

143

CORRESPONDENCE *Nov., 1951*

N. WIENER - MC 22

Digitized

Gray W. L.

[Ca. Nov, 1951]
22, Noel Street,
Forest Fields,
Bottolpham,
England.

Dear Dr. Wiener,

I have read your two books - "Cybernetics" and "The Human Use of Human Beings," and have been particularly impressed by them. I don't really know how to proceed from here, however, I suppose I'd better "take the bull by the horns."

I am at present reading for an Honours degree in Psychology, having obtained a

general degree in Pure
Mathematics, Statistics and
Psychology. When I also tell
you that during my period
of service in the Army, I
served as a radar mechanic,
perhaps you will appreciate
that my approach to
Psychology has acquired a
distinct bias, so much so,
that, even before your own
book (Cybernetics) was published,
I was lead to read whatever
positivistic books I could
get hold of. You may
well imagine my own private

feelings when your own book appeared - it was all that I could ask for (although my limited knowledge of Pure Mathematics put me at a disadvantage!).

I realize that this letter is going to sound as though written by one in the "first flush of youth", who has just seen the light, but it did mean a great deal to me.

The point I do wish to make is this: It is definitely my own ambition to follow your line. But at present, I just don't see how I can

- I mean, how I can participate actively. There seem to be so very few departments in this country where either D. Facilities exist or (ii). This particular line of thought is encouraged.

There may be other reasons, and if I may venture to suggest one, the requirements of a career in an applied field of psychology, militate against a too strong a positivistic approach - There is a distinction between what one does, and what one thinks, which is hardly in the best traditions

of intellectual honesty. Perhaps
I am putting the case a
little too strongly, but it is
certain that a great many
people fall into the error
of identifying concept and
explanation.

However, what interested me,
was to learn, that courses
were being instituted at
the M. I. T. in cybernetics.
So that you will see that
this letter was not just
designed to shower congratulations
upon you! I'll leave it at
that, and for whatever advice
you could give me, I should

be very indebted.

I remain Sir,

Yours faithfully,

G. B. Bleazard.

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STUDENTS' DIRECTORY

November 1st, 1951.

Professor N. Wiener,
Department of Mathematics,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Cambridge, Mass.,
U. S. A.

Dear Professor Wiener,

On behalf of the Students' Executive Council I would like to invite you to address the students of McGill University. We are arranging a series of lectures from prominent scientists and men of letters, and would welcome a talk from you on any subject you might wish to choose; your ability to speak on widely varied topics is well known. While at M.I.T. I was fortunate enough to hear you speak on such topics as cybernetics, Alice-in-Wonderland, and chess-playing machines.

We will of course make all arrangements for transportation and accommodation. We realize, Sir, that you are extremely busy, but would be very grateful if you could spare the time to speak to us.

Yours sincerely,

Galt Elkington

Galt Elkington,
Vice-Chairman,
Cultural Committee.

GE:ae

[ans 11-14-51]

EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE

(PUBLISHERS) LIMITED

Telephone
TEMPLE BAR 8514
(9 LINES)

15 BEDFORD STREET
STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 2

Telegrams
EXALTEDLY LESQUARE
LONDON

1st November, 1951.

Dr. Norbert Wiener,
Milo 16, Apt. 2,
Mexico, D.F.,
Mexico.

Dear Dr. Wiener,

I have read The Bent Twig with the greatest interest, and in addition to the interest, parts of it are really very moving. The scene, for instance, of looking in the mirror on page 139, must tear at the heart-strings of any sentient person. That scene is conveyed not as a novelist would convey it, but more as a document; yet I am not sure that it doesn't gain in its power from the objectivity with which you tell it. I also feel that all through, the problem of the half and half life, of being on intellectual parity with adults of 30, and at the same time having to play with other children of 8 or 10, is very well conveyed; the internal contradiction, as you call it somewhere. I don't find anything, though, that really sharply distinguishes the problem of the infant prodigy from the problem of children who suffer from some other forms of uneven development and mal-adjustment; and that, perhaps, is part of the testament. I mean that I don't perceive any particular peculiarity in the mathematical prodigy; things are very much the same, I suspect, with precocious musicians. In one sense, that adds to the interest of the document, in another sense it may detract; for the general public is unlikely to follow the references to mathematics and to mathematicians. Naturally, my own interest in these references is exceptional, for I know most of the people that you have worked with; for example, I worked for three years with Hardy. So, when I say that I read the typescript with quite exceptional interest, I mustn't, as publisher, blind myself to the fact that the book may not mean so much to the general public as it means to me. I would think it was certain to find a considerable public in America, for cybernetics has there begun to percolate into general consciousness. Here in Britain the process is inevitably slower. Your fame as yet is in the academic world, and painful as it is to say so, my colleagues feel that we haven't, as yet, enough of a spring-board to launch this autobiographical volume over here. With all biographies we are really quite helpless unless the subject is so well known that there is wide curiosity about him, or unless, as very rarely happens, the writing displays in itself an unusual creative gift. I said above that the most poignant scenes are handled not as a novelist would handle them, but rather as a document; and that restricts the communication to people such as myself who can round out the picture from their own knowledge. Unless the reader has that knowledge, it isn't very easy fully to enter into the story. For

p.t.o.

EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE

(PUBLISHERS) LIMITED

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15 BEDFORD STREET
STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Telegrams
EXALTEDLY LESQUARE
LONDON

Dr. Norbert Wiener.

1st November, 1951.

instance, when you speak of walking with various girls, there is no characterization of them, and one doesn't get any sort of picture from the words themselves, and almost all the Americans mentioned, though known to me, would be quite unknown to the ordinary reader in England. Tufts, Harvard, the Aberdeen Proving Grounds - I fear they wouldn't get across.

You can see from the length of this letter how reluctant I am to say that I don't think it would go here, but in spite of my intense personal interest, I have to be objective about it; it has just failed to obtain sufficient votes. There are many politicians at this moment smarting from that same grief.

X What would you like me to do with the typescript? I will hold it here pending your instructions, and please do keep me informed about Houghton Mifflin's decision; for although I can't offer independent publication, when Houghton Mifflin are about to bring out their edition, I would, for something I so much care about, like once more to raise the question of whether we could take a small consignment of the book from them. That would be the only possibility with this firm; although, if you would like me to send it on to any other publishing house over here, I will do so, or do anything else, according to your wish.

Yours ever,

J. V. Morley

X After writing the above, Paul Brooks' letter to you - The carbon of it - has just reached me. Well, please let me know about the plans The Technology Press may have for it →

JVM

[ans 11-8-51]

H. Reichenbach

7, BANFF HOUSE,
GLENLOCH ROAD,
LONDON, N.W.3.
PRImrose 1763.

Nov. 1

Dear Prof. Wiener

I am the son of the philosopher Reichenbach in Los Angeles.
For some Years I have been developing a certain theory of the
fundamental problems of biology and psychology. This has lead
me to new views about the nature of the thinking process.
It would therefore be very interesting for me to hear a comment
from you about my work.

Prof. Bertrand Russell told me how you are working toward
a coordination of various branches of science. Besides I have
gained an impression of your won field of research through
your book on cybernetics.

Being very interested to hear your answer
I remain sincerely yours

H. Reichenbach

[ans 11-21-51]



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Office of the Air Attaché
American Embassy
Mexico City, Mexico
5 November 1951

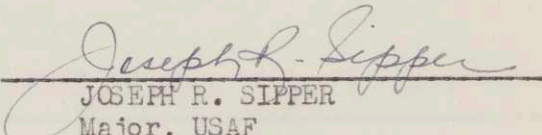
R E C E I P T

On the above date the following documents and letter were delivered to me personally at the Office of the Air Attaché, American Embassy, Mexico City, Mexico, by Professor Norbert Wiener, residing at Nilo 16, Mexico City, Mexico, for transmission via diplomatic pouch to Mr. Merrill M. Flood, The Rand Corporation, 1500 Fourth Street, Santa Monica, California, together with a covering letter to Mr. Flood from Professor Wiener, dated 5 November 1951:

RAND Research Memoranda - Neural Nets for Toad T₁, by A. S. Householder
(RM-671)

- A Super-Ego for Members of the Interactor,
by A. S. Householder and R. F. Bales
(RM-672)

Letter from Mr. Merrill M. Flood, The Rand Corporation, 1500 Fourth Street, Santa Monica, California, dated 24 October 1951, L-12877, to Professor Norbert Wiener, Department of Mathematics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts


JOSEPH R. SIPPER
Major, USAF
Assistant Air Attaché

[Encl 11-5-51]

Mexico City, Mexico
5 November 1951

Mr. Merrill M. Flood
The Rand Corporation
1500 Fourth Street
Santa Monica, California

Dear Mr. Flood:

This morning I received two RAND Research Memoranda, Neural Nets for Toad T₁, by A. S. Householder (RM-671), and A Super-Ego for Members of the Interactor, by A. S. Householder and R. F. Bales (RM-672), together with a covering letter from you. I have already indicated to Project Rand that I do not desire to receive material from them and wish to be taken off their mailing list.

In view of my activities as the author of Cybernetics and my intention to publish a new edition or revised book in the near future, it is important that I and others be clear as to what is my own work, what is work generally available to the public, and what is work covered by various Government regulations.

While the documents you send me do not appear to be classified, there is accompanying them a statement that they are not to be quoted, abstracted or reproduced without specific permission. It is stated they are available to authorized persons or agencies for their use, but further dissemination is not permitted. In view of this fact, the mere possession of these documents is an embarrassment to me.

In addition, the document bears the statement that it contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws and its transmission and the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. This notation has been struck out by drawing a line through it. There is no indication by whose authority this line has been drawn. As far as my showing the document to any other person may be concerned, the line might well have been drawn by me and has no legal value whatever. I do not desire to be forced unwillingly into a situation in which the observance of the requirements of the Espionage Act is a matter of danger and difficulty.

I have not read your papers and only glanced through them long enough to realize that they came from the Rand Project and not, as I

Mr. Merrill M. Flood

-2-

5 November 1951

first thought on careless reading, from Remington Rand. On realizing this matter, I closed the documents and have delivered them to the Assistant Air Attaché at the United States Embassy in Mexico, who is forwarding them to you.

You will realize that through your own carelessness, in which I have had no part, these documents have been forwarded out of the United States into a foreign country. How this affects my or your legal status I do not know, but I hereby repeat my request that you cut me absolutely off your forwarding list.

