

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

66TH STREET AND AVENUE A
NEW YORK

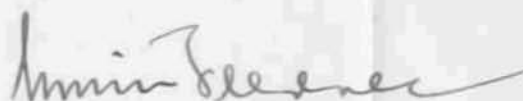
October 16, 1923.

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have received your excellent letter of October 11 and shall endeavor to make good use of its contents. Should I have anything to communicate in connection with the extension of the Fellowship Board of the National Research Council to include mathematics, I will write you again promptly.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Oswald Veblen,
Dept. of Mathematics,
Princeton University,
Princeton, N.J.

V-4

COPY

October 24th, 1923

Dr. Simon Flexner,
Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research,
66th Street and Avenue A,
New York City, New York.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

In considering the proposal to enlarge the scope of the fellowships in Physics and Chemistry so as to include Mathematics, I should think it desirable to have clearly in mind the close inter-dependence of all the sciences. It is well-known, of course, how Medicine constantly uses the results of Physics and Chemistry, and how, in return, the problems arising from Medicine stimulate research in Physics and Chemistry. The relation between Mathematics on the one hand and Physics and Chemistry on the other, is of precisely this sort. It has frequently happened that an attempt to solve a physical problem has resulted in the creation of a new branch of mathematics. A classical example of this is in the theory of the conduction of heat. When this problem had been stated in mathematical terms, it was found that the mathematics then in existence was inadequate to solve it, and new mathematical machinery had to be devised. The resulting studies by Fourier and others not only gave to Physics the theorems and formulas it required, but also led to new mathematical developments which have affected most of the branches of mathematical analysis.

Another example of the hand-in-hand development of Mathematics and Physics is the history of the theory of electric waves which resulted both in the electromagnetic equation of Maxwell and in the experiments of Hertz and the other inventors of wireless telegraphy.

In the modern case of the Einstein Theory, the relation between Mathematics and Physics has been more one-sided. Einstein's work is a contribution to Physics in which Mathematics is used as a tool. It happened that the necessary mathematics was already in existence, having been worked out by Riemann, Christoffel and others some fifty years before. This left Einstein free to apply his genius to the physical and philosophical problem, using the mathematics whenever it was needed. He had he been under the necessity of creating the mathematical tools which he used in his gravitation theory, it is more than probable that this theory would have been long delayed and possibly never completed. Indeed it may be added that without the pioneer work of the creators of non-Euclidean geometry, the frame of mind in which Einstein approached his problem would not have been possible.

Dr. Simon Flexner

-2-

October 24th, 1923

The rôle of mathematics in the Quantum Theory is quite similar to its rôle in the Kinsteⁿ Theory. In particular, Bohr's Quantum Theory of Atomic Structure is based on a very profound study of the calculus of variation theorems in classical dynamics. To realize this it is only necessary to attempt to read Bohr's Memoir of 1918 in the Proceedings of the Danish Academy. The problem of atomic structure is, of course, still far from a complete solution and no one knows whether the mathematics of today is adequate to such a solution or not. If not, the development of Physics at this point can come about only through an advance in Mathematics.

I have said nothing about the direct relations between Mathematics and Chemistry because these are more distant from my personal experience. However, I have no doubt that any chemist will think at once of the work of Willard Gibbs, or not of more recent examples.

The question might be asked: "Why should not a separate Board be created to look after fellowships in Mathematics"? In the interest of Mathematics, I think it is very desirable that fellowships in this science should be administered by a Board which contains both physicists and chemists, because this will tend to keep closer contact and will have the effect of stimulating interest on the part of mathematics in problems of physics and chemistry. This sort of a broadening of the interests of the mathematicians in this country is very desirable at the present time.

I hope this letter will cover the points which you desired me to write about, but if not, I shall be glad to write you further. And of course I shall be glad to do anything else which you ~~may~~ think would be of use in helping to obtain an appropriation for these fellowships.

Yours sincerely,

O. v. -r.

(Signed)

Oswald veblen.

January 25th, 1924

Dr. Simon Flexner,
Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research,
66th Street and Avenue A,
New York City, New York.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I enclose the letter which Bliss sent me in reply to my inquiry whether he would be willing to serve on the Fellowship Board. You will see that he is somewhat doubtful about being able to attend all the meetings and you may therefore feel that it would be better to get someone who can promise to attend all of them.

My own impression is that Bliss speaks as cautiously as he does because he is very averse to making promises which he is not sure that he can live up to. He has a very strong sense of responsibility.

I favor appointing him on the Board with the understanding that he will certainly attend the two principal meetings in April and in the autumn, and that he will attend as many of the others as he can. I realize, however, that my experience on the Board is very limited and I desire to be guided by your judgment. Will you be so kind as to give me your opinion?

Yours sincerely,

O.V. -F.

Oswald Veblen.

C O P Y

February 4, 1924.

Dear Professor Veblen:

Your letter of January 25 has been received. I agree with you that Professor Bliss should be appointed. If he attends the two principal meetings of the year - in the spring in Washington and in the autumn in New York or elsewhere (usually where the National Academy meets) - it will suffice. Doubtless he will find the time to attend other meetings from time to time.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Simon Flexner.

Prof. Oswald Veblen
National Research Council
Fellowship Board
1701 Massachusetts Ave.,
Washington, D. C.

F V-4

February 23rd, 1934

Dr. Simon Flexner,
Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research,
66th Street and Avenue A,
New York City, New York.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

In your capacity as a mathematician you will perhaps be interested in a few observations of a general nature which I am venturing to send you. I have already submitted essentially the same ideas to Dr. Kellogg and he seemed to think it might be worth while to try to spread them about a little. But I have decided before going further to seek your advice.

My experience this year has made me rather acutely conscious of the fact that the needs of mathematical research have not yet been brought to the attention of those whose position enables them to have a view of the strategy of Science. This, I think, is chiefly the fault of the mathematicians themselves, who have too easily assumed that an outside world which cannot understand the details of their work is not interested in its success. That such an idea is erroneous has been well illustrated by the generous action of the Rockefeller Foundation in providing funds for Research Fellowships in Mathematics of the same type as for Physics and Chemistry. This was done immediately, and apparently as a matter of course, when the need for such fellowships was pointed out. This experience, as well as much evidence of a less tangible sort, of the friendly interest in mathematics, leads me to hope that it may be worth while to draw attention to the fact that we are now in a situation where another very important step of a similar sort may be taken.

Mathematical research is done almost entirely by university and college teachers. A mathematics department in an American university has to deal with an enormous mass of freshmen, a very large number of sophomores, and with extremely small numbers of juniors, seniors and graduate students. The situation is entirely different from that of a European University, which has to deal only with the last class of students. The subjects taught to freshmen and sophomores are taken up in the Lycée's and Gymnasias. Under our conditions, the men responsible for the conduct of a Mathematics department are obliged to give their primary attention to providing instruction for the freshmen and sophomores. This obligation is due not merely to the number of men who have to be dealt with but also to the intrinsic importance of such instruction.

Dr. Simon Flexner

-2-

February 23rd, 1924

Nevertheless there has been a great development of mathematical research in this country. Twenty or thirty years ago there were very few men doing such research and they were receiving very little consideration from the Universities. Now they are very much in demand. A man with good mathematical gifts and normal personal qualities has little trouble in obtaining as good a position as is available under our system. But when he obtains it he has a teaching schedule of from nine to fifteen hours a week as compared with three hours a week for his colleague in the Collège de France, for example. Moreover, he becomes tremendously interested in this teaching; he sees the manifold ways in which it could be improved, and he plays his part in the committees and other administrative devices for doing the obvious tasks of the university.

He was preferred to other men when appointed, because of his scientific distinction. But just because he has a sense of responsibility and reacts in a normal way to his environment, it is only a small fraction of his energy that goes into research. The university authorities never know the difference and give him his rightful share of respect as a loyal member of the community.

So we have arrived at the stage where we recognize ability in scientific research as a basis for university appointments but not as a primary occupation for the appointees. This statement is not strictly true in sciences like Physics and Chemistry for the universities which have great laboratories usually recognize the absurdity of maintaining such plants without a respectable output of research. It is brilliantly untrue in Astronomy. But in Mathematics it is true almost without an exception.

The way to make another step forward is obvious. Indeed it has already been partially recognized by the Rockefeller Foundation in establishing a series of Fellowships in various sciences which afford opportunities for research to men of promise at the outset of their careers. What remains to do is to find a way of assuring the continuance of their research to men who have already proven their ability. This is already provided for, to a certain extent, in the laboratories of the experimental sciences, but, as already indicated, there is no provision for Mathematics. To provide it, there are at least two ways which would be justified by the actual amount of mathematical talent in the country.

The first of these would be to found and endow a Mathematical Institute. The physical equipment of such an institute would be very simple; a library, a few offices, and lecture rooms, and a small amount of apparatus such as computing machines. There should also be provision on a small scale for stenographers and computers. But the main funds of such an institute should be used for the salaries of men or women whose business is mathematical research. These people should, however, be provided with the equivalent of the routine work which is always present in laboratory sciences. Such work could consist, for example, in editing a mathematical periodical or in preparing a new edition of the Encyclopedia of Mathematics. The latter enterprise would be a very large one but would be tremendously

Dr. Simon Flexner

-3-

February 23rd, 1924

important both for pure mathematics and for its applications. The members of the Institute should be expected to give lectures to advanced students in their own fields of research.

Such an institute, in my opinion, could operate successfully either in conjunction with a university or as an entirely separate institution. In either case it would treat mathematical research as a profession. There are plenty of men in the country who have shown that they are capable of living up to such a position. The idea of such an institute is by no means a new or untried one. We have several institutes for research in other sciences in this country and there are several mathematical institutes in Europe.

The second plan which I have in mind is essentially that followed by the Royal Society in the Yarrow Research Professorships. It consists in establishing and endowing a number of research professorships which are awarded to individuals who have shown in their own environments that their impulse to research is a vital one. The appointees are not moved to new places. The only difference brought about is that they are freed from all, or most of, other obligations and thenceforth paid for devoting their energies to research.

In our country it would be advisable actually to limit the amount of teaching or other routine that a research professor is allowed to do. He should not be allowed to give more than two or three lectures a week. Perhaps also he should not be allowed to accept more than a limited number of research students. With such restrictions, I think that one of our philanthropic foundations could carry a number of research professors on its salary roll and be confident that no better use could be made of its funds.

The second plan has the advantage that it could be tried out by gradual steps. The mathematical institute has the advantage that it would provide a definite nucleus for mathematical research and foster cooperation in a field that has been treated in the past in perhaps an unnecessarily individualistic way.

It is obvious that much of what I am saying could be generalized to other sciences. But I am limiting my remarks to Mathematics partly because of my special interest and partly because, as I said in the beginning, the needs of this science have not yet had as much consideration as they should have.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

Prof. Veblen:

Sep. 3

1941

In addition to these two, I have also found now substantially the same subject-matter, slightly revised, in a letter which you wrote to Dr. Abraham Flexner on June 10/24, and that I have given Miss Eichelsafer for Dr. Aydelotte, with a copy of your obituary paper on Dean Fine. Dr. Aydelotte is not expected here until tomorrow, and possibly it would have been more effective to wait to give him these until he had got

through the summer's accumulation.

Abstract

Feb? 1924
V-4

Dear Dr. Kellogg:

My experience this year has made me rather acutely conscious of the fact that the needs of mathematical research have not yet been brought to the attention of those whose position enables them to have a view of the strategy of Science. This, I think, is chiefly the fault of the mathematicians themselves, who have too easily assumed that an outside world which cannot understand the details of their work is not interested in its success. That such an idea is erroneous has been well illustrated by the generous action of the Rockefeller Foundation in providing funds for Research Fellowships in Mathematics of the same type as for Physics and Chemistry. This was done immediately, and apparently as a matter of course, when the need for such fellowships was pointed out. This experience, as well as much evidence of a less tangible sort, of the friendly interest in mathematics, leads me to hope that it may be worth while to draw attention to the fact that we are now in a situation where another very important step of a similar sort may be taken.

A >

It is true that
Mathematical research is done almost entirely by university and college teachers. *But* A mathematics department in an American university has to deal with an enormous mass of freshmen, a very large number of sophomores, and with extremely small numbers of juniors, seniors and graduate students. The situation is entirely different from that of a European University, which has to deal only with the last class of students. The subjects taught to freshmen and sophomores are taken up in the Lycées's and Gymnasias. Under our conditions, the men responsible for the conduct of a Mathematics department are obliged to give their primary attention to providing instruction for the freshmen and sophomores. This obligation is due not merely to the number of men who have to be dealt with but also to the intrinsic importance of such instruction.

Nevertheless there has been a great development of mathematical research in this country. Twenty or thirty years ago there were very few men doing such research and they were receiving very little consideration from the Universities. Now they are very much in demand. A man with good mathematical gifts and normal personal qualities has little trouble in obtaining as good a position as is available under our system. But when he obtains it he has a teaching schedule of from nine to fifteen hours a week as compared with three hours a week for his colleague in the Collège de France, for example. Moreover, he becomes tremendously interested in this teaching; he sees the manifold ways in which it could be improved, and he plays his part in the committees and other administrative devices ~~which~~ ^{for} ~~are trying to do~~ the obvious tasks of the university, ~~in a better way.~~

He was preferred to other men when appointed, because of his scientific distinction. But just because he has a sense of responsibility and reacts in a normal way to his environment, it is only a small fraction of his energy that goes into research. ~~The university authorities never know the difference (it does not show in the number of his publications, only in the quality) and give him his rightful share of respect as a loyal member of the community.~~

So we have arrived at the stage where we recognize ability in scientific research as a basis for university appointments but not as a primary occupation for the appointees. This statement is not strictly true in sciences like Physics and Chemistry, for the universities which have great laboratories usually recognize the absurdity of maintaining such plants without a respectable output of research. It is brilliantly untrue in Astronomy. But in Mathematics it is true almost without an exception.

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awarded to individuals who have shown in their own environments that their impulse to research is a vital one. The appointees are not moved to new places. The only difference brought about is that they are freed from all other obligations and thenceforth paid for devoting their energies to research.

In our country it would be advisable actually to limit the amount of teaching or other routine that a research professor is allowed to do. He should not be allowed to give more than two or three lectures a week. Perhaps also he should not be allowed to accept more than a limited number of research students. With such restrictions, I think that one of our philanthropic foundations could carry a number of research professors on its salary roll and be confident that no better use could be made of its funds.

The second plan has the advantage that it could be tried out by gradual steps. The mathematical institute has the advantage that it would provide a definite nucleus for mathematical research and foster cooperation in a ^{subject} ~~field~~ that has been treated in the past in perhaps an unnecessarily individualistic way.

Yours sincerely,

OV/NER.

Oswald Veblen, Chairman,
Division of Physical Sciences.

2/11/24
I am conscious of course that both plans are capable of being applied in a great many other fields than mathematics but I am suggesting limiting my suggestion to this field because it is one to be concrete and in order to perfectly sure of the accuracy of my statement.

