

1939  
1940

11/29  
1/10

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

AYDELOTTE, F.

~~FLEXNER, ANNE (MRS.)~~

Flexner to Aydelotte, November 29, 1939.

She has misssent a letter to Aydelotte dated November 25, and writes again saying she cannot remember what was inside the letter of November 25 "except concern for your being kept in bed (he was ill) and the position in which I hoped you will arrange to have Abe's bust placed-- doubtless you have done so already."

Aydelotte to Mrs. Flexner, January 10, 1940.

"I feel tempted to discharge the entire housekeeping force of the Institute. Almost the last thing I did was carefully to place the bust in the location specified on your diagram, where it looked extremely well. Some busybody must have put it back in the original place. As soon as I reach Princeton January 18th, I will restore it to the location you specified, and shall then be glad to see you and the sculptor at any time you find it possible to come down. I suggest January 25th or 26th."

A File, IAS (T)

1955  
✓ FLEXNER, ANNE CRAWFORD

Biographical

Mrs. Flexner died at Butler?? Hospital, Providence, Rhode Island, January 11, 1955. Press notices describe her as 80, playwright, She had dramatized Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch by Alice Hegan?? Rice Wright??. She had written The Marriage Game, Aged 26, Miranda of the Balcony, A Lucky Star. She was born in Georgetown, Kentucky, and graduated from Vassar.

She had been active in founding the Dramatists' Guild of the Actors' League, and was a Board member for many years.

A, Flexner, Abraham

12/18

173  
EARLE, E. M.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

✓ FLEXNER, BEN

Wire Abraham Flexner to Earle at Johns Hopkins Hospital  
on receiving news Earle has longer invalidism in store:

"Ben and I will see this thing thru."

Earlepapers (Vertical)

1934

4/2

FLEXNER, SIMON

Biographical

✓ FLEXNER, BEN

FRANKFURTER, F.

Simon on Felix, Abe and academicians. (See Frankfurter to Flexner  
2/21/34 Vertical File, Frankfurter-2.

Frankfurter-II, Vertical File

1947

7/22

1945

5/3

✓ FLEXNER, BERNARD

Biographical

Bernard Flexner died May 3, 1945.

Who Was Who, Volume II, 1943-1950

1947

7/22

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

✓ FLEXNER, MARY -

FLEXNER, SIMON

FLEXNER, BERNARD

BALDAUF, MRS. JULIUS L.

Press Accounts, New York Times, Herald Tribune, and Sun announcing the death of Mary Flexner in the hospital at the Rockefeller Institute for medical research. The sister of the Flexners listed. Bernard noted as President of the Palestine Economic Corporation who established in 1928 a \$50,000 lectureship in Mary's name in humanities at Bryn Maur\_. Simon mentioned as the organizer and first Director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. Simon died early in May 1946.

A. File, Flexner Abraham

FLEXNER, SIMON

Biographical 1

Physician

Born Louisville Kentucky, March 25, 1863

Son of Morris and Esther (Abraham) Flexner

Education: Louisville Public Schools  
M. D., University of Louisville, 1889  
Post-Graduate student Johns Hopkins, Universities of  
Strassburg, Berlin, Prague and Pasteur Institute

Honors: D. Sc., Harvard, 1906, Yale, 1910, Princeton, 1913,  
University of Pennsylvania, 1929, Nat. University of  
Ireland, 1936, University of Louisville, 1937  
LL. D., University of Maryland, 1907, Washington University,  
Brown University, ~~1911~~ Johns Hopkins--all 1915,  
Cambridge University (England), 1920, Western Reserve,  
1929  
Doctor, University of Strassburg, 1923, University of  
Louvain (Belgium), 1927, University Libre, ~~Brussels~~  
Brussels, 1930  
M. A., Oxford University,  
Fellow, Balliol College, Oxford University, 1937

Career: Associate professor pathology, 1895-98, professor  
pathol. anatomy, 1898-99, Johns Hopkins  
Professor pathology, University of Pennsylvania, 1899-1903  
Director Ayer Clinical Laboratory, 1901-03  
Pathologist University Hospital, Philadelphia Hospital,  
1900-03  
Director laboratories Rockefeller Institute for Medical  
Research, 1903-35, Director Institute 1920-35,  
emeritus since 1935  
Eastman professor, Oxford University, 1937-38.

