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CORRESPONDENCE *June 17-30, 1950*

N. WIENER - MC 22

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environment

112 east 18th street, new york 3, new york

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June 19, 1950

Dear Prof. Wiener:

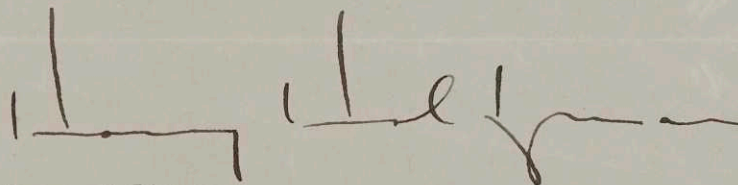
Some months ago, our friend Gilbert Krulee spoke to you about our magazine in the hope that you would find it possible to contribute a writing. He told us that you did express an interest in our aims.

I hope it will be possible for you to write something for us for our second issue which will go to the printer about the 7th of August. We would appreciate an article of about 2000 words more or less.

Another of our editors, Gyorgy Kepes of M.I.T., also feels that an article from you would be of direct importance for our aims.

As we greatly admire your work and consider it of highest importance, we hope to hear from you very soon.

Very sincerely yours,



Harry Holtzman

P.S. As I am going out of town, kindly address my publishers above who will forward mail to me.

Prof. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

[ans 8-7-50]

II.

unsparing criticism of which only friends are capable and worthy. My criticism of you is that you have not been entirely fair to the New Yorker in the Sidis case, and probably because you are psychologically blocked when it comes to that subject. It is not that you hate publicity in all its forms. You have your little vanities like all of us, I have them more than you and with far less justification. But you like your publicity, it amuses you, and it amuses you in a way that is almost touching, because when confronted with it you become a child, an innocent, pleased child. The same can be said of you when you strike a good phrase, make a good point, shoot out a clever epigram. I have observed you, what do you think, even if not "scientifically equipped to speak with you" (nochmals, schaemen Sie sich, so zu reden!), I observe and remember. This will be the last time I bother you, so, please do not answer if you can help it, unless you let three months go by, or you will once more say something ~~unpleasant~~ unkind. I accept unkindness only from the kind of person I can afford to despise. You are too good to be spared, so I fight back. ~~and I am not like a child~~

Please have your secretary mail the Huxley book and the notes it contains, to this address. And also don't forget that I want the three books. I spent a lot of money to receive your insults.

Niccolo Tucci.

Niccolo Tucci

South Tamworth, N.H.
June 20, 1950.

Dr. Aschwin Lippe,
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
New York 28, New York.

My dear Dr. Lippe:

I regret very much whatever emotional disturbance I may have caused Mr. Tucci, but I am afraid my decision in the matter is irrevocable. Since you have interested yourself in the case, I hope you will pardon the prosy account of it which follows.

I graduated from Tufts College in 1909, at the age of fourteen, and began the Fall term as a graduate student at Harvard. I found myself among a group of five precocious students. William James Sidis was the youngest, at eleven years. There was also A.A. Berle, formerly prominent in the State Department; a fellow named Houghton, who died quite young of appendicitis; and Roger Sessions, the musician. We were all of different backgrounds and tastes, but we all had this in common, that we had been exposed very young to a rigorous training, and that we all shared a knowledge of the difficulties of growing up with the intellectual and social aspects of our being out of phase, and of the hostile attitude of our community to the young intellectual.

Sidis was the youngest and very probably intrinsically the brightest of us, but had been the worst managed by his parents. I have myself experienced the mixture of affection and stern discipline which belongs to the portion of the bright child in those families, such as the Jewish, where there is a tradition of intellectual emulation. Having experienced it at the hands of a father whom I profoundly respected and loved, but with whom I had to fight for my birthright of independence, I know that

it contains much that is good, and much that is bad. Sidis' father was a less sensitive person, and the bad outweighed the good. Sidis was ruined, and by a father who claimed that the basis of his acts was his knowledge as a psychologist; yet the basis of the act was not science, but the Jewish family structure; and this contains much that is far from ignoble.

Be that as it may, Sidis was overpushed, and then neglected by his family. At the age of twelve, he lived alone in a Cambridge apartment house, dirty, stinking, unable to take care of his slightest physical needs. Griffith Evans, now the Head of the Department of Mathematics at the University of California, befriended him, and tried to find a place for him at the Rice Institute which was then opening in Houston, Texas, but it would not work. It was too late. Sidis could not teach, and the desire for research had gone out of him. He had been roughly handled in one or two trumpery radical passages. His ambition had been broken, and the rest of his life was divided between a hatred for his parents, the collecting of street-car transfers, and the provision for his bare necessities by work as a computer.

He used to work around M.I.T. He would never accept any scientific or administrative responsibility whatever; but within his limitations, he was an accurate and a rapid computer. He was a broken man, who only wanted to go his quiet, harmless way without notice and publicity. He had had a surfeit of publicity as a child, and its taste was bitter in his mouth.

To this harmless, wounded, mouse of a man, there came a couple, man and wife, pretending to be his friends. They were journalists, seeking good copy, and knowing it when they found it. Their sin is that of Judas. The sin of Thurber, who received it, is that of Pilate. Thurber has claimed -- and in this Tucci has supported him -- that the wrong of Sidis' father was so great, that it was a public duty to pillory him before the public. However, when the article appeared, Sidis senior

had been rotting in his grave for twenty years, and no one cared about his errors, nor was likely to repeat them. Sidis the son, as I can testify, could and did suffer. When the New Yorker was sued for damages by Sidis, he was met by the answer that as he in fact had no permanent position, he could not prove that he had suffered any specific damage. After a few years he died, a twice broken man.

I wrote a letter of protest to the New Yorker at the time of the articles. It did not appear. I then made up my mind that I would never, with my consent, suffer my name to be mauled and manhandled by that pack of vampires.

When Tucci first approached me, I told him of this. When he again approached me a few weeks ago, I reiterated this statement, and told him not to come. I received him with what I believe to have been courtesy, but stuck to my point. Finally he suggested that in his interview, I might protest against the Sidis case in my own words.

Tucci went back to New York. The next Monday I received from him an extraordinary letter. After a paragraph of inordinate praise, he told me that I had not been fair to him, in that I had not told him of the full enormity of the crime of the older Sidis, and that the use of the matter by the New Yorker was to be justified on the same basis as the printing of the report of a public trial.

This excuse is one of the hoariest conventional lies of commercial journalism. I am not sure whom it degrades more: those who say it and do not believe it, or those who say it and believe it. A man of a certain fineness of emotion will not use this as an excuse for the second martyrdom of Sidis.

In the case of Thurber, the reason for his antagonism to Sidis is not far to seek. He distrusts, not merely science as such, but

the intellect. As an intellectual, it is evil for the older Sidis to torture his child; but as an intellectual, it is wrong for the boy to be born.

Sidis failed, and I have had worldly success, but we are cut out of the same piece of cloth. There, but for the grace of God, go I. When Mr. Tucci gets over his passionate admiration of me as an ally in a fight -- and the path from an exaggerated admiration to hatred is short indeed -- he may very well turn against me the full force of his contempt for the intellect. This I cannot prevent but it must not happen in any article in which I have collaborated.

Do not think that I am hostile to emotion as such. When however emotion loses sight of understanding, and speaks in the cliché of the Yellow Press, then it is no longer a generous wine.

Very sincerely Yours,

Norbert Wiener.

had been rotting in his grave for twenty years,, and no one cared about his errors, nor was likely to repeat them. Sidis the son, as I can testify, could and did suffer. When the New Yorker was sued for damages by Sidis,, he was met with the answer that as he in fact had no permanent position,, he could not prove that he had suffered any specific damage. Not many years after he died,, a twice broken man.

I wrote a letter of protest to the New Yorker at the time. It did not appear. I then made up my mind that I would never with my consent,, suffer my name to be mauled and manhandled by that pack of Menschenhändler. *of the articles*

When Tucci first approached me, I told him of this. When he again approached me a few weeks ago, I reiterated this statement, and told him not to come. He came in the face of my advice.. I received him with what I believe to have been courtesy,, but stuck to my point. Finally he suggested that in his interview, I might protest against the Sidis case in my own words.

He went back to New York.. The next Monday I received from him an extraordinary letter. After *a paragraph of inordinate praise,* ~~fawning on me with a lot of repulsive~~ ~~emotional slobber,~~ *bold* ~~he had the impertinence to tell me~~ that I have not been fair to him in that I had not told him of the full enormity of the crime of the older Sidis,, and that the use of the matter by the New Yorker was to be justified on the same basis as the printing of the report of a public trial..

This excuse is one of the *honest* conventional lies of commercial journalism.. I am not sure whom it degrades more: the *those* hypocrites who say it and do not believe it,, or the *those* fools who say it and do believe it.. *a certain firmness* ~~Only a man of the greatest coarseness of emotion can~~ *will not* use this as an excuse for the second martyrdom of Sidis.. When a journalist commits an act of sadism, and the crime is not for money, it is generally done for a sadist reason.

