

1922

NOTES

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

VEBLER, O.

Veblen's correspondence with Weyl began in 1922, and continued through the years, becoming particularly frequent during the period after Weyl returned to ~~Germany~~ Switzerland in 1929, and then went to Göttingen.

The correspondence showed that Fine Hall was completed for occupancy late in 1929.

Veblen's Files

1929

October

✓ WEYL, H.

Weyl's resignation from Princeton University's
Department of Physics announced Page 84, Report of of the
President, Princeton University.

From Princeton University, The Official Register, Volume XXI, No. 1
Oct., 1929

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS
ECONOMICS (p. 12)
FELLOWSHIPS (pp. 13, 14, 16)
ASSISTANTS (p. 11)
PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION
SEMINARS (pp. 15, 16)
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FLEXNER, A. (pp. 2, 13)
BIRKHOFF, GEORGE (pp. 4, 5)
WEYL, H. (pp. 6, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17)
GÖDEL, K. (pp. 9, 11, 14)
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ALEXANDER (p. 17)

Academic Organization

Academic Personnel

Academic Procedures

Administration
Relations W.O.A.I.

Facilities
Corporation
Biographical

See Digest Veblen-Flexner Correspondence

VEBLEN - Biographical 1930-32

1931-1932

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WSAI

HARVARD

MORSE, MARSTON

Biographical

VERLEN, O.

WEINSTEIN, A.

DICKSON

BIRKHOPF

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Interview with Professor/ Morse, May 25, 1956/.

Filed in Vertical File under Morse Interviews.

Interview with Morse, 5/25/56

1931

2/18

GENERAL

Academic organisation

GENERAL

Facilities

LEFSCHETZ, S.

Biographical

✓WEYL, H.

Lefschetz (Dept. of Mathematics, Princeton University. written from Taormina, Italy) to Flexner

"This is an attempt to answer the two questions which you proposed to me in Princeton:

- I. How would I go about organizing the I.A.S. if this fell to my lot.
- II. How would I organize its mathematical department if asked to do so.

"There are or have been in the U.S. many Institutions of higher learning and they fall into two main groups:

Group A. Large Universities (Harvard, Wisconsin...)

- Group B. Very small Institutions (Clark, Wistar, R. I. M. R., ...)

"The two groups differ not so much in the matter of size as in the nature of the support (moral or financial). For group A. it is diffused among a large number of men (the more intelligent alumni and friends of the institution) whereas in group B we have essentially one-man affairs.

"I hold that it is due to the nature of the support that Institutions of group A alone have exhibited continuous and steady growth qua Institutions of higher learning, while those of group B have failed to do so. The latter appear to last at best as long as the Founder or first Director (vide Clark, the old Hopkins). When a certain central personality is gone things go wrong and the initial purpose is forgotten. I do not see in fact how it could normally be otherwise.

"The problem facing the I.A.S. is then that of creating a small Institution with the permanency and vitality characteristic of group A. I see only two ways of accomplishing it. The first would be to make the Institution play a significant part in the life of a fairly large and heterogeneous group of intelligent people such as offered by only two or three of our largest cities: New York, Chicago, perhaps Philadelphia. This is the case I think for the New School for Social Research. I fear that this is ruled out by the deed of gift.

"The second way offers more promise: Since Washington D. C. is the joint property of the US states it might be considered as an extension of New Jersey. Granting this the deed of gift might make it possible to locate the I.A.S. there. As you know there has been for a long time an insistent demand for a Federal University to be founded in Washington. Such an Institution would hold a central place in our intellectual life. It would immediately cater to the large number of intelligent government employees eager to carry on advanced study but unable to do so properly at present.

"I like to think of a future Federal University consisting of a number of separate autonomous groups, à la Oxford and Cambridge, with the I.A.S. comprising one or more of them. The donor of the I.A.S. would have the lasting honor of having made possible what would rapidly become our most important Institution of higher learning.

"I will now examine some secondary, yet highly important, matters regarding the I.A.S. as I am contemplating it. There is at the present time in the U.S. ample, not to say excessive, provision for experimental sciences or rather for experimentation in science. At the outset, and for some time to come, experimental physics, chemistry, etc., should therefore be excluded from the I.A.S. Other groups of the Federal University might later be established for them by the same or by other donors as the case may be.

"I need not dwell upon the fact that the Congressional Library, the Smithsonian and National Academy collections, also others not known to me, would make it possible to postpone for a while the outright purchase of necessary but very expensive equipment. Later no doubt the Congress would make special appropriations for providing this equipment, also buildings, particularly if the value of the Institution to the whole nation becomes clear. The Congress can be depended upon for that but not for the steady and unrelenting support of a high grade Faculty, such as you contemplate.

"While Washington is a large city it has about it an atmosphere of repose and quiet eminently suitable for the pursuit of scholarly work. At the same time it offers most of the usual advantages of a large city. Owing however to its climate I would recommend that the formal activities of the I.A.S. last only from late October to mid May. I would also attach to the I.A.S. a Northern Summer Camp where the Faculty would have the privilege of residing from mid May to late October and where there would be facilities for students to come and stay for work in common. I am convinced that the Camp would soon become an important summer center à la Woods Hole.

"Question II. My reply to it is in substance that I would annex the members of the scientific group to which I have the honor to belong — the younger group of geometers. It is the most vital and promising of mathematical groups in the U.S., the one with the highest national and international standing. It includes Veblen and Alexander of Princeton, Birkhoff and Morse of Harvard and also myself. The possibilities

from abroad are not exciting, but I would at all events consider H. Hopf of Zürich, H. A. Newman of Cambridge, J. Nielsen of Copenhagen. There are other very worthy mathematicians but as the group in question has done the most brilliant work in the U.S. so far it should be encouraged in every way. Moreover its influence will be felt as long as there are geometers, that is as long as there is a mathematical science.

"As a matter of fact Hermann Weyl is the only mathematician anywhere definitely above those names. But as he occupies the most distinguished mathematical chair in the world (in Göttingen) I do not see him giving it up. We had him for one year at Princeton when he was still in Zürich (1926-29) and apparently nothing could make him stay with us permanently with the Göttingen chair in the offing."

1932-35

MATHEMATICS

Academic Activities

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

PLEXNER, A.

Correspondence official I. A. S. file.

A, 10/18/56

1932
1935

1/12
4/30

/WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

SCHROEDINGER

HEISENBERG

IAS official bradded file on Weyl beginning with rejection cable January 12, 1932--Letter of second appointment September 9, 1933 not in file but correspondence is and also revision of terms April 27, 1934 account uninsurability of Weyl's life, countersigned by Weyl.

A, 10/18/56, Bradded section IAS files on Weyl

$$\frac{1}{15}$$

Biographical

IAS bradded file removed bodily--1st appointments letters
there in file.

A, 10/18/56, Weyl

1932-1933

Weyl

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.

II-5

1932

February ?

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, Aydelotte 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

6/4
6/4

VEBLER, OSWALD

Biographical

FLEXNER, ABRAHAM

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Flexner to Veblen:

"I reached Berlin last night and spoke with my wife over the telephone. I also found another cable here. The news from America is not good; so that I do not know just what my future movements will be.

"This morning I called at the Kultusministerium in order to meet my old friends there, and saw Professor Windelband and Professor von Rottenburg. As a result I have written a letter to Professor Weyl, copy of which I enclose. I hope that you will understand that I mentioned him simply because I could not possibly see these men and refrain from answering their questions in a candid and a straightforward manner.

"I neglected, in writing you regarding terms and conditions to say that there will be no difficulty about the assistance etc. that you would need. I have the feeling that you ought to postpone writing to Eisenhart until I have myself seen him. I cannot tell you how anxious I am that every step I take shall be marked by the utmost courtesy and consideration for you and for those at Princeton and elsewhere who have been so largely interested in the Institute and who have helped me so freely and generously."

Flexner to Weyl:

"On reaching Hamburg, I received a cable containing very distressing news about a member of my wife's family. As my wife is in Vienna, I therefore came here immediately so as to be in easy reach of her if matters became more serious. I cannot at the moment therefore say what my future course will be.

"This morning I called on my old friend Professor Windelband at the Kultusministerium, and he quite naturally asked me what I was doing in respect to the Institute. Our relations have been so intimate and confidential that it seemed necessary for me to say that among other places I had visited Göttingen and that I had talked with you, for Prof. Windelband already knew that I am interested in a school of mathematics. I told him, however, that we have come to no conclusion and that you would take no steps without conference with him and the other proper authorities in the Kultusministerium. I hope that you will understand that I had to be candid with Prof. Windelband on the basis of our long and intimate friendship. However, you are in no way involved for I told him that you had said you would do nothing and come to no conclusion until you had consulted freely with the Kultusminister

"Even if you should decide with the approval of the authorities here to come to America, work would not be possible before the autumn 1933. If you should decide in the affirmative, and if your wife should wish to come with you to America during the coming winter, while you are at Swarthmore College, in order to have time and opportunity to decide on questions of living arrangements, I am sure that the Trustees of the Institute for Advanced Study would be happy to pay your wife's travelling expenses.

"After you have spoken with Prof. Windelband and others, I will if you so desire write you a letter setting forth the terms and conditions which we discussed the other day. Meanwhile I have spoken very freely with Prof. Veblen, who has been in my confidence from the beginning, and you can speak with him as freely as you choose; in order that he may thoroughly understand I am sending him a copy of this letter.

"Whatever happens, I am delighted to have made your acquaintance and I am most hopeful that some arrangement can be made."

1932

6/14

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Mrs. Bailey to Bamberger informing him of a letter to Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld informing them of a letter dated June 3 from Flexner in which he says he had a very satisfactory time in Göttingen. Weyl is interested. He also had several long talks with Veblen. "Wherever I have gone, I have been told that he is the ablest of our American mathematicians, and the man on whose judgment I can most fully rely. I therefore asked him whether in the event that the Princeton authorities were entirely willing he would come into our group. He thought that the Princeton authorities would feel it a great distinction for him to do so and that they would interpose no difficulty whatsoever, and as for himself, he looked upon it as the greatest opportunity of his life..."

D, Bamberger, Louis, 1930-1936

1932

7/7

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

✓WEYL, HERMANN

EINSTEIN, A.

GÜDEL

Veblen
~~XXXXXX~~ in Germany to Flexner, July 7, 1932.

"Your telegram saying that the question of my appointment was settled reached me in Vienna. Some days later there came a very pleasant letter from Eisenhart. And I am now quite comfortably thinking of myself as a part of the new Institute.

"From Weyl I hear that he is coming to Berlin next Monday (11th) for an interview with the Ministerium. He says he has also spoken with some of his colleagues in Göttingen (which he had to do, I think). I have managed so far to say nothing except to Weyl and Einstein. On our arrival here we found two letters from Mrs. Einstein and we spent yesterday evening with the Einsteins and Dr. Mayer. It was interesting to find that Einstein is strong for the All Souls idea. He is against luxury. Pressed for details, he said that the public rooms of

the Abheneum in Pasadena are too luxurious but the dwelling rooms are not. I found the latter extremely comfortable, to say the least. The great question in the Einstein family now is what sort of a letter will come from Millikan...

"In Vienna I confirmed all the favorable accounts of Dr. Kurt Gödel that I have been hearing. He is 25 years old and has made the most important discovery ~~in~~ of recent years in mathematical logic. What I wanted to check up was his grasp of mathematics in general, and I found this extremely good. He is well mannered and cultivated. My suggestion would be to offer him a lectureship for one year at \$3,000 (salary of a Commonwealth Fellow). From his point of view this would probably come best a year from now as his 'Habilitation' and first regular teaching are scheduled for next year. But from our point of view it might be well to get him in touch with American conditions before he has had time to grow into a position here. His value is well understood both in Germany and in Austria.

"Also I was much impressed with the fact that Menger, with whom Gödel studied, is himself only 30. He has done a lot in a few years."

He then goes on to tell Dr. Flexner that he has decided he wants to take on Dr. Alfred Foster as his assistant. He could be very useful in general in a different way from Vanderslice. He thinks that Foster may make another connection which would be good for him. He has been a Rockefeller Fellow in Göttingen this year. Veblen was his professor when he took his doctorate at Princeton.

1932

7/14

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

VEBLEN, O.

AYDELOTTE, F.

Aydelotte wired Flexner July 14, 1932, "Through accidentally meeting Veblen and Weyl here, learned following developments which seems advisable. Report to you. Weyl consulted Ministry Monday without clear result. He can go no further without formal offer. Apparently he needs offer by cable immediately if he is to settle matter this summer otherwise decision impossible until after November since he must consult Göttingen scientific faculty. Ministry prepared grant two years leave. Weyl thinks you want permanent appointment or three years minimum. If Weyl comes permanently prefers begin April next. If only temporarily he thinks it fairer to Institute begin following autumn. Have naturally said nothing to commit you in any way only advising Weyl communicate with you directly. Send this cablegram on possible chance you might want Weyl's decision promptly. Letter follows...Aydelotte"

The letter confirmed and elaborated. Weyl, Veblen and Aydelotte dined with the Einsteins. They were all enthusiastic about the Institute.

Einstein intimated he wants Mayer to have an independent appointment, not as his assistant.

Aydelotte more impressed as time goes on with wisdom Flexner's choice of Veblen.

A, Flexner Correspondence, 1925-1933 (10/17/56) returned

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ EINSTEIN, A .

Flexner to Bamberger, July 18, 1932, from Magnetawan.

He has had a letter from Weyl of Göttingen dated July 4, telling him that he has not yet been able to see the Ministry but that he will do so within the near future. He has, however, had a note from Professor Einstein telling ~~xxx~~ ~~xxxxx~~ Weyl of Einstein's acceptance of our offer.

Weyl says, "This is what can be certainly called a most excellent beginning, and I congratulate you on your success."

D, Bamberger, Louis, 1930-1936

1932

7/26

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

AYDELOTTE, F.

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner to Bamberger, Jax July 26, 1932.

