

IV

Note F's obj. to subsidizing  
universities to send books  
1/133 - F's answer a way to  
share exp. for young ph D's " 1/24

VIII Detail Fac post ' 6<sup>th</sup> page

12/2/33 ✓ This was actually not be  
as much to work entirely independently of with university employees  
with the prop. — he was in Ball □ — F cut out  
as the line of demarcation or whether because it came naturally

Participate in Govt  
Ans - MF-5  
America

was adopted as the sine sine qua non of an appointment of a  
short-term member at the Institute. Oct 11, 1933 ✓ Oct 26 1933

Pre 11-24/33?  
yes - see next p.

In the discussion between Veblen and Flexner on some of  
these problems, Flexner made the remark that he hardly relished  
asking his Board of Trustees to subsidize rich universities  
by inviting their most promising young mathematicians to the  
Institute at half-pay, provided the University would release  
them. It may have been this, or it may have been some other  
factor in connection with the operations as of that time which  
caused Veblen to return to the attack on the government method

This probably arose in V's rage against Flexner  
for turning down V's attempt when Weigl remained largely

of governing the Institute as it was established at that  
time. Suffice it to say that not only did they have a  
discussion which is not on the record, but they had a discussion  
on the record of the desirability of adopting the German  
or the English university system of government in which the  
staff members or faculty members exercise all governmental  
function, as directly related to academic matters.

Flexner replied to this verbal exchange in a letter  
dated January 23, 1933, pointing out that in Germany and  
France the governmental agency, and in Germany also a curator  
relieve the faculty of an immense amount of "administrative detail."

He pointed out also that in Oxford and Cambridge everything is done by the dons, but questions whether if the dons had done their job correctly it would have been necessary in the last half century or so for three royal commissions to be established to overhaul the universities. "It does not seem to me, therefore, that either the continental universities or the English universities ~~may~~ can be quoted in favor of an arrangement for throwing everything upon the professors. Moreover, if I can judge from the amount of work, mostly useless, that passes over my desk, I do not see how a group of scientists can manage a going and growing institution

without serious sacrifices of their work. At this moment, for example, in the Institute, the members of the School of Mathematics would not only be thinking of mathematics and answering a lot of mail and inquiries with which they <sup>usually</sup> do not need to be bothered, but they would be discussing what we should do next--classics, history, economics, and what not. The scheme under which we are proceeding aims to place the professors in ~~a~~ positions of dignity and responsibility, to give them freedom from administrative ~~as~~ duties, and adequate part of the development of the institution, while at the same time utilizing laymen ~~who~~ who can render important service, and

someone whose main task it is to plan for future developments. I do not know whether this will work out or not, but it seems to me superior to the American or to the foreign organizations so far as I know them." (IV-21)

Veblen responded to this on January 24 as follows:

"What you say about the form of government impresses me very strongly. My own position is simply that we should give the people who administer our funds for us as little power as is consistent with efficiency. You are doubtless a better judge than I of how far it is necessary to go.

"I am convinced that a Congressional investigation of American universities would uncover much worse conditions than any royal commission ever found in the English universities. In fact, I imagine that there are few business organizations, if any, which

have not needed reorganization from time to time during the last 50 or 100 years.

"On all these questions I feel fairly well at ease now that we have a good start, and expect to know more about them after a couple of years." (Ibid.)

Another question arose with respect to the members.

Veblen wished to call them "associates of the Institute," after their terms as short-term members. To this Flexner took emphatic exception as follows:

"I cannot satisfy myself that it is right to give the name of associate to persons to whom we make grants in aid, for it does not seem to me to be fair. They belong to other institutions. They come to us primarily as workers. While the title of associates may improve their situation at the end of a year when

This is mention of (V's use of) men having positions to sum 9AS  
Grant-in-aid to him.

they leave, I cannot help asking myself whether that is a thing to which we ought to be a party. Persons of this kind should, I think, be simply listed as receiving grants in aid. It will thus be understood that the rest of their means are derived from other sources." (Flexner to Veblen, January 23, 1933, Ibid.)

The term grants-in-aid was adopted rather than fellowships or stipends at that time because of the decision to take only post-doctorals who had connections with a university when they came to the <sup>institute to Fellow, NRC Communications, Princeton, NJ</sup> institute. The term grant-in-aid then in Flexner's mind related to assistance both to the university from which the man came and to the man ~~himself~~ himself. This initiated the use of the term grant-in-aid.

The Univ. evidently allowed Alexander first  
Was he on payroll 9AS 2nd Semester 1932-3?

Flexner, though he took an active interest in discussing with Veblen who should come to the Institute <sup>on</sup> under the grants-in-aid during the first year, because of the need to formulate policy, did write Veblen a letter in which he specifically said: ~~that the budget~~

"In organizing the School of Mathematics for the next academic year you and Professor Alexander, who are now on the ground, can feel that you have at your disposal \$15,000 to be used for gants in aid, fellowships, assistants, or loans, as you see fit. I shall at the April meeting of the Board ask a further appropriation of \$5,000 to be placed at your disposal for what you call 'minor appointments'."

Before April  
1933  
(year)

Here seemed to be established the principle of the School of Mathematics, making its own appointments of short-term

members after policies had been established.

Veblen quickly followed this up asking whether or not assistants should be paid out of this fund, and Flexner responded that the assistants could be in the regular budget and not in the budget for the grants-in-aid. (Veblen to Flexner, February 4, 1933, and Flexner to Veblen, February 6, 1933, Ibid.)

Economic conditions were approaching a crisis in the United States, and Flexner was determined to make no further appointments if he could avoid it at this particular time.

Veblen pressed Flexner to discuss the advantage of a tender to Professor Dirac of a chair in <sup>math</sup>theoretical physics

Dirac a  
math. 50

at the Institute. Flexner raised the money issue saying that though he did not doubt that the Institute was safe in those difficult times, he still wished to let the School of Mathematics operate for a year with its four appointees until it became settled that further steps should be taken there or in another direction. (<sup>Yes</sup>Since he did not talk) to Einstein during Einstein's brief stop on the east ~~ax~~ coast pending his <sup>for</sup> departure/~~from~~ Europe, Veblen did, and it is interesting to note that though Einstein professed the highest regard for Dirac, and particularly in relation to his own current studies, he suggested it might be well if Dirac were asked for

E  
V  
a  
VN

half a year at something like \$5,000, though <sup>at first</sup> earlier he expressed an interest in Dirac's permanent appointment. <sup>Some - V 3/15/33</sup>  
 Meanwhile, also, Veblen had considered the desirability of asking Norbert Wiener to accept a chair at the Institute, and presented a recommendation to this effect to Flexner as coming from himself, von Neumann and Alexander. <sup>Smitten? Some</sup> Flexner argued the matter out with him, and found that Veblen was not so eager actually to have Wiener at the Institute as he was "to do justice to Max Wiener and give him the coveted opportunity." <sup>Feb 1933</sup>  
 Apparently Wiener was not offered an appointment. During this correspondence the United States went off the gold standard, the banks were closed, and the ~~course~~ future course

rem?

of the economy was extremely uncertain. (March 13, 1933, Ibid.)  
 Another memorandum of the same sort on "purposes:" at the time the suggestion of the appointment of Dirac came up and on other occasions in this early period, Flexner had occasion to inform Veblen <sup>that</sup> he was eager not to do more for European scholars than he was doing for American scholars. The matter did arise, of course. In this connection, Flexner had made the point that in the further development of the School of Mathematics equal opportunities should be given to both American and foreign scholars and in the membership or the workers, the Institute should clearly recognize that its

Don't  
as long

contribution is made in the training of a few young men,  
mainly Americans.

He thinks deeply on the ~~subject~~ subject and ~~exposed~~ exposed  
his viewpoint candidly and frankly to Veblen. (March 20, 1933,  
Ibid.) Veblen responds:

"I think I agree with you completely in your attitude with regard to American versus foreign appointments. The considerations which you adduce seem to be decisive. Also I appreciate your desire to be cautious in view of the present economic situation.

"I have been expressing interest in Dirac in spite of the very small chance that he could be moved because he is a) young, (b) extremely able, and c) interested in questions which are close to those being studied by Einstein, von Neumann and

myself. I really think that the most we could hope to do would be to get him here for a single term once in a while.

"I mention Wiener largely because of a desire to be fair. He seems to be now the most deserving American who is available and he would bring into our group an element which we lack (the sort of analysis of which Hardy is an exponent). (Veblen to Flexner, March 24, 1933, Ibid.)

Flexner responds with great relief:

"I am very glad that you and I see eye to eye on this question of the form which our responsibility should take. Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld were very anxious from the outset that no distinction should be made as respects race, religion, nationality, etc., and of course I am in thorough sympathy with their point of view, but on the other hand if we do not

develop America, who is going to do it, and the question arises how much we ought to do for others and how much to make sure that civilization in America advances. The matter has been very, very much on my mind, and I do not know that any two persons would solve it in exactly the same way. I can only say that I am glad to be assured that you realize that my mind is as wide open as it can possibly be, and in these days in view of the incredible things happening in Germany we do not wish to brand ourselves as nationalists in any way whatsoever." (March 27, 1933, Flexner to Veblen, Ibid.)

1933-7  
STIPENDS

Academic Personnel

- available for grants-in-aid. (see AF Rev. 1/21/35)
- ▷ 1933-4 \$15,000 was spent on scholarships. Godel \$3,000 ?
  - 1934-5 \$20,000 for stipends mathematics, \$10,000 for stipends mathematical physics, and \$1,000 for lecture fees appropriated (4/23/34)
  - ▷ 1934-5 No identifiable expenditures of the above item
  - 1935-6 Budgeted \$20,000 and \$10,000 and \$1,000 as above
  - ▷ 1935-6 \$32,692.50 for grants-in-aid \$746.69 for visiting professorships
  - 1936-7 Math \$30,000 stipends, visiting professorships \$6,000, Humanistic Studies \$9,700 budgeted
  - ▷ 1936-7 Stipends math \$30,115.50, Historical Studies \$15,820, Math visiting professorships, \$6,000
  - ▷ Actual Expenditures

Treasurer's Reports

MITRANY, D.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

FRANKFURTER, FELIX

Flexner to Frankfurter, December 16, 1933.

He has heard from Frankfurter about Mitrany who is still thoroughly engaged by Mitrany. "I am worried about Ena and the effect upon him, but I say nothing."

He refers ~~to~~ Frankfurter to Sir William B. Hardy of 5 Grange Road in Cambridge, as one of the great men at Cambridge.

*This follows Flexner's nervous query to FF re Mitr  
on intl affairs 11/1/33*

*D File -* ~~Frankfurter File I (History Files)~~

1933-1934  
EARLE, E. M.

Biographical

FLEXNER, ~~ax~~ BEN

Correspondence reveals Earle as a close friend of Ben's  
as well as of Abraham Flexner's

D File, Earle, Edward M., 1931-35

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic.OrganiZation

PONTRJAGIN

Biographical

Correspondence on the attempt to persuade Russian authorities to permit Professor Pontrjagin to accept a short-term membership in the Institute ~~of the Soviet Academy of Sciences~~ --unsuccessful.

III-27

~~III-27~~

POLICIES

SALARIES

FRANKFURTER, F.

FLEXNER, A.

WEYL, H.

RIEFLER, W.

VEBIEN, O.

AYDELOTTE, F.

STEWART, W.

TRUSTEES

Administration

Academic Personnel

Biographical

The Corporation

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

Frankfurter II.

MATHEMATICS

Academic Activities

COURANT

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Correspondence showing close friendship between the mathematicians and Flexner. See Courant's note on Nazis and Naturwissenschaft Spring and Berliner--9/12/35, 9/17/35, 12/12/35. Flexner helped Courant with Fosdick and Weaver in ~~NYU~~ NYU work 12/14/36.

A, 10/18/56, Institute file on Courant

1933-37  
GENERAL

Facilities

Princeton University owned 20 Nassau Street for administrative offices in which I.A.S. paid \$105 per month for 2 rooms to University Controller (from 1933-Sept. 30, 1935; thereafter \$190 for the 2 rooms plus additional space.

File III-32

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Academic Activities

MITRANY, DAVID

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Notes have not been taken on the source given below, but the file has been marked as to pertinent correspondence in their long, and somewhat bitter relationship.

There seems little doubt that Flexner had a fatherly and, therefore, somewhat overbearing attitude toward Mitrany, and that ~~his~~ his influence was not conducive to productive work by Mitrany, since Mitrany became aware of hostility. Apparently, part of this hostility derived from the fact that Mitrany's sponsor, Frankfurter, was dropped from the Board of Trustees; and that during his tenure on the Board, he took Flexner down the line on a couple of occasions in a high-handed fashion.

It is Mitrany's own doubts as to what he should do in fulfilling his function at the Institute which in part

*Handwritten notes:*  
A Swarthmore note copy for Mitrany  
Mitrany  
A = tried to get

1933 - 1939

Econ. + Pol.  
Pol. Science  
Mitrany, D.  
Flexner, A.

Acad. Org.  
Acad. Activities  
Prog.

conducted to the bad relationship. It seems apparent, as one reads the correspondence, that Flexner lost confidence in Mitrany's ability as a scholar to perform research and deliver results in his field of political science. *scm?*

As Flexner realized, and said to Mitrany, this was largely due, or partly due in any event, to the fact that Mitrany's heart was divided as between the United States and England. Mitrany was prepared, apparently, to come to this country when his wife's illness, which was mental, caused him to remain longer in England, and, undoubtedly, acted to make it more ~~id~~ difficult for him to collect his thoughts and proceed on a serious piece of research and work. This illness lasted into 1938 from about 1934, and at no time did Mitrany feel that he could spend a great deal of time in this country. As a matter of fact, the correspondence does not render it certain that except at one time, about 1937, *9?* he ever decided to become an American and to operate in America. While he endeavored to find his way with Flexner in the early part of 1938, Munich occurred, and he stayed during the "crisis" which took him up into September of 1939; *7*

Wife's mental illness - 1934  
+ A.F. (grandson) in April 1933  
to prevent his leaving for Switzerland - 1934 to  
see or the return of the

1933-1939

School of Econ. + Pol.  
Pol. Science  
Mitrany, D.  
Fleynor, A.

Acad. Org.  
Acad. Activities  
Pology.

whereafter, he engaged in work for the British Government in connection with the war, and did not come. See later files for the later history.

III-23 Mitrany, David - 1935-1939

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Academic Personnel

GENERAL

Academic Organization

of

Up to the time/the extension of the School of Humanistic Studies and the School of Economics and Politics, the Mathematics ~~Department~~ School was satisfied with school autonomy. In fact, in about 1934, Veblen at one time wrote Flexner that it was time for Flexner to make a beginning in these other schools. But it was the fact that after the initial appointments, further appointments were made that set Veblen out on ~~the~~ a constructive fight to make the Faculty self-conscious qua faculty. Throughout this part of the history, the School of Mathematics was autonomous and selected its own members and its own assistants, although Flexner did the appointing. There was a time when the members and the assistants were referred to the Board of Trustees for approval (Check on that date and note the difference afterwards).

May 1933 /  
Mr. Veblen, became  
He V dropped his battle HV  
He got what he was asking  
12. 1931, he had up 1931  
Jan 25 1933

1932 33

The collision was, evidently, a collision on the total budget, therefore.

(Dictated: No source needed)

1933-1941  
STEWART, W. W.

As Trustee, elected Trustee vice Mrs. Fuld, April 24, 1933.

Elected Vice-Chairman and Vice-President, April 23, 1934.  
May 19, 1941, he resigned as Trustee.

Trustees Minutes of above dates

MEMBERS

Academic Personnel

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

Digest of members for School of Mathematics for years  
1933-42 with source and grants.

Filed in Vertical File under "M" for Members.

F. A., 1/8/57

BOHR, HAROLD

Biographical

BOHR, NIELS

Both were extremely active in assisting scholars who fled Germany in getting positions elsewhere in the world 1933 on. Thus Harold Bohr carried on a long correspondence with Flexner in 1933 and with Veblen also about placing Courant. It seems clear from other files that Veblen hung back on this and that Flexner was eager to make the provision. It is not clear that Flexner was responsible for Courant's opportunity to go to New York University. *Wright shows*

Again in 1938 a typical letter from Niels Bohr to Veblen: "I am sorry not to have written you for such a long time, but I have been very occupied all this winter with the organization of the Institute and with my own work and I have also had to give much time and thought in connection with the sad development in the world which is ever bringing more scientists in difficulties." ~~Atlixkixkixkixkixkix~~ He agreed to come to Princeton in the spring of 1939 which he did.

On December 1, 1938, Veblen informed Harold Bohr, apparently officially, that the resignation of the American editors (Zentralblatt) was mailed November 22, 1938.

It was Harold Bohr who promoted the membership of Neugebauer at the Institute.

Aydelotte cabled Bohr: "Through generosity Rockefeller Foundation offer you visiting professorship for one year Institute for Advanced Study effective immediately; salary \$8,000 plus \$1,000 traveling expenses."

The cablegram was telephoned by Professor Veblen to Honorable Joseph E. Davies of the State Department to be transmitted through State Department channels. Davies said they would make an effort to get it through the first thing in the morning and report to Aydelotte on the results of the effort. This move was initiated by the Institute in a request to Mr. Fosdick and Mr. Weaver. (This was two days after the invasion of Denmark). Davies was unable to get the message through to Bohr, but had received word otherwise that Bohr *4/8/40?*

planned to remain in Denmark for the time being.

By October, 1943, it seemed apparent that Niels Bohr had escaped to Sweden. The Germans occupying Denmark were beginning to arrest Semites. His purpose in remaining in Denmark to protect these German refugees was no longer serviceable. The Institute then moved promptly with Courant and the Rockefeller Foundation to assure transportation of Harold and Niels and the families to this country.

It seems apparent from letters from Warren and Weaver October 8, 1943 and Courant October 6, 1943 in the file that Veblen and Courant were very eager to bring Harold in on an invitation which it was agreed would go out to Niels.

Strauss discussed Niels Bohr's coming with Vannever Bush who thought that if both men came to the Institute, the Institute would find them very shortly being bidden away anyway, so the implication was no one needed to be too concerned about guaranteeing their expenses.

October 16, 1943, Vannever Bush to Aydelotte: "I have heard directly that Niels Bohr who is now in England is to become connected in some way with the matter, which I do not yet quite understand, but which will prevent him from accepting an invitation from the Institute for Advanced Study. I gathered that he might visit this country, however, in this other connection. Undoubtedly Bohr, himself, will write you, but I thought you might care to have this early word that he probably will not accept. I heard also, however, that his family had escaped to Sweden which is good news."

October 21, 1943, Vannever Bush to Courant. It is true that Captain Strauss is willing to underwrite bringing Harold Bohr to this country. Bush was sure he could be fitted into the war effort at some point. Not sure where because ~~these~~ men are not citizens of this country, so Bush arranged with Strauss it would be quite in order to bring both these men over here if it worked out appropriately from other considerations. Bush says he also learned of the moves by the Rockefeller Foundation and by the Institute for Advanced Study; also understands M. I. T. is making some sort of move along the same lines. Bush concludes the men will be taken care of.

Strauss  
Vannever  
Bush  
to  
Courant

Bush says he didn't know Aydelotte had gone to England, but that Richard Tolman is there for matters of interest to the National Defense Research Committee, and that Tolman had planned to get in touch with Bohr "primarily from a personal standpoint because of his interest in Bohr's future."

Harold Bohr stayed in Sweden supported in part by the Rockefeller Foundation as Research Professor at Stockholm's Hoegskola.

December 20, 1943, Aydelotte informed Hanson of the Rockefeller Foundation that Bohr was coming to stay with him for a few days. He thinks Bohr will take the Institute position which is formally offered on December 22, 1943. On February 22, 1944, Bohr writes thanking Aydelotte for his kindness to him and his son before Christmas and saying that he is not yet able to say whether he can accept the Institute's invitation; his action depends on various arrangements not yet settled. He is staying at the Danish Legation in Washington.

~~D,~~

D, Harold and Nield Bohr Files

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

MITRANY, DAVID

Biographical

RIEFLER, W. W.

EARLE, E. M.

In Europe 1933 (9/1) to 1935 (10/12) at I. A. S. academic years 1935-6, 1936-7, 1937-8, 1938-9; then in England during war, working with Arnold Toynbee at Chatham House for the Royal Institute of International Affairs. He wanted to come to Princeton 1942-3, but visa had expired. (He had taken out only first papers here and ~~now~~ classified as "enemy alien" in Great Britain). By the time Aydelotte got this straightened out (September, 1943) Mitrany had decided he couldn't come. He was below par; Ena was threatened psychologically. On 9/25/43 announcement he was working for Unilever, 5 year contract. I. A. S. gave further leave and paid its 5 per cent T. I. A. A. Worked on problems of postwar in Middle Europe.

Ad 346. 9

Trustees October 19, 1945 told Mitrany to decide whether he wanted to come back to I. A. S. Executive Committee granted

leave of absence for 1 year (1/5/44) See Aydelotte to Mitrany (10/20/45, D, Mitrany).

He is considering his chances very carefully (11/12/45). Riefler "in effect refused all intercourse while he was over here; and...Ed Earle on his visits spoke of his relations with Win with undiminished bitterness." Nothing in common with his colleagues scholastically. Tries to pass decision to Aydelotte who dodges it.

D, Mitrany

1933-1946  
GENERAL

Academic Activities

See Bulletins for work of various schools.

Bulletins

1933-19  
MAYER, DR. WALTER

Biographical

MORSE, MARSTON

Appraisal

Interview with Morse, 6/25/56

POLICIES (SEX)

Administration

FOUNDERS

Corporation

Hetty Goldman only woman ever appointed professor at Institute. Search for others suggested. Veblen suggested Emmy Noether as member or professor (Weyl also), noted algebraist. Aydelotte suggested Miss Nicolson (~~English~~ (English Literature), but faculty didn't go for it. Others?

MEMBERS

ACademic Personnel

FACULTY

Discussion Veblen.

Interview 1/10/56

GENERAL (PURPOSE)

Corporation

AYDELOTTE, F.

Biographical

INSTITUTE

Publications

See and 8-page memo for Christian Science Monitor as origin and beginnings of I.A.S. Cites Flexner's "dream" (See p. 217 Universities- Aydelotte's authorship.)

A File, I.A.S. (Home)

1933  
CLAY, SIR HENRY

Biographical

ZIMBALIST, E.

STEWART. W.

WARREN

Flexner first asked Clay to accept ~~except~~ appointment as economist. He couldn't leave Bank of England and suggested Stewart.

When Stewart came he insisted on Warren, too. Flexner said he didn't care whom he brought; he wanted Stewart. Told to B. Earle by Zimbalist recounting a conversation with Flexner.

Interview with B. Earle, 6/9/56

VON NEUMANN, JOHN

Biographical

First at Princeton as Visiting Lecturer--then offered chair in mathematical physics (Jones). Agreed to take half if Wigner took the other half. Von Neumann had half year lecturing in Berlin. When he came to I. A. S. Wigner got whole chair.

Det only after 1933-37 as half-time  
prof. m. phy. Left to become Pf.  
at Wisc 1937-8, + was called full-time  
for Jones chair 1938

hand  
but - 1937 or 38

Interview with Veblen 11/21/55 (p. 1), 2/8/57 (p. 2)

1933

JvN

Mrs. V's Diary for first date shows that on that day Weyl was out, and that, "after 6 months of shilly-shallying" Oswald spoke with Alexander and Eisenhart about the Weyl affair. Oswald spoke to JvN about coming to the Inst.

Called Af at 11p.m. AF coming to Pctn on 1/6

Weyl on again meanwhile.

1/6 AF lunched with the Veblens--"awful chops". Cabled Weyl to come. "Then had intended to take Johnny also but perhaps that wont come out just yet."

1/10/33 Oswald saw NYTimes Just Weyl and Alexander. Oswald very mad. AF's letter--LPE had been "magnanimous."

THOMAS, T. Y. (Part 4.)

