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CORRESPONDENCE

Oct., 1958

N. WIENER · MC 22

[ca Oct (?) 1958]

Research Project - Professor Norbert Wiener

**For possible inclusion in the Directory of
Current Research, prepared by the Industrial
Liaison Office.**

The purpose is to apply the theory of integration in function space to statistical mechanics and to develop a statistical mechanics field theory. In this the Hermitian functionals are used. The work contemplates the possibility of improvements in the theory of plasmas and later applications of the theory to quantum field theory.

NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, INC.

A SERVICE OF RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA

RCA Building, Radio City, New York 20, N.Y.

CIRCLE 7-8300

October 1, 1958

Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

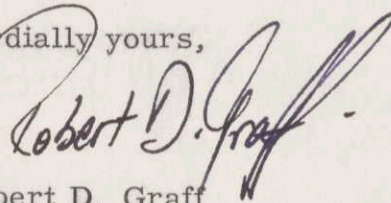
I regret you feel unable at this time to consider our request to speak later this winter at the Junior Council lecture series at the Museum of Modern Art.

As it happened, we received an acceptance from Dr. Tillich today, and we hope that Mr. Thornton Wilder will agree to appear as well.

Should you have a change of heart and find that a talk in New York would become possible during the winter, we would be delighted to see if it could be fitted into the schedule then.

I look forward to our next meeting, wherever and whenever that may be.

Cordially yours,



Robert D. Graff

[ans 10/7/58]

Oct 2, 1958



Dear Dr. Wiener:

I was reading an article in Oct. 1958 McCall's, which stated you were a well-known mathematician, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

I would like to tell you about Clifford A. Spetz.

He was the only man to go through the Naval School at Dearborn Michigan, with a 100% in Math. His over-all % was 97%.

His instructor advised him to go into the math field.

Would you be interested in this man? He has a wonderful personality and he is a successful sales man for a leading meat company.

(over)

- 2 -

Sincerely

Constance E. Spetz

2413 Walnut

East Gary

Indiana

[ans 10/6/58]

October 2, 1958

To Admission Officers of Medical Schools:

Mr. Marcus was my student last year at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has shown serious interest in the mathematical and physical ideas in psychology and biology and has gone a considerable distance in the study of the necessary mathematics. I hope that you can look upon his candidacy for admission to your medical school favorably.

Sincerely,

Norbert Wiener
Professor of Mathematics

NW/bas

October 2, 1958

Mr. and Mrs. Jason Epstein
33 West 67th Street
New York 23, New York

Dear Barbara and Jason:

I am enclosing the manuscript of my novel for your inspection. I am prepared to do a moderate amount of revision but if the novel is not essentially a good one by now, I am afraid it never will be.

There are some problems which Jason's moving from Doubleday poses. I had a letter from Doubleday the other day asking about what I was going to do with the invention book for which I received in advance, \$500. I believe that there is nothing for me to do but pay that back, possibly with interest and possibly without. I would like your advise on this.

As to the novel, I believe that I have no contract with Doubleday and that Doubleday is only aware of its existence, if at all, through Jason. I would like Jason's advise as to whether I owe Doubleday the submission of the novel. In fact, I would value very much Jason's advise as to whether to go further or to abandon it. With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert and Margaret Wiener

NW/bas
Enclosure

ELECTRONIC MACHINE CO.

502 MARKET STREET
EAST LIVERPOOL, OHIO

received
October 7, 1958

3 October 1958

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Enclosed are several printed copies of a very brief outline of an idea of mine relating to the nature of the universe. This hypothesis differs from the proposals of Gamow and Hoyle -- for one thing, this idea suggests an essential role for anti-matter. This function of anti-matter is entirely different from that offered by Morrison. In addition, the enclosed idea gives an explanation for the mutual recession of galaxies and the proportionality between distance of separation and velocity of recession.

I would appreciate knowing your comments. There is a stamped envelope enclosed for your convenience.

Simply to make the idea a matter of public record during the International Geophysical Year, a member of Congress printed the hypothesis in the Congressional Record on 30 July 1958. Now, in article-length, I hope to submit it soon to a scientific journal.

Several former professors of mine at M. I. T. have read the idea with favorable comments -- thinking it suitable for publication.

This Electronic Machine Co. is a laboratory set up by my brother, a physicist, and by me, a chemical engineer (Course X), for the development of new chemical processes and electro-mechanical devices.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

William Stanton Foulks, Jr.
William Stanton Foulks, Jr.

WSF/mf
enc.

[and 11/4/58]

The Cosmos as an "Explosive Mixture" of Infinite Extent—our Universe as a Propagating Flame in the Cosmos.

by William Stanton Foulks, Jr.

This hypothesis gives an answer to the question of why the galaxies in our universe are receding from each other at velocities which are directly proportional to the distances of separation. The word, cosmos, is used to mean the sum total of everything of a physical nature. The word, universe, is used to mean everything of a physical nature from which we could ever hope to receive radiation—even under the MOST idealized circumstances.

Several points that must be stated: (a) anti-matter—consisting at least of anti-protons and positrons—appears to exist, (b) collisions of anti-matter with normal matter result in instantaneous annihilation of both types of atoms with the release of energy, and (c) no evidence has been found to demonstrate that anti-matter would repel normal matter.

The writer's hypothesis:

(1) The cosmos is infinite. It is composed of "gas" at absolute zero. There is no kinetic energy, and there is no radiant energy. (our universe is an exception—a small disturbance.)

(2) The gas atoms are distributed with exact uniformity throughout the cosmos. The number of atoms per unit volume of cosmos is exactly the same at any place in the cosmos. All atoms are separated from their nearest neighbors by precisely the same inter-atomic distance. With an infinite gas and this degree of order, the suggestion is that there is no net force existing in the cosmos even on an inter-atomic scale. Nothing is ionized, and there is electrical neutrality. There is no movement, and there is no radiation.

(3) Of these absolutely motionless gas atoms, some percentage is anti-matter relative to the others. Perhaps the lightest isotopes of hydrogen and anti-hydrogen would serve. Other elements and combinations of elements in the anti and normal forms might be suitable, but they must be entirely stable. Some nuclear particle and its antithesis might serve if stable.

(4) Such is the initial state which may have existed always. With no beginning, the initial state found it proper and easy to exist with this symmetry and precision of atomic spacing.

(5) The introduction of radiation, mechanical energy, or some "disturbance" at any part of the cosmos will produce a collision of a normal atom with an anti-atom. One hopes that one quantum of radiation would suffice. After such a collision, the radiation released by the annihilation of the atom and anti-atom will go out in all directions at the speed of light—causing more annihilation collisions. This effect is self-propagating at the speed of light through the infinite cosmos. Our universe is such a propagating flame—expanding at the speed of light through the limitless explosive mixture.

(6) The annihilation reaction is a very rapid reaction. After the annihilation flame-front moves beyond a point, one species of atom—either matter or anti-matter—has been almost eliminated at that point. Which survives depends on which was the major constituent at that point. The surviving atoms now have kinetic and radiant energies. Local forces can begin to operate—so the condensation into clouds, galaxies, and stars is initiated.

(7) The radiation pressure from the highly intense and very rapid annihilation reaction forces the surviving matter to fly outward radially in this propagating spherical explosion. (The early stages are surely spherical.) With a uniform cosmos, the latent annihilation energy per unit volume of unexploded cosmos is the same at all points. Thus, the total annihilation energy release increases directly with the cube of the radius (as does the volume) while the area of the spherical surface increases directly with only the square of the radius. Per unit area on the surface of the sphere, the total amount of annihilation radiation passing radially outward is thus directly proportional to the radius of the sphere. So the radial velocity of matter surviving the annihilation reaction is also directly proportional to the radius. Hence, we have the galaxies in our universe receding from each other at velocities which are directly proportional to the distances of separation.

