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CORRESPONDENCE Aug 12-31, 1954

N. WIENER · MC 22

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Executive Secretary

August 12, 1954

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

Dear Professor Wiener,

Upon returning from my vacation, I carefully went over your reply of August third to Dr. Russell's letter about the lectureship at the National Autonomous University of Mexico for a month or two this summer or fall. I should like, first of all, to thank you for the serious thought you have given to the invitation and also for the full explanation of your interest in the University and your inability to accept the lectureship.

The Conference Board Committee will be sorry to learn that your commitments from now to the end of the academic year 1955-56 prevent you from considering any additional foreign assignments at this date. I know that the Committee will understand, and I am sure that it will welcome your candidacy for a similar lectureship after 1955-56, when the demands upon your time and energy will perhaps be lighter than at present.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to the Department of State with a request that its contents be reported to the University of Mexico. In this way the Vice-Minister of Education and your many friends at the University may be assured of your continuing interest in them individually and in their institution.

Dr. Russell and I enjoyed reading your enthusiastic comments on your sojourn in India last year. It is good to know that you will be back there for part of 1955-56. You have the best wishes of the Committee, as well as myself, for a visit that will bring great intellectual challenge and reward.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore T. Dombras

Theodore T. Dombras
Assistant to the Executive Secretary

[ans 8/16/54]

DOUBLEDAY & COMPANY, INC., 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22



MURRAY HILL 8-5300

August 12, 1954

Dear Professor Wiener:

I am enclosing a letter which concerns you. Would you care to answer it directly, or would you prefer to send the information along to me so that I can answer Miss Seger?

Best wishes to you
and Mrs. Wiener,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a short vertical stroke at the end.

Jason Epstein

Professor Norbert Wiener
Sandwich
New Hampshire

JE:nr
Enclosure

Imogene Seger
General Delivery
Netcong, N.J.

Aug.8, 1954

Jason Epstein

Doubleday Anchor Books
Publisher

Gentlemen,

I am a regular contributor to the Bavarian Radio Station in Munich, Germany. Reading Norbert Wiener's "The Human Use of Human Beings" during my holiday, I decided that I wanted to write a report on some aspects of this book for a special program of the station.

Would you please let me know if there are any translations of Norbert Wiener's books into German, or if any such translations are planned for the near future, and if so who is the publisher and what the title?

I would be most grateful to get your answer soon.

Truly yours

Imogene Seger

[and 8/17/54]

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 13, 1954

Professor John C. Broderick
The University of Texas
Austin 12, Texas

Dear Professor Broderick:

Many thanks for your letter of August 6. The parallel of Frost's ideas with my own has indeed escaped me.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 13, 1954

Professor Paul Irick
Department of Mathematics
Purdue University
Lafayette, Indiana

Dear Professor Irick:

I regret that I will be unable to attend the
Purdue meeting of the Indiana Chapter of the
American Statistical Association on November 4.
The fact is that my schedule of outside lectures
is limited and has been made up long in advance.

Regretfully yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 13, 1954

Professor Y. W. Lee
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Lee:

Many thanks for your letter of the eleventh.
I shall give the after-dinner talk at the banquet
on Thursday, December 16, and I suggest the topic
THE STATISTICAL POINT OF VIEW IN MODERN PHYSICS.
We are having a fine summer up here, and I am working
hard. Barbara's children are with us for the present,
and when they leave, tell Betty, that Margaret and
I are going for our first trip into Nova Scotia.

Sincerely,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 13, 1954

Miss Betty M. Leibsohn
c/o Mrs. H. Konegiberg
2610 Glenwood Road
Brooklyn, New York

My dear Miss Leibsohn:

I am greatly afraid that the interview you suggest will be impossible. I am up in the White Mountains and do not find it possible to take a special trip to New York and for some time I am going to be on a trip in Canada.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 13, 1954

Professor W. T. Martin
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Ted:

I was delighted to hear the other day that things seemed going better with the Levinsons. I share with you, by the way, profound regrets that Harvard has stolen Farnsworth. As to Tunturi, I agree with you that the most probable thing is that he has decided to go elsewhere, but has failed to notify the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. However, being what he is, it would not surprise me at all to learn that he is trying to force his way through by insensitivity and impudence. Everything is going well with us up here.

Sincerely,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 13, 1954

Dr. Werner Nobel
474 Main Street
Greenfield, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Nobel:

I am very much interested in the hip-joint prosthesis which you have been sending me to examine. The friction problem needs careful consideration, but is not one one can answer offhand. If the Prosthesis were to continue to exist in the body in exactly the form in which you have made it, without tissue growing between the articular surfaces, there would be no problem. Frankly, I don't think that the slight frictional drag of the apparatus as it stands will be of any seriousness in comparison with the tremendous pull of the hip muscles. I am not even certain that the patient would notice the friction at all. But foreign bodies like this hip joint when introduced into the tissue will have to come to an equilibrium with the tissues about them, and this is a matter which you must understand much better than I do. Connective tissue will tend, I suppose, to grow between the articular surfaces unless its sources of nutrition are no longer adequate and until it gets ground off by the motion of the joint. What the final condition will be, I am unable to say, but I would not be surprised if the whole joint will become ensheathed in a capsule of connective tissue and further stiffness of this capsule may not be much more important than surface friction. It is conceivable that sheets of connective tissue will grow right through the joint cavity and even that they may develop a synovial cavity of their own, although I fail to see, however, how the synovial membranes in question can be adequately nourished. In any case, what comes of the joint will depend on the final outcome of the active process of tissue deposition and cavity formation which itself will depend on the degree of active use to which the joint is subjected. I can scarcely imagine circumstances

where the main frictional force will be metal to metal friction.

