

Flexner Scroll Copies to:

Prof. Goldman

Thompson

Loew (2) (1 for Mrs Bailey)

Cherniss

Baurling

Kantorowicz

Meritt (6)

Panofsky (3)

Veblen

Whitney

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
496 Faber Drive
Falls Church, Virginia

ROOM-428

MURRAY-HILL-3-6634

December 7, 1957

Dear Mr. Leidesdorf:

I received something less than a million telegrams on my birthday. I cannot possibly answer them all, but I want to answer yours. You have been a very helpful friend to me ever since the day you and Mr. Maass called on me at the Rockefeller Institute.

Don't forget to keep me in touch with you and your family. I wish you and your wife every possible happiness and I should welcome a visit from you if ever you come to Washington.

I am very pleasantly and comfortably situated here and am very happy indeed in my new surroundings.

Ever your friend,

A. F.

Mr. Samuel D. Leidesdorf
1 Pershing Square
New York 17, N. Y.

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
522 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

ROOM 628

December 27, 1956

TELEPHONE
VANDERBILT 6-0674
Murray Hill 7 - 0674

Dear Mr. Leidesdorf:

Mrs. Bailey has just brought me the beautiful silver tray. I feel certain that this wonderful gift and its eloquent testimony are due to you and to your friendship, not to say partiality. I shall never forget as long as I live what you have done for me, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity which you gave me and for your unwavering support, influence, and affection since 1930.

With every good wish for your happiness and that of your family, believe me

Affectionately your friend,

Abraham Flexner

Mr. Samuel D. Leidesdorf
1 Pershing Square
New York 17
New York

AF:ESB

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Just give Flexner 6'day (25)

To

Abraham Flexner

wise in understanding, bold in conception,
creator of the Institute for Advanced Study

~~Self~~ ~~Salutations~~ Felicitations

from its officers + trustees

Nov 13, 1956

called Miss Lee 11/12
gave her this text,
with 3rd line to be
optional.

To

Abraham Flexner

Creator of the Institute for
Advanced Study

salutations

from its officers and trustees

Nov 13, 1956

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
522 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

ROOM 628

November 15, 1955

VANDERBILT 6-0674

Dear Dr. Oppenheimer:

Thank you and the faculty of the
Institute for Advanced Study warmly for the
beautiful telegram sent on the occasion of
my birthday and for the kind message which I
heartily reciprocate.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

Abraham Flexner

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

AF:ESB

Form. In.

DOMESTIC SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent as a full rate telegram	
FULL RATE TELEGRAM	SERIAL
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER

WESTERN UNION

1206

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

INTERNATIONAL	
Check the class of service otherwise this message will be sent at the full rate	
FULL RATE TELEGRAM	LETTER
VICTORY LETTER	SHIP RADIOGRAM

NO. WDS.-CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	TIME FILED

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

sent 11/12/55

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Stanhope Hotel
New York, New York

The Faculty of the Institute for Advanced Study, meeting just before
your birthday, and mindful of it, sends you greetings. We ~~much~~ wish
you good health, good heart, and good fortune.

Robert Oppenheimer

To
the illustrious and revered
Dr. ABRAHAM FLEXNER
who
deeply mindful of the past
wisely appraising the present
and with almost divine insight foreseeing the future
conceived the idea
of
THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
devised its plan
and made it come to life:

both its present professors and
— what is new and unaccustomed —
also those who for merits present as well as past
still bestow concern for the common sake
in gratitude and devotion
warmly wish future happiness
as he enters the tenth decade
of a noble life.

In witness whereof they here subscribe their names
on the thirteenth day of November A.D. 1956.

Similar letter sent to
all officers and Trustees
of the Institute

from the desk of SAMUEL D. LEIDESDORF

Just Gen Flexner

ONE TWENTY FIVE PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF
SAMUEL D. LEIDESDORF

November 1, 1956

Dear Oppy:

Dr. Abraham Flexner will be ninety years old on Tuesday, November 13th, and we of the Institute are planning a luncheon in his honor on that special milestone. A scroll is being prepared which will be presented to him on that occasion.

The luncheon will be held at one o'clock, either at the Uptown Club (60 East 42nd Street) or at the Pinnacle Club (150 East 42nd Street).

I would appreciate your advising me immediately whether you can attend, as we must know the number of guests in order to make the proper reservations.

With kindest personal regards and looking forward to hearing that you will be with us on the 13th, I am

Sincerely,



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

Flexner 6 Day

ONE TWENTY FIVE PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF
SAMUEL D. LEIDESDORF

November 8, 1956

Dear Mrs. Hobson:

The luncheon in honor of Dr. Flexner is to be held on Tuesday, November 13th, at one o'clock, in Room "E" of the Pinnacle Club, 150 East 42nd Street, New York.

The following acceptances have been received:-

Jessie

Dr. Oppenheimer
Mr. Leidesdorf
Mr. Schur
Dr. Aydelotte
Prof. Veblen -
Prof. Merrit -
Prof. Woodward -
Prof. Morse -
Dr. Lowe -
Dr. John Fulton
Mr. Perrin C. Galpin
Mr. Harold F. Linder

*Car
Aydelotte ✓ 11.20
Veblen
Lowe
Merrit
Morse
Woodward ✓*

Mr. Maass

Will you please send word of the place to Dr. Lowe, Professors Veblen, Merrit, Woodward ✓ and Morse. ✓ We have written to the others.

Sincerely,

Elena Lee

Secretary to Mr. Leidesdorf

Mrs. Verna Hobson
Secretary to Dr. Oppenheimer
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, N. J.

Dr. Flexner

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Luncheon party for Dr. Flexner's birthday, Nov. 13, 1956
(being arranged by Mr. Leidesdorf, 1 p.m. in NY)

Mr. Leidesdorf will invite Trustees.

Former colleagues at IAS:

yes
Maass
Fulton
Leid
Veb

car:
~~Veb~~
Meritt
Lowe
Veb

- Meritt - yes (with reservation that he may be called away by a death in his family)

- Lowe - yes

Kennan - no

Alexander - no (cannot leave Princeton)

Stewart - no

- Veb - ~~probably~~ yes

Panofsky - no

Goldman - prob. no

- Woodward - yes

- Morse - yes

Gödel - ~~yes~~? will call
NO Monday

RO

let Meritt & G
know Monday
✓

To no
Green
Hoc
Lehr
Lew
Mit
Rosen

not heard from
Gale by 11/5

Barr
Lind
Schae
Straw
Ayde

21 November 1956

Dear Professor Veblen:

We have plain paper copies of the scroll which was signed by the Faculty and presented to Dr. Flexner on his 90th birthday. If you would like a copy, they are available in this office; if you would prefer that we send a copy to you, please let us know and we shall be glad to do so.

Sincerely,

Valma A. Mumper
Office of the Director

Professor O. Veblen
Institute for Advanced Study

Same letter to Professors Alföldi, Beurling, Cherniss, Dyson, Gödel, Kantorowicz, Kennan, Meritt, Montgomery, Morse, Pais, Panofsky, Selberg, Thompson, Whitney, Woodward, Yang, Alexander, Veblen, Stewart, Lowe. (Miss Goldman has already picked up a copy.)

Last year Flexner 6/8/56

To the highest and most reverend sir, Mr. Abraham Flexner, who by accurately recalling the past, wisely interpreting the present and with almost divine inspiration foreseeing the future, conceived the idea of the Institute called of Advanced Studies, thought of a plan and finally made the dream come true, those who have the office of professor in the aforesaid Institute as well as those who--a new and unusual thing--held to be "meriti rather than emiriti" exercise their concern for the common good, in gratitude and piety wish and predict happiness for the tenth decennium of a noble life. In testimony of which, on the 13th of November, 1956, they have subscribed their names.

Translation by E. Panofsky.

Flexner Library
Scroll

Amplissimo et verendissimo domino,

Domino Abrahae Flexner,

qui praeterita accurate recordando praesentia persapienter ordinando futura
quasi divinitus praesagiendo Scholae a Studiis Sublimioribus denominatae ideam
concepit, rationem excogitavit, effigiem demum ad verum perduxit, cum ii qui
in praedicta Schola magistri munere funguntur tum ii qui--quod novum atque
inusitatum est--pro meritis potius quam pro emeritis habiti in re communi curam
ponunt grate pieque in decimum decorae vitae decennium laeta optant et ominentur.

Cuius rei in testimonium nomina subscripserunt Id. Nov. A.D. MDCCCCLVI

Flexner birthday

ONE TWENTY FIVE PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF
SAMUEL D. LEIDESDORF

November 13, 1956

Dear Oppy:

At the luncheon today in honor of Dr. Flexner's 90th birthday, the Institute for Advanced Study presented him with a silver tray. We would like to engrave the following inscription:-

To Abraham Flexner
Wise in understanding, bold in conception,
Creator of the Institute for Advanced Study
Salutations from its Officers and Trustees
November 13, 1956

together with facsimile signatures of all the officers and trustees.

Will you please sign the enclosed card in black ink and return it to me as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



*done
11/16/56*

Int Gen Flexner Birthday

13 November 1956

Miss Goldman called in about noon today; she was just back. Told her about the luncheon, and about putting her signature on the Flexner scroll. She said she would have been very disappointed if her name had not appeared; was very glad we had done so.

Told her that RO had some things he wished to discuss with her. She will be in either tomorrow or the next day, and will stop by.

Dr. J. Flexner's birthday

12 October 1956

Dear Miss Lee:

Enclosed are copies of
four notes about Dr. Flexner's birthday:
one from Dr. Fulton to Dr. Oppenheimer,
one from Dr. Oppenheimer to Mr. Leidesdorf,
one from Dr. Fulton to Mr. James Flexner,
and one from me to Dr. Fulton. This is
my whole file on the matter.

Sincerely,

(Mrs. Wilder Hobson)
Secretary to the Director

Miss Lee
Office of S. D. Leidesdorf
125 Park Avenue
New York, New York

Flexner b'day

copies for
Miss Lee
Mr. L's office

27 January 1956

Dear Dr. Fulton:

Dr. Oppenheimer is away for a couple of days, so I am writing to acknowledge and thank you for your note about the minutes and Professor Kennan, and the copy of your letter to Mr. James Flexner. I know that Dr. Oppenheimer is planning to discuss Dr. Flexner's birthday with Mr. Leidesdorf early next week.

I am also enclosing a copy of a letter from Dr. Franklin, which arrived today.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs. Wilder Hobson)
Secretary to the Director

Dr. John F. Fulton
Yale University School of Medicine
333 Cedar Street
New Haven, Connecticut

enclosure

January 25, 1956

My dear Jimmie:

Many thanks for yours of the 20th. I am glad that you liked what I said about your colorful biography of Gilbert Stuart.

With regard to your Uncle Abe's 90th birthday in November, I am glad you like the idea and we shall proceed with it if Oppie and his other friends think well of it, but I am inclined to agree with you that at the age of 90 and in view of the shortness of time, a Festschrift is really not indicated. I am getting in touch with Allan Nevins as you suggest. I had forgotten about their intimacy.

All the best,

Yours sincerely,

John Fulton

John F. Fulton, M. D.

Mr. James T. Flexner
192 East 75th Street
New York 21, New York

cc: Dr. Robert Oppenheimer ✓

11 January 1956

Dear Mr. Leidesdorf:

In November of this year Flexner will be celebrating his 90th birthday. John Fulton has called this to my attention, and we both think that he might appreciate a small celebration that the Institute could sponsor, and to which we might invite his friends from the Institute and from the various foundations. Does this seem like a good idea, and would you be willing to let your people arrange it? I should be glad to do that, but I do not feel as close to Flexner, or as well informed about his friends and tastes as is desirable.

With warm greetings,

Faithfully,

Robert Oppenheimer

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

BY HAND

YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

333 CEDAR STREET · NEW HAVEN 11 · CONNECTICUT

Department of the History of Medicine
Historical Library

19 December 1955

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

My dear Oppie:

Many thanks for sending me that extraordinarily nice letter from Hermann Weyl written just prior to his death. How fortunate that he could have had his birthday party and his Festschrift before his death!

It has just come to my attention that Abraham Flexner will be ninety on November 13, 1956. Don't you think it would be fitting if his friends got together and had a party for him, perhaps a dinner in New York, sponsored by the Institute and the foundations with which he has been associated? I don't recall whether anything was done at the time of his eightieth birthday. Let me know what you think.

Very sincerely yours,



John F. Fulton, M.D.

12/27/55 RO telephoned Fulton. Agreed that RO would call Leidesdorf.