(8) It is possible that there are many expanding flame universes such as ours. Some could be vastly more ancient than our universe. We and they are expanding toward each other very rapidly through the infinite, primordial explosive mixture. Since there is no radiation in the primordial explosive mixture, it would seem impossible to know directly of it or of other flame universes by radiation-receiving techniques. (Perhaps the contacting of two flame universes could produce the intense compression needed in Gamow's cosmology.) Also the annihilation flame-front and the brink's galaxies are expanding away from our galaxy at the speed of light at least. Thus our galaxy is not receiving intense annihilation radiation. Annihilation radiation from the explosion's earlier stages has passed away from our galaxy long ago in the elapsed billions of years. The writer offers no reason for the original disturbing of the explosive mixture.

(The above hypothesis printed at Wilson Printing House, East Liverpool, O., Submitted June 14, 1958 printed June 23, 1958)

ELECTRONIC MACHINE CO., 502 Market Street, East Liverpool, Ohio

Research and Development

Chemical Processes

Systems

Electronic and Mechanical Devices

received October 10, 1958

33 West 67th Street
New York 23, N. Y.

6 October 1958

Dear Professor Wiener,

Jason asked me to write to tell you that he's received the manuscript of the novel and is reading it now. When he's finished, he'll write you about it, and about his own plans too. Meantime, we both send our very best to you and Mrs. Wiener.

Sincerely,

Barbara Epstein

October 6, 1958

Constance E. Spetz
2413 Walnut
East Gary, Indiana

Dear Mrs. Spetz:

Professor Wiener has asked me to answer your letter of October 3.

If Clifford A. Spetz would like to become a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology he would have to submit an application to the Admissions Office here. If he is interested in studying more mathematics subjects than he has already studied it may be that he can find schools nearer the area in which he lives where such subjects would be offered.

Very sincerely yours,

Ruth S. Goodwin
Administrative Assistant

October 7, 1958

Miss Diantha Gadaire
Vice President, Student Government
American International College
Springfield, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Gadaire:

I am finding it necessary to eliminate from my schedule all outside lectures. They have demanded in the past a great deal of my time and have cut down my ability to do my own original work. I hope that you will understand.

Sincerely,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

October 7, 1958

Mr. Robert D. Graff
Junior Council of the Museum
of Modern Art
21 West 53rd Street
New York 19, New York

Dear Mr. Graff:

I regret very much my lateness in answering your letter. Now that I have a secretary I am cleaning up my correspondence. I am finding it necessary to conserve my time strictly for research and other creative work. Therefore I cannot accept your kind invitation. I hope that you will understand.

Sincerely,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

October 7, 1958

Professor Shikao Ikehara
Department of Mathematics
Tokyo Institute of Technology
Oh-okayama, Meguroku
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Shikao:

I have now found what the hitch is concerning the royalty payments of Cybernetics. Hermann et Cie. have not given me an accounting of the sales either of the original of Cybernetics or its translation since June, 1955. You see, Freymann is dead and the firm has a new editor. I am writing to them to bring their accounts with me up to date. I shall let you know as soon as I hear as far as it concerns the Japanese translation.

We were in Italy last summer at a meeting on information theory in Varenna on Lake Como. We had a delightful time. There were a couple of your fellow countrymen there, one directly from Japan and one, Wanatabe, who works for IBM near New York. I have been doing some more writing, a novel and a scientific book. Everything is going well with us. I hope it may not be many years before either you visit the United States or we visit Japan again. Best wishes to you and the family.

Sincerely,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mnk

P.S. I am enclosing a letter which I received recently from Japan. You will probably agree with me that there is nothing I can do at this distance and with little knowledge of the man and his work. Do you think it is worth your while to get in contact with the man? If not, it might be best to disregard the letter, as any acknowledgment of it would probably involve me in further correspondence.

[ca Oct., 1958] Mr R Thomas
no 8 Weymouth St

London
Hampshire
Eng

Dear Sir,

I have seen your Photo-
graph in the IT 13V 1954
MAGAZINE and your
advertisement or book you
referred to wrote called
CYBERNETICS in the early
part of 1949. Will you
please tell me where
I can buy it in England
I am interested in this
kind of study and the
price per copy of your
book.

Yours sincerely
Mr R Thomas

P.S. I can't find it in
the library. I am a
Student of Hebrews &
the Bible [and 10/17/58]

October 7, 1958

Mr. Robert L. Lincoln
Executive Director
The Council of Higher Educational
Institutions in New York City
535 East 80th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Mr. Lincoln:

I am very much honored by your invitation to present a series of lectures. However I find at present that my own work requires all my attention. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mnk

October 7, 1958

Mr. Erling Skorpen
327 Willow Street
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Skorpen:

I am very much honored by the invitation to speak before the Graduate Philosophy Club but I find that I am unable to fulfill outside lecturing engagements. It is a matter of my strength and my desire to do new research instead of appearing again and again before the public on the same topics.

Sincerely,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

October 8, 1958

Dear Professor Weiner -

I write this letter to you to tell you that I have originated a thesis which I call ~~the~~ "Neo-Psychology". It explains the workings of the human mind, explains that all thought is composed of units of sensation, infinitely tiny and simple and numerous, and it gives the rules by which these units are activated and inactivated. I state unequivocally that by following the precise rules of neo-psychology,

(2)
one may build a humanoid brain,
a brain to think as does a human
brain, and to be more intelligent
than any man. This, I have written
out very clearly.

If you are interested, please
say so. I feel that I do not have to
beg anyone to read something that
has these enormous implications:

1- criminality being explained by
it, persons may be re-adjusted to not
be criminals,

2- a machine may be built, of
fantastic intelligence; such a machine
may govern the world,

3- thinking machines may themselves
design machines more intelligent than

themselves.

I hope, I simply hope, that you do not have in mind certain preconceptions about how long, hundreds of years perhaps, it will take man to reach the above point. I simply state that this is a major break-through, and (no rudeness intended, really) take it or leave it.

I am not a college graduate, my I.Q. is less than 140, there is no reason in the world for anyone to believe I could ever originate something like this. I can only say that I have.

Frank Wenzel.

[ms 10/14/58]

(4)

My address is:

Frank Wenzel
10618 Magnolia Drive
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

October 8, 1958

Ceskoslovenska akademie ved
Ustav radiotechniky a elektroniky
Praha 13 - Sporilov

Gentlemen:

I have received your invitation to the Second Prague Conference on Information Theory, Statistical Decision Functions and Random Processes. As I was abroad this summer to a meeting in Italy and as I spent the whole academic year two years ago abroad, I am afraid that it will be impossible for me to attend your conference. It is a matter of my physical strength and of the extra expense to which the trip would put me. I plan to make my next trip abroad some time in the late spring or summer of 1960 when I retire from full-time active service at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and when I shall give only one-half time service for a period of some years thereafter. I hope you will understand that this decision of mine goes with the best possible wishes for the success of your conference.