Any competent engineer can formulate a model of a joint with anti-frictional wheels or ball bearings or the like, and even with self-contained long-time lubrication. However, it is one thing to make such a joint which will be mechanically good and to make one which will continue to exist inside the body. An artificial joint can be conceived as either opened or closed, if it is open the more complicated it is, the more room there is for connective tissue to grow into it and to clog it. I doubt if any conceivable open prosthesis can be as good as the closed prosthesis of which you send me a model. Now as to the closed prosthesis. It is quite conceivable that one can make a joint with a fair amount of complication in its interior where the joint cavity is completely closed in by sheets of plastic to which the tissues of the body do not react and which separates a cavity devoted to mechanical apparatus from the body at large. I think this can be done, but I am not at all certain that it is worth doing. Sheets of plastic subject to continual flexion and torsion are as vulnerable as living joint tissues themselves without the self-repairing ability of living joint tissues. Once there is the slightest tear in the artificial protective capsule, the situation will be that of an open joint. All the materials, including the lubricants sealed into the joint, will suddenly be brought physiologically inside of the body, and I don't know how the body will tolerate them. Under most circumstances, I should be very much afraid that the formation of an aseptic abscess and the best outcome you could hope from such a situation will be a new operation and a new prosthesis. Moreover, once the protective capsule is penetrated, the ingrowth of tissue of which I speak in the case of an open joint cavity would almost be bound to occur and the best result which I think you could expect will be a fibrous ankylosed joint. Thus I am all for a joint prosthesis, a few parts, all of them metallic or hard plastic and none of them flexible. For cutting down friction, I am in favor of the use of large smooth surfaces with the hope that the artificial

Dr. Werner Nobel

2.

August 13, 1954

joint will become encapsuled by natural body tissues in such a way either that the joint cavity will remain a metal to metal contact or that the body will make some attempt to build up an artificial synovial cavity.

As to the details of your design, I am not quite certain of the use of your screws to pasten the prosthesis over the normal site of the acetabulum. Your screw-holes seem to me to be designed for pretty small screws and even though the bone tissue will grow to them and tighten the grip, I am afraid there will be circumstances under which the screws will be subject to pretty considerable forces to pull loose. May I suggest in a tentative way that it might be possible to use bolts going entirely through the pelvis, perhaps with heads counter sunk into the pelvis. I know that this is likely to have the disadvantage of causing more operative interference prolonging the length of the operation and possibly interfering with tissue nutrition. However, I think that these difficulties could be eliminated by proper technique or at least minimized. After all, you are working with the largest bones of the bodies and the largest muscles, so that the mechanical strength of your system must be very considerable. In all this I have gone well outside my beat. As far as I can see, at present, the type of prosthesis which you contemplate involved no feedback or cybernetic problems. I am simply telling you the first reactions of the common sense of an engineer who is not utterly ignorant of physiological matters.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Wiener

NW:jc

P. S. There is a point which I am not at all certain about. Your joint cavity is almost impenetrable for tissue growing into it but it is not quite impenetrable. This means that such tissue will form or may form but that they will be badly nourished and will be likely to necrose. I thus ask for information rather

[ans 8/20/54]

Dr. Werner Nobel

2.

August 13, 1954

than with any certainty that I am right, whether it might not be a good idea to have the artificial acetabulum and guard ring penetrated by holes so that if tissue forms inside of the joint, it can be healthy tissue and better able to develop its own synovial cavity. This is a matter that I cannot answer offhand and that I believe nobody can answer offhand, but it is worth a considerable amount of animal experimentation.

H. W.

Cambridge, August 14

Monsieur le Professeur,

I have been very glad to receive your last letter and to see that you are interested in the plans of M. Le Lionnais. Mr. Siegel has just left Cambridge for his holidays, he gave me a few details about the work you do with him on quantum theory.

Before going home the members of the Summer Project will leave Cambridge, on September 6th, for a tour in the north east of the United States.

I hope that you enjoy your holidays in Sandwich.

Croyez, Monsieur le Professeur, à l'assurance de mes sentiments respectueux et veuillez transmettre mes hommages à Madame Wiener.

Robert Vallée.

[ans 8/30/54]

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 16, 1954

Mr. Theodore T. Dombas
Conference Board of Associated Research Councils
2101 Constitution Avenue, N. W.
Washington 25, District of Columbia

Dear Mr. Dombas:

Your letter of August 12 needs no answer, but
it is so pleasant in content, and so friendly in tone,
that I wish to signify to you my deep appreciation of
what you have to say.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 16, 1954

Mr. Jason Epstein,
Doubleday & Company, Inc.,
575 Madison Avenue,
New York 22, New York.

Dear Jason:

I am very gratified by the way that the first chapter seemed to you. Now as I have the first and second chapter down and I am sufficiently far away from them to get them in perspective, I should like to say that the chief weakness which I find in them is that the first chapter contains a good deal of material concerning postulation-~~alism~~ and constructionalism which only receives its full explanation in the second chapter. I do not think that it would be too difficult to transfer a bit of the discussion earlier and improve the sequence in each chapter individually, and in the two chapters together. Otherwise, and apart from some small matters, some of which I have already observed for myself, I am rather satisfied with the first two chapters.

Now as to the third chapter. I realize that I should have waited, according to our agreement, until I had heard from you about Chapter II before proceeding. However, your remarks concerning Chapter II leave most of the reconstruction and editorial work in my own hands, and without any full justification, I presumed that that would be true of Chapter III as well. Moreover, I have spread out my work on Chapter III over two full weeks. This was a rather difficult time for me, but Margaret and myself were left to babysit for our two grandchildren, and when the chance for two or three hours' writing came each morning, it was a relief from the constant strain.

This morning my children and grandchildren have left and day after tomorrow, Margaret and I are finishing the month with an auto trip into the Maritime Provinces. This will be the real vacation of our vacation, and after it I shall be for most of the time at M. I. T. There I believe that we can do about a chapter a week. As things look now, the book will fit into about twelve chapters, or four hundred pages, which I think will amount to something like 110,000 words. I shall expect that you will want to cut it in parts, and probably to amplify it in other parts, but at least there is enough material, so that it can stand a certain amount of pruning without dwindling away. I am not trying to write the book with a demand for further cutting, but I think it is better to err on the long than on the short side.