A

that

(A) The step which I propose is a very obvious one which doubtless should be taken in many other fields also. I wish to make the argument only for mathematics, however, for I am sure of my own effects if I ~~by any means limit~~ ~~are not taken~~ ~~in the way~~ ~~of further research~~

The step is simply

by giving ^{a number of} the men who have proved that they
can ~~do~~ ^{handle} a chance to concentrate their ~~work~~
~~on their~~ efforts on ~~the~~ it. A business man
or a European scientist would probably ~~ask~~
at once: ~~Are not~~ ^{really} ~~that~~ the universities ^{not} ~~are~~ already
doing ^{experts in this} in all subjects? The answer would
have to be that ~~there is~~ unfortunately ~~not~~ ^{they are not}
~~doing it~~ — certainly not in mathematics.

The Knot Problem

44. Very closely related to the problem of classifying the three-dimensional manifolds is the problem of classifying the knots in the three-dimensional Euclidean or spherical space. A knot may be defined as a non-singular curve in a Euclidean space which is not isotopic with the boundary of a triangular region and two knots are regarded as of the same type if and only if they are isotopic.

A large number of types of knots have been described by Tait and others and a list of references will be found in the Encyclopaedia article on Analysis Situs. But a more important step towards developing a theory of knots was taken by M. Dehn who introduced the notion of the group of the knot, which is essentially the group of the generalized three-dimensional complex obtained by leaving out the knot from the three-dimensional space. Dehn gave a method for obtaining the group of a knot explicitly and applied it to the construction of the Poincaré space already referred to (63¹ 66). Dehn's work is to be found in his articles in the Math. Ann. in vol. 69 and 71 to which we have already referred and in an article on the two trefoil knots in Vol. 75 (1914) p. 402.

It is obvious that if a three-dimensional Riemann space of k sheets be found which has a given knot as its only branch curve, the invariants (Betti numbers, etc) of this space will be invariant of the given knot. This method of studying the invariants of a knot has been developed by J. W. Alexander in a paper^{read} before the National Academy of Sciences in November 1920, but not yet published.

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

66TH STREET AND AVENUE A
NEW YORK

2/27/24
V-4

February 26, 1924.

Dear Dr. Veblen:

In the absence of Dr. Flexner
from the city, I wish to acknowledge the receipt
of your letter of February 23, which will come
to his attention upon his return, in about two
weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Anna L. von der Osten

Secretary, Dr. Simon Flexner.

Dr. Oswald Veblen,
National Research Council,
1701 Massachusetts Ave.,
Washington, D.C.

3/11/24

V-4

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

66TH STREET AND AVENUE A
NEW YORK

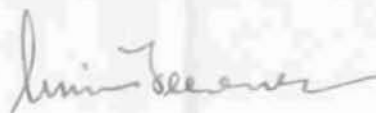
March 11, 1924.

Dear Prof. Veblen:

I am very glad to have your interesting letter of February 23. I am very ignorant regarding the conditions under which Mathematics is pursued in this country. I wish that sometime you might speak with my brother, Mr. Abraham Flexner, of the General Education Board. The subject, aside from my general interest, is as you know wholly outside my field of activity.

With many thanks, I am,

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Oswald Veblen,
National Research Council,
1701 Massachusetts Ave.,
Washington, D. C.

V-4

March 14th, 1934

Dr. Simon Flexner,
Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research,
66th Street and Avenue A,
New York City, New York.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I am very much obliged to you for looking over my letter about the mathematical situation and for the suggestion to take it up with your brother. I am not going to try to make any intensive propaganda for the idea, but I should like before I finish my year on the Research Council, to have called attention to the situation in mathematics in such a way that it may have an effect in the future if not now.

With many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

O.V. -P.

Oswald Veblen.

THE ENGINEERING FOUNDATION
29 WEST THIRTY-NINTH STREET

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Established in 1916 under the Congressional Charter of the
National Academy of Sciences and organized with the cooperation of the
National Scientific and Technical Societies of the United States

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
1701 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

B and 21st N W Washington D C

May 20 1924

Dr. Simon Flexner
Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research
66th St and Avenue A
New York City

My Dear Dr. Flexner:

I am attaching hereto a copy of a letter just recieved from Professor C S Palmer. Professor Palmer was a Fellow in Chemistry, February 1922 to March 1924, and has since been with the Chemistry department of Northwestern University. I do not know whether any action is adviseable at this time, but I am sending a copy of this communication to all the members of the Board who have been present at the meetings when the question of patents was discussed. I shall arrange to put this matter on the agenda for the June meeting and shall take whatever steps in addition that may be suggested by any of the Board members.

Faithfully yours

W E Tisdale
Executive Secretary

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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Received at Lower Pyne Building, Princeton, N. J.

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1929 APR 17 PM 12 24

PROFESSOR OSWALD VEBLEN=

58 BATTLE ROAD PRINCETON NJ=

CARTY THINKS MEETING OF RESEARCH FUND COMMITTEE ON
TWENTIETH IN WASHINGTON IMPROBABLE PLEASE INFORM RUSSELL=
SIMON FLEXNER.

TELEPHONE NO. *858*

TELEPHONED TO *set*

TIME *12:27*

BY *g*

TO BE *made*

ATTEMPTS
TO
DELIVER

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

66TH ST. AND YORK AVE.
NEW YORK

May 20, 1929

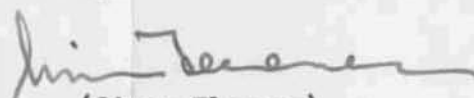
Dear Prof. Veblen:

I have just received a letter from Dr. Miller reporting on the April meeting of the Fellowship Board and the unanimous reelection of Bliss and Compton to the board, as well as the election of Roger Adams to succeed Johnston.

I suppose that this means that the old policy of reelecting members whose terms have expired was not changed. I am wondering whether there was much diversity of sentiment. I am of course pleased that no radical departure from the old order was made without due consideration and at least postponement until this consideration could be given.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Simon Flexner)

Prof. Oswald Veblen,
Princeton University,
Princeton, N.J.

May 23, 1929.

Dr. Simon Flexner,
The Rockefeller Institute for
Medical Research,
66th St. and York Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

My impression is that such diversity of sentiment as there was on the policy of reelecting members whose terms have expired was very mild. Also I think we felt that if any change of policy were to be made it ought to be at a meeting when you were present and when there was time for a more deliberate discussion.

The question of having an Executive Secretary was discussed but nothing was done. I personally feel that it would be desirable to have such a Secretary and that it would be better if possible not to share with one of the other Boards. I would rather share him with the Physical Science Division of the Research Council.

I wish we could see you more often in Princeton.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

October 15, 1929.

Dr. Simon Flexner,
The Rockefeller Institute for
Medical Research,
66th Street and York Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

You will recall that I was very much impressed with the various arrangements in your new library. Also you and the librarian said that you would be willing to have one of our Buildings and Grounds' people visit the library in order to see some of these features. I spoke of this to Mr. MacMillan, the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, and he would like very much to drop in and see the library some day this week, probably on Friday. I don't think he desires to make any special engagement but I thought I had better mention the thing to you in case a visit from him should be inconvenient for any reason.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

66TH STREET AND YORK AVENUE
NEW YORK

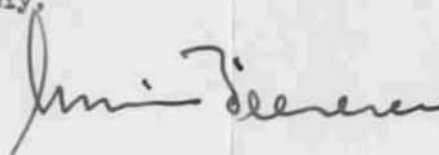
October 16, 1929

Dear Prof. Veblen:

Our Librarian, Miss Trask, will be
very happy to show Mr. Mac Millan over our library.
Please ask him to communicate directly with her by
telephone or letter to arrange a convenient time for
his visit.

Yours sincerely,

Telephone: Rhineland 0900.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to Miss Trask, the Librarian mentioned in the letter. The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name 'Miss Trask'.

Prof. Oswald Veblen,
Princeton University,
Princeton, N.J.

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WESTERN UNION

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Received at Lower Pyne Building, Princeton, N. J.

N126 31=AD NEWYORK NY 15 143P

1929 APR 15 PM 1 59

PROF OSWALD VEBLEN=*58 Battled*

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRINCETON NJ=

COMPTON HAS ASKED ME TO DINE WITH YOU AND TROWBRIDGE TOMORROW
EVENING WOULD IT BE CONVENIENT FOR ME TO SEE YOU BEFORE
DINNER AND IF SO WHERE AND AT WHAT TIME=

SIMON FLEXNER.

*If convenient to you come to my home
at half past five
at six o'clock
66 and 70th Ave*

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

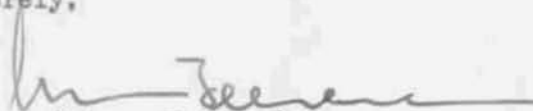
66TH STREET AND YORK AVENUE
NEW YORK

November 14, 1929

Dear Professor Veblen:

The attached copy of a letter from Dr. Vernon Kellogg, under date of November 6, explains itself. The matter will, I assume, in due course come up for consideration before the Fellowship Board in Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics at its January meeting.

Yours sincerely,


(Simon Flexner)

Prof. Oswald Veblen,
Princeton University,
Princeton, N.J.

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
B & 21st Streets,
Washington, D. C.

November 6, 1929.

Doctor Simon Flexner, Chairman,
Research Fellowship Board in
Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics,
Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research,
66th Street and York Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Doctor Flexner:-

Of the American Research Fellows appointed each year by the Council's three Fellowship Boards, about twenty-five are appointed to work abroad. At the same time about twelve or fifteen foreign fellows are appointed annually by the Rockefeller Foundation Fellowships Office in Paris to work in America under the general supervision of the Council's Boards. These twelve or fifteen foreign fellows working in America and the American candidates and appointees to work abroad need more attention and help than do the American fellows working in America. It is not possible, however, to provide fully this special attention under the present administrative arrangements of the Fellowship Boards.

It has been suggested, therefore, that the three Boards unite in obtaining the services (whole or perhaps half time) of a competent man who may act as a special secretary and field agent for the Boards, his duties relating primarily to the relations of the Boards with the foreign fellows working in America and the American candidates for work abroad. He could keep in close helpful touch with the foreign fellows in America by meeting them on arrival and by occasional visits to them; and could aid the Boards in their selection of American fellows to work abroad by becoming personally acquainted with the applicants for appointment for overseas work. Once in Europe the American overseas fellows are looked after by representatives of the Rockefeller Foundation's Fellowships Office in Paris.

Such a field secretary should be a highly intelligent man of broad scientific training, sympathetic attitude, and pleasing and confidence-inspiring address. The fact that he may know physics or chemistry better than biology or medicine, or vice versa, need not impair his usefulness to all three Boards. Payment of his salary and traveling expenses could be shared by the three Boards. (The Medical Fellowship Board might pay a smaller share than the other two Boards, as it has less money and appoints fewer fellows. But the total charge against the administrative funds of any one Board would be small.)

- 2 -

The adoption of the suggestion made above, or in modified form, providing for especial attention to be given the foreign fellows coming to America and the American applicants and appointees for work abroad has the full approval of the Rockefeller Foundation's Paris Fellowships Office and of the Foundation's Director for the Natural Sciences.

Will you not, therefore, take this matter up at the next meeting of your Board for consideration and recommendation to the Executive Board of the Council? It would be advisable, perhaps, for the sake of allowing time for a full consideration of the matter, for you to communicate with the members of your Board some time in advance of the Board meeting. To this end you might send a copy of this present letter, together with a covering letter from you, to each of your Board members.

Very sincerely yours,

Vernon Kellogg (signed)
Permanent Secretary

May 29. 30.

THE UNION MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
BALTIMORE, MD.

Dear Professor Veblen,

You may have noticed
that I was absent - from the Nat. Acad.
of Science meeting and the meeting of
the Fellowship Bd. in Washington.
I had fallen ill just before the
meetings and about 10 days ago
I came to Baltimore under -
went an operation from which
I am now recovering. In another
week or so should return to New
York.

It was ill luck that my wife
was ill in the Rockefeller Hospital

at the same time. Milham came to
Baltimore just a week ago to see with
me at the time of operation and
until 115 serious aspects had passed.

I am sorry I have missed the
Washington meetings for many reasons
& among them the report of one
here made, on the National
Research Fund. I am also inter-
ested in Compton's change of
location and position. I have re-
garded him as a valuable
member of the Fellowship Board
and I am rather hoping there
may be no conflict between
his new official position & his
membership.

With kind regards to you & Mrs. Wright,
Yours sincerely,
Simon Flexner

New York, June 11/30

101 EAST SEVENTY-FOURTH STREET

Dear Prof. Vahlen,

I was very glad to have your kind letter which reached me in Baltimore just a day or two before I returned to New York.

What you say of Compton as a continuing member of the Fellowship Board is very satisfactory. It will be a splendid thing if he can continue to keep in touch with the physical research laboratory while discharging his numerous duties as president of the M. I. T.

I was of course deeply interested and much gratified by what you wrote of the problems just ahead in the field in which William is working with

101 EAST SEVENTY-FOURTH STREET

Mr. Lepschitz:

We will look forward to seeing you and Mrs. Veklen in New Hampshire this summer. We are still on the same hill & in the same cottage at which you visited us once before. If it fits in with your plans we would love to have you all spend the night with us. This would be not only wholly convenient but a great pleasure.

We leave for Chorona on June 16.

Yours very sincerely
H. Flexner

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

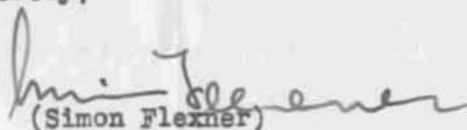
66TH STREET AND YORK AVENUE
NEW YORK

May 7, 1931

Dear Dr. Veblen:

In continuation of our conversation in Washington on the National Academy Research Fund, may I suggest that if you are in New York some time and have an hour to spare, you call me on the telephone at the Rockefeller Institute (Regent 4- 8001)? Confidentially, things begin to look somewhat more favorable, and I should like to discuss in a little more detail the questions we then talked over.

Yours sincerely,


(Simon Flexner)

Dr. Oswald Veblen,
Dept. of Mathematics,
Princeton University,
Princeton, N.J.

May 11, 1931.

Dr. Simon Flexner
The Rockefeller Institute
for Medical Research
66th St. and York Ave.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Thank you for your note of May 7th. I have to be
in New York for a dental appointment on Wednesday morning and
I will call you up to find out if it is convenient for you to
see me on that day.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

OV/af

May 22. 31.

101 EAST SEVENTY-FOURTH STREET

Dear Professor Veblen,

My information about the
research fund, while still unde-
finite, is so much more encour-
aging since our talk the other
day that I am writing to say
that I think it all right to speak
in confidence about it to Dean
Eisenhart as you suggested doing.
Matters seem to be moving quite
fast at the moment and I hope
there may be no pitfalls ahead.

Yours sincerely

Simon Flexner.

Chocoma, N. H., July 6/31.

Dear Professor Veblen,

I was in New York a week ago and found your letter of June 22 there. I was very much interested in the concrete presentation you made. My first impulse was to write you in regard to one or two questions which the letter suggested and then, on reflection, I thought that it would be more satisfactory to me to talk with you so that all sides of the somewhat complicated possibilities might be discussed.