Sincerely,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

October 8, 1958

[Tschyvetov]

Dear Mr. Chuvikov:

I have received the copies of the Russian translation of my book, *The Human Use of Human Beings*, and thank you for sending them.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

October 8, 1958

Mr. George Thomas Folster
423 Nikkatsu International Building
1, 1-Chome, Yurakucho
Chiyodako, Tokyo, Japan

Dear Mr. Folster:

I am afraid that I shall have to bother you to find out the present state of my publications in Japan. I have as yet received personally no money from any of them. It is possible that moneys have been sent for the rights of my book on Cybernetics to Hermonne et Cie. in Paris, who are my publishers. I have written to them to ascertain if my non-receipt of royalties is due to a tie-up at their end, which is quite possible as I have heard that money has been sent. As soon as I ascertain this I shall let you know. I am particularly curious about my two autobiographies, Ex-Prodigy, and I Am a Mathematician. Apparently, according to Ikehara, there has been some tie-up with I Am a Mathematician. I also would like to know about The Human Use of Human Beings, which has appeared in Japan. Houghton Mifflin, my publishers here, have written to my Japanese publisher a very sharp letter and have received no answer as yet. Will you let me know if you can do anything about these matters and also just what you consider my arrangements to be with you as to the books for which you have agency in Japan.

We recall with pleasure our visit to your office in May, 1956, on our way through Japan.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

October 8, 1958

Dr. Iago Galdston
Medical Information Bureau
The New York Academy of Medicine
2 East 103 Street
New York 29, New York

Dear Iago:

I am writing this letter to explain my regretful decision not to accept your invitation to give a talk at the New York Academy this year. The fact is that I have found outside lecturing a strain on my energies and health and that the effort which it demands of me cuts down considerably on the scientific work which I yet hope to do. You will understand that if I leave open the gap for any further outside lecturing and if it becomes known that I am accepting requests of this sort, it will mean that I shall receive a mass of further similar requests which will put me to effort and to expense in handling them individually. It is vital for me that those who know me are aware that I have completely closed out this aspect of my activities, at least for a matter of years in the future.

I hope that you will not feel that this action of mine is any derogation of my great friendship for you and my esteem. It may be that I shall pass through New York sometime this year on personal business. If I do so, I shall make every effort to look you up and to pay my respects.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW: mmk

October 8, 1958

Hermann et Cie.
6, Rue de la Sorbonne
Paris 5, France

Gentlemen:

Since I saw your manager late in June, 1955, I have not heard from you, except the letter from your new editor in 1956. I believe that since then a Japanese firm, Iwanami Shoten of Tokyo, has obtained from you the rights for the translation of Cybernetics and has sent you the following sums in royalties:

1.	1956	7.18	119.74
2.	1957	11.27	Fr.42,065
3.	1958	4.17	Fr.25,785

1 is the amount paid in advance.
1 and 2 together cover the royalty
of the first edition, 2,000 copies.
3 is the royalty of the next 500 copies.

The rates of royalty are 8% for the first 1,000 and 10% thereafter.

Therefore, it appears to me that you must be in a position to forward my share of these royalties. The fact that I have not heard has already caused me a certain amount of inconvenience in my relations with my Japanese publishers. Would you therefore be kind enough to send me a statement of your position, not merely with respect to the Japanese matter, but with respect to all further moneys that may have come in in connection with my book, Cybernetics.

Sincerely,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

ARTHUR KOFFLER, M. D.
218 BEDFORD STREET
STAMFORD, CONN.

9 October 1958

Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
94 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

For some time now I have been in communication with Governor Ribicoff of Connecticut who has referred the matter to the Connecticut State Highway Department, members of which I will meet with on next Tuesday. The subject of my communication has been the use of the skip line as a highway lane dividing marker.

Because of the knowledge of feed back mechanism, etc., and because of what you have expressed on Page 157 in your book on Cybernetics in Chapter VI, "Gestalt and Universals," I thought it would be appropriate to ask you for your critical comments on my thinking. If I may quote from one of my letters to Governor Ribicoff I think you would quickly understand the problem.

"The following is my recommendation: That the skip line as at present constituted and used on our highways as a lane dividing marker be abolished. Many of our highways are separated into lanes by the use of a white line. A great proportion of these lines in use at the present time are of the interrupted type, i.e. the skip lines. It is my considered opinion, based upon considerable observation and thought, that the use of the interrupted white divider or skip line as used on highways is the cause of considerable unnecessary eye fatigue, and causes eye diversion and results in visual distraction.

The physiological basis for the above expressed opinion is well established. It is a well known physiological fact that the peripheral zone of vision is particularly sensitive to motion; and it is also a well established physiological fact that the perception of motion by the retina in the peripheral zone causes a reflex direction of the

ARTHUR KOFFLER, M. D.

218 BEDFORD STREET
STAMFORD, CONN.

macular zone of vision to the point of motion observed in the periphery. The perception by the eye of the interrupted white line on the road is in the form of apparent motion and thereby constantly, reflexly, directs the center of vision towards the interrupted line. This constant repetition of motion results in severe ocular fatigue and diverts the motorist's attention away from other important elements of traffic. You can readily understand therefore, how to a motorist who is tired, driving during the night, the above hazard can be the difference between safety and tragedy."

I hope that the State of Connecticut will show national leadership and go along with my idea of abolishing the skip line as presently used, not only in Connecticut but throughout the country. I believe that if it is done we will lessen the hazards of driving especially at night by an increment which though we may never be able to definitely measure, is nevertheless important.

I would very much appreciate hearing from you on the above.

Very truly yours,



Arthur Koffler, M. D.

AK:afv

[aws 10/14/58]

PORTLAND STATE COLLEGE

1620 S.W. Park Avenue

Portland 1, Oregon

October 10, 1958

OFFICE OF PUBLIC SERVICES

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Portland State College would like to invite you to be a guest speaker on its 1958-59 Lecture Series. Our science department, headed by Dr. Thurman Peterson, has strongly urged that we try to obtain your services.

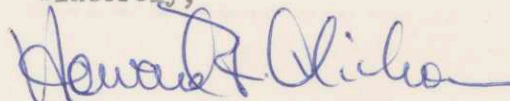
The series, instituted last year, was planned to give people in our community the advantage of hearing worthwhile speakers in selected areas. It has been so extremely well received that we feel confident we are meeting a need in this community. Already booked this year are: James Reston, Dr. Henry Steele Commager, Dr. Margaret Mead, Stephen Potter, the Right Honorable Anthony Nutting and Dr. Loren Eiseley.

We are prepared to pay your expenses plus a small honorarium. Our time is fairly flexible, although we would prefer sometime in January or May if this is possible.

Dr. Peterson has asked us to extend to you his personal invitation along with his regards.

We hope you will be able to accept our invitation and that we will hear from you soon. We feel confident that we could arrange for other speaking engagements in the Northwest if you so desire.

Sincerely,



Howard R. Clisham
Director
Public Services

HRC:es

[ans 10/17/58]

October 10, 1958

Professor Ernst P. Billeter
Universitat Freiburg
Institut fur Automation und
betriebliche Verfahrensforschung
Gundeldingerstrasse 139
Basel, Switzerland

Dear Professor Billeter:

I am very happy to hear that you plan to visit the United States, and would be pleased to address your group either in German or English when you reach Cambridge.

I send best wishes for a successful tour.

Sincerely,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

[aut 3/15/59]

October 10, 1958

M. Toullec
Hermann et Cie.
6 Rue de la Sorbonne
Paris 5, France

Dear Sir:

I have just received your account of the 24th of September. This gives no account of any sales of translation rights abroad. I have been informed by my Japanese colleagues that you have received certain sums of money for the right of translation into Japanese and I presume there may be other such rights that were sold. I should like an accounting of my share of the proceeds of these sales, and to what countries you have granted translation rights.