Mr. Jason Epstein

2.

August 16, 1954

Chapter II, as you will notice, brings my life down to the end of the summer of 1925, the time just before my marriage and just before my contact with Max Born in M. I. T. and my introduction to the new quantum mechanics. Chapter IV, as I understand it, will cover that period of work at M. I. T. with Born and my marriage, together with my subsequent year at Gottingen and at Copenhagen. Chapter V will stretch from January 1927 to the fall of 1931. In this period the chief matters of interest are my early married life, the birth of my children, my two definitive papers on generalized harmonic analysis and on Tauberian theorems, my contact with Struick, my summers in the White Mountains, and my engineering ventures with Vannevar Bush and Y. W. Lee. Chapter VI will be concerned with my year in England and that period of my return to M. I. T. when my chief problems were my work with Paley and my father's accident. This is as far as my plans are fairly definitive. Chapter VII I am proposing to devote to the period between my father's accident and my trip to China in 1935 and Chapter VIII to my Chinese trip. Chapter IX should carry me on to the world war, and Chapter X should cover my war activities. Chapter XI should be devoted to my Mexican contacts and the genesis of cybernetics. Chapter XII should cover the success of cybernetics and my later trips abroad. I see that I will still need a Chapter XIII and possibly a Chapter XIV for a summing up of my present position. But all this can wait.

Margaret joins me in sending our regards to Mrs. Epstein and yourself. Next summer we shall probably be abroad, but later on we hope that we can resume the habit of the last two years of having you as our guests at Sandwich while we discuss still further literary undertakings.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

P. S. My THE HUMAN USE OF HUMAN BEINGS has already been translated into German, and I am writing to M. I. T. to give you the details. I believe that a friend of mine is also planning to translate the book on cybernetics. I am forwarding your letter from Imogene Seger to the secretary of the Mathematics Department at M. I. T.

N. W.

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 16, 1954

Professor W. T. Martin
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Ted:

This man looks interesting, although I have very little
to go on but what he says. Can you see that this letter gets
into the hands of people who may be interested in such a fellow?

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

STAVID ENGINEERING, INC.



August 17, 1954

312 PARK AVENUE
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY
Plainfield 6-4806

Professor Norbert Wiener,
South Tamworth,
New Hampshire

Dear Professor Wiener,

Reference is made to your letter dated August 6, 1954 to Mr. Lawrence J. Fogel. This is to confirm our arrangement to receive your consultation at Stavid Engineering, Inc., Plainfield, New Jersey, on September 20, 1954. Your fee of \$200 will be paid at that time, unless you request payment in advance.

We are looking forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely yours,

STAVID ENGINEERING, INC.

William H. Paul
Project Leader

LJF:rh

August 17, 1954

Professor Norbert Wiener,
South Tamworth,
New Hampshire

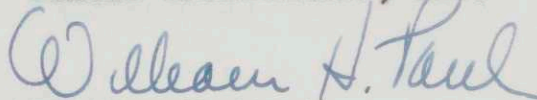
Dear Professor Wiener,

Reference is made to your letter dated August 6, 1954 to Mr. Lawrence J. Fogel. (This is to confirm our arrangement to receive your consultation at Stavid Engineering, Inc., Plainfield, New Jersey, on September 20, 1954. Your fee of \$200 will be paid at that time, unless you request payment in advance.)

We are looking forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely yours,

STAVID ENGINEERING, INC.



William H. Paul
Project Leader

LJF:rh

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANNING OFFICIALS

Planning Advisory Service - News Letter - Zoning Digest

1313 EAST SIXTIETH STREET • CHICAGO 37, ILLINOIS • TELEPHONE FAIRFAX 4-3400

August 17, 1954

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DENNIS O'HARROW

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

Dear Mr. Epstein:

Professor Norbert Wiener of MIT is giving the Keynote Address at our forthcoming National Planning Conference. His subject is "Short-Time and Long-Time Planning." While we have his permission to include this address in our published conference proceedings, he has suggested that we clear with you since his address will be based on material he has prepared for the book which you are publishing for him.

The proceedings of the ASPO National Planning Conference have been published annually for twenty years. They incorporate all the speeches that are presented at the conference. We, of course, very much want the Keynote Address by Professor Wiener to be included in the proceedings of the 1954 National Planning Conference, and we trust that this will be satisfactory to you. The proceedings, which go to the members of the Society, are included in the membership fee. They ordinarily include between 60 and 70 papers presented at the conference. There is only one edition of the proceedings, 4,000 copies, which actually would come out about April 1955.

We are enclosing a copy of the preliminary program which will give you an idea of the papers to be presented.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

DOH:dp

Enclosure

1934

1954

National Planning Conference Philadelphia Sept. 26 - 30, 1954

THE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOTEL

August 17, 1954

Re: 5075

Dr. Archie R. Tunturi
University of Oregon
Medical School
Portland 1, Oregon

Dear Dr. Tunturi:

We are withdrawing your application for a Public Health Service Research Fellowship as requested in your letter of August 6, 1954.

We appreciate your notifying us since this will release funds for the support of another deserving applicant.

If we can ever be of assistance to you in the future, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Ronald E. Scantlebury, Ph.D.
Chief, Research Fellowships Branch
Division of Research Grants

cc: Dr. Wiener

Mrs. Crouch

hb

js

lt

hr

hm

mc

hjc

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 17, 1954

Miss Barbara Lovett
Sales and Advertising
The University of Chicago Press
5750 Ellis Avenue
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Miss Lovett:

I am on my vacation in the White Mountains, so that the book THE HUMAN ANIMAL has not got to me yet. I may or may not write you a review on it, but I distinctly do not wish to bind myself in advance to writing any comment on any book thus submitted me. Such a comment is worthless unless I make a real intellectual effort and with my schedule of work this is more than I can take. It is only on this condition that I will accept any books sent me, and if you find this too restrictive, I shall return the book to you at once.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

[enc 8/25/54]

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 17, 1954

Miss Imogene Seger
General Delivery
Netcong, New Jersey

My dear Miss Seger:

THE HUMAN USE OF HUMAN BEINGS has already appeared in German under the imprint of the Metznerverlag. The title is MENSCH UND MENSCHMASCHINEN. Thus, I think my publishing interests in Germany are adequately taken care of.

