The Institute holds 3000 shares.

JRH Correspondence from January, 1934 to December, 1936

1935

4/5

SCHOOL OF HUMANISTIC STUDIES  
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY (FINEARTS  
GRADUATE CENTER)

Academic Organization  
Relations WCAI

PANOFSKY, ERWIN

Biographical

FLENNER, A.

COOK, WALTER W. S.

From Walter W. S. Cook to Flechner, April 25, 1935.

Informs Flechner that he and Panofsky have over the luncheon table discussed the matter of his new appointment with the Institute and his cooperation with the Department of Fine Arts. All the details have been worked out, and both Panofsky and Cook are well satisfied.

During the coming academic year, Panofsky plans to give one fall course for the University at the Metropolitan Museum.

During the first term he will lecture on "Principles of Baroque Art," and during the second term on "Michelangelo."  
D File, Cook, Walter W. S.



1935  
1936

11/11  
1/25  
2/9

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE DISPLACEMENT OF  
GERMAN SCHOLARS

Foundations

HERZFELD

Biographical

MORRY

✓ COOK, W. W. S.

Morrey urged Flexner to provide for Herzfeld's next 10 years to complete great Islamic archeology and philological work. Emergency Committee Displacement German Scholars joins with I. A. S. and New York University to bring Herzfeld to Princeton--2 year arrangement. New York University to get one course each term, 1 day a week. Flexner cabled 2/13/36. Herzfeld letter 2/9/36. Gratitude. "Helped me in one of the most difficult periods of my life." Flexner asks him ~~if~~ (still is wondering if he will, like Panofsky, give one course at Princeton 1 hr per week.

/ D. Herzfeld

1950

1/3

SCHOOL OF HUMANISTIC STUDIES

Academic Organisation

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY ( FINE ARTS  
GRADUATE CENTER)

Relations NOAA

PANOPHY, HEWIS

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

COOK, WALTER W. S.

HERSFELD

Cook to Flexner.

The confirmation of arrangements whereby Hersfeld will come and live in Princeton and carry on his research and publication where there is an excellent art library for his purposes, and at the same time, give one course per term at New York University. Hersfeld's expected publication of the results of 20 years of excavation will be a great contribution to science.

Dr. Hersfeld is internationally regarded as the most outstanding scholar in the field of Near Eastern Art. For the

past twenty years, he has directed one expedition after another in Persia on behalf of the University of Berlin, the German Government, and the Oriental Institute in Chicago. Last year, his excavation of Persepolis was completed and his recent dismissal as Professor in Berlin and completion of his contract with Chicago which terminated January 1st of this year, leaves him entirely free to come to this country. He is not only universally accepted as the outstanding scholar in the ancient art of the Near East, but also has personal qualifications which will enable him to fit perfectly into the American scene. He speaks English with practically no accent, and has many influential and prominent friends in this country."

He speaks of the appointment of such outstanding scholars as Penafsky, Herit, Love and Herzfeld as a great contribution to American scholarship. It will raise the level of higher education in other American institutions.

B File, Cook, Walter U. S.

"Within a comparatively short time, the Institute for Advanced Study has become one of the most potent factors in American education. I have often wondered whether Mr. Sanger and Mrs. Fuld, when they brought this Institute into existence, realized what a great contribution they were making. Most professors in American universities are so overburdened with teaching and administrative details that they have little opportunity for research and publication. However, the establishment of this Institute with a small group of outstanding scholars who are devoting themselves primarily to the advancement of knowledge is an outstanding challenge to all our American universities."

He cites the recent announcement of Professor Conant of Harvard of the future y creation of a limited number of chairs for professors who would not be attached to any one department, and who would devote themselves to research and be free from the routine of administration. Cook is sure that the creation of these proposed chairs, one of which will be financed by Thomas Lamont, is the direct result of the existence of

the Institute, which is a constant example of the fact that the most important element in an institution is the scholar, rather than the brick and mortar and machinery which surrounds him. "Everyone in this country and abroad who is vitally interested in the future of the advancement of knowledge and the preservation of scholarship can be deeply grateful to Mr. Sanberger and Mrs. Fuld for the unique contribution which they have made."