Home: 530 East 86th Street, New York

Died: May 2, 1946

Who Was Who in America, Volume II, 1943-1950



✓ FLEXNER, SIMON

Biographical

Physician

Born Louisville Kentucky, March 25, 1863

Son of Morris and Esther (Abraham) Flexner

Education: Louisville Public Schools

M. D., University of Louisville, 1889

Post-Graduate student Johns Hopkins, Universities of  
Strassburg, Berlin, Prague and Pasteur Institute

Honors: D. Sc., Harvard, 1906, Yale, 1910, Princeton, 1913,

University of Pennsylvania, 1929, Nat. University of  
Ireland, 1936, University of Louisville, 1937

LL. D., University of Maryland, 1907, Washington University,  
Brown University, 1937 Johns Hopkins--all 1915,  
Cambridge University (England), 1920, Western Reserve,  
1929

Doctor, University of Strassburg, 1923, University of  
Louvain (Belgium), 1927, University Libre, ~~Brussels~~  
Brussels, 1930

M. A., Oxford University,

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**Career:** Associate professor pathology, 1895-98, professor  
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Professor pathology, University of Pennsylvania, 1899-1903  
Director Ayer Clinical Laboratory, 1901-03  
Pathologist University Hospital, Philadelphia Hospital,  
1900-03  
Director laboratories Rockefeller Institute for Medical  
Research, 1903-35, Director Institute 1920-35,  
emeritus since 1935  
Eastman professor, Oxford University, 1937-38.

**Home:** 530 East 86th Street, New York

**Died:** May 2, 1946

Who Was Who in America, Volume II, 1943-1950

1923-1924  
1929-1931  
1936

**MATHEMATICS**

**NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (GENERAL)**

✓ **FLEXNER, SIMON**

**VEBLEN, O.**

**Academic Activities**

**Foundations**

**Biographical**

See correspondence between Oswald Veblen and Simon Flexner in the file, V-4. The year of Veblen's service in some administrative capacity in the National Research Council must have been 1923-24, because of the subjects upon which Flexner and Veblen correspond, and also Vernon Kellogg. The correspondence in 1929 and ~~1930~~ 1931 appertains to the National Academy of Science.

**File V-4**

1923

10/24

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

✓  
FLEXNER, SIMON

Veblen to Simon Flexner on fellowships in mathematics.  
Filed in chronological file under 1923, 10/24.

v-4

1924

2/23

ROADERXXXXXXXXXXXX

RESEARCH

Academic Procedures

ROCKEFELLER

Foundations

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

✓ FLENNER, SIMON

Veblen to Simon Fleenner on methods of supporting  
financially research in mathematics.

Filed in Chronological file under 1924, 2/23.

1928

ROSE

Biographical

FLEXNER, ABRAHAM

✓ FLEXNER, SIMON

Interview with Louise Kessner Pearce, January 20, 1957.

Filed in Vertical File under Pearce Interviews.

1946

5/2

✓ FLEXNER, SIMON

Biographical

Simon Flexner died May 2, 1946.

Who Was Who, Volume II, 1943-1950

1946

6/12

✓ FLEXNER, SIMON

Biographical

From "Memorial Meeting for Simon Flexner," The Rockefeller  
Institute for Medical Research, June 12, 1946.

By Learned Hand, pp. 8-10 and p. 11.

"Now, it would seem--at first blush as we lawyers say--  
as though the discipline of a scientist was the best assurance  
one could ask of a disposition not to judge till one had  
examined, and always to verify before one acted; and so it  
has indeed always been with the great names in science, as  
it has been with the truly great names everywhere. But  
scientists are not exempt from human frailties, and the  
spirit of tolerance cannot exist without scepticism, and  
scepticism is a late comer upon the human scene, and will  
always remain an alien: like all aliens, at best it will  
always be suspected. Life is the transmission of received  
symbols into action, and accommodation between the objective  
significance of the symbols and the conduct they provoke is  
often remote or non-existent. As William James says somewhere:  
'Nature tells all frogs to jump for what looks red and take



their chances. If it is only red meat, well and good; if it is red flannel on a hook, in the long run also well and good, though not for that particular frog.'

"I sometimes wonder, if you will forgive me, whether the very severity of the discipline of science may not predispose its pupils to revel in the luxury of conviction, when in other fields they find themselves relieved from the insistent scrutiny which their calling exacts. Doubt being abnormal, human nature has an unlovely way of asserting itself with violence, when outraged by the burden of an eternity of verification. Set free from professional responsibility, one may at last feel that one can be one's real self--yes, that deepest, truest, because that primitive, self. May I call to mind, as an illustration, the attitude some fifty years ago of physicists towards philosophy, which was then driven home upon me, because I had a short and unsuccessful love affair with philosophy at the time? As a lover, I well remember my indignation at the arrogant, and at times, illiterate, hostility against all that went by the name of metaphysics. Eschewing all barren exercises in what seemed to them the most sterile

of verbal gymnastics, the physicists of that time lived, contented and assured, in a Lucretian universe of those tidy little marbles, which only needed one perfect and comprehensive Newtonian equation to make precisely ascertainable each moment of the past, and each moment of the future. They had no 'blank misgivings of a Creature moving about in worlds not realized'; they never did 'tremble like a guilty thing surprised.' Dogmatists, dealing in a currency which was sure never to suffer depreciation, they could afford to sweep into the rubbish heap any inane visitants from Laputa, who were still unaccountably allowed to strut upon the boards. Yet how now have all their ~~xxx~~ axioms vanished into Limbo. Could they return, it would be to find all the chessmen gone with which they played their game; and even those neat models forbidden us which, until only a few years ago, we were allowed to use, as helps over hard places. All these replaced by entities, beside which those of the Schoolmen look solid and practicable; all replaced by a nominalistic universe of the purest conceptualistic fabric. It is immoral to ask about the shape or the position of an electron, and indeed it is doubtful whether the question is not nonsense. Moreover,

