

99

Corres

June 1-13, 1949

N. WIENER - MC 22

[ca June, 1949]

#625 '49

Handwritten initials

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

TWENTY-NINE WEST THIRTY-NINTH STREET

NEW YORK-18

Ref: A.S.M.E. Speakers List for
1949-1950

Dear Sir,

It is the practice of A.S.M.E. to issue such a list to the seventy-three (73) sections of the Society. You have been recommended to us as a Speaker who would probably be willing to receive invitations from the Sections and we would, therefore, appreciate having your consent to be so listed by June 15th at the latest.

We aim to compile this information and have it mimeographed and distributed so to reach our Section Officers by July 1st. We enclose a form for your convenience in sending this information.

Thanking you, we are

Very truly yours,

Ernest Hartford

Ernest Hartford
Executive Assistant Secretary

F O R M

Date.....

NAME OF SPEAKER.....

TITLE.....

COMPANY CONNECTION.....

ADDRESS.....

TOPIC OR TOPICS _____

ILLUSTRATIONS :

Slides

Motion Pictures

Sound Silent

Size

DISTANCE WILLING TO TRAVEL.....

FEE OR EXPENSE.....

New York, June 1, 1949.

H. SCHERBAK

25 Broad Street

Ha 2-5696

Hon. Prof. Dr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Cambridge 39, Mass.

Dear Professor:-

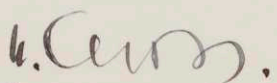
Joining in the heartiest felicitations to your so brilliant success, I beg to ask for the courtesy of your advice on the following.

A friend of mine, who specializes in law cases before the Supreme Court in Washington, has a boy 12 years old, who is a mathematical genius since the age of 6. From the point of view of National defense, I sincerely believe that this talent should not be lost and I beg to ask you as the worlds leader in mathematics for advice where this boy should be educated concentrating on mathematics.

I take the liberty to enclose the "Nation in Danger" plan, which please see considered to be basic for the security of the Nation by Admiral Louis Denfeld, General Quesada and others and the summary of 37 faulty conditions in the Nation's armor which will have to be corrected if the Nation shall survive Atomic and biological warfare. This to show the need to bring to use all constructive mental power in the Nation.

Thanking in advance, and with deepest respects,

Very sincerely yours,


H. Scherbak.

5060 Marine Drive
Chicago, Illinois
June 1, 1949

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute
of Technology
Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Dr. Wiener:

1. As one who has been working in the field of industrial controls and servos for almost twenty years, I have been greatly intrigued by your book on cybernetics and its implications.
2. In discussing with our group the behaviour pattern of a light responsive vehicle, the obvious suggestion was made to install a chance mechanism (equivalent of a slot machine) whose unpredictable individual contact - combination would change the behaviour of the device to follow statistical laws.
3. For an outside observer - not knowing the mechanism's function, the behaviour pattern should look like that of biological units raising the question of "free choice" as motive for individual decisions.
4. The study of the interaction of such individual entities with more complicated patterns (responding e.g. to signals produced by other individual units as well as to outside stimuli) should be of considerable interest to the sociologist.
5. Obvious other applications are target simulators and other training devices.
6. Applying this design to the automatic chess player which you mention in the end of your book, the chance combination will introduce an apparent choice between different possibilities and hereby make it possible to match two of your automatic players.

7. In addition, it appears to be possible to introduce the equivalent of a learning process into this design.

8. If a memory device of the simplest form is introduced which accumulates the data for statistical distribution curves of preferred moves, the chance combination of the player can be made to adjust itself in such a way as to take advantage of the opponent's "habits".

9. Again, it appears that the study of the interaction of such units should offer sociologists pure bred laboratory conditions which at present are practically impossible to obtain.

10. It is my belief that the dramatic presentation of your book has greatly accelerated the development or the consciousness of this new field of technology and that hereby you have made an extremely important contribution.

Very truly yours,



H. Ziebolz

HZ:mg

Tentative Program
(As of June 2, 1949)

Tenth Conference on Science, Philosophy and Religion in
Their Relation to the Democratic Way of Life

to be held at

The Men's Faculty Club of Columbia University
400 West 117th Street
New York, New York

on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday
September 6, 7, 8, and 9, 1949

"Progress Toward Integration, 1939 - 1949"

Tuesday, September 6th

6:00 p.m.

Dinner meeting of Chairman and Co-chairmen

8:30 p.m.

Discussion of ¹

Education, Psychology and Psychiatry in Their
Relation to the Problems of the Conference

based on papers by

Richard M. Brickner
Stewart G. Cole
Alexander R. Martin
Gardner Murphy
George N. Shuster
Ruth Strang

Discussion of ¹

Art and Letters in Their Relation to the
Problems of the Conference

based on papers by

Milton C. Nahm
John U. Nef
Walter Pach

Wednesday, September 7th

10:00 a.m.

Discussion of ¹

Religion and Religious Philosophy in Their
Relation to the Problems of the Conference

based on papers by

John C. Bennett
Ben Zion Bokser
Nels F. S. Ferré
Simon Greenberg
John LaFarge, S.J.
William Stuart Nelson
Swami Nikhilananda
William Seifriz
Luther A. Weigle
Amos N. Wilder

2:30 p.m.

Discussion of ¹

Philosophy in Its Relation to
the Problems of the Conference

based on papers by

Rudolf Allers
Edgar S. Brightman
Philipp Frank
Richard J. Kroner
Alain L. Locke
Arthur E. Murphy
John C. Murray, S.J.
William O'Meara
Harry A. Overstreet
Gerald B. Phelan
Lincoln Reis
Roy W. Sellars
T. V. Smith
Paul Weiss
Henry N. Wieman

8:30 p.m.

Public Meeting

"Foundations of World Organization"

Addresses by

Philip C. Jessup
Richard P. McKeon
Jacob Viner

(at the Harkness Academic Theater,
105 Butler Library, 535 West 114th Street)

Thursday, September 8th

8:30 a.m.

Breakfast business meeting of the members of the Conference on Science, Philosophy and Religion, to transact necessary business of the corporation, including election of officers and new members.

10:00 a.m.

and

2:30 p.m.

Discussion of ¹

The Social Sciences in Their Relation to the
Problems of the Conference

based on papers by

William F. Albright
Moritz J. Bonn
Eliot D. Chapple
Carleton S. Coon
Karl W. Deutsch
Herman Finer
Carl J. Friedrich
Eli Ginzberg
Frank E. Horack, Jr.
Charles S. Johnson
Harold D. Lasswell
Margaret Mead
Walter G. Muellder
Talcott Parsons
George F. Rohrlich
Joseph S. Roucek
Albert J. Salomon
Robert M. Scoon
Laura Thompson
Rupert B. Vance
Louis Wirth
Quincy Wright

5:00 p.m.

Discussion of ¹

The Science of Administration in Its Relation
to the Problems of this Conference

based on papers by

George F. Gant
Malcolm Ross
Donald C. Stone
M. L. Wilson

8:30 p.m.

Discussion of ¹

Science and Technology in Their Relation
to the Problems of the Conference

based on papers by

Donald H. Andrews
Karl K. Darrow
James K. Finch
Caryl P. Haskins
Henry Margenau

Friday, September 9th

10:00 a.m.