Since writing Mrs. Fuld yesterday, he has had a very interesting letter from Aydelotte. Quite accidentally Aydelotte, Veblen and Weyl met in Berlin. This is an abstract from Aydelotte's letter:

"Weyl, Veblen, and I dined on Monday night with the Einsteins. I was much impressed with the enthusiasm which Einstein and indeed all three expressed for the new Institute. Their feeling seems to be that of the whole German learned world. I have seen Veblen several times, and the more I see of him, the more I am impressed with the wisdom of your choice both as to his ability and as to his personality."

D File, Bamberger, Louis, 1930-1936

1932

8/2

INVESTMENT

WEYL, HERMANN

FLENNER, ABRAHAM

MAASS, HERBERT

Finance

Biographical

Fleenner to Maass:

"Professor Veblen, Professor Einstein and his assistant, Professor Mayer, have accepted our offer. Weyl has not yet given a final answer but cabled me last week that a forable reply was 'immer wahrscheinlicher'. His hesitation is due to the fact that his father died just before I reached Göttingen and that separation from his mother and resignation of the most distinguished mathematical chair in Germany with other family considerations make the decision difficult. I have not urged him, because I wish the ultimate decision to be his. This will make for his happiness and content and that of his family. We shall have his answer before the October meeting.

"I am glad to know of the business improvement and the rise in the price of Macy stock. I hope that Mr. Bamberger will not urge the immediate selling."

Source: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

1932

8/18 8/20
8/19 8/22

FOUNDERS

Corporation

8/26

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner writes Bamberger in Newark that he has had two important letters from Weyl in Göttingen and also has just discussed the matter with Courant who has been with him in Magnetawan. "I believe that Weyl will come to us, but before making him final offer wish to confer with you and others available. Can arrive New York ten forty daylight saving Tuesday or Wednesday morning next week."

On August 19, 1932, Bamberger wires Flexner. "Mrs. Fuld and I feel that you should not make trip to city. Maass in New York Tuesday next. Leidesdorf not available today. We feel that if Weyl is seriously interested he will come on reasonable terms that you could offer. Our greetings to Mrs. Flexner you and family."

Flexner replied August 20, 1932, deeply touched by consideration. Will think matter over and communicate with you both Monday.

On August 22, 1932, Flexner wires Bamberger he has mailed a memorandum to them.

August 22, 1932, Flexner to Bamberger .

He writes a memorandum presenting all the relevant facts regarding Weyl to Bamberger, and sends a draft of a letter which can be mailed to him if Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld, Mr. Leidesdorf and Mr. Maass agree.

August 26, 1932, Bamberger wires Flexner. Have mailed you[r] letter to Professor Weyl today. Maass Leidesdorf and undersigned find it entirely satisfactory. Trust it will bring the bacon.

D, Bamberger, Louis, 1930-1936

6/22

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

LEIDESDORF, SAMUEL D.

WEYL, HERMANN

Flexner is at Magnetawan. Flexner to Leidesdorf,
August 22, 1932.

"Today and tomorrow I shall spend in preparing a letter to and memorandum regarding Professor Weyl of Göttingen, who will, I think, come to us. I shall send copies to Mr. Samberger and Mrs. Fuld, you and Mr. Maass for your careful consideration before I mail the final offer to him. If he accepts, we shall be able to announce in the autumn the strongest mathematical group, insofar as it goes, that exists in any university in the world."

D. Leidesdorf, Samuel, D., 1930-1935

1932

12/7

NOMINATIONS

Academic Personnel

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

ALEXANDER, JAMES W.

Exec Com.
Minutes, p. 2:

"RESOLVED, That the letter presented by the Director to be sent to Professor Hermann Weyl of the University of Göttingen is approved and that the Director is authorized to transmit the same and to secure the services of Professor Weyl on the terms therein defined.

"The Director thereupon suggested the advisability of appointing an additional professor in the School of Mathematics and stated that he would like to secure the services of Professor James Waddell Alexander of Princeton University, a younger and yet distinguished mathematician.

"After discussion, the Director was authorized and empowered to negotiate with Professor Alexander and to report to the Committee or Board for approval the terms upon which such association might be established."

Vol. I, No. 9

1932

12/14

TEACHING

Academic Procedures

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

COURANT, R.

Biographical

Flexner to Courant, December 14, 1932.

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

II-5

1932

12/16

MEMBERS

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

VEBLEN, O.

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

FLEXNER, A.

Academic Personnel

Academic Organization

Biographical

Question as to whether members should be admitted only to
work with designated professor, or generally.

IV-21

1933-35

POLICIES

SALARIES

FRANKFURTER, F.

FLANNERY, A.

✓ WEYL, H.

REDFLEW, W.

VEDIER, G.

AYDELOTTE, F.

STEWART, W.

TRUSTEES

Administration

Academic Personnel

Biographical

The Corporation

See Vertical File, Frankfurter-2, for correspondence of Frankfurter as active Trustee, and reasons for termination of his services by Board, etc.

Frankfurter II.

1933

Jan.

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

FACULTY

Academic Personnel

VEELEN, O.

Biographical

~~WEYL~~, H.

FLEXNER, A.

VON NEUMANN, J.

ALEXANDER, J.

Excerpts from Mrs. Veblen's diary, 1933

See SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS - Academic Organization

1933

1/9

NOMINATIONS

Academic Personnel

✓WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

ALEXANDER, JAMES W.

Biographical data; Minutes 1/9/33, pp. 3-5

Vol. I, No. 10

1933

1/9

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WCAI

Weyl, Hermann

Biographical

ALEXANDER, JAMES W.

Dr. Flemer reported in part:

"I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude to the authorities of Princeton University, who have whole-heartedly cooperated with me in the endeavor to make our own group as strong as possible. The men chosen are personal friends of the men already engaged in Princeton, and there is therefore every prospect of the most wholesome and intimate cooperation. Among themselves the men have agreed that their respective students may attend the seminars and lectures of each other, so that, while the identity of the two institutions will be absolutely preserved, they may functionally have the effect of a single great organization."

Vol. 1, No. 10, Minutes, p. 5

1933

1/13

VON NEUMANN, J.

Biographical

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Flexner to Veblen (Princ. Univ.):

"...

"I had a pleasant interview with vonNeumann this morning, and I anticipate no difficulties whatsoever in concluding arrangements regarding him.

"I have cabled Weyl as follows:

'Resignation accepted. Please regard matter as confidential until you receive my letter written today. Am returning your letter of third unopened.'

"I have written a letter of which the enclosed is a copy.

"..."

File IV-21

1933

2/1

EMIGRES

Academic Personnel

✓WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

COURANT, RICHARD

Flexner 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 ~~special~~ 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."

File II-5

1933

2/1

✓WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Flexner to Veblen (Princ. Univ.):

"...

"I am returning the letter from Courant, which is thoroughly satisfactory, and also a copy of a letter which I am writing him this morning. I am glad to know that you yourself have written Weyl. Please do everything in your power to buck him up. I heard last night from Aydelotte that Weyl's physician had forbidden his coming to Swarthmore. I do not see that anyone is to be blamed. Certainly we put no pressure upon Weyl to come, and his colleagues put no pressure upon him to stay. The incident is one of those unfortunate things which can only be deplored. The string of events was begun by Weyl himself when he wrote you that he would like to reconsider his declination of the Princeton offer. All we can do now is to help restore his morale.

"..."

File IV-21

1933

2/17

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Veblen to Flexner (NYC):

"...

"I spent last evening composing an answer to a letter from Weyl. He wrote from Berlin where, as he said, he was in the hands of a nerve specialist. He seems still to be in a state of mental depression and bad health. He feels that he has treated you and everyone else very badly and gave me something of an analysis of what has been and is his state of mind. It agrees quite well with what we heard from Courant and also with a letter which I had a week ago from Mrs. Weyl. I am still not clear, however, as to whether he feels that his final cablegram was ~~a~~ mistake due to his depression or whether in accepting he was acting contrary to his deeper nature. I wrote him a reassuring letter and told him a good deal about what has been done over the personnel question."

File IV-21

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 Aydalotte 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

✓WEYL, H.

Biographical

BERNAYS, PAUL

Veblen to Flexner (NYC):

...

"I communicated with Aydelotte as you suggested but his Committee decided that it was not advisable to renew the Swarthmore invitation to Weyl for next year. I expect that Aydelotte will talk with you about the matter when he sees you. After consulting Eisenhart and Lefschetz, I sent the following cablegram: 'Have consulted Flexner. Offer can not be renewed now. Shall I seek another arrangement even if temporary?'

"The point of the last sentence is that in case Weyl is in real difficulties, I think it not unlikely that something could be done about it. At least, I should wish to try. His cablegram, however, is explicitly answered by my second sentence. What I received from him I enclose a copy of.

"I enclose herewith the letter from Bernays which I have answered by saying that there is no opening in the Institute."

...

File IV-21

1933

4/12

5/1

5/27

7/15

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

The only papers in this file appertaining to any of the appointment matters respecting Weyl are 4 letters from Professor Dr. H. Zangger of the Medical Institute of the University of Zürich at Zürich in Switzerland appertaining to Weyl's health.

The first is directed to Flexner, April ~~ZY~~ 12, 1933, and explains that Weyl's health was bad because he overdid prematurely after a very severe case of influenza.

This was responded to by Flexner, May 1, 1933. He informed Zangger that before he received Zangger's letter of April 12, he had "taken the steps to have Professor Weyl invited to deliver a course of lectures in the autumn at Swarthmore College. This will give us an opportunity to talk over the whole situation. Your explanation of Professor Weyl's illness satisfies me completely."

Flexner to Zangger, May 29, 1933 after another letter from Zangger, noting that Weyl is completely recovered his health. Flexner says he understands "Professor Weyl is now almost alone in Göttingen/." He asks Zangger whether Weyl had made arrangements with the Ministry to come to America to deliver the lectures at Swarthmore College. There is discussion about the general situation in Germany about which Flexner says the American people are very angry and disallusioned.

The messages go from Zangger by mouth through other people, apparently.

July 18, 1933, Flexner to ~~W~~ Zangger, enclosing a letter to Weyl inviting him to become professor in the School of Mathematics at I. A. S. This is to be forwarded by underground. These are the only letters of the 1933 period which remain in the file. Other correspondence in this file goes from 1935 on to 1945, and consists of affidavits of the residence of Weyl, etc., expense accounts, notes about Weyl's asthma, etc. The correspondence which belongs in this file has been removed.
D File, Weyl, Hermann, 1933-1945

1933

5/1

✓ FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

WEYL, HERMANN

ZANGGER

Flexner to Zangger. He has had Weyl invited to
Swarthmore to give lectures in autumn.

D, Weyl, 1933-45

1933

5/4

✓WEYL, H.

Biographical

NEUGEBAUER, O.

FARKAS

PONTRJAGIN

LEFSCHETZ

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & POLITICS

Academic Organization

Veblen to Flexner (NYC):

"I return herewith the letter from Weyl and the correspondence with Dr. Bleick. I have kept the copy of your letter to Dr. Zangger but I will return it if you wish. I should think this letter would put Weyl at his ease as far as it is possible to do so. His fear that he would have to take over the Directorship of the Institute at Gottingen is probably well founded for Bohr's information that Courant has been 'given a leave of absence' seems to be quite definite. I have suggested Courant's name in a couple of places where they need a man to build up a mathematics department. He would be ideal for such an undertaking.

"I think it very likely that Neugebauer will also be dismissed because he is well known as a radical in politics. I believe it is quite true that he occupies a unique position as an historian of mathematics.

"I am going to talk with Taylor of our Chemistry Department about Farkas. I seem to remember that the chemists think very highly of him. I suppose you noticed in the morning paper that Haber himself has resigned.

"I can't help returning to the point that if the funds could be made available, now would be a golden opportunity for starting some of the other departments. But this idea is so obvious that you have doubtless already considered it from all points of view.

"Mrs. Bailey's account of the grants in aid in her letter of May 3rd agrees entirely with my notes on the subject except that there should also be set aside \$2200 for travelling and extra expenses in the case of Pontriagin. You will recollect that we agreed with Lefschetz that a total of \$3000 should be available for this case and we decided to make the stipend small in order to have a good large reserve on account of the peculiarities in his situation. Contrary to what I wrote in one of my letters last week, this means that we have now disposed of \$500 out of our additional \$5000."

1933

5/29

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

ZANGGER, Dr. H.

Flexner to Dr. H. Zangger, Zurich--understands, "Weyl overburdened since he has also had letters from his colleagues, who are in Zurich or Italy, who tell me that Professor Weyl is now almost alone in Göttingen."

D, Weyl, H., 1933-35

1933

7/18

/WEYL, H.

Biographical

VEBLEN, O.

Veblen to Flexner saying that as of that morning a cable had been sent him from Weyl "Situation so threatening that I should accept visiting professorship Madrid December to April with regular leave from Göttingen if possible..." Veblen recommended that even if it were only a grant-in-aid he would be so valuable that the Institute should again make him an offer.

Veblen to Flexner, 7/18/33. Weyl accepted an invitation to lecture in Swarthmore ~~Mar 27~~ Oct. 27, Nov. 10, 17, 23, 1933. The government granted him leave for this purpose.

File IV-19

1933

NOTES

7/14

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

FLEXNER, A.

BAMBERGER

Flexner to Veblen.

" I am greatly moved by your letter and by Weyl's. On the strength of them both, I have written Mr. Bamberger, because I do not like, in view of past circumstances to take action without his knowledge, and indeed I have no legal authority to do so. Should he concur, I feel sure that the Executive Committee will ratify the action. I will communicate with Weyl and with you by wire as soon as I have a reply. I am sending you a copy of my letter to Mr. Bamberger.

Flexner to Bamberger July¹⁴~~15~~, 1933.