whatever it may be--for with existence it does appear to be endowed--no more wayward creature ever came into the universe of discourse. Indeed, we are assured that it is only because the world is filled with mythical myriads of these capricious witches and their partners, the equally unpredictable protons, that we are not battered about in a perpetual Walpurgisnacht of meaningless agitation. Jeans appears to have been wrong about God; he is not a Mathematician, only a Statistician, a kind of Sublimated Actuary...(pp. 8-10)

[Simon Flexner]

"...if I talked my shop he was interested, understanding and sympathetic, with the mellow interest, understanding and sympathy of a spirit, whose horizons encompassed much territory, and which was well aware that of the perils of the soul among the most grievous are pride and certitude. When too he spoke of his own shop, it was the same; lucidly he could explain it in such terms as a layman could comprehend, or at least in such that he left, thinking that he had comprehended. Nor was there shadow of assertion beyond what the evidence seemed to warrant up to that moment. Open, detached, ready to revise, never insistent to convert, no crusader, or the friend of crusades or crusaders. It was on

this account that I always came away from him, conscious of that sort of rare communion which, were it common, would at length make this world a home for beings who might justly be called human. One life, I know, does not move us far along the road; but I am convinced that it is only in proportion as we honor and foster such lives that we shall move at all towards freedom. That is not the faith of this generation; in its pathetic pursuit of that ever retreating pot of gold, it puts its trust in loyalties, in creeds, in causes, in regulation, in institutions, in courts, in principles, in propaganda. The one thing to which it will not trust is the vagrant mind and the self-directed soul. So be it, by their fruit ye shall know them; and do we need to be assured that our fruit is bitter?" (p. 11)

By Peyton Rous from the same source:

... "These were personal achievements, but there was another, vastly greater, the Institute he was making. ~~HE~~ [he being ~~Simon Flexner~~] He [Flexner] made it an organism, not an

establishment; it was to deal with life and must itself be constantly changing, like all things alive. Only its larger structure could persist. Consider what this meant. In the search for original workers Dr. Flexner had to appraise human beings of a baffling kind. The unknown has strange intimates; the ability to discover may reside in persons of the most unexpected sort. He had to recognize them, and there was the more need to choose right because the Institute had no place for the wrong--there were no quiet nooks for routinists. Furthermore he had to judge by promise mostly, not by middle-aged achievement, since there could be few permanencies. Scientists, like poets, are often soon done, so he had to be constantly on guard lest through this happening the Institute become a backwater for incapacity." (p. 17)

"These were but details. Continually he enlarged the capabilities of the Institute. He looked off into distant realms of science and saw what they might contribute to it. Again and again people asked one another, 'But what has that got to do with medicine!' when he appointed a worker from some far domain. They soon learnt. He sought advice diligently,

yet his independence of judgment was complete; he would even appoint men against whom he had been specifically warned. The warnings had led him to scrutinize them and to perceive that originality had been their bane. For gifted research men are not always the amenable creatures that executives suppose; many have the boldness of their ideas. They have always been people in the Institute who could and would fill its buildings with their projects, if given the chance. Dr. Flexner liked it that way; this was mental enterprise thrusting forth. Yet it had to be checked and channeled, humorously, adroitly, or on occasion sternly. He had many ways of saying no. Once a Member, meeting him in the hall, upbraided him, asserting that the Institute was not democratic, that it should be run by a committee of its Members. 'Why, that's a fine idea,' answered Dr. Flexner. 'Suppose you select them.' The other man fell into dismay. There wasn't really any other Member he'd like to select, but he'd not thought of that before, though Dr. Flexner had.

"Dr. Flexner went ~~in~~ to extreme lengths with himself for the purposes of the Institute. Never physically strong, he

learnt reticence and dispatch as saving procedures. In the first years he was an enthusiast, unable to stay away from a laboratory where a discovery was hatching; in he would come every day or so, smiling hopefully. But enthusiasm has its pitfalls, it must be replaced by cool appraisal; so he replaced it, yet kept his joy in success. He could and did lose his temper at times; this would not do. He was nervous by temperament; well, temperament must be harnessed. If he allowed himself to worry, this was just sheer loss; so he learnt to shut troubles away, each in a compartment tight against thought until the time came for thinking. Only so could he have strength for his needs. No Spartan ever held more foxes under his cloak, but he did better than the Spartan; he kept them from gnawing him. When he had made mistakes he spent no time in recriminations with himself nor became fearful of making more. Enmity was distasteful to him. One of his assistants would often try mischievously to get him to remark on some man who had attacked him. It was not to be done; he parried each endeavor. The only elation he knew was from discovery within the Institute; he had no pride

of place. His fidelities were deep, yet when personal friendship clashed with the interests of the Institute he did not hesitate, friendship must ~~win~~ give way. These were sacrifices and triumphs impossible to most men, who fight throughout their lives a losing battle against what they are. As time passed his mastery of himself became superb...

