

161

CORRESPONDENCE Dec. 11-31, 1952

N. WIENER MC 22



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

224 West 57th Street

December 12, 1952

My dear Mr. Mattill:

This will verify our telephone conversation of this date concerning a recording in French by Dr. Norbert Wiener.

The French Service of the Voice of America is preparing a special news roundup of the year 1952. Outstanding leaders are being contacted for statements concerning advancements in their particular field. We feel that Dr. Wiener as an outstanding mathematician and scientist would be very useful on this program. Would you ask the doctor to make a brief statement in French in which he would relate the advances made in science during 1952 and prospects for 1953? If agreeable to the doctor, please have him make some reference to technological and engineering advances.

Please record on tape at  $7\frac{1}{2}$  or 15" per second and forward to me as soon as possible. Our deadline for this tape is Friday, December 19. Upon receipt of your tape, I will immediately send you a replacement.

In the event Dr. Wiener is unable to give us this statement, would you kindly let me know as soon as possible as we will have to make arrangements to obtain the statement from another outstanding scientist.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

*Robert R. Jones*  
Robert R. Jones

Special Events Officer  
International Radio Program Division

Mr. John Mattill  
Department of Public Relations  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Mass.

[see 12-15-52]

# THE HARVARD EDUCATIONAL REVIEW

LAWRENCE HALL, KIRKLAND STREET  
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

JOHN J. O'NEILL, *Chairman*  
BARBARA C. AYRES  
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MARVIN W. HERRICK  
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HENRIETTA T. SMITH  
MAURICE M. TATSUOKA  
ROBERT G. TEMPLETON  
NORMAN L. THOBURN  
KENNETH M. WILSON  
DOROTHY A. JOHNSON, *Sec'y*

December 12, 1952

Doctor Norbert Weiner  
Department of Mathematics  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Doctor Weiner:

When a book of such significance as James B. Conant's Modern Science and Modern Man is published, it behooves us to find a reviewer who can do it the justice it deserves. In view of your experience and thinking in this area, we are wondering if you would do us the favor of writing a review of this book for the winter issue of the Review. We realize that you are extremely busy and that to ask you to do us this favor, when we can offer you no remuneration but our appreciation, borders slightly on the presumptuous. But since this book appears to be particularly challenging, we do think you might very well be interested in expressing your views about it.

If you should be interested, we will send you a copy of the book upon the receipt of your reply. If you are not in a position to do it, we should appreciate any suggestions you might care to make as to a possible reviewer. The deadline for such a manuscript would be February 14.

Sincerely yours,

*Robert G. Templeton*  
Robert G. Templeton  
Book Review Editor

[ans 12/15/52]

December 12, 1952

Mr. K.W. Clendinning  
American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
29 West 39th Street  
New York 18, New York

Dear Mr. Clendinning:

I have received your letter of December 10 and have sent a copy of it to Mr. McWilliams together with the duplicate page proof you sent. It was indeed thoughtful of you to send this page proof to me.

You have been most cooperative in this matter, and I want to thank you for your courtesyto me.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

December 12, 1952

M. Jean Marie Faverge  
4/6, Ave. de la Porte du Point du Jour  
Paris 16<sup>e</sup>  
France

Dear M. Faverge:

When you talked with Professor Wiener last month, he said that he would send you a copy of a lecture he was preparing which was of interest to you. I am sending you this copy with this letter. You may keep it.

Professor Wiener wishes to send you his greetings and to tell you that he enjoyed seeing you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George Baldwin  
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

hb

December 12, 1952

Mr. S.B. Hitchner  
Massachusetts Chapter of Sigma Xi  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Hitchner:

Thank you for your kind invitation to address your Sigma Xi Chapter at its initiation in April. I shall be pleased to come to Amherst for this purpose, and the arrangements you suggest are satisfactory with me.

I hesitate to suggest alternative dates to April 15 or 16, since you have already planned your initiation schedule. But in all frankness, the following week-- April 22 or 23--would be more convenient for me. I shall, however, suit your convenience. As to my preference between the two days, let me say that my classes meet at MIT at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. Hence, if your meetings are usually held at night, Wednesday evening would be good; but if they are held in the afternoon, Thursday would be good. I must allow time to get back from Amherst to Cambridge in time for my class.

Get in touch with me again in about the middle of March, and we can make final arrangements about the details. But I shall expect to hear from you in a week or so as to which date you would prefer.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

[ms 12/17/52]

December 12, 1952

Mr. Carey McWilliams  
Editorial Director, The Nation  
20 Vesey Street  
New York 7, N.Y.

Dear Mr. McWilliams:

I enclose a copy of the letter I received this morning from the editor of Mechanical Engineering. I assume that if you decide to publish this paper, you will follow his wishes in the matter of credit.

Mr. Clendinning asked me to insert some centerheads to break up the solid pages. These are marked on the enclosed page proofs -- you may use them, ignore them, or insert your own if you like. If there are other minor changes you would like to make in the article, feel free to do so within the limitation of my meaning.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb  
Enc. - proofs + Clendinning's

U. S. NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY  
U. S. NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE  
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

IN REPLY REFER TO:

December 13, 1952

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

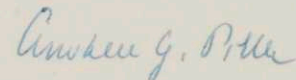
Dear Professor Wiener:

With some delay I am thanking you for your kindness in accepting the possibility of a reference with the Navy authorities.

In a few days I will be in California and hope to be able to send you favorable news.

With many thanks once again, I am

Sincerely yours,



(Andrew G. Pikler)  
Research Psychologist  
Sound Section



BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY  
WALTHAM 54, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 15, 1952

Professor Norbert Wiener  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

This is a cordial invitation to come to Brandeis University in order to meet with the Senior Class and to discuss with them some of your experiences and what working philosophy you have been able to fashion.

This is to be part of a new course, which is conducted by Max Lerner and me, the experimental phase of which was very successfully undertaken in the second semester of last year. I don't know of anything that quite parallels this course. We feel that college education even at its best is fragmented, and we want to help the seniors pull together the strands of what they have been learning, and face some of the intellectual and moral choices they will have to make when they get out of that college. I am sending along a memorandum which discusses more fully the hopes and purposes behind the course.

We are asking some eight or ten men and women who have combined a working philosophy with a productive life to visit the campus and consult with the students. Among those who have participated in this course have been Leo Szilard, Lewis Mumford, Margaret Mead, Sidney Hook, Alexander Meiklejohn, Walter White, Alfred Kinsey and Archibald MacLeish.

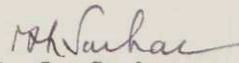
We are eager to have you as one of the visiting consultants this Spring. We should like you to speak about your personal development: the major turning points of your life; the moral choices you have had to make; and the problems you have had to face in translating values and beliefs into action.

Our hope is that you can come on some Thursday on which we may be able to reach agreement if we can get your acceptance in principle. The class meets on Thursday evening. It would be well if you could stay over for Friday so that the seniors will be able to talk with you in small groups about some of their special concerns. I know that this is asking a good deal of you and I do it only because the students can learn so much more from such direct and informal discussion than from a single lecture.

We shall be delighted to take care of your accommodations here at the University and we offer in addition the honorarium which you set. If you find you can come for only one day, just for Thursday, I am sure we could adjust to your schedule.

Looking forward to having you with us,

Cordially yours,

  
A. L. Sachar

als/sg

[ans 12/23/52]

January 21, 1952

Memorandum on GENERAL EDUCATION F: "CONTEMPORARY LIVING"

This is an experimental course in General Education, for the whole senior class, to run during the second semester. It is intended to help the seniors round out the outlines of their work during the four years, and apply what they have learned in their courses to the problems of value and action that lie ahead for them after graduation.

