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ITEMS REMOVED : VON NEUMANN, JOHN - CORRESPONDANCE  
WITH PERGAMON PRESS

1) Publicity leaflets announcing publication of John Von Neumann's Collected Works, accompanying letter of January 25th 1962, from Robert Maxwell, publisher to Director J.R. Oppenheimer.

2) Copy of The Bucks Standard, October 10, 1959, accompanying letter of October 15th 1959, from I.R. Maxwell to Prof. Taub.

3) Publicity leaflet for Candidate Maxwell, accompanying letter of 15th October 1959, from I. R. Maxwell to Prof. Taub.

4) Specimen of J. Von Neumann Memorial Volumes, Accompanying Trip Report June 10-14, 1959. to Prof. Taub. (2 copies).



PERGAMON PRESS LIMITED

*Headington Hill Hall,  
Oxford.*

*Telegraphic Address:* PERGAPRESS, OXFORD.

*Telephone:* OXFORD 64881.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S ROOM

IRM/AVW

25th January 1962

Dr. J.R. Oppenheimer  
Institute for Advanced Studies  
Princeton  
New Jersey  
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Oppenheimer,

The Collected Works of John Von Neumann - Vol.3.

I have much pleasure in sending you, under separate cover, a copy of this book which we are just publishing.

I hope you will like the presentation of the subject and the style and production of the book. I should be very pleased to hear any comments you may have to make on it.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Maxwell  
Publisher.

P.S. I enclose some copies of the publicity leaflet for the volume.  
Please let me know if you would like any further copies to distribute.

DIRECTORS

Capt. I. R. MAXWELL, M.C. (CHAIRMAN & MANAGING)

C. T. CLARK

E. J. BUCKLEY

28 August 1961

Dear Mr. Maxwell:

Thank you for your letter of August 4  
which I have just seen on my return to Princeton.  
I am pleased with the prices you have proposed.  
With good wishes,

Sincerely,

Robert Oppenheimer

Mr. I. R. Maxwell  
Pergamon Press Limited  
Headington Hill Hall  
Oxford  
England

cc: Mrs. Eckart



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*Headington Hill Hall,  
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*Telegraphic Address:* PERGAPRESS, OXFORD.

*Telephone:* OXFORD 64881.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S ROOM

IRM/jmb

4th August, 1961

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer,  
Institute for Advanced Studies,  
Princeton University,  
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Oppenheimer,

I am so sorry that I was unable to meet you during my last trip to America, but I hope to be over again in October and will try to reach you.

Please let me know whether the proposed price, as quoted in the attached copy letter to Professor Taub, is agreeable.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
I.R. Maxwell

Encl.

DIRECTORS

Capt. I. R. MAXWELL, M.C. (CHAIRMAN & MANAGING)

C. T. CLARK

E. J. BUCKLEY

IRM/jmb

4th August, 1961

Professor A.H. Taub,  
School of Science and Engineering,  
University of California,  
La Jolla,  
California.

Dear Professor Taub,

Re: Establishment of the agreed published price for the  
Collected Works of John von Neumann and information  
about the publication date of the first volume

I am pleased to inform you that Volume I, entitled "Logic Theory of Sets and Quantum Mechanics", will be published in mid September. This volume contains approximately 668 pages.

In accordance with our agreement, the maximum price is to be two cents per page and I propose to announce a pre-publication price, valid on all orders received to 1st January 1960, of \$10.00. Thereafter the price will be \$14.00.

I hope Mrs. Eckart, Dr. Oppenheimer and yourself will be pleased with this price and that you find it reasonable.

Kindest regards to Mrs. Eckart and Dr. Oppenheimer.

Yours sincerely,

I.R. Maxwell

c.c. Mrs. Eckert  
Dr. Oppenheimer

347 Vista de la Playa  
La Jolla, California  
August 26, 1961

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer  
The Institute for Advanced Study  
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Robert:

Just a brief note to tell you of our progress with our friend Maxwell on the question of the price of the "Collecta".

Enclosed are copies of the correspondence between Maxwell and Taub, and I thought that he had come through in a most satisfactory way. Abe had spent most of the summer here so we had written our answer to Maxwell together, and I believe you will agree that what he offers is most acceptable. I do not believe I ever thanked you for writing to him and, as you see, we got results. I just wanted to keep you informed and also to tell you that it looks as if some of the volumes will be out soon.

I hope that you and Kitty have had a pleasant summer and that your trip to South America has been both interesting, successful and fun. With best greetings and best wishes from house to house,

Sincerely,



Klari Eckart

Enclosures

COPY

4th August, 1961

Professor A.H. Taub,  
School of Science and Engineering  
University of California  
La Jolla, California

Dear Professor Taub:

Re: Establishment of the agreed published price for the  
Collected Works of John von Neumann and information  
about the publication date of the first volume

I am pleased to inform you that Volume I, entitled "Logic Theory of Sets and Quantum Mechanics", will be published in mid-September. This volume contains approximately 668 pages.