"Yet with all said, individuals were as nothing to Dr. Flexner compared with the welfare of the Institute. You have been told how drastically he changed himself for its purposes. He expected sacrifices of others too, or at need would sacrifice them himself and take the onus. Since he could not act on his sympathies, little by little as time went, he became withdrawn from persons. But for him this meant privation.

"Nothing showed more sharply his mastery of self than his conduct on retirement. He knew that he had fashioned an instrument for good the like of which had not been seen; but he knew too that while art is long, science is endless. And he had not that last infirmity of scientific minds, the belief that what one still can do is unique, that no one else



can do it. So he put away all he had lately been, divested himself of Institute thoughts, would not hear of its new happenings, much less discuss them or ask a question. He would go free, and there was a task he had promised himself, a history of Dr. Welch and his times. The book--in which his younger son was co-author--will be read ~~whenever~~ whenever scholars wish to learn how medicine became a science in America and what Simon Flexner himself was like. Amidst the restraint with which he describes the deeds of his hero, one can see ~~anywhere~~ everywhere his veneration and love.

"You will have noted that this account of Simon Flexner, which was to tell of him as scientist and maker of the Institute, has veered to the man himself. He might not approve all that is here disclosed; yet his reproof would be gentle, for we are his friends. And we should know what we can of him who said so little of himself. It never occurred to him that there was anything great about him." (pp. 18, 19, 20, 21)

From "Memorial Meeting for Simon Flexner," The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, June 12, 1946, Simon Flexner, 1863-1946

1947

7/22

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

FLEXNER, MARY

✓ FLEXNER, SIMON

FLEXNER, BERNARD

BALDAUF, MRS. JULIUS L.

Press Accounts, New York Times, Herald Tribune, and Sun announcing the death of Mary Flexner in the hospital at the Rockefeller Institute for medical research. The sister of the Flexners listed. Bernard noted as President of the Palestine Economic Corporation who established in 1928 a \$50,000 lectureship in Mary's name in humanities at Bryn Mawr. Simon mentioned as the organizer and first Director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. Simon died early in May 1946.

A. Pile, Flexner Abraham

1957

2/10

ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH	Foundations
GENERAL	Academic Procedures
PEARCE, LOUISE	Biographical
FLEXNER, ABRAHAM	
✓ FLEXNER, SIMON	
SABIN, FLORENCE	
EINSTEIN, ALBERT	
CARRELL	

Table conversation with Louise Bearce February 10<sup>th</sup> 1957.

Filed in Vertical File under Pearce Intefviews.

1957

2/14

GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD

Foundations

JOHNS HOPKINS

Educational Institutions

BROOKINGS INSTITUTE

DEGREE

Academic Procedures

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

Academic Organization

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

STEWART, W. W.

Biographical

FLEKNER, ABRAHAM

✓ FLEKNER, SIMON

POSDICK, RAYMOND

Interview with W. W. Stewart, February 14, 1957.

Filed in Vertical File under Stewart Interviews.

1957

4/15

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY (1)

Educational Institutions

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

Foundations

EXXON

CORNER

Biographical

WEED (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.

1936

11/19

FOUNDATIONS (GUGGENHEIM)

Foundations

AYDELOTTE

Biographical

✓ PLEXNER, WILLIAM T.

PLEXNER, ABRAHAM

Veblen's letter to Aydelotte for Guggenheim fellowship--  
Father Chairman of the Board awarding N. A. C. fellowships which  
awards stipends--William Flexner needs grant I. A. S.

V-3

11/19

FLEXNER, ABRAHAM

Biographical

✓ FLEXNER, WILLIAM

WEBLEN, OSWALD

AYDELOTTE, FRANK

Veblen to Aydelotte, November 19, 1938.

"A couple of weeks ago I spoke with Mr. Moe about the possibility of a Guggenheim Fellowship for William Flexner, who is not an Assistant Professor at Cornell...Young Flexner never got a National Research Fellowship because his father was Chairman of the Board which awarded these fellowships. At present his uncle will not allow funds of the Institute to be used for a stipend for him here in Princeton. On the other hand he is developing scientifically in a way which would justify his being given the sort of encouragement which normally comes to a young scientist at his stage of development. His work is just at a point where he would profit very greatly by a year at such a place as our Institute. I wonder whether you could, without embarrassment to yourself, give me some idea as to whether there is any probability of his getting a Guggenheim award."

V-3

1939

1/11

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

VEBLEN, O.

✓ FLEXNER, WILLIAM

Veblen to Flexner (Veblen in Florida).