Very truly yours,

Norbert Wiener

THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

CORAL GABLES (UNIVERSITY BRANCH), FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

November 6, 1951

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Instituto Nacional de Cardiologia
300 Calzada de la Piedad
Mexico, D.F.
Mexico

Dear Dr. Wiener:

The time has come when it will be necessary to decide on the dates for your appearance here in the Forbes Hawkes lectures for 1952. Owing to the many demands on our auditorium, it is essential to reserve its use at about this time.

I have just come from the office where these reservations are made and have asked them to put down as tentative dates the following choices:

Tuesday, March 11th, Wednesday, the 12th

Wednesday, the 12th, Thursday, the 13th

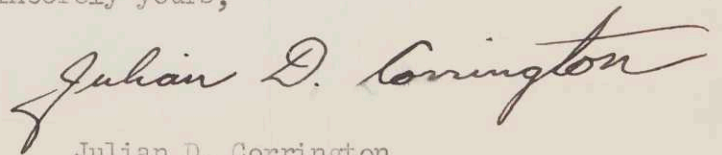
Tuesday, the 18th, Wednesday, the 19th

Wednesday, the 19th, Thursday, the 20th

If at all possible, I hope you will be able to select any of these couplets and let me know as soon as you can reach a decision, so that I may cancel those dates that we do not want. Since my previous correspondence may not be available to you at the moment, I might repeat here that we ask our Forbes Hawkes speaker to talk on two consecutive evenings, and prefer the middle of the week as indicated above. After we have selected and agreed upon the date, I will write you further, but promise to keep the correspondence to a minimum until you are free from your present engagements.

I sincerely trust your work with Dr. Rosenblueth progresses satisfactorily and that you are enjoying your stay in Mexico.

Very sincerely yours,



Julian D. Corrington

JDC/g

[ans 11-21-51]

[ca 11-6-51]

60. Station Rd
LLANRWST,
N. Wales.,
Eng.

Dear Mr. Wiener,

some ten years ago I read an article about you & your work in the Observer, & I was not only interested, but appalled. I am a craftsman in the furniture trade, & have seen men turn at upholstery in five or six years, the time it takes me to do the same thing.

Reflection persuaded me that this was the cause of unemployment, & for many years I have held your view - i.e. that the development of local crafts is one of the antidotes to mass production. Indeed, I call it the only antidote & have always visualised severe labour disputes when ^{mass production} it returned.

The news of your experiments was a shock to me & when you speak of the results being a socially explosive mixture, I agree with you. Bertrand Russell went further & forecast Luddite riots in America. These would happen in England too, for that spirit lies just beneath the surface.

Could you therefore tell me any more about it? How long it is before before cybernetics are available to industry & assembly lines are staffed by these monstrosities (for that is what I call your train children)?

I would like to revive craftsmanship myself, but lack the capital, but I shall approach people who may be interested if I can get sufficient evidence.

Inidentally, as you are so aware of the consequences of the development of these things, don't you think the faculty of the College should make a move in this direction?

If something isn't done, I can see Communism sweeping through the entire civilized world, for the employers will not get their own way here. If men are to be put out of work by one side of industry, another side must be developed to put them back. It was the lack of this that brought the Labour Party into power here, & this sort of thing could bring it back to give Beaver his chance, & then God help us!

Yours sincerely,
Frank Jones

← First fold here →

Sender's name and address:-

F. Jones
60, Station Rd.,
Claremont,
N. Wales.
Eng.

← Second fold here →

~~300 Avenida Chalkstone
Mg quis O. F.
Mg quis~~
~~4 Beechcroft,
Boston, Mass.
U.S.A.~~
Dr. Robert Lerner,
Institute National
de Psychologie
et de Psychiatrie
Massachusetts Inst.
of Technology,
Boston, Mass.
U.S.A.

BY AIR MAIL
AIR LETTER
IF ANYTHING IS EN-
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← To open cut here

← To open cut here

Box 6937 College Station, Durham, North Carolina

Nov. 6, 1951

Professor Norbert Wiener

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Dear Professor Wiener:

I am reading with much interest your books, Cybernetics and The Human Use of Human Beings. As I am a stranger to you, I will give a few words of introduction. I am a retired teacher. The first time that I taught was on a very modest assignment at Harvard University. Professor Edward Channing gave me his History II to teach during his year of absence on Sabbatical leave in Europe. I taught it at Harvard and Radcliffe during the academic year of 1896-7. Thereafter I taught at Central High School, Cleveland, till I reached the compulsory retirement age of 70.

I should like to offer you some data on a particular problem in communication which you are likely to think so fantastic that when you see it you will not look farther. So I will present it to you as a game, the consideration of which you may find entertaining.

Assuming that human personality survives death, and those who so survive are able to exert some limited effect on the minds of those still on earth, how could effective communication be established? Very able men have considered this question, one of them being Thomas Alva Edison. If the assumption should chance to be correct, it is the greatest problem in communication that there is.

May I write you certain things regarding it?

Sincerely yours,

Charles E. Ozanne

(Charles E. Ozanne)

C. N. R. S.
INSTITUT BLAISE PASCAL

LABORATOIRE DE CALCUL MÉCANIQUE

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Tél. : SUFFREN 68-40

155, rue de Sèvres, Paris-XV°
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25, Av. de la Division Leclerc - Chatillon s/s Bagneux

V/Référence

V/Lettre du

N/Référence

G.C./H.F. no 2738

Objet Colloque Janvier 1951

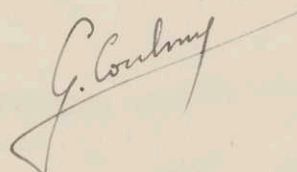
Paris, le -7 NOV. 1951

PROFESSOR N. WIENER
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY
C A M B R I D G E (Massachusetts)
U . S . A .

Monsieur le Professeur,

Tous les textes des communications au Colloque de Janvier 1951 devant paraître en français, à la demande de M. le Directeur du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, nous nous sommes permis de traduire le vôtre. Aussi nous vous envoyons sous ce pli votre texte original et la traduction que nous vous soumettons en vous priant de bien vouloir nous renvoyer ces deux textes aussi rapidement qu'il vous sera possible et avec toutes les corrections que vous aurez jugé bon de leur apporter.

Croyer, Monsieur le Professeur, en nos sentiments les meilleurs et les plus respectueux.



Mme G. Coulmy - Soulé-Nan.

[ans 12-23-57]

72 PERRY STREET
NEW YORK 14, N. Y.

November 8, 1951

Dear Dr. Weiner:

It was very good of you to take the time to write me at length and I am grateful for your letter. I feel, however, that you are going to be disappointed when you say, "Let me hear no more of field theory", because field theory, ~~is~~ ^{not} the field theory of physics is already well established in biology, psychology, and certain branches of medicine, and has certainly been clearly enunciated, although not so designated, in ecology. I feel, therefore, that you will have to bear with those who discuss field theory as something different from the set of differential equations, and who are endeavoring to develop a set of concepts that will enable them to deal with the multi-dimensionality of situations without reducing them to the conception of cause and effect and stimulus and response.

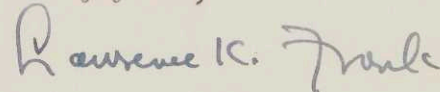
It is interesting that physicists never objected to the way in which the conception of cause and effect was taken over into the social sciences, where obviously it is wholly inappropriate and misleading.

I should like to point out that my article on Genetic Psychology is not an expression of psychoanalytic theory but rather an attempt to indicate how genetic psychology and psychoanalytic theory might advance toward a more systematic and coherent conception of the processes of personality development. What I was endeavoring to show was that the properties of the personality (to use your language) emerge from the properties of the organism, therefore we need not invoke any ad hoc agencies or "demons" in an attempt to trace the development of the idiomatic personality.

I am offering these, not so much to argue with you about the situation, but just to clarify some aspects of the problem of personality development. Incidentally, I wrote asking you more specifically for comments on my book, "Nature and Human Nature", but I may anticipate that you may not like it because it also is a field theory which attempts to give some precision to the use of that term and to delineate the processes that appear to be operating within the several fields which I have attempted to describe.

Thanks again for your letter. I am looking forward to seeing you next March.

Sincerely yours,



Lawrence K. Frank

Dr. Norbert Weiner
Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F.
Mexico

Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F. Mexico
November 8, 1951

Dr. J. Bronowski
National Coal Board
Central Research Establishment
Stoke Orchard
Cheltenham, Glos.

Dear Dr. Bronowski:

Since I saw you last, I have done an autobiographical book entitled "The Bent Twig". It has been already turned down in the United States by Houghton Mifflin and the Technology Press, and in England by Eyre and Spottiswoode. I am having Eyre and Spottiswoode send it on to Fisher, Unwin and Company. For all its being turned down (with the greatest courtesy and compliments) I consider it a good book and worth publishing. I should like you to look in on Fisher and Unwin and see how the manuscript is going.

If they cannot do anything with it, I hereby authorize you if you should so wish to take possession of the manuscript, and if you think it is not a dud, to take such measures as you see fit to market it in England. As to the book I am going to do for you, I shall attend to that when I get back to the States and I am in touch with Karl Deutsch.

With best wishes from both of us,

Sincerely yours,



THE RETAIL GROCER

Martin Building

Boston, Massachusetts

Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F. Mexico
November 8, 1951

Mr. Paul Brooks
Houghton Mifflin Company
2 Park Street
Boston 7

Dear Mr. Brooks:

I want to thank you and your readers for their courtesy of going through my book and for the frankness of their opinion. I have already heard from Mr. Fassett. Before receiving any note from you, he has told me that he does not consider my book suitable material for the Technology Press.

I still think that my book contains publishable material and has a certain literary merit. I therefore intend to continue to search for a market for it. While I do not intend to trouble you further for the publication of the book, I should be grateful for a more detailed and frank criticism in which you indicate your opinion of the ultimate publishability of the book, and whether you consider that it has been too exhibitionistic.

With many thanks,

Sincerely yours,

Advertising Display Company

405 MONROE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Copy

GRAYSON MACHINE COMPANY
EQUIPMENT FOR THE PRINTING INDUSTRY

Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F. Mexico
November 8, 1951

Professor Karl Deutsch
Department of English and History
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Mass.

Dear Karl:

In a short time you will receive the manuscript of my autobiography from Mr. Fassett of the Technology Press. It has been turned down by Houghton Mifflin as caviar to the general and the Technology Press dont think that it is their cut of meat either, likewise Eyre and Spottiswoode. I want your opinion about the book. Is it any good as a literary job? Do the personal aspects about it preclude its immediate or even its ultimate publication? Have you any suggestions? My work here is going and I shall have + well a lot to talk over with you when I return. I am very much concerned about the Struik business; can you give me the lowdown on it?