" For a good many months past, Professor Veblen and I have been in communication about Professor Weyl, and Professor Veblen has had several letters from him. In addition, I wrote his

physician in Zürich, Professor Zangger, and...it is quite obvious to me now that Weyl's hesitation was due to the fact that he was in ill health last winter, and that his final declination was really creditable to him rather than otherwise, for, as he was not well at the time, he was afraid that he would not do justice to the opportunities of the Institute. Since then both his physicians assure me that his health is perfect, and certainly his letter s to both Veblen and myself have been in the highest degree satisfactory and dignified." He then says that Veblen has told him that Weyl has been offered a position at Madrid, and that if there is not likely to be an opening with us in Princeton, he is disposed to accept it on account of current conditions in Germany. Mrs. Weyl ~~says~~ agrees in a postscript.

He goes on to say that in V_eblen's mind if we could add Weyl to the mathematical group, it would be the most distinguished and able group of mathematicians in the world. Veblen is strongly of the opinion that we should do this, and Flexner agrees with him after long reflection. I should

not feel obligated to make Weyl the proposition I made him a year ago, for conditions have changed, and the offer contained a great many extras which I should now drop. I should simply offer him the salary which Veblen received and the pension arrangements with the Teachers Annuity Association. I believe on these terms he will come and be happy. If you and Mrs. Fuld are willing, you may telegraph me at Burke Falls. He tells Bamberger he is sending a copy of this letter to Veblen, and shall not act affirmatively until all of us agree. Weyl's appointment would begin October 1, 1934.

V File, Flexner, Abraham

1933

7/14
7/19
7/24

FOUNDERS

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

FLEXNER, A.

Corporation

Biographical

Flexner's long letter to Bamberger, July 14, 1933, presenting the revived question of appointing Professor Weyl.

Bamberger's wire to Flexner, July 19, 1933. "Mrs. Fuld and I are surprised that you are again considering Weyl. We do not approve his method of dealing with us last year. Our understanding that Prof. Neuman was engaged to take his place. Warm greetings to all." They telegraph this from Asbury Park.

There is a three-page letter from Flexner to Bamberger, July 24, 1933, explaining the Weyl matter further in a gently disputatious fashion. He quotes Veblen freely and uses him as an ally. Disavows pressure on the founders, and prefers to let the matter rest until the fall when the subject can be talked over. He holds out the bait of distinction. Again disavows persuasion. He quotes Aydelotte for Weyl,

since Aydelotte needs Weyl, and has a spot for him to
lecture, in the fall.

D, Bamberger, Louis, 1930-1936

1933

7/15

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

LEIDESDORF, S. D.

WEYL, HERMANN

Flexner to Leidesdorf from Magnetawan, July 15, 1933.

He is writing another letter to Weyl again about Weyl--
to Mr. Samberger with a copy to Mr. Maass, which he suggests
Leidesdorf see, suggesting that we offer a position to Weyl.
"It is clear from my correspondence with his physician in
Zürich and my talk with Dr. Lichtwitz of Berlin that his
hesitation and declination last year were due to ill health,
which led him to fear that he would not do justice to the
position. I am assured by both men that he has completely
recovered. Should he come to us, as Veblen and Aydelotte hope
and desire - and I do too, we would have the most distinguished
mathematical faculty that exists in the world. My letter to
Mr. Samberger makes clear the general line on which I am
proceeding."

D, Leidesdorf, Samuel D., 1930-1935

1933

7/18

FLENNER, A.

Biographical

ZANGGER

Biographical

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Fleener sends Zangger a letter inviting Weyl to I. A. S.

D, Weyl, 1933-45

1933

7/22

Weyl, Hermann

Biographical

Veblen, O.

Emigrees

Academic Personnel

Veblen (Hancock County, Maine) to Flexner:

"Meantime a letter from Weyl written in Zurich on the 8th has arrived and I am enclosing it, though I am not convinced that it is the one referred to in his cable to you. However it throws a good deal of light on his situation and the feeling he has of uncertainty regarding his prospects. The remark (sheet 2) that you would hardly be human if you didn't feel it necessary, after his behavior last winter, to make your decision depend on the personal impression which he makes--is rather touching!"

File IV-19

1933

NOTES

7/24
7/25

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

FLEXNER, A.

BAMBERGER

Flexner to Veblen.

Mr. Bamberger has just telegraphed he hesitates about Weyl, fearing that he may be an unstable factor or in poor health. Flexner says he has no legal right to act, and he believes it is wisest to defer any action until he can bring the Executive Committee together on his return to New York about the middle of September. He suggests Veblen write Weyl asking him to postpone an answer to Madrid until he has had a chance to talk with me when he comes to Swarthmore in the early fall. "With tactful management, I believe it will come out well in the end."

~~Weyl, Hermann, 1933~~

Flexner to Veblen, July 25, 1933.

Aydelotte has just come over to pay us a brief visit, and he thinks I did right in not pressing the matter of Professor Weyl by mail on Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld. He will call a meeting of the Executive Committee just as soon as he goes back to New York.

Flexner says that he has cabled Weyl that the Executive Committee will meet in the middle of September.

EXF V File, Flexner, Abraham

1933

7/24

FOUNDERS

The Corporation

✓WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

VEBLER, O.

Flexner (Ontario, Canada) to Veblen (Hancock County, Maine):

"I have just had a telegram from Mr. Bamberger showing that he hesitates about Weyl, fearing, I think, that he may be an unstable factor or in poor health. Inasmuch as I have no legal right to act, I believe it is wisest to defer action until I can bring together the Executive Committee on my return to New York about the middle of September and explain to them the entire situation. "

File IV-19

1933

7/25

EMIGREES

Academic Personnel

Biographical

✓WEYL, HERMANN

AYDELOTTE, F.

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner (Ontario, Canada) to Veblen (Hancock County, Maine):

President Aydelotte, Chairman of Executive Committee, has talked over Weyl matter with Flexner. Thinks that Flexner did right in not pressing matter by mail on Mr. Bamberger, and will call meeting of Exec. Comm. as soon as Flexner gets back to New York. He is also strongly in favor of inviting Weyl to join/ group.

File IV-19

1933

NOTES

7/27

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

WEYL, HERMANN

FLEXNER, A.

BAMBERGER

EINSTEIN, A.

Flexner to Veblen.

This morning I received from ^{La} Leydenburg a telegram from London which reads: "Very urgent. Official invitation that German professors be expedited as they may not be allowed to leave."

V File, Flexner, Abraham

1933 (Mistyped 1922)

NOTES

8/2

VEBLIN, O.

Biographical

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

FLEXNER, A.

BAMBERGER

Flexner to Veblin.

He has written two notes July 29 to Flexner which are not in file.

He has asked Aydelotte to visit Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld and talk over a number of matters, incidentally the Weyl matter. I hope and believe that the thing can be ironed out so that Weyl can bring his wife and children with him. If Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld were young, the incident would give me concern. As it is, I do not feel that there is anything for us to worry about, so far as the future of the Institute is concerned. With a Board constituted as our is, the academic point of view will prevail in academic matters."

V File, Flexner, Abraham

1933

NOTES

8/21

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

FLEXNER, A.

BAMBERGER

EINSTEIN, A.

Flexner to Veblen, August 21, 1933.

He is hopeful that we shall make the permanent appointment for Weyl and a year's invitation to Courant (Richard), though I do hope that Courant will be reinstated in Göttingen.

Veblen has been in correspondence with Lowan in regard to the full-time work expected of Einstein, apparently. Flexner agrees with Veblen that we don't want to establish too many precedents. "I think there are one or two things that we will have to insist upon, and full time during the abbreviated year is one of them, that ought to apply not only

to workers, but to members of the Faculty. Of course, I do not mean that you or Alexander or Einstein should not during the term attend scientific meetings or make scientific addresses, but I do mean that the taking on of additional chairs and professorships, as Einstein has done, does not seem to me to harmonize with the spirit of our undertaking. However, this is a matter which I shall take up with Einstein in the course of the year. I beg you not to mention it to anyone."

V File, Flexner, Abraham

1933

8/23

FOUNDERS

Corporation

AYDELOTTE, F.

Biographical

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

WYLL COURANT

Flexner to Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld, 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 Weyland Courant matters and had come to an understanding to be submitted to the Executive Committee to be held after Flexner returns.

D. Bamberger, Louis, 1930-1936

1933

8/24
8/27

FOUNDERS

MAASS, HERBERT

FLENNER, ABRAHAM

WEYL, HERMANN

Corporation
Biographical

Dr. Fleenner to Mr. Maass:

"I received from Mr. Benberger the following telegram:

"Mrs. Fuld and I are surprised that you are again considering Weyl. We do not approve his method of dealing with us last year. Our understanding that Professor von Neumann was engaged to take his place. Warm greetings to all."

Maass to Fleenner:

"Needless to say, I am in thorough accord with the psychology you have employed in the matter. Nothing is to be gained by trying to rush Mr. Benberger and Mrs. Fuld into a decision. In fact, were we to do so, even their concurrence might be a source of regret to us thereafter. If therefore, Prof. R. Vahlen could persuade Prof. Weyl not to accept the appointment at Madrid, I think it would be well for us to wait until the Fall when the matter can be thoroughly thrashed out at a meeting of the Executive Committee. At

that time, I am confident we will have no difficulty in persuading Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld to our point of view, and that their adherence thereto at that time will not be reluctant."

Source: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert E.

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 ^{as} 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

NOTES

9/8

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

VEBLEN, O.

AYDELOTTE, F.

Flexner to Veblen, September 8, 1933.

The Executive Committee met yesterday, and authorized Flexner to make an offer to Weyl which he considers more attractive than the former one. He cautions Veblen to silence except for Eisenhart, "for if it should leak out in Germany that Weyl is bringing his wife and children to this country to stay, they might all be held in Germany." His appointment at the Institute will, if he accepts, start January 1, 1934. He asks Veblen to write, saying that the matter is being kept secret in America. Flexner expresses the hope that Weyl, like von Neumann, will become a citizen. He depends on Veblen to tell Weyl that he is on full time at the Institute, "that is, he will not accept multiple-professorships the way Einstein has been led to do, though, of course, he enjoys academic freedom in respect to lectures, papers, etc."

The letter contains further data about Courant. The Rockefeller Institute would appropriate \$3,000 to meet an appropriation of an equal amount from the Institute for Courant. The plan which Flexner and Veblen have evidently worked out is that Courant would come to the Institute for the first half year, and be lent without expense either to Cambridge or Yale for the second half year.

Flexner to Veblen, September 9, 1933.

Informs of cable from Weyl. Warmest thanks for your confidence. Hope for long and happy collaboration.

At the same time Weyl ~~writes~~ writes Veblen that Courant has accepted a three-year appointment at Cambridge.

V File, Flexner, Abraham

1933

9/8

EMIGREES

Academic Personnel

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

AYDELOTTE, F.

VEBLEN, C.

POLICIES

Administration

Flexner to Veblen (Hancock County, Maine): Excerpts

"The Executive Committee met yesterday and authorized me to make Weyl a permanent offer somewhat different in form from the preceding offer but, in my opinion, really more attractive. I shall write him on the subject. Of course, this matter must be kept absolutely confidential between you and me. I shall not mention it to another person except perhaps Eisenhart, if, in your judgment, that is desirable, for, if it should leak out in Germany that Weyl is bringing his wife and children to this country to stay, they might all be held in Germany."

" I wish very much also that you add in some way that we will look upon his acceptance as indicating that he intends to make America his home. I hope that, like von

Neumann, whom you may instance, he will become an American citizen. Of course, he will be free in the future to accept an invitation to go elsewhere, if he chooses, just as you and the others can, but as long as he is in the Institute, he is on rigorous full time, that is, he will not accept multiple professorships the way Einstein has been led to do, though of course he enjoys academic freedom in respect to lectures, papers, etc. I am anxious that he should understand the spirit of the thing, the fact that we have made the salaries and retiring allowances high and the vacations long in order that men may work under favorable conditions. If a man sacrifices his long vacation regularly or often, I think the spirit of the Institute will be compromised. "

File IV-19

1933

9/9
9/11
9/14

EMIGREES

Academic Personnel

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

VEBLEN, C.

FLEXNER, A.

POLICIES

Administration

Veblen (Maine) to Flexner: Excerpt

"My expectation is that Weyl will take his position very seriously as a full-time job. In fact the trouble last winter was, in part, that he was taking it too seriously. Just the same, I shall write to him along the lines that you suggest. In fact, I had just finished such a letter to him when I received your telegram. But I must rewrite it."

Veblen (Maine) to Flexner: Excerpts

"From our point of view the chief difficulty in Neugebauer's case would be that he is Editor-in-Chief of the Zentralblatt für Mathematik, published by Springer, which has continued without interruption. I had thought that if the Z. should be stopped we in this country ought to take it and Neugebauer over. But it would be very expensive (I don't believe the Rockefeller foundation would cooperate, but you would know how to find

out), and I am not ready to recommend using the Institute money for the purpose. On the other hand, it would be a pity to take N. away from this job. Perhaps the best solution would be that hinted at, I think, in one of the letters from Harald Bohr--to move N. to Copenhagen."

"I think the meeting on Oct. 2 should be confined to yourself and those of the professors in the Institute who are in Princeton. The hours and rooms will have to be talked over with Eisenhart before then. But I suppose this meeting is the real 'opening' of the Institute, or are you having other ceremonies?"

Flexner (New York) to Veblen (Maine): Excerpt

"I shall follow your suggestion and limit the conference on October 2 to you and your immediate associates. This will be the only meeting we shall have for our opening - or closing - ceremonies."

1933

9/26

FLENNER, ABRAHAM

Biographical

MAASS, HERBERT

/WEYL, HERMANN

Fleenner to Maass:

"Mrs. Fleenner and I came to Princeton last Wednesday, and have been most courteously received by the new President and by all others with whom we have come in contact.

"I went down to Washington last Saturday to make sure that no difficulties would be placed in the way of the immigration of Professor Weyl and his family. This morning I received the following cable from him in Zurich:

"THANKS FOR ALL YOUR ASSISTANCE IMMIGRATION PRESENTS NO DIFFICULTY SHALL WIRE FORMAL ACCEPTANCE AS SOON FAMILY IS SAFELY OUT OF GERMANY."