Sends copy of a letter from William Flexner to him regarding relating year off from Cornell to be at Institute. Veblen says he will be back in Princeton January 20 and wants to discuss with Flexner. Mathematics faculty all for it. But Veblen implies there is a personal angle which Flexner may be interested in. Cause of dispute?

IV-20



1946  
to  
1947

11/4  
1/27

DIRECTOR

Administration

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Academic Personnel

COMMITTEES (ON SELECTION TO DIRECTOR)

EARLE, E. H.

Biographical

STRAUSS, LEWIS L.

✓ FORRESTAL

Letters (photostated) on the above headings filed in  
Vertical File under "P" for Participation in Administration.

Institute for Advanced Study, Directorship, Meetings, etc., 1946 & 1947

1936

11/17

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WOAI

SCHOOL OF HUMANISTIC STUDIES

Academic Organization

MODERN ART

Academic Activities

NORBY

Biographical

PANOFSEY

STILLWELL

DOWNEY

ROWLEY

✓ FORSYTHE

For memorandum on the above headings see Chronological  
file 1936, 11/17, or any of the first five headings listed above.

D, Humanistic Studies, Subd. 7 (Correspondence, Memoranda, Etc.)

HUMANITIES

Academic Activities

ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

Foundations

✓ FOSDICK, RAYMOND

Biographical

Bacon (Advancement of Learning) says: "The three parts of man's understanding, which is the seat of learning: history to his memory, poesy to his imagination, and philosophy to his reason." Fosdick says philosophy has been neglected in modern times.

Fosdick, Story of the Rockefeller Foundation, p. 263 ff.

1914-29

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & POLITICS

Academic Organization

GENERAL (SOCIAL SCIENCES)

Academic Activities

SPELMAN MEMORIAL (GENERAL)

Foundations

ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

✓ FOSDICK, RAYMOND B.

Biographical

PLEKNER, A.

Fosdick says Gates opposed studies in social sciences proposed by Edwin F. Gay (1914), and though through Greene's influence Rockefeller Foundation financed Institute of Government Research later merged with Brookings Institution, doors of Rockefeller Foundation by 1920 were closed to all fields but public health and medicine. "But by 1920 the Foundation had to all intents and purposes been captured by the sick doctors, and while some grants were made in the following years for biology and cultural anthropology, the doors, although still ajar, were for the time being closed against practically everything except public health and medicine." (p. 193)

1922 Spelman Foundation looking for a field. Beardsley Suml then in late 20's, associated with Dr. James H. Angell, President Carnegie Corporation who had been trained in psychology was appointed director of Memorial. Immediately submitted plan to trustees plan to enter social sciences. Twice propitious--World War I had raised many new problems of social control over physical developments. Rockefeller concentrated on money for research and men through university studies--in economics, sociology, and political science and for investigation only and its expenses--men, travel, etc.

Suml tried to break down departmentalization of universities which hampered cross study--three Rockefeller boards spent \$6 million / on such things as Institute of Human Relations at Yale, the University's Institute of Psychology and its Psycho-Clinic for child study, etc.--did not realize goal. Failure due to inability to cross lines, merge conflicting personnel and policies into a working relationship. "A unified and integrated program of research does not develop automatically from physical propinquity under a single roof." (p. 196)

Memorial granted over \$20 million for development of major university centers of research--result--notable progress in recognizing need for research in social sciences; research is costly, and that non-academic world is eager to profit by the studies.

With this program 5 schools for social work were established: Atlanta, New York, Tulane University, University of Chicago, and National Catholic School of Social Science, valuable in developing personnel which government needed in its depression program. Ruml also promoted men cross-fertilized in ideas.

Ruml retired as Director 1929 on merger and Edmund E. Gay, professor of economics at Harvard, took over--had been associated with Ruml in Spelman.

Passick, Story of the Rockefeller Foundation, pp. 192-200

1928

HUMANISTIC STUDIES

Academic Activities

ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

Foundations

✓ FOSDICK

Biographical

CAPPS

When Rockefeller Foundation in reorganizing took over humanistic studies from General Education Board and the International Education Board, it created a division of Humanities of which Edward Capps was director--classicist. Program continued along lines Fosdick had followed 1924-8--archaeological. When Capps retired, delay in filling position as part result of which Anson Phelps Stokes resigned. Max David Stevens was appointed 1932. Criticized (3/31/37) early program as "buttressing scholasticism and antiquarianism in our universities."