Thank you for your interest in my work. I remain,
Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

Prof. Dr. Norbert Wiener
Mathematics Dept.
M.I.T.
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Professor Weiner:

Four years ago, I asked myself the following question which I am sure will interest you. Suppose that a chemist knew all of the chemical reactions that were going on within a second, within a hypothetical living cell, how would he go about the organization of this information and from it be able to derive the first field equation for living systems?

Such thoughts almost caused my dismissal from college at the time, however, I have since then created the theory of Quadrant Mechanics, a new field theory which is concerned with both living and inert systems. Little did I think that my question would lead me to relativistic mechanics and the allied fields.

The result of my work is as follows. The derivation of the first field equation for living systems, which for inert systems breaks down into the Einstein equation. Another equation for the calculation of the number of Events per second of time within a cell, and another equation which gives the Time needed to annihilate a given Mass.

All of my work has been done with a hypothetical "model cell" which I have reconstructed for theoretical use only, and my interest in the subject is only of an academic nature. The theory is concerned with a new entity known as Cosmic Entropy and although the work is as yet unpublished it has attracted much attention.

Of late I have been concerned with the problem of so-called Quadrant Matrices, which is a package of information and I have been trying to establish symbolic methods of representing the universe from a Time Zero to the present. The same method would of course apply to the growth of chemical systems until they formed the first living cell.

The entire theory has been written in a story form and in a very easy language which requires only about an hours reading. I would greatly appreciate it, if you would be kind enough to take a look at the manuscript. I would be most happy to send you a copy at once. I only wish that I knew some more about the information theory, I am a chemist by training.

With my profound Respects,

Sincerely,

August 18, 1954
Hatfield, Pa.


Minas Ensanian

[and 8/30/54]



The
UNION LABOR
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

MATTHEW WOLL, PRESIDENT

200 EAST 70TH STREET

NEW YORK 21, N. Y.



ELI A. GROSSMAN
Vice-President — Actuary

Telephone:
TRaifalgar 9-2800

August 18, 1954.

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

Because this Actuarial Note involves the La Place transform, I am taking the liberty of sending you a copy. This note will appear far from elegant to an outstanding and esteemed mathematician like yourself. However, you are probably interested in knowing in what fields some of the Tech graduates are working.

Sincerely,

Eli A. Grossman
Eli A. Grossman
Vice President-Actuary

EAG:MH
Encl.

[and 8/30/54]

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

August 18, 1954

Professor Norbert Wiener
South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Dear Professor Wiener:

I am very much surprised that further material concerning Tunturi has come to you. As you know, I sent him a rather discouraging letter early in June. His reply, a copy of which I am enclosing, came after I had left for Colorado and was here on my return. From his reply I assumed (perhaps too optimistically) that he probably would not come, and in any case that he would write again if he actually decided that he would still like to come.

Do you suppose there is any chance that he has decided to go elsewhere but has failed to notify the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to this effect? I hope this is the case. I am very sorry that you are being troubled with this.

Sincerely yours,



W.T. Martin

maf
Enc.

COPY

June 25, 1954

Dr. W.T. Martin, Head
Department of Mathematics
M.I.T.
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Martin:

Thank you for your letter of June 8, 1954. I am sorry not to have replied sooner but a virus infection acquired enroute to Boston has kept me from it.

I must admit my fellowship proposal is unusual in that it is virtually at an undergraduate level; because of this your suggestion to take the training elsewhere is a worthwhile one, which I shall have to consider carefully. However, I must beg to defer any decision until I can return to my office and evaluate the matter.

Your interest is thoroughly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Archie R. Tunturi



PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO
"COMMANDING OFFICER
AND DIRECTOR"
AND REFER TO FILE NUMBER

U. S. NAVY ELECTRONICS LABORATORY
SAN DIEGO 52, CALIFORNIA

(Private)

August 18, 1954

Professor Norbert Wiener
South Tamworth, New Hampshire

Dear Professor Wiener:

May I thank you for your most interesting specifications in your second letter.

One should not draw a sharp distinction between analog and digital processes. As to hearing, I conjecture that running spectrum-analysis is digital, while audio-spectroscopic and audio-spectrometric operations (such as resolution of musical intervals between successive and simultaneous tones) may imply analog features.

I would devote the invaluable opportunity of a personal talk with you to the problems of the genesis of Consonances and Dissonances. I expect that your auto-correlation function would faithfully reflect the rank orders conveyed by the auditory system. The auto-correlation function is expected to represent an improvement of Helmholtz's "Rauhigkeit"- concept developed in the " Lehre von den Tonempfindungen." Correlation-analysis would answer not only the 2500 years old problem, but could validate the thesis that the auditory transfer-function can be identified as spectrum-analysis.

I am hopeful that a trip will be possible and would like to let you know.

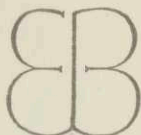
Thanking you for your continued assistance in my endeavors, I am

Sincerely yours,

Andrew G. Pikler

(Andrew G. Pikler)
Code 2920/f

[ans 8/30/54]



OFFICE OF
THE EDITOR

ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA

425 N. MICHIGAN AVENUE • CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS

August
18
1954

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

For the forthcoming printings of the Encyclopaedia Britannica we are planning to include two new articles INFORMATION THEORY and CYBERNETICS. The first of these, because of mechanical reasons, will appear in the set one printing sooner.

I am writing to ask if you would be able to undertake the preparation of the article on CYBERNETICS. Our adviser has suggested that you might also agree to assume responsibility for the article INFORMATION THEORY, having one of your associates or assistants prepare it. Since the two articles are so closely interrelated, we felt that you would wish to work closely with the author of INFORMATION THEORY.