In the case of Thurber, ~~and of his henchman Tucci,~~ *but* the reason

is not fair to seek. Both of them ~~hate and~~ distrust, not merely science as such, but the intellect. As an intellectual, it is ~~not merely~~ evil for the older Sidis to torture his child, but it is wrong for the boy to be borm. *as an intellectual,*

Sidis failed, and I have had worldly success, but we are cut out of the same cloth. There, but for the grace of God, go I. When Mr. Tucci gets over his passionate admiration of me as an ally in a fight -- and the path from ~~admiration~~ and exaggerated admiration to hatred is short indeed -- *may very well* he ~~will~~ turn aga^{inst} me *the full force of* his contempt for the intellect. This I cannot prevent, but it must not happen in any article in which I have collaborated.

Do not think that I am hostile to emotion as such. When however emotion loses sight of ~~compassion~~, understanding, and ~~restraint~~, and speaks in the clichés of the yellow press, then it is ~~not~~ *no longer* a generous wine, but a cheap brandy, and ~~I break the bottle on the nearest stump.~~

Very sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

Norbert Wiener.

Acceptances - 6/20/52

Outline of the 125th Anniversary issue of the
JOURNAL OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

I. Preface

II. History of the JOURNAL - Major Thomas Coulson

III. Possible and Probable Future Developments in Science and Technology

A. Basic Physical Sciences

1. Astronomy - Dr. Otto Struve
2. Chemistry - Dr. Harold Urey
3. Mathematics - Dr. H. Marston Morse
4. Physics - Dr. J. J. Rabi.

B. Applied Sciences or Technology

1. Aeronautics - Dr. Jerome Hunsaker
2. Communications - Dr. C. E. Buckley
3. Controlled Mechanisms - Dr. Norbert Wiener
4. Electronics - Dr. V. K. Zworykin
5. Materials
6. Medicine - Dr. Detlev Bronk
7. Nutrition - Dr. Henry C. Sherman
8. Transportation (Land and Sea) - Dr. Charles Tettering

C. Special Topics

1. Cosmic Rays - Dr. W. D. G. Swann
2. Generalized Theory of Gravitation
3. Nuclear Energy
4. Solid State Physics - Dr. Frederick Seitz

IV. Man's Place in This Scientific World of the Future

Summary paper

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE
OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
FOUNDED FEBRUARY 5, 1824

Journal of The Franklin Institute
OFFICE OF THE EDITOR

June 20, 1950

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

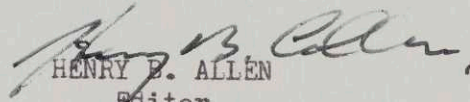
Dear Dr. Wiener:

Your manuscript "Homeostasis in the Individual and Society" is proof that you were able to "restock with ideas" well in advance of our deadline.

The article is provocative---a challenge to the scientists and doctors to combine their efforts for the eventual good of the sick and maimed; and I find your concept of the stabilizing mechanism in society---past, present, and future---a most intriguing view of civilization.

The editors will be well pleased if the rest of the papers prove to be as original as this one, the first we have received.

Sincerely yours,


HENRY B. ALLEN
Editor

P.S. An up-to-date list of contributors is enclosed, so that you may know who else is writing for our anniversary issue.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

AMERICAN BRANCH



51 Madison Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.

Manager: F. Ronald Mansbridge

Telephone: MU 9-3886

Cables: CANTABER

June 21, 1950.

Mr Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, MASS.

Dear Mr Wiener:

Dover Publications have asked me to help them find a copy of THE FOURIER INTEGRAL for their use in making the photographic reproduction of the book, for which we have made arrangements with them.

We have no copy available here, but they have asked me to ask you if you happen to have a spare copy yourself that could be used. They would, I know, greatly appreciate having it if you have one.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'F. R. Mansbridge'.

FRM:mam

[ca. 6-27-50]

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June 20, 1950.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

445 Cambridge Street
Allston 34, Mass.

Professor Norbert Wiener
77 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Professor:

While I was in Pittsburgh last week, several friends of mine asked me if I would submit the following problem to you for a solution. I told them it was quite probable you were bothered by this type thing frequently but they insisted I write you. I agreed. I am enclosing a return envelope for your answer if you decide to send the solution to me. Here is the problem.

On a BINGO card there are 25 numbers, ranging from 1 to 75. In a pill box there are 75 numbers from 1 to 75. The first number drawn from the pill box is called aloud and then replaced in the pill box. This number is not placed on any card which carries that number. Then the game starts and the entire 25 numbers on the card must be covered. If the ***** number which covers the final open number on a card is the specific number first taken from the pill box and then replaced in the pill box, that person holding that card receives an extra \$25.00 prize. This group, as well as I at this point, would like to know what are the chances to one the prize will be paid.

Thanks very much for any consideration you give us.

Very truly yours,

John J. O'Donnell
John J. O'Donnell. Pres.

JJO'D:mb.

*Letter answered
no carbon copy.
M.W.*

South Tamworth, N. H.
Estados Unidos de America.

El 20 de Junio, 1950

Sr. Rubén Sucre
Avenida Norte 8
Apto 1735
Panamá, R. de P.

¡Muy señor mio!

Es un gran placer por mi recibir una carta como esta de la fecha del 15 de Junio. En el desarrollo de cada máquina nueva, hay estadios de progreso rápido, y tambien estadios de esperar. Venimos de pasar por un estadio pasivo, en que se necesito decidir entre el metodo eléctrico de estimulación y el metodo mecanico, y venimos de descubrir una manera práctica para la estimulación eléctrica, que hace un aparato mas ligero y de menos poder. Estamos en el camino de volver en el estudio de la posibilidades de instruccion en el empleo de ^y nuestra maquina contra la sordera. Vd. puede asegurarse, que en el momento on que es cierto que tenemos exito, Vd. reciba una carta de nosotros.

Tengo el honor de ser S.S.S.

Norbert Wiener.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF
MODERN LANGUAGES

June 21, 1950

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

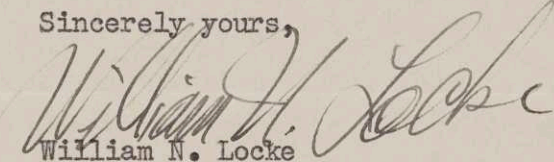
Dear Professor Wiener:

Having returned from a few days' vacation after the Speech Communication Conference I hasten to write you, with an apology for my delay. Not only on behalf of the Program Committee but also in the name of all those who attended the Conference, let me extend very sincere thanks for your contribution. Numerous letters of favorable comment have come to my desk in my absence; all speak in glowing terms of the combined effect of the papers in the various fields.

Publication plans have not yet crystallized, but there seems to be every reason to believe that we shall succeed in bringing out the proceedings of the Conference in a single volume. I hope you will feel that you can let us have your paper for this purpose. I would appreciate receiving it as early as possible and at any rate by the first of July. For maximum beneficial results the volume should appear as soon as possible, certainly by fall at the latest.

Thank you once again for your participation in the Conference.

Sincerely yours,


William N. Locke
Chairman

WNL:p

Jan 5. 6-23-507

DORA SHAW HEFFNER, J.D., S.S.A.D.
DIRECTOR OF
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE

EARL WARREN
GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA

THEO. K. MILLER, M.D.
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE

1 1
NAPA STATE HOSPITAL
IMOLA, CALIFORNIA

21 June 1950

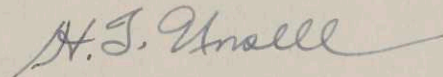
Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

I have enjoyed reading of your opinions regarding "Cybernetics". I am very much interested in mental illness and would like to read all the literature available on Cybernetics.

Do you have any literature available regarding that subject? What suggestions do you have as to where I could receive more information? Whatever suggestions you have to offer will be appreciated.

Respectfully yours,



H. T. UNSSELL, M.D.

HTU:lvd

[ans - 7-15-50]

South Tamworth, N.H., E.U.
le 21 juin, 1940

A M.

M. E. R. Freymann
Chez Hermann et Cie.
6, Rue de la Sorbonne, Paris, 5e.
France.

Cher M. Freymann,

Je viens de recevoir votre lettre si aimable du 16 de ce mois, et je suis tout d'accord avec vous en acceptant l'offre de la maison BOMPIANI. Il faut quand même qu'on corrige toute erreur typographique aussi bien que mathématique du livre actuel. En recevant le contrat officiel de Messieurs BOMPIANI, je me tacherai de les envier un exemplaire corrigé de CYBERNETICS.

Je viens de recevoir une demande de Mme Gertrud Walther, Darmstadt, Fichtestr. 32, pour la permission de traduire mon livre en allemand. Je connais Mme Walther très bien, et je préférerais beaucoup qu'elle traduise mon livre. Je serais très sensible à vous, si vous entrez en communication avec elle en tout ce qui concerne la possibilité d'une édition allemande.

Je suis ici sur ma ferme, en pleine campagne, loin des bruits et alarmes de la ville. Je reste ici jusqu'au commencement de septembre, quand il me faut participer dans le congrès international des mathématiciens à Boston. J'arrive en France autour du premier février, pour accepter l'invitation du Collège de France.

Veuillez agréer, cher Monsieur, mes sentiments les plus distingués et dévoués.

Norbert Wiener

[ans 6-29-50]

South Tamworth, N.H.,
Vereinigte Staaten,
d. 21ten Juni, 1950

Frau
Dr. Gertrud Walther
Darmstadt, Fichtestrasse 32,
GERMANY.

Liebe Frau Walther!

Es war eine grosse Freude, Ihren freundlichen Brief vom 27ten Februar zu empfangen. Ich hatte es vor, schon vor vielen Monaten ihn zu beantworten, aber das Problem der Übersetzungsrechten meines Buches sind so kompliziert, dass ich sie erst jetzt in Ordnung gebracht habe.