This way of proceeding commended itself to me, I suppose, because we are not so far apart this summer. It

will be quite possible for me to
 motor 157 Brooklyn in connection
 with a small "expedition" I already
 have in mind. Then I thought
 that you might even be motoring
 our way as you sometimes do. It
 would be a pleasure & entirely con-
 venient to put you and your wife
 up. Mrs. Flexner and I would
 greatly enjoy seeing you both.

One or two more things have
 happened about the Research fund.
 I am pretty confident that nothing
 definite will be done immediately.
 But unless difficulties arise about
 which I know nothing, I shall
 expect action of some sort in the
 autumn.

With kind regards to you &
 Mrs. Veblen, I am sincerely,
 Yours truly,
 Simon Flexner

Chocoma, N. H., July 14/31

Dear Prof. Vebien,

Thank you very much
for your kind invitation. I think
it will be possible to stop one
night at the Mountain Ash Inn
if they can take William and
me in. We cannot start on our
trip until about the middle
of August. My wife is still not
strong enough for a long trip
and I do not wish to leave
her alone. But Jimmie will
be with us about Aug. 15 -
and while he is here on his
vacation, William (the chauffeur)

2

and I can get-away safely. He
appreciates your invitation very
much.

I hope that we may be able
at Chocoma in September when
you drive to Princeton so that
we may have a visit from
you and your wife. We have
not yet-discussed returning
dates. Something depends on
the weather and on my wife's
progress. Perhaps by mid August-
this will be settled.

I am very much interested
in your Salsburgh's Cars places &
I hope to hear more about them.

I will write a little later giving
you exact-date for the visit.
Yours Sincerely, Simon Flexner.

Chernia, R. H.,

Aug. 8/31

Dear Prof. Veblen,

You know someone of
the epidemic of poliomyelitis
in Memphis. I have just returned
from Memphis and have already
been down several times at-
tendances of the Department
of Health. I am virtually on
call and may have to go
again any day.

There is no possibility of the
epidemic clearing until the
autumn. I have therefore been
compelled to tie up the pro-
jected motor trip through the
mountains which means that

2

I must drop aside the planned visit to you. I am very sorry.

Perhaps we can meet if I can stay in the Morrisania late enough in September. The developments of the next 2 or 3 weeks will determine this. In any case we can meet in Princeton by October 1st. I shall be sorry to our department and I suppose you will be back by that time. I can easily arrange my visit to suit your convenience.

There is, I think, no likelihood of a meeting of the Research Fund Committee before late October.

Please express McKim's and my regrets to your wife.

Yours sincerely, Simon Flexner.

William was most interested to learn about the completion of your new book as well.

Chocoma, N. H.,

Sept. 1. 31.

Dear Professor Veblen,

I shall be going to
New York after labor day — that
is next-week. Suppose that
you will be getting to Princeton
after the middle of the month.
Once I am settled after the
summer vacation I will re-
mit- touch with you and arrange
to see you in Princeton.

I hope you & your wife have
had a good summer.

Yours sincerely

L. Flexner.

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

66TH STREET AND YORK AVENUE
NEW YORK

June 1, 1936

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am leaving tomorrow for the country, but my address will remain the Rockefeller Institute, as my post will be forwarded. I thought that you and Mrs. Veblen might like to know just what I have done about Mr. and Mrs. Davisson in regard to Elizabeth.

I consulted with Dr. Robert T. Frank, of New York, an authority on the female sex hormone. Indeed, he is one of the pioneer discoverers in the field and a leading gynecologist in New York. I carried to him the reports of the blood and urine examinations made by Dr. Finkler of Newark, and I could tell him the essentials of Elizabeth's menstrual history. The tests conformed with that history and showed nothing which could not have been predicted. Hence he advised their discontinuance. He said that injections of the hormone would not be injurious but would also, in his opinion, not be beneficial. I communicated the results of the consultations to Mr. Davisson.

On the other hand, Dr. Frank strongly advised that a neurologist direct Elizabeth's treatment which could doubtless be carried out by Dr. Cox. I spoke with Dr. Frederick Peterson about Elizabeth and told him something of Mr. Davisson and about their ability to pay only moderate fees. I asked him if he would be willing to speak with Mr. and Mrs. Davisson; he said he would be glad to do so. Dr. Peterson is, in my opinion, one of the best informed and sanest neurologists in New York or the country, and he has made a special study of epilepsy.

I then wrote Mr. Davisson telling him of my conversation with Dr. Peterson and explaining also that he was under no obligation to consult him. I spoke with Mr. Davisson on the telephone this evening and he and Mrs. Davisson have an appointment to see Dr. Peterson tomorrow, June 2.

I could go to Dr. Frank and Dr. Peterson very easily, as in the past I have been able to be of help to them in cases of illness in their own families.

The Davissons can consult Dr. Ward if they so desire. There is nothing in the engagements made to prevent that. I wish

Professor Veblen

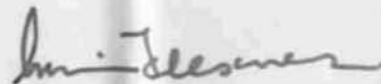
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I could have done more; I believe, however, that they are now on the way to having skilled advice themselves and skilled care for Elizabeth.

I hope that your trip is proving most refreshing and enjoyable.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sim. Flexner", written in a cursive style.

Professor Oswald Veblen
c/o Brown, Shipley & Co.
123 Pall Mall
London, England

Blue Ridge Summit
Pennsylvania

July 6, 1936

Dear Professor Veblen:

I was greatly pleased to have your letter of June 10 telling me of your and Mrs. Veblen's delightful wanderings in England; by this time you are in Norway in some charming valley where you will both enjoy the scenery and you will find the leisure to prepare the paper for the Oslo congress.

Since receiving your letter I have had an encouraging report concerning Elizabeth from Mr. Davisson, which was a great satisfaction. A few days before receiving Mr. Davisson's letter I had written to Dr. Peterson and I know that you and Mrs. Veblen will find the following extract from his reply encouraging.

"There is no discoverable organic disease, so we must classify the case as one of idiopathic epilepsy - a group to which most of these cases belong - in my opinion more favorable for treatment than organic cases in general.

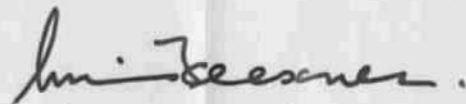
"I have cured so many of these that I am hopeful of a good outcome in this.

"We rely on diet and exercise for half the cure in these patients - and on varying combinations of drugs for the other half."

My wife, Jimmy and I are spending the summer in the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Thomas cottage, built half a century or more ago, in which my wife spent her young girl- and womanhood. It is a lovely region and we are enjoying it very much.

My wife joins me in kindest regards to you and Mrs. Veblen.

Yours sincerely,



(Simon Flexner)

Professor Oswald Veblen
c/o Brown, Shipley and Company
123 Pall Mall
London, England

(OV) S. Flexner

December 2, 1936

Dear Doctor Flexner:

I expect to be in New York tomorrow evening, December 3, in order to go to the Philharmonic Concert with Mrs. Fuld and Mr. Bomberger. If it is convenient for you I should like very much to take advantage of your invitation to call on you, on Thursday afternoon, and talk about Oxford and such matters. Please do not try to answer this letter, because I shall be coming to New York anyway and will call you up on the telephone when I arrive to ask whether it will be convenient for you to see me.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Simon Flexner
530 East 86th Street
New York City
OV:GB

Oswald Veblen

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
150 EAST 72ND STREET
NEW YORK CITY

January 21, 1930

Dear Professor Veblen:

In the paper which you read before the American Mathematical Society you are reported in The Times as having said that "America still lacks a genuine seat of learning and that American academic work is inferior in quality to the best abroad". There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that both statements are correct. I hope very much that you were accurately quoted.

Do you happen to possess copies of the paper which you read in which this statement was made? If so, I should appreciate very highly the opportunity to read them.

With warm regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Abraham Flexner

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

January 24, 1930.

Mr. Abraham Flexner,
150 East 72nd Street,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Flexner:

The thing reported in the New York Times was an extemporaneous speech at the dinner of the American Mathematical Society at Bethlehem and I have no notes on it of any sort. I was asked to speak about the National Research Fellowships, the Research Professorships which have been established recently, and related symptoms of the tendency to treat scientific research as a distinct enterprise and not merely a by-product. In the course of these remarks I quoted the epigram of a young English mathematician (M. H. A. Newman of St. John's College, Cambridge): "The difference between Cambridge and Princeton is that Cambridge is a seat of learning whereas Princeton is an educational institution". I think the distinction is a just one and that any other American University could be substituted for Princeton without essential change.

Here in Princeton the scientific fund which we owe largely to you and your colleagues on the General Education Board, is having an influence in the right direction and I think our new mathematical building which is going to be devoted entirely to research and advanced instruction will also help considerably. I think my mathematical institute which has not yet found favor may turn out to be one of the next steps. Anyhow it seems to me to fit in with the concept of a ^{seat} ~~seat~~ of learning.

With thanks for your kind letter,

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
150 EAST 72ND STREET
NEW YORK CITY

January 27, 1930

Dear Professor Veblen:

Thank you very much for your kind note.

I agree with you absolutely.

And now I should like to ask another question. What would American scholars and scientists do if some fellow or some foundation set up a "sure enough" institution of learning? Is it necessary to carry the mill-stone of the college about the neck of the graduate school?

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Abraham Flexner

AF:ESB

January 29, 1930.

Mr. Abraham Flexner,
150 East 72nd Street,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I hope that someone will set up a sure enough seat of learning. I insist on the word "seat" rather than "institution". When it is done it will of course get the same mixed reception that all other academic enterprises receive. But I think we are now far enough along in civilization to be able to make it a success.

With many thanks for your kind letter,

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

TEMPORARY OFFICES

100 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y.

January 29, 1931

Dear Professor Veblen:

I should be delighted to lunch with you and your colleagues Monday, but, if this is not entirely convenient, I wonder if you would not dine with me Sunday evening at the Princeton Inn, for I now find that I can go to Princeton Sunday afternoon. Unfortunately, as things happen in this awful town, I must be back in New York Monday evening.

With all good wishes and great appreciation,

Sincerely yours,

Abraham Flexner

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, N. J.

P.S. Send your reply to me, care Princeton Inn, for I leave New York this noon. A.F.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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100 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y.

January 26, 1931

Dear Professor Veblen:

Thank you for your letter of December 23. I am expecting to be in Princeton on Monday, February 2. I wonder if I can see you then. I shall stop at the Princeton Inn.

With all good wishes and kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Abraham Flexner

Professor Oswald Veblen
Department of Mathematics
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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100 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y.

January 15, 1931

Dear Professor Veblen:

Returning to town, I find yours of December 23. Thank you very much for your warm approval. I am hoping in the near future to go to Princeton so as to have an opportunity to talk with you and a few others who are interested in the upbuilding of an institution exclusively devoted to higher learning.

Very sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Abraham Flexner

AF:ESB

June 10, 1930.

Dr. Abraham Flexner,
150 East 72nd Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I was very much pleased and interested to read in the Sunday newspaper that you are really going to establish a seat of learning somewhere in this neighborhood. I realize now what you were thinking about when you wrote to me last January.

I wish it could be arranged somehow or other that your Institute could locate itself in the borough or township of Princeton so that you could use some of the facilities of the University and we could have the benefit of your presence.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
150 EAST 72ND STREET
NEW YORK CITY

July 7, 1930

Dear Professor Veblen:

Returning to New York for a few days from Europe before going to Canada for the summer, I find your very kind note of June 10. I cannot tell you how deeply I appreciate your interest and cooperation, but there is an amusing side to your little note. You say, "I realize now what you were thinking about when you wrote to me last January." It seems incredible, but the fact is that this whole development has taken place since the first of March. My letter in January was due to the fact that I was getting ready for publication the Rhodes Lectures on Universities.

I do hope that the most cordial and sympathetic relations will be established between the proposed Institute and the scholars of Princeton.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Abraham Flexner

Professor Oswald Veblen
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

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PERCY S. STRAUS
LEWIS H. WEED

December 26, 1930

Professor Oswald Veblen
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

My dear Professor Veblen:

Your very kind letter of the
to Mr. Flexner
twenty-third has been received while he
is out of the city. I shall bring it to
his attention upon his return next month,
and I am sure he will communicate with
you promptly.

Very truly yours,

Esther S. Bailey

V-5

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PERCY S. STRAUS
LEWIS H. WEED

June 25, 1931

Dear Professor Veblen:

How can I thank you sufficiently for the pains you have taken to write me so fully and in your own hand? I have merely glanced through your memorandum, for since my return from Europe I have been almost absolutely overwhelmed with calls and current correspondence, and I have also had to go West to see my oldest brother who has been desperately ill. Your memorandum is one of many which I shall take to Canada with me next week and which I shall read and reflect upon with the greatest care. I don't want to comment on it now, for I am trying to keep my mind from crystallizing until I have read others from various sources. I see, though I am sure less clearly than you do, the difficulties inherent in any form of management. We cannot in this country adopt either the German or the English system in its entirety. I wonder if we cannot evolve something new, namely, a board consisting of (1) a few men of affairs who would be interested in financing the institution, (2) a group of scholars holding important posts in other institutions, (3) a similar group of professors in the Institute itself. Would not three such groups check and stimulate one another?

I should propose to put the director on a par with the professors as to salary, social position, and everything else. He could thus be made to feel his place as an academic individual, not a public or executive personage. An arrangement of this sort could be tried experimentally, that is embodied in by-laws, easily subject to change in favor of something more workable.

As I wish the institution always to be small, the influence of the academic groups should be decisive.

Turn this over in your mind, and drop me a line upon this or any other idea that occurs to you.

I am leaving for Canada July 1 to remain away until the middle of September. My address will be Magnetawan, via Burke Falls, Ontario, Canada. I shall certainly see you for further conference before any steps are taken in the early autumn.

With all good wishes and very profound appreciation,
Sincerely yours,

Abraham Flexner

AF:ESB

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SAMUEL H. MAASS
FLORENCE R. SABIN
PERCY S. STRAUS
LEWIS H. WEED

Magnetawan,
via Burks Falls,
Ontario, Canada
July 16, 1931

Dear Professor Veblen:

Many thanks for your kind letter. Please write me whenever the spirit moves you. I am brooding over your previous letter and many others dealing with the same subject.

One of the points that has been worrying me you touch upon, namely, the length of the university terms. Our present American arrangement, a short term until Christmas, a short interval, a long siege until the middle of May or the first of June with a short Easter vacation, is not good, certainly not in the graduate realm. Our difficulty is, however, climatic, for the American summer is a poor one for working, though I have myself almost invariably spent part of my summer in work - but then I go two hundred miles north of Toronto in search of a decent climate. Perhaps, we shall have to do some experimenting before we hit upon the ideal arrangement. Certain it is that at the level at which we are considering matters men ought to have large gobs of leisure - both students and staff at not infrequent intervals.

I shall see you in the fall - and I hope to hear from you before then - but in any case I shall have a second memorandum for you and your associates to play upon by the time I return to New York, say, the middle of September.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brooklin
Hancock County
Maine

AF:ESB

Abraham Flexner

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

TEMPORARY OFFICES

100 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y.