CRITIQUE OF THE CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY
AND RELIGION, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE TENTH
ANNUAL MEETING AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

¹ Papers and written discussion to be available in
mimeographed form. All oral discussion off the record.

Please return to: Conference on Science, Philosophy and Religion
3080 Broadway
New York 27, New York Riverside 9-8000

1. I expect _____ do not expect _____ to attend the Tenth Conference.

2. I plan to be present at the following sessions:
(Please check)

a. Tuesday, September 6th

8:30 p.m. Education, Psychology and Psychiatry in
Their Relation to the Problems of the
Conference _____

Art and Letters in Their Relation to the
Problems of the Conference _____

b. Wednesday, September 7th

10:00 a.m. Religion and Religious Philosophy in Their
Relation to the Problems of the Conference _____

2:30 p.m. Philosophy in Its Relation to the Problems
of the Conference _____

c. Thursday, September 8th

8:30 a.m. Business Meeting for Members _____

The Social Sciences in Their Relation to
the Problems of the Conference

10:00 a.m. _____

2:30 p.m. _____

5:00 p.m. The Science of Administration in Its
Relation to the Problems of this Conference _____

8:30 p.m. Science and Technology in Their Relation
to the Problems of the Conference _____

d. Friday, September 9th

10:00 a.m. Critique of the Conference on Science,
Philosophy and Religion, with special
reference to the Tenth Annual Meeting
and Plans for the Future _____

Name _____

Summer address _____

City _____

CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

3080 Broadway, New York 27, New York

Riverside 9-8000

In view of the number of papers this year and the technique to be followed at the sessions, the program committee hopes that you will read all the papers in advance, if possible.

Please check below the papers you would like to receive for comment. In accordance with Conference technique, in the printed volume comments may either be included in the body of the various papers or appended to them. Limited numbers of the papers and comments will be available at the Conference in September.

In order to facilitate the work of mimeographing and mailing the papers as they are received at the office, please return this sheet in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible.

I would like to obtain for comment the papers checked below.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____

Education, Psychology and Psychiatry

Richard M. Erickner _____

Gardner Murphy _____

Stewart G. Cole _____

George N. Shuster _____

Alexander R. Martin _____

Ruth Strang _____

Art and Letters

Milton C. Nahm _____

John U. Nef _____

Walter Pach _____

Religion and Religious Philosophy

John C. Bennett _____

William Stuart Nelson _____

Ben Zion Bokser _____

Swami Nikhilananda _____

Nels F. S. Ferré _____

William Seifriz _____

Simon Greenberg _____

Luther A. Weigle _____

John LaFarge, S.J. _____

Amos N. Wilder _____

Philosophy

Rudolf Allers ____	William O'Meara ____
Edgar S. Brightman ____	Harry A. Overstreet ____
Philipp Frank ____	Gerald B. Phelan ____
Richard J. Kroner ____	Lincoln Reis ____
Alain L. Locke ____	Roy W. Sellars ____
Arthur E. Murphy ____	T. V. Smith ____
John C. Murray, S.J. ____	Paul Weiss ____
Henry N. Wieman ____	

The Social Sciences

William F. Albright ____	Margaret Mead ____
Moritz J. Bonn ____	Walter G. Muelder ____
Eliot D. Chapple ____	Talcott Parsons ____
Karl W. Deutsch ____	George F. Rohrlich ____
Herman Finer ____	Joseph S. Roucek ____
Carl J. Friedrich ____	Albert J. Salomon ____
Eli Ginzberg ____	Robert M. Scoon ____
Frank E. Horack, Jr. ____	Laura Thompson ____
Charles S. Johnson ____	Rupert B. Vance ____
Harold D. Lasswell ____	Louis Wirth ____
Quincy Wright ____	

The Science of Administration

George F. Gant ____	Donald C. Stone ____
Malcolm Ross ____	M. L. Wilson ____

Science and Technology

Donald H. Andrews ____	James K. Finch ____
Karl K. Darrow ____	Caryl P. Haskins ____
Henry Margenau ____	

INSTITUTE OF EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

June 2, 1949

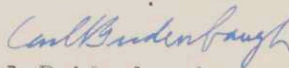
Dear Wiener:

Next December, probably between the 27th and 30th, the annual meeting of the American Historical Association will meet in Boston. I have been given the assignment of getting together a session on the colonial period. I have arranged for Dr. Brooke Hindle, who is with the Institute but who formerly studied with me at M.I.T. and Brown, to read a paper on the "American Revolution and the Pursuit of Science." This paper will be ready for distribution to four critics or commentators about the first of October. I want two historians and two scientists to discuss the paper from their own particular points of view, each one taking between ten or twelve minutes. Edmund S. Morgan of Brown, and Max Savelle of the University of Washington have accepted for the historians and I. B. Cohen of Harvard has accepted for the scientists.

I am writing to ask if you would do an old friend a favor and agree to participate in this program. Hindle has a paper which is full of interesting ideas and he is particularly concerned with relations between the votaries of science and the society in which they live. Knowing that you have had a great interest in this subject, I am in hopes that you will be in Boston and will agree to appear on the program.

I am teaching this summer at Harvard and will hope to see you before you get away to Tamworth. With kindest regards,

Faithfully yours,


Carl Bridenbaugh

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

June 2, 1949

Mrs. Kathleen H. Cairns
305 North Prospect Avenue
Champaign, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Cairns:

This is just to let you know what a good time I had at your party, and the fact that a few thousand miles more of travel have left me safe and sound.

The Illinois trip was delightful and was followed by an equally delightful visit to the Coast. I hope that when you people come to Boston, you will give us a chance to try to reciprocate the hospitality I have received.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 2, 1949

Professor Joe Doob
Department of Mathematics
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Doob:

I want to thank you again for the hospitality of your home. I am also very pleased at the way that our work is coming along, and the way in which we see eye to eye on all important points. Let's keep in touch more closely in the future.

The western trip was thoroughly successful, and so much so that I can scarcely say it in a letter; but Neymann is thoroughly ready to accept our point of view.

I am attending to my bread and butter letters with all possible care, but in case I should have slipped a cog anywhere, will you be good enough to act as my apologist, and pass my good wishes around.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 2, 1949

Professor Griffith Conrad Evans
Department of Mathematics
University of California
Berkeley, California

Dear Evans:

So our paths continue to intersect after nearly forty years. I had a delightful time in California, and as you know there is a prospect that this will not be the last.

I wish to congratulate you on the fascinating group you have developed around yourself and the Math Department.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 2, 1949

Professor W. L. Everitt
Department of Electrical Engineering
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Professor Everitt:

I wish to thank you for the delightful time I
had with you people at the University of Illinois
and for the many courtesies you extended to me
during my stay in Urbana.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 2, 1949

Mr. Herbert W. K. Fitzroy
Richmond Area University Center, Inc.
Ellen Glasgow House
1 West Main Street
Richmond 20, Virginia

Dear Mr. Fitzroy:

Nothing but the fact that I shall be in Mexico at the time, and that I am physically indivisible induces me to turn down your very charming invitation.