Als ich vor drei Jahren in Frankreich war, hat ein Freund mich in Berührung mit Herrn Freyman vom Verlag Hermann et Cie (6, Rue de la Sorbonne) gebracht. Hermann bestellte von mir ein Buch über meine neuen Ideen. Im folgenden Herbst war ich in Mexico, wo ich eine beträchtliche Zeit zur Verfassung dieses Buchs widmete. Das Buch wurde von Freyman angenommen, und ist von ihm herausgegeben worden. Es heisst, CYBERNETICS.

Als ich nach Boston zurückkam, zeigte ich das Buch mehreren Kollegen. Die allgemeine Meinung war, dass das Buch ein gewisses Interesse in den Vereinigten Staaten erregen würde, aber dass das Problem, ein in Europa gedrucktes Buch in Amerika zu verkaufen, vorläufig keine befriedigende Lösung erhalten hat. Das Verkauf solcher Bücher wird gewöhnlich von Stechert vermittelt, ab er Stechert ist teuer, und ist nicht imstande, eine grosse Anzahl von Exemplaren in Amerika zu verkaufen. Demgemäss haben wir ein Vertrag mit Hermann machen lassen, wobei ein Amerikanischer Verlag das Buch auch publiziert, wofür Hermann 15 Dollarzent pro Exemplar erhält.

Mit diesem Vertrag scheint Freyman alles Interesse an dem Buch verloren zu haben. In den Vereinigten Staaten haben wir ungefähr 17000 Exemplare in ungefähr 20 Monaten verkauft: in

derselben Zeit hat Freyman kaum mehr als 450 verkauft. Wir haben auch die Absicht gehabt, einige Druck- so wie Redaktionsfehler korrigieren zu lassen; aber es hat sich unmöglich gezeigt, ihn zu überzeugen, dass es auch für ihn günstig wäre. Bis neulich hat er kein Interesse an den Übersetzungsrechten gezeigt. Er hatte sogar versäumt, unsere Briefe darüber zu beantworten.

Gerade diese Woche, Gott sei Dank, hat er sich darüber vernünftiger gezeigt. Er schlägt vor, wir sollen mit dem Haus BOMPIANI einen Vertrag für die Übersetzung einer italienischen Aufgabe machen. Ich weiss ganz genau, dass er schon Briefe von eventuellen deutschen Verlegern im Besitz hat. Sie können also ihm direkt schreiben. Wenn Sie aber einen bestimmten deutschen Verleger schon im Auge haben, so wäre das Beste, die ganze Geschichte durch einen indirekten Vertrag zwischen dem deutschen Verlag und Hermann zu ermitteln. Wenn das Vertrag irgendwie vernünftig ist, so können Sie mit meiner Genehmigung berechnen.

Wie gesagt, es ist eine Freude, noch einmal von Ihnen zu hören, und zu lernen, wie Sie eine nützliche und zur selben Zeit interessante Arbeitsrichtung gefunden haben. Ich bin sehr stolz, dass die durch mich gemachte wissenschaftliche Synthese auch in den älteren Ländern der Wissenschaft eine gewisse Anerkennung findet.

Zwischen Februar und September bin ich vermutlich in Paris, am am College de France. Frau und Tochter fahren mit mir. Die andere Tochter ist verheiratet, und hat ein niedliches Söhnchen, Namens Michael Norbert Raisbeck. Raisbeck, mein Schwiegersohn, hat als Mathematiker promoviert, und arbeitet bei Bell Telephone Laboratories, in New Jersey, unweit von der Stadt New York.

Mit besten Grüssen von Haus zu Haus, ich unterzeichne mich

Ihr sehr ergebener

Norbert Wiener

PS/ Könnten Sie die Güte haben,, ein Exemplar Ihrer schon gefertigten
Übersetzung mir möglichst bald zu schicken, so dass ich die Fachausdrücke
mit meinen eigenen vergleichen kann? N.W.

June 22, 1950

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

The tentative proposal for a book based on the speeches given at the recent Nation conference has now turned into an actual project. The Medill-McBride Company has agreed to publish such a book to include your contribution as well as those of some twelve or thirteen additional speakers to be issued late this fall or early this coming winter. It will probably bear the title, *The Atomic Era -- Can it Bring Peace and Abundance*. The contract between the publishers and ourselves provides that The Nation Associates shall receive one-half of the royalties, the remaining half to be divided equally among the contributors.

Now it will be up to you to add to your original manuscript to bring it up to roughly 5000 words and we would like to have this, if possible, by the end of the first week in July.

If the arrangements spelled out above meet with your approval, I would greatly appreciate your writing to us to that affect.

Sincerely yours,



Harold C. Field
Executive Editor

HCF/bn

[ans 6-26-50]

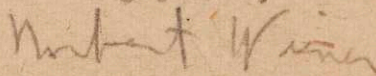
June 22, 1950

Dr. Joseph Bernsohn
Veterans Administration
N.P. Research Laboratory
Bldg. 50, Room 2
Hines, Illinois

Dear Sir;

I am afraid that your correspondant is mistaken in considering that I have any knowledge of electrophoresis. However, I know that I can do nothing better than to refer you to my friend, Dr. Theodore Shedlovsky, or the Rokerfeller Institute, New York City, whom I know to be a specialist in the field.

Sincerely yours,



Norbert Wiener

NW/pw

is not fas to seek. Both of them hate and distrust, not merely science as such, but the intellect. As an intellectual, it is not merely evil for the older Sidis to torture his child, but it is wrong for the boy to be born.

Sidis failed, and I have had worldly success, but we are cut out of the same cloth. There, but for the grace of God, go I. When Mr. Tucci gets over his passionate admiration of me as an ally in a fight -- and the path from a false and exaggerated admiration to hatred is short indeed -- he will turn against me his contempt for the intellect. This I cannot prevent, but it must not happen in any article in which I have collaborated.

Do not think that I am hostile to emotion as such. When however emotion loses sight of compassion, understanding, and restraint, and speaks in the cliches of the tellow press, then it is not a gener ous wine, but a cheap brandy, and I break the bottle on the nearest stump.

Very sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener.

June 22, 1950

Harry F. Pease
3415 Martin Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Sir;

I have not been in direct contact with manufacturers of computing machines nor with Government projects. As to your logarithmic device, it may well be very useful in the construction of computing machines of general type. I am not quite clear whether your device is a digital or an analogy one and to how many significant figures it is accurate. You will realize that multiplication by logarithms will have to compete with more direct methods of digital multiplication, and that the balance sheet depends on its precise competition with these in price, complication and accuracy. All this you know very well indeed.

Regretting that I cannot be of any more use to you, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

Norbert Wiener.

NW/pw

June 22, 1950

Dr. Janet Rioch
17 West 54th Street
New York City

Dear Janet,

Since I have seen you last, I have the testimony of my family that I have adhered to a reasonable standard of equanimity and rational conduct. However, in view of various annoyances, these are wearing a bit thin, and I think the time is not far off when I had better consult with you again. I can, of course, come down to New York, but if you are to have this summer's vacation in the same idyllic spot in which we found you last summer, we might as well look you up there. I should also like very much to make my daughter, Peggy, better acquainted with you.

I should like to list some of the matters which are disturbing my peace of mind. First, there is the question of my physical health. In essence, it is no worse than it has been, but I am more aware than formerly that I shall have to live with a high blood pressure from now on and that I shall have to pull in my horns a bit. This does not mean that the doctors see any signs of immediately approaching dissolution, but merely that I am very tired, and had better give up mountain climbing, smoking, and half of my eating, which, I need not say, are the things that make life tolerable. The second is the current political situation, in which the informer seems to be running wild throughout the whole structure of our society. My book is printed and will be published in late August, when I shall have the honor of sending a duly autographed copy. You know how much red pepper it contains, and how from then on I shall find myself simmering above a brisk fire. (and won't he love it! Peggy, sec'y) From that time on, I wonder what the Mc Carthys are going to do.

Third among my worries is the Fulbright fellowship. I have received notification from the Collège de France that they are expecting me next year and the grapevine tells me that I shall get through the ~~ixxxx~~ inspection of the Fulbright with an adequate coat of whitewash. Nevertheless, there is an

inordinate delay for all the Fulbrighter's of faculty rank before they receive their confirmation, and I suspect the dirty hand of the F.B.I.

As you see, I am taking the vicissitudes relatively calmly. However, There is another one which has real possibilities of trouble. Do you remember the series of articles in the New Yorker several years ago about poor Sidis? Ever since then, I have decided that I would not permit that journal to profile me with my own consent. Well, my devious friend, Giorgio de Santillana, had a friend by the name of Tucci who is on the New Yorker and in hot water. Through some bargain of which I do not possess the details and for which I do not know the consideration, I have been passed on from de Santillana to Tucci. Tucci approached me with the idea of doing something about me for the New Yorker. I expressed to him my total lack of interest in the procedure. Nevertheless, he came up to Boston, where he was de Santillana's guest, and suggested that a compromise might be worked out in which I should use some of his New Yorker space to express my personal dissatisfaction with the New Yorker. On this condition, I let him go on for three days, during which he expressed an inordinate admiration for my political courage and suggested that he bring my work to the attention of one of the minor surviving Royalties.

