

Committee on Resolution for the
Minutes. 1944

October 7, 1944

John R. Hardin, Esq.
The Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company
Newark 1, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Hardin:

I have your letter of October 6th enclosing the draft of your admirable memorial resolution concerning Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld. I am sure the Trustees will want to excuse the Committee and adopt your resolution without change. I consider it beautifully written and perfect for the purpose intended.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

FA:jsr

THE MUTUAL BENEFIT LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF
JOHN R. HARDIN
PRESIDENT

October 6th, 1944.

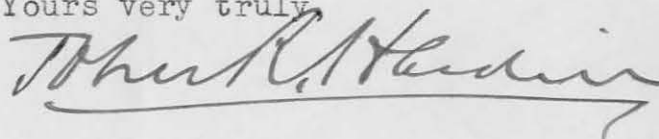
Dr. Frank Aydelotte, Director,
Institute for Advanced Study,
Princeton, New Jersey.

Dear Mr. Director:-

Your letter of the 2nd instant has been answered by telephone, and as then promised I am enclosing you a draft of a memorial resolution I have prepared concerning Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld. It has been approved by Mr. Leidesdorf.

As I told you over the 'phone, my suggestion is that we rescind the appointment of a committee on resolutions passed some time ago before the death of Mrs. Fuld, and that I be permitted, in lieu of the action contemplated by that resolution, to offer the memorial for our minutes, applicable to both Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld, without the appointment of another committee or without circulation prior to the meeting. Kindly let me know whether you approve of this course.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John R. Hardin", with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

The Trustees are called to mourning because of the deaths at brief interval of the co-founders of the Institute for Advanced Study.

Louis Bamberger died on the 11th day of March, 1944, and Mrs. Felix Fuld, his sister, died on the 18th day of July, 1944. Both had passed the Psalmist's limit of human life. We deem it appropriate that a joint tribute should be put upon our permanent records in commemoration of these our founding patrons.

The death of Louis Bamberger closed a career accentuated by notable success in the upbuilding of a great business enterprise and the application of the wealth thus acquired in the service of human betterment. He was a man of great vision and compelling purpose. His fame as a merchant was nation-wide. His chiefest characteristic was nonetheless the modesty of a bashful child. In both business and philanthropy he had the active cooperation of like-minded associates, closely related by ties of blood and marriage, all of whom he survived.

In 1893 he associated in partnership with himself, under the style of L. Bamberger & Co., two younger men, Louis M. Frank, the then husband of his sister Caroline, and Felix Fuld, who, after the death of Mr. Frank, became his sister's second husband. This partnership inaugurated in the City of Newark, New Jersey, a merchandising enterprise which, with the passage of the years, became one of America's greatest stores. The proprietors, by their generous support of all community purposes and needs of their home city, put themselves in the front rank of citizenship. Their reputation in the merchandising world was magnified as the years went on and extended far beyond their home environment. From humble beginnings on leased premises, the

business was ultimately housed in surroundings specially constructed for its own needs and for the accommodation of an ever increasing patronage. Before the death of Mr. Fuld the business had been incorporated, and by his demise the ownership was concentrated in Mr. Bamberger and his widowed sister. Unwilling at their advanced ages to carry the responsibility of an enterprise of such staggering volume, the brother and sister sought and found a responsible buyer to take over the business succession, and thereafter they dwelt together in well earned retirement.

Mr. Bamberger marked the surrender of his personal relationship by the distribution of one million dollars to the employees of the institution, in amounts graduated to all from highest to lowest - a forerunner of the magnificent dedication he and his sister were later to make to the cause of advanced learning.

As soon as released they began to study methods of applying their wealth to philanthropic and charitable uses for the benefit of fellowmen. They regarded themselves as trustees of the great wealth in their possession and planned to devote it to the service of mankind. After mature deliberation and intelligent investigation of practical possibilities, they agreed upon the high ideal which this Institute represents, and joined together in the initial endowment of the Institute for Advanced Study.

Their minds first turned to the founding of a charitable organization for a specific community service, to be preferably located in the City of Newark or on their own homestead property which had ample room, extending into Newark and two adjoining municipalities. They requested two intimate friends, competent to investigate and advise them, as to the possibilities and wisdom of a foundation for that purpose.

Performance of this duty brought these friends in contact with Dr. Abraham Flexner. He was introduced by them to Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld in order that he might have opportunity to present his views. Frequent conferences over many weeks resulted, during which Dr. Flexner not only recommended against their own original local thought, but inspired them with ambition to enter an area in the educational field not theretofore occupied and not bounded by definitions of research. The Doctor's plan for an institute of higher study was developed and ultimately came to fruition. This purpose was later epitomized by Mr. Bamberger as a desire "to increase the sum of human knowledge".