November 28, 1931

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have been going forward with thinking and interviewing since I last saw you, and I have now reached the point where I would like to see you again sometime at your convenience. Are you likely to be coming to New York within the next few weeks? If not, I shall take a day, if you permit, and go to Princeton to have a conference with you.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Abraham Flexner

AF:ESB

*Come on
Tuesday Dec 8* *Sata Sunday*

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HERBERT H. MAASS
FLORENCE R. SABIN
PERCY S. STRAUS
LEWIS H. WEED

December 9, 1931

Dear Professor Veblen:

Let me thank you most heartily for your great kindness to me yesterday. I had meant to bring with me a confidential report submitted to the Trustees at their last meeting. I wonder if you could find time to glance through it and make any suggestions that occur to you. You can write on the margin or the back or dictate or treat it in any way that is easiest for you before returning it to me.

With all good wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

A. F.

Professor Oswald Veblen
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB
7

December 15, 1931.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
The Institute for Advanced Study
100 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I am very much obliged to you for letting me see your confidential report which I return to you herewith. As you already know, I find myself in complete agreement with your program. The only points I can think of to criticize are perhaps not really points of difference.

You intimate that you would not go ahead in a particular field if you were not able to get "the right man". My belief is that in most fields, there are sufficiently many good men so that you can surely get a man of the right sort. For example in mathematics, if you cannot secure the man whom you have picked out and whom I agree is the best first choice, there are a number of others who are surely as good and who may, in fact, be better.

As I think I wrote last summer, it seems to me that The Johns Hopkins would have held out longer if departments had not so often been built around one man. I am inclined to think that you will accomplish more by getting a strong group than by means of outstanding individuals. Of course I mean that you ought to get the most outstanding individuals that you can, but not make too much depend upon any one such person.

Another possible point of difference is that I would not be so afraid as you some times seem to be of "the dead hand". Your program is experimental only in its details. The general idea is perfectly conservative and is regarded as sound by every competent judge. Therefore I don't see why you should not make your arrangements as permanent as you know how to make them. I have heard this talk about not tying the hands of future generations from so many of the people whom I know you would disagree with, that I hope you do not mean it to apply to anything except rather unimportant parts of your program.

I hope to see you again and hear more about your program out in California.

Yours sincerely,

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

(FOUNDED BY LOUIS BAMBERGER AND MRS. FELIX FULD, 1930)

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PERCY S. STRAUS
LEWIS H. WEED

December 16, 1931

Dear Professor Veblen:

Many thanks for your very kind letter of December 15. I have no doubt that you are right, that there are several very able men in every one of the fields, and that having selected a field we shall somehow find the men. I am sure that you are right, that one man is not enough. He is only the nucleus. The Princeton mathematical "set" is unquestionably under modern conditions the correct conception.

Finally, I hardly know what to say as to "the dead hand", as you call it. President Gilman used to say that every generation needed a new start. However, this will have no effect at all upon what I do. I should not be surprised if fifty years hence the Institute were less important than it is at this moment, partly because other institutions will, I hope, have improved, partly because it may itself sag, but the point is of no importance, since we shall act precisely as if the thing could be kept at maximum efficiency.

Whenever you know your California address, let me have it. In the last event, you could send me an air letter or telegram from California to my office, and, even if I had left, it would be forwarded to me.

You have been so kind and so helpful that - will you believe

Professor Veblen

December 16, 1931

2

it - you even haunt my dreams, for the other evening, while I was probably sleeping soundly, I had a conference with you, though the next morning I was unable to recover any part of it.

With all good wishes and profound appreciation, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

G. J.

AF:ESB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

OFFICERS

LOUIS BAMBERGER
President
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TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.
CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

January 4, 1932.

TRUSTEES

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HERBERT H. MAASS
FLORENCE R. SABIN
PERCY S. STRAUS
LEWIS H. WEED

Dear Professor Veblen:

Thank you very much for yours of the 1st. Should anything occur to you in the course of your travels that has any bearing whatsoever upon our project, please let me have the advantage of it for I lean upon your judgment, experience, and sympathy.

I am delighted that Birkhoff's paper was so excellent. I have not yet reached the point of a final choice and shall not, until I have had another opportunity of speaking with you, which I shall seek when I reach the Coast.

I plan at present to leave New York January 15th, stopping at Colorado Springs to visit a young Barnard Professor who is there recovering from tuberculosis. I shall be at Pasadena shortly after the 20th and shall communicate with you quite promptly.

I am delighted that you find the automobile a comfortable and satisfactory method of transportation. If I had time and company, I might follow your example but, alas, I have neither.

With New Year greetings to you, your wife, and your father, whom I hope to have the pleasure of meeting,
AF:AMK
Professor Oswald Veblen
c/o President E. O. Lovett
Rice Institute
Houston, Texas

Always sincerely,

A. J.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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TEMPORARY OFFICES

100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

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HERBERT H. MAASS
FLORENCE R. SABIN
PERCY S. STRAUS
LEWIS H. WEED

April 5, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

I shall probably sail for Europe on April 22 on the S.S. Augustus, landing at Nice eight or ten days later, that is about May 1. Would you be good enough to cable me as soon as possible where you will be at that time, for I should like to confer with you before I take any further steps? Address your cable Vanstitute, New York.

I hope that you and Mrs. Veblen are thoroughly enjoying your voyage and are having a good time.

Yesterday I had the pleasure of having Professor Courant at luncheon. We had with us the other members of the Princeton group. You were very much missed.

I am glad for your sake that you are out of the country. The financial depression continues, and it is impossible here in New York to escape the prevailing gloom. I shall be glad to get away even though I may encounter abroad conditions worse than those that exist here.

Please give my warmest greetings to your wife and believe me

Ever sincerely,

Abraham Flexner

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brown Shipley & Company

PLAZA ATHÉNÉE

25 AVENUE MONTAIGNE
PARIS

May 7/32

Dear Professor Veblen:

In order to avoid

Pfingsten, I shall go to London Monday
(May 9) and go to Germany about two
weeks later. I shall write or wire you
the exact date of my arrival in Göttingen.

I can be reached in London of the Guaranty
Trust Company, Pall Mall. Please
give my warmest greetings to your
wife & believe me, with all good wishes,

Always Sincerely,

Abraham Flexner-



F. R. REBETZ
PROPR.

ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE
WESTMINSTER - NICE
TELEPH. 24 87, 24 92, 27 99

Hôtel Westminster
Promenade des Anglais
Nice

May 3/32

Dear Professor Veblen:

I arrived yesterday afternoon after a smooth & warm voyage. Your letter was waiting for me. Thank you very much. I shall visit a friend at Grasse for a day or ~~more~~ two, then on to Paris, thence to Göttingen. I'll let you know when to look for me. We can, I am sure, have our talk at Göttingen, without trouble.

being you to meet me elsewhere, but
I appreciate your willingness to take
the trouble.

Remember me warmly to Mrs.
Vesblen & believe me,

Always sincerely
Abraham Flexner

LONDON.

23rd May 1932.

Dear Professor Veblen,

I was very deeply distressed this morning to receive from Professor Weyl a letter telling me of the sudden death of his Father. I had planned to leave London the day after to-morrow going to Paris, thence to Göttingen. Professor Weyl tells me that he will be in Göttingen at the end of the present week or next week. I have several courses between which I can choose. I am going to Paris where I shall be a week. I could come from there to Göttingen arriving towards the end of next week; or if you think it wiser I can go to Vienna for a few days, thence to Berlin for a week, thence to Göttingen. I want, however, particularly to be in Göttingen while you are still there. Will you wire me to the Guaranty Trust Company, Paris, advising me which course to pursue?

Please give my warmest greetings to your wife, and

Believe me, always sincerely,

Abraham Flexner

I l

V-5



GESTÜNDTER FRIEDRICH HÄRLIN
INHABER
HÄRLIN J. & CO. M.B.H.

TELEGRADRESS: JAHRESZEITEN
TELEFON: 1014

Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten Restaurant Haerlin

HAMBURG

NEUER JUNGFERNSTIEG 5-14

June 2/32

Dear Professor Vebien:

I reached Hamburg
last night & found a cable from America
announcing the death of a member of your
wife's family. I shall have to meet her
today. Whether I can return to Göttingen
or must sail for home I cannot now say;
but in any case I shall write Prof. Berg
the details of the recommendation that I am
prepared to make to the Board if he is willing
I shall send you a copy. This will give him
the time necessary for careful consideration
& consultation with the Berlin authorities.

As before, my mind is dear. If Miss
Jones & Professor Eisenhart interfere no
obstacles shall hinder you, I shall on leaving

affirmatively from your recommended four
appointments on the following terms:

Salary \$15,000, - 5% to be contributed by
you & an additional 5% by the Institute to
a retiring allowance fund;

Retirement at 65, unless extended by
mutual consent, on basis of \$8000;

Pension of \$5000 to your present wife, should
she survive you.

Sabbatical year on full salary every seven years.
Your service to begin next fall, though
the Institute cannot expect to quote ~~Wally~~
until the fall of 1932;

all other details to be left in abeyance,
until I return to America & see what the
financial situation is. (Yesterday's Frankfurt
Zeitung contained an extract from a speech by
Senator Reed that was very dark.)

I have already seen the Rector & some
close University friends of mine here. What I
have heard convinces me that, on grounds I
can only explain orally, Berlin will not
answer, and I shall not see him.

Write me either Emmenthal Druck Co, Place
de la Concorde, Paris, or 100 East 42nd St.
New York City. It was the greatest pleasure to



EIGENTUMER: FRIEDRICH HAERLIN
HAERLIN, J.R. & CO. M.B.H.
TELEFON: ADRESSE: VIERJAHRESZEITEN
TELECA: 1014

Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten Restaurant Haerlin

HAMBURG

NEUER JUNGFERNSTIEG 2-14

see you & your wife, who surely has the right
spirit & attitude & will forward confidently
by to cooperation in the development of a
mathematical institute, I must no needless de-
lay, but, on the other hand, ^{we must heed general conditions}
I stop ourselves to nothing, ^{that we cannot easily live up to.}
With warmest greetings to you both,
and gratitude for your aid,

Always sincerely,

Abraham Flexner

P.S. The Institute will pay whatever expenses you
necessarily incur, in order to confer with Alexander
cables etc. You can also discuss the problem confidentially
with me. Some time may I have a copy of this letter

for my files? I am unable, for lack of time,
to copy it myself, now.

Dirac

Stin

Lefschetz

Morse

Alexandrov

Noeth

Weyl

Albert

Dougherty

Goldman

Selfridge

Dennis

McShane

Whitney

Vandiver

Stone

Whitehead

Bohnenblust

Birkhoff

4 Professors Salary 64
^{Pres}
 4 Assistant 12.5
 3X 25 + 50

3 Assoc Prof. 30

3 Asst Prof. 15

5 Res. Asa. 10

80 Scholars 15

Secretary 2.5

Library 3.

New books & periodicals 3.

Public Annals } 1.5

etc. (Series of books) 3.

159.5

Rent for Fine Hall

Ins for Prof Ret 12

171.5

Station supplies & 1.

(If you have said 15 a 16 it will be 16)

all Prof.

abt Algebra

2.

7 Prof

AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE

The purpose of the conference is to consider how Science Service may further its purpose of making science better known and appreciated by the general public and contribute its share in advancing modern civilization.

Science Service is the institution for the popularization of science, organized in 1921 as a non-profit corporation with trustees nominated by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the E. W. Scripps Estate and the journalistic profession.

Round-Table, Library, Building of the National Academy
of Sciences and National Research Council

three to five o'clock

Five minute talks:

Dr. Karl T. Compton, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Dr. Edwin G. Conklin, Princeton University
Dr. Simon Flexner, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research
Dr. Frank B. Jewett, Bell Telephone Laboratories
Mr. A. H. Kirchhofer, Buffalo Evening News
Dr. John C. Merriam, Carnegie Institution of Washington
Dr. A. A. Noyes, California Institute of Technology
Mr. Robert P. Scripps, Scripps-Howard Newspapers
Dr. E. B. Wilson, Harvard University School of Public Health
General Discussion

Dinner, National Press Club Auditorium

half after seven o'clock

Addresses:

Dr. John H. Finley, New York Times
Dr. Robert A. Millikan, California Institute of Technology
Dr. H. G. Moulton, Brookings Institution

**D DISCONTO-GESELLSCHAFT
ELLE GUTTINGEN**

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10

zum
Kurse von

Reichsmark

o. York 4.17

417-

Abraham Flexner
J. H. Kohl z. Korne

Lars Onsager
of Brown
by R.B.D. L. L. year
Math. Phys.

11. 1001

11. 1001

11. 1001

Vebler

Lars Onsager

math-Phy-Chem

(Brown Univ.)
=

Princeton Univ. May 1948

Budget

V. Stark - other

Reverts

2



Hotel Adlon

Eigentümer Louis Adlon.

Fernsprecher: A1 Jäger 0026

Telegr. Adresse: Adlon Berlin.

Bankverbindung

J. Dreyfus & Co. Berlin W.56 Französischestr. 32

Erfüllungsort: Berlin Mitte

In gleichem Besitze:

Continental-Hotel

am Bahnhof Friedrichstrasse

Weingrosshandlung L. Adlon

Wilhelmstrasse 70a.

Gegründet 1864.

Berlin W.8. 4th June 1932.
Unter den Linden 1
am Pariser Platz

Herrn Professor Oswald Veblen,
Pension Wunderlich,
Friedlaenderweg 11,
Göttingen.

Dear Professor 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

- 2 -

those at Princeton and elsewhere who have been so largely interested in the Institute and who have helped me so freely and generously.

Please remember me to your wife and

Believe me,

Always Sincerely yours,

Abraham Flexner

4th June 1932.

Herrn Professor Hermann Weyl,
Mathematisches Institut,
Göttingen.

Dear Professor 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 had 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

- 2 -

had consulted freely with the Kultusministerium.

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.

With warm regards and all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Pension Wunderlich.

Friedländerweg 11

Söttingen.

V-5

5 June. 1932

Dear Dr. Flexner;

I enclose herewith a copy, in my wife's handwriting, of your letter of June 2nd. No doubt she enjoyed copying out the complimentary to herself, as well as one other detail which she did not fail to notice!

I did not cable to Kefauver for Alexander's address, as you suggested, because I felt that h. would make a pretty shrewd guess as to why I wanted it. But if I get in touch with Alexander by letter (I have written to him) I may make use of the expense account.

Since you do not think it wise for me to write directly to Eisenhart will you not tell him some of the points I would have made? (1) I cannot afford not to accept the retirement allowance for my self and wife. (2) The series of changes in the Princeton Math. Dept. which my removal would cause would benefit several men both pecuniarily and by increased scientific opportunities. It ought to cause several promotions and the calling in of at least one new man of high quality. In my opinion it would be better to shift two men from the Princeton Dept.; but my shift will benefit at least as many individuals as any other. (3) What I have thought and said for so many years about the desirability of a Mathematical Institute makes it highly illogical for me to refuse to share in building it up. (4) The new move seems to me a logical consequence of what Eisenhart and I have been doing together for so many years and an opportunity to continue on a larger scale in the same direction.

