

155

CORRESPONDENCE Sept. 1952

N. WIENER · MC 22

To a Sept., 1952]

100

*The Trustees and Faculty of  
 Meharry Medical College  
 request the honor of your presence  
 at the ceremonies marking the inauguration of  
 Harold Dadford West  
 as the fifth president of the College  
 in Nashville, Tennessee  
 October twentieth, nineteen hundred fifty-two  
 at three o'clock in the afternoon*

*The favor of a reply is requested  
 The Committee on Inauguration  
 Meharry Medical College  
 Nashville 8, Tennessee*

[ans 9/18/52]

Telephone :  
Cleeve Hill 241

NATIONAL COAL BOARD  
CENTRAL RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT,  
STOKE ORCHARD,  
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GLOS.

2nd September, 1952.

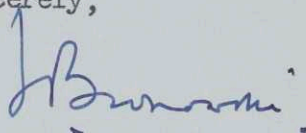
Professor Norbert Wiener,  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,  
BOSTON,  
Mass., U.S.A.

Dear Professor Wiener,

I am reading a paper to the  
British Association this week which I  
think will interest you. So I enclose  
a copy.

My best wishes to you all,

Yours sincerely,



J. Bronowski.  
Director.

75-38 263 Street  
Floral Park, L. I. N. Y.  
September 3, 1952

Subject: 1. Influence of "Cybernetics"  
in the development of a  
course of instruction in  
"Fundamentals of Teaching"  
2. Program of study for  
workers in the field of  
Cybernetics.

Dear Sir,

You must surely have received many notices, by now, of the influence of your book "Cybernetics". I am, nevertheless, taking the privilege of informing you of the inspiration which it provided in the solution of still another problem, in the hope that it may be of some interest to you.

As an instructor in the Field Service Training department of Speny Gyroscope Co, I was recently asked to develop a course in instruction techniques to help Field Service Engineers instruct customer personnel in the use and maintenance of company products. Neither the academic approach nor the "charm-school" approach to such a course had been found satisfactory in the past. With "Cybernetics" as an inspiration, however, I developed a short course on a quasi-engineering basis, emphasizing the "servo-mechanistic" concept of the instructional situation, and attempting to have the student himself "derive" and "test" this concept. I am enclosing a copy of the rough draft of this course for whatever interest it may hold for you.

Unfortunately, I am not prepared to understand the technical elements of "Cybernetics," but my interest has been very much aroused. Would you kindly advise me on the progress made in the development of a program of study for workers interested in this field?

Respectfully,

Henry A. Bern  
HENRY A. BERN

[ans 9/11/52]

THE ANALYSTS JOURNAL  
HELEN SLADE, MANAGING EDITOR  
400 EAST 57TH STREET  
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

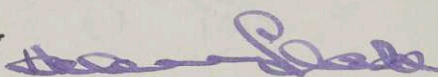
Sept. 3 1952

Dear Mr. Wiener:

It seems to me you are correct in saying cybernetics could become a slogan. In Wall Street this is true. Some analysts look wise mention cybernetics and have not the slightest idea concerning it.

Now ofcourse I am not trying to urge you for a few words, but since you can not(I wish you could) do you know anyone who might write a few words on an introduction of cybernetics for the Journal? It would be a real service to our members and to all the financial analysts of the country. For there are quite a few with a true interest plus an ardent desire to learn more concerning this fine method. Humbly I am one.

Sincerely

  
Helen Slade

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

Rural Route 3  
Waukegan, Illinois  
3 September 1952

My Dear Prof. Weiner,

I am twenty years old and have completed my first year of college.

When I first started high school I realized mathematics is a basic "mirror". Without it science would be lost. It seems to form a sub-conscious pattern which perhaps is the essence of our civilization.

As a supplement to my studies I decided to write to great contemporary mathematicians for their personal signatures. I have had the honor of receiving the signatures of Albert Einstein, Oswald Veblen, Emile Borel, Julian Lowell Coolidge, and Leonard Eugene Dickson.

It would truly be a great honor to receive your own personal signature for theory of cybernetics.

I shall be very grateful if you will please autograph, date, and inscribe the card I am enclosing.

With many thanks for your time and kindness and the best of wishes to you and your work,

I am,

Respectfully yours,

Ronald Soderberg

[ans 9/18/52]

# PHILCO CORPORATION

PHILADELPHIA 34  
PENNSYLVANIA

September 4, 1952

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

We have just learned that you will visit Philadelphia on Tuesday, October 7 to receive the Alva Renga Prize before the College of Physicians. We would be delighted if you can find it possible to remain for an extra evening, Wednesday, October 8 and address our new Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, (SIAM).

SIAM has been incorporated during the past year as a non-profit corporation with purposes as follows:

- a. To further the application of mathematics to industry and science.
- b. To promote basic research in mathematics leading to new methods and techniques useful to industry and science.
- c. To provide media for the exchange of information and ideas between mathematicians and other technical and scientific personnel.

Among its activities SIAM will have symposia on such topics as Operations Research, Network Synthesis, Linear Programming, Communication Theory, Computers-Programming and Logical Design, and it is hoped that its activities will expand to include industrial mathematics problems wherever they exist. SIAM also plans to publish a quarterly bulletin which will contain papers on the same topics.

Any subject about which you might care to talk and which would be compatible with our aims and objectives would be gladly accepted, and we would like to know the title of the talk as soon as possible.

Regarding accomodations, we will make additional hotel reservations for you at whatever hotel has already been

Professor Norbert Wiener

-2-

September 4, 1952

chosen by the College of Physicians and take care of whatever additional expenses you may incur.

We hope you will find it possible to accept our invitation. A prompt reply will be greatly appreciated so that if you do come, we may give the event adequate publicity.

Very respectfully yours,

*I. Edward Block*

I. Edward Block  
Research Division

CC: W. E. Bradley

[ans 9/11/52]



So. Tamworth, N.H.  
Sept. 4, 1952.

Dear Mrs. Baldwin:

I have recently taken up the matter of your remuneration with Professor Martin, and I am willing to accept what I understand to be your suggestion, that you continue to receive the same weekly salary that you received last year, but for a week normally consisting of four days. There are several details to be fixed up social security and the like, which Professor M Martin offers to help me to arrange when I get back on the fifteenth. I notice a certain tentativeness in your letter, and I make these suggestions with the idea that we accept them tentatively and see how they work out.

In the meanwhile, could you do a favor for me? somewhere in my files there is a list of all the members of the "Cercle Cybernetique". Please be sure that this list contains all the names and addresses which I have later been given and please send a copy to

Dr. Gordon Raisbeck  
42 Madisonville Road  
Basking Ridge, N.J.

Please also send a letter directly to whoever is secretary of the "Cercle Cybernetique", telling him that Raisbeck, my son-in-law will be in Europe for a period of five weeks, beginning about a week from now, and that he would like to get in touch with the members of the Cercle, and in particular to consult with them concerning the proper rendering of cybernetic terms from English into French.

My wife joins me in sending both of you our best wishes and hope that the adoption experiment will be successful. From the fifteenth on I shall be ready for duty in Cambridge. I expect by that time that we shall begin proofreading on my book and I shall have a good of copying for you do on manuscripts on my various autumn lectures.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

# THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

29 WEST 39TH STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.



## MANAGEMENT DIVISION

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29 WEST 39TH STREET  
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10 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA  
NEW YORK 20, N. Y.

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1601 EDISON HIGHWAY  
BALTIMORE, MD.

ERCOLE ROSA, JR., ASST. SECRETARY  
DEPT. OF INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

September 5th, 1952

Dear Professor Wiener:

I am writing to you to acknowledge receipt of the manuscript of your talk before the ASME. I was very pleased to hear that you would be able to stay for the evening panel.

I found your paper to be extremely stimulating and I believe that it will lead to a good deal of healthy discussion. For several reasons some of which are obvious and some of which are not, the points made in your paper have not received the kind of discussion they deserve.

Please accept my humble apologies for the inconvenience that my request for a copy of your talk has caused you. The Society has found in the past that preprinting talks adds considerably to the discussion that takes place at the meetings. And our only thought was to get the fullest discussion and widest dissemination of your comments. There is no question in my mind that the comments you have made concerning the machine and its prospects for replacing the worker deserve the widest consideration.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I want to express our appreciation to you for your willingness to participate in the Annual Meeting and for your willingness to prepare a paper under what should have been your vacation time.

Sincerely yours,

*Ercole Rosa Jr.*  
Ercole Rosa Jr.

Professor Norbert Wiener  
Department of Mathematics  
M. I. T.  
Cambridge, 39, Mass.

PLEASE REPLY TO WRITER AT HIS BUSINESS ADDRESS

# COPY

So. Tamworth, N.H.  
September 5, 1952

Professor G. De Santillana  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Department of English and History  
77 Mass. Avenue  
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Professor de Santillana:

The inclosed to Mr. Flanigan will explain itself. Meanwhile, to avoid all contretemps in the future I am writing this letter to inform you that I do not grant you any authority to act on my behalf in any matter whatever, and that I shall hold you strictly to any responsibility for holding yourself as my agent.

Very truly yours,

Norbert Wiener

So. Tamworth, N.H.  
September 5, 1952

Mr. Dennis Flanigan  
Scientific American  
2 West 45th Street  
New York 36, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Flanigan:

I am still at a loss to understand why you sent me the check for one hundred and fifty dollars for an article I did not write, more particularly as I had repeatedly told you people and Professor C. de Santillana that I was too tired to undertake the work connected with an article for your September number. If Prof. de Santillana used my name in any dealings with you concerning an article, it was contrary to my explicit instruction and was a breach of good faith. It appears that any article he may have submitted was not considered fit to publish. This a matter concerning him and you only and I decline to have literary and scientific reputation involved. I am therefore returning the hundred and fifty dollars you have sent me, and I wish to say that neither now nor in the future do I consider myself bound by any negotiations which have not been made by me in person.

