

171

CORRESPONDENCE April 24 - 30, 1953

N. WIENER · MC 22

Digitized

611 West 112th Street
New York 25, N.Y.
April 24, 1953

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

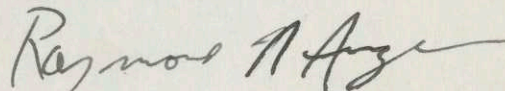
Dear Dr. Wiener:

The enclosed is a request for the opportunity to study at M.I.T. I feel myself adiquately prepared for the work as outlined in the project proposal herewith, and desire to continue my studies under your guidance.

My present scholastic standing is as a senior at Columbia University majoring in psychology.

As I must make a decision quickly on my plans for the coming semester (Fall) I would appreciate greatly your prompt attention to this application, and, if it be in order, the opportunity of an interview at the earliest convenient date.

Most sincerely,



Raymond N. Auger

Adm 9 1 [unclear]

[ans 4/27/53]

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Electrical Engineering

April 24, 1953

Prof. Nathan Rosen
Dept. of Physics
The Univ. of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Dear Prof. Rosen:

Many thanks for your letter of April 21 regarding Prof. Ollendorff.

I note that in your judgment we would need to budget \$4,000 to \$6,000 if we were to offer Prof. Ollendorff a Visiting Professorship in the department. In view of the fact that the budget for the forthcoming year has been frozen, I cannot undertake to consider Prof. Ollendorff for the coming year. I am sure, however, that this does not put a permanent road block in the way.

If I can work out any program that might be satisfactory, I will first write to you and obtain your advice as to the most appropriate way to bring this matter to Prof. Ollendorff's attention.

Sincerely yours,

GSB:EJM
cc: Prof. Tucker
Prof. Wiener ✓

Gordon S. Brown
Head, Department of
Electrical Engineering

C
O
P
Y



ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA FILMS INC.

WILMETTE, ILLINOIS

Friday, April 24, 1953.

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

My dear Dr. Wiener,

Inresistibly - somehow - this letter must be handwritten, for it seems - as I have been reading your book "Ex-Prodigy" as if I had been walking along with you personally in many of your experiences; certainly in much of your environment.

I was born in 1888 in Dorchester, Mass. In 1900 we moved to Brookline where I graduated from High School, with vacation times at Provincetown and Wellfleet (where my mother was born and her father was Master of his own sailing ship, the "Harry L. Whiton" in the European Far East trade. I was an usher at the dedication of the Pilgrims Monument (by President "Teddy" Roosevelt) in Provincetown. Then I went to Amherst College '07-'11 and eventually 1916-'20 was in the books and wholesale stationery business in Shanghai, China with the Chinese-American Publishing Co, calling on educational institutions in Peking, Tientsin, Hongkong, Canton, Nanking, etc.

Wm J. Sidis was in Brookline High when I was. As the school correspondent for the Boston Herald I wrote about him. I remember his rosy cheeks and normal healthy animal "kid" spirits as he went thru' the corridors swinging his books with a strap in great circles.

I am persuading our Exec. Vice-President V.C. Aruspiger (PhD Philosophy, Columbia Univ) to read your book. While I am opposed to the philosophy of the pragmatists, and John Dewey, Justice Holmes (with whom you may agree) I want you to know that I consider your views, and your exposition a valuable - very valuable - contribution to parents and teachers, as well as lay readers. It is humane and objective, tolerant and balanced, with depth and breadth of insight and experience and character. Your distinguished father and self are exemplary "assimilants" in our country, of whom we can be proud.

I hope you may wish to do a book on teaching some time, to encourage young people to accept self-imposed disciplines required and see the great Dewey they can render by passing on the heritage of freedom in a free society. If I thoroughly enjoyed my walk with you and shared your problems, vicariously of course.
Cordially - Geo. L. Treadwell

[ans 6/1/53]



JOSIAH MACY, JR. FOUNDATION CONFERENCE PROGRAM

16 WEST 46TH STREET, NEW YORK 36, N. Y. • Telephone PLaza 7-7705

April 24, 1953

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

Dear Norbert:

Affectionate greetings to our Father in Science from his Cybernetics children.

Frank Furumath-Smith	Warren S. Culloch
W. Grey Walter	John R. Bowman
Henry Grant	G. E. Hutchinson
Henry Van Forester	J. Norbert Wiener
Clayton Kistner	Claude Shannon
Yehoshua Bar-Hillel	Henry W. Bross
Margaret	J. H. Bigelow
J. F. G. [unclear]	V. H. Amassian
Donald	Walter Pitts
Donald Marguis	Lawrence K. Ford
Lawrence S. Kubie	J. L. Zuckerman
Julius B. Rose	J. G. L. [unclear]
S. S. Schmeidler	H. Kiver

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DIRECTOR EMERITUS
CURATOR, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY COLLECTION

TELEPHONE: LUDLOW 4-0700

April 25, 1963

Dear Dr. Wisner:

You, of course, will have no recollection of me, although I saw you rather often at your father's home, in 1904-06, when I was studying Russian with him in Harvard.

I wish, first, to tell you how much I have enjoyed reading your autobiography, which reminded me of many pleasant things in my youth.

However, another object of this letter is to ask you the name and present address of a nephew of yours (I believe), who was graduated from this college a few years ago. Among other excellent qualities, he had a fine singing voice. He told me once that he was your ~~father's~~ grandfather's grandson (a

son of your sister?). but I have for-
gotten his name, and should like if
you are willing, to recover it.

Very sincerely yours.

Theodore F. Jones

This may have been someone's
boy - Reg's husband - said Schumann

[ans 5/6/55]

KEEVE BRODMAN, M. D.
68 EAST 86TH STREET
NEW YORK 28, N. Y.
REGENT 7-3968

26 April 1953

Prof. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Boston, Mass.

Dear Prof. Wiener:

Will you tell me if this plan for the study of neurophysiological mechanisms, especially of intelligence, has any interest for you?

Multiple sclerosis is a disease in which degenerative areas develop in central nervous system tracts, producing conduction blocks. It is as if small groups of wires in a communication system were cut. This suggests that a study of functions disordered by the disease may give useful leads to the understanding of central nervous system mechanisms. I am thinking not only about spinal and cerebellar functions but more particularly about the unknown mechanisms of such activities as memory, association, judgement, intelligence, and behavior.

You are a person uniquely qualified to appreciate this problem, and to direct the observations and analyses crucial to what may finally lead to mathematical descriptions of neurophysiological processes. I can serve as subject and observer in some pilot experiments; I have multiple sclerosis with well established spinal defects and beginning transitory disturbances in brain function.

If, as I hope, you are interested in this problem I will write to you in more detail, describing, if you want, the simple observations and formulations my medical training has permitted me to make.

Sincerely yours,

A large, highly stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keve Brodman'. The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat scribbled style with many loops and flourishes.

[ans 5/28/53]

Winter VA Hospital
Topeka, Kansas
April 27, 1953

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Thank you very much for your letter. My December 1952 visit to the Harvard Department of Social Relations left me with the impression that they were unlikely to have a vacancy for which I might be considered. For this reason it might perhaps be better to consider other possibilities in the Boston area which would enable me to work with you.

The most likely prospect might be Brandeis University, which is just now organizing a graduate school, so that they are bound to have some openings. A suggestion from you might very well induce them to make me an offer.

As regards Boston Psychopathic Hospital, I am in correspondence with Dr. Milton Greenblatt and am trying to formulate a research project which would embrace both the problems I outlined in the material submitted to you, and their practical applications in the form of a generalized system of psychotherapy. They are definitely interested but have no money. We are trying at present to work out a way of finding some funds. An expression of interest on your part might be very helpful indeed.

The only other possibility I can think of just now would be a possible opening in the social science or in the psychology department of M.I.T., but, no doubt, that is something you have already considered and discarded.

I am leaving tomorrow for Los Angeles, to attend to Meetings of the Psychoanalytic and of the Psychiatric Associations. I will be back in Topeka on May 18. My mail will be forwarded, however, so that I will be able to answer letters with only a few days' delay.

Thank you very much for your continued interest. I very much hope that a way can be found.

With kindest personal regards,

Yours most sincerely
George Devereux
George Devereux
Director of Research
Winter VA Hospital
Topeka, Kansas.

[ans 4/30/53]

parade

EDITORIAL OFFICES
PARADE PUBLICATION, Inc.
405 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

April 27, 1953

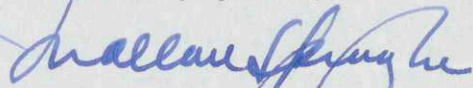
Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

It was kind indeed of you to suggest the name of Professor Karl Deutsch as possibly being of assistance to us in connection with the air defense story which I wrote to you about last week.

We'll consult him immediately, and hope that he will find it possible to talk to us.

Sincerely yours,



Wallace A. Sprague
Managing Editor

WAS:rb

Registered letter

99 Undercliff Road
Montclair, New Jersey
April 27-1953

Professor Norbert Wiener,
M. I. T.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Professor Wiener,

The idea of submitting an old manuscript on the subject of mathematics to you for examination, occurred to me, after hearing your interview with Mary Margaret McBride on her program a few weeks ago.

Enclosed herein please find a copy of the review of the book called "Maya Life", written by the late James P. Stoldt.

I should greatly appreciate

hearing your appraisal and ascertaining your opinion as to whether Mr. Holdt has contributed anything to that field of knowledge, or whether the writing is a recording of a mind, controlled by powers unknown.

I am earnestly seeking an explanation as to how Mr. Holdt, a man of limited formal education, acquired the theories and other material revealed in this book.

On his mother's side, the author of this book was a descendant of the well-known mathematician, Ernst Euler. The father, Dr. George Holdt, was a scholar, a linguist, also a professor at the University of Dorpat, where he wrote his thesis, in Latin, on Mental Diseases. He later became head of a large insane asylum near

St. Petersburg. Possessed of statesman like vision, he foresaw the future status of this unfortunate people. He left that country to come to America, where he lived until he died. All this I write to throw further light upon the quality of the mind of the son, James Holdt.

As a former teacher, I realize the heavy demands made upon your time, and shall therefore readily understand a word from you - together with the copy of the review enclosed - to the effect that it is impossible for you to give the matter any attention.

I thank you.

Yours very truly

Mrs. Alma H. Thomas.

[ans 5/6/53]

April 27, 1953

Mr. Raymond N. Auger
611 West 112th Street
New York 25, New York

Dear Mr. Auger:

Unfortunately, the date at which graduate study applications can be considered for the coming year is long past. I am complimented by your desire to study with me, but the matter is not really in my hands. The procedure for you to follow would be to get in touch with the Dean of our Graduate School and make a formal application with him. I doubt very much that such an application could be considered for the coming year.

I am returning your manuscript to you for your use in making further applications. I regret that I cannot be of any more help than this to you. I wish you good luck in your further plans.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

April 27, 1953

Prof. Y. Bar-Hillel
20B-101 B

Dear Professor Bar-Hillel:

Professor Wiener has asked me to send this letter to you for translation, and wants me to thank you in advance for your attention to it.

Sincerely,

Mrs. George Baldwin
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

h

April 27, 1953

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

Gentlemen:

Professor Wiener has asked me to return to you the discussion of his paper on Automatic machinery, and to tell you that he has no comment to add to the discussion.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George Baldwin
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

h

April 27, 1953

Professor A. V. Prasad
Bihar Institute of Technology
Sindri, India

Dear Professor Prasad:

Professor Wiener has asked me to answer your recent letter for him. M.I.T. offers no fellowships for post-doctoral research, and so far as Professor Wiener is concerned, there is no employment which he can offer you.

There are many independent foundations which finance specific research projects in the United States by foreign nationals. Professor Wiener does not know to which one to refer you, and assumes that you can learn which one to approach by inquiries made in India.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George B. Baldwin
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

h

April 27, 1953

Mr. Thomas B. Sherman
News Department
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Mr. Sherman:

I have just received your letter of April 23. I have no access to precise information which would enable me to make valid estimates of the percentage of the nation's industry subject to automatization, nor if I did would these estimates be of much value in such a rapidly shifting field. I can tell you something qualitative about the relation between automatization and the different domains into which it is likely to enter, and in particular something about automatization and agriculture. If a paper of this sort, in which I do not pretend to put on the magician's cloak, is what you want I shall be glad to send it on to you by early next week. I am quite prepared to find, however, that this is not what you want, and in this case, please do not feel yourselves under any obligation to me.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

[ans 4/29/53}



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

University of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

Amherst

April 28, 1953

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

I am writing on behalf of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Society of the SigmaXi to express our thanks and appreciation for your splendid lecture here on April 15. The good attendance attests to the interest in your talk, and I want to assure you that it was very well received.

We are very glad that Mrs. Wiener was able to come with you, and it was a pleasure to meet you both and enjoy your company at dinner. I trust that you had a pleasant trip back to Cambridge.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Harold Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

J. Harold Smith
Professor of Chemistry

JHS:ICP

ROBERT P. KNIGHT, M. D.
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

EDGERTON MCC. HOWARD, M. D.
ASSOCIATE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

AUSTEN RIGGS CENTER, INC.

FOR THE STUDY AND TREATMENT OF THE PSYCHONEUROSES
FORMERLY AUSTEN RIGGS FOUNDATION
STOCKBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
TELEPHONE STOCKBRIDGE 480

A2-30

GRAHAM B. BLAINE, JR., M. D.
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CYRUS R. FRIEDMAN, M. D.
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ROY SCHAFER, PH. D.
DAVID SHAPIRO, PH. D.
ALLEN B. WHEELIS, M. D.
ESS A. WHITE, JR., M. D.
ROBERT B. WHITE, M. D.
G. MONTGOMERY WINSHIP, M. D.

April 28, 1953

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Would you please send to Dr. Rapaport a reprint of your paper "Speech, Language, and Learning," which was published in Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, 22:696-697, 1950.

Very truly yours,

Sarah C. Austin

Sarah C. Austin
Librarian

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

April 28, 1953

Mr. Jason Epstein
Editor, Anchor Books
Doubleday and Company, Inc.
575 Madison Avenue
New York 22, New York

Dear Mr. Epstein:

Professor Wiener has asked me to tell you that he would be glad to talk over with you such revisions in the text of The Human Use of Human Beings as you have suggested. The matters you mention are those, he says, where he himself has had "qualms about the book's weaknesses."

Professor Wiener could see you almost any time you find convenient after this week. Because he is very tired, he suggests mornings as a better time for meetings with you than evenings. Either the week of May 4th or May 11th would be possible for Professor Wiener, and he will look forward to hearing from you soon which will be more satisfactory to you.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George Baldwin
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

h

April 28, 1953

Dr. M.S. Sundaram
Embassy of India
2107 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Sundaram:

I enclose a copy of a letter I received yesterday from Dr. Mahalanobis, and a copy of my reply. I send these to you so that you may be fully informed on this matter, and so that you may know that my decision is in no way changed by the receipt of Dr. Mahalanobis's letter.

With many thanks for your help in this matter,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

COPY

India House
Aldwych, W.C.2

April 8, 1953

Dear Professor Wiener:

I was very glad to have had an opportunity of meeting you at Cambridge, Mass., and I am looking forward to welcoming you in India next year.

We should naturally prefer to have you in India for about one year if this is possible. However, in case this is not feasible, we shall be content to have you with us from the fourth week of December of this year until the end of September 1954. We shall be glad to meet all living and travel expenses within India for both Mrs. Wiener and you, and also your round trip fare between the U.S.A. and India. I shall have to make enquiries about meeting the transportation expenses of Mrs. Wiener, and about income tax regulations in case any honorarium is paid to you in India in addition to the expenses mentioned above.

I am writing this letter from London to inform you that I am running much behind my schedule, and I am not likely to be able to return to India before the end of April. It will take me two or three weeks to finalise our proposals about your visit to India, but I hope to be able to let you know something definite by the third week of May.

With kind regards, and looking forward to meeting Mrs. Wiener and you in India in a few months.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) P.C. Mahalanobis)

Professor Norbert Wiener
M.I.T.
Cambridge, Mass. USA.

c: hb, 28 Apr.
Copies to Dr. M.S. Sundaram
Prof. W.T. Martin

April 28, 1953

Dr. P.C. Mahalanobis
Indian Statistical Institute
203 Barrackpore Trunk Road
Calcutta 35, India

Dear Dr. Mahalanobis:

Your letter to me from London, dated April 8, arrived yesterday by surface mail, just after I had sent a letter to you in Calcutta.

The receipt of your letter in no way changes my decision about your invitation to me to visit India. Even if your letter had come to me a month ago, I doubt if I could have considered your invitation further in view of the continued uncertainty which must surround its details until June. I could not wait until then, and I could not ask others to wait until then, to make definitive arrangements for a long absence from M.I.T. to begin only six months in advance.

I therefore repeat my request that you abandon your efforts in this matter, and from this time forward I shall consider the matter closed.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

cc: Dr. M.S. Sundaram
Prof. W.T. Martin

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

THE PULITZER PUBLISHING COMPANY

April 29, 1953

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

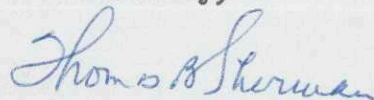
Dear Dr. Wiener:

We would be glad to have the article on automatization written along the lines you indicated in your letter. If possible to make reference to our general theme, which is the economic growth of the United States and the general status of democracy, that will be good. What we want in general, though, is just a statement from specialists in the field on the possible course of automatization and what its conceivable effects might be.

If you can get it to us within two weeks, I shall be greatly obliged.

Thanks again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Sherman
Editor, Special Supplement


P.S. Length should be about 2500 words.

TS

MSS mailed - Wed. May 13 - 1/17, 5/10

NEW YORK N.Y.
APR 29
7:30 AM
1953

STRIKE BACK AT CANCER
— G I V E —
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY



D. I. A. Wein, Cybriaca
Mass. Dept of Lich.
Boston Mass.

2-153

-BACK BAY STA.-



D. W. ^{man} ^{and} ¹ ^{York}
^{Boston} ^{Mass}

April 29 1923

Dear Sir

If the 5 vowels a e i o u were arranged into 100 combinations of syllables as The, Me, He + Has, Lass, Was, also Mi, Lu, Ni, Ti, also So, Do, Lo, Wo, and, Gu, Hu, Bu ect. 20 to each syllable. The result would be a hundred syllabic vowel sounds capable of an intellectual combination of sounds.

This might be deduced further for a start on an apparatus to read aloud from a printed page for example

(Machinery) (Invention) (Technology)
would seem to be identifiable by this method of syllabic pronunciation.

An apparatus with 100 sounds & labels to be constructed on a revolving drum. To be played as on a player piano roll by wind or electric means on identification with single or identity of syllable on printed page. This could be facilitated by type of reading matter, text of manuscript, book, content ect as if the use of smaller drum. Also the script of manuscript typing or writing could be duplicated on drum & read or in foreign languages ect.

This device could be improved on & enlarged for general use & correct pronunciation. The slow action as in nearly losing or leaving would seem important at first. Y. S. 776

The factor is the identity of syllables. The Anglo-Saxon
languages must have some sort of basic or
fundamental rule of speech + writing. This
rule of writing + speech as in grammar
in light or electricity must also prevail in
other methods of communication. If the grammar
or was used as a fundamental the breathing +
vowel pronunciation as well as thinking is
directed by the method also breathing, oxygen
intake + outlet. The pointed words sounds
must have a correlation as being the same
source the brain + relating organs. To arrive
at the correlation of thinking + talking
would seem the objection as being the same.

We talk in syllables so we must think in the
same manner only greatly speeded up. The
laws of electrodynamics would seem to have
some importance. If there could be reduced
a rule of syllabic form or order might be
taken (in a simplified form). Writing +
thinking is an automatic process despite our
opinion otherwise. The objection to see how
we think, write + talk + the rules governing
the process.

In the automatic process of talking, the lips
work; the use of the *ba* is in the same sense as
used as a prefix, the *ba* of *ba-tals* of Africa use the
prefix *ba* before word in English of Anglo-Saxon in
the German *Polen* "Fellen" is noted as a prefix. In
laughter a spontaneous expression *ha, ha* is instead
in the record the writing of very young would see
important also than under hypnosis also the
pigeon language of some people as speaking Indian
let it regard ~~to~~ out the language of children
might have a key to this automatic process. A man
learning English for the first time, talking same.
If a man were held to write without thinking
as given under controlled conditions & examination of
a group should be of some use.

Then use of those in mental water could
be examined for comparison & study also the
automatic recording of preachers, some of the
lady authors of good proficiency in words as
being automatic. Very young girls an excellent
babblers, could be recorded as also a young
genius of youngsters of talents which he has no
control. The most backward to promote tribe
would see the most important as pygmies of
other isolated people. The music & folk tale
as well as the sound of the laughter & other sounds
as was whoop or waf dances music of chants.

The writing of deaf & dumb, blind of a early age
could be studied also the very old of childish who
have retrograde. A study of one man progress in
expression on paper in many years as pronounced person of
record could be examined for syllabic analysis of
signs of similarity & change might give an indication of how well the
(if not why) ff.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

April 28 1953

Memo to Prof. Wiener Room 2-

The translation of the enclosed letter is:

Dear Mr. Parthol: [?]

It is with regret that we have to announce you that the academic administration of the Technion did not see a possibility of renewing your appointment for the academic year 1953/54.

Dr. M. Levi

from BAR-HILLEL Room 20B-101B

April 29, 1953

Hebrew Institute of Technology
Haifa
ISRAEL

Gentlemen:

I have enclosed a note which reached me about a week ago. Having asked a colleague to translate it, and finding that the message is directed to someone else, I conclude that the letter has been sent to me by mistake. I hasten to call it to your attention, inasmuch as the information will be of significance to someone else.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener
Professor of Mathematics

hb

April 29, 1953

Mr. Philip Houtz, Executive Director
National Jewish Hospital
3800-4100 East Colfax Avenue
Denver 6, Colorado

Dear Mr. Houtz:

I am pleased that you have asked me to send you a copy of Ex-Prodigy, and I have written to my publishers today requesting that they send a copy to you as soon as possible.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

April 29, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Simon:

I should like to have you send a copy of my book to
Mr. Philip Houtz, Executive Director of the National
Jewish Hospital, 3800-4100 East Colfax Ave., Denver,
Col. Send the bill to me, and put a "With the
Compliments of the Author" card in the package.

With best regards all around,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

2 EAST 103 STREET

NEW YORK 29, N. Y.

TELEPHONE TRAFALGAR 6-8200

April 30, 1953

Dear Norbert:

Salutations!

You did such a superb job for us last time that we are eager to have you back with us again. I wonder, therefore, if you could find time from your other commitments for a Laity Lecture on The Application of Physics to Medicine.

I have in mind (but, of course, subject to your elaboration and modification) some historic references as Galvani's use of electric currents in studying nerve function and muscle contraction; the use of static electricity as a diagnostic and therapeutic instrument; Einthoven's electro galvanometer; the later applications of the electronic valve in brain wave studies. Then, possibly, you might switch from the historical to the current situation, touching on the field in which you are so very well informed, namely, the application of the science of physics, in anesthesia, in respiration, in the guidance of the blind, deafness, etc.

Perhaps in such a lecture it would be well to wind up on a higher level, touching on the work of Ashby and his studies on brain functions.

This year's series is to deal with Medicine and the Other Disciplines, and we are including Law, Social Sciences, Physics, Chemistry, the Plastic Arts, and Literature.

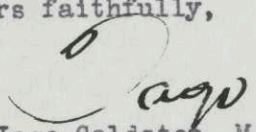
The dates available for these lectures are on Wednesday evenings, November 4 and 18, and December 2, 1953, January 6 and 27 and February 3, 1954.

I would be delighted if you could find it possible to inaugurate the series, i.e., to deliver your lecture on November 4th. Do let me have your acceptance.

I have not yet received the autographed copy of your latest book!

My best to you and Peggy, and to your Lady, whom I have yet to meet.

Yours faithfully,


Iago Galdston, M.D.

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39
Massachusetts

/am

[and 5/6/53]

April 30 [1953]

GILBRETH

30 THE CRESCENT

MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

My dear Dr. Weaver -
Ex Prodigy is so interesting
stimulating and helpful
that you must be glad
that you wrote it.

I have enjoyed it so much.
Congratulations and all
good wishes
from

Sincerely yours
William M. Gilbert

[cont 6/1/53]

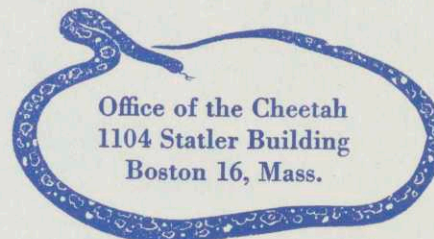
The Speckled Band

(Boston Chapter of The Baker Street Irregulars)

DOUGLAS LAWSON
Keeper of the Band

JAMES KEDDIE, JR.
Cheetah

HERBERT T. HAND, JR.
Herpeton



30 APRIL, 1953

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SPECKLED BAND AND SCION SOCIETIES •

Greetings and salutations!

I am enclosing for your own personal archives, a copy of the minutes of the meeting held by THE SPECKLED BAND, at the Club of Odd Volumes, 77 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, Friday, 10th April, 1953.

I am also enclosing the BAND'S list of Honorary Members, as well as the 1953 Address Sheet. For members only, there is a Financial Report.

James Keddie Jr.
CHEETAH

MEETING OF THE SPECKLED BAND
HELD
FRIDAY, 10 APRIL, 1953
AT
THE CLUB OF ODD VOLUMES
BOSTON, MASS.

PRESENT AT MEETING

L. C. S. BARBER
ROBERT H. BISHOP
GEORGE F. BURROWS
ROGER T. CLAPP
RUSSELL S. CODMAN
DR. JOHN CONSTABLE
DR. WILLIAM P. DAVIS
DR. HALSEY DeWOLF
WALLACE DICKSON
DR. JAMES M. DUNNING
CYRUS DURGIN
RUDOLPH ELIE
ARTHUR D. FAY
DR. J. H. FAY
RICHARD D. FAY
RICHARD E. FISKE
I. P. GARRAN
THOMAS F. GRADY, JR.
NIELS JORGEN HAAGERUP
BRETT HALLIDAY

DR. ROLAND HAMMOND
HERBERT T. HAND, JR.
R. G. HARRIS
BASIL JUDD
JAMES KEDDIE, JR.
DOUGLAS LAWSON
PHILIP R. MATHER
DR. SAMUEL R. MEAKER
SPENCER B. MONTGOMERY
HARRY OBER
STUART C. RAND
RICHARD S. SCHWARTZ
EDGAR W. SMITH
THORNTON STEARNS
ROBERT S. STEINERT
PAUL B. WATSON, JR.
NORBERT WIENER
W. CHESLEY WORTHINGTON
JEFF WYLIE
DR. YOU CHAN YANG

-oOo-

For the first time in the history of THE SPECKLED BAND OF BOSTON its Annual Dinner-Meeting was held this year nearest to the time indicated in the Adventure. You remember the line - "It was early in April in the year '83 that I awoke one morning to find Sherlock Holmes standing, fully dressed, by the side of my bed."

The game was surely afoot for THE BAND during this, its eleventh meeting in thirteen years. This being the William Gillette Centennial year, the Cheetah staged an exhibit featuring photographs, programs, letters and books pertaining to the life of this great actor who created the role of Sherlock Holmes.

The Shag was in the Slipper, the Cheroots were in the Coal Box and the Tantalus was on the table - all as usual. But this night glowing in the center of the table, was the Sherlock Holmes Memorial Bowl brimming with Champagne. Later in this eventful evening the Ritual of the Bowl would be established.

Before Mrs. Hudson summoned the gathering to dinner, and on his way to the theatre, Mr. Basil Rathbone stopped in and spoke informally about his association with The Master. From the actor we learned of the Sherlock Holmes play which Mrs. Rathbone has just written for her husband, with much of Dr. Watson's original dialogue used in full. Mr. Rathbone has high hopes of opening this play here in Boston in the fall.

In the Dining Hall now, Keeper of The Band, Mr. Douglas Lawson, extended a welcome to all and introduced the guest of the evening, Dr. You Chan Yang, Ambassador to the United States from Korea. Out of town guests and members at our table included: Mr. Brett Halliday, creator of Michael Shayne; Mr. Niels Jorgen Haagerup of

THE DANISH BAKER STREET IRREGULARS; Dr. Roland Hammond, Dancing Master, THE DANCING MEN OF PROVIDENCE; Mr. R. G. Harris, from THE AMATEUR MENDICANT SOCIETY, Detroit; Mr. Richard S. Schwartz of HUGO'S COMPANIONS, Chicago; Mr. Robert H. Bishop of Novelty, Ohio, and last, but by no means least, Mr. Edgar W. Smith, Buttons-cum-Commissionaire of THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS, New York.

Mr. Smith proposed the toast to our Founder, recalling the early days of THE BAND. A Canonical toast to Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson was called for by our newest member, Dr. John Constable. Mr. Harry Ober proposed the toast to Miss Helen Stoner, while Mr. Herbert T. Hand, Jr., gave us the toast to The Woman. Professor Norbert Wiener, both bent and straightened the poker in his toast to Dr. Grimesby Roylott.

Dr. You Chan Yang was called upon for a talk and we learned with great interest that Holmes is much loved in Korea. An Honorary Membership in THE BAND was proposed for Dr. Yang, and the motion was seconded and carried unanimously without delay.

The Cheetah was called on for his annual report which included the reading of messages of cheer and good will from other Scion Societies of the B.S.I. It was learned that THE SIX NAPOLEONS OF BALTIMORE were also in session this same evening and when the Cheetah offered up a toast to this, one of the most active groups on the circuit, it was heartily drunk in Beaune by all except Mr. Halliday, who drank Cognac.

At this point in the proceedings, Mr. Richard E. Fiske read a "Centenary Tribute To William Gillette," which had been especially prepared for THE BAND by Mr. Vincent Starrett, the Needle of THE HOUNDS OF THE BASKERVILLE(SIC) of Chicago. This was a fine paper winding up with a toast to the beloved actor.

Members and guests chanted The Musgrave Ritual (English only) under the leadership of Mr. Stuart C. Rand; and Mr. Philip R. Mather provided the pitch for "The Road To Baker Street," which as usual was sung with much gusto.

Impromptu talks were given throughout the delicious meal. Professor Norbert Wiener spoke on the value of the Aluminum Crutch as a place of concealment. Mr. Herbert T. Hand, Jr., read and discussed an atrocity pertaining to THE BAND which had appeared on April tenth in one of the local papers. And Mr. Robert H. Bishop told of journeying over the roads of Europe once trod by the Master.

In his customary manner, Dr. Roland Hammond explained the Ritual of the Tantalus, unlocking the bottles as he spoke, and starting them around the table.

The Keeper, with a few appropriate words, asked those present to file forward for Champagne from the Memorial Bowl, thus commencing an important feature for future meetings.

Comfortably settled now in the library of the Club, members and guests prepared for the serious part of the program.

Mr. Douglas Lawson read his remarkable paper entitled "The Speckled Band" which deals with the Russell's Viper of India and Dr. Watson's Adventure.

It was now time for the much heralded BANDQUIZ. Both members and guests participated in this event. In turn those present read their prepared questions, the majority of which were in verse, since such questions rated extra points for their composers, in the competition for the Memorial Bowl. This grand prize would go to the winner to be held by him for one year, and to have and to hold, there was a replica bowl. As each question was read it was answered at once, the Keeper

calling on those whose hands showed first. With the help of Mr. Smith and the Keeper, the Cheetah kept score on a large card.

The BANDQUIZ was "fun and games" and went along at a furious pace. Dr. John Constable, with 27 points, won the Memorial Bowl for this year. There was a three-way tie for second place. Mr. R. G. Harris, Mr. Edgar W. Smith and Mr. Herbert T. Hand each had a showing of 18 points. A second replica bowl was awarded Mr. Harris; with Mr. Smith and Mr. Hand receiving Spanish translations of some of the stories.

To round off the evening, Mr. Stuart C. Rand read his splendid new paper "Holmes The Absolute" - which can best be described "as a tribute to the Master's eternal rightness in all things, and to his dedication to Justice and Truth."

At midnight the Russell's Viper was recoiled for another year.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES KEDDIE, JR.
Cheetah

CHARTER MEMBERS
OF
THE SPECKLED BAND

EDGAR W. SMITH
JAMES KEDDIE, JR.

P. M. STONE

HONORARY MEMBERS

C. R. ANDREW
NATHAN BENGIS
RAYMOND T. BOND
ANTHONY BOUCHER
JAY FINLEY CHRIST
FREEMAN WILLS CROFTS
FREDERIC DANNAY
E. T. GUYMON, JR.
HOWARD HAYCRAFT
A. D. HENRIKSEN
CHARLES HONCE
ANTHONY D. HOWLETT
RUSSELL McLAUHLIN

PAUL V. MELAS
JAMES MONT GOMERY
CHRISTOPHER MORLEY
DUDLEY M. NEWITT
STUART PALMER
DAVID RANDALL
ALLEN ROBERTSON
JAMES SANDOE
H. M. SMITH
VINCENT STARRETT
REX STOUT
ARTHUR WONTNER
DR. YOU CHAN YANG

THE 1953 SPECKLED BAND ADDRESS LIST

ALEXANDER BAVELAS, GEORGE F. BURROWS,	M.I.T., Sloan Bldg., 50 Memorial Dr., Cambridge, Mass. 2 Holyoke Street, Cambridge, Mass.
ROGER T. CLAPP, HENRY C. CLARK, JOHN CONSTABLE, M.D.	260 West Exchange Street, Providence, R.I. Westport, Essex County, New York Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass.
WALLACE DICKSON,	33 Ash Street, Cambridge, Mass.
RUDOLPH ELIE,	c/o The Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.
ARTHUR D. FAY, RICHARD E. FISKE, F. MURRAY FORBES, JR.	The Fessenden School, West Newton 65, Mass. 41 Orchard Avenue, West Newton 65, Mass. 21 Beaver Place, Boston, Mass.
ROLAND HAMMOND, M.D. HERBERT T. HAND, JR. HECTOR M. HOLMES,	41 Boylston Avenue, Providence 6, R.I. 140 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston, Mass. 84 State Street, Boston 9, Mass.
WILLIAM A. JACKSON,	Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
JAMES KEDDIE, JR.	1104 Statler Bldg., Boston 16, Mass. (Hancock 6-2445)
RAY KIERNAN,	20 Main Street, Rockport, Mass.
DOUGLAS LAWSON,	177 State Street, Boston 9, Mass.
PHILIP R. MATHER, SAMUEL R. MEAKER, M.D. SPENCER B. MONTGOMERY,	16 Arlington Street, Boston, Mass. 475 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass. 30 Federal Street, Boston 10, Mass.
HARRY OBER,	24 Griggs Terrace, Brookline 46, Mass.
LLOYD PARSONS, MORTON P. PRINCE,	Pabodie Place, Little Compton, R.I. 57 Chestnut Street, Boston, Mass.
STUART C. RAND,	30 State Street, Boston, Mass.
RICHARD S. SCHWARTZ, ROBERT S. STEINERT, RALPH F. SYMONDS,	1125 East 48th Street, Chicago 15, Illinois United Bldg., Room 316, 43 Leon St., Boston 15, Mass. Greystone Beach, Marblehead, Mass.
RICHARD WAIT, PAUL B. WATSON, JR. NORBERT WIENER,	30 State Street, Boston, Mass. 50 State Street, Boston, Mass. 53 Cedar Road, Belmont 78, Mass.

FINANCIAL REPORT

MAY 10, 1952 TO APRIL 30, 1953

BALANCE AS PER LAST REPORT \$239.54

RECEIPTS:-

1953

Dues 203.00
Dinner Fees 185.00

EXPENDITURES:-

1952

1 Pkg. Mimeograph Paper \$ 2.00
6 Mimeo Stencils @ 15c .90
Postage for Cheetah's Report 1.50

1953

Postage for Dues Notices 1.17
Sherlock Holmes Memorial Bowl 120.00
Sherlock Holmes Replica Bowl 18.00
Sherlock Holmes Replica Bowl 8.25
Engraving Bowls 15.00
Printing Invitations 23.50
Postage on 76 Invitations 2.28
Printing Bandquiz Leaflets 32.75
Postage Bandquiz Leaflets 2.30
Printing 100 Meeting Programs 42.50
Printing 500 "Road to Baker
Street" 18.50
Printing 300 "Musgrave
Rituals" 8.75
40 Dinners Club of Odd Volumes 170.00
Cigars at Dinner 5.65
Beverages at Dinner 140.26

BALANCE ON HAND \$ 14.23

\$627.54

\$627.54

BALANCE ON HAND \$ 14.23

Boston, Mass.
30 April, 1953

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  PRESS

Toronto 5 • Ontario Canada

April 30, 1953.

Mr. Armand Siegel,
Department of Mathematics,
Massachusetts of Technology,
Cambridge 39, Mass.,
U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Siegel:

Thank you for your letter of April 28.

Canadian Mathematical Congress, Lecture
Series, No. 1 - Introductions to the Theory of Distributions,
by Halperin and Schwartz, was published in 1952 and copies
are available for distribution.

If you wish, you may order a copy direct
from us. The price is \$1.50, plus 04¢ postage.

Yours very truly,

Ann Hill

Publications Department.

H.



NORBERT WIENER

originator of
Cybernetics
tells about his
childhood and
youth in

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April 30, 1953

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Enclosed are a couple of documents that may interest you - a small reminder ad scheduled for the May 9 issue of the Saturday Review and a column by Max Lerner that appeared in Monday's Post. I think the latter will be of particular interest to you if you have not already seen it.

All best wishes,

Harry Simon

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Dept. of Math.
MIT
Cambridge, Mass.

hws:lf
enc.

342 Madison Avenue, Rm. 525
New York 17, N. Y.

April 30, 1953

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

You may not remember me. I am the one who wrote you, after reading your "The Human Use of Human Beings," to tell you that when you lived in Foxboro, Mass., I lived about a quarter of a mile away, down the the street, South Street, from Catalpa Farm, and though you did not know me, I used often to see you at your home and riding with your father. The kind letter you sent in reply I placed in my copy of the book, where it stays, as a memo, a special and valuable one.

On March 28, about the first day your book Ex-Prodigy was placed on the counters, I went to Brentano's and bought my copy, which much to my surprise and joy was autographed. At first I couldn't believe it. I asked the saleswoman if they were all autographed. We found they were not. She said that I happened to get one of the few that you had autographed. I was certainly very much pleased at this coincidence.

I have read Ex-Prodigy, and re-read it--perused it and re-perused it and no doubt shall do this for a long time as it is so incredibly interesting. The Saturday Review had a very fine review of Ex-Prodigy, by Sloan Wilson, as you know, of course, and I thought it a very unusual and splendid exposition of your book. I have kept going to the Saturday Review head-quarters on West 45th Street to buy copies of this magazine to pass to my friends, who have been and are extremely interested and enlightened.

The review in the Christian Science Monitor was very fine--written by Robert C. Cowen. He says in the first paragraph "It is effectively and beautifully told." I feel the same way. Then he says "he has a warm feeling for humanity and the world that marks him as a man to be loved as well as respected." I thought these comments poignantly true. I respect and admire the terrific application which you must have given in those years between eleven and fourteen, for though a prodigy, you might have been lazy and not have brought your inherent powers to the remarkable completion which you did then and are now doing.

Your book is not only as stated in the above paragraph, but is most originally set forth, the language, the descriptions, the thoughts you had; everything about it is unique and most compelling to read, I have found. You have made yourself one of the world's most valuable citizens! I know that all this has been said, but I must have the satisfaction of saying it, too.

A very fine young man, whom I was discussing your book with, said: "This man may not even know how close he is to the Source, meaning God." Others have said: "Perhaps this is the pattern, instead of the ordinary mentalities the rest of us express. Perhaps in some life-day more of us will start from this higher basis." You being the pioneer! Who can tell?

It makes me proud to be able to tell my friends that you once lived in Foxboro, on the very street I lived on and not far away. Sometimes at gatherings we spend some time in discussing you and your great accomplishments. You are so far ahead of us that we cannot be jealous, we can only appreciate, love and admire you for your greatness and your humility and your love for the human race.

I could go on and on saying a lot of things that have already been said in a better way, so I won't take much more of your time. I do want to say, though how much I appreciate what Mrs. Wiener did in taking down the notes for your book. Being a Secretary (a teacher, really, who shifted over for variety's sake) I know that it was quite a job. I love the way your book is written and it was wonderful that you had someone right at hand to take your thoughts down and in the inimitable way you express yourself. It is a book one can go over and over and still marvel at its almost incredible contents and the way it unfolds chapter by chapter.

To deviate for a moment. I have always wanted to be a vegetarian, as I love animals and cannot bear the thought of the way they are used by us humans, but I tried to be one once, and by the end of one week, I could hardly sit up I was so weak. I gave up the struggle. However, I know that the time will come -not soon- but inevitably when it will be anomalous to use any animal for the purpose of food.

Thank you for having lived in my home town! Thank you for having studied to enrich your already manifested genius; thank you for your humility, goodness and in a word, for your "greatness." I am glad you have such a lovely wife and helpmeet -who appreciates you so completely.

Sincerely yours,

Louise E. Thornton

Louise E. Thornton.

P. S. Would it be such an impossible thing that when you and Mrs. Wiener are in New York, we could have lunch together at Stouffer's right near by on Fifth Avenue. My office is very near by, too. Even if Mrs. Wiener does not accompany you on your trips to New York, could you not have lunch with me- a former neighbor, as it were, at your convenience. I would not "exploit" you--I guess you know that. (Stouffer's has interesting vegetables and otherwise delicious food.)

R.E.J.

[ans 6/11/53]

April 30, 1953

Dr. George Devereux
Director of Research
Winter VA Hospital
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Devereux:

I have written to Dr. Max Lerner at Brandeis, and
have sent a note to Dr. Greenblatt about you. I'll
keep you informed of anything that develops.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

April 30, 1953

Dr. Milton Greenblatt
Boston Psychopathic Hospital
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Greenblatt:

I met Dr. George Devereux while I was lecturing in Topeka this winter and was very impressed with him as a person and with his interests.

Dr. Devereux writes me that he has been in touch with you about a research project he has worked out. The purpose of my letter is to let you know that I found Dr. Devereux's ideas very interesting, and that I hope a way may be found to bring him to Boston.

Sincerely,

Norbert Wiener

hb

[ans 5/1/53]

April 30, 1953

Dr. Max Lerner
Brandeis University
Waltham, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Lerner:

I cannot thank you enough for your kindness to me while I was at Brandeis. I enjoyed myself thoroughly and came away with a very warm spot in my heart for the University. I hope I was able to contribute something meaningful to your students.

You will recall that I spoke to you about a gifted young physicist, Dr. Armand Siegel, who has worked closely with me this year. Perhaps by now you have talked with him directly.

I write now about Dr. George Devereux whom I met while I was in Topeka, Kansas this winter speaking at the Winter VA Hospital and the Menninger Clinic. Dr. Devereux has expressed interest in the organization of a psychology graduate program at Brandeis, and has asked me to inquire whether there is any opening there for a man of his interests. I am enclosing some of the information he sent me about himself. Will you be kind enough to return it to me when you have looked it over.

With thanks, and every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

*Enc. = curricular vital
publications
research program*