This is also what I expect to say to Miss Jones when the time comes.

Also, it is the answer to your letter of June 2nd.

Weyl seems almost as enthusiastic as I am about your enterprise. The point that he emphasizes most is the desirability of having younger men in the group. The names that he and I principally discussed, after Lefschetz, Alexander and Morse, were Dirac, Artin and Alexandroff, all under 35. We both admire Miss Noether ~~very~~ intensely - she is 50 but still improving, - and think Wiener a serious candidate. He also suggests that there be no distinction of title between Professors and Associate Professors. This would mean that there would be a group of, say, 7 professors, some however at lower stipends. The proposed positions will be more attractive than most American professorships and it would doubtless be confusing to class them as associate professors. Perhaps merely Associates.

For the next group, Assistant Professors, we mentioned the names, Albert, Douglas, Gödel, Gelfand. For a still younger group, Deuring, Whitney, MacShane. Later I thought of Stone, Whitehead, Bohrenblust as possibilities for A. P. or higher posts.

Weyl is very keen on having a good man in the modern type of Algebra. That means Artin once more, or Miss Noether.

Here is an amended ~~list of~~ budget, coming out of these discussions.

60,000	4 Professors Salary
12,500	Personal assistants to same
30,000	3 Professors or or Associates
30,000	Assistant Professors and younger scholars
2,500	Secretary
3,000	Librarian
4,000	New books and periodicals (we find that Göttingen spends \$8000)
3,500	Publications (Annals 1500, Books 2000)
1,000	Stationery and incidental supplies

V. 5

I will enclose the scrap of paper on which we jotted some of these items.

There should also be an item of insurance to cover the retiring allowances. For the four principal posts I should think this would be between \$3000 and \$4000 apiece. I should think that it would be good book keeping to count this as part of the salary and then subtract it. The salary proposed to me looks like \$14,250 + the amount payable to an insurance company to guarantee the retirement benefits.

Items 2 and 4 together are perhaps too large.

I need not say how grateful I am to you for the opportunity to help in working out such a splendid plan as you have in mind.

Yours sincerely
Oswald Veblen.

Copied by S. M. D. V.

June 5.



Berlin W.8. 6th June 1932.
Unter den Linden 1
am Pariser Platz

Hotel Adlon

Eigentümer: Louis Adlon

Fernsprecher: A1 Jäger 0026

Telegr. Adresse: Adlon Berlin

Bankverbindung

J. Dreyfus & Co. Berlin W.56 Französische Str. 32

Erfüllungsort: Berlin-Mitte

In gleichem Besitze

Continental-Hotel

am Bahnhof Friedrichstrasse

Weingrosshandlung L. Adlon

Wilhelmstrasse 70a

Gegründet 1864

Dear Professor Veblen:

Your letter of June 5th reached me this morning.

I have had a long interview with our friend

and he is "Feuer und Flamme dafür", to use his

own words as we parted. The matter is, however, much the same as yours since he must first take into his confidence his associates here and straighten the thing out with Milliken with whom he has no definite understanding but who rather expects him to come again. It is, therefore, of the highest importance that negotiations should be treated in strictest confidence, and I have promised him to say nothing to any one until he has had an opportunity to arrange matters.

I am glad to know that Weyl is inclined to consider the matter favorably. I see no inherent difficulty about making a start when he finishes at Swarthmore. It simply imposes upon us the necessity of arranging for working and living quarters; as for the latter, the Princeton Inn would probably suffice for the rest of the year.

The news from America is not good. I have had daily cables, one darker than the other, and I am in daily telephonic communication with Mrs. Flexner. Indeed, I had proposed to

Im Interesse prompter Erledigung bitte ich alle Zuschriften nicht an Einzelpersonen, sondern nur an die Direktion zu richten.



drop things here and go to her in Vienna, for she is a good deal
disturbed, but she insisted that I should not do this but should
rather finish my work in Berlin. I hope to go to Vienna tonight
where I shall be at the Hotel Bristol, Altes Haus, until next
Saturday at least. I will let you know by telegram what my next
move will be.

Remember me warmly to your wife and

Believe me,

Ever sincerely yours,

Abraham Flexner

own words as we parted. The matter is, however, much the same as
yours since he must first take into his confidence his associates
here and straighten the thing out with Wilkins with whom he has
no definite understanding but who rather expects him to come again.
It is, therefore, of the highest importance that negotiations should
be treated in strictest confidence, and I have promised him to
say nothing to any one until he has had an opportunity to arrange
matters.

I am glad to know that Weyl is inclined to
consider the matter favorably. I see no inherent difficulty about
making a start when he finishes at Swarthmore. It simply imposes
upon us the necessity of arranging for working and living quarters
as for the latter, the Princeton Inn would probably suffice for the
rest of the year.

The news from America is not good. I have had
daily cables, one darker than the other, and I am in daily tele-
phonic communication with Mrs. Flexner. Indeed, I had proposed to

Friedländerweg 11
Göttingen

12 June 1932

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

I was very glad to
infer from your letter of last
Monday that ~~it is now~~ highly
~~probable~~ that you have ^{probably} secured
three men for your Institute. We
were on an "snafing" in the country
today with the Veblen and ^{found} were ~~very~~ pleased
to observe that Mrs. W. is also enthusi-
astic over the prospect. They seem to
be quite ~~settled~~ ^{quite} secure in their decision and fortified in thinking
at have retained a much more favorable
detail. Mrs. Veblen

at about \$2000. There are two or three recent doctors who could be useful to me, who have not yet secured teaching positions.

It is now proposed to publish my Göttingen lectures in a small book in a new series edited by Nungebauer. ~~The idea~~ The idea attracts me partly because it is a chance to ~~show myself up~~ ^{put behind me} a definite part of this subject ~~as a preliminary~~ ^{before going on with} ~~to further study of~~ the rest of it and partly because ~~it~~ it seems a good joke to be writing a book in German. But it will keep me busy the rest of the Summer.

My plans now are fairly definite. I have accepted an invitation ^{to give a} ~~to~~ lecture in Vienna on June 30. This means ^(with my other engagements) leaving Göttingen on June 25th or 26th, leaving Vienna on July 2

impression of Princeton than I supposed.

Last Sunday I wrote you at length about my response to your proposal, ^{namely} ~~that~~ ^{that is} ~~the~~ ^{namely} ~~that~~ that I ~~want~~ very much to be attached to the new Institute. ~~Nothing has happened in~~
~~the meantime~~ and ~~I have~~ ^{there is} nothing to add except ~~that~~ a remark about an assistant, which one point which you may need to have in mind when you see Eisenhart. A graduate student by the name of Vandervliet has been engaged to be my assistant next year. He is to have \$1000 for this work and ~~also~~ another \$500 for some undergraduate teaching (he ~~requests~~ ^{likes} the teaching) I suppose that the Institute ought to take over the payment of the \$1000. I may also, later, ^{in the summer} if you are favorably disposed, request another assistant

arriving in Berlin on July 4, lecturing ^{the} on July
5th, leaving Berlin ~~at~~ about July 12th
for Hamburg where we will stay at
least a week. We expect to be in
England in August. I mean to let you
know if there is any change in this
time-table.

My wife joins me in best greetings,
you saw

P. H.

GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY
5 Place Vendôme
PARIS. JUNE 15TH. 1932

PROFESSOR O. VEBLEN
Pension Wunderlich
Friedländerereeg II
GOTTINGEN
----- Germany

Dear Professor Veblen,

The illness in my wife's family has terminated fatally. I had therefore to leave Berlin and go to her at Vienna. Her physician, Professor Eiselsberg, insisted that she go to Gastein, ~~so~~ I stayed with her a week, took her to Gastein and then myself, in consequence, am forced to return to America to-morrow on the Bremen; so I cannot see you and Professor Weyl again at this time.

I have your two notes of June the 5th, and June the 12th. Please thank your wife for her excellent copy. I find on comparing it with the letter I wrote in Berlin to America, that in writing to America, I placed the pension at 7500 dollars. I am quite willing to abide by the letter which I wrote to you if the difference is of any importance to you, though it would be simpler for me to make the pension one half the full salary. I am sorry that I made this error, but writing without a secretary and relying on my memory at a time of considerable worry must be my excuse. However, be absolutely candid with me on the subject.

I am immensely interested in the sketch which you sent me in your letter of June the 5th. At the moment I will not try to discuss all the details because certain questions arise in my mind regarding some items in reference to which I want to talk with you. You may however be perfectly certain that I will put your case to Eisenhart with all possible persuasiveness and I have no doubt that he will agree that it is right for you to accept. I can arrange also that the Institute take over the salary of Vanderslice (1000 dollars). The other details, we can agree upon in the autumn when we meet, for I shall try to go to Canada as soon as I set in order my wife's affairs in New York. You may be assured, however, that details like secretary, books, publication, will be provided for, as well as anything else that is needed in order to make the Institute as good as it can possibly be made.

Page 2

I wish however to guard against attempting everything at once, though neither of us is young, time for reflection and growth is necessary and there is much that we can learn from the experience of the Rockefeller Institute ~~for~~ which we can freely draw. They have had a good deal of experience in some of the matters you mention, which will save us from making mistakes at the outset.

I have had in writing a favorable and enthusiastic response from Berlin, but it must be kept absolutely confidential until proper explanations have been made to the Berliner Academy and ~~the~~ Millikan. I hope therefore that you will protect this information completely. I look forward with the keenest interest and the utmost confidence to our association. Perhaps at Zurich, you will get suggestions or see people who we may want as our scheme develops.

With all good wishes and warmest greetings to you and your wife,

I remain,

Every sincerely,

Abraham Flexner

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF/AH

My address is permanently

100 East 42nd St.

N.Y.C.

*My mail will be forwarded to me. I shall cable you
Eisenhardt's attitude.*

(% Brown Shipley & Co., 125 Pall Mall, London)

Göttingen,
18 June 1932

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

We are ~~awfully~~^{very} sorry that
your trip was interrupted so tragically and
can only hope that Mrs. Flexner will soon
recover her usual health as soon as possible.
← Your news from Berlin ~~which~~
~~shows~~ off is very exciting, and you must feel
that, in spite of your personal ~~the~~ misfortune,
you are returning with a good "bag". I have
had no chance to ~~talk~~ speak with Weaf
since he received your last letter — or
rather we were both too much interested
in a mathematical argument when we met
this morning to ~~talk~~^{talk} ~~about~~ about anything
else. But all the signs are favorable.

To your question about the difference
between a \$7500 and \$8000 pension,

which you ask me to answer with absolute candor, I can only reply that it ~~does make~~ it is of practical importance. The ~~income~~ of the pension is ^{not} ~~sufficiently~~ near to ~~that~~ ^{the point at} we ~~actually~~ need to live ^{on} in Princeton, in a simple way that plus a minus \$500 is likely to be felt when the time comes. I don't in the least make it a condition of my acceptance of the position, but I am trying to give a ~~perfectly~~ straightforward answer to your question. ~~Do, I don't perhaps~~ ~~It did not~~ ~~mean~~ ~~little~~ ~~like~~ occur to me on reading your letter from Hamburg that there was anything abnormal about ~~the amount~~ ^{\$500} because both my wife and I remember ~~that~~ ^{that} as the amount of the pension ~~that~~ ^{which} you had ~~once~~ mentioned in talking with us about ~~the~~ the pension.

I agree with you about the danger of attempting too much at once. Also ~~it~~ it is quite likely that I shall want to change ~~some~~ ^{my} ~~of~~ the suggestion ~~have been making~~. ~~In the meantime I am trying to~~ ~~work further~~ ~~about~~ ~~my~~ ~~ideas~~ ~~about~~ ~~permanent~~ ~~my~~ ~~travel~~ ~~this~~ ^{and though} ~~this~~ summer ~~as to~~ ~~whether~~ ~~is~~ ~~getting~~ ~~my~~ ~~ideas~~ ~~clear~~.

~~Re:~~ A few days ago I had a long talk about Physicists with Miss Noether. She ~~is~~ ^{seems} ~~con-~~vinced (as I was before) that Albert is the best

man in America in this field, after Waddarburn & Dickson.
She has the same opinion as myself about Artur and Derring.
(going outside of the algebraic field)
Also, she shares my suspicion that B. Gödel, the young
man in Vienna who has ~~work~~ upst Hilbert's program in
mathematical logic, is the best of the young ~~men~~ ~~people~~ ~~that~~ ~~I~~ ~~hope~~ to get better acquainted with him
~~work in this~~ week after next.

There is no change in the outline of
my movements that I ~~has~~ sent in my last
letter. My general address is c/o Brown
Shifley & Co, 123 Pall Mall, London. In
Vienna my address is c/o Prof. Karl
Menger Fuchsthallergerasse 2, Wien IX
In Berlin-Dahlem it will be Harnack
Haus Strasse 16.

^{in the life}
~~hoping~~ that your program is ~~going~~ ^{working}
out smoothly,
Yours sincerely

013 Telegramm

Deutsche Reichspost

+ LONDON 199 29 23 1037 =

aus -

Aufgenommen Tag Monat Jahr Zeit 1103 23. 6. 32 von an durch hly		Befördert Tag Zeit an durch	
Amt Göttingen		O VEBLEN PENSION WUNDERLICH FRIEDLANDWEG 11 GOTTINGEN =	

BROOKLYN CABLE READS ARRIVED YESTERDAY SAW EISENHART TODAY
 APPROVES ENTHUSIASTICALLY WILL CABLE YOU HIMSELF AFTER
 COMMUNICATING WITH ACTING PRESIDENT DUFFIELD FLEXNER =
 SHIPHRAB +

Raum für dienstliche Rückfragen

FORM NO. 6B. LDN.

WESTERN UNION

(THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY)

CABLEGRAM

4:40
E.T.S.

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JUN 23 AM 2 01

1132D BROOKLYN NY 22 22

355 C.A.

NLT VEBLEN

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C/O BROWN SHIPLEY & CO,

123, PALL MALL, S.W.

SHIPRAH LONDON,

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COMMUNICATING WITH ACTING PRESIDENT DUFFIELD,

FLEXNER.

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AUSGEGEBEN

27 JUN 1931
 Dienstliche Angaben

60 137 m
 Gattung: Telegramm Cinq. Nr.

o veblen chez professor
 dr karl menger

fuchsthallerergasse 2 vienna

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 hinsichtlich der zur Beförderung oder
 Bestellung u. neuer Telegramme keine
 wie immer te Verantwortung.

124
 Aufgenommen von
 auf Stg. Nr. 124
 am 193 um 11h 10m
 durch: [Signature]

Aus London 274 31 27 10 58 m =

Die obigen Angaben bedeuten: 1. den Namen des Aufgabebesetztes, 2. die Aufgabennummer, 3. die Wort-
 zahl (auch in Bruchform), 4. den Monatstag, 5. die Aufgabezeit.