Sincerely,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

October 11, 1958

Dear Norbert,

I think the novel is vastly improved and with only a little further editorial work, particularly on the dialogue and in the episodes concerning Helen Deacon, will turn out to be a good, publishable book. The immediate difficulty, however, where I am concerned, is that my own plans are not yet settled and though I hope that within two weeks they will be, I can't really be sure. Nor can I in this letter give you a very meaningful account of what this settlement is likely to be. My situation is in some ways as complicated as the one Gregory James created- perhaps even more complicated. Whatever the outcome, however, I will shortly be back in the publishing business, either on my own or in connection with an existing company and when I am I should like a chance to publish the novel. On the other hand, if I go in with an existing company I can't guarantee that my colleagues to be will necessarily agree to publish the novel even though I may recommend it highly. I have every hope that they will, but with the future as uncertain as it is, I can offer you, at this time, only a strong probability and my own conviction that ^{the} novel is good and certainly deserves to appear.

By current standards, the novel is, to say the least, out of the ordinary, so much so that its virtues may come through obscurely to conventional readers. But its virtues are considerable and in its way the novel is one of those moral tales, more or less abstractly told, that belong to the main line of American literature. I don't want to overstate the case. You are not, obviously, a novelist to rank with Hawthorne or Melville nor is there much to be said for the originality of your literary technique; but you have written a moral fable of considerable dignity and skill, and you should be proud of it.

I wonder if you would agree to give me a few weeks- perhaps a month- to work on the manuscript and make whatever suggestions seem appropriate. I would also like some of my colleagues- those that might join me if I go into business on my own- to read it. At the end of that time I would like to publish it if I am in a position to do so. If not, I will recommend another publisher to you and pass it along to him, with your approval. In any case, the manuscript will require at least a few weeks of editorial work on my part and perhaps an equal amount of time thereafter on yours. The character of James comes through very well and you have done a good job with his surroundings. I don't think you have got into Dominguez as deeply as you might, and you have not made Fairview as substantial as it needs to be. But I think I can suggest ways to help. The subsidiary characters- Woodbury, Williams and Albright- are fine, though I think you miss a good opportunity for irony and pathos in not doing more with the two funerals- Woodbury's and Dominguez'. One solution might be to let James recollect the Woodbury funeral in some detail as he attends the Dominguez eulogy. But these are technical matters and can be handled without much more work on your part, if you tell me to proceed with my suggestions.


As for the Doubleday situation, I'd let matters rest for now. Doubleday does not need your \$500 and in the meantime it has the first draft of the inventions book in hand.

-2-

Why not cross this bridge when you come to it.

With best wishes to you and Margaret.

Sincerely yours,


Jason Epstein

[and 10/19/58]

CHRONOLOGY

1882-1902	Pages	1 - 12	Odessa - Boston
		12 - 20	Job hunting - Job found.
		20 - 24	First meeting with Helen Deacon
		24 - 35	Lost job at Cromer
Two year period (see p. 54)		35 - 45	Gained employment with Williams and Albright - General orientation at Williams and Albright Letter from Dominguez at Fairview College
		45 - 54	Two weeks later - Visit to Fairview College
		54 - 72	First introduction to engineering intrigue
		73 - 75	Three months of computation
ONE year			Six months of manufacturing
		76	Three months living on the dredger Reference to James' having been employed at Williams and Albright for three years
		78 - 84	Middle of June, 1908 - ten day trip on the <u>Islander</u>
		84 - 97	Piston and Rudder Society - Woodbury.
		97 - 100	Veraggio with Helen and voyage home.

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
(University of Vermont and State Agricultural College)
BURLINGTON, VERMONT

answered by phone
October 15, 1958

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Department of Political Science

October 12, 1958

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

Dear Prof. Wiener:

The Vermont Conference, an organization of the University of Vermont, takes pleasure in inviting you to be the principal speaker at its annual meeting in April, 1959.

The purpose of the Vermont Conference is to acquaint the Student body with methods and theories which are not yet the subject of general undergraduate instruction.

The topic for the 1959 Conference is "New Directions." We feel that you have given many new directions in your profession and life. We would be grateful if you could tell us a little of your purpose and your work.

The Conference has a small budget and we feel that we should like to pay you, if at all possible, your usual fee.

May we give you a ring on Wednesday, October 15. at a quarter past two? We should welcome any questions that you may wish to put to us at that time.

Yours truly,

Cecelia G. Meloney

Cecelia G. Meloney
Co-Chairman

Leroy Meshel

Leroy Meshel
Co-Chairman

Raul Hilberg
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TOKYO, JAPAN

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CABLE ADDRESS
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October 14, 1958

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

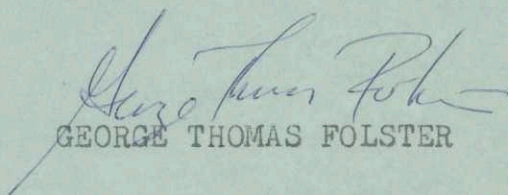
Dear Mr. Weiner:

Thank you for yours of October 8, 1958.

We discontinued our literary agency about eighteen (18) months ago and transferred your two books (EX-PRODIGY and I AM A MATHEMATICIAN) to Charles E. Tuttle Co., 15, Edogawa-cho, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, with your agent's (Simon & Schuster Co. and Doubleday Co.) permission.

We will transfer your letter to Charles E. Tuttle Co. and we are sure you will hear about the present state of your publication in Japan from them in the near future.

Yours truly,


GEORGE THOMAS FOLSTER

GTF/ey
cc: Charles E. Tuttle Co.

October 14, 1958

Mr. Jason Epstein
33 West 67th Street
New York, New York

Dear Jason:

Your letter is what I hoped you would find yourself able to write. I am enormously complimented by it and realize that as a novelist I am a bit of an amateur. I am perfectly willing to leave the material with you and to work over the suggestions you make to me for improving the book. I shall be satisfied however the matter comes out. I am extremely grateful to you and wish you all success in your new undertakings. I will leave everything in your hands and will accept your recommendation as to the Doubleday situation.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

October 14, 1958

Dr. Arthur Koffler
218 Bedford Street
Stamford, Connecticut

Dear Dr. Koffler:

I was very much interested in your letter of the 9th. As to the interference which the divided white line on the road may have with the driver, there is a good deal of interest to say. In the first place I did a bit of driving day before yesterday and tried to notice the effect of just this sort of a line on me. I could not find it to be appreciable and I believe that under normal circumstances the effect is likely to be negligible. This is due to the fact that under these circumstances the amount of illumination of this divided white line is an extremely small fraction of the total illumination so that the flicker it produces should not affect any really important part of the total visual intake.

On the other hand, you will know of Cobb's work on the effect of a regularly planted line of trees on certain subjects who were either epileptic or with a tendency towards epilepsy. At certain speeds when the sun is low and the greater part of light comes through this line of trees, the effect of the regular alternations of light and darkness produces a flicker which can cause an epileptic fit. While you probably try to seed out from your drivers epileptics, there must be many with epileptic tendencies who you do not succeed in seeding out and who do not know that they possess these tendencies.

As I have said, I doubt if the condition of the interrupted line on the roads will involve anything like the intense alternation of illumination and non-illumination which one observes with a line of trees. Possibly there are some conditions particularly in night driving where this sort of difficulty may come up and the effect be important.

