



# AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS

335 EAST 45 STREET, NEW YORK 17, NEW YORK MURRAY HILL 5-1940

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

EUGENE H. KONE, *Director*

29 March 1966

Professor John A. Wheeler  
Department of Physics  
Princeton University  
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear John:

I was flattered by the very gracious post card you sent to Wallace Waterfall about the Einstein Stamp Dedication ceremonies. I want you to know that without a chairman of your talents it might have been a very dull affair.

You displayed the proper amount of warmth, seriousness, and knowledge in a way which immediately captured your audience. On behalf of Van and Wallace, as well as the Institute for Advanced Study, I wish you my personal thanks.

Cordially,

Eugene H. Kone

EHK:dm

cc:  Dr. J. R. Oppenheimer  
 Dr. C. N. Yang  
 Dr. V. Z. Williams  
 Mr. W. Waterfall



EUGENE H. KONE  
*Director of Public Relations*

*NEWS FROM* THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS  
335 EAST 45 STREET, NEW YORK 17 MURRAY HILL 5-1940

RELEASED FOR THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 10, 1966

ALBERT EINSTEIN COMMEMORATIVE STAMP  
CEREMONY PLANNED IN PRINCETON MARCH 14

New York, March 9--: A new eight-cent stamp honoring Albert Einstein will be issued with appropriate ceremonies at Princeton, New Jersey on Monday, March 14.

The American Institute of Physics in New York City and the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, where Einstein spent his last years, are official sponsors of the stamp.

The ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. in Alexander Hall, Princeton University, and is open to the public.

Dr. John Archibald Wheeler, Professor of Physics at Princeton University and President of The American Physical Society, will serve as chairman at the exercises.

Other speakers will include: Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, Director of the Institute for Advanced Study; Congressman Frank Thompson, Jr., of the Fourth Congressional District in New Jersey; and Mr. Edward E. Harriman, Director of the Office of Research and Engineering of the United States Post Office Department. Mr. Harriman will deliver the principal address.

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The portrait in the Einstein stamp is based on a study by Philippe Halsman, distinguished photographer, of New York City. Mr. Halsman is expected to attend the stamp issuance ceremony.

The stamp was designed by Frank Sebastiano, of New York City. Engravers were Arthur W. Dintaman (vignette) and George A. Payne, of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

The Einstein stamp is one of the new post office issues known as the "Prominent Americans Series."

Congressman Frank Thompson, Jr., who was born in Trenton, New Jersey, served for many years in the New Jersey legislature, becoming its minority leader. In Congress, he serves on the Committee on Education and Labor and the House Administration Committee.

In addition to introducing legislation dealing with labor-management relations, he sponsored the legislation that created the National Council on the Arts as well as the National Cultural Center, now re-named the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts.

Mr. Edward E. Harriman is a federal career engineer with a distinguished government scientific record including work on the satellite program.

He has degrees from the University of New Hampshire and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is a member of several professional societies. Before entering the Post Office Department in 1961, he was Chief of the Satellite Branch, Advanced Research Projects Agency of the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Dr. Wheeler and Dr. Oppenheimer are distinguished physicists who have been in the forefront of major developments in nuclear physics and theoretical physics.

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

January 20, 1966

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Robert Oppenheimer

FROM: Minot C. Morgan, Jr.

SUBJECT: Einstein Commemorative Stamp Ceremony

Dear Dr. Oppenheimer:

We were visited yesterday by Mr. George R. King, Assistant Director of the Division of Philately, Post Office Department, and the local Acting Postmaster, Mr. Dilworth. There will be in Princeton on Monday, March 14th, a first-day issue ceremony for the Einstein stamp (a program of the Stevenson ceremony is attached).

This occasion involves a room that will seat three to four hundred people, many of whom, I assume, are philatelists.

Mr. King's question revolved the matter of our participation as a sponsor of this ceremony, or a co-sponsor with the American Institute of Physics, and/or Princeton University (they would provide the room). Mr. King had already talked with Mr. Wallace Waterfall of the American Institute of Physics. Mr. King made it very clear that the Post Office Department "want us to participate exactly to the extent that we wish". I have also had a call from the Executive Director of the Princeton Chamber of Commerce who would be glad to get into the act if we don't.