D. Fine, Cook, Walter W. S.

1937

1/25

SCHOOL OF HUMANISTIC STUDIES

Academic Organisation

HERZFELD

Biographical

✓ COOK, WALTER W. (Chairman of the  
Fine Arts Graduate Center in  
New York University)

"Herzfeld has more than exceeded all expectations. He is not only the greatest scholar alive today in his field, but has such a charming personality and is such a thorough gentleman that he ~~is~~ has won the admiration and respect of all who have taken his course." X

"It will interest you to know that Mr. Winlock, Director of the Metropolitan Museum, asked two of his curators in the Egyptian Department to attend Dr. Herzfeld's lectures at the Museum, and they have reported to me that ~~it~~ it is the first time in their experience that anyone has with authority discussed the ancient art of the Near East."

(This was from a letter from Cook regarding a few lectures Herzfeld gave at Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York)  
Trustees' Minutes, 1/2/37, p. 4

1924

NOTES

3/14

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

PLEXNER, A,

✓ COOLIDGE, PROF. J. L.

Veblen to Flexner, at General Education Board, 61 Broadway,  
New York City.

Veblen says Coolidge has written him that he would like to have Flexner and Veblen take lunch with him at the Harvard Club, 27 West 44th Street, New York City, some time convenient to both Veblen and Flexner. Coolidge wants to talk over with Flexner questions about the ~~NA~~ American Mathematical Society and this is a subject which I have very much on my mind at present, says Veblen.

Flexner replied, March 17, and sets the date for March 26, and he is to be host. The next day, March 18, he has to write to Veblen putting off the date to March 25 or March 27, 28, or 29.

Finally, they met after some confusion on Friday at 12:30, apparently ~~they met~~ since there is no indication

they did not, and this was the date finally set by  
Flexner in a letter of March 24, 1924.

V File, "Flexner, Abraham"



1945

5/11X

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Academic Personnel

POLICIES

Administration

COLLEGE

Biographical

GOLDENBERG, R.

✓ COOPER, JOHN C.

RECORDS

Academic Personnel

Meetings of faculty on advisability of making appointments  
of members to the Institute for a period of more than one year.

Digest of Faculty Minutes filed under Chronological file,  
1945, 5/11.

1945

5/19

FACULTY PARTICIPATION

Academic Personnel

MEMBERS

STIPENDS

DE TOLNAY, C.

Biographical

GOLDENWEISER, EMMANUEL

RIEFLER, W.

✓COOPER, JOHN C.

Faculty Meeting of May 19, 1945 - discussion of proposed limitation in term  
for short-term members. File V-1

See FACULTY PARTICIPATION - Academic Personnel.

1932

11/18

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

✓ COPE, (MISS ELLEN (Jenkintown)

Flexner to Miss Cope who has suggested a conference on psychology, and so forth.

"You are quite right in saying that I would not turn you away because you do not possess a lot of degrees. I happen not to possess them myself, which fact makes me extremely sympathetic with others who are in the same boat."

File II-5

1957

5/11

INSTITUTE HISTORY

Institute History

E. I. N. R.

*Foundations*

✓ CORNER, GEORGE

Biographical

Talk with Dr. Corner, April 11, 1957.

Filed in Vertical File under Corner Interviews.

(Regarding personal papers of Simon and Abraham with  
Simon's son).

1957

4/15

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY (1)

Educational Institutions

ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL  
RESEARCH (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Foundations

✓ CORNER, GEORGE

Biographical

WEID (1, 6)

FLEXNER, ABRAHAM (1, 4)

FLEXNER, SIMON (1, 4, 5)

BRONK (3, 5)

Interview with Dr. George Corner, April 15, 1957.

Filed in Vertical File under Corner interviews.

1940-1944

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

DEWEY, STIGLER

Biographical

GOTTMAN, JEAN

HANTON, STIGLER

WILLER, JEAN BENOIST STIGLER

✓ COT  
COT, PIERRE

List of French Members of Professor Seris's Seminar  
at the Institute for Advanced Study, 1940-1944 with biographical  
sketches of each man.

Filed in Chronological file under ~~1940~~ 1940-1944.

Seris, E. A. S., 1947-8

1932-1933

NOTES

✓ COURANT, DR. RICHARD

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

WEYL, HERMANN

Correspondence between Courant and Flexner on Hermann Weyl,  
and offer to Courant, himself, through Dr. Niels Bohr.

1932

February 7

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

✓ COURANT, R.

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner to Courant February 18, 1933.