With best wishes from house to house,

Sincerely,

GRAYSON MACHINE COMPANY

—Manufacturers of—
EQUIPMENT FOR THE PRINTING INDUSTRY

48 North Clark Street



Columbus, Ohio

New England Publicity Bureau

Boston, Massachusetts

150 N. 16th St., Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F. Mexico
November 8, 1951

Mr. F. G. Fassett, Jr.
The Technology Press
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Fassett:

By this time you will know that Houghton Mifflin have turned down my book. I have also received an answer in the negative from Eyre and Spottiswoode a few days ago. I should like from you a frank opinion whether I should go on searching for a publisher, or should postpone the publication for a later date, or should abandon the book. I should like your opinion to cover the literary quality of the book, the probable reaction of the people reading it, and all other factors affecting its availability for publication.

I am asking Houghton Mifflin to send you their copy of the manuscript. As you will then have two copies under your control, you would oblige me very much, if you would send one of them to

Dr. J. McK. Rioch
17 West 54th Street
New York, N.Y.

whom I am advising by another letter. The other copy is at your disposal to send to any person you see fit or to any publisher whom you may think appropriate. I should like Professor Karl Deutsch to get a look at it in some suitable period. If you feel that it is wise to act through some professional agent, please let me know. In the meantime consider yourself authorized to take any action you may deem suitable in my behalf. If such action should involve you in any small expense, let me know at once, and I shall reimburse you.

Dr. Rosenblueth and I are progressing most satisfactorily in our work on the conduction of the nerve impulse, and shall start a book on it in a few days, which we shall possibly finish at M.I.T., when he comes next fall. I have also a great many leads towards the second edition of cybernetics, which I think will be so new a book that it should appear under a name of its own. I shall have all this to discuss with you when I return.

Sincerely yours,

New England Publicity Bureau

139 BEACON STREET • Boston • Massachusetts



Copy



THE GUGGENHEIM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
Boston, Massachusetts

No. 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F., Mexico
November 8, 1951

Mr. Henry Moe
John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation
551 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Moe:

Professor Raphael Salem of M.I.T. has requested me to back him in his application for a Guggenheim fellowship for next year. Professor Salem is a well-known mathematician of long standing with an enviable reputation of work accomplished behind him. He may be absolutely depended upon for an output of work of high quality and of considerable volume. He is an established and important scientist who will bring credit to the Guggenheim Foundation.

Sincerely yours,



THE RETAIL GROCER

Martin Building

Boston, Massachusetts

November 13, 1950

Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D. F. Mexico
November 8, 1951

Mr. V.F. Morley
Eyre and Spottiswoode
15 Bedford Street
Strand, London, W.C.2

Dear Mr. Morley:

I thank you very much for your criticism and appreciate the time and consideration you have given to my work. The book has been rejected by the Technology Press as lying outside of its rather narrow, specific field. I still feel that it is a good book, and I do not regret having written it in the documentary fashion which I have chosen. In books of this sort complete honesty and authenticity is the touchstone of the value of a book, and in the closely related "The Way of All Flesh" by Samuel Butler I feel, that some of the value and impact is lost by the reader's unawareness of whether he is reading of a real Samuel Butler or an imaginary Ernest Pontifex.

Now as to the disposal of the manuscript. Sir Stanley Unwin had already expressed to me an interest in my "Human Use of Human Beings" which had been bespoken by you. He also expressed an interest in future literary work which I may have. Might I therefore ask you to forward my manuscript to Sir Stanley with or without a covering letter as you may see fit. I am writing to Sir Stanley at this time to explain the receipt of my manuscript when it comes.

Sincerely yours,



THE RETAIL GROCER

Martin Building

~

Boston, Massachusetts

EXTRA . . . *Incorporated*

517 SHERWOOD ROAD
HO-HO-KUS, NEW JERSEY

November 10, 1951

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Nilo 16, Apartment 2
Mexico, D. F., Mexico

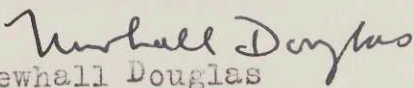
Dear Dr. Wiener:

Thank you very much for your kind reply to my letter of June 19th, a copy of which is enclosed, asking you about where I could find a system to record and reproduce motion.

I have not been able to locate Mr. Benson in Southern California as you suggested, but finally found that there were two companies who had such systems, one being the United States Shoe Machinery and the other General Electric. United States Shoe Machinery never answered my letters, but General Electric sent two special product engineers to see me. In the many months between my first query to General Electric and the visit of these engineers, we had been working on the problem and had designed a system to record and reproduce motion. We asked the General Electric men about how much such a system would cost, giving them our performance requirements, which are very modest, and they quoted a figure in the tens of thousands. Then we turned on the system we had built to record and reproduce motion, which fulfills our performance requirements, and they said, as we also believe, that this system could be built at a price in the neighborhood of \$1,000.

A copy of a letter to the Office of Naval Research is enclosed, as it explains in some detail what I am trying to do, with the heart of all my structures being the system to record and reproduce motion. If you are interested, I would be glad to send you more details. I am not an electrical engineer nor do I understand mathematics well, but nearly all our basic concepts are implicit in your two books on cybernetics and I think it might be interesting to you to find how they are employed. To date, I regret to inform you that the greatest interest I have been able to get in what I have to offer has been from the advertising fraternity, and while I would much prefer training and educational use be made of what I have, it looks as if my only chance at present is a television studio.

Sincerely yours,


Newhall Douglas

nd/cw

Enc. cc letter Office of Naval Research
Copy of Mr. Douglas' letter of June 19th

cc Sent to Dr. Wiener at Cambridge, Massachusetts

June 19, 1951

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Professor of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute Of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

For the past six years, I have been working on improvements and extensions of designs I made while in Navy Aviation for trainers to teach the use of automatic computing sights in aerial flexible gunnery and in anti-aircraft. In this work, the writing of only one man now living has had basic significance for me. These were your books Cybernetics and The Human Use Of Human Beings.

While I would consider it an honor to write you about this work in detail, or come to Cambridge to see you, to spare your time, I have just one question. It is well known that there are many methods of recording motion. Apparently the most flexible use a magnetic tape recorder.

I believe that it is also eminently practical to reproduce recorded motion from a magnetic tape recorder. I also believe, as your books clearly indicate, that this must have been done by someone, somewhere, but I have not been able to find clear evidence of this. I would be most grateful for any clue from you as to where I could find an individual, a design, or an installation which would show us how this might be done. I have designs, which I would consider it an honor to send you for your perusal, that my consultants believe will work, but they are not in finished form and the research and development involved is far beyond my means.

Sincerely yours,

Newhall Douglas

October 27, 1951

Mr. Frank Zylius
Special Devices
Office of Naval Research
Sands Point, L. I., N. Y.

Dear Mr. Zylius:

It was a pleasure to have you, Lieut. Dickman and Mr. Welker here, and I want to thank you for your courteous attention.

The methods and structures I attempted to demonstrate were as follows:

1. A system to move projectors so a wide expanse of scene could be shown. It is compatible with any projection system of my knowledge, including color or third dimension, but specifically is designed to give theatre effects which for some purposes are more effective than the "Waller" or "Cinerama" multiple camera and projector system or the O'Brien 180° system with less construction or material cost, though also applicable to these systems to increase their effectiveness. Either a stationary or moving screen may be used.

2. A system using a moving screen with rear projection to make "process" movies or TV programs. This is covered in detail in the enclosed patent application. There is now no method other than the one I have now operating. It will save time, money and provide effects not possible by any other method.

3. A system to record and reproduce motion which is simpler than any system I have been able to find in eight years' search. It is believed new by among others, John Markus, associate editor of Electronics Magazine. My patent application illustrates in more detail an intricate system using frequency modulation with position control which we planned to build until we found our "straight line" system with amplitude modulation gave sufficient accuracy for our uses. The amplitude modulation system you saw is described in the middle paragraph of page 12 of the application.

4. A trainer using separate sighting and scoring targets, both in correct relative motion. Miniature sighting targets in either two or three dimensions can be used or a radar reflector or beacon. The advantages are very small space, high relative speeds, and the fact that combat guns and fire control systems can usually be used to score live ammunition shots.

5. A trainer using a panoramic still or motion picture projector and a still or moving screen. Most of the basic concepts are covered in the patent application, but it would require a new description of almost equal magnitude to show in detail how they would be used in trainers. I am enclosing some drawings. With rear projection on a moving screen, it requires no construction to house or operate but a flat surface only.

6. A system to record and reproduce the movement of models or props to be photographed for training films, or to derive the lost information on the movement of actual objects from an existing film or from a computer to run models either for training or for photographing to be used in training. This was but touched on in the demonstration, and has been constructed only in part.

7. Apparatus and methods to take the unsteadiness out of many motion pictures taken from a moving platform. This is described in the amendment inserted as 20b at page 13 of my application.

8. A television monitoring system which reduces entropy by providing precise information from the linear travel and orientation of the television camera. This, I believe, has its most important use in the observation of a scene in which the observer is not passively interested as with present movies or television but in which he must take action by means of remote control. Examples are scenes which are radio active or in enemy hands. Commercially, the opinion is that it is ten years ahead of television today, but I believe no system exists which will orient a remote observer so quickly and surely and that there are uses now. This is described very briefly in Fig. 18 and the last paragraph of page 20.

In my demonstration, since I have necessarily had to concentrate on entertainment uses to get a quick return for the heavy investment I have made and an income for my family, I naturally put more stress on commercial aspects. In my files, however, I have many sketches and plans which are of no entertainment value, designed for military use only.

It would be a pleasure to have you or any representative of Special Devices here again for further discussion of what I can do that might be of use to you.

Yours sincerely,

Newhall Douglas

nd/lad
Enclosures
Telephone Ridgewood 6-6549

October 27, 1951

Mr. Frank Zylius
Special Devices
Office of Naval Research
Sands Point, L. I., N. Y.

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It would be a pleasure to have you or any representative of Special Devices here again for further discussion of what I can do that might be of use to you.

Yours sincerely,

Newhall Douglas

nd/lad

Enclosures

Telephone Ridgewood 6-6549

[ca Nov, 1957] Saturday the 10th

Dear Professor Wiener,

I must thank you for the wonderful letter you sent me and which worked so efficiently on the French Foreign Affairs that they supplied me with a grant. Further more, owing to M. Freyman, the visa problem was solved and I was ~~not~~ booked for a boat on the 13 november for Vera Cruz.