Sincerely yours,

So. Tamworth, N.H.  
September 5, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Simon:

I left a copy of the last version of my manuscript with my psychiatrist, Dr. Janet Rioch, for comment and criticism. On the whole her reaction is very favorable, but she suggests that I leave out the vivisection episode and that I do not identify the New Yorker by name. Accordingly, I am submitting the following supplementary list of corrections.

page 141 - 2nd paragraph - 2nd and 3rd line

replace prurient by unhealthy  
replace disgusting by repulsive  
cancel last sentence in 2nd paragraph from "in this confusion" to "situation".

remove last line on page 141, all of page 142 and first 3 lines on page 143.

page 167 - next to last paragraph - 3rd line

change in the New Yorker to in a slick publication which prides itself on its humaneness and urbanity

page 168 - line 5

change New Yorker to periodical

page 168 - 2nd paragraph - 1st line

change New Yorker to periodical  
~~same-change~~, 1st line, 3rd paragraph, change New Yorker to journal

Page 169 - last line - 1st paragraph

change New Yorker to journal

2.

As you will, see these changes are not very extensive. Meanwhile, I have had a good vacation, and am prepared to cooperate with on whatever work is necessary in seeing the book through manufacture and in attending to the promotion program. I leave the farm for the city on the fifteenth, but owing to the inferior postal connection here, I should advise you to forward all mail after the tenth to my M.I.T. address.

Sincerely yours,

*Norbert Wiener*

Norbert Wiener

Commander 16 Jackson St. Report full home - Barbara  
Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> 1952  
1 week @ Soc. Club.

CLIFT HOTEL  
GEARY AT TAYLOR  
SAN FRANCISCO

Sept 7<sup>th</sup> '52

Dear Dr. Wiener

Further to my letter of April 29<sup>th</sup> and your kind answer of May 25<sup>th</sup> I hope to be in Boston Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and the morning of 25<sup>th</sup>, and shall be very pleased to visit you.

Directly upon my arrival in Boston I will call on you over the telephone and, if convenient to you, we can make more detailed plans.

I will be in Toronto Sept 20 and 21<sup>st</sup> where I could be reached at the address of my son

% Mr. Balch van der POL  
81 Millwood Road  
TORONTO (Ont)  
Canada.

Looking very much forward to seeing you and with my best regards, also from my wife, who is with me, to Mrs Wiener,

Sincerely yours

~~J. Bond - Brown~~  
Balch  
R

Balch van der Pol

[ans. 9/17/52]

**THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS**  
29 WEST 39<sup>TH</sup> STREET, NEW YORK 18

Date Sept. 8, 1952

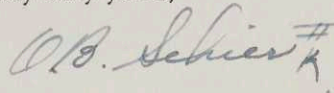
**To Authors and Speakers:**

The following information is required by The American Society of Mechanical Engineers to assure the proper program listing of your participation in the forthcoming meeting, and to enable the chairman of your session to introduce you.

Please return in *triplicate*, not later than Sept. 24, 1952 in the enclosed addressed envelope.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Very truly yours,



*Meetings Manager*

1952 Annual Meeting

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5. ABSTRACT OF YOUR PAPER (Append 2 copies of a 100-150 abstract)



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1952 Annual Meeting

O. B. SCHIER II

Meetings Manager

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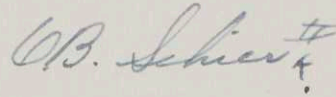
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Meetings Manager

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The American Society of Mechanical Engineers

29 West 39th Street

MEETINGS DEPARTMENT

New York 18, N. Y.



# INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS ASSOCIATION

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Prof. P. C. MAHALANOBIS, F.R.S.

Our Reference. 12 69/60/52-53.

9th September, 1952.

BY AIR MAIL.

Subject :

Dear Prof. Wiener,

I am desired by our Association to invite you to the 40th Session of our Congress which will be held at Lucknow, not very far from Delhi as far as distances go in India, from the 2nd January, 1953 to the 8th/9th January, 1953. We hope it will be possible for you to accept our invitation, be with us for the entire period of the Session, participate in the deliberations of the Congress and also to deliver a lecture or two on the branch of science which you have been serving with such devotion and conspicuous success.

Our Association provides the common forum for all branches of Science and it is representative of teachers and research workers in the various branches of Sciences. Many of the scientific workers in our Universities and Research Institutions are eagerly looking forward to your visit as they are naturally anxious that they might get the opportunity of deriving the utmost benefit from your visit, through discussions and lectures and talks from you on research problems and to gain ~~inspirati~~ inspiration from the possible contact with you. The Association therefore desires me to request you to stay on in India for five weeks or more after the session of the Congress visiting some of our Universities and Research Institutions so that as large a number of our scientists as possible may benefit and you may also come to know personally some of the younger workers. Knowing how pre-occupied you are, we hesitate to request you to spend more than six weeks in India but we earnestly hope that it would be possible for you to prolong your stay.

During the entire period of your ~~stay~~ stay in India, you will naturally be the guest of our Association. The cost of passage will, however, have to be met by you.

The Government of India associate with our Association in extending this invitation to you and the invitation from the Government of India is being sent through our diplomatic representative in The First Secretary, Embassy of India in the U.S.A., Washington, D.C.

We will be very happy and grateful if you would kindly make a special effort and see your way to accepting our invitation.

If you are able to be with us during the session and for a few week thereafter, I shall be glad if you will kindly indicate the subject or subjects of your discourse and the centres of learning and research in India that you yourself may be interested to visit so that a tentative programme may be drawn ~~up~~ up by us in time and sent to you for finalisation.

P.T.O.

INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS ASSOCIATION



Our diplomatic representative in ~~the High Commission~~ ~~the First Secretary~~, Embassy of India in the U.S.A., Washington, D.C., has been asked by our Government to render you all possible assistance regarding passage, visas, etc.

I shall be very grateful if you will kindly let me know as early as possible whether it will be possible for you to accept our invitation.

With kindest regards,

Dear Prof. Wiener,

Yours sincerely,

*D. Chakravarti*

(D. Chakravarti)

Offg. General Secretary.

Prof. Norbert Wiener, F.R.S.,  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,  
Cambridge, U.S.A.

[ans 10/2/52]



September 10, 1952

Dr. Gordon Raisbeck  
42 Madisonville Road  
Basking Ridge, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Raisbeck:

Professor Wiener has asked me to send you a list of the names of members of the Cercle Cybernetique in Paris. Unfortunately, the list from which I copy is very difficult to read, and hence I cannot vouch for the complete accuracy of each name. One name, alphabetically preceding Zelbstein, is entirely illegible on my list.

Assens	Lengevel	Talbotier
Avril	Liaigne	Vallee
Brodin	Libois	Seill
Colombo	Loeb	Wiener
Delpech	Mandelbrot	Zelbstein.
Dubarle	Morceau	
Dubost	Pagei	
Ducasse	Pelgrin	
Fessard	Renauld	
Gendre	Rombout	
George	Russo	
Guilbaud	Scotto Di Vettino	
Le Grand	Sousselier	

The Secretary of the Cercle is Dr. R. Vallee, and his address is 2, rue Mabillon, Paris 6.

I hope this is the information you seek, and that it will reach you before your departure for Europe.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George Baldwin  
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

September 10, 1952

Dr. R. Vallee  
2, rue Mabillon  
Paris 6, France

Dear Dr. Vallee:

Professor Wiener has asked me to write to you to tell you that his son-in-law, Dr. Gordon Raisbeck, will be in Europe for a period of about five weeks beginning this week. I have sent your name and the names of the members of the Cercle d'Etudes de Cybernetique to Dr. Raisbeck.

Dr. Raisbeck would like to get in touch with the members of the Cercle, and in particular to consult with them concerning the proper rendering of cybernetic terms from English into French.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George Baldwin  
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

cc: Dr. Raisbeck  
Prof. Wiener

201, Dereham Road,  
Norwich,  
Norfolk,  
ENGLAND.

11th Sept. '52

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

Dear Dr. Wiener,

(Three pages)

I wonder whether you would be kind enough to help me on the following points?

2. It was reported here that you told the American Association for the Advancement of Science that work is going on in U.S.A. on a "hearing glove" that picks up sound and transmits it per nervous electricity to the brain, in a manner capable of rapidly improving the speech of a deaf mute, and apparently implying the prospect of very great inroads on the entire problem of defects in hearing and speech.

Are you in a position to furnish any further data on this line of development; or can you give me some reference to the individuals or organizations engaged upon it?

3. Secondly, I have been pursuing the notion that a logical outcome of current development is likely to be an attempt to pick up "thought" impulses and to interpret these (should they need interpretation), with fair intelligibility, by application of the advanced electronic analysis of waveforms so greatly developed in your country during and since the World War II.

I have conceived this as possibly attainable by attention to some such seats of high-canalization as the aural or oral systems, applying electronic pick-up. Or, alternatively, by hyper-microphony on the assumption that rudimentary adjustments occur in the throat concomitantly with thought and regardless of whether there is actual decision to speak or not.

I have in mind the ordinary-language nature of much thought, and I am inspired by consideration of the piezo-aspect of the "intake" operation of the aural system.

Perfection need not be expected in the early stages of a suitable technique. Nevertheless, short of perfection, useful indicators might be secured which would be something additional and complementary to the relatively broad indicators secured from conventional encephalography on the one hand and from the other conventional indices of thought and emotion on the other hand.

Finally I would contemplate the possibility of the technique's operation either by a method of relatively close contact, or by some manner of pick-up from a greater distance. In this last connection current knowledge should reduce problems connected with focussing, and of course we can draw on advanced techniques for selectivity and amplification.

I think the above is sufficient, in your case, to define the nature of my problem.

I have raised this problem with a number of prominent specialists in fields adjacent to it. One <sup>expert</sup> has been sceptical on account of the small micro-voltages available to rely on, while another has remarked that to him the problem of pick-up does not seem so great as the problem of interpretation of the complex waveforms.

My own first impression is that the wave-form difficulty is not likely to be the fundamental snag, if there is one. This is my impression upon a certain introduction to the remarkable comprehensiveness of the high-speed waveforms analysis techniques developed e.g. as illustrated in the M.I.T Radiation Lab. Series.

My second impression is more complex and may be stated thus:-

- (i) perhaps the problem, although a somewhat obvious one, has not yet been tackled on a full scale as a recognized theme in the application of electronic and acoustic science;
- (ii) the necessary techniques are somewhat various, and consequently do not fall naturally to any of the existing well-known specializations;
- (iii) hence we have again the kind of problem presented previously, in the history of television - that a variety of techniques may already be available but awaiting conjoining by some Zworykin or such-like.

I think I make myself clear.