Source: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

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

1933

10/9

EINSTEIN, ALBERT

Biographical

✓WEYL, HERMANN

Dr. Flexner reported in part:

"I have been a good deal concerned about the publicity which Professor Einstein has received since he left America last spring, and I have endeavored by communicating with him and his wife to make them realize that notoriety may be a source of peril to him and certainly does not help his standing in the scientific world. My most recent communication from his wife would indicate that they have at last come to realize the soundness of this view. In consequence of having previously made engagements which he did not feel free to break, Professor Einstein will not arrive in Princeton until the middle of the month, but the name of the boat upon which he sails has thus far not been revealed. He will be called for at Quarantine and motored to Princeton as quietly and inconspicuously as possible.

"The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on September 6, 1933, when distributed, will show that Professor Weyl of Göttingen, having completely recovered his health, has been invited to be a member of the faculty and has accepted; but he has asked me to keep the information absolutely confidential until he succeeds in getting his family safely out of Germany. At the moment of this dictation he has not yet accomplished this end, so that I beg the member of the Board to regard this matter as confidential. His acquisition to the faculty will be a source of immense strength. He occupies the

most famous chair of mathematics in Germany - the chair which for a hundred years has made Göttingen ~~AKS~~ a great center of mathematics, now, alas, utterly destroyed. Professor Weyl is not a stranger in Princeton, for he spent an entire year there two or three years ago, and he has also lectured in other American universities. He will become an American citizen, and he has written Professor Veblen that he feels that he is beginning his scientific life a second time. Professor Weyl will spend October and November lecturing in Swarthmore, after which he and his family will take up their residence permanently in Princeton."

1933

10/13

/WEYL, H.

Biographical

FOREIGN

Academic Personnel

Flexner to Finley (Editor of New York Times):

...

"What happened in the Weyl case is as follows:

"For almost one hundred years there has been at Göttingen a mathematical faculty, which has made Göttingen the mathematical center of the world. In unbroken succession Gauss, Riemann, Felix Klein, Hilbert (now living in retirement), and his successor, Weyl, have been the leading mathematicians of the world. After deciding to start with the School of Mathematics, my first step was to offer a professorship to Weyl. Partly for personal reasons, largely, however, in consequence of pressure from students, colleagues, and the Government, Weyl declined. This happened a little over a year ago. When Hitler came into power, almost the first act of his ridiculous Minister of Education was to begin dismissing professors of mathematics at Göttingen, some of whom, though not all, were Jews. The Christians, who were not dismissed, thereupon either resigned or protested most vigorously. One of them, Neugebauer, has been called to the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, another, Born, has been called to the University of Cambridge, England. Others have gone elsewhere. Weyl loyally endeavored to carry on work for the following semester in the hope that the storm would blow over. At the end

of the spring semester he went to Italy and wrote American colleagues that he would under no circumstances return to Germany and that he was indeed considering a call at Madrid. I thereupon offered him once more a professorship in the Institute for Advanced Study, which he has accepted. He sails for America^Y shortly, first to give a course of lectures in Swarthmore, for which he had previously obtained leave of absence, then to take up his residence permanently at Princeton. Weyl is not a Jew and has never taken any part in politics. Like Spranger of Berlin and others, he simply found that the present German Government has no use for or conception of the higher education, which has really made modern Germany - much more so than the army.

"Should you make any use of this account, please so veil it that my part in transmitting the facts may not even be suspected."

1933

11/2
11/3

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

FLEXNER, ABRAHAM

MAASS, HERBERT

Dr. Flexner to Mr. Maass:

"This morning after breakfast I had a wonderful talk with Weyl, who wanted my advice, first, about the matter of insurance, second the matter of citizenship, third, the matter of a house. As to the first and second, I suggested that he should consult with you. He is expecting to be in New York on Thursday of the coming week. If you are to be there, would you be good enough to write to him - Professor Hermann Weyl, Bartol Foundation Institute, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania - telling him that he could see you. I imagine it would be towards noon before he could reach New York..."

Flexner to Maass:

"Since writing you yesterday, I have talked with President Aydelotte and Professor Veblen on the subject of a house for the Weyls. Though they have looked at everything available, they are finding it extremely difficult since houses here...are very scarce.

Veblen made the suggestion that, inasmuch as he has come here for the rest of his life, what he ought to do is to build a house, though he is without funds - so much so that I have myself personally advanced money to him, which, however, is a confidential matter between you and me. Aydelotte suggested that he might save enough out of this year's salary to buy a lot and that, if he would, the Institute would be perfectly secure in lending him the money needed to build next year..." Flexner goes on to say that the Weyls have always saved money but lost it during the post-war conditions. They are both "people of simple tastes".

Source: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

1933

12/11

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

SALARIES

FRANKFURTER, FELIX

✓ WEYL, HEINRICH

MITRANY

Academic Organization

Academic Personnel

Biographical

Frankfurter has received the Minutes of the last meeting, and Weyl's salary has stirred his curiosity. "Would you mind telling me whether Weyl's salary represents the scale or is an individualistic treatment. Partly I want to know this for its own sake, as affecting the practices of the Institute, partly also it bears on what you are contemplating for the School of Politics. What salaries have you in mind for that School?"

This is a pregnant question, since Mitraný has already been appointed at a half salary of \$6,000 while he remains in England.

D File - ~~Frankfurter File II - (History Files)~~

2724
HORSE, MARSTON

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

VEBLIN, C.

✓ WEYL, H.

Horse nearly didn't come--Flexner and Veblen were
just beginning to disagree with each other. Intrigue.

Interview with Horse, 6/21/56

1934

1/29

PROFESSORS (VISITING)

Academic Personnel

GRANTS-IN-AID

✓WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

DIRAC, P.A.M.

Minutes, p. 11:

"RESOLVED, That a sum not to exceed Four thousand five hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00) be and hereby is appropriated in order to reimburse Professor Hermann Weyl for such expenses as he incurred in moving from Germany to the United States."

"RESOLVED, That Professor P.A.M. Dirac of the University of Cambridge, be invited to the Institute for Advanced Study as visiting professor for the year 1934-1935 at a salary of Ten thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)."

"RESOLVED, That a fund up to the sum of Twenty thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) be and hereby is available for grants-in-aid, this amount to be included in the budget for 1934-1935."

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

"RESOLVED, That a fund up to One thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) be and hereby is available for paying the expenses and honoraria of visiting professors or lecturers to the Institute, this amount to be included in the 1934-1935 budget."

"RESOLVED, That the sum of Ten thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) be included, if necessary, in the budget for 1934-1935 so as to enable the Institute to develop in the direction of theoretical or mathematical physics."

1934

2/19

EINSTEIN, ALBERT
FLEXNER, ABRAHAM
MAASS, HERBERT
WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Flexner to Maass:

"Einstein has had the grippe, and I have kept him indoors by main force. His wife told me over the telephone that he was feeling quite well today. You will be interested to know that he is so happy that he has cancelled his Oxford and Spanish appointments and is now endeavoring to do the same with his appointment at the College de France. He wishes, however, no public mention made of these facts. The truth is that he is happy and tranquil here, that more and more he is associating with others at the Institute, students and professors, and I have the feeling that he begins to realize that I was right when I ventured last summer to suggest that he should concentrate on the Institute. His wife spoke to me the other evening of his not going to Europe at all, spending the summer here in America and buying a house next winter in Princeton. Of course, I did not crow but said in the calmest way, 'That would be very nice.' All this ought to be confidential, for people like Einstein don't like to feel any pressure, even the pressure of approval.

"You have doubtless heard from Mr. Harris that the Equitable Life refused Professor

Weyl's application for insurance. I have discussed the matter with Dr. Alfred Cohn, who persists in his opinion that there is nothing really wrong with Weyl and that the rejection is only in consequence of certain rules, from which the companies know too little to depart. Mr. Harris is now trying the New York Life, and I have taken the matter up with the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America. By the time you return we shall have all the information, and I have the feeling that at that time we should have a meeting of the Executive Committee and in one way or another give Professor Weyl and his wife the assurance which we have given Professor Einstein and Professor Veblen. Certainly no one could have thrown himself more actively in the work of the Institute than Weyl has done. He is extremely active and very happy, as are also his wife and children."

Source: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

1934
BENEFITS

✓ WEYL, MRS.

3/12

Academic Personnel

Biographical

MAass and Leidesdorf appointed a special committee to
investigate pension for Mrs. Weyl.

Executive Committee Minutes

1934

4/11
4/24

BENEFITS

Academic Personnel

✓ WEYL, MRS. HERMANN

Biographical

MAASS, HERBERT H.

Maass to Hardin, April 11 and April 24, 1934.

Two letters analyzing plans for the securing of benefits to Weyl and Mrs. Weyl pursuant to contract and giving the figures.

JNH Correspondence from January, 1934 to December, 1936

1934

4/23

LECTURES

Academic Procedures

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WOI

✓WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

SCHROEDINGER

Dr. Flexner reported in part:

".... The two additional persons who have come within the sphere of the Institute's activities since that time have unconsciously and immediately fallen in with the happiness and attitude previously characteristic of the group. These are Professor Weyl, who had joined the staff of the Institute itself shortly before our last meeting, and Professor Schroedinger, who came from Oxford to spend four or five weeks on the invitation of Princeton University. Professor Weyl announced a course of lectures on an advanced topic, which had hitherto not been presented in Princeton. His lectures began at 9:30 Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week. He has told me with great surprise that his auditors include all the professors and associate professors of both the Institute and the University groups, thus indicating an attitude towards learning on the part of the professors which is far from usual. In addition, he has had in his audience all the workers of the Institute group and many advanced students from Princeton University, making a total of some fifty or sixty hearers. I asked him how many hearers he had had in the hey-day of his activities

at Göttingen. He replied, 'Never more than thirty or thirty-five.' The number and the ability of the students of mathematics and the attitude of the faculties of the two institutions may be gathered from this one incident.

"Professor Schroedinger, a Nobel Prize winner in 1933, was Professor of Theoretical Physics in the University of Berlin when Hitler came into power. Though both he and his wife are of Christian or of so-called 'Aryan' lineage, he gave up his professorship at once as a protest against Hitler's anti-Semitic and anti-liberal activities. Thereupon he was promptly offered a professorship at the University of Oxford, which he accepted. He had, however, previously agreed to come to Princeton University for a visit this year. His opinion of the situation in Princeton in mathematical physics, as expressed to me in private conversation recently, coincides with that which I have received from other sources. While he is technically a member of the Princeton University faculty, he has had quite as much contact with our own faculty and workers as with the Princeton faculty and advanced students. Professor Einstein and all the other members of our staff attended his regular seminars. One morning I had to see Professor Einstein on an urgent matter. It was one of the few bright, warm mornings which we had had up to that time. I knocked at Professor Einstein's door and heard his genial, 'Herein - come in.' When I entered, I found Professor Einstein and Professor Schroedinger in their shirt-sleeves at the black-board, engaged in an animated discussion, which, of course, I was totally unable to comprehend. This is a general illustration of the kind of co-operation which is taking place in Fine Hall. Though the time during which we have been in operation is brief, there has not been a ripple to disturb the smooth surface of intellectual and spiritual co-operation and activity."

1934

4/25

BENEFITS

Academic Personnel

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Maass to Flechner:

Mr. Maass writes that since the insurance policy upon the life of Mrs. Weyl is about perfected, a new contract with Professor Weyl should be made. He suggests:

"In the minutes of the Executive Committee of September 6th, 1933, there appears the basis of Professor Weyl's employment, which provides for a salary of \$15,000 a year, of which he is to contribute five per cent. to the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America, the Institute contributing an equal sum monthly; that unless his term of appointment is prolonged by mutual consent, he retire at sixty-five years of age on the allowance of \$8,000.00 per annum, part of which will be paid by the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association and the rest to be made up by the Institute; that he be granted an allowance of \$1,500.00 a year to enable him to purchase such insurance as he may choose.

"This will now have to be amended to provide ^{that} that he is to receive his salary of \$15,000 per year and an allowance of \$8,000 on retirement, and an annuity of \$5,000 per annum to Mrs. Weyl in the event of his death prior to sixty-five; and he is to relieve the Institute of the obligation to pay \$1,500.00 a year towards insurance."

Source: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

1935-41

WORLD WAR II

✓WEYL, HERMANN

Government Relations

Biographical

Weyl handled and dispensed the funds of the German Mathematical Relief Fund supported by contributions of those forced out of Germany by Nazism and in America.

W - German Mathematical Relief Fund

1935

10/7

STIPENDS

Academic Personnel

PUBLICATIONS GENERAL

Publications

MEMBERS

Academic Personnel

ASSISTANTS

Biographical

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

FLEXNER, A.

PAULI

Interchange letters Weyl and Flexner on administrative matters in School of Mathematics--stipends, salary of assistants, secretarial help, etc. Flexner called a meeting of the Mathematics group.

D, Weyl, 1933-45

1937

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

NOETHER, FRITZ

Weyl assisted Fritz Noether's son, _____, in an endeavor to trace the fate of the father of Emmy and _____, who had taken refuge in Russia at the time of the Nazi discrimination against Jews, and who, it was known, had been arrested ~~at~~ while at the Research Institute for Mathematics and Mechanics in Tonsk, Siberia, during the purge of 1937. His two sons, Emmy's nephews, were forced to leave Soviet Russia at the time. "Practically nothing of Fritz Noether's fate is known after his arrest late in 1937. The only news came from a physicist who also was arrested in Russia about that time, and ~~who~~ happened to share a prison cell with Fritz in the Butyrka Prison in Moscow in December, 1939. Fritz had been sentenced to 25 years in prison on some silly confession of espionage to which he had been forced under torture. The supposition is that the Russian government turned Noether over to the Gestapo along with many of the German refugees who had fled Germany in 1933~~3~~, and the presumption is that the Gestapo liquidated Noether as it did many of the others. Although an advertisement was inserted in the British magazine, Nature, no response apparently was ever heard."