Biographical

GÖDEL, K.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations W.O.A.I.

Veblen (Princeton Univ.) to Flexner (NYC)

"I have just dictated the two letters of which I enclose copies in accordance with my understanding of our conversation yesterday. I have also talked with Professor T. Y. Thomas of Princeton, ~~wh~~ who is having sabbatical leave during the next academic year and told him that the Institute will take on the other half of his salary, namely, \$2250. Besides this I sent a cablegram with paid reply to Menger last night about the offer to Gödel. This is a commitment of \$2500 plus \$500 for travelling expenses.

"..l.."

File IV-21

✓1933

1/9

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WOAI

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

ALEXANDER, JAMES W.

Dr. Flexner reported in part:

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

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

✓ 1933

1/9

OFFICERS

The Corporation

FOUNDERS

BAMBERGER, Louis

Biographical

FULD, MRS. FELIX

President L. Bamberger reported in part:

"Mrs. Fuld and I have taken the closest interest and the most profound pleasure in our association with this enterprise. We feel, however, that we wish in its interest not to be burdened with responsibility but rather to leave responsibility in the hands of the Director and the Trustees. We have discussed this matter fully with the Director, and it is our opinion, in which he concurs, that the By-Laws can be simplified so as to permit a gradual evolution by dropping the offices of President and Vice-President of the Board of Trustees, so that the executive management of the Institute will remain in the hands of the Trustees while the Director will be responsible for the scientific direction. In addition, Mrs. Fuld and I would prefer to resign as Trustees and to accept a suggestion made by the Director that we become Honorary Trustees with the privilege of attending the meetings of the Board, the meetings of committees, and membership upon committees. This statement on my part, with which Mrs. Fuld agrees, will indicate to you our confidence in the Board and our firm belief that the warm reception and commendation which the Institute

has received indicate that it is destined to fill a need in the higher educational scheme of American education. I trust that this informal notice on our part will be accepted by the Board and that suitable amendments and nominations may be submitted at the annual meeting of the Board. I assure you that my interest and Mrs. Fuld's interest have become keener and keener as time has passed and that we will do all in our power to promote the objects for which the Institute was founded.

"I beg you to accept our warm thanks for your invaluable cooperation and support, and we look to you to maintain the high standard at which a beginning is now to be made."

Vol. I, No. 10, Minutes, pp. 2-3.

1933

**BENEFITS**

Academic Personnel

Provisions for survivors' pensions to Mesdames Einstein and Veblen voted 10/10/32  
modified to appertain only to their widowhood.

Vol. 1, No. 10, P. 1 Minutes 1/9/33

✓1933

1/9

TUITION

Academic Procedures

FOREIGN PERSONNEL

Government Relations

Dr. Flexner reported in part:

"The Graduate School of Princeton University has been built up upon the basis of a low tuition fee, namely, \$100 per annum. It seems to me that <sup>at</sup> the outset it is expedient to adopt the same scale.

"I have conferred with the authorities of the State Department in respect to the visas of foreigners who may be appointed to the Institute or who may desire to study in it, and I have been assured that no difficulties of any kind are to be anticipated."

Vol. I, No. 10, Minutes, p. 6.

✓1933

1/9

SALARIES

Academic Personnel

BENEFITS

ALEXANDER, JAMES WADDELL

Biographical

Minutes, p. 7:

"The Director nominated Professor James Waddell Alexander a professor in the School of Mathematics on the following terms:

"That his appointment as Professor in the School of Mathematics date from October 1, 1933; that his salary be fixed at \$10,000 a year, of which he will contribute 5% to the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America, the Institute contributing an equal sum monthly; and that, unless his term of appointment be prolonged by mutual consent, he retire at 65 years of age.

"On motion, the nomination of Professor James Waddell Alexander as Professor in the School of Mathematics was approved."

Vol. I, No. 10

✓1933

FELLOWSHIPS

Academic Personnel

GENERAL

Foundations

Dr. Flexner reported in part:

"After the first appointments were made by the Board, I communicated with the proper officials of the Rockefeller Foundation, the Commonwealth Fund, and the National Research Council. They have all informed me that they will be delighted to send fellows from different parts of the world to work in the School of Mathematics at the Institute. Indeed, Dr. Tisdale, who has charge of fellowships in the natural sciences for the Rockefeller Foundation in Paris, has written me that the Foundation has awarded a fellowship to the most brilliant young Dane working in this field in order that he may spend next year in our School of Mathematics. Additional fellowships of this kind will undoubtedly be granted in the near future, while applications from outsiders continue to be received and are being passed upon at present by Professor Veblen."

Jessen

1933

COMMITTEES (NOMINATIONS)

The Corporation

BENEFITS

Academic Personnel

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

Minutes, p. 8:

"The President announced the appointment of the Committee on Nominations to report at the annual meeting as follows:

Mr. Percy S. Straus, Chairman  
Mr. Frank Aydelotte  
Miss Florence R. Sabin  
Mr. Louis Bamberger, ex officio  
Mrs. Felix Fuld, ex officio"

Minutes, p. 9:

"RESOLVED, That upon the retirement of the Director he be granted a pension of Eight thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) per annum to be paid by the Institute for Advanced Study, and that in the event of his death there be paid to his wife, Anne Crawford Flexner,

should she survive him, during the period of her widowhood, a pension of Five thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) per annum."

✓1933

1/9

GENERAL

Relations WOAI

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

MATHEMATICS

Academic Activities

Minutes, p. 7:

"RESOLVED, That the Institute for Advanced Study become a sustaining member of the American Mathematical Society for a period of five years by the payment of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) annually during that period."

Minutes, p. 8:

"RESOLVED, That the Institute for Advanced Study hereby appropriate Two thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) annually over a five-year period towards the expense of publication of the Annals of Mathematics to be issued under the joint editorship of the School of Mathematics of the Institute and of the Mathematical Faculty of Princeton University."

*Continued 5 yrs from 1937 (1/27/37) ibid*

*Vol. I, No. 10 (See corresp. D Amer Math Soc. 1/19/33) 1/27/37*

✓1933

1/9

NOMINATIONS

Academic Personnel

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

ALEXANDER, JAMES W.

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

Vol. I, No. 10

1/9 1/28  
1/24 1/26

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

VON NEUMANN, JOHN

*This means that Flexner agreed on Fri to  
present nomination of vN to Ia 119, and did so,  
but was requested by B1 (or by Edna before mtg of 1/9)  
(Monday)*

Flexner to von Neumann, January 9, 1933.

"When Professor Veblen and I saw you briefly Friday, I was mainly preoccupied with the fact that Professor Weyl had finally agreed to accept. I had, however, been greatly impressed both by Dean Eisenhart and Professor Veblen with the importance of setting your mind at rest and providing for you a permanent and important post consonant with your abilities and promise. I said, as you will remember, that I was not clear as to whether this could be best done at the Institute or in the mathematical group at Princeton. From a practical point of view one is as good as the other, for the two groups will be functionally one, occupying the same hall, exchanging students, and keeping up the same warm personal feelings that have been characteristic of the Princeton group during its entire history.

"Since returning to New York I have been thinking the whole problem over ~~of~~ very carefully and deliberately. Now that Weyl has

accepted and Eisenhart has been generous enough to part with Veblen and Alexander, it seems to me the Institute has gone as far as it ought to go at the very outset. I am just as anxious that the Princeton University group shall be strong as I am that the Institute shall be strong, and I am hoping therefore that Dean Eisenhart can work out a plan which will give you a permanent post in his department where you will be as happy and as effective as is possible anywhere. Do not have the feeling that he and I are moving men about like pawns on a checkerboard. This is not the case, but we are trying to look at the subject of mathematics from a broad point of view so that the two institutions at Princeton may function as one and may make the largest possible contribution to the science of mathematics. I hope very much that, if Dean Eisenhart makes you any such offer as I have in mind, you will accept and thus enrich the entire situation."

*See 1113 - also v. said he - Eisenhart 24 on phone on receipt report w/ vN*  
Von Neumann to Flexner, January 18, 1933.

There has been a conference, evidently, in the meanwhile, because von Neumann now assumes that he is on the Institute staff. He takes up with Flexner Lefschetz's request to him made some days ago to join the board of editors of the "Annals of Mathematics."

Flexner to von Neumann, January 26, 1933.

He says that he is presenting the nomination to the Executive Committee ~~of~~ the following Saturday, that of Dr. Torrence whom von Neumann wants as his assistant. He also approves von Neumann as representing the Institute on the editorial board of the Annals if Professor Veblen also approves.

On January 28, von Neumann wires Flexner thanking him for the telegram and quick action of the appointment.

His appointment was effective April 1, 1933 (See Bailey to Wintringer, *ibid.*) August 26, 1933.)

D File, von Neumann, 1933-1935

GRANTS-IN-AID

Academic Personnel

Flexner to Veblen (Princ. Univ.)

"~~iii~~

"...

"...On reflection I believe it would be better for us to call such grants as we make 'grants in aid' so as to distinguish them from the Rockefeller or other fellowships. This is, however, a verbal matter which need give you no concern, in so far as your two letters go. The phrase, 'grants in aid', really describes the status of the two men better, since in both cases we are aiding them and their respective universities."

File IV-21

EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner telegraphs greetings of the Trustees to the Einsteins at Pasadena.

D, Einstein, Albert, 1932-1933

VON NEUMANN, J.

Biographical

WEYL, HERMANN

Flexner to Veblen (Princ. Univ.):

"...

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

"I have cabled Weyl as follows:

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

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

"..."

File IV-21

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WOAI

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

MITRANY, D.

Flexner to Mitrany.

Note Paragraph Second Page.

Princeton people have been marvelous. "I did not know that there was in America or indeed anywhere else an academic group so wedded to the promotion of knowledge as to be willing to make great sacrifices in order that ~~this~~ this new scheme might succeed. "

Frankfurter Papers

FOUNDERS

Corporation

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

HARDIN, JOHN R.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Corporation

Flexner to Hardin, January 18, 1933.

Encloses a notice of ~~a~~meeting of the Executive Committee for January 28, 1933, and saying that it is just prior to the departure of Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld for Arizona for the purpose of dealing with two appointments.

JRH Correspondence from May, 1930 to December, 1933

HARVARD

Relations W.O.A.I.

Flexner to Veblen (Prince. Univ.):

"I have yours of January 26. There could be no more striking contrast than is afforded by the communications from Morse and Bliss. I feel reasonably certain that we can educate American universities to cooperate with us if we proceed quietly, unostentatiously, and of course do a superior job. On the other hand, if our present policy proves futile, we shall have to think again. I cannot refrain from pointing out that Morse does not appear to have the slightest feeling of responsibility for Currier or for mathematics. Your brief note to him is admirable."

File IV-21

HARVARD

Relations WOAI

MORSE, MARSTON

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

CURRIER

Letter from Morse to Flexner, January 28, 1933,  
regarding Currier at Harvard.

Letter filed in Chronological File under 1933, 1/28.

D1 Morse, Marson, 1933-1945

C O P Y

Harvard University  
Cambridge, Mass.

Division of  
Mathematics

January 28, 1933

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

My dear Dr. Flexner:

The members of the Division of Mathematics at Harvard join me in voicing their appreciation of your statement of policy of the Institute, and their cordial desire to cooperate with the Institute whenever mutually satisfactory arrangements in individual cases can be made.

It appears from what Professor Veblen has already written me, and from what you have written me, that the case of Dr. Currier is probably not one well adapted for the making of arrangements suitable both for the Institute and Harvard. The difficulty here arises from the fact that a man is appointed merely from year to year, unless he receives a Faculty Appointment of three years. It does not appear wise to recommend Currier for such an appointment at the moment. Such men as Dr. Seidel and Dr. Gergen are on the same footing. Without recommending Currier for a three year appointment there would seem to be no possibility of the Administration granting him a year off at half pay. For the sake of the success of possible future cases of a more advantageous nature it would appear wiser not to bring the matter before the University authorities at present.

I should like to add that I appreciate and approve the aims of the Institute most heartily, and feel that it has already had a beneficial effect in focusing attention on the more important matters with which a university should be concerned.

Very truly yours,

(signed) MARSTON MORSE

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

MITRANY

Vertical File, Frankfurter-1

EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner acknowledges a letter from Einstein dated January 17, not in file. This contained a statement for the Bulletin on Einstein's contemplated work during ~~the~~ his first session at the Institute. In this letter Flexner cautions Einstein against the "Jewish Telegraphic Agency" and other newspapers and publications who are beseiging Einstein.

D, Einstein, Albert, 1932-1933

1933

✓1/23

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

MORSE, MARSTON

GRANTS IN AID

Academic Personnel

HARVARD

Relations W.O.A.I.

Veblen to Morse (Harvard)

"I have talked with Dr. Flexner about Currier and find that in order to obtain consideration for him, it will be necessary to have definite assurance that there will be a place at Harvard for him to return to. This is being done in all analogous cases and there seems to be no reason for making an exception of Currier.

"It looks now as though we should have a very good group of younger men next year. In the course of the negotiations that have taken place, we have arrived at much more definite ideas as to how to handle matters. I hope very much that we can establish good working relations with Harvard as we seem to be doing with everyone else."

File IV-21

✓ PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Academic Personnel

ASSOCIATIONS

GRANTS IN AID

HARVARD

Relations W.O.A.I.

PRINCETON

"Dear Professor Veblen:

"I have been giving a good deal of thought to your letter of January 18 and to the long conversation which we had on the day following. Let me lay before you the results of my cogitations.

"1. As to the form of government. In Germany and France there is a governmental agency and in Germany a curator which relieve the faculty of an immense amount of administrative detail. In Oxford and Cambridge everything is done by the dons but with the result that in the last half century or so three times Royal Commissions have been appointed which have overhauled the universities. In addition, Curzon, when he was Vice-Chancellor in Oxford, wrote a scathing criticism of the university and in the last year or two a voluntary committee has been formed, made up of Oxford men, only a few of whom are dons, for the purpose of criticising and improving the conduct of the university. It does not see to me therefore that either the continental universities or the English universities can be quoted in favor of an arrangement for throwing everything upon the professors. X  
Moreover, if I can judge from the amount of work, mostly useless, that passes over my desk, I do not see how a group of scientists can manage a going and growing institution without serious sacrifice of their work. At this moment, for example, in the Institute the members of the School of Mathematics would not only be thinking of mathematics and answering a lot of mail and inquiries with which they really do not need to be bothered, but they would be discussing what we should do next - classics, history, economics, or what not. The scheme under which we are proceeding aims to place the professors in positions of dignity and responsibility, to give them freedom from administrative duties, an adequate part in the development of the institution while at the same time utilizing laymen who can render important service, and someone whose main task it is to plan for future developments. I do not know whether this will work out or not, but it seems to me superior to the American or to the foreign organizations so far as I know them. X

"2. I cannot satisfy myself that it is right to give the name of associate to persons to whom we make grants in aid, for it does not seem to me to be fair. They belong to other institutions. They come to us primarily as workers. While the title of associates may improve their situation at the end of a year when they leave, I cannot help asking myself whether that is a thing to which we ought to be a party. Persons of this kind should, I think, be simply listed as receiving grants in aid. It will thus be understood that the rest of their means are derived from other sources.

"Your letter does not state precisely what you have in mind regarding either Albert or Currier, but I do not believe that I could recommend to the Board that we should simply make an appropriation - which is what it amount to - to Harvard and the University of Chicago in order to enable them to send Currier and Albert to work with us at Princeton. These are both rich institutions, thoroughly able to give their men additional opportunities, of which they themselves will reap the benefit. The institutions and the men should between them make the sacrifice. We have undertaken to deal somewhat differently with vanKampen, whether soundly or not I am not sure.

"I feel strongly the importance of the point which we made as we were parting last week, namely, that we must proceed slowly<sup>2</sup> in order to be as certain as we can that we set no precedents which will have to be undone or regretted.

"With all good wishes and high regard,

Sincerely yours, "

1592 A - Flexner

25  
ASSOCIATIONS

Academic Personnel

GRANTS-IN-AID

HARVARD

Relations W.O.A.I.

PRINCETON

(See PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION, Academic Personnel  
Letter from Flexner to Veblen)

File IV-21

1933

1/24

✓ PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Academic Personnel

HARVARD

Relations W.O.A.I.

PRINCETON

TRUSTEES

Corporation

Veblen to Flexner (NYC)

"It is easy enough to put Einstein's statement into English but when it comes to elaborating, I confess that I am stuck. He says absolutely nothing as to whether he intends to give any lectures or have anything in the nature of a Seminar. Indeed he merely says that he intends to work with Mayer in a certain field. Interestingly enough, this is a subject on which I lectured in Princeton a year ago and shall probably be taking up again in my Seminar this year and next. My translation of what he says would be as follows.

'Professor Einstein and Dr. Mayer intend to discuss the theory of spinors and their application to field theory'.

✓ "I can see how unsatisfactory this is for your purposes but I don't believe it would be safe to elaborate it further until Einstein has said something about what he actually is going to do. It is my belief that you do not want for your pamphlet what a man intends to do in his own research. What you really want is a statement of what he will do to make himself accessible to students and others. Perhaps Einstein would be willing to give you something more satisfactory if you sent him a copy of the manuscript for the Bulletin as it exists at the present time.

"I am sorry but your letter dated the 21st only arrived a few minutes ago. I wrote yesterday the letter to Morse of which I sent you a copy.

✓ "With regard to the men whom we are inviting here for one year, I think it is a mistake to assume that the benefits will accrue only to them and to the universities to which they are attached. We have been doing this sort of thing with the research funds in Princeton on a smaller scale for many years and have found that it was very stimulating to our own work. I think we must learn by experience how much it is necessary to do in order to attract such men. I should, of course, like to make the funds reach as far as possible but I don't think what has thus far been proposed is extravagant. If we can establish the principle that the universities who send us men for a year are committed to take them back at the end of that year, we will certainly be able to handle the junior personnel problem much more cheaply than we otherwise could.

✓ "What you say about the form of government impresses me very strongly. My own position is simply that we should give the people who administer our funds for us as little power as is consistent with efficiency. You are doubtless a better judge than I of how far it is necessary to go.

"I am convinced that a Congressional investigation of American universities would uncover much worse conditions than any royal commission ever found in the English universities. In fact, I imagine that there are few business organizations, if any, which have not needed reorganization from time to time during the last 50 or 100 years.

"On all these questions I feel fairly well at ease now that we have a good start, and expect to know more about them after a couple of years."

GENERAL

Academic Personnel

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

"... Flexner to Veblen:

"I shall leave the matter of the nomination of younger men for the American Mathematical Society entirely to you and your associates.

"..."

Flexner to Veblen:

"In organizing the School of Mathematics for the next academic year you and Professor Alexander, who are now on the ground, can feel that you have at your disposal \$15,000 to be used for grants in aid, fellowships, assistants, or loans, as you see fit. I shall at the April meeting of the Board ask a further appropriation of \$5,000 to be placed at your disposal for what you call 'minor appointments'.

"If you will let me know, I will inform the Treasurer as to who the persons are whom you have selected and how and when remittances are to be made beginning with the next academic year.

"For the present I have the feeling that we should in the case of these temporary or short-term appointments avoid titles beyond those included in the actual resolutions of the Board. The experience of the next few years will doubtless help us in deciding details as yet undetermined."

HARVARD

Relations W.O.A.I.

PRINCETON

TRUSTEES

Corporation

See PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION, Academic Personnel

Letter from Veblen to Flexner (NYC)

File IV-21

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

MEMBERS

Academic Personnel

MORSE, MARSTON

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner to Morse, January 25, 1933.

Professor Veblen has told Flexner something of his correspondence with Morse regarding Mr. Currier: in the interest of making the Institute for Advanced Study useful by cooperation with universities throughout the country, and in view of the fact that the numbers will be small and carefully selected, he hopes that Harvard will find it possible to send Mr. Currier to the Institute on one-half pay for a year.

"I may say in explanation that we are trying this experiment because the sabbatical year may come so late in a man's life as to be relatively unimportant from the standpoint of his development. By the device which I have mentioned above a man to whom an institution attaches

great worth can get a year or two years early in his academic career at a time when opportunity of this sort may mean most to him."

Morse to Flexner, January 28, 1933.

A cordial and congratulatory, warm message from Morse and the members of the Division of Mathematics at Harvard, and all good wishes for the success of the Institute. He thinks that the Currier case is not the proper one in which to begin this relationship between Harvard and the Institute, since Currier is in the status where ~~ix~~ he is being appointed from year to year. Not until he gets a Faculty appointment of three years would it be possible to do this.

"I should like to add that I appreciate and approve the aims of the Institute most heartily, and feel that it has already had a beneficial effect in focusing attention on the more important matters with which a university should be concerned."

D File, Marston Morse (1933-1945)

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Academic Personnel

Veblen to Flexner (NYC):

"Many thanks for your letter defining the procedure with regard to junior appointments. I now feel that I understand clearly what can be done in further cases that are likely to arise and also that we are pretty sure to have the right sort of group of younger men with us.

"Your letter to Morse seems to me an admirable statement of policy and I think there is a fair chance that we may be able to live up to it. I enclose herewith a letter from Morse which was awaiting me on my return home last night and also my reply to it which was dictated before I received your letter.

"..."

File IV-21

HARVARD

Relations W.O.A.I.

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

VEBLEN, O.

ASSISTANTS

Academic Personnel

See PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Letter from Veblen to Flexner dated 1/26/33 on Morse (harvard) and junior appointments.

File IV-21

1933

1/28

~~WEYL, HERMANN~~

Biographical

VON NEUMANN, JOHN

TORRANCE, CHARLES C.

~~SALARIES~~

~~Academic Personnel~~

BENEFITS

Minutes, p. 2

"RESOLVED, That Professor John von Neumann be appointed as a Professor in the School of Mathematics upon the following terms: that his appointment as Professor in the School of Mathematics date from April 1, 1933; that his salary be fixed at Ten thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per annum, of which he will contribute five per cent (5%) to the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America, the Institute contributing an equal sum monthly; and that unless his term of appointment be prolonged by mutual consent, he retire at sixty-five (65) years of age."

"RESOLVED, That the Director be and hereby is authorized to engage the services of Dr. Charles C. Torrance as assistant to Professor John von Neumann, at a salary of

Fifteen hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) per annum, for the term of one year, commencing April 1, 1933."

EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Einstein to Flexner, January 28, 1933.

A cordial letter saying that he had reached the conclusion on his own that the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was really ~~not~~ furthering the Jewish interests at all, and also saying that he had been very suspicious of Mr. Landau who was, ~~apparently~~, with the agency.

Flexner has made arrangements for the Einsteins to stop at the Bambergers in Newark on the way back to Europe. There also was an arrangement that he would stop at Mr. Warburg's which Flexner, likewise made, but the evidence in the file would indicate that Mr. Landau finally knew where he was. There is some correspondence in German which I have not translated which may be necessary.

D, Einstein, Albert, 1932-1933

✓1933

1/28

ECONOMICS

Academic Organization

Minutes, p. 3

"RESOLVED, That the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) be and hereby is placed at the disposal of the Director to be paid by the Treasurer as honorarium to such person as the Director may indicate in connection with his study of the field of economics."

Vol. I, No. 11

APPOINTMENTS

Academic Personnel

BENEFITS

VON NEUMANN, JOHN~~S~~

Biographical

Flexner to von Neumann, Jan. 31, 1933.

"I have pleasure in informing you that at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Institute for Advanced Study held on January 28, 1933, you were appointed Professor of Mathematics in the Institute. I look forward with great pleasure to collaboration with you in the development of this new institution."

(von Neumann was appointed as of April 1, 1933, per minutes of Executive Committee Jan. 28, 1933, p. 2) at \$10,000.

D, Von Neumann, John

HARVARD

Relations W.O.A.I.

Flexner to Veblen (Princ. Univ.):

"I am enclosing a copy of an extremely cordial letter from Professor Morse. I feel very certain that if we play our cards skilfully, we shall establish an effective coöperation with the Harvard group.