My third impression concerns yourself. It is that you have marked yourself as not limiting yourself to a very narrow specialization in your contemplation of the potentialities of electronics.

You will therefore understand why I am raising this topic with you. You will also appreciate why I am stating the problem quite briefly, and suggesting that you might be interested to consider the matter and perhaps to assist me to data and literature and references to individuals and organizations from which, in your judgment, I am likely to secure the most enlightenment at the points I need, in order to pin down the scope and snags of this theme. I would like, of course, eventually, to be able to define the scope and snags with as precise mathematical precision as possible given the present state of knowledge.

4. It has further occurred to me that the present time may be ripe for a review of the possibilities of influencing tissues or nerve or brain currents, more particularly from a distance greater than skin-contact.

On this problem again I think there may be a certain degree of imprecision prevailing. Thus it has been suggested to me that perhaps a train of very intense r.f. pulses would be rectified by an interface in the skin, that penetration of r.f. into the body would be very small, and direct effect on the central nervous system slight, whilst at lower frequencies other than direct contact is unpromising since capacitative and inductive couplings are loose. But effects comparable with those of rhythmic photic stimulation might follow a diathermy at some critical frequency.

On the other hand it has been put to me that electromagnetic radiation, of almost every known wavelength from 50 metres down to the very short wavelengths of hard gamma

rays, has appreciable effect on the tissues and, directly or indirectly, on the brain (the same being true of pressure and friction agents such as ultrasonics and sound, and also of temperature by convection as well as radiation).

That seems to put the scope of the problem widely enough, and to set the context or perspective! I think it offers invitations to comment.

But to pin my notion down I would add that what I envision is something in the nature of "remote" inducement of an "abnormal encephalograph", possibly with the abnormalities of behaviour commonly associated therewith. Furthermore observe that we need not envision a "death-ray". Early or eventual influencing of sensation and/or behaviour (e.g. in conjunction with something on the lines of that "abnormal encephalograph") would be of interest. In addition it is to be noted that perhaps critical seats for attention would not demand, relatively, a very great depth of penetration.

I think it might even be possible, using this kind of technique in conjunction with sonic and/or ultrasonic bombardment, to induce fairly precise trains of thought and hence to govern behaviour and thought in some detail.

Perhaps you may think that the most promising approach to something analogous to all this would indeed be found earliest along the route of ultrasonic or (stretching the analogy further) sound-beam bombardment.

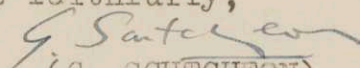
5. I feel quite certain that you will be interested to consider the foregoing three topics of query, and I very much hope that you may be in a position to give me some assistance on them along the lines I have indicated.

6. I am in communication about these questions with such as Prof. A.V. Hill (the President of our British Association for the Advancement of Science), Units of the Medical Research Council, the Burden Institute of Neurology at Bristol, certain other research organizations, and specialists in neurology and mathematics, in this country, as well as various organizations and individual specialists in your continent.

You will understand that in conveying very broad impressions I am not actually purporting to indicate the state of knowledge or opinion here with any precision. With your experience you will appreciate that I have merely endeavoured to indicate an appreciation of the nature of some of the inevitable general difficulties likely to be connected with such a topic, while at the same time I wish to convey to you that this present enquiry is a genuinely serious one.

7. I shall be most grateful if you will contribute to this discussion, as I am very sure you can.

Yours faithfully,

  
(G. SCUTCHEON)

P.S. The "hearing glove" suggests analogies applicable to the faculty of sight, means to relieve various forms of blindness with, at first, at least indicators of light and shadow and perhaps proximity - indicators additional to such items as the reading aid which R.C.A. men were discussing in "Electronics" and "J. Frank. Inst." in 1949?

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EDWARD L. GREENE  
President



September 11, 1952.

Dr. Norbert Wiener  
South Tamworth  
New Hampshire

Dear Dr. Wiener:

The question you raise, one of determining whether the inclusion on your letterhead of a statement such as you suggest would prevent misuse of your letters and/or free you from the responsibility of any such misuse, we would think could best be answered by your attorney. He would be qualified to advise you of the legal force lent by such a statement.

Perhaps the most direct way of commenting on the ethics involved in this matter would be to say that organizations like reporting agencies have been known to state on their reports, etc. that information given is designed for the use of the recipient only or that the information given cannot be used for sales or promotional purposes, and so forth.

These comments, we hope, will in some measure answer the questions you have raised.

Cordially yours,

*Diana Bennett*

Representative

Diana Bennett:mw  
JAR

So. Tamworth. N.H.  
September 11, 1952

Mr. Henry A. Bern  
75-38 263 Street  
Floral Park, L.I. N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bern:

I am very much complicated by your interest in my book Cybernetics. As to the instructional program in the subject, I do not believe any school as yet has carried the matter far enough to offer a well organized course in the subject, and the program of teaching is left to such individuals as myself who still feel that it is a little early in the day to make of cybernetics a closed profession.

I shall be interested in reading your contribution to this literature.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

So. Tamworth, N.H.  
September 11, 1952

Mr. I Edward Block  
Research division  
Philco Corporation  
Philadelphia 34  
Penn.

Dear Mr. Block:

My schedule of lectures is always complete at least six months in advance and I am afraid that I cannot include the ~~lecture~~ you request among them. In addition I heartily disapprove of the practice of giving an additional lecture gratis in a region where another person or organization has already engaged my time. Whether the extra lecture is before or after the legitimately scheduled lecture, the prospect of this double work is not favorable for my giving the best possible performance.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener



So. Tamworth, N.H.  
September 11, 1952

Mr. Jerry Kagan  
Colloquium Chairman  
Yale University  
Department of Psychology  
333 Cedar Street  
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Mr. Kagan:

I shall be delighted to address your Psychology Colloquium on one of the last three dates. While I do not wish to bind myself yet to the precise subject, if I were giving the talk now, I should probably do it as a criticism of Ashby's book Design For A Brain and of the repercussions of that book on psychology. Ashby's book is in fact a popular discussion of the field of stability of dynamical systems which has already a considerable literature, but which has not been integrated into psychology. I think this integration is important, and although I suspect Ashby's book of a certain amateurism in thinking, I think he has done a real service in attracting the attention of psychologists and psychiatrists to the study of topology and the pattern of the stability of solution of differential equations.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

Ans 9-20-52]

**GENERAL  ELECTRIC**  
COMPANY

METER AND INSTRUMENT DEPARTMENT

40 FEDERAL STREET • WEST LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS • TELEPHONE LYNN 3-3400

September 12, 1952

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

Dear Sir:

The prominent part you are scheduled to play in this year's A.S.M.E. annual meeting at New York indicates that in addition to your published works, you have assumed the added responsibility of communicating your advanced thinking, new concepts and general philosophy directly to the engineering profession by personal appearances. Undoubtedly you have been forced to decide what level of the engineering profession must be represented in an audience in order that you could justify accepting an invitation to address that group.

This note is to inquire whether or not you could justify accepting this invitation to address the North Shore Chapter of the Mass. Society of Professional Engineers as the guest of the "Engineers in training" group of this chapter.

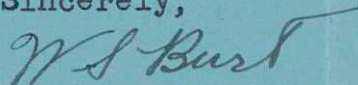
Time: Evening of February 26, 1953  
Subject: "Social Considerations in Planning the Automatic Factory"  
Place: Lynn or Salem area - Transportation from your home provided.

While fully realizing the interest and benefit this group would realize from your remarks I am somewhat embarrassed that I cannot extend an unqualified invitation in view of the fact that the "Engineer in training" group which I represent has no operating funds of any kind.

It will be our good fortune if considerations unknown to me induce you to accept this invitation.

Please reply at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



W. S. BURT  
SPECIALTY INSTRUMENT ENGINEERING DIV.

WSB:JQ

[ans 9/17/52]

# THE VIRGINIA QUARTERLY REVIEW

*A National Journal of Literature & Discussion*

ONE WEST RANGE • CHARLOTTESVILLE • VIRGINIA

September 12, 1952

Dear Mr. Wiener:

The Virginia Quarterly Review is anxious to present in its Winter issue a stimulating essay-review of Norman Cousins' "Who Speaks for Man?" and we wonder if we can persuade you to comment on it for us. The review need not be a long one, say about a thousand words, and our deadline for the Winter issue is not until November first. Perhaps I should mention here that, while the Virginia Quarterly pays for its articles, it is able to reward its reviewers only with copies of the books reviewed and its grateful thanks. We shall, of course, try to get the book into your hands at the earliest possible moment.

Since I am not sure whether or not you have seen a copy of the Virginia Quarterly recently, I am taking the liberty of sending one to you and I hope it may interest you and help to persuade you to write the review for us. We shall look forward to hearing from you. Perhaps you will wire us your answer collect.

Very sincerely yours,

*Charlotte Kohler*

Charlotte Kohler  
Editor

Mr. Norbert Wiener  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

CK:pg

*Enc 9/17/52*



**THE CARTER OIL COMPANY**

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1133 NO. LEWIS

**TULSA, OKLAHOMA**

P. S. WILLIAMS  
CHIEF OF RESEARCH

September 15, 1952

POST OFFICE BOX 801

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

We are trying to locate a reprint of your article, "Generalized Harmonic Analysis", which appeared in Volume 55 of Acta Mathematica, 1930. We have tried a number of sources without success.

If you can give us any information as to where we may either secure a reprint of the article or borrow a copy of this magazine, we would be very grateful.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

*Helen Parkinson*

(Mrs.) Helen Parkinson  
Research Librarian

Acta Math

*Uppsala, Almqvist + Wiksells Bok tryck-eri AB Sweden*

*J. S. Conner + Co. 46 Millmont St. Brit*  
*\$124*

[ans 9/22/52]

# Phi Lambda Upsilon

GAMMA CHAPTER

BOX 102, HAVEMEYER HALL

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

Sept. 15, 1952.

Professor Norbert Wiener,  
Mass. Institute of Technology,  
CAMBRIDGE, Mass.

My dear Professor Wiener:

The Gamma Chapter of Phi Lambda Upsilon of Columbia University is pleased to offer you the Phi Lambda Upsilon lectureship for 1952.