Correspondence, Hermann Weyl files

1938

2/24

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

VEHLER, CONRAD

EINSTEIN, ALBERT

FLANNERY, ARTHUR

VON NEUMANN, JOHN

✓ WEYL, HERMANN W E Y L

MOORE, HASTON

Academic Organization

Biographical

Flannery speaks of how the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and the Rockefeller Foundation and the General Education Board combined their efforts in the recognition of medical education at Johns Hopkins Medical School. "President Gilman's task therefore was the choice of his leader and advisor and having chosen his President Gilman kept his hands off...

"We have in this incident which I was fortunate enough to witness...the key to what has happened in the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. After two years, during which I consulted leading mathematicians in this country and Europe, I selected Professor Veidler to play the part which Dr. Veidler had played in Baltimore. It was Professor Veidler aided to no slight extent by his colleagues at Princeton, Dean Blackhart, who selected the others. I had never heard of any one of them except Professor Einstein, who as a matter of fact preceded Professor Veidler, though he was not active until after Professor Veidler's appointment. In quick succession the Board appointed on my recommendation Professor

Alexander, Professor van Neumann, Professor Weyl, and Professor Morse, but as a matter of fact my recommendation was nothing but a repetition of the recommendation of Professor Veblen and his associates in the Institute and in Princeton University...."

Tr. Min. - 2/24/38 - p. 2-3

1936

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.

1939

1/23

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Terms of appointment 9/6/33 amended to eliminate provision for \$1500 for insurance in light of other arrangements made.

Trustees' Minutes, 1/23/39, p. 16

1939

6/27

6/30

BUDGET

Finance

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Weyl to Flexner, June 27, 1939.

The letter concerns allocation of space in Fuld Hall to mathematicians. Number of members admitted to the School of Mathematics for next year, 1939-40, amounts to 13, not including the assistants. "In no previous year did the number fall below twenty-two. This alone should prove that there will be no difficulty in finding comfortable working room for all."

"You will have noticed that after the heavy reduction of our budget we were unable to grant more than two stipends... to men of non-professorial status. Fortunately two young candidates whom we had to turn down will be sent to the Institute with fellowships from their universities...I think

it would have been very unwise to reject them. We all feel the scarcity of younger men to be a serious handicap to our work. Methods in mathematics are changing so rapidly that we need the stimulus and enthusiasm of young men as much as they need our advice and experience..."

Flexner to Weyl, June 30, 1939.

"Thank you for your kind letter of June 27. I am sorry--extremely sorry--that the number of grants for next year has had to be reduced. We could only have avoided this by a reduction of salaries, and to this I will never consent."

D File, Weyl, Hermann, 1933-1945

1940

2/18

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

FLEXNER, ABRAHAM

Flexner to Weyl:

"The other day Professor Panofsky, as representative of the Institute Faculty, brought me a beautiful volume which had once belonged to President Gilman and which the Johns Hopkins Trustees had given our group that it might belong to me - 'The first Director from the first Faculty'. None of you can fathom the depths to which I am stirred by this touching and beautiful act. To President Gilman I owe more than anyone but myself can ever know; to you and your colleagues, as well as to the Founders of the Institute, I owe the opportunity to see a dream realized. And you are one of those who have helped to achieve this miracle. Need I, can I, say more? You must imagine for yourself the deep pleasure which this remembrance gives me and the gratitude I feel to those ~~in~~ who have taken my dream, now a reality, into their keeping."

W/ File FA

1941

1/13

LIBRARY

Facilities

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Weyl to Aydelotte, January 13, 1941

"I wish you would have a look at the new contraption in our Library. Let the trustees try it out themselves and climb to the platform of the ladder with a load of books! Quite seriously, I think it actually dangerous: to get at some books on the upper shelves you have to place the ladder across the side entrance, and if somebody comes in absorbed in thought and knocks against it, he can easily shake you down from your lofty stand. I hope we shall have to put up with this monster for a short time only, and that Larson's reasonable plans for closing three of the entrances and putting up stacks between the tables will soon be realized."

D, Library, 1931-1945

1941

1946

MATHEMATICS

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

AHLFORS, L. V.

8/1

9/13

1/11

Academic Activities

Biographical

For correspondence between Ahlfors and Weyl, and about Ahlfors by Weyl, see memorandum filed in Chronological file under 1941, 8/1. (Also filed under the two References, Mathematics and Ahlfors).

W (Weyl) File A

1942

3/17

BENEFITS

Academic Personnel

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Farrier to Aydelotte:

"In connection with our conversation this morning, I have a letter in my files, dated May 9, 1934 from which the following are excerpts:

...the Institute purchased a refund annuity on the life of Mrs. Weyl, on which it will have a guaranteed income of \$3,774.36 per year during Mrs. Weyl's lifetime. On her death at any time there will be refunded to the Institute so much of the annuity as has not been exhausted...

...the Institute procured two policies of ordinary life insurance of \$75,000 each on the life of Mrs. Weyl...and on the death of Mrs. Weyl at any time the Institute will collect \$150,000 insurance.

"From this outline it would appear that neither Professor Weyl nor Mrs. Weyl have any interest in these contracts, although the arrangement, as I recall, was for the purpose of providing a pension for Mrs. Weyl in the event of his husband's death, and was to take the place of \$1500 additional annual compensation originally voted Prof. Weyl."

Source: D Farrier, Walter H.

1942

5/1

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

WEYL

Academic Personnel

Biographical

Weyl appointed first Librarian of IAS.

Faculty Minutes, 5/1/42

1943

6/8

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organisation

EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

✓ WEYL, H.

VON NEUMANN

SIEGEL

Report on work appendix, pp. 1-3. Weyl's discovery--
Von Neumann's Theory of Games.

Trustees' Minutes, 6/8/43

1943

7/21

BENEFITS

Academic Personnel

✓WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

AYDELOTTE, F.

Weyl to Aydelotte.

Thanks him for ret. letter July 12 and expresses hope that no time should lapse between ret. of one man and taking of office by his successor.

A 10/18/56 Committee Pensions Exec. Committee and Board Minutes,
File No. 55.

1943

7/21

BENEFITS

Academic Personnel

GENERAL

Academic Personnel

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

AYDELOTTE, F.

Weyl (in Estes Park, Colorado) to Aydelotte, July 21, 1943.

He thanks Aydelotte for confirmation of previous agreements about his retirement, and states his dates and figures are correct. (Aydelotte's letter is not in the file).

"I deeply appreciate the kind words which you add, concerning continuation of my work in Fuld Hall even after retirement. Hella and I have not yet given serious thought to what we plan to do when this time has been reached. The present state of the world is not so as to encourage any planning so far ahead. But I warn you that I may very well make use of your kind offer! You know that I consider it the greatest stroke of luck in my life to have been associated with the Institute, and you may be certain that my interest

in its activities will never cease, whether I still participate in them or not.

"The fact that retired members of the faculty will be provided with facilities to continue work in Fuld Hall should under no circumstances prevent the Trustees from appointing successors, scholars in the prime of life and research who will keep the flame burning. Of course, I think in the first place of our School of Mathematics. If at all possible, there should be no gap in time between retirement of one member and assuming of office of his successor. I do not forget the financial side nor the difficulties involved in finding the right man (vacancy of a chair for a limited period is better than to fill it with a second rate candidate). But I feel, every reasonable effort should be made to avoid a break in the chain. This seems to me a point of such importance that, out of concern for the future of the Institute, I could not help mentioning it on this occasion."

W (Weyl) File A₁₁

1944

3/21

FLEXNER, ABRAHAM

Biographical

WEYL, HERMANN

Excerpt from letter from Flexner to Weyl:

"When I went to Baltimore in 1884, I had had a poor high school training. The course was supposed to require three or four years of work on the part of well prepared students. I had conditions in Latin, Greek, and mathematics, and I wished to make Latin and Greek my main subjects. I removed my conditions/~~and~~ was graduated in two years, winning a scholarship in the graduate school. Several of my classmates also were graduated in two years. In other words, Gilman gave earnestness and ability an opportunity such as is given nowhere in the United States today, as far as I know. In the Hopkins of that day undergraduate students did 'hard solitary work'. If I were the head of an American college, I would go back to the conditions which prevailed in Baltimore in my time. I certainly would not admit any student who could not win an A.B. degree in three years, and I would encourage competent students to do it just as quickly as they possibly could. In 1906, I published my first book called 'The American College' which was a devastating criticism of what was going on then and is still going on throughout the country. I do not believe that any university president at that time was interested in the book. The one person who was interested was Dr. Fritchett, president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and with nothing to go on but that book he asked me to make a study of medical schools. The rest of the story you doubtless know."

WFile FA

1944

3/27

WORLD WAR II

Government Relations

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

HILBERT, DAVID

FLEXNER, A.

KARLE, E. M.

FLEXNER TO WEYL, March 27, 1944.

Offers criticisms based upon English useage in the draft of the article on Hilbert.

Then he comments on some part of the article which said "...the same thing happened at Princeton during the first years of the Institute for Advanced Study." Flexner says it also happened in Baltimore in Gilman's time and in the Johns Hopkins Medical School and in the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. "I believe that most people would say that the Institute in Princeton has been adversely affected by the war and to some extent this is undoubtedly true, but I do not

believe and I have never believed that the Institute or any other institution of learning need to have suffered as disastrously as they have all suffered. The blame rests not only upon the government, but also upon the heads and the professors who have been swept off their feet by emotion and excitement. Some time ago Morse sent me a paper which he read to a mathematical association. In this he said, 'My associate, Professor Earle, who is an authority on military strategy, etc.' I wrote to him in reply cautioning him against regarding the Institute faculty as a sort of mutual admiration society and pointed out to him that Earle was not and in the very nature of things could not possibly be a leading authority on military affairs; but of course Earle is not the only person who has lost his head."

Flexner then went on to say that the war will soon be over, and every country will have to rehabilitate its institutions of learning. Where can their young men be sent? Mainly to America. How many will be ready to accept them? How many have preserved their vision of scholarly work. Nonetheless, he does not fail to take account of the fact that

everyone in this country was in duty bound to sacrifice
to help win the war.

W HEN-

1944

3/31

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

✓WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

FLEXNER, ABRAHAM

"Dear Doctor Flexner:

"Thank you ever so much for all the pains you took in correcting the English of my little article on Hilbert. I have adopted your suggestions in most places though not in every instance. Of course you have a much better ear for the cadence of an English sentence. But maybe my artistic temperament is slightly different from yours, and that demands its rights in spite of my linguistic handicaps!...

"With respect to the future of the Institute I am not too pessimistic. Once the necessary means for salaries and stipends are available and the young mathematicians have returned from service and war jobs, I do not see why our School of Mathematics should not continue to prosper as a center of mathematical research as vigorously, or almost as vigorously, as during the first happy years,--I add 'almost' because we are all ten years older now! But younger men will come to the fore to carry on the tradition. This question of successorship will become acute for theoretical physics with the imminent retirement of Professor Einstein. In my opinion the one thing which could seriously injure the

Institute (provided the finances are in good order) is a policy which would no longer place high scholarship of its staff and members above all other considerations.

"With best greetings,

Sincerely yours,

Hermann Weyl"

W/ File AF

1944

4/6

BENEFITS

WEILER, CONRAD

WINTNER, ALBERT

FLANNERY, ABRAHAM

✓WEIL, HERMANN

Academic Personnel

Biographical

Part of letter from Flannery to Weyl:

"I should feel less pessimistic about the Institute if the two mathematicians who have reached or are soon to reach retirement age had shown themselves less selfish. Of course, you are all ten years older than you were at the beginning, but if men act selfishly in respect to retirement, especially those who at 65 are assured of a pension of \$8,000 a year, (which is not really a pension but a salary,) younger men cannot be appointed. Had these two men retired, some younger men could have been appointed to 'carry on the tradition', but no younger men have been brought into the Institute and younger men of high scholarship, like de Tilly, remain where they were.

"At the Rockefeller Institute the age of retirement had been fixed at 70, but, when the war broke out and there was danger that income would decrease, the age of retirement was fixed at 65. The Rockefeller Institute is as active as it ever was, and young men and women are still to be found among the workers, while the regular staff, consisting largely of men beyond the military age, have all stuck to their jobs and have not gone

into amateur work for which they had no particular fitness.

"We must make a fight in the academic world because after the war we shall have not only to be adequate to the needs of our own young men but to be in position to train the persons whose duty it will be to revive learning in the old world. If any university head is thinking seriously of that, I do not know who he is."

W File 47

1944

4/19

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

COHN, ALFRED E.

Cohn to Weyl.

He is advising Weyl on his asthematic 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

5/2

EMIGRES

Academic Personnel

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

DOUGGAN, STEPHEN

Weyl to Duggan, Chairman, Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Scholars, May 2, 1944.

He has heard that the Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Scholars is about to disband and liquidate its affairs in the near future. He concedes that this is understandable, because most of the refugee scholars who have come to America have been absorbed into the American Educational system, and it appears that the Nazi and Fascist terror which created the problem of the refugee scholar "will soon be wiped off the face of the earth." But it seems to him the work of the Emergency Committee is not yet fully done, and it should not quit the ~~xxxxxxx~~ scene too early.

He points out that adequate provision has not been made for older refugees who are about to reach the age limit for retirement. He mentions a few names in his own field:

Jacques Hadamard, Erich Marx, Felix Bernstein, Max Dehn, Fritz Reiche--for whom the question is acute "right now." For many more it will become acute in a few years. What arrangements can be made for them? Weyl is afraid that unless some financially powerful American organization offers a general and radical solution, this problem will become interwoven with the appalling problem of settling the account with the future German Government for all the violations of property and property rights perpetrated by the Nazis. Indeed, most of the refugee scholars who came from Germany have legal claims for salaries or pensions which they did not give up when they left the old country, and which even the Nazis have recognized to a certain extent.