Two or three days later, I received from him an astounding letter in which he wept into his beer concerning the martyrdom of Sidis Jr. at the hands of Sidis Sr. and accused me of emotional obtuseness in not having acquainted with the horror of the situation. He defended the New Yorker article as analogous to a judicial report on a crime; not realizing that Sidis Sr. was dead at the time and that Sidis Jr. was the only person who could and did suffer from the gratuitous publicity. I know how he suffered, and I believe that it contributed to his death a very few years after

Now, if there is one particular journalistic lie that turns my stomach, it is the pretense that the invasion of privacy, on which that Yellow Journal thrives, is performed in the public interest. It is a lie which is equally degrading to the character ~~xxx~~ of those who say it and do not believe it, and to the intelligence of those who say it and believe it. Furthermore, the case of Sidis, the father, is too close to the case of my own father for me to view it without very ambivalent sentiments. The exploitation of an intelligent child is a brutal and wrong matter; but it may be done in the mistaken interest of the child himself, and as part of a Jewish family pattern of dedication to learning which has in it elements far from ignoble. I resent strongly the uninformed attack by Tucci on the elder Sidis as a mere monster of cruelty. I resent equally the anti-intellectual bias which leads him to claim that the martyrdom of young Sidis was a crime of Science. There was in it, it is true, a lot of pseudo-scientific guff by the older Sidis, who, I grieve to say, was a psychiatrist, but I can see beyond this pretense to the real motivation.

At any rate, this facile and specious picture given by Tucci, together with the facile slobber of emotion with which he expressed it, made it clear that he was not the man to write me up. Who cannot understand Sidis, cannot understand me. Accordingly, I called Tucci up, and told him in no uncertain terms that the deal was off. I am willing to admit that when I tell a person something in no uncertain terms, I might as well use a horse whip.

The upshot is that I have received two whining letters from Tucci in which he bares his poor little soul and in which he makes it clear that he considers that he still has claims on me for the right to my cooperation in his article. In this whine and blather, there is an indication of aggressiveness which is not too far removed from insanity. I don't think he intends to blow his poor little brains out, but he may blow mine, or write a most malicious article. You would be doing me a great favor if you could find out, as per grapevine, whether Tucci is dangerous and what sort of a person he is. His name is Niccolo Tucci and the only address I can find for him is c/o the New Yorker.

He also has a close friend, Dr. Ashwin Lippe, of the New York Museum of Fine Arts who has written me in his behalf and whom I have answered as calmly as in me lies.

The gentleman is the brother of Prince Bernhard, the Consort of Juliana of Holland, and by his letter seems to be a reasonable, unpretentious sort of person who has put his own minor German Royalty behind him. My impression is that it might be worthwhile looking him up to try to help clear the matter. MB

It is good to get in touch with you again. My wife joins me in sending you our regards.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW/pw

June 22. 1950

Dear Mr. Tucci;

I am writing this letter with my father's approval in an attempt to make the whole situation clear to you. I assure you that my father has not been gratuitously insulting, and also that you have not, as you appear to think, any claim on him. I know that he requested you not to come up to Boston in the ~~first~~ place and I did not know that any journalist had a right to get an interview from whom he pleased. I think it would have been better if you had dropped the project when he first objected. As it is, we can only appologise for any mental anguish you have been caused and again assure you that it was not intentional, as we did not know how severly this would affect you.

May I request you, out of consideration for my father's peace of mind, and your own, not to make any more attempts to get your article. These attempts would not be sucessful, and would only cause more disturbance.

Yours very truly,

Peggy Wiener

June 22. 1950

Dear Mr. Tucci;

I am writing this letter with my father's approval in an attempt to make the whole situation clear to you. I assure you that my father has not been gratuitously insulting, and also that you have not, as you appear to think, any claim on him. I know that he requested you not to come up to Boston in the first place and I did not know that any journalist had a right to get an interview from whom he pleased. I think it would have been better if you had dropped the project when he first objected. As it is, we can only apologise for any mental anguish you have been caused and again assure you that it was not intentional, as we did not know how severely this would affect you.

May I request you, out of consideration for my father's peace of mind, and your own, not to make any more attempts to get your article. These attempts would not be successful, and would only cause more disturbance.

Yours very truly,

Peggy Wiener

FACTORY

MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

330 West 42nd Street, New York 18, N.Y.
June 23, 1950

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Mass. Inst. of Tech.
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Dr. Wiener:

With the generous assistance of Dr. Karl T. Compton, Chairman of the Corporation, M.I.T., and a member of the McGraw-Hill Board of Directors, we are planning a "Seminar on Technological Progress in the Manufacturing Industries." It is Dr. Compton's hope and ours that you will join him as a member of the Seminar.

The Seminar will be held starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 1, in the Board of Directors Room here in the McGraw-Hill Building.

We hope the Seminar will accomplish two purposes:

1. We hope to bring together a group of forward-looking men who will find interest and stimulation in discussing the future trend of American technology with one another.
2. By recording the discussion, we hope to be able to present to our readers a round-up of informed opinion on what advances may be expected in the next decade, and some of the probable implications of those advances. Naturally, all of the Seminar Members will have an opportunity to review the edited transcript prior to publication.

The Seminar will be as informal as we can make it. Merely as an indication of the direction the discussion may take, I am enclosing a tentative "outline" I wrote down after discussing the project with Dr. Compton. We hope Seminar Members will suggest additions and amendments to the outline prior to the Seminar. I will act as a "clearing house" and see that such information is circulated to all Members.

We should be delighted to have you also as our guest for dinner immediately following the Seminar. May I expect to hear from you at your early convenience?

Very cordially,



Carroll W. Boyce
Industrial Production Editor

CWB:FV
Enclosure

FACTORY MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Seminar on technological progress in the manufacturing industries.

Tuesday, August 1, 1950

The general questions:

- (1) How fast do you think output per manhour in the manufacturing industries will increase in the next decade?
 - (2) What factors will determine the rate of progress?
 - (3) What will be the consequences of technological progress in the next decade?
1. (a) What new inventions, processes, machines, and controls are now available to industry -- or will be available within the next few years?
(b) It has been said that it would take industry 100 years to apply all the fundamental knowledge now available to it? Do you believe that the character of industry in the next 10 years will be shaped by new applications of present knowledge, or will new fundamental discoveries play an important part? How about over the next 25 or 50 years?
 2. (a) What factors will tend to limit the application of the technological advances now or shortly available?
(b) What specific steps can industry, organized labor, and government take to eliminate or at least lessen the problem of technological unemployment -- and do you think this problem will be sufficiently serious to place a limitation on technological progress?
(c) What specific steps can industry, organized labor, and government take to enlist the cooperation of workers in increasing output per manhour through technological advance?
(d) It has been said that of all the factors that tend to retard technological progress, the one which has the greatest effect (particularly on the industrial executive) is the fear of technological obsolescence. Do you agree or disagree -- and if you agree in whole or part, how far and how fast do you think we could go if this factor were not present? Also, is there any way you know of to remove this fear?
 3. (a) What influence will technological progress have on the probable size of manufacturing companies?
(b) Will advanced technology cause a greater or lesser degree of skill to be required of production workers? Of maintenance workers? Of "service" workers (inspections, scheduling, quality control, etc.)?
(c) What new skills, training, or special qualifications will be required of executive personnel?

June 23, 1956

William N. Locke
Department of Modern Languages
M.I.T.
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Locke;

I am very appreciative of your letter concerning the Speech Conference. While I prepared my speech, I did not write it out, as it is, in essence, a part of several chapters of my new book, The Human Use of Human Beings, which is to appear under the imprint of the Houghton Mifflin Company late in August. I am sorry to disturb the completeness of your report, but under the circumstances it seems inevitable.

Very sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener
Norbert Wiener

NW/pw

ERIC BARRETT, M. D.

2881 COLD WATER CANYON DRIVE • BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Mass. Inst. of Techn.
Cambridge 39, Mass.

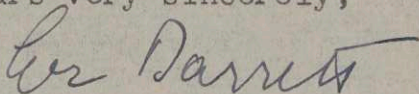
June 24, 1950.

Dear Doctor Wiener:

It was my particular pleasure to send copies of two papers "INTRODUCTION TO SOME PRINCIPLES OF APPLIED CYBERNETICS" and "CYBERNETICS AS APPLIED TO A STUDY OF NORMAL AND ABNORMAL ADJUSTMENT MECHANISMS" to you in appreciation of the pioneering work that you have done in this new scientific field which owes its name and basic concepts to your ingenuity.

I would be most happy indeed to have your comments on these papers, if your time permits.

Yours very sincerely,



Eric Barrett, M.D.

[ans 8-8-50]

Jacques Barzun

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY: NEW YORK 27, N.Y. * * * UN: 4-3200 EXT. 2114

With compliments & in the belief that
you share my views as regards
the cognate field of science.

(JB)

DAVID ASHLEY MACDONALD

25 June 1950

Dear Dr. Wiener,

I have read Cybernetics with interest, Interpolation, Extrapolation, etc., with awe, and your recent article in the Atlantic with delight! Writing to authors and scientists is not a habit, but it is not common to find a person writing on three levels with competence and wit. You apparently are such a person.

Do not feel that this letter need be acknowledged; it is written in appreciation and should not be a burden on its recipient.

Sincerely,

David A. Macdonald

ETS N 303-23-83

ET School, USMTC Great Lakes
Ill

B.K. 508, Bill. 332

[ans 6-28-50]

JOHN J. BROPHY

WITCH HILL, SALEM, MASS.