Tells Courant confidentially that about a year ago one of Weyl's colleagues in America showed his letter from Weyl: in view of unrest in Germany he often had wished he might reconsider a previous invitation to come to America. This led Flexner to talk to Weyl in Göttingen. Furthermore, Adolotte saw Weyl during summer and cabled Flexner Weyl wanted a definite proposition.

The confidential source was Veblen (See Flexner to Veblen, February 1, 1933, re: Weyl).

II-5



1932

12/14

TEACHING

Academic Procedures

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organisation

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

✓ COURANT, R.

Biographical

Fleener to Courant, December 14, 1932.

Letter filed in Chronological file under 1932, 12/14 .

1933-36

MATHEMATICS

Academic Activities

✓ COURANT

Biographical

PLEXNER, A.

Correspondence showing close friendship between the mathematicians and Flexner. See Courant's note on Nazis and Naturwissenschaft Spring and Berliner--9/12/35, 9/17/35, 12/12/35. Flexner helped Courant with Fosdick and Weaver in ~~NEW~~ NYU work 12/14/36.

A, 10/18/56, Institute file on Courant

1933

2/1

EMIGRES

Academic Personnel

WEYL, HENNANN

Biographical

✓COURANT, RICHARD

Fleener to Courant (Univ. of Göttingen):

"Professor Veblen has kindly sent me your letter of January 21. May I assure you and Professor Weyl in all sincerity that absolutely no feeling of resentment exists on this side of the water? It did not occur to me for a moment that you or your colleagues had put any pressure upon Professor Weyl. I realized that he was of a vacillating nature, and this fact plus the complication due to the death of his mother-in-law easily account for his several changes of mind. As far as I can recollect, in every letter I wrote him I assured him that I wished him to do nothing that was not for his own good and his own happiness. I have the same feeling about the whole matter at this time. His happiness, his wife's happiness, his family's happiness ought to come first, and it is far better that he should realize this situation before coming to America rather than feel himself bound by an acceptance which he was likely to regret. You can assure him, if you have the opportunity, that I am profoundly sorry that he has been so greatly disturbed and that neither Veblen nor I entertain the slightest feeling on the subject. As far as the Institute is concerned, as you well know, no one is ever indispensable, and, though Weyl would undoubtedly have added great strength, I am sure that in the long run we shall

find or develop someone who will be equal to our needs. My one wish now is that Professor Weyl should recover his health and vigor and that he should be troubled by no regrets or remorse, in so far as I am concerned.

"This letter you are free to show him, for it represents the feeling of our entire group."

1933

2/18

✓COURANT, RICHARD

Biographical

WEYL, HERMANN

EMIGRES

Academic Personnel

Flexner to Courant (Univ. of Göttingen):

"I appreciate very highly indeed the motive which prompted you to write me on February 4. But let me assure you with the strongest possible emphasis that I have never for a moment thought that Professor Weyl's colleagues or the gentlemen in the Prussian Ministry had put the slightest pressure upon him. As a matter of fact, I myself put no pressure upon him. I ought to tell you confidentially how it happened that I invited Weyl to come to the Institute. About a year ago, one of Weyl's colleagues in America showed me a letter written by Professor Weyl in which he said that in view of the unrest in Germany he had often wished that he might reconsider a previous invitation which he had had to come to America. Acting on this expression which he had made to another person, I went to Göttingen and told him what I was proposing to do. I made him no definite proposition, but during the summer President Aydelotte of Swarthmore College, who was in Berlin, met Professor Weyl and cabled me to the effect that Professor Weyl wishes a definite proposition. I thereupon sent him a cabled invitation. He replied, after a reasonable delay, that he would 'accept in principle'. From that time on, he fluctuated in his decision. In every letter which I wrote him I urged him not to come to America unless he and his family would be happy to do so, so that not only you and the gentlemen in the Ministry exercised no pressure, I myself exercised none beyond the fact that at his suggestion I sent him a definite invitation.

"Now let me make another point clear to you and your associates and to Professor Weyl. I am deeply and genuinely distressed to learn that he has suffered so severely, and that he has in his own family experienced such serious losses and troubles. I have nothing but the kindest and most sympathetic feelings in the world to him and his family, and do not blame him in the slightest degree, and I have said nothing to him in any letter which I have written to him which was of a harsh or reproachful nature. You can give him and his family every assurance of the esteem and regard in which I hold him; you can tell them that they have been in no wise affected by his declination, and under no circumstances would my opinion of his high character and his great ability be in the slightest degree affected. Also, assure him and his family, please, that the development of the Institute is going ahead smoothly and that he has been responsible for no difficulties of any kind. I know of your interest in the enterprise and I shall certainly keep you and your associates informed of every step we take. I shall feel it a great privilege to visit you again in Göttingen, and I hope very, very much that we may have the pleasure of greeting you in Princeton or in Canada, or, better still, in both.