Phi Lambda Upsilon is the National Honorary Graduate Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Society. Our Chapter inaugurated a program of lectures five years ago in which distinguished scientists are invited to speak to members of the society and their guests. These lectures have invariably produced great interest and have proven an inspiration to both student body and faculty alike. The high standard of the lectureship has been exemplified in the past by such speakers as Drs. Linus Pauling, Mark Zemansky, and Robert Woodward. We would be honored to have you as a recipient of our lectureship.

We would like to invite you to speak during the coming fall session, preferably on a Wednesday evening; the following dates are suggested, namely, November 5th, November 12th, and November 19th, 1952, however any weekday evening convenient to you would be suitable. The topic would be left to your discretion, we might however suggest that a talk relating cybernetics to the LeChatelier principle and chemical equilibrium might be very apropos.

We hope you will be in a position to accept our invitation and shall expend every effort to make the occasion as enjoyable to you as we know it would be memorable for us.

Respectfully,  
PHI LAMBDA UPSILON,

Per: 

Martin V. Sussman,  
Secretary.

MVS:JF

P.S. An honorarium covering the speakers expenses accompanies the lectureship.

[ans. 9/17/52

**S C I E N C E   R E S E A R C H   A S S O C I A T E S**



*Educational and Business Publications • 57 W. Grand Ave., Chicago 10, Ill., Whitehall 4-7552*

September 16, 1952

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

Dear Dr. Weiner:

In our work on psychological and educational testing we have been convinced that it is fruitful to study tests in relation to human learning as a feed-back signal. We are anxious to pursue this train of thought further. Perhaps, you or your associates can direct us to those parts of cybernetics literature that seem to be most relevant to our problem.

Any assistance you can give us will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Frederick Gehlmann, Editor  
Tests & Records Department

FG:mm

[enc 9/22/52]

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA  
PHILADELPHIA

*The Graduate School of Medicine*

HENRY L. BOCKUS, M. D., *Chairman*  
*Department of Internal Medicine*  
250 South 18th Street, Philadelphia 3

September 17, 1952.

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

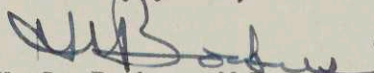
We are looking forward to having you with us on  
Tuesday, October 7th.

I presume you will be coming to Philadelphia in  
the afternoon on Tuesday. A reservation has been made for you at  
the Hotel Barclay, South Rittenhouse Square, so that you may have  
some place to brighten up upon arrival, and I presume you will  
wish to spend the night here.

A dinner has been arranged for you at the Hall of  
The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, at 6:30 P.M. I will  
call for you at the Barclay at 6:15 P.M. to take you to dinner and  
the meeting place. We have taken the liberty of inviting your  
friend, Professor John Robert Kline, to the dinner.

If there is anyone else that you would care to have  
invited, or any other arrangements which can be made to make your  
visit a pleasant one, do not hesitate to get in touch with me.  
With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

  
H. L. Bockus, M.D.

HLB/d

[ans 9/23/52]

September 17, 1952

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
29 West 39th Street  
New York 18, New York

Gentlemen:

I had already gone beyond what you had any right to expect of me in connection with my talk to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers by sending you a complete version of my paper when all I had agreed to do was to give a talk. When you now ask me for publicity material, I cannot agree that this is my concern. All the information asked for in your form is readily available to you, and I feel no compunction whatever in putting on you the burden of seeking it out.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb



September 17, 1952

Dr. H. L. Bockus  
250 South Eighteenth Street  
Philadelphia 3, Penna.

Dear Dr. Bockus:

I should be most appreciative if you would be kind enough to invite Dr. Moritz Chafetz to attend both the dinner and the lecture I shall give for you on October 7. Dr. Chafetz is a young physiologist of very high standing, and we have worked together in Mexico. I should like to help him meet the scientific world.

You can reach Dr. Chafetz at the following address: Public Health Service, c/o U.S. Coast Guard, Cape May, New Jersey.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

September 17, 1952

Mr. W.S. Burt  
Specialty Instrument Engineering Division  
General Electric Company  
40 Federal Street  
West Lynn, Mass.

Dear Mr. Burt:

I am finding the lecture platform getting too much for me, and I should like to cut my responsibilities as a lecturer to the bone. I am consequently using "No" as my standard answer to requests like yours, except in very special cases. You will understand that it is not a lack of good will, but that each lecture that I give makes new and separate demands on my strength, and that I should cultivate that for my more productive work.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

September 17, 1952

Dr. Moritz Chafetz  
Public Health Service  
Care of Coast Guard  
Cape May, New Jersey

Dear Moritz:

I shall be giving the Alvarenga Prize Lecture at the College of Physicians in Philadelphia on October 7, 1952, in the evening. Could you come both to the talk and to the dinner which precedes it? I am trying to see that it won't be by gate-crashing on your part. I hate lots of things to talk over with you, and besides I think it would do you good to show yourself at this meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

September 17, 1952

Miss Charlotte Kohler  
The Virginia Quarterly Review  
1 West Range  
Charlottesville, Virginia

Dear Miss Kohler:

I am finding it necessary to limit my extra-curricular activities, and in particular to eliminate all review work. Thank you for your invitation to contribute to your journal, and please understand that my refusal has nothing to do with the merits of your request for the Virginia Quarterly Review.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

September 17, 1952

Dr. Janet McK. Riach  
17 West 54th St.  
New York, New York.

Dear Dr. Riach:

I thank you for your opinion on the book, and in particular on the vivisection and New Yorker episodes. My publishers disagree with you on both matters, and in order to get a further opinion I spoke to Felix and Helene Deutsch and to Dr. Fransworth. All of them are of the emphasic opinion that the passages should stay in, and I think I shall follow their advice in the matter. I understand the motives of friendliness and protectiveness from which you have given me your advice, and I am acting with a certain amount of doubt in the matter. But I think the balance of evidence is my way.

I am hoping to be able to see you soon when I come to New York.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

September 17, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Simon:

Since my telephone conversation, I have raised the issues about the two passages in the book with Drs. Felix and Helene Deutsch and with Dr. Farnsworth of M.I.T. All of these are qualified psychoanalysts and friends of mine, and Dr. Farnsworth had read my book some time ago and had a favorable opinion of it. All of them are in agreement with you and not with Dr. Rioch as to the passages mentioned in my previous letter. Therefore, let them stay in. I may say that their opinion about these passages is most emphatically in their favor.

I am back at my desk at M.I.T. now, and shall be in harness again soon. There is one possibility in my plans for the winter which may be of interest to you in connection with the promotion of my book. I have received an invitation for a six-weeks lecturing tour in India under the auspices of the India Science Congress. I do not know whether from reasons of health and other reasons of policy I should accept this. But I am considering the matter very seriously. I also do not know whether the doing of this would be of any use in connection with your publicity campaign for the book, but I am mentioning it for your consideration.

I am sorry you were not able to visit us last summer. I do hope your illness has resolved itself permanently and satisfactorily.

With best wishes from my wife and myself,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener.

hb

September 17, 1952

Professor Marshall H. Stone  
Department of Mathematics  
The University of Chicago  
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Stone:

You know as well as I do the names of those active in probability fields, as your list in your letter of August 18th shows. On casual consideration of the list, I think that the names of L.C. Young, Ulam, and Kac, as well as that of Heins at Carnegie Tech, might be added. I should add also the name of Loewe in California. This is about all I can do at present as I have become a little remote from the names of the young men in the field.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

September 17, 1952

Mr. Martin V. Sussman, Secretary  
Phi Lambda Upsilon  
Box 102, Havemeyer Hall  
Columbia University  
New York 27, New York

My dear Mr. Sussman:

I am finding it necessary to adopt a fairly consistent policy according to which I refuse all new lecture engagements. I am sorry, therefore, that I shall be unable to address Phi Lambda Upsilon. You will understand that apart from the cumulative labor involved in an unlimited series of lecture engagements, there is also the very serious fact that repetition of the same subject sooner or later becomes intolerable for the speaker and constitutes a very real interference with the creative research work which I should be doing.

I regret that I cannot speak to your group.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb



September 17, 1952

Dr. Balth van der Pol  
c/o Mr. Balth. van der Pol  
81 Millwood Road  
Toronto (Ontario)  
Canada

Dear Dr. Van der Pol:

It is good news to hear that you will be in Boston soon, and my wife and I look forward to seeing you and your wife.

Since I wrote to you some months ago, our plans have changed a bit and I fear that our house will be full at the time of your visit. My daughter Barbara's husband is in Europe, and she and her two children will be with us for several weeks during his absence. We are very sorry that we cannot have you with us as our guests. I suggest that you seek hotel accommodations at the Hotel Commander, 16 Garden St., Cambridge. This hotel is centrally located in Cambridge, and you will be very comfortable there.

We should like to have you and your wife at our house for dinner on the evening of either the 23rd or 24th. And I should like, also, to entertain you at the M.I.T. Faculty Club for luncheon on any of the three days you will be here in order to give you an opportunity to meet some of my colleagues.

Do call me, either at my home or at my office, as soon as you get to Boston. Meanwhile, we look forward to your visit most eagerly.

With kind regards to your wife and yourself,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

cc to Mrs. W.



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION  
REGIONAL OFFICE  
ONE BEACON STREET  
BOSTON 8, MASSACHUSETTS

*Sept 18*

YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Dr. Norbert Wiener  
Massachusetts Inst. Tech.  
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Dr. Wiener;

Will you kindly send me a reprint of  
Some maxims for biologists and psychologists.

Very truly yours,

*Bernard L. Bloom*

Bernard L. Bloom, PhD  
Clinical Psychologist

2

The **RAND** Corporation

1800 FOURTH ST • SANTA MONICA • CALIFORNIA

18 September 1952

L-11538

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

I noticed today that we recently sent you a copy of a long paper on human behavior by Professor E. W. Barankin of the University of California. I am sorry about this violation of your express request not to receive RAND papers. Our general policy is to let authors send their papers to whomever they wish so that there is little scrutiny of the distribution lists for unclassified papers; of course this merely accounts for but does not condone the present error. You may destroy your copy or return it as you wish.