However, under the circumstances I must beg off, and hope that some later time will make it possible for me to come into contact with your group.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 2, 1949

Professor Loo Kung Hua
Department of Mathematics
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Hua:

I had a delightful time at your house, and I wish to pay my respects to Mrs. Hua and yourself. I am so glad that you are enjoying a part of the success which you have so richly earned. May we see one another some time in happier days for the world in China.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 2, 1949

Professor and Mrs. Y. R. Chao
1059 Cragmont Avenue
Berkeley 8, California

Dear Professor and Mrs. Chao:

I want to tell you what you must well know, what a treat an evening with you people is both to the inner and the upper man. You will excuse, I hope, my little vanity of talking a language which I admire but do not possess.

I hope in the years that come the relations between our respective families not only continue, but go on increasing from generation to generation.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 2, 1949

Mrs. D. H. Lehmer
Department of Mathematics
University of California
Berkeley, California

Dear Mrs. Lehmer:

It was so nice that our friendship begun at Brown University could be continued in California. I had a delightful time at your party, and hope that my wife and I can see something of you people either in California or the East before too much more time has passed by.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 2, 1949

Professeur M. Loeve
5974 Keith Avenue
Oakland, California

Cher Professeur Loeve:

Il etait un plaisir extraordinaire pouvoir visiter la Universite de California, et a voir autant de mes vieux amis. Il me sersit especialement agreable de revenir en deux ans, et a pouvoir collaborer avec vous encore une fois.

Ma femme et moi envoient nos meilleurs souhaits a vous et a Madame Loeve. Si vous vous trouvez en L'Est, j'espere bien que nous pouvons avoir le plaisir de vous voir chez nous!

Bien a vous, votre bien devoue,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 2, 1949

Professor J. F. Manildi:
Department of Engineering
Los Angeles 24, California

Dear Professor Manildi:

Many thanks for my reception in Los Angeles, and for my invitation for the future. That may be interfered with by the fact that my wife wants to go to Europe next summer to see what has happened to her relatives, but I am hopeful that we can arrange a trip to the West in some way or other.

I am very forgetful of names, and did not take adequate notes on those that I met. I remember a very charming collection of miscellaneous Beans with very forward looking plans for your school, and especially for the Math department. I also remember a physician, a Dr. Good "something," who seemed to me to be one of the intellectual and spiritual mainsprings of your outfit. Will you sort out these gentlemen and by proper name convey to each and all of them my gratitude for a delightful time, omitting I hope to reveal to them the lapse of my memory of the name of each individual.

With best regards,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 2, 1949

Professor Paul L. Morton
College of Engineering
University of California
Berkeley, California

Dear Professor Morton:

Just a word to thank you for my delightful visit to Berkeley. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the way you sheperded me around and the opportunity that I hope I shall have within a limited number of years of coming back to California and working with your group.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 2, 1949

Professor Jerzy Neymann
Department of Mathematics
University of California
Berkeley, California

Dear Professor Neymann:

Many thanks for the California trip and for the invitation to return. I had a delightful time, and I am looking forward to the next one. It will be a great privilege for me to develop the statistical consequences of my ideas under your influence.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 2, 1949

Miss Muriel Rukeyser
2831 Clay Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Muriel:

Many thanks for your visit. Everything has gone on wheels in both the Californias. By the way, your Los Angeles friend did not call me up, but I hope that when I have the appropriate literary material in shape I can send it to you with some prospect of its getting in the right hands for radio and movie use.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

June 2, 1949

Professor A. Van Harreveld
Department of Biology
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California

Dear Professor Van Harreveld:

I want to thank you singly and collectively
for the courtesies you have shown me in inviting me
to lecture before your Department, and extending
to me your personal hospitality.

I hope that it may not be too long before we meet
again in Pasadena.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

The New York Times
Times Square

18

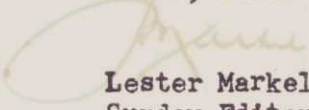
June 3, 1949

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Can we entice you into doing a piece on cybernetics which would be a simple statement (that is, as simple as possible) about what machines can do and cannot do and whether there is any possibility of their taking the place of the human mind, such as it is?

If I can interest you in the project, I shall be glad to provide something further in the way of an outline.

Yours, sincerely,


Lester Markel
Sunday Editor

40260 ✓

LM:mat

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

SOUTHERN TEACHERS' AGENCY

H. L. FORBES, General Manager

June 2, 1948

Mr. Frank L. Sheldon, White Plains, N. Y.

has

given your name as reference as to preparation, scholarship and general fitness for the profession of teaching. Please send an early reply to the questions below, arranging answers in the form of a letter, if you prefer, but using this sheet in any event. The manager will be largely guided in his acceptance and recommendation of applicant by the information given by references. Whatever you write will in no case come to the knowledge of the applicant. Thanking you for your prompt attention, we are,

Yours very truly,
SOUTHERN TEACHERS' AGENCY

Scholarship } *Good job. ...*

1. Experience }
2. Skill and success as teacher or administrator }

ABILITY TO: }
1. Discipline }
2. Organize }
3. Administer }

1. Physical Vitality }
2. Personal Appearance }
3. Speaking Voice }
4. Conduct, Habits }
5. Adaptability }
6. General Culture }

1. Personality }
2. Character }
3. Community leadership, loyalty and co-operation }

Further Information }
bearing on fitness }
for educational }
work (e.g., family, }
ancestral background, etc.) }

Date _____ Sign _____ Your official position _____

Name of institution with which you are connected _____

Your Address _____

SOUTHERN TEACHERS' AGENCY

COLUMBIA, S. C.

RICHMOND, VA.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

REPORT OF VACANCY

IMPORTANT: Please fill out this blank fully. Detailed information will greatly aid us in selecting the right teacher for you. It will also enable us to furnish each applicant complete information about your school and community, thereby saving you the trouble of answering many of the questions usually asked by applicants. Please point out the attractive features of the school and community, also salary schedule, tenure, retirement if any, etc.*

Name of School _____

Location (P. O. and Co.) _____

Apply to _____

Official Position _____

Address _____

If more than one position is to be filled please list additional vacancies on the back of this blank. Please list each vacancy separately.

Position to be filled _____

Branches to be taught _____

Salary _____ Length of term _____

Preference as to sex _____ As to church _____

White or colored _____

Date of election (Important) _____

Work to begin _____ No. of pupils in school* _____

No. of teachers in institution _____ Board will cost about _____

Population (If a town or city) _____

Railways _____

Highways _____

Bus Lines _____

Climate _____

*Any other feature of school or community? _____

Any special requirements? _____

Reported by _____

Official Position _____

Address _____

*Total Enrollment.

(Over)

SOUTHERN TEACHERS' AGENCY
RICHMOND, VA. COLUMBIA, S.C.

ADDITIONAL VACANCIES

2. Position to be filled _____

Subject or grade _____

Salary _____

3. Position to be filled _____

Subject or grade _____

Salary _____

4. Position to be filled _____

Subject or grade _____

Salary _____

5. Position to be filled _____

Subject or grade _____

Salary _____

6. Position to be filled _____

Subject or grade _____

Salary _____

June 3, 1949

Mr. W. G. Brombacher
The American Society of Mechanical Engineers
29 West 39th Street
New York 18, New York

Dear Mr. Brombacher:

Although I am interested in talking before
the American Society of Mechanical Engineers,
the whole period that you mention of the
New York meeting will see me in Mexico.