= princeton cable reads have talked with those
 concerned and they approve congratulate you heartily
 look forward to big things eisenhart = shiphrah

an. (St.) 4208 32

55.137/31.1 — Druck der Österreichischen Staatsdruckerei

D. S. Nr. 769 A.

Vanstitute, New York

Has received Eisenhart's approval

Presume the whole matter
is now in order

Veblen

Have

Received

Eisenhart's approval, Ready to go ahead

Vanstitute, New York

FORM NO. 51. LON.

WESTERN UNION

(THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY)

CABLEGRAM

ANGLO-AMERICAN TELEGRAPH Co., Ltd.

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS.

RECEIVED AT 22 GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.2. (Tel. No. London Wall 0800.) 1932 JUN 25 PM 4 53

237G PRINCETON NJ 23 25

WLT OSWALD VEBLEN

380 D

BROWN SHIPLEY LONDON,
FOUNDERS COURT, E.C.

HAVE TALKED WITH THOSE CONCERNED AND THEY APPROVE
CONGRATULATE YOU HEARTILY LOOK FORWARD TO BIG THINGS.

EISENHART.

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Time of filing is not shown on cable letter messages. Time difference Chart on application.

RADIOGRAMM

Eingelangt

17 42

28

VI 32

RADIO-AUSTRIA A.G.

Wien, I., Renngasse 14

„Anten“

Nr.

1312

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WKS/JA/1737

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VIA MACKAY RADIO

5 NEWYORK 26 28 1103

NLT VEBLEN CARE MENDER FUCHSTHALLERGASSE 2 VIENNA =
MATTER YOUR APPOINTMENT SETTLED INCLUDING HIGHER
PENSION HOW ABOUT MISS JONES NO NEWS FROM WEYL HAVE
YOU ANYTHING FURTHER +

RADIOBRIEF

5 2 +

Bitte bezeichnen Sie das Antworttelegramm mit dem gebührenfreien Vermerk „Anten“ oder „via Radio“

RADIO-AUSTRIA A. G., WIEN, I., RENN GASSE 14

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LEWIS H. WEED

June 30, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have yours of the 18th, and I hasten to reassure you on the subject of the pension, namely, that I shall abide by the understanding which we reached at Göttingen and respecting which my memory simply failed me when I made the memorandum for use in New York; so dismiss that from your thoughts.

Eisenhart and Mr. Duffield were most cordial, so that I am sure, so far from alienating the Princeton folks, they feel honored that we are beginning with one of their men among others.

I have since returning to New York gone over our finances with our Treasurer. We are in perfectly sound condition; but the general feeling in town is gloomy beyond anything I have ever known. Nobody seems to know what will happen, and there was evidently a more serious danger than I had suspected that the country might be forced off the gold standard. That danger appears to have passed. However, I wish to play safe and not at the outset to undertake a budget exceeding one-third of the income upon which it now seems that we may confidently count. This will enable us to take care of you, Einstein, and Weyl - should Weyl accept - with the necessary assistants, assistance, etc. Beyond that I think we should play a waiting game. I discussed the whole situation with my brother last night. He thinks that my attitude is sound and wise. In your further thought bear in mind that this is primarily a research institution, and

Prof. Veblen

June 30, 1932

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a teaching institution only in so far as a few disciples are assembled by each important worker. Anyone who desires contact with a larger group can get it, so Eisenhart assures me, with the Princeton graduate group. We need at the top in each subject a few men of proved eminence. The number of men whom we will wish to keep permanently will, as at the Rockefeller Institute, be relatively small. Therefore the second string of men ought to be young and not so highly salaried that it is impossible for them to accept offers from other institutions. We can of course always keep anyone we want by raising his salary and improving his situation, but to do this we must preserve the possibility of promotion; and this can hardly be done if there is a second group as highly salaried as you proposed in your memorandum.

Our contribution, in other words, will be made in two ways: (1) by the work of the staff and students; (2) by sending out younger men of superior training to take posts as they open up in other institutions. The top posts can be kept so attractive that we can count quite certainly upon being able to fill them with the best available material whenever a vacancy occurs or some expansion is decided upon.

I have had a reassuring cable from Mrs. Flexner, who is at Gastein and who will be able to join us in Canada towards the end of July.

The weather here has been hot and muggy. I am hoping to leave for Canada next Sunday or Monday. Thereafter until September 15, when I return to New York, my address will be Magnetawan, via Burks Falls, Ontario, Canada.

Please give my warmest greetings to your wife, and believe me
Always sincerely,

Abraham Flexner

P.S.

Eisenhart was most generous about offering space for the mathematical staff and for me in Fine Hall, and for the present we will undoubtedly accept his invita-

Prof. Veblen

June 30, 1932

3

tion.

I have taken no one into my confidence except Eisenhower and my brother, Simon, and no announcement of any kind will be made until after October 1.

A.F.

Professor Oswald Veblen
Harnack Haus, Innestrasse 16
Berlin-Dahlem, Germany

AF:ESB

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100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Magnetawan
via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada
July 12, 1932

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Dear Professor Veblen:

Thank you for yours of June 28. I note the paragraph, which you quote, in your letter to Eisenhart. Inasmuch as there is no urgency, the question which you raise is one that can be deferred until we have abundant opportunity to talk it over among ourselves and the Princeton people. In general, starting upon a new enterprise, I have the feeling that all we can do at the outset is to define clearly our goal. Other questions, such as those you touch upon, need not be settled in advance. We can consider concrete instances, as they arise, and thus perhaps in course of time discover the best way of dealing with them.

In answer to your question as to the date of announcement I should say that we shall have to sidestep a definite statement until the autumn. I have found that I can satisfy people's curiosity by saying that we are giving favorable consideration to the vicinity of Princeton. No one has pushed me beyond that point. Eisenhart and I have agreed that we will issue a statement as close to October 1 as is feasible.

I am sorry that your motor trip was interrupted. I hope you have resumed it with better luck.

Many thanks for the card from Bamberg, which I shall forward to Mr. Bamberger, who will, I think, be interested in it.

Professor Veblen

July 12, 1932

2

After ten or twelve pretty uncomfortable days in town we have come into the woods where it has been cool, but, alas, too rainy. Our prayers for good weather do not seem as yet to have penetrated to the Most High.

Give my warmest greetings to your wife, and believe me

Always sincerely,

Abraham Flexner

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brown, Shipley and Company
123 Pall Mall
London, England

AF:ESB

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LEWIS H. WEED

Magnetawan, via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada
July 21, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have two letters from you, one, dated July 7, the other, dated July 8. The letter of July 7 reports your interview with Professor Einstein and suggests two appointments. The letter of July 8 seems to some extent to cancel the former letter, since you say, "If you get three major appointments through this summer, you have made a good start and can well afford to deliberate before going further."

Nevertheless, I will comment briefly on the two suggestions, though at the moment my heart and mind are more on fishing and sawing logs than on the Institute for Advanced Study, for after my strenuous days in Europe and New York I need a thorough rest.

I have no authority to take any steps whatsoever beyond those with which you are already familiar, namely, appointments of yourself, Professor Einstein, and Professor Weyl. The Board does not meet until towards the middle of October. There would therefore be no possibility of carrying through even an urgent matter in the interval.

In respect to Dr. Foster I feel the profoundest sympathy with him and his family. The situation of highly trained young men of his kind is at this moment heart-breaking not only in Europe but in America. I have had numerous applications, to which I have made the same reply: There is nothing that the Institute can do. The reasons which you give for suggesting his appointment do not seem to

Professor Veblen

July 21, 1932

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me conclusive. We should not now or at any other time be moved - even partially moved - by any other considerations than those which led to the establishment of the Institute. There are institutions of a different character, and I should do anything in my power, as I know you will, to obtain a post for Dr. Foster in one of them.

Several considerations would lead me to halt in connection with Dr. Gödel. We must have some conception of the field we are going to cover. Mathematical logic is mentioned now for the first time. Is it or is it not a field which we should enter? That point requires to be decided first of all. Of course I can see that the possibility of getting a ^{first-rate} man for any part of the general field is also of primary significance, but I should want to know whether or not mathematical logic is one that grows naturally out of the work we are undertaking at the outset. In the second place, as "his Habilitation and first regular teaching are scheduled for next year", it seems to me unwise to interfere with what from his point of view is very important. Suppose he comes to America for a year and is not reappointed, where would he be? Finally, if he were offered a lectureship for next year, to whom would he lecture, inasmuch as we have no students and do not contemplate having any?

I think it extremely important that you are finding out who these promising young men are and that we can thus be enabled to keep our eye on them. Beyond that we can at the moment do nothing until a few of the preliminaries have been attended to.

Thank you very much for your kindness in offering to look out for Mrs. Flexner. She spent three weeks in Gastein and returned to the camp at the beginning of this week, immensely improved in health. I am hoping that she may have two quiet, restful months here, which will fortify the gains which she made at Gastein. The weather has been a little less perfect than usual, but there have been many days upon which we could fish or saw or walk through the woods.

Give my warmest greetings to Mrs. Veblen, and believe me, with all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brown, Shipley and Company

Abraham Flexner

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100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE NEW YORK

Magnetawan, via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada
August 25, 1932

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Director of the Institute

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have yours of August 12. I am glad that your wife has extracted a promise from you that you will get a complete vacation - and equally glad that your book is off your hands. I am certain that it will do credit to you and to American science.

Don't bother to change the date of your sailing. There is nothing to be gained by your arriving in New York prior to October. On the contrary, it may well be worth your while to attend the meetings both at York and at Zurich on the lookout for promising material.

We had a charming visit here in the woods from Courant ten days ago. He spent two days with us and entered thoroughly into the simple outdoor life which we lead up here. He sawed logs, swam, and fished - the last-mentioned for the very first time in his life. His colleagues at Göttingen had written and telegraphed him about Weyl, and Weyl had told him that he would make no final decision until Courant returned. Nothing could have exceeded Courant's kindness and consideration.

The weather has been good to us this summer, so that we have had a really excellent vacation. I hope that you and your wife are doing as well by yourselves.

With all good wishes to you both,
Sincerely yours,

Abraham Flexner

P.S. Thanks so much for the charming card from you and the Polls.

A.F.

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Director of the Institute

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PERCY S. STRAUS
LEWIS H. WEED

October 3, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

I sent a wireless to you to the Samaria Saturday asking you to see me after you landed today. This morning I called up the Cunard Line and learned that the Samaria had docked early this morning. I assume that you did not get the wireless. Won't you please let me know whether you did or not?

I have a letter from Weyl which I should like to show you before answering it, and I should like also the name of Dr. Vanderslice in full. I wonder if you could call me by telephone (Ashland 4 - 3775) and arrange for an interview in the course of the week.

I hope you had a good crossing and that you and Mrs. Veblen are thoroughly well.

Sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, N. J.

AF:ESB

A. J.
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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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100 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y.

October 7, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen;

Come to New York on Thursday, October 13,
at noon, and we shall have lunch together.

Won't you make a memorandum of your
railroad expenses, which the Institute will pay?

Very sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, N. J.

A. J.

AF:ESB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

October 10, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am forwarding to Mr. Maass, Chairman
of the Committee on Site, your letter of October 8.

I assume from your letter that Thursday,
October 13, will be a convenient date for our talk.

Always sincerely,

Abraham Flexner

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, N. J.

AF:ESB

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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NEW YORK, N. Y.

October 18, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

You will receive in the course of the month your checks for both your September and October salary. I shall ask the Treasurer to deduct 5% from each and forward to the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association with a similar sum from the Institute.

I am returning your application with a new blank, so that you can change the date of your appointment to September 1, 1932.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, N. J.

G. F.

AF:ESB

*Tomorrow 12⁴⁵ (Thursday) at the Rockefeller
Institute*

V-5

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LEWIS H. WEED

October 22, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am sending you herewith Professor Bohr's extraordinary letter in reference to Jessen. I hope very much that the plan will work out so that he can be with you at the beginning of our first regular year's work. The Rockefeller stipend would be an ideal arrangement.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Abraham Flexner

P.S. #1

I have received your pension application this morning. I shall give it immediate attention. Since dictating the above I have seen the Secretary of the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association and two blanks had to be filled before it could be accepted - (1) Total monthly premium, (2) When first annuity payment to be made to you. Mrs. Bailey filled them as follows: \$125.00, and the first day of month following your 65th birthday, with the understanding that the date of ^{first} annuity payment could be changed with the consent of both you and the Institute. This is in accordance with the resolution passed by the Board at its meeting on October 10, 1932.

P.S. #2

I now find that I can come to Princeton on Saturday to stay for a few days. This will give me an opportunity to see you and a few others.

P.S. #3

I am asking Mrs. Bailey to send you a check herewith for your railroad fare on Thursday, Oct. 20.

A.F.

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LEWIS H. WEED

October 26, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am so sorry to say that Mrs. Flexner and I have a dinner appointment here in New York Friday evening, so that we cannot go to Princeton until Saturday afternoon. We shall both be there Saturday evening and Sunday, and Mrs. Flexner may even stay until late Monday afternoon. I shall hang around a day or two longer if there is anything that I can accomplish by so doing.

I am returning herewith Professor Wilson's letter. I do not feel that I am sufficiently well oriented myself to make any move in the field of economics. Of the men whom Wilson mentions I know Hotelling personally, but I think we shall first have to find a leader before we choose subordinates. At any rate I shall want at least another year before taking any action in reference to economics. I see no reason why you should not yourself write Wilson to this effect.

We have received a good many letters of the type sent you by Miss McKenney. I do not wish to burden you with answering inquiries of this kind. If they reach you, put them in an envelope and mail them to me or Mrs. Bailey. I feel very certain that persons who have not exhausted the opportunities of our graduate schools are not going to be the kind of persons you or Professor Einstein

Professor Veblen

October 26, 1932

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wish to select except in very unusual circumstances. The great thing is to remove from your shoulders all possible clerical and administrative work, though you may be absolutely sure that I shall do nothing involving you positively or negatively without your authorization.

In a different category is a personal letter such as you had from Bohr. While I should be glad to see a letter of that kind, I think you should answer it yourself.

Give my greetings to your wife, and believe me

Always sincerely,

A.F.

P.S.

All this will be much simpler of course after I come down to Princeton.

A.F.

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

P.S. #2

Since dictating the above, Mrs. Flexner and I have spoken of the matter of our visit to Princeton, and inasmuch as you and Mrs. Veblen, Capps and Eisenhart will all be absent the coming Saturday, we shall defer our visit for a week at least. I will let you know when we know.

A.F.

E. L. Bailey

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October 28, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am enclosing you a check for the salary of Mr. Vanderslice for the month of October, and I am also enclosing a duplicate of the deposit slip sent to the Princeton Bank and Trust Company for you by Mrs. Bailey. You will note that the slip contains salary for both September and October less 5% of each month, which has been forwarded to the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

A. F.

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, N. J.

AF:ESB

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PERCY S. STRAUS
LEWIS H. WEED

November 3, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

Mrs. Flexner and I are now planning to go to Princeton November 8th, after voting that morning. We are hoping to spend the rest of the week there, going to South Orange Sunday, November 13th. I feel certain that nothing will interfere with our going and I hope very much that nothing will interfere with our staying, but you know New York, and it may be that, against our wishes and inclination, one or the other of us may be called back before the week is over.