New Program--"The past twenty years have seen a continuous rise in the material valuations of life which should make possible and indeed demand a corresponding rise in its spiritual and cultural values. The humanities should contribute to a

spiritual renaissance by stimulating creative expression in art, literature, and music; by setting and maintaining high standards of critical appreciation; and by bringing the intellectual and spiritual satisfactions of life within the reach of greater numbers. Beyond such benefits to the individual, the humanities should exert national and international influence for a reduction of racial prejudice. Ignorance of the cultural background of another people is at the root of many misunderstandings that are as harmful internationally as political and economic differences. That ignorance can be steadily lessened by an interchange of cultural values, by discovery of common origins for diversified national ideas and ideals and by the interpretation of one cultural group to another." (P. 240)  
Shift emphasis from "preservation" to "interpretation"--broke with what was called "the snobbishness of the classical tradition."  
(Jerome D. Greene, p. 241)

Concept of democratic cultural studies vs. aristocratic.  
Emphasis on the relevancy of humanistic study to contemporary life Rockefeller Foundation 15 years. (1936-51)

Story of the Rockefeller Foundation, Fosdick, pp. 238-42



1930-40

ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

HUMANITIES

✓ FOSDICK

Foundations

Academic Activities

Biographical

For the true humanist there are no visible frontiers between past, present and future: to free man from bondage of time is one of humanist's preoccupations. Foundation emphasized first early thirties "participation" and "self-expression": creative work in the arts; depression stimulated new movement-- "art for the masses" in relief projects. Lessons from western European countries with festivals, etc. used by Rockefeller Foundation in regions of U. S., ~~Mexico~~ Mexico example. Stevens aided drama courses in universities--regional historical studies--not antiquarianism, but cultural, social, economic backgrounds--later American studies.

The Story of the Rockefeller Foundation, Raymond Fosdick, pp. 252 ff.

1930-50

ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

Foundations

SPELMAN MEMORIAL

NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH

BROOKINGS INSTITUTE

✓ FOSDICK, RAYMOND

Biographical

SOCIAL SCIENCES (GENERAL)

Academic Activities

DAY

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner with Rose, Battrick and Vincent made a study of policy for trustees of the Memorial in view of the fear of venturing into studies of social science. They proposed a "charter"--universities were to do the work; Memorial not to handle research directly, etc. etc. (p. 201, 202) Determination that subjects of controversial nature cannot be avoided.

Day and crash. Followed Huml's lead--said to Board of Trustees October, 1930: "Practically all the sciences have sprung initially from philosophy. The introduction of laboratory methods enabled the natural sciences to make a rather complete separation, and the medical sciences made the same break later. The social sciences are still in the process of establishing their independence...We have thus virtually to break an academic pattern. We have to establish a new academic mold." (p. 202)

Extensive use of fellowships and use of social science committees at universities to administer fluid research funds given by the foundations, determining then our fields and projects. \$2 million from Foundation 1929-34 in this manner appropriated.

In addition 3 major fields laid out and intensively supported:

1. International Relations (p. 203)

2. Economic Stabilization (pp. 203-4)
  - a. Improvement of knowledge (statistical) of cycles and causes
  - b. Methods to ameliorate fluctuation.
  
3. Public administration (pp . 205-6)  
(Public Administration Clearing House, 1313 N. 60th St., Chicago)  
Rockefeller Foundation dropped parts of program involving direct cooperation with Council of State Governments and American Municipal Associations.

In 1934 a special committee (Fosdick chairman) set out to examine the Foundation's program. "It seems to your committee, that we now have the opportunity to see whether we cannot assist in applying to concrete problems of our social, political and industrial life some of the ideas and data which research all over the world is rapidly developing. This would not mean, of course, the relinquishment of research as a method. It would mean that we have no interest in the promotion of research as an end in itself. We are interested in it as a ~~maxx~~ means to

an end, and the end is the advancement of human welfare...The mere accumulation of facts, untested by practical application, is in danger of becoming a substitute rather than a basis for collective action." (Report of Committee on Appraisal and Plan, Rockefeller Foundation, December 11, 1934. Quoted by Raymond Fosdick, p. 207)

The committee found that academic politics interfered with most fruitful application of funds for fluid research in some cases (208). But progress has stimulated and promoted research in universities.

Report resulted in general abandonment of general university research program for more specific programs.

Day resigned to take presidency of Cornell University 1937-- summary of decade of Rockefeller Foundation (and Memorial) (p. 209)--changes in institutional centers of research in social sciences. Willits took over on threshold World War II. 1939.

His approach in broad outline was that of Ruesl and Day (p. 212), mainly in fields of international relations and economic stability.

Wesley Mitchell leading spirit in foundation National Bureau of Economic Research about 1920--to lay a better basis for objective thinking and research in economics. Began with investigations of amount and distribution of national income. Broadened to include economic cycles, employment, wages, prices, next two decades, production and productivity trends, finance and fiscal policy.

Mitchell's basic thinking sometimes unpopular:

1. The rich capacity of economists to produce imaginative hypotheses not adequately balanced by efforts at verification and inductive research

2. With facilities at hand, it should be possible to supplement theoretical conjecture with scientifically measured fact and relation, thereby, to work toward substitution of tested conclusion and definitely measured knowledge for guesswork and dogmatic hypotheses.