Unfortunately, meanwhile, my employers decided that for international ^{"prestige"} ~~active~~ reason (need of a physician with a qualification in stat.) I had to start for Indonesia under a contract with the UNO World Health Organisation; As they (French Institut d'Hygiene) threatened me with revocation if I did not accepted ^{it} and, instead, come to Mexico, I have been obliged to submit and yesterday evening I cancelled my reservation on the boat.

After all what you said in your letter on the work under you, it is no point in commenting further how much I feel frustrated and disappointed; since a week I was just thinking about my next stay in the Istituto de cardiologia and the way of keeping myself there as long as possible.

Now I have to look ahead to other ways of working with you and I will write to you very soon about it for advices.

As to the other points:

- 1) I shall have completed the book for the last days of december i.e. about the time I leave for Soerabaya. Meanwhile I am sending to day under separate cover all the first half with some queries for the second one. ~~You~~ I would you to be as critical as possible so that when I shall rewrite it we have made as much progress as possible. (I shall have plenty of time for it when in Indonesia)
- 2) I got a letter from M. des Gouttes and you will be informed of what he may offer.

3) M. Levy Strauss who is a very good ~~man~~ ethnographer (he is further a personal friend of Andre Weil) is trying to set up a center of research on the applications of the theory of communication to the study of music and even mythology etc. He has no personal mathematical formation but he is really a sensible ^{man} and understands very well what cannot and what can Cybernetics. I must say with some pride, that he put the thing more or less on my shoulders for he had heard that you trusted me.

When it will be more definite I shall ask you for advice and directives. (if fortunate it would start on the beginning of the next year) for it could be an important thing in this field and that you could so control the coordination with other centers.

Thanking you once more for all what you did for helping me
I remain your respectfully

A. L. S.

P.S. All the specific points concerning the book will be dealt with in a corresponding separate letter.

[ans 12-23-57]

Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F. Mexico
November 11, 1951

Sir Stanley Unwin
George Allen and Unwin, Ltd.
40 Museum Street
London W.C.1
England

Dear Sir Stanley:

You may remember that I was talking with you during my London stay about a possible autobiographical book. Well, the book is written and is called "~~The~~ Bent Twig". To be frank with you, the three copies that I have sent on to the publishers have been all turned down, even though they have been turned down with compliments and apologies. Houghton Mifflin Company seemed to like the book, but felt that it was primarily of personal interest and would not fit into their scheme of publication. They suggested that I wait and see what I heard from the Technology Press. They felt on the other hand that the books within their scope were more of a scientific nature and that the book should be handled elsewhere. I have just received a long and not uncomplimentary letter from Mr. V.F. Morley of Eyre and Spottiswoode. It echoes in a more detailed way the criticisms that I have received from Houghton Mifflin Company. You will remember telling me that Eyre and Spottiswoode, although a very good firm, were not a particularly venturesome one. Mr. Morley has offered to send the book to any publisher in England that I might name, and I am writing him a request to send it to your firm. By mistake I gave the name of your firm as "Fisher, Unwin and Company. If you think that this might interfere with the proper delivery of the book, perhaps you would be kind enough to give them a call.

In expressing an interest in the book, I am thoroughly confident that it is a good book of its sort and will sell reasonably well, although its sort is not a conventional one. While it carries a definite emotional interest, it is not written in the idiom of the novelist and is not intended to be so written. The value which I believe it has to the teacher, to the psychologist, and to the student of intellectual currents of the present day, is dependent on a strict honesty and factualness. The book has many parallelisms with Samuel Butler's "The Way of All Flesh", which I did not read until after I had completed my manuscript. In my opinion "The Way of All Flesh" loses a certain percent of its force, because the reader is not quite sure or aware whether he is reading of a real Samuel Butler or an imaginary Ernest Pontifex. While this is perhaps not evident to the casual reader, it does affect adversely the value of the book as an interpretation of its times and the psychology of its author. As far as I have been able, my book is purely factual in the factual passages, and represents the best recollection of my own contemporary emotions which I can recall.

(over)

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Another book whose reputation had come to me before I wrote my manuscript, but which I only read afterwards, is the "Education of Henry Adams". ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI. The long continued vogue which that book has had in America, principally among teachers of English. That book has no distinction of style; and insofar as the author reveals himself, he reveals only an abyss of emptiness.

When you expressed yourself as interested in my work while I was in England, unfortunately, "The Human Use of Human Beings" was already bespoken. I think that the present book as a literary job and as something appealing to the general public, is a better book than the one I was unable to give you. I was very much interested in my conversation with you, and should like to enter into relations with you as author to publisher. I think that if the present manuscript clicks, I may be in a position to give you the English rights of a number of books to come.

I am having copies made of the three letters of criticism which I have already received. I shall send them to you in the course of time, but I wish the first impact of the manuscript on you to be made by the manuscript itself, and not by what other people said of it.

Thank you for your past interest in my work and thanking you in advance for your present consideration of my manuscript, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

[ans 11-16-5]

Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F. Mexico
November 14, 1951

Mr. Galt Elkington
Students Executive Council of McGill University
690 Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal, Quebec
Canada

Dear Mr. Elkington:

I thank you very much for your invitation to speak before a student group at McGill University, but I must inform you that after two or three years of lecturing rather extensively, I have come to the conclusion that such work encroaches on my time for more essential activities and must be given up. You will realize that this decision is in no way unfriendly to you, but is a matter of my general policy, which has been forced on me by my excessive fatigue and by the undesirable aspects of the publicity which I have received in late years. Any taste that I may have had to be a public figure has been more than satiated by my recent experience, and I long for nothing more than the possibility of continuing my scientific work without any further selfassumed responsibility.

Very sincerely yours,

Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F. Mexico
November 14, 1951

Dear Struik:

I have sent a contribution to Ambrose and have telegraphed him the right to use my name in your behalf. I am certain that you will win the trial. The whole situation has disturbed me greatly, knowing as I do your integrity and responsibility. Meanwhile, if there is anything else you can call on me for, please do so.

I have refrained from writing to you up till now until I knew more of the state of affairs, in as much as I have believed that a letter written at random might destroy you more than help you. I hope for a quick disposition of your case, and that all is going as well as it can with you and yours,

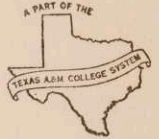
Sincerely your friend,

AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE OF TEXAS

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

November 15, 1951

Department of
INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING



Dr. Norbert Wiener
Professor of Mathematics
The Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

We are now preparing the program for the Fifth Annual Management Engineering Conference, to be held on February 27 and 28, 1952. The theme of the conference is "Effective Utilization of Manpower", a subject of current interest and concern to industrialists of the Southwest.

The Management Engineering Conference is usually attended by over 100 executives and industrial managers of this area, and many outstanding men and women have participated in past programs.

Among the subjects which we wish to present is the potentialities of the "thinking machines" on the welfare of industry and the people in it. Your well known contributions to this field, recorded in your book, "Cybernetics", and in other works, eminently qualifies you to discuss this subject; and we invite your participation as a speaker on our program for the luncheon session on noon of February 28.

We invite you to speak on whatever phase of this subject seems to you to be most pertinent and appropriate for the executives and managerial personnel who will attend.

We will be pleased if you can find it possible to accept our invitation, and we believe that there is much interest in this subject and that a need exists for further education along these lines. I am enclosing a sample program of the Conference of last year for your information.

May we hear from you at your earliest convenience as to your availability for this part of the program?

Yours truly,

R. F. Bruckart
Conference Director

RFB:nml

Enc.

[Enc 11-21-51]

AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE OF TEXAS

College Station, Texas

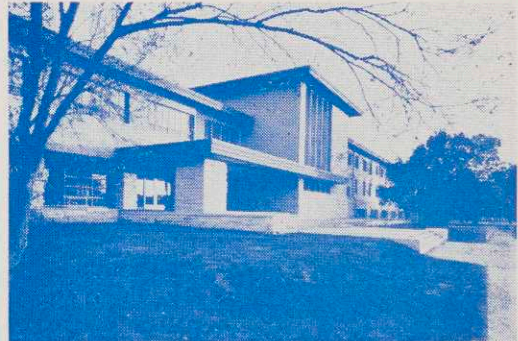
The Fourth Annual

MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

Executive Development

College Station, Texas

March 1 - 2, 1951



All Conference Sessions will be held in the Memorial Student Center. Hotel accommodations and recreational facilities are also available in this building for the convenience of the conference registrants.

Sponsored by

The Department of Management Engineering, A&M College
Dallas Chapter, Society for the Advancement of Management
Houston Chapter, Society for the Advancement of Management
Student Chapter, A&M College, Society for the Advancement of Management



Program

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

9:30 a.m.—*Memorial Student Center*

Chairman: GORDON H. TURRENTINE

Vice President, South Texas National Bank, Houston, Texas

Address of Welcome

M. T. HARRINGTON, President, A. & M. College of Texas

The Importance of the Executive in the Industrial Organization of Today

Modern problems of industry; the importance and the need for effective executive techniques.

L. C. MORROW, Consulting Editor, *Factory Management and Maintenance*, New York, New York

Scientific Selection of Potential Executives

Current techniques in selecting men of executive calibre; tests and the advantages secured through their use.

DR. WILLIAM C. FORD, Director, Psychological Service Institute, Houston, Texas

12:30 p.m.—*Noon Lunch*

1:30 p.m.—*Memorial Student Center*

Chairman: A. W. DeSHONG

Assistant to General Manager, Chance Vought Aircraft, Dallas, Texas

The McCormick Plan of Multiple Management

A planned program of executive development; the junior and senior boards; the results of the multiple management plan.

ADM. F. J. BELL, Director of Human Relations, McCormick and Co., Baltimore, Maryland

An Executive Training Program in Action

A modern approach to the training of executives; the executive educational plan in action.

THOMAS W. MOORE, Training Director, Humble Oil and Refining Co., Houston, Texas

6:30 p.m.—*Banquet Session—Memorial Student Center*

Chairman: H. W. BARLOW

Dean, School of Engineering, A&M College of Texas

The Role of the Executive in a Free Enterprise System

Economic conditions and political relationships and their effect on business.

J. L. McCAFFREY, President, International Harvester Co., Chicago, Illinois

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

9:00 a.m.—*Memorial Student Center*

Chairman: RODRIGO DE LLANO

Texas Harvest Hat Company, Laredo, Texas

Executive Development in the Small Plant

Problems faced and the executive's role in overcoming them effectively.

CHARLES OVERBECK, Plant Manager, Maxwell House Division, General Foods Corporation, Houston, Texas

The Executive's Need for Relaxation

The physical effects of executive responsibilities; living pleasantly in the twentieth century.

DR. TATE MILLER, Medical Arts Building, Dallas, Texas

12:00—*Luncheon Session—Memorial Student Center*

Chairman: R. F. BRUCKART

Conference Director, Management Engineering Department, A&M College of Texas

1:15 p.m.—

Scientific Management and Executive Development

The importance of scientific management in the development of the executive; the modern approach to the development of potential executives.

DR. LILLIAN M. GILBRETH, Management Consultant, Montclair, New Jersey

Panel Discussion

Questions to speakers on Executive Development.



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Dallas, Texas

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Mission Manufacturing Company
Houston, Texas

A. R. Burgess, Head, Management Engineering Department
A. & M. College of Texas—Conference Chairman

R. F. Bruckart, Assistant Professor
Management Engineering Department
Conference Director

Telegrams: "Deucalion, Westcent, London"

Telephones: Holborn 8577 (3 lines)
and 8203

George Allen & Unwin Ltd

PUBLISHERS & EXPORTERS

From

SIR STANLEY UNWIN, LL.D.

40, Museum Street,
London, W.C.1

Dr. Norbert Wiener, 16th November, 1951
Nilo 16, Apt.2
Mexico D.F.

Dear Dr. Wiener,

Thank you for your letter of the 11th. We will most gladly study your autobiographical book, THE BENT TWIG, as soon as it reaches us. If it does not turn up within the next few days our MS. Department will telephone to Mr. Morley about it. We shall look forward to receiving at a later date the three letters of criticism to which you refer.

With renewed thanks for your friendly remembrance of me,

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,



EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE

(PUBLISHERS) LIMITED

15 BEDFORD STREET
STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Telephone
TEMPLE BAR 8514
(9 LINES)

Telegrams
EXALTEDLY LESQUARE
LONDON

19th November, 1951.

Dr. Norbert Wiener,
Nilo 16, Apt. 2,
Mexico, D.F.,
Mexico.

Dear Dr. Wiener,

Thank you for your letter of the 8th; you will see from the enclosed carbon that I have sent the manuscript of "The Bent Twig" to my old friend, Stanley Unwin. Good luck attend it.

Yours ever,

IVM

C O P Y

20th November, 1951.

Sir Stanley Unwin,
Ruskin House,
40 Museum Street,
W.C.1.

My Dear Unwin,

I have been very distressed to have to decline Norbert Wiener's autobiography, "The Bent Twig". It is a document which I sincerely feel to be of unusual interest, but I have to decline it for the reason that I can't find sufficient enthusiasm all along the line, and if you cannot sell a book whole-heartedly to your own shop, it is difficult to sell it to the world. I hope that we may have been wrong in not visualizing a market sufficient to support the book. I admit that I have an unusual interest in it because I have a personal knowledge of the author, and an affection for him, and I either know, or know about, most of the people and places that he mentions. I also have a rather special interest, perhaps, in young people of uneven development; and therefore this document of a child prodigy from the inside would have made me read it very carefully even if I hadn't know the author. It is not only interesting, but in places it is an extremely moving document. In expressing to Wiener my disappointment at our decision, I asked if he would wish me to send it to anyone else, and he tells me that you had been in touch with him, and asked me to send the manuscript to you. I believe he is writing or has written to you separately.

For your information, although the sheets we bought of "The Human Use of Human Beings" were purchased at too high a price, which therefore forced our published price up to 18s., which at the time of publication was far too high for such a short book, we shall in time sell out our edition; and though it has not reached an enormous general public, it has won a solid reputation, particularly in academic circles.

I hope you will take on "The Bent Twig" and if you prove our decision to have been wrong, I will applaud most heartily; more than that, I will give you names and addresses of various people who would find the book of special interest.

Yours ever,

81 St. Mary St.

Toronto 5

Nov 10/51

Dear Professor Wiener

After a session last night with the
Economics and Sociology folk on the mechanical
Bride I'm wondering how it will strike you. They
had to report a degree of communication of exactly
zero. Discontinuity as a technique of explanation
doesn't register with them. Even the obvious reference
to conceptual explanation as still shot in film,
and multiplicity of shots as permitting ^{an} image of
the community in action, means nothing to them.
It is the seeming ignorance of all contemporary
art and ignorance of their own methods that
makes the difficulties.

Even so obvious an idea as using ads
as windows rather than targets is hard for
them. That the ad men have a much wider
range of social data available than the sociologist
doesn't please them to reflect on.

Re. writing, I would now switch the entire
emphasis to communication.

Sincerely yours
Marshall McLuhan.

Helmut Heckscher
4 Potter Park
Cambridge 38, Mass.

November 20, 1951

Professor Norbert Wiener
Nilo 16, Apt . 2
Mexico, D.F., Mexico

Dear Sir :

I would like to thank you for your letter dated October 29, in which you expressed your willingness to speak on "The Relation between Pure and Applied Mathematics" at the International Student Center in Cambridge. The other members of the program committee, too, are delighted with your offer, and we wonder whether Sunday evening, March 30., would be convenient to you. I would appreciate it very much if you would send me a post card confirming this date or suggesting another in April.

If March 30. should have your approval, I would try to contact you again toward the end of that month, by which time- I presume- you will be back in Cambridge. We could then talk about details , such as transportation to and from the Center.

Very sincerely yours

Helmut Heckscher

*yes
date approved
provisionally*

to fairly

Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F. Mexico
November 21, 1951

Mr. R.F. Bruckart
Conference Director
Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas
College Station, Texas
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Bruckart:

I thank you for your kind letter inviting me to talk at the Fifth Annual Management Engineering Conference to be held on February 27 and 28, 1952. Unfortunately, I have regretfully come to the conclusion that the time has come for me to quit the lecture platform. I have had my say about industrial management for example, and the process of saying the same thing to another audience merely adds to my already great fatigue without contributing to that new research work without which any statement of mine is repetitious and empty. I have therefore made it a policy to accept no lecture engagements whatever and to devote myself to the future development of the natural consequences of my ideas. I hope you will understand my situation.

Sincerely yours,

Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F. Mexico
November 21, 1951

Professor Julian D. Corrington
Department of Zoology
The University of Miami
Coral Gables (University Branch)
Florida, U.S.A.

Dear Professor Corrington:

When I accepted your request for a lecture sometime this spring, I was in Europe engaged in a very severe program of lecturing and research; but although I was extremely tired, I had some hope that the summer vacation and the easy schedule of my work in Mexico might relieve me. Now I find that I am still so tired that any attempt to lecture produces real distress in me. Moreover, I have found that the repetition of a lecture whose content I have repeatedly used before, is something that has become boring to me and interferes with my proper work of developing new ideas.

Thus I must regretfully offer to beg off the invitation you have given me while there is yet time to find a substitute. I regret the inconvenience I am causing you, but hope that you will understand my position.

Sincerely yours,

Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F. Mexico
November 21, 1951

Cher Dr. Monnier:

Sur le bateau, pendant mon voyage de Gènes à New York, le mal de tête a disparu peu à peu. Le docteur M. Chevalier à Thonon, suivant les directions de son fils à Paris, m'a traité par injections intraveineuses hypertoniques pour réduire un excès de tension. J'ai suivi à ce régime pour deux semaines à la fin de lesquelles j'étais guéri. Ici à Mexico je m'occupe avec M. Rosenblueth dans l'étude des phénomènes électriques des fibres nerveuses. M. Rosenblueth a pu isoler le phénomène active de la membrane des fibres des phénomènes passifs produit par une stimulation électrique. La nature des phénomènes actifs est très loin des linéaires et paraît à contenir plusieurs éléments des durées très différentes.

Je m'occupe aussi avec les conséquences fondamentales de la cybernétique dans la physique comme un certain M. Rothstein a déjà écrit, l'expérience n'est qu'une variété des communications. Il me paraît qu'en introduisant telle considération on peut unir la théorie des quanta avec la théorie de la relativité et la théorie de l'univers croissant de M. le chanoine Lemaitre. Ici je vais joindre mes efforts avec ceux de M. Manuel Sandoval Vallarta, qui croit qu'il peut appliquer les mêmes idées à la théorie des structures nucléaires.

Je viens d'achever le livre autobiographique dont je vous ai montré le manuscrit imparfait. Jusqu'au présent j'ai eu très peu de succès chez les éditeurs, qui m'écrivent des lettres très polies et très agréables, mais qui me disent toujours "non". Il leur paraît que la condition du marché des livres est très peu favorable aux livres autobiographiques d'un demi-inconnu dont la réputation est limitée au cercle scientifique.

Il est bien possible que le jour vous recevrez cette lettre ma fille cadette, Peggy, sera à Genève pour quelques jours, le 26 et le 27 de novembre, à l'Hotel Bristol. J'ai conseillé à elle de vous visiter. Si elle le fait, je serais très reconnaissant de savoir l'impression qu'elle fait sur vous. Elle est sage et intelligente mais au moment elle est très confuse à savoir qu'elle ferait comme carrière.

Nous nous souvenons beaucoup de fois de votre bonté et celle de Mme. Monnier pour nous à Genève. Avec les meilleurs souhaits pour vous et Madame, nous sommes, bien à vous,

Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F. Mexico
November 21, 1951

Mr. Hans Reichenbach
7, Banff House
Glenloch Road
London N.W.3
England

Dear Mr. Reichenbach:

I am very thoroughly loaded up with research work present and planned. I therefore do not find myself in a position to accept outside manuscripts for inspection:

Regretfully,

Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F. Mexico
November 21, 1951

Mr. Raphael Seijas
318 W. Forest Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Seijas:

I do not happen to be in the possession of a bibliography of cybernetics. The subject is very new and is rapidly developing and any bibliography would be only of temporary value. Moreover, a great deal of the material is locked up in the memoirs of government departments to which I do not have access. There are, of course, my two books: "Cybernetics" and "The Human Use of Human Beings".

Sincerely Yours,

I am still much distressed by the uncertainty of the present
social and political world situation, nationally and inter-
nationally. It may be that my daughter Terry has looked you
up at Geneva or on the point of looking you up. She is
leaving for the U.S. on Nov. 23 and 24. She is
Mexico, D.F. Mexico
November 21, 1951

Professor Dr. Balth. van der Pol
22 Chemin Krieger
Geneve
La Suisse

Dear van der Pol:

+ For each particle, but these dimensions

My wife and I are nicely settled in an apartment in a
pleasant district in Mexico City. We have become practically
as much at home in Spanish as we are in French. My work
with Arturo Rosenblueth this year concerns the active elec-
trical aspects of the nerve membrane bounding the nerve fiber;
these effects are highly non-linear and complex, and we have
been able to distinguish among them three principal parts, of
which one is the exponential of a simple linear effect, while
the other two radically modify the level of its effects. It
does not seem beyond possibility that these effects are alone
sufficient to account for the transmission of the nerve impulse.
The constant velocity and amplitude of the nerve impulse are
closely associated with the non-linear nature of its dynamics.
A linear system can vibrate at any level, but the level at which
a non-linear system vibrates is generally determinate.

I am also working on a new basis for the union of relati-
vity, quantum mechanics, optics and I hope the theory of the
expanding universe. The chief thing to remember is that the
quantity of physics involves the observer in a much more in-
trinsic way than even relativity and quantum theory have recog-
nized. Thus the classical physics is not an account of a real
world, but one of several considerations of its account in which
several dimensions of a complete account of the world are ignored.
The relativity of the world has four or five dimensions, are sub-
ject to a quadratic metric of such a character, that nearby
particles of dimensions in almost the same directions with re-
mote particles of nearly independant directions.

It is possible by this means to account for the red shift.
In addition the contraction from a large number of dimensions
gives a version of gravitational relativity, which seems to me
far more reasonable than Einstein's. The whole theory is closely
related to my cybernetic work and seems to me capable of an
extension to nuclear physics.

I am still tired but have lost weight and am in better
physical condition, and have shaken off that terrible head-
ache which oppressed me during my stay at Thonon les Bains.

(over)

I am still much distressed by the uncertainty of the present social and political world situation, nationally and internationally. It may be that my daughter Peggy has looked you up at Geneva or is on the point of looking you up. She is staying at the Hotel Bristol in Geneva on Nov, 26 and 27. She is an intelligent and good child and finds the present age a hard one for youngsters to grow up in.

My wife joins me in sending our best wishes to Mrs. van der Pol and yourself.

Sincerely yours,

Professor W. Heisenberg
25 Chemin de la
Genève
Suisse

Dear van der Pol:

My wife and I are nicely settled in an apartment in a pleasant district in Mexico City. We have become practically as much at home in Spanish as we are in French. We work with Arturo Rosenbluth this year concerning the active physical aspects of the nerve impulses bounding the nerve fibers; these effects are highly non-linear and complex, and we have been able to distinguish among them three principal parts, of which one is the exponential of a simple linear effect, while the other two radically modify the level of its effects. It does not seem beyond possibility that these effects are alone sufficient to account for the transmission of the nerve impulses. The constant velocity and amplitude of the nerve impulses are closely associated with the non-linear nature of the dynamics. A linear system can vibrate at any level, but the level at which a non-linear system vibrates is generally determined.

I am also working on a new basis for the union of relativity, quantum mechanics, optics and I hope the theory of the expanding universe. The chief thing to remember is that the quantity of physics involves the observer in a much more intrinsic way than even relativity and quantum theory have recognized. Thus the classical physics is not an account of a real world, but one of several considerations of the account in which several dimensions of a complete account of the world are ignored. The relativity of the world is four or five dimensional, but not just to a quadratic metric of such a character, but nearly particles of dimensions in almost the same directions with notes particles of nearly independent directions.

It is possible by this means to account for the red shift. In addition the connection from a large number of dimensions gives a variation of gravitational relativity, which seems to me far more reasonable than Einstein's. The whole theory is closely related to my experimental work and seems to be capable of an extension to nuclear physics.

I am still tired but have lost weight and am in better physical condition, and have shaken off that terrible headache which oppressed me during my stay at Tignes les Bains.

(over)

+ for each particle, different dimensions

Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F. Mexico
November 21, 1951

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

Dear Walter:

Many thanks for your letter and for your understanding courtesy to Peggy. I am working with Rosenblueth on the electrical phenomena in nerves. These represent a very complicated mixture of non-linear phenomena with different time constants, which are beginning to dissect out, starting with the phase of them. After some years of work in this field I agree with Einstein that "der Herrgott ist raffiniert, aber boshaft ist er nicht."

I am also working on the physical implications of cybernetics. Gabor and Rothstein have pointed out that the theory of the theory belongs together with the theory of the information. They have also pointed out that an unexpectedly large number of physical quantities do not express a state of the universe alone, but a state of the information of the observer concerning the state of the universe. Starting from this point of view I am starting a radical revision of the basis of modern physics, in which there is a niche for relativity, both spacial and gravitational; for quantum mechanics; for optics; and for the theory of the red shift. My old friend, Manuel Sandoval Vallarta believes that he can put nuclear phenomena into the same frame. We are going to do a note soon which we shall send to the editors of Nature.

My health is better, but I am still very tired. I am also very much disturbed by the way in which cybernetics has been largely taken over by workers in the field of controlled missiles. When I get back to the States, I shall have to reconsider radically what fields I shall preempt for myself for further research and what fields I shall abandon.

With best wishes from family to family, I remain,

very sincerely yours,

Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F. Mexico
November 21, 1951

Professor Earl W. Wiley
Department of Speech
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Professor Wiley:

I am afraid that I have given up definitively the practice of public lecturing and of participation in public meetings. You will understand that I cannot forego any part of my summer vacation in the future, if I wish to be in condition to keep up my true work of scientific research.

Sincerely yours,

318 Glen Drive
Vancouver B. C.
Nov 22nd - 51.

Proféssor Norbert Wiener
Mathematician
M.I.T - Boston - Mass.

Dear Professor,

The day your book~~s~~ was released at our local Public Library, I took it out, and home, and studied it from 9 pm till 2 30 am. I'm referring to " Human Use of Human Beings ".

They have fixed the handsome " overall " on to the book, semi-permanently, for protection. I read the back page of the coverall first. I got a great bang out of the concluding sentence, re your education. If you will " pardin the axprashin " I said, aloud too ; " Atta Boy - Doc! "

Quote:

" I got my classical education from my father.....My SCIENTIFIC education I GOT FOR MYSELF. "

This sort of language - no false modesty - or humbug - appeals to folk of the " pioneer " type, like Texans, Alaskans, early Californians, Australians. While the USA has always been my self-chosen " spiritual home " - I myself happen to be a FOURTH generation Australian.

Since you have a sort of universal outlook - and a powerful influence - semantically - and since you mentioned it in one of your chapters; and since it could easily be the thing that brings both your own and my earthly usefulness to an end (we SHOULD live to be 130 to 140 - and I KNOW of people who do, and who do NOT seem to suffer death through this cause - but just wither up like a dying leaf) I would much appreciate your turning your attention - as a sideline - to what I call " Background for Cancer ".

Thanks to Dr Wendell A Price of your city, and other REAL pioneer investigators, we know quite a bit about BACKGROUND for TOOTH DECAY; contraction of the sphenoid and ethmoid and associated bones - developing the " English Rat-face ". Please read Dr Price's accounts of his explorations among un-vitiated, part-vitiated and thoroly-well vitiated savage peoples. What we commercial whites have done to these fine peoples " breaks my heart ". It almost makes me ANTI-Christian. Tho I descend from Covenanters and SKAWTCH Presbyterians.

I like the savages! Apart from being vitiated by their ancestral religions; they are so POLITE, and they are so CLEAN. Among our Indians up here far Northwest, a great deal more was blamed on GONORRHOEA than it deserved. Perhaps too on Syphilis. This of course, this blame - instigated by the reps of the Catholic Church. Unusaidy their representatives GET THERE FIRST. But not always.

I don't care how " tough " you are, mentally, I can take you to a Catholic Indian graveyard not fifty miles from our Central Post Office, that would break your heart. Just let you read the inscriptions on such ^{headstones} as have inscriptions. The size of the grave-mounds tell the rest of the story. They start to ROT, with TB; almost as soon as they get off the mother's breast. This is possibly the world's richest non-tropical country.

They start to rot because - outside of the salmon they catch - and sometimes not much of that - they have been taught to try to live on deprived " foods ". Their

By virtue of the publications of the late Korzybsky, and my personal friend Wendall B Johnson, U of Iowa; (People in Quandaries), I have long since developed beyond the " either THIS or THAT " phase of so-called reasoning.

In conclusion I may state that at one time, after WWI, I acted as personal secretary and instrument-technician to a former Harvard and Vienna surgeon who specialised in treating " hopeless " cancer cases. Busy and a typical extrovert, I had to do all his literary research for him. Then boil it down. One of these sure-fingered " lightning " quick surgeons, he practically threw surgery up for reasons of conscience. He found he had to re-operate on so many cases he formerly had " cured " by radical surgical means; gastro-enterostomy, and so on.

I may state that I am certain there is a residue of useful lines of thought remaining from the work of the late discredited Dr Abrams (Electronic Reactions of Abrams) and the still-living discredited Dr Koch, of Michigan. Dr Koch had a medico-philosophical " explanation " for modern forms of cancer - nature attempting to build and Xutilise an adventitious " detoxicating " organ. Procedure - neutralise the body toxins - bio-chemically. Then have the patient digest the tumor through autolysis - protein-starvation diet. Then gradually return to a normal non-irritant protein-containing regime. While I was with this local physician and surgeon I saw 11 cases of these given-up-by-hospitals-and-surgeons cases treated by him. Two died. About seven seemed to return to perfect health, with no X-rayable remains of the cancers left. The other two - both neurotics - were afterwards still ailing with something or another. Youngest patient was a married woman of about 32. I do not believe she had any carcinoma, to begin with.

I have a letter from the eminent past-80 Pathologist-emeritus of University of Washington, St Louis; written by his wife, since he was too ill to write me; in which he states - " You ideas have furnished me with a new angle of approach to the question of the etiology of cancer. I only wish I had the strength with which to pursue additional research along the lines suggested by you. "

This gentleman was written-up in TIME Magazine, some months ago as " the greatest living authority on cancer research ". I must ask you to forgive me for not taking time to look up the letter in my files, since I am not positive of his name. But I feel sure you read TIME - if only for the scientific monthly reports.

I feel that, even tho you may have no time to deal with side-issues to mathematics and cybernetics, you may be in a position to " irk " some other research-worker into doing what the eminent emeritus professor of Washington University of St Louis states he wishes he could do.

My card identifies me. Paraphrasing your book-cover I may state that " My Father - gifted with a sense of law and equity, and my first schoolmaster, taught me to THINK along logical lines; the rest of my education - utilising the facilities of one Technical College and Five of the great English-speaking Universities - I GOT FOR MYSELF. "

Again thanking you for the privilege of becoming acquainted with your progressive humanitarian ideas per H U of H B,

Yours sincerely,

Amuel C. Cox

RESISTANCE against what I call the negative aspect of natural law - against aging and deterioration and death and disintegration, is gradually lowered to where they might die from the scratch of a pin. Let me give you an instance of an Indian girl I KNOW of, and knew personally when she was aged about 12. She bumped her knee. Last time I saw her she had a USELESS tuberculous leg. Like; last I heard; eleven ^{others} out of a family of thirteen, brought up on a local Indian reserve and in the Catholic " faith "; she is now dead.

Now - it seems to me that when living forms crawled out of the sea - those that survived to our day developed what I call " adulthood ". They developed a RESISTANCE against GROWTH. But this resistance did not DESTROY the power of growth. Alexis Carrol and his assistants proved THAT point. The chicken heart!

So here we have this GROWTH power, lying in ambush, as it were, until such time as this biologically relatively NEW power-of-resistance is reduced below a certain level. Of course lateral growth does not cease with human " adulthood ". There is a certain type of athlete who, like the muscular bull, and the male lion; grow laterally with the years that; even in the absence of ABNORMAL growth of tissue, such as tumors, either of the benign, so-called, or the septic variety; actually ^{they} " choke themselves to death "; far in advance of their normal biologically " allotted " span.

It is all very well for the medical apologists to point out that among our forbears many MAY have died of undisclosed cancer. I want to say that in my opinion; that of a functional anatomist, as well as a " specialist on the correction of non-surgical deformity "; that ever since surgeons got permission from the " church " to open people up, either before or after death - tumors and cancers are very difficult to conceal.

A glance through Dr Weston Price's epoch-making book will acquaint you with what I am driving at. I may say that IF the reinforcement of some hitherto less powerful form of growth-stimulating cosmic ray IS a fact? IF we tend to grow more easily NOW than say a few hundred years ago - so much greater the necessity for our being fed in a way that will BUILD UP our resistance against post-adulthood growth.

There is another angle, of course; that of STIMULATION of the latent growth power, through " irritation " - either mechanical, or chemical, or bio-chemical.

Confidentially; there may be more than a POLITICAL or ECONOMIC resentment against Coca-Cola amongst the inhabitants of the Soviet-controlled peoples, or communistically influenced populations, than appears on the surface. Also confidentially - for THIRTY years that drink has been on my proscribed list for all my former health students and wouldbe athletes. NOW, even MEDICAL MEN out here are banning it among certain of their patients.

I know much of the back-ground of Coaa Cola. In 1911 I was one of " Young Candler's " favorite Turkish Bath rubbers. He told me the whole story. The history of the NATURAL Cola extract drink; its banning under the Pure Food's act; how his father induced old what's-his-name to build up a LEGAL synthetic habit-forming drink, and so on. Not that we thought THEN there was anything likely to be harmful in the synthetic imitation.

Trained to THINK, I never have banned ALL the " bottled non-intoxicating beverages ". Some may be quite harmless. Seven-Up for instance, or " ORANGE CRUSH " and so on.

23 November 1951

ER Division
U. S. S. Princeton CV37
c/o FPO
San Francisco,
California

Gentlemen:

I write to your institute after having been informed that you are in effect, a centre of Cybernetics research. It has been my experience that there is no source of information concerning new developments in the stated science.

Are there available, in English any tracts or monographs of the newer steps in research? I am a layman, that is to the extent of any great scientific training, however the field is of great interest to me and I plan to programme my courses at the university to aid me in this virgin field.

Perhaps, if there is any available literature you could inform me of such. I remain - Respectfully
J. Biggerstaff

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CENTER
33 GARDEN STREET
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS
UNIVERSITY 4-1600

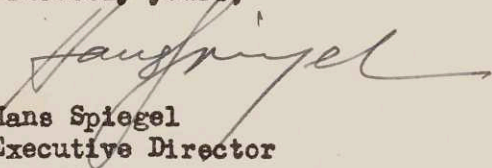
November 23, 1951

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Wiener,

The International Student Association of Greater Boston sends its hearty thanks to you for your welcome contribution toward the current expenses of the Center at 33 Garden Street, Cambridge.

With your help we are making an attractive American Center for the hundreds of foreign students in the entire Boston area who here find hospitality and friendship. This helps them to take home to their many countries a better knowledge of our American way of life.

Sincerely yours,



Hans Spiegel
Executive Director

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
SEATTLE 5


25 November 1951

Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Professor Wiener,

While prosecuting a study involving Coleridge and Milton I encountered an article that may be of real interest to you concerning thought processes, memory, choice and negative-feedback and the likening of all this to the operation of calculating machines.

The article is by S. Ferenczi: "The Problem of Acceptance of Unpleasant Ideas: Advances in Knowledge of the Sense of Reality", The International Journal of Psycho-Analysis, Vol. XXI, pp. 313-323, (1926). You are a busy man and so I suggest that you begin with the concluding two paragraphs on pp. 322-323.


Garland Ethel
Department of English.

Telegrams: "Deucalion, Westcent, London"

Telephones: Holborn 8577 (3 lines)
and 8203

George Allen & Unwin Ltd

PUBLISHERS & EXPORTERS

From

SIR STANLEY UNWIN, LL.D.

40, Museum Street,
London, W.C.1

F.V.Morley, Esq., 22nd November, 1951
Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode Ltd.
15 Bedford Street,
W.C.2.

Dear Morley,

How very kind of you to write me so fully about Norbert Wiener's autobiography, THE BENT TWIG. It would have been studied with care in any case because I had such an interesting talk with the man when he called here, but I shall study the manuscript with even more interest in the light of your letter.

Yours sincerely,

Stanley Unwin

[ans 12-1-5]

EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE

(PUBLISHERS) LIMITED

15 BEDFORD STREET
STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Telephone
TEMPLE BAR 8514
(9 LINES)

Telegrams
EXALTEDLY LESQUARE
LONDON

26th November, 1951.

Dr. Norbert Wiener,
Nilo 16, Apt. 2,
Mexico D.F.,
Mexico.

Dear Wiener,

You might like to see Stanley Unwin's acknowledgement, which I enclose. I hope he can take on THE BENT TWIG. As I told you before, I was personally and genuinely interested, and found it a moving book. Max Schuster of Simon & Schuster, was in my office last week and I talked to him at length about it, for Max is a highly intelligent and often a very perceptive fellow. He was at once interested on behalf of Simon & Schuster, and he hopes that you may give them a chance to publish it in America. He has already written to his partner, Henry Simon, to say that he is hoping you will send it to them, and that if you do Henry is to hold it until Max himself returns from his present trip - a matter of a few more weeks. So if you haven't done anything else with it, I do hope you will send it to Simon & Schuster, at 1230 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, perhaps with a covering note to Henry Simon, saying that it comes as a result of conversation between Max Schuster and me.

Yours ever,

Enc.

F. V. Mober

[ans 12-1-51]

The Technology Press



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

November 28, 1951

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D. F., Mexico

Dear Norbert:

As you may surmise, the circumambient chaos has prevented an early reply to your letter of November 8. On my return from New York a copy of Mr. Brooks's letter of October 29 to you awaited me at the office. I recognize that his letter and that from Eyre and Spottiswoode must have brought you some disappointment. In your letter of November 8 you ask a frank opinion from me which may, I fear, augment that disappointment. As I wrote you earlier, I do not believe that The Bent Twig falls within the scope of The Technology Press. You know what our publishing program was in the beginning and has become, and I believe you will agree with my feeling that a very personal book such as The Bent Twig would find itself strangely out of place in our list.

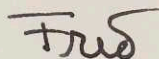
Whether you should go on searching for a publisher, should postpone the publication, or should abandon the book, is a rugged question. The literary quality of the book is pleasing, in my judgment. I do find some looseness of organization resulting principally from a need of transitions and I do find a lack of proportion in the treatment of some individual events or topics. I have rather a feeling that if a rigorous effort were made to bring the discussion into consistent scale the book would be substantially shorter. The probable reaction of the people reading the book is a very difficult matter for speculation. People who have had the pleasure and the privilege of your friendship for as many years as I have will find you in the book on every page - the "you" they know, enjoy, and admire. These people will understand and sympathize with the reasons and reasoning which led you to undertake to write the book. People in the other category - and they are far more numerous - will not, I believe, understand the book or why it was written. They will tend to make a superficial snap judgment about it, based on their own ignorance.

These considerations bring me to another point. You are now in the midflight of a brilliant life. I think it a fair question whether the publication of The Bent Twig now will contribute to furthering your life work. Indeed, I question whether the publication of it at a later date would do so. Hence, exercising the good offices of friendship and accepting your desire for my candid opinion at full value, I should counsel you not to abandon this manuscript but to hold it for the time possibly ten or fifteen years from now when you may wish to write a reminiscent volume covering the full span. To that volume this manuscript would have much to contribute.

I shall turn over the copy which I have kept here to Dr. Deutsch at the best opportunity. I look forward with much pleasure to the opportunity which we shall have in a couple of months to talk face to face about The Bent Twig, this letter, and other matters.

With all good wishes,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "F. G. Fassett, Jr.", written in dark ink.

F. G. Fassett, Jr.
Director



26 November 1951

Box No. 1

APO 541, %PM NYC

Dear Professor Wiener,

Your book, 'The Human Use of Human Beings', I have read with much pleasure and reflection. For me, it represents a new trail-blazing in modern technological philosophy in addition to being an enlightening book on the 'science of governors'. A recent photograph of you in Vogue magazine, together with the information that you write detective stories under the pseudonym, W. Norbert, also appeals to me as a professional cryptanalyst and intelligence worker, and I am convinced that a friendly correspondence between us could be just the right blend of business and pleasure to make it interesting. At heart, I am also a mathematician, but not in the sense that you are. My university math major has been mongrelized by over doses of false addition, false subtraction, finite differences, theory of probabilities, and magic squares all of which come up in abnormal amounts in my work. At present, I am working on self-generating number series, and their complementary nullifying series, which entices me to consider the title, 'Pseudo-simple mappings of long periodic self generating additive ciphers.'

But to get back to your book, I was sorry not see that there was no mention of the modern giants in the communication field with a little specific information on the branches of the field where each was most active. For example, Oliver E. Buckley, C. A. Shannon, Hendrik Bode of the Bell Telephone Labs, and their role with you in the Markoff processes. Also Vannevar Bush and Francis J. Murray and other fore runners in the field.

Your dedication has a close meaning for me, as one of my late collaborators, Dr. Leo Seifert, was also a slavist and knew your father well. He wrote the book, 'Die Revolutionäre, Von Bogumil über Hüs zu Lenin', and was one of the most competent cryptanalysts in Europe. I can also appreciate your comment, 'closest mentor and dearest antagonist' as I too am fortunate enough to have such a mentor, antagon-

ist, Harvard Professor and father.

Your title is indeed well chosen and implies quite rightly that the whole field of human knowledge must be reweighed and reintegrated. For this vast job, modern machines will have to be utilized. It has often been my question through out your book, if the concept of condensation as illustrated when one transforms a number in the decimal system to one in the 26th system, is not used in modern machines. It would appear to me that depending upon the capacity of the electronic tube, one could condense a complete typewritten page to one electronic symbol. If this is true, would it be conceivably possible to 'write in' in a machine complex, all of Widener Library. There exists in Germany, a man who claims that he can condense arithmetically clear text messages to one third their normal length, but I fear that he is using false condensation which would have little value in machine work.

The patterns you mention on page three, are meant in the topological sense I presume. I suggest in the next book that you include a few paragraphs on 'order vs time', on bounded and unbounded domains and a little more on your concept of patterns. This suggestion is meant actually to inveigle you into the more philosophical side. For example, on page seven, the first sentence:

'Therefore, whatever definition of information and its measure we shall introduce must be something which grows when the apriori probability of a pattern or time series diminishes.' This, 'something' which you wish to introduce involves in some way the transcendental concept of Kantian philosophy. I would be most anxious to know how you would identify and interpret this most difficult consideration.

It is odd how related fields have parallels, for example, your mention that a haphazard sequence of symbols can convey no information defines precisely the hobgoblin of present day cryptanalysts with the one-time-pad additives, where a haphazard sequence of additives are added to the simple-substituted cipher text. Even the consideration of uniformity of haphazardness does offer much assistance.

On page nine, the first full paragraph, it would seem to me that you have omitted the phrase between man and man, meaning of course the interpretation and development of these messages between such men as you which should play the most important of the increasing role. This role between man and man involves the intrinsic mechanics of a new field of ordered knowledge. The rest of page nine is the machine ontological argument with page 11 giving the machine phylogenetic argument.

Actually, I have questions or comments on almost every page of your book, but I do not feel that I may take the liberty and your time to consider them. If you do publish another book in the future please especially on Cybernetics, place me on your positive purchaser list.

In conclusion, I would like to ask what you consider your best detective story which is available on the market. Professor Wiener please do find some time to reply.

Respectfully yours,

John Herbert Waite, Jr.
John Herbert Waite, Jr.

Institute of Low Temperature Science
Hokkaido University
Sapporo, Japan. Nov. 27, 1951

Professor Norbert Wiener
Apartamentos Continental
49 calle Humboldt
Mexico, D.F. Mexico

Dear Professor Wiener:

I think I have sent before the manuscript of the enclosed paper, but as it was adressed to the M.I.T. from which you were absent, I shall send the printed one which has recently appeared in the Journal of the Meteorological Society of Japan.

Sincerely yours

K. Imahori

Katsumi Imahori

Professor of Physics

Done

CARLTON KENDALL
1410 JACKSON STREET
OAKLAND 12, CALIFORNIA

27 November 1951

Dr. Norbert Wiener,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts.

Dear Dr. Wiener:

First, to congratulate you on your valuable work in developing Cybernetics which opens the way for much needed researches.

Second, to inquire if, in the Cybernetics group, there is anyone familiar with the Kundalini Theory who I could contact, for checking data in connection with my genius researches. After 28 yrs. I have just found some very interesting material which seems most pertinent to an understanding of the origin and functioning of genius, and am anxious to check it with someone who understands the Kundalini Theory and is well grounded in science, especially the newer electro-physics and electro-neuro-physiology. Awaiting your reply, I am

Respectfully yours

Carlton Kendall

[enc 12-14-51]

Several research men & doctors to whom I have given copies of Cybernetics have been most enthusiastic.



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY
2 PARK STREET · BOSTON 7
TELEPHONE: CAPITOL 7-1050

November 28, 1951

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F.
Mexico

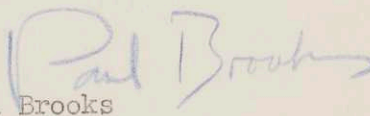
Dear Dr. Wiener:

Certainly we did not find your manuscript "too exhibitionistic." We did feel that there was a great deal of factual information in it - of the outer events rather than the inner events of your life - which made it a book for a more special audience than "The Human Use of Human Beings." This is not a question of length or arrangement, but of the general character of the book. Certainly it contains publishable material, particularly in passages as may satisfy any reader's curiosity about the infant prodigy.

Since there is so much variation in editorial judgments, I should hate to make any dogmatic statement about the eventual publishability of the book.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

between one publisher + another

Paul Brooks

PB:kld

THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

CORAL GABLES (UNIVERSITY BRANCH), FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

November 28, 1951

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F.
Mexico

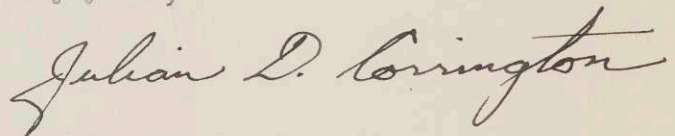
Dear Dr. Wiener:

Needless to say, your letter of November 21st was a grievous disappointment. However, I certainly can understand your point of view and sympathize with you in the way you feel. Fortunately, there is probably still time for me to secure a substitute speaker.

I am hoping that you will recover your health and good spirits entirely and that another year you will reconsider and make a definite engagement with us; I should very much like to have you appear here as our Forbes Hawkes speaker. Later, when you have less to contend with and if this suggestion appeals to you, I suggest you write me and that we make a definite commitment long in advance, if that is possible for you, so that I can be sure of securing the auditorium.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Julian D. Corrington

JDC/g

DUBLIN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES
SCHOOL OF COSMIC PHYSICS

SENIOR PROF. L. W. POLLAK, PH.D., M.R.I.A.
DIRECTOR.

5, MERRION SQUARE
DUBLIN

28 November 1951

Professor Norbert Wiener
Mass. Institute of Technology
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge 39.

Dear Professor Wiener,

Please allow me to ask you a question with regard to the denotation in your book "Extrapolation, Interpolation and smoothing of Stationary Time Series".

First of all the definition of the correlation coefficient on page 4 formula (0.421), are the x_i , y_i numbers or as usual differences from their averages?

Further, please, what does the bar over \bar{x}_k in formula (0.4215) on page 5 and also in subsequent formulae on the same page denote?

Please excuse me troubling you with these questions and indeed there may be somewhere later in the book an explanation of this denotation which I have overlooked, but I do not like to continue before I have understood the denotations.

With many thanks in advance

Very sincerely yours

L. W. Pollak

In reply please address—
SENIOR PROF. L. W. POLLAK,
Director, School of Cosmic Physics,
5 Merrion Square, Dublin

[ans 3/21/52]

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON.

Department of Anatomy.

Professor J.Z. Young.

Gower Street, London,
W.C.1.

28th November, 1951.

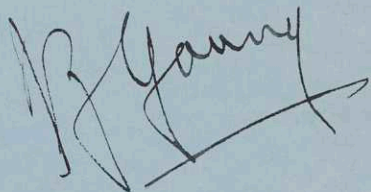
Dear Dr. Wiener,

I am sending you separately a copy of my Reith lectures. I am afraid you will find them somewhat ingenuous. They are, of course, for a very wide audience. You will see how much I owe to your thinking in these matters and as we develop our research in this department we find our ideas, even about what is conventionally called 'the anatomy of the cortex', to depend very much on information theory. We are starting up gradually with an ambitious programme for detailed study of cortical populations, using the counting techniques that we hope will be made possible by our flying spot microscope. I think you would be interested by the team of engineers, physiologists and anatomists who are gradually losing their identity in this project.

I am coming over to the States early in March for a Conference at the Macy Foundation and I should very much like a chance for some discussion with yourself and others on such matters. I shall be in the eastern states from about March 2nd-12th. I wonder whether there is any possibility of arranging some kind of a discussion during that time, either in New York or elsewhere. I do not know whether Frank Schmitt is interested. He and I are old friends on the peripheral nerve system.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



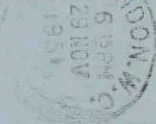
Dr. Norbert Wiener,
53 Cedar Road,
Belmont,
Massachusetts,
U.S.A.

[ans 12-14-51]

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS EN-
CLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL.



CIVIL
JOHN
V

Dr. Norbert Wiener,

53 Cedar Road,

Belmont,

Massachusetts,

U.S.A.

← First fold here →

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address:-

Professor J.Z. Young,

University College,

London, W.C1.

→ To open cut here ←

← To open cut here →

Nilo 16. Apt. 2
Mexico, D.F. Mexico
November 28, 1951

Mr. Paul Brooks
Houghton Mifflin Company
2 Park Street
Boston 7, Mass.

Dear Mr. Brooks:

Mrs. Palencia, a well known Spanish writer and translator, now residing in Mexico, has expressed an interest in translating into Spanish my book, "The Human Use of Human Beings." As you know, Spanish books from any one of the Spanish-speaking countries circulate and sell freely in the others. The three countries which are most important in this regard are Spain, Mexico, and the Argentine. Both Spain and Argentine are intellectually under a cloud at present with the dictatorships which prevail there, so that I should not be able to publish freely in those countries, nor would I be content to father a book, which would appear under the restrictions now prevalent in those countries.

As I am for a couple months more in Mexico, and as I am in touch with the situation here, I request that you let me take the initiative in finding a translator in lieu of leaving the matter to an agent. I naturally expect that your rights in the book will be exactly the same as if an agent were doing your work.

Mrs. Palencia is half Spanish and half Scottish, and one of the most brilliant women whose career was identified with Loyalist Spain. She is particularly known as a translator of English books, and has made that her career here in Mexico. Her politics are not communist, and I have talked over with the United States cultural attache and his wife the political expediency of having her translate my book. They know her well and find her an acceptable translator. She knows the local book market very well, and we get the go-ahead signal from you, we are prepared to look into the matter of finding a publisher, whose wares will sell equally well in all Spanish-speaking countries.

Please let me know your decision at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN WILEY & SONS, INC.

ESTABLISHED 1807

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November 30, 1951

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Nilo 16, Apt. 2
Mexico, D. F. MEXICO

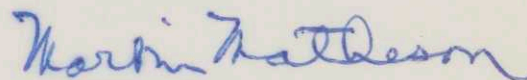
Dear Dr. Wiener:

I am delighted to have the chance of reading your autobiography. Agreeable to your instructions, aftering reading it I will forward the manuscript to Mr. Fassett of the Technology Press.

I will promise to give you an unbiased estimate of the manuscript as I see it.

With kind regards to you and Mrs.
Wiener,

Very sincerely yours,



Martin Matheson

MM:id