"Thank you very much for sending me a copy of Professor Blakeslee's letter. I do not feel that at the moment this is a field into which we can stray, though I think we ought to keep our minds open for unique opportunities."

File IV-21

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Flexner to Veblen (Princ. Univ.):

"...

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

"..."

File IV-21

✓1933

2/1

EMIGRES

Academic Personnel

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

COURANT, RICHARD

Flexner to Courant (Univ. of Göttingen):

"Professor Veblen has kindly sent me your letter of January 21. May I assure you and Professor Weyl in all sincerity that absolutely no feeling of resentment exists on this side of the water? It did not occur to me for a moment that you or your colleagues had put any pressure upon Professor Weyl. I realized that he was of a vacillating nature, and this fact plus the complication due to the death of his mother-in-law easily account for his several changes of mind. As far as I can recollect, in every letter I wrote him I assured him that I wished him to do nothing that was not for his own good and his own happiness. I have the same feeling about the whole matter at this time. His happiness, his wife's happiness, his family's happiness ought to come first, and it is far better that he should realize this situation before coming to America rather than feel himself bound by an acceptance which he was likely to regret. You can assure him, if you have the ~~opportunity~~ opportunity, that I am profoundly sorry that he has been so greatly disturbed and that neither Veblen nor I entertain the slightest feeling on the subject. As far as the Institute is concerned, as you well know, no one is ever indispensable, and, though Weyl would undoubtedly have added great strength, I am sure that in the long run we shall

find or develop someone who will be equal to our needs. My one wish now is that Professor Weyl should recover his health and vigor and that he should be troubled by no regrets or remorse, in so far as I am concerned.

"This letter you are free to show him, for it represents the feeling of our entire group."

File II-5

ASSISTANTS

Academic Personnel

GRANTS IN AID

Veblen to Flexner (NYC):

"...

"...I wish now to raise the question whether the personal assistants to professors are included in the \$15,000 which is to be used for these appointments. If so, the fund is practically exhausted when we make allowance for Wilder and the three assistants."

Flexner to Veblen (Princ. Univ.):

"...

"I should not think the personal assistants to the professors ought to be included in the \$15,000 to be used for the grants in aid. This fund should be regarded as grants in aid to persons not officially connected with the Institute but rather as having permanent connections elsewhere. The Executive Committee appropriated \$1,500 for Dr. Torrance..."

File IV-21

LEFSCHETZ, S.

Biographical

PONTRJAGIN, S. L.

Flexner to ~~W~~ellen (Princ. Univ.):

"This is a line to confirm our conversation in reference to Pont~~r~~jagin. It is understood that Lefschetz will conduct the negotiations with him in the hope of bringing him to the Institute next year by means of a grant in aid."

File IV-21

2/13  
2/14  
2/23  
2/24  
2/25

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Educational Institutions

FRANKFURTER, F.

FLEXNER, A.

MITRANY

Vertical File, Frankfurter-1

PONTRJAGIN, L. S.

Biography

FOREIGN

Academic Activities *Pers*

MATHEMATICS

Lefschetz, S. to Pontrjagin (Moscow)

"Dear Lev Semenich:

"I take great pleasure in informing you that the Institute for Advanced Study just opened in Princeton by Dr. A. Flexner, has made a grant of \$1800 to you for the year 1933-1934 with an additional sum not to exceed \$1200 for travelling expenses to enable you to spend the year here. We hope that the Mathematical Institute of the University of Moscow will grant you the necessary leave of absence and we, on our side, shall do our best to make your stay here no less agreeable than profitable. For the present, I strongly advise that you continue to study English as earnestly as possible.

"I am enclosing an English translation of my letter of which I am also sending a copy to Alexandroff, I am writing to Director Khintchine in regard to this matter.

"..."

File III-13

1933

✓ 2/15

MITRANY, DAVID  
MAASS, Herbert  
FLEXNER, ABRAHAM  
FRANKFURTER, FELIX

Biographical

Mr. Maass to Dr. Flexner:

"Herewith returned please find Professor Frankfurter's letter to you. Having so high a regard for Professor Frankfurter's judgment, especially, in matters of this kind, I am constrained to believe that we could get no higher recommendation of Professor Mitran'y's qualifications. Certainly, the lectures that I had the privilege of reading strongly sustain the views expressed by Professor Frankfurter."

Source: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

GENERAL

Academic Organization

WOODWARD, E. L.

Biographical

Letter of above date from Woodward to Flexner attached  
herewith.

D, Woodward, E. L.

Feb. 16, 1933

ALL SOULS COLLEGE,  
OXFORD.

My dear Flexner,

I have just had your most kind--characteristically kind-- letter,\*and I am just overwhelmed by it. Of course I should like immensely to think out a scheme on the lines you suggest--the pleasure of doing it, especially in times like these when we seem to be slipping back into the pre-war anarchy of the world without the pre-war material prosperity. The pleasure of thinking out a constructive scheme for an actual institution and not merely for a Bodleian which won't be built--is sufficient in itself (more than sufficient for me to break the rules of syntax in an interminable sentence) but I really think that the \* of dollars you propose is far too great. I imagine that you would want something of 60 pages--I should say 60 as a minimum--probably at least 100. I have benefited so much from the endowments given to the English-speaking peoples by past generations--by Henry Chickole, Richard Foxe, Thomas White--to mention only those names--that I should without question think it only a small repayment of a debt to do all I could to enlarge the purpose of present . Therefore, may I-- with my many thanks--leave it to you to give me what you will be giving the other people whom you may consult.

As for the names of those others. I should feel inclined to suggest André Siegfried and Mendelsohn-Bartholdy. I do not know M. B. But from all I have heard about him he is a very good man. I do not think you would get a better man in France than Siegfried--he is a little superficial but his mind is more alert, "realist", and well-trained. If F. Meinecke were younger and specialized I should suggest him but I think M. B. would be better. Siegfried's experience at the *Ecole Haute des sciences politiques* would be of value and it would be useful to have the ideas of a man who knows England and America as well as France.

MB  
Also my  
Siegfried  
FF

Now for my own memorandum: on first thought--and for my own reflections if not for my final draft. I should divide the subject into two parts: part 1--a discussion on ends and methods-- what we want to discover--to keep on discovering--and what are the best means for making our discoveries? 2. In a work of this kind how much can be assigned to any one institute? If one were thinking about a star map one could divide the heavens by the number of observatories, and then--making adjustments for the situation, staff and instruments of ~~each~~ observatory, allot the tasks with almost

X NA

mathematical fairness. But man is more elusive than Orion, and the study of man can't be allocated so neatly! I can evoke part 1 out of my own inner consciousness, like the German and the camel, by various methods--such as observing the kind of mistakes made by lack of knowledge--but! Should like more information for part 2. In the first place how many men would the Institute employ? (There is of course a limit beyond which--even if one had unlimited funds--one would not wish to go. This limit is reached very soon). Then there is the question of apparatus--I mean books and documents. I imagine from what you have told me that a working library can be provided at the Institute and that elsewhere within easy distance--using if necessary train or car--there are unlimited library facilities. I should also take for granted such expert research assistants (e. g. for statistical work).

3. Would you think it profitable to have--together with a resident nucleus--a certain number of non-resident members--or rather of members who would come to the Institute for some months in the year, but whose work would take them--for most part of the time--to places other than the neighborhood of New York? I think this is an important point. (One might take the analogy of field botanists). I have noticed--in the case of one English professor of international relations (Webster)--that a man's point of view has been noticeably widened by his spending part of the year in this country and part at Harvard and I should think that in the study of present-day political and economic phenomena one must be for most of one's time near to the phenomena which one is studying--near for the purpose of analysis.) I am assuming that one is working to analyse and not to attempt forecasts). One would not want people to be roving about vaguely, but whereas Einstein can--given certain apparatus and sufficient ~~capital~~ and income do his work anywhere, I am inclined to think that a man who was e. g. enquiring into the relation between the law and opinion in England would want to live mainly in England--though it would be most important that--for certain periods he should come to the Institute--as to a place which he knew and where he was at home--for certain periods he should come to the Institute--and meet other people working on the same subject in relation to other countries, and that for an enquiry upon law and opinion generally on the whole world you would begin with local enquiries.

Then to go to a different point--would you allow me to show my draft to other people such as Beveridge, or J. L. Stocks, or Zimmerman, or Ernest Barker? I should get a good many copies typed and ask for their comments. I think a good many points which occur to me will settle themselves as I go along--I mean I will find that one branch of enquiry is already being done at such a place, or that another branch should be done somewhere else; but the main thing to keep in mind from the first will be to avoid (a) attempting to cover all knowledge (b) to avoid becoming

no more than a clearing house, a bibliographical or statistical institute, or--a mere home of rest. (This latter danger is very real--give a learned man the most perfect surroundings--remove jars, anxieties, drudgery, slights, and--if you don't take the utmost care--he will go quickly to sleep and sleep for years and years!)

This letter is becoming a preface to a report. So I had better bring it to an end.

Once again my many thanks both for your kindness and for the thing-in-itself. We shall go and come home, via Canada. We shall arrive at Montreal by the Empress of Britain leaving England on June 23 and we shall leave Vancouver on July 15. It will be delightful to come to you.

Most grateful again for the enquiries you have made about lectures, but with this proposal of yours--scaled down financially as it should be--I will not now think of anything else. I should not want to give the time in Canada or U. S. A. and I shall also want all my time here to draft the memorandum, and would not want to write any new lectures (still less to fob off old seminars, as it were, upon an audience). I have done about 300 pp. of rough draft of Vol I of my magnum opus on civilization between 1871 and 1914--I expect to get another 100 pp. done this term--I'm 'trying it on the dog' by giving the draft as lectures!--I must now get tomorrow's dose into shape.

Our good wishes.

Yours ,

/s/ E. L. Woodward

This letter--as the last three words show!--is from my wife as well as myself and we thank Mrs. Flexner and Eleanor for asking us to break into your lake solitude.

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

Veblen to Flexner (NYC):

"...

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

File IV-21

✓1933

2/18

COURANT, RICHARD

Biographical

WEYL, HERMANN

EMIGRES

Academic Personnel

Flexner to Courant (Univ. of Göttingen):

"I appreciate very highly indeed the motive which prompted you to write me on February 4. But let me assure you with the strongest possible emphasis that I have never for a moment thought that Professor Weyl's colleagues or the gentlemen in the Prussian Ministry had put the slightest pressure upon him. As a matter of fact, I myself put no pressure upon him. I ought to tell you confidentially how it happened that I invited Weyl to come to the Institute. About a year ago, one of Weyl's colleagues in America showed me a letter written by Professor Weyl in which he said that in view of the unrest in Germany he had often wished that he might reconsider a previous invitation which he had had to come to America. Acting on this expression which he had made to another person, I went to Göttingen and told him what I was proposing to do. I made him no definite proposition,\* but during the summer President Aydelotte of Swarthmore College, who was in Berlin, met Professor Weyl and cabled me to the effect that Professor Weyl wishes a definite proposition.\* I thereupon sent him a cabled invitation. He replied, after a reasonable delay, that he would 'accept in principle'. From that time on, he fluctuated in his decision. In every letter which I wrote him I urged him not to come to America unless he and his family would be happy to do so, so that not only you and the gentlemen in the Ministry exercised no pressure, I myself exercised none beyond the fact that at his suggestion I sent him a definite invitation.

"Now let me make another point clear to you and your associates and to Professor Weyl. I am deeply and genuinely distressed to learn that he has suffered so severely, and that he has in his own family experienced such serious losses and troubles. I have nothing but the kindest and most sympathetic feelings in the world to him and his family, and do not blame him in the slightest degree, and I have said nothing to him in any letter which I have written to him which was of a harsh or reproachful nature. You can give him and his family every assurance of the esteem and regard in which I hold him; you can tell them that they have been in no wise affected by his declination, and under no circumstances would my opinion of his high character and his great ability be in the slightest degree affected. Also, assure him and his family, please, that the development of the Institute is going ahead smoothly and that he has been responsible for no difficulties of any kind. I know of your interest in the enterprise and I shall certainly keep you and your associates informed of every step we take. I shall feel it a great privilege to visit you again in Göttingen, and I hope very, very much that we may have the pleasure of greeting you in Princeton or in Canada, or, better still, in both.

"In these sad times which dim America as they do the rest of the world, those who are devoted to learning must stand together and help one another. My wife and children, and Mrs. Bailey, My secretary, join me in warmest greetings to you and your associates."

\* Not true. He wrote one on June 4, 1932, subj to Bd approval -  
\*\* out of context - for ministerial negotiations

File II-5

FRANKFURTER, FELIX

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Frankfurter to Flexner  
~~Flexner to Frankfurter~~, February 21, 1933.

"My mind is not yet turned to the personal matter you put to me." This was undoubtedly an invitation to join the Board of Trustees.

Frankfurter to Flexner, February 24, 1933. He is still considering eagerly and sympathetically Flexner's desire to have him on the Board.

Frankfurter to Flexner, March 4, 1933. A letter also transmitted to Mr. Straus of the Trustees accepting a place on the Board subject to the conditions that he is an exceedingly busy man, and will give as much time as he can to the Institute. The delay in his consideration has been due to his abhorrance of ~~dummy directors~~, especially "dummy directors", especially dummy educational directors.

Flexner to Frankfurter, April 26, 1933. Flexner informs Frankfurter he has been elected Trustee.

1933

Frankfurter, F.  
Flexner, A.

Bailey. 2/21 to 4/27 p. 2/2

On April 27, 1933, Frankfurter deploras his "thoughtless<sup>ness</sup>" in a letter to Flexner, for he will not be able to attend next year's meetings, as he is to be in Oxford. He briskly suggests a "leave of absence" if Flexner finds that<sup>is</sup> the appropriate mechanism.

Flexner replies comfortably that of course he understood Frankfurter would be away, and that he will take it up at the Board meeting in October.

On May 4, 1933, Mrs. Bailey informs Frankfurter in Oxford that he has been appointed a member of the Executive Committee.

Dfile- Frankfurter ~~File I (History Files)~~

TRUSTEES

Corporation

STEWART, W. W.

Biographical

Flexner to Frankfurter, February 28, 1933. Flexner received acceptance from Walter W. Stewart to serve on Board of Trustees.

Elected at meeting April 25, 1933.

D File, Flexner, A.

March

EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

FOUNDERS

Corporation

When the Einsteins came east from Pasadena to return to Europe, they stopped at the home of Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld ~~and~~ while they waited for their boat. This was the period of the bank moratorium, the banks ~~of~~ reopened on March 13, 1933.

D, Bamberger, Louis, 1930-1936

3/13  
3/13  
3/17  
3/18

Birkhoff

A to FA in answer to inquiry -

GD Birkhoff was never offered position of Director  
of Sch Math - there is no such post. He was offered  
a professorship, accepted it, & subsequently - for reasons  
I do not care to discuss - asked to be released,  
which I did without moment's hesitation"

The story among FA's & my friends is Scripta

Mathematica Dec. 1933. AF did not reply to FA's question: did  
GD B pick out the statement which ended my career? He admitted to do so at Harvard.  
Apparently AF was helping FA the facts for fresh future

FA-AF

3/1  
3/3  
3/7  
3/8

The note in [M. Scripta] must have been highly derogatory  
to GAS in addition to Birkhoff's declaration - AFs are -  
3/3 F's who call + notes - suggests FA, but Archibald foets, ie not  
direct - (and that B accepted it then announced it for reasons I  
do not care to discuss?) The person to Eleanor's satisfaction  
gives at SW had decided to abolish Profs FA status which  
whisper was after Fortnight's thought decided come on Bd - "... the  
way we are approaching the subj. of econ. is the most hopeful in the entire  
field today. (which way?)

FA 3/7/33 to AF Dresden will tell Archibald in private - don't dignify +  
The Student Govt assn may remove about <sup>profs</sup> ~~services~~ Pro prof - student  
and also in one pressing +. How turn out?

3/8 Birkhoff report is rubbish - AF hopes Dresden sees Archibald

TRUSTEES

Corporation

STEWART, W. W.

Biographical

FRANKFURTER

Flexner to Mrs. Fuld, March 1, 1933.

One of his many friendly, informative notes. Yesterday he had lunched with Stewart for the second time. Stewart has been considering trusteeship for two weeks. Flexner quotes from memory what Stewart said: "I have thought over your invitation, and I shall accept. In my judgment, there is no place in Europe or America where a school of economics or politics has been formed in such wise that economics can be placed on the level of scientific medicine or any of the exact sciences. Our main difficulty in the present crisis is that nobody knows anything, and we cannot in the midst of this storm find the truth in a hurry. As I understand it, you are proposing to create for economists the conditions which are enjoyed by physicists, mathematicians, etc. If you do, it will mark a new era in the world, and I shall be very, very proud to contribute my experience both as professor ~~xx~~ and as a business man to the slow upbuilding of such an enterprise."

1933

Stewart, W.W.  
Frankfurter

Corp.  
Assoc.

"...Stewart is, as far as I can learn, the most careful, thorough-going, and cautious thinker in this whole field." Then Flexner says he talked with Frankfurter on the trusteeship whose first remark was, "Why don't you get Walter Stewart?" Though Frankfurter gave no answer, Flexner is sure he will accept.

But F had talked with Stewart prior to 5/13/34 when Clay  
was name of NWS pupil WWR. And so he had been asked to take  
responsibility before trusteeship - WWS said "1/11/37 that  
F met Clay through WWS  
& question this re.

D, Fuld, Mrs. Felix

1933



3/3

AF to F And

"I wish to you secret that Mr Walter Stewart has agreed to come on the Board of Trustees. After a fortnight's reflection, he has decided that the way in which we are approaching the subject of Economics is the most hopeful in the future field today."

A F letter

EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

A very cordial letter from Frau and Dr. Einstein thanking Felix Warburg for his invitation to spend time in New York pending their departure for Europe, but indicating that they were probably leaving on the same day of their arrival.

D, Felix Warburg

POLICIES

Administration

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

FELLOWS

Academic Personnel

GRANT IN AID

Veblen to Flexner (NYC):

"...

"The following scheme has occurred to me as being perhaps a desirable one for bringing to the Institute a continuous supply of junior members. Several of the colleges in Cambridge (England) have research fellowships which pay their incumbents 300 pounds a year together with residence quarters and dinners. These appointments last for something like three years, one of which may be spent away from Cambridge at the will of the incumbent. It appears that a grant of approximately \$1000 would be enough to enable the holder of one of these fellowships to spend a year in the Institute. I gather from conversations with two of these men who are now in the United States (one at Princeton and the other at M.I.T. working with Norbert Weiner) that there would be a good deal of interest in such a plan. Possibly we might use a part of the \$5000 which I understand is to be available this spring in this way.

..."

File IV-21

FOUNDERS

Corporation

EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner to Mrs. Fuld, March 10, 1933, wire to Arizona, that Professor and Mrs. Einstein cannot sail on the Deutschland as expected and they will have to remain in New York a few days. Acting on something they once said to him he has invited them by wire to spend a few days quietly in Mrs. Fuld's home in South Orange which he happily accepted. Hope you approve.

March 11, 1933, welcoming statement from Mrs. Fuld.

The Einsteins apparently accepted, but later sent Flexner a wire from Chicago changing the arrangements. They stayed with Mr. Warburg instead, or he put them up at the Waldorf--it's not clear which. Because of the short time they were in New York it was more convenient. There was a banquet given for Einstein at the Commodore Hotel.

D, Fuld, Mrs. Felix

TRUSTEES

Corporation

BAMBERGER, LOUIS

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

FRANKFURTER, FELIX

STEWART, W. W.

Bamberger to Flexner.

Frankfurter and Stewart will add "prestige and influence"  
to the Institute.

D, L. Bamberger, 1930-32

GENERAL

Finance

Flexner to Veblen (Princ. Univ.):

"...

"You will now understand why I was uneasy months ago when I wrote you that I felt by no means sure that this country would remain on the gold standard. With all the pretense to the contrary, we are off the gold standard. Luckily the Institute has so wide a margin that you need feel absolutely no fear, but I propose to limit our expenditures rigidly in order that there may never be the slightest doubt or worry concerning our ability to meet our obligations."

File IV-21

3/13, 3/17  
3/20 3/24  
3/27

Veblen wrote Flexner 3/13/33 reminding him that he was going to consult with Einstein while latter was in N.Y. about the desirability of P.A.M. Dirac for a chair of math. physics, and saying that he favored Wiener for apptmt ~~xxx~~ in a post "coordinate with Alexander's and von Neumann's if Flexner judged further expansion in math. desirable. Flexner replied the next day he doubted if he would have time for a talk with Einstein in N.Y. And he coldly reminds V. that he is not making any further recommendations until the financial situation clears.

Nothing daunted, Veblen wrote Flex. 3/17 quoting Einstein as saying that Dirac would be "the best possible choice" for another chair ~~xxxxxxx~~ at IAS. Then, on further thought after discussion of "ways and means," he suggested offering him \$5M for period Oct thru Christmas. He thought Pauli next best.?

Flexner and Veblen had talked prior to this letter, and on 3/17 Flexner puts down his thoughts: Purpose IAS, research first, training a few young men second, mostly Americans. "or "we have got to do what the Germans did during the 19th cent, namely, make Amer. Wissenschaft respectable. That is our prime and essential function."

Evidently mistrusting Veblen's ability to absorb this, F followed up 3/20 by longer explanation, designed to assure V. that he wasnt being "nationalistic."

Veblen answered 3/24; "I think I agree with you completely in your attitude with regard to Amer. vs. foreign appts. The considerations which you adduce seem to be decisive. Also I appreciate

I had further thought wr V.

your desire to be cautious in view of the present economic situation." Then he confesses that he thinks Dirac wants to stay where he is anyway, but V. wanted to try because D. was young, extremely able, and because he is interested in matters being studied by Einstein, von Neumann and Veblen.

He mentioned Wiener only to "be fair." He wd bring to Inst. the sort of analysis which Hardy expounds, and is American.

Flexner replies 3/27, happy V. shares his view, and cautioning that it might be misunderstood by the Edrs who insisted at outset on no possible distillation. Despite his agreement with their point of view; ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ "but on the other hand if we do not develop Amer., who is going to do it, and the question arises how much we ought to do for others and how we to make sure that civilization in Amer. advances.

9.1  
\* making a report to take  
bush white reports

1933

3/17

DIRAC, P.A.M.

Biographical

Veblen to Flexner:

"Einstein says that he considers Dirac the best possible choice for another chair in the Institute. He would like to see us try for D. even if the chance of getting him is very small. He rates him ahead of everyone else in their field. He places Pauli of Zurich second, apparently. Dirac got Nobel Pr. 1933 w/ E. Schrödinger on quantum

*very esp. w/ math. deriv. equations of wave mechanics (formulation)*

"On further consideration of ways and means, he thought it might be good policy to invite him for a term, say, so as not to ask for a major decision at once. Why not invite him for the term from Oct. to Christmas at \$5000? These are the terms on which he was in Princeton in the fall of 1931.

"It would be extraordinarily interesting to see the two of them in action together.

"Dirac would be no problem. He knows how to look after himself in Princeton.

"The younger Mr. Bamberger seems very nice." *Apparently that they had met in Feb 1932 on site explanation!*

File IV-21

PURPOSE

Corporation

POLICIES

Administration

FOREIGN

Academic Personnel

Flexner to Veblen:

"...

"I have been giving a good deal of thought to our conversation of the other day, namely, as to the development of the mathematical group. It seems to me that we must leave open the question of expansion for the reasons which I gave you at that time. There is another consideration, however. We have got to fulfill two functions, namely - (1) enable our professors to continue their research under the most feasible possible circumstances; (2) enable them to train a few young men, mainly Americans. If we can not, in other words, make an American contribution to mathematics, the contribution which we can make by taking care here and there of a foreigner will be very slight. We have got to do what the Germans did during the 19th century, namely, make American Wissenschaft respectable. That is our prime and essential function. Hence we must look about among our 120 millions of Americans for young men who may be worthy of development.

"..."

See ATs memo to B 2 1/13/32 on Amer. Inst.

Flexner to Veblen:

"Being housebound by the storm yesterday I got to thinking about my note to you, dated March 17. I wondered if you would interpret it as meaning that I am at all nationalistic. Of course, I am not, but I do not see how we can lose sight of the fact that, whatever we may do for foreigners, we must try to develop American culture and civilization. Take yourself and Alexander, for instance. Is it not something that we can give two Americans like you the opportunity to do the best that lies within you? Would we be doing as well if we had instead of you two German Jews, let us say, for whom God knows I should like to do everything in my power? Where shall we draw the line? I do not know. Perhaps no two persons would draw it in the same place, but this I know that, if America is to be worth while, we must in the course of time create an American culture comparable in volume and value to English culture, French culture, Italian culture, and German culture. We can only do this if in the main we seek out Americans and give them every opportunity. Meanwhile, I think we should lose no opportunity to supplement what Americans can do by drawing sometimes temporarily, sometimes permanently, upon the best that other nations have produced."

File IV-21

3/24  
p. 1/2

BLEICK

Biographical

DIRAC, P.A.M.

GENERAL

Finance

FOREIGN

Academic Personnel

Veblen to Flexner (NYC):

"I think I agree with you completely in your attitude with regard to American ~~versus~~ versus foreign appointments. The considerations which you adduce seem to be decisive. Also I appreciate your desire to be ~~xxx~~ cautious in view of the present economic situation.

2-10-33  
"I have been expressing interest in Dirac in spite of the very small chance that he could be moved because he is a) young, b) extremely able, and c) interested in questions which are close to those being studied by Einstein, von Neumann and myself. I really think that the most we could hope to do would be to get him here for a single term once in a while.

"I mention Wiener largely because of a desire to be fair. He seems to be now the most deserving American who is available and he would bring into our group an element

1933

which we lack (the sort of analysis of which Hardy is an exponent).

"Should we wait with further junior appointments until the additional \$5000 has been actually appropriated? I have about come to the conclusion that Mr. Bleick should be given a \$1000. scholarship or fellowship. He will receive the Ph.D. in Chemistry this year and wants to continue in mathematical physics. There would be no point in his taking a Ph.D. over again. Therefore, as he looks like an able man, I think he would be an appropriate student for the Institute and just about at a good point in his development to make use of the opportunities."

File IV-21

3/27  
p. 1/2

FOREIGN

Academic Personnel

GENERAL

Finance

Flexner to Veblen (Princ. Univ.):

"I am very glad that you and I see eye to eye on this question of the form which our responsibility should take. Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld ~~XXXX~~ were very anxious from the outset that no distinction should be made as respects race, religion, nationality etc., and of course I am in thorough sympathy with their point of view, but on the other hand if we do not develop America, who is going to do it, and the question arises how much we ought to do for others and how much to make sure that civilization in America advances. The matter has been very, very much on my mind, and I do not know that any two persons would solve it in exactly the same way. I can only say that I am glad to be assured that you realize that my mind is as wide open as it can possibly be, and in these days in view of the incredible things happening in Germany we do not wish to brand ourselves as nationalists in any way whatsoever.

"...

"No action has yet been taken in respect to the appropriation of \$5,000 which you suggested, inasmuch as there has been no meeting of the Board and will be none until

the 24th of April. I have of course no power to authorize any  commitment in advance of action of the Board. Under ordinary circumstances, I should feel very sure that there would be no difficulty, but there is so much nervousness here over the financial situation that I feel that in the matter of expenditures I must defer to those who know more about investments, income, and outlook than I do. In the long run - which I hear will not be a very long run - everything will be all right, and for the present everything is surely all right with us, but the one thing that I do not want is that you or I or any person connected with the Institute shall ever have the slightest concern as respects money."

File IV-21

GENERAL

Finance

DIRAC, P.A.M.

Biographical

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Facilities

Veblen to Flexner:

"May I remind you that you were going to consult with Einstein about the desirability of P.A.M. Dirac for a chair of Mathematical Physics?"

"I have become much more favorable to Norbert Wiener than I was. Would favor him for a post coordinate with Alexander's and von Neumanns if you judged further expansion in Math. justifiable. He covers a distinct field of his own.

"If we are going to have inflation would it not be well to speed up the land question. At least two of the proposed sites seem good to me.

"None of these remarks requires an answer."

Flexner to Veblen:

"...

"

"I do not believe that I shall have a moment's opportunity to talk with Einstein during his brief visit to New York. In addition, as I wrote you yesterday, I believe it would be policy to make no further moves until the financial situation is a good deal sounder than it now is.

"..."

File IV-21

TRUSTEES

Corporation

FRANKFURTER, F.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

Vertical File, Frankfurter-1

INVESTMENT

Finance

HARDIN, JOHN R.

Biographical

Letter to Leidesdorf, March 28, 1933, regarding  
regarding investments.

Filed in Chronological file under 1933, 3/28.

JRH 1930-1933

March 28th, 1933.

My dear Mr. Leidesdorf:-

Referring to your recent inquiry concerning default of Atlantic City bonds held by the Institute for Advanced Study, I enclose memorandum relative thereto obtained from a bond house. I still think it likely that Atlantic City will work out of its difficulties.

Mr. Farrier called me yesterday of the 'phone with reference to an offer of \$140. a share for 15 shares of National Newark and Essex Banking Company. There is absolutely no market at this time for the stock of the Bank, or, in fact, for stock of any other bank in this City. The offer has no relation to any quoted price of the stock, although quotations are entirely nominal. Bank shares cannot be sold at this time, they can only be given away, and the probability of selling is not at all bettered by an offer in lots as small as 10 or 15 shares. I quite agree that, with a market available, it would be wise to change this investment, but I cannot see either wisdom or common-sense in giving it away.

The Bank is in strong cash and liquid position and more than currently earned its dividend during the quarter. The Bank has been accustomed to pay a quarterly dividend. It did not pass its dividend, but changed its dividend period from three to six months because, in times like the present, three months banking operations are not a sufficient basis for intelligent dividend action. Dividend action will be hereafter semi-annually until business conditions are again normal. There is no justification for panicky sacrifice of this asset of the Institute.

Yours very truly,

Mr. S. D. Leidesdorf,  
125 Park Avenue, New York City.

1933  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

TRUSTEES

FOUNDERS

FLEXNER, A.

Relations WOAI

Corporation

Biographical

Flexner to Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld, March 29, 1933,  
in Arizona.

They have warmly welcomed Flexner's nominations of  
Stewart and Frankfurter to the Board of Trustees and ask  
him to inform the ~~Nominating~~ Chairman of the Nominating  
Committee.

Flexner discussed with them an idea which they had  
before, and had discussed, to appoint the new president when  
he was chosen of Princeton University to the vacancy left  
by Lehman's resignation. Flexner now knows who the new  
president is, and says he is going to have his hands full. It  
might be sounder to elect to the vacancy Dean Eisenhower, who is

1933

then Dean grad sch.

Dean of the Faculty in Princeton University, and a very fine person.

D, Bamberger, Louis, 1930-1936

3/29  
4/4  
4/5

BY-LAWS (GENERAL)

Corporation

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

HARDIN, CHARLES

HARDIN, JOHN R.

Flexner to John R. Hardin, March 29, 1933.

"In consequence of the announced purpose of Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld to give up their offices and the regretful acceptance of their decision by the Board I have gone through the By-Laws very carefully, making changes required by this action on their part. I have also taken advantage of this opportunity to make a few other changes which are the result of my experience. I am sending you a draft of the old By-Laws with the changes in parallel columns. I should like very much to have any suggestions which you may care to offer."

Charles R. Hardin to "Dear Father", April 4, 1933.

Comments on the proposed changes. The doing away with the office of president is not in conflict with the Certificate of incorporation, but it is with the statute under which the Institute is incorporated. (This must not be correct because it was changed). *No. offices made interchangeable*

As to Flexner's proposal to make a class of honorary trustees who need not be members of the corporation and who would serve as Trustees for life: this would require an amendment of the Certificate of Incorporation which now provides that the Trustees shall be members of the corporation and shall be elected by the members in such manner and for such terms as the by-laws may prescribe, and that trustees ceasing to be a member of the corporation shall thereupon cease to be a Trustee. The statute also provides that the Trustees be elected by the members. The statute also provides that they "shall hold office for one year, or such term as the by-laws provide, and until their successors shall be

elected;" and it occurs to me that this provision might be construed as requiring election for a fixed term.

"I have no comment to make respecting the other proposed changes, which would fix a new date for the annual meeting, eliminate the election of advisory members of the board from among the faculty, and abolish the committee on education." (He fails to note that faculty members thereupon if members would be eligible for election as full Trustees).

*Who then  
submitted to?  
or modified from  
the plan?*

The Certificate of Incorporation can be modified by the approval of a majority of the members.

John R. Hardin to Flexner, April 5, 1933.

He thinks we cannot abolish the office of "president" because that would violate the statute, which is succinct on the matter of terminology.

The provision of the charter with respect to Trustees being members and ceasing to be trustees when ceasing to be a

50 / member is designed to prevent "floating trustees with indefinite term." "I see no objection in the designation of the title 'honorary' to a particular trustee, but even though designated he would be required to be elected for a definite term if entitled to vote as a trustee. There would be no objection to having Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld chosen with the title of honorary trustees without right to sit or vote in the Board. Do you think that the desire of the founders to retire goes so far as to have them altogether eliminated? Could they not be elected as trustees, or honorary trustees, with right to sit and vote in the Board, but relieved otherwise of official responsibility?"

Flexner to Hardin, April 7, 1933. Flexner merely acknowledges and thanks Hardin for his letter of April 5, and says he will revise the By-Laws to incorporate his suggestions. X

*Proposed changes are in file in parallel columns*

JRH Correspondence from May, 1930 to December, 1933

✓1933

MATHEMATICS

Academic Activities Ovg.

ECONOMICS

POLITICS

MITCHELL, BROADUS

Biographical

Mitchell (Johns Hopkins Univ.) to Flexner (IAS, New York): 3/30/33

"My dear Dr. Flexner: Thank you for sending me a copy of your Bulletin No. 2 of the Institute. I am sure there have been the best of reasons for your choosing to begin with mathematics, instead of with the social sciences. But when I saw you, it was the latter which were in your mind, and I recall that you said science had been much more attended to, and medicine was on the road to improvement, but that the social sciences were in an uncertain and undeveloped state, and cried out for study in such an Institute as yours.

"Here we are in the fourth year of a depression, feeling our way with many stumbles, and your highly advantaged men give their time to 'Differential Geometry in its relation on one side to Topology and on another to Theoretical Physics,' and 'the theory of spinors, conformal geometry,' etc.

"Your people are to be economically independent, and are to have only the best of students to work with, and are seated at a great university; what better opportunity for candid inquiry into our social system--its mental pre-occupations, its lags, its methods of change? You will not have such a chance again, and you have lost it.

"Was it that your income was reduced to the point where you could support mathematics but could not support expensive inquiry in the social sciences?

"The Technocrats, in a blundering way, and with incompleteness, have done what your men ought to have done! Theirs is an old idea--precisely a Marxian idea--but they brightened it up and held it before the American people in a way to get attention; meantime, your Institute, with many times their opportunities, augments technology which has already far outrun social contrivance! In my mind, you have done exactly the wrong thing. I instance the Technocrats, because they are at the extreme from university equipment--a few devoted laymen working with discharged engineers and architects. And I think their contribution is in contrast to the unoccupied opportunities of the Institute for Advanced Study.

"The usual university teacher of Political Economy is dull, lethargic, prejudiced, with little time or inclination to think for himself, let alone make new inquiries. This is perfectly apparent at meetings of the American Economic Association. It took that Association two years to know there was a depression, judged by the programs of the annual meetings. Your Institute was a bold ray in the darkness. But what you actually explore, when you start, is theoretical mathematics! I am disappointed, not only for the Institute, but for American economic life. I hope you don't mind my showing my feelings."

Flexner to Mitchell (Johns Hopkins Univ.): 4/4/33

"Dear Dr. Mitchell: Thank you for your candid comment of March 30. The reasons

Math. / Econ. / Pol. / Mitchell, B.

Acad. Org. / Prog.

p. 2/2

which led us to begin with mathematics were very simple. You cannot get away with anything that is not first-rate. It is possible to bring together a group who are first-rate. The subject cannot be cheapened. I hoped in this way to set up a standard which would be followed in every other field into which we might enter.

"Fortunately, our income has practically remained unaffected by the depression, but mathematics was a new subject to me, and it has taken me a good deal of time and thought and travel to get together a small and what, I hope, is a really first-rate group.

"I am going to attack economics and politics next. Can I make them as good as mathematics? I shall proceed in the same way and explore the ramifications with all the industry and intelligence that I possess, so don't be disappointed, but just wait, as I am myself having to wait, though I have less time in which to do it."

✓4/1  
4/3  
4/4

1933

GENERAL

Academic Organization

GREENSLET, FERRIS

Biography

Greenslet (Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston) to Flexner 4/1/33

"...Congratulations on a most impressive beginning. I should suppose that you had got together the most distinguished group of mathematicians to be found anywhere in the world.

"Speaking as a humanist, I should have admired to see you beginning with one of the humanities. But Mathematics is the mother, or at least the grandmother, of all the Muses, and I imagine her progeny will presently begin to appear. Good luck to you!"

Flexner answers 4/3/33

"...We began with mathematics for a very simple reason, namely, that there was no human possibility of doing anything second-rate and getting away with it. The humanities will come in due course. Indeed, if I had consulted my own taste, I should have begun with them, but, if you were in my place and were going to do the humanities, what would you do?"

File II-25

Greenslet to Flexner 4/4:

"Here's a snap reply to a deep question!

"If I were going to make a set-up for humanities in an Institute for Advanced Study, I think I should lay out a plan for the Study of 'Comparative Literature' (Kultur-Geschichte, if you prefer) not unlike that which Woodberry carried on so brilliantly in his prime at Columbia but with perhaps less 'idealism' and more exact scholarship.

"As to the men, that is indeed a sticker. John Lowes of Harvard occurs at once as a possibility. Gilbert Murray if he were not quite so old and out of favor with certain Hellenists might be one, but I am sure Oxford and Cambridge between them could turn up a worthy substitute. The Sorbonne could unquestionably give you one or two, though I cannot at the moment name them; Legouis, for one, perhaps. These with associates already known for a knowledge of the brass tacks of their subjects would give you something pretty imposing even to minds of those disposed to be critical of all new enterprises.

"The above submitted without charge."

File II-25

1933  
EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner cables to Einstein THAT THE newspapers report German government has confiscated Einstein's bank deposit and if he needs salary it can begin immediately.

Einstein replies on April 3, 1933, "Hearty thanks. ~~UNNECESSARY~~  
Unnecessary."

D, Einstein, Albert, 1932-1933

✓1933

4/3  
4/4

GENERAL

Academic Organization

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Relations WOAI

Geoffrey May (Johns Hopkins) to Flexner (NYC):

"Your second bulletin for The Institute for Advanced Study has just reached me. Its directness and simplicity aroused my admiration. Unfortunately, my admiration is tinged with regret. I am sorry that the natural sciences must again widen their pre-eminence over the social sciences.

"I realize, of course, that social studies require more outlay than do mathematical. I realize also that there may be no social scientists comparable to the natural scientists whom you have selected, and that their findings, no matter how extensive, may be less 'dependable.' To the degree that these situations must dominate your decision, the more necessary is it that social studies should have not only financial but scholarly support."

Flexner to May (Johns Hopkins):

"You were very kind to write me under date of April 3. I have no intention

whatsoever of diverting the Institute into the field of the natural sciences. On the contrary, I want to get into the sciences of society, but there are good reasons for beginning with mathematics, namely, you cannot get away with anything that is not first-rate. It is possible to bring together a group who are first-rate. The subject cannot be cheapened. I hoped in this way to set up a standard which would be followed in every other field into which we might enter."

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Academic Personnel

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

VEBLEN, O.

BLEICK

GRANT-IN-AID

Finance

Flexner to Veblen (Princ. Univ.):

"I am wondering precisely what qualifications lead you to think that Bleick deserves a grant in aid of \$1,000. Can you send me a line of explanation? There is nothing we can do as to further grants in aid until the Board meets on April 24.

"The question of admitting students is, I think, a simple one. There is a certain amount of money available for grants in aid. This the mathematical group will administer, and I shall simply exercise a formal oversight, as I think I am in duty bound to do. Beyond this you can admit anyone who seems to you thoroughly worth while at his own expense, if such people there be..."

File IV-21

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Academic Personnel

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

VEBLER, O.

BLEICK

WILDER

BERNAYS

GRANTS-IN-AID

Finance

Veblen to Flexner (NYC):

"...

"I have just heard from Professor Wilder that his leave of absence has been granted by the University of Michigan and that he is ready to accept the grant in aid offered him in my letter of January 7th. I enclose herewith a copy of my letter of January 7th and also a copy of a statement about his salary contained in a letter from him to me dated December 28th. In reply to his last letter I have asked him to send me up to date information on this point.

"I am not sure whether it is better for you to correspond directly with Wilder or with the Chairman of his Department, Professor J. W. Glover.

"I agree perfectly with what you say about the admission of students to the Institute and it is on exactly that basis that I recommend that Mr. Bleick be admitted. Whether Mr. Bleick should receive any sort of a stipend is a question which ought to wait until we have had a chance to discuss the question further. I think he should receive one if one is available and if we stick to the program which we discussed a couple of months ago. I think there is no particular hurry about that question but I believe it would be advisable to admit him as a student without much delay.

"In yesterday's mail there was a long letter from Weyl and a short but significant one from Bernays of Gottingen which I should like to discuss with you when I see you.

Flexner to Veblen (Princ. Univ.):

...

"I am very happy indeed that my letter clears up the question about admitting students, - or workers, as I prefer to call them.

"I hope that the weather is good tomorrow so that we can make the trip to Princeton. If it is bad we shall call it off.

"I wonder just what Weyl and Bernays wrote you.

"My mail abounds in complimentary notes about the little bulletin. Without intending to do so, I have evidently done something unusual, - namely, mentioning the professors without a long rigmarole about their previous posts and performances. It will appear from my correspondence that it pays not to advertise, contrary to usual academic practice."

File IV-21

1933  
GENERAL (By-laws)

Corporation

FOUNDERS

Mr. Maass to Dr. Flexner:

"I think Mr. Hardin's first objection as to the necessity for having a President and a Vice-President to conform to the New Jersey statute can readily be met by a By-law provision requiring that the same person shall hold the office of Chairman and President and the same person shall hold the office of Vice-Chairman and Vice-President. To cover this, I would suggest that Section 1, of Article IV, be amended to read as follows:

'The officers of the Corporation shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Chairman, and a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer, provided, however, that the person elected to the office of President shall also be the Chairman of the Board and the person elected as Vice-President shall also be the Vice-Chairman of the Board.

"Coming now to the further point regarding the status of Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld, if I correctly understand the attitude of Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld, it is their purpose to participate in all deliberations of the Trustees and the various committees. I do not understand that they are concerned with the right to vote but merely with a desire to voice and express their views. Such being the case, provided the situation is thoroughly

understood by Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld, and they approve the same, would require that Section 1 of Article III be revised to read as follows:

'The two founders of the Institute shall be Honorary Members of the Board of Trustees for the terms of their respective lives. Upon the death of either or both of the founders, the office of Honorary Trustee shall cease and no other person or persons shall be elected thereto. The Honorary Trustees shall meet with the Board of Trustees and with each and every Committee of the Institute and participate in the deliberations of the Board and of the several Committees.'

Source: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

WEYL, H.

Biographical

BERNAYS, PAUL

Veblen to Flexner (NYC):

...

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

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

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

...

File IV-21

4/12  
5/1  
5/29  
7/18

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

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

The first is directed to Flexner, April ~~21~~ 12, 1933, and explains that Weyl's health was bad because he overdid prematurely after a very severe case of influenza.

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

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

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

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

See A 1578156  
for Hermann Weyl files

Revised  
with 4/24/33  
file +  
restored F  
9/22

1933  
POLICIES

Administration

EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Simultaneous letters, one from Flexner to Einstein, April 13, 1933, noting that publications in this country ~~say~~ report Einstein has committed himself to the Institute, to Madrid, to Brussels, and to Oxford, also to France. Flexner calls Einstein's attention to Bulletin No. 2 which calls for full-time work at the Institute.

Einstein to Flexner the same day. "You will ~~be~~ by now have learned through the press that I have accepted a chair at the Madrid University. As the French government is pressing me very hard to accept a Chair at the College de France without any obligation on my part, I think I shall have to accept that too. I made it clear in both cases that I cannot give up any of my present engagements and that they would have to content themselves with whatever time I could give them, if any.

1933

Einstein, A.  
Flexner, A.

Admin.  
Prog.

4/13

p. 2/3

"In view of my new relations to the Spanish Government I feel it is my duty to write ~~you~~ to you about my assistant Prof. W. Mayer. The Spanish Government has conceded me the right to recommend them a Mathematician to be appointed as full professor under my direction. Now as I have very great regard for Prof. Mayer's abilities, not only as my collaborator but also as an independant researcher in Pure Mathematics, whose achievements are notable and valuable, he would be the right man to take up such a professorship. He would not have thought of asking me to recommend him for this post had he not felt it as a set-back that he was appointed at your Institute, not as a full professor, but only as an associate professor with a salary which hardly corresponds to his merits and his needs. I therefore, find myself in the difficult position: either to recommend him for Spain or to ask you whether you could make it possible to extend his appointment to a full professorship. This would be the only way of retaining him for your Institute and for a collaboration with me. I would deplore it very much indeed, if I were deprived of his valuable collaboration; and his absence from the Institute might even create some difficulties

Admin.

4/13

p. 3/3

1933

Einstein, A.

Feynman, A.

Prog.

for my own work. Besides, his retirement would be a great loss to your ~~institution~~ institute.

"As the matter is of some urgency, I should be very much obliged for an early reply."

D, Einstein, Albert, 1932-1933

POLICIES

Administration

EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner to Einstein, April 15, 1933.

Notes that by the morning's paper Einstein was nominated to a professorship in the Collège de France. He ventures the suggestion that this be made as the Brussels appointment was, according to the press, honorary professorship, an excellent solution to the problem.

D, Einstein, Albert, 1932-1933

✓1933

4/24

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

MITRANY, DAVID

Biographical

GENERAL

Finance

Biographical data re: Mitrany, pp. 4-5.

Appointed Professor of Economics and Politics, p. 8:

"That Dr. David Mitrany be appointed Professor in the School of Economics and Politics beginning September 1, 1933; that his salary be fixed at \$6,000 a year, of which he will contribute 5% to the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America, the Institute contributing an equal sum monthly; that he spend the year 1933-34 abroad on the above salary; that, whenever he takes up his residence in the United States, his salary be raised to \$10,000 a year; that, unless his term of appointment is prolonged by mutual consent, he retire at 65 years of age; and that no public announcement of his appointment be made at this time but that he devote himself, in cooperation with the Director, to studies preliminary to the organization of the School of Economics and Politics whenever the Board of Trustees shall authorize such action."

Vol. I, No. 13, Minutes

✓1933

4/24

GENERAL

Academic Procedures

DEGREES

Dr. Flexner reported in part:

".... A great many applications for admission to the Institute have been received, most of them lying in fields outside the field of pure mathematics. These have necessarily been declined. A small number, whose interests coincide with that of the group above mentioned, have been accepted. I am anxious that the first year the number of students shall be small in order to give the members of the staff an opportunity to work out their plans in cooperation with one another. The continued financial depression makes it unlikely that at this moment we will be troubled with an excessive number of acceptable applications. It may be, however, that a few students highly qualified may apply who will need some form of financial assistance. To this end the budget contains an item of \$5,000 to be expended in part or whole by the Director on the recommendation of the mathematical staff to aid young workers to continue beyond the Ph.D. degree. No one, who has not received the Ph.D. degree from an institution of high standing, has as yet been considered qualified for admission."

Vol. I, No. 13, Minutes, p. 3

1933

4/24

BUDGET

Finance

"A budget for 1933-1934 was presented as follows:

Budget of Estimated Expenses  
for the Year Ending June 30, 1934

Salaries:

Director	\$20,000	
Assistant Secretary	5,000	
Secretarial assistance	2,500	
Two professors at \$15,000 (Dr. Veblen, Dr. Einstein)	30,000	
Two professors at \$10,000 (Dr. Alexander, Dr. von Neumann)	20,000	
One professor (Dr. Mitrany)	6,000	
One associate (Dr. Mayer)	4,000	
Two assistants at \$1,500 (Dr. Vanderslice, Dr. Torrance)	3,000	
Teachers Annuity at rate of 5% a year	<u>3,125</u>	\$ 93,625
Rent		1,500
Custodian fees		2,750
Travel, communication, printing, entertainment, etc.		2,500
Scholarships		5,000
Publication of Annals of Mathematics		2,000
Subscription to American Mathematical Society		<u>200</u>
		<u>\$107,575</u>

"On motion, the budget for 1933-1934 was approved, and the following resolution was adopted:

"RESOLVED, That the sum of One hundred ten thousand Dollars (\$110,000) be and hereby is appropriated for the support of the Institute for Advanced Study for the fiscal year 1933-1934."

GENERAL

Corporation

By-laws amended: Art. V:

Standing Committees shall be

1. An Executive Committee of 4 members in addition to Chairman, Vice Chairman and Director
2. Finance Committee - 5 members
3. Committee on Nominations of Trustees and Officers - 3 members

All to be appointed by Chairman

Vol. 1, No. 12, P. 3 Minutes of Members of the Meeting of the Corporation - 4/24/33

APPOINTMENTS

Academic Personnel

BENEFITS

MITRANY, DAVID

Biographical

Flexner to Mitrany, April 24, 1933, after a telegram to Mitrany telling him that the Trustees had confirmed his appointment.

Appointment

~~From~~ to begin September 1, 1933, salary to be \$6,000 a year, 5 per cent contributions to TIAA by Institute and professor. He was to spend the year 1933-34 abroad on the above salary. When he took up residence in the United States his salary would be raised to \$10,000 a year. Unless his term of appointment were prolonged by mutual consent, he would retire at 65 years of age. No public announcement was to be made of his appointment at that time, but he was to devote himself in cooperation with the Director to studies preliminary to the organization of the School of Economics and Politics whenever the Board should authorize such action.

*This letter to be filed in D file, Mitrany 1938-45 in back of file.*  
D, Mitrany, David.

1933  
GENERAL

Corporation

Article IV By-laws revised to provide that President and Chairman shall be the same person and shall be a member ex officio of all standing committees. He shall perform all functions of both offices.

Vol. 1, No. 12, P. 3 Minutes Members of the Corporation - 4/24/33

✓1933

4/24

✓TRUSTEES

The Corporation

BAMBERGER, LOUIS

FULD, MRS. FELIX

LEHMAN, HERBERT H.

Minutes, p. 1:

Louis Bamberger's and Mrs. Fuld's resignations from Trustees accepted. Mr. Lehman's resignation accepted. Mr. Felix Frankfurter and Walter W. Stewart elected Trustees vice Bamberger and Fuld. Messrs. Edgar Bamberger, Houghton and Maass elected Trustees for 5-year term.

Minutes, p. 2:

Mr. L. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld elected Honorary Trustees for life, and no other such elections shall be made.

Vol. I, No. 12

✓1933

4/24

OFFICERS

The Corporation

HOUGHTON, ALANSON B.

Biographical

MAASS, HERBERT H.

LEIDESDORF, SAMUEL D.

AYDELOTTE, FRANK

Minutes, p. 6:

"Officers to serve until the next annual meeting were elected as follows:

Mr. Alanson B. Houghton, Chairman and President  
Mr. Herbert H. Maass, Vice-Chairman and Vice-President  
Mr. Samuel D. Leidesdorf, Treasurer  
Mr. Frank Aydelotte, Secretary

"Mr. Abraham Flexner was reappointed Director of the Institute."

Vol. I, No. 13

✓1933

4/24

EINSTEIN, ALBERT

Biographical

Dr. Flexner reported in part:

"On the first of April the newspapers carried the statement that Professor Einstein's salary had been stopped by the present Prussian Government and his bank deposit confiscated. With the approval of such members of the Executive Committee as I could consult at once I cabled Professor Einstein to the effect that the Institute would be willing to begin payment of his salary immediately instead of next autumn. On April 3, I received a cable reading, 'Hearty thanks. Unnecessary. Einstein.' Since then I have received a letter of very grateful appreciation from Professor Einstein and another from his wife, in which she states that as a prudent housekeeper she had long feared some such calamity and had therefore kept most of their savings in a foreign bank."

Vol. I, No.13, Minutes, p. 3

✓1933

4/24

BUDGET

Finance

REPORTS

Minutes, pp. 1-2:

"In the absence of Mr. Leidesdorf, the report of the Treasurer was presented as follows by Mr. Schur, the Assistant Treasurer, and, on motion, it was approved.

"Mr. Leidesdorf was called out of town suddenly and has asked me to deliver his report as Treasurer of the Institute.

"The Director has submitted a budget for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1934, estimating expenditures for that period of \$107,575.00. These expenditures are well within the estimated income of the Institute, which is estimated at approximately \$257,000.00 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1934. Mr. Leidesdorf, therefore, recommends that the sum of \$110,000.00 be appropriated for the support of the Institute for Advanced Study for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1934.

"Defaults on bond maturities and interest payments have been few. The Finance Committee has taken such steps as are necessary in connection therewith.

"Market prices of securities have fluctuated so widely that to state present

market values would be meaningless."

1933

✓4/24

GENERAL

Corporation

By-laws amended Art. VIII

Nominations for honorary degrees or the medal as made by the Director and Faculty may be awarded by Board by 2/3 vote of entire Board but not at meeting in which presented.

Vol. 1, No. 12, P. 4 Minutes of the Meeting of the Members of the Corporation - 4/24/33

GENERAL

Corporation

Director reported:

New York office (100 East 42nd Street) to be vacated before June 1, 1933 and headquarters moved to Princeton.

Vol. 1, No. 13, P. 2 Trustees Minutes - 4/24/33

~~4/25~~  
~~XXXXXX~~  
4/25  
4/26  
4/27  
4/28  
5/1

TRUSTEES

Corporation

FRANKFURTER, F.

Felix Frankfurter elected Trustee, 4/24.

Vertical File, Frankfurter-1

POLICIES

Administration

EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

FLEXNER. A.

A long letter from Flexner to Einstein in answer to the letter of April 13, 1933.

He adheres to the arrangements which were agreed upon between Flexner and Einstein at Caputh; namely, \$1200 a year salary for Mayer in 1932-1933 until he comes to America when he would begin to receive a salary of \$4,000 a year, and given the title of associate. Flexner says the Trustees have approved this, and nothing could be done to change it, at the present time. He also points out that since Mayer is going to work under Einstein's direction, he is not a full professor and should not be made one. The letter is a very long letter and very tactfully written.

D, Einstein, Albert, 1932-1933

May-June

1933  
SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

WOODWARD, E. E.

Biographical

MITRANY, D.

FLEXNER, A.

SENT memos to Flexner regarding organization of School  
of Economics and Politics. Held personal  
abilities to cooperate and coordinate approaches to study as  
more important to work than individual specializations.

D, Mitrany, 1930-34

1933

5/1

FOUNDERS  
COMMITTEES  
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS  
FLEXNER, ABRAHAM  
VEBLER, OSWALD

Corporation  
Facilities  
Biographical

Dr. Flexner to Mr. Maass:

"I lunched with Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld at Orange yesterday. Mr. Bamberger submitted to me your letter of April 27 regarding the committees. His preference is as follows:

Executive Committee

Dr. Aydelotte, Chairman  
Mr. Leidesdorf  
Dr. Sabin  
Mr. Straus  
Mr. Frankfurter

*was  
status, dropped - nobody wants in his place  
Houghton, Maass & Flex. Ex 1/1/33*

Finance Committee

Mr. Hardin, Chairman  
Mr. Leidesdorf

*L B & S. Bamberger  
Need  
Houghton } Co. office  
Maass }  
Fuld by invitation*

Finance Committee (Cont'd.)

- Dr. Weed
- Mr. Louis Bamberger
- Mr. Edgar Bamberger

*As mentioned in the report*

"Saturday afternoon, Professor Veblen and I drove out to the Hale farm, and walked back to Fine Hall at a good pace. The results showed that it is impossible to estimate distances and time by motoring, as you will see from the following figures:

Hale farm to Olden farm -----	13 minutes
Olden farm to Marquand residence ----	6 minutes
Marquand residence to 20 Nassau St.	
(where we shall have our office)----	28 minutes
Office to Fine Hall-----	5 minutes
<b>Total-----</b>	<b>52 minutes</b>

"On the basis of the preceding, it seems to Professor Veblen and to Mr. Bamberger that if we should purchase the Hale farm now, all our future developments would be determined by the fact that we owned a piece of real estate fifty-two minutes, walking distance, away from Fine Hall. My inclination is to proceed precisely the other way around: namely, to work out the Institute program, plan and procedure, and to buy real estate hereafter on the basis thereof. In fact, I got a newsprint on the subject in walking around Princeton this week-end. Whether it will bear criticism and longer consideration I do not know, but in my opinion we ought to have a year, or perhaps two years, of experiment before taking any steps in the matter of site. Then the Institute will determine the site, instead of the site determining the Institute."

Source: IAS Trustees, Maass, H.H.

POLICIES

Administration

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Personnel

WEED, LEWIS H,

Weed to Flexner.

Harlow Shapley's commencement address contains a stimulating and clear-cut exposition of our own educational tenets. "There is no doubt that intelligent men every where approve your plan for the Institute... it marks a stupendous educational advance."

"...Every step which you recommend adds another feature to the Institute's headpiece. I am most happy that we are starting out in the wide field of economics, and I believe that your choice of Mitrany is outstanding. Frankfurter's letter about him indicates that we have a man of unusual ability, training and originality. He should prove the proper leader in a wholly difficult and relatively unexplored field."

D File, Weed, Lewis H., 1930-1940

1933  
FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

WEYL, HERMANN

ZANGGER

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

D, Weyl, 1933-45

✓ 5/3  
5/6  
P. 1/4

GENERAL

Public Relations

FLAXER, A.

Biography

MALONE, KEMP

GENERAL

Academic Organization

from  
Malone (Johns Hopkins Univ.) to Flaxer 5/3/33

"Miss Melville was good enough to send me a copy of the March number of The American Scholar containing your very interesting comment on the Institute for Advanced Study. You have certainly grasped clearly and expressed admirably the idea which was in my mind and historically too you are correct, namely, that this new development is only a small step forward along the line of what Mr. Gilman had in mind as long ago as 1876, but for Mr. Gilman and my own accidental presence there in 1884-1886 there would have been no Institute for Advanced Study. I am glad that you approve a total omission of undergraduate work. As a matter of fact, it looks as if we were going also to omit graduate work in the ordinary sense of the term, since thus far we have accepted no one who has not received his Ph.D. degree. This can be secured just as well at the Johns Hopkins or Harvard or Yale as at the Institute for Advanced Study. Why duplicate?

"There are one or two minor points, which I should like to bring to your

attention, though they do not require any public correction:

- \*1. The proposal to turn the Johns Hopkins into a university by doing away with the undergraduate work did not fail simply for the lack of money. In fact, in my opinion, the money could have been secured. Why did it fail? That is something that I will some day explain to you. I prefer not to put it in black and white.
- \*2. The resources of the Institute are 'comparatively limited' now at my own suggestion. I believed it would be better for me and better for the Institute to do one thing at a time, and I therefore deliberately asked for a modest sum which would enable me to do one or two things.
- \*3. I gave very thoughtful consideration to Washington as a location and decided against it for several reasons. While the Institute is to be at Princeton, there is no reason in the world why persons who wish to work in the Library of Congress should not do exactly what the Cambridge and Oxford dons do when they go to London to do their work at the Public Record Office or the British Museum. They can spend their week-ends in Princeton and their working time in Washington. Washington is almost as bad as New York as a place in which to live quietly and think. We are not going to be set in the midst of undergraduate Princeton. We shall be within reach of the library and of such of the graduate departments as have attained actual eminence like the Department of Mathematics. The fact is that with the whole country to choose from my real choice lay between Princeton and Baltimore. Harvard,

note

Malone K. / Gen. P.R. / Prog. / Acad. 5/3; 5/6 p. 3/4  
Org.

1933  
Yale, Columbia were all impossible on account of ~~stink~~ their size. There is something to be said for Baltimore, but on the whole - and I am viewing the matter objectively - I think we have made the best choice possible, for we can get at Princeton not only the use of the library and the collaboration of the small graduate school but all the land we want close enough to the University and far enough away to prevent confusion.

"4. Finally, the choice of Einstein had nothing to do with the front page.  
?) Poor Einstein is himself not responsible for the publicity which he has received. He is an unworldly man whom the newspapers have exploited. I had one reason in taking him, namely, his acknowledged eminence, precisely the same reason which has guided us in other selections. If you will look at Bulletin No. 2, I think you will agree that there is not an educational institution in the country which has been so careful to state facts simply as the Institute, and, if you know the pressure to which I have been subjected by newspapers to give them front page stuff, you would appreciate this fact even more fully.

"You are quite right when you say that the appointments made in mathematics tell us what he is about. The preceding paragraph ought to have been omitted."

W alone (Johns Hopkins Univ.) to Flexner 5/6/33

"...

"Of your four comments on 'minor points' I need say nothing about (1) and (2), except to express my interest and look forward to the time when we can have the personal chat you speak of (do let it be the next time you are in Baltimore). As regards (3), the

location of your Institute, I am afraid I cannot agree with you. The Oxford and Cambridge dons who go to London from time to time to work in the British Museum and the Record Office make their trips at a heavy cost in time, money and energy. In practice, these difficulties result in their not using Museum and Record Office as much as they ought to; in other words, their scholarly activities are seriously curtailed because of the inconvenience involved in so much traveling. The picture you paint of your own professors oscillating to and fro between Princeton and Washington is to me a most depressing one. No scholar likes to live a long way from the materials he must work with. The ideal (to have everything in one's own private library or laboratory) cannot be made a reality, of course, but certainly home and workshop ought to be as close together as is humanly possible. As regards Princeton itself (where I spent a year once, and a pleasant year it was) I can't make out how you expect to evade the undergraduate atmosphere which dominates the place. The fact is, I have the feeling that atmosphere means little to you, and that this peculiarity of yours lies at the root of your otherwise inexplicable failure to appreciate the Hopkins of today. In any case it strikes me as ironical indeed that you, who have said so much about the desirability of doing away with the relatively unimportant undergraduate school at Hopkins, have set up your own graduate work in Princeton of all places!

"As regards (4), let me say that I defended you against a charge of publicity-seeking, a charge widely made and widely believed. I might, of course, have ignored this talk as unworthy of serious notice. I thought it best, however, to be frank and face the issue - that is my way! I agree with you in what you say about Einstein, who has been victimized by our stunt-loving public. But enough of this. It was good to hear from you, and I hope we shall soon have that chat."

File III-17

WEYL, H.

Biographical

NEUGEBAUER, O.

FARKAS

PONTRIAGIN

LEFSCHETZ

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & POLITICS

Academic Organization

Veblen to Flexner (NYC):

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

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

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

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

"Mrs. Bailey's account of the grants in aid in her letter of May 3rd agrees entirely with my notes on the subject except that there should also be set aside \$1200 for travelling and extra expenses in the case of Pontriagin. You will recollect that we agreed with Lefschetz that a total of \$3000 should be available for this case and we decided to make the stipend small in order to have a good large reserve on account of the peculiarities in his situation. Contrary to what I wrote in one of my letters last week, this means that we have now disposed of \$500 out of our additional \$5000."

FINE HALL

Facilities

Veblen to Flexner:

"I have spoken with Eisenhart about the arrangements in Fine Hall. We agreed without difficulty that there would be a room for each of the professors; that Vanderslice would have to share with someone else, presumably Torrence; that the junior group would be treated evenly except that Mayer would get special consideration; that it is better to keep the arrangements ~~for~~ the junior people blind for a while longer.

"Eisenhart thought that \$5000 would be about right as the pecuniary contribution from the Institute. I think it should be at least that. It would be to our advantage to make it large enough so that the Univ. authorities and the mathematical-physical group would be loath to see the arrangement terminated.

"About the use of the money Eisenhart means first to consult Miss Jones; who will be interested in its being used for the purposes which the donors of Fine Hall had in mind, and then his Trustees Committee. This step will of course wait until he hears from you."

File IV-21

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & POLITICS

Academic Organization

Flexner to Veblen (Princ. Univ.):

...

*also see 3/17/33 - Duane*

"It is not possible at this time to go ahead with another department. First, I want a year in which to see how the Mathematical School works out. Second, I am not sufficiently familiar with the personnel available in this country or in Europe in other departments. Third, profoundly as I sympathize with Germans, I do not believe that we can have our hands forced by the happenings over there - anything we can do would be only a drop in the bucket - and we must proceed as we proceeded with you and Alexander, by giving opportunities to Americans, if it is possible to find them.

"There is no nationalistic feeling in this. Only a profound concern that we may in the long run build up in America a cultural center comparable to those of Europe. Neither Oxford nor Paris, nor Rome, Berlin or Vienna would be what it is if it had started solely with foreign talent, - though they have always, all of them, utilized and absorbed foreigners.

"We must not forget that we are training young Americans for academic posts, and we would simply suppress American effort if they were cut off from these posts."

*(This was a memo to V's sup. that went back up in January or  
time to reg. other schools. 5/4 after the meeting.)*

File IV-21

FOREIGNERS

Academic Personnel

GENERAL

Foundations

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

VTF ...

"We also discussed the general question about what could be done to help some of the dispossessed. Taylor thinks as do practically all of the people whom I have consulted, that it would do more harm than good to make any sort of formal protest. On the other hand, we agreed that some kind of a committee to raise funds for the purpose of enabling some of them to live and continue their scholarly work in the countries adjacent to Germany or elsewhere might be feasible. The existence of such a committee would in itself be an eloquent protest. I suppose that the actual funds would mostly come from the wealthy Jews but it might be helpful to have a number of scientific men on such a committee. I think there would be no difficulty in finding several such people in this neighborhood.

"Taylor himself is sailing for England in about two weeks and expects to make a visit to Bonhoeffer in Germany. He would be glad to serve as a sort of liaison officer

for such a committee if it is desired. If you thought it desirable, we could doubtless get him to make a visit to Göttingen.

"Taylor ~~Wassick~~ says that there already is a committee of this sort in Chicago of which President Hutchins is the Chairman. He suggests that Raymond Fosdick might be a suitable man to head a corresponding committee in New York.

"I have written to Julian Coolidge at Harvard to see how he would react to the idea of such a committee. You may recall that he and I collaborated in raising the endowment fund for the Mathematical Society." 1924?

Flexner to Veblen:

"...I continue to believe that the honors go to the musicians and the British authors rather than to the American scientists. But I also admit that I may be mistaken. Whether a committee could, under existing circumstances, raise any considerable sum of money I confess I do not know.

"Recurring to Silverman's telegram, I think you can say: first, the number of those who have lost their posts in Germany is so great that under conditions existing in America there is no human possibility of taking care of them: second, that the mathematical group of the Institute is settled for next year and there is nothing that the Institute can do that will be of any moment."

File IV-21

FOREIGN

Academic Personnel

GENERAL

Foundations

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Veblen to Flexner (NYC):

...

"I tried to reach you by telephone yesterday afternoon after I left Mr. Fosdick but it was too late. He seemed to approve of our plan and wishes to talk it over with Mason. I think at the very least, we will have accomplished something by bringing our point of view more clearly to the attention of the Rockefeller group. I should like, if possible, to get something started within a few days so that I can get off to Maine and my spinors.

...

(P.S) "If Fosdick won't do it, how about Vincent? Have you any other suggestions. It is essential to find someone of this type to take charge if the whole idea is not going

to fail." File IV-21

FOREIGN

Academic Personnel

GENERAL

Foundations

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

Veblen to Flexner (Simon) (Rockefeller Foundation, NYC)

"Since our conversation in Washington about the problem as to what can be done to help the Jews and Liberals who are driven out of their positions in Germany, I have talked with a few of my colleagues here and some others. The idea which seems to receive most favor is that of having a committee for the natural sciences which should be composed in a large part of what the Germans would call Aryan scientists, together with a few men of affairs who would know how to raise funds. The idea would be to distribute the German scientists who are helped in various countries in such a way as not to cause an undue concentration anywhere but so as to allow them to continue their scientific work. The scientific membership of the committee could be selected in such a way that the committee would possess first hand knowledge of the individuals who are to be helped.

"No formal protest of any sort would be made but the existence of the committee and the nature of its membership would, I think, in the course of a year or ~~two~~ two, have a good deal of practical value as a protest.

"I went to see your brother about this matter day before yesterday and he sent me to Mr. Fosdick whom I asked whether he would be willing to serve as chairman of the

committee. He brought forward the difficulty which I had of course expected that he was so closely connected with the Rockefeller organizations and said that he would like to talk the matter over with Max Mason. Mason telephoned to me yesterday morning about the general question without saying anything about Fosdick. I put the question to him rather strongly by saying that I did not know where else to go in order to find the necessary leadership for such a committee. Mason promised to call me up later in the day but no message has yet come from him. I hope to hear from him today but I thought I would like to get this letter off to you so that you will be prepared in case I try to consult you about the matter tomorrow or the next day.

"I am hoping to leave for Maine some time next week but would like to see if someone capable of carrying out some sort of a relief undertaking for the German scientists can not be enlisted before I go. Do you suppose that Vincent might do it?"

FOREIGN

Academic Personnel

GENERAL

Foundations

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Veblen to Flexner (NYC):

...

"I heard from Mason to the effect that Fosdick will not act on our committee and the idea now is to see whether Vincent will do so. Mason has offered to telephone to him on the subject. Taylor and I and perhaps one or two others are coming in Friday morning for an engagement with Mason ~~to~~ at 10:30. If you are not too busy, I at least, would like to look you up during the day. I should like to get this matter under way and into the hands of someone else as soon as possible. The people here with whom I have spoken, (Taylor, Conklin, Eisenhart, Alexander, Capps) all feel that the plan for the committee is a good one and only requires leadership from what might be called the New York end.

"One point about which I should like to speak with you is the question whether

we should send messages to Weyl in the keeping of Taylor when he goes to Germany.

...

"Vincent declines. Capps is writing to John Finley."

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Facilities

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

VEBLEN, O.

Flexner to Veblen (Princ. Univ.):

...

✓ "I should think Finley an excellent choice for the committee you have in mind, but the matter is not one which I myself can pursue."

"Mrs. Bailey is planning to move the office to Princeton May 18. Thereafter, our address will be 20 Nassau Street.

"I know of no particular message which we can send to Weyl at this time. Perhaps you have something in mind which does not occur to me."

AF Whipped?

File IV-21

FOREIGN

Academic Personnel

VEELEN, O.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

DUGGAN, STEPHEN

GENERAL

Foundations

Veblen to Flexner (NYC):

...

"It looks now as if the relief work for the Jews and Liberals who are dis-  
possessed in Germany would be handled through the office of the International Institute  
for Education. At least that is what Dr. Duggan seems to think and my colleagues here  
think it is probably best not to interfere with that arrangement."

... When so much - jobs - V's sole activity is various  
after all

File IV-21

5/25  
5/29

FINE HALL

Facilities

Edward D. Duffield, Acting President, Princeton University, to Flexner, May 25, 1933.

"Dean Eisenhart has spoken to me in regard to the desire of the Executive Committee of the Institute for Advanced Study to make a contribution to the university of \$6,000 as in evidence of its appreciation for the university having extended to it temporarily the use and facilities of Fine Hall.

"It is my understanding that it is your hope that this contribution will be used by the university for the future development of its work in advanced mathematics.

"I will bring to the attention of the Finance Committee at its next meeting which will be held on June 1, the fact of your generous gift and your desire in connection therewith. I am sure that it will be ~~greatfully~~ gratefully accepted, and that your wishes in connection with its use will be carried out.

"In the meanwhile, let me convey to you personally my appreciation for your generous gift which will be formally acknowledged after the

meeting of the committee."

Flexner to Duffield, May 29, 1933.

"I wish to express my appreciation and that of my associates for your great kindness. Let me explain, however, that I do not wish to have any voice as to the use which the university shall make of the amount contributed by the Institute for Advanced Study for the privileges which it enjoys in Fine Hall, though naturally the mathematicians of both institutions would be gratified if the sum could be applied to making Princeton still further the great mathematical center which it has already become."

1933  
WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

ZANGGER, Dr. H.

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

D, Weyl, H., 1933-35

1933  
POLICIES

Administration

EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner to Einstein, May 29, 1933.

Announces the moving of the office to 20 Nassau Street, and the opening meeting of the Institute on the morning of Monday, October 2, 1933. At this meeting the members are supposed to be present.

D, Einstein, Albert, 1932-1933

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Facilities

Flexner to Veblen:

...

"We moved to Princeton Thursday. I was sorry to have just missed Levi-Civita. I have seen the Lefschetzes and Eisenharts and Alexanders and Ladenburgs. The offices are very neat and comfortable, quite adequate to our purposes. Their simplicity as compared with the beauty of Fine Hall puts the Director in a subordinate position - where he properly belongs!"

...

File IV-21

FOREIGN

Academic Personnel

GENERAL

Foundations

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

VEBLEN, O.

Flexner to Wiener, Norbert (Depart. of Math., M.I.T., Cambridge, Mass.):

...

"I shall forward the correspondence to Professor Veblen. This is one of scores of letters which I have received which have driven me almost to distraction. I have had some correspondence with President Compton on the subject of dismissed professors and also with President Mason of the Rockefeller Foundation, who has told me that the Foundation will cooperate with any university which desires to secure the services of dispossessed professors...."

File IV-21

GENERAL

Publications

GRANTS

Academic Personnel

GENERAL

Foundations

POLICY

Administration

Veblen to Flexner (NYC): undated

"When I was in Chicago, Dr. Albert remarked that he should be glad to have a note of his appointment for a year in the Institute appear in the Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society where such things are usually recorded. I think it would be a good idea to send a list of these grants-in-aid to Professor E. R. Hedrick, University of California at Los Angeles, California, who is Editor of the Bulletin. There ought, however, to be a distinction between cases like that of Albert and that of Bleick. Perhaps the simplest thing would be to leave the latter out entirely. In this sort of announcement I would not send the announcement in regular form to Hedrick but merely a note stating what the appointments are and then let Hedrick put the thing in his own way."

Veblen to Flexner 6/6:

"Here is a letter from Compton about Prof. Szász which I answered by suggesting

that they try to get the Rockefeller Foundation to pay half.\* I am not sure, however, but that it would be wise to enter into one or two such arrangements where they are clearly temporary. For example, in this case, to have Szász come to Princeton for part of the year. If the position is so clearly a travelling one it will make the obligation less to each institution concerned. It might be better for any two institutions to take two halves of a man each rather than one man each."

...

"\* and adding that I thought it would be against your policy to share in such an arrangement."

ECHOLS, ROBERT L.

Biographical

GENERAL

Academic Personnel

Veblen to Mrs. Bailey:

"...I wish to recommend Dr. Robert L. Echols, 55 Christopher Street, New York, for admission to the Institute as a student or 'worker' - I am not sure whether the terminology has been settled. Dr. Echols is a Ph.D. from the Univ. of Virginia where his father is Professor of Mathematics. The young man has been to see me twice and has written several times. He makes a very good personal impression. I discouraged him from applying for a grant-in-aid because he has no published work to show, but encouraged the idea of coming on his own if he could because he seemed to have a good deal of initiative and determination."

File IV-21

*July*

COPY

Confidential Memorandum

GERMAN SCHOLARS APPOINTED

Monday  
July 24, 1933

Born (Physics)	Cambridge
Franck (Physics)	Johns Hopkins
xx Szasz (Mathematics)	Massachusetts Institute Technology
xx Franck (Physics)	Massachusetts Institute Technology
xx Melchior Palyi *	University of Chicago
Neisser* (Economics)	University of Pennsylvania
Bonn* (Economics)	London School of Economics
Mannheim*	" " " "
Kontorowicz*	" " " "
Altschul* (Statistics)	" " " "
Freundlich (Chemistry)	Donnan Laboratories - London
xx Schucking* (International Law)	Yale
xx Emmy Noether* (Mathematics)	Bryn Mawr
xx Spitzer* (Romance Languages)	Princeton
xx Bonn* (Economics)	University of California
Berl	Carnegie Institute of Technology
Stern* (Psychology?)	" " " "
Zinsheimer	Leiden
xx Bernstein (Mathematics)	Columbia
Arnold? Wolfers (Hochschule fur Politik)	Yale (appointed prior to his dismissal)
Polanyi (Physics)	Manchester

*13 us and 8 abroad*

\* These men have not accepted as yet. In most instances there is reason to believe that they will do so.

xx Indicates grant by Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced German Scholars.

✓1933

July

GENERAL (TENURE)

Academic Personnel

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

Academic Organization

INSTITUTE HISTORY

Institute History

*Woodward*

Discusses the nature of history and why men write it. An ideal society of historians should contain ~~as~~ as many diverse types as possible. Would have to establish a rule of mutual tolerance; otherwise, it would dissolve, but there is a danger that if they were too tolerant different points of view would cancel out. This is a real danger: "It has been a factor in making for sterility in the ancient ~~intolerance~~ ~~intolerant~~ societies of Oxford and Cambridge." There is a danger in making scholarly men, particularly the sensitive and timid, too comfortable and secure. "Life seems very long to a scholar in an assured position, working at a subject which absorbs his interest. He will make a virtue out of industriousness and use 'incompleteness of knowledge' as an excuse for producing nothing."

A small society must be homogeneous to be effective. If it is not, its endowment might as well be distributed to the ~~first~~

firstcomers who can show sufficient technical aptitude.

The faculties of history at the universities of Europe and America are generally supposed to cover the whole field of history. Gifts are received for special periods. "From the point of view of historical studies, there are too many universities, and too many students engaged in what is called historical research. Any new endowments ought not to be directed to increasing the number of universities or of creating something similar to a university under another name." (Probably this was the reason Flexner paid no attention to the memorandum).

There are two types of special schools: (1) *Ecolés des Chartes*--runs the risk of over-stressing erudition. No competition with the open market. It spins its cobwebs or makes its honey for itself.

The other ~~is~~ is exemplified by the (London) Institute of Historical Research which saves much time and prevents a great

deal of waste energy and presents the danger of slackness and elaboration of machinery that may kill creative work.

Another type--the institutes of politics not concerned with professional training but with the creative work of men of some experience and knowledge of affairs. Such is the Institute of Foreign Affairs in Great Britain which has great value in developing and organizing public opinion, spreading reliable information counteracting untruths, providing a meeting ground for discipline and exchange of ideas. May be of help to administrators and even "in a better organized society they might be of help to statesmen." He would not apply the endowment to this type any more than to the others above.

The endowment must fulfill a purpose--the social good. The most urgent problems before modern society (apart from problems of personal ethics) are those of government. They have been summed up in Aristotle's discussion of the different meanings given to equality, etc.

Problems of government fall into two main divisions: one, theoretical--study of forms, institutions and laws in their

historical setting to get the widest possible generalizations; two, practical problems--history of particular states, etc. Discusses at length. Thinks the endowments (Institute's) problem goes not to the question of whether historical research shall be between theoretical and practical subjects but shall concern methods: (1) trustees might draw up a program which would require thorough investigation; for instance, the influence of law upon public opinion. Necessitates a preliminary survey to show what kind of investigation is necessary. Lines of investigation would become clear with study not only as to kind of study, but countries in which it should be conducted. Would result in a detailed plan of research. The execution of the research would fall outside "the sphere controlled by the endowment," which would be used by three or four workers on one or more aspects, but would also be stimulating other institutions to take up the other aspects. The Institute's own standards of impartiality, relevance, and thoroughness should be an example to the others.

(2) Alternative would be that the endowment would act as a directing governing body over research using its resources for the assistance of advanced work upon lines already laid down

elsewhere. Example--present state of the study of international relations. With the opening of archives in the recent years, publication of detailed diplomatic studies, it has been possible to form some idea of policies of powers, great powers, in modern times. The endowment would ~~take~~ undertake the ~~work~~ supervision of work on a section of the problem and not content itself with merely giving financial aid to suitable people to carry it out. Would see it through on a segment. his

He recommends better policy to combine these two methods, "To formulate a working definition of the subjects with which the endowment is prepared to deal; to make this definition fairly wide, and within these limits, to look for individuals who have proved their worth by actual work." Individuals to submit their program. Program should be carried on in collaboration.

Choosing of men: two ways; for life or for a certain time. If you appoint him for life your institute takes a flavor and tranquility. But his has dangers which are obvious. You have to live with your mistakes, carry dead weights

over a long period.

Advantages of making appointments for short periods are very great, but offer great practical difficulties. Cannot speak of conditions in America, but in England you can always get good young men for appointments lasting only a few years. You can get senior men for an exchange or visiting professorship tenable for a year. Extremely difficult to get any senior to take a post which is not a life appointment. A man over 35, married or single, must consider the future. Number of academic appointments in England and Scotland limited as to seniors. Anyone who left Oxford for three or four years would find it extremely difficult to get back again. He might have to migrate to an out-of-the-way place, an uncongenial place.

Suggests a staff of four, not counting research assistants, or young men working to learn the methods of research. Of the four, two appointed for life. The other two might be held by younger men who would take a position for four, five, six, or seven years in order to get a good piece of work done.

At All Souls where in giving an endowment for research the college does not expect to control the whole of a man's time, it can and does insist upon his doing nothing incompatible with his research obligations. At All Souls most of the research fellows give such time as is not claimed by the conditions of their research fellowships to work within the University. But it is not always the case, and a research fellow might divide his time between two institutions.

As to students he suggests a small number of post-graduates, just enough so that the staff would be able to give advanced instruction without hampering the main work of the endowment research.

Generally keep down the apparatus.

D, Llewellyn Woodward

July

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

WOODWARD, E. L.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Woodward's memorandum on history (small society must be homogeneous). Draw up plan for research, only part of which would be controlled by I. A. S. Institute might coordinate and "manage studies."

D, Woodward

1933  
STEWART, W.W.  
MAASS, HERBERT  
FLEXNER, ABRAHAM  
INVESTMENT

Biographical

Finance

Mr. Maass to Dr. Flexner:

"Last week I had the pleasure of lunching with Mr. Bamberger, Mr. Leidesdorf and our new Trustee, Mr. Stewart, and cannot begin to tell you of the very splendid impression he created and how helpful I am sure he is going to be in our affairs. The purpose of the luncheon was to review our investments, and we had the benefit of some very constructive criticism from Mr. Stewart, which is already leading to action, and will, I am certain, improve the calibre of our portfolio."

Source: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

1933

WEYL, H.

Biographical

VEBLEN, O.

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

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

File IV-19

COPIES

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

WEYL, HERMANN

FLEXNER, A.

BAMBERGER

Flexner to Veblen.

JWA  
v n

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

Flexner to Bamberger July <sup>14</sup>~~13~~, 1933.

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

1933

Veblen, O. (cont.)  
Weyl, Hermann Hamburger  
Flexner, A.

Boog.

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

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

1933  
Weyl, H.  
Fleynor, A.  
Bamberger

Bozoy

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

D. L. B.

~~V. E. Veblen, Abraham~~

✓ 1933

7/14  
7/19  
7/24

p. 1/2

FOUNDERS

Corporation

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

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

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

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

1933

Weyl, H.  
Flynn, A.

Corp.  
Prog.

7/14  
7/19  
7/24

p. 2/2

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

D, Bamberger, Louis, 1930-1936

7/15

1933  
FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

LEIDESDORF, S. D.

WEYL, HERMANN

Flexner to Leidesdorf from Magnetawan, July 15, 1933.

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

D, Leidesdorf, Samuel D., 1930-1935

✓ 1933

EMIGREES

Academic Personnel

BORN, MAX

Biographical

POLANYI

FLEXNER, A.

Veblen (Hancock County, Maine) to Flexner:

Ladenburg writes from Switzerland that considerable number of German scholars have been invited to England. Max Born (Gottingen) invited to Cambridge for 3 years.

Polanyi appointed to permanent chair of chemistry at Manchester. "His case is highly analogous to that of Weyl, for he had been offered this chair more than a year ago, had made a lot of difficult conditions, and then, finally, last winter or spring had declined the chair. Taylor told me just before he sailed that the Manchester people were disgusted and said they were not going to have anything further to do with Polanyi ..."

File IV-19

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

BEARD, CHARLES A.

Biographical

Beard to Flexner, July 18, 1933, telling Flexner that the Wörburg (~~W~~ spelling) Library in Hamburg had just closed, and asking Flexner ~~for~~ to establish a school of the humanities at the Institute.

of

The methodology ~~at~~ the Institute.

March 7, 1932, Beard to Flexner, urging strong work in economics. He recommends Viner, Paul Douglas, Edward Earle, Harold Laski, Schumpeter. He warned Flexner against taking the advice of Taussig or Seligman, or their kind. They are wrong and not worthy of being listened to.

August, 1929, Beard to Flexner on the Institute: Don't expect to pick a few first-rate scholars, turn them loose, and expect anything good.

File I-11

1933  
FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

ZANGGER

Biographical

WEYL, HERMANN

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

*No advice of the F. S. V. 1933?*

D, Weyl, 1933-45

✓1933

7/22

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

VEBLÉN, O.

EMIGREES

Academic Personnel

Veblen (Hancock County, Maine) to Flexner:

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

File IV-19

✓ 1933

FOUNDERS

The Corporation

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

VEBLER, O.

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

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

File IV-19

1933  
EMIGREES

Academic Personnel

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

AYDELOTTE, F.

FLEXNER, A.

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

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

File IV-19

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

WEYL, HERMANN

FLEXNER, A.

BAMBERGER

EINSTEIN, A.

Flexner to Veblen.

This morning I received from Leydenburg<sup>2</sup> a telegram from London which reads: "Very urgent. Official invitation that German professors be expedited as they may not be allowed to leave."

V File, Flexner, Abraham

COURANT, RICHARD

Biography

ROCKEFELLER

Foundations

Flexner (Magnetawan) to Dr. Max Mason (Rockefeller Found., NYC)

"...

"I have received from Duggan's secretary a list of those for whom places have been found, and I am writing Veblen to know whether in his opinion the Institute for Advanced Study should invite Courant to come to America for a year and whether under those circumstances the Rockefeller Foundation would contribute half of a salary, of, say, \$6,000.

"I should be happy if you would give me further inside information that you have received from the Paris Office. The situation is enough to break one's heart. The excesses of the Nazis seem to me to indicate internal weakness rather than strength, but they hold the fort, and it will not be easy for others, who are scattered, to dislodge them."

File III-17

✓1933

7/31

DEGREES

Academic Procedure

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

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

"..... I don't want to begin giving Ph.D. degrees, for I don't want to involve the staff in theses, examinations, and all the other paraphernalia. There are plenty of places now in which men can get a Ph.D. degree. Our work ought to be beyond that stage."

File IV-19

August

EINSTEIN, ALBERT

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

There is quite an exchange complicated by press relations in German on the question of whether Einstein has winter half-year. This is finally ironed out, but it is clear that the Einsteins and Mayer will not arrive until after the Institute opens, since they embark on October 7. Flexner (September 7, September 28, informs Einstein that he has been authoritatively requested to ask Einstein to enter the country quietly and offers him facilities to disembark at Quarantine and avoid the press, coming directly to Princeton. Arrangements, made by Maass, for the disembarkation, Edgar Bamberger to drive him down to Princeton).

D, Einstein, Albert, 1932-1933

~~XXXX~~  
~~XXXX~~

8/1  
p. 1/2

DIRECTOR

Administration

FOUNDERS

Corporation

AYDELOTTE, F.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner to Bamberger, August 1, 1933.

Aydelotte has just been visiting him at Magnetawan, and has spent a good deal of time going over the Institute and its future with Flexner. "In addition to this...I feel that I have in him an 'understudy' whom you and Mrs. Fuld were rightly anxious that I procure. Whatever happens to me, the Institute is safe, for he and I are in perfect accord as to the principles and ideals which underlie the enterprise. ~~Max further~~ We agree further that it is impossible for him to secure the wider personal acquaintance with distinguished scholars and scientists in this country and ~~at~~ abroad, which I acquired during my long years at the Rockefeller Foundation. He therefore proposes to spend his summers abroad

Administration  
Corp.  
Brog.

8/1

p. 2/2

1933

Founders  
Aydelotte, F.  
Fleynor, A.

for this purpose for several years to come. Thus the Institute will be in possession of the kind of experience which must be enjoyed by an institution which wishes to do something better or higher than is done even by the most famous universities in the world."

D, Bamberger, Louis, 1930-1936

VEBLER, O.

Biographical

WEYL, HERMANN

FLEXNER, A.

BAMBERGER

Flexner to Veblen.

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

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

V File, Flexner, Abraham

8/15  
8/28

VON NEUMANN, J.

Biographical

8/15/33  
Letter from von Neumann to Mrs. Bailey/asking for permit to bring various objects of silver to America. Also cablegram from Flexner to von Neumann 8/28/33 saying he'll send certificate.

Filed in Chronological File under 1933, 8/15.

D File, von Neumann, J., 1933-35

CABLEGRAM  
(AUGUST 28, 1933)

von Neumann  
Budapest  
V., Arany Janos ucca 16

Letter received Will attend to certificate  
immediately

Flexner .

*John von Neumann*

COPY

Budapest, August 15, 1933

V., Arany János ucca 16

Hungary

My dear Mrs. Bailey:

I would be greatly obliged to you, if you could help me in the following affair, in which I have to deal with American and with Hungarian authorities.

In connection with my moving from Budapest to Princeton this fall, I want to take various objects of silver, etc., with me. Under the present currency regulations and gold and silver-embargo in Hungary, I need a special permit of the National Bank of Hungary, to do this. Such a permit can only be granted, if I can prove, that I am really moving to Princeton, i.e., that I am going to have a permanent occupation, a residence, etc. there. Moreover this has to be proved by a certificate of the local (municipal) authority of my future residence.

So what I need, is this: that the Institute for Advanced Study would obtain a certificate from the Administration of the Borough of Princeton, which states; that the Institute had proved to their satisfaction, that I am a permanent member of its staff, who is going to reside permanently in Princeton from Oct. 1, 1933, on.

This or a similar certificate would meet my purposes, it can of course be written in English, as I can have a translation made here.

As I am leaving Budapest around Sept. 17, and the Hungarian authorities may spend 1 week or 2 on the affair too, it would be very good, if I could have this certificate around Sept. 5. If it takes longer to secure it, you would oblige me, in informing me of this circumstance as soon as possible, even then I would like to have it sent to Budapest to me, if it arrives here before Sept. 15. If it can only be sent so that it arrives after Sept. 15, please address the envelope to

Mr. G. Kövesi, Budapest, V.,  
Arany Janos ucca 16

Please excuse me for the work and trouble which this may give you, but it is really of great importance to me. I am thanking very heartily in advance for your taking care of the matter. My wife joins me in the best greetings, and I am

Sincerely yours,

(signed) JOHN VON NEUMANN

✓1933

EMIGREES

Academic Personnel

COURANT, RICHARD

Biographical

VEBLER, O.

Veblen (Hancock County, Maine) to Flexner: Excerpt

"About Courant I feel that I ought to suggest that every precaution should be taken to make it clear that the engagement is for one year only. While it is very desirable that he should be helped now he is not at all the type we want permanently--and evidence has been accumulating that he will be much harder to place elsewhere than I had thought. This in spite of my conviction that there are several places where he would be very useful."

File IV-19

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

WEYL, HERMANN

FLEXNER, A.

BAMBERGER

EINSTEIN, A.

Flexner to Veblen, August 21, 1933.

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

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

Notes

8/21

p.2/2

Weyl, H.  
Flexner, A.  
Bamberger  
Einstein, A.

Prog.

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

V File, Flexner, Abraham

1933  
FOUNDERS

Corporation

AYDELOTTE, F .

Biographical

WEYL, HERMANN

~~XXXX~~ COURANT

Flexner to Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld, August 23, 1933.

Aydelotte has written him that he and Mrs. Aydelotte visited the founders, and ~~they had gone into~~ that they had all gone thoroughly into the Weyland Courant matters and had come to an understanding to be submitted to the Executive Committee to be held after Flexner returns.

D, Bamberger, Louis, 1930-1936

8/24 p. 1/2  
8/27

FOUNDERS

MAASS, HERBERT  
FLEXNER, ABRAHAM  
WEYL, HERMANN

Corporation  
Biographical

Dr. Flexner to Mr. Maass:

"I received from Mr. Bamberger the following telegram:

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

Maass to Flexner:

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

1933 Founders: Maass, H.; Flunke, A.;  
Corp.; Brody.

8/24, 8/27

p. 2/2

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

Source: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

8/26/33

Wayl

FA to AF. He couldn't mess about with the Com.  
on Wayl gift. Mess was pleased "to hear the Banker's  
attitude on ... Wayl - Communist". Mess had raised question  
whether we are spending too much on messes. Perhaps too much

for mess when they like to get gifts from other sources.  
F.A. told me that the best chance for such gifts was a strong  
department in which was done. Therefore better to contact

# of subjects; Mess agreed but was Messured.

(AF was to get AF secure from his illness. AF is what  
FA to AF is April. not a special trip for Wayl)  
Now likely a meeting of them for assoc. for the  
bad health, this trip. + FA's own health at Sw. i.e. 20000 etc

F.A. - AF

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Academic Personnel

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

VEBLEN, O.

EINSTEIN

MAYER

Flexner to Veblen, August 30, 1933.

Postscript to a letter. "I should like to have an informal meeting ~~with~~ <sup>of</sup> the members of the staff of the School of Mathematics ~~on~~ October 2, at 10:30 a. m. at Fine Hall in your room. Will you undertake to call the members together? I am afraid that Einstein and Mayer will not return until a few days later, but that will not matter."

V File, Flexner, Abraham

Aug. 30 - Sept. 1

WEYL, H.

Biographical

COURANT

VEBLEN, O.

Veblen to Flexner. Two formal letters containing the same information, one sent to Magnetawan, the other to the Institute, recommending Weyl and Courant for appointment. The argument he makes for Weyl is that he is a great mathematician whose work is noted among mathematicians as well as admired and respected by himself as a mathematician. Rich in ideas and very original and also in a field which would not overlap too much that of any other professor of mathematics in the Institute. ~~As to Courant~~ He also says that Weyl's "oscillations" of last winter have not influenced the feelings of mathematicians. The implication is that they understand how severe was his trial.

He is much more qualified in his approval for a year's appointment for Courant. He does not approve for the Institute the type of institution which Courant instituted in Göttingen. He thinks that the Institute might well offer Courant the position because of the brutal assaults being made upon scholarship in Germany.

File IV-19

1933  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations ~~with~~ WOAI

Minutes, p. 1:

"The Director reported that at the request of Mr. Louis Bamberger and others he had communicated with Dean L. P. Eisenhart of Princeton University and had informed him that the Institute desired to make a contribution to the University for the use of certain rooms as well as the library and library staff of Fine Hall. Thereupon, on motion, it was

"RESOLVED, That the Institute for Advanced Study make a contribution to Princeton University at the rate of Six thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) a year, beginning September 1, 1933, as evidence of its appreciation of having extended to the School of Mathematics temporarily the use and facilities of Fine Hall."

Vol. I, No. 14

*Exec Com.*

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

NEUGEBAUER

Biographical

SARTON, GEORGE

FLEXNER, A.

Sarton to Flexner, September 6, 1933, informing Flexner of word which he has had from Neugebauer at Göttingen that he is editing the Corpus of all the original documents of Babylonian mathematics. Sarton says the world will owe much to Neugebauer for this.

Sarton suggests the history of science as one of the fields for the Institute to study; first because it has been neglected by other agencies except for the Carnegie Institution, and because when colleges that do give courses in it, ~~it~~ debases the subject rather than elevating it. Furthermore, because the history of science, that is, the history of mathematics and other sciences down the scale, is the best introduction to the philosophy of science and synthetic knowledge; next, because it is the best means of humanizing science; and, last, because

it would be an excellent preparation for increasing groups of people needing a general scientific knowledge and intelligence rather than a specialized and technical knowledge.

The organization of such studies in the United States could be reconciled with the urgent needs of many German scholars--a new opportunity to them, a great opportunity to this country.

Then he goes on to compare himself with Neugebauer, in relation to whom he said he, Sarton, was only a dilettante. "He works in the front trenches while I amuse myself way back in the rear--praising the one, blaming the others; saying this ought to be done, etc.--and doing very little myself. What Neugebauer does is fundamental, and what I do, secondary."

He assures Flexner Neugebauer did not ask him to write the letter.

D, Institute--Organization

✓1933

9/6

PROFESSORS

Academic Personnel

SALARIES

BENEFITS

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

COURANT, RICHARD

ROCKEFELLER

Foundations

Minutes, p. 2:

"The Director stated that Professor Hermann Weyl of Göttingen could be obtained as a Professor in the School of Mathematics. After discussion, it was, on motion,

"RESOLVED, That instead of the previous invitation offered him, which he declined on account of ill health at the time, Professor Hermann Weyl be and hereby is invited to a full professorship on the following terms:

"That his appointment as a Professor in the School of Mathematics date from January 1, 1934, and that it be a full-time appointment in the sense in which the term is

employed at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and elsewhere in the United States;

"That his salary be fixed at Fifteen thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) a year, of which he will contribute five per cent (5%) to the Teachers Insurance Annuity Association of America, the Institute contributing an equal sum monthly;

"That, unless his term of appointment is prolonged by mutual consent, he retire at 65 years of age on an allowance of Eight thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) per annum, part of which will be paid by the Teachers Insurance Annuity Association of America, the rest to be made up by the Institute;

"That he be granted an additional allowance of Fifteen Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) a year to enable him to purchase such insurance as he may choose."

"The Director called attention to the horrible plight of the dismissed and suspended professors in German universities. He informed the Committee that the Rockefeller Foundation would join with the Institute for Advanced Study in offering \$3,000.00 each for one year as a salary for Professor Richard Courant of Göttingen, as Visiting Professor in the School of Mathematics.

"On motion, the Director was authorized to proceed upon this basis."

1933

EMIGREES

Academic Personnel

COURANT, R.

Biographical

Telegram - Veblen (Maine) to Flexner (New York):

"LETTER FROM WEYL SAYS THAT COURANT HAS LECTURESHIP AT CAMBRIDGE FOR THREE YEARS  
SAME AS BORN".

File IV-19

✓1933

9/8

EMIGREES

Academic Personnel

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

AYDELOTTE, F.

VEBLEN, O.

POLICIES

Administration

Flexner to Veblen (Hancock County, Maine): Excerpts

*ie. Moments  
benefits in fav  
was W -*

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

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

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

1933  
EMIGREES

Academic Personnel

NEUGEBAUER

Biographical

Flexner (New York) to Veblen: Excerpt

"Aydelotte telephoned me yesterday that Dresden had had a letter from Weyl from the Italian Tyrol. He says that <sup>it</sup> is as good as settled that Courant will go to Cambridge, which is a little less certain than your telegram, which arrived shortly after. If this is correct, my disposition would be to invite Neugebauer, because he would bring to this country something absolutely new, namely, the historical and humanistic side of mathematics. .... Mathematics is something more than an affair of today and yesterday. It is a part of the cultural history of the race. Sarton has been urging me to do this and in speaking of Neugebauer as compared with himself says that he (Sarton) is a mere amateur compared with Neugebauer. ...."

File IV-19

✓ 1933  
EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

New York 'Times' story (A. P. dispatch) from Blankenberghe Belgium. Einstein has decided to leave Belgium because of fears for safety. Will leave on Yacht-supposedly for South America, but really for England. Police placed a guard at Einstein's villa after hearing German authorities placed a price on Einstein's head.

II-16

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

VEBLEN, O.

AYDELOTTE, F.

Flexner to Veblen, September 8, 1933.

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

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

Flexner to Veblen, September 9, 1933.

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

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

IV-19

V File, Flexner, Abraham

✓1933  
1940  
1940

9/8  
7/29  
7/31

HISTORICAL STUDIES (HISTORY OF SCIENCE)

Academic Activities

SARTON, DR. GEORGE (Editor of Isis at the  
Harvard Library, Cambridge, Mass.)

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

NEUGEBAUER

Flexner to Sarton, September 8, 1933.

He alludes to a recommendation of Neugebauer which Sarton has sent.  
~~What I wonder~~ "What I wonder now is whether there exists in this country  
the material which he would need for his Babylonian and other work in  
case the Institute could give him a position...Some day I should like to  
see the Institute of Advanced Study develop an institute of the history  
of science or the history of culture, which would include both science and  
the humanities. Thus our American scholars might be enabled to gain a  
perspective, which very few of the younger men now possess."

Sarton to Flexner, July 29, 1940.

He asks Flexner to devote his time for the rest of his life  
to founding an endowment for an institute of the history of science.

Aydelotte to Sarton, July 31, 1940.

He acknowledges the letter to Flexner and points out that the war  
would render impossible any such effort at the present time.

9/9  
9/11  
9/14

EMIGREES

Academic Personnel

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

VEBLER, O.

FLEXNER, A.

POLICIES

Administration

Veblen (Maine) to Flexner: Excerpt

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

Veblen (Maine) to Flexner: Excerpts

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

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

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

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

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

EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

Associated Press to New York Times (9/10)

Einstein renounces pacificism and as to need for citizens of Belgium to join in military service for country's own defense. But he still feels that if all people renounce military service, it will mean the end of wars and favors that. Arrived in London 9/9/33.

~~II~~-16

File ~~III~~-18

✓1933

9/12

EMIGRES

Academic Personnel

COURANT, R.

Biographical

GENERAL

Foundations

Excerpt from Flexner-to-Courant letter:

"I have, despite the fact that I have been ill, been making every effort to find a permanent post for you in America. The difficulty at the Institute is that, in Veblen's judgment, your field lies outside that which the School of Mathematics is undertaking to cover, also that the funds available for mathematics are exhausted. The difficulty in the country at large is altogether financial. Our endowed institutions depend upon the income from their securities, and there is hardly an institution in this country - certainly none to which I would send you - which is not laboring under a deficit. I have endeavored through the Rockefeller Foundation and the so-called Duggan Committee to find the funds which will create a place for you, but so far I have been unable to get an assurance for longer than one year. I have not, however, relaxed my efforts, and I feel no doubt that either in this country or in England an opening suited to your talents will ultimately be found."

File II-5

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

COURANT, RICHARD

Biographical

Courant was Professor of Mathematics (Math. Analysis & Physics) and Director of Mathematical Institute at Göttingen 1921-33. Flexner wrote him (9/12/33) that Veblen judged his "field lies outside that which the School of Mathematics I. A. S. is undertaking to cover." Courant was looking for job in America & Flexner was helping him. ✓

1933

9/12

COURANT, RICHARD

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

BOHR, N.

Flexner to Courant. Says he has cabled Bohr he has obtained invitation for Courant, half time at Princeton, half time somewhere else at \$6,000.

II-5

1/12/33

~~Ende~~

F A K A F .

Strangely enough when I read the notice about  
an attempted assassination of Ende by mail I had  
to you. ~~It~~ ... What a fool he is not to come on  
here at once, and get settled with life or let's begin  
the opening of the ~~case~~ - in which year ...

F A K A F

9/22

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WOAI

~~FRKM~~ DODDS, H. W.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner to Bamberger, September 22, 1933.

Flexner made his first call on Dodds, and thought very highly of him.

D, Bamberger, Louis, 1930-1936

GENERAL

Public Relations

"Dear Doctor Finley: [Editor of New York Times] [from Flexner]

"I have just had such an unpleasant experience with Mrs. Barnard of your Sunday Department, that I am appealing to you in order not to be compelled to ask the courts to enjoin the publication which, in violation of a distinct promise on her part, she has prepared for next Sunday's paper.

"A few weeks ago Mrs. Barnard asked me for an interview on the subject of the new Institute for Advanced Study. I declined to see her, as I have declined to see other newspaper people, for all those connected with the Institute wish a quiet beginning. My point of view is made entirely clear in a letter which I wrote her dated September 5, 1933. When she told me that she was going to write an article anyway, I thought that I could help her to avoid errors by seeing her and getting her to agree to let me read what she had written before it was published, but I made the stipulation then, and when she came to see me, that under no conditions was I to be quoted. To these stipulations she agreed over the telephone and when she saw me at home. Instead of preparing the article in good time and giving me a chance to revise it, she sent my secretary the article last night - Sunday night - by Special Delivery, with a note saying that it would have to go to press today.

"The article is inaccurate, boastful, and what is worse 'quotes' things some of

which I said and many of which I did not say at all. Last night Dean Eisenhart and I went over it together and removed the quotation marks and corrected the worst inaccuracies - the style was so bad that we did not consider it part of our business to interfere with that. Mrs. Barnard has just promised me over the telephone to correct the inaccuracies and not to quote me, but after my experience with her, I confess I do not attach much importance to this assurance. I am sure that in a court of law I could stop the publication of the article, but I do not wish any such notoriety either for The Times or for myself. May I beg you, as a friend of mine, of the Institute, and Princeton University which would justly feel aggrieved if I were quoted as uttering such flamboyant nonsense, to intervene so that no further steps on my part will be necessary?

"I should be happy if you would telegraph me to the address of the Institute, 20 Nassau Street, Princeton, reassuring me with reference to the whole matter."

1933

October

1934

October

TRUSTEES (MINUTES)

Corporation

POLICIES

*Administration*

~~Academic Personnel~~

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

MAASS, H. H.

Note change in character of minutes - Flexner explained to Maass after October meeting that discussion in Board meeting to be attributed only when man speaks officially as Chairman of a committee or officer. (Protection of Stewart's anonymity). In 1934 (10/10) Flexner writes to Frankfurter inviting augmentation of arguments at meeting of 10/8/34 so Board may have and reflect on it.

D, Frankfurter, Felix

FLEXNER, ABRAHAM

Biographical

MAASS, HERBERT

WEYL, HERMANN

Flexner to Maass:

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

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

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

Source: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

1933  
GENERAL

Public Relations

In the file on announcements, see the New York Times'  
magazine article on the New Institute.

File I-2 and 3

1933

Oct.  
10/2

MAASS, HERBERT

Biographical

LEIDESDORF, SAMUEL

FLEXNER, ABRAHAM

Wire from Maass and Leidesdorf to Flexner:

"On the opening day of the first term of the Institute we extend to you our heartfelt congratulations upon the achievement of one of your life's dreams and hope its fulfillment will accomplish all which your fondest hopes can visualize Stop We are proud and delighted to have been associated with you in its establishment and trust that you will be spared many years of active life to give it the full measure and benefit of your splendid abilities Stop Kindest remembrances to Mrs. Flexner and to you."

Flexner to Maass:

"Am deeply touched by the joint telegram from you and Mr. Leidesdorf. From the first I have felt fortunate and assured in your cooperation. Nothing could exceed the kindness and helpfulness of the Princeton people. I hope ~~you~~ with you that the founders may have no reason to regret their beneficence. Mrs. Flexner joins me in warmest greetings. Please share this with Mr. Leidesdorf."

Source: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

✓1933

10/9

EINSTEIN, ALBERT

Biographical

WEYL, HERMANN

Dr. Flexner reported in part:

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

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

1933  
Erwin A.  
Weyl, H.

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

Vol. I, No. 15, Minutes 10/9/33, pp. 3-4

1933

10/9

GENERAL

Finance

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WOI

Dr. Flexner reported in part:

"I cannot close this report without an expression of my appreciation of the kindness and generosity of the new President of Princeton University, Mr. Dodds, Professor Eisenhart, Dean of the Graduate School, and their associates in other departments of the University. They have been kind, helpful, and cooperative in the highest degree."

Vol. I, No. 15, Minutes 10/9/33, p. 4

✓ 1933

10/9

ECONOMICS

Academic Organization

POLICIES

Administration

Minutes, p. 6:

✓ The historic approach to Economics was recommended by the Director, during a discussion by the Board, apparently with idea of avoiding selection of positive approach in the depression years.

Vol. I, No. 15

✓1933

10/9

FELLOWSHIPS

Academic Personnel

EMIGRES

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WOAI

SEMINARS

Academic Procedures

The Director reported in part:

"Since the last meeting of the Board the offices of the Institute were moved to Princeton about the middle of May, and the Institute itself began quietly and unostentatiously October 2. Out of scores of applicants seventeen were accepted by Professor Veblen who passed on their qualifications. The theory upon which we acted has been explained in the Bulletins of the Institute and in the Reports of the Director. There are, to repeat, abundant opportunities in this country for anyone who wishes to obtain a Ph.D. degree. Now that the German universities are in process of being wrecked, opportunities for workers, who have received the Ph.D. degree, have had a certain amount of experience, and have demonstrated their capacity as independent workers, are extremely limited. That is the field, therefore, in which the Institute can do a genuine service. The creative faculty, the possession of ideas, the ability to work more or less alone under the stimulus and guidance of real masters in a given field: these are the criteria which

have been applied to those who have asked to be admitted to the Institute. . . . Among them are associate professors from the Universities of Vienna, Copenhagen, Edinburgh, Moscow, Michigan, Chicago, Cincinnati, Rice Institute, etc. They have all given evidence of ability to do original work. They need, however, at this moment in their respective careers contact with older and wiser persons, to whom they may bring their problems for informal discussion and whose lectures or seminars they may attend in order that they may broaden and deepen their knowledge of mathematics and kindred subjects. Thus far they have consulted individually the professor, who is most likely to be of help to them, and have been advised to follow lectures or seminars, regardless of whether the professor belongs to the Institute or to Princeton University. A spirit of helpfulness has already developed and the workers show plainly the feeling of release from the regular and severe routine to which they have been subject in the institutions from which they come. Their earnestness is evidenced by their lack of means. Their resources are so limited that they are living in the simplest possible manner. We are, however, trying to make them feel at home and, as they are all poor, a fine democratic, yet highly intellectual, feeling has sprung up at the very outset. Already several of them have of their own accord joined forces in attacking problems in which they have found themselves mutually interested; and one of them - an associate professor of the University of Chicago - having discovered that several of the workers are interested in some work that he has published, has organized a seminar in the subject for his and their benefit."

1933

1079 -

2+2 c l m Minutes.

Judging by apology of Fleener  
for failure distrib. Minutes of 9/6/33  
we need secrecy to protect Mrs. Way-  
sons, it was practice to distrib.  
them. (Minutes 10/9/33 P. 5)

But terms ~~Way's~~ <sup>not?</sup> ~~contract~~ ~~term~~ in  
Minutes (A.F. ~~approved~~ ~~of~~ ~~extra~~ ~~allowance~~  
for family?) T.P.? Yes - 10/9/33

✓1933

10/9

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

COURANT, RICHARD

Date of Weyl's first salary changed from Jan. 1, 1934 to Dec. 1, 1933 - p. 5.

Director reported that Courant may accept a call from Cambridge, England - p. 6.

Vol. I, No. 15, Minutes 10/9/33

10/10  
10/13

p. 1/2

EINSTEIN, ALBERT

Biographical

FLEXNER, ABRAHAM

MAASS, HERBERT

Dr. Flexner to Mr. Maass:

Flexner wrote to Mr. Coulter, head of the Visa Division of the Department of State, about a visa for Prof. Einstein.

"Before I returned to Princeton this morning, the mayor of the town and the chief of police called on Mrs. Bailey to offer their services in the matter of Professor Einstein. I shall see them both and get them to cooperate with us in maintaining quiet. I shall send you a letter of introduction to Professor Einstein when I communicate the results of my letter to Mr. Coulter."

Flexner to Maass:

"...I have put in writing the point, which I think cannot be too strongly emphasized, namely, that Professor Einstein's safety and his scientific reputation both depend not only in my judgment but in the judgment of everybody with whom I have canvassed the

the subject upon his leading a quiet and unobtrusive life at Princeton.

"This week I have been deluged with requests that he make speeches on political or other topics in New York...I have made the same reply to all, namely, that Professor Einstein has come to Princeton to pursue his scientific work and will not be deflected therefrom...!"

The next day Dr. Flexner sent Mr. Maass a letter he had received from Mr. Billikopf of the Federation of Jewish Charities of Philadelphia which said:

"I do hope that our people will not exploit Einstein during his stay here. I wish your leaders would realize what Lucretius once said, that man has a limited amount of moral enthusiasm, and even though Einstein is the greatest scientist, even he can readily reach the point of saturation. He must be left alone to do his scientific work and speak on other subjects at rare intervals."

Source: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

1933

✓ 10/11

EINSTEIN, A.

Biography

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner to Judge Julian W. Mack (NYC)

"Thank you for your kind note of October 4. There is only one way to procure quiet and safety for Einstein and that is by saying 'No' without exception, and this I have done without consulting him for the last year. He himself is so amiable that his natural tendency is to say 'Yes' to everything. I should not make an exception in favor of Jesus Christ, not to say, the President of the United States. Professor Einstein and his wife have written me and told me that they want quiet and no publicity. Whether they mean that or not or know what that means, their conduct in Europe causes me to doubt, but it will be absolutely impossible for him to stay in the United States, unless he completely divests himself of the role which he has in recent months played in Europe. He has hurt himself, his work, and in my opinion and in that of other has done the Jews - neither in this country nor in Europe - any good at all. So, if anybody asks you in future to intercede whether for a speech or a dinner or his mere presence, please tell them that under no circumstances will I make an exception in favor of anything or anybody."

File III-17

GENERAL

Corporation

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

EARLE, E. M.

Flexner to Earle, October 12, 1933.

The

~~Meeting~~ meeting of the Board of Trustees on October 9, 1933, was one "at which for the first time the subject of the School of Economics and History was discussed. Walter Stewart was present, and I previously had asked him to think the thing over and give us his views. They coincided with the views which have been gradually maturing in my own mind, namely, that we cannot begin in economics and history with a group of seasoned and distinguished persons as we have begun in mathematics...but that we shall have to take younger men and give them opportunity to show what is in them. So far I had gone on my own thinking. Stewart went further. He made the point, that, inasmuch as economists have almost all published things, they have committed themselves to one form or another of economic thinking, whereas the economic world in which we are now living should be re-examined and not particularly from an economic point of view but from an historic point of view. He was strongly

no-  
am 33  
mit

in favor, therefore, of starting off in the field of history with younger men, who would find themselves able to delve into the economic aspects of historical study. He is reading your book on The Baghdad Railway and likes it very much. Miss Sabin and I both spoke of you as having known you from our own personal experience and as having been recommended to us by Professor Beard. I thought you would be interested to know that things are moving and that your name has actually been mentioned to the Board in connection with the next school which we shall organize within a reasonable period of time - no hurry.

WEYL, H.

Biographical

FOREIGN

Academic Personnel

Flexner to Finlay (Editor of New York Times):

...

"What happened in the Weyl case is as follows:

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

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

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

*\* I should be glad to resign - if he had his family about him  
there is no doubt he resigned. After that I should probably continue to  
take next week my leave  
now the head of the faculty is the president - I  
should be able to continue to work*

EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner had to cable Einstein, October 16, 1933, on the S. S. Westernland, the ship on which he came to America, as follows:

"Have just learned of O'Brian Untermeyer plans. Please avoid them as they are concerned in a racial political quarrel involving forthcoming Mayor election. Your dignity and that of Institute endangered. Follow advice and arrangements made for you by national government which Mr. Herbert Maass who will meet you at Quarantaine alone understand/s."

D, Einstein, Albert, 1932-1933

10/17

FOUNDERS

Corporation

EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

MAASS, HERBERT H.

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner to Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld, October 17, 1933.

"You will be interested and amused to know that Mayor O'Brien and Mr. Untermyer got up a committee to wait at the dock in the rain in order to meet the Einsteins and make a great to-do over them during the day. Without authority from us they printed in the morning paper my name and Felix Warburg's, though neither of us had authorized such use. Meanwhile, Mr. Maass arose at daybreak, took a little motor boat, reached Quarantine, met the Einsteins and turned them over to the two cars, and they are now here, very happy and enormously delighted that they escaped the New York reception. Mr. Farrier and Edgar brought them down easily and quietly... They are overflowing with gratitude."

D, Bamberger, Louis, 1930-1936

1933

✓ 10/19

GENERAL

Public Relations

Flexner to Mr. F.H. Hooper (Encyclopaedia Britannica):

"Of course, I have not forgotten you. I remember with the greatest pleasure the hours we spent together in London. I shall try to prepare something for the Britannica Bulletin, but thus far there is very little to say, inasmuch as we have just made a start. I hope that you will be willing to put the article in unsigned, since I have had to decline so many similar requests."

File II-32

1933

10/24

GENERAL

Educational Institutions

STRAUS, PERCY S.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Flexner to Straus, October 24, 1933.

This is what has happened to the Mathematics Faculty at the University of Göttingen. Professor Courant (Chairman of the Faculty), Landau, Neuther, Jews, were either dismissed, or put upon leave of absence and told not to lecture, which is the equivalent. Professor Frank, Nobel Prize winner in physics, resigned in anticipation, and as a protest. Thereupon Professor Born (mathematical physics) resigned, also Professor Neugebauer and Professor Weyl, Christians, who resigned in protest, and the emeritus professor, Hilbert, one of the greatest mathematicians of the last century, a Christian, wrote a scorching letter to the Minister of Education, of which I possess a copy, protesting against the destruction of the most distinguished mathematical faculty in Germany. The work is, as I was told Saturday, now being carried on by one man of no great eminence and a few young assistants.

2009/10/24  
W. L. East. See F. L.

Philip?  
Weyl in  
Oct 13 '33  
M. L. B. J.  
N. J. L.

He says that with the exception of Landau, who is well-to-do for the present prefers to remain in Germany, all of these men have received posts, except for Courant, who has a one year post, He commends Courant to Straus for New York University, to strengthen itself in the field of mathematics.

D File, Straus, Percy S.

10/30  
11/3

GENERAL

Finance

LEIDESDORF

Biographical

HARDIN, JOHN R.

Hardin asks Leidesdorf, October 30, 1933, how he is accounting for bond premiums.

November 3, 1933, Leidesdorf to Hardin.

We are amortizing bond premiums over the life of the bonds in order that income from interest in the future, will more clearly reflect the earnings for each period. While it would be proper to allow the premium to stand as additional cost of the bonds until redemption or sale, I believe that the method we are following is the more conservative one. Similarly, in the interest of conservatism bonds are carried at cost in such cases where they have been bought at a discount and the discount will not be taken into account until maturity or sale.

JRH, Correspondence from May, 1930 to December, 1933

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

FRANKFURTER, FELIX

WOODWARD, SIR L.

LOWE, E. A.

Introduces Felix Frankfurter to latter 2 while Frankfurter  
at Oxford, or at least prompts him to meet them.

D File, Flexner, A.

1933  
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

MEMBERS

Academic Personnel

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

FRANKFURTER

Flexner to Frankfurter.

Thought School of Mathematics might not have 10 members in first year because of the "severe requirements that Veblen and his colleagues had set up" not only post doctoral but that they should have given evidence of the ability to work independently.

D, Frankfurter, Felix

FRANKFURTER, F.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

MITRANY, D.

EINSTEIN, A.

STEWART, W.

WOODWARD, L.

LOWE, E. A.

Vertical File, Frankfurter-1

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

STEWART, W. W.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

FRANKFURTER, F.

Flexner to Frankfurter.

He is sorry Frankfurter missed the last meeting when there was a lengthy discussion upon the subject of the point of view from which to start the development of the School of Economics and Politics. "Walter Stewart was very clear that we ought in view of existing experiments and conditions to make a fresh and scientific approach from the historic side. He was of the opinion that we would not get far with men who had ~~ya~~ already committed themselves about so many of the problems, with which a school of this sort must concern itself. He thought in the long run we should do far better to take younger men of promise for a period of prolonged probation. It will be a slow development as compared with mathematics, but Stewart thought this method of approach offered the best chance of making a contribution of value in this field."

Frankfurter to Flexner

~~Frankfurter to Flexner~~, December 1, 1933.

Rejoices in Flexner's account of the good start in mathematics. He judges by the minutes and from Flexner's letter of November 1: "I should find myself in agreement with Stewart that fruitful endeavor by that School implies work by younger men of promise rather than of the men, so far as I know, of stabilized reputation. Such younger men are scarce as white crows, so far as I know the field both here and with us. In economics there are some unknown men at Oxford, and, I think, at Cambridge, also in political science. I will know better about such things at the end of my stay than I do now. I am clearer than ever that I care very little for what--I am speaking frankly--that Taussigs and the Schumpeters think. Brandeis makes them all seem like little children--and vain little children at that. One of these days, someone will write on the arrogance and the humorlessness of the distinguished economists of the 19th and earlieth 20th centuries."

D File Frankfurter File I (~~History Files~~)

11/2  
11/3

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

FLEXNER, ABRAHAM

MAASS, HERBERT

Dr. Flexner to Mr. Maass:

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

Flexner to Maass:

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

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

Source: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

EINSTEIN, ALBERT

Biographical

Mr. Maass sent the enclosed clipping to Flexner stating: "The enclosed clipping from last night's Evening Post will indicate to you that there must be a leak somewhere in Princeton."

"Silver Spon Standard Shifts Einstein Home"

"In the wake of yesterday's news that Professor and Mrs. Albert Einstein became neighbors of their close friend, Raymond Leslie Buell, research director of the Foreign Policy Association, by moving into the two-family house at 2 Library Place, Princeton, we would like to remind you of the house at 11 Cleveland Lane which had been prepared for them. The house was ready, the corners swept, and, as we remarked last week, a plaster Madonna and Child over the fireplace mantel had been wired into place more securely so that it would not fall on Professor Einstein's valuable head.

"There was a last minute hitch, however, ~~The Story~~ The story told in Princeton is that when Frau Einstein came to get the keys, the owner of the house said that, as is her custom she had locked the door to the attic and deposited her silver in the bank. The wife of the savant raised her eyebrows, allowing that she was not in the habit of taking

Biog.

11/3

p.2/2

silver from houses she rented. So now the Einsteins are at the address given above on Liberty Place, near Mercer Street, presumably with silver spoons and a free run of the attic."

Source: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

FOUNDERS

Corporation

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

EINSTEIN, A.

FULD, MRS. FELIX

(11/1) The Flexners had given a party for the Einsteins on Wednesday evening. Mrs. Fuld sat next to Dr. Einstein. Her letter expressed great appreciation. ~~about~~

✓ About the dinner Flexner said: "We tried to let you see without any publicity whatsoever something that you and your brother had made possible--something too that I believe will be memorable in the history of American culture. You have no idea how many people have told us in the two days that have passed since the dinner what a successful affair it was and how glad the Princetonians are that we have come to this quiet and hospitable place.."

Then Flexner said that he wants to give a second dinner

1933

Fuld, Mrs. Felix  
Einstein, A.  
Fuld, Mrs. Felix

Corp.  
biog.

11/3; 11/4

p. 2/2

early in December after the Weyls have moved to Princeton to enable the Trustees of the Institute to meet its faculty. Asks for a day agreeable to the Fuld's and Mr. Bamberger.

This was the one AE simply declined because AF had spoken disparagingly of his "ethnic" previous work

D, Fuld, Mrs. Felix

DIRECTOR

Administration

GENERAL

Public Relations

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

EINSTEIN, A.

"To the  
President of the United States  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

"With the genuine and profound reluctance, I felt myself compelled this afternoon to explain to your secretary, Mr. MacIntyre, that Professor Einstein had come to Princeton for the purpose of carrying on his scientific work in seclusion and that it was absolutely impossible to make any exception which would inevitably bring him into public notice.

"You are aware of the fact that there exists in New York an irresponsible group of Nazis. In addition, if the newspapers had access to him or if he accepted a single engagement or invitation that could possibly become public, it would be practically impossible for him to remain in the post which he has accepted in this Institute or in



1933 11/4

11/4  
Dinner before F's  
show down w/ Einstein

Andelotte to Mrs Fuld & mention to AF

To Fuld he said he hoped Flecker would get them together  
for dinner as he had ~~the~~ earlier. also asked pleasure visit to  
Amy

To Flecker says he must <sup>from A</sup> visit to Si Omega for visit + Phil Hermann's  
concert. Then tells Flecker how much LB + CF enjoyed dinner  
at Beth where ~~they~~ <sup>she</sup> was present - Mrs F "felt she had  
known S. all her life". FA felt sure from their conversation  
that they had "a more vivid conception of what you are trying to do  
and of possible increased their enthusiasm for the whole idea".

FA L R

✓ 1933

11/4

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

MITCHELL, BROADUS

Biographical

LORWIN, LEWIS L.

Mitchell (Johns Hopkins Univ.) to Flexner (Princeton):

".... Habit as much as anything else persuades me to write you again to make a suggestion as to a man you might have your eye on when you get into the social sciences. You know him already--I mean Lewis Lorwin, now of the Brookings Institution. Have you seen his recent writings on economic nationalism vs. economic internationalism? They illustrate his straight thinking, his wide experience of countries, his real wisdom. He is a broad-gauge man, with much to say and a good way of saying it. Students would really learn something from him. I do not write you at his suggestion, but because I am interested in seeing the best men given the best opportunities."

File III-18

1933

11/7

✓ MITRANY, DAVID

Biographical

(Handwritten: Dept of Govt)

W. Y. Elliott to Flexner, November 7, 1933.

"I do not wish to seem intrusive at this time and I know that you must be very thoroughly occupied with the problem of selecting an appropriate faculty for the Institute for Advanced Study within the next year. I gather from several sources that you are contemplating going on with your program.

"I ought first of all to thank you for having brought us in touch with Mitrany, who was a great boon to us in the absence of some of our men who were on leave, notably Professor Friedrich and Professor Emerson. He did not wish to remain on a permanent appointment even had it been possible for us to stretch our budget to include him. As you possibly know, he turned down a most flattering offer at Yale. We have some hope, however, of getting him for lectures from time to time or having him come up for work with graduate students if he should find it possible to come back to this country. He was warmly liked here and we valued his services of an academic nature very highly."

II-29

✓1933  
main note -  
MITRANY, DAVID

Biographical

Gandell

HVD

W. Y. Elliott to Flexner, November 7, 1933.

"I do not wish to seem intrusive at this time and I know that you must be very thoroughly occupied with the problem of selecting an appropriate faculty for the Institute for Advanced Study within the next year. I gather from several sources that you are contemplating going on with your program.

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II-29

But he had been "caulid"

He doesn't know Mitrany is going to be with IAS?  
Not published. Yes

✓ 11/13  
11/14  
11/15

GENERAL  
EINSTEIN, ALBERT  
STEWART, WALTER  
FLEXNER, ABRAHAM  
MAASS, HERBERT

Corporation  
Biographical

Mr. Maass to Mrs. Bailey: 11/13

"...I have no corrections except a slight one in the case of the trustees' meeting in which, at the end, the Director reported on the developments of the School of Economics and Politics. I think it would be well to interpolate at the point where I have made a cross, the following:

'Because of his great familiarity with the subject of economics, the Director requested Mr. Stewart to express his point of view in connection with the Director's report and recommendations. This was done, and thereupon, a general discussion among the Trustees ensued.'

Flexner to Maass: 11/14

"Thank you for yours of the 13th and for the suggested interpolation. I promised

Mr. Stewart personally that his name would not be mentioned in connection with any expression of opinion. It seems to me that in preparing the minutes we must make the following distinctions: The Chairman of a committee or the Director, who makes a report, is presumed to have given the matter careful thought and to be ready to stand by his words. He can therefore be named, but the Trustees discuss matters informally and may wish to change their minds. They will hesitate to speak freely if a permanent record of their names is made. In the interest therefore of encouraging free and unhampered discussion, I should think that the minutes should avoid as far as possible the use of names.

...

"I have spoken with Mrs. Einstein about the Miller concert. Her account is as follows: Professor Einstein wants to help three families, whom he knows intimately, to go from Berlin to Jerusalem. Mr. Miller and his associate know the same people or are related to them. He therefore agreed to play privately to a small group, whose names would be known to him in advance. In my judgment, this is a mistake, and I told Mrs. Einstein this, for, if this kind of things begins, there is no telling where it may end.

"I am beginning to weary a little of this daily necessity of 'sitting down' upon Einstein and his wife. They do not know America. They are the merest children, and they are extremely difficult to advise and control. You have no idea of the barrage of publicity which I have intercepted. I should suppose half my time is devoted to protecting Einstein..."

Maass to Flexner: 11/15

ama  
"In respect to the Einstein situation, the thing that disturbed me about the proposed concert was that it apparently had taken on an ~~era~~ of publicity far beyond what you described in your letter. The solicitation of strangers to purchase tickets intimated to me that the proposed audience would be far from a selected group but rather indiscriminate in ~~its~~ nature and that the matter would have some publicity. I can sympathize fully with your position as a buffer between Einstein and Einstein's publicity, yet I feel sure that before the end of the year the novelty of the situation will have worn off to such an extent that the only safeguards needed will be a sort of watchful waiting over Einstein's personal re-actions rather than to stand between him and requests of a public nature which he may receive.

"As to the minutes of the Trustees' meeting, I believe, upon reflection, that you are right and that it would be just as well to omit any reference to Mr. Stewart's expression of opinion."

Sourec: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

1933

11/13  
11/15  
11/16

EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

A quarrel breaks out between Einstein and Flexner over whether Flexner is interfering with Einstein's private undertakings and commitments. Einstein disputes this heatedly, Flexner ~~and~~ says, "Hereafter, however, I shall refrain from any intervention at all. I think you will agree with me that I have done everything possible to live up to my promise to give you the utmost security and freedom for your scientific work and have made most liberal possible ~~pro~~ provision for you and your wife throughout your lives."

He makes two points, however, that he hopes Einstein won't misunderstand: the Institute is an independent institution but for the moment a guest of Princeton, and must, therefore, ~~not~~ curb its activities to suit Princeton in a sense. There is grave danger of anti-Semitism in other countries than Germany. Whether it becomes a serious problem in America depends almost entirely upon American Jews...  
D, Einstein, Albert, 1932-1933



head of the Amer Rhodes Scholars, trustee to the Oesperian  
Fdn, trustee of the IAS, - and a golf player! 100

I have the little thing back on my hands, and a temporary  
in the Board of Harvard University, a post which I shall give  
up ... Soon ...

FA AR

11/1/33

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

HOUGHTON, A. B.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Letters on need for study of current economics.

D File, Alanson Houghton

1933

11/16

EINSTEIN, ALBERT

Biographical

FLEXNER, ABRHAM

MAASS, HERBERT

Flexner to Maass:

"I am still uneasy about the Einstein situation. Have you any way of ascertaining the price of tickets, how they are being distributed, and to whom? Neither Professor nor Mrs. Einstein appreciates the danger of his giving a concert in such a well-known place as the Waldorf-Astoria/."

Sourec: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

1933

DODD, Wm. E.

Biography

FLAHER, A.

ECONOMICS

Academic Activities

POLITICS

Flanner to William E. Dodd (Berlin)

"I am very happy to have your kind note of October 31. Now that I have the School of Mathematics well under way, I am wondering whether a similar opportunity to deal fundamentally and thoroughly with politics, economics and history does not exist. It is a subject, regarding which you could advise me with great authority. If ever time hangs heavily on your hands, I should like a memorandum on the subject. I may say that, in such discussion as we have had within the Board, the importance of a thorough and sound historical approach has been emphasized, and this I should judge from your letter to be your own view."

File II-12

1933

p. 42  
✓ 11/26

HALLE, HIRAM J.

Biographical

11/27

EINSTEIN, A.

GENERAL

Public Relations

Cable - Halle (London) to Flexner (Princeton University): (11/26/33)

"I saw at Jacob Epstein's Studio here today the marvelous bronze head of Einstein for which he recently sat. It will be exhibited at Arthur Tooth and Sons gallery here beginning December sixth. I shall be glad to present to the new university with which Einstein is associated a bronze replica of it without credit or publicity if you would like to have it Epstein says it can be done in about four weeks please cable me Berkeley Hotel here."

Flexner to Halle (London, England): (11/27/33)

"In reply to your cable regarding the Epstein bust of Professor Einstein I am cabling to you today as follows:

'Many thanks for cable. Am writing.'

"I appreciate profoundly your ~~generous~~ generosity in offering the Institute for

1933, 11/27; Einstein, A.: General

orig; PR 11/26; 11/27

p. 2/2

Advanced Study a replica of this bust, and I have no hesitation in saying that, if the bust could be reproduced and set to America and kept in its box until all publicity regarding Professor Einstein has died out, it would be gratefully received, but Professor Einstein's work and his personal safety come first. It would therefore be impossible for us to accept the bust unless we were free to keep the fact of its existence and of your generosity a secret until in due course both could be announced and the bust itself exhibited without any danger of publicity."

File II-28

EINSTEIN, ALBERT

Biographical

HILB, EMIL

Hilb (New York City) to Flexner (Princeton): (11/30/33)

(11/23?)

"Although it is almost a week since our telephone conversation concerning Prof. and Mrs. Einstein, I have not been able to forget what you said about them both.

"Naturally I cannot understand that you should speak about them in the manner you did, considering myself a perfect stranger to you, whose relationship to the Einsteins must of necessity be unknown to you. It is this very fact that prompts me to write this letter.

"I was shocked to hear you make the accusations you did concerning them. Your warning, that Professor will get ('fired', is still sounding in my ear, and still more unforgettable is the fact that you said the same thing to Mr. Neuer, personally unknown to Prof. and Mrs. Einstein.

"No doubt Professor Einstein does not need a defender. Although I realize that his openhearted and undiplomatic frankness may occasionally lead to misunderstandings, I cannot conceive why his simple dignity should be the cause of so much acrimony as you displayed in your conversation over the phone.

"I do not know whether you are aware of the insistance of newspapermen. Prof. Einstein hates publicity, but his kindness of heart and the lack of sophistication have oftentimes overcome his desire to avoid it. In answer to your question 'why don't the Einsteins simply throw the reporters out' I may tell you that 'throwing (sic.) out' is perfectly unknown in the home of the great scientist.

"I myself have many times seen him refuse interviews, and it is only through playing upon his kindness that here and there articles about him are obtained. Were he more ~~worldly, he probably~~ worldly, he probably would be more immune to the wiles of reporters.

"And yet, Dr. Flexner, is'nt it a fact that the great reputation which Professor Einstein enjoys and which has been popularized by the newspapers is the very thing which prompted you to engage him for your new school?

"Considering the thousands of pictures and articles that have appeared all over the world do you really believe, that the Einsteins can still derive any pleasure from newspaper-writeups? Do you really believe, that vanity is a dominating factor with them?

"As far as the letters to the Knabe Company are concerned, it was my suggestion that Mr. Neuer send a piano to Prof. Einstein. Mr. Neuer gladly consented with no motive, except a sincere admiration for a great man. Not a word has breathed of an endorsement or a recommendation (sic.). The letters that were exhibited in the window were merely the expression of thanks of two gracious people and were not sent to be used for publicity. However I do not blame Mr. Neuer for putting them in the window, though I do know, that the Einsteins had no idea that he would do so.

"I really believe that in the same way you have misjudged them about other

things you do not give them credit for their actions in regard to the coming concert. The idea sprang from a desire to help the needy friends in Germany. As you say 'Prof. Einstein is a scientist and not a violinist, but he also is a human being with a great heart.'

"Whatever both of the Einsteins do, you can be assured, is prompted by high ideals and lofty motives. To ascribe other reasons for their actions is unworthy.

"It may be presumptuous (sic.) on my part to defend Prof. and Mrs. Einstein, but if you recollect the freedom of your telephone-conversation with me you will understand, why I -- as an outsider -- am taking the liberty of writing this letter."

Flexner to Hilb (New York City): (12/4/33)

"I have never before received a letter of the kind which you wrote me on November 30, but your letter is so full of misstatements and misunderstandings and I am so deeply concerned about Professor and Mrs. Einstein that I am nevertheless answering you.

"I did not say either to you or to Mr. Neuer anything about Professor Einstein's being 'fired', for that is a word which I never use. I did say that unpleasant publicity would make his position unstable certainly in Princeton and probably in the United States.

"I quite understand Professor Einstein's difficulty in dealing with reporters - a fact which he frankly confessed to me at Potsdam two years ago. I told him then how readily reporters could be dealt with in this country and how I myself dealt with them, and he and his wife expressed themselves as overjoyed if I would take reporters off their hands, leaving them to my secretary, who deals with them when they try to see me.

"In respect to the letter to the Knabe Company, I asked you and Mr. Neuer first of all whether you had secured Professor Einstein's permission to use the letter. You both said, 'No'. Thereupon I said and still state that you had no right to use it at all, still less had you any right to use it in connection with the letterhead of the Institute for Advanced Study. I said very emphatically that the Institute for Advanced Study could not be utilized to advertise the Knabe piano. Mr. Neuer admitted this promptly and followed his admission by having the poster removed before we finished our conversation.

"As far as the concert is concerned, Mrs. Einstein told me that it would be small and private. I told her that it would get into the newspapers and thus bring unpleasant criticism not to them (for they would not hear of it), but to the Institute and to me, which has proved to be the case. Mrs. Einstein assured me that there would be no such publicity. You yourself now know that she was wrong and that I was correct. In my morning mail appear two long clippings sent to me by a person from New York who has absolutely no interest in the concert, but these clippings and others previously sent to me show that I was correct. The concert is meant to be neither small nor private.

"You have no conception nor have Professor and Mrs. Einstein of the trouble which I have taken to protect them not only from useless annoyance but from positive danger. Otherwise they have been absolutely free. When I originally mentioned the fact of danger to Mrs. Einstein, she expressed her gratification that I could make arrangements to take them from the steamer at Quarantine - something that required me to make two trips to Washington. I have the highest admiration for Professor Einstein, but I confess to you quite frankly that, in my judgment, he does not understand America and that you and Mr. Mueller have given him unsound advice.

"As far as your statement that I offered Professor Einstein a position because

Hilb, E.

Aug. 11/30; 12/4

p. 3/3

he had been popularized by the newspapers is concerned, let me say emphatically that this was the one thing that made me hesitate. The Institute for Advanced Study is not interested in newspaper popularity, and it is determined at any cost to avoid it."

File II-29

11/30  
12/9

EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Einstein to Flexner, November 30, 1933.

Not sure of translation, but it is a ~~short~~ 6-line letter objecting strenuously to something Flexner has said or done. Apparently it concerned the exploitation of Einstein at the recital at the Waldorf Astoria (See Herald Tribune press account, November 30, 1933 in the file).

December 9, 1933, Einstein makes three points, four paragraphs in German, requiring translation, signed by A. Einstein, and, evidently, laying down the law on his privileges as an individual ~~xxxx~~ while at Princeton.

Vorschlag -

D, Einstein, Albert, 1932-1933



EINSTEIN, ALBERT

Biographical

FLEXNER, ABRAHAM

MAASS, HERBERT

Flexner to Maass:

"I wrote Mrs. Hall a kindly letter saying that the Institute did not wish her to lose anything but took no position whatsoever in regard to the difference of opinion between her and Mrs. Einstein. Thus far I have heard nothing from her. Meanwhile, the E's have broken their promise in almost every possible way and have brought down upon themselves very serious criticism not only in Princeton but elsewhere. Last week two vagrants seeking Einstein were arrested and jailed. I have not mentioned this fact either to Professor or Mrs. Einstein, since the Mayor and I are taking care of things of this sort between ourselves, but the Einsteins are absolutely inappreciative and j touchy in reference to imaginary matters beyond any conception."

Source: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

12/8

1933

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

HARDY, WILLIAM B. *Sw? Cambridge*

Hardy to Mrs. Flexner, December 8, 1933.

He is ill in bed with a heart condition (which carries him off in January.)

"Of course I do not know how this thing is going to end. If ~~it~~ is thumbs up how the common things of life will have gained in savour! The sun, the road, the tools in the workshop. Men will walk as trees. I have never before been withdrawn from life to see it with eyes washed clean of commonplace."

II-36

1933  
SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS  
SALARIES  
FRANKFURTER, FELIX  
WEYL, HERMANN  
MITRANY

Academic Organization  
Academic Personnel  
Biographical

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

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

D File - Frankfurter File II - (History Files)

12/11

✓ 1933  
EINSTEIN, A.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

BAMBERGER, LOUIS

Flexner to Bamberger, December 11, 1933.

"I have had a two-hour talk with Professor Einstein, and I wish to assure you and Mrs. Fuld that all the little misunderstandings, which had disturbed him and his wife, have been completely removed. He is thoroughly happy and satisfied with everything which I have done. Some day I will explain to you the details. They are not important enough to put into a letter.

✓ "This morning we had a meeting of all five professors, and we discussed the way the Institute had been functioning up to this time and our plans for the future. I wish you could have both been there for anything more ideal and coöperative I have never witnessed. Professor Einstein was really extremely helpful

in some of his suggestions, as were the others also.

"We have asked Professor and Mrs. Einstein to share your box Thursday night of this week, and they have accepted eagerly. They have asked us to a Deutsches dinner tomorrow evening, which we shall eat with relish. So everything is lovely, and the goose hangs high."

D, Bamberger, Louis, 1930-1936

MAASS, HERBERT

Biographical

FLEXNER, ABRAHAM

Mr. Maass to Dr. Flexner:

"What miracle has been wrought, for certainly the copy of your letter of the 11th inst. to Mr. Bamberger indicates that somewhere, somehow there is still a God in heaven. It will be interesting to learn the details, but more satisfactory than anything else is the obvious peace of mind which must have come to you from this new attitude. Hail to the New Day!"

Source: IAS Trustees - Maass, Herbert H.

GENERAL

Academic Personnel

FRANKFURTER, F.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Vertical File, Frankfurter-1

FOUNDERS

Corporation

FRANKFURTER, FELIX

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY

Flexner to Frankfurter.

He has sent Frankfurter's letter about Mendelssohn-Bartholdy to Ben Flexner because he was in touch with the Rockefeller Foundation, and he at once telephoned Flexner that he had spoken to Gregg, and would send Frankfurter a radiogram. He was very hopeful that the Foundation would furnish Balliol the money needed to aid Mendelssohn-Bartholdy.

Flexner goes on to characterize the School of Mathematics as a paradise for scholars. They have 20 members or workers and 5 ~~xxxx~~ mathematicians of great eminence as professors. They have all been turned loose in Fine Hall, and make their own arrangements for contacts. Tea is served every afternoon. and 60 attend, comprising both the advanced workers and the

staff at Princeton and our own folks. There is a Mathematics Club meeting once a week at which some members of one of the two institutions presents a paper. Informal discussion follows.

D File

Frankfurter File I (~~History Files~~)