

321 -

CORRESPONDENCE Dec., 1962

N. WIENER - MC 22

[ca Dec 1962]

Dear Prof. Wiener,

This in great haste. -- I have also had another letter from Dr. Shaumjan of the Russian Encyclopaedia who had asked you for an article. He has asked me to convey to you his hopes for receipt of one and has extended the publication date to "between Jan. and March".

No other news but X-mas cards at this time. Shall write again at the end of this week or beginning of next (e.g. before the 3rd.)

Best regards,

E. M. Ristow

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

..... 19.....

Memo to..... Room..... Ext.....

from..... Room..... Ext.....

[ca Dec. 7, 1962]

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

19.....

Memo to Mrs. Elers Room..... Ext.....

just a short note to accompany today's mailing which takes place primarily because of your bank statements.

Mrs. Elers sent her check to me - I enclose her note. If you prefer different

from..... Room..... Ext..... →

arrangements - and I think the  
McCartly's had a different system,  
would you tell me so I can handle  
things from here?

Thank you

& best regards.

Elm Ritts

Dear Mrs. Ritter, There is nothing new  
at the moment. Yes, do send the Christmas  
cards. It is always a joy to open them.  
There should be another instalment notice  
of our own income tax. We are returning  
the paper for Saul Franklin. Sorry, my  
husband couldn't honestly say more.  
When I am home, we can go over the reprint  
discrimination together. Mr. Kotelly's recom-  
mendation has gone off, too.

Best wishes,

Margaret Wiener

December 2, 1962

Dear Mr. Weener,

I very much appreciate that personal letter you sent me concerning the address of Mr. Fant from Stockholm.

I have a correspondence with him.

Mr. Fant and his colleagues have as yet not reached any determined results in their work. He has sent me some interesting scientific articles concerning the work of his laboratory.

Recently in the Soviet magazine "Technique of the Youth" there was a short article where it was informed that some scientists of New York had created the apparatus which converted the acoustical waves of sound into visible patterns on the screen of a hand.

There was said nothing about the names of that scientists and their addresses.

I think that you have to know this fact and all the details refer this invention.

I have a great request to you - if you have any possibility inform me please about the facts concerning this invention as well as the addresses of the inventors themselves shortly all the facts which you know yourself after this I shall have a correspondence with the authors of this invention.

You know perfectly well that hearing is even the only aim of my life now.

Yours sincerely *B. B. B.*

[ans. 2-19-63]

P.S. It is too pleasant for me to have a correspondence  
with such well known over the world scientist as you are  
Don't you know that your name is well known in  
the Soviet Union?

Your philosophy and mathematics articles are  
well known by our readers

If you want I may send you one of these  
articles printed Russian in Soviet Union.





А В И А  
PAR AVION



DR. NORBERT?

Куда To Mr. Weener. Massachusetts Institute  
of Technology. Cambridge 39. Boston  
U.S.A

Кому

МЕЖДУНАР. ПОСЛ.

Адрес отправителя:

Mr. Tsvetkov. Tsவில்inga 39-15. Cheljabinsk. U.S.S.R





UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON

December 3, 1962

Dear Mr. Wiener:

We would greatly appreciate permission to publish, in various foreign-language editions of our monthly magazine America Illustrated, translations of the article "Some Moral and Technical Consequences of Automation" written by you and from the May 6, 1960 issue of SCIENCE.

America Illustrated is published by the U. S. Information Agency for distribution in the U.S.S.R. and its European satellite nations. At present, we distribute editions of the magazine in Russia and Poland. If at the same time, it is possible to extend the permission to cover a Serbo-Croatian reprint in Pregled, published monthly by our office in Belgrade for distribution in Yugoslavia, we would be grateful. Credit, of course will be given to you as the author and complimentary copies of the issue in which the article appears will be sent to you.

Enclosed is our work copy of the proposed text. It has been abridged to meet space requirements, and in some instances words and phrases have been amplified or eliminated to make the piece more meaningful to our audiences.

While many authors and publishers make no charge for use of their material in the information program, we are permitted to offer a token payment of \$25.00 for use of the article as outlined. If there are no objections, please sign and return the attached form indicating whether payment is desired and the correct copyright line required. A self-addressed stamped envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

We wrote SCIENCE Magazine on November 7, 1962, and they requested that we contact you.

An early reply would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

*Blanche Edington*

Blanche Edington  
America Illustrated

Enclosure:  
As stated.

Mr. Norbert Wiener  
Department of Mathematics  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Boston, Massachusetts

*Admission  
Given Jan. 14, 1963*



UNIVERSITA' DI NAPOLI  
ISTITUTO DI FISICA TEORICA  
Mostra d'Oltremare, Pad. 19 - Tel. 610524  
N A P O L I

[ca 12/4/62]  
Napoli. li ~~4 dicembre~~ 1962

DRAFT

Dear Professor Wiener:

I am a member of a committee which will soon meet in Rome to decide about the "libera docenza in cibernetica" which our Ministry of Education will award for the first time this year.

I should be very grateful if you could give me an authoritative definition of the field of Cybernetics, which may be of great help at this meeting. In particular I should like to ask you whether in your opinion the sort of work on the structure and function of brains which is done in Braitenberg's laboratory is to be considered as pertaining to Cybernetics.

Thanking you, I am

Sincerely yours,

E. R. Caianiello

[ins 12/13/62]

# TOKYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS  
OH-OKAYAMA, MEGURO-KU  
TOKYO, JAPAN

December 4, 1962

Mrs. Eva-Maria Ritter  
Professor