I, therefore, must regret that I shall be
unable to participate in your meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 3, 1949

Dr. Arturo Rosenblueth
Instituto Nacional de Cardiologia
Calzada de la Fiedad, 800
Mexico, D.F., Mexico

Dear Arturo:

Item 1: I have been away on a lecture tour extending even into California, and have been unable to participate in correspondence for a considerable period.

Item 2: I regard Mr. Lorente de No as a charter member of the Kennel and Saddle Club and I am merely awaiting the opportunity when you and I may be able to put a certain gentleman in his palce.

Item 3: I shall be with you early in September.

Everyone is well and Mr. Pitts is doing what is a marvellous job at behaviour for Mr. Pitts. My book has passed 11,000 and I am disgustingly affluent. Barbara's marriage is working out well. About the time I see you I expect to have graduated into the ranks of grandfather.

I saw Emilio the other day at Illinois. He is a little lonely, and I performed the function of deputy uncle in what I hope is an acceptable manner. I like the kid.

I am leaving the matter of the paper in your hands. If you have any specific suggestions for which I can act as agent, let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 3, 1949

Professor Gabor Szégo
Stanford University
Department of Mathematics
Palo Alto, California

Dear Professor Szego:

My apologies for not coming out to Palo Alto.
I was simply loaded up with scientific and social
obligations to such an extent that I could not
spend even the half-day meeting without incurring
excessive fatigue.

However, even with the atomic bomb judgment day is
not sufficiently near that I cannot remedy this
neglect, if as I suppose I am to be in California
sometime within a year or two.

Please give my best regards to all Stanfordians.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

P.O. Box 1352

Troms, Calif.,

June 4, 1949.

Mass. Inst. of Technology,
Cambridge, Mass.

Prof. Norbert Wiener,
Math. Div.

Dear Doctor Wiener:-

Since war I, I have added to electrical engineering a real concern for human, animal, etc values, the apparatus to detect, record, photograph, and the relations to medical, political, police and industrial. It brought me to sensory and extra-sensory values, on which I try to obtain any papers, brief and not too heavy books, such as your "Cybernetics", which is on hand.

Have you any brief papers, or such, on electrical values (voltages, currents, frequencies or pip-selctions, wave propagation, etc) as regards human engineering? Availability and price?

My work, even in mining, runs into the line, as did military, of knowing humans by writing, sencephalography, cardiography, etc. It includes water-witches, clairvoyants, telepathy, as well. Only lately I have come to decision that human engineering is a universal 'must' and wish to put my electrical, mechanical, and other experiences to go beyond just the theories to reach some tangible means to log all energies, factors, even extra-sensory, for practical uses. Psi-Kinesis still stalls me. No, I'm not any big name nor prosperous scientist, just a much travelled practical engineer who watched Indians hold fire in mouths, Kalumias heal broken limbs and a few of friends with extra-sensory ability.

Very truly yours,

A. L. Murphy
Calif. Cert. 2601.

1059 Cragont Ave
Berkeley 8 Calif
June 6 1949

Professor Norbert Wiener
Dept of Math
M I T
Cambridge 39 Mass

Dear Wiener:

Thank you for your letter of June 2 and the beautiful sentiments contained therein! Do continue to shuo Chung-kuo hua whenever we meet again. No excuse needed.

Just finished reading Lincoln Barnett's The Universe and Dr. Einstein, a book, though popular, yet not so flippant as the title sounds.

By the way, I don't know ^{why} I never thought of the game of go when I read your book twice. The go is regarded in China as a superior game to the chess, as it has much fewer arbitrary elements. For that reason, it would seem that it would be more amenable to treatment by a machine. I would guess that a machine of the same degree of complexity as your chess machine might play five steps of go. Do you know the game? I am a poor player ~~at~~ it, but I enjoy it more than chess. It has all the fun of war without its disadvantages. It has got paratroopers, too!

Yours as ever,


Y R Chao

My wife joins in wishing you
and Mrs. Wiener our best.

RICHMOND AREA UNIVERSITY CENTER, INCORPORATED
ELLEN GLASGOW HOUSE, ONE WEST MAIN ST., RICHMOND 20, VIRGINIA

Office of the Administrator

June 6, 1949

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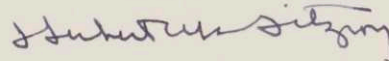
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*President, College of William and Mary
and the
Richmond Professional Institute*

My dear Professor Wiener:

The Committee on Visiting Scholars was so enthusiastic about you and I had heard so many complimentary accounts of your qualities that I would not have been surprised if physical divisibility had been one of them. However, I am not disillusioned, and assure you that upon your return from Mexico we shall renew our invitation.

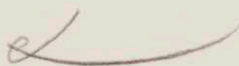
Believe me,

Very sincerely yours,



Herbert W. K. Fitzroy

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts



HWKF:B

APPARATUS DEPARTMENT
GENERAL  ELECTRIC
COMPANY

MAIN OFFICE SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

West Lynn Works
40 Federal St.
West Lynn 3, Mass.

June 6, 1949

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute
of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

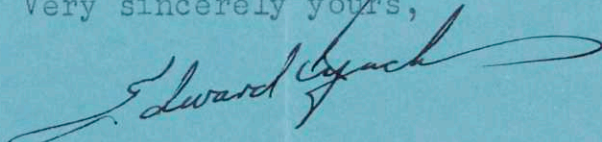
Dear Dr. Wiener:

Thank you for your letter of May 23 indicating the impossibility for you to talk to a group of development engineers at Lynn.

I appreciate that you are very busy, and although it is a disappointment not to have you accept our invitation, nevertheless I can understand how your full schedule might interfere.

Your first paragraph was puzzling to me. Perhaps it is not important. However, my philosophy has always been that lectures or any other interchange of intelligence or information can always be arranged on a mutually beneficial basis if the matter is considered important enough. I believe it is very important that knowledge and information be passed to those who are interested enough to really desire the information and who feel sincerely that they will benefit from it and that the benefit will in some way be transmitted to mankind in general.

Very sincerely yours,



Edward E. Lynch

EEL:BEM

June 6, 1949

Mrs. Frances Ancker
321 East 43rd Street
New York City

Dear Cousin Frances:

I am now a married man with two children; one of them already has been married and the other in college. Constance has three children, two girls and one boy, and is married to a college professor in the Mathematics Department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Bertha is married to a botanist at Washington University St. Louis, and has two daughters.

My father died some years ago, but my mother is still alive and well. I hope we can arrange to meet one another sometime in New York. I shall be going through New York in the near future, but this time the visit is so hectic and the time so short that there is not very much that I can do about it. However, I shall be going again in the near future and we can make an appointment.

You remember, of course, our summer at Top of the World. Top of the World still stands, but my wife and I have a summer place a few miles away near Bear Camp pond. We shall spend two months there this summer while I am writing a book and I am preparing to go to Mexico.

This letter is sketchy and scrappy, but I am writing it during an busy period of catching up on my correspondence. You can count on a more detailed letter later.