"Moreover,
~~XFurthmann~~, the day of demobilization may reveal that the absorption of the refugee scholar into his new homeland has been less final than we had hoped." He forecasts plenty of problems in the next two years in which the help, advice, and information available through the Emergency Committee would be of the utmost value.

Duggan to Weyl, May 12, 1944.

He was interested to receive the letter, and considers it important enough to bring it to the attention of his Executive Committee at their next meeting. "We on the Subcommittee on Applications feel that there is a great deal of spade work to be done first, particularly with our own grantees."

W (Weyl) File D1-

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 ^{Weyl} Cohn to write an essay on ^{this} ~~the~~ subject ~~of~~ because he makes such a new and valuable point on the problems.

W (Weyl) File Co

1944

7/4

MATHEMATICS

Academic Activities

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

HARDY, SIR WILLIAM

SIEGEL, C.

Weyl to R. H. Fowler of Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, England. On question of a successor to Sir William Hardy in Chair of Sodlerain, Chair of Pure Mathematics.

Speaks of Max Newman as one of more distinguished of the "numerous topologists (of which Princeton is a branding place)." And of others. *breeding*

But suggests name of C. L. Siegel as "of same caliber as Hardy, at the height of his productive power; an extraordinary personality and a sovereign teacher. Strength is as characteristic of him as Hardy... he is one of the few who in our days really increase the substance of mathematics." A German opposed to

Hitler who, though he left Germany in 1935 but returned to Frankfurt to support his Jewish friends and colleagues there. Escaped through Norway "by the skin of his teeth" in 1940. Resigned his professorship in Göttingen and has since been a temporary member of I. A. S. But he does not fit into the American scene...

W Po-

1944

7/29

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Hermann Weyl, Estes Park, Colorado, to Sir Arthur Eddington, Observatory, Cambridge, England, July 29, 1944.

"Fowler did not ask me about Besicovitch. He is an excellent analyst, but you would not find anything like unanimity over here about his being more brilliant than the other two. I am inclined to think that Hall surpasses him in originality. Mordell's total work carries more weight than that of either of them, in my opinion. He is still pretty active and quite recently published some beautiful results in Diophantine problems. He inspires young men by his enthusiasm. But he is much older than Hall, and, mathematics in the first place being a matter of imagination rather than experience and therefore more amenable to the young, I feel this fact ought not to be disregarded. I should find it very hard to come to a decision between Mordell and Hall; if it were a question of giving a man of great merits his due reward, I should cast my vote for Mordell, if it is the future alone that counts, probably for Hall. Either of the two men would be a very good choice.

W File, "E"

1944

11/28
12/4

FLEXNER, ABRAHAM

Biographical

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Excerpt of letter from Flexner to Weyl, 11/28/44:

"I have a young friend in the service who is collecting autographs. I have your autograph and also Einstein's, but no others from the Institute, as far as I know. I should like an autograph of every member of the Institute faculty. I wonder whether Miss Blake could be asked to collect them and send them to me."

Miss Blake to Flexner, 12/4/44:

"Here are the autographs you asked for in your letter of Professor Weyl November 28. Professor Mitrany of course is out of my reach. Professor Meritt says if you will send him the address and number of your Service friend he will be glad to write him a letter."

W File AF

1944

12/12

BIRKHOFF, GEORGE D.

Biographical

/ WEYL, HERMANN

Weyl to Prof. Julian L. Coolidge, Cambridge, Mass.:

"Birkhoff's sudden departure came as a great shock to all the mathematicians in this country, and to us his many friends. I have the profoundest admiration for his mathematical work, but I am afraid physics was Birkhoff's Achilles' heel. It seems to me he never fully grasped to what extent physics, through the enormous strides ~~which have~~ ~~been made~~ it has taken during the last forty odd years, has moved away from all possibility of interpretation in terms of classical mechanics. It is humanly understandable that a man whose greatest achievements were in the field of dynamics should cling to such classical and hydrodynamical conceptions as that of a perfect fluid in the construction of atomic models. But what would have been a reasonable approach at the time of Lord Kelvin, has long ceased to be so. I believe that the decisions of history on such questions are decisive, inexorable and irreversible. Birkhoff's recent theory of gravitation has a certain appeal by its closeness to familiar classical schemes, and therefore it is comparatively easy to work out its mathematical consequences. But as far as I can see, there is no reason whatsoever for the belief that it affords an adequate description of the phenomenon of gravitation. Thus I cannot help feeling that the less said about it the better. I know that this opinion is shared by the other men here in the Institute-- Veblen, von Neumann, Einstein, Wolfgang Pauli -- who are in one way or other experts in

relativity theory.

"But maybe if I am the last person you should have asked. It so happened, unfortunately, that during the last weeks I was engaged in a controversy with Birkhoff on these very same problems. I am sending you under separate cover two reprints which may indicate to you to what extent I am prejudiced!

"In my view it hardly detracts from Birkhoff's greatness as a mathematician that he wasn't particularly successful in physics. More or less the same happened to Hilbert, and I frankly said so in my account of his work,--although Hilbert undoubtedly penetrated much more deeply into the realm of physics than Birkhoff ever did."

W File - Co.

1945

February-March

BIRKHOFF

Biographical

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

See correspondence 1945, February to March between Garrett Birkhoff, son of George D. Birkhoff of the Harvard Department of Mathematics, and Hermann Weyl in which Birkhoff virtually assaults Weyl on method of handling a matter of corrections in the Mathematical Journal, and note Weyl's ease and temperance and broad gauge guage treatment of the episode in setting the young man straight.

Weyl was a member of the Birkhoff Memorial Finance Committee which was arranging for the financing and the publication of ϕ three of George D. Birkhoff's books.

George D. Birkhoff's last letter to Weyl was November 1, 1944. A letter from Marjorie G. Birkhoff (Mrs. George) dated March 1, 1945, acknowledges Hermann Weyl's and his wife's sympathetic letter to Mrs. Birkhoff on the occasion of the death of George D.

Correspondence in the file before this reveals that Birkhoff and Weyl were at loggerheads on a theory of Birkhoff's on a perfection of the theory of relativity, prior to his death. The correspondence on this point ~~runs~~ runs from ~~about~~ August, 1944 until November, 1944.

W (Weyl) File Bch

1945

2/7

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

SIEGEL

PAULI

WEYL

MOE, HENRY

Moe to Aydelotte.

"Dr. Veblen yesterday told me that Dr. Weyl's statements about
Doctors Siegel and Pauli were of such elegance that I ought to see them.
If it be proper, would you please, at your convenience, send them to me."

D File, Henry Allen Moe

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-

1945

5/12

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

General

Relations WOI

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

DRESDEN, ARNOLD

Dresden to Weyl, May 12, 1945.

He sends him a final version of a report of a conference between eight mathematicians, including Dresden and Weyl on the need for better ~~xxxxx~~ preparation in all levels of education for the demands of the post-war period to bring about changes in the mathematical educational procedure which have been long overdue. There is only a carbon copy of this report. It is in the file and should be consulted.

"Mathematics plays a fundamental role in our civilization. It sets the standard of objective truth for all intellectual endeavors; science and technology bear witness to its practical usefulness. Like language and music it is one of the primary manifestations of the free creative power

of the human mind, and it is the universal organ for world-understanding through theoretical construction. Mathematics must therefore remain an essential element of the knowledge and abilities which we have to teach, of the culture we have to transmit to the next generation. Only he who knows what mathematics is and what its function in our present civilization is, can give sound advice for the improvement of our mathematical teaching."

The report proceeds to a discussion of the evils which were discussed in the conference which seem to lie primarily in the teachers, their preparation, their development as human beings and as mathematicians, and the aids they use in their instruction, chiefly the textbooks:

(1) The teachers are recruited from the normal schools and from schools of education, "which unfortunately too often disregard the fact that only those should teach a subject who know thoroughly the field to which the subject belongs."

(2) The method of appointment of teachers of mathematics leaves much to be desired. There is a lack of standards of

scientific and cultural preparation. Local school boards are not capable of pursuing the considerations needed for proper selection.

(3) The domination of the textbook field by the commercial interests of publishers and of authors; the dominance of tradition in curriculum. It is suggested that somewhere there should be inserted an elementary course in number theory, from which many young students would derive greater satisfaction than from the traditional course in trigonometry.

(4) The lack of scientific discipline in the schools, the acceptance by teachers of slovenly work and slovenly thinking is detrimental to education. "A main task of the teacher is to help his pupil cross the bridge from the idea to its technical execution. "

(5) Lack of continuity between highschool work and work in college, both with regard to the content of the courses and to the points of view, is manifest. There

is also an overemphasis of control by examinations and grades over the college student which deprives him of the chance to catch "the fire of inspiration when he is intellectually receptive for it."

(6) The work expected of candidates for the Ph. D. frequently fails to provide for the broad mathematical training and the cultural background which are necessary for a college teacher of mathematics.

(7) The absence of provisions for adequate adult education in mathematics is deplorable. This need is enhanced when one considers the return of veterans.

The constructive aspects of the discussion were listed as follows:

(1) Careful planning and writing of textbooks in mathematics for elementary schools, high schools and colleges by competent persons. It would be desirable to have a commission appointed to make a careful study of this question.

(2) A competent commission should be established to examine textbooks carefully as they are published. The books as published should be reviewed and rated by such a commission. "The methods used by Consumers Research could be studied to advantage.

(3) The establishment of a Fellowship in the Association (analogous to Fellowships in the Actuarial Society,) should be granted to applicants, particularly the younger members of the profession, either on the basis of examinations by the Association or on the basis of conspicuous achievement as a teacher, would help to set up high standards for teachers of mathematics in the schools. It would be necessary that a commission study the possibilities in this direction, exploring the likelihood of obtaining cooperation from the secondary schools, both private and public, and from teachers, actual and prospective.

(4) Graduate schools should recognize the training of college teachers as one of their major responsibilities. The needs of such persons should be clarified. It is not necessary

that they should go through the "painful process" of writing a research dissertation. Perhaps a new degree should be established, or the requirements for existing degrees should be modified perhaps. Prospective college teachers should attain a higher level of mathematical understanding than is now the case, and they should be encouraged (as a minimum of attainment) to preserve such a level throughout their professional life. "The development of every science, not excluding mathematics, is determined by ideas, attitudes, valuations, which do not become explicit in the system of science itself, while the results of our scientific labors in their turn react on and modify the repertory of ideas and convictions which rule the active conduct of our lives. A teacher of mathematics is in greater need than a research mathematician of keeping his mind open to this give-and-take between systematic science and the whole of our human existence."

(5) Adult education in mathematics should be provided for individuals beyond college age who want to do work of college character. Such groups would include high school

teachers who wish to prepare for a fellowship qualification and college teachers who want to retain their literacy and extend their knowledge in mathematics.

(6) More attention should be paid to the historical and philosophical background of mathematics. In the detailed study of the various fields, the historical development should take an important place. "The contributions which mathematics can and should make to culture should be made clear to the student of the subject." The teachers of mathematics should not be narrow in their knowledge.

The committee expresses the hope that commissions may be appointed to study the matters presented in this report. They go on to say:

"In some respects the evils from which our profession suffers present much analogy with those which existed in the medical profession forty years ago. It would probably be worth while for some of these commissions to study the procedures used by Dr. Abraham Flexner in his studies of medical education which led to far-reaching reforms in this field.

"It would also be useful to become acquainted with measures taken in foreign countries, particularly in England and Russia, for the betterment of mathematical education."

Signing the report were: H. W. Brinkmann, Richard Courant, Arnold Dresden, J. R. Kline, E. J. Miles, Oystein Ore, Hans Rademacher, and Hermann Weyl.

Weyl to Dresden, March 13, 1945.

He very tactfully makes a couple of suggestions:

"I do not fully agree with you when you say in the preamble that the significance of mathematics for educational purpose depends to a large extent upon the degree to which it is made to contribute to human culture. Even Ortega puts the training of the professionalists and the search for truth side by side with the transmission of culture."

He also suggests that in Section III, Paragraph 4,

a sharper line should be drawn between the teacher of mathematics and the research mathematician.

"In Paragraph 6 of Section III, I should like to see the second and third sentences canceled. I cannot see the contributions of mathematics to culture as a subject for 'careful study' in a normal mathematical curriculum, and we should not stress history too much. Mathematics itself and its problems must remain the hard core of any such curriculum."

He goes on to say, "We do not claim for mathematics the prerogative of a Queen of Science; there are other fields which are of the same or even higher importance in education. But mathematics sets the standard of objective truth for all intellectual endeavors; science and technology bear witness to its practical usefulness. Besides language and music it is one of the primary manifestations of the free creative power of the human mind, and it is the universal organ for world-understanding through theoretical construction. Mathematics must therefore remain an essential element of the knowledge and abilities which we have to teach, of the culture

we have to transmit, to the next generation. Only he who knows what mathematics is and what its function in our present civilisation, can give sound advice for the improvement of our mathematical teaching."

"Too little emphasis is laid on the understanding of simple ideas, too much on the mechanical performance of complicated techniques...

"Since the various subjects offered in an all-round educational program are interrelated, and our culture itself is not composed of a number of isolated pieces, it is hardly a sound procedure to let the student, especially at the high school level, pick his courses according to his own shims; take a little Latin and then drop it, etc. A large amount of compulsory continuity and coordination is desirable.

"On the other hand our system of spoon-feeding and perpetual control by papers and exams, gives the college student too little freedom for ever catching the fire of

inspiration from a superior teacher at the time when the intellect is ripe for freedom. (Later is too late.)"

And, again, he says, "Synthesis, concentration and consolidation of knowledge, rather than expansion of knowledge, seem to be their specific function. Since science is man made, the development of every science, not excluding mathematics, is determined by ideas, attitudes, valuations, which do not become explicit in the system of science itself, while the results of our scientific labors in their turn react on and modify the repertory of ideas and convictions which rule the active conduct of our lives. A teacher of mathematics is in greater need than research mathematician of keeping his mind open to this give-and-take between systematic science and the whole of our human existence.

"The question whether a new degree should be established, or whether the requirements for existing degrees should be modified, remains open for discussion."

W (Weyl) File D1-

1945

10/24

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS (OFFICES)

LEFSCHETZ

✓ WEYL

Relations WDAI

Facilities

Biographical

Weyl reported that Lefschetz offered the Institute beginning November 1 the use of the room heretofore occupied by Dean Eisenhart: the largest of the offices in Fine Hall and one of the best. The Faculty expressed appreciation, and it was decided that the room would be put at the use of the professors of the Institute.

Minutes, School of Mathematics, 10/24/45

1945

11/25 10/25

✓WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Dr. Edgar Dehn, Department of Mathematics, Columbia University, to Dr. George A. Works, Director, National Roster of Scientific Personnel, Washington, D. C.

"I had hoped that more competent men than myself would take up the matter I want to discuss, but they don't seem interested. And if my letter is not addressed right, I hope you will forward it to the proper office.

"Some time ago, German scientists began arriving here 'on a more or less voluntary basis,' as the newspapers put it. The Russians in their zone just 'kidnap' them. And since the agent sent to Germany by our government frankly said on his return that German talent should be shipped here as war loot, The Russian case and ours would seem to be pretty much the same.

"Taken in conjunction with the belief of our government and our people that international law is what we say it is (moreover it is retroactive and applies only when we want it to apply), all this would seem to indicate that the life .

of a scientist has been reduced to slavery, the status of science now is that of a government prostitute, and there is no haven of refuge for science anywhere on earth.

"In view of the vicious turn which human affairs have taken, I should be most reluctant to publish any important discovery I might make, or to disclose it otherwise. And I should like very much to have an answer to two questions.

1. "Can you compel me to disclose a discovery? In which case I may be careful not to make one. Or can you even compel me to pursue such work and punish me if I don't discover something?
2. "If I don't want to disclose a discovery, but don't want to take it to my grave either, can I deposit it, sealed, with some Swiss institution until such time when the chaos clears a little into which we have plunged the world, and when we again have an administration in whose integrity we can trust?

"These questions are not hypothetical, and I am most
anxious to have an answer."

W File , E

1946

4/5

ENIGMES

Academic Personnel

WORLD WAR II

Government Relations

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Weyl to Professor Reinhold Baer, Champaign, Illinois.

He has forgotten about an emigré's letter, Löwig, which he kept for a long time. "I had forgotten entirely about it, but I am afraid the reason for the forgetfulness was the discreditable reaction that one gets tired of this endless stream of persecuted people whom one ought to help and doesn't know how to help..."

"My recent action on behalf of Reidemeister was highly successful, but there were also one or two protests. I feel that the purpose for which the Mathematicians' Relief Fund was founded is now fulfilled, and that the contributors who formerly were unanimous about the application of the fund will in the future diverge in their opinions as to who should be helped. I therefore feel that the time has come to close the books of

of this organization. I recently discussed the matter with Courant and he held the same view. If you consent I shall move in my next circular to dissolve the Fund. In this country even a man like Sternberg is now provided for, and I should therefore suggest spending the balance for Jacobsthal and Kuhn in Sweden, who I know need it badly."

W (Weyl) File Ba

1946

4/22

GENERAL

Educational Institutions

WEYL, HERMANN

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 dare the cause of our procrastination, but rather the opposite: what can one say much 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 precedent-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 on 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',"

1946

10/15

ACADEMIA SINICA (GENERAL)

Relations WOAI

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Hermann Weyl to Aydelotte, October 15, 1946.

The plan for the trip to China, including one term in Peiping and one term in Nanking, and to help them start work at the newly created Institute of Mathematics of that Academy. His reason for going: "To help in establishing close and friendly relations between this country and China, and more particularly between the new Chinese research Institute of Mathematics and our School of Mathematics, appears to me a task of some significance. Were this not so, I should not easily be persuaded to interrupt my quiet life and work in Princeton."

W (Weyl) File A_M

✓WEYL, HERMANN
COURANT, RICHARD
VEBLEN, 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 Hofmannstal's 'Tor und Tod'
Aus Untreu macht kein guter Wille Treu ---

"Hoping to see you soon,"

W File Cou

1947

2/12

ACADEMIA

ACADEMIA SINICA (GENERAL)

Relations WOA I

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Weyl to Aydelotte, February 12, 1947.

"This is to notify you that I have declined the invitation to China for the year 1947-48. That automatically cancels my application for leave of absence for that year.

"I wish to take this opportunity to thank you and the Trustees for the generous terms on which they were willing to grant me leave of absence for my visit to China."

On November 8, 1946, Aydelotte to Weyl.

Informs him of the action of the Board of Trustees on proposed year in China; namely, he will be on full salary with the Institute and all money received by him from the Academia Sinica in excess of his expenses will be turned over to the Institute. "We all of us hate the idea of having you away for a year but realize that your presence in China would do a great deal to spread the influence of the Institute."

W (Weyl) File AM

1947

2/14

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

EINSTEIN, A.

Weyl to Alfred Knopf, Jr., 501 Madison Avenue, New York City, February 14, 1947.

"It was very kind of you to send me a copy of Philipp Frank's biography of Einstein. The book has an authentic ring, which is no surprise to me since Frank is a close friend of Einstein's and thoroughly familiar with the European milieu, especially Switzerland and Prague where Einstein spent most of his life. Frank is also a good theoretical physicist in his own right and, like Einstein, interested in the philosophical aspects of science. ~~It~~ I spoke to Einstein about the book and he thinks it is well done, indeed the only competent thing that has been written about his life. But Einstein himself is opposed to all biography on the grounds of principle, because, as he says, one cannot creep into another man's skin. I understand from him that he knows you, so that no introduction seems necessary if you want to speak to him about the book. But of course it is out of the question that any opinion of his about the book

be made public. It would be bad taste for a man to say something about his own biography."

W (Weyl) File E

1947

3/3

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

VEBLEN, O.

FRANCK, JOS.

See Weyl's correspondence regarding invitation of Smend
to rejoin Göttingen Academy. Wants to know why he was dropped
from it. Who's doing whom a favor?

W - Fo

1947

3/28

GENERAL (ACADEMIA SINICA)

Relations WOAI

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Weyl to Leidesdorf.

Academia Sinica had invited Weyl to lecture in various Chinese universities next academic year. Because of wife's ill health and unsettled conditions in China, he asks Leidesdorf to take custody of \$10,000 in American money advanced by Academia Sinica for his expenses. He does not want to keep it in his personal account "for the reason that, in the remote possibility of something happening to me it might be difficult to see that this money was used in the proper way or disposed of according to the wishes of Academia Sinica."

In a letter to Prof. A. Pen-Tung Sah, Secretary-General, Academia Sinica, he says his doctor has vetoed his going on grounds of his own health. The correspondence speaks freely of unsettled conditions in China. (Weyl to Sah, 2/12/47, Ibid.)

W File, A

1947

10/16

AYDELOTTE, F.

Biographical

✓WEYL, HERMANN

Weyl's letter on Aydelotte's retirement.

Filed in Chronological File under 1947, 10/16.

A, Confidential Files, 3/7/57

1947

10/19

POLICIES

Administration

AYDELOTTE, P.

Biographical

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Aydelotte's response to Weyl's letter of October 16.
Says that he saw from the beginning there were two qualities
necessary for his success in creative work: intellectual
freedom and financial stability. "Freedom is more than rules,
it is an atmosphere."

FA Confidential Files, March 7, 1957

1947

10/19

AYDELOTTE, F.

Biographical

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Aydelotte to Weyl, October 19, 1947.

"I appreciate more than I can say your wonderful letter of October 16. It gives me the deepest satisfaction to realize how well you understand the kind of things I have tried to do for the Institute. I can only hope that I have succeeded as well as you generously indicate.

"The greatest reward of my Directorship has been the courageous and understanding loyalty of the members of the faculty. I saw from the beginning that two conditions were necessary to success in the creative work of the first quality at which we were aiming: intellectual freedom and financial stability. Freedom is more than rules; it is an atmosphere. I have tried to create that atmosphere at the Institute, and the things which you and other members of the faculty have said to me encourage me to hope that I have succeeded.

"It is fifteen years since we first met at Dahlem and drove out to dine with Einstein to discuss the organization of the Institute. Since then many things have happened. Of all those events, I hope that the intellectual and spiritual foundations we have together laid for the Institute will not in the end prove to be the least important.

"I am glad that I am going to continue on in Fuld Hall and have the opportunity of preserving my friendly relations with the Faculty. At the same time, I must confess to a certain relief in the prospect of being able to devote all my energies to other activities in which I am interested. Marie and I came up here in order to have the opportunity of seeing what freedom tastes like and I must say it tastes good."^H

W (Weyl) File // A_M

1948

5/6

MATHEMATICS

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

AITKEN, A. C. (Mathematical Institute
Edinburgh)

Academic Activities

Biographia 1

Aitken to Weyl, May 6, 1948.

"I feel impelled to write to you to express, what I felt many times before, the sense of stimulus and exhilaration I always receive from your book The Classical Groups. It is constantly on my table, and I am accustomed to open it anywhere and to read on with profit and pleasure. In spite of its necessary compression, which in several places is rather excessive, I find it an entirely human book and a work of literature. One of the very great dangers of modern mathematics is, I always felt, that the writers may rattle the skeletons of logic in the Valley of Dry Bones. Logomachies and nothing more!"

July 27, 1948, Weyl to Aitkin:

"How kind of you to take the time to write me such a charming little note about my Classical Groups. My English being what it is, it makes me blush a bit to hear that book called a work of literature. I fully agree with you in what you say about the dangers of modern mathematics, and I have tried as best I could through my teaching to fight the sawdust of dry logic. I came to algebra at a comparatively late stage of my mathematical life; all the more reason for me to feel proud of having won the approval of an algebraist of your experience and acumen..."

W (Weyl) File A

1948

9/5

✓ WEYL, HELEN

Biographical

Died September 5, 1948.

W File, E. L.

1948

9/9

✓WEYL, HELENE

Biographical

"In Memoriam Helene Weyl."

Filed in Vertical File under "W" for Weyl.

1948

~~9/4/8~~ 9/9

WEYL, HERMAN

Biographical

In memoriam of Helene Weyl.

Filed in Vertical File under Weyl, Hermann, "W".

A File, Hermann Weyl

1948

9/26

✓ WEYL, MRS. HERMAN (HELLA)

Biographical

Letter from Achim Weyl to Aydelotte, September 26, 1948.

"This is the copy of Hella's biography which I promised you at the time of the gathering in her memory at Princeton.

"I am afraid that black on white it sounds even drier than it did when spoken; but it is factual and she would have wanted it no different. The sparkle she would have given to the tale of her life had she written it herself, the memory of her will supply, undimmed by time."

(Mrs. Helene Joseph Weyl died September 5, 1949 in Princeton at their home, 270 Mercer Street

A File, Hermann Weyl

1948

12/17

GENERAL

Academic Organization

CHEMIS

Biographical

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Cherniss to Weyl, December 17, 1948.

He informs Weyl that next term there will be a seminar on the Politics of Aristotle meeting on Fridays in February, March, and April. "Such a subject is probably far from the interests of mathematicians, who in any case may have no time to give to such matters; but I want you to know that, if you or any of the members of the School of Mathematics are interested in participating, I shall be most happy to have them and you join the group. The work will be planned primarily for advanced students of Greek, but I am inviting the participation of persons who without Greek are specially equipped in philosophy, history, or politics."

W (Weyl) File, BBE Che-

1949

3/10

GENERAL

Academic Procedures

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

GILBERT, FELIX

Weyl to Gilbert, March 10, 1949

Offers to converse with him about an offer Gilbert has evidently received to come to the Institute on a permanent basis from the History Department at Bryn Mawr College. "...I think I can well understand that the decision will not be an easy one for you. I won't try to sway your decision one way or the other; but whenever you would like to discuss the whole matter with me as friend to friend, I should be delighted to see you.

"When I was offered a position at the Institute early in 1932 there was of course the additional complication that the political fate of Germany still hung in the balance, and that acceptance meant emigration. But the issue teaching vs. research also weighed heavily upon me. Here of course the

whole question, what the Institute is or ought to be, comes in too. I really should like to discuss these things with you before you finally make up your mind."

(Earle informed Weyl, February 25, 1949, Ibid. that the School of Economics and Politics and the School of Humanistic Studies were nominating Gilbert to permanent membership. The matter was coming up before the next Faculty meeting. (February 25, 1949))

1949

12/9

NOETHER, EMMY

Biographical

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

For correspondence about nephews of Emmy Noether,
Gottfried and Hermann, see letters J. Billikopf and Weyl.

W File, Beh

1950

4/6

BENEFITS

Academic Personnel

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Weyl to Oppenheimer, April 6, 1950, re: pension upon retirement: amount in relation to benefit to be received by his second wife after his death. (Hella died September 5, 1948. He remarried January 7, 1950, Mrs. Ellen Baer, nee Lohnstein, of Swiss nationality, born April 17, 1902.

He should like to receive \$8,000 annuity during the time he lives. He suggests a supplementary pension provision by the Institute for his present wife.

This, on April 24, 1950, is refused by Oppenheimer on behalf of the Board and the Budget Committee.

D File, Weyl, Hermann, 1933-1945

1950

4/7

BENEFITS

Academic Personnel

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

VEBLER, O.

STEWART, W. W.

Oppenheimer to Leidesdorf, April 7, 1950, regarding retirement questions of Veblen and Stewart and annuity for Weyl.

Letter filed in Chronological file under 1950, 4/7.

D, Leidesdorf, 1946

1950

4/21

BENEFITS

Academic Personnel

WEYL, MRS. II

Biographical

STEWART, W. W .