Our present plan is to allot each of these articles a length of 3,000 words. The Britannica rate of payment of two cents per word for new copy will apply. Since INFORMATION THEORY is scheduled for inclusion in the set in the next printing, we should like to receive it by December 15, 1954. However, we shall not need to receive CYBERNETICS until March of 1955.

We should be very pleased to learn that you may be able to prepare the article on CYBERNETICS and to have your assistance on the preparation of INFORMATION THEORY.

We shall look forward to hearing from you on this matter at your earliest possible convenience since we are quite anxious to learn your reaction to our plan and have your recommendations for possible authors for INFORMATION THEORY.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Yust
Walter Yust
Editor

WY:jw

[enc 8/30/54]

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 18, 1954

Professor W. T. Martin
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Martin:

Professor Wiener has left on a short trip. A letter came today from Dr. Archie Tunturi which contained the following passage:

"I regret to inform you that it will be impossible for me to take the fellowship which you so kindly offered to sponsor this fall."

Since there had been previous correspondence concerning the man, I thought it wise to write you about this present development.

Sincerely yours,

Summer Secretary to
Norbert Wiener

K. SREENIVASAN.
B.Sc., A.I.I.Sc., M.I.E.E., S.M.I.R.E., MEM.A.I.E.E., F.A.Sc.,
PROFESSOR.

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL
COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING.
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE.
BANGALORE 3, S. INDIA.

19th August 1954.

Dear Prof. Wiener,

The photograph of yourself that you have very kindly sent me reached me here a few days ago, and I am very glad to have it. Please accept my best thanks for the trouble and expense to which you have put yourself to comply with my request. This is indeed good of you and I shall not forget.

You have not signed on the picture; could you please sign your name on a good piece of paper and send it so that I can paste it at the bottom of the photograph. Also I would ask you ~~to~~ kindly ^{to} let me pay for the picture. I shall send the money immediately I hear from you.

The picture will be put up in our Department where the students and staff will see it along with the pictures of other great scientists who have contributed to the progress of electrical communication.

I was very glad that my friend and colleague, Prof. Brahm Prakash, met you while he was at Boston recently. I hope you are well.

Thanking you again warmly and with best regards and wishes,

Yours sincerely,

K. Sreenivasan.

Prof. Norbert Wiener,
Professor of Mathematics,
Massachussets Institute of Technology,
Cambridge,
Massachussets.
U.S.A.

[ans 8/30/54]

WERNER NOBEL, M. D.
474 MAIN STREET
GREENFIELD, MASS.
—
TELEPHONE 9706

August 20, 1954

Professor Norbert Weiner
South Tamworth,
New Hampshire

Dear Dr. Weiner:

It was very kind indeed of you to answer my letter so promptly and thank you for the return of the prosthesis.

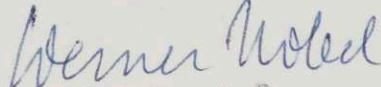
Several points you made will be very helpful. I agree that the present form of fixation into the acetabulum is not adequate though I believe much of the strain is more in a vertical direction and will be borne by the hollow of the acetabular cavity rather than by the screws. Still, the fixation should be improved.

As to lubrication, if at all possible, I want to get away from it and it is possible that one part, may be the socket part of the joint, can be made from nylon which is well tolerated, strong, and needs no lubrication against metal.

As to the growing in of tissue, I had not given it much thought until you raised this point and I think if we can make all the openings of the prosthesis into the body tight there will not be such a problem.

Thank you again for your kind interest and suggestions.

Yours very truly,



Werner Nobel, M.D.

WN:JR

8/30
AK

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

5750 ELLIS AVENUE · CHICAGO 37 · ILLINOIS

August 25, 1954


Dr. Norbert Wiener
South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Thank you very much for your polite note. When we sent you THE HUMAN ANIMAL it was not at all our intention to put you under any obligation. We understand that you may not find it possible or desirable to comment on the book. Naturally, if you choose to read it and comment on it, your words will be useful to us.

I hope you have a pleasant vacation, and I am sorry if I introduced a routine note into it.

Sincerely



Barbara Lovett
Sales Department

DOUBLEDAY & COMPANY, INC., Publishers



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

August 25, 1954

Dear Professor Wiener:

Thank you very much for sending Chapter 2 in its new version. I have had a chance now to read it through once, but since it contains a lot of important material, I would like to spend some more time on it before discussing it in detail. Meanwhile, I assume that you are working on Chapter 3.

Best wishes to you and Mrs. Wiener,

Yours,


Jason Epstein

Professor Norbert Wiener
Sandwich
New Hampshire

JE:nr

[and 8/30/54]

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
SEATTLE 5

August 26, 1954

Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

In your Human Use of Human Beings (revised edition) you mention (pp. 92 and 187) some work of Dr. Benoit Mandelbrot on the distribution of word lengths in an optimal language. I find no reference to this work in the sources available to me. If you would mention on the enclosed self-addressed postal card any more specific information on the man or his publication, I should be very much obliged.

Yours sincerely,

Sidney S. Culbert
Sidney S. Culbert
Department of Psychology

Enclosure
SSC:cr

Answered 11/30/54
from pps 3, 9, RLE
26 & 39 of a Bibliography
of Information Theory

William Hoenig
521 W. 24th St.
Lorain, Ohio

August 26, 1954

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Doctor Wiener,

For several years Men's Hall Association, a local fraternity at DePauw University, has been aware of the need for increasing student interest in the events of today and for **developing** a greater appreciation on the campus of their significance. For this purpose we have sponsored since 1948 an annual forum to which we invite leaders who have taken active part in the affairs of their community and nation and who have shown concern for the educational development of college students.

If it could possibly be arranged, we would like to have you address a meeting open to the student body and townspeople on a topic in your field which you feel would be of interest. We especially would welcome an explanation of Cybernetics; on the other hand we would appreciate any other suggestions which you might have.