Sincerely yours,



Norbert Wiener

P. S. Dr. Wiener had to leave on a lecture engagement but asked me to sign and send this letter on to you. m.z.

June 6, 1949

Mr. Lewis I. Dublin
1647 Park Place
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Mr. Dublin:

Many thanks for your letter. I shall be very glad to meet you you, and talk your ideas over with you, but at present my time is divided between a concentrated lecture tour, and the recovery from it necessary to finish a book.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

Norbert Wiener (m. E.)

P.S. Dr. Wiener had to leave on a lecture engagement and asked me to sign and forward this letter to you.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. M. Zemurray, secretary
to Dr. Norbert Wiener

Mrs. M. Zemurray

June 6, 1949

Dr. Leon Eisenberg
Army Medical Department Research and Graduate School
Army Medical Center
Washington 12, D. C.

Dear Dr. Eisenberg:

Dr. Wiener has had to leave town on a lecture trip, but he has asked me to write to you and say that your plans for photographing the phototropic mechanism are satisfactory to him.

I have put you down on the calendar for July 25, and Dr. Wiener will come down from New Hampshire to see you then. Will you please let us know either at this address or at Sandwich, N.H. after the first of July exactly when you plan to arrive and any further details concerning your plans that we should know.

Sincerely yours, *M. M. Zemurray*

Mrs. M. Zemurray, secretary
to Dr. Norbert Wiener

mz

June 6, 1949

Mr. John P. Foley
The Psychological Corporation
522 Fifth Avenue
New York 18, New York

Dear Mr. Foley:

I am preparing a memo concerning the use of the idea of affective tone in machines, and it will probably appear in my new book concerning the communication state.

I think it will answer your difficulties by being quite as mechanistic as anybody could wish, although the mechanism suggested is a chemical mechanism.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

P.S. Dr. Wiener had to leave on a lecture engagement and asked me to sign and send this letter on to you.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. M. Zemurray

Mrs. M. Zemurray, secretary
to Dr. Norbert Wiener

June 6, 1949

Mr. William Elton
Department of English
Brown University
Providence 12, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Elton:

Thanks for your kind words about Cybernetics
and for your ideas about the Journal of Synthesis.

I have shared such ideas, and felt that a journal
of the sort should be founded within a reasonably
short time. Please allow me some time to think
things over, and I shall be glad to give you any
ideas as to ways and means. Don't count on my
remembering to answer, but stir me up again in
about six months with another letter.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

P.S. Dr. Wiener had to leave on a lecture engage-
ment, but he asked me to sign and send this letter
on to you.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. M. Zemurray

Mrs. M. Zemurray, secretary
to Dr. Norbert Wiener

June 6, 1949

Mrs. Nina Holton
Houghton Mifflin Company
2 Park Street
Boston 7, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Holton:

Many thanks for the picture. I agree, it will be just the thing for the back jacket of my future book.

Will you pass my thanks on to the young student who made it and tell him I think he has done a very competent and artistic job.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

P. S. Dr. Wiener had to leave on a lecture engagement, but asked me to sign and send this letter on to you.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. M. Zemurray

Mrs. M. Zemurray, secretary
to Dr. Norbert Wiener

June 6, 1949

Dr. C. O'D Iselin
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Iselin:

Dr. Wiener has asked me to write to you and thank you for your very kind invitation to come to the Oceanographic Institution for the symposium on auto correlation.

Unfortunately, he will not be able to attend the meeting as he is going to be at the Neurophysiological Association meeting in Atlantic City.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. M. Zemurray, secretary
to Dr. N. Wiener

mz

June 6, 1949

Mr. Wesley Kerr
36 Blenheim Drive
Belfast, North Ireland

Dear Mr. Kerr:

Our hearing aid is still in a state of development. We are very hopeful, but do not wish to pass too much of the hope along as there is still quite an appreciable chance that our idea will go on the rocks before it has been made as useful as we should like.

I suggest that you write to me in six months, when I shall be able to give you a much better idea of what is to be expected and what steps we have taken to make the device available.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

P. S. Dr. Wiener had to leave on a lecture engagement, but he dictated this letter to me and asked me to sign it and send it on to you.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. M. Zemurray

Mrs. M. Zemurray, secretary
to Dr. Norbert Wiener

June 6, 1949

Mr. O. P. Latter
Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Latter:

Dr. Wiener is away on an extended lecture trip, but has asked me to write to you and say that the Bell Telephone Company holds the patents on the hearing device and will doubtless take their own steps for distribution.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. M. Zemurray, secretary
to Dr. Norbert Wiener

mz

June 6, 1949

Mr. Allan M. McDermott
741 Columbia Avenue
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. McDermott:

Bone conduction does not proceed directly to the nerve, but to the still intact cochlea, which has been made inaccessible by disease of the middle ear. In a similar way, without the retina, the optic nerve is unable to receive the organized pattern of impulses which is necessary for vision.

In fact, after damage the optic nerve rapidly degenerates, and seems to be able to receive no messages whatever.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener (M.E.)

Norbert Wiener

MW:mz

June 6, 1949

Mr. Alexander W. Stern
192-15 A 71 Crescent
Flushing, New York

Dear Mr. Stern:

Many thanks for your letter. It certainly excites interesting echoes in my mind; but in the present state of things I am afraid I can't make any very useful comment. I myself must think over the field more.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener
Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 6, 1949

Professor Paul Turan
in care of Acta Szeged
Szeged Hungary
Bolyai-Institute Baross Gabor-u.2.
Budapest, Hungary

Dear Professor Touran

For the present I am thoroughly tied up, but I have some material on prime number theory attaching to the work of Solberg and Erdoch which might interest you. I shall send it to you at the first opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 6, 1949

Herr Doktor Karl von Buhler
4759 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles 27, California

Liebe Herr Kollege!

Es war ein auser Ordentliches Vergnugen fur mich,
Sie beide personlich kennen zu lerne, und Teil an
Ihrer Geburtstag-feier nehmen zu konnen. Hoffentlich
werden wir viel Gelegenheit haben, einander in der
Zukunft ofters zu sehen. Wenn Ich zum nachsten Mal
in Sud-Kalifornien ankomm, so hoffe ich, dass meine
Frau auch dabei sein wird. Dann werden wir viel
Spass haben, und noch einen Deutschen Abend unter
uns Verbringen.

Mit besten Grussen von Haus zu Haus, ihr ergebener,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 6, 1949

Professor L. Von Bertalanffy
Department of Zoology
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

Dear Professor Bertalanffy:

Many thanks for your reprints. I intend to read them with a great deal of pleasure, and when and if my present load of work slackens a bit, I shall be glad to discuss them with you.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 6, 1949

Dr. Grey Walter
Burden Neurological Institute
Stoke Lane
Stapleton,
Bristol, England

Dear Dr. Walter:

It is quite possible that a year from now may see me in Europe. If and when it does, I shall certainly notify you of my coming long enough in advance so that we can get up a discussion group together.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

P. S. Dr. Wiener had to leave on a lecture engagement and asked me to sign and send this letter on to you.

Sincerely yours,

You are cordially invited to attend the

Tenth Conference on Science, Philosophy and Religion
in their Relation to the Democratic Way of Life

to be devoted to discussion of

“Progress in Integration, 1939-1949”

and to be held at

The Men's Faculty Club of Columbia University
400 West 117th Street
New York City

on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday,
September 6, 7, 8, and 9, 1949.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING
LOS ANGELES 24, CALIFORNIA

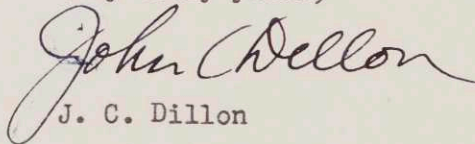
June 7, 1949

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

We enclose two pictures that were taken
at your recent lecture. I think the
action shot of you at the podium is
particularly good.

Very truly yours,


J. C. Dillon

JCD:ag

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
STATISTICAL LABORATORY
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA



June 7, 1949

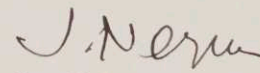
Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener,

Many thanks for your flattering letter. However, all the privilege will be ours -- my own and my colleagues, who hope to learn things from you.

Several hours before your letter arrived I dispatched a letter to Dr. O'Brien, Dean of our College of Engineering. A copy of this letter is enclosed for your information.

Cordially,


J. Neyman

JN:mg
Encls.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
STATISTICAL LABORATORY
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

June 6, 1949

Professor Morrrough P. O'Brien
Dean of the College of Engineering
216 Engineering Building
Campus

My dear Dean O'Brien:

The main purpose of this letter is to express my appreciation for the precious opportunity which your College provided to our faculty and students by inviting Dr. Norbert Wiener to spend a few days on this campus. In addition to the lectures which your College asked Dr. Wiener to give, he gave several other talks, one of them was at the statistical seminar in this Laboratory. It was most interesting and inspiring. Further similarly interesting and inspiring conversations with Dr. Wiener took place in numerous smaller gatherings.

The secondary purpose of this letter is to inform you of certain plans for the more distant future which were conceived during Dr. Wiener's visit. These plans refer to the summer session of 1951. Obviously no definite arrangements can be made now, but we contemplate inviting Dr. Wiener to give a two unit course during the first summer session of 1951. The title of the course would be "Ergoetic Theory and Prediction." While of primary interest to mathematical statisticians, I believe that this subject may be of interest to some people in your College. When this plan was mentioned to Dr. Wiener, in a very tentative form, he was very enthusiastic and if everything goes well we may expect him to visit us for six weeks in 1951. Since a full load during the summer session is four units, the question arises whether or not Dr. Wiener should be requested to give some other two unit course. Naturally it will be best to ask him to teach some advanced subject rather than an elementary course. Thus far we have no specific plans in this respect and while writing this letter I have in mind the possibility that your College may wish to ask Dr. Wiener to give a course of special interest to you.

Obviously there is still plenty of time to discuss these matters, but it is useful to make plans far in advance. Thanking you again,

Yours sincerely,

J. Neyman, Director
Statistical Laboratory

JN:mg

7 JUIN 1949

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24 Rue de la Harpe (14^e) V.A.U. 66-00

Dr. Norbert WIENER
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
CAMBRIDGE - MASS.
U . S . A .

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A la demande des auteurs,

j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint le tiré-à-part sus-visé.

Pour me permettre de m'assurer du bon achèvement de cet envoi, et de vous adresser en connaissance de cause des envois ultérieurs, je vous serais reconnaissant de m'en accuser réception par le simple retour du duplicata réexpédié ci-joint (après en avoir rempli la partie inférieure).

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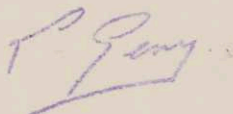
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(Cote/ H₁N^o 1 documentsDr. Norbert WIENER
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
CAMBRIDGE - MASS.
U . S . A .OBJET: Diffusion de tirés-à-part de travaux publiés par des
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P/L'Ingénieur en Chef du
Service de Documentation
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UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
SEATTLE 5

7 June 1949

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Professor Wiener:

In recent studies of the ideal structure of the ring of functions of bounded variation on $(-\infty, +\infty)$, I have had much occasion to refer to your papers on Fourier analysis. I should be very grateful for a set of whatever reprints you may have available of these papers. I particularly need your 1932 Annals paper, your 1938 paper in Duke Journal with Pitt, and your 1930 Acta paper.

You may be interested in the comment made by Gelfand, Raikov, and Shilov in 1946 Uspekhi (p. 117) about your 1938 Duke paper. They say: 'Wiener and Pitt present a method of constructing functions of bounded variation for which $F(s) = \int \exp(st)df(t) \geq c > 0$ for all s , but for which no inverse element exists. However, the authors of the present article could not understand their proof and are therefore inclined to consider the question as still open.'

Are our Russian friends wrong?

Yours very sincerely,



Edwin Hewitt

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

7th June

Dear Wiener,

It looks as if I won't be able to make Boston on this trip
I have still to complete buying my house & I await my furniture which has
to be seen through the U.S. customs at Milwaukee. I doubt if I can get
this cleared up before it is time for me to meet the family, so I had
better cry off for this time & hope we can arrange to meet later on.

Yours sincerely,

L.C. Young

P.S. I shall be at the Summer meeting

June 7, 1949

Dr. Mollie Brazier
Department of Neuropathology
Harvard Medical School
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston 14, Massachusetts

Dear ~~Bill~~ Brazier:

Many thanks for your letter. I am writing to Monnier and promising him that I shall get busy on some material for him as soon as I am over my wanderings. These have been very successful and I want to have a chance to talk with you about them either before or after Atlantic City.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 7, 1949

Mr. Harry E. Maule
Random House
457 Madison Avenue
New York 22, New York

Dear Mr. Maule:

Thanks for your letter, the frankness of which I appreciate and understand. I shall get busy with "The Miracle of the Broom Closet" during intermissions of my summer book work, and I shall send you a copy as soon as possible to see whether there is anything in it, and whether it might serve as an element in a series of short stories.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

P.S. Dr. Wiener had to leave on a lecture engagement and asked me to sign and send this letter on to you.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. M. Zemurray, secretary
to Dr. Norbert Wiener

June 7, 1949

Mr. Frank Sutherland
Toronto Hydro-Electric System
14 Carlton Street
Toronto 2
Canada

Dear Sutherland:

I am sorry you have been through eye trouble, but I am delighted to hear that you are better. Your symptoms seem to me to be those that I would expect to be associated with the detachment or at least distortion of part of the retina. Apparently whichever it is, the injury is held there.

Perhaps it was the trouble I myself have had and recovered from, detachment of the next layer below the retina which is not so serious. Distortion of the retina with respect to the light would appear to the patient as distortion of the light with respect to the retina. I had certain minor phenomena of the same sort after my cataract operation.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 7, 1949

Mr. Donald Williams
150 Prospect Street
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Williams:

I will be back in Belmont now for several days, but I imagine that by this time it will be too late for your notebook. If, however, you want to get in touch with me, call me up at Be. 5-0021.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

June 8, 1949

Dear Wiener:

It was nice of you to think of writing back to us after your visit. We appreciate very much your giving time to us, in spite of the duties of your engagement with the engineers, and look forward to seeing you again.

Being with old friends ^{after a long interval} ~~again~~ makes the intervening years disappear, but at the same time makes the old years seem very very far away. It has something to do with The Dedekind cut being hitched on to the left hand interval.

J

Very sincerely
Griffith C. Evans.

Juniata College

Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

THE PRESIDENT

June 9, 1949

Professor Norbert Wiener
53 Cedar Street
Belmont, Mass.

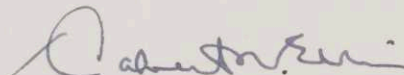
Dear Professor Wiener:

We hope that you and Mrs. Wiener are having a safe and pleasant drive back to New England.

Your commencement address was re-broadcast last evening from our local broadcasting station and a number of persons have spoken to me today in appreciation and a fuller understanding of the implications of your address.

Mrs. Ellis joins me in extending to you and Mrs. Wiener our sincere appreciation for your visit.

Cordially yours,



Calvert N. Ellis
President



INSTITUTE OF GENERAL SEMANTICS

For Linguistic Epistemologic Scientific Research and Education

LAKEVILLE, CONNECTICUT

Telephone Lakeville 672-13

June 9, 1949

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

Your work on Cybernetics is of such tremendous importance that we would like very much a paper on it presented before the Third Congress on General Semantics at the University of Denver, July 22, 23, and 24. In case you would have no time to prepare a special paper, perhaps you have a copy of a non-technical lecture which might be presented there. I was particularly interested to read newspaper accounts of your lectures at the University of California at Los Angeles.

In my seminars I train my students to think about their psycho-logical reactions, such as 'thinking', 'emotion', etc., in terms of electro-colloidal configurations, which may or may not exhibit invariance under transformation.

Your achievement is the very thing our students need to know about. The Congress will be attended by about one thousand professional workers in many fields, such as mathematics, physics, medicine, law, education, etc. We would hope, of course, that you could attend yourself, but if this would be impossible, your paper could be read by some mathematician, or physicist.

Hoping that you will enrich our Congress by your contribution, in person or in writing,

With appreciation, Yours cordially,

Alfred Korzybski
Director

AK:cs
enc.

June 9, 1949

Mr. Carl Bridenbaugh
Institute of Early American History and Culture
Williamsburg, Virginia

Dear Carl:

Your invitation looks good to me, but I am afraid that there is a whole colony of flies in the ointment. I am spending this fall in Mexico working with Rosenblueth. It is true I shall in New York next December to give a couple of lectures to the Math society, one on sensory replacement, and one on the relation between quantum theory and stochastic processes.

My intention has been to follow these lectures by a direct return to Mexico. It is my impression that they would conflict with your program anyhow, and even if time could be found for me, that will make my brief return to the states much too hectic and exciting for me to undertake it with any assurance that it will not take me a matter of weeks for recovery.

In short, obligations are falling round my neck so fast, that I am told by my wife and secretary that I must confine my English vocabulary to one word of two letters. This word you are undoubtedly aware is "No".

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 9, 1949

Mr. Paul J. Kern
Salmon Tower Building
11 West 42nd Street
New York 18, New York

Dear Mr. Kern:

Many thanks for your letter of May 30. My position is this. I am fully aware of the present threats to civil liberties, and I intend from time to time to make personal protests against the prevailing attempts to infringe these. On the other hand, I have just completed an arduous lecture tour and have before me the writing of a book on the Communication State to appear with Houghton Mifflin. Whatever remains of my time I need for rest and recreation.

Therefore, I must regretfully refuse for the present and a rather protracted time in the future to participate in meetings of any kind.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 9, 1949

Mr. Lester Markel
Sunday Editor
The New York Times
Times Square, New York City 18

Dear Mr. Markel:

Machines can do anything of which the pattern can be clearly and unambiguously laid out in words or in mathematical formulas. They can run assembly lines, play games of intellect up to a certain undefineable level, regulate chemical plants and the like. They can even be so made as to learn.

What they cannot do is to make clear in our own minds the object which we wish to attain. It is the good old fairy tale paradox of the three wishes as we find them in the "Monkey's Paw". If we ask for the granting of a wish, it makes no difference whether it is through magic or mechanism, we shall get what we ask for at the very most. If what we ask for is not what we really wish, Heaven help us. If, moreover, the machine can proceed to the point of learning so that it will simulate a will of its own, we can be pretty sure that that will will not be our will. The proper place for a genie of unknown potentials is in a bottle with the Seal of Solomon over the mouth. The golen may not be hostile to man, but it is certainly formidable, if only because of its indifference to the human race. In other words the machines although they offer possibilities of the extension and even the personal replacement of the human intellect do not offer us a new land of hope and indolence in which the roast squab will fly into our mouths and the fruit will fall off the trees beside where we lie. We are not within measureable distance of the Great Rock Candy mountains.

Mr. L. M.--2

Well, here are my sentiments. If you can suggest any basis on which these can be channelled into an article for you, let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

June 9, 1949

Dr. Marcel Monnier
Montreal Neurological Institute
Dr. H. Jasper
3801 University Street
Montreal, Canada

Cher Monsieur Monnier:

Je serais très heureux de vous envoyer une contribution pour votre périodique. Malheureusement, je suis très occupé au moment actuel avec des voyages et des conférences. Avant le fin de juin j'écrirai quelque chose pour vous et je vous l'enverrais. Vous pourrez en disposer de la manière que vous jugerez opportune.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de mes sentiments les plus distingués et dévoués.

Norbert Wiener

June 9, 1949

Miss Evelyn Morholt
The Teaching Scientist
Forest Hills High School
110th Street
Forest Hills, New York

Dear Miss Morholt:

I should be glad to write an article for you but I am by no means caught up on my writing responsibilities and must regretfully decline to take on more until that time has arrived.

You will, I am sure, pardon me for not being able to give you what you want.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz



ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
Army Medical Department Research and Graduate School
WASHINGTON 12, D. C.

MEDEC- ZAMI

10 June 1949

Mrs. M. Zemurray,
c/o Dr. Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Zemurray:

Thank you for your prompt and very courteous reply. I am delighted to know that Dr. Wiener will be able to help us.

However, if I understand you correctly, Dr. Wiener will have to make a special trip to Boston in order to accommodate us. Since we are operating under no very stringent limitations of time, it is entirely possible for us to defer the shooting of the film until the fall, if this will in any way make it easier for Dr. Wiener.

If, however, plans are left as they are, I will write to you in the first week in July, specifying exactly when we will arrive. I hope by that time that Dr. Wiener will have received the material prepared from Dr. McCulloch's lecture so that he can have a better idea of what we are about.

Sincerely yours,

Leon Eisenberg

Leon Eisenberg
1st Lieutenant, Medical Corps
Basic Science

Y. S. Z.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MATHEMATICIANS

LOW MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 531 WEST 116th STREET

NEW YORK CITY 27, U. S. A.

J. R. KLINE, Secretary

June 10, 1949

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

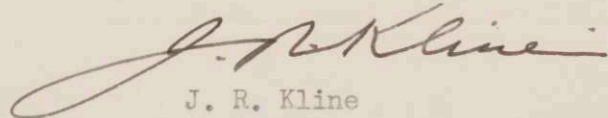
Dear Professor Wiener:

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Organizing Committee of the International Congress of Mathematicians extends to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the stated addresses at the sessions of the Congress to be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, from August 30 to September 6, 1950.

It is expected that each of the stated addresses at the Congress will not exceed forty-five minutes in length. If at all possible, the title of your address should be available by September 1, 1949.

I have the honor to be

Sincerely yours,



J. R. Kline
Secretary

J

150 Prospect Street
Belmont 78, Massachusetts
June 11, 1949

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Dear Professor Wiener:

Thank you very much for your kind attention to my request. However, as you correctly surmised, my paper has been completed. Fortunately, I was able to secure an interview with your colleague, Dr. Dirk J. Struik. I appreciate very much your consideration and willingness to assist me.

Sincerely yours,

Donald Williams

Donald Williams

June 11, 1949

Mr. H. Scherbak
25 Broad Street
New York New York

Dear Mr. Scherbak:

As a former very young student in college, I cannot now make up my mind as to the pros and cons of the type of education which I have received. I, therefore, am completely unwilling to take the responsibility to another person of giving advice on the subject, at least without being much better informed in the circumstances of the case than to an extent to which I am now willing to give the effort.

I am finding myself so much overloaded with my schedule of work that I am not prepared to express an opinion on many of the issues concerning which I am being asked by various people. In particular, I hope you will not take it amiss if I do not give you an answer at least for some considerable time to the discussion of the objections you have to the present system of defense. I am sorry to be so negativistic in all of this, but I have reached the end of an academic year, an extensive lecture tour and my own strength at the same time.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Wiener

NW:mz

June 11, 1949

Mr. H. Ziebolz
5060 Marine Drive
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Ziebolz:

Many thanks for your appreciative letter of June 1.
There is very little for me to say, except that
I am in general agreement with your suggestions,
and think that you are going in the right direction.

It is always pleasing in my correspondence to receive
letters which are concrete and show evidence of
contributions to the subject independently of my
own work.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mz

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING
LOS ANGELES 24, CALIFORNIA

June 13, 1949

D 13494

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

May I take this opportunity to thank you for the generous gift of your time during your visit to the University of California, Los Angeles campus. The members of our staff and friends of Engineering have evinced unusual interest in your talk and your recent publication, "Cybernetics".

Very truly yours,



L. M. K. Boelter

LMKB:fc:mso



J

INSTITUTE OF EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

13 June 1949

Dear Norbert,

Naturally, I am very sorry that you cannot join us at the meeting in December, but I readily understand why. I will cast about for another science man to take your place, and I have several in mind.

Best wishes for a pleasant summer and a fine year at Mexico City.

Sincerely yours,

Carl Buderbaugh

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
URBANA

June 13, 1949

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

The general concensus of opinion insofar as we have been able to gather has been that the technical symposium accompanying our Electrical Engineering Building Dedication ceremonies was highly successful. In particular, I have heard numerous favorable comments on the paper you presented at this symposium and would like to express our appreciation to you for participating.

I should like to apologize for the delay in sending you the honorarium. This was a consequence of the time-consuming red tape associated with a state institution. You will find enclosed a check for \$150 which was the honorarium allowed in lieu of expenses.

Very truly yours,

Lloyd DeVore

Lloyd T. DeVore
Professor

LTD:CC
enc. 1

RADIODIFFUSION FRANÇAISE

ALPES - GRENOBLE

Studio

Grenoble, le 13 juin 1949



Maître,

En recevant de cette lettre manuscrite et
 en vous exprimant avec déférence toute mon admiration
 pour votre œuvre, je me permets au nom de l'interet
 admiratif que j'ai porté à votre dernier livre "Cybernetique"
 de vous demander, tant pour moi-même que pour les
 informateurs de mes services, s'il vous serait possible
 de me faire connaître la liste des écrits, livres ou
 compte-rendus de langues française, anglais ou
 allemande ayant, à propos de votre livre ou de la
 discipline naissante pour la quelle vous avez tout fait,
 fait des commentaires philosophiques. Comme vous
 le faites remarquer dans votre livre, la cybernétique
 ne peut pas se pas avoir de retentissements philoso-
 phiques et, pour le prouver, vous avez vous-même
 écrit sur le sujet par ailleurs. Mes services se
 feraient un plaisir et un devoir de parler à larges
 traits de vos efforts qui, si j'ai pu comprendre
 votre livre, renouvellent la philosophie des

sensations. Or Grenoble est la ville natale
de Mably et de Condillac et, berceau de la
Révolution Française, ville toujours restée à l'avant-
garde des idées, notre ville possède donc un public
ouvert à tout ce qui peut dépasser ces limites
essais philosophiques. C'est pour répondre à cette
curiosité que je me permets donc de vous demander
les références bibliographiques que vous voudrez bien me
transmettre.

En m'excusant du temps précieux que je
vous fais perdre et en vous remerciant d'avance, recevez,
Monsieur, l'expression de ma profonde admiration

L. Liaigre

26, Avenue Maréchal Randon

Grenoble

P.S: Ci-joint un copy-réponse (Isère)

France



RAIMUNDO TOLEDO TOLEDO

CLASIFICADOR 272
SANTIAGO DE CHILE
CHILE

June 13, 1949

Professor NORBERT WIENER
Massachusetts Institute
of Technology
Cambridge, Mass.
U. S. A.

Dear Professor Wiener,

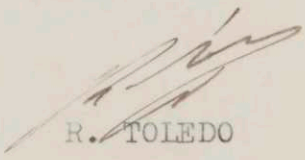
I have to acknowledge receipt of your kind missive dated May 11. I take due note of Mr. Melvin's valuable address, with whom you have had very satisfactory relations with your own inventions, and who could help me for the protection and marketing of my calculator in your country. At present I am preparing the due elements (descriptive memory, drawings, prototype duplicate, etc.) for properly disclosing my invention. These materials will allow me to contact Mr. Melvin in a near future so that he may judge the patentability and commercial value of my calculator. Now, this preparation will require some time because my present status unfortunately does not allow me to dispose of all my time, devoted first of all to my daily work.

I am also pleased to note that you are seeing to send me a copy of CYBERNETICS. This is a very kind attention of yours, and I sincerely appreciate this benevolence.

There are indeed good probabilities that we meet one another in a future not too distant. And if this pleasing event takes place at Cambridge, it will be an occasion for visiting your prominent M.I.T., one of America's pillars in scientific research.

In the meantime, please receive my renewed thanks for the benevolent attention paid to my quest.

Yours very thankfully



R. TOLEDO

P. S.

Since inventors must keep secret their inventions until made public through patent applications, please consider strictly confidential the few indications given to you on my calculator, avoiding their communication to associates or to other spheres. Thank you for this reserve.

Olympia, Washington
Jan. 12, 1950

Dear Dr. Wiener:

From a recent Life Magazine there is shown a picture of you demonstrating some sort of finger appliance to aid the hard of hearing. Can you tell us any more about it, or is it still in the experimental stage and unobtainable.

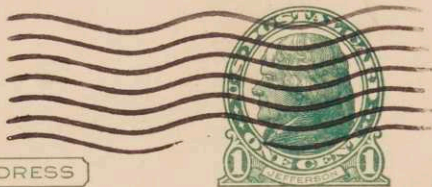
My Father is very hard of hearing and would appreciate very much some information that would help him. Thank you

Very truly yours

HVE.

(Miss) Helen V. Engel

Box 187



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dr. Norbert Wiener, Scientist,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Boston, Mass.