I told Mr. King I would call him early next week after discussing the matter with you. My feeling is that a minimum of participation by the Institute is almost unavoidable.

Respectfully submitted,



Minot C. Morgan, Jr.

MCM/op  
Attach.



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*Director of Public Relations*

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# AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS

335 EAST 45 STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017 MURRAY HILL 5-1940

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

EUGENE H. KONE, *Director*

1 March 1966

Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, Director  
Institute for Advanced Study  
Princeton, New Jersey

*Mr Morgan  
pls return*

Dear Dr. Oppenheimer:

This is just a brief note to bring you up-to-date on plans for the Princeton ceremony in conjunction with issuance of the Einstein postage stamp on Monday, March 14th.

The speakers will gather in the small room adjacent to the stage of Alexander Hall at 10:45 a.m. The program includes: Dr. John A. Wheeler, Chairman; Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer; Congressman Frank Thompson, Jr.; and Mr. Edward E. Harriman, Director of the Office of Research and Engineering of the U.S. Post Office, who will give the principal address.

The subject and length of your talk I will leave to you and John Wheeler. I suggested to Congressman Thompson's office that he talk about "Einstein the Man" and stay away from science.

Immediately following the ceremony, there will be a luncheon for you and our other honored guests at the North Terrace Room of the Princeton Inn. There will be no speeches, of course, but just an informal session.

I should like to thank you, and Mr. Minot Morgan, for the splendid cooperation from the Institute for Advanced Study in jointly sponsoring this program with the A.I.P.

And thanks again for your fine services at The American Physical Society press conference in January.

Cordially,

*Eugene H. Kone*  
Eugene H. Kone

FHK:dm

Einstein  
Com Stamp Ceremony

2/2/66

Mr. Robert Simmons of Washington called to speak with RO about Einstein Day celebration, March 14. He wanted information on the ceremonies, which he understood RO involved in, and also wanted to talk about a painter, Josef Scharl, who was a resident of Princeton for some years and a close friend of Dr. Einstein. The National Portrait Gallery is going to place on exhibit a portrait of Einstein by Scharl, and the Washington Post is planning to run a photograph. Mr. Simmons is trying to put together something on this for the Gallery (is not connected with it); he is interested in anything RO might be able to tell him about the Einstein-Scharl relationship.

I suggested that MCM might be able to tell him something of the ceremonies and transferred the call; said also that I doubted RO would wish to comment on other matter. He may call back tomorrow, though I said I was not sure RO would be in office.

2/3 Mr. Simmons called again. Said I would take his number, and see that RO received word of call, and that if RO felt he could be of any help we could get in touch with him. I think he is likely to call back again this afternoon, anyway.

Washington 202 547-2294

*Scalled again. Said no.  
c.*

*Note to file: RO no speeka da engleish.*



1/10/66

Postmaster Dilworth of Princeton called. He has heard from Washington, and will be in touch with them, about a ceremony for the stamp. He called here to ask who Zirkind is. Zirkind has requested a seat of honor at the ceremonies, on behalf of the A.I.P. Dilworth also said that Wheeler's name was involved.

Dilworth asked me to call him back today, to let him know whether Inst. wishes to be involved, or whether we think they should let Zirkind have his seat of honor.

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1/11 Called Dilworth back and said we not sponsoring any celebration, and do not at the moment know of any. If there is one, Inst. should almost certainly be represented at it.

D. said thanks, that he will let us know what he learns from Washington.

547 Wyndham Road  
Teaneck, N.J. 07666  
November 12, 1965

The Institute for Advanced Study  
Office of the Director  
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Oppenheimer:

I have given much thought to your letter of November 5 and this reply. Originally, I contacted various members of the A. I. P. for the purpose of accomplishing exactly what you anticipated.

The Post Office Department has committed itself to honor Einstein on stamp. Other countries have done this, an example of which I enclose. It was not unexpected that this country would follow suit. What did trouble me was that as a stamp collector, I knew that either the design of the stamp would be unacceptable to the physics community or the ceremonies could be a circus. What I would like to leave with you is the thought that all this be avoided.