In accordance with our agreement, the maximum price is to be two cents per page and I propose to announce a pre-publication price, valid on all orders received to 1st January 1960, of \$10.00. Thereafter the price will be \$14.00.

I hope Mrs. Eckart, Dr. Oppenheimer and yourself will be pleased with this price and that you find it reasonable.

Kindest regards to Mrs. Eckart and Dr. Oppenheimer.

Yours sincerely,

I. R. Maxwell

cc: Mrs. Eckart  
Dr. Oppenheimer

COPY

August 9, 1961

Captain I. R. Maxwell  
Managing Director's Room  
Pergamon Press Limited  
Headington Hill Hall  
Oxford, England

Dear Captain Maxwell:

We were very pleased to learn from your letter of August 4, 1961, that volume I of the Collected Works of John von Neumann will be published in mid-September, 1961.

The proposed pre-publication price of \$10.00 is very acceptable to us. By setting such a reasonable price you will have fulfilled our expectations in a very generous fashion.

We are somewhat puzzled by your letter's reference to "orders received to 1st January 1960". Is it correct to assume that the date should read January 1, 1962? If so, we accept the price of \$14.00 on orders received after the latter date, although this price is slightly higher than the agreed upon two cents per page.

We hope that with the subsequent volumes you will continue the practice of setting a pre-publication price at about 70 per cent of the final price and that that price will be at two cents per page.

With very best regards,

Sincerely yours,

A. H. Taub

Mrs. C. Eckart

ART:bmd





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*Headington Hill Hall,  
Oxford.*

*Telegraphic Address:* PERGAPRESS, OXFORD.  
*Telephone:* OXFORD 64881.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S ROOM

IRM/AVW

8th September 1961

Dr. J.R. Oppenheimer  
Institute for Advanced Studies  
Princeton  
New Jersey  
U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Oppenheimer,

Herewith the first Volume of Johnnie's collected works for which you, Klar~~A~~, Abe and others worked hard to get to this stage. I hope that you are pleased with its get up. The other volumes should be following shortly one after the other.

Kindest regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

  
I.R. Maxwell.

DIRECTORS

Capt. I. R. MAXWELL, M.C. (CHAIRMAN & MANAGING) • C. T. CLARK • E. J. BUCKLEY

23 June 1961

Dear Captain Maxwell:

Yesterday I had occasion to talk to Mrs. Eckart, and she asked me to add my voice to that of Taub with regard to the price of the von Neumann Collecta. This I gladly do, since the modesty of the price which you undertook to fix was for me too a decisive factor in entrusting the publication to you.

With good wishes,

Robert Oppenheimer

Captain I. R. Maxwell  
Pergamon Press, Ltd.  
Headington Hill Hall  
Oxford  
England

cc: Mrs. Eckart  
Dr. Taub

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
DIGITAL COMPUTER LABORATORY  
URBANA, ILLINOIS

April 3, 1961

Capt. I. R. Maxwell  
Pergamon Press Limited  
Headington Hill Hall  
Oxford, ENGLAND

Dear Captain Maxwell:

Thank you for your letter of March 29 and its explanation for the printing of an approximate published price which is too high for the Collected Works of John von Neumann.

I shall look forward to receiving the information on which you will base the proposed official price and the advertising material you are having prepared.

As you probably know I have been receiving material from Mr. Etherington and Mr. Lowe. This material is excellently done, and I want to congratulate them and you on its quality. This material is as tangible a sign as one could expect to have of the fact that you and your organization are interested in making the Collected Works of John von Neumann a publication of which one can be proud.

Sincerely yours,

A. H. Taub  
Acting Head

AHT:arf

cc: Mrs. Klara Eckart  
Dr. R. Oppenheimer ✓

PERGAMON PRESS LIMITED

*Headington Hill Hall,  
Oxford.*

*Telegraphic Address:* PERGAPRESS, OXFORD.  
*Telephone* OXFORD 64881.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S ROOM

IRM/PD

29th March, 1961

Professor A.H.Taub,  
Digital Computer Laboratory,  
Urbana,  
Illinois, U.S.A.

Dear Abe,

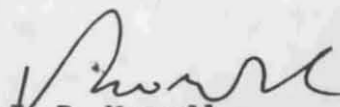
Re: The Collected Works of John von Neumann - Final  
Published Price and the Publicising of the Work

The approximate price of \$175.00 quoted in our catalogue was an estimate made by a person in our Publicity Department based on the information that the work will contain some 6,000 printed pages, and he calculated at 2½ cents a page (instead of the 2 cents maximum agreed). We shall soon have sufficient accurate information on costs and extent of the work to enable me to submit to you the proposed official price.