Sincerely yours,

  
A. M. Mood

AMM/hjt



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

September 18, 1952

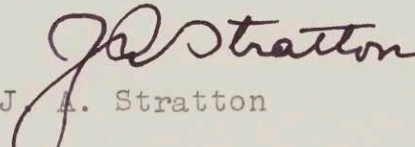
Dr. Norbert Wiener  
Room 2-155

Dear Dr. Wiener:

I am most sorry I was out of the office when you came by Wednesday morning. You may be sure that both President Killian and I are extremely proud of this new honor that has come to you. We are quite prepared to extend the necessary leave of absence and we want the decision as to whether you should or should not go to be governed entirely by your own wishes and by your own best interest. Several factors enter into this of course including your health and the current state of your research at the Institute.

May I suggest that since Dean Harrison is expected to return on Thursday, September 25, we defer any final answer until next week. We shall, naturally, wish to discuss the matter with Professor Martin. Would it not be most helpful if then several of us sit down with you and work the problem out to your satisfaction.

Sincerely,

  
J. A. Stratton

JAS:deh

# JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY OF IDEAS

*A Quarterly Devoted To Intellectual History*

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PHILIP P. WIENER  
CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK  
CONVENT AVE. & 139TH ST.,  
N. Y. C. 31

192 Coligni Ave.  
New Rochelle, N.Y.  
September 18, 1952

Professor Norbert Wiener  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Professor Wiener:

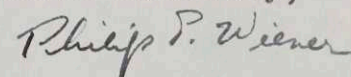
I am preparing a volume of Readings in  
Philosophy of Science for Charles Scribner's Sons of New York  
and should like to request your permission (and your publisher's  
if necessary) to include the first chapter of your book  
THE HUMAN USE OF HUMAN BEINGS: Cybernetics and Society, pp. 1-19,  
What is Cybernetics ?

Full acknowledgement of the source (title  
of your book, author, and publisher) will be made on the first  
page of your reprinted chapter, and that you have the Copyright.

I believe your work should be better known  
and used by teachers of humanities, social studies, and philo-  
sophy, and hope that my Readings may do something towards that end.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Philip P. Wiener

[ans 9/22/52]

18 September 1952

Miss Arlene Cleven, Librarian  
Dunlap and Associates, Inc.  
429 Atlantic Street  
Stamford, Connecticut.

Dear Miss Cleven:

Professor Wiener has no reprints of the article, "Time, Communication, and the Nervous System" which appeared in the Annals of the New York Academy of Science, Vol. 50.

I suggest that you write directly to the New York Academy of Science for whatever help they may be able to give you in securing a copy of this paper.

Sincerely yours,

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

h

September 18, 1952

Mr. Dennis Flanigan  
Scientific American  
2 West 45th Street  
New York 36, New York

Dear Mr. Flanigan:

I have been thinking over the situation concerning my relations with the Scientific American issue on automatic machinery. If I remember correctly, at the meeting you had at M.I.T. in March I definitely told either you or your representative that I had not committed myself to write any article for you and that I was not in a physical condition to do so, but that as a matter of good will I would sit in on the meeting and give you advice. At no time had I agreed to write an article for you, or even to participate as co-author in an article by Georgio de Santillana, although I had stood ready to give him advice concerning an article to appear exclusively over his own name. I may have listened to his blandishments so that my position was not as clear as I would have liked it to be; but I regret very much now that I did not send you a letter which I had actually written earlier in the game disavowing any connection with him. I did not send this letter, although it expressed my considered opinion, because I wished to avoid harming him, and because I was not aware of how much he was to harm me.

The Marquis de Santillana's insistence on getting some material out of me was a thing I did not understand at the time. Now I am convinced that he had obtained an advance of money from you, or at least a promise of money for his services in obtaining my name for an article for you or in writing one himself, and that he found himself unable to do it without pumping me. His conduct in haunting me last spring and bedeviling me was noticeable to other people, who find it impossible to give any other explanation of it.

Now I consider the practice of secret commissions in the publishing business or the use of unauthorized persons to obtain the services of another as a degrading one, both to the man who receives the secret commission and to the man who

Mr. Dennis Flanigan - 2

gives it. I therefore find such doubt excited in me, not only concerning de Santillana's conduct, but concerning your own, that I shall not be available for any work for you in the future. This is a step which I regret to take, inasmuch as I have held a high opinion of your journal and of its editorial policy. Nevertheless, if I have doubts of your integrity, you are responsible for them because of your indirection in approaching me through an unauthorized third person.

If you have any explanation of your conduct, I shall accept it for what it's worth.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

[ans 10/1/52]



September 18, 1952

Committee on Inauguration  
Meharry Medical College  
Nashville 8, Tenn.

Gentlemen:

Professor Norbert Wiener has asked me to thank you for your kind invitation to be present at the inauguration of the fifth president of the College. Unfortunately, the pressure of his commitments here in Cambridge at that time will prevent his attendance, and he wants you to know that he regrets this very much.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George Baldwin  
Sec. to Professor Wiener

h

September 18, 1952

Dr. Alfred Moldovan  
Kings County Hospital  
Brooklyn 3, New York

Dear Dr. Moldovan:

Professor Wiener has no reprints of either of the articles you seek which were published in Philosophy of Science. I suggest that you write to Professor Wiener's collaborator, Dr. Arturo Rosenblueth, Instituto Nacional de Cardiologia, Calzada de la Piedad, 300 Mexico D.F., Mexico. Dr. Rosenblueth's file of reprints may be more complete than Professor Wiener's.

Sincerely yours,

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

h

Dr. Alfred Moldovan

September 17, 1952

September 18, 1952

Dr. Rasch  
Siemens  
Siemens and Halske Aktiengesellschaft  
Zentral-Fachbücherei München  
München 25  
Hofmannstrasse 51  
Germany

Dear Sir:

Professor Wiener's lecture on "Quantal and Non-Quantal Uncertainties" was given at the Spring Meeting of the American Physical Society in Washington, D.C. on May 3rd. The notation in the Physical Review, 87, which you mention in your letter is misleading.

This lecture was given from notes, and Professor Wiener has not written a manuscript for publication based on this lecture. It may possibly be that a transcription of the meeting was made, and you could inquire about this from Dr. Karl K. Darrow, Secretary, The American Physical Society, Columbia University, New York 27, New York.

This subject is one on which Professor Wiener is working now, and any publications will surely come to your attention. However, no manuscripts are in publishable shape at this time.

Thank you for your inquiry. Professor Wiener hopes that he will be able to give you more direct help when you write to him again.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George Baldwin  
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

h

September 18, 1952

Mr. Ronald Soderberg  
Rural Route 3  
Waukegan, Illinois

Dear Mr. Soderberg:

Professor Wiener has asked me to thank you for your request for his autograph, and the compliment which it implies.

However, Professor Wiener decided some time ago not to give his autograph to anyone for collection purposes. I am sorry to disappoint you.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George Baldwin  
Sec. to Prof. Wiener

h

*Apparat per se - prob. & zu heilen*

# ZEITSCHRIFTENVERLAG KURT KLEBERT

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WIEN, den 19.9.1952.

*Arbeit  
hearing aid*

Sehr geehrter Herr Doktor !

In der Nummer 6 6. Jahrgang der Zeitschrift  
" Weg ohne Licht " habe ich die kurze Notiz über Ihren  
Hörapparat - sie wurde mir von der amerikanischen Reportage  
für Österreich zur Verfügung gestellt - veröffentlicht.  
Zahlreiche Zuschriften bewiesen ein großes Interesse für Ihre  
Erfindung und ich möchte Sie nun bitten, mir nähere Informa-  
tionen darüber zu geben. Für welche Fälle von Gehörleiden kann  
dieser Apparat in Anwendung gebracht werden ? Muß ein Gehör-  
rest noch vorhanden sein, welche Altersstufen, bestimmte  
Ursachen des Gehörleidens, vollständige Ertaubtheit usw.?  
Wie hoch sind die Kosten des Einzelstückes und auf welche Weise  
wäre eine Importierung möglich.

In Erwartung Ihrer baldigen Rückschrift zeichnet  
mit dem Ausdruck vorzüglichster Hochachtung

*Kurt Klebert*



CORRESPONDENCIA  
DEL PERSONAL MEDICO



AVENIDA CUAUHTEMOC N°300  
MEXICO, D.F.

September 19, 1952

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

Dear Norbert:

I have been invited by the Unesco to attend a conference on neurons and synapses in Montevideo during the week from the 6th to the 12th of October, and I have accepted. I am planning to stop in Boston for a week or so after that, and I hope that I will be able to see you. I want to take our manuscript along for a final revision together. Please let me know whether you expect to be there from 16th to the 25th, which will be approximately the short time for my visit.

With best regards to all, I remain.

Faithfully,

Dr. Arturo Rosenblueth

AR/gh

{ ans 9/22/52 }

YALE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY  
333 CEDAR STREET  
NEW HAVEN · CONNECTICUT

September 20, 1952

Dr. Norbert Wiener  
Department of Mathematics  
Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology  
Cambridge 30, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

*wednesday*

Thank you very much for accepting to speak to our Colloquium. March 25th is our choice of preferred dates, if this is still satisfactory to you. The meetings are held at 4 p.m. with tea at 3:30 in the Blue Room of the Institute of Human Relations. I shall be happy to meet you at the main entrance, 333 Cedar Street, whenever you arrive.

If you do decide to discuss Ashby's book I'm sure the group would profit from the presentation. In any event, please let me know the topic of your talk about 10 days before the meeting so that we can get out the proper notices to the department.

Thank you again for accepting our invitation.

Sincerely yours,  
*Jerry Kagan*  
Jerry Kagan

*[Jan 9-23-52]*

September 21, 1952

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

Dear Prof. Wiener:

In a few hours I shall be flying to London to attend a conference on Communication Theory, and before I return I shall try to get in touch with Dr. Walter and Dr. Ashby. Dr. Schouten is, I believe, scheduled to present a paper.

Here in Holland I have tentatively chosen a main problem to work on, under the direction of Prof. van Soest and with the help of another student at Delft. Since the problem as it now stands is still too big for a doctoral thesis, I should appreciate very much any helpful comments you might be able to offer on (a) its acceptability as a thesis problem at MIT, (b) how to break it down into man-sized chunks, and (c) how to tackle it. I should dearly like to bring it back in the form of an acceptable thesis proposal next spring.

The problem, in its most general form, is this: given a black box, a random input, and a random output. How can one tell, by looking at the input and the output, whether the box is linear and whether there is random noise being generated inside the box? How can one divide the output power into that resulting from the input signal, that from the internally generated noise, and that from the non-linearity? (The first step is obviously to phrase the question more exactly. When I speak of the power from the input signal and that from the non-linearity, I am thinking as if the box were "nearly" linear and the output consisted loosely of a "fundamental" with "harmonics.")