Even at its best college education is fragmented, and one of the students' aims in the senior year should be to get a sense of himself as a total person making intellectual and moral choices in a going society. The assumption of the course is that he can do this best by example, rather than only by precept. To provide him with such examples, we propose to bring to the Brandeis campus a small number of men and women who embody in their lives and careers a fusion of a working philosophy with an effective and productive life. Ideally, they should come not just for a day but two or three days, and be available for students in small groups who will consult with them and fire questions at them. But where the speaker's schedule makes it impossible for him to stay more than a day, we shall have to be content with that.

The total number who will thus visit the campus should be small - no more than eight or nine, thus allowing for one every two weeks. There will be a regular scheduled session of two hours between the speaker and the whole senior group, which will allow a chance for general questioning. In addition there will be a scheduled hour session of the whole senior group with the members of the faculty committee, and a third hour in which the class will break up into four smaller discussion groups, each headed by a faculty member, from one of the four major areas of interest, the humanities, the creative arts, the sciences, and the social sciences. This will average out to three hours, of which a two hour session each two weeks will be devoted to a meeting with the visitor, and the other two hours each week to a discussion of some of the issues and problems that were raised with them, and the light that he shed on them. There will also be assigned and suggested reading and several essays during the semester.

The emphasis throughout should be on the possibilities for productive living; for citizenship in the community, for an effective life in government, labor, business, or the professions; for productive work in scientific or social thinking, or creative work in the arts and in writing; for mature living in the family and in the community.

This means that the course will not be "problematic" in the sense of dealing with national or world problems. Nor will it be another "Great Issues" or "Great Ideas" course, since both areas have now been well canvassed by experimental courses in other universities. It involves the basic questions of the students' choice of values in a real world. It involves also a knowledge of both the limits and possibilities of effective living, and some insights into the ways of personal fulfillment. To an extent we can guide the student by the experience of the past and the life of reason. But best of all he can guide himself by the study of effective models and their living philosophies.

Since this will mean breaking new ground in teaching, the direction of the course will be kept flexible, and faculty members from every branch of the University will have a hand in shaping it. President Abram L. Sachar and Professor Max Lerner will be in immediate charge, along with a faculty representative from the sciences, the humanities and the creative arts. At the end of the year we hope to draw up a summary of our experiences with the course and circulate it among interested people in the other universities.

December 15, 1952

Mr. David Dietz  
Scripps Howard Press  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Dietz:

I want to thank you for everything you did last week to make my Cleveland visit such a delightful experience for me and my wife. I hope that it will not be long until we shall run up against one another again. Meanwhile, if you ever find yourself in Boston or Cambridge, do not fail to get in touch with us. We will have a great deal to talk over.

With the Season's Greetings from my wife and me,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

[ans 12/23/52]

December 15, 1952

Dean Herbert C. Hunsaker  
Cleveland College  
Western Reserve University  
Cleveland 14, Ohio

Dear Dean Hunsaker:

My wife and I wish to thank you for making our visit in Cleveland so pleasant. In every way, our trip was a delight. I hope that it will not be long until we can meet again, perhaps even in Boston or Cambridge if you ever bring yourself here.

Please give our cordial greetings to your wife, and to others we met in Cleveland.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb  
Enc.

Professor Wiener's expenses, Boston to  
Cleveland, December 9 and 10:

Plane fare . . . . .	\$ 80
Hotel. . . . .	11
Meals and taxis. . . . .	15
	<hr/>
	\$ 106

December 15, 1952

Professor Webster G. Simon  
Western Reserve University  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Professor Simon:

My wife and I want to thank you for all you did to make our Cleveland visit such a delightful experience for us. We particularly enjoyed the luncheon we had on Wednesday, and we thank you for arranging it.

I do hope that we may meet again soon. If your duties ever bring you to Cambridge, please do not fail to call us.

With the Season's Greetings,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

December 15, 1952

Mr. Robert G. Templeton  
Book Review Editor  
The Harvard Educational Review  
Lawrence Hall, Kirkland Street  
Cambridge 38, Mass.

Dear Mr. Templeton:

I shall be pleased to take on the review of President Conant's book, Modern Science and Modern Man. I hope you can see your way clear to accepting an essay-review of the Macaulay type, because I think it is important not only to criticize what President Conant says within the frame of his own book, but also to say something about the ideas he treats against the general background of the modern scientific and social world.

Please let me know if this type of review will meet your approval. If it will, I shall look forward to receiving a copy of the book shortly.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

THE MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER OF SIGMA XI

University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, Massachusetts

December 17, 1952

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

I was pleased to learn that you will be able to address our Sigma Xi Chapter in April. Since we have not made specific arrangements for our initiation we are setting the date for April 22. Our plan is to have the initiation and an informal dinner early in the evening followed by the lecture at 8 P.M. I believe this arrangement will be convenient for you in view of your schedule stated in your letter of December 12. I hope you will be able to arrive in time to be with us for the initiation and dinner. I shall write you later regarding the exact time of these events.

We shall be looking forward to having you with us in April.

Sincerely yours,

*S. B. Hitchner*

S. B. Hitchner  
Chairman, Program Committee

SBH/H

[enc 1/5/53]



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CAMBRIDGE 39, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

December 17, 1952

Mr. Seymour Haber  
Room 2-373  
M.I.T.

Dear Mr. Haber:

The Department Graduate Committee has reviewed your proposal for the general coverage on your oral examination for the doctorate. As we now have it on our records, the proposal as approved is:

- (a) Fourier Transform and Harmonic Analysis
- (b) Mathematical Logic
- (c) Measure Theory

with Professor Norbert Wiener as your major advisor and Professor Norman Levinson and Dr. John Nash as the other two advisors.

You list May, 1953 as the probable date of your oral examination. This will be satisfactory, provided you have satisfied the language requirements by that time. I suggest that you consult Professor Condoyannis of the Modern Language Department promptly to make arrangements for doing this.

Approximately one month before you plan to take the oral, you should fill out an Application form which is available in Room 2-263. Under item 7, "Remarks", you should include a statement of the date you prefer for the examination together with any other pertinent comments.

Will you please consult with your advisors in the near future. If there are changes to be made in the program outlined above, will you please let me know.

Yours very truly,

*G.B. Thomas Jr.*  
G.B. Thomas, Jr.

GBTjr/maf

[ans 1/5/53]

December 17, 1952

The Rev. Dr. C.L. Shelby  
First Presbyterian Church  
Nevada and Cedar  
Seymour, Texas

Dear Dr. Shelby:

I am sorry that I do not have any copies of my book, The Human Use of Human Beings, which I can send to you. If you are unable to find a copy in a public library, the best I can do is to suggest that you try to locate a second-hand copy. The Harvard Book Store, 1248 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge 38, Mass., is equipped to try to locate second-hand copies of books they do not have in stock. I am sure they would be happy to help you.

I appreciate that this will only partially solve your problem, for it will reduce the price of the book but will not eliminate it. Please understand that I am most sympathetic with your misfortune, but I am not now--nor will I be in the future--in a position to send you a copy of my book.

With good wishes, and an author's thanks for the compliment your letter carries, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

*Levin*

**Columbia University**  
**in the City of New York**  
[NEW YORK 27, N. Y.]

December 18, 1952

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

As part of our University planning, our committee is making a study concerning personnel and fields of academic interest. In an effort to obtain opinions from sources outside our own institution, we are asking a few leaders in various specialized fields to give us the benefit of their thinking.

It has been suggested that you might be willing to help us by listing on the enclosed form the names of those ten active men whom you consider to have the most outstanding academic ability in your field of specialized interest as noted on the form. It is not our objective to "rank" individuals, and therefore it does not matter in what order these names appear. We are enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope for your reply.

We would be very grateful for your cooperation in this matter, and we can assure you that this information will be held in strict confidence.

Sincerely yours,

*Christopher Mady*

Christopher Mady  
Secretary,  
University Development Plan Committee

Academic Information

Ten most able active men in the U. S. in the field of Functional Analysis & Allied Subjects

Name

University or other connection

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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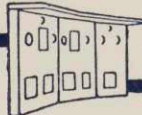
The above list is intended to represent a personal selection of the 10 active men of greatest academic ability in the United States in your field (not including those at your present location) together with their University or other connection.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

# PANELIT, INC.

PREFABRICATED INSTRUMENT & CONTROL PANELS



GENERAL OFFICE  
6312 N. BROADWAY  
PLANT  
7212 N. CLARK STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
ROGERS PARK 1-1300

December 18, 1952

Dr. Norbert Weiner  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Weiner:

I would like to add my thanks to the many you have already received for your wonderful contribution to the Automatic Plant Symposium at the ASME meeting.

Your comments were of such a stimulating nature that they have provoked a most wholesome discussion of the whole problem of Automatic Control and its affect on the economic and social structure. I was particularly pleased to hear that you feel that the subject is actually receiving sympathetic consideration by this large group of engineers and I personally have been very gratified to note this trend in the last several years among our professional groups. Whatever the cause, I sincerely feel that engineering management is broadening its viewpoint. It must be gratifying to you to know that your two books on this subject have exercised a profound influence on the thinking of our group and they are constantly referred to in the higher level discussions.

It was a particular pleasure to have lunch with you and to learn of your interest in the other arts. It would be a privilege to entertain you in Chicago when something brings you this way. Thank you again for a very stimulating day.

Yours very truly,

Albert F. Sperry

afs:h

7-25

INSTITUTE FOR THE UNITY OF SCIENCE

American Academy of Arts and Sciences  
28 Newbury Street  
Boston 16, Massachusetts

December 18, 1952

TO: The Cybernetics and Communications Group of the Institute for the  
Unity of Science

FROM: The Steering Committee

SUBJECT: 1952-1953 Meetings

The activities of the Cybernetics and Communications Group of the Institute for the Unity of Science are having a late start this academic year, mostly because of the numerous changes in the membership of the Steering Committee. The Committee hopes that the program which is being prepared for this year will be sufficiently interesting and stimulating to compensate for the delay in getting it started. The plans call for one or two meetings per month, depending on circumstances. Four meetings have been scheduled for the moment, as indicated below. The rest of the meetings will be announced at a later time.

The Steering Committee has felt that it would be appropriate at this time to reassess the purposes of the Group and the scope of its activities. A brief summary of the history of the Group might be of help in this regard.

Prior to World War II, Norbert Wiener and Arturo Rosenblueth (then at the Harvard Medical School) led a small discussion group on scientific principles and methods. The book *Cybernetics* grew partly out of these discussions.

After the War, the meetings were re-initiated in somewhat different form. When Wiener left for France and Mexico in 1951, he suggested that the members of the group state basic problems, in their own field of investigation, which either required some of the concepts of cybernetics for an adequate method of approach, or else promised to contribute to the field of cybernetics itself.

Subsequently, it was decided that the ensuing discussions should be divided into two types: those dealing with basic concepts, especially the foundations of information theory, and those dealing with applications, especially in physics, physiology, psychology and linguistics. For the discussions of basic concepts the group was small (about a dozen), but relatively constant; for the discussions of applications it varied considerably.

One difficulty became apparent, particularly in the meetings dealing with applications: speakers tended to feel they must use the terms of cybernetics and employ the techniques of analysis of communications engineers, even if the concepts implied were not essential or even appropriate to their problems. The consequent distortion of issues, coupled with the lack of clear definitions tended to mask the essential characteristics of the problems discussed. The net result was that the discussion became at times somewhat amateurish, in spite of the fact that the participants were far from amateurs in their own fields.

The Steering Committee feels that the main reason for the existence of a scientific group whose membership cuts across the boundaries of professional fields lies in the beneficial effects of cross-fertilization. Clearly, such cross-fertilization is most likely to result when the members of the group are interested in different aspects of a common general problem. On the other hand, interest in the same general problem does not imply identity of approach or of method of analysis.

It seems appropriate, therefore, to continue the activities of the Group chiefly in the domain of applications. The speakers, however, should not try to force the issue into a narrow "cybernetic mold" or feel obliged to employ the mathematical techniques of communication engineering. The connection between the problem under consideration and other problems of interest to members of the audience should emerge from the discussion.

The meetings of the present academic year will deal with communication problems, leaving other problems, such as those dealing more specifically with feed-back control, for the meetings of later years. A list of the speakers and topics for four of the meetings is given below.

1. R. M. Fano, "The Problem of Detection of Signals in the Presence of Random Disturbances", January 8, 1953.
2. R. D. Luce, "Communication and Learning in Small Task-Oriented Groups", March 26, 1953.
3. M. Halle, "The Entropy of Spoken Language", February 26, 1953.
4. M. Rogers, "Some Applications of Information Theory to Psychology", January 29, 1953.

All the meetings will be held at 7:45 p. m. in Room 10-280 (Jackson Room of the Electrical Engineering Department), at M. I. T., unless otherwise specified.

Y. Bar-Hillel, R. D. Luce, F. A. Webster, R. M. Fano, Chairman

RMF:JL



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Postage paid by addressee  
Postmaster: If you are not the addressee, please return this card to the sender.  
Signature of addressee required for delivery to private residences.

**American Academy of Arts and Sciences**

28 Newbury Street

**Boston 16, Massachusetts**



Please check here if you are interested in continuing to receive notices of meetings of the Cybernetics and Communications Group?

.....  
If name and address incorrect, please give correct form below.

December 18, 1953

Professor L. Rosenfeld  
University of Manchester  
Manchester, England

Dear Professor Rosenfeld:

Dr. Armand Siegel of Boston University and I have recently finished a paper on the foundations of quantum theory, of which we are sending you a copy under separate cover. We are most eager for your opinion of it, and we also are hoping that Dr. Siegel should have a chance to study with you either in Manchester or in Paris. Dr. Siegel is writing to you independently. If he should find it possible to make the trip, would you be willing to receive him as an advanced student and to discuss with him matters of common scientific interest? It is important that we learn this, as it will affect the possibility of his getting the financial support which he needs for the trip.

He has picked you out as the man with whom he should like to study, hearing of your broad interest in the fundamentals of physics and at the recommendation of Professor Weisskopf of this institution.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

2 EAST 103 STREET  
NEW YORK 29, N. Y.  
TELEPHONE TRAFALGAR 6-8200

December 19, 1952

Dear Norbert:

I can hardly tell you how very very much I enjoyed my visit with you. I not only relished your gracious participation in our dinner, but even more your response to the questions and to the ventured ideas thrown at you. Withal I feel that the problems which I wanted to lay before you were sketched by me only in a rather loose and random way.

I don't know that I can do any better in this communication, but still I would like to elaborate upon them a bit. Possibly when we meet next we may be able to better explore these matters, their ramifications and their depths.

What I want to pursue with you is the possibility of conceptualizing, if not interpreting in cybernetic terms, some of the "psychiatric entities," common to professional usages. One such issue revolves about malfunction without the coexistence of organic pathology. As you know, the organicists have maintained that when there are disturbances manifest in function, there needs must be operative an organic causative component. I have touched upon this in a paper entitled "The Anatomy of a Psychosis." I am enclosing a copy.

The manuscript I left with you is, to my mind, but a particular instance of the over-all functional pathology concept. The cases I presented, I would equate to the amusing analogy of refrigerating the thermostat to get some heat, that is if the temperature was say 67°

Dr. Norbert Wiener, Cambridge, Mass.,

December 19, 1952

-2-

and the rheostat were triggered for 63°, and one had no way of changing the setting, one could get the heating system to go on by applying ice cubes to the thermostat mechanism; thus by hastening the chilling one would hasten the "turning on of the heat."

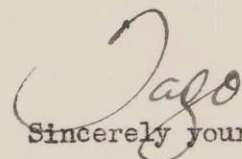
There are, of course, many tangents in this overall problem. The concept of psychological as well as neurological integration, can be illustrated in the cybernetic mechanism. Possibly there may be warrant for drawing a parallel between the "hierarchies in the nervous system," operating as differentiating and analyzing centers, reinforcement centers, and integrating centers, and some of the mechanism utilized in the so-called calculating machine. Indeed I would suspect that in the study of comparative neuro-anatomy one could perceive a correlation between the differentiating and integrating competences of the organism and its neuro-anatomic endowments. This I know has already been implicated in the work which you and your neurologist associate have done touching on certain functional disturbances associated with brain injury. Hughlings Jackson also worked on this theme.

I suspect also that it should be possible to work out a cybernetic equivalent of the conditioned reflex, and to re-reproduce the equivalent of the so-called experimental neurosis.

All of these things I submit, are subjects which I would like to explore with you when the occasion is given.

On the way back I read a goodly portion of your autobiography. I found it most fascinating. Your style is crisp and crystal clear, but also colorful.

My best to you and to Peg.

  
Sincerely yours,

CARNEGIE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

SCHENLEY PARK

PITTSBURGH 13, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

December 19, 1952

AIR MAIL

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

Once again I should like to ask you to sponsor me for a fellowship. The enclosed blank and typewritten sheets are required in application for a fellowship from the Fund for the Advancement of Education. The typewritten sheets describe my proposed program and why I think it will improve me as a teacher. The term teaching, I believe may be construed to mean my influence on students through my lectures and research. The research program is of the same nature as the one which I proposed for the Guggenheim and Fullbright awards. Would you kindly execute the form and send it directly to the address given. This is my last application for this year. Many thanks.

Your generous support is deeply appreciated.

My best wishes to you and my friends at the Institute.

Sincerely yours,



Albert E. Heins  
Professor  
of Mathematics

AEH/EB  
Encl.

[ans 1-6-53]

A Faculty Fellowship from the Fund for the Advancement of Education will enable me to go abroad and to continue my work free of the usual academic routine. Paris, France has been chosen as headquarters for the year because it is in this city that there is a large concentration of scholars whose work parallels mine in the broad sense. It is possible to find there authorities in electromagnetic diffraction theory, as well as acoustic and hydrodynamic diffraction theory. Their work does not follow along the same lines as my recent investigations, that is, the application of singular integral equations to such problems, but nevertheless there is a common bond, which if appropriately explored could lead to great clarifications of many points in this work. The joint features in the work of the French school of thought and mine is that we both use function-theoretic methods. The work of the French group leads to these methods through differential equations, while mine arises through the integral equation. While their results are interesting, the work has only been reported in Academy publications and is of necessity highly condensed. A good fraction of the year will be devoted to consulting with these people, finding out what they have done and how it fits into my work. I do not anticipate language difficulties here, since my reading knowledge of French is excellent, while my conversational French is fair and I can make myself understood.

In addition to this work in diffraction theory which is going on in Paris, there are three other small centers which have contributed to the general aspects of diffraction theory. Two are in Great Britain and the other in Holland. Those in the British Isles are at the University of Manchester and Cambridge University, while the one in Holland is at Eindhoven. Since the concentration in these last centers is not as great as it is in Paris, I would

hope to discuss mutual problems with the scholars in these centers within a week or ten days at each place. With Paris as headquarters I could reach Great Britian or Holland within a day. The men in these countries are somewhat more specialized than those in France, for they work only in one specific field (that is, electromagnetic theory or acoustics or hydrodynamics). Nevertheless they have produced much interesting work which has an important bearing on my research.

In addition to consulting with scholars in France, Great Britian and Holland, I shall continue my own investigations of function-theoretic studies and their applications to diffraction theory as a whole. It is hoped that through these efforts the mixed boundary value problems which arise in this theory will have their inner content clarified and that contributions can be made to classical theoretical physics and the methods of functions of a complex variable which are employed. There are a number of problems which I am examining at present which would benefit greatly in the atmospheres which I have described. A certain amount of direct contact with scholars is beneficial, since in the oral exchange of ideas one gathers subtle points of view which rarely work their way into the journals. These new outlooks would certainly help to widen my vision in my studies, which, as a scholar, I aim at continually. My purpose as a Fellow would be to participate in the creative work of the scientific communities which I hope to visit.

At the end of the academic year 1952-53, I will have taught for seven consecutive years. There have been many gratifying experiences through this period, amongst them being the following. Two very capable students have worked with me and it has been to my satisfaction to see them develope into independent and promising scholars. The other has been the series of special lectures which I have had to organize in this period. These have been a

source of much intellectual pleasure to me as a teacher and I have been gratified to see my students move successfully into other phases of applied mathematics, stimulated by my point of view.

A year away from teaching would refresh the outlook on my major mathematical interests. Since I offer much of this material in lectures in several different forms, the year on leave would be an opportunity to re-assess the basic aspects of my teaching. That is, time would present itself to allow me to re-examine the content of my lectures by looking at the logical foundations upon which the material rests, as well as the substance derived from it. This aspect of my teaching cannot be divorced from my research, but at the advanced levels of instruction a college teacher should offer material which first of all is his major interest, and second contributes to his students intellectual development. The subjects of diffraction theory and function-theoretic methods are such topics in a program for students of applied mathematics.

Another aspect of my teaching is my conference work with students who work with me on problems which are of mutual interest. In such work, there is always the feeling that the student may be limited to a class of narrow problems which leads to specialization too early in his career. By spending the year re-examining and continuing my own research as well as investigating the work of other men at international centers, it will be possible to find problems which are in the students realm and yet not overly specialized. This conference instruction is just as important as classroom instruction, for it is at this stage that the student is testing his intellectual capacities and deserves to be greatly encouraged in his efforts.



Heins -  
Documentation

I have known Dr. Heins for many years, as a student and as a teaching and research mathematician. I consider him a man both of fine character and of high mathematical ability. I think that his program represents an important application of mathematical techniques to mathematical physical problems. This field of junction of pure mathematics with pure physics is one in which we do not have many first rate men, and I think that by devoting himself to this work, Dr. Heins is performing a real service to science. He is thoroughly competent to see the program through, and I should be very glad to see him obtain a Guggenheim award.

Professor of Mathematics  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Jan. 6, 1953

I have known Dr. Heins for many years as my student and as a teaching and research mathematician. I consider him a man of both fine character and high mathematical ability. I think that his research program represents an important application of mathematical techniques to mathematical-physical problems. This field of junction of pure mathematics and pure physics is one in which we do not have too many first rate men, and I think that by devoting himself to this work, Dr. Heins is performing a real service. He is thoroughly competent to see the problem through, and I should be very glad to see him obtain one of your Faculty Fellowships.

Dr. Heins has a very clear mind and I have always found his ability to present the roots and basic features of a mathematical subject to be considerably above the average within the profession. He is a man of complete integrity and devotion to research. His enthusiasm is infective. I consider him definitely as one of the more important and able of the middle generation of mathematicians.

Norbert Wiener

Professor of Mathematics

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge 39, Mass.

JOHN SIMON GUGGENHEIM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

551 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 17 • N. Y.

December 19, 1952

The papers attached hereto are of applicants who have referred us to you this year. For your critical advice upon their candidacies we shall be grateful.

As you know, our plan is to award Fellowships to persons who have demonstrated unusual capacity for productive scholarship or unusual creative ability in the arts. Hence, one question to be determined in the case of each applicant is on the quality of his previous accomplishments. Another question is on each applicant's prospects for the future--which involves his character, his staying power and all the other factors of fine scholarship or creative ability.

Your critical advice on these questions in relation to each applicant will be appreciated; and I assure you that, as always, anything you may say will be held in the strictest confidence.

Your assistance in this difficult business will be greatly appreciated by us.

Henry Allen Moe

Professor Norbert Wiener

*Sincerely yours*  
*James F. Mathias*  
James F. Mathias

The **RAND** Corporation

1500 FOURTH ST • SANTA MONICA • CALIFORNIA

22 December 1952 L-15348

Prof. Norbert Wiener  
Dept. of Mathematics  
Massachusetts Inst. of Technology  
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Prof. Wiener:

My association with The RAND Corporation ends on 1 January 1953. Consequently, you should no longer address correspondence to me at RAND.

I plan to spend the first half of 1953 at Columbia University. Although I do not yet know either my exact office or residence addresses in New York City, the following business address will surely serve after 5 January:

Department of Sociology  
Columbia University  
New York 27, N. Y.

Sincerely yours,

*Merrill M. Flood*

Merrill M. Flood

NMF:mc



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION  
HOSPITAL  
TOPEKA, KANSAS

December 23, 1952

YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Norbert Wiener, Ph.D.  
Sandwich, New Hampshire

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Representing the Committee on Visiting Speakers of the professional staff of Winter Veterans Administration Hospital and the Menninger Foundation, I am pleased to invite you to make an engagement with us for some date during the period February 1 to June 30, 1953.

The enclosed mimeographed description of our institutions and forums program explains the frame of reference for the invitation.

We like to include each year several speakers who are known for their contributions to science, imaginative literature, or philosophy, and who are not psychiatrists. We very much hope that this invitation will interest you.

We have open dates on our schedule in each of the months which I have indicated. We prefer to schedule lectures for general professional staff meetings on Wednesday evenings. If you do not choose the last week of February, the last week of April, or the first week in May, your choice of a date would be acceptable to us.

Our budget permits us to offer travel expenses plus an honorarium of \$100.

Sincerely yours,

*B. E. Boothe*

B. E. BOOTHE  
Director of Professional  
Education

BEB:nb

Encl.

PROF EDU  
Winter VA Hospital  
Topeka, Kansas

THE PROGRAM OF FORUMS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF AT WINTER VA HOSPITAL  
AND THE INTERESTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Winter VA Hospital has accommodations for 1,400 patients, of whom approximately 900 are psychiatric, 100 are neurological, and 400 are divided between general medical and surgical. Established in 1946, the Hospital has served mainly as a psychiatric teaching center, and the staff has been recruited for the dual responsibility of medical treatment and medical education. All members of the professional staff participate in teaching. The largest group of physicians in residency, numbering usually between sixty and ninety, are psychiatrists. A residency program in internal medicine is also established, and the Hospital has developed a tradition of progressive work in psychosomatic medicine. Graduate students of clinical psychology and social work use the Hospital for field placement, and a good deal of attention is given to the in-service education of nurses and aides.

The unusual feature of the psychiatric education program is the close liaison between the VA Hospital and the Menninger Foundation. All of the psychiatric residents are enrolled in the Menninger School of Psychiatry, which also provides instruction for psychiatric residents of the Topeka State Hospital. The presence of three active psychiatric institutions in one small city is responsible for a large and well organized medical community of physicians, psychologists, social workers, nurses, and other specialists. Most of the psychiatrists on the staff of the three institutions have completed psychoanalytic training or are in training at the Topeka Institute for Psychoanalysis, and both the practice and teaching of psychiatry in these institutions are based upon, or influenced by, psychoanalytic concepts.

The audience for a visiting speaker is likely to number between 150 and 300. Of those who attend, the majority are physicians, all of whom are used to a steady schedule of lectures, seminars, and clinical conferences on psychiatric subjects, including the social, anthropological, philosophical, and historical aspects of psychiatric practice. They appreciate contributions from internists, sociologists, research specialists, and others who may broaden their professional horizons. They like to have visitors prepare addresses on the assumption that the audience is ready for a mature, timely and professional interpretation of the subject, and they are usually disappointed by speakers who assume that the audience is a group of heterogeneous people, semi-professional on the whole, for whom an elementary or background discussion is appropriate. They like to have a chance to discuss the subject of the talk with the visiting speaker. Presentations by speakers limited to about forty-five minutes are appreciated, followed by equally long periods of discussion between the speaker and the audience. A synopsis or outline of the speaker's presentation sent to the Hospital a week or so in advance permits the selection of an interested member of the staff to serve as intermediary between the speaker and the audience and to direct the discussion in a practical way.

SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPERS



DAVID DIETZ  
SCIENCE EDITOR  
THE CLEVELAND PRESS BUILDING  
CLEVELAND 14, OHIO

December 23, 1952

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

I was delighted to get your letter of December 15th and to know that you and your wife enjoyed your Cleveland visit. I heard a great deal of favorable comment about your lecture.

With all best wishes for the holiday season,

Sincerely yours,

*David Dietz*

DDmg

ALEX W. RATHE

December 23, 1952

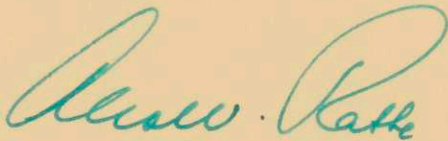
Dr. Norbert Wiener  
53 Cedar  
Belmont, Mass.

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Mrs. Gilbreth is delighted at the opportunity of a further discussion. She will be at the New York University Faculty Club on Washington Square Tuesday, December 30, at 10:30 A.M., as we discussed. I shall call for you at the Chatham Hotel that morning at 10:00 A.M. and am very much looking forward to the pleasure of seeing you then.

With the Season's Greetings and best wishes for pleasant holidays

Sincerely yours



cc. Chatham Hotel  
Vanderbilt Avenue at 48 Street  
New York, N.Y.

Edgebrook Estates  
White Plains, N. Y.  
Phone: 6-9333



December 23, 1952

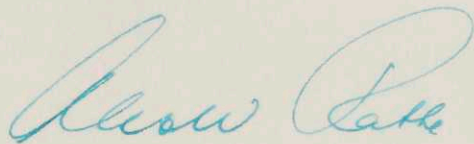
Dr. Norbert Wiener  
53 Cedar  
Belmont, Mass.

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Mrs. Gilbreth is delighted at the opportunity of a further discussion. She will be at the New York University Faculty Club on Washington Square Tuesday, December 30, at 10:30 A.M., as we discussed. I shall call for you at the Chatham Hotel that morning at 10:00 A.M. and am very much looking forward to the pleasure of seeing you then.

With the Season's Greetings and best wishes for pleasant holidays

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rose Katz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rose" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Katz".

cc. Chatham Hotel  
Vanderbilt Avenue at 48 Street  
New York, N.Y.

Edgebrook Estates  
White Plains, N.Y.  
Phone: 6 - 9333

German Publisher



FRANKFURT (MAIN)  
HEBELSTRASSE 17



Mr.  
Prof. Norbert Wiener



**Alfred Metzner Verlag**

Frankfurt am Main  
Hebelstraße 17 · Fernruf 54057/58

Mathematics Department  
Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology

Cambridge, Mass.

-----  
USA



Was sich lange ihm verhehlte,  
Wird ihm dann auf einmal klar:  
Daß, was ihn im Abgrund quälte,  
Eben nur sein Leben war.

H E B B E L

Wir wünschen Ihnen ein frohes Weihnachtsfest und ein  
glückliches, gesundes und erfolgreiches Neues Jahr

A. R. Kutz

München

December 23, 1952

Mr. Serge Fliegiers  
The Harvard Club  
27 West 44th Street  
New York, New York

Dear Fliegiers:

I shall be in town from the evening of Sunday, Dec. 28, until New Year's. My daughter, Peggy, will be with me. I have a pretty full schedule, but we might be able to find an hour or two to get together. My headquarters will be the Hotel Chatham. Get in touch with me there if you plan to be in town.

The Season's best,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

December 23, 1952

Dr. Janet McK. Rioch  
17 West 54th Street  
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Rioch:

Peggy and I are going to New York for a few days from the Sunday after Christmas to New Year's, and I am wondering if I might look you up sometime. There is nothing very pressing, but (a) I want to keep in touch with you, and (b) I have a few worries I would like to discuss with you. At present I have engagements for Monday morning, Tuesday morning, and Wednesday afternoon (Dec. 29, 30, and 31). Could we find some time for an hour when we could get together?

I shall be at the Hotel Chatham in New York.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

December 23, 1952

Dr. Abraham Sachar  
Brandeis University  
Waltham, Mass.

Dear Dr. Sachar:

I am very much interested in your ideas for your senior course, and pleased by your invitation to address your seniors and to discuss their problems with them and to tell them of my own development. I shall be delighted to accept your invitation. I should prefer, however, that the date of my talk be in April. The reason is that my book, Ex-Prodigy, is due to appear with Simon and Schuster in March, and the material in it is, I believe, so relevant to this discussion that I would prefer to have the book available at the time I speak.

Your arrangements as far as your schedule is concerned are entirely satisfactory with me. As to the honorarium, you probably have by not developed some idea of a reasonable amount. Except for the fact that no travel expense is involved, I think that I am entitled to an honorarium on the scale that you have found practicable in the cases of Margaret Mead, Archibald MacLeish, or Lewis Mumford. I find it a little embarrassing to fix the honorarium myself.

With the Season's greetings,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

[ans 121 26/52]



December 23, 1952

Dr. Theodore Shedlovsky  
Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research  
York Avenue at 66th Street  
New York, New York

Dear Ted:

Peggy and I are driving down to New York after Christmas for a few days holiday. We want to get in touch with you and this is our schedule. We shall come into New York to the Hotel Chatham on Sunday evening, Dec. 28. I have an engagement on Monday morning, Tuesday morning, and Wednesday afternoon. Otherwise my time is relatively free, and I want to see something of you.

I hear that there is a man at the Rockefeller who is doing something remarkable on steroid hormones. As Peggy is working in that field, I would like her to meet him. I don't know his name, but you will.

Best wishes to the family, and Merry Christmas.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb

December 23, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Simon:

I am bringing my daughter Peggy down to New York for a few days of holiday after Christmas as a Christmas present. I don't imagine there is anything particular to do with respect to my book, but I will look you up socially at the office sometime on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday after Christmas, and if there is anything which could benefit by my attention, there I shall be. I am sending this to you by Special Delivery to alert you in case you should find something to do with my visit in this difficult season of congested mails.

Many thanks for the Russell book. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

hb



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK  
INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

250 West 57th Street

December 24, 1952

Dear Dr. Wiener:

The French Section of the Voice of America was delighted to receive your New Year message on the scientific achievements of 1952. It is scheduled for a special program on "Ici New York" on January 1st.

The French Section also joins me in thanking you for your kindness in recording this New Year statement for our overseas audience and in wishing you a very successful New Year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth S. Colclough".

Elizabeth S. Colclough  
International Editor, Special Events  
International Radio Program Division

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



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

250 West 57th Street

December 24, 1952

Dear Mr. Mattill:

In Mr. Jones absence on leave, I should like to thank you for sending us the recording made by Dr. Wiener on "Science in 1952". It is a privilege for the Voice of America to broadcast his statement to Europe on a special New Year program.

We are sending the replacement tape to the Lowell Institute Cooperative Broadcasting Council, as you suggested.

We appreciate your assistance in making Dr. Wiener's statement available to us so promptly. Thank you for your cooperation and our best wishes for a successful New Year.

Sincerely yours,

*Elizabeth S. Colclough*

Elizabeth S. Colclough  
International Editor, Special Events  
International Radio Program Division

Mr. John I. Mattill, Assistant Director  
News Service  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

rec'd about Dec. '52

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY  
CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL  
WARD MEMORIAL BUILDING  
303 E. CHICAGO AVE.

- Dept. of Physiology

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

Dear Doctor Wiener:

It is a real pleasure to write you, it seems such a long time since I left MIT. I have known about you for one of my friends who used, with me, to listen the talks you gave us last winter.

I want to let you know about the kind of work I am at present doing with Dr. Gray.

For I am long since the time I was in Argentina one of the persons deeply influenced by your writings, you are in some degree accountable for some changes in my training, so you may as well know the researches I am up to now.

After a month of work with Dr. Gray, he, in August last year, obtained for me a fellowship in Northwestern University. We are working in regulation of respiration, especially in the neurophysiological problem of how the automatic rhythmicity of the respiratory center is brought about. We have described mathematically, using as a point of departure the experimental data accumulated heretofore, the different relations and the components that come into play in eupnea.

We have described different types of models, and lately we have come to a model which consists of a network of neurons randomly interconnected. We have assumed some fundamental well known properties of the neurons to start with

(excitability, additivity of subliminal stimulations, refractory period and so on) which condition the probabilistic characteristics of the aggregate. We have been able to obtain a system which displays an oscillatory activity upon a constant stimulation, with the characteristic on its time course of the respiratory center.

One of the things which has come out from the analysis is the importance of the spatial-temporal distribution of the states of excitation in one aggregate of neurons. It suggests itself a number of experiments to be done bearing on that point, which in the case of the respiratory center could be readily done. Also, a reconsideration of the responses obtained upon the stimulation of one afferent nerve, in this case the vagus nerve, since the different spreadings in space of its discharge on the scattered neurons which form the respiratory center, may condition (with the same conventional peripheral stimulation) a quite different response in the neuronal-aggregate. All this has some bearing with the assertion of Addarian that neuronal-aggregates can display properties which are not the simple addition of individual properties.

I regret that the nature of a letter does not allow me to enlarge in my explanation so it results necessarily rather vague. But I intend, as soon I write it in a satisfactory manner either to send the draft to you or, what I wish, to visit you in Cambridge and go over it with you, and I am confident in receiving a great benefit from your comments and help in the mathematical treatment.

I am looking forward with genuine pleasure to seeing you, for I want to receive again, besides the scientific teachings, the stimulation that derives from you, personally.

Sincerely yours  
José M. González-Fernández

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY  
WALTHAM 54, MASSACHUSETTS

WA 5-8050  
Genl. Educ. 5  
A Feb.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 26, 1952

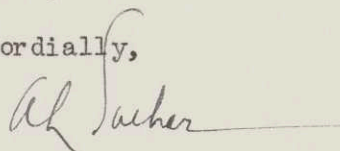
Dr. Norbert Wiener  
Department of Mathematics  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge 39, Mass.

Dear Dr. Wiener:

We are delighted to know that you will participate in the senior course as outlined in my letter of December 15. Since you write that some time during April would be most convenient, may I suggest April 9 or April 23. Will you be good enough to let us know which of these two dates would be satisfactory to you.

With all good wishes for the new year,

Cordially,



A. L. Sachar

als/csg

Feb.

[ans 1/5/53]

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of  
MATHEMATICS

Address reply to  
FINE HALL  
BOX 708  
PRINCETON, N.J.

Dec 27, 52

Dear Norbert:

It is years ago that we  
have been in touch with each other.

You may have forgotten it, but  
a conversation with Freeman brought  
old years back to my memory in  
the most pleasant way. Dad

has encouraged me to send you

his little New Year's greeting  
with many good wishes —  
particularly for your eyes.

We shall sail to Sweden in  
January and stay for  $\frac{1}{2}$  year. I  
need it, after two and half pleasant



but exceedingly strenuous year here  
where I was more active in math  
and with students than ever before,  
and where life is just one big  
turmoil.

Next year I must visit you  
at MIT.

Very best wishes

as ever yours

Will Feller  
Feller

[encl 1/5/53]

Paris, le 28 décembre 1952

Chère Mrs. Baldwin,

J'ai bien reçu le mémoire du  
Professeur Wiener que vous avez eu  
la gentillesse de m'envoyer et vous  
pûtes de remercier pour moi le professeur.  
Je compte l'étudier avec beaucoup  
d'attention.

Je serais content aussi que vous  
redissiez au Professeur Wiener combien  
j'ai été heureux et honoré qu'il me  
consacre son temps le mois dernier.

Il sera peut-être content de savoir  
qu'un séminaire de cybernétique  
aura lieu cette année à l'Université  
de Bruxelles, groupant la plupart des  
mathématiciens de cette Université et  
chez lequel M. Gillis prendra une part  
très active.

Je ferai moi-même quelques

confiances à cette Université pour les  
psychologues et ayant traité à  
l'application de la théorie de l'Information  
à l'Analyse du travail industriel

Veuillez croire, Chère Mrs Baldwin,  
à mes sentiments très sincères

M. Faverge

Tokyo Institute of Technology  
Oh-okayama, Meguroku, Tokyo  
Japan

December 29, 1952

Professor Norbert Wiener  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Mass., U. S. A.

Dear Professor Wiener:

It is my great pleasure to inform you that I have almost finished the translation of your book, "The Human Use of Human Beings" with painful realization of my own inadequacy and shortcomings. And yet it is my humble hope that the book will surely convey the meaning of your message to my country. The publishing company, Misuzu Shobo and myself will be very indebted to you if you would give us a preface to be added to the translation. Your book will be published in a series of books including Heisenberg's Wandlungen in den Grundlagen d. Naturwissenschaft; Born's Atomic Physics; Schroedinger's Science and Humanism; Rotand's grande Courant de la Biologie and others.

The Misuzu Shobo will soon publish four popular lectures of Cybernetics by various people given at the Japan Academy last October as a forerunner of your book. And the company is naturally very anxious to translate your original Cybernetics, but your French publisher has not yet decided to give the right to the Misuzu Shobo. I have also written to Monsieur E.R. Freymann in behalf of the Misuzu Shobo, but so far we have failed to receive any response from him. If I can impose myself upon you, may I ask you to recommend the Japanese publisher to Monsieur Freymann?

I am hoping to receive your favorable consideration for my request and also for the publisher.

My family with three noisy sons is well and happy. We are sending your family our best regards.

Sincerely yours,

*Shikao*

Shikao Ikehara

[ans 1/5/53]

# COPY

Tokyo Institute of Technology  
Oh-okayama, Meguroku,  
Tokyo, Japan  
December 29, 1952

Professor Norbert Wiener  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.

Dear Professor Wiener:

It is my great pleasure to inform you that I have almost finished the translation of your book, "The Human Use of Human Beings" with painful realization of my own inadequacy and shortcomings. And yet it is my humble hope that the book will surely convey the meaning of your message to my country. The publishing company, Misuzu Shobo and myself will be very indebted to you if you would give us a preface to be added to the translation. Your book will be published in a series of books including Heisenberg's Wandlungen in den Grundlagen d. Naturwissenschaft; Born's Atomic Physics; Schroedinger's Science and Humanism; Rotand's Grande Courant de la Biologie, and others.

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I am hoping to receive your favorable consideration for my request and also for the publisher...

Sincerely yours,

Shikao Ikehara

Copy: Jan. 5. hb

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
1335 H STREET, WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY

December 29, 1952

Dr. Norbert Wiener  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

About three years ago I first became aware of the incapacity of our present language to express adequately certain endocrine relationships. For example, to say that Thyroxin and Thyrotropin react reciprocally on each other, or rather on the glands forming these substances, does not fully express the relationship. Reciprocal, to me at least, suggests a teeter-totter and this (the endocrine) system is one tending toward stability rather than fluctuation. Your "feed-back" concept seems to be a more adequate explanation of the relationship. (I'm not yet sure that I fully comprehend the meaning of the concept as I have only become consciously aware of the field of Cybernetics in the past few weeks).

I was therefore very interested to read your brief discussion of homeostasis, and believe I have a concept to offer you which you will find useful. It is this:--

The body possesses one homeostatic mechanism which for purposes of anatomy may be subdivided into:--

- Somatic Nervous system
- Autonomic nervous system
- Endocrine system

Though even anatomically there are points at which it is only by arbitrary decision that we can separate these systems; functionally we find such separations worse than useless. To illustrate--suppose a deer is surprised by a wolf. Its initial flight is controlled by the somatic nervous system and its ability to flee is reinforced and strengthened by the autonomic nervous system and the endocrine system (adrenalin release). Finally if the flight is sufficiently prolonged or if, for example, escape should require considerable exposure to cold, icy, water than a non-specific stress (gelye) will have been applied and to maintain homeostasis the Pituitary-Adrenal Cortex portion of the endocrine system comes into operation. Certainly at present, it is impossible to disentangle these several mechanisms. One might say that the nervous system responds to a uni-directional stimulus and produces a uni-directional response whereas a diffuse stimulus (non-specific stress) produces a diffuse non-directional response, on the part of the

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
1335 H STREET, WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY

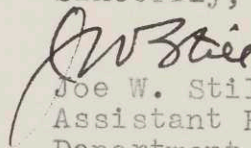
-2-

organism.

My reason for writing you about this is to suggest that the endocrine portion of the homeostatic mechanism may possess a good many advantages over the nervous system from the standpoint of Cybernetic research. It certainly depends on feedback systems for its operation and possibly the differences in reaction time and the fact that its feed-backs are at least largely Chemical in nature might make it a particularly fruitful one for investigation.

As the first paragraph would indicate--this suggestion is very much in the nature of a poorly formulated hunch--I offer it because it doesn't cost me anything to be wrong and if right it might be of value to you and your collaborators.

Sincerely,



Joe W. Still, M. D.  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Physiology

[ans 1-5-53]

Harvard University  
Graduate School of Education  
Lawrence Hall  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
December 29, 1952

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

Dear Doctor Wiener:

The editors of the Harvard Educational Review wish to thank you for your kindness and generosity in accepting their invitation to review President Conant's book MODERN SCIENCE AND MODERN MAN. They are pleased to learn that you are contemplating an essay-type review and feel that such a book certainly deserves the treatment you propose to give it.

I am having a copy of the book forwarded to you, and it should be in your hands shortly. We are looking forward with great interest to the receipt of your manuscript. Thank you, again, for your kindness in this matter.

Very truly yours,

*Robert G. Templeton*

Robert G. Templeton  
Book Review Editor  
HARVARD EDUCATIONAL REVIEW



# THE HARVARD EDUCATIONAL REVIEW

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December 30, 1952


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

Dear Professor Wiener:

Here is the copy of Conant's Modern Science and Modern Man which our Book Review Editor, Mr. Robert G. Templeton, promised to send to you.

Thank you very much for your willingness to review this book for the HARVARD EDUCATIONAL REVIEW.

Sincerely yours,

  
John J. O'Neill  
Chairman, Editorial Board

JJO:j

Test with - am. Jan. 5  
Ame + SD

ALEX W. RATHE

December 30, 1952

Dr. Norbert Wiener  
Hotel Chatham  
Vanderbilt Avenue at 48 Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Wiener:

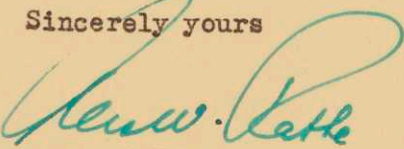
It was a very real pleasure to make the acquaintance of your charming daughter. Not only does she show the distinction of her parentage but it is equally delightful to enjoy her very own engaging personality.

I am taking the liberty of enclosing the suggested changes of the two spots (on page 4) of your manuscript which were made along the lines discussed today. I hope they meet with your approval. But if they do not do so in every respect, please re-edit them until you are fully satisfied.

I also enclose Mrs. Gilbreth's "discussion"; she has not yet seen the edited version. I shall pass both your paper and her discussion on to her just as soon as I have both of them back from you.

I would be very grateful if you could return them at your early convenience because the strong interest in your address makes it highly desirable to get it into print quickly. The next issue of MECHANICAL ENGINEERING is the February volume and that one goes to the printer on the fifth; however, Miss Clendenning, the Managing Editor, gave me until January eighth at the very latest to get the final copy of your paper to her.

Thanks again ever so much for the generosity with which you and Miss Wiener have shared your time here with me. I am already looking forward to your next visit which I hope will be soon.

Sincerely yours  
  
encls (2)

Edgebrook Estates  
White Plains, N. Y.  
Phone: 6-9333

Prof. Jacques Hadamard  
Académie des Sciences  
Paris

December 31 1952

Dear Professor Wiener

Before writing to you, I temporized for a long while. Was a foreigner like me qualified to say anything to you about a question relative to your country? That was the reason of this long delay, while this question weighs on my conscience for a very long time.

Of course, I do not know what you think of the Rosenberg case; I can not but tell you of our uneasiness on this issue, which is very great.

I wonder whether there is anybody here in France, among those who have watched the incidents of that case, to consider the procedure as an impartial one and Greenglass as a ~~honest~~ honest witness.

Not only it seems to us an evident thing that Greenglass, whose testimony is practically the only base of the indictment, must have lied that he cannot have overheard what he pretends ~~what~~ to have overheard nor written by sole memory what he pretends to have written in that way, but we understand that means of proving his falsity were at hand and these means were not used. Moreover we now hear that another false testimony is now discovered and there is a judge who has taken no account of that discovery.

The number is great of those who, if the Rosenberg are executed, will consider that as a murder: a murder disguised under legal formalities remains a murder.

The honour of American Justice, its reputation over the world are at stake.

This is, you must know it, the opinions of many scientists, not only in France, but in many countries - and there is, as you will agree with me, something which we can all a solidarity among scientists all over the world. They feel about many things and ideas in similar way.

Forgive me if I write this letter to you and to three of our Colleagues. Perhaps, I should not have done so if I was not a survivor of the Dreyfus case, still keeping in mind the struggles of that epoch and the energetic intervention of intellectual men. I could not help - else I should have even felt unfair - speaking of such a remembrance to colleagues whom I highly appreciate.

Yours sincerely

J. Hadamard

Professor J. Hadamard

Let me use that opportunity to send you our best and heartiest New Year wishes, from Mrs Hadamard and myself, for you and Mrs Wiener.  
[ans 1-7-53]

# BULLETIN OF THE ATOMIC SCIENTISTS

"A Magazine for SCIENCE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS"

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EUGENE RABINOWITCH  
Editor

December 31, 1952

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

We would very much like to obtain a copy of  
the speech "The Breakdown of Communication" which  
I understand you gave at a discussion meeting  
December 17th at Boston University.

Sincerely yours,

*Eunice Gram*

(Mrs.) Eunice Gram  
Editorial Assistant

*HS -  
did any body  
take it down?*

# National Committee to Repeal the McCarran Act

(Internal Security Act of 1950)

2 STONE STREET  
NEW YORK 4, N. Y.  
BOWling Green 9-2558

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Dear Friend:

Although the number of signatures received to our Open Letter to Congress is very impressive, several friends have made suggestions for improving the letter. They felt that the parenthetical material (mainly newspaper quotes) would be ineffective in persuading Congress of the need to repeal the McCarran Act.

In view of these suggestions which we greatly appreciate, we have redrafted the letter and have decided to postpone sending it to Congress from the date originally planned, January 3rd, to January 16th.

Enclosed is the new Open Letter which we hope all of you will agree to sign, using the enclosed form and envelope. We are sorry for the inconvenience to you of asking again for your signature, but we feel sure you will agree with us that these changes are in the best interests of the repeal campaign. We would appreciate your early reply.

All good wishes for 1953 -- including the repeal of the McCarran Act!

Cordially yours,

*Olive O. Van Horn*

Olive O. Van Horn,  
Secretary

OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF THE EIGHTY-THIRD  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

Dear Sir:

On the occasion of the inauguration of the new President and the convening of the Eighty-Third Congress of the United States, we the undersigned, earnestly urge you to support legislation seeking repeal of the McCarran Act (the Internal Security Act of 1950).

We ask this because we believe that it is the essence of our American democratic tradition that the right of dissent is basic to our democratic institutions; that the people and not the government shall judge the merit of ideas; that the people shall be free to organize into political, religious or economic associations without governmental restraint; that men may be punished for crimes they commit but never for opinions they hold; that guilt is a personal responsibility and not a question of association.

We hold that the McCarran Act violates all these basic American principles. Its enforcement during the past two years has caused serious infringements of the Bill of Rights, and has added materially to the atmosphere of repression and hysteria. The McCarran Act is responsible for the intolerable situation in which Government agencies, in a manner all too reminiscent of Nazi Germany have already prepared concentration camps, are denying passports to citizens, are deporting and refusing admission to aliens, and are holding thought-control hearings.

After two years experience with the enforcement of the McCarran Act we are all the more confident that the American people with their deep attachment to democratic traditions will eagerly support any action that will end these infringements of the Bill of Rights. This can best be achieved through outright repeal of the McCarran Act.

We, therefore, ask you to make every effort to achieve this, and thus help restore our democratic traditions.

Respectfully yours,

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO REPEAL  
THE McCARRAN ACT

ROOM 204

2 STONE STREET

NEW YORK 4, N. Y.





To the NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO REPEAL THE McCARRAN ACT  
2 Stone Street  
New York 4, N.Y.

(A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.)

     : I am glad to sign the revised Open Letter to  
: : Congress.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_