We are also preparing advertisements to go in the scientific press, and booklets and leaflets for the work, and shall send you the proofs of them by about the third week in April.

I am sorry that the Publicity Department, being in haste to complete the catalogue, printed an approximate published price for the work which is too high.

Yours sincerely,

  
I. R. Maxwell

DIRECTORS

Capt. I. R. MAXWELL, M.C. (CHAIRMAN & MANAGING)

C. T. CLARK

E. J. BUCKLEY

*Pergamon Press*

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
DIGITAL COMPUTER LABORATORY  
URBANA, ILLINOIS  
March 17, 1961

Captain I. R. Maxwell  
Pergamon Press Limited  
Headington Hill Hall  
Oxford, England

Dear Captain Maxwell:

I am writing to express my strong objection to the price you have announced for the Collected Works of John von Neumann, namely, "Approx. \$175.00 per set". I found this announcement on p. 134 of the 1961 catalog of Scientific and Technical Publications of Pergamon Press.

I consider this price much too high and that you have violated agreements made previously both in the method you have used to make this announcement and in the price you have set.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the agreement you made with the von Neumann estate and call your attention in particular to points 4 and 6 of this agreement. In the first of these points you promise to settle the published price in consultation with Dr. Oppenheimer and myself. In the second you promise to submit to me for approval copy for all jackets and advertisements relating to each of the books. I have not been consulted on either of these matters.

I am also enclosing a copy of the Minutes of a Meeting concerning the von Neumann Collected Works held September 8, 1959. You were unable to attend this meeting but you wrote in a letter dated September 11, 1959 that "I am in full agreement with the Minutes in particular the point raised in item four." A copy of this letter is also attached.

In accordance with point four the price of the set should have been announced at approximately sixty dollars per set. You have increased this by almost a factor three.

I shall look forward to hearing what steps you will take to rectify the situation.

Sincerely yours,

A. H. Taub

AHT:arf

cc: Mrs. Eckart

Dr. R. Oppenheimer ✓

PERGAMON PRESS, INC.

122 East 55th Street

New York 22, N. Y.

*Telegraphic Address:* PERGAPRESS, NEW YORK

*Telephone:* PLAZA 3-9651

17 November 1959

Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer  
Institute for Advanced Studies  
Princeton  
New Jersey

Dear Dr. Oppenheimer,

John von Neumann Collected Works

Thank you for giving me of your time yesterday and for giving me the result of your conversation with Dr. Darrow, to whom I have written as per the attached copy letter.

It would help immensely in the speeding up of the production of the Collected Works if you could arrange to send me as complete a duplicate set of reprints of the John von Neumann papers as your library may be able to let us have. In return I undertake to supply the library with one complimentary bound set of John von Neumann's works and one complete set of reprints bound in specially suitable binders to the specification of your librarian.

Thank you in advance for your kind help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

  
I.R. Maxwell.

11/19/59

called Maxwell's office and left message that our Library copy of the von Neumann papers would be on their way, probably by airmail this weekend, to their London office.

17 November 1959

Dr. Earl K. Darrow  
Secretary  
The American Physical Society  
Columbia University  
New York 27 N.Y.

Dear Dr. Darrow,

Notification of members of the American Physical  
Society of the availability of the Collected Works  
of Dr. John von Neumann at a specially reduced price

I understand from Dr. Oppenheimer that he has spoken to you on the above matter and that you are of the opinion that this may be accomplished by sending out a flyer or notice together with your dues notification next September.

I am writing to ask you to be good enough to submit this request to your council at your convenience, and if they approve perhaps you could let me know the date by which this flyer or notice would be required. Naturally before printing the notice I would submit it to Dr. Oppenheimer and to you for your amendment and approval.

Thank you in advance for your kind help.

Yours sincerely,

I.R. Maxwell

cc Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
DIGITAL COMPUTER LABORATORY  
URBANA, ILLINOIS

October 30, 1959

Captain I. R. Maxwell  
Pergamon Press Limited  
Pergamon House  
4, Fitzroy Square  
London, W.1, England

Dear Captain Maxwell:

Your letter of October 15 was waiting for me when I returned from a trip to the West Coast. As you know, I did see Mrs. Eckart and discussed a number of matters with her. We both were sorry that you were not present at these discussions and hope that it will not be too long before we can receive your reactions to some of our conclusions.

The first problem that we took up concerned the progress being made on obtaining copyright waivers. We feel that it would be a bad precedent to pay any copyright holder and would like to suggest that a copyright holder who requests payment be told that the copyrighted material would be omitted from the collected works; however a statement would be inserted in these works to the effect that the paper was omitted because the copyright holder would not cooperate. It is our thought that publishers such as Hermann and Co. and the American Mathematical Society would be sensitive to blackmail of this type. Your experience in this regard is greater than my own and you could judge better as to how this sort of pressure should be applied, if at all.

Mrs. Eckart will write to me soon to the effect that permission is granted to have the article which appeared in the Technical Review appear in the collected works.

We have selected a photograph of von Neumann to be used as a frontispiece for the collected works. Mrs. Eckart will have a copy of this photograph made and forwarded to me for sending on to you with the manuscript. We also prepared a short piece on von Neumann to be used for promotional purposes. I am enclosing a copy of that piece herewith.

I am presently hoping to be in Princeton during the first part of the week of November 9. At that time I hope to start the process of sending you the manuscript. There are a number of details concerning the preparation of the various volumes that have been mentioned either in letters or in the minutes of various meetings that we have held. It would be good if on your next visit to the States we had an opportunity to discuss these further. I hope very much that we see each other when you next visit the states.



Captain I. R. Maxwell  
Pergamon Press Limited

2

Your letter of October 26 just arrived. I am looking forward to receiving the dummy copies. I hope that there will be no further delays in it being sent off to Mrs. Eckart, Dr. Oppenheimer and myself. With regard to the copyright clearances, I am very pleased to hear that there is presently only one hold-out, namely the American Mathematical Society. I have talked to a number of trustees of the Society and I am hopeful that permission to reprint these papers will be granted; however the trustees do not meet until sometime in January. I am afraid we will not have a final resolution of this problem until then. I do think that it is sufficient to go ahead counting on their resolving it in a way that we would consider reasonable.

With very best regards,

Sincerely yours,

A. H. Taub

AHT/hc

P.S. I meant to say earlier in the letter that I am grateful to you for telling me about the outcome of the recent election in which you were a candidate. I think you should be pleased that although you were defeated, the margin by which you were defeated was such a small one.

A.H.T.

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TELEPHONED TO M.E.

TIME 1015 A.

BY JC

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TO BE

FILED

October 12, 1959

Professor A. H. Taub  
Digital Computer Laboratory  
University of Illinois  
Urbana, Illinois

re: VON NEUMANN MEMORIAL VOLUME

Dear Professor Taub,

Captain Maxwell has just called me by trans-Atlantic telephone and asked me to let you know that he will do everything possible to be able to meet with you on Saturday, 17 October 1959.

As you know, he has just finished a hard fought election campaign which took almost all his time and energy during the last month. In the next few days he will try to get some sleep and put all the things in shape in London which he has had to neglect. He will then, if possible, fly over to be present at your meeting.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

EDMUND DEWS  
Managing Editor

c.c. Mrs. C. Eckart  
Dr. Oppenheimer ✓

ED:ck

*With the Compliments of*  
*Captain J. R. Maxwell, M.C.*

Publisher at Pergamon Press

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4 & 5 Fitzroy Square, London W.1

Euston 4455

*von Neumann pub  
Taub has well  
on Pergamon Press*

PERGAMON PRESS LIMITED, 4 FITZROY SQUARE,  
LONDON W.1.

15th October, 1959.

Professor A. H. Taub,  
University of Illinois,  
Digital Computer Laboratory,  
URBANA, Illinois,  
U.S.A.

Dear Professor Taub,

As you have read in the papers, the Labour Party was not successful at the last General Election. I too was unsuccessful when I stood at Buckingham for the Labour Party against Sir Frank Markham the Conservative Candidate. The voting was Sir Frank Markham (Conservative) 22,000-odd, I. R. Maxwell (Labour) 20,500-odd, and E. Richards (Liberal) 4,500-odd. I am sending you a copy of my Election address as you probably have not seen one, and I thought you would be interested to see how the British fight the Elections.

I am sorry not to have been able to come to La Jolla on the 17th, due to the tremendous amount of clearing up I am having to do as a result of being out of the office for the last five or six weeks. I hope, however, to be in the States before the end of this month, and to be able to settle any outstanding problems.

I think the best and most efficient way of transmitting the manuscripts would be for you to send them airmail registered to me at this address, arranged in the order in which the papers are to appear in the various volumes.

I look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely,

  
I. R. Maxwell

Enc. Copy: Mrs. Eckart, Dr. Oppenheimer, Mr. Dews

11 November 1957

Dear Klari:

The letter seems to me just right.  
I have made one small change, from the  
literary "taste point of view".

Very sincerely,

Robert Oppenheimer

Mrs. J. von Neumann  
Institute for Advanced Study

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

November 8, 1957

Dear Robert:

This is the letter to Maxwell that we talked about. Please feel free to add, change or correct anything in it. I am afraid this is the best that I could do. Thank you very much.

*Klar*

D  
R  
A  
F  
T

1957

Captain I. R. Maxwell  
Pergamon Press, Inc.  
122 East 55th Street  
New York 22, New York

Dear Captain Maxwell:

First of all let me apologize for delaying my answer so long. I was quite ill for about a month and since then have tried to straighten out a few questions which I thought had better be done before I wrote to you.

I think your plan of bringing out in a reasonably short time that part of Johnny's work which has already been published in one form or another would be a good and very much appreciated service to the scientific community. May I say here that by 'short time' one would probably think of something like within two years. Anything less than that I feel would impair the thoroughness of the job.

I also think that keeping the price at a reasonable level is a very important aspect--you know what academic salaries are and of course we all know who the potential customers would be. I would very much appreciate it if at some time you could give me some rough estimate of what price range you had in mind.

I would also like to repeat the point that we have already discussed, and where I find more and more agreement with Dr. Oppenheimer's and my point of view from other interested people, i.e. that except for some introductory remarks by one or two people at the most, the plan of having several people writing full articles of evaluation or otherwise, should definitely be dropped. Please forgive me for interfering in your business--I am only doing it because, apart from my own opinion, several people whose judgments I would trust from the scientific taste point of view, have talked to me about it in this sense.

Now I would like to tell you about what has developed as far as finding a chief editor from the scientific group is concerned. Shortly after Dr. Carl Eckart



- 2 -

received your letter, he called me from La Jolla and essentially told me that he could not undertake this job since he is working under great pressure on a book of his own, but he indicated that he would be glad to be helpful in a more limited capacity. Since then, however, I think all of those who are interested in this job, including myself, should consider themselves very lucky that the man ideally suited for this job has definitely stated his willingness to take it on. I am referring to A. H. Taub, Research Professor of Mathematics at the University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois. Professor Taub has been closely connected in the past with various phases of Johnny's work, he has his degree in mathematics but has worked a great deal in physics, and particularly in hydrodynamics which is a field in physics to which Johnny contributed considerable amount of work, and actually worked together with Taub on various papers and government projects. Later Taub got interested in the computer field and is closely connected with one of the best university computer projects in the country, namely, the one at the University of Illinois in Urbana. In this sense he has also worked very closely with my husband and is completely familiar with all of Johnny's work in this and related fields, including all the governmental work. Abe Taub is now a consultant at Los Alamos and actually spent a large part of last summer looking over the various documents and even finishing one unfinished work that Johnny had done for Los Alamos. As you see from this description, he is probably the closest person that one could find who is familiar with the many and varied interests that Johnny had and, therefore, ideally suited to be the central figure in being helpful to you in organizing a collection of Johnny's works. I would like to add, that I have asked Dr. Oppenheimer, Professor Montgomery and some of the other interested people around the Institute and they all have agreed that, indeed, Taub would be very well suited for this job

- 3 -

and, because of his wider knowledge of Johnny's work, probably preferable to Carl Eckart. Besides, he at least is willing to do it. Taub also knows very well all the people that should be consulted, if necessary, on one or another parts of Johnny's work and therefore I think that the best procedure would be that, after I have gone through all of Johnny's papers and collected all material that might be needed, in a sense Taub would take over and then you would know who to turn to if you needed any advice or help. Dr. Oppenheimer agreed that the Institute should be the essential clearing house where Johnny's papers would be kept, and the Institute would like to ~~be~~ assist in any other way that might seem necessary.

It would be very helpful that, whenever you are in this country, you would get in touch with Professor Taub, Dr. Oppenheimer and myself. I am at the moment in Princeton and will be here until around the 24th of November (care of Mrs. E. Gorman, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N.J.), or in the evening and until 11:00 a.m. at Princeton 1-5588. After that I will be back in Washington (1526 32nd Street, N.W., Washington 7, D.C.; telephone DUpont 8-8556). I would also very much appreciate it if you could send me in due course a detailed outline of your plans in terms of time, cost and proceedings, so I could have it for my own records and also clear it with Marx Leva.

Hoping that these remarks may be of some help to you, and that I will see you in the near future,

With kindest regards,

Klara von Neumann

Oct 23, 1953

1526-32nd St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Robert,

I'm sorry that it took me so long to thank you for sending me the transcript of your conversation with Capt. Maxwell. Enclosed I am sending you his letter to me, subsequent to your talk with him, also the copy of his letter to Carl Eckart. Carl has called me from La Jolla about a week ago - unfortunately he does not want to take on the editorship, but is willing to help.

Maxxeva has now given me a definite opinion, that the estate would have no interest in the publication of a "collected", so at least from that angle the road is clear.

I had the fashionable flu and few other ailments, but I hope to be through with all the doctors by next week, so I am planning to commute to Princeton on Tuesday, the 5th of Nov. and,

if I may, occupying the apartment  
you have very kindly reserved for me.  
I would like to stay there until I  
have finished with all the papers in  
Princeton, which may take 2-3 weeks.

I would very much like to tell  
to you before I authorize Capt. Maxwell -  
could you please save his letter until  
I get there or send it over to Mrs. Jones  
to keep it for me.

Thank you so much for your  
help in all this - I do hope  
it is not too much trouble,  
but it is rather confusing  
and I do very much need  
your help and advice.

With best greetings  
Yours

Max von Neumann

2 October 1957

Dear Klari:

Maxwell assured me that he would write you. In the meantime, here are the notes of my conversation with him this morning.

I hope the bad kidney just goes away.

Mrs. J. von Neumann  
3636 16th Street, NW  
Washington, D. C.



Telephone call 10/2/57 from RO to Captain Maxwell (vh notes)

RO: I have had some further conversations with Mrs. von Neumann; and yesterday had a chance to talk to my colleagues here in mathematics. First, I believe everyone involved would be pleased if job done by you. Second, I have a few comments and anxieties, in part shared by Mrs. von Neumann, and in part by the mathematicians. I will mention them not in order of importance but in random order.

1. Who editor? Do we know?

Max: I had myself thought of asking Eugene Wigner. Have not met with unanimous satisfactory response. Can you think of anybody?

RO: No. Mrs. von Neumann's choice (man whom I respect and have high regard for) is Carl Eckhart. Another suggestion, perhaps more competent in mathematics, would be Kakutani.

Max: He is one of persons I am asking to join advisory board.

RO: I would think some division of responsibility between Eckhart and Kakutani would be good. Kakutani good on pure mathematics; Eckhart good on applied.

Max: Where is Eckhart?

RO: Used to be in La Jolla. Was there not very long ago.

Max: Both these would have your approval? You will forgive me, but we consider you the father and chairman of this. Don't know of any way to document this.

RO: Don't think we need worry about that. Next point: I think both Mrs. von Neumann and the mathematicians here believe there should be a minimum of other writing. I can transmit to you that Bochner, mathematician at the University, has written for the National Academy a scientific vita of von Neumann. I do not know if suitable...

Max: Have you seen it?

RO: No; have heard accounts.

Max: What is it called?

RO: It would be called "John von Neumann". That is the Academy's practice. I don't know if suitable; would be scientifically respectable; perhaps a little cold. Fourth point: I would feel this is entirely your affair, but the prospects of a good job coming out on August 1st pretty grim. After all, the peaceful uses of atomic energy not von Neumann's field. If we were asked to choose between a year's delay and a sloppy job, we would take the year's delay.

Max: I accept that as deserved.

RO: We have been working two years on Einstein.

Max: Sloppy on my part; I accept censure.

- 2 -

RO: Final point: Useful collecta if really available to institutional libraries and few private individuals. If costs too much will very much limit usefulness. Do you have any notion?

Max: My idea about £10.

RO: For the whole thing?

Max: Yes.

RO: miraculous..

Max: .. this set to be my contribution to this man..

RO: ..sure Mrs. von Neumann will be very pleased. I myself delighted. If we had done it would have been much more expensive.

Max: We will have two prices. Lower for private individuals---around \$15 - \$20.

RO: I would be willing to pay \$30, but \$100 would begin to close the market.

Max: This venture not being done for that (basis?)..

RO: I will then call Mrs. von Neumann. I promised to let her know; will simply report to her what we have talked about. Believe she will be..

Max: Can she be persuaded to be executive secretary? Would like her to come at end of year to London (~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~)

RO: I will tell her, and say I think helpful if she kept very close..

Max: Just to be sure all is being done..

RO: Without being too complicated, will urge her to stay close to it.

amenities

Max: It will be done on basis that no one will have anything but highest praise for it.



UNITED KINGDOM ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY

ATOMIC WEAPONS RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT  
ALDERMASTON,  
BERKSHIRE.

263/5/57

10th May, 1957

*My dear Robert,*

A Mr. C. M. Hutt of the Pergamon Press asked me recently whether I would be willing to act as one of the editors of a Memorial Volume to Johnny. He has now written again saying that this Volume will almost certainly be produced and has given me the names of about a dozen American scientists who will contribute. He repeats the invitation to me to be a joint editor with you in order to make the work international rather than American.

Much as I would appreciate the honour of being a joint editor with you, and with such a distinguished list of contributors, I feel that Johnny was so much an American, and part of American Science, that it would be out of place for me to come in as an editor, although I would gladly contribute one of the articles. It will not be easy to find many people in this country who were closely associated with Johnny and who could write an attractive article. It may well be that there are one or two contributors in other countries who could make contributions and the general effect would then be an international tribute. That we in the UK should assume such a share as a joint editor, seems to me rather presumptuous.

This is the reason why I am declining this honour.  
The work involved I would gladly have undertaken.

Professor J. R. Oppenheimer,  
Institute for Advanced Studies,  
Princeton University,  
New Jersey, U.S.A.

*Yours sincerely*

*Bell*

*Sir Wm Penney*



See last para. Maxwell letter:

do you intend to ~~xxx~~ communicate with  
Mr. Leva before end of April ????

no until come across  
something we want to  
publish!



*Telegraphic Address:* PERGAPRESS.  
*Telephone:* EUSTON 4455.

PERGAMON PRESS LIMITED

*Pergamon House,  
4, Fitzroy Square,  
London, W.1.*

MANAGING DIRECTORS ROOM

March 24, 1957

Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer  
Institute for Advanced Studies  
Princeton, New Jersey

re: JOHN VON NEUMANN MEMORIAL VOLUME.  
Physics, Applied Mathematics and Automata.

---

Dear Dr. Oppenheimer:

Thank you for the opportunity you gave me to outline the plans of what has come to be known as the "Los Alamos Publication Project" in honor of Dr. von Neumann.

I was so glad to note that you wholeheartedly welcome these plans and that you regard this project as wholly consistent with the Institute's publication of COLLECTA, which will include the pure mathematics and may also include some of the contributions published in this volume.

Mrs. von Neumann suggested that I seek your advice on this matter since she felt that as a result of her recent discussions at Princeton, it might be appropriate to divide the publication of Dr. von Neumann's works in two parts: (a) Pure Mathematics, (b) Physics, Applied Mathematics, and Automata.

I also wish to thank you for joining the Honorary Editorial Advisory Board and for suggesting that we invite Dr. Deane Montgomery and Dr. Kurt Godel, as well as Dr. J. Charney, Dr. C.E. Shannon, and Dr. K. Rasddy.

At present, the plan is to publish the work by October 1, 1958 and to restrict it to material which Dr. von Neumann originally published in the various scientific journals and AEC reports, some of which it is hoped may be declassified under proper procedures for publication. In addition, it is planned that the editors shall commission individual memorial articles on such subjects as they may think appropriate, which articles will be published with the work. The editors, when commissioning these articles, might give the following editorial direction:

- a. The contributor should try to put Dr. von Neumann's contribution on the particular subject of the article in its proper historical and scientific perspective.

---

DIRECTORS

H. A. SIEPMAN (CHAIRMAN) • Capt. I. R. MAXWELL (MANAGING) • Dr. P. ROSBAUD • C. T. CLARK



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MANAGING DIRECTORS ROOM

Page Two

- b. The writer should give a "vista" on the science or technology in question by summing up the state of the art at the time of writing.
- c. The writer should, where useful, point out the different schools and ideas that exist on the subject at present.

The following are the gentlemen who have been invited and have accepted to serve on the Honorary Editorial Advisory Board:

Hugh L. Dryden	J. Robert Oppenheimer
H.H. Goldstine	A.H. Taub
Kurt Gordel	Edward Teller
W.F. Libby	L.H. Thomas
Nicholas Mitropolis	S. Ulam
Deane Montgomery	Theodore von Karman

In addition, the following gentlemen have been invited to become members of the Honorary Editorial Advisory Board:

H. Bethe	E.O. Lawrence
N. Bradbury	I.I. Rabi
J. Charney	Dr. Rasddy
R. Courant	C.E. Shannon
Lee A. DuBridge	L. Strauss
Oskar Morgenstern	E. Wigner

The duties of the members of the Honorary Editorial Advisory Board will be as follows:

- 1. To select a board of three or four executive editors whose duty it will be to recommend to Mrs. von Neumann and the members of the Honorary Editorial Advisory Board the final form the publication should take.
- 2. To be available for advice by correspondence to the executive editors on matters affecting the publication.

DIRECTORS

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3. To contribute personally to the work if, in the opinion of the executive editors, this would be appropriate and time permitting.

I confirm that Pergamon Press is undertaking this task at its own risk and expense, and that we do not intend to make a profit from this project. In the unlikely event that there should be a profit, such profit will be given to the administrator of Dr. von Neumann's estate to be used as the administrator sees fit.

I also confirm that Princeton University Press or anybody else designated by Mrs. von Neumann will have the right to re-publish any or all of the material which may be published in this memorial volume. Subject to the approval of Mrs. von Neumann and the executive editors, we propose to offer the distribution of the work in the United States in the first instance to Princeton University Press, or the McGraw Hill Book Company.

I shall be talking to Professor Wigner in Leiden next week and hope to obtain his agreement to be one of the executive editors of the volume. I plan to be back in this country in the last week of April, when I intend to take up the question of these plans formally with Mr. Marks Leva, legal counsel to Dr. von Neumann's estate, and I hope that by then you will have talked with him and that the project may be permitted to go forward with full speed.

Yours sincerely,

*I. R. Maxwell*  
I. R. MAXWELL

IRM:ah

DIRECTORS

H. A. SIEPMAN (CHAIRMAN) • Capt. I. R. MAXWELL (MANAGING) • Dr. P. ROSBAUD • C. T. CLARK

March 23, 1957

Dr. W.F. Libby  
United States Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington 25, D.C.

re: JOHN VON NEUMANN MEMORIAL VOLUME.  
Physics, Applied Mathematics and Automata.

---

Dear Dr. Libby:

Thank you so much for returning my call in connection with these plans last Monday. I was most pleased to have your agreement to join the Honorary Editorial Advisory Board and grateful for your promise of assistance with this important undertaking.

At the suggestion of several of the members of the Honorary Editorial Advisory Board, I had intended to invite Admiral Strauss to accept the honorary chairmanship of the Board. Unfortunately, before I could talk with him, he was called away by President Eisenhower to the Bermuda Conference. I have now written to Admiral Strauss as per the enclosed copy, and I would much appreciate it if you would support my invitation.

I also enclose a copy of my letter to Dr. Oppenheimer for your information.

Finally, I would like to say how proud I am to be able to assist Dr. von Neumann's friends and associates in paying their tribute to the memory of this great man.

Yours sincerely,

IRM:ah  
Encls.

I.R. MAXWELL

March 24, 1957

Admiral Lewis L. Strauss  
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington 25, D.C.

re: JOHN VON NEUMANN MEMORIAL VOLUME.  
Physics, Applied Mathematics and Automata.

---

Dear Admiral Strauss:

I was so sorry that you were called away at such short notice to attend to urgent business at the Bermuda Conference, and I was thus unable to talk with you on the telephone about the above-named plan. As I am leaving for Paris today, I trust you will not mind this letter.

I know that you were one of the closest friends of Dr. and Mrs. von Neumann, and I have also heard what a great help and comfort you were to both of them during his last illness.

Everybody associated with this work would be very pleased if you could see your way to accepting the honorary chairmanship of the Honorary Editorial Advisory Board for this memorial volume. I am, therefore, very pleased to extend to you the invitation on behalf of the members of the Board to become their chairman, and I hope that it will be possible for you to accept.

I enclose a copy of my letter to Dr. Oppenheimer which gives all the details of the program.

I fondly recollect our meeting and talk at the Rector's house in San Juan, and I enclose herewith a copy of "The Pergamon Library of Atomic Energy", the contents of which you may find of interest.

Yours very sincerely,

IRM:ah  
Encls.

I.R. MAXWELL

March 24, 1957

Mrs. C. von Neumann  
Woodner  
3636 Sixteenth Street  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. von Neumann:

I should like to thank you once again for the help which you have given me in the past few days in connection with the projected publication of a memorial volume in memory of your late husband.

As you know, his friends and associates are very anxious that this memorial volume should come about soon. My role in this project is that of the "mechanic" who has the facilities and the "know-how" for such a task, and may I say that I am glad to be able to assist with this noble cause.

I enclose a copy of my letter to Dr. Oppenheimer for your information.

I very much look forward to meeting you next month in Washington, and trust that we may count on your support for this plan.

Yours sincerely,

IHM:ah  
Enc.

I. R. MAXWELL

14 March 1957

Dear Miss Wakeling:

Thank you for your letter of March 4th. We are thinking of bringing out a selecta or collecta of John von Neumann's works, as a memorial volume, rather than a compilation of other people's papers. I will surely be in touch with Sir Edward Appleton about our plans once they have advanced to a little greater clarity.

Very sincerely,

Robert Oppenheimer

Miss Patricia R. Wakeling  
Publishing Manager  
Pergamon Press Inc.  
122 East 55th Street  
New York 22, New York





Pergamon Press Inc.

122 EAST 55th STREET  
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.  
Telephone: PLaza 3-8580

Cables: PERGAPRESS New York

4th March 1957

Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer,  
Institute for Advanced Study,  
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Oppenheimer,

In view of the very untimely death of Dr. von Neumann we are wondering whether you would think it proper for us to bring out a memorial volume to this very great scientist and gentleman.

I have discussed this possible project with Sir Edward Appleton and he is anxious that I should let you know that he is in favour of such an idea. He also expressed the wish that you would be the editor of such a volume and perhaps lay down its scope, aims and contributors.

We at Pergamon very much hope that you will find it possible to spare the time to edit such a volume, and I am wondering if I might perhaps come down to Princeton one day fairly soon and discuss this matter with you.

I look forward to hearing from you,

and remain,

Yours very truly,

Patricia R. Wakeling  
Publishing Manager.

*copy to Ro in S.F.  
3/5/57 vrm*

5 March 1957

Dear Miss Wakeling:

Thank you for your letter of  
4 March which has arrived in Dr.  
Oppenheimer's absence. We shall  
hold it for his attention upon his  
return to Princeton.

Very truly yours,

Velma A. Mumper  
Office of the Director

Miss Patricia R. Wakeling  
Publishing Manager  
Pergamon Press Inc.  
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New York 22, New York