

191

CORRESPONDENCE April 1-14, 1954

N. WIENER · MC 22

[ca. April, 1954]

Preliminary Announcement

1954 Annual Meeting

ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTING MACHINERY

June 23, 24, and 25

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Tentative List of Topics

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Punched Card Techniques | Punched Card Mathematics |
| Numerical Analysis | Digital Computer Programming |
| Partial Differential Equations | Machine Calculations |
| Computation in Social Research | Business Data Handling |
| Digital Computer Techniques | Digital Computer Mathematics |
| Recent Systems Developments | Analog Computation |
| Operation of a Computation Center | Logical Algorithms |
| Recent Components Developments | Education in Computation |
| Computing Machines and Astronomy | The Automatic Factory |
| Computing Machines and Nuclear Energy | Effects of Automation on Society |

Papers

Persons wishing to present papers at this meeting should submit abstracts of not more than 120 words to the chairman of the local program committee, Dr. Walter F. Bauer, Willow Run Research Center, University of Michigan, Ypsilanti, Michigan, by April 15. Final selection of papers will be made by the local and national ACM Program Committees.

Concurrent Meetings

Congress of the Nuclear Engineering Division of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers
Ann Arbor, June 20 - 25

Meeting of the American Astronomical Society
Ann Arbor, June 20 - 23

Wayne University Conference on Training Personnel for the Computing Machine Field
Detroit (40 miles from Ann Arbor) June 22 - 23

A second announcement including details of registration procedure and other information will be mailed about May 15.

Address correspondence concerning the meeting to:
Dr. John W. Carr, III
Willow Run Research Center
University of Michigan
Ypsilanti, Michigan

2

[and 9/14/59]

JACK MESZAROS ET3

LCU RON ONE

NAVY #3923

c/o FPO

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

[ca April, 1954]

LCU RON ONE
NAVY #3923
c/o FPO
San Francisco, Calif.

3

Dear Dr. Weiner,

I have recently finished reading your book entitled Cybernetics and it has fired my desire of long standing to learn more of the subject. I am extremely interested in such a field as a career but since it is relatively new there is an appalling lack of information on the subject. Consequently, I am turning to you for any information or practical help that you can offer me.

I have had three and a half years of college work with a major in Biology. However, I was unable to complete my degree due to the duress imposed by the Army breathing down my neck. Therefore, I joined the Navy and am nearing the completion of my enlistment. In the Navy my work is in the field of electronics and I have acquired valuable knowledge in that field. Now I am of the opinion that the wisest recourse I have is to synthesize the two fields as a lifes' work inasmuch as I am fond of both fields and can envision great developements in that direction.

What I need specifically is advice as to the proper matriculation necessary to best equip myself for such work. It was my idea to complete my degree in Biology and then to obtain a degree in Electrical Engineering. However, I am wondering if there are schools for specialized study in this field and since you are more familiar with this field I feel that you may be able to advise me on a course of study.

Also, if there is extensive research being conducted in Cybernetics at various universities of other institutions, I would like to correspond with them and find out in what direction their efforts are being expended and what new principles are being discovered. If such places exist, I would appreciate the addresses of them if you have them available.

Finally, I wish you would advise me as to books, periodicals, etc. that would give pertinent information on the subject and where they may be obtained. At the present I am stationed in Japan and such information is difficult to come by as facilities are very poor here.

I hope that you will feel that I do not wish to importune you as I know your time is valuable but I am very anxious to hear from you and am eagerly awaiting your reply.

Sincerely yours,

Jack Mezzano

[enc 4/14/59]

THE LONDON MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY.

HON. TREASURER:

S. T. SHOVELTON, C.B.E.

10 LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS,

LONDON, W.C.2

April, 1954.

The Council has decided to hold the May meeting at Sheffield in order to give an opportunity of attendance to those who find it impossible to make the journey to London. The meeting will be held at 5 p.m. on Thursday, 13th May, in Lecture Theatre III in the New Chemistry Block at Sheffield University, when Prof. A. M. Macbeath will give a lecture on "The concept of 'Mapping' in Undergraduate Mathematics".

The Crookes trams, from the bottom of The Wicker, by Victoria Station, and the Walkley trams, from the Midland Station, pass near the University.

The Council has also decided that the meeting and lecture shall be followed by a Dinner. This will be at the Staff House Club, Brookhill (opposite the new Chemistry Building), at 6.45 for 7 p.m., and the price will be 15s., inclusive of gratuities. In order that the necessary arrangements may be made, early notification of members' intention to attend is desirable. Accordingly, if it is your hope to be present at the Dinner, I shall be grateful if you will be so good as to send me your remittance for 15s. as soon as possible and in any case before 9th May.

S. T. SHOVELTON.

P.S.—Tea will be served in the Staff House Club, at 4.30 p.m., at 1/6 per head, and if it is your intention to be present I shall be grateful if you will tell me, so that the necessary arrangements may be made with the catering department of the University.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

1 April 1954

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

10

Dear Dr. Wiener,

Last week I wrote you an official letter concerning the application of cybernetics to the problem of communications as it pertains to the management of the Air Force. The more I go into the matter, the more I see possibilities in application to day-to-day management problems.

After writing you, I had lunch with my good friend, Colonel Charles Van Way of the Industrial College faculty. He very graciously sent me a copy of your 10 February talk on Automatic Control Techniques in Industry. I would like to comment on one point.

I do not feel you are being quite fair to the human brain on page 2. It seems to me you are taking two like - in a sense - items and comparing their performance without considering the context or environment in which each performs. The brain is performing in an environment of confusion compounded, both externally and internally. It is faced by a complex of relative choices - not digital. It has been fed an amazing hodge-podge of fact, fiction and fancy. This data is ill-digested and ill assorted. Is it any wonder that such a complex machine used under such conditions is slow? It is amazing that it produces any results.

The computer, on the other hand, is fed nice, clean, well assorted, and properly coded, pre-digested digital data. It works in a quiet, scientifically conditioned environment. We see to it that it is fully satisfied, both externally and internally, insofar as its job requirements are concerned. Then you turn around and criticize the brain for being slower than the machine. Are you being really fair?

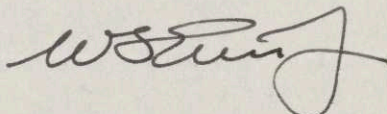
Some points on the formula. When I speak of "E", I mean energy changes either externally or internally. To be more precise - pressure, whether due to external or internal changes in energy content is the way I view it.

Also in the case of "r", it could be used in the sense of parameters, points of reference or centers of influence. In other words, an increase in the number of points affected would automatically decrease the apparent distortion.

In a similar vein, "C" could be considered an index of degree of state of "steady flow" as contrasted with "transient state." The idea is that the state, condition, or stage of development of an individual, a system or a situation, must be considered if an analysis of its behavior pattern in response to a stimulant or depressant is to be **valid**.

There are other comments concerning the application of cybernetics to organization I would like to make but this letter is already too long.

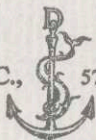
Sincerely,



WELDON T. ELLIS, JR
Deputy Director
Manpower and Organization,
DCS/Operations

[enc 4/13/54]

DOUBLEDAY & COMPANY, INC.,



575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22

MURRAY HILL 8-5300

April 1, 1954

Dear Professor Wiener:

Here are the Anchor galleys of THE HUMAN USE OF HUMAN BEINGS. We would be very grateful if you could give them your immediate attention and return them to use within a few days. We are sorry to rush you, but the book has a very tight schedule. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Natalie Rosin

Natalie Rosin

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

Medan, April 2, 1954.

Dear Dr. Norbert Wiener,

After reading some notes in magazines years ago, I know you are the discoverer of Cybernetics. I congratulate you. You made a great discovery in mathematics since Newton have discovered Calculus. I guess that Cybernetics will strongly affect the scientific and industrial world in many centuries as Calculus did. I hope you keep up the fine work.

I like to know more details about Cybernetics for being a youth who is interesting in mathematics. I hope you promise me to ask you about Cybernetics. Does Cybernetics deal with the relations between human idea and machines? I always surprise with the complication of human idea; so I guess Cybernetics is also a complicated subject and belongs to higher stage of mathematics. Before the discovery of Fourier's Theorem, person could not deal with the wave equations; so Fourier's theorem play an important part in advance Calculus. Now the condition is the same. Persons could not describe the human idea mathematically before the discovery of Cybernetics. So, I guess Cybernetics will play an important part in Advance mathematics.

I guess Cybernetics is a complicated and hard-to-study subject. So, I like to know whether a youth as me with some knowledge of Calculus can learn Cybernetics or not. I heartily like to know the prerequisite subjects in order to study Cybernetics. Is Mathematical Analysis also the prerequisite subject of Cybernetics? If one with some working knowledge of Advance Calculus but not yet Analysis, can he learn Cybernetics directly? I like to know whether the study of Cybernetics is as same as Function Theory in their difficulties or not. Perhaps one can learn Function Theory directly from Advance Calculus. But is it the same in Cybernetics?

From the reading of some magazines, I always guess that Operation Research is a super-statistics and Cybernetics is a superior operation research. So, is statistics also the prerequisite subject of Cybernetics? I do ^{not} know how a youth with some knowledge in Mathematical Major not Statistics can learn Cybernetics directly. May a youth with some knowledge in Math major learn Cybernetics and Statistics at the same time? I hope you will help me to understand these.

⑨

Thanking you in advance for your kind help, I am

Very Sincerely Yours.

杜美其

Douglas Chuan, 36A Tilak, Medan, Sumatra

P.S. Because I have not yet learn my signature in latin form, so I make it in Chinese.

[ans 4/12/54]

COLLÈGE
DE
FRANCE
—
CHAIRE
DE MATHÉMATIQUE ET MÉCANIQUE

Paris, April 5 1954

20, rue Leverrier

Paris 6

FRANCE

Dear Friends:

We are very glad to congratulate
you and Margant on the occasion
of her marriage.

We hope to see her some time in
France with her husband: is not a trip
to France still a desirable way of spending
some time for a young couple?

We send our best regards to all of
you

Very cordially yours

JM and def

THE FORD FOUNDATION
655 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

April 5, 1954

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

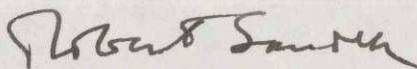
Dear Professor Wiener:

Alistair Cooke has handed me your letter of March 25 containing the very interesting suggestion that Ben Jonson's "The Tragedy of Sejanus" might be an appropriate work for television production.

Although "Omnibus" is now off the air until next season (resuming Sunday, October 17) we shall certainly read the play with your suggestion in mind, and if it seems to be a feasible undertaking we shall proceed with the details of editing and staging during the coming months.

Thank you for your suggestion. I shall let you know if it is to be performed in "Omnibus."

Sincerely,



Robert Saudek

April 5, 1954

Miss Victoria Schuck
15 Jewett Lane
South Hadley, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Schuck:

Miss Ellen Einhorn has asked me to write you concerning Professor Wiener's plans for his coming lecture at Mount Holyoke.

The date of Tuesday, April 20, would be the best time for him to come. He and Mrs. Wiener will drive over to South Hadley on the afternoon of the 20th, arriving about 5:00 pm, and will return after the lecture.

Professor Wiener suggests that "Communication and Scientific Method" be the topic of his lecture.

It would be most helpful if you would notify Professor Wiener of what part of the campus they should go to, on their arrival.

If there is any other information I can give you, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. James Cole
Secretary to Professor Wiener

Care of: Wending
345 East 61st Street
New York City
April 6, 1954

Dear Dr. Wiener:

The editor of Pageant Magazine, a national monthly of general interest subjects, has asked me to write an article about you and cybernetics. Though I am a writer on general topics primarily and have no more than a layman's knowledge of cybernetics, I have followed the development of the "thinking machines" with a great deal of interest, and, I might add, a growing sense of uneasiness. I (and the editors of Pageant) feel that an article would be widely read and well received.

I am aware that you are likely to have a most formidable schedule and this makes me hesitate to ask whether it will be possible for me to see you at some convenient time, of course, perhaps in the next few weeks. Yet I do ask: Will it?

I am told that you come to New York on fairly frequent visits. Could you have lunch with me during one of these visits? It would give me great pleasure. My telephone—should you find it unexpectedly possible to call me when you're in New York— is Templeton 8-6201 or Bryant 9-6904.

May I look forward to an early meeting with you?

Yours truly,

Michael Bakalar
Michael Bakalar

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

1

[ans 4/12/54]



THE WORCESTER FOUNDATION FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY

April 6, 1954

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

Shrewsbury, Massachusetts

Dear Prof. Wiener:

Thank you for your letter of March 22 regarding your talk before our Amer. Chem. Soc. section. Having heard you several times in the past on various subjects, I'm sure that your discussion of statistical mechanics will be not only interesting and appealing but also exciting. May I have a short summary or some sort of outline of the points you will discuss? We wish to use this in announcing your talk in our Engineering Society Bulletin and in the Worcester newspaper, in order to show how it will appeal to all chemists. Your secretary in her letter of March 4, did not include such a summary, which I had previously requested. I hope I do not absorb too much of your time with this interchange of letters but I do want very much to have as wide an audience as possible to be attracted to your talk.



THE WORCESTER FOUNDATION FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY

The meeting will probably be held at ^{Shrewsbury, Massachusetts} The Worcester Foundation. The date is Monday, May 3, not May 2 as I had incorrectly given before. I shall send you all details when they become definite, which will be soon.

Sincerely yours,
Harold Levy

[ms 5/12/54]

Le 6 avril 1954.

Monsieur le Professeur,

J'ai été très heureux de recevoir votre lettre et les bonnes nouvelles qu'elle me laisse espérer. Je serai très honoré et très heureux de venir dans votre maison du New Hampshire si vous pensez que je peux vous rendre quelque service.

Vous remerciant de votre bienveillance, je vous prie de croire
Monsieur le Professeur, à l'assurance de mes sentiments les plus
respectueux

Robert Vallée

Robert Vallée, 2 rue Mabilion, Paris, 6; France.

MAYO CLINIC

ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

SECTION OF
BIOPHYSICS AND BIOPHYSICAL RESEARCH
EDWARD J. BALDES, PH. D.
J. F. HERRICK, PH. D.
MARVIN M. D. WILLIAMS, PH. D.
KENNETH N. OGLE, PH. D.
ALAN L. ORVIS, PH. D.

April 7, 1954

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

We find it difficult to express adequately our sincere gratitude to you for contributing so notably to the Medical Electronics Symposium on Tuesday evening, March 23, 1954. We appreciate particularly your excellent presentation of the Scientific Method. All who listened to you enjoyed the privilege which was afforded them.

Very sincerely yours,



J. F. Herrick

jfh/lh

Letter to Norbert Wiener

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
MEDICAL SCHOOL
PORTLAND 1, OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY

April 7, 1954

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

In reference to my application for the U. S. Public Health Service Special Research fellowship to work in your department I would appreciate if you would complete the Facilities Statement that is enclosed and mail it to Dr. Ronald E. Scantlebury.

A letter to Dr. Scantlebury from you is also required with simply the statement that you are not yet personally acquainted with the applicant.

It would be appreciated if the Facilities Statement and the letter reached Dr. Scantlebury before May 1, 1954 the dead line date for the application. The mailing address for the Facilities Statement and letter is:

Dr. Ronald E. Scantlebury
Chief, Research Fellowships Branch
Division of Research Grants
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Sincerely yours,

Archie R. Tunturi

Archie R. Tunturi

Enclosure

ART:dmw

[ans 4/12/54]

April 8, 1954

Mr. Jason Epstein
Doubleday and Company
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Jason:

I am sending you a final copy of the Kipling article by Karl Deutsch and myself. We are, in the fullest sense of the words, joint authors, and whatever recompense there is should be divided equally. Karl, in fact, has done more of the writing than I, but a large percentage of the facts were dug out by me, and I take full responsibility for the literary shaping of the final version. If you think it would be interesting to get pre-publication comment from Edmund Wilson, it would delight me if you should send it on to him.

I have already begun work on the invention material. I should like to know more explicitly whether this material is to be in the first instance an independent book, or whether it is to appear in your journal. The importance of this is the matter of scale. I think that things are going to work about this way in the end--some of the material will appear in a more technical form, and with much more technical material that cannot be published by you, in my new treatise on Cybernetics, which is to go through Wiley's hands. I shall take any steps that are necessary to avoid such verbal duplication of material as might be to the disadvantage of either of my publishers. My idea is that the material that I am giving you should be related to my new highly technical work on Cybernetics as the original Human Use was related to my first book on Cybernetics. I shall go ahead without waiting for your further comments but an early reply on these matters will be of much value to me.

Sincerely yours,

.. ..
Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

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BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION
AIR LETTER
AEROGRAMME



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

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address: D. K. Ghosh,
1, Glenlyon Road,
Eltham Park,
LONDON S.E.9

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER
MAY BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

8th Apr. '54

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

Dear Dr. Wiener,

This letter is probably an unwanted intrusion, encroaching upon your valuable time. However, I could not resist the temptation of writing this guided by my experience that tells me that mathematicians are probably the most considerate of all human beings.

I shall be most grateful to you if an opportunity of working under your guidance can be offered to me and if you can suggest ways and means of obtaining such.

Although my knowledge is limited, I can assure you that to my best

and sincere efforts will be put to the work.

I am a graduate in Science from the University of Calcutta, obtaining a first class Honours Degree in Mathematics in 1951. I came over to England in the same year and since then I have been an internal student of the London University, preparing for the B.Sc. (Engineering) Degree in Electrical and Communication Engineering. I will be taking the final exam next June ('54).

I am greatly interested in Cybernetics and philosophical approach to Mathematics.

My main problem is that of finances. As you know how hard up the students usually are and I feel that the probability of being disappointed is extremely high. I do not see any

possible solution. I shall, therefore, be much obliged, if you could suggest some ideas to overcome the difficulty.

Perhaps this letter will go down as one of many fruitless attempts of achieving something beyond one's capabilities, as a result of too high an ambition and dreams that never come true. Still one must make a start somewhere and even disappointments have their own importance in building up one's mental background.

I sincerely hope that I shall not at least be disappointed in getting a reply from you, which even is perhaps too much for a humble person like myself to expect.

Thanking you.

1, Glenlyon Rd.

Eltham Park

London S.E.9

Very truly yours

Dilip Ghosh

[ans 9/13/47] K. Ghosh

↑ First fold ↓

CAMBRIDGE TRUST COMPANY

HARVARD SQUARE

CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS



April 8, 1954

Professor Norbert Wiener
53 Cedar Road
Belmont, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Wiener:

Thank you very much for the loan of your book for our recent display. We will always be indebted to you as one of the authors who made this display possible.

We hope that you have heard some of the complimentary comments which we have received here at the bank.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "G. Macomber". The signature is fluid and cursive.

George A. Macomber
President

GAM:EG

Apr. 9, 1954

(4)

Dear Prof. Wiener:

Sometime during this last January or early February, I sent you a copy of my Proposal for an "Economic Computer Complex".

I would appreciate your opinion on this matter (a rather suggestion) very highly. I believe it is closely related to your "Human Use of Human Beings" and to Prof. Heurteff's work.

Perhaps, if you have time, we could talk it over; however, I am, as you might expect, not a computer expert except through association with the Banta Bldg.

Very truly yours.

Paul A. Balderni

6520 th A.C. & W. Squad.

Hanscom Field
Bedford, Mass.

1922 Pacific Ave.
Venice, California
April 9, 1954

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

Dear Dr. Wiener,

I have just finished reading your book, The Human Use of Human Beings, and I feel that you have access to information which could save me many fruitless years of further searching. For the past five years I have been a student in the field of semantics, trying to formulate a language which I could teach to the children I plan to have--a language that would not induce upon them the many semantic difficulties that seem a part of present linguistic systems.

I have surveyed the field from K.C. Ogden to A. Korzybski and, though I have found much interest, I have never felt as if I were close to the essence of realizing an adequate foundation until I read your book. Since I was recommended to your work by an article on semantics, (The Scientific American) I read with constant anticipation of a disclosure of semantical applications, which I feel are forthcoming.

I am not interested in converting the world to a bigger and better Esperanto or Ro, but rather I feel it might be possible to demonstrate somewhat of the potential of the human mind as manifested by an individual unshackled by the ideologies and mysticism that tape together the loose, diametrical ends of a language mothered by linear-minded prophets constantly repairing a verbal cage for their runaway, geometrically-expanding God.

Any suggestions or evaluation you may find time to render would be greatly appreciated.

Yours,

Homer B Black

[ans 6/18/54]

ALLCOM COMPANY, INC.

Export - Import - Purchasing Agents

667 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

5

BOOK DEPARTMENT

April 9, 1954

Mr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Wiener:

We have been informed by the American Institute of Physics that you might be able to help us get a copy of the 6, 7, 8, 9 CONFERENCE ON CYBERNETICS.

If this is the case we will appreciate receiving these publication together with your invoice which will be paid promptly.

Sincerely yours,

ALLCOM COMPANY, INC.
Book Department

O. Botsis

O. Botsis

ob/md

*Wito
Macy
Foundation*

[ans 4/12/54]

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

April 9, 1954

Ref: P-1181

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

Dear Professor Wiener:


Your name has been suggested for review of the enclosed research proposal P-1181, entitled "Investigation of 'Bigram' and 'Trigram' Composition", submitted to the National Science Foundation by Professors Robert H. Roy and Harold O. Davidson, Johns Hopkins University.

Along with the proposal, there is enclosed a rating sheet, a guide sheet, and a return franked envelope.

Your help in making this evaluation will be very much appreciated, since it will aid the Foundation to be of service to the scientists of this country.

You understand, of course, that any information you give us will be treated confidentially.

Cordially yours,


Ralph A. Morgen
Program Director
for Engineering Sciences

Enclosures

(1)

[ans 4/21/54]

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

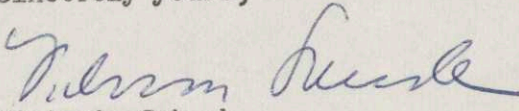
April 9, 1954

Mrs. James Cole
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Cole:

We are delighted that Professor and Mrs. Wiener will arrive at five o'clock on Tuesday, April 20th. We think it would be easiest for them to ask anyone on campus for Abbey Hall, and there a student will meet them and take them to the golf club house where we are having a little supper. Mr. and Mrs. Wiener will have a suite in Abbey so that if they wish to stay overnight and leave before dawn on Wednesday, they can do so. We are sorry that Professor Wiener has a class at nine o'clock the next morning and must leave so soon, but we are very grateful to him for accepting our invitation. And we are very pleased with the title of his lecture.

Sincerely yours,


Victoria Schuck
professor

VS:f

"
Communication and
Scientific Method"
"

THE INNER SANCTUM
OF SIMON AND SCHUSTER
PUBLISHERS · 630 FIFTH AVENUE
ROCKEFELLER CENTER · NEW YORK 20

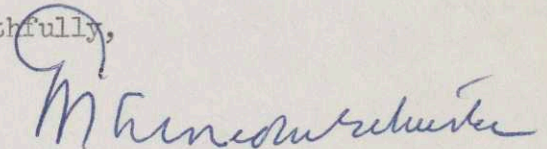
April 9, 1954

Dear Norbert Wiener:

Out at Sands Point over the weekend I tracked down that copy of the Selected Works of Ben Jonson, and hasten to tell you how greatly stirred I was by "Sejanus: His Fall."

It's amazing how a play written in 1603 applies to the crucial issues of 1954. It cries to be produced on television by Orson Welles, using Beethoven's "Coriolanus" Overture as background music. I'll remind Joe Barnes and Henry Simon about this, and with their voices added to mine, maybe we can help bring this about.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Simon Schuster". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

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

MLS:CD



THE INSTITUTE OF RADIO ENGINEERS

INCORPORATED

1 EAST 79 STREET
NEW YORK 21, N.Y.

LEHIGH 5-5100

April 12, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Wiener:

You were one of the authors of a technical paper presented at the recent Convention of The Institute of Radio Engineers. I am writing you this invitation to make application for membership in the IRE.

The high quality of your paper indicates that both the IRE and you should benefit thereby.

Information on the IRE and an application form are enclosed.

We hope to welcome you in the near future as an active member of The Institute of Radio Engineers.

Very truly yours,

W. C. White, Chairman
IRE Membership Committee

WCW:ab
Encl.

COPY

April 12, 1954

Mr. Michael Bakalar
c/o Wending
345 East 61st Street
New York, New York

My dear Mr. Bakalar:

My trips to New York are not particularly frequent, and when I do go there my time is pretty thoroughly taken up. Therefore I think that if you wish to interview me, you had better do it here in Cambridge.

From the standpoint of giving you time, I am quite willing, but I must confess that I know Pageant quite well, and that I do not think that its slant on the world is likely to produce an article that will be particularly to my taste.

Quite frankly, I would give a good deal if in some way I could cease to be an object of journalistic interest for the future. However, I have been told that journalists must live and, although I do not find the argument cogent, I am willing to give you a chance to come to my office to present your plans to me and to see how they can be materialized with the least disadvantage to me.

In other words, please make an arrangement with my secretary for calling on me at some future time. I will listen to your tale of woe, and I am afraid that I am just soft enough to give you a moderate degree of help in the matter if your approach pleases me.

Mind you, I promise you nothing but a chance to state your case.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbe

COPY

April 12, 1954

Major Paul H. Baldwin
6520th A. G. and W. Squadron
Hanscom Field
Bedford, Massachusetts

My dear Sir:

You must understand that I am very hesitant to send to an inventor any material which indicates whether I support or do not support the validity of his invention. There is always a considerable risk to my own scientific reputation in sending any such statements to strangers.

I do not desire to solicit or even to undertake consultation, but I consider that what you are asking for is equivalent to consultation, and I do not believe you could meet my rates on that.

Moreover, you do not give me enough material to furnish me with a valid comment, nor do I wish to spend more time in correspondence with you.

Very truly yours,

Robert Wiener

NW:bbc

COPY

April 12, 1954

Dr. K. P. Bhatnagar
772, Banarsi Bagh
Lucknow, U. P.
India

My dear Dr. Bhatnagar:

I am of course interested in transform theory which is a valid field of work. Since I have not got your papers at my disposal, I can only go on what Titchmarsh and Bailey say, which is highly complimentary.

I am passing on your letter to the head of my department, Professor W. T. Martin, for his own judgment, without recommending any particular action to be taken upon it. This must be upon his own initiative.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

COPY

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Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

12 avril 1954

M. Paolo Bonetti
"Scientia"
Via Roncaglia, 4
Asso (Como), Italy

Cher Monsieur:

Je me trouve au moment aussi occupé avec l'écriture dans mes trois nouveaux livres qu'il m'était impossible à vous envoyer un manuscrite. Pour le plupart je me trouve forcé à n'inviter des efforts littéraires isolés et à n'écrire que de livres.

Agnez, monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments les plus élevés,

Nonbent Wiener

NW:bbc

COPY

April 12, 1954

Mr. O. Botsis
Book Department
Allcom Company, Inc.
667 Madison Avenue
New York 21, New York

Dear Sir:

I suggest that you write to

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

under whose auspices the conferences were held and the volumes in question were published.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

COPY

April 12, 1954

Mr. Douglas Chuan
36A Tilak
Medan, Sumatra

Dear Mr. Chuan:

It was a very pleasant thing to receive your highly complimentary letter.

It is hard to make a special recommendation as to what you should do in the future, but this thing is certainly true, that you can obtain a fairly good mathematical education by reading, and an excellent one without leaving the Orient.

In China one of the leading mathematicians is my former student Hua Loo Keng at Peiping, and in India there are many places where it ought to be possible to obtain a training without excessive expense. I suggest that you write to Professor Mahalanobis at Calcutta, where his Institute of Statistics is already conducting classes for a number of students from neighboring Asiatic countries. These classes are in English, and I remember meeting other inhabitants of Indonesia when I was there.

Another place is the Tata Institute for Fundamental Science at Bombay. Why don't you write to Professor B. Kosambi there and state your case? I am quite convinced that somewhere in the East a man with your interests can find training for the future at a far less expensive rate than travel to the United States would involve.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

April 12, 1954

Mr. Harold Levy
The Worcester Foundation
for Experimental Biology
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Levy:

I am going to discuss the nature of probability as seen by Gibbs and the technique of probability as worked out by Gibbs' contemporaries, Lebesgue and Borel; the convergence of this pure physical theory with pure mathematical theory; the new logical nature of scientific research which these points of view make necessary; the application of these concepts to information theory; and finally, the treatment of modern quantum theory in a Gibbsian form.

I hope this gives you the information you need.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

[ans 4/15/54]

April 12, 1954

Mr. Paul G. Mantasian
29 MacArthur Drive
Warwick, Rhode Island

My dear Mr. Mantasian:

There is not very much that I can do in a case of a wunde-kind with whom I have not got personal contact.

If for his own sake you assure him that the temporary disadvantages of being a wunde-kind will largely subside into the background with time, and that an early start has some positive advantages, that is about all I am willing to say for his benefit.

For the benefit of the public, I have said my little piece and intend now to leave to other writers the discussion of parallel instances with which I am not personally acquainted.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

COPY

April 12, 1954

Mr. F. Mikus
Riharjeva 3
Ljubljana
Yugoslavia

My dear Mr. Mikus:

While there is no doubt that something can be done in the direction of mechanical translators, the purely electro-technical problems are difficult and the linguistic ones are even more so.

It will do no harm to tell you in advance that I am not sanguine about the possibilities of doing useful work in this direction, except when the translating machine is used as a mere auxiliary by a philologist or linguist of the first rank.

In this my opinion differs from that of some of my colleagues, but I am willing to back my opinion.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

..
April 12, 1954

..
Dr. Ronald E. Scantlebury, Chief
Research Fellowships Branch
Division of Research Grants
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Dr. Scantlebury:

.. Enclosed is the Facilities Statement
for the application of Professor Archie R.
Tunturi.

I am not yet personally acquainted with
the applicant.

.. ..
Sincerely yours,

.. ..
Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

April 12, 1954

Professor Archie R. Tunturi
Department of Anatomy
University of Oregon Medical School
Portland I, Oregon

Dear Professor Tunturi:

I have completed the Facilities
Statement and sent it off this afternoon
with a letter to Dr. Scantlebury as you
requested, stating that I am not yet
personally acquainted with you.

I wish you success in your
application.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

COPY

April 12, 1954

Dr. Manuel Sandoval Vallarta
Instituto Nacional de la Investigacion
Cidntifica
Puente de Alvarado No. 71
Mexico 3, D. F.

Dear Manuel:

I have passed your letter on to Reshevsky.

I have just come back from India, where I saw a lot of your friends, including Bhabha and the Sarabahais.

I'd like to be down in Mexico again soon but I have two or three books under way and I don't see how I can make it, short of my next trip to India in two or three years.

By the way, what's up with Arturo? Virginia is up here, and while very friendly, is also very reticent. Knowing the possibilities of Arturo's state of health, I am worried.

As you know, Peggy was recently married. She is here now visiting us and attending to her Master's thesis. She joins Margaret and myself in sending our best wishes to you and Maria Luisa.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

April 13, 1954

Dr. Jorge Soberón Acevedo
Secretario General
Sociedad de Medicos Internos Residentes y
Becarios
Instituto Nacional de Cardiologia
Avenida Cuauhtemoc No. 300
Mexico, D. F.

Dear Dr. Acevedo:

I was recently on an eight-weeks' trip to India, and your letter came while I was away.

I only wish that I could come down to Acapulco for the Second International Congress of the Society of Internes and Fellows during April 21, 22, 23, and 24, but I find myself loaded down with research work that I have promised to do, and which simply does not allow me to take any further trips for a considerable time.

However, I very actively appreciate the many favors I have received from the Instituto, and I request that you pass on to my Mexican and other friends in your organization my expressions of affection, and my hopes for the long and glorious future of your society.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbe

11 13, 1954

..
Mrs. Adams ..
Medical Department
M. I. T.

Dear Mrs. Adams: ..

.. Thank you for sending me the enclosed
article. I found it most interesting.

Sincerely yours,

..
Norbert Wiener

NW:bbe

COPY

April 13, 1964

Professor Mary K. Bloetjes
Department of Institution Administration
School of Home Economics
The Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida

Dear Professor Bloetjes:

I suggest that you get in touch with

Dr. Alex W. Rathe
Department of Industrial
and Management Engineering
College of Engineering
New York University
University Heights
New York 53, N. Y.

He is very much interested in problems such
as yours,

Sincerely yours,

No-bert Wiener

NW:bbe

April 13, 1954

Mr. Theodore T. Dombas
Assistant to the Executive Secretary
Conference Board of Associated Research
Councils
Committee on International Exchange of
Persons
2101 Constitution Avenue, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Dombas:

I am very much interested in your announcement of opportunities for lecturing abroad under Public Law 402 (The Smith-Mundt Act), and I am particularly interested in the desire of Mexico for a lecturer in mathematics.

I have already lectured on mathematics in Mexico, naturally in Spanish, and I hope and trust that I shall have the chance to do it again. Still, I am just back from a seven-week trip to India for similar purposes, and I find ahead of me a bulk of scientific and literary demands which I shall not be able to fulfill in less than a year and a half. Then I hope to go to India for from half a year to a year.

I have recently received a letter from Manuel Sandoval Vallarta, Vice-minister of Education in Mexico, in which he asks when I shall be down again. I heartily wish it could be in the near future, but I do not see a fair possibility until the fall of 1956. Meanwhile I shall be glad to stand at your disposal in any way possible.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

April 13, 1954

Miss Lavinia P. Dudley
The Encyclopedia Americana
2 West 45th Street
New York 36, New York

My dear Miss Dudley:

I should like to supplement my statement for the Encyclopedia Americana on the matter of Law by a suggestion that the modern probabilistic development of information theory and of, in fact, all science, leaves us in profound doubt of whether any scientific law is indeed a statement about that logical fiction, the world, or does not rather consist in observed formalized relations of a statistical character between messages coming into us and messages of the nature of experimental techniques emanating from us.

If this is so, the point which I have made in my article as to the similarity between laws and empirical generalizations is merely fortified.

Perhaps you could work this into the article in some way.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbe

..
April 13, 1954

.. ..
Dr. Halbert L. Dunn
7631 Fort Foote Road, S. E.
Washington 22, D. C.

My dear Dr. Dunn:

.. ..
I am very sympathetic with your purposes, but very skeptical of what can be done by an expression of such excellent purposes in such highly non-specific terms.

In other words, a mere desire to do good without at least the disclosure of new and concrete ways to do good, or a new organization of accepted ways, does not change the balance of expectations very much in the fight with the devil. Letters to Santa Claus are nowadays returned marked "Deceased in 1940."

.. ..
Sincerely yours,

.. ..
Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

COPY

April 13, 1954

Mr. Weldon T. Ellis, Jr., Deputy Director
Manpower and Organization, DCS/O
Department of the Air Force
Headquarters United States Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Ellis:

The word "fair" in a discussion of the comparison of the human brain with computing machines is really irrelevant. It would only have meaning if there were some significant contest to determine which was to be used for a particular purpose. Now when our main object is speed rather than flexibility, combined with a high degree of accuracy, the machine has certain definite advantages.

As a matter of fact, it is almost only there that it has advantages. In other words, I think that the difficulty you raise is purely terminological and has no particular reference to anything to be done with or about machines.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Wiener

NW:bbe

COPY

April 13, 1954

Mr. D. K. Ghosh
1, Glenlyon Road
Eltham Park
London S. E. 9
England

Dear Mr. Ghosh:

I am sending your letter on to Professor W. T. Martin, the head of my department, so that he can see if there is any basis for action.

Don't build up your hopes, but I was favorably impressed by your letter, and I shall at least see that it gets a hearing.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

COPY

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1, Glenlyon Road
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Sincerely yours,

Robert Wiener

NW:bbc

COPY

April 13, 1954

Mr. Hall M. Griffith
The Princeton Club of New York
Park Avenue and 39th Street
New York 16, New York

Dear Mr. Griffith:

Many thanks for your letter concerning your boy. He seems to me very lucky to have such understanding parents. I should like very much some time that I come to New York to meet you people and the boy or, alternatively, to have you look me up in Cambridge.

As to the development of children at a time like this, it is hard--harder by far than even the development of an infant prodigy at the time of my youth--but it can be done, and be done satisfactorily. I have two daughters, neither of whom was exactly an infant prodigy, but both of whom have displayed an excellent grasp both of scientific and of literary and musical ideas, as well as of the times in which they are living. They have not had an easy life of it, and each in her own way has passed through a period of rebellion. They are both happily married, and the older one has two children of her own. The younger one is just married, and has been trained as a bio-chemist. Both my sons-in-law work for Bell Laboratories. What I want to tell you is that the sensitive child such as your son certainly is and such as my daughters have been cannot grow up in any world, particularly in a world such as that in which we now live, without a considerable amount of suffering. That does not prevent them from leading lives that are more than psychoanalytically satisfactory, being also effective even in these difficult times.

I hesitate to give concrete and detailed advice for your son till I have seen him and seen you, and even then I am not eager to rush in where angels fear to tread. If, however, he realizes that he will have difficulties which are a very part of his advantages and cannot be separated from them, and if he has the courage and stamina to stick to his principles in a world in which he will always belong to a very small minority, and yet not to underestimate the people who do not belong to his minority, then he may very well form one of those leaders whom we need for the future.

He should realize both that principles are meant to be stood for and that this world doesn't have any Santa Claus.

As the Scotsman puts it, "Nothing for nothing in this world of Woe, and damn little for sixpence." He must learn to take his ideas seriously, but not himself, to be able to laugh at things but not to laugh them into triviality.

It is very likely that while he has his intellectual maturity early, he will have his social maturity late. I can see from the tone of your letter that I do not need to tell you to be kind to him, but don't coddle him. He will have to be quite reasonably tough to come through at all, and the transition from an oversheltered home to a very nasty world is probably harder than if the child has an early opportunity to face realities. At any rate, fortunately for us, the human child isn't such a fragile creature as you might think by reading the advice for parents in the magazine section of the Sunday New York Times.

Don't drive him to success but, without pressure, calmly expect it of him. There is always a chance that things won't go according to the form book, and there is practically a certainty that adolescence will contain some black moments for him. So what? That's the way it has always been, and the overwhelming majority of us manage to make a reasonably effective adjustment even to a world of which we, quite uselessly, do not entirely approve. In other words, bringing up an infant prodigy is a gamble with very real risks, but it is a worthwhile gamble, and I respect you for facing the issue.

Remember also this--that he who can, must; and if he is to be honest with himself, he must take greater responsibilities than the average boy not only now, but for the rest of his life. In many religions and many forms of society, the boy of thirteen must be prepared to regard himself as a man with the duties of a man. This does not mean that he must put away the childish things that amuse him, but merely that he must realize them for the amusements that they are and be aware of the fact that his moral responsibility as a man in the community begins here and now, and not at some future date when he has gone softly through college.

Sincerely yours,

NW:bbe

Norbert Wiener

P.S. I am amused by what you said about John Dewey. He may have been a great influence in American education, but he was a profoundly unseccessful father.

COPY

..
April 13, 1954

.. ..
Mr. Lennart Lidfors
Tabyvagen 128
Enebyberg, Sweden..

My dear Mr. Lidfors: ..

.. .. I am trying to dig up from among my reprints something that may be of interest to you.

.. .. This is about as far as I am willing to commit my time in writing a reply to you. You must realize that if I were to write special papers for every interested person, even if his interest is legitimate, I should find no time for anything else. ..

Sincerely yours,

.. ..
Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

..
April 13, 1954

.. ..
Mr. Kurt S. Lion
Room 16 - 725
M. I. T.

Dear Mr. Lion:

Naturally your paper interests me very much. A superficial inspection of your work indicates that your apparatus, although it will have a useful field of application, is likely for the present to be confined to slow work and relatively low frequencies.

I would appreciate hearing more from you, and knowing whether my suggestion is justified or not. Meanwhile, I think the most essential thing you have to do is to push your device into the higher frequencies.

.. ..
Sincerely yours,

.. ..
Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

COPY

April 13, 1954

Mrs. Porter S. Lucas
Box 386
Crane, Missouri

My dear Mrs. Lucas:

"Certainly I will autograph your copy of Cybernetics if you send it to me. I am delighted with your friendly letter, and there is no author who is really immune to sincere flattery.

As to science fiction, I do think it's a nice way to pick up a few shekels on the side, but I have no illusion that there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow of fantasy. I intend to keep up in the same vein, but quite frankly, my main obligation to myself and to society is to continue for a few more years longer to draw the scientific conclusions that have still not been extracted from my vein of thought.

A first draft of the continuation of my autobiography is in the hands of my publishers and, with luck, will be out within the year.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

April 13, 1954

Mr. R. C. Malhotra, General Manager
The Andhra Cement Company, Lt.
Vijayawada
Southern Railway
India

Dear Mr. Malhotra:

Many thanks for your most complimentary letter. I should be glad to see your son if he comes east.

As to India, Margaret and I are planning to spend from half a year to a year there, beginning perhaps in the fall term of 1955. I need not tell you how glad we shall be to accept your offer of hospitality, particularly after the interesting meeting we had in Hyderabad.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

April 13, 1954

Mr. Jehuda Rav
609 West 115th Street
New York 25, New York

My dear Mr. Rav:

Many thanks for your interesting letter and note that you have sent me.

While I am naturally sympathetic to the application of communication theory to theoretical ideas, it seems to me still too soon to try to do any effective work in the region between a field that requires such a depth of human appreciation as psychology and the really effectively mathematical theory of communication.

I am thus at a loss to pass on to you any specific recommendations, but I at least hope that some time we shall meet, and that I shall be able to give you suggestions which, if not cogent, may be useful to you.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

..
April 13, 1954

..
Mrs. Anton Rytina
1931 Stanwood Street
Philadelphia 15, Pennsylvania

My dear Mrs. Rytina:

I was very glad to receive your letter and to hear more of the Ma family. ..

As to the question of whether the Jewish social habits favor the perpetuation of culture I have never claimed that they have done it optimally--merely that they are more favorable than many habits and customs of other cultural groups.

.. I received your letter on my return from a trip to India where I found very similar factors to those among the Jews working effectively among the southern Brahmins.

I agree that definitive and dogmatic statements concerning the favorableness of certain specific habits to cultural development are to be deplored, but I think that they may have some value in bringing this interesting subject to a deeper scientific value.

Sincerely yours,

.. ..
Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

April 13, 1954

Mr. Harry Schneide-man
Who's Who in World Jewry
251 West 101st Street
New York 25, New York

Dear Mr. Schneide-man:

I write this letter as a Jew who is proud of being a Jew, but who is even more proud of being a human being. I find that this segmentation of humans into classified bits, which is now the fashion, is at bottom a very deep offense against the unity of humanity. I do not want to have to look up my Indian friends in a supposed "Who's Who among Brahmins" or "Who's Who among Parsis" nor do I care to look up my Japanese friends in a "Who's Who among Buddhists."

Behind the legitimate purposes of a book such as yours I sense an atavistic pull back into the ghetto, and I don't like it. In other words, I draw a distinction between being a Jew by race, of which I am very proud, and being, in any degree, the personal possession of a specific community to which I have never, as a matter of fact, belonged exclusively, or even predominantly.

My grandfather chose the way of assimilationism, and it is pretty late in the day to reverse this action.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbo

..
April 13, 1954

.. ..
Mr. J. C. Scurlöck
Western Engineering Associates
6363 West 79th Street
Los Angeles 45, California

My dear Mr. Scurlöck:

.. ..
Since the early days of econometrics I
have felt very little at home in this field of
work because it seems to me that most
econometric work ignores the necessary
combination of new norms in measurement and
observation with new norms of a purely
dynamical nature.

.. ..
Therefore I am not quite clear how your
work is to be applied in a concrete case. My
recommendation to you, as to all people who
work in econometrics, is to fortify your
science in its metrical and observational
techniques before prolonging it much further as
a dynamics.

.. ..
Sincerely yours,

.. ..
Norbert Wiener

NW:bbe

COPY

April 13, 1954

Dr. H. C. Shepherd
The Colonial Hospital
San Fernando, Trinidad
British West Indies

Dear Dr. Shepherd:

Under separate cover I am sending you a bibliography of cybernetic material and a few articles which may be of interest to you.

At present I am working on a new treatise on cybernetics which I hope to complete within the next two years. Like my 1948 book, it will be a technical treatise, requiring a full mathematical background for full understanding.

A new edition of The Human Use of Human Beings will be published next month in hard covers by Houghton Mifflin, and as a paperback in their "Anchor" series by Doubleday. You may find this book of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

April 13, 1954

Mr. Pietro Mario Vallasciani
Magliano di Tenna (Ascoli Piceno)
Fermo, Italy

My dear Mr. Vallasciani:

I am scarcely in a position to appeal to individuals interested in cybernetics in Italy as I have not been there to any extent and really do not know how to proceed.

Professor de Santillana and I have not been in scientific contact for some time, and I suggest that he knows your problems much better than I do. I recommend that you turn to him.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

April 13, 1954

Mr. G. Vikentiev
c/o Institut de Culture Humaine
18, Emad El Dine Street
Cairo, Egypt

My dear Mr. Vikentiev:

According to my way of looking at it, the transmission of information is merely the transmission of choices. When one has reduced transmission theory to this form it is clear that the ultimate limit of the carrying capacity of the line consists in the number of choices per second which are not vitiated by the external noise of the line and the internal irregularity of currents which are due to the atomic nature of electrical transmission.

I think that the points in your letter have already been repeatedly made in communication theory, but I suggest that you keep in touch with the subject, and particularly with such people as Shannon of Bell Laboratories and Mandelbrot of Paris.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

COPY

April 13, 1954

Dr. B. Viswanatham
Department of Mathematics
Osmania University
Hyderabad-Deccan, India

Dear Dr. Viswanatham:

I am delighted that your prospects look so good.

I have put your letter in the hands of the head of my department, Professor W. T. Martin, to find out what steps can best be taken.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

COPY

April 13, 1954

Dr. B. Viswanatham
Department of Mathematics
Osmania University
Hyderabad-Deccan, India

Dear Dr. Viswanatham:

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I have put your letter in the hands of the head of my department, Professor W. T. Martin, to find out what steps can best be taken.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbe

[ca April 15, 1954]

I am constantly stumbling over Wiener - so I wonder,
when Wiener will begin to stumble over Maexie ?

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

Washington, 25, D.C.

Reference Department
General Reference and Bibliography Division

March 8, 1954

Dear Mrs. Maexie ;

Your letter of February 17 has been referred to this Division.

Teleradisthesia and Radiesthesia are combined under the latter subject in the Main Catalog of the Library of Congress. Approximately sixty three works are entered, and only the following were published in this country.

Brunler, Oscar. Rays and radiation phenomena.
Los Angeles, De Vorss, 1950. 46 p.

Trowp, Soleo. Psychical physics. New York,
Elsevier Pub. Co. 1949. 534 p.
"Bibliography : p. 441- 503"

Only a few publications are entered under Cybernetics. Four of them are by Dr. Norbert Wiener. The other one is described below :

Quastler, Henry, ed. Essays on the use of information theory in biology.
Urbana, University of Illinois Press,
1953, 273 p.

"Sponsored by the Control Systems Laboratory of the University of Illinois."
Includes bibliographies.

You have no doubt examined such reference aids in your local libraries as Index Medicus, Biological Abstracts, Psychological Abstracts and others in establishing your tentative conclusion.

Very truly yours

Henry J. Dubester
Acting Chief
General Reference and
Bibliography Division.

Mrs. E.R. MAEXIE
415 West 120 Str.
New York 27, N.Y.

April 4, 1954.

Mr. Eugen Rabinowitch
Editor of BULLETIN of the ATOMIC SCIENTISTS
956 E. 58th Street
Chicago 37, Ill.

Dear Mr. Rabinowitch,

you have very truly stated ;SCIENCE FACES A DOUBLE DANGER, that of inner disintegration through its dependency on the a priori of a certain "Weltanschauung", which changes the interpretation of the established facts, and has robbed science its former world-wide acceptance as long as the "materialistic prejudice" had been identified with scientific objectivity it had been a world-wide "belief" - now there is a new idealistic science which opposed the materialistic science and every one, scientist and layman, is permitted to "believe" what he choses.

The second, outer danger you mention is that of increasing disappointment, suspicion and distrust of the public which no more thinks that scientists should be entrusted with the reorganization of the world, but should rather be ruled with a firm hand. The recently awded ignorance about the issue of experiments which might become at any moment catastrophal to many or all of us, has certainly done nothing to ameliorate this danger ?

You call this reaction of the public "anti-rational" and "anti-intellectual" although it certainly is a proof of common sense and instinct for survival. But you also admit the necessity of introducing certain "moral and ethical principles" and of what B. Baruch demands: "Science should be free, but not so free as to destroy mankind." Yet you fail to point out just how these moral and ethical principles are to be introduced and who is going to control science ? So all your conclusions are perfectly right in theory, yet unfortunately not "practical".

Psychologically it is a more dangerous sign of irrationality and of lack of intelligence among the scientists, if in acknowledging all this they would go on with unilateral research of "know how" yet stubbornly refuse to advance also in the "know why" and "know what". This "magic apprentice" attitude will necessarily lead to the ruin of the whole system.

II.

Perhaps you are not aware of the fact, that those, who think that science has become "irrational" and has come to a dead point are working at the reorganization. By integrating the results of specified research through Border Research, introducing new means and methods of investigation to supply those that have proved to be inadequate and using new, realistic, concepts for the interpretation of the established facts, thus advancing in "know why".

Border Research is not only an integration of the different branches of scientific research but also a synthesis between natural science and philosophy of nature thus cosmology. A much wider "universal" background of learning is necessary for this integrating research than is generally to be found, especially in America, where specialization is practiced right from the beginning of studies. This is probably one of the causes why border research is so little understood and practiced in America.

A first attempt in this direction may be found in Norbert Wiener's Introduction to CYBERNETICS, when he speaks of the "no-man's land" between the various established fields of research, about the difficulty of mutual understanding because "every single notion receives a separate name from each group" of investigators; the necessity of cooperating through "team-work" of representatives of the different fields and so on. But then Wiener does not seem to understand the principle of Border Research, which is not a mere completion of branch-work, but a revolutionary new SYNTHESIS through cosmological knowledge.

The only Border Research I have been able to contact up to now were the BSRA - Border Science Research Associates - in San Diego, Cal. They work through spiritistic mediums and this CANNOT be accepted as serious scientific research, it is and will always remain "occultism in pseudo-scientific make-up" or what you so very rightly term as "reassertion of irrational forces". I do not know if you are fully aware of the danger this represents?

I am myself rather at the head of Border Research by radiesthesia - RADIESTHESIA or TELERADIESTHESIA - and am urged by my European colleagues to publish my "Papers". As this will lead to a perfectly new insight into the problems of nuclear physics I do not wish to do so, unless I find that serious cooperation which will give me the possibility to do so in a strictly scientific and uncontestable way.

Radiesthesia investigates those sound-phenomena which, not perceptible to the ear - are the substratum also of radio-astrology. But not only the stars, also the "electrons" are accompanied by such "sound phenomena" as also the growth of living cells. My experimental research has come to a point where only a little cooperation is necessary to formulate the findings. This is what I am

III.

looking for now, I need "control" and "observation" for some special experiments. For instance I was told that some of the curves demonstrated by radio-aesthesia are "authentic curves". Therefore a physicist would have to observe them and find out both their mathematical and harmonical "formula", the coincidence of which would necessarily lead to quite new discoveries.

Then again some statistic work compiled during years of experimental research needs a thematic elaboration. Because the result of this fact-finding shows that there is a HARMONIC SYSTEM of all cosmic energies and motions of which the "periodic System" in chemistry only just gives us a faint idea.

Again this research has shown that there are six different "primary qualities" which - like the elements of Empedocles and Aristotle - are the cause of all material formation. Prof. Pais of the Institute for Advanced Study is reported to have found "six dimensions" as the rock-bottom of material formation. So here is another point of integration.

Yet up to now I have not found anyone, who has the intuition to understand that a perfectly new approach may lead further than the old one did, and who is willing to overcome the prejudice of scientific specialization and over-specialization and accepts team-work as inevitable for such synthetic investigation.

When you approach a physicist he will tell you; maybe a psychologist would be the right man, and when you approach a physiologist he sends you to a mathematician, yet ALL of them needs must cooperate if an OVERALL THEORY is to be presented. The American system of scientific disintegration is by principle opposed to all efforts towards the INTEGRATION OF SCIENCE and therefore this is a serious handicap in the investigation of the "know why".

If I accost you as the Editor of the BULLETIN of the ATOMIC SCIENTISTS and as the author of SCIENCE FACES A DOUBLE DANGER then I do so, because I hope that you might understand that a new and revolutionary approach to the basic problems of nuclear physics is being prepared and that you might be willing to cooperate in the reorientation from mere "know how" to the investigation of the "know why". And even if you are not personally interested you might know who would, and pass this on to him.

I am therefore enclosing a short article published in Switzerland and some information about the state of Radiesthesia in America today.

Looking forward to some sort of encouraging answer

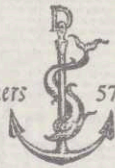
Sincerely yours

CHARLES MANNEBACK

PROFESSEUR A L'UNIVERSITÉ DE LOUVAIN
MEMBRE DE L'ACADÉMIE ROYALE DE BELGIQUE

*heartiest congratulations
for the marriage of your
daughter Margaret.*

as ever yours



April 14, 1954

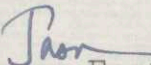
Dear Professor Wiener:

I am enclosing copies of our contract for the book on the theory of invention. I hope that you find them in order.

I have just received the Kipling essay, which I have read with great pleasure and which I shall hold here until July when Melvin Lasky, the editor of Anchor One, arrives from Berlin. His decision will finally determine whether or not we use it, but certainly I will make a strong recommendation in its favor.

I have not yet had a chance to read through all of the revised autobiography, but I am pleased with what I have seen so far, and if you will bear with me, I will have some notes to show you soon.

Sincerely,


Jason Epstein

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

JE:nr
Enclosure

P. O. Box 462
Chapel Hill, N. C.
April 14, 1954

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

In the transactions of the Sixth Conference of Cybernetics, Mr. Fremont-Smith states: "The problem of communication is largely a problem of human relations, and for its solution requires intensive and comprehensive scientific study of man. In order to study man, it is necessary to bring in every one of the physical and biological sciences and every one of the social sciences also."

Since I am an artist and am working on a thesis "Paint and Experiment as Communication", I am interested in the problem of communication and the study of man. I wonder how the **studies** on Cybernetics can be usefully applied in my field. It is my belief that creations of art are among the greatest creations of man and to complete my study of man and communication I should like to apply the scientific methods of Cybernetics to the plastic art of painting.

Would you be so kind as to suggest possible source material for my thesis, or material that relates to art as communication?

Very truly yours

Cornelia D. Thomas

4

[ans 4/20/54]

April 14, 1954

Dr. K.P. Bhatnagar
772 Banarsi Bagh
Lucknow, U.P.
INDIA

Dear Dr. Bhatnagar:

Professor Norbert Wiener has given me your correspondence with him. Your qualifications and your mathematical work seem excellent and I wish that there some way so that you could spend a year at M.I.T. I am very sorry to say, however that we have no means of helping you financially.

Very sincerely yours,

W.T. Martin

maf

..
April 14, 1954

..
Dr. John W. Carr III ..
Willow Run Research Center
University of Michigan
Ypsilanti, Michigan

Dear Dr. Carr:

I regret that I shall be unable to be at the 1954 meeting of the Association for Computing Machinery, as it occurs at a critical time for me, just before I shall be giving some lectures for the M. I. T. Summer Session. ..

However, I send you all good wishes for the success of your undertaking. ..

Sincerely yours,

.. ..
Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

April 14, 1954

Mr. Thomas D. Eliot
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Sterling Hall
The University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

My dear Mr. Eliot:

While I find your use of communication
ideas very interesting in the paper you sent
me, I do not see any particular part of it
on which advice from me would be significant.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Wiener

NW:bbe

April 14, 1954

Mr. Piero Gatty, Rector-President
Universidad Sintetica Latina y Americana
Apartado 643
San Salvador
Centramerica

Dear President Gatty:

Thank you for your letter of March 10th,
but I am not acquainted with the article you
mention, and I am not able at this time to
give my attention to it.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

April 14, 1954

Mr. D.K. Ghosh
1, Glenlyon Road
Eitham Park
London S.E. 9
ENGLAND

Dear Mr. Ghosh:

Professor Norbert Wiener has given me your correspondence with him. Your qualifications and your mathematical work seem excellent and I wish that there were some way so that you could spend a year at M.I.T. I am very sorry to say, however, that we have no means of helping you financially.

Very sincerely yours,

W.T. Martin

maf

April 14, 1954

Mrs. Frances L. Hall
1107 Austin Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 6, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Hall:

Professor Wiener is somewhat at a loss as to how to answer your question about the feasibility of teaching cybernetics to ninth graders.

About all I can suggest is that you read Professor Wiener's book on Cybernetics and, perhaps more important for your purposes, his book entitled The Human Use of Human Beings, a new edition of which is scheduled for publication in May. You would know best what part of this material could be presented significantly to ninth grade students.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. James Cole
Secretary to
Professor Wiener

April 14, 1954

Mr. Charles C. Holt
Department of Economics
Carnegie Institute of Technology
Schenley Park
Pittsburgh 13, Pennsylvania

My dear Mr. Holt:

I am returning your papers to you. Any opinion I would pass on econometric matters would not be of much value, but if I may be permitted to say so, the general treatment you give does not seem to me to be particularly closely related to any technique of observation, and I get the casual impression of rather tenuous theory as well.

Don't take this too seriously--I am not in a position to work my way through your paper.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbo

..
April 14, 1954

..
Miss Jean Horowitz
5709 Avenue H
Brooklyn 34, N. Y.

My dear Miss Horowitz:

Thanks for your letter, but I should like to point out to you that if you go any further with what you are planning, you would get me into severe trouble for practicing medicine without a licence.

..
Not knowing the nature of your anomaly, I am not in a position to suggest a possible doctor. The tone of your letter suggests to me that whatever it is really has not got you tied up in much of a knot, but if it has, and you cannot find a suitable doctor, you might perhaps write to me, and I might be able to tell you to whom to go.

..
This is all I can do for you.

Sincerely yours,

.. ..
Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

..
April 14, 1954

.. ..
Mrs. Marion Hunt, Publicity Manager
Little, Brown and Company
34 Beacon Street
Boston 6, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Hunt:

.. ..
Your copy of Jacques Barzun's book arrived, and my wife is at present reading it with great pleasure.

I hope to get to it myself in a few days, and I shall try then to report to you. What has tied me up is that I am just back from a rather exacting trip to India, and I found plenty of appears of work awaiting me.

Sincerely yours,

.. ..
Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

April 14, 1954

Professor M. M. Loeve
University of California
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Professor Loeve:

Professor Wiener has asked me to send you the enclosed copy of a letter that he recently received, and a copy of his reply to the young man.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Cole

Mrs. James Cole
Secretary to
Professor Wiener

April 14, 1954

Jack Meszaros, ET3
LCU Ron One
Navy no. 3923
c/o FPO
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Meszaros:

If you are still in the San Francisco neighborhood, why don't you try to look up my friend Professor Loève, on the Berkeley campus of the University of California?

I should very much appreciate an account from him of what he thinks of you, and with such an account in hand, I'd be much better prepared to give you worthwhile advice.

Don't think I am being unpardonably nosey about you, but in a field that is as difficult and competitive as communication engineering, it would be unfair of me to encourage you to go ahead without knowing what you have on the ball.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Wiener

NW:bbc

April 14, 1954

Mr. Sundaram Seshu
Department of Electrical Engineering
University Of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

My dear Mr. Seshu:

In general the smallness of a function at infinity corresponds to the smoothness of its Fourier transform unless it goes down exponentially. You have no hold on the strip in which the transform is analytic which is given by the exponential rate of fall to the right and left.

As to the zeros of the Fourier transform of a function in a complex plane, they have many interesting connections with the theory of orthogonal functions. These one can develop fairly easily by themselves.

The Fourier transform of a positive real function is the convolution of a function with its conjugate.

I think questions four and five I cannot answer off hand.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

Nw:bbc

April 14, 1954

Dr. B. Viswanatham
Department of Mathematics
Osmania University
Hyderabad-Deccan
INDIA

Dear Dr. Viswanatham:

Professor Norbert Wiener has given me your correspondence with him. Your qualifications and your mathematical work seem excellent and I wish that there were some way so that you could spend a year at M.I.T. I am very sorry to say, however, that we have no means of helping you financially!

Very sincerely yours,

W.T. Martin

māf