"In these sad times which dim America as they do the rest of the world, those who are devoted to learning must stand together and help one another. My wife and children, and Mrs. Bailey, My secretary, join me in warmest greetings to you and your associates."

File II-5

✓COURANT, RICHARD

Biography

ROCKEFELLER

Foundations

Flexner (Magnetawan) to Dr. Max Mason (Rockefeller Found., NYC)

"...

"I have received from Duggan's secretary a list of those for whom places have been found, and I am writing Veblen to know whether in his opinion the Institute for Advanced Study should invite Courant to come to America for a year and whether under those circumstances the Rockefeller Foundation would contribute half of a salary, of, say, \$6,000.

"I should be happy if you would give me further inside information that you have received from the Paris Office. The situation is enough to break one's heart. The excusses of the Nazis seem to me to indicate internal weakness rather than strength, but they hold the fort, and it will not be easy for others, who are scattered, to dislodge them."

File III-17

1933

8/19

EMIGRES

Academic Personnel

✓COURANT, RICHARD

Biographical

VEBLEN, O.

Veblen (Hancock County, Maine) to Flexner: Excerpt

"About Courant I feel that I ought to suggest that every precaution should be taken to make it clear that the engagement is for one year only. While it is very desirable that he should be helped now he is not at all the type we want permanently--and evidence has been accumulating that he will be much harder to place elsewhere than I had thought. This in spite of my conviction that there are several places where he would be very useful."

File IV-19

1933

8/23

FOUNDERS

Corporation

AYDELOTTE, F.

Biographical

WEYL, HERMANN

~~WEYL, HERMANN~~  
~~COURANT~~

Fleener to Bamberger and Mrs. Fald, August 23, 1933.

Aydelotte has written him that he and Mrs. Aydelotte visited the founders, and they had agreed that they had all gone thoroughly into the Weyl and Courant matters and had come to an understanding to be submitted to the Executive Committee to be held after Fleener returns.

D. Bamberger, Louis, 1930-1936



1933

Aug. 30 - Sept. 1

WEYL, H.

Biographical

✓COURANT

VEBLEN, O.

Veblen to Flexner. Two formal letters containing the same information, one sent to Magnetawan, the other to the Institute, recommending Weyl and Courant for appointment. The argument he makes for Weyl is that he is a great mathematician whose work is noted among mathematicians as well, <sup>and</sup> admired and respected by himself as a mathematician. Rich in ideas and very original and also in a field which would not overlap too much that of any other professor of mathematics in the Institute. ~~He also says that~~ He also says that Weyl's "oscillations" of last winter have not influenced the feelings of mathematicians. The implication is that they understand how severe was his trial.

He is much more qualified in his approval for a year's appointment for Courant. He does not approve for the Institute the type of institution which Courant instituted in Göttingen. He thinks that the Institute might well offer Courant the position because of the brutal assaults being made upon scholarship in Germany.

File IV-19

1933

9/6

PROFESSORS

Academic Personnel

SALARIES

BENEFITS

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

✓COURANT, RICHARD

ROCKEFELLER

Foundations

Re: Appointment of H. Weyl, and salary of R. Courant because of dismissal  
from German university. Minutes 9/6/33, p. 2, Vol. I, No. 14.

See: PROFESSORS - Academic Personnel

1933

9/7

EMIGREES

Academic Personnel

✓ COURANT, R.

Biographical

Telegram - Veblen (Maine) to Flexner (New York):

"LETTER FROM WEYL SAYS THAT COURANT HAS LECTURESHIP AT CAMBRIDGE FOR THREE YEARS  
SAME AS BORN".

File IV-19

1933

9/12

✓ COURANT, RICHARD

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

BOHR, N.

Flexner to Courant. Says he has cabled Bohr he has  
obtained invitation for Courant, half time at Princeton,  
half time somewhere else at \$6,000.