With all good wishes to you and Mrs. Veblen,

Ever sincerely,

G. F.

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/d

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LEWIS H. WEED

November 14, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

In order that there may be no danger that you and I will get our wires crossed in writing Weyl, I wonder if you would mind sending me a copy of what you wrote him on the subject of the appointment offered. Don't do this if you have any hesitation whatsoever, and don't please misunderstand. I am simply anxious that you and I should talk the same language and mean the same things.

We enjoyed greatly our meeting you and your wife and the Aydelottes with Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld yesterday. They are certainly ideal donors, and it will be our fault if we do not achieve something.

Very sincerely yours,

A. J.

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, N. J.

AF:ESB

MRS. EDWIN M. NORRIS
REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
8 Chambers Street

PRINCETON, N. J.
November 15, 1932.

Dr. Abraham Flexner, Director
Institute for Advanced Study
100 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Flexner:

I noticed in the "New York Times" that you are planning to locate the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and that you hope to ultimately build or remain here permanently so I am, as a Real Estate agent in Princeton, writing to ask if I may show you some of the properties listed with my office.

I am taking the liberty of telling you about a few of them which I shall be glad to show you. There are several others which I am not including in this letter but will be glad to show them also if you are interested.

If you wish a reference, I am sure that Professor and Mrs. Veblen and Dean and Mrs. Eisenhart who are my personal friends will be glad to give you one. I am also President of the Princeton Real Estate Board.

The properties are as follows:

No. 1.- 40 acres overlooking the golf course and close to the Graduate College and separated from the golf course by Springdale Road. There is no definite asking price on this property but it can be purchased for around \$80,000.00 and perhaps less. Adjacent to this property on the south and west is a large tract of land which is for sale but now without a price on it. The owner is open to an offer.

No. 2. -139 acres situated within ten feet of the Lincoln Highway and bound on the south by the Mercer Pike and on the west by the Provinceline Road. It is a beautiful farm with rich soil and sloping land from a high elevation to lowlands. It has an old frame colonial farmhouse and outbuildings, all in need of repair.
Price \$35,000.00

No. 3.- 118 acres on the State road to Somerville with a magnificent view and woodland. It is within five minutes ride of Nassau Street with a car going at 30 miles and hour but the property is so secluded that it might as well be twenty miles in the mountains. The property is improved by a handsome stone house with modern improvements. There are 8 rooms on the ground floor and 5 master bedrooms and 3 master baths. Also 4 servants rooms and bath. There is also an old farmers house in excellent condition, built of stone, a stone garage with stalls for 5 cars and a large stable for horses. Price \$200,000.00

Dr. Abraham Flexner

November 15, 1932

No. 4. - 40 acres on the Rosedale Road with a frontage of 1400 feet and a depth of 1200 feet. This property has a fine elevation and there is an adjacent farm which is for sale ~~xxx~~ \$23,000.00. There is also adjacent a large tract of land which is held in trust, but the Trustee is subject to an offer. The price of the 40 acres is \$ 25,000.00

No. 6.- 88 acres on the Cherry Hill Road within 4 minutes ride of Princeton by auto going at a speed of 30 miles per hour. This property is to the north of Princeton and is higher up than the town. Price: subject to offer.

No.8.- 100 acres on Snowden Lane Price: subject to offer.

No. 9.- 100 acres on the Ridge Road, with a beautiful view. The property is improved by a colonial house and outbuildings in good repair. Price \$52,750.00

No. 10.- 90 acres on the Pennington Road, improved by frame house and outbuildings with two brooks on property. Price \$22,500.00

A large tract of land can be bought on the State Road to Somerville for around \$300.00 an acre.

I hope that I shall have the pleasure of hearing from you and that I may get an idea of the sort of property you will be interested in.

Very truly yours,

Katherine H. Morris

Katherine H. Morris

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LEWIS H. WEED

November 15, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

I should suppose that if you write to Einstein now, you would address him in Berlin, though I have had no letter from him and hence do not know for certain.

Thank you for your statement regarding the Annals. I shall bring it up at the first possible opportunity. Should there be a meeting of the Executive Committee, it can come up at any time - otherwise it will go over until the January meeting of the Board.

Sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Department of Mathematics
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

A. F.

AF/D

November 12, 1932.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
100 East 42nd Street
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

During our conversation with Lefschetz about the Annals, you suggested that I should write to you about the proposal that the Institute should take out a sustaining membership in the American Mathematical Society with a view to making a contribution towards the expense of its publications. A fair number of universities, life insurance companies and industrial concerns are already doing this but the number of life insurance companies and industrial concerns has been seriously decreased by the depression. The amount of the subscriptions is at least \$100 a year and has some times gone as high as \$500 a year. In view of the purposes of the Institute, I would suggest giving more than the minimum amount. A clear idea of what the Institute would receive in direct return can be gained from the attached extracts from the by-laws of the American Mathematical Society.

As I understand the outcome of our conversation with Lefschetz about the Annals, it was that you will recommend a contribution of \$2000 a year by the Institute to the Annals of Mathematics. This amount, it was estimated, will be enough to take the place of the support which the Annals has hitherto received from the Mathematical Association of America and from the Rockefeller Foundation. The latter support was expected to come to an end at the end of this academic year in any case.

The contribution to the Annals from Princeton University consists of \$1200 a year ~~in~~ and the relief of one of the professors from one course of instruction in order to give him time for his work on the Annals. One course is approximately one third of a professor's teaching load.

It was understood that the cover of the Annals would be so altered to show that it was published under the joint auspices of the University and the Institute. So far as I can fore-see these results, the sustaining membership in the Mathematical Society and the support of the Annals will be all that we need to in the way of helping

Dr. Flexner

2.

mathematical periodicals. As Weyl and I indicated last summer, however, it is not impossible that we may wish to do something about mathematical books.

I have written to Weyl and Menger. In writing to Einstein to you use the Haberlandstrasse or Kaput address?

My wife and I enjoyed the visit from you and Mrs. Flexner very much. Our only regret is that you could not stay over and enjoy the beautiful weather yesterday and today.

Yours sincerely,

OV/AF

ARTICLE V

Election of Members

Section 1. Election of members shall be by vote of the Council.

Section 2. There shall be two classes of members, ordinary and sustaining.

Section 3. A firm, corporation, institution, association or individual interested in the support of mathematics may be elected to sustaining membership. A sustaining member shall receive both the Bulletin and the Transactions and shall have the privilege of nominating one or more persons for election by the Council to ordinary membership in the Society, the number to be determined by the Council. Such nominations shall not be acted upon until at least thirty days after their presentation to the Council (at a meeting or by mail).

Section 4. Except in the case of nominees of sustaining members, application for admission to ordinary membership shall be made by the applicant, on a blank provided by the Secretary, and shall be approved by two members of the Society. Such applications shall not be acted upon until at least thirty days after their presentation to the Council (at a meeting or by mail), except in the case of members of other societies entering under special action of the Council.

ARTICLE VI

Dues

Section 1. Persons elected to ordinary membership in the Society by the Council, under the provisions of Article V, Section 4, shall be admitted to membership upon the payment, within sixty days of the date of their election, of an initiation fee of five dollars.

Section 2. The annual dues of persons elected by the Council to ordinary membership under the provisions of Article V, Section 4, shall be eight dollars, with the following exceptions; (1) during the first three years of membership, the annual dues shall be six dollars; a person shall be considered to have completed his first year of membership on January 1 following his election; (2) the amount of dues may be altered by reciprocity agreements with other societies; (3) the Council may take special rulings in exceptional cases, with the approval of the Board of Trustees; five dollars of the dues of each member shall be for a year's subscription to the Bulletin. Each new member shall pay in proportion to the unexpired fraction of the year at the time of his election.

Section 3. The dues of a sustaining member for any year shall not be less than one hundred dollars. A sustaining member who contributes annually at least five hundred dollars shall be designated as a Patron of the Society.

Section 4. Persons elected to ordinary membership as nominees of sustaining members, under the provisions of Article V, Section 3, shall not be required to pay an initiation fee. They shall not be required to pay dues so long as it is agreed that they are designated by the sustaining member under these provisions. If a nominee of a sustaining member later becomes a dues-paying member, he shall pay dues at the rate of six dollars a year for the remainder (if any) of his first three years of membership, and eight dollars a year thereafter.

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LEWIS H. WEED

November 17, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

I had a mean feeling about asking you to let me see a copy of your letter to Weyl. There was of course the possibility that you might refer my request to the Association of American University Professors as "an infringement on academic freedom"! But I really had perfect confidence in your discretion and was absolutely devoid of curiosity. On the other hand, I have the feeling that we ought to talk the same language especially in dealing with so sensitive a person as Weyl. Your letter is admirable in every respect. I am by no means sure that I could have done as well if I had undertaken to write Weyl myself, and I think there is a great tactical advantage in having it come rather casually from you.

After returning to New York I allowed my ideas to settle down as regards our various conversations regarding the relations of the two groups, and I wrote Eisenhart a letter summing up the situation as it now looks to me, but my mind is quite open, and it may be that I shall see things differently in the course of time. Don't be impatient with the slowness with which I seem to move. I can decide things if I have to, but in this new venture and in dealing with subjects with which I am unfamiliar I am a slow learner.

I am coming to Princeton on the 30th to attend a dinner which Poole

Prof. Veblen

Nov. 17, 1932

2

is giving to Curtius and Ambassador Houghton, and I shall spend the next few days writing a little prospectus which we can send out in response to various inquiries. I hope to have the advantage of your collaboration.

Mrs. Flexner joins me in kindest greetings to you and Mrs. Veblen.

Very sincerely yours,

A. T.

Professor Oswald Veblen
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

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LEWIS H. WEED

November 25, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

Your letter to Professor Weyl is perfect. I do not see anything to modify in it. I should like merely to add to what you have written a brief comment to Weyl, copy of which I enclose, which I think may do something to make clearer to him the difference between the situation he now holds and the situation which he would occupy should he come to the Institute.

Your visit on Wednesday was a timely and helpful one, for that evening and walking yesterday in the park the feeling grew upon me more and more strongly that we have discussed the opening gambit sufficiently and that it is now time for us to make preparations for a genuine start next autumn; for, if we do not start next autumn, we shall lose another entire year. How then shall we start? After the Civil War there was for a decade interminable discussion about the resumption of specie payments. When John Sherman became Secretary of the Treasury and was asked what his policy would be, he said, "The way to resume is to resume", and that he did on the first of January following.

Now we have in you and Einstein two persons certain. I would suggest that, dropping for the time being questions of site, etc., you begin to get together two or three or four men to work with and under you, beginning next autumn. You

Professor Veblen

November 25, 1932

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have, I suppose, already written Gödel, and you mentioned Whitney the other day.

I enclose copies of correspondence which I have had with Richtmyer and Reed. From Tisdale I have as yet no response.

Should Weyl accept, we shall treat him similarly. Pursuing this policy, the Institute will be a going concern next autumn, and you will have leisure and opportunity to do your own work and to stimulate and guide those with whom you surround yourself. It may well be that a concrete nucleus in operation will be more attractive to other mathematicians whom we may wish to secure than the nebulous Institute as it has had to be up to this time.

I am returning your letter, for there is really no reason why I should retain the copy of it.

Very sincerely yours,

A.S.
7

Professor Oswald Veblen
Department of Mathematics
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AT:ESB

C
O
P
Y

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
100 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y.

November 12, 1932

Dear Dr. Richtmyer:

We have made the first move in the organization of the Institute for Advanced Study by appointing Einstein, Professor of Mathematical Physics, and Veblen, Professor of Mathematics. To this group, two or three other mathematicians of first-rate standing will be added during the course of the present year. We are planning to begin the work in mathematics on October 1, 1933.

It is possible that there may be Fellows whom you may wish to entrust to this group but of course you will realize, as I do, that no personal consideration must influence your judgment.

With much appreciation, I am

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED) Abraham Flexner

Dr. F. K. Richtmyer
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

(Same letter sent to Dr. Tisdale and Mr. Reed.)

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

2101 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C.

C
O
P
Y

Ithaca
New York

November 16, 1932

Dr. Abraham Flexner
The Institute for Advanced Study
100 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

In response to your letter of November 12th, may
I say that I assume that you have in mind National Research Fellows
who may be appointed to begin work subsequent to October 1, 1933.

We shall be very glad indeed to refer prospective
Fellows to you and to the Institute.

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED) F. K. Richtmyer

Copy for Professor Veblen

November 25, 1932

Dear Professor Weyl:

Professor Veblen has discussed with me fully your letter and has been kind enough to show me his reply of November 23. Everything that he says seems to me perfectly sound. There is only one additional comment that I should make, namely - it occurs to me that, in thinking of the Institute and particularly of the School of Mathematics, you may have had in mind something like a university faculty in mathematics. This seems to me a misconception, for it is precisely the advantage of the Institute that, unlike a university faculty, there is nothing that it must do unless really first-rate persons can be obtained. We are more nearly analogous to the different Institutes maintained by the Kaiser Wilhelm Gesellschaft than to an institution of higher learning in the university sense of the term. We can begin, as the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research began, with a very few people provided they are first-rate. We can help each of them to surround himself with a few really promising individuals of his own selection. We can grow gradually in any direction in which first-rate talent is available.

Let me assure you once more, as I have done previously and as Professor Veblen has done, that I appreciate very fully the difficulties of transplanting yourself and your family. No situation in life, as far as my experience goes, is perfect. I hope to do everything that is reasonable to make the members of

Professor Weyl

November 25, 1932

2

the Institute happy and productive, but there are undoubtedly other factors to be considered over which I can exercise no control.

Please accept my warmest greetings and believe me

Always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Herrn Prof. Dr. H. Weyl
Merkelstr. 3
Göttingen, Germany

AF:MSB

THE COMMONWEALTH FUND

41 East 57th Street

New York

C
O
P
Y

November 22, 1932

Dear Mr. Flexner:

I am very glad indeed to find on my desk, on my return from the West, your letter of November 12th. Will you please put my name on the mailing list so that I may receive all announcements of the Institute? We have not had among our Fellows many mathematicians but if one is elected who would appear to be qualified for the Institute I shall at once communicate with you. We have had no mathematicians for the last two years but one of our best Fellows, Henry Whitehead (now at Balliol) was a very brilliant mathematician and worked at Princeton for three years with Professor Veblen.

I am glad to have this opportunity of speaking to you about one of our Fellows who is studying problems in education. He is now at Chicago, using that as a center, and looking at our Western schools, both public and private. He is coming East about December 6th and very much wishes to have an opportunity of talking with you. I saw him at Chicago only last week and he asked me if I thought I could possibly arrange for him to meet you and I said that I would write to you as soon as I returned. He is a graduate of Magdalen College, Oxford, and has been a Master of Stowe School, the so-called progressive school. Spencer is quite radical in his ideas of education and has thought out very carefully his own plan. He would not waste your time and I feel sure you could give him much help. Hoping that he can see you,

Yours very sincerely,

(SIGNED) Edward B. Reed

Mr. Abraham Flexner, Director
The Institute for Advanced Study
100 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y.