Dr. Flexner, by their authority, made wide investigation of the universities of the old and new world and concerning scholars available for a founding group. A name indicative of the purpose of the founders was presently chosen; a location at Princeton was selected; Dr. Flexner was designated as Director; and the "Institute for Advanced Study - Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld Foundation", shortly to be housed in a home of its own, announced a novel and larger opportunity to the scholarship of the world. This was in 1930. It is gratifying to those associated in the establishment of this foundation that both founders lived to see their philanthropic ambition abundantly vindicated. They lived beyond the successful installation of their plan by the first Director and its continuation, after his voluntary retirement, by his successor, Dr. Frank Aydelotte, of extended prior experience as an educator and one of the original charter Trustees, chosen with the warm approval of the founders. From the beginning they maintained their continued interest by liberal occasional contributions, and finally by testamentary devotion of their residuary estates, thus assuring ample endowment for the permanency and maintenance of this institution of

higher learning.

The management of this amply endowed philanthropy has fallen upon the Trustees of the Institute. Many of us had the personal advantage of acquaintance with the founders through the years of planning and inauguration. We are thus imbued with full knowledge of their purpose. We know that they avoided in their living all manner of ostentation and sought no applauding praise by reason of their generosity. We may be certain that, if still here, they would not now approve fulsome praise or extravagant eulogy. By this memorial minute we honor their memories, not only by official recognition or acknowledgment of the dedication of great wealth to a great cause, but as well by an expression of individual appreciation of the qualities of mind and heart of these modest benefactors with whom contacts were delightful and friendship a privilege.

October 2, 1944

John R. Hardin, Esq.
Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company
Newark, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Hardin:

You may remember that the Committee on Resolutions which you appointed consisted of yourself, ex officio, together with Messrs. Leidesdorf, Maass, Flexner and myself. While the Committee was originally appointed to prepare a resolution for Mr. Bamberger, you will remember that we agreed in correspondence that we should also mention Mrs. Fuld.

Since you have known Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld longer than anybody on the Board, I hope very much that you will be willing to prepare a draft resolution which could then be sent round by mail to members of the Committee for consideration. Could you find time to do this?

The members of the Committee might then lunch together in Fuld Hall at 12:30 on October 20th and agree upon a final draft to be presented to the Board at two o'clock.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

FA:jsr

July 29, 1944

Dr. Aydelotte:

On the strength of this reply I did not send the notice which you dictated to the Committee on Resolutions for the Minutes. Is that all right?

JSR

THE MUTUAL BENEFIT LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF
JOHN R. HARDIN
PRESIDENT

July 28th, 1944.

Dear Mr. Director:-

I have your letter of the 26th instant,
and the same idea has occurred to me. I do not think,
however, we need to make any further notice to the
Resolutions Committee at this time.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John R. Hardin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right, ending in a small hook.

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

Dictated July 26, 1944

To Members of the Committee on Resolutions

Mr. Hardin has asked me to request the Committee to include Mrs. Fuld as well as Mr. Bamberger in the resolutions they are preparing for submission to the Board in October.

Send if Mr. Hardin replies favorably.

FA:jsr

7/29/44

Reply received from Mr. Hardin. Agrees that such resolution should be prepared but does not think further notice to Resolutions Committee is necessary at this time. Therefore dictated notice not sent notified FA of this. VR.

July 26, 1944

Dear Mr. Hardin:

I assume that you would like the Committee on Resolutions which you recently appointed to prepare something about Mrs. Fuld as well as about Mr. Bamberger. If you wish me to do so, I shall be glad to send a notice to members of the Committee to this effect.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

John R. Hardin, Esq.
The Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company of New Jersey
Newark, New Jersey

FF:KK

Committee on Resolution for the Minutes

1944

Frank Aydelotte
Abraham Flexner
John R. Hardin, Ex Officio
S. D. Leidesdorf
H. H. Maass

Chairman to be appointed by the Committee

July 11, 1944
JSR

MEMORANDUM FOR MESSRS. FLEISHER, LEIDESDORF, & MAASS

July 8, 1944

Mr. John A. Hardin, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, has asked me to say that he has appointed you together with myself and himself, ex officio, to prepare resolutions on the death of Mr. Bamberger. The Committee has been left to select its own chairman. It is hoped that resolutions may be prepared in time for submission to the Board of Trustees at the meeting in Princeton, Friday, October twentieth.

Yours very truly,

Frank Aydelotte

FA:EK

C R O S S R E F E R E N C E .

FILE: IAS, Committee on Resolution for the Minutes

SEE ALSO: IAS, Hardin, John R.

SUBJECT: Letter from Frank Aydelotte to John R. Hardin re appointment of
committee members, July 8, 1944

CROSS REFERENCE

FILE: Committee on Resolution for the Minutes

SEE ALSO: Hardin, John R.

SUBJECT: Letter from John R. Hardin to Frank Aydelotte re
appointment of committee members, July 7, 1944