A tentative date of October 13 has been set for this forum. However, if this date is not satisfactory with you and if you would give us two or three possible dates during October or November, we would exert our best efforts to make arrangements of the University Calendar.

Sincerely Yours

William Hoenig

William Hoenig
Chm. Publicity Committee
Men's Hall Association

[ans 9/3/54]

The Authors League of America Inc.

SIX EAST THIRTY-NINTH STREET • NEW YORK 16, N. Y. • TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 9-4950

August 27, 1954

VICTORY NOTICE TO AUTHORS LEAGUE MEMBERS

The Universal Copyright Convention was ratified by the Senate on June 25th. The necessary implementing domestic legislation, H.R. 6616, passed the House on July 29th. For nearly three weeks thereafter it was feared that the bill might get submerged by the Senate log jam, but finally Senator Hendrickson (R, N.J.) got it to the surface and it passed the Senate at 6:50 p.m. on August 18th.

So after nearly half a century of struggle and frustration, our country has joined with a large majority of the other countries of the globe in an agreement to protect the rights of the creators of literary material. We can celebrate.

Many organizations and individuals had a share in the campaign which has ended so happily. This notice is sent you for three purposes:

1. To crow on behalf of the League.
2. To make sure that all League members know about it.
3. To extend thanks, on behalf of the League, to the many members who sent letters and telegrams to Senators and Representatives at various points in the long campaign. We have been assured from Washington that those communications influenced the issue importantly.

Rex Stout
President

Officers

President, REX STOUT

Vice-President, JOHN HERSEY

Secretary, ERIK BARNOUW

Council

LILLIAN SCHOEN ANDREWS
ERIK BARNOUW
JACK BENTKOVER
HOWARD BRESLIN
HECTOR CHEVIGNY
RUSSEL CROUSE

HERBERT FIELDS
JULIAN FUNT
J. C. FURNAS
GILBERT W. GABRIEL
RUTH GOODMAN GOETZ
ARTHUR GARFIELD HAYS

LILLIAN HELLMAN
JOHN HERSEY
LAURA Z. HOBSON
CHARLES HURD
E. J. KAHN, JR.
HOWARD LINDSAY

FRANCES LOCKRIDGE
RICHARD LOCKRIDGE
ROBERT LUCAS
IRA MARION
SAM MOORE
NORMAN OBER

ARNOLD PERL
ANN PETRY
SAMSON RAPHAELSON
ELMER RICE
RICHARD RODGERS
HOWARD RODMAN

ARTHUR SCHWARTZ
SHELDON STARK
REX STOUT
VICTOR WOLFSON
STANLEY YOUNG

HAYS, ST. JOHN, ABRAMSON AND SCHULMAN, Counsel

LUISE M. SILLCOX, Executive Secretary

EVELYN F. BURKEY, Ass't Executive Secretary

[ans 9/3/54]

4-G Longmeadow Apts.
Hagerstown, Md., August 28, 1954

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



Dear Professor Wiener:

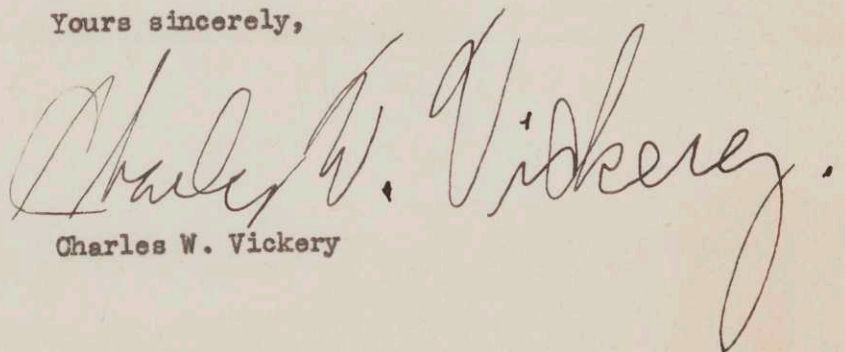
My work with Fairchild Aircraft Corporation has brought me to the subject of OPERATIONS ANALYSIS, as the term is used by the Air Forces, the Navy, etc. I have looked through your book on CYBERNETICS and found some clues which point in that direction.

Can you suggest a good book on OPERATIONS ANALYSIS by yourself, by von Neumann, or some other authority?

The enclosed postcard is for your convenience in replying.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,


Charles W. Vickery

Encl.

[over 9/3/54]

Conversation

August 30, 1954

Dr. Norbert Weiner
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Weiner:

Max Schuster told me I might write to you directly although, unfortunately, I haven't had the opportunity of meeting you.

I am hoping I shall have that opportunity soon -- specifically, in connection with Kip Fadiman's radio program Conversation, which is described somewhat in the enclosed clipping from the New York Times of August 8th.

The response of Americans to this program has been heartwarming. Apparently, it fills a void left by the lamented departure of Information Please. Indeed, its success has been so great that NBC has enthusiastically renewed us for another thirteen weeks.

This is a project which, so far, is not making much money for anybody. We have found that people seem to be anxious to help because they enjoy good talk, and because they believe the influence of such a program on listeners cannot help but be a useful one.

I imagine you have quite a busy schedule ahead of you, but I do hope your schedule will permit you to join us in a Conversation which we've tentatively entitled, "What inventions have benefited mankind most?"

We would like to record about an hour's conversation on tape--- from which we will cut a half hour program, and schedule it for broadcast.

Do you plan to be visiting in New York this Fall, as we would very much like to establish a recording date that is most convenient for you, should you care to join us in Conversation.

We will take the liberty of calling you about this in a few days.

In any event, thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

hs on ans.
NO
Louis G. Cowan
Louis G. Cowan

ABOUT 'CONVERSATION'

A Moderator Seeks to Explain the Aims Of a Radio Show Featuring Just Talk

By CLIFTON FADIMAN

The author is moderator for "Conversation," heard over WNBC on Sunday evenings from 7:30 to 8 o'clock.

"CONVERSATION" started its radio career on Sunday, June 27. Our aim is simple enough. It's to help restore to a marvelous and somewhat abused medium of communication a certain sound. That sound is the sound of truth. Not THE truth. Just truth. Call it genuineness if you wish. We don't debate. We don't argue. We don't settle anything. We don't try to persuade each other or the audience. During thirty minutes of what we try to make reasonably civilized, reasonably diverting talk, we try merely to be ourselves, for whatever we may be worth.

Though some of my colleagues are learned enough, they don't pose as authorities. We've had and will have on the show such men as: Bennett Cerf, Marc Connelly, Alan Green, H. Allen Smith, Corey Ford, Jacques Barzun, Bergan Evans, Glenway Westcott, Sam Levenson, Al Capp, Steve Allen and Sylvester Weaver. We don't want from these men final judgments or systematic exposition of a point of view. We do want diverse, honest and—we hope—entertaining play of their minds on the hundreds of topics that should engage the attention of civilized men and women.

What do we talk about? Almost anything that might interest an alert human being, excluding politics, religion and the topical news of the day. About a week in advance I assign a general springboard topic to my colleagues. Here are a few we have discussed or hope to discuss:

What's Funny?; The Best Talkers I've Met; Gripes and Grouses; Middle Age; American Women; My Utopia; What Are You Afraid Of?; The Minor Pleasures of Life; My Childhood; The Greatest Living Writers.

Credo

There is no preparation. No note making. On the other hand, because we believe the audience wants something beyond casual chit-chat, we try for something beyond it and are not ashamed to say that we try to speak as well as we can rather than as casually as we can.

We do not believe our audience is any dumber or brighter than we are. We do believe they are endowed by God with rational intelligence and are eager to use this intelligence. We don't know how to talk down. We don't know how to talk up. We are not even sure we know how to talk, but we're trying to learn.

Why is conversation becoming a decreasing part of our national life? Why need it be merely the exchange of opinions derived from one's favorite newspaper or commentator? Or exchange of gossip? Or exchange of second-hand anecdotes?

Conversation is one of mankind's oldest, most delightful, most gracious arts. We believe

that radio and TV can help in a modest way to revive it. They can help to restore on the air the beautiful sound of truth, the sound of the voice coming out of a real human being, a human being who's not selling you anything, not cajoling you, not flattering you, not patronizing you, not charming you, and not acting a part—but just being himself.

Good talk is play. Just the play of the mind, dressed up with as much wit and point and freshness as possible. Neither radio nor television has so far succeeded in projecting this play of the mind. We're making a tentative stab at the job, trying to do it without the acid accent of controversy or the soap-box yelp of propaganda.

We have no "pattern," no gim-

micks, no electric organ, no refrigerators to give away, no prepared ad libs, no timeliness, no "celebrities," no folksiness and no message. We have nothing to offer but the contents of four minds—or at any rate three—working freshly and without solemnity on a given subject. Perhaps this is not enough. Perhaps to succeed on radio or television you have to have a "show." We don't think so. We think there is a small niche available just for good civilized talk. "Conversation" is hoping to find that niche and fill it.

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 30, 1954

Dr. Mary Brazier
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Molly:

The accompanying letter is very distressing, but I don't quite see what I am to do about it. Can you put it in the best possible hands? I expect Cobb is the man, but I am not sure.

I have been having a very busy summer up in the mountains and have just come back from a trip to the Maritime Provinces. I am eager to hear more about the success of our methods in brain waves.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 30, 1954

Dr. Henri Chevalier
The Statler Hotel
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Chevalier:

Margaret and I are up in the mountains now, but will be in town by Saturday evening. We are counting very much on a visit from you and we stand at your disposal to take you around and show you whatever may interest you in the neighborhood.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 30, 1954

Mr. Stewart G. Cole
347 South Norton Avenue
Los Angeles 5, California

Dear Mr. Cole:

I am loaded up already with more literary responsibility than I can take proper care of. I therefore regretfully decline to participate in your undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 30, 1954

Mr. Minas Ensanian
Hatfield
Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Ensanian:

I suggest that some of the most interesting work along the directions you are following is being done by a Dr. Cameron at the Servo-mechanism Laboratory of M. I. T. He is also a chemist and I think it will be very much to your advantage to write to him.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

August 30, 1954

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 30, 1954

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

Dear Jason:

of:WH

I had done Chapter III just before my recent trip to Canada and I am revising it now and sending it on to you. I am going on to Chapter IV, assuming that that is what you would naturally ask me to do. In Chapter IV, besides my personal experiences, I shall have a good deal to say about what happened in quantum theory in 1925. Here I intend to avoid mathematical detail, but to bring in a good deal of historical background, going back to Leibniz and indirectly represented in Swift.

I hope to be down in New York sometime in September. I shall let you know my plans when they are a little better formulated. I am counting on getting Chapter IV done this week up here in the country, and later when I arrive in the city, then on getting about a chapter a week done. This should bring me somewhere near the ninth chapter by the beginning of October, although I am quite willing to slow up the process if and when I hit serious snags. My anticipation is that now that my future work is properly framed, I can continue at a fairly steady but not rapid pace. Then when you have in your hand all the pieces of the book, or at least a large number of them, I am prepared to do the final polishing for publication.

You have recently received, or else will soon receive, from Mr. O'Harrow, a letter concerning the use in one of the publications of the Planning Board of material which I have taken from the manuscript on THE PHILOSOPHY OF INVENTION which I have delivered to you. The material is not taken verbally and has been considerably worked over, so that I believe that I am within my rights in letting them publish it. However, I am much more interested in good and

Mr. Jason Epstein 2. August 30, 1954

friendly relations with you people than in any technical rights, and I should like your advice what to do. This advice I shall follow.

Sincerely yours,
Anchor Books
Doubleday & Company
275 Madison Avenue
New York 17, New York
Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

Dear Jason:

I had done Chapter III just before my recent trip to Canada and I am revising it now and sending it on to you. I am going on to Chapter IV, assuming that that is what you would naturally ask me to do. In Chapter IV, besides my personal experiences, I shall have a good deal to say about what happened in quantum theory in 1925. Here I intend to avoid mathematical details, but to bring in a good deal of historical background, going back to Leibniz and indirectly represented in Swift.

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South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 30, 1954

Mr. Eli A. Grossman, Vice President-Actuary
The Union Labor Life Insurance Company
200 East 70th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Mr. Grossman:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Acturial
Note involving the La Place transform. I shall try to
read it later when my immediate burden of work peters
out somewhat.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

[ca Aug 30, 1954]

Paul van T. Hedden
30 - 14th Street, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Hedden:

I think that it is a mistake to attach to a particular invention or intellectual concept a predominate application, either in destruction or in construction. The automatic factory and automatization in general can, it is true, be used in a stupid way for destruction. But that is no intrinsic part of the ideas involved. Whether we like it or not, we shall have to live with these new ideas and to learn to employ them constructively, and to fail to do so is the moral equivalent of doing our city planning on the basis of what I consider to be the false medievalism of Gram. It is one thing to build a city or to found a range of ideas, when certain possibilities are not there and another thing to throw out possibilities that actually exist because we don't like to think them through. I consider Gram's medievalism a pastiche and I consider any attempt to do planning which is unaware of the automatic factory always a pastiche. Pastichees are by the necessity of their own make up always second rate. For example, it would be a pastiche for a modern playwright to write plays along the lines of those of Euripides without showing somewhere that he was conscious of Freud. By this I do not mean that I put much value on the pedantically Freudian play, but certainly the difference between Euripides and modern writers doing a pastiche of Euripides is that Euripides, if he had ever heard of the work of Freud, would have been the first person to show Freud's influence if he were living at the present day. The great paralyzing factor in the case of an over-antiquarian author or architect, is that he is profoundly different from the real ancient author or architect or artist, and that he deliberately throws out something that he knows, whereas the real originator does not have to devote his effort to the annihilation of part of the influences about him. The effort spend in concellation of any knowledge is negative and we can no more get back into the Garden of Eden that way than we can by trying to untaste the fruit which gives us the knowledge of good and evil.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 30, 1954

Mr. Dennis O'Harrow, Executive Director
1313 East Sixtieth Street
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Mr. O'Harrow:

I have been away on an auto tour for almost two weeks. I have received no word from Epstein as yet, so I am not quite clear of the status of the publication of my paper. I am sending him, as you indicate, a note to the effect that the paper I sent you is based on the material I have prepared for inclusion in my forthcoming book rather than it is part of the text.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

P. S. Please send my manuscript back to M. I. T. for final editing.

N. W.

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 30, 1954

Mr. William H. Paul, Project Leader
Stavid Engineering, Inc.
312 Park Avenue
Plainfield, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Paul:

There has been some confusion in the correspondence which I have received from members of your organization as to whether our consultation of September 20 is to take place in Plainfield, or as a lecture in Urbana. I assume that your letter of August 17 supersedes all others and that the conference is to take place in Plainfield. I then suppose that the best arrangement to make will be for me to come by plane the previous night to Newark Airfield and to leave from the Newark Airfield the night of the twentieth for Boston. Up here in the mountains I have not the plane schedules available. Will you provide for meeting me at the plane and delivering me to the plane, that is, for all transportation in New Jersey.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

[ans 9/3/54]

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 30, 1954

Mr. Andrew G. Pikler, Commanding Officer and Director
Code 2920/f
U. S. Navy Electronics Laboratory
San Diego 52, California

Dear Mr. Pikler:

Thanks for your letter of August 18. I shall be glad to get together with you and shall be accessible at M. I. T. from next Saturday on. However, M. I. T. is not much more accessible for you than my farm in the mountains, so what is really important is that I am lecturing at Berkeley in California the twenty-seventh of next December under the auspices of the statistics group which is in charge of Jerzy Neiman.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 30, 1954

Professor Walter Rosenblith
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Rosenblith:

I am enclosing this letter to you because I think you can recommend what the man needs more effectively than I can. I am particularly chary about recommending things to doctors since the Tunturi business, which, thank the Lord, has fallen through. I shall be back in about a week and shall be delighted to hear how the little brain waves are coming along.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 30, 1954

Professor K. Sreenivasan
Department of Electrical Communication Engineering
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore 3, S. India

Dear Professor Sreenivasan:

I am sorry that by oversight I did not sign the picture I sent you, but I enclose a signature on a sheet of typewriter paper. Please forget paying for the picture. It is a trifle and makes more work for both of us than the matter is worth. I enjoyed meeting Dr. Prakash at M. I. T. I hope to see all of you again in India where I have received an invitation.

My health is holding out very well and all that is necessary is that I don't overwork myself.

Very sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 30, 1954

Dr. Archie R. Tunturi
Department of Anatomy
University of Oregon Medical School
Portland 1, Oregon

Dear Dr. Tunturi:

I am sorry that nothing has come of your plans. Still you must see that if you definitely limit the area of your collaboration with your possible teachers and state in advance what you will learn and what you won't, learn, you create a situation which, to say the least, is very difficult. This is all the more true when a man who considers himself of advanced status returns to study at an elementary level.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 30, 1954

M. Robert Vallee
M. I. T. FSSP
Walker Memorial
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Vallee:

I shall be back at M. I. T. Saturday evening and
I hope to be able to get in touch with you soon concerning
our interview and to wind up the matters of your business.

We have just finished a delightful ten-day trip
through the Maritime Provinces in Canada.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 30, 1954

Mr. Walter Yust, Editor
Encyclopaedia Britannica
425 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Mr. Yust:

I find myself already loaded up with all the literary work that I can take on, and I must regretfully decline to write an article on cybernetics for you. For both cybernetics and information theory, I suggest Dr. Claude Shannon of the Bell Telephone Laboratory.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:jc