Two criteria guided N. B. E. R.:

1. Subject must be socially significant (to promote social welfare)
2. Subject must be susceptible of scientific treatment.  
(pp. 212-13)

Throughout N. B. E. R.'s history Rockefeller Foundation has been its largest single contributor to work which is objective and authoritative and used increasingly by government and business bodies (p. 213). Foundation's appropriations \$5 million (1920-51)

Social Science Research Council (pp. 213 ff.) Problems of social behavior--outs across many fields. Studies--International Relations, Social Security, T. V. A., Government Statistics and Information, Nationalism and Internationalism, Population, Public Administration, Public Opinion Measurement, Housing, Economic History. Rockefeller Foundation and Spelman \$8 millions.

Brookings Institute created by merger in 1927 of 3 agencies: the Institute of Government Research, the Institute of Economics, and the Robert Brookings Graduate School of Economics and Government. Fields particularly of economics, government and international relations. Rockefeller Foundation \$2,300,000 ~~XXXXXX~~ (1927-51)

**Stanford University Food Research Institute.**

Institute for Advanced Study. "Scholars from this country and abroad sought out this institution because they felt that it presented perhaps the best combination of stimulus and freedom for truly advanced work that existed anywhere in the world. That the Institute thus served as such a powerful magnet was due to the quality of insight, wisdom, and experience represented in its staff." (p. 216)

Rockefeller Foundation also continued to support graduate school research in economics.

Oxford, (England) funds to aid Institute for Statistics and to develop additional research facilities at Nuffield College



(p. 217). At Cambridge (England) funds went to support applied economics which gained great recognition of government.  
"Cambridge influences teaching and policy on economic questions in Britain more than any other university." (Quote from Minutes Rockefeller Foundation, January 18, 1946, quoted by Fosdick, p. 217)

University of Manchester work unsurpassed / "either in tradition or in promise." (Minutes Rockefeller Foundation, September 20, 1946, quoted by Fosdick, p. 217)

American universities economic research (pp. 217-18)

International relations and institutions (pp. 220-21)

Fosdick, Raymond, The Story of the Rockefeller Foundation

1931

9/24

POLICIES

Administration

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

FOSSDICK, R. B.

Biographical

JAMIESON, J. F. (Division of  
Manuscripts, Library of Congress)

See Fossdick's letter of September 24, 1931, and Jamieson's letter of February 24, 1931, both raising the point that the novel aspect of the Institute should be emphasized in the memorandum presentation; therefore, the economics and the School of Humanistic Studies should be put first rather than mathematics. Jamieson says the humanities in America are treated in a step-motherly fashion in comparison with the sciences.

Jamieson says the United States government appropriates \$20,000 a year for history and \$20,000,000 for research in the sciences. Yale, according to the newspapers, begins ~~the~~

the work of its much-heralded Institute of Human Relations by a study of the history of textile machinery.

Janieson also suggests that the Faculty should be given a bigger share in the management of the institution than is usual.

B, Institute - organization

1932

12/6

FOREIGN PERSONNEL

Government Relations

EINSTEIN, A.

Biography

✓ FOSDICK, R. B.

Fosdick (Curtis, Fosdick & Belknap, Attorneys at Law, NYC) to Flexner (NYC)

"Dear Flexner:

"Well, I see that Einstein got his visa after all. As you said last night, it was one of those damn fool things that could only happen in the United States. Last evening I sent Stimson the following telegram:

'Action by American Consul in Berlin in regard to Dr. Einstein's visa is a deep humiliation to America. Strongly urge that steps be taken at once to remedy situation so that we may not become ridiculous before the whole world. If as a result of blundering stupidity of our representative in Berlin Einstein's visit is made impossible, history will never forgive us.'

Harry also sent an indignant telegram to Hoover and we called up Nicholas Murray Butler and got him started on the war path. He was mad as the devil about the whole proceeding and promised to raise hell. I also got Shotwell started and he sent telegrams to

Washington. I got in touch with Finley of the New York Times and we were just planning out a campaign when the flash came over the wires that the visa had been ~~grants~~ granted.

"That the State Department should have dignified that absurd petition from the Woman Patriot Corporation is nothing short of a national humiliation."

1935  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations W. O. A. I.

/FOSDICK, RAYMOND

Biography

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner (Princeton) to Fosdick (NYC)

"President Dodds has told me that you have been appointed a member of the joint committee which is to meet from time to time to discuss the inter-relations of the Institute and the University. Needless to say, I am very happy at this choice, and I think you will be very much interested indeed in the way these cooperating institutions are developing.

"I am going to be in New York November 13, 14 and 15. I had a talk with Simon recently regarding which I should like to report to you. If you will see me at any time on any one of these days for ten or fifteen minutes, except Friday luncheon, let me know. I think you will be interested in what passed between Simon and me.

"P.S. This morning I had a letter from George Hale, in which he spoke of the progress made in connection with the 200-inch telescope, and he adds the following: 'My own work is slight in comparison with your own, as you have created an entirely new and greatly

needed type of institution, secured funds for it, and staffed it with men of the highest order. I congratulate you very warmly on the great advances you have made and the powerful influence of your work on universities and other institutions. Such shining examples, reaching aloft because of their unequalled standards of true values, are greatly needed in this modern world, where quantity is so often preferred to quality.' There are very few persons to whom I would dare to show an opinion like this - you are one of them."