I feel that this is a very practical problem and one of deep fundamental importance. Until we have a better understanding of these practical aspects, it is going to be very difficult indeed to interpret the results which the statistical theory gives in the engineering world, where no system is quite linear, to say the least.

There is also, it seems to me, a good possibility of being able to set up a reasonably practical experimental definition of the "amount of non-linearity" present in a system being excited by a random input. And this leads directly to the question that I phrased some time ago about how good the theory was when applied to a "quasi-linear" system.

Anyhow, do you think that this problem has promise? I realize that you are very busy, but I should deeply appreciate any comments which you might offer.

Sincerely,

*Bruce B. Barrow*

Bruce B. Barrow

[ans 10/10/52]

10/16/52



LUCHTBRIEF



Den Hooggeleerden Heer Prof. Dr. N. Wiener  
Department of Mathematics  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

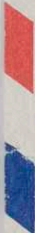
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AFZENDER

B. Barrow  
Waalsdorperweg 261  
Den Haag, Nederland

NIETS INSLUITEN!  
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PER BOOT/TREIN VERZONDEN



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VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL  
PALO ALTO, CALIF.

September 22, 1952

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

Dear Wiener:

Two years ago - or was it three? - at one of the Cybernetic meetings, I said that I wished that you or some other mathematician would build a branch of mathematics to describe the propagation of paranoid premises. You instantly replied that no such branch of mathematics could ever be constructed because it would run into the Theory of Types.

This was the answer which I expected, but I am still not content to dismiss the problem as totally insoluble. It should be possible to sketch an outline at least of the uninvestigable region, and I am not quite content to leave the matter until this has been done, either by the mathematicians or the social scientists.

The problem is fundamental to theory and urgent in a world which stinks. As I analyze it, the contemporary world has that particular smell which is generated when people apply social science ad hoc to practical problems and ignore the long term effects of their action upon the total ecology of opinion. Examples recur in all contexts in which man manipulates man; the mother who manipulates her child into obedience; the advertizer who manipulates the public into buying some particular product; the colonial administrator who uses anthropological insight to maintain law and order in a native population; our friends in Rand who apply the theory of games to the strategies of war; and so on.

The last example is, perhaps, the clearest. No doubt in short time perspective the Rand people are right and have "useful" advice to offer on such subjects as intercepting hostile aircraft or bamboozling hostile diplomats...but still it stinks. In the long run, the applications of the theory of games can only propagate the theory by reinforcing the hostility of the diplomats, and in general forcing people to regard themselves and each other as Van Neumannian robots.

Games with human players are fine - so long as the players are not armed with atom bombs, and so long as they do not incorporate ("introject") the rules and premises of the games into their own characters. What applications of the theory of games do is to reinforce the players' acceptance of the rules and competitive premises, and therefore make it more and more difficult for the players to conceive that there might be other ways of meeting and dealing with each other.

Now, it was certainly necessary for Van Neumann to give birth to the "static" (and, therefore, ad hoc) theory before any theory of flux could be attempted - but I question the wisdom of the static theory as a basis for action in a human world. The theory may be "static" within itself, but its use propagates changes, and I suspect that the long term changes so propagated are in a paranoid direction and odious. I am thinking not only of the propagation of the premises of distrust which are built into the Van Neumann model ex hypothesi, but also of the more abstract premise that human nature is unchangeable. This premise that "nothing can be done about it," is the reflection or corollary of the fact that the original theory was set up only to describe the games in which the rules are unchanging and the psychological characters of the players are fixed ex hypothesi.

I know as an anthropologist that the "rules" of the cultural game are not constant; that the psychology of the players is not fixed, and even that the psychology can be at times out of step with the rules.

I know, therefore, that the premises which are presumably propagated when governments act upon the static theory of games, are untrue premises. More correctly I should say: that the degree of truth which such premises may have at a given moment is a function of (amongst other things) the amount of action that has been based upon these premises in the immediate past.

I write to you partly to urge you to give attention to problems of this order, partly to get your advice, and partly to see whether I can set down my thoughts in an intelligible form.

I am about to start a piece of research, or, better, an exploration of data and a thinking, related to the problems which I have sketched above. And it is about this research that I would like to have your comments. If at the end of the work I achieve some idea of how to think about matters of this sort, I shall be satisfied. It is a matter of studying how investigation might be achieved later on and probably by others.

At present I am "Ethnologist" employed by this hospital - i.e., the data on which I work are the utterances and actions of mental patients and psychiatrists and myself. I collect sequences of communication which occurs in psychotherapy, and which sometimes generates changes in therapist or patient, or both. The changes in which I am interested are those intangible ones: changes in the premises governing an individual's actions and his apperception of the world around him.

Of the various theories of psychotherapy I prefer at present that which is most frankly mystical - the theory of vis curatrix naturæ. The unabashed mysticism serves the heuristic purpose of posing the problem as one related to the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics - as Genesis I poses the thermodynamic side of the problem of evolution where God is described as dividing, i.e., sorting, the land from the water, the light from the darkness, etc.

The vis curatrix has also this in its favor - that a belief, often inarticulate, in this theory, is a common characteristic of successful psychotherapists. The therapeutic process depends, no doubt, upon particular characteristics of the interchange of messages between therapist and patient. But these characteristics are at present undefined. From the seeming fact that a belief in vis curatrix is common among successful therapists, I guess that some important characteristics of the therapeutic exchange derive from the "faith" present in the therapist. The theory of vis curatrix is, therefore, likely to be useful not only heuristically, but also as a touchstone or test. In sorting and sifting the data, I have to act like a biochemist isolating a vitamin by fractionation. I shall be wise if I give special attention to those fractions of the data which appear to be related to the belief in vis curatrix. (Conversely, it is perhaps precisely the absence of faith in the vis curatrix that makes odious the application of the games theory in the international scene.)

I also need a general theory of psychopathology. Here I prefer the theory of idée fixe, which seems to be orthodox among all schools of psychotherapists who, however, differ among themselves as to the content and level of abstraction which they believe to be the characteristic of the idée fixe in various types of psychopathology. The idée fixe may be anything from a "rooted sorrow" to the premise that "people are no damned good," or the premise that "there is no vis curatrix." Or it may be, (according to other schools), an implicit and general error about communication - e.g., "my pain is perceptible to other people." Or it may be a false premise regarding the concept of self, e.g., "I am the captain of my soul." And so on.

On the whole, the notion of idée fixe seems to dominate the field, and to be central in the sense that many other theories are translatable into terms of idée fixe. Even the success of shock therapy can readily be accounted for in these terms, as you point out in your book.

(By the way, there is no rational theory of dosage in shock therapy. I am sure you are right, that in principle, these therapies are analogous to shaking the kaleidoscope in the hope that the system may by chance fall into a state more acceptable to the shaker, i.e., the therapist. But if this theory is correct, then it would surely be sensible for the therapist to look through the kaleidoscope after each shaking, i.e., continual diagnostic re-examination should be done during the course of the treatments.

There should be some general theory based on probability considerations which would define how much of a shaking of the kaleidoscope is likely to constitute a sufficient shaking to justify a re-examination of the patient. And so on. At present the doctors seem to think about dosage in shock therapy in approximately the same vague terms that characterize their thinking about drug dosage.)

All this brings me back to the thermodynamic paradoxes of the therapeutic process, the vis curatrix and the idée fixe. It seems to me that there is a useful analogy between the evolutionary cul de sac of orthogenesis, the path of over-specialized adaptation which leads to ultimate extinction, and the psychopathological cul de sac of the idée fixe. That in both cases the organism is in error regarding the definition of negative entropy, or, which comes to the same thing - in error regarding the interpretation of data as a basis for action or self-change. The organism or evolving species is self-corrective and can achieve an otherwise improbable path, but it unwisely prefers a direction of change which is, in the end, maladaptive or even self-destructive. The ad hoc arguments of the organism or species lead to courses which, in the long run, are self-destructive.

It is all very well to say that every organism has its particular preferred set of more or less improbable states of itself and its environment, and that the organism acts as a Maxwell's Demon, shuffling and sorting out matters and events to achieve those improbable states which are "negative entropy" for it. But this is achieved by the robot of games theory, whose value system is inflexibly limited to transitive preference and the maximization of a single variable. Real organisms in the evolutionary process, or human beings in therapy (or in life) may change the categories which define "negative entropy" for them. The task of psychotherapy is to achieve changes at this level.

I don't see how to avoid the notion that there be degrees of "negative entropy" associated with those characteristics of an organism which define its particular value system as of a given moment. If Gauguin's actions up to a certain moment were oriented to maximizing financial security, and if after that moment they were oriented to maximizing certain aesthetic variables, it seems to me that the data compel an evaluation in entropy terms of this change in Gauguin. (And I regret to say that many therapists would deprecate the change).

The problem of over-specialization (and the analogous problem of the idée fixe) arises, I suppose, when a certain arrangement of the relays, i.e., information or negative entropy acquired previously becomes either false or hampering at a later time. The over-specialized species or the mental patient has got to junk some of what was negative entropy when it was carefully gathered and hoarded in the past. The black-board must be partially wiped so that new information (or new rules for organizing information: new questions) may be written upon it. The old chalk marks

must be randomized. And this randomizing change has positive value in the terms of the longer time prospective. Now, in the case of an overspecialized species, one of the possible evolutionary pathways out of the overspecialization is that of paedogenesis. Could it be that something like paedogenesis occurs in psychotherapy? Why is the patient invited to recount and "re-experience" the emotions of his childhood? And so on.

And many people seem to think that there is something like paedogenesis in cultural evolution. They talk about "old" and "young" cultures - the "old" being characterized as "rigid" and the "young" as "vigorous," etc. As far as I can understand this talk, a "young" culture is one which has recently undergone a randomizing process, such as revolution, migration or traumatic culture contact. And, within any community, individual death and replacement of the senescent by the juvenile serves the same function. It is odd that the medical profession should be committed to trying to stay this inevitable and rejuvenating process.

Be that as it may - I am looking for important randomizing processes in psychotherapy - (and, in passing, I suspect that the therapists' faith in vis curatrix is important, because, lacking it, he will be stingy of the patient's negative entropy, and, therefore, will not permit the necessary randomizing to occur). But in therapy, "the way up is the same as the way down" - or often so.