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TO THE CREDIT OF

Oswald Veblen

PRINCETON, N.J.

Nov. 28,

1932

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Note for Prof. Veblen

[570]

62.50 of your salary
sent to Teachers Insurance
and Annuity Association

Nov. 28, 1932

E. L. B.

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LEWIS H. WEED

November 28, 1932

Professor Oswald Veblen
Department of Mathematics
Princeton University
Princeton, N. J.

My dear Professor Veblen:

I am sending you herewith a check for the salary of Dr. Vanderslice for the month of November. I am also enclosing a duplicate of the deposit slip sent to the Princeton Bank and Trust Company today. You will note that the slip indicates your salary for the month of November less 5%, which has been forwarded to the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America.

Very truly yours,

Esther S. Bailey
Assistant Secretary

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LEWIS H. WEED

December 1, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am writing you now as I should have written you immediately after the Board meeting, but inasmuch as I knew you and I understood each other and as the minutes of the Board set forth the arrangements between us, no harm has been done by the delay. I can now state formally the terms upon which you were chosen Professor of Mathematics, namely:

That your appointment begin September 1, 1932;

That your salary be fixed at \$15,000 a year, of which you are to contribute 5% monthly to the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America, the Institute contributing an equal sum;

That, unless the term of appointment is prolonged by mutual consent, you retire at the age of 65 on an allowance of \$8,000 per annum, part of which will be paid by the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America, the rest to be made up by the Institute;

That, if your wife, Elizabeth M. D. Richardson Veblen, survive you, she will receive during her widowhood a pension of \$5,000 a year.

To the foregoing terms adopted by the Board I may add that I am now negotiating with the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association to the end that, in so far as your retiring allowance and your wife's pension depend upon the Board, they will be covered by insurance at the expense of the Institute.

With all good wishes,

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey

Sincerely yours,

Abraham Flexner

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.



Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton
New Jersey

December 13, 1932.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
100 East 42nd Street
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I enclose herewith a formal letter of acceptance. It had not occurred to me that you would want one because I have never given one before. However, I did not find it a heavy undertaking.

I looked up two papers by Mr. Bardeen. Without having studied them I judge from the type of problem attacked and from the general appearance that he would want one year more of graduate study before attaining the Ph. D. degree. I should think that there is a fair chance that he is a good student.

Perhaps the best answer to make would be to encourage him to come to Princeton as a graduate student and candidate for the Ph. D. degree. The case seems to me very much like the case of Mr. Bleick. It might be a good plan to give a small amount of financial help, provided the student can not get this from the University. It is not unlikely that men of this type might get something from either Weyl or myself. There are great advantages, however, in having a Ph. D. degree and a regular place in the academic hierarchy.

Yours sincerely,

OV/AF

December 13, 1932.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
100 East 42nd Street
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

This is to signify my formal acceptance of a Professorship
of Mathematics in the Institute for Advanced Study on the terms
laid down in your letter of December 1st.

Yours sincerely,

OV/AF

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DAY LETTER

29

TISDALE WRITES ME THAT HE HAS AWARDED JESSEN A FELLOWSHIP
TO WORK WITH YOU NEXT YEAR ALSO THAT HE EXPECTS TO SEND US A
REGULAR SUPPLY OF FELLOWS GREATLY ENJOYED MY STAY IN
PRINCETON GREETINGS TO MRS VEBLEN=
ABRAHAM FLEXNER.

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

The Menace of Einstein

The scientific foundation which invited Prof Albert Einstein to undertake research work at Princeton, N. J., for several months each year did not reckon with the Woman Patriot corporation, whose head waters and headquarters are located in this commonwealth.

The state department must have been startled the other day when it received from Mrs Randolph Frothingham a request that the most eminent of living scientists should be debarred by this government from again entering the United States. Twice already in recent years has Prof Einstein come to America without perceptibly shaking the underpinning of the republic.

The Woman Patriot corporation, however, is seeing things. It grimly discerns that Prof Einstein is a "dangerous alien"; is "affiliated with 'more anarchist and Communist 'groups than Joseph Stalin himself"; and is "an advocate of the overthrow by force or violence of the 'government of the United States." And these charges, having been duly filed at the state department, have been sent according to the procedure to our consular officials in Germany and other European countries for their information. Whether Prof Einstein shall be granted a visa when next he attempts to visit this country is up to the consul at whose office the scientist applies. Our official representative will proceed to ask Prof Einstein his views and so on.

You can't fool our dear Mrs Frothingham and the Woman Patriot corporation. Einstein or no Einstein, they can tell an enemy of the United States as far as the man in the moon. The officers of the American research foundation, which has engaged the distinguished German discoverer of relativity to work part of his time in scientific investigation on our inhospitable Atlantic shores, are now exposed, are they not? to criminal indictment for conspiracy and high treason. At least, the vigilant Mrs Frothingham and the Woman Patriot corporation are not to be lightly ignored by them.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

(FOUNDED BY LOUIS BAMBERGER AND MRS. FELIX FULD, 1930)

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100 EAST 42ND STREET
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December 7, 1932

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PERCY S. STRAUS
LEWIS H. WEED

Dear Professor Veblen:

Do you want to write to somebody
in Chicago to find out what Dr. Raab amounts to? Just
a line will elicit the information we need.

Sincerely yours,

A. J.

Professor Oswald Veblen
Department of Mathematics
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/D

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LEWIS H. WEED

December 7, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

By all means ask Whitney to visit you at Princeton at the expense of the Institute and send me a memorandum of the amount involved.

Many thanks for your letter to Professor Simmons.

I had a glorious time in Princeton last week, and I shall repeat the visit in the very near future.

The tornado about Einstein was terribly funny for everybody except Mrs. Bailey, who was kept at the telephone from nine a.m. until almost midnight. I myself talked to nobody. There was terrific chagrin here among sensible people. Stimson must have been peppered with telegrams, for I have heard of many and by no means all. However, "all's well that ends well".

I hope that your glimpse of the "theatrical world" will not make an actor instead of a mathematician of you.

Remember me warmly to your wife, and believe me

Ever sincerely,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

A. F.

AF:ESB

December 8, 1932.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
100 East 42nd Street
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Yesterday I had a visit from two of the children of Mrs. Marquand, a son and a daughter, Mrs. Forsyth. The latter was, I believe, a classmate of your daughter's at Bryn Mawr. They wanted to discuss the inquiry which I had made of Mr. Mather of the possibility of their selling the place which you and I looked at the other day to the Institute. I told them the situation as well as I could making some emphasis on the probability that you will move slowly. They said that their mother is still too ill to consider the matter but they evidently thought there was a possibility that she might sell. I gave them your address write and that of Mr. Maass and my understanding is that they will to you.

I asked what they knew about Mrs. Pyne's place. They seemed to think that none of her heirs would be likely to want to keep it up so that sooner or latter it was likely to be on the market. It seems to me that it might be worth while to make an inquiry from the Trustees who manage herestate for her. The Pyne place, you will remember, adjoins the Marquand one and is much larger.

I would imagine that either of these places of land would be more expensive than any of the others that have been considered.

Yours sincerely,

OV/AF

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

TEMPORARY OFFICES

100 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y.

December 9, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

Many thanks for yours of the eighth regarding the real estate matters.

I have given a good deal of thought to our conversations of last week. If it is quite convenient to you and the other mathematicians whom I may wish to see, I propose to go down to Princeton on Tuesday evening, so that I can have a talk with you and them Wednesday morning (December 14). Drop me a line, and let me know whether this is feasible.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Department of Mathematics
Princeton University
Princeton, N. J.

G. J.

AF:ESB

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LEWIS H. WEED

December 12, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

I am enclosing a letter from Dr. C.R. Bardeen, an able Johns Hopkins man who has created the present Medical School of the University of Wisconsin. I shall be interested to learn what you regard as the wisest course for his son to pursue.

Sincerely yours,

A. F.

P.S. I received your Special Delivery letter Saturday evening. I shall wire you if my plans for visiting Princeton tomorrow change. Meanwhile, it occurs to me that Mrs. Bailey mailed you a letter regarding your appointment which, as far as I know, you have not formally accepted. I wish you would do this in order to keep the record clear.

Professor Oswald Veblen
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/D

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FLORENCE R. SABIN
PERCY S. STRAUS
LEWIS H. WEED

December 13, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

Unforeseen conditions interfered with my trip to Princeton today. As I thought things over at intervals, I became more and more reluctant to show myself on the Princeton Campus before Eisenhart had threshed the matter out with Mr. Duffield, the mathematical group, and any other bodies concerned. Perhaps I am punctilious to the point of squeamishness, but just because our relations with Princeton will be so intimate, I wish to give no one the slightest ground for criticism. I am not reluctant to act - quite the contrary. I want to act, but I would not for the world have any one associated with Princeton feel that we had been inconsiderate or unmindful of the great kindness and courtesy which Princeton has shown us.

Always sincerely,

A.F.

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, N. J.

AF:ESB

December 16, 1932.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
100 East 42nd Street
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Your special delivery letter inclosing the correspondence with Weyl and Courant reached me about a half hour or so ago. I shall try to send you a response at once so as to avoid any unnecessary delay.

I wonder whether it would not be well to modify the first sentence in the inclosure from our announcement so as to read as follows:

"Instruction will be rendered either by individual contact with the students or by Seminars or classes of lectures or by other methods. Each professor will be free to follow the method which he prefers and to vary it from year to year".

The first sentence is copied from your letter to Weyl and I think is preferable in that it leaves the whole statement more elastic. The original form was probably unduly influenced, I think, by my own choice of methods.

The general question which Weyl has raised has a bearing on the problem as to whom to admit as students in the Institute. My own inclination is to admit competent men rather freely without any commitment as to whether they will work with a particular member of the staff. This would admit them to our group. At the least, they would be members Weyl's and my audience. At the most, they would establish personal relations with one of us. I feel that we would find better material for our more intimate work if we had a reservoir of this sort. It looks now as if there would be a large enough group of men wishing to come and sufficiently competent to constitute a satisfactory reservoir.

For example, there is Dr. Raab, whom you asked me to inquire about. Bliss writes:

"A. W. Raab is a man who has just taken his Ph. D. degree with us. He is a determined man. *rather than a brilliant student, we had*

Dr. Flexner

2.

not expected much from him in the way of research but he was persistent and came through with a good thesis. I could not recommend him strongly for a National Research Fellowship or for a fellowship in the Institute."

On this basis I should admit him as a student in the Institute with remission of tuition charges but not with a fellowship.

Returning to your letter to Weyl, would it perhaps be well to say explicitly that he is free to recommend an assistant whose function would be primarily to help him over language difficulties and the like and also an assistant or associate whom he regards as a very promising man in Algebra.

I wonder whether it is wise to admit that he is making a great sacrifice. I think he will come actually because he expects ~~the gains~~ to out-weigh the losses.

I have tried to find details in your letter to criticize. Actually I think the letter is admirable as it stands. Hoping that this will bring the Weyl negotiations to an end,

Yours sincerely,

OV/AF

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HERBERT H. MAASS
FLORENCE R. SABIN
PERCY S. STRAUS
LEWIS H. WEED

December 17, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

Your Special Delivery letter reached me at my home. Meanwhile, I have been called to Washington for a conference with the State Department respecting our foreign appointees. It is probable that I shall have to be in Washington on Monday. That will mean that my trip to Princeton will have to be postponed a day or two. I shall communicate with you as soon as the matter is clear.

I have adopted the change suggested in the memorandum.

As to Professor Weyl's assistant, I am inclined to let the matter ride until we have a chance to talk with him.

I rather fear that if we admit Dr. Raab, remitting tuition, we shall find ourselves establishing a precedent to the disadvantage of Princeton. My inclination is to leave it entirely to you and to your associates as to whether you wish to admit him or not, and then let him come on a regular basis, unless he is of such outstanding ability - which does not appear to be the case - as to make him worth our while to make every possible effort to secure him.

Professor Oswald Veblen

December 17, 1932

-2-

I shall omit from the letter to Weyl the reference to "sacrifice," though I do think that in leaving Göttingen he and his family are sacrificing a good deal. On the other hand, I hope it will turn out that they will be gaining more than they lose.

Sincerely yours,

A.F.

P.S.

The proposed Washington conference is at my suggestion.

A.F.

Professor Oswald Veblen
Department of Mathematics
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/D

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

TEMPORARY OFFICES

100 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y.

December 14, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have just had the enclosed letters from Weyl and Courant. I am submitting my answers to you before forwarding them. Will you please read them carefully and make any suggestions that they seem to you to require?

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

A.F.

P.S. I am not sending the letter from Prof. Weyl, inasmuch as we have talked over the telephone since I dictated the above. A.F.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

TEMPORARY OFFICES
100 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

December 21, 1932

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey

My dear Professor Veblen:

I am sending you herewith the
Institute's check for \$3.50 to cover Dr. Whitney's
expenses at the Nassau Club on his recent visit
to Princeton at the invitation of the Institute.

Very truly yours,

Ethel S. Bailey
Assistant Secretary

P.S. A check for \$20.54 has already been sent to
Dr. Whitney, with the request that he send an ad-
ditional memorandum covering meals, taxis, etc.

ESB

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PERCY S. STRAUS
LEWIS H. WEED

December 22, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

I feel great satisfaction in what we accomplished yesterday and genuine gratitude to you and to Dean Eisenhart. At the same time, nothing could exceed my desire that Professor Lefschetz should derive as much satisfaction for the arrangements arrived at as the rest of us. So I want you to make clear to him - (show him this letter if you please)

1.) That as between him and Alexander, I have no choice. Indeed, I could not have any, for I am too deeply ignorant of the whole subject to appreciate either man.

2.) That the consideration which I had to bear in mind was the importance of getting together a group, all the members of which would not grow old at the same time. As the matter now stands, you and Einstein are in the early 50's, Weyl in the middle 40's, Alexander in the early 40's - so that we have protected ourselves against any such fate as befell the deacon's one horse shay, which, as you remember, fell to pieces all at once without showing any signs of decay during one hundred years.

3.) In order that Professor Lefschetz and Professor Alexander may appreciate fully the spirit in which I have acted, we have simply created for Professor Alexander at his own wish and insistence another

- 2 -

"Fine" professorship with the same remuneration and dignity.

Please make Lefschetz, as well as the other members of the Princeton staff, understand that functionally the two groups belong to one another and that we shall all pull together in the same boat, with you as coxswain.

Tell Lefschetz, please, that if I had had time, I should have had an interview with him in person but I was bound to get home by dinner time and just succeeded in so doing.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

A. F.

Professor Oswald Veblen
Department of Mathematics
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

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HERBERT H. MAASS
FLORENCE R. SABIN
PERCY S. STRAUS
LEWIS H. WEED

December 30, 1932

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, N. J.

My dear Professor Veblen:

I send you herewith Dr. Vanderslice's salary check for the month of December 1932 and a duplicate of the deposit slip sent to the Princeton Bank and Trust Company today. You will note that the slip indicates your salary for the month of December less 5%, which has been forwarded to the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America.

Very truly yours,

Esther S. Bailey
Assistant Secretary