I have been studying the mathematics of the effect of flicker in driving the brain (for this is a brain phenomenon and not primarily an eye phenomenon). Mathematically

Dr. Arthur Koffler
October 14, 1958
Page Two

I should expect that the effect of flicker would depend not only on the rate of alternation of light and dark but on the regularity of this rate. In other words, I should expect that a flicker, let us say of ten alternations per second, which because of the alpha rhythm is likely to be one of the disturbing alternations, would be much greater if the frequency were precisely ten per second rather than a band of frequencies near ten per second. In other words I should expect that an irregularity of the intervals between white and the next white would mitigate the effect. As to the relation of the frequency of the flicker with the length of the alternations and the speed, when a car is going 60 miles per hour the dangerous interval would be in the order of nine feet. This is probably not too far from the interval which one actually finds on the road. At slower speeds this interval would be shorter. However this has to do with the disturbance of the alpha rhythm of the normal person, whereas the frequencies disturbance to the epileptic are probably more likely to be half this. Thus, it is really possible that a person with epileptic tendencies driving fast along the road may get into trouble because of these lines.

This is a field in which much more work is necessary and if you are interested in the matter, come up sometime and we'll talk it over.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW: mmk

October 14, 1958

Mr. Frank Wenzel
10618 Magnolia Drive
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Mr. Wenzel:

Professor Wiener thanks you for your letter of October 9, 1958. He is unable to comment upon your work without having read your thesis.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Kruger (Mrs.)
Secretary to
Professor Norbert Wiener

/mnk

October 15, 1958

Mr. Eric Schaal
Hotel Splendid
Zurich, Switzerland

Dear Mr. Schaal:

I thank you very much for thinking of me in connection with your book, but I would rather beg off the whole business. I have always been extremely skeptical of lists of leading this and leading that and to be put in one places me in an invidious position. This is particularly the case when I am asked to cooperate in furnishing material for a book of this sort. There is no way in which I can do this without tacitly accepting and participating in a claim to some sort of priority and status and there is no way to participate in such a claim without voluntarily making a show of oneself. I have always had the most skeptical opinion of honors in science and have considered that on the whole, they do more harm than good. For this reason, I have been more than sparing in my acceptance of these, particularly in such cases as they involve evaluation by other than my co-workers in fields in which I am interested. The maintenance of a structure of publicity relations goes inevitably with the acceptance of such honors and I have found that this maintenance demands a large part of the energy which I can ill spare at my age. It will not do to consider that my sending a picture to you will close the demands made on me. For the very fact that I have answered your request would be an indication to others that I am open to further requests of the same sort or of related sorts. I hope you will understand my position and not regard what I have taken as a settled policy in self defence as mere churlishness on my part.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

October 17, 1958

Mr. Howard R. Glisham, Director
Public Services
Portland State College
1620 S. W. Park Avenue
Portland 1, Oregon

Dear Mr. Glisham:

Thank you very much for your invitation to participate in the 1958-59 Lecture Series of Portland State College. However, I find at present that my own work requires all my attention, and thus I must decline your kind invitation.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mnk

October 17, 1958

Mr. M. R. Thomas
No. 8 Heyworth Street
Bacup, Lancashire,
England

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Professor Wiener thanks you for your interest in his book, *Cybernetics*. You will be able to secure a copy from Chapman and Hall, 37 Essex Street, London, W.C.2.

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Kruger (Mrs.)
Secretary to
Professor Norbert Wiener

:mck

Uppsala, 18 Oct. 58

Dear Professor Wiener,

We have now settled down in Uppsala in a brand new apartment, larger and with considerably more gadgets than our place in Cambridge. The gov't of Sweden has full responsibility for the housing supply for all citizens. Private profit is being taken out of housing, though actual construction is by private contractors, some of which we can see from our window. There seems to be a comparatively high degree of successful socialization here. People are mighty careful about subletting apts here because there is a law forbidding eviction of any occupant who has no place to move into. A new telephone is expensive to install, but you can inherit one from your father. Swedes seem to take outdoor exercise quite seriously. There are beautiful forests quite near town and you can always see cross-country runners racing along the paths. ~~The~~ Last Sunday Barbara and I saw a group of high school girls running up steep hills just for the health of it.

I have already found some curious results on interpolation in the unit circle with bounded analytic functions, and am learning something of the Scandinavian brand of analysis. Lennart Carleson who was at Tech last fall is the most active analyst here and has interests in statistical mechanics and information theory. A small book^{*} on the kinetic theory of gases, based on a manuscript of Carleman's, appeared recently. It contains among other things an interesting proof of a version of the H-theorem; it is essentially a study of the Boltzmann integro-differential equation under conditions near equilibrium, or under conditions of spatial homogeneity. Most of the editing was done by Carleson.

I realize that I left ^{on non-linear prediction} the chapter of the joint book in a state that is very likely improvable, as I have not seen clearly through the problems we discussed early in August in New Hampshire. What is written down is correct, but it contains assumptions in addition to the ones you have emphasized. I am uneasy about this.

The following, possibly interesting, problem arose in the analysis seminar recently:

* *Problèmes Mathématiques dans la théorie cinétique des gaz, T. Carleman*

- Assume 1. $f(x)$ is a bounded measurable function on the line
 2. for t belonging to a certain non-empty set E ,

$$I(t) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2T} \int_{-T}^T e^{itx} f(x) dx \quad \text{exists.}$$

Then $I(t) \neq 0$ for at most a countable set of t 's. (This follows from a lemma of Sierpinski's on Borel sets together with your determination of the quadratic variation of the Fourier-Stieltjes transform of a function of bounded variation.) Now suppose $I(t) \neq 0$ for $t = t_1, \dots, t_n$. Is it then true that

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^n \left| \frac{1}{2T} \int_{-T}^T e^{it_k x} f(x) dx \right|^2 \leq 1$$

if $|f(x)| \leq 1$?

Of course I should be delighted to hear from you about any matter, scientific or otherwise, that should arise. Especially how your mathematical-physical theories are developing. I trust they are thriving.

Barbara and I like to recall our most interesting and pleasant visit with you and Mrs. Wiener in N. H. which now seems so far away. We send you both our very best wishes and regards.

Edwin Skutovich

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL RELATIONS

EMERSON HALL
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

October 19, 1958

Dear Professor Wiener,

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you formally the invitation you kindly accepted orally last Tuesday in Emerson Hall to address the Social Relations Graduate Colloquium on the social applications and implications of your work in Cybernetics and related fields. We suggest one of the three following dates for your appearance: December 10, December 17 or January 8, 1959--whichever is most convenient for you. Should all of these dates prove inconvenient for you we should be happy to have you suggest a date, preferably during the first half of December or the first ten days of next January, when you could appear.

The meeting will begin at 8:30 PM in one of the common rooms of the new Graduate Center on Everett Street and we suggest that your opening remarks should last approximately forty-five minutes. Following your presentation there will be a question and discussion period after which refreshments will be served and there will be opportunity to continue discussion informally. I should also mention that your audience will consist predominantly of people without advanced mathematical training (anthropologists, psychologists and sociologists) although some mathematical statisticians and mathematicians will doubtless be present. We hope that, as far as is possible, you will take account of this fact in your remarks.

The Colloquium Committee also invites you to dine with it prior to the meeting, at seven o'clock at the Harvard Faculty Club on Quincy Street. Perhaps it would be most convenient for the Committee to meet you at the Club at that hour, but here again we will abide by your wishes.