File II-23

1935

12/13

✓ FOSDICK, RAYMOND B.

Biographical

ROCKEFELLER

Foundations

GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD (GENERAL)

Foundations

Flexner  
Replaced to Earle. Fosdick appointed President of both  
Rockefeller Foundations.

Earle papers



1936

1/13

ROCKEFELLER

Foundations

GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD

✓ FOSDICK, R. B.

Biographical

FLEXNER

Bamberger to Flexner. Made President of both  
Rockefeller Foundation and G. E. B. in interests of modified  
policies and non-duplicating gifts. Contemplates that  
G. E. B. would be finally expended. Clipping Survey

D, Bamberger, Louis

1939

2/9  
2/21

ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION:

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

FOSDICK

Flexner to Fosdick, 2/9.

Asks Fosdick to consider giving short term appropriation of \$25,000 to 6/30/39 to match \$25,000 Flexner has secured on contingent basis, balance to be returned. B-passes Willits/, new head of social sciences. Says loath to approach founders because they are building of ~~Kuhns~~ Fuld Hall and wishes to see what maintenance, furnishings, etc. will cost first. Diplomatically refused by Fosdick.

D, Rockefeller Foundation

1939

11/25

ROCKEFELLER

Foundations

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

PLENNER, A.

Biographical

AYDELOTTE, F.

PODDICK, R. B.

WILLIAMS, J.

Pleanner to Aydelotte, NYBWH November 25, 1939, about  
request to Rockefeller Foundation for support for economics  
at I. A. S.

Filed in Chronological File under 1939, 11/25.

A File, IAS (T)

1942

12/2

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

ROCKEFELLER-BAMBERGER FUND

Foundations

AYDELOTTE, P.

Biographical

WILLITS

✓ FODDICK, R.

BAMBERGER, L.

Aydelette to Willits, December 2, 1942.

"I am delighted that you are willing to write to Mr. Bamberger and I think, as you suggest, that the ideal time would be when our application has been definitely acted upon, which I understand will probably be in January. I enclose in this envelope a formal letter of application and very much hope that the Trustees will be able to see their way to continue our grant."

D, Post-War Organization Study Correspondence

1951

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

✓ FOSDICK, RAYMOND

Biographical

Outline work Rockefeller Foundation in social sciences--  
factual and interpretive studies N. B. E. R. largely financed by  
Rockefeller Foundation Social Science Research Council--all  
social sciences rationalized. Economic history.  
Brookings Ford Res. Inst., Stamford University.

"Support was also given to the economics section of the Institute  
at Princeton. Scholars from this country and abroad sought out  
this institution because they felt it presented perhaps the best  
combination of stimulus and freedom for truly advanced work that  
existed anywhere in the world. That the Institute thus served  
as such a powerful magnet was due to the quality of insight,  
wisdom, and experience represented in its staff." (p. 216)

Raymond Fosdick, Story of the Rockefeller Foundation, pp. 210-216

1951

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & POLITICS

GENERAL (SOCIAL SCIENCES)

✓ FOSDICK, RAYMOND

*Academic Organization.*

Academic Activities

Biographical

Appraisal and criticism, Chapter XVIII.

Justification and comparison with natural sciences.

The Story of the Rockefeller Foundation, Fosdick, pp. 229 ff.

1936

4/9

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations with

SCHROEDINGER

Biographical

SEISENBERG

FERMI

ALLEN

✓ FOWLER

FOWLER

Seisenberg to Flesner, April 7, 1936.

The Research Committee reviewed its past actions with regard to visitors and adopted this policy for the future: Under normal conditions, a visitor invited to the University for scientific research: maximum stipend shall be \$1,000 a month and the maximum traveling expenses \$500. In each case the Committee shall determine the stipend and grant for traveling expenses in the light of the circumstances of the case.

The maximum offer was made to Schroedinger, Seisenberg and Fermi, in each case for several months, "because of our desire to have

them visit Princeton to determine whether we wished to extend each of them an offer for a permanent position. We did not offer as much as this to either Professor Siegel or Professor Fowler."

D, Eisenhart, Luther P.



1952

4/2

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Academic Personnel

MEMBERS

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

Academic Organization

✓ FOX

Biographical

Fox was given membership for a third year, 1952-53.

Faculty Minutes, 4/2/52

1957

2/14

GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD

Foundations

JOHN HOPKINS

Educational Institutions

BROOKINGS INSTITUTE

DEONER

Academic Procedures

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

Academic Organization

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

STEWART, W. W.

Biographical

FLENER, ABRAHAM

FLENER, SIMON

✓ FORDICK, RAYMOND

Interview with W. W. Stewart, February 14, 1957.

Filed in Vertical File under Stewart Interviews.