There are talented artists among physicists who could design the stamp. Then if some suitable organization accepts the sponsorship, the ceremonies can consist of a seminar where the contributions of Einstein to physics would be the central theme and attendance would be by invitation only. The post office officials always cooperate with the sponsoring organization. I trusted that some suitable group would accept the responsibility. It was Dr. Sawyer's suggestion that the Institute would be most logical and it seemed correct at the time.

If you feel this is desecration in any fashion, I will defer to you and not pursue this any further.

Gratefully yours,

*Philip Zirkind*

*no answer*

11/5/65

Dear Robert:

In accordance with our telephone conversation, I am returning herewith the letter from Philip Zirkind regarding the Einstein postage stamp.

It was good talking with you and I hope you are well on the road to complete recovery. Please take good care of yourself, for good men like you are rare and precious.

Sincerely,



Dr. Robert Oppenheimer  
Institute for Advanced Study  
Princeton, N.J. 08540

Encl.

*from the desk of* SAMUEL D. LEIDESDORF

5 November 1965

Dear Mr. Zirkind:

Your good letter of October 14th came in my absence. We appreciate your suggestion, but I believe that we should not accept it. During Einstein's life, he consistently maintained an aversion for all ceremony, especially ceremony in any way involving him. Since his death, we have tried to be scrupulous in respecting these wishes, which we knew so well. I cannot believe that the sponsorship of an affair would be consistent with what we know his wishes used to be.

Thank you again.

With good wishes,

Robert Oppenheimer

Mr. Philip Zirkind  
547 Wyndham Road  
Teaneck, New Jersey 07666

cc Mr. Leidesdorf

26 October 1965

Dear Mrs. Van:

Dr. Oppenheimer asked me to send on the enclosed enquiry, which may be of interest to Mr. Leidesdorf, and to say that he would be willing to do it if Mr. Leidesdorf thinks it would be worth the trouble and money.

I have kept a copy of Zirkind's letter here.

With good wishes,

(Mrs. Wilder Hobson)  
Secretary to the Director

Mrs. Evelyn Van Gelder  
S. D. Leidesdorf and Co.  
120 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10017



October 14, 1965

Institute of Advanced Studies  
ATTN: Dr. Robert J. Oppenheimer  
Princeton University  
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Oppenheimer:

Last week, at the annual meeting of the Optical Society of America, I conversed with Dr. Ralph Sawyer concerning the new Einstein postage stamp to be issued.

Dr. Sawyer suggested that I write to you and explore with you the possibility of interest in this matter on the part of the Institute of Advanced Studies. It is customary for the United States Post Office Department to choose an interested organization as a "sponsor" for the issuance of a new stamp. Such "sponsorship" consists of organizing and underwriting an affair at which the stamp is officially issued. Appropriate persons are chosen to make suitable speeches and the affair is as elaborate or modest as the budget of the sponsor will permit. The details of such a procedure should not be unfamiliar to the members of the administration of Princeton University, since the University itself was honored on a stamp in 1956. A copy of the stamp is attached.

As of this morning, in a telephone conversation with Mrs. Virginia Brizendine, Director of the Division of Philately, U.S. Post Office Dep't, Washington, D.C., no organization has as yet come forth as a sponsor. In view of the scheduled date for the issuance of the Einstein stamp, March 14, 1966 and the announcement that the city of issue will be Princeton where Albert Einstein spent his last years, there would be ample time for a strategically located organization to make the necessary arrangements with the US Post Office Department.

I would appreciate your opinion in this matter. You may correspond with me either at home or at work.

Very truly yours,

PHILIP ZIRKIND

Picatinny Arsenal  
Dever, N.J. 07801  
Phone: 328-3336

547 Wyndham Road  
Teaneck, NJ 07666  
Phone: 836-4376

Call from Greta Schultz (former acquaintance of mine), about the Einstein stamp, which will be issued March 4th. She and her husband are in informal local philatelic club, and plan to rent room at the Nassau Inn for the convenience of people who will be coming that day to get first day covers cancelled. Did not want to do anything that might conflict with any plans of the Institute's. I told her that we had no plans for any celebration, but that I would tell you of her call.