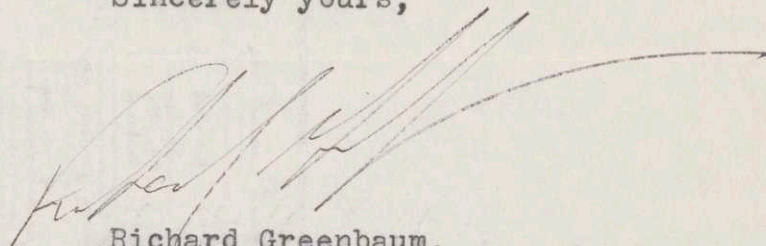
I look forward to hearing your decision on the

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL RELATIONS

EMERSON HALL
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

precise date of your appearance and thank you once again
for your kindness.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Richard Greenbaum', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Richard Greenbaum,
Chairman, Social Relations
Graduate Colloquium

Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

[and 10/21/58]

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

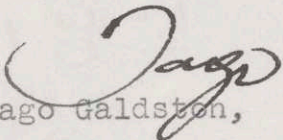
October 20, 1958

Dear Norbert:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 8th. Much as I regretted your decision, I do see your warrant for making it.

When you are next in New York do let me see you.

Cordially yours,


Iago Galdston, M.D.

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

/ed

[ans 10/28/58]

October 21, 1958

Mr. Richard Greenbaum
Chairman, Social Relations
Graduate Colloquium
Harvard University
Emerson Hall
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Greenbaum:

Thank you for your invitation to speak before the Social Relations Graduate Colloquium and to dine with you at the Harvard Faculty Club. The evening of Wednesday, December 10, 1958, would be convenient and I shall plan to meet you at the Harvard Faculty Club at seven o'clock.

Sincerely,

Norbert Wiener

*date changed
to December 18, 1958*

NW:mmk

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CHICAGO 37 • ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

October 22, 1958

Professor Nobert Wiener
MIT
Cambridge 39, Mass.

Dear Professor Wiener:

I wonder whether you will be kind enough to give me your opinion on the enclosed paper by Dr. T.T. Wu. I was asked to transmit the paper to the Journal of Applied Mathematics and Mechanics (Indiana University) for publication. I will much appreciate, if you could tell me whether the paper has sufficient merit to be published.

With best regards and thanks,

Sincerely yours,

陳省身

S.S. Chern

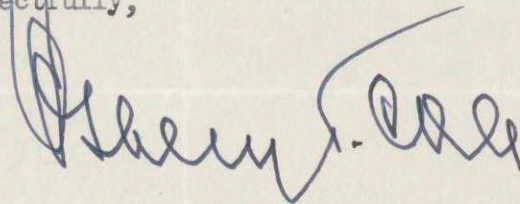
[ans 11/10/58]

ASHLEY T. COLE
COUNSELOR AT LAW
30 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

Will Dr. Wiener kindly favor me with a few lines of his handwriting and his signature on the enclosed card, to add to a very notable collection of autograph letters.

I would greatly appreciate his sympathetic consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ashley T. Cole". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'A'.

October twenty-second,
Nineteen hundred and fifty-eight

[ans 11/9/58]

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.

October 23, 1958

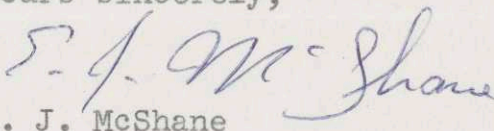
Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

I am writing you somewhat hesitantly, since the purpose of this letter is quite frankly to ask a favor.

Last summer, at the conference at the Ram's Head Inn you told me about your forthcoming book on "Random functions and non-linear processes". I said then that this would be excellent material for a seminar that I am conducting this school year at the University of Virginia, and you told me that you would be willing to let me have an extra set of the proof sheets when they came out. Since all this was purely verbal and was just part of a conversation in the highly active setting of the conference, it occurs to me that it would be entirely natural if this would have slipped your mind. Consequently, I am writing you this letter as a refresher of memory, and as an indication that if and when the proof sheets become available, I would very much like to get hold of them.

Yours sincerely,


E. J. McShane



Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

TROY, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

October 24, 1958

Dr. Norbert Weiner
Professor of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Weiner:

It is most interesting and provocative to observe the way in which you arrive at the suggestion that man is providing a small enclave in the universe against the forces of chaos. Other sensitive and thoughtful people have intuitively reached the same conclusion.

One of these was Thomas Hardy who, in the Return of the Native, remarks about man's futile struggle against the heath. Through hard, unremitting toil a farmer was able to carve out an orderly garden from the wildness of the heath but after a while when he became tired or sick, the heath reasserted itself in another victory of entropy over order. Herman Melville in Moby Dick expresses the same idea in an elaborate allegory. And the story of the Creation in Genesis, describing the bringing of order out of chaos starts out, "In the beginning was the word..."

Your observation that man's power of communication is the one thing that marks him as being different from all other forms of life is another way of saying that "man is a little lower than the angels." Thus on perfectly sound mechanistic and scientific grounds, you help man to raise his view of himself.

Although the concept of entropy is almost synonymous with the concept of tragedy, the conclusions to be drawn from your discussion are by no means pessimistic. Personally I found them very much to the contrary. They gave me a sense of dignity and a sense of faith.

I have been reading the Human Use of Human Beings because we here at Rensselaer have been studying the problem of the transferral of ideas from the mind of the teacher to the mind of the student, and we have been investigating the various technological ways of bringing this about. You indicate that we should give a much higher place to the concept of feedback. Up to now I am afraid we have been giving it lip service but we haven't really built it in to too many of the educational experiments that we have been undertaking. It is an integral part of one teaching technique, and the data we have on this technique so far is encouraging.

October 24, 1958

Your concept of loss in any given communication is also important. But here I would like to raise one question. Your book is not easy for the average person to read. Because of its importance, would it be possible in future editions to try to overcome some of the loss that must now be taking place between the sender and the receiver?

Sincerely

Richard W. Schmelzer

Richard W. Schmelzer
General Secretary

rws:mk

James Mackay in the Economy of Happiness discusses the moral implications of some of the very problems you raise. His work is divided into - Intelligibility, Probability, Utility (Neo-utilitarian) If you do not know, I suggest you take a look at it. You & he together build up a highly interesting view of man & his physical environment.

October 24, 1958

Dr. H. Behrendt
Rudolf Virchow Medical Society
In the City of New York
1175 Park Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Behrendt:

I have just finished revising the manuscript of the talk I gave last year and shall forward it within a few days. It has involved a great deal of rewriting, particularly in view of the fact that so much of my talk depended on the use of the blackboard and I do not wish my lecture as printed to contain diagrams. I hope you will find it satisfactory.

Meanwhile I wish to reiterate my appreciation of the pleasant reception which my wife and myself received at the meeting of your Society and to express the hope that the members and myself shall see more of one another in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW: mmk

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CHARLES E. TUTTLE COMPANY

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Reply to Tokyo Office

Tokyo, October 27, 1958

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

Dear Mr. Weiner:

Reference is made to your letter of October 8th to Mr. Folster and his reply to you of October 14th, 1958 concerning the status of the Japanese translations of your publications.

Re: EX-PRODIGY
Japanese language edition

The Japanese publisher of this edition, Masu Shobo, was already out of business when this account was turned over to us. We regret that nothing further can be done about this case.

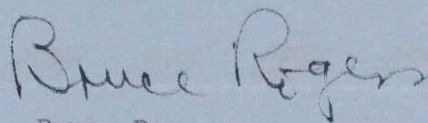
Re: I AM A MATHEMATICIAN

We sent an up-to-date statement on this book to Doubleday & Company with our covering letter of September 16, 1958. No doubt you have heard from them on this matter.

Re: THE HUMAN USE OF HUMAN BEINGS

We do not appear to have any records on this account. We are asking Mr. Folster to enlighten us on this and will let you know further about this.

Sincerely yours,



Bruce Rogers
Manager

YK:ts

Charles E. Tuttle Company

15 Edogawa-cho, Bunkyo-ku
Tokyo, Japan



Mr. Norbert Weiner
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts
U. S. A.

PAR AVION
航空

この郵便物には何物も封入又は添附できません
Nothing may be contained in or attached to this letter.

折込線

折込線

ここにも通信文を記載することができます

This space is also for correspondence.

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BENJAMIN C. WILLIS
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BRIG. GEN. AMOS W. W. WOODCOCK

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
Annapolis, Maryland

October 27, 1958

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

My dear Dr. Wiener:

Let me set down the facts which I outlined briefly to you on the telephone this morning. I hope that the significance of the conferences which we plan will persuade you to make an exception to your decision to remain in Cambridge throughout this year.

Curtis Wilson, who became dean of the College this fall, proposed you as the best qualified person to do a lecture on the "Revolution in Man's Labor". Wilson said that he enjoyed an ocean crossing with you some eight years ago and that you discussed the St. John's program critically and constructively at that time. It is now twenty-one years since we began this all-required program, and we are anxious through these convocations to stress mathematics and the laboratory sciences as liberal arts and as contributors to the development of the liberally educated person.

The occasion for the convocations is the completion of the Francis Scott Key Memorial Hall, a six hundred-seat auditorium, and of Mellon Hall, our new laboratory building. Five special events are planned. The first will be the dedication ceremony itself at which President Eisenhower will speak. The second will be a musical week when Ralph Kirkpatrick, the harpsichordist, is here for a series of concerts and seminar discussions, December 1 - 6. The third event will take place the last week in January when we stage the first American production of Monteverdi's Orfeo in the Francis Scott Key Memorial Auditorium.

The fourth event will be a convocation on the general theme of "The Scientist as Philosopher", February 26 - 28. For this we project three lectures: (1) "Science as the Handmaiden of Politics", by Lloyd Berkner; (2) "Science in Conflict with Morality?", by Richard Niebuhr; and (3) "What Is Science as Philosophy?", by Harrison Brown. Finally, we plan a convocation on April 9 - 11 on "Man's New World" with lectures on:

Dr. Norbert Wiener
page two
October 27, 1958

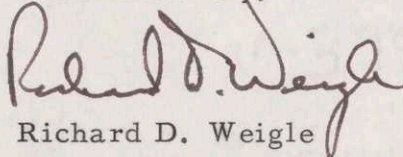
(1) "The Revolution in Man's Labor", by you, we hope; (2) "Man's Genetic Future", by George Gaylord Simpson; and (3) "Planetary Politics".

It is our tentative thought that the first lecture would be given on a Thursday evening in each case, followed by a panel discussion on Friday morning to include invited guests and members of our own faculty. The second and third lectures would be given on Friday afternoon and evening. A further panel discussion would follow on Saturday morning. It is our hope and that of the Danforth Foundation, which is underwriting the cost of the convocations, that the sessions will prove to be really significant ones and that the calibre of the lectures and of the discussions will warrant publication in the summer of 1959.

We are prepared to offer you an honorarium of \$500 together with your travel expenses and, of course, hospitality to you and your wife while you are here in Annapolis.

I hope that the idea will appeal to you. We have spent considerable time and thought in trying to choose just those men who we feel can make a really significant contribution as we seek to explore together the role of scientist as philosopher.

Most sincerely,


Richard D. Weigle
President

[ans 10/30/58]

child study association of america

132 EAST 74TH STREET, NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • BUTTERFIELD 8-6000 / MRS. CLARENCE K. WHITEHILL, PRESIDENT • A. D. BUCHMUELLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October 28, 1958

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

The Conference Planning Committee of the Child Study Association of America is in the process of developing the program for the 1959 Annual Conference, which is to be held on Monday, March 16, here in New York City. We would like to extend a special invitation to you to be guest speaker at the luncheon session, which is the focal point of the all-day meeting.

Enclosed is a copy of the first draft of the Conference theme, as envisioned by the Committee. There are three speakers scheduled for the morning session: Dr. Barbara Biber, of Bank Street College, will approach the subject from the point of view of early childhood; Dr. Victor Rosen, psychiatrist of New York, whose approach will be the application of these questions to the adolescent years; and we have invited Dr. Weston LaBarre, Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, Duke University, to address this session from the point of view of the cultural factors involved.

In your book, "The Human Use of Human Beings," you state "any use of a human being in which less is demanded of him and less is attributed to him than his full status, is a degradation and a waste." We would be privileged to have you address the Conference from your own particular point of view, within the framework of the theme as expressed in the enclosed statement.

The afternoon session will be devoted to a panel discussion in which the speakers of the day, with the assistance of an able moderator, will have an opportunity to discuss some of the more practical and explicit questions involved, in an informal, give and take manner.

The Child Study Association of America is a national, tax exempt organization whose primary concern is the mental health of our country's children. Its program focuses upon the study of



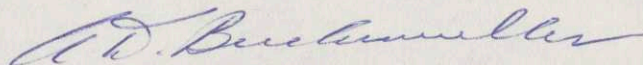
October 28, 1958

child development and influence of parent-child relationships; methods of parent education, particularly through parent discussion groups; training of professional persons who work with parents and families; and the publication of material for parents and persons who work with parents. The Annual Conference is traditionally one of the most important events of the Association's year. Approximately 1,000 to 1,500 people register for the all day meetings. I hope you will not think it presumptuous to say that the Association offers a platform from which your ideas will reach a vast audience of thoughtful community people. The Conference papers are published in our quarterly magazine CHILD STUDY, and the event regularly receives extensive news coverage.

The Planning Committee, made up of members of our staff and Board, joins me in extending a most sincere invitation to participate in this meeting. An honorarium of \$100, plus expenses, will be provided for our speakers.

Since we are anxious to formulate final plans for the program as soon as possible, we would appreciate an early reply from you, with the hope that it will be in the affirmative.

Sincerely yours,



A. D. BUCHMUELLER
Executive Director

ADB/r
Enclosure

[ans 10/31/58]

CHILD STUDY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 1959 -- HOTEL ROOSEVELT, NEW YORK CITY

FOR OUR CHILDREN: Something to Live By

Throughout our world today, there exists a profound unrest growing perhaps from a sense of rootlessness in which the individual feels lost in a universe of gigantic forces beyond his control. Thoughtful parents and everyone who is responsible for the rearing and education of the new generation sense the danger and ask what are the ways by which we may forestall in our children a feeling of being somehow diminished? How may we help them to find meaning in life and invigorating vistas?

Many of us are searching for deep and firm commitments, and it is certainly our hope that as these are established they may serve at least as a starting place for our children. Yet we know that imposing our own answers on our children negates the very thing we are looking for, which is a life purpose growing out of one's own conviction.

Thus it becomes a matter of helping the child to develop his capacities -- his innate wish to know and to understand, and to find his place in the larger world. What does he need from us at the various stages of his growth to give coherence to all that he learns and dreams about? How much can he absorb -- and at what age -- of the implications of tremendous new discoveries and developments? Is the space age to mean nothing more to him than an exciting game or a form of fiction? Do international relations resolve themselves, as time goes on, only into a grim acceptance of the military draft? Does science exist just to help us get ahead of the Russians? The piecemeal answers, we begin to realize, are not enough, either for our children or for ourselves. We must have a clearer definition of man's role so that we may more effectively transmit what we believe, and at the same time encourage the child to find his own answer to man's fundamental question: Where do I take my stand?

October 27, 1958

H 50

RG

10/28/58

Dear Prof. Wiener:

The enclosed copy of an article
I've written is sent because I believe
it will interest you. I'd be glad to
receive your comments.

Marvin Schwartz

264 Morton Avenue
Albany 2, New York

[ms 12/3/58]

October 28, 1958

Dr. Iago Galdston
The New York Academy of Medicine
2 East 103 Street
New York 29, New York

Dear Iago:

I received your letter of the 20th. I am glad that you understand the reason for my action. I am very much interested in what you have in your paper and shall read it thoroughly. Also, the next time I am in New York I will do my best to get in touch with you as I value very much your friendship and your advice.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

October 28, 1958

Professor E. J. McShane
Department of Mathematics
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia

Dear Professor McShane:

I am complimented by your request for proofs of the book. I have already talked with my publisher, Professor Bryant of the M.I.T. Press, and if possible he will send you a copy of the page proofs at once. The book will be out sometime late in November.

With most pleasant recollections of our last meeting, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW: mmk

Proofs sent - November 5, 1958
mmk

Colonial Hotel, Omaha, Nebr.
October 29, 1958

Dear Professor Wiener,

I have been debating as to whether to employ a less formal mode of address, such as I used about fifty years earlier, but as I reflect upon the aura of fame that so deservedly surrounds you and the distinguished hirsute ~~in~~ countenance (truly Beheimrat-like), and not even being sure you would remember me, I decided to address you by the proper title.

Several years ago I was greatly delighted to read your wonderful little book on Cybernetics. Up to that time you had completely faded out from my horizon, and discovering you was truly an inspiring experience. I wish I had obeyed my instinct and had written you forthwith. Due to the influence of my daughter I have recently read the other three books from your pen. While I think that "Cybernetics" is your finest contribution, I thoroughly enjoyed your autobiographical book. Although I have not gained a better understanding of mathematics, I can say truthfully that certain elementary things, which I tried fruitlessly to comprehend, became clear to me in your exposition, which convinces me that you are not only a gifted mathematician, but also a skillful exponent of the science.

I greatly admired the tribute you pay to your father. As you may perhaps remember, I knew your father very well and respected his great scholarship. On one

score I cannot agree with your account of your father. To the best of my knowledge and recollection, I regret to say I never thought of him as a prominent liberal. As a matter of fact, your own story of the part you had in breaking the Boston Police strike (at that time you were strongly under your father's influence) and that, later in life, you came to realize what an inglorious act it was, emphasizes your liberalism which was suppressed by your father's more dominant illiberalism.

Reading your autobiography made me think of how many times our paths - especially in Europe - seemed to approach but never intersected at any point. Of the various people you mention, I was interested in the comments about Mr Freymann of Paris. I was very sorry to learn through you about his death. I visited him, in his little crowded shop, back in 1938, when he was publishing my little book on Muscle Dystrophy. Incidentally, that was to be translated and published in French, but when I asked to be allowed to bring it out also in this country, Mr Freymann said he would rather publish it in English - and he did.

With kind regards and every good wish,
Faithfully
S. Morgulis

P.S. There is a comment at the end of your "Some Mathematicians" which seems to escape my comprehension. Just exactly what do you imply when you say that in the Byzantine Empire civil servants were emasculated?

[ans 12/16/58]

B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL FOUNDATION

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

317 MEMORIAL DRIVE
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

Phone: UN 4-6900, Ext. 2982

RABBI HERMAN POLLACK
ADVISER

October 30, 1958

Professor Norbert Wiener
Building 2-276
M.I.T.

Dear Professor Wiener:

In addition to the letter of thanks that you will receive from the Hillel students, I wish to add my appreciation for arranging your busy schedule to speak to the students on phases of the novel that you have just written. By the use of historical incidents, which you fictionalized, you made them aware of the problems that they will no doubt encounter at one time or another and of their responsibility to assume a moral position in their daily life. You provided us with a most meaningful experience, and I therefore thank you for sharing with us your vast knowledge and profound insights of the concerns of man and society. You also helped the students understand the implications of their heritage in relation to ethical questions.

I trust that the good wishes conveyed during the kiddush over the Sabbath wine expressed in some small manner our esteem and affection for you. We are fortunate to have you as a friend and well-wisher.

With our kindest regards, best wishes, and cordial greetings to you and Mrs. Wiener, I remain as ever,

Sincerely yours,

Herman Pollack

Shalom!

October 30, 1958

President Richard D. Weigle
St. John's College
Annapolis, Maryland

My dear President Weigle:

I am much honored by the letter you have sent me inviting me to participate in a convocation at your college this year. However, I am afraid that I must persist in my refusal to accept outside invitations to lecture for this year at least and probably permanently. The compelling reasons for this decision are, first, that the strain on my health and energies which such trips involve is excessive. They generally demand some days rest in bed afterwards. Moreover, they seriously interfere with the scientific research and teaching which I conceive to be my chief function.

Second, I believe not merely as far as I am personally concerned, but in general, this present vogue for lecturing is exaggerated and harmful to the limited amount of energy which the United States can devote to science. I am completely out of sympathy with the attitude that the scientist should devote a large part of his time to public contacts. It leads to a certain intellectual diffuseness which is perhaps not the best quality of American intellectual work.

Third, lectures such as those to which you invite me, involve a considerable amount of preliminary effort in writing on stated subjects. I believe that I can do my best work by following out my own ideas rather than by writing on dictated themes. The amount of preliminary work that attendance at a convocation involves, the amount of social contacts which exhausts the person invited without furnishing any real good to anyone, the number of subsidiary lectures which are generally slipped in after the acceptance of the invitation and which add to the strain on the lecturer, are in my firm opinion excessive. If I were to accept an invitation, I would be put to a great deal of effort in protecting myself by refusing these extra demands. This refusal would certainly not add to the good opinion of me in the place that

President Richard D. Weigle
Page Two
October 30, 1958

had invited me. In fact it would do me far more damage than a complete refusal. Since I have to make a refusal anyhow, I think that the logical place is right at the beginning.

I hope you will understand that I really do appreciate the honor of the invitation and that I am only writing this letter because I feel it important that those whom I turn down understand the cogency of my position.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW: mmk

October 31, 1958

Dr. H. Behrendt
Rudolf Virchow Medical Society
In the City of New York
1175 Park Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Behrendt:

Enclosed is the revised manuscript of the
lecture given before the Rudolf Virchow Medical
Society in November, 1957, by Professor Wiener.

Sincerely,

Margaret Kruger (Mrs.)
Secretary to
Professor Wiener

October 31, 1958

Mr. A. D. Buchmueller
Executive Director
Child Study Association of America
132 East 74th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Mr. Buchmueller:

I thank you for your request for me to address the Child Study Association of America. The fact is, however, that I am very tired this year and that I am finding it absolutely necessary to confine my effort to teaching my classes and doing my own research work. If I were to accept an outside invitation, I should find yours one of the most inviting. But the state of my health demands a strict refusal of any such invitations.

I hope you will understand.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk