

IV 21
Oswald
Veblen
December 30, 1932

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

My dear Professor Veblen:

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

Very truly yours,

ESTHER S. BAILEY
Assistant Secretary

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of
MATHEMATICS

December 24, 1932.

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

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I showed your letter to Lefschetz and I think he understands the whole situation very well. Like everyone else here, he feels that the solution worked out is a very good one. He is already quite active on the problem of the new arrangement in the Department.

My wife joins me in cordial Christmas greetings to you and Mrs. Flexner. We expect to be away from Princeton until next Friday with the exception of a short visit here on Monday.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

December 22, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

I feel great satisfaction in what we accomplished yesterday and genuine gratitude to you and to Dean Eisenhart. At the same time, nothing could exceed my desire that Professor Lefschetz should derive as much satisfaction for the arrangements arrived at as the rest of us.

So I want you to make clear to him - (show him this letter if you please):

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

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

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

- 2 -

"Fine" professorship with the same remuneration and dignity.

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

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

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

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

appropriate either way.

2.) That the consideration which I had to bear in mind was the

importance of getting together a group, all the members of which would not grow old at the same time. At the moment now stands, you and Hirschman are in the early 30's, Weil in the middle 40's, Alexander in the early 40's - so that we have protected ourselves against any such loss as befell the reason's one horse show, which, as you remember, fell to pieces all at once without showing any signs of decay during one hundred years.

3.) In order that Professor Lefschetz and Professor Alexander

may appreciate fully the spirit in which I have acted, we have simply

created for Professor Alexander at his own wish and insistence another

December 21, 1932

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey

My dear Professor Veblen:

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

Very truly yours,

ESTHER S. BAILEY

Assistant Secretary

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of
MATHEMATICS

December 19, 1932.

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

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I enclose herewith a rather curious letter from Dr. Whitney, together with my reply. I was tempted at first to make some comment on what seems to me the anything but admirable behavior of the Harvard people. On second thought, however, I decided to make no comment of any sort.

I hope that you will have a check for Whitney's expenses sent to him. He has put nothing in for meals. I don't know how cheaply he did this part of the trip but I should imagine that he must have spent \$5. on meals in any case. It cost me \$3.50 to lodge him over night at the Nassau Club.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

OV/AF

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

December 17, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

I have adopted the change suggested in the memorandum.

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

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

Professor Oswald Veblen

December 17, 1932

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

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

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

F/D

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Veblen

Department of
MATHEMATICS

December 16, 1932.

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

Dear Dr. Flexner:

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

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

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

*by
courses*

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

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

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

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

Dr. Flexner

2.

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

*This letter is in bad style, but I won't
~~take~~ take time to correct it up.*

OV/AF

December 14, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF:ESB

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of
MATHEMATICS

December 13, 1932.

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

Dear Dr. Flexner:

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of
MATHEMATICS

December 13, 1932.

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

Dear Dr. Flexner:

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

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

December 13, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

Always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

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

AF:ESB

December 12, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

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

Professor Oswald Veblen
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/D

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of
MATHEMATICS

December 10, 1932.

Dr. Abraham Flexner
150 East 72nd Street
New York City.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I have no engagements Tuesday evening or Wednesday except my regular ones with my Seminar and the Mathematics Club. Eisenhart is in New Haven this week-end but his secretary tells me that she expects him to be here on Tuesday and Wednesday. I will send you a telegram in case he is not to be here. I will be very glad to see you and talk further about our plans.

Whitney is going to be here this afternoon.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

December 9, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

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

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

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

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF:MSB

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of
MATHEMATICS

December 8, 1932.

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

Dear Dr. Flexner:

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

OV/AF

December 7, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen;

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

Many thanks for your letter to Professor Simmons.

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

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

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

Remember me warmly to your wife, and believe me

Ever sincerely,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF:ESB

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INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK
ACCT'G INFMN.
TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

December 5, 1932

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Tisdale writes me that he has awarded Jessen a fellowship
to work with you next year also that he expects to send us a regular supply
of fellows Greatly enjoyed my stay in Princeton Greetings to Mrs Veblen

Abraham Flexner

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PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of
MATHEMATICS

December 5, 1932.

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

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Many thanks for the telegram which came this morning telling me of the award of a fellowship to Jessen. I think he will be a distinct addition to our group. I expect that he will actually have more to do with Alexander and Lefschetz than with me but that of course makes no difference.

He has a wife whom Bohr says is also very nice.

In thinking further about Whitney, it seems to me that I could manage the affair better by having him come to see me in Princeton and talk over the matter. Would it be in order for me to invite him down for that purpose at the expense of the Institute?

I am going to dictate a letter to Professor Simmons and enclose a copy of it for you.

My wife and I enjoyed seeing you and Mrs. Flexner again very much, and also the little glimpse of the theatrical world. I hope that you will repeat the visit very soon.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF Reporters for N. Y. papers have twice, this afternoon, called me up about Einstein and the American Council in Berlin. I told them I had nothing to say, as I thought ^{that} ~~no~~ comments from me could only complicate matters. O. V.

December 5, 1932.

Professor H. A. Simmons
Northwestern University
College of Liberal Arts
Evanston, Illinois.

Dear Professor Simmons:

I should be very pleased to have you spend your sabbatical half year in Princeton. I am giving a Seminar on Advanced Differential Geometry which I think would be somewhat relevant to your line of work. There will also be courses of lectures by Eisenhart and T. Y. Thomas which may be helpful.

$\frac{1}{2}$ The Mathematics Department of the new Institute for Advanced Study is going to be housed in Fine Hall for the present. We will have the use of the Princeton mathematics library and all other facilities. As yet, the working force of the Institute consists of my assistant, J. L. Vanderslice, and myself. Professor Einstein does not begin until next October. It is possible, however, that there will be one other professor come here from abroad before the end of this academic year.

Yours sincerely,

OV/AF

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of
MATHEMATICS

December 2, 1932.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Mr. Seidel is regarded by the people at Harvard as being good enough scientifically to be a candidate for a permanent position on their staff. He did his graduate work at Harvard, then spent a year abroad working with Caratheodory and then another year at Harvard as a National Research Fellow. I think he is now an instructor at Harvard. He is in a group of three or four young men whom they regard as unusually good but not quite as good as Whitney. I had been intending to study his case when the Whitney case was out of the way. His field of work is quite foreign to me. It strikes me as rather narrow but as a good starting point from which to broaden out provided he is capable of it. Morse's observation of him was not very encouraging as to the likelihood of his broadening out.

I judge that there is no need of returning Seidel's paper to him for a few weeks yet. So if you don't mind, I will just keep it for reference.

The other letter raises a question which you spoke of yesterday, but did not exhaust, I think. At present it seems to me that your idea of giving a few fellowships approximately equivalent to the National Research Fellowships is a good one. Do you propose to put something about that in your announcement? I should think that we would want a couple of years of experience before arriving at any very definite policy.

I will try to get this into your hands before noon so that we can talk further about these questions in case you so desire, this afternoon.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

December 1, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

That your appointment begin September 1, 1932;

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

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

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

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

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

October 10, 1932

A regular meeting of the Trustees of the Institute for Advanced Study was held at the Uptown Club, 60 East 42nd Street, New York, New York, on Monday, October 10, 1932.

Present: Messrs. Aydelotte, Edgar S. Bamberger, Louis Bamberger, Carrel, Flexner, Hardin, Houghton, Leidesdorf, Maass, Straus, Weed, Mrs. Fuld, and Miss Sabin.

Absent and excused: Messrs. Friedenwald and Lehman.

The Chairman presided.

The minutes of the meetings held on April 11, 1932, having been distributed, their reading was dispensed with, and they were approved.

The Report of the Director was presented and, on motion, was received and placed on file. The following extracts are made therefrom:

It is now almost exactly two years since the Institute for Advanced Study was formally organized, inasmuch as the Director did not assume office until October 1, 1930. Up to the present time no overt steps have been taken looking to the operation of the Institute. The two-year period has been spent in investigation, conference, and reflection. It is clear to me now after making every possible effort to secure criticism and suggestions that there is a new and unoccupied field which the Institute can occupy, namely - the prosecution of research in subjects of fundamental importance and the training of men to become investigators and teachers in higher insti-

tutions of learning. I see no reason to modify the suggestions I made that the Institute should proceed by organizing schools in successive subjects, that each school should consist of a few permanent appointees of established eminence and a number of assistants or students of promise, to whom the institution would be obligated for only a definite term of years, one or more, according to circumstances. In this way there will be a constant flow of young scholars and scientists, most of whom will find permanent employment elsewhere. Occasionally someone of outstanding merit may be retained for a longer period or indefinitely.

I had at the outset hoped that we might begin simultaneously two schools - mathematics and economics, but I have found, as I proceeded with my inquiries, that, while it is feasible to start at a high level in mathematics, it is extremely difficult to find the proper personnel in the field of economics. It is in my mind therefore at this meeting to make certain nominations to the Faculty of the School of Mathematics, continuing my inquiries in the field of economics until I find persons of something like equal eminence and substance.

It is my hope that the Institute may begin active work in the autumn of 1933. I shall devote most of the current year to questions of organization, the securing of temporary quarters and of a few students with whom we may set the pace.

In conclusion, I should like to emphasize the fact that the entire staff of the Institute will be on what is known as the "full-time basis". Salaries, retiring allowances, pensions, and aid in the education of children will be such that the Institute may fairly ask every member of the staff to devote his entire time to the work of the Institute and to refrain absolutely from engaging in any distracting work for the mere sake of the remuneration

which it may afford. This condition will be embodied in every understanding that is arrived at with any person who becomes a member of the staff.

The late Professor Graham Lusk of Cornell University had shortly before his death written a memorial of his former teacher, Professor Rubner of Berlin. Speaking of him, he quotes as follows from a letter which Professor Rubner wrote him in July 1930:

"You have still something of importance to accomplish, the improvement in the salaries of professors and the care of professors and their widows in their old age. I am not in favor of luxury, but an existence which is to a certain extent free from care is necessary for our work. In America huge sums are paid to a tenor, to a movie actor, or to a prize fighter. Frederick the Great wished to obtain a distinguished singer for the Berlin opera. The singer demanded a large sum. The King became angry and sent him word that the salary demanded was that which a general received. The singer replied to the King that in future he could get a general to sing for him. Educated men could talk in similar fashion, especially scientists and medical men."

On this basis we shall do in the general field of university work what the Rockefeller Institute has so successfully done in the field of medicine, namely - remove its workers absolutely and entirely from all distractions due to the mere need of earning money. The actual working year ought, in my judgment, to be shorter than is now the case in American universities, for the graduate school in America determines the length of its term by the college, which being more or less a secondary school has necessarily to occupy its students for the greater part of the year. The universities in England, Germany, and France have a definite required term that does not exceed six months. Competent students can receive in six months all the stimulus they need to carry them the next six months, and the teaching staff will not be exhausted by a too protracted routine. Men and women engaged in research will often do their most concentrated and important work during their so-called "vacations", and during these periods

they will also have opportunity to come into contact with their fellow-workers both in this country and abroad - a condition that is absolutely necessary if they are to know what others are doing and if they are to avoid repeating what others have already done.

The Report of the Finance Committee was presented and, on motion, was accepted and placed on file.

Mr. Maass, Chairman of the Committee on Site, reported that the Committee after careful investigation recommended that the Institute be located in the vicinity of Princeton, New Jersey, and stated that a number of sites were under consideration.

Whereupon, on motion, it was

RESOLVED, That the Institute be located at or in the vicinity of Princeton, New Jersey.

On motion, it was

RESOLVED, That a sum not to exceed Five hundred Dollars (\$500.00) be appropriated to cover all additional expense connected with seal, medal, book-plate, etc.

On motion, the Trustees ratified the action of the officers in renewing a lease from October 1, 1932, to April 30, 1933, for an office of the Corporation at 100 East Forty-Second Street in the City of New York, at a rental of \$166.67 per month.

The Director made the following nominations in the School of Mathematics:

1. Professor Albert Einstein, Professor of Theoretical Physics, on the following terms:

That his appointment as Professor of Mathematical or Theoretical

Physics date from October 1, 1933, with the understanding that he will be in residence until April 15 each year;

That his salary be fixed at \$15,000 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 in case he is liable to double income taxation the Institute undertake to pay the American tax;

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

That if his wife, Elsa Einstein, survive him she receive a pension of \$5,000 a year;

That transportation to America in the autumn of 1933 for himself and his wife be paid by the Institute.

On motion, the nomination of Professor Albert Einstein as Professor of Theoretical Physics was approved.

2. Professor Oswald Veblen, a Professor in the School of Mathematics, on the following terms:

That his appointment as a Professor in the School of Mathematics date from September 1, 1932;

That his salary be fixed at \$15,000 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, unless his term of appointment is prolonged by mutual consent, he retire at 65 years of age on an allowance of \$8,000 per annum, part of which will be paid by the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America, the rest to be made up by the Institute;

That, if his wife, Elizabeth M. D. Richardson Veblen, survive him she receive a pension of \$5,000 a year.

On motion, the nomination of Professor Oswald Veblen as Professor in the School of Mathematics was approved.

3. Dr. Walther Mayer, an Associate in Mathematics, on the following terms:

That his appointment as an Associate in Mathematics date from October 1, 1932;

*Note →
over*

That his salary be fixed at \$100 a month, as long as he remains in Germany.

On motion, the nomination of Dr. Walther Mayer as an Associate in Mathematics was approved.

4. Dr. J. L. Vanderslice, Assistant to Professor Veblen, on the following terms:

That his appointment as Assistant to Professor Veblen date from October 1, 1932, for one year:

That his salary be fixed at \$1,000 a year.

On motion, the nomination of Dr. J. L. Vanderslice as Assistant to Professor Veblen was approved.

The Treasurer presented the following revised budget for the year ended June 30, 1933:

Salaries:		
Director	\$20,000.00	
Assistant Secretary	4,000.00	
Professor Veblen (at rate of \$15,000 per annum from *October 1, 1932)	11,250.00	
Assistant to Professor Veblen (until June 30, 1933)	1,000.00	
Professor Mayer (at rate of \$100.00 per month from **September 1, 1932)	1,000.00	
Teachers Annuity (at rate of 5% a year)	562.50	\$37,812.50
Rent (lease expires April 30, 1933)		2,000.00
Custodian fees		2,750.00
Travel		1,000.00
Communication, printing, entertainment, etc.		1,500.00
Scholarships, fellowships, or loans		15,000.00
		<u>\$60,062.50</u>

*It was subsequently learned that Professor Veblen's professorship in Princeton University terminated August 31, 1932. Thus his professorship in the Institute for Advanced Study began September 1, 1932.

**Professor Mayer subsequently requested that his appointment date from October 1, 1932.

On motion, the revised budget for the year ended June 30, 1933, was approved, as submitted.

The Director stated that through the courtesy of the authorities of Princeton University rooms for the mathematical group and officers of the Institute would be available in the newly erected Fine Hall which has more space than Princeton University now requires. This invitation was accepted with thanks and appreciation.

Mr. Maass moved that Section 8 of Article IV of the By-Laws, which reads as follows:

"Sec. 8. The Treasurer shall be, under the supervision of the Committee on Finance, custodian of the funds of the Corporation, and shall deposit the moneys thereof to the credit of the Corporation in banks or trust companies designated by the Finance Committee. He shall keep books of account of the financial transactions of the Corporation and shall present a detailed report to the Trustees annually and/or at any other time if so directed by the President, or the Executive Committee, or the Board. Checks on the bank accounts of the Corporation shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the President, Vice-President, or a member of the Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall furnish a bond, satisfactory in form, amount, and security to the Finance Committee."

be amended by striking therefrom the following:

"Checks on the bank accounts of the Corporation shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the President, Vice-President, or a member of the Finance Committee."

and that in lieu and instead thereof it provide the following:

"Checks on the bank accounts of the Corporation shall be signed in such manner as may be designated from time to time by the Finance Committee."

Whereupon, on motion, it was

RESOLVED, That the amendment be adopted as follows:

"Sec. 8. The Treasurer shall be, under the supervision of the Committee on Finance, custodian of the funds of the Corporation, and shall deposit the moneys thereof to the credit of the Corporation in banks or trust companies designated by the Finance Committee. He shall keep books of account of the financial transactions of the Cor-

poration and shall present a detailed report to the Trustees annually and/or at any other time if so directed by the President, or the Executive Committee, or the Board. Checks on the bank accounts of the Corporation shall be signed in such manner as may be designated from time to time by the Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall furnish a bond, satisfactory in form, amount, and security to the Finance Committee."

There being no further business, on motion, the meeting adjourned.

Veblen

In Mathematics it is intended to admit to the Institute only such students as are already sufficiently advanced in their work to have received the Ph. D. degree, or whose training is equivalent to that represented by the Ph. D. degree, in a good university. Furthermore, only such students will be admitted as are acceptable to the professor with whom they wish to work. Students are expected to work entirely independently but the professors will be glad to help with advice as to the general methods and purposes of their work and in some cases, as to the details.

Professor Veblen intends to conduct a Seminar in collaboration with certain of his associates in the Institute, which will meet weekly for the discussion of the problems in which they are interested. The usual procedure at a meeting of the Seminar is the presentation of some piece of mathematical work by one of the members of the Seminar and its discussion by the others.

By an arrangement with Princeton University, regularly enrolled students of the Institute will be admitted to lectures and Seminars of the University when they are acceptable to the professor in charge without the payment of fees. This arrangement is reciprocal so that it is to be expected that there will be a number of the members of the University attending the corresponding exercises of the Institute.

The mathematics students in the Institute will be given free use of the mathematical library in Fine Hall.

Veblen

Why not recognize that my Seminar is a living thing which has been in existence for many years and insert something like the following in the second paragraph in place of the sentence marked A.

"In 1932-33 the principal subject taken up in this Seminar was Modern Differential Geometry. Among the topics discussed were: the relation of generalized projective geometry to classical projective geometry; projective relativity; the theory of spinors; conformal geometry and its relation to unitary field theory. In 1933-1934 it is intended to cover a wider range of subjects. The principal subject will probably again be Differential Geometry in its relation on one side to Topology and on another to Theoretical Physics. The program cannot be fixed definitely in advance because it must conform to the direction actually taken by the studies of those who are actively participating in it."

November 28, 1932

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

My dear Professor Veblen:

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

Very truly yours,

ESTHER S. RAILLY
Assistant Secretary

November 25, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

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

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

Professor Veblen

November 25, 1932

2

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

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

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

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

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

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

AF:ESB

November 22, 1932

November 17, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

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

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

Prof. Veblen

Nov. 17, 1932

2

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

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

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

November 17, 1932

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of
MATHEMATICS

November 16, 1932.

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

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Here is a copy of my letter to Weyl which was obviously not intended for your eye but I am glad to have you read it and keep it as I have another carbon. I added a few words by hand, of which I have no record, but which stated that I was more enthusiastic about the Institute now than I was last summer.

In my mail this morning there was a letter from Mrs. Norris, a real estate agent, saying that the forty acres to which she refers would be a desirable addition to the Olden property.

Yours sincerely,

O. Veblen_{7.}

OV/AF

November 15, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

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

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

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

AF/D

November 14, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

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

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

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

AF:ESB

November 11, 1932.

Professor H. Weyl
Merkelstrasse 3
Gottingen, Germany.

Dear Weyl:

I had meant to write to you long before now but I have been putting it off because I expected from day to day to hear, either from you or through Flexner, what your decision was about joining the Institute. Flexner has been here the last two days and we have talked about a great many of these problems, many of which are now waiting on your decision. He does not like to take any further steps with regard to personnel until he hears from you.

His ideas about the mathematical group seem to have become more definite in this respect; that a sharp distinction will be made between the appointments as permanent members of the Institute and the others. There will be such spectrum of associate professors, assistant professors, instructors etc., as there is in the usual American university. One will either be a full and permanent member or else on a definitely limited appointment. In an ordinary American university it is easy to use a person who does not live up to his early promises for teaching and administration, whereas in the Institute the scientific work is the only thing. /mo

I also feel sure that the idea of limiting the major appointments to three, as we feared last summer, is now definitely discarded. The finances of the Institute seem to be perfectly sound and the general psychological atmosphere is improving. I feel that we can count on going ahead on something like the scale that you and I were talking about in the summer.

Another idea which seems to have come to the fore is that of calling in people for one or two year appointments from American and European universities. For example, I suggested

Professor Weyl

2.

as

~~that~~ a possible way of approaching the problem of getting someone in modern algebra that we should invite Artin and Albert to come for a year at the same time, perhaps for next year. Flexner made no definite response of course, but didn't seem to think it an impossible idea. What do you think of it?

He has also agreed that I should make some inquiries about the possibility of having Godel here for next year. This would be simply for one year on a very small salary.

I have now been in the Institute since the first of September. I am giving my Seminar as usual and at present am correcting the proof sheets of the little book for Neugebauer. There have been a great many letters from people who wish to be admitted as students in the Institute. To all of them who are not approximately at the Ph. D stage, the answer is that they had better try to get into the Princeton or some other graduate school. The idea is quite definite at present that there are to be no degrees and that only students who are acceptable to the professors are to be admitted.

There has been a good deal of discussion of possible sites for the Institute but nothing has been done and I think nothing will be done in a hurry. This is very agreeable to me because I should be pleased to stay in my room in Fine Hall as long as possible. Perhaps we can stay here permanently!

I am hoping to hear that you have accepted long before you get this letter and that you will be here to discuss all these questions next spring. I don't think very much will be decided until you come but I think it would be a very good idea if you would let me know in case any of your ideas about personnel have changed since the last time I talked with you about them.

Flexner stays in New York and has been here only twice. I have been in New York about three times to see him. Between times everything is quiet and I find that thinking about the new plans has disturbed my scientific work very little. It is certainly no more than the equivalent of committees and department meetings that I have gotten out of.

With best greetings from Elizabeth and me to Mrs. Weyl and yourself.

Yours sincerely,

November 7, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

I have the enclosed from Dr. Bleick. Perhaps his son is grist for our mill. I shall send you Dr. Bleick's answer. I do not know where Maplewood is but perhaps during the holidays you and Dr. Bleick might have a conference at Princeton which will enable you to size him up.

I am enclosing your Carnegie agreement, with a comment on it by Mrs. Bailey. Will you make the correction as she suggests?

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

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

AF/D

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

O. V. Veblen

Department of
MATHEMATICS

November 5, 1932.

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

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I would suggest that the young man write to Professor R. E. Gilman, Brown University, Providence, R. I., who is Editor of the Department of questions, discussions, and notes of the American Mathematical Monthly. Indeed it might be a good thing to suggest that he subscribe to the Monthly, a journal which aims to be useful to boys of his type.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

November 4, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

Thank you for sending me the letters from Reeves and Wilson. I enclose a copy of my reply to Mr. Reeves. With reference to Wilson, you might write, if you choose, that in no subject are we worrying, or likely to worry, about practical application, and that if ever we come to the question of setting up a School of Economics, we shall certainly look into the possibilities of theoretical and mathematical economics. I can say for your private information that I have the gravest doubt as to whether Wilson is not entirely mistaken as to the value of the National Bureau of Economic Research. From what I know of it, I certainly should not call it "a first class institute of economics."

I enclose a letter which has just come from Dr. Lorwin, of The Institute of Economics, and my reply thereto.

When I come to Princeton next week, you can tell me how Mr. Sasuly looks to a sure enough mathematician.

With all good wishes,

P.S. I am sorry to say that I do not know anything about Einstein's plans.

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

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF/D

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of
MATHEMATICS

November 3, 1932.

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

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I enclose herewith two letters which I suppose ought to be forwarded to you although I realize that you are deluged with mail. Please return them when you have finished with them.

The first one came from E. B. Wilson shortly after the other one which I sent you.

The second one from Mr. Reeves was in response to my declining to be interviewed about the new Institute on the ground that all statements ought to come from you. I am replying to this one by saying that I have forwarded the letter to you. It does not change my view that I might do harm by making public statements at the present time.

Do you know when Einstein starts for the United States? I ought to write to him about a scientific question in the course of a few days but I am not sure whether to write to him at Caputh or wait until he arrives in California.

I am still hoping that you and Mrs. Flexner will be coming here for this week-end.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

October 28, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

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

AF:ESB

October 26, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

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

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

Professor Veblen
October 26, 1932

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

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

Give my greetings to your wife, and believe me

Always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

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

A.F.

Professor Oswald Veblen
58 Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey

AF:ESB

October 26, 1932

October 22, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

P.S. #1

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

P.S. #2

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

P.S. #3

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

A.F.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of
MATHEMATICS

October 18, 1932.

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

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I enclose a letter from Harald Bohr, the subject of
which will interest you because Jessen is one of the men
whom I had suggested for a junior position in the Institute.

Please return Bohr's letter when you are through with
it.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

OV/AF

October 18, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

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

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

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

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF:MEB

58 Battle Road

Princeton N.J.
17 Oct. 1932

Dear Dr. Flepner:-

Oswald Vahlen

I have just received your telegram to the effect that we will have luncheon at the Rockefeller Institute on Thursday at 12.45. This is quite convenient and I thank you very much.

This morning Eisenhart suggested on his own motion that some kind of a land trading arrangement would probably be desirable. He intends to talk about this in general

the Trustees. He thought the Olden
tract* would be excellent ~~for~~ either
for use or for trading purposes. The
plot he had particularly in mind for
the Institute is part of the golf links
just below the Princeton Inn. I said
I thought the part above it would be bet-
ter. But it would obviously be harder
to arrange.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

* There were two tracts.

October 7, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

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

Very sincerely yours,

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

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AP:ESB

October 3, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Fine Hall
Princeton, N. J.

AF:ESB



HÔTEL FRASCATI

LE HAVRE DE GRACE

21 Sept. 1932

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

Our steamer, the Samaria,
is due in N. Y. Sunday night the 2nd of October and
we shall doubtless come ashore Monday morning. Prof.
Menzies (Chemistry, Princeton) will probably meet us and our
infinity of small bags and parcels. The plan is
to drive down to Princeton at once. But it would
be just as agreeable ^{and easy} for me to come to see you in
New York, before going to Princeton, if this should
be more convenient for you.

In case you want me to do this,
please send word to the boat to this effect. Otherwise
I will be expecting to look you up in Princeton.

TÉLÉPHONE :

ville... 45 00, 51 50
inter... 5 00, 5 00

ADRESSE
TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE :

Frascati,
Le Havre

Ueffl met me in Zürich with the
remark that it was practically sure that he was



HÔTEL FRASCATI

LE HAVRE DE GRACE

going to accept. But when I saw his wife a day or two later it did not seem nearly so sure. However, I refrained from any searching inquiry.

The doings in Zürich were very interesting. I heard a good deal that bears on the personnel question and it all agrees pretty well with what I had heard before. But I don't think I had better attempt to write it out now.

In Paris I had some long talks with Alexander whom you will doubtless see before you see me.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

Our room on the Samaria is
(Coward line)

B 69

TÉLÉPHONE:

ville... 45-06, 31-50
inter... 5-59, 5-60

**ADRESSE
TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE:**

frascati,
le Havre

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

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

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

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

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

With all good wishes to you both,
Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

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

A.F.



HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE

AN BORD

Deutschland

DEN

12 Aug. 1932

Dear Dr. Flepner:-

We are now, at last, on our way to England and I have promised Elizabeth that I will take a complete vacation for the rest of this month. This was in exchange for an extra week that I spent on the Projective Relativity book. I feel confident that the manuscript as it will now emerge from my Hamburg assistant (Dr G. Howe) will be final. That is,

I expect to send it over some ^{very} minor correction & send it to Nungebauer.
~~On the other hand~~ A cold-blooded working way,
of course, lead to a quite different result -
but that doesn't seem likely.

One of the main things that
I have learned in Germany is the
value of the highly trained assistant
that is the normal appendage of
a professor. In Princeton, I have
only had a graduate student, and
Vanderlidge is also a graduate
student. That is something very
different from having at ones dis-
posal the full time of a Ph.D. There
are, of course, long periods in
which the assistant has very little
to do, but there are also periods

like my recent one to Harbord

When I wrote you about Foster I was, as you observed, largely influenced by sympathy for his plight. But since then I have been thinking of the matter in more and more selfless terms. He is one of my own men, has had a chance to observe the German system, ~~and~~ is immediately available, and will have strong motives for making himself useful.

Please don't bother to answer these remarks now, for I understand fully that such matters should wait till next October.

My return passage (brought last March) is on the Samaria, Cherbourg

Sept. 29th - getting to N.Y. on Oct. 1st
or 2nd. This was all right for
Princeton, but if you should like
to have me on hand sooner.
I would be glad to try to shift to
an earlier boat. I have agreed to
go to the B. A. at York as representative
of the A.A.A.S and then to the Int. Math.
Congress at Zurich as delegate of the U.S.
Government (with instruction from the State Dept.
to make no financial commitments!)

The Congress is over about Sept. 12th.

We are now approaching South-
ampton and I am called on to get ready
for shore. So I must break off, intending
to write ~~some of the~~ further in a few days.

Yours sincerely,
Oswald Veblen.

Magnetawan
via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada
July 12, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

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

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

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

Professor Veblen

July 12, 1932

2

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

Give my warmest greetings to your wife, and believe me

Always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

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

AF:ESB

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

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

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

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

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

Professor Veblen

July 21, 1932

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

Professor Oswald Veblen.
Brown, Shipley and Company

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Harnack Haus

Dahlem

8 July 1932

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

Your letter of June 30th came this morning and was particularly welcome because it makes several points that I had wondered about ~~clear~~ definite.

I am writing a note to Weigl to say that you expect to make no public announcement before Oct. 1st. That may help to keep things from getting out in Böttingen.

I am perfectly in agreement with your policy of moving slowly in the immediate future. If you get those major appointments through this summer you have made a good start and can well afford to ~~be~~ deliberate before going further.

With the space and facilities available in Fine Hall, I do not see why either or both of Einstein & Heigl should not begin during the coming academic year.

My suggestions in my letter yesterday seem to me in accordance with your general program.

I am curious as to what the allotment of space in Fine Hall you and Eisenhart were thinking of. But this question can easily wait till October.

What you say about research and teaching is what I understood from the first. It is just this that makes it so important to be looking out for the very young and promising men.

If Mrs. Flepner should need assistance of any sort ~~from~~ my wife and I would be only too glad to do anything we could. I had not previously realized that she stayed on this side.

Yours sincerely,
Oswald Veblen.

Mr. Sydelotte is here. I met him
in the hall a few minutes ago.

W. Brown Shipley & Co

123 Pall Mall, London

Harnack Haus, Berlin-Dahlem,

7 July 1932

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

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

From Ueyl I hear that he is coming to Berlin next Monday^(11th) for an interview with the Ministerium. He says he has ^(which he had to do, I think) ~~been~~ ^{been} spoken with some of his ~~colleagues~~ ^{colleagues} in Göttingen. I have managed so far to say nothing except to Ueyl and Einstein. On our arrival here we found ~~the~~ two letters from Mrs. Einstein

Einstein and Dr. Mayer. It was interesting to find that Einstein is strong for the All Souls idea. He is against luxury. Pressed for details, he said that the public rooms of the Athenaeum in Pasadena are too luxurious but the dwelling rooms are not. I found the latter extremely comfortable, to say the least. The great question in the Einstein family now is what out of a letter will come from Millikan....

Have just accepted an invitation from Dr. Poll to an evening party at his home in Hamburg on the 15th. Aydelotte and Artin are to be there, he says. We shall stay in Hamburg at least till the 23rd and are to be the guests of Mrs. Blaschke, Brahmsallee 76, Hamburg³⁷_N

In Vienna I confirmed all the favorable accounts of Dr. Kurt Gödel that I have been hearing. He is 25 years old and has ~~been~~ made the most important dis-

What I wanted to check up was his grasp of mathematics in general, and I ~~did~~ found this extremely good. He is well mannered and cultivated. My suggestion would be to offer him a lectureship for one year at \$3000 (salary of a Commonwealth Fellow). From his present point of view this would probably come best a year from now as his "Habilitation" and first ~~lectures~~ regular teaching are scheduled for next year. But from our point of view it might be well to get him in touch with American conditions before he has had time to grow into a position ^{here} ~~years~~. His value is well understood both in Germany and in Austria.

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

Here in Berlin I have discovered no new ^{new} material. But I like the Harnack Haus.

If it seems proper to you I should like to ~~ask~~ have Dr. Alfred Foster taken on as my assistant. He could be very useful in quite a different way from Vanderstich. I should not

For it would be more in his interest if he could find a regular academic job. But if nothing ^{suitable} of that sort turns up I should ~~like~~ refrain from offering him \$2000, which would be barely enough for him to get through the year with his wife and baby. He took his doctorate under my auspices in Princeton and ~~has~~ has been a Rockefeller Fellow in Göttingen this year. Obviously, my motives in making this suggestion are mixed: (1) I don't want to see Ester and his family in real want. (2) I don't think he should be offered enough to keep him from looking actively for another job. (3) I think he could help me very considerably with my work. He has good ability and ^{thinks} I know his qualities and faults.

Yours sincerely,
Oswald Veblen.

June 30, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

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

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

Prof. Veblen

June 30, 1932

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

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

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

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

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

P.S.

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

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

Prof. Veblen

June 30, 1932

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tion.

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

A.F.

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

AF:EBB

Mackay Radio

RADIOGRAM

All America Cables

Postal Telegraph

Commercial Cables

ACCURATE
FAST
COURTEOUS

RECEIVED AT

STANDARD TIME
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

1932 JUN 29 PM 4 53

1932 JUN 29 PM 4 55

FORM DCC 4

17VAWE VIENNA 19 VIA MACKAY RADIO 29TH 2200

NLT VANSTITUTE

NEWYORK

HAVE WRITTEN MISS JONES ^{THINK} WEYL HAS SEEN KURATOR AND WRITTEN
TO BERLIN ^{FOR APPOINTMENT} ~~FOR ATTOINTMENT~~

VEBLEN

438P

JUN 29 1932

DD1540

28 June, 1932

Dear Dr. Flexner: -

Last night I received Eisenhart's

cablegram: "Have talked with those concerned and they approve congratulate you heartily look forward to big things". Then I cabled to you (perhaps unnecessarily) "Have received Eisenhart's approval. Presume the whole matter is now in order." This morning I have

written to Miss Jones (confidentially) and to Eisenhart. In the latter letter there was

the following paragraph: "The first problem

of cooperation between the University and the new Institute that occurs to me is that of making it

clear that membership in either one is no ~~bar~~ obstacle to getting a good job in the other. We shall not let a situation arise in which a young man

would hesitate to come to ^{one of the} Princeton institutions for

fear of missing a better chance in the other later on.

...to feel that
he is going to drain it of its good men. But by the time
the Institute is a going concern the problems will be
a fully reciprocal one and I think ~~that~~ it ought to
be looked at in this way from the start."

It seems to me that I do no harm by saying
this much about my personal views. I make no further
remark or personal application of the doctrine.

How soon will it be known that the
Institute is to be in Princeton? You (my wife and
I) are saying absolutely nothing about the whole
matter. But it may save us a little em-
barrassment, from time to time, if you will
let us know when the ban of silence is lifted.

Our automobile trip reached as far
as Passau. There we discovered a burnt
out packing between two cylinders. We
finished the journey by rail and expect
to pick up the car again on our way
to Berlin. In spite of this "Passau"

look on the automobile trip as a great success.
The villages and the countryside are very beautiful
and one can hardly see them in any other way.

My wife joins in cordial greetings,

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

RECEIVED AT

STANDARD TIME
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

Mackay Radio

RADIOGRAM

All America Cables

Postal Telegraph

Commercial Cables

ACCURATE
FAST
COURTEOUS

FORM DCC 4

22VAWE VIENNA 16 VIA MACKAY RADIO 27TH 2130

NLT VANSTITUTE

NEWYORK

HAVE RECEIVED EISENHARTS APPROVAL PRESUME THE WHOLE MATTER IS

NOW IN ORDER

VEBLEN

5PM

JUN 27 1932
DD1548

Veblen

COPY

JUNE 22, 1932

NLT
VEBLEN
SHIPRAH
LONDON

ARRIVED YESTERDAY SAW EISENHART TODAY
APPROVES ENTHUSIASTICALLY WILL CABLE YOU HIMSELF
AFTER COMMUNICATING WITH ACTING PRESIDENT DUFFIELD
FLEXNER

Göttingen,
18 June, 1932

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

We are very sorry that your trip was interrupted so tragically and can only hope that Mrs. Flexner will recover her usual health as soon as possible. Your news from Berlin is very exciting, and you must feel that, in spite of your personal misfortune, you are returning with a good "bag". I have had no chance to speak with Weyl since he received your last letter — or rather we were both too much in-

interested in a mathematical argument when we met this morning to talk about anything else. But all the signs are favorable.

To your question about the difference between a \$7500 and an \$8000 pension, & which you ask me to answer with absolute candor, I can only reply that it is of practical importance. The pension is so near to the amount that we actually need to live on in Princeton in a simple way that plus or minus \$500 is likely to be felt when the time comes. I don't in the least make it a condition of my acceptance of the position, but I am trying to give a straight forward answer to

your questions. It did not occur to me on reading your letter from Hamburg that there was anything abnormal about \$8000 because both my wife and I remembered that as the amount which you had mentioned in talking with us about the pension.

I agree with you about the danger of attempting too much at once. Also it is quite likely that I shall want to change some of my suggestions after further travel and thought this Summer.

A few days ago I had a long talk about algebraists with Miss Noether. She regards Albert as the best man in America in this field, after Wedderburn and Dickson. She has the same opinion as Weyl about Artin and Deuring. Also (going outside of the algebraic field) she shares my suspicion that Bôdel,

the young man in Vienna who has upset Hilbert's program in mathematical logic, is the best of the young Germans. I hope to get better acquainted with him week after next.

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

In the hope that your program is working out smoothly,

yours sincerely,
Oswald Veblen.

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NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK-END CABLE LETTER

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STANDARD TIME

Send the following Message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Form 1

To NLT
Veblen
Care Manager
Fuchsthallergasse 2
Vienna

193

Matter your appointment settled including higher pension How
from
about Miss Jones No news/Weyl Have you anything further

(Charge Institute for Advanced Study
June 28, 1932)

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY

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

*Cable
Miserable
Attitude*

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

Dear Professor Veblen,

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

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

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

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

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

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

I remain,

Every sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF/AH

Friedländerweg 11

Göttingen

12 June 1932

Dear Dr. Fleischer:-

I was very glad to infer from your letter of last Monday that you have probably secured three men for your institute. We were on an "Ausflug" in the country today with the Weys and found that Mrs. W. is also enthusiastic over the prospect. They seem to be quite serene in their decision and occupied in thinking out details. Also they have retained a much more favorable impression of Princeton than I supposed.

Last Sunday I wrote you at length about my response to your proposal,

namely, that I want very much to be attached to the new Institute. There is nothing to add except one point which you may need to have in mind when you see Eisenhart. A graduate student by the name of Vanderslice has been engaged to be my assistant next year. He is to have \$1000 for this work and another \$500 for some undergraduate teaching (he likes teaching). I suppose that the Institute ought to take over the payment of the \$1000. I may also, later in the summer, if you are favorably disposed, request another assistant at about \$2000. There are two or three recent doctors who could be useful to me who have not yet secured teaching positions.

It is now proposed to publish my Göttingen lectures in a small book in a new

series edited by Neugebauer. The idea attracts me partly because it is a chance to put behind me a definite part of the subject before going on with the rest of it and partly because it seems a good joke to be writing a book in German. But it will keep me busy the rest of the summer.

My plans for the next month or so are now fairly definite. I have accepted an invitation to give a lecture in Vienna on June 30. This means, ^(with my other engagements) leaving Göttingen on June 25th or 26th, leaving Vienna on July 2nd, arriving in Berlin on July 4th, lecturing there on July 5th, leaving Berlin about July 12th for Hamburg where we will stay at least a week. We expect to be in England in August. I mean to let you know if there is any change in this time-table.

My wife joins in best greetings,

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

6th June 1932.

Bull
Dear Professor Veblen :

Your letter of June 5th reached me this morning.

I have had a long interview with our friend

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

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

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

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

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

Remember me warmly to your wife and

Believe me,

Ever sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Friedländerweg 11
Göttingen

5 June, 1932

Dear Dr. Flepner:

I intend to write to you
Paris address today and to forward the
copy of your letter to me that you requested.
But in the meantime I should like to
tell you that Weyl seems enthusiastic
about the Institute and strongly inclined
to throw in his lot with it. He even
said that he was inclined to forego
the 3 year experiment and make a
definite decision at once. If your decision
to postpone action beyond my case is not
irrevocable, it might be possible to
get Weyl to begin in Feb. 1933, if
not next fall. With both of us in

operation and a group of younger people beginning to gather, the Institut would be a going concern.

What Weigl's second thoughts will be ~~and how~~ after receiving the letter of which you kindly sent me a copy and after talking with his wife, I don't have any idea. Mrs. W. is to come today and leave again on Tuesday, at the latest, to visit his mother.

Also Mr. & Mrs. von Neumann will be here from Monday to Wednesday.

There was also, this morning, a very kind letter from Prof. Poll inviting us to visit him and Mrs. Poll in Hamburg.

I think it was a good thing that you spoke about Weigl with the people at the Kultusministerium.

My wife and I are very sorry indeed to hear that Mrs. Fleischer has had

bad news from her family. If you do not have to
go back at once, perhaps we may have the pleasure
of meeting her.

I am very curious as to whether you will have
seen Mr. Einstein and with what effect?

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

4th June 1932.

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

Berlin

64

Dear Professor Weblen:

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

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

I neglected in writing you regarding terms and conditions to say that there will be no difficulty about the assistance etc. that you would need. I have the feeling that you ought to postpone writing to Eisenhart until I have myself seen him. I cannot tell you how anxious I am that every step I take shall be marked by the utmost courtesy and consideration for you and for

- 2 -

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

Please remember me to your wife and

Believe me,

Always Sincerely yours

OSWALD FLEXNER

Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten

Hamburg.

June 2/32

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

As to you, my mind is clear. If Miss Jones & Professor Liebenhart interpose no obstacles which hinder you, I shall on hearing

affirmatively, you can recommend your
appointment on the following terms:

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

Retirement at 65, unless extended by
mutual consent, on pension of \$8,000; 7000

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

Sabbatical year on full salary every
seven years;

Your service to begin next fall, though
the Institute cannot expect to operate until
the fall of 1933.

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

I have already seen the Rector + some
close University friends of mine here. What I
have heard convinces me that, on grounds I

so I shall not see him.

Write me either Guaranty Trust Co, Place
de la Concorde, Paris, or 100 East 42nd St. New York City.
It was the greatest pleasure to see you and your
wife, who surely has the right spirit and
attitude and I look forward confidently
cooperation in the development of a Mathematical
Institute; I want no needless delay, but,
on the other hand, we must heed general
conditions + pledge ourselves to nothing that
we cannot easily live up to.

With warmest greetings to you both,
and gratitude for your aid,

Always sincerely
Abraham Flexner.

P.S. The Institute will pay whatever expenses
you necessarily incur, in order to confer with
Alexander, cables etc. You can also discuss the
problem confidentially with Weyl.

Some time may I have a copy of this letter
for my files? I am unable, for lack of

Copied by P. W. D.V.

Söttingen. June 3. 1932.

LONDON.

23rd May 1932.

Dear Professor Veblen,

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

Please give my warmest greetings to your wife, and

Believe me, always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Pension Wunderlich
Friedlanderweg 11
Göttingen

Dear Dr. Flepner:-

It will be a great
pleasure to see you again, and if
you wish to see me before you come
to Göttingen I shall be glad to come
to meet you somewhere else not too
far away.

My lectures, 2 hours on
Saturday morning, beginning probably
on 7 May, are my only absolutely fixed
engagement as far as I know. My summer
is as bad as I expected ~~and~~ - otherwise
it would have been better to begin on 30 April

Yesterday there came a short letter from Birkhoff saying that he had declined your offer "in spite of my thoroughgoing belief in the possibilities of the Institute and the fact that it would probably be at Princeton" — "reasons too complicated to explain in a letter." With this was a letter from Mrs B. to my wife in which she remarked that he had worried a lot over the question. Their daughter has just become engaged to Robert Trent Paine, Jr., and their son has a Scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge.

Have talked somewhat with Bechl. I think he would not be averse to the move but his wife is very well satisfied with her position here. They don't seem to be as much alarmed over the political situation as I expected, in spite of the fact that Hitler is expected to win in the

elections today. They are obviously
awaiting your visit with the greatest
interest. Uebl holds that your book gives
too unfavorable a view of American universities,
though he admits the truth of what you say.

With best regards from my
wife & myself,

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen.

RADIOGRAM



Via RCA

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To secure prompt action on inquiries, this original RADIOGRAM should be presented at the office of R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, Inc. In telephone inquiries quote the number preceding the place of origin.

April 5, 1932

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

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

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

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

Please give my warmest greetings to your wife and believe me

Ever sincerely,

Professor Oswald Veblen
Brown Shipley & Company

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

January 4, 1932.

Dear Professor Veblen:

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

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

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

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

With New Year greetings to you, your wife, and your father, whom I hope to have the pleasure of meeting.

AF:AMK

Professor Oswald Veblen
c/o President E. O. Lovett
Rice Institute
Houston, Texas

Always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

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C. A. PECK, MANAGER

EGAN HOTEL

HEADQUARTERS FOR
COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS

California
CROWLEY, LA. 1 Jan. 1932

Dear Dr. Flexner: -

Your kind letters of the 16th and 17th Dec. reached me in New Orleans where I attended the scientific meetings. My address in Calif. is c/o Prof. A. A. Veblen, 3962 Brighton Av., Los Angeles. I am to give three lectures in Houston, where my address is c/o Pres. E. O. Lovett, Rice Inst., and I expect to leave there on the 13th. Our trip from there to L. A. by automobile will probably take 10 days or so. We have found this method of travel extremely interesting and pleasant so far.

In spite of your flattering invitation nothing occurs to me to add to what I have already said about the new Institute, except that I listened to a paper by Birkhoff in New Orleans and am more than ever convinced that your choice is a good one. He evidently has a lot of genuine mathematics in him yet.

Best new year greetings,
your sincerely,

Oswald Veblen