II-5

9/12

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

✓ COURANT, RICHARD

Biographical

Courant was Professor of Mathematics (Math. Analysis & Physics) and Director of Mathematical Institute at Göttingen 1921-33. Flexner wrote him (9/12/33) that Veblen judged his "field lies outside that which the School of Mathematics I. A. S. is undertaking to cover." Courant was looking for job in America & Flexner was helping him.

II-5

1933

9/12

EMIGRES

Academic Personnel

✓COURANT, R.

Biographical

GENERAL

Foundations

Excerpt from Flexner-to-Courant letter:

"I have, despite the fact that I have been ill, been making every effort to find a permanent post for you in America. The difficulty at the Institute is that, in Veblen's judgment, your field lies outside that which the School of Mathematics is undertaking to cover, also that the funds available for mathematics are exhausted. The difficulty in the country at large is altogether financial. Our endowed institutions depend upon the income from their securities, and there is hardly an institution in this country - certainly none to which I would send you - which is not laboring under a deficit. I have endeavored through the Rockefeller Foundation and the so-called Duggan Committee to find the funds which will create a place for you, but so far I have been unable to get an assurance for longer than one year. I have not, however, relaxed my efforts, and I feel no doubt that either in this country or in England an opening suited to your talents will ultimately be found."

File II-5

1933

10/9

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

✓COURANT, RICHARD

Date of Weyl's first salary changed from Jan. 1, 1934 to Dec. 1, 1933 - p. 5.

Director reported that Courant may accept a call from Cambridge, England - p. 6.

Vol. I, No. 15, Minutes 10/9/33

1938

12/10

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

✓COURANT, RICHARD

Weyl to Prof. Richard Courant, New Rochelle, N. Y.:

"Alfred Brauer has been offered an assistantship in the Institute for the second term. Moreover we have invited Hellinger, Hamburger and Artur Rosenthal to come over without a stipend. Affidavits have been provided for all these men and also for Dehn. Dehn obviously will try first to go to England or the Scandinavian countries. It is sure that Rosenthal and Hellinger are in concentration camp, probably also Hamburger. We are in touch with Miss Hellinger, Siegel and Mrs. Dehn. Nothing has been heard of, or done for, Toeplitz. Remak is in concentration camp, but we could see no way of helping him; however, I am told that the English will try to do something for him. If you would like to come to Princeton next week to talk over all these affairs you will be welcome, and could stay at our house again.

"I am kept informed by Veblen about the Zentralblatt. Did you not find his letter to Springer a masterpiece?

"We have quite a number of relatives to care for, besides Dr. Salomon. I am



afraid Hella's sister will soon have to make up her mind whether to come alone (and then probably to divorce her husband) or whether they will emigrate together.

"I am told that the Berlin Academy has ousted the Jewish members. Have you heard anything in this direction from the Göttingen Gesellschaft? Of course I should resign at once if that happened. Perhaps it would even be better if we all resigned now, together. What is Franck's opinion about that?"

W File Cou.

1940

5/28

VEBLIN, O.

Biographical

STRAUSS, LEWIS L.

AYDELLOTTE, F.

✓ COURANT

See correspondence between Veblen and Strauss on the relief and immigration of the Bohrs, Jakob Nielsen, and so on. Brings together Veblen and Strauss. Courant is working on these projects also. Veblen encloses to Aydelotte a letter dated May 26, 1940, from Courant to Strauss of Kuhn Lobe and Company, which is in the file. Veblen commends writing to Aydelotte to Mr. Strauss, saying that the Institute would be very glad to extend an invitation to Jakob Nielsen in case necessary funds were available. "In the conversation with Courant and myself, Mr. Strauss expressed great interest in the Institute, and I invited him to come and visit it."

V-3

1945

2/5

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Relations WQAI

SIEGEL, CARL

Biographical

COURANT, RICHARD

AYDELOTTE, F.

Courant to Aydelotte, February 5, 1945.

Courant has talked with Veblen on the possibility of Siegel giving a sequence of lectures at New York University, and both Veblen and Aydelotte, he understands, favor the plan. Courant writes because he is afraid Siegel is too timid and shy to talk to Aydelotte about it himself.

"I would like to add a personal remark. We all know that Siegel's psychological problems are difficult and perhaps not really solvable. His feeling of frustration and loneliness can probably be overcome only if he establishes somewhat broader contacts with congenial young scientists, a possibility that we can definitely offer in connection with such lectures. On the other hand, not enough can be said about Siegel as a

scientist and about his scientific ethics. His catalyzing influence on young mathematicians who later may become leaders in their science is of unequalled potentialities. It is for this reason ~~that~~ that his remaining in this country at least for a few years after the war seems to me of great importance. In spite of his apparently stubborn attitude to the contrary at present, I have a hunch that he could be persuaded to stay if he is given more of an outlet for scientific activity in the way of contacts with younger scientists and if his more personal problems of which you know could be solved."

D File, Courant, Richard

WEYL, HERMANN  
✓COURANT, RICHARD  
VEELEN, OSWALD

Biographical

Weyl to Prof. Richard Courant, New Rochelle, N.Y.:

"The same mail by which your letter of January 17 arrived brought me Smend's letter inviting me to rejoin the Göttingen Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften (which now seems to go under the name of Akademie der Wissenschaften). Only today have I given the matter some thought. My first reaction was to let bygones be bygones. You are right that there are disquieting news about how things go in Germany politically, but I feel one cannot blame the Germans too much. They live under terrible stress, and in many respects our policies have contributed to rekindling a nationalistic spirit.

"But after revolving the matter in my mind I feel more hesitant. As far as I remember I have never resigned from the Göttingen Academy and I learned for the first time from Smend's letter that I am stricken from their list. What happened to you and Franck? Did you resign, or were you ousted, and if so at what time? They may of course have canceled the membership of all nationals of countries which were at war with Nazi Germany. We have no assurance that the men who instigated these discreditable actions are not members now, and I must confess I would feel not too happy to be associated with men like Hasse in the same learned body. On the other hand I really do not wish that they now take

repressive actions against these men, of the same type as were used against us. So it seems that there are certain processes that are irreversible. Under no circumstances would I accept the invitation without learning first what brought about my dishonorable discharge.

"Veblen got a similar letter and inclined to accept, but after talking things over with me decided to postpone action until we had come to a conclusion.

"I am reminded of this line in Hofmannsthal's 'Tor und Tod'  
Aus Untreu macht kein guter Wille Treu ---

"Hoping to see you soon,"

W File Cou

1956

7/9

GENERAL

Educational Institutions

MATHEMATICS

Academic Activities

POLITICAL

Administration

MEMBERS

Academic Personnel

HEUGEBAUER

Biographical

✓ COCHRAN

WEYL

HEISENBERG

COHEN

SCHROEDINGER

VEBLEN, O.

Interview with Professor Heugebauer, July 9, 1956  
Filed in Vertical File under Heugebauer Interviews.

1949

2/21

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations with

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Academic Personnel

WOODWARD, G. L.

Biographical

NOTE ON

LINE

✓ CRAIG, FORDON  
CHAIR, GEORGE

Letter to the Director and Faculty G. L. W. and G. L. F.  
mentions proposed appointment of Dr. Felix Gilbert for permanent  
membership in the Institute, among others. He would like to see  
G. L. Woodward who has twice been at the Institute and made a  
deep impression upon the Institute members and the Departments of  
History and Politics at Princeton. Up to the present time,  
Gilbert has not wanted to leave England, but the health of his  
wife is now improved, and he may be willing to give serious  
consideration to an appointment.

Woodward has been Hornsworth Professor at Oxford, and will be



Professor of American History at Peterhouse, Cambridge, 1949-1950.  
Barie is canvassing him.

He suggests Link and Craig at Princeton, two professors,  
for permanent appointments or perhaps for five years. Since  
it seems wise to send the University Faculty, it should only  
be considered if either of them is about to be bid away by some  
other institution with terms that Princeton couldn't meet.

B, Historical Studies, Recommendations of Faculty

1951

3/20

POLICIES

Administration

MEMBERS

Academic Personnel

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WOA

✓ CRAIG, GORDON

Biographical

At meeting of School of Historical Studies it was agreed that Faculty members of Princeton University if offered membership in the Institute should not receive stipends from Institute funds.

D, School of Historical Studies, Minutes of Meetings

1933

1/28

HARVARD

Relations WOI

MORSE, MARSTON

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

✓ CURRIER  
CORRIER

Letter from Morse to Flexner, January 28, 1933,  
regarding Currier at Harvard.

Letter filed in Chronological File under 1933, 1/28.

D. Morse, Marston, 1933-1945