The Board refused Professor Weyl's request for pension rights for his second wife should he predecease her, and Stewart asked for an increase in his pension. Both denied.

Trustees' Minutes, April 21, 1950

1951

1/4

/WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Weyl to Professof A. E. Meder, Treasurer, American Mathematical Society, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, January 4, 1951.

He pays his dues for the year 1951 to the American Mathematical Socceity, and announces that he is paying his dues as a Contributing Member for this year, "but since I shall retire at the end of the first hafl of this year and plan to move to Switzerland for good, I should like to reduce my dues for the subsequent years to that of Ordinary Membership."

W (Weyl) File AM

1951

5/4

BENEFITS (AGE)

Academic Personnel

✓ WEYL, H.

Biographical

Board approved faculty recommendation Weyl should continue
1 semester a year for next three years: sum \$4,000 additional
to pension. This in view of resignation of Alexander & Siegel.

D, Notices Drafts & Minutes

1951

5/4

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Professor Weyl retired, but on request of his associates the Board authorized his continuing one semester a year for the next three years at \$4,000 per year in addition to his pension.

Trustees' Minutes, 5/4/51, p. 3

1951

5/18

GENERAL (AMERICAN JOURNAL)

Publications

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Weyl to Professor Aurel Wintner, American Journal of
Mathematics at Johns Hopkins University.

He announces that he is taking up his home in Zürich,
having retired from the Institute; although the Institute
wants him to come back for one term during the next three
years. "But even so, I feel that this is the appropriate
moment for me to resign from the editorship of the American
Journal. What I could do now for the Journal would be only
a shadow of what I did during the years 1931-1941-1945. At
that time I really acted as a little bit like a preceptor
of the younger generation of American mathematicians. I am
sorry that I did not fulfill my promise to come to Johns
Hopkins before leaving Europe for Europe. I have done a
number of things during this year, the fruits of which will
become visible in the course of time, but I did not find
the leisure to concentrate on special mathematical problems.
This may change again when I come to rest in Zürich."

W (Weyl) File, Beh

1953

3/3

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Memo in file indicating components of a complete
biographical sketch of Weyl.

W For Filing

1953

10/31

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Hermann Weyl, 27 Bergstrasse, Zurich, Switzerland, to
Dean A. Vibert Douglas, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario,
Canada, October 31, 1953.

"Time flows by - if not in the universe, then at least
in our lives. But I still remember vividly my visit to
McGill many years ago when the Hendels still were there.

"To your questions I can not very well answer in the
form of notes which you could reproduce in your life of
Eddington. For it is now more than 20 years that I ceased
to follow the development of theoretical physics and the
various speculative attempts at establishing a unified field
theory.

"Nevertheless in 1950 I was prevailed upon to give at
the first post-war meeting of the Gesellschaft deutscher
Naturforscher a survey entitled '50 Jahre Relativitätstheorie',
of which you will receive a reprint by surface mail. I have
marked the places where I disavow (and in a certain sense correct)
my old theory of 1918, and where I speak of Eddington's affine

field theory. (I had done so before, in the same vein, but a little more explicitly, in the Rouse Ball Lecture given by me under Eddington's eyes in Cambridge in 1930. At that time I had the privilege of being Eddington's guest in the Cambridge Observatory. A German version of the lecture was printed in *Die Naturwissenschaften*, 19, 1931, 49-58; unfortunately I have no reprint of that paper.)

"Eddington was, as everybody knows, the driving force in organizing the observations of the deflection of light by the sun's gravitational field during the total eclipse of May 1919, the first empirical test of an effect predicted by Einstein's general relativity theory. As to Eddington's own creative contributions to the theory, I would say that they consist chiefly of two things: first his idea of an affine field theory just mentioned, and then his later attempts to explain by epistemological reasons the pure numbers that seem to enter into the constitution of the universe, viz. the fine structure constant 137 and the ratio electric: gravitational radius of the electron, of the order of magnitude 10^{40} (this latter in connection with the number of ~~akna~~ elementary particles present in the world).

"His first contribution certainly has borne fruit. Einstein himself took it up when he formulated an action principle for such a theory (which Eddington, I believe erroneously, had thought unnecessary). The later speculative part of his work, which is closely bound up with his whole 'idealistic' philosophy of science, has been received by most theoretical physicists with considerable scepticism. Whittaker, however, and Schrödinger were an exception. For myself I must confess that I have never tried to understand it.

"From the end of my talk on 50 years of relativity you will gather that I am also quite sceptical about Einstein's most recent unitary field theory. I am pretty sure that the last word on the nature of gravitation is not yet spoken, and I am inclined to believe that it lies in a direction quite different from Eddington's and Einstein's last ideas. The riddle may have to wait a long time for its solution.

"I hope you will not mind if I add a personal reminiscence about my last encounter with Eddington, although the circumstances had something extraordinary only for me and not for him. In August 1933 the International Astronomical

Society (or Union?) held its meeting in Göttingen, and I, who after the ousting of Courant, Max Born and many others by the Nazis had become director of Göttingen's Mathematical Institute, where most of the meetings took place, had to play the role of host to the Society. I was at that time preparing my flight from Germany, since I could not stand life under the Nazi regime, still uncertain, though, where I would find a refuge, in Spain or in the States. Eddington attended the meeting. On an excursion to the Weser river we shared, alone, the same railroad compartment, and there I confided to him my secret plans. Immediately after the close of the meeting I left for South Tyrol, and after my wife and children had followed me, I sent in my resignation from Switzerland. I will never forget that in those anxious days, at this decisive turn of my life, I had for a brief hour the comfort of Eddington's company, quiet understanding and encouragement."

W File, "E"

1954

4/24

BENEFITS

Academic Personnel

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

OPPENHEIMER, R.

Oppenheimer to Weyl.

He has recommended to the Trustees extension through the academic year 1954-5 the present arrangements whereby the Institute makes available to Weyl a grant of \$4,000 to facilitate his coming to the Institute for several months during that year. The Institutes were delighted to make the arrangement.

(The extension was of a three year stipend granted by the Board as specified Oppenheimer to Weyl, May 18, 1951, *ibid.*)

D File, Weyl, Hermann, 1946-

1955

4/18

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

EINSTEIN, A.

It is Weyl's appreciation of Einstein at the time of his death, and shows an address to Tom Costigan, CBS-TV. (Check to see whether Weyl delivered this).

"With Albert Einstein one of the greatest scientists of all time passed away. His special theory of relativity deeply modified our views of space and time, in a manner that not only affected our philosophical concept of the universe but also the most concrete theories of physics as for instance the theory of atomic spectra. Everybody knows of what significance his relativistic formula connecting mass and energy has been for the development of nuclear physics. Combination of a sober sense for reality with a speculative approach to principles and ideas is typical for Einstein's scientific genius. He was singularly free from prejudices, in science as well as human affairs; simple and direct were his thoughts, simple and kind was his soul.

"While other scientists were busy to swallow his new

insight into the relative nature of simultaneity he himself passed on from special to general relativity, according to which gravitation is most intimately associated with the geometric properties of the universe. But also in quantum theory, especially the quantum theory of he did some of the spade work, which showed Planck's energy quanta had a higher claim to reality than the physicists had first thought. In later years he was occupied with developing a unified field theory covering both the gravitational area & the electromagnetic forces in nature. He made quite a number of attempts in this direction. After he had conceived a new idea it took him years to work out its mathematical consequences to the point where it was possible to compare the theory with experience, and had he been anxious at the beginning to show you the merits of the new idea, he was no less anxious to tell you at the end that and why the idea had failed. If anybody had earned the right to work out a fundamental problem and ignore the more detailed and day by day problems of physics, it was Einstein. We do not yet know whether his last attempt failed or succeeded; no doubt in time this question will be decided. At the moment physical science seems to be confronted with more immediate tasks.

I have known Einstein since 1913 when we both taught at the Institute of Technology in Zürich, Switzerland. I had the closest contact with him immediately after the First World War when I myself worked in relativity theory and made the first attempt of a unified field theory. He was not satisfied with it and his objections ultimately proved right. But this controversy with him is one of the nicest experiences of my life; he was both kindness and frankness in one.

In 1949 he wrote an autobiography for ~~XXIX~~ Vol. VII of the Library of Living Philosophers edited by Paul Arthur Schilpp, which I recommend to all who want to get some first-hand information about the man Einstein. The first sentence of it reads as follows: 'Here I sit in order to write, at the age of 67, something like my own obituary.' Later on, after explaining one of the ideas that had moved him in his scientific life he says: 'Is this supposed to be an obituary?' The astonished reader will likely ask. I would like to reply: essentially, yes. For the essential in the being of 'man of my type lies precisely

0MXWJatX

in what he thinks and how he thinks, not in what he does or suffers.' In conclusion let me quote a more from ~~this~~ autobiography which contains his scientific credo as in a nutshell: 'It is an error to assume that facts by themselves can and should yield scientific knowledge without free conceptual construction.'"

W (Weyl) File E

10/31

GENERAL

FOREIGN

SITE (Buildings & Grounds)

FOUNDERS

GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

GENERAL

REPORTS

FLEXNER, A.

STEIN

MAASS, HERBERT

VEELEN, OSWALD

OPPENHEIMER, ROBERT

GOTTMANN, JEAN

LEIDESDORF, SAMUEL D.

ELLIOT, T. S.

TOYNBEE, ARNOLD

LEVY, DAVID M.

BIRKHOFF, D.

EICKELSER

✓WEYL, HERMAN

Academic Personnel

Facilities

Corporation

Facilities

Relations W O A I

Academic Organization

Corporation

Biographical

(See FLEXNER, A., Biographical - Interview of 10/31/55)

1933

11/4

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

See file for message sent by Oppenheimer from
Faculty on Weyl's 70th birthday.

D File, Weyl, Hermann, 1946-

1955

11/7
11/8

SALARIES

Academic Personnel

GENERAL

Academic Organisation

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WOI

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organisation

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

BIRCHOFF, GEORGE D.

BAMBERGER, LEWIS

BERNSTEIN, A.

✓WEYL, HERMANN

Interviews with Prof. Oswald Veblen, 11/7/55, and 11/8/55.

Filed in Vertical File under Interviews.

Interviews with Prof. Veblen 11/7/55, and 11/8/55.

11/27
12/6

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Weyl's last letters to I. A. S.

Filed in Chronological File under 1955, 11/27.

D File, Weyl, Hermann, 1946

1955

12/6

✓WEYL, Hermann

Biographical

Resume of Weyl's life, public works

Filed in Chrono. file under 1955, 12/6

Source: D Weyl, Hermann

12/9

✓WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Date of his death in Zurich.

A File, Hermann Weyl

1955

12/21

MOE, HENRY ALLEN

Biographical

✓WEYL

Interview with Henry Allen Moe, December 21, 1955.

Filed in Vertical File under Interviews.

Interview with Mr. Henry Allen Moe, 12/21/55

1956

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STRAUS, ERNST G.

Biographical

EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Interview with Dr. Ernst G. Straus, April 3, 1956.

Filed in Vertical File under Straus Interviews.

Interview with Ernst G. Straus, 4/3/56

1956

6/21

PRINCETON (8, 9, 10)

HARVARD (1)

MATHEMATICS (2, 7, 14)

E. C. P. (5, 6)

APPOINTMENTS (2, 3, 4, 5)

SALARIES (3)

FACULTY (10, 11)

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS (5, 9, 14, 15)

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES (14)

JOHNS HOPKINS (7, 8)

DIRECTOR (10, 11)

TRUSTEES (11)

RESEARCH (13)

MORSE (1, 5, 8, 10)

BIRKHOFF (1, 4)

WHITNEY (2)

STEWART (2, 3)

FLEXNER (3, 7, 8)

GODEL (3, 5)

MAYER, WALTHER (3)

SIEGEL (5)

BIGELOW (5, 6)

ELIOT, T. S. (7)

STRAUSS (10)

EARLE (10)

BOREL (15)

Relations WOI

Academic Activities

Academic Personnel

Academic Organization

Educational Institutions

Administration

Corporation

Academic Procedures

Biographical

VEBLEN (1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 13)

DODDS (2)

WARREN (2, 3)

VON NEUMANN (3, 5, 6)

PLAZCEK (3)

WIENER, NORBERT (4, 6)

✓ WEYL (5, 8)

EINSTEIN (6, 8, 11, 12, 16)

VINER (9, 10)

AYDELOTTE (10, 11)

OPPENHEIMER (15)

Morse Interview
6/21/56.

Filed in
Vertical File
Under Morse
Interviews.

1956

6/27

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Academic Personnel

MEMBERS

MATHEMATICS

Academic Activities

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

DIRECTOR

Administration

✓ WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

BIRKHOFF, GEORGE

FLEXNER, A.

ALEXANDER, JAMES W.

Interview with James W. Alexander, June 27, 1956.

Filed in Vertical File under Alexander Interviews.

Interview with Alexander, 6/27/56

1956

7/9

GENERAL

MATHEMATICS

POLICIES

MEMBERS

NEUGEBAUER

COURANT

✓ WEYL

EINSTEIN

GÖDEL

SCHRÖDINGER

VEBLEN, O.

Educational Institutions

Academic Activities

Administration

Academic Personnel

Biographical

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

1956

12/10

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

SALARIES

BENEFITS

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

ROCKEFELLER (C. E. B.)

VEBLEN, O.

FLEXNER, A.

EINSTEIN

EISENHART

WEYL

LEFSCHETZ

ALEXANDER

Relations WOA

Academic Organization

Academic Personnel

Foundations

Biographical

Luncheon conversation with Oswald Veblen, 12/10/56.
Filed in Vertical File under Veblen Interviews

1957

3/5

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

DUKAS

EINSTEIN (AND MRS. EINSTEIN)

FLEXNER, A.

MAYER, WALTER

✓ WEYL, H.

HILB

Academic Personnel

Biographical

Interview with Miss Dukas, March 5, 1957;

Filed in Vertical File under Dukas Interviews.