

149

CORRESPONDENCE

April 16-30, 1952

N. WIENER - MC 22

STOSUNEK
filozofii do cybernetyki

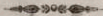
czyli

SZTUKI RZĄDZENIA NARODEM.

Rzecz treści politycznej

przez

Bronisława Trentowskiego.



POZNAŃ,

WYDAWANE W KSIĘGARNI J. K. ŻUPAŃSKIEGO.

1843.

— 1/2 —

1843

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April 16, 1952

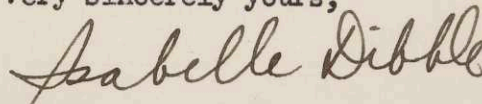
Dr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Just before Mr. Matheson left on an extended business trip to the West Coast, it occurred to him that you might have need for the copy of your autobiography, "The Bent Twig," during his absence. He therefore asked me to return it to you by registered mail, and this is being done today.

Mr. Matheson will undoubtedly send you his comments on the manuscript when he returns to the office in May.

Very sincerely yours,



Secretary to Martin Matheson

id

April 16, 1952

American Mathematical Society
80 Waterman Street
Providence, Rhode Island

Gentlemen:

Professor Norbert Wiener has asked me to write to you to inquire about the reprints of his article which appeared in the Proceedings of the International Congress of Mathematicians. Professor Wiener recalls a communication from you relating to the subject of reprints, but he has been travelling away from M.I.T. during the past year and this communication has been lost.

Would you therefore be kind enough to let me know what the status of the reprints is?

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George Baldwin
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

[ans 9/18/52]

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CAMBRIDGE 39, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

April 16, 1952

Dr. Karl K. Darrow
The American Physical Society
Columbia University
New York 27, New York

Dear Dr. Darrow:

Would you be good enough to send Professor Wiener some additional information about the Washington meeting? He would like to know at what time his lecture is scheduled, and where the meetings are to be held. Do the dates we have -- May 1-3 -- still hold?

Sincerely yours,

Harriet B. Baldwin

Mrs. George Baldwin
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

Dear Mrs. Baldwin:

Dr. Wiener's address is scheduled for Saturday morning, 3 May, in the East Building Lecture Room of the National Bureau of Standards. The programme is scheduled to begin at 9.30 A.M., and his is the second paper.

K.K.D.

April 16, 1952

Dr. Karl K. Darrow
The American Physical Society
Columbia University
New York 27, New York

Dear Dr. Darrow:

Would you be good enough to send Professor Wiener some additional information about the Washington meeting? He would like to know at what time his lecture is scheduled, and where the meetings are to be held. Do the dates we have -- May 1-3 -- still hold?

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George Baldwin
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

April 16, 1952

Mr. Edgar Marvin
NBC
431 Central Park West
New York 25, New York

Dear Mr. Marvin:

Will you be able to send back the two mimeographed papers by Ross Ashby within a couple of days? Keep them, by all means, until you have finished with them; but someone else would like to read them within the next week or two.

When is your broadcast scheduled? I hope you found the Barta Building, and emerged from Whirlwind unharmed and very wise.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George Baldwin
Sec. to Prof. Wiener

[and 5/7/52]

Sapporo, Apr. 17, 1952

Dear Prof. Wiener:

May I ask you a favor of you with the hope that you will be able to grant it? I was nominated as a candidate for this year's student sent abroad by the government expense. But as there are so many candidates throuout the country, I fear that few possibilities are left for going through the final selection. The situation is said to become considerably in favor of those who have been invited or granted to study in some American University or Institute. I should esteem it a great favor, if you could give me an opportunity to stay at your laboratory and study under your guidance. Other possibilities will also be accepted with pleasure. My present objectsof studies are either or both of the following projects:

- A. Theoretical--
Theory of prediction of non-stationary time series.
Statistical theory of turbulence (non-isotropic), and the non-linear problem.
- B. Experimental--
Statistical studies in Spee~~a~~ch, basic problems concerning visible sp~~e~~ech system and the possibility of a voice-typewriter.
Electronic calculating machine.

One of my Japanese acquaintances is staying now at M.I.T. and studying on some problem related to electrical communication. His name is Dr. Hideo Seki, and I think you will be able to hear from him about my own personal affairs.

Yours very truely

Katsumi Imahori

Professor of physics

[ans. 4/22/52]

K. Imahori
Institute of Low Temperature
Science
Hokkaido University
Sapporo, Japan

AIR LETTER

Prof. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
(Department of Mathematics)
Cambridge 39, MASS.

U.S.A.

航空



50

PAR AVION

この中には何物も封入できません

折込線

折込線



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April 17, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Wiener:

It may be presumptuous of me to write to you but if, perchance, you are a baseball fan you may be interested or, perhaps, know of someone who is.

After several year's effort, I have put down on paper a baseball game of the spinner type which incorporates in proper ratio all of the principle plays in the national pastime. The game has been shown to many authorities who have praised it highly because, in what is believed to be the first and only time, this game covers the subject thoroughly and is far more than a toy. Nevertheless, I have not been successful in securing a manufacturer, mainly because it is a common opinion the game is too complicated for popular consumption.

I have often felt that it could be mechanized and am wondering if you will be interested in seeing it? There is a good possibility that, if this can be done, that U.S. Military Services will help underwrite the initial cost as a means of bringing real major league baseball to personnel. It seems to me the game would be ideal in hospitals and rest centers because it provides for official scoring, batting, fielding and pitching averages, etc.

It would be very nice to hear from you. Meanwhile, this is to wish you the very best of success in your career.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Harold Mott
Publications Editor

HM:vr

[ans 5/26/52]



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MEXICO, D. F.

April 18, 1952

Professor Norbert Weiner
c/o M. I. T.
Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Weiner:

My brother is away from the city and has asked me to send you a letter which he received from Professor Steinhaus. He thinks you will find the contents interesting, even if what Dr. Steinhaus has to say about his experiences during the war ~~are~~ not exactly cheering.

We hope that you and Mrs. Weiner will come to Mexico this year as usual. My brother acquired a nice place in Tepetzlan, close to Cuernavaca and is looking forward with pleasure to welcome you both there.

With kindest regards from both of us,

Yours very sincerely,


Alexander A. Wygard

AGW-ea
Encl.

H. Steinhaus, Wroclaw 12
Ul.Orlowskiego #15

Dear Dr. Wygard:

This is an answer to your letter of November 12, 1951. I am enclosing a photograph of the title-page of a book published in 1843 by Trentowski, which proves that the word Cybernetics was known 110 years ago and employed in a sense which, although far from Wieners generality, undoubtedly covers a part of the meaning your friend has given to it. Trentowski's book itself does not deserve special attention: it is a political pamphlet where different philosophical and historical ingredients of Hegel's cooking book are combined by a gifted but misty mind to an indigestible meal lacking taste and deprived of nutritive value. Besides that, Trentowski is not the first to employ the word: somebody has read in Larousse's dictionary that Ampère, the great physicist, gives to Cybernetics the meaning of "the art of governing nations".

Our story 1939-1945 is not easy to tell. The dangers we were exposed to, the things we have seen, the friends we have lost - to describe the whole of it it would be necessary to write a book of several hundred pages. The Germans entered Lwów the 29th of June 1941 and two officers of the Gestapo paid me a private visit the 4th of July. Two hours later I have left with my wife our flat on Kadecka-street 14 forever - we carried a little bag each of us and left by a hole in the fence of our garden. We lived until 26th of November with my sister Olga, my mother and my oldest sister in Fuliński's house. Olga left for Boryslaw to live with Alina, my mother has gone with her oldest daughter to Cracow and we have left by feet going to Osiczyna near Rudno near Zimna Woda to stay there until July 1942. This are things easy to typewrite but incomprehensible to anybody, excepted who has tried them. I suppose you know the taste of 1939, but it was only the beginning. In Osiczyna I have been almost every day in the woods, partly to have a walk, partly not to be at home and partly to steal wood. I have achieved a certain skill so as to be casually asked by peasants about the best way and time to do it - I must confess that this doctorate latrocinii causa caused me more pleasure than any distinctions conferred by Academies or learned bodies. My name was Grzegorz Krochmalny and my appearance suited to the name. My wife learned to make and cook bread. During several years she cooked it mostly on timber prepared by myself. In 1942 we were compelled to leave Rudno for Berdechów near Stróże. We led there the same sort of life with the difference that I gave private lessons to sons of peasants and railway-men. This lasted until 16 January 1945, when the last German soldier going westwards asked a cup of coffee and left after sunset. The next day our farm became a position of artillery and an objective of German guns firing desperately from Grybów. It was the end of the war and we felt no anxiety even during the battle - we were accustomed to worse things. What we are not accustomed to are the questions put to us by foreigners who "do not believe" when I tell them that I have seen 400,000 Hungarian Jews brought to Oświęcim during two months - I have heard every train and they were going day and night through Stróże. -

I am telling you, of course, only some facts and they are not a representative sample, because they are chosen only of one half of the collection.

Returning to scientific matters may I tell you that I succeeded recently to calculate the probability of a man being a father of a child in such cases in

which the exclusion of paternity by hematological tests fails - this result was never achieved although all necessary tools are already in publications of Hirszfeld and others. Recently I have tried to apply cybernetics to Groers pathergometry.

Do you remember our common idea of letters with confirmed content? Can you do something of it?

You are so kind as to propose to me some help. Thank you very much for your readiness but I have no needs worth to mention them - oh, yes, I would like to get some good coffee and...Burtons pocket-edition of the Arabian Nights. As you remember old friends, let me give you the address of St.Vincanz: L'Uriageles-Bains, Isère, France. He managed to find in the Alps something very similar to his residence in Bystrec - I do write sometimes to him and Anita Dittersdorff, whose mother, a sister of my wife was killed with her husband by the Germans, visits Vincenz' refuge every year - she is a student of medicine in Lyons. You have known probably her father; he was director in Jedlicze for several years and left for Bratislava after Hitlers occupation of Slovakia.

Now you see what you have done - I am beginning to tell you stories without beginning and without end after old womens fashion. It serves me as an excuse for having delayed so long my answer: eventually you see that you have not lost very much - such letters are never coming to late because they are as boring today as tomorrow..

Please accept my best compliments and thanks

Yours truly

Sgd. H Steinhaus

AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

80 WATERMAN STREET, PROVIDENCE 6, R. I.

April 18, 1952

Mrs. George Baldwin
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Baldwin:

I regret that it will be impossible for Professor Wiener to obtain at this time any reprints of his article which appeared in the PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MATHEMATICIANS. When I sent the galley proofs to Professor Wiener last July, I enclosed a reprint order card which stated that if the card was not returned to us, no reprints would be furnished. This card was never returned to me. Consequently, no reprints were ordered. Unfortunately, it is much too late now to do anything about it. I am very sorry.

Sincerely yours,

Jane F. Kiefer

Jane F. Kiefer
Editorial Assistant

April 18th

Dear Professor Wiener,

I have just been informed
that I have been awarded a
Cresserheim fellowship and I
wish to tell you how
grateful I feel to you for
having so kindly accepted to
sponsor my application.

I hope that you had
a pleasant and interesting time
in Mexico. - My lecture here this
year are on the Fourier Integral
and I am devoting a large time to
your theorem and Bessel's method
of proof -

I am, with kindest regards

Yours very sincerely
Raphael Salem

[ans 4/22/52]

1225 E. 58th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois
April 19, 1952

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

Dear Prof Wiener:

The reason that I am writing to you is that your work is closely related to the general problem in which I am interested. Specifically, I am interested in the problems connected with the design of a machine capable of translating languages, say the foreign technical periodicals into English. I would like to know if it would be possible to undertake this proposed research at M. I. T. Are you in a position to answer a question like this, or could you put me in touch with the right person?

The research that I have in mind would proceed along several lines at the same time. A simple machine would be built as a first model and used as an aid in exploring further some of the theoretical and linguistic problems. The communication theory aspect of the problem would have to be explored in some detail. The linguistic problem is perhaps the one in which the most advances will have to be made, and will be from the beginning the first concern. I have some rather specific ideas on how to tackle these problems. The first outcome of the work promises to be an increased quantitative knowledge of languages and the way in which they are used in communication. The later outcome of the research would be a machine capable of making a usable translation into English of the periodical literature, and ultimately a machine capable of translating textbooks and the like into the languages of the backward countries. One might hope that with improved international communication would come some measure of improved international understanding and concord.

I would want to begin this research some time in the autumn as I am expecting to complete my work here at the University of Chicago for a PhD in Physics during the summer. If you think that something might be worked out at M. I. T., I would be glad to correspond further or come for an interview. I am planning to attend the American Physical Society meeting in Washington next week and could easily come afterwards. That would be the week of May 5th.

Sincerely yours,

Victor H. Yngve

Victor H. Yngve

[ans 4/22/52]

DR. MED. G. BARAG

Nervous and Mental Diseases
PSYCHOANALYSIS

Tel-Aviv, 63, Ben Yehuda St.

Tel. 66366

ד"ר ג. בר ג

מחלות העצבים והרוח
פסיכואנליזה

תל-אביב, רחוב א. בן-יהודה 63

טל. 66366

The 20/4/1952 יום

Dear Professor Wiener,

For a long time interested in the possibility of formulating psychological and specially psychoanalytical problems in mathematical terms, I came across of a review of your book on "Cybernetics or Control and Communication in the Animal and the Machine" which I would be very interested to study. Unfortunately because of the lack of "hard currency" the import of books is prohibited and book-sellers don't even accept commands. So I have no choice but to ask you if you could kindly let me have a copy of your book. Besides that I would be very grateful to you if you would inform me what other publications on the same and similar

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פ"ת תל אביב
מס' 17, תל אביב
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66366 70

DR. MED. G. BARAG
Nervous and Mental Diseases
PSYCHOANALYSIS
Tel-Aviv, 63, Ben Yehuda St.
Tel. 66366

matters have been issued since.

Thankfully yours

G. Barag

For a long time interested in the possibi-
lity of formalizing psychological and spe-
cially psychoanalytical problems in mathe-
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[ans 5/7/52]

U. S. NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY
U. S. NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

IN REPLY REFER TO:

April 21, 1952

Mrs. George Baldwin
Secretary to Prof. Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Mass.

Dear Madam;

After a week's sickness, I am thanking you with delay for your kind communication dated April 21 and wish to apologize.

Since I am undertaking a trip to New York this week, I would like to ask for a postponement of the personal appointment with Professor Wiener. Our meeting promises one of the most inspiring experiences and I would like to prepare myself very carefully to our talks.

May I ask you if the meeting could be arranged any time in the first half of the month of May?

Thanking you once again, I am

Sincerely yours

Andrew G. Pikler

(Andrew G. Pikler)
Sound Section

~~Mr. Kapp~~
Tue. 4. 13th
Thu 4 15th
Fri. 4 16th

[ans 4/22/52]

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

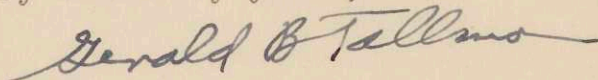
SLOAN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
FOR EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT

April 21, 1952

Dear Professor Wiener:

May I again extend thanks to you on behalf of the members of the Sloan Fellowship group for your very stimulating and worthwhile discussion with them. The men had been most anxious to learn something of your thinking. We are deeply appreciative to you for devoting this time to the group.

Very sincerely yours,



m

Gerald B. Tallman
Director

Professor Norbert Wiener
2-155, M.I.T.



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April 22, 1952

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Here are two copies of our contract. Unless you take special delight in lawyer-type prose, I would suggest your keeping your peace of mind by closing the volume after you reach page three. Even the last paragraph on page three is the type of literature I should never allow to get into one of our published books because it uses hundreds of words to say simply that we are not allowed to pay you more than \$3,000 in any one calendar year. That's what you wanted, isn't it?

Should there be any questions about any details, you should ask them of Mr. Peter Schwed, our contract authority, as I hope to be passing the end of Long Island about the time you receive this. Or, if you prefer, you could wait until my return on June 18. I don't really believe there should be any questions as I tried to define the terms as we agreed on them; and if everything is okay, so far as you can see, all you need do is sign the carbon and mail it back to us. The original is for your own files and posterity.

With best wishes,

Very cordially yours,

Henry Lu Simon

hws:lf

P.S. Since dictating the above, I have heard from Victor Gollancz, saying that he does not care to make an offer for the manuscript. This does not really surprise me, as I had never thought that it would be the right book for him. He has returned the manuscript and I am sending it on to you.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
Department of History

April 22, 1952

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

I am reading with exciting interest "The Human Use of Human Beings" and I am urging my more intelligent students to read it.

Your statement on page 56: "It is one of the paradoxes of the human race and possibly its last paradox, that the people who control the fortunes of our community should at the same time be wildly radical in matters that concern our own change of our environment, and rigidly conservative in the social matters that determine our adaptation to it," struck me with great force because for several years I have been developing a symbolic method of presenting a similar concept to my students. You may be interested in my use of quasi mathematical symbols in dealing with this idea:

A <<<< E

x = The rate and degree of change of social institutions and ideologies

y = The rate and degree of environmental change

x is not only < y, but x is becoming increasingly <<<< y

both x and y are in part determined by the use of surplus wealth, S^u

S^u is largely determined by S^{o+c} , i.e. those who own and or control it

A <<<< E) results in increasing individual and collective mal-
x <<<< y) adjustment -- social, economic, political and
psychological

A <<<< E) results in increasing individual & collective
x <<<< y) suffering

A <<<< E) results in increasing individual and collective
discontent

A <<<< E) results in increasing demand for change
x <<<< y)

The varying degree and spread of maladjustment, suffering, dis-
content and demand for change generate powerful *divisive*
~~driving~~ forces in the community and tend to the increasing
use of violence.

These create increasing "line noise" which make intercommunication
between classes in the community and between communities increasing-
ly difficult.

Likewise your statement on page 16 - "It is a degradation to a human
being to chain him to an oar and use him as a source of power; but it
is an almost equal degradation to assign him a purely repetitive task
in a factory, which demands less than a millionth of his brain capacity"
- struck me forcibly because I have been considering this phenomenon
from another angle.

In thinking about the relationship of the Individual to the
Collectivity I came to the conclusion that both the degree and spread
of individualism in any community ^{are} related to the methods of pro-
duction and distribution. It appears to me that modern methods of
production tend to reduce individualism for the many to its lowest common
denominator of biological differences and because ^{of} the S^{o+c} control the
means of communication, increased leisure time resulting from a wider
distribution of S does not result in an increase of individualism
because communication is employed on a mass basis to reduce the growth in
individualism and individual activity.

I^d and I^s are related to P^m and D^m of S. i.e. The degree and spread
of Individualism are related to the methods of producing and distributing
surplus wealth.

There are tendencies in the present stage of societal development
towards reducing the individualism of the many while making possible a
high degree of individualism of the few. Historical S^{o+c} which purchased
their individualism at the expense of the many eventually destroyed the
basis of their own individualism and thus themselves became enslaved by
the Collectivity.

I am grateful to you for the stimulation I am obtaining from your
book.

Sincerely yours,



William Yale

WY:J

[ans 5/6/52]

April 22, 1952

Professor K. Imahori
Institute of Low Temperature Science
Hokkaido University
Sapporo, Japan

Dear Professor Imahori:

Of course I should be glad to take you on as a colleague working together with me. You are at liberty to use this statement of mine with any authorities to help you in obtaining a grant on the basis of this acceptance for work with me in America.

I have already met Dr. Hideo Seki, and I think that I shall enjoy working together with him during the weeks that remain of his stay in the United States.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

[ms 5/7/52]

April 22, 1952.

Dr. Andrew G. Pikler
U.S. Naval Medical Research Laboratory
U.S. Naval Submarine Base
New London, Connecticut

Dear Dr. Pikler:

Professor Wiener will be away from Cambridge early in May, but he will be back the week of May 12th. May I suggest Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday, May 13, 15, or 16, for your meeting with him here? Again, if you can be here between 10:00 and 11:00, it will be most suitable.

I shall expect to hear from you as to which day will be convenient for you, and what time to expect you. I am sorry you have been ill.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George B. Baldwin
Secretary to Prof. Wiener.

hb

[ans 5/12/52]

April 22, 1952

Professor R. Salem
16 R. Leonardo da Vinci
Paris 16^e
France

My dear Salem:

I am delighted to hear of your success in obtaining a Guggenheim Fellowship. I am most complimented by the relation between your work and mine, and by the continued representation in Paris of ideas in which I am interested.

All good wishes for your future.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CAMBRIDGE 39, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

April 22, 1952

Mr. Henry W. Simon
Simon and Schuster, Inc.
630 Fifth Avenue
New York 20, New York

Dear Mr. Simon:

I am delighted with your letter and with the detail of the advice which you give me. I have already started modifying my manuscript in the sense of your suggestions, and I shall be able to go thoroughly into the work now that you have sent the copy back. Mr. Gollancz's copy has not yet been returned, and I hope he will return it directly to you. If he does not, and sends it instead to me, I shall send it back to you for reference while I do my corrections on the other copy.

As to the anti-Semitism question, I am afraid that although I see the force of your remarks I must give them my own interpretation. The issue with me in my early years was not that of an excessively anti-Semitic surrounding, but of a family reaction of fear and internal anti-Semitism particularly on my mother's side. Later on I experienced a high degree of anti-Semitism in the outer world which made it seriously difficult for me to obtain a job. But I have seen this anti-Semitism taper off and practically change in the new university dispensation since the World War when the horrors of Hitlerism became manifest to all of us.

My salvation did not lie either in succumbing to anti-Semitism nor in retreating to Abraham's bosom. A man cannot maintain a prejudice which he sees must be directed at himself and keep the integrity of his soul. Neither was union with the Jewish group in the full sense of the word possible for me, for I had never been in it and in many ways knew its manners and customs only by hearsay. Furthermore, I did not see much moral advantage in changing a set of prejudices hostile to me for a set of prejudices favorable to me. In short, while it was necessary for me to fight, the only level at which I could see any particular moral worth in fighting was in fighting prejudice as such rather than in confining myself to my personal problems.

This was a motive which was foremost in my interest in Orientals and in other groups subject to an undervaluation in the modern world. In this respect my comment on Oriental scholar-

Mr. Henry W. Simon -- 2.

ship and on Oriental students must go back into the book, although it must be given the point that it properly has as an essential stage in my own development, and probably must be cut considerably. The way out of my impasse could only be through a very real sense of myself as a citizen of the world, and I believe this sense has been shown in my career and in the details of my travels.

As to my further relations with Jewish matters, I have been active at M.I.T. in taking up young men of the Jewish group or other unfavored groups, and in persuading them to cast in their lot with a fight against oppression at large rather than in a retreat into their own group. The times have been with me in this, and I think that I can legitimately claim for myself a share in the formation of the attitude of my younger colleagues. My younger Jewish colleagues are proud of their Jewish origin, but are in no way limited by it to associations confined within their own group. They have been significantly successful, both in their scientific careers and in their acceptance of responsibility of administration and authority. Many times we meet together and ask ourselves, "What has become of anti-Semitism in our own particular environment?" Frankly, of late years it has ceased to be a problem. I do not mean that it is nowhere a problem. But people like Levinson, the acting head of the Mathematics Department at M.I.T., like Harold Freeman in the Economics Department, and Ned Frank, head of the Physics Department, have come to be powers -- moral powers as well as political powers -- at M.I.T., never running away from their origin and never hiding behind it. Our friends are everywhere at M.I.T., and I believe it would be the universal testimony of the school that these young or early middle-aged men are carrying their full weight of responsibility in every way without fear and without a chip on their shoulders. We have a notably healthy attitude in this matter, and I take a certain pride that I have had something to do with its growth.

Well, it is on this theme that I am going to discuss the Jewish problem in my book. It may not be exactly the discussion which you want, but I think it is the only one I can give because it is the only one which represents my point of view. My father was an assimilationist before me and I, too, am an assimilationist, even though I recognize very well that no degree of assimilation will protect a man or a group under the conditions that obtained in Hitler Germany and similar conditions that could conceivably still develop here. But we are not looking for protection. We all of us are living under the threat of catastrophes, the external catastrophe of the atomic bomb and the internal catastrophe of death that is sure to

Mr. Henry W. Simon -- 3.

overtake every one of us. Tragedy has existed from the beginning of mankind, and this is a most tragic age, at least in its threatening possibilities. But the way to meet tragedy is not to hope for victory over it, but to keep one's head high and one's dignity in tact.

I have already begun to write the passages in this book which will carry out this idea. This, then, is my interpretation of your injunction, and it is the only interpretation which I find possible for me to carry out honestly. This does not mean that I am not perfectly ready to accept suggestions of detail in the changing of my manuscript; but I am stating the general principle to which these changes in detail should be subject.

My wife joins me in appreciating the wisdom and sensitivity of your advice. I am certain that our collaboration in the making of this book will continue to be as fruitful for me as it has been up to now.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

p.s. These are my comments and they are given in such detail because I wish to evoke comments in return.

April 22, 1952

Mr. Henry W. Simon
Simon and Schuster, Inc.
630 Fifth Avenue
New York 20, New York

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Mr. Henry W. Simon -- 3.

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Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

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April 22, 1952

Mr. Slocum
Worcester Foundation for Experimental Bibbogy, *Inc.*
222 Maple Avenue
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Slocum:

Professor Wiener has asked me to send this material to you which comes from Dr. Raisbeck at the Bell Laboratories. He hopes that it may assist you in your pursuit of a thermistor.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. George Baldwin
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

hb

April 22, 1952

Mr. Victor H. Yngve
1225 E. 58th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois

My dear Yngve:

I shall be in Washington, and we shall have a chance to talk over your plan for a linguistic machine. I am interested in the possibilities of translating machines, although I am a little skeptical as to the possibility of reaching your results at all quickly. However, I shall be very glad to see you and review your work.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

BERNARD L. SCHUBERT, INC.
509 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

MARGOT JOHNSON
Literary Department

MURRAY Hill 8-0940

April 23, 1952

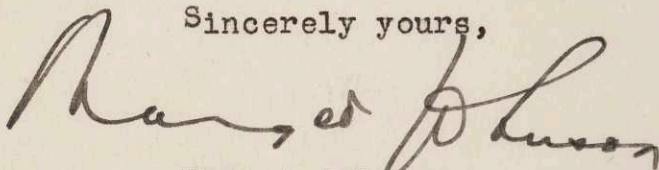
Dear Mr. Wiener:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of your outline for a suspense motion picture.

I have had several of the staff read it, and we all agree that you might have something here if you expanded the story into a standard regular sixty page motion picture original.

If you should do this, I would be glad to see the story again.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Margot Johnson".

Margot Johnson

MJ:ls

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

April 23, 1952

Dr. Houston Peterson
Department of Philosophy
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Peterson:

I have been enormously tempted by your invitation to participate in the inauguration at Rutgers, but I find myself at the present time simply too exhausted to take it on. I have a talk in Physics to give on the 3rd of May in Washington, and in my present state of fatigue the prospect of preparing it looms up before me as if it were a tremendous mountain to climb. Apart from this talk which I dare not miss because it represents an important opportunity for me to bring my information theory into contact with quantum theory, I have been refusing invitations right and left this term, even here at home.

I have just finished a year abroad which was ~~anything~~ but a junket for me, and although I am beginning to recover from my fatigue, it would take only a very small amount of further work to put my health in a precarious position.

Therefore, I hope you will understand my turning down your kind invitation even at this late date. I greatly appreciate the honor that you have done me, and I had hoped that my recovery had progressed sufficiently so that I could take it on. But frankly, it has not.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb



McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

Department of Philosophy
24th April, 1952.

Dear Professor Weiner,

This is from Angus Sinclair, of Edinburgh University and at present Visiting Professor of Philosophy at McGill.

I had intended to write to you in more orthodox form with an introduction to ask if I might call on you, but unexpectedly find that I am to be in Cambridge next week for a couple of days, on Wednesday and ~~Thursday~~ Thursday.

The point is that your work, or rather that part of it which we know by repute in Britain, is I understand in the same direction in which I have been trying to go - a rather lonely one among professional philosophers - in a book called *The Conditions of Knowing* which Harcourt Brace brought out last year in the International Library of Philosophy and Scientific Method.

I hope to be in Boston again before I return home, but if it is possible to see you for a little on either Wednesday or Thursday of next week I should be most grateful.

Please do not trouble to reply. I shall telephone your office on Tuesday afternoon and ask of you have left a message.

Yours sincerely,

Angus Sinclair

Professor Norbert Weiner,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Cambridge,
Mass.

Spent all the m. in office. Had dinner @ home that evening.

[ans 5/5/52 and 5/21/52]

April 25, 1952

Mr. M. Lincoln Schuster
Simon and Schuster, Inc.
630 Fifth Avenue
New York 20, New York

Dear Mr. Schuster:

I am working on the revision of my book, and I am delighted with the treatment I have received from you people and with the contract.

While I have signed the contract, I wish to indicate to you that there is one clause in the contract, namely [D] of the second part of the Publishing Agreement, which is not entirely suitable to our circumstances, and which in fact is less favorable to you than it ought to be. When I agreed to give you the first option to consider my next full-length book, you must remember that I am primarily an author of scientific books, which falls outside the field of your publication. I have also moral obligations in the matter of my next scientific book, which will be a treatise on Cybernetics, to the Technology Press and John Wiley, and to Hermann et Cie. in Paris. This book is going to be difficult reading, and is going to bring together in a definitive form most of what I have to say in mathematics and related fields. I think that we should disregard this and other books of the same type in the application of clause [D].

Now, what I propose to offer you is the first option to consider my next full-length trade book for publication on terms satisfactory to both of us. I certainly have other trade books in view after this, and they are much more definitely down your alley than the scientific books I am planning to write. I am thinking, for example, of a second volume of the autobiography, whether by the same name or not, if and when the first book shall have made good. In this way I am offering to you the option on material which you may well be able to use, and which will fit far better into the scheme of organization and selling in lieu of a scientific book which will probably be a

Mr. M. Lincoln Schuster -- 2

drug on your hands anyway, and which is not particularly adapted to your policy and sales organization.

I hope you will see eye to eye with me in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hbb

April 25, 1952

Mr. Henry Simon
Simon and Schuster, Inc.
630 Fifth Avenue
New York 20, New York

Dear Mr. Simon:

Many thanks for your letter of April 14. I have been a little slow in answering it because I have been up to my neck in a scientific paper to be delivered in Washington on the 3rd of May. However, I have devoted the intervals in my work on that paper to following out your suggestions, which I consider excellent. I shall forward to you copies of some individual comments I am making even before I have properly oriented them in the general stream of the text. I do so in the hope that you will care to comment on them.

Sincerely and gratefully yours,

Norbert Wiener

hbb
Enc.

The Institute of Low Temperature Science,
Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan,
April 28, 1952.

Dr. N. Wiener,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Cambridge 39, Mass.,
Department of Mathematics.

Dear Dr. Wiener:

I have been chiefly studying the information theory and cybernetics under the guidance of Dr. K. Imahori at the Institute of Low Temperature Science, after I finished the graduate course of physics at the Faculty of Science of Hokkaido University. I am now interested in the theoretical aspects of the problem of weather forecasting and other applications of the cybernetical concepts on the treatment of physical systems. I am going to send you the paper, in which I have attempted the general formulation of the method of surmising the structure of physical systems and consequently of predicting the future behaviour of such systems. I should be very much pleased if you would kindly give me criticisms and instructions.

Sincerely Yours

J. Hori

HEADQUARTERS
SIGNAL CORPS ENGINEERING LABORATORIES
FORT MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY

REFER TO: SIGEL-RTB-3
Project 112A

Director ADDRESS REPLY TO:
Evans Signal Laboratory
Belmar, New Jersey
APR 28 1952

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39
Massachusetts

Attention: Professor Wiener
Dept. of Mathematics

Gentlemen:

I am looking forward to seeing you again at the Washington meeting of the American Physical Society. Leon Brillouin, who speaks after you, is associated with Watson Computing Laboratories. Even though he is not a staff member at Columbia, I hope it will be possible for him to sponsor my work as a Ph. D. thesis.

An intended letter to the editor of the Physical Review is inclosed, in which I treat of the informational and physical characterization of organization. I hope you find it of interest.

Very truly yours,

1 Incl.
1. Organization and
Entropy

Jerome Rothstein
JEROME ROTHSTEIN
Solid State Devices Section
Thermionics Branch

SIGNAL LABORATORIES
EVANS

APR 28 1952

[ans 5-23-52]

APR 28 1 39 PM '52

EVANS
SIGNAL LABORATORY

Mr. [Name]
[Address]
[City]

Mr. [Name]
[Address]
[City]

Dear Mr. [Name]:

I am writing you regarding the information disclosed in your letter to the editor of the [Publication] regarding the [Subject].

I am looking forward to seeing you again at the [Event].

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Professor [Name]

[Address]
[City]

Project [Name]
Signal Lab-3

APR 28 1952
[Address]
[City]

EVANS
SIGNAL LABORATORY
NEW JERSEY

April 28, 1952

Dear Professor Wiener,

It is already three months since my return to Japan. Before my departure from Cambridge I wished to see you, but my passport obliged me to leave the place I love without waiting for your arrival from Mexico. About a year I have had an interesting life at the Research Laboratory of Electronics, and I have written a paper entitled, "A method of Wiener in a nonlinear circuit", which is nothing but your work written for engineers. Under separate cover I am sending you a copy printed here for private circulation. If you would make criticism and suggestions on this paper, I shall be very grateful to you. A small group of our Department are studying the information theory and the problems in one of your fields.

My friend Hideo Seki was very happy to have met you and to have found you willing to discuss his idea on speech typewriter.

When I reached Japan last January, I was struck, more than ever, by the wide gap between the fortunate few and the unidentified millions. Unless we try to alleviate the standards of living, we shall be perennially poverty-stricken. And it is to be recognized that the present Japan is and will be for many years to come under the system of "receive". At 10:30 p.m. of our time today Japan will celebrate her regained "independence", which I welcome with grave concern. For all that the Japanese situation, to say nothing of the world, has not yet reached the consciousness of the people. Even if we cannot hope for a little material comfort, we must discover what our ideal is; otherwise we shall have nothing to live for. We recall that our ancient neighbor China has produced Confucius and Mencius, while India is the birthplace of Buddha and of Gandhi in the recent past. Those countries will wake up from their long sleep of thousands of years.

Hammerli and I borrowed your precious manuscripts which I hope were returned to you by Hsu. I thank you very much for your kindness to let us read them. I asked Ryoichi Kikuchi of the Physics Department to hand you a Japanese print by a well-known modern printer, Yoshida. If it can adorn your house, I shall be very much pleased.

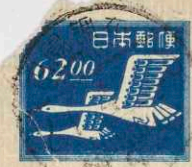
I always wish to find myself in the stimulating and vigorous atmosphere of MIT. Please convey my best wishes to your family, and to your colleagues.

Sincerely yours,

Shikao

Shikao Ikehara

Shikao Ikehara
Tokyo Institute of Tech.
Oh-okayama, Meguroku
Tokyo, Japan



PAR AVION

AIR LETTER

航空

Professor Norbert Wiener
Room 2-155
Mass. Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Mass.
U. S. A.

この中には何物も封入できません

折込線

折込線

April 28, 1952

Miss Margot Johnson
c/o Bernard Schubert
509 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Miss Johnson:

Many thanks for your message of April 23, with its suggestions of the possibilities of further work which it is well worth my while to follow up. I have just sold an autobiography to Simon and Schuster, and have enough scientific work in addition to keep me busy until the middle of June at least. After that, I shall work on the material that I have sent you.

Meanwhile, I don't know whether a "standard regular 60-page original" has any technical requirements that I am not aware of, and I would like you to enlarge on your letter suggesting that I expand my material telling me more or less what sort of thing to do. When I have worked up the stuff, you may be sure that I shall return it to you people as agents.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

April 28, 1952

Dr. Morris Chafetz
Instituto Nacional de Cardiologia
Calzada de la Piedad, 300
Mexico D.F.
Mexico

Dear ~~Chafetz~~ Chafetz:

After protecting our story with the Authors' Guild, I sent it to Miss Margot Johnson, a literary agent in New York. She has written an encouraging reply to me, saying that she feels the thing has possibilities if expanded into a standard 60-page original. I find this very encouraging. Apparently we need a good deal more work before we find out whether we have hit the jack pot or not, but it looks as if there is a jack pot there. I shall undertake the work myself on the conditions already agreed between us, for the simple reason that whatever Peggy says, I am the most experienced literary worker of the crowd, and I have been keeping my hand in. I shall probably work it up during the summer after I have finished my work on The Autobiography of an Ex-Prodigy, for which I have sent off the contract today to Simon and Schuster.

One of my colleagues is going to be in Mexico next summer working with Arturo Rosenbluth. His name is Walter Rosenblith.

With best regards from all of us to all of you,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb



SIMON AND SCHUSTER, INC.
publishers

ROCKEFELLER CENTER, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York 20 • TELEPHONE Circle 5-6400

April 29, 1952

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Mass.

Dear Dr. Wiener:

I am sorry that your letter of April 25 with the manuscript insert arrived after Mr. Simon left for Europe, for I know he would have liked to have seen it. I did, however, show it to Mr. Schuster, who wants me to thank you for him.

Very sincerely,

Lois Friedlander
Secretary to Mr. Simon

PROF. DR. BALTH. VAN DER POL
GENÈVE

GENÈVE, le 29th April
22, CHEMIN KRIEG

1952

VDP/979

Professor Norbert Wiener,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Cambridge 39,
Massachusetts,
U.S.A.

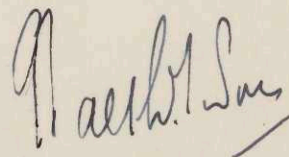
My dear Wiener,

I hope to be in Boston between September 22nd and 27th, and would of course very much like to look you up. I shall be in the States on a through trip between Sydney (Australia) and Buenos Aires (the Argentine) (This radio is certainly an international business!)

Would you drop me a line to tell me whether, in the above period, you are likely to be in Boston? If so, I will later on wire you the exact date of my arrival.

With my very best regards from both of us to both of you,

Yours sincerely,



[ans 5-5-52]

April 29, 1952

Dr. Karl K. Darrow
The American Physical Society
Columbia University
New York 27, New York

Dear Dr. Darrow:

This is to inform you that Professor Wiener will arrive in Washington on the Federal (the night train from Boston) at about 8:15 a.m. on Saturday morning, May 3. Unless his train is seriously delayed, he will be in the East Building Lecture Room of the National Bureau of Standards well before 9:30.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George Baldwin
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

hb

Hollygate Farm
RFD One
Manassas, Virginia

Apr. 30, 1952..

Prof. N. Wiener
M. I. T.
Cambridge, Mass.

Your book "The Human Use of Human Beings" is very stimulating and edifying.

There were two passages, however, which presented an apparent difficulty of interpretation:

Page 92, Sentence beginning §. 23, - It..., for there are human animals whose brains would shame a chimpanzee". Since the statement, as worded, is almost self evident, it is worded whether the converse was intended.

Page 99, Sentence beg. §. 16 - The..., but Cicero...
The word "but" implies a contrast that is not there. Perhaps the word "and" would suffice.

Yours respectfully,

Paul Kopp

PAUL KOPP