(Where delusions were successfully challenged.)

June 26, 1950

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

I read your recent views on nuclear warfare in the "Atlantic Monthly" and I heartily agree with them. I have always felt, however, that the solution to wisdom in the human race awaits the rise of the general level of intelligence to at least a point where stupidity is recognized by a sufficiently large proportion of the population of the earth. I would be interested to know what your answer might be to this question.

Your book, "Cybernetics", is very interesting and I think that the field for electronic "thinking" has yet to be scratched, as you indicate.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



John J. Brophy
Life Mem. A.I.E.E.

JJB/cc

[ans 6-28-50]

McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, Inc.
McGraw-Hill Building
330 West 42nd Street
New York 18, N.Y.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 26, 1950

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

On June 22, Carroll Boyce, the Industrial Production Editor of *FACTORY MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE*, invited you to participate in a "Seminar on Technological Progress in the Manufacturing Industries."

May I take this occasion to add my invitation to his and express the hope that you will find it possible to be with us for the Seminar on Tuesday, August 1.

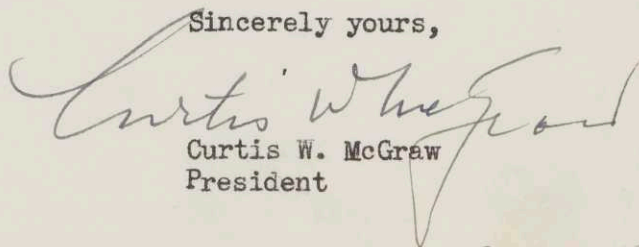
Studies of our economics staff and by many of our editors have indicated the need for industry to plan now for the ten years ahead. We feel keenly a responsibility not only to bring this need to the attention of industry, but to assist in that planning by making available the best long-range thinking American can offer. We believe that *FACTORY's* Seminar will be an important cornerstone of that program and one that will be of far-reaching significance to all industry.

Your participation will help, in no small measure, to insure this objective.

If you can fit the additional time into your busy schedule, we should also like to have you join us for an informal dinner following the Seminar. Should there be any way that either Mr. Boyce or I can assist you with arrangements, reservations, or further details, please feel free to call on us.

I certainly hope I may have the pleasure of greeting you personally at the Seminar on August 1.

Sincerely yours,



Curtis W. McGraw
President

[ans 6-28-50]

June 26, 1950

Harold C. Field
Executive Editor
The Nation
20 Vesey St., New York

Dear Mr Field;

I am under the impression that I have already sent you a manuscript of about 5000 words containing, as a part, my contribution to the recent Nation conference. The article represents a fusion of my Nation material with the recent article entitled, "Too Damn Close". This article has just appeared in The Atlantic Monthly, but I have their full permission to use it as part of the augmented article for your book. The Atlantic Monthly article represents my discussion of the dangers of atomic power in a future war, while the remainder of the Nation article is a consideration of its possibilities in peace.

I am quite content with the arrangements you suggest concerning royalties. I should like confirmation of the receipt of my manuscript.

Sincerely yours,
Norbert Wiener

Norbert Wiener

NW/pw

[ms-6-29-50]

June 26, 1950

J.N.A Hawkins
5325 Lingley Ave.
Tarzana, Calif.

Dear Mr. Hawkins;

Many thanks for your letter of the 15th. It is interesting to see the technique of servomechanisms and of memory mechanisms spreading into the camera industry.

I am afraid that the word, servonism, grinds my teeth quite as much as the word, cybernetics, does yours. Cybernetics is a legitimately formed neo-Greek word, from classical Greek stems, and formed by recognized Greek methods of combination. Servonics and servonisms are, to my mind, a three way hybrid of Greek, Latin, and Lewis Carroll. We are, at present, going through a period marked by more than one such arbitrary formations, and it seems that the Russians have not been immune to a similar technical jargon.

I am afraid that any visit of mine to the Pacific coast lies far in the indefinite future. My engagements at home, in Europe, and in Mexico are likely to occupy me for nearly two and a half years. Meanwhile, the action of the Regents of the University of California have made it quite impossible for me to accept, with a clear conscience, the hospitality of either branch of that institution of learning.

Very sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

Norbert Wiener

June 26, 1950

Dr. Julius Stratton
Provost
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Mass.

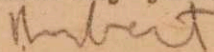
Dear Julius;

I am writing to find the precise title and publisher of your book on Maxwell's equations. The fact is that I am applying some of my old work on generalized harmonic analysis and some of my new work on prediction theory to the study of the optical instrument. The formulae which I get involve a matrix factorization very close to those which play a role in relativistic quantum theory, and I think I may come rather near to the recent work on Dirak, and the theory of the positron. I intend to present this material at the Mathematical Congress in Cambridge next fall, and then to work it up into a book in French for my lectures at the Collège de France commencing next February.

By the by, what is the Fulbright situation? I have received news from the Collège de France that they have been informed, but I have only received rumors that the Fulbright is going to give me anything. How does it stand with Weisskopf and the other potential Fulbrighters? Is the Fulbright committee joining in the general open season on scientists?

I am vacationing up here and am at the present in a state of suspended animation, interrupted only by rumors of Armageddon. I hope you are finding a vacation possible.

Sincerely yours,



Norbert Wiener

82 Mt. Vernon St.

Boston, June 27th

Dear Dr. Wiener

Wengert was called suddenly to New Orleans + asked me to attend to sending the WMS. of your article Atomic Knowledge of Good & Evil to Mr. Field of the Nation. This I have done this morning, + am mailing the carbon copy to you, herewith. I noted two possible corrections but told Mr. Field they were suggestions only, as

I have neither the know-
ledge nor the right to
correct this paper.
They are

p. 11, line 5 - should
Ocean + Bay have
small letters not caps?

p. 16, line 7 from bottom
should if be as?

I hope you + Mrs. Menner
are enjoying New
Hampshire + send
you both my best
wishes for the summer.

Sincerely yours,
Mabel W. Brown

address July 1 - 15
A. M. C. Camp, Three Mile Island
Lakeport - New Hampshire

[ans. 6-29-50]

HUMANIST FELLOWSHIP OF BOSTON, INC.

53 STATE STREET, ROOM 625
BOSTON 9, MASSACHUSETTS

AFFILIATED WITH THE
AMERICAN HUMANIST ASSOCIATION

June 27, 1950

Prof. Norbert Wiener
53 Cedar Road
Belmont, Mass.

Dear Prof. Wiener:

It has been suggested by our Program Committee that you might be willing to address one of our forums this fall, on the general topic, "Social Implications of Mechanical Brains," or something of that general nature.

Our forum meetings are held once a month, on a Sunday afternoon, and are usually on topics of general interest. The fall forums will begin at 4:00 or 4:30 p.m. The usual arrangement is for a fifty minute talk, approximately, followed by a question period.

The only open date at present for the fall is November 19, although if you are willing to speak and prefer December 3, we can arrange to change the date with our December speaker.

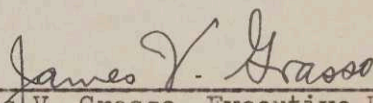
Since I do not know whether or not you are familiar with the Fellowship and its work, I am forwarding under separate cover, some of the Fellowship's literature, including recent programs.

Unfortunately, the Fellowship does not at present have funds for payment of speakers, but we feel that you are probably in agreement with our basic philosophy and will be willing to contribute your time, if it is possible.

Other speakers on our fall program will include Professor Clyde Kluckhohn of Harvard and Dr. Corliss Lamont of Columbia.

Very sincerely yours,

HUMANIST FELLOWSHIP OF BOSTON, INC.


James V. Grasso, Executive Director

JVG:ies

Encl. 1

[ans 6-30-50]

ING. E. FELTSCHAREK

58 Exeter House
PUTNEY HEATH
LONDON, SW 15.

27/6/50

Herrn Professor Norbert Wiener

Massachusetts

Sehr geehrter Herr Professor,

Ich lese mit größter Spannung im „Aufbau“ vom 9. Juni den Aufsatz über die von Ihnen erfundene „Denkmaschine“.

Da ich selbst ein steinalter Ingenieur vom Con. Binant bin, würde es mich unendlich interessieren, näheres über Bau & Wirkungsweise der Maschine zu erfahren. Gibt es irgend ein Buch oder eine Beschreibung, die ich mir anschaffen könnte?

Ich bin geborener Wiener, naturalisierter Engländer, und lebe seit vielen Jahren in London. Sie würden mich zu Dank verpflichten, wenn Sie mir den Bezug eines Buches ermöglichen würden.

Mit Dank in voraus mit Ihrer geschätzten Rückantwort erwartend,

Ergebener

Ing. Feltscharek

[aus 8-7-50]

June 27, 1950

Mr. Carroll W. Boyce
Industrial Production Editor
Factory Management and Maintenance
330 West 42nd Street
New York, 18, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Boyce;

I regret that I find myself unable to accept your invitation to participate in a "Seminar on Technological Progress in the Manufacturing Industries", to take place in New York starting August 1st. At the end of a strenuous year, I am in need of a full summer in which to gather my strength, and I am consistently turning down all invitations to lecture or to write articles within this period.

Very sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

Norbert Wiener

NW/pw

June 27, 1950

Mr. F. Ronald Mansbridge
Cambridge University Press
American Branch
51 Madison Avenue
New York, 10, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Mansbridge;

I am, at present, on my farm in the country and blissfully absent from books, manuscripts, and the like. However, in a few days my daughter returns to town to take up Summer School, and I am passing on to her the chore of finding a copy of *THE FOURIER INTEGRAL* in my office, or, failing that, of eliciting a copy from among my colleagues. There are one or two small corrections I should like to make in the text, after which I shall send a copy to you for Dover Publications.

Yours sincerely,

Norbert Wiener

Norbert Wiener

NW/pw

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

Philosophy of Science

June 28, 1950

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

I am enclosing a copy of Taylor's reply to
Rosenblueth's and your article.

Sincerely yours,

C. West Churchman

C. West Churchman

CWC:gp

557 Kosciusko St.
Brooklyn 21, N.Y.
June 28th 1950

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

My dear Dr. Wiener:

On May 12th 1950 I dispatched a manuscript, *Capitalism Overhauled*. This was in reply to a request from you that I transmit it. It all started from a statement of yours to the press that in view of the science cybernetics making such rapid progress that within a period of 10 years there is going to be a vast decentralization of industries and obviously a vicious dislodgement of people's employment. Thus socialism is no longer to be feared and the nation is apt to embrace it as no alternative. I wrote you that I have an alternative and I title it : *Capitalism Overhauled*. In view of your suggestion that socialism is the eventual step, I went ahead and applied anti-Marxistic dialectics and I hope I covered my case completely in addition as to what the text omitted. I feared you may be committed to socialism and that you may have a preclusion on it. This accounts for my efforts. But my combat was a unilateral one. I did not get one syllable from you. I mailed 3 letters in succession .

Of course I was aroused in receiving a communication from you that I should not expect any comments from you nor the return of the manuscript. Despite all these previous warnings, I reckoned that *Capitalism Overhauled* is so momentous that you shall deviate from your determined course. To my chagrin, I find that you are sticker. Now, am I to construe that you are busy soliciting the faculty of M.I.T. for the founding of the League for Economic Coordination and let me tell you that the danger point was reached which is to the effect of what goes on now in South Korea. Our leeway has run out and the cold war became hot. I believe you are familiar by now how I cope with such a danger point. In the event you may not recall as to what is to transpire between Washington and Moscow, I wish to quote: H.S.T. is to call in Stalin and ask him whether he will be satisfied with a depression immune U.S. and desist from the communistic propoganda and upon his refusal to name the Russians and the communists in general misanthrops and deserving annihilation. Hitler at one time pronounced such an edict and history repeats itself. Upon second thought, I modified this rather inhuman act and began to harp on the efficacy of instituting the directives of *Capitalism Overhauled* and therewith eliminate the cleavage between us and the Soviets. to be sure, a more humane course. If Marx were alive today, he was to find out that his brain-child kicks around and brings a world war, instead the damned capitalists. What a paradox! I believe I have not offended you by any means by attacking Marxism. Since I am the author of *Capitalism Overhauled*, I began specializing in knocking out the props under Marxism-Leninism. In my primitive days, I too was a member of the S.P. In those days, may God forgive me I did not know any better. But as the Russian Revolution was making more headway, my mind just snapped and a revulsion came over me. Surely there must be a more humaner course and *Capitalism Overhauled* is the answer to my prayer; it postulates the separation the economic from the political. You will be amazed that in this industrial society where the toiler makes his exit as the producer for the electronic brains take the place, *Capitalism Overhauled* provides that the medium for the exchange or the monetary system is to be the hour unit of labor or service.

I plead with you to reply such a momentous contribution to human culture deserves it. Please determine upon the deviation from your setout policy. The reply I await is to the effect that the faculty of M.I.T. and eventually the student body procured a certificate of incorporation for the League for Economic Coordination- a non-profitable organization, and printed the book to be on

display in all stores of the U.S. to be active in soliciting all the trade unions for this program or their program. There are multitudes of social groups who wait and yearn for a tenet as outlined in Capitalism, obviously this author is entitled to the royalties derived from the sales of the book. I believe your endorsement of the project is to aid immensely in the peaceful goal of a war weary humanity.

Very sincerely yours,
Max Pasternak

[ans 8-14-50]

June 28, 1950

Mr. John J. Brophy
Witch Hill
Salem, Mass.

Dear Mr. Brophy;

I am very appreciative of your letter of June 26. The question of the intelligence of the human race is, of course, a difficult and critical one. I have always felt that there is, fundamentally, enough intelligence to go around if we are not limited by a social pattern which puts a premium on complete conformity and on the concealment of intelligence. Thus, what is needed is not only an education in information but a change in mores as well. I think you will find some material on this in my new book, The Human Use of Human Beings, to appear under the imprint of Houghton Mifflin the end of August.

Very sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

Norbert Wiener

NW/pw

June 28, 1950

Rev David Ashley Macdonald
E.T.S. N.303-23-83
U.S.N.T.C.
Great Lakes, Ill.
Bk. 508, Bill. 332

Dear Mr. Macdonald;

I am delighted to receive your letter of the 25th of June. I am answering it particularly because you explicitly do not demand that I answer it. This is a courtesy of which I am very appreciative as my correspondance has swollen to unmanageable proportions. However, I cannot deny that a letter like yours leaves a very pleasant taste in my mouth.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW/pw

[ans 7-6-50]

June 28, 1950

Curtis W. McGraw
President
McGraw-Hill Publishing Company
McGraw-Hill Building
330 West 42nd Street
New York, 18, N.Y.

Dear Mr. McGraw;

I have already notified Mr. Boyce that I shall be unable to participate in your Seminar on Technological Progress. The fact is that the months that have past since my publication of Cybernetics have been a rat race, and I have been so occupied with books, lectures, and papers as to seriously risk my health. This summer, come Hell or high water, I am taking things easy and, except for a paper at the International Mathematical Congress, which I see no way to get out of, I am taking nothing on. You will I am sure, understand my position.

Very sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

Norbert Wiener

NW/pw

June 28, 1950

M. J. Perdrizet
Bollène
Vaucluse
France

Dear M. Perdrizet;

It is a very interesting thing to observe your originality and fertility in robot designs. However, I think you miss one very essential feature in the modern design of automatic machinery. Electromagnets have a large inductivity and are slow in action both electrically and mechanically. A great part of the advantage of any robot is its speed. You therefor should make more use of vacuum tube relays and less of electromagnets. You should also work your design out more dynamically and less statically as it is the dynamic oscillations of a system of relays which furnish most of the limitations of their performance. I suggest that you get hold of a good book on servomechanisms such as that of McColl. You can reach Mr. McColl at the Bell Telephone Laboratories in New York City.

Very sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

Norbert Wiener

NW/pw

June 29, 1950

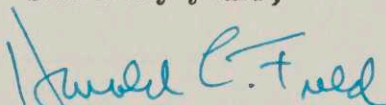
Dr. Norbert Wiener
South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Dear Dr. Wiener:

I wanted to let you know that your manuscript has been received. Thank you very much.

I am glad that the arrangements made with the publishers are satisfactory to you.

Sincerely yours,



Harold C. Field
Executive Editor

HCF/bn

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PARIS , le 29 Juin 1950

Monsieur le Dr. NORBERT WIENER ,

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Department of Mathematics

U.S.A. Mass.

CAMBRIDGE 39

Cher Docteur Wiener,

Je viens de recevoir votre lettre datée le 21 courant, et par le même courrier, j'ai reçu le double du contrat que nous avons passé avec la Maison d'Édition VALENTINO BOMPIANI & C^o , Corso di Porta Nuovo, MILANO, Italie, pour la traduction de "CYBERNETICS" en langue italienne.

Par ce même courrier, j'écris à BOMPIANI que vous allez lui envoyer un exemplaire de CYBERNETICS avec les corrections typographiques et mathématiques que contient la première édition.

Suivant vos instructions, j'écris à Madame GERTRUD WALTHER au sujet de la traduction en langue allemande de CYBERNETICS, et je vous tiendrai au courant des résultats qu'elle puisse obtenir.

Je vous envie d'être dans une ferme, en pleine campagne, loin des bruits et des inquiétudes de la ville. Au moment où je vous écris, il fait très chaud et nous sommes plongés dans l'inquiétude du moment présent en raison des événements internationaux qui ont l'air d'être assez sérieux. Il est paradoxal de penser que la menace d'une troisième guerre se manifeste dans les pays "du matin calme".

Votre renommée continue à grandir, vous ne vous appelez plus Doctor Wiener, vous êtes devenu Docteur Cybernetics. Vos idées sont en train de pénétrer dans tous les domaines et tout le monde parle de vous. Dernièrement, un colloque "Cybernetics" s'est tenu à l'École Polytechnique et pendant toute une semaine, des Mathématiciens et des Physiciens ont discuté sur la question. Je ne sais pas encore si le résultat de ce colloque va être publié, mais dans l'affirmative, je vous le ferai savoir.

Il y a quelques jours, j'ai reçu la visite de notre ami SANTILLANA qui m'a apporté de vos nouvelles et il est actuellement en Italie.

Votre très dévoué

M. Hermann

Chemical Laboratory
U. S. Geological Survey
Washington 25, D. C.

29 June 1950

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

In a conversation with Dr. John Walker Powell, who I understand is the Washington representative of the Dianetic Foundation, he told me that you are deeply interested in L. Ron Hubbard's system of Dianetic therapy. The context was such as to imply that you enthusiastically endorse the system. Will you be so good as to tell me your opinion of Dianetics?

Although Hubbard's book does not mention Wiener or Cybernetics, I think that Hubbard seeks to imply in his writings and speech that Dianetics is based on Cybernetic principles. But Dianetics seems to me to be a monistic closed system, containing quite un-Cybernetic assumptions. For example, Hubbard writes of scientific truth as if it were absolutely certain, completely deterministic. He thinks that electronic calculators are incapable of error, and are absolutely precise.

Hubbard's analysis of the central nervous system seems to draw on McCulloch's language, using in McCulloch's sense such words as "compute" and "demon," but it is very naive compared with McCulloch's suggested mechanism. I think the purpose of the terminology is to impress readers who are respectful of recent scientific developments.

My observations of Hubbard and his movement strongly suggest to me that it is half-baked pseudoscientific quackery. If you think that I am wrong, I shall take another look.

Very truly yours,

William G. Schlecht

William G. Schlecht
(Chemist)

Copy to Professor W. S. McCulloch

Lans. 7-8-50J



MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE



CANCER RESEARCH LABORATORIES
Dr. P. F. Hahn, Director

NASHVILLE 8, TENNESSEE

June 29, 1950

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

For the past five years, we have been interested in carrying out at Vanderbilt Medical School and this institution a study of the effect of radioactive colloidal materials introduced by vein as a means of treatment of chronic leukemia in humans. Recently, we have encountered, in our studies of the rate of relapse and remission as shown by peripheral white cell counts, what appears to be a relationship suggesting a first order reaction in both instances. Our first attempt at interpretation of such a finding would be distinctly in discord with prevalent views on the mechanism of formation of white cells and also the mechanism of the effect of radiation on these cells.

A year ago when visiting Mexico City, I talked with Dr. Aurturo Rosenbleuth at the Physiological Division of the Instituto Nacional de Cardiologia and learned that you spent six months out of every two years in residence there collaborating with him on problems of mutual interest. Dr. Rosenbleuth was not there at the time of my visit this spring, and therefore, I did not have an opportunity to talk with him about this recent finding.

Several weeks ago, there was a meeting at Oberlin College devoted to the chemical, physical and biological effects of radiation which was quite well attended and at which I had hoped to see what the reaction to the finding in question might be as regarded from the physical approach to the subject. However, since the early part of the meetings were devoted to fundamental physical studies and the latter part to more mundane

Dr. Norbert Wiener

-2-

biological phenomena with no intermediate approach, it seemed that perhaps collaboration with a mathematician who is interested in biological processes would be the most logical manner in which to attack these studies.

I wondered if possibly you might anticipate being in this part of the country some time in the next few months, perhaps en route to Mexico City. In such an event, I should be very glad if you should have the opportunity to stop and visit us here for a short time in the capacity of a consultant. I am afraid that the problem might at first glance appear to you to be a highly simple one for a mathematician of your prominence but such seems to be the case in many of the medical problems encountered today. We should be in a position to pay your expenses and a consultant fee of \$50.00 per day while here in the event that you should be interested in collaborating on this problem.

Hoping to hear from you some time in the near future.

Very truly yours,



P. F. Hahn MIT, X 1930

pfh;ywh

[ans 7-19-50]

June 29, 1950

Mrs. Mabel W. Brown
A.M.C. Camp
Three Mile Island
Lakeport, New Hampshire

Dear Mrs. Brown;

Many thanks for sending me the manuscript, and for forwarding a copy to the Nation. That clears up some correspondence I have had with the Nation which looked a bit mysterious to me.

I am hoping you are having as enjoyable a time on Lake Winnetoesaukee as we are up here. If you happen to be up to this valley, look us up. Meanwhile, the best of everything to Margo and good success in her projects.

Sincerely yours.

Norbert Wiener
Norbert Wiener

NW/pw

June 29, 1950

Mr. Harold C. Field
Executive Editor
The Nation
20 Vesey Street
New York, 7, New York

Dear Mr. Field;

I have just received a letter from Mrs. Mabel Brown, the aunt of my secretary, who writes me that she has just forwarded on behalf of my secretary the manuscript of my proposed article for the new Nation book. You will understand that the article is the result of a surgical operation on two preexisting articles, and may thus be in need of a little postoperative care in pulling the stitches. I propose to do this on the galleys and I promise you that the corrections will not be inordinate.

Very sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

Norbert Wiener

NW/pw

[ans. 7-25-50]

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June 30, 1950

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Executive Secretary

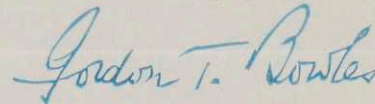
Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

There have been many delays in the final notification of candidates for Fulbright Awards, and in order that you may not be further inconvenienced in making your plans for the coming year it has seemed advisable to this Committee to inform you of your selection by the Board of Foreign Scholarships for a Fulbright Award.

If you have not yet received notice from the Department of State of your selection and of the terms of award, you may expect to receive such notification in the next week or two. If you have already received notice, kindly ignore this information.

Sincerely yours,



Gordon T. Bowles
Executive Secretary

GTB:jws

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June 30, 1950

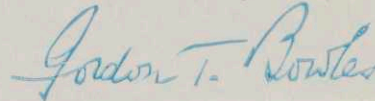
Professor Norbert Wiener
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Cambridge, Massachusetts

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Sincerely yours,



Gordon T. Bowles
Executive Secretary

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June 30, 1950

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

Chapman & Hall, Ltd., our English agents, will bring out before long a volume tentatively entitled THE ORIGIN OF ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOUR by Dr. William R. Ashby, Department of Research, Barnwood House, Gloucester. Chapman & Hall have furnished us with an outline for this book, which is enclosed, as a basis for determining whether we would like to take on an American edition.

We earnestly hope that in spite of the vacation time you might be willing to go through the outline and give us any comments which occur to you. On the face of it the outline suggests a most interesting book, and we would further appreciate your confidential opinion as to the author's competence to adequately handle all aspects of the subject reflected in the outline. Since much of the material will be Dr. Ashby's original contribution, you may be familiar with some of his researches and journal articles.

The author himself describes the book as follows:

"It answers the fundamental question: how does the brain, as a mechanism, produce intelligent behavior? In the book I establish a new fundamental principle, apply it to the brain, and show that this principle must lead to the emergence of intelligent behavior. Can a mere mechanism be intelligent? I show how this is possible, and describe the method in detail.

"The book presents a unified and systematic account of my researches, hitherto published only in articles scattered in the scientific journals. It gives not only the first connected account of these published matters but includes many later developments that are wholly new.

"It is written uniformly for the 'intelligent layman'. No specialized knowledge is demanded. Although some mathematics is necessary for rigor, this has been removed to a Technical Appendix, which the expert, and the critic, may consult. The non-expert will find the text complete in itself. The few demands on the reader are that he must be able to understand a graph and must not be afraid of some hard thinking.

FROM JOHN WILEY & SONS, INC.

TO Professor Norbert Wiener

FOLIO #2

DATE June 30, 1950

"Whom will it interest?

"Physiologists and psychologists, for it gives new information on how the brain works, describes how the nerve-cells become functionally co-ordinated, and shows how intelligent behavior can emerge from a purely mechanistic system.

"Physicists, for it describes the principles for building a machine more brain-like than anything yet constructed.

"Philosophers and theologians, for it offers an exact theory which they will probably regard as provocative.

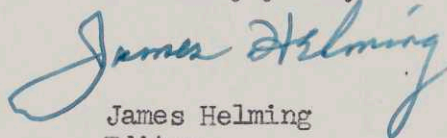
"The general scientific public, for it solves a classic problem, centuries old.

"In short, all who are interested in Cybernetics."

If the author succeeds in his aims, would you agree that the book is likely to interest the various groups of people he mentions?

May I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,



James Helming
Editor

Enc.

JH:BW

THE ORIGIN OF ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOUR
By Wm. Ashby

Table of Contents

CHAPTER 1.

THE PROBLEM.

1. Introduction
2. Two types of behaviour
3. Reflexes are not discussed.
4. Reactions demonstrably not inborn.
5. Learned reactions are usually adapted.
6. Activity of nervous system.
7. Activity is irrelevant.
8. Activity may be destructive.
9. "Corrent" action.
10. Direct arcs.
11. Relation of part to part.
12. Genetic control of adaptation.
13. The concepts to be used.
14. Consciousness.
15. Statement of the problem.
16. Plan of the book.

CHAPTER 2.

DYNAMIC SYSTEMS

1. Introduction
2. Necessity for abstraction.
3. "Variable" defined.
4. "System" defined.
5. Reduction to dial form.
6. Experimental control.
7. Operations available.
8. Definition of concepts
9. "State" defined.
10. "Line of behaviour" defined.
11. "Representative point" defined.
12. Graphic representation.
13. "Field" defined.
14. "Regular" systems.
15. "Absolute" systems.

CHAPTER 3.

THE ANIMAL AS MACHINE

1. Basic assumption.
2. Animal variables.
3. Cardinal numbering.
4. Subtler qualities.
5. Examples.
6. Nervous system in experiment.
7. Pavlovian experiment.
8. "Environment" defined.
9. Animal and environment form a system.
10. Examples of the conjoined system.
11. Free-living activities.

(cont'd.)

Chapter 3 (cont'd.)

12. Line of division.
13. Animal-centered co-ordinates.
14. "Essential" variables defined.

CHAPTER 4.

STABILITY

1. Elementary examples.
2. Concept does not apply to physical body.
3. Concept applies to a field.
4. The system must be absolute.
5. Examples.
6. Cessation of movement.
7. Variables are bounded.
8. "Stable" line defined.
9. "Resting" state defined.
10. "Resting" cycle defined.
11. Stability is observable.
12. Feedback.
13. Stability does not imply immobility.
14. Goal-seeking behaviour.
15. Whether living is irrelevant.
16. Stability is a holistic property.
17. Stability implies co-ordination.

CHAPTER 5.

ADAPTATION AS STABILITY

1. Adaptation must be defined.
2. Wrong definitions.
3. Homeostasis.
4. Examples.
5. Homeostasis uses the environment.
6. Learned reactions are homeostatic.
7. Two aspects of adaptation.
8. Adaptation as stability.
9. Is stability necessary?
10. Is stability sufficient?
11. Other criteria.
12. Seeking reactions.
13. Motor co-ordination.
14. Foresight.
15. Co-ordination of separated parts.
16. Summary.

CHAPTER 6.

CHANGE OF FIELD

1. The background.
2. "Parameter" defined.
3. Change of field.
4. Change of state and of field.
5. Method for distinction.
6. Stimulus as parameter-change.
7. Change of stability.

CHAPTER 7.

STEEP-FUNCTIONS

1. Four types of variable.
2. Instantaneous change.
3. "Order" of a time-scale.
4. Origin of step-functions.
5. "Critical" states.
6. Breaks.
7. Systems containing null-functions.
8. Systems containing step-functions.

CHAPTER 8.

THE ULTRASTABLE SYSTEM

1. Final statement of the problem.
2. Effect of step-function on field.
3. Effect of field on step-function.
4. They generate a process.
5. The principle of ultrastability.
6. "Ultrastable" system defined.
7. Its behaviour.
8. The homeostat.
9. Ultrastable and stable systems.
10. Constraints do not affect the termination.

CHAPTER 9.

ULTRASTABILITY AND THE LIVING ORGANISM

1. Elementary examples.
2. Training.
3. Surgical injury.
4. Learning and memory.
5. Control of the goal.
6. Genetic control.
7. Trial and error.
8. Its necessity.

CHAPTER 10.

STEP-FUNCTIONS IN THE LIVING ORGANISM

1. Direct evidence.
2. Delicacy of cells.
3. Amoeboid dendrons.
4. "All or none" changes.
5. Endromes.
6. Number of step-functions necessary.

CHAPTER 11.

THE MAIN CRITICISMS

1. The living organism changes gradually.
2. It conserves the old.
3. It improves.
4. Adaptation to alternating parameter.
5. Its application.
6. Time required for adaptation.
7. Probability of adaptation.
8. Table of criticisms.
9. The suggested solution.

CHAPTER 12.

ITERATED SYSTEMS

1. Definition.
2. Main properties.
3. Time required for adaptation.
4. Iteration makes adaptation possible.
5. Crystallisation.
6. The next developments.

CHAPTER 13.

IMPERFECTLY ISOLATED SYSTEMS

1. Description.
2. Statistical method.
3. Small random disturbances.
4. They destroy non-normal fields.
5. Example on homeostat.
6. Normal stability in animals.
7. Alternation of parameter.
8. Repeated displacement.
9. Combinations of disturbances.
10. Habituation.
11. Applications.

CHAPTER 14.

INDEPENDENCE AND CONSTANCY

1. Material connections are misleading.
2. Test must conform to S. 2/8.
3. "Independence" defined.
4. Examples.
5. Interdependencies are inter-related.
6. Diagram of ultimate effects.
7. "Dominance" defined.
8. Independence and constancy.
9. Examples.
10. Switching.
11. Hour-glass systems.
12. "Part-function" defined.
13. Examples.
14. Threshold and part-functions.
15. Systems of part-functions.
16. Stability of such systems.
17. A necessary distinction.

CHAPTER 15.

DISPERSION

1. Definition.
2. Displacement from a testing state.
3. Change of stimulus.
4. Recognition of patterns.
5. Sense-organs and dispersion.
6. Dispersion in the nervous system.
7. Layering in the sensory cortex.
8. Localisation in the cerebral cortex.
9. Effects of surgical injury.

CHAPTER 16.

THE MULTISTABLE SYSTEM

1. Definition.
2. It is still ultrastable.
3. Dispersion will occur.
4. Partial adaptation.
5. Interacting sub-systems.
6. Disruption of systems.
7. Adaptation in minimal time and size.

CHAPTER 17.

MULTISTABILITY AND THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

1. Multistability is necessary.
2. They fail similarly.
3. Partial adaptation.
4. Complicated learning is often serial.
5. Serial learning in the multistable system.

CHAPTER 18.

INTERACTION

1. Will not chaos arise?
2. New learning upsets old.
3. Stable systems interacting.
4. Intracerebral habituation.
5. The principle of ultrastability.
6. Comparison with spinal reflexes.
7. The problem reviewed.

TECHNICAL APPENDIX

CHAPTER 19.

ABSOLUTE SYSTEMS

1. Notation.
2. Variables.
3. "State" defined.
4. "Line of behaviour" defined.
5. "Representative point" defined.
6. "Field" defined.
7. "Regular system" defined.
8. "Absolute" system defined.
9. State-determined systems are absolute.
10. Group equations.
11. Differential equations.
12. Field property.
13. Collected properties of absolute systems.
14. Empirical test.
15. Systems regular but not absolute.
16. Field of regular system.
17. Absolute system is isolated.
18. Absolute system is complete.
19. Assembling a machine.
20. Methods for studying a dynamic system.
(cont'd.)

CHAPTER 19 (cont'd.)

21. Change of co-ordinates.
22. Derivatives as variables.
23. Delayed action.
24. Cumulative action.
25. Velocity effects.
26. Instantaneous actions.
27. Methods of integration.
28. The systems of physics.

CHAPTER 20.

STABILITY

1. "Stable" line defined.
2. "Normal" stability defined.
3. "Resting" state defined.
4. System near a resting state.
5. Tests for stability.
6. Characteristic equation.
7. Latent roots.
8. Routh's test.
9. Coefficients of characteristic equation.
10. Nyquist's test.
11. Examples.
12. The probability of stability.

CHAPTER 21.

CHANGE OF FIELD

1. Effect of parameter.
2. "Null-function" defined.
3. "Main" variables defined.
4. Absolute sub-systems.
5. Effect of parameter on stability.
6. Joining two systems.
7. Effect of joining on stability.

CHAPTER 22.

STEP-FUNCTIONS

1. "Step-function" defined.
2. Example.
3. "Critical" state defined.
4. Multiple fields.
5. Multiple fields imply step-functions.
6. System of step-functions.

CHAPTER 23.

THE ULTRASTABLE SYSTEM

1. Its mathematical form.
2. The average number of trials made.
3. k_1
4. k_2
5. k_1 and k_2 together.

CHAPTER 24.

INDEPENDENCE AND CONSTANCY

1. Effect of variable on variable.
2. "Independence" defined.
3. Test on differential equations.
4. Test can be simplified.
5. "RO-matrix" defined.
6. "Patterned" zeros defined.
7. Patterning and idempotency.
8. Sum of powers is idempotent.
9. "Differential" and "integral" matrices.
10. Final form of text.
11. Independencies are inter-related.
12. Dominating system.
13. Transfer of dominance.
14. Part-functions and independence.
15. Constancy is necessary and sufficient.
16. The change to activity.
17. Hour-glass system.
18. Summary of conventions and notations.
19. Stability of a system of part-functions.

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June 30, 1950

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Thank you for your letter of June 27. Dover Publications will, I know, be very glad to have a copy of The Fourier Integral if your daughter can find one when she returns to town.

which
I note that you wish to make one or two small corrections; it will be best if you do not mark these on the pages of the book itself, ~~it~~ will be photographed, but write them out on a separate sheet. Dover Publications can then have the material set in type and pasted carefully on the appropriate pages.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald Mansbridge".

F. Ronald Mansbridge

FRM:pl



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

June 30, 1950

Professor Norbert Wiener
South Tamworth
New Hampshire

Dear Norbert:

The exact title of the book to which you refer is ELECTROMAGNETIC THEORY, published by the McGraw-Hill Book Company in 1940.

I am most interested to learn of the work you are doing on a generalized harmonic analysis and prediction theory in connection with optical instruments. I hope that I shall have a chance to see something of it when it gets a little further along.

Weisskopf received formal notice of his Fulbright Award only yesterday and I should imagine that you will receive your notice along with this letter. At all events I know your name was on the list and I am sure that it will come through in due course.

I envy your stay in New Hampshire and am looking forward myself to a few weeks in Vermont toward the latter part of the summer.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Julius
J. A. Stratton
Provost

JAS:deh

South Tamworth, N.H.

June 30, 1950

James V. Grasso, Esq.
Executive Director
Humanist Fellowship of Boston, Inc.
53 State Street, Room 625
Boston 9, Mass.

Dear Mr. Grasso:

For reasons of health, I am discontinuing the practice of giving lectures in those cases in which they are not a part of my academic duties. I therefore regret that I am unable to conform to the request contained in your recent letter.

Yours sincerely,

Norbert Wiener