Here I come to a central question which I want to pose to you, and specifically to you. I have several times heard you speculate about what would happen if a Russellian paradox were posed to a computing machine, and you have answered your own question by saying that the machine would oscillate - "yes - no - yes - no - etc." And surely that is right. But the question I ask is this: Suppose a machine were to suffer from a defect - an idée fixe, a rooted memory or an erroneous over-specialization - some imperfection of function which might probably be cured by a randomizing process, like shaking the machine or administering "shock therapy," is it not conceivable that to pose a paradox to the machine might be therapeutic?

In general I know, of course, that any relevant functioning of the machine may shake loose some part which has stuck, and I am not asking about that. I am asking specifically whether the paradoxical nature of the problem posed might be important to the therapy. Is it conceivable that we might have a true psychotherapy of such machines? That the therapist might be able to select with precision which paradoxes he would administer in order to randomize (make flexible) a particular rigidity in the machine?

One possible reason for the use of paradoxical problems in the psychotherapy of computing machines would be as follows: If a non-paradoxical problem be posed to the machine, and the problem be such as to move the stuck part, this will already be therapeutic. But this problem will move

the stuck part only once. The therapist will then have all the work of presenting the problem again. I am imagining the therapy to be a sort of limbering-up process, or something like the "breaking-in" of an automobile, and in such processes the repetition of the therapeutic sequence is often important. If the therapist can present the machine with a paradoxical problem, he will save himself the labor of presenting it over and over again, because the machine will repeat and repeat going round and round the squirrel cage of the paradox.

All this leads to the possibility that the psychotherapist, dealing with a human patient might be able to improve his methods - instead of creating paradoxes in a more or less random, shot-gun manner, he might be able to select that category of paradoxes which would in fact exercise the particular part which is stuck in the particular patient, always supposing that diagnosis would be good enough. But it also leads to a more difficult problem. Suppose the stuck part to be such that paradox is generated in the machine, even when non-paradoxical problems are presented, what sort of psychotherapy would you administer? (This actually seems to be a rather common type of pathology - and incidentally, is a pathology which might be generated by the type of therapy suggested above.)

And here - for the moment - I am "stuck!"

But there are other approaches to related problems. As I understand it, if a logical system - say Euclidian geometry - generates self-contradiction, the whole system goes "poof." If it can be proven within the terms of the system that some X both equals and does not equal some Y, then it will follow from this proof that every value within the system both equals and does not equal every other value - a sort of homogenization of the logical system concerned.

I keep wondering whether this homogenization in logical systems might not be analogous - or somehow comparable - to the randomization of a brain. Specifically, is it possible that presenting a problem to a brain will partially randomize that brain? I always come back to the conclusion that this idea is wrong, but I am not sure.

The question looks like this: Is the usefulness of paradoxes in therapy somehow due to their explosive and randomizing effects upon the network of relays? Now, I assume that the brain is a causal rather than a logical system - i.e., that in the "if...then..." of the brain's computations there is always a temporal sequence. In contrast, there is no such time lapse or temporal sequence in the "if...then..." of logic. "If the three sides of the one triangle are equal to the three sides of the other, then the triangles are equal, each to each." The triangles are not caused to be equal after the fulfillment of the "if" clause. And indeed, the converse theorem can commonly be stated by simply reversing the syntax. This, in general, cannot be done with the "if...then..." relations of the causal system.



And precisely this difference in the relationship to time has the result that while a logical system goes "poof" when contradiction is generated within it, a causal system designed to simulate logical operations will not go poof, but will simply oscillate.

From all this I conclude that the brain will not be randomized or homogenized by the attempt to confront a paradox - it will simply oscillate.

But will the oscillation spread?

And what of the brain which entertains the premise that itself will go "poof" if paradoxes are generated within it? The paranoiac who tries so hard to be logical?

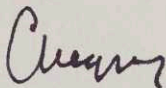
By the way, I notice a slip in what I said above. I spoke as if the brain were designed to simulate logical operations, but, of course, the reverse is really true. Logic is an invention of Man designed to simulate thought and set up as an ideal model for the processes of thought. And the ~~time~~ analogy between thought and logic must be expected to break down if the brain is a causal nexus of relays.

I think this letter has gone on long enough, and it has, at least, served to clarify some of my ideas for me.

There are other related matters which I would like to discuss with you - the relation between humor and the paradoxes; the nature of plays; and other things. It seems to me that Von Neumann's "players" differ profoundly from people and from mammals in that those robots totally lack humor and are totally unable to "play" (in the sense in which the word is applied to kittens and puppies).

However, those matters must wait the leisure of some more convenient season.

Yours sincerely,



GREGORY BATESON

COPY

September 22, 1952

Dr. Trygve Braatoy  
The Psychiatric Department  
Ullevaal General Hospital  
Oslo, Norway

Dear Dr. Braatoy:

Many thanks for your letter. I think that the paper which I shall enclose (Behavior, Purpose and Teleology from Philosophy of Science) may contain some material on the subject in which you are interested.

I also refer you to the publications of our group on Cybernetics by the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation, 565 Park Avenue, New York 21, New York. I shall write to the Macy Foundation and inclose a copy of your letter, and I shall request that they send you any relevant material.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

*Copy A letter to Dr. B attached to  
letter to Macy, Sept 22*

COPY

September 22, 1952

Mr. Frederick Gehlmann  
Tests and Records Department  
Science Research Associates  
57 W. Grand Avenue  
Chicago 10, Illinois

Dear Mr. Gehlmann:

I think you will find material on the subject which interests you in my discussion of learning in The Human Use of Human Beings. I am very much interested in pursuing these ideas together with Dr. Bavelas and others working in psychology at M.I.T.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

This information is furnished solely out of scientific courtesy, and does not entitle the recipient to make any use whatever of my name. I particularly forbid the use of my name in any promotion activities.

Norbert Wiener

[enc 10/20/52]

# COPY

September 22, 1952

Mr. Thomas F. Grady, Jr.  
Salem State Teachers College  
Salem, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Grady:

I have not been very active in the "Speckled Band of Boston" during the past year because I returned from Europe a very tired man and had to cut out all extras.

I suggest you get in touch with Mr. James Keddie, 28 Laurel Avenue, Wellesley. Mr. Keddie used to be secretary of our group. If he is no longer serving in that capacity, he can put you in touch with the right people.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hn

COPY

September 22, 1952

The Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation  
565 Park Avenue  
New York 21, New York

Gentlemen:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter from Dr. Trygve Braatoy of the Psychiatric Department, Ullevaal General Hospital, Oslo, Norway. Will you kindly send him any material which is relevant to his interest.

With many thanks,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

[ms 10/10/52]

COPY

September 22, 1952

Mr. Henry P. McKean, Jr.  
c/o Barclay's Bank, Ltd.  
Cambridge, England

Dear Mr. McKean:

Professor Wiener has asked me to write to you to tell you that he received a copy of your proof some time ago and had hoped that he would be able to look it over long before this.

He has still not had an opportunity to study it, but he wants me to assure you that he intends to do so. As soon as he has some comments for you he will send them to you.

Professor Wiener regrets this inconvenience to you, and sends his greetings for a successful year in Cambridge.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George Baldwin  
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

hb

COPY

September 22, 1952

Dr. Elliott Montroll  
Institute for Fluid Dynamics and Applied Mathematics  
University of Maryland  
College Park, Maryland

Dear Dr. Montroll:

Professor Wiener has asked me to write to you to secure two copies of your recent paper, "Markoff Chains, Wiener Integrals, and Quantum Theory." Would you kindly send one copy of the paper to Professor Wiener, and another copy to Dr. Armand Seigel, M.I.T., Cambridge 39?

If you publish any more work in this field, Professor Wiener would like very much to see it.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George Baldwin  
Secretary to Prof. Norbert Wiener

h

# COPY

September 22, 1952

Mrs. Helen Parkinson, Research Librarian  
The Carter Oil Company  
1133 No. Lewis  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Mrs. Parkinson:

Thank you for your letter of September 15, 1952, inquiring about a copy of Professor Wiener's paper, "Generalized Harmonic Analysis."

Our supply of reprints of this paper was exhausted many years ago. Perhaps you could secure a copy of the issue of Acta Mathematica in which the paper was published by writing directly to Sweden. One of our graduate students has recently secured a copy through the J.S. Canner and Co., 46 Millmont St., Boston, Mass. There may be a firm which does similar work nearer to Tulsa than Boston, or perhaps you would like to write to the Canner Co. directly.

I wish I could be of more help. You should be able to find a copy of the Journal in any good university science library.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George Baldwin  
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

p.s. The Acta Mathematica address is: Uppsala, Almqvist and Wiksells Boktryckeri AB, Sweden.



# COPY

September 22, 1952

Dr. Arturo Rosenblueth  
Instituto Nacional de Cardiologia  
Avenida Cuauhtemoc No. 300  
Mexico, D.F., Mexico.

Dear Arturo:

Your letter leaves me uncertain of the direction from which you are to approach Boston. Inasmuch as you are already going six thousand miles to the south to start the trip, may I assume that you are continuing by way of the south pole, the China coast, the arctic, thence to Boston? It really would not be much more than four or five times as far, and you would have the advantage of not having to change courses.

Meanwhile, I shall be here from the 16th to the 25th of October and shall be delighted to talk with you. I have had a restful summer, and am now busy at work on quantum theory. I have a young physicist as an assistant, and we seem to have the bull by the horns.

Best regards to Virginia, and to all of our friends in our second home (perhaps our third, after Sandwich, New Hampshire), Mexico City.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

COPY

September 22, 1952

Scientia  
Via Roncaglia, 4  
ASSO (Como)  
Italy

Dear Sir:

Professor Norbert Wiener has asked me to inquire when you expect to publish his article on Cybernetics. Will you kindly inform me further whether you will send reprints of the article to Professor Wiener, and how soon after the appearance of the article they may be expected to arrive?

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. G.B. Baldwin  
Secretary to Professor Wiener

h

# COPY

September 22, 1952

Mr. Philip P. Wiener  
City College of New York  
Convent Avenue and 139th St.  
New York 31, New York

My dear Mr. Wiener:

In the first place, I should like to ask if there is any chance that we are kinsmen. I know from the history of Jewish names that the name Wiener was given in the eighteenth century and the early nineteenth to many totally unrelated families. I am therefore giving you these data to help you to ascertain whether there is a possibility of our relationship.

My family comes from the region of Silesia and the Province of Posen, although my father was born in Byelostok in Poland. My great-great grandfather was the rabbi Aquiba Eger who was Grand Rabbi of Posen from about the time of Napoleon to a little later. I have also other ancestors by the name of Daniel who were publishers of Talmuds and lived in the same region. If your family has no connection with that region, we are probably not related. But if you belong to the eastern mark between Germany and Poland there is at least a good chance that we may be related.

Now to the business of your letter. I am highly complimented by your request for permission to include the first chapter of my book in your coming volume of readings. I think the correct thing for you to do would be to write to Houghton-Mifflin and Company for permission, enclosing a copy of the letter I am sending you. I believe that when as large a passage as this is included in a volume of readings a certain payment for the privilege is customary. I do not know how my contract with Houghton-Mifflin is to be interpreted, but I shall quote below a passage from a similar contract which I have with Simon and Schuster concerning another book:

"Book Selection Rights" shall mean the exclusive right, after the publication of the first trade edition, to include, or to authorize others to include, in anthologies and other works in book form, selections from, parts of, and/or photographs and illustrations from the literary work, to the

# COPY

Mr. Philip P. Wiener - 2

extent that the Publisher deems appropriate, provided that no such selection to be included in any one book shall exceed approximately 10,000 words from or 10% of the length of a work of prose (whichever is shorter), 1 short story from a collection of stories, 3 complete poems from a collection of poems, or 1 act from a play.

My contract for my other book considers this one of the primary rights granted and assigned to the publisher. These rights are to be paid for by agreement with the publisher, and this amount is to be divided evenly between the publisher and myself. I repeat that I do not know whether this situation is the same in my contract with Houghton-Mifflin concerning The Human Use of Human Beings.

I have just called Paul Brooks of Houghton-Mifflin, and he confirms the fact that the standard contract which I have with him reads the same way as does the one with Simon and Schuster. He would like to hear from you, and in particular would like to know something in detail of the character of your book. If, as he believes, it is a college text book, he will take the matter up with his college department which has standard practices in the matter.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

[ans 9/24/52]

COPY

September 23, 1952

Dr. Henry L. Bockus  
Department of Internal Medicine  
250 South 18th Street  
Philadelphia 3, Penna.

Dear Dr. Bockus:

Professor Wiener has asked me to thank you for your letter of September 17th, and to tell you that all the arrangements you suggest in it as to his accommodations are satisfactory. He will arrive in Philadelphia on Tuesday afternoon from Morristown, New Jersey.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George Baldwin  
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

h

COPY

September 23, 1952

Mr. Jerry Kagan  
Dept. of Psychology, Yale University  
333 Cedar Street  
New Haven, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Kagan:

Professor Wiener has asked me to confirm for him your choice of March 25th for his talk to your Psychology Colloquium. He will get in touch with you again early in March.

I should like to know whether it is your custom to expect an advance copy of your speakers' talks. Professor Wiener does not like to prepare his talks in this way, <sup>and</sup> but he prefers to know as far as possible in advance if a manuscript will be expected. My assumption is that your group is more informal than those which impose this expectation, and if I do not hear from you to the contrary, I shall conclude that you need nothing more than his subject in advance of Professor Wiener's talk.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George Baldwin  
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

h

"Can a machine be wiser than its maker?"

Ca 7-1050

PHILOSOPHY DEPT.  
**The City College of New York**  
CONVENT AVENUE AND 139TH STREET  
NEW YORK 31, N. Y.

192 Coligni Ave.  
New Rochelle, N.Y.  
September 24, 1952

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

It makes me very happy to learn from your inquiry about our past family relations that there is even a possibility of kinship, for I have been often honored with the same query by persons who all admire you (among such persons I include myself). Fortunately I do not know the answer, having no record of my ancestors beyond the fact of my father's birthplace in Wilna (about 1852) and death in 1934 in N.Y.C. after 40 years of residence here. He was considered a very good mind, but had no formal education; he spoke and read several languages (Russian, Hebrew, Yiddish, German, Polish, and English) and was an Esperanto fan, teaching me the elements when I was a mere child. I think my interest in Leibniz is related to this. He and my mother (his second wife) did mention several "abbis in Vilna & Kiev who are grandparents and great grandparents of mine on both sides and my father seemed to know his Talmud on the Cabbalistic side. I shall talk further with my mother about it, and let you know. I naturally would like to cherish a learned ignorance for fear that no possible or probable family relation exists between us; upper Silesia is not too far from Vilna for my father's side (who called themselves Litvaks) to have come from. In any case, my boy (16) and girl (10) are regarded as far above average students, and that should support my wishful thinking. A fond dream of mine is to see my boy who is gifted with a mathematico-physical type of mind become one of your students at M.I.T. He wishes to enter next Fall as a Science student, and I have a preliminary application in Thrasher's office.

My standard

I did mail a copy of my letter to you to Houghton Mifflin (in order to save time, for my Readings should go to press next month), and received today at the same time as your letter the hard news that I should have to pay \$75 for your first chapter of 19pp. Nobody has asked me for more than \$2 a page, so that I must ask you whether you can reduce the charge to \$40, even though I may be a relative ! I am enclosing a carbon copy of my Table of Contents, and shall gratefully receive any suggestions you may wish to make.

Thank you again for your kind cooperation.

Sincerely yours,  
*Philip P. Wiener*  
Philip P. Wiener

[ans 10/22/52]

# Rinehart

• COMPANY • INCORPORATED

*Publishers*



232 MADISON AVENUE • NEW YORK 16 • N. Y.

26 September 1952

Dear Dr. Weiner:

At the suggestion of Dr. Robert Lindner of Baltimore we have sent you an advance copy of Dr. Lindner's new book, *PRESCRIPTION FOR REBELLION*, which we publish October twenty-third.

We feel certain this outspoken book is destined to stir up heated controversy, angry words as well as cheers. Dr. Lindner was sure you would be interested.

When you have had a chance to read it, we would like very much to have your opinion. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

*Dudley Frasier*

Dudley Frasier  
Publicity Director

DF:phn

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



Genève, le 30 septembre 1952  
Avenue de la Grenade 5

N<sup>o</sup> 0508

Mr. Norbert Wiener  
Mathematics  
Institute of Technology  
Cambridge (Mass.)  
USA

## INVITATION

à la première présentation du

# Typo-sonographe phonétique

ou phonétographe, prototype expérimental I

(appareil transformant des langages parlés en textes imprimés phonétiquement  
par une machine à écrire électrique)

par **J. Dreyfus-Graf**

le vendredi 10 octobre 1952, à 20 heures 30  
dans l'Aula de l'Ecole des Arts et Métiers, rue de Lyon 22  
à Genève

La présentation est accompagnée d'une conférence expérimentale (durée 1 heure  $\frac{1}{2}$  environ) traitant les sujets suivants :

- le mécanisme de l'émission par la bouche des voyelles, consonnes et langage murmuré
- l'oreille sonographique et les spectres de fréquence
- le cerveau et le relais électro-dynamiques
- l'information codée en système binaire (oui, non), et trinaire (zéro, plus, moins)
- les spectres d'information
- télé-communications sonographiques et compression de fréquences (de 4000 à 135 Hertz)
- orthographe, orthophonie et néo-phonétisme
- sonographes semi-orthographiques, calculateurs et autres
- perspectives d'avenir

Rappel de 2 publications récentes de l'auteur :

Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, nov. 1950 :  
" Sonograph and Sound Mechanics "

Bulletin technique des PTT (Suisses), mars 1950 :  
« Le sténo-sonographe phonétique »

**R. S. V. P.**

(nombre de places, à bonne visibilité  
des expériences, limité)

Prière de présenter cette invitation à l'entrée. Des invitations supplémentaires peuvent être demandées par les intéressés.

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

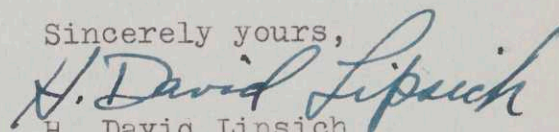
Sept. 30, 1952

Dear Professor Wiener,

As you know we here at Cincinnati, have recently sustained a great loss in the death of Professor Szasz. We should like to do something in his memory and have conceived the notion that a fitting tribute would be an edition of his complete works, to be published perhaps, in photographic form, as were the papers of the late G. D. Birkhoff.

It is possible that we may obtain a subvention for the project from the Taft Fund of our University. Since we would like to present as strong a case as possible, and since no Mathematician is a member of the Committee which administers this fund, we are asking for letters supporting this project from some of Professor Szasz's friends. If you feel that this is a worthy project and a fitting tribute to the memory of Professor Szasz, would you please write the undersigned, expressing your ideas on the proposal. There is a certain amount of urgency in the matter, sine the Taft Committee meets in October. Let me thank you in advance for your prompt help.

Sincerely yours,



H. David Lipsich  
Asst. Prof. Of Math.  
College of Liberal Arts  
Univ. of Cincinnati  
Cincinnati, 21, Ohio

hdl/bl

[ans 10/15/52]

# COPY

September 30, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Simon:

It is the better part of a month since I have been in touch with you, and I am beginning to look forward to the time when I shall see my first galleys.

However, it is not about this that I am writing. On Tuesday, October 7, I shall be in Philadelphia giving the Alvarenga Prize Lecture at the College of Physicians. As my present schedule stands, I have nothing else to take me to New York before the first week of December when I shall be lecturing to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. After that my schedule is rather confused. It is possible that I shall be going to India for about six weeks in late December, January, and early February at the invitation of the Indian Science Congress. Thus, it is desirable that I should know in advance if I am to have further consultations with you any time before the publication of the book, and that arrangements be started for that now. It is further desirable that I have as much as possible of the correction of galley and page proof behind me before I leave for India, if in fact I do go. It also seems to me that if the trip to India really comes off, it gives a certain opportunity for publicity in behalf of the book. I should therefore like to hear from you at your earliest convenience what your plans are.

I have got a thorough rest this summer, and I am started on some very promising mathematical-physical research. So you see that I shall have a full winter this year.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb