

194

CORRESPONDENCE

June 1-21, 1954

N. WIENER · MC 22

walker - 1348

Hollywood,

Hwd. Blvd.

Fla.

Korleil [ca June, 1959]

We will be at
Holderness after
June 23 & hope
to see you & hear
of your work.

H. K. F.

[ans 6/18/59]

[ca. June, 1954]

SIR -

Is there, to your knowledge,
any specific, responsible, and
practical task an artist
can assume in the project
of the human use of humans?

I am at your service.

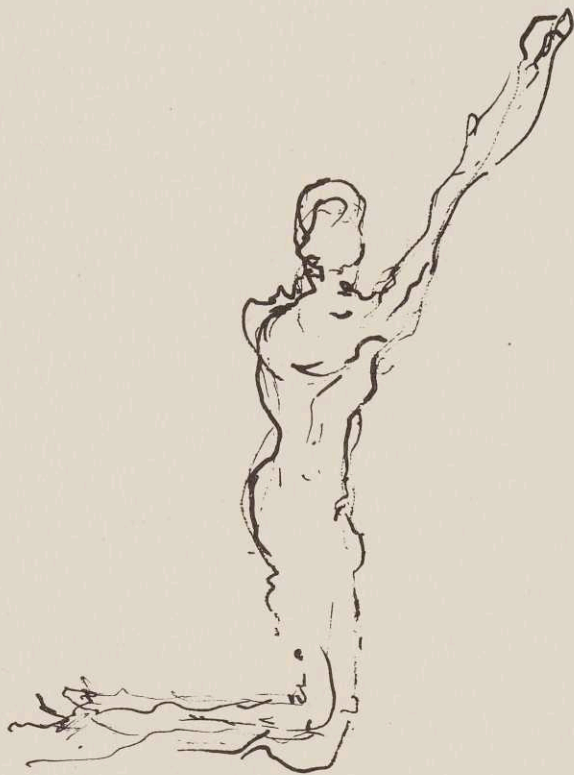
And, thank you for your
work which has led to an
interest in the never-never
land between speaker and
hearer — Ruesch, Bateson, et al.

(7)

James Walker

[ans 6/16/54]





FUN IN THE FISH POND

By LAWRENCE K. FRANK
New York, N.Y.

Recently Albert Bachem (AMERICAN SCIENTIST, 42, 20, 1954) has been ducking various groups in his mechanistic-thermodynamic pond which he asserts needs no teleological, "theophysical," or cybernetic feed-back elaborations. Provocation for his remarks came from an earlier statement by me in a symposium, "Teleological Mechanisms" (*Annals of N.Y. Academy of Science*, 50, 191, 1948) when I urged that we "attempt to escape from these older mechanistic formulations that now appear inadequate, and to provide new and more fruitful conceptions and more effective methodologies of studying self-regulative processes, self-orienting systems and organisms, and self-directing personalities."¹

Despite my earnest efforts to exhibit the limitations of traditional teleology, theological animism, and contemporary "feed back," I am apparently "guilty by association." However, I would like to invite Mr. Bachem to return to his fish pond with some new bait.

Obviously any "system," pond, ocean, weather, earth movements, may be interpreted in terms of thermodynamics where enormous numbers of convergent events (cf. Irving Langmuir, *Science*, 97, 1, 1943) average out with

¹ For a further elaboration of this, see the writer's *Nature and Human Nature: Man's New Image of Himself*, Rutgers Univ. Press, 1951.

predictable results and equilibrating operations, as in gas laws. We cannot too highly regard this great human achievement in studying "disorganized complexity"—as Warren Weaver has stated (AMERICAN SCIENTIST, 36, 1948)—and revealing "order in disorder" (Schroedinger), since the recurrent regularities and interactions of random events always tend to the disorder of entropy.

When, however, we study "organized complexity" (Weaver), as exhibited in living organisms, ecological and social orders, we find "islands of order" which reproduce themselves and maintain persistent intercourse with the "surround." Here indeed, we confront "organization" as a persistent configuration, a space-time structure, not a randomness tending to entropy, but operating through processes that postpone entropy, are recurrent—employing catalysts and enzymes to build negative entropy—that reconstitute themselves after each cycle, operating against thermodynamic gradients (homeostatis). Even in organic molecules we must recognize the persistent structures of stereochemistry which block or retard entropy and maintain the spatial location of each atom in the molecular configuration with its specific "properties."

As Pauling has shown, the mechanistic conception of rigid chemical "bonds"

must be replaced with the conception of resonance, involving non-random atomic physics and persistent atomic structures sharing electrons.

Fish do live in mechanistic-thermodynamic ponds as other organisms live on earth, where they maintain this continual intercourse with the "surround" through processes that transform randomness into orderly "transactions" (Clerk Maxwell). While we may assuage our ignorance with the formula of survival of the fittest, *we are still faced with the question of how organisms could arise that were able to survive*—surely not by purely random thermodynamic processes that rapidly tend to entropy!

Both the theological fundamentalists who invoke supernatural powers and the scientific fundamentalists who rely upon elementary operations of thermodynamics, join in denying the potentialities of the cosmos which has, over the ages, produced organisms and circular reciprocal transactions by processes that are "natural." These are expressions of the plasticity and flexibility of nature which, as Whitehead has observed, are exhibited almost uniquely in man. After all, it required human minds to observe and devise the mechanistic-thermodynamic explorations of the fish pond and to recognize those fish as our ancestors, even though they could not live in the atmosphere. Perhaps the magazine *Life* has an answer to this dichotomy by naturalizing the "miracle" of water, earth, and organisms.

Comments by Professor Bachem

I am grateful to Lawrence K. Frank for giving the title "Fun in the Fish Pond," to my note to the editor, thus confirming its humorous attitude; I also appreciate fully the good sportmanship with which he accepted my "ducking." I frankly admit that his extensive scientific discussion of my short note gives it more honor than it deserves. And I am pleased to accept his kind invitation for a joint visit to my pond

with "new bait." But first a little detour:

I accept almost every quotation of Dr. Frank, even the "negative entropy" of relatively isolated (organic and inorganic!) systems; but I still disagree with his interpretations, such as the sharp distinction between "disorganized" and "organized complexity" or the "dichotomy . . . of water, earth, and organisms."¹ I had intentionally selected the fish pond as an object whose behavior appears intermediate between biological and physical phenomena, thus bridging the imaginary borderline between organic and inorganic sciences.

I am particularly in agreement with Frank's "high regard of the great human achievement"—"to observe and devise the mechanistic-thermodynamic explorations." Physics, as a purely empirico-mathematical science, has freed itself maximally of anthropomorphic interpretations, such as, "horror vacui" and gravitational pull as spiritistic forces, force and energy as human effort and vigor. Physiology, as a branch of physics, follows in the latter's footsteps, discarding all mythological, teleological, moral, aesthetic concepts, and even abandoning the spiritistic, instrumental use of consciousness.

Returning now to the fish pond with my companion's "new bait" and looking through his multicolored sun glasses, I suddenly remember a German poem, forgotten since my childhood days:

"God's world, how wonderful it is!
And, too, the course each creature
follows:

That all may live in sated bliss,
One evermore the other swallows."

¹ My general bio-philosophical attitude is outlined in the articles: Complementarity of matter and mind, *Acta Psychol.*, 8, 322-336, 1951-52. Heisenberg's indeterminacy principle and life, *Philos. of Science*, 19, 261-272, 1952 (see pp. 264 and 270). The relativity of reality, *Philos. of Science*, 20, 75-78, 1953.

[ca. June, 1959]

Prof. Dott. Giacomo Pighini
Via Romagnosi 4
Parma, Italy

Dear Dr. Pighini:

I have not been so much occupied recently in the cybernetics of intelligence as I had been in a few years ago, but I have been doing a good deal of work on brain waves. When this work is a little further along, I shall be glad to acquaint you with its nature. Senor Dr. Rosenbleuth is to be found at the Instituto Nacional.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

The Technology Press



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

June 1, 1954

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

Norbert
Dear ~~Professor Wiener~~:

I return herewith a file of correspondence concerning a Japanese translation of your STATIONARY TIME SERIES book. As you will see from the letter from Warren Sullivan, Sales Manager of Wiley's, who has made first-hand studies in Japan of the general translation problem, there is considerable skepticism about the desirability of our going ahead.

The question which Sullivan raises in his second paragraph, of course, refers to the translation of CYBERNETICS.

My own feeling on the basis of studying Mr. Koga's letters and particularly Shikao Ikehara's general correspondence on the matter is that we ought to say no to Mr. Koga. If, however, you feel that the thing has gone too far for the brakes to be slammed on suddenly in this fashion, we will let him go ahead.

Please be sure that Sullivan's letter is returned to me, for I have not yet replied to it.

With every good wish,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "F. G. Fassett, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

F. G. Fassett, Jr.
Director

FGF:k

[and 6/16/54]

(2)

June 1, 1954

Dear Professor,

The 60 men and women taking part in the 1954 Foreign Student Summer Project will be arriving here during the next two weeks. As soon as the participants that you have volunteered to supervise this summer arrive in Boston we will contact your office for an appointment for you to meet them. We hope everyone will be here by Summer Session Registration Day, June 14, but there may be a few late arrivals.

We have enclosed part of the application of your FSSP's so that you will be able to refresh your memory on the participants' background and research interests. We would appreciate your returning these papers when convenient. We enclose an addressed envelope for this purpose.

Concerning our general policy for the summer, it seems that FSSP has had a running battle between the technical and social sides of the program, and we find a lot of misunderstanding on this point. Consequently, we are soliciting your cooperation in remembering, as you set up the participants' programs, that a comprehensive social program will also be competing for their time, and we hope that you'll recognize this to be at least of secondary importance.

The committee will attempt to keep the week days up to 5:00 free from social events. Plant trips, of course, must be carried out during these "business hours", but we will do our best to keep this time open for technical work only. However, we feel that evenings and weekends are "fair-game", and we will be arranging a wide variety of get-togethers. These will be made as attractive as possible in an effort to entice every participant into at least some of them. But one point must be clear - PARTICIPATION IN ANY SOCIAL EVENT IS COMPLETELY OPTIONAL. Once a participant signs up for a given performance we like to see him carry it through, but none of these doings are compulsory. Along this same line, you may wish to invite him out yourself for an evening or a weekend. The participant is sure to gain from such an experience.

One more thing- during the summer, the liaison between the faculty and the committee seems to fall short. We hesitate to interrupt you just to see if everything is going OK, but we'd be glad to hear from you if we can be of any assistance in making the summer as fruitful as possible.

We thank you for your continued interest and hope this clears the air for an even better program in the future. Your comments are always welcome.

Sincerely yours,



D. Paul Foote

June 1, 1954

Professor George B. Thomas
Room 2-269

Dear Professor Thomas:

The student you sent me last Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Thomas Effros, is rediscovering some important effects of number theory, and he should be encouraged.

I doubt if his work is new, but it is extraordinary in a man his age. He has immediately got on the main track of one way of treating the prime number theorem. He does not know analysis, but he is in a position where his enthusiasm will carry him a long way.

He is an A man. I would not hesitate to admit him to graduate courses on the basis of his intelligence.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbe

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

Philosophy of Science

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WAYNE UNIVERSITY

June 2, 1954

Dear Professor Wiener:

The great expansion of interest in the philosophy of science forces us once again to review critically the work of our Association and the suitability of our journal for its increased task. One phase of this review is the possible recruitment of new members of the Advisory Board, on which we have been proud to list your name.

You will forgive me, I trust, if I ask you whether your current interest warrants my request that you continue to serve with us in what we hope will be a more active role. Please give me your frank appraisal at your earliest convenience. And in addition, you would oblige me greatly by sending me any suggestions which the Governing Committee can use in improving the appeal and vitality of our Association and our journal.

Yours very sincerely,



Henry Margenau
President, Philosophy of
Science Association

Professor N. Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

HM: jp

(L)

[ans 6/16/54]



University of Bridgeport

Bridgeport 4, Connecticut

June 2, 1954

Professor Norbert Weiner
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Weiner:

This letter is being written without benefit of formal introduction but I hope its purpose is made clear as you read on. The tentative nature of some of the writing is due to the fact that the matter is only in a formative state.

The Southern New England Chapter of the Industrial Designers Institute is proposing a Design Seminar for early next fall. Tentatively we have scheduled it for October 2nd at Silvermine (Norwalk) Connecticut.

A title for this Seminar may be something like "The Future Significance of Design" or "Significant Trends in Future Design". We wish to organize a group of speakers, all of whom are doing some important and original thinking of the kind that will have a direct or indirect influence on future designing or designers.

As Chairman of this Seminar, I know something of your work, particularly as a pioneer in Cybernetics. I would like the opportunity to discuss this field, and your work, more in detail with you. Should you be interested and my concept of your contributions correct, I may wish to ask you to participate in our program.

I am also writing to Professor John Arnold of your group with the same general idea in regards to his approach. If he too is willing to talk with me about this affair, I would hope to visit him the same day I see you. If this is impossible, I will make two separate trips.

May I ask if this idea interests you enough to have me visit you for further discussions as the subject is too broad for a letter. Your confidence in this matter would be desirable.

An answer at your earliest convenience would be appreciated.

Cordially yours,

Robert E. Redmann od

Robert E. Redmann, Head
Industrial Design

⑤

RER:od

[ans 6/16/54]

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
50 MEMORIAL DRIVE
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

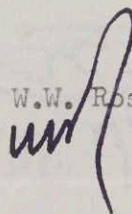
June 2, 1954

To: Professor Norbert Wiener
From: W. W. Rostow
Subject: Possible lecture by Professor Norbert Wiener at Wesleyan
University Assembly, academic year 1954-1955.

I have received a letter from the head of the Mathematics Department at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut asking me to explore whether you might be prepared to deliver a talk to 400 or so undergraduates on some topic associated with your work of the past 15 years. It is the hope at Wesleyan that the talk would be non-technical although intellectually rigorous given their high view of their undergraduates.

If you would be prepared to explore this further, I should be delighted to inform Professor Robert Rosenbaum, head of the Mathematics Department or you may wish to write to him directly.

W.W. Rostow



WWR:als

④

[ans 6/16/54]

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
77 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASS.

A Russian publication entitled PROBLEMS
of PHILOSOPHY, issue No. 5, 1953, The
Critique of Bourgeois Ideology, has an
article in it attacking Professor
Wiener. The article is entitled
"Whom Does Cybernetics Serve?".

June 3, 1954

Dr. Hilde Wander
331 S. 43rd St.
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

June 3, 1954

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

The reason why I am writing to you is the following:
Since the fall 1953 I have been in the United State under a Fulbright fellowship and I am going to stay here for further 7 weeks. I am associated with the University of Pennsylvania, Department of Sociology. My home country is Germany where I have been for several years a member of the Research Department of the Institute for World Economics at the University of Kiel. Before I left for the US. I worked on problems of vocational training. In connection with this I am very much interested in studies dealing with the influence of technology on labor demands in industry, especially on skilled workers. Talking with persons about those problems, I learnt about your study on "Automatic Control Techniques in Industry". Unfortunately the library of the University of Pennsylvania does not have this book, and I could not find out if and where it has been published. That's why I am writing to you directly. Could you please tell me where to get this book or when and where it will be published. I know it would be of special value and importance for my own work to learn about your findings. Therefore I would be very happy to hear from you, and I thank you very much in advance.

Very truly yours,

Hilde Wander

(1)

[ans 6/10/54]

*Restricted
to the use of
Industrial
College of
Armed
Forces*

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

COLLEGE PARK

INSTITUTE FOR CHILD STUDY

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener

Would you please send me a reprint of your article
Problems of Organization which
appeared in Bulletin Menninger Clinic
This will be used in working with graduate students in
human development.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Walter B. Waetjen

Walter Waetjen
Associate Professor of
Education

WW:hw

6/3/54

IOWA STATE COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS
AMES, IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND SOCIOLOGY

June 9, 1954

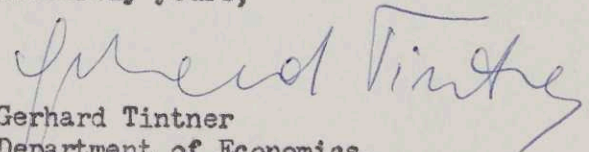
Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

You have probably heard that Professor Holl, Head of the Department of Mathematics at Iowa State College, died suddenly. A committee has been appointed to consider the choice of his successor, and I have been asked by the committee to approach you. We would like a mature mathematician with interests in the applied fields and administrative talents. I would be grateful if you could suggest a candidate to me for the Chairmanship of the Department of Mathematics as soon as possible. In case you are able to do so, I shall transmit the name or names suggested to the committee, and I am sure they will give it serious consideration.

I hope you are well and your work is making good progress.

Sincerely yours,


Gerhard Tintner
Department of Economics,
Mathematics, and Statistics

GT:jk

[ans 6/14/54]



THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SOCIETY OF AMERICA

ROCHE RESEARCH CLUB, NUTLEY 10, NEW JERSEY

June 10, 1954

Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

When we invited you last year to speak to the Roche Research Club you replied most graciously but unfortunately, at that time, your health commanded that you refuse any speaking engagements. We do hope that you have recovered and that you will find it possible to talk to our club during the next season. You see, your name has come up again and again in the discussions of our program committee and our people are most anxious to have you as a speaker. We have scheduled your talk as late in the season as possible considering your pressure of work.

You may recall that the Roche Research Club is affiliated with the Scientific Research Society of America, the industrial counterpart of Sigma Xi. The enclosed sample program of our 1953-54 season will show you the type of program and the general interests of our club. The Roche Research Club is composed of approximately 200 members with technical backgrounds in the fields of chemistry, biology, engineering and medicine.

Last year we suggested a topic, "Cybernetics and Human Needs," however, any modification of this topic will, of course, be acceptable to us.

We have reserved the date of May 4, 1955 for you. The meeting will be preceded by a dinner in your honor at 6:15 P.M. and your talk will begin at 7:30 P.M. We are able to offer a honorarium of \$100 and expenses to our guest speakers.

We realize that we are setting this date rather far in advance, however, we are anxious to set dates for our other speakers so that we can have our program booklet printed. We hope that this date is acceptable to you and we will appreciate it if you will give us a favorable reply as soon as possible. A return envelope is enclosed.

Very cordially yours,

Paul G. Hacker

Paul G. Hacker, Secretary
Roche Research Club

PGH:rm
Encs.

{ans 6/16/54}



PROGRAM

1953

1954

PROGRAM

Wednesday, October 7, 1953, 7:30 P. M.

Professor O. Neugebauer

Ancient Concept of the Universe;
Its Development Up to Ptolemy

Wednesday, November 4, 1953, 7:30 P. M.

Professor Donald R. Griffin

Bird Migration

Wednesday, December 2, 1953, 7:30 P. M.

Dr. Harold G. Wolff

Pain

Wednesday, January 6, 1954, 7:30 P. M.

Professor Gregory Razran

Experimental Semantics

Wednesday, February 3, 1954, 7:30 P. M.

Dr. Herald R. Cox

Modern Concepts of Immunology

Wednesday, March 3, 1954, 7:30 P. M.

Professor Firman E. Bear

Recent Advances in Soil Research

Wednesday, April 7, 1954, 7:30 P. M.

Dr. Henry H. Kessler

Rehabilitation of Paraplegics

1941; Associate Professor of Meteorology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1941-1947; Professor and Chairman of the Department of Meteorology and Oceanography at New York University, 1947 --. He has been an Associate at the Oceanographic Institute, Woods Hole, since 1947, and civilian consultant to the U.S. Army and Navy. Professor Haurwitz is a member of the U.S. Weather Bureau Meteorological Society (Vice President in 1941); the Geophysical Union. He is a Fellow of the New York Academy (Vice President in 1947) and of the Royal Meteorological Society. He has published in the fields of dynamic meteorology, dynamic oceanography, the atmosphere, and radiation.

ROCHE RESEARCH CLUB

The Scientific Research Society of America (PESA) is the industrial counterpart of the university honorary research organization, The Society of the Sigma Xi. It was sponsored by the Society of the Sigma Xi and was organized in November, 1947, with national headquarters at 54 Hillhouse Avenue, New Haven, Conn. The objective of the organization is the encouragement and recognition of original investigation in science, pure and applied.

RESA granted Branch status to the Roche Research Club December, 1949. However, the Roche Research Club was formed in 1948 and officially recognized as the first club of the Scientific Research Society of America January, 1949.

In addition to the encouragement and recognition of original investigation in science, the Roche Research Club is interested in promoting fellowship among research and technical workers, in expanding knowledge to its members on related technical and scientific fields, and in holding meetings for the discussion of scientific subjects in a manner understandable and enjoyable to the Roche personnel at large. Among the benefits of this affiliation is the receipt of the official Sigma Xi publication 'The American Scientist' by each member of the Roche Research Club.

The Roche Research Club gratefully acknowledges financial support from the Management of Hoffmann-La Roche Inc. for its activities.



सत्यमेव जयते

INDIA DELEGATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

3 EAST 64TH STREET
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

June 10, 1954

Dear Wiener,

We greatly appreciated your visit to India this year. It was much too short; and I am very glad to learn from you that Mrs. Wiener and you will probably be able to spend a year or so in India from the fall of 1955. We shall be happy to have you both with us next year.

I have explained to you that it will be probably convenient to have the arrangements for your visit made from the Indian Statistical Institute on the understanding that your programme in India would include visits to such other institutions or universities for such periods and on such conditions as may be settled by ~~mutual~~ agreement between you, the institution concerned and the Indian Statistical Institute.

I have also explained to you that we shall be able to meet the transportation cost from the U.S.A. to India and back to the U.S.A. and all living and travel expenses within India for both Mrs. Wiener and you; and I understand that it will not be necessary to make any other payments from our side for your work in India.

With kindest regards for Mrs. Wiener and you.

Yours sincerely,

P.C. Mahalanobis
(P.C. Mahalanobis)

Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

nr

[ans 6/14/54]

Telephone conversation with Mahalanobis, Thursday afternoon, June 10, 1954: Professor Wiener said that he would plan to arrive in India about September, 1955, with Mrs. Wiener. They would stay about a year, spending the warm weather in a hill resort.

Any expenses Professor Wiener might have in Europe, should he stay there for the summer, would be paid by Professor Wiener.

However, his America-to-America expenses, as to transportation and all expenses in India for himself and Mrs. Wiener, would have to be provided.

Professor Wiener will try to have M. I. T. or the Guggenheim people cover his American expenses for that year. Anyhow, India will not be responsible for them.

Mr. Mahalanobis is to write a letter to Professor Wiener to confirm all this.

THE POCKET MAGAZINE

FRANKLIN WATTS • EDITOR

a periodical of ideas, information and issues • 699 madison avenue, new york 21, n.y. • TEmpleton 8-8806

June 11, 1954

Professor Norbert Wiener
53 Cedar Road
Belmont, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

Pocket Books, Inc. is publishing for the first time a non-fiction magazine in small book format. For one of our first issues we should like you to write an article on

THE ELECTRONIC BRAIN.

I remember reading a General Electric Company ad that said it used to take seven days to put together the payroll in one of their plants. Now an "electronic brain" cuts the time to four hours. No one knows better than you the enormous possibilities which the increasing use of such machines offer for business and society in general, and I think a fascinating article could be written around them if the idea of writing it interests you.

As our audience is composed of intelligent laymen, the article should not go too deeply into the technical aspects of the machines but rather should emphasize the effects their widespread use will have on the structure of business and on human beings.

The article should run three to five thousand words. We pay \$300 for each piece, and the author shares in royalties on sales above three hundred thousand copies of the magazine. The deadline for our second issue is August 15.

I am enclosing a copy of the preliminary table of contents of our first issue, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Franklin Watts

FW:c
Enc.

a publication of Pocket Books, Inc., publishers and distributors of books for the entire family

Cons 6/21/54

POCKET BOOKS • CARDINAL EDITIONS • LITTLE GOLDEN BOOKS • DISCOVERY

THE POCKET MAGAZINE

FRANKLIN WATTS • EDITOR

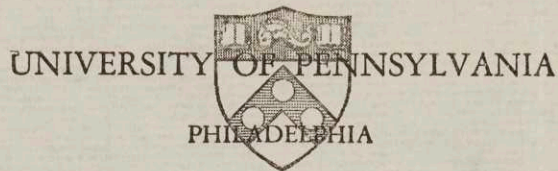
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by Wright Patman and Roswell Magill
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I WISH I HAD SENT MY CHILDREN TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS, by Eleanor Roosevelt
THE ART OF THE BALLET, by Noel Streatfeild
WHY DON'T WE WRITE THE WAY WE TALK? by Donald Thompson
IN RETROSPECT, by Henry L. Wallace
WHAT MAKES A CONDUCTOR GREAT, by Herbert Weinstock
AMERICA--THE WORLD'S FIRST PEDIARCHY, by Philip Wylie

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4

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
ARTS AND SCIENCES

12th June 1954

Mathematics

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

Dear Wiener:

Last year I spent the summer at Black Mountain College as a sort of guest lecturer, while my wife taught music and gave piano recitals there. I became very much attached to that place with its noble tradition and its great aims. Of course, I had heard about it before, in particular through Max Dehn, who taught there for about ten years. The College, from its foundation, has had no board of trustees, and the faculty, as in English colleges, carries the full responsibility also for its administration and its policy. It has always included distinguished artists and scholars among its faculty, the emphasis being on creative work and not on methods of teaching.

Black Mountain College is at present in distress. Through its financial difficulties it has lost a part of its faculty and is left now with few students. However, the present faculty still contains some people of caliber and distinction, who carry on the very special tradition of Black Mountain College.

There is a plan for reorganization under way. In former years an Advisory Board had been in existence, with names like Aydelotte, Gropius, John Dewey at one time or another. It is planned to reestablish such a council. Would you be willing to join an Advisory Board of Black Mountain College? Your name was immediately suggested because of your active interest in academic life. Just in times like ours, when conformity seems to be the goal of official policy, an independent college of the sort of Black Mountain College is particularly indispensable. In case you would be interested in the proposal, please let either me know or write to the present Rector of Black Mountain College, Charles Olson, Black Mountain, North Carolina, to whom also a carbon copy of this letter is going.

With kind regards,
cordially yours,

Hans Rademacher
Hans Rademacher

[ans 6/16/54]

INSTITUT HENRI POINCARÉ

11, Rue Pierre-Curie (V^e)

Paris, le 13 juin 1954

Tél. : Odéon 42-10

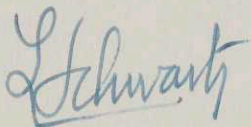
MÉTHODES MATHÉMATIQUES
DE LA PHYSIQUE

Cher Monsieur,

J'ai regretté que votre passage si rapide à Paris ne m'ait pas permis de vous voir. J'ai reçu depuis l'annonce du mariage de votre fille, je vous en félicite ainsi que Madame Wiener et votre fille elle-même!

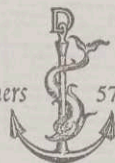
J'espère que vous avez eu un bon séjour aux Indes; je dois moi-même y aller l'année prochaine (à Bombay).

J'espère vous voir à Amsterdam, et en attendant croyez à mes meilleurs et plus respectueux sentiments.



LAURENT SCHWARTZ, 225, Avenue Daumesnil
Paris 12ème

DOUBLEDAY & COMPANY, INC., Publishers



575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22 ~ MURRAY HILL 8-5300

June 14, 1954

Dear Professor Wiener:

I am prepared to visit you this weekend to discuss the manuscript of your autobiography, and may I have once again instructions for reaching your home? If we leave New York on Friday evening and spend the night in Boston, we should arrive in New Hampshire on Saturday morning, but then we must plan to leave Sunday evening. However, if we were to visit you instead on the following weekend, we would be able to stay through Tuesday or Wednesday, which would give us more time to talk about your work. I leave the choice to you. Won't you let me know which weekend you prefer?

With best wishes to you and Mrs. Wiener,

Jason Epstein

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Epstein". The signature is stylized, with a large, looped 'J' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Professor Norbert Wiener
Sandwich
New Hampshire

JE:nr

CRANES @ CREST

June 14, 1954

Professor P. C. Mahalanobis
c/o India Delegation to the United Nations
3 East 64th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Professor Mahalanobis:

I am very grateful for your letter of June 10th which makes everything clear about the trip my wife and I are planning to make to India in 1955.

I am now trying to secure at M. I. T. sufficient funds to take care of my fixed expenses in the United States during the trip, and the reports I have heard are extremely encouraging. Even if this should fall through, which I do not think likely, I have a chance of obtaining funds for my American expenses from a foundation such as the Guggenheim.

I will let you know at the first possible moment when things are decided.

With best wishes to Mrs. Mahalanobis and yourself, from my wife and myself,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

June 14, 1954

Professor Gerhard Tintner
Department of Economics,
Mathematics, and Statistics
Iowa State College of
Agriculture and Mechanic Arts
Ames, Iowa

Dear Professor Tintner:

I think we have just the man to fill the requirements of the headship of the Department of Mathematics at Iowa State College.

He is Professor George P. Wadsworth of our Mathematics Department. He is about forty-four years old, a statistician with a great deal of experience in other branches of mathematics, and he has done important governmental work in meteorological statistics. In this work he has had serious administrative responsibility, and he seems to be both able in administration, and to like it.

I am quite certain that he would discharge the responsibilities of the headship of the department with distinction, and would make things run smoothly for everybody. He is a very personable man, and I have had him under my observation for at least fifteen years.

I should be very interested to know how the whole thing comes out.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

June 16, 1954

Mr. Gregory Bateson
Veterans Administration
Palo Alto, California

Dear Bateson:

It was a delight to have you visit us the other day, and I am very much interested in the little metalogues which you left with me.

I am the worst person in the world to ask for advice in ~~raising~~ raising money or in approaching foundations. I have a high opinion of your work, and I shall be glad to say a good word for it to the people you may suggest, but I am rotten at suggesting people.

I think you are absolutely right in bringing the type issue into the question of meta-language. I am very interested also in the question of Deutero-Learning. In languages, for example, the problem of learning how to learn is even more important than the problem of learning a single language.

I like very much your idea of referring some of the Schizophrenic's difficulties to type confusion, or rather to the inability to qualify message by its true type. I also like your idea that a digital machine can work in a partially analogic manner.

I shall be on the West Coast about Christmas time to give a lecture at Berkeley. I shall let you know more about it when the date is near. The year after next, I shall be in India for a protracted period.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:Zbc

June 16, 1954

Mrs. Felia Burmester
943 1/2 N. La Jolla Avenue
Hollywood 46, California

Dear Mrs. Burmester:

Thank you for your letter of appreciation. I should like to hear from you in German, ~~but~~ I am afraid that I cannot promise you anything in the way of reciprocal correspondence for several months now, as I am exhausted at the end of the year.

The second edition of my book, "The Human Use of Human Beings" has just been published by Doubleday in their Anchor Book Series, and it should be available in book stores within the next week or two. It contains a good deal of really new material.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

June 16, 1954

Mr. Julius A. Dionne
18916 Oakland Avenue
Detroit 3, Michigan

Dear Mr. Dionne:

Thank you very much for your letter of
May 22nd.

You might look at my book entitled "The
Human Use of Human Beings" which is written
for the layman, not the scientist, and deals
with matters such as those you say interest
you.

A new edition of this book has just been
published by Doublday and Company, and it
appears in the Anchor Book Series selling for
75 ¢ . This book will be available in the
book stores within the next week or two.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

June 16, 1954

Mr. Karl Philipp Erlangen
Walter Flex - S 8.7
Bavaria, West Germany

My dear Mr. Erlangen:

Thank you very much for your letter of
the twenty-third of March.

I find myself so exhausted at the end
of a year that I cannot examine any new
literary or scientific material for a
considerable time.

I hope you will understand my position.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

June 16, 1954

Mr. F. G. Fassett, Jr., Director
The Technology Press
Room 14 - N 229
M. I. T.

Dear Fred:

I am enclosing the collection of
correspondence on the Japanese translation
rights of my books.

In this matter I will go along with
whatever you say, and follow your judgment.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

June 16, 1954

Mr. Paul G. Hacker
Hoffman-La Roche Inc.
Roche Park
Nutley 10, New Jersey

My dear Mr. Hacker:

At this time I will tentatively accept your kind invitation to speak to the Roche Research Club on May 4, 1955.

The topic "Cybernetics and Human Needs" will be perfectly satisfactory.

Since it is difficult for me to make definite plans so far in advance, I suggest that you write again in the course of the winter, when my plans for next spring will be final. At that time we can decide on the final details.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

[ms 6/21/54]

June 16, 1954

Mr. Henry Margenau, President
Philosophy of Science Association
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

My dear Mr. Margenau:

Regretfully, I find that I cannot serve effectively on your Advisory Board, much as I should like to do so. The pressure of my other activities is so great that I simply have not the leisure for it.

Thus I think it would be only fair to your organization for me to withdraw my name from the Board.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

June 16, 1954

B. Page
Contemporary Press
545 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Page:

I have been so occupied with writing a new book that I have been unable to write magazine articles during the time.

My book is now finished, and will probably be entitled "The Philosophy of Invention.". It will be published by Doubleday and Company. I have also just had published the second edition of The Human Use of Human Beings, which is coming out as one of Doubleday's Anchor Book Series.

I suspect that both books, of which you can obtain the second already, may contain about what you wish me to say. I therefore suggest that you look through the two books as they come out, and if you wish to extract some material for the use of your journal, please write to me again about it.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

June 16, 1954

Professor Hans Rademacher
The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania

Dear Rademacher:

Your letter about Black Mountain College interests me very much. I am very much inclined to join an advisory board if I am asked, and provided I know the responsibilities of such a membership beforehand, but I must put one limitation on such action.

I have the limited income of a professor of mathematics, and very little else, and I cannot assume any position in which it will be expected of me to make any contributions whatever of a financial nature.

If this is clearly understood, and Black Mountain College would still be interested in having me on their advisory board, then I should accept, but I am afraid that I must make the condition binding.

With best wishes from house to house,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

June 16, 1954

Mr. Robert E. Redman, Head
Industrial Design
University of Bridgeport
Bridgeport, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Redman:

I am about to leave the city for the summer, and I am afraid that my schedule after I return in the fall is so crowded that I hesitate to make any additional engagements.

For this reason I must decline any possible offer to participate in your Design Seminar.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NEW:bbc

June 16, 1954

Professor W. W. Rostow
Room 52 - 553
M. I. T.

Dear Mr. Rostow:

I am inclined to accept, tentatively,
the invitation to speak at Connecticut
Wesleyan University.

Before I can make any definite answer,
however, I should like more precise details
as to the nature of the occasion and what
would be expected ~~of~~ me.

When you can send me more information,
I can let you know more definitely.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc



FRISCO

SOUTHEAST
SOUTHWEST

Edgar W. Smith
221 B Baker St.
Lake Rd - RFD
Morristown

Smith

New Jersey

4

June 16, 1954

Mr. Edgar W. Smith
221 B Baker Street
Lake Road, R. F. D.
Morristown, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Smith:

I find that you are living in Morristown New Jersey, which is a region I frequently visit, as one of my daughters is building a house in Morris Plains, and the other lives in Basking Ridge.

As I come down frequently, may I have the pleasure of looking you up on one of these visits? I shall try to let you know ahead of time.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

June 16, 1954

Professor Balth. van der Pol
22, chemin Krieg
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Professor van der Pol:

I won't be able to be at the U. R. S. I. meeting at the Hague this year, as I am extremely exhausted at the end of the term, and need to rest up.

My fatigue has been made more acute by my trip to India this past winter, and by the fact that I have just finished a new book on invention.

I regret very much that I will not have the chance of seeing you soon. I shall be glad, however, to look over Mr. Gabor's paper.

Margaret and I hope to be in Europe next summer, and we shall hope to see you then.

Best wishes from house to house.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

June 16, 1954

Professor R. E. Vowels
School of Electrical Engineering
N. S. W. University of Technology
Broadway, N. S. W., Australia

Dear Professor Vowels:

The problem you state me does not seem extremely well put, inasmuch as generally a function cannot be developed by means of a finite number of terms such as you mention, and if it can, it can probably only be developed in one way.

I think there are modifications of your problem involving an infinite number of coefficients which can be made significant and can be solved by ordinary calculus of variations methods, but since you do not indicate such a specific problem, I hesitate to restate your problem for you.

You want to minimize some expression involving all the A_n 's, but which one would be the most significant, I am not clear.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

June 16, 1954

Mr. James Walker
1348 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood, Florida

Dear Mr. Walker:

I have been delighted to receive your letter with the most interesting examples of what I take to be your own work.

As far as I am concerned, my activity in connection with Cybernetics and the human use of human beings is entirely literary. Writing is a job that I can do, and administration is a job that, by long experience, I have found I am not suited for. Neither am I attached to any organization in which I have sufficient permanent confidence to let it use my name or to let it act as a permanent trustee of my ideas.

I therefore regret that I am unable to answer the chief question in your letter and to tell you how to put your obviously very considerable talents to use in a propaganda for the ideas for which we both stand.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

June 16, 1954

Dr. Hilde Wander
331 S. 43rd Street
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania

My dear Dr. Wander:

The document of mine which you wish is restricted to the use of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, D. C.

Thus I am not able to give out copies of this publication. It will be necessary for you to write directly to them.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

LIFE

STATLER OFFICE BUILDING
BOSTON 16, MASS.

EDITORIAL OFFICES

June 17, 1954

Mr. Norbert Wiener
South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Per our telephone conversation of this date, FORTUNE Magazine is planning a short labor column story on automation.

The New York office of FORTUNE asked me to contact you. We would like to know whether you still feel pessimistic about the social disruptions which may follow large-scale introduction of automatic processes?

I'm sure just a short paragraph to me at the above address will be enough. Would appreciate it if you could get a letter to me by next Thursday as I must relay it on to New York by June 28th.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

George Shiras

George Shiras
TIME-LIFE Boston

Telegraphed answer

*Am more hopeful concerning possibility
introduction automatic processes without large
scale social disruptions, but am not confident we
can show enough intelligence to make transition
without many untoward events*
Wiener

IOWA STATE COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS
AMES, IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND SOCIOLOGY

June 17, 1954

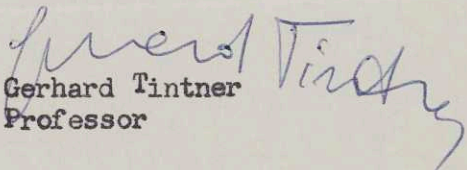
Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Department of Mathematics
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

Thank you very much for your letter of June 14. I am very grateful for your suggestions, and I am passing them on to our committee. I shall be very glad to let you know the outcome of this selection for the Head of the Department of Mathematics. Your candidate sounds very good.

I hope you are well and your work is making good progress.

Yours very sincerely,


Gerhard Tintner
Professor

GT:jk

INQUIRIES SOLICITED REGARDING CYBERNETICS
AND AUTOMATIC FACTORIES

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Phone WEllesley 5-0900

June 18, 1954

MUNSEY BUILDING, WASHINGTON 4, D. C.

Phone EXecutive 7-7024

Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

I wish to thank you for your courtesies to me last week. Since then I have bought your AUTOBIOGRAPHY and your other books. In fact, I have given away several copies of the HUMAN USE FOR HUMAN BEINGS. The impression that I have is that you are more interested in the possibilities of the "mechanical brain" than the practical applications thereof, which of course appeal most to me from a business standpoint.

I have been wondering, however, why it is that the newspapers get so excited about these "mechanical brains" and say so little about the human brains which we all carry in our heads. In a talk which I am to give, as a layman, on this human brain, is it fair for me to discuss in a general way the following:

1. The average human brain is working to only three percent capacity. If this is true, think of the possibilities by increasing this only one percent.
2. When clients whom I am urging to install "push-button machinery" talk about the injustice of discharging employees as a result of such an installation, is it fair for me to claim that they are not using their brains at their present work? If so, this automatic machinery might lead them to some creative work, which would be very much better for themselves and the nation as a whole.

"discharge" due to

June 18, 1954

3. If the human brain is the most wonderful of all machines and has such unlimited powers, why are not more people interested in conceiving children and training them. In other words, why should children be looked upon as liabilities instead of as assets? *So often*
4. I am often consulted by municipal school committees concerning their economic problems. They talk only about the expenses of new buildings, teachers' salaries, etc. It seems never to occur to them that there are possibilities which may come from developing the efficiency of this wonderful machine which each student is carrying in his or her head. It has always seemed to me that they look only at the expense side of the ledger and do little to increase the asset side of the ledger.
5. A prominent brain specialist recently told me that he spends ninety percent of his time in working on boys and girls who had been smashed up in automobile accidents and very little time on truly constructive work. In fact, he stated that he had never been called before an educational body to discuss how the brain could be developed to be more efficient.

Forgive me for asking these foolish questions, but since listening to you I have had the courage to pass them on to you. You are free to answer this letter or toss it in the wastebasket, but whichever you do, I will still be your admirer.

Sincerely yours,

Roger W. Babson

RWBabson
mwm

[ams 6/23/54]

From the office of Richard Bolling, M. C.
5th District, Missouri (Kansas City)

June 18, 1954

"LETS GET OFF THE VOLCANO" SAYS MISSOURI CONGRESSMAN

Bolling Declares Selective Industrial Dispersion, Using Economic Powers of Federal Government, Can Give Us Greater Safety Against A- and H-Bombs

Today, like the peasants of old, we live on the edge of a volcano which may destroy us at any minute. Universal, total disarmament seems a long way off. Radar screens for early warning and all the anti-intruder methods together can only somewhat reduce the devastation of an enemy attack. A policy of "massive retaliation" alone does not supply an answer because it may only mean that we kill each other by the tens of millions.

It is for these reasons that I have proposed in H. Con. Res. 229 setting up a Joint Committee to investigate the Economics of Defense against the A- and H-Bombs.

It is evident that, concentrated as we are in a few major target areas, an enemy might smash us with one coordinated devastating attack. We should move at once to reduce our concentration and consequent vulnerability.

But who moves? Where? How?

Several years ago, a National Industrial Dispersion Policy was announced. And very little happened. We continued building mostly in the big target areas -- where it's easy to kill us in bunches.

The reason very little happened is simple; that "policy" has never been really implemented by an effective program. The policy did declare a worthy objective. It is not yet clear how best we can actually achieve that objective.

A good many people feel that national industrial dispersion is just too big; they say, "There's nothing we can do. It's too expensive, too complicated, or too 'something'. If the A-Bomb or the H-Bomb hit, it will just be too bad!" This reminds me, much as I respect some of them otherwise, of the ostrich who stuck his head in the sand. Only I think it's even more dangerous to stick your head in the ashes beside an active volcano!

The Office of Defense Mobilization and the Federal Civil Defense Administration have been hampered by the notion that the main responsibility for civil defense can be assumed by the states, so they have been unable to implement effectively a realistic program of industrial dispersion.

We must determine what are the industries and personnel most vital to our existence and work out effective methods to make them less vulnerable. We must also find out what activities could function just as well outside of areas of concentration and persuade them to cooperate in reducing concentration and congestion.

There are literally hundreds of ways in which the Federal government could encourage industries and people to move out of primary target areas. The question is which of these ways should be used? Should the emphasis be upon channeling government contracts for defense purposes to industries located outside primary target areas? Should the taxing power of the government be used to encourage non-profit institutions to move out of major target areas? Should housing legislation be amended to reduce federal insurance guarantees on new housing in or near primary target areas? After all, houses inside primary target areas -- or other buildings there -- are poor risks. Should federal legislation regarding aids to business be revised so that businesses which build new plants within target areas would lose certain advantages?

Obviously, each of these very tentative suggestions has tremendous implications for established business and for political subdivisions, such as cities, etc. These may not be the best ways to encourage selective industrial

dispersion. I hope that a committee of the sort I propose will discover better ways. But it seems to me obvious that we must start finding out the best ways.

None of this could be done in a year, but at a rough guess, a national effort, no more than a fraction as great as that made between 1939 and 1944, could in a five year period give us much greater safety and provide us with a real defense in depth. The Russians showed us how to use space and distance as weapons against Napoleon and against Hitler. We must learn to use them too.

But there must be much wider understanding of the need for such a program and much more precise information as to how to go ahead with such a program in order to defend ourselves from total war. The committee I propose can do much to advance our understanding and knowledge of this great problem.

The Technology Press



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

June 18, 1954

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

Dear Norbert:

Thank you for your letter of June 16 with the collection of correspondence on the Japanese translation rights of your books. I thank you all the more for your reliance on my judgment in this matter. An expression of that judgment as regards Koga's proposal is given in my letter of this date to him, a copy of which is enclosed.

With all good wishes,

Very truly yours,

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

F. G. Fassett, Jr.
Director

FGF:k

[ans 6/23/54]

COPY

June 18, 1954

Professor Toyoki Koga
Nagoya University
Furo-Cho, Chikusa-Ku
Nagoya, Japan

Dear Professor Koga:

In reply to your letter of March 30 to Professor Wiener concerning a possible translation into Japanese of his volume, THE EXTRAPOLATION, INTERPOLATION, AND SMOOTHING OF STATIONARY TIME SERIES, published jointly by the Technology Press of M.I.T. and John Wiley & Sons, Inc. and under copyright by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, I have to say we regret that translation rights are not now available.

Very truly yours,

F

F.G.Fassett, Jr.
Director

FGF:k

cc: Mr. Sullivan, Wiley's
Prof. Wiener

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TELEPHONE
MURRAY HILL 9-7630

June 18, 1954

Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

Our records show that we sent you reviews and letters on your book *EXTRAPOLATION, INTERPOLATION AND SMOOTHING OF STATIONARY TIME SERIES* in December, 1952.

As you know, this material is of great importance in advertising and promoting your book, so we are understandably anxious to have it back in our files for reference and use. We would appreciate it if you will have the folder returned to us, or pass along our request to the person now examining it.

Should our files or the U. S. Mail be at fault and you have already returned these reviews to us, we will be glad to have you clarify our records.

Sincerely yours,

Ethel Weinmann

Ethel Weinmann
Sales Department

EW:mg

[ans 6/23/54]

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TELEPHONE
MURRAY HILL 9-7630

June 18, 1954

Mr. E. R. Spangler, Editor
Advisory Board on Simulation
The University of Chicago
Museum of Science and Industry
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Mr. Spangler:

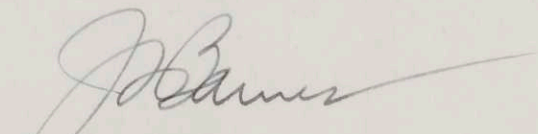
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Sincerely yours,



J. S. Barnes
Vice President

Norbert Wiener: CYBERNETICS
pps. 8-9
"These specialized fields....."
(also paragraph immediately following.)

[ans 6/23/54]

June 18, 1954

South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Prof. Dr. Heinrich Behnke
Mathematische Institute der Universität Munster
Munster (Westf.), Germany

Dear Professor Behnke:

I am afraid that I won't be in Europe this summer and regret that I will not be able to come to Munster. The trouble is I have been abroad part of this year in India and I do not think it would be good policy to absent myself twice from the States in such close succession. However, I shall be in Europe a year from now on my way to India with Professor Metzger to give a philosophical lecture at Munich, so we may see one another during that stay.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

June 18, 1954

South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Mr. Homer B. Black
1922 Pacific Avenue
Venice, California

Dear Mr. Black:

I am very suspicious of artificial languages for whatever purposes they are constructed. Mr. Benoit Mandelbrot has proved that most actual languages satisfy certain very strong conditions of economy in the vocabularies which are probably valuable in use and are not generally to be found in artificial languages. The construction of artificial languages even so that they may be of moderate use is much more exact than most people who have worked in the field have thought.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

June 18, 1954

South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Mr. L. M. Christophe, Jr.
Chairman: Department of Mathematics
Paul Laurence
Dunbar Junior College
1811 Ringo Street
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Christophe:

I find myself up in the mountains without references,
and I am therefore unable to accede to your wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

June 18, 1954

South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Mr. Henry Pratt Fairchild, Chairman
National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions, Inc.
35 West 64th Street
New York 23
New York

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

I regret that I did not answer your letter of
May 7 concerning the meeting held in Carnegie Hall
on June 8th. In any case I could not have gone
to the meeting, as I am so loaded up with work this
summer.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

June 18, 1954

South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Dr. Lawrence K. Frank
Cloverly
Ashland, New Hampshire

Dear Professor Frank:

Many thanks for your letter and article.
I am up in Sandwich now and shall be here from
now on and hope to see you soon. I am just
finishing a book on the philosophy of invention.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Wiener

NW:jc

June 18, 1954

South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Mr. Orrin Frink
Department of Mathematics
The Pennsylvania State College
State College, Pennsylvania

Dear Frink:

Why don't you get in touch with Professor
Harold Freeman, who, I think is exactly the right
man to look over Lewis's record and work.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jo

June 18, 1954

South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Mr. Alfred Hassler, Editor
FELLOWSHIP
21 Audubon Avenue
New York 32
New York

Dear Mr. Hassler:

I feel I have already said my say in The Nation article. In addition to that I have much more to say about those situations like the Oppenheimer situation in a book I am writing. But I am unable to break into my vacation to send a special article for your journal.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:je

[ms 6/18/54] ©

June 18, 1954

South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Mr. Robert J. Jeffries
919 Wick Court
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Mr. Jeffries:

I have just finished a book on invention which took me only two and a half months to do and I have other writing work on hand, so I do not feel that I can take up anything now. You will therefore be good enough to excuse me from sending you a contribution to your journal.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

[ans 8/12/54]

AIR LETTER

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
June 18, 1954

Mr. Gade V. Krishnavao
Ramireddipet
Narasavaopet
Guntur Dt.
S. India

My dear Mr. Gade:

Many thanks for your kind letter of
the twenty-second of April, and in
particular for the delightful photograph of our
gathering in Banaras.

I shall probably be in India about a year
from now, and certainly expect that Banaras
shall be on my special route.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

June 18, 1954

South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Mr. Thomas F. McDonough, A. I. A.
25 Huntington Avenue
Boston 16, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. McDonough:

I have been very remiss in answering your letter because I have been so completely consumed in the writing of a book that I have read my mail only in the most casual way. If the vacancy for my talk has not yet been filled, I shall be glad to give it.

I do not wish the responsibility of publishing this talk separately as I am using material from my new book on the philosophy of invention to appear with Doubleday in the Anchor Book Series. The subject which I wish to discuss, which seems to me extremely relevant to your meeting, is the question of the role of long-time feed backs in social matters and the relation of this notion to ideas generally considered to be religious.

Please let me know at once if this meets your approval.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

[ans 6/21/54]

June 18, 1954

South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Mr. Eugene A. Parker
201 $\frac{1}{2}$ Maple Street
North Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Parker:

While it may not be absolutely executed in the distant future, I know of no way by which we may get orderly impulses to the brain except by the nerves themselves. You must realize that the point of this is in the word "orderly." In other words, merely to bring a communication to the brain by electric channels doesn't give much hope of its arriving at any useful way.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:je

June 18, 1954

South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Mr. N. Rashevsky
Committee on Mathematical Biology
5741 Drexel Avenue
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Rashevsky:

I am sorry that there was a misunderstanding about my correspondence with Vallarta. However, since you are already in correspondence with me, that is about as far as I can go at present as I have no direct access to sources of funds. However, I think it is of some advantage if you can get funds to have at least a place to go.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

June 18, 1954

South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Mr. Jerome Rothstein
21 East Bergen Place
Red Bank, New Jersey

Dear Rothstein:

You may have seen my recent editorial in The Nation which will show you that at least to some extent I am still in there hitting. I am also doing a book on invention which Doubleday is publishing in the paper-back Anchor Series in which I pay my respects to a lot of things I consider the evils of the day including your Wisconsin friend, the big laboratories and over organization in science. I wish I knew some particular move I could make for your benefit. But the move isn't obvious and it seems to me that if I am to make a determined effort to influence public opinion it must be through the place where I can be most effective. It is so easy in these times to fritter away oneself effectiveness by trying to attack or defend in too many directions at once.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

June 18, 1954

South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Mr. Milton L. Rusk
Publicity Department
Little, Brown & Company, Publishers
34 Beacon Street
Boston 6, Massachusetts

My dear Mr. Rusk:

I may get around to read and review THE FABULOUS JOURNEY, but it can not be very early in my program for I am having a very busy summer.

I hope you will pardon me for not giving the review very promptly and I am willing to send the book back if you think that is the fairest way to handle it.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

June 18, 1954

South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Mr. Aaron S. Soltes
Computer Laboratory
Electronics Research Directorate
Air Force Cambridge Research Center
Air Research and Development Command
224 - 230 Albany Street
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Soltes:

If a reproducible square-law rectifier could be made really cheap, I think I know of a very many places where it could be applied in nonlinear circuits as I have in view analyzers and synthesizers in which the principle longitudinal elements are such square-law rectifiers.

I am very much struck with the figures in the article you sent me.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:je



THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS

Two Twenty-One B Baker Street

LAKE ROAD, R. F. D. ONE, MORRISTOWN, N. J.

June 19, 1954

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

I am delighted to learn that members of your family are resident in the area of 221B Baker Street, and that there is such a good likelihood that you will yourself honor the headquarters of the B. S. I. with a visit!

. . . I have had a small cottage for some time on the property I own off Lake Road in Morristown, and Mrs. Smith and I are now building a house which we expect to move into about August 15th. The building job makes the place something of a mess, but the cottage is habitable, and I am now in process of moving my books into it. I do spend the better part of every day there, and nothing would please me more than to have a visit from you any time you are in the neighborhood - but it would make things more certain if I had a couple of days' notice of your coming. I think I can promise to show you some real treasures, including any of the first editions of the Canon you might like to examine, and also a manuscript of one of the Sacred Writings themselves.

The map on my (secular) letterhead attached shows (helpfully, I hope) how to get to my land. Do let me know that you will pay me a visit soon!

With warmest regards to you, and best wishes to all of your fellow-members of The Speckled Band,

Most sincerely,

Edgar W. Smith



THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SOCIETY OF AMERICA

ROCHE RESEARCH CLUB, NUTLEY 10, NEW JERSEY

June 21, 1954

Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

We are very happy that you accepted our invitation to speak before our group on May 4, 1955. As you suggested, I will write to you again during the winter to arrange the details of your visit.

We would like to print our 1954-55 program in the very near future. Would you be kind enough to send me a brief autobiographical sketch, similar to those in the sample program you received. We will incorporate this autobiographical sketch in our program booklet and I would be very grateful to you if you would send it to me very soon.

I am looking forward very much to meeting you personally in the not too distant future.

Very cordially yours,

Paul G. Hacker, Secretary
Roche Research Club

PGH:rm

THOMAS F. McDONOUGH, A. I. A.

Registered Architect

25 HUNTINGTON AVENUE

BOSTON 16, MASS.

KE 6-0911

MEMBER OF
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
MASS. STATE ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS, INC.
BOSTON SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURAL
REGISTRATION BOARDS

JOSEPH E. McCANN, A. I. A.
REGISTERED ARCHITECT
ASSOCIATE

June 21, 1954

Mr. Norbert Wiener
South Tamworth
New Hampshire

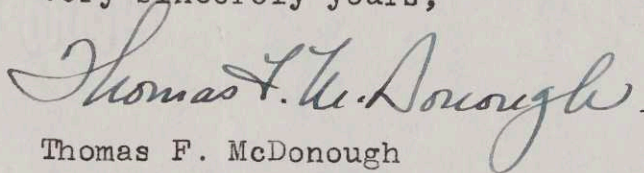
Dear Mr. Wiener:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter in regard to the talk which you have consented to give to the American Society of Planning Officials in Philadelphia.

I have been in touch with Mr. Dennis O'Harrow, our executive secretary in Chicago; he will get in touch with you and make final arrangements for your talk.

Thanking you for your acceptance, I remain

Very sincerely yours,



Thomas F. McDonough

TFM:ee

[ans 6/23/54]

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

June 21, 1954

Dear Norbert:

A thousand pardons — my calculation of the joint probability in the infinitesimal case was wrong. If we seek the measure of the set in differential space satisfying the two sets of inequalities

$$\frac{|\xi_i|^2}{|a_i|^2} < \frac{|\xi'_i|^2}{|a'_i|^2} \quad (A)$$

$$\frac{|\xi'_2|^2}{|a'_2|^2} < \frac{|\xi'_1|^2}{|a'_1|^2} \quad (B),$$

where primes indicate transformation from unprimed by a unitary of infinitesimally different from unity, I still say that for the integrations over variables $|\xi_i|$ with $i > 2$ one can neglect the difference between $|\xi_i|$ and $|\xi'_i|$. But one cannot do so for $i = 1$ or 2 , and here I was wrong ^(in assuming that one could). The reason is that one integrates over a region ~~whose boundaries~~ are determined by for which $\frac{|\xi_i|^2}{|a_i|^2}$ and

$\frac{|\xi_{21}'|^2}{|a_{21}'|^2}$ differ ~~only to order~~ by an amount
proportional to ε , hence differences between
 $|\xi_{21}'|^2$ and $|\xi_{21}|^2$, and $|\xi_{11}'|^2$ and $|\xi_{11}|^2$, of order
 ε , are all-important.

So will back to old drawing-board,
and let you know what I get when I
get it.

Armand

P.S. — Best place to write me is at
Home — 10 Kilburn Rd.

Do you feel that I am taking
everything into account now (your
answer will not be used against you)?

A.

[ans 7/8/54]

June 21, 1954

South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Mr. Franklin Watts, Editor
The Pocket Magazine
699 Madison Avenue
New York 21, New York

Dear Mr. Watts:

On June 11 I received a letter from you requesting an article from me on the electronic brain for your non-fiction magazine. To write an article on the electronic brain simply and without any modification is frankly a thing I have been asked to do dozens of times, and it has become one of the most boring tasks in the world for me. Therefore if I accept an invitation to write such an article, I will have to give it a new slant to make it distinct from all the articles I have written in the past on the subject and from all the many articles which other people are writing.

I suggest a title something like the following:

Eight Years of Cybernetics and The Electronic Brain.

In that way I shall have a chance to compare my anticipations on the subject at the time I wrote Cybernetics and what I take to be the state of the subject at the present day with the new lines that are opening out.

I am enclosing a manuscript which lies within the length limit which has been assigned me, and in case you should want to accept it, I accept your terms of \$500, plus the author's shares in royalties on sales above three thousand copies of the magazine.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

[ars 7/16/54]