

9/6

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

✓ NEUGEBAUER

Biographical

SARTON, GEORGE

FLEXNER, A.

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

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

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

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

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

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

D, Institute--Organization

WEYL, H.

Biographical

✓ NEUGEBAUER, O.

FARKAS

PONTRYAGIN

LEFSCHETZ

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & POLITICS

Academic Organization

Veblen to Flexner (NYC):

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

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

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

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

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

1933
1940
1940

9/8
7/29
7/31

HISTORICAL STUDIES (HISTORY OF SCIENCE)

Academic Activities

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

Biographical

FLENER, A.

✓ HENGEBAUER

Flexer to Barton, September 8, 1933.

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

Sarton to Flexner, July 29, 1940.

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

Aydelotte to Sarton, July 31, 1940.

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

9/6

1933
EMPLOYEES

Academic Personnel

✓ NEUGEBAUER

Biographical

Flexner (New York) to Veblen: Excerpt

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

File IV-19

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

GENERAL

✓ HENGEBAUER, OTTO

FLEXNER, A.

VEBLEN, O.

Academic Organization

Publications

Biographical

Veblen to Flexner.

He recites some of Hengebauer's history. He founded the Zentralblatt für Mathematik in Göttingen in 1931 as a professor of mathematics, and from the beginning the Zentralblatt has been published by Julius Springer of Berlin, one of a number published by Julius Springer in various fields of science. "From the beginning, it has served a useful purpose in bringing together in convenient form the suitable criticism all the published mathematical work of the world." It has a distinguished part of editors, a large number of collaborators and reviewers, most of them are, of themselves mathematicians of some distinction. After the

Nazis came into power in Germany, Neugebauer was perhaps the leading historian in mathematics, moved to Copenhagen and continued to edit the Zentralblatt. The Springer Publishing House in Berlin was subjected to pressure by the Nazis. Springer dropped the distinguished Italian mathematician, Levi-Civita, from the list of associate editors without consulting Neugebauer, and replied to Neugebauer's question about it that it was the consequence of anti-semitic decrees in Italy. Springer added that Neugebauer must give him before the first of December a formal engagement that no article by a German author would be reviewed by an emigré. Neugebauer resigned as of December 1, and was followed by a number of the associate editors. A large number of the collaborators has resigned. Springer has replaced Neugebauer by an obscure mathematician named Ulrich.

Veblen resigned from the Board, brought the situation to the attention of Mr. Keppel of Carnegie, Mr. Weaver of the Rockefeller Foundation. Both were interested in Neugebauer as well as in the problem of the Zentralblatt. Neugebauer has been appointed to a Chair in the History of Mathematics at Brown University where it is hoped that he will be able to

continue his researches in this field under favorable auspices. Carnegie Corporation has authorized its president, "to commit the corporation to a grant of not more than \$66,000 to permit the establishment in this country of an international journal of mathematics on the presentation of a satisfactory plan of operation." Veblen says that \$6,000 is to be used in establishing Neugebauer at Brown, and the remaining \$60,000 for the new journal. Neugebauer will collaborate in setting up the new journal, but will not necessarily be its permanent editor.

Veblen told Keppell that the grant for the new journal should be available on a diminishing scale during the first ten years of the journal's existence. Keppell replied that the corporation did not want to prescribe the manner in which the money should be used, but Vannevar Bush, President of Carnegie Institution, is interested in the project and competent to understand the details.

The American Mathematical Society appointed a committee consisting of professors C. R. Adams, Chairman, G. Y. C. Birkhoff,

A. V. Coble, T. C. Fry, H. Morse, and G. T. Whyburn to study the problem in detail, and if they found it desirable to take the necessary steps toward founding a new journal.

Further details in the letter on the estimated cost of publication of the journal, which Veblen estimates will be between \$15,000 and \$20,000 a year. For this, there will be available \$60,000 from the Carnegie Corporation which can legitimately be used up over a period of 10 years. He thinks it would be good to get an equal subvention from the Rockefeller Foundation. Also, there would be income from subscriptions, and some form of subvention from the American Mathematical Society (\$1,000 a year has been proposed, but Veblen thinks \$2,000 a year is more like it), a subvention from the Mathematical Association of America (an organization on the collegiate rather than the university level), and subventions from other mathematical and scientific societies in various parts of the world, and from financial and philanthropic foundations.

V File, Flexner, Abraham

3/10
10/4
10/11

GENERAL (GERMAN UNIVERSITIES)

Educational Institutions

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

COHN, DR. ALFRED E.

✓ NEUGEBAUER, OTTO

See Chronological file 1945, 3/10 for correspondence
between Weyl and Cohn in regard to German universities and
German scientists.

(Also filed under Weyl and Cohn).

W (Weyl) File Co-

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WOI

SELBERG, ATLE

Biographical

✓ NEUGEBAUER, OTTO

FRANKL, DR. PAUL

ELIOT, THOMAS

BOHR, NIELS

Faculty meeting of November 9, 1948.

Filed in Chronological File, 11/9/48.

Minutes Faculty Meeting, November 9, 1948, File V-1

11/16

POLICIES

Administration

✓ NEUGEBAUER, OTTO

Biographical

"As a part of a projected plan to encourage bonds between the Schools, the appointment of Dr. Otto Neugebauer was discussed. The invitation was to come from the School of Mathematics but it had the cordial concurrence of the School of Humanistic Studies. Dr. Neugebauer's work in the prehistory period of mathematics was considered a practical bridge between the Schools. The initial invitation would later be supported by the School of Humanistic Studies through appointments of younger men recommended by Dr. Neugebauer. The Director hoped that a sound pattern might eventually be established by such bonds between two rather remote disciplines."

Tr. Min. 11/16/48 p. 4

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organisation

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

✓ NEUGEBAUER, OTTO E.

Biographical

Director suggested that since Neugebauer's work falls within the two Schools, Director stated he would include a \$5000 special budget item for one semester for the next five years to cover a grant-in-aid to Neugebauer for this period. A member working with Neugebauer would be supported by the School to which he would naturally belong. This appointment and suggested arrangement was approved.

Faculty Minutes, 2/13/50

1950

2/21

GRANTS-IN-AID

Academic Personnel

CLAY, SIR HENRY

Biographical

✓ NEUGEBAUER, PROFESSOR OTTO E.

YANG, CHEN NING

PLACZEK, GEORGE

Sir Henry Clay: with a Rockefeller 5-year grant totalling \$25,000 to be administered by the Institute to support Clay's proposed writing on the relations of industry to the State.

Otto E. Neugebauer: five year membership with a grant-in-aid of \$5,000 for one semester a year at the Institute.

Dr. Chen Ning Yang: five-year appointment with a grant-in-aid of \$5500.

Dr. George Placzek: five-year appointment in physics with annual grant-in-aid of \$9,000.

The grants-in-aid are to be separate from the stipend budgets. There was discussion as to whether the letters of appointment should mention specifically that no pension rights were involved. The consensus was that the Trustees should always have their intentions reflected clearly in the letters, and here they had no intention to give pension rights.

Executive Committee Meeting, February 21, 1950

11/20

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Academic Personnel

MEMBERS

✓ NEUGEBAUER, OTTO

Biographical

SCHMIDT, OLAF

Schmidt appointed member grant-in-aid of \$2500. Suggested by Neugebauer whose assistant he previously was, who will be here the same term.

Faculty Minutes, 11/20/50

9/30

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Academic Personnel

MEMBERS

BORER / HINDS

Biographical

KENNAN

✓ NEUGESBAUM

The Faculty agreed to extend the five-year appointments
of the above-named for another five years.

Faculty Minutes, 9/30/54

GENERAL

MATHEMATICS

POLICIES

MEMBERS

✓ NEUGEBAUER

COURANT

WEYL

EINSTEIN

GÖDEL

SCHRÖDINGER

VEBLEN, O.

Educational Institutions

Academic Activities

Administration

Academic Personnel

Biographical

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

1928

2/8

TEACHING

Academic Procedures

~~NEUMAN~~

Biographical

EARLE, E. M.

WEDGEWOOD, C. V.

Dinner table conversation with Sigmund Neuman,
February 8, 1956.

Filed in Vertical File under Neuman Interviews.

Dinner table conversation with Sigmund Neuman, 2/8/56

1956 2/14
GENERAL (GRADUATE SCHOOLS)

Educational Institutions

✓ NEUMANN, SIGMUND

Biographical

Dinner conversation with Sigmund Neumann, February 14, 1956.

Filed in Vertical File under Neumann interviews.

Dinner conversation with Sigmund Neumann, February 14, 1956.

1956

3/7/56 7/9

GENERAL (PURPOSE)

Corporation

POLICIES

Administration

GENERAL

Academic Personnel

✓ NEUMANN, SIGMUND

Biographical

Dinner table conversation with Sigmund Neumann.

Filed in Vertical File under Neumann interviews.

Dinner table conversation with Neumann, 7/9/56

EMIGREES

Academic Personnel

GENERAL

/HOETHER, MISS EMY

Flexner to Veblen, February 27, 1935.

Comments on Veblen's eagerness to make some arrangements to take into the Institute Emy Hoether whose year's work has ended at Bryn Mawr. Veblen is at Fine Hall, Flexner at 20 Nassau Street.

"I have a feeling that the Institute has done all that can be done or that can fairly be expected, in the field of mathematics, for German scholars - far more indeed than any other institution has done and we must be careful not to create the impression that we are overlooking Americans in order to *help* these unfortunate foreigners. This indeed is one of the reasons why I am so pleased that Morse is coming to us, for I have been constantly anxious lest trouble arise for Germans - and incidentally for ourselves - out of this situation."

IV-19

1935

2/28

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Academic Personnel

VEHLEN, O.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

FRANKFURTER, F.

✓ MOETHER, MISS

Excerpts from File IV-19 re aid to Miss Moether.

See PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION - Academic Personnel

1735
NOETHER, EMMY

Biographical

See Chronological File, 3/2/35 for memorandum on Flexner to Veblen regarding stipend or appointment for Emmy Noether.

IV#19

✓ NOETHER, EMMY

Biographical

WEYL, HERMANN

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

W File, Beh

WEYL, HERMANN

Biographical

✓ NOETHER, FRITZ

Weyl assisted Fritz Noether's son, _____, in an endeavor to trace the fate of the father of Emmy and _____, who had taken refuge in Russia at the time of the Nazi discrimination against Jews, and who, it was known, had been arrested ~~xx~~ while at the Research Institute for Mathematics and Mechanics in Tomsk, Siberia, during the purge of 1937. His two sons, Emmy's nephews, were forced to leave Soviet Russia at the time. "Practically nothing of Fritz Noether's fate is known after his arrest late in 1937. The only news came from a physicist who also was arrested in Russia about that time, and ~~who~~ happened to share a prison cell with Fritz in the Butyrka Prison in Moscow in December, 1939. Fritz had been sentenced to 25 years in prison on some silly confession of espionage to which he had been forced under torture. The supposition is that the Russian government turned Noether over to the Gestapo along with many of the German refugees who had fled Germany in 1933~~7~~, and the presumption is that the Gestapo liquidated Noether as it did many of the others. Although an advertisement was inserted in the British magazine, Nature, no response apparently was ever heard."

Correspondence, Hermann Weyl files

11/23

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

✓ NORMAN, MONTAGU

~~RIEFLER, R. W. M. M.~~ CLAY, PROF. HENRY

Flexner to Norman, November 28, 1936, at Riefler's suggestion and with Stewart's approval, Flexner asks Montagu Norman to look favorably on a period at the Institute for Advanced Study for Professor Henry Clay. It didn't come off at that time.

D, Clay, Sir Henry (Deceased)

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

✓ NORMAN, MONTAGU C. (The Right Honorable,
Bank of England) Biographical

MYNORS, H. C. B.

Mynor has discussed with Riefler sending someone from the Bank of England to the Institute on problems of international finance. Originally he was going to send Henry Clay, but couldn't spare him. Mynors is coming. Flexner says unprecedented in the world, the first time "that a ~~gk~~ high official from the Bank of England has come to an American institution of learning for the purpose of a prolonged study of international financial problems;" although there has been conference between government heads of fiscal agencies! Riefler has been asked and accepted position of American representative on the Finance Committee of the League of Nations.

Trustees ' Minutes, January 25, 1937, p. 3

October

RESEARCH

Government Relations

ECONOMICS

Academic ~~XXXX~~ Activities

WARREN, R.

Biographical

✓ NOURSE, E. G.
NOURSE, R. G.

Warren was asked to help R. G. Nourse, Chairman Council of Economic Advisors to President U. S. to spend October-December aiding in establishing the new Council and its work. Nourse thanked Aydelette effusively October 22, 1946. Agreement signed ~~XXXXXX~~ October 28, 1946 by which C. E. A. reimbursed Institute by Warren's salary, less expenses. Term extended to June 30, 1947 by supplementary agreement.

D. Warren

1938

6/7

ECONOMICS

Academic Activities

BAMBERGER, LOUIS

Biographical

✓ NUFFIELD (LORD)

Flexner memo on differences between Lord Nuffield and L. Bamberger. "Nuffield, unlike Mr. Bamberger, wants to see results." Lindsay found it impossible to proceed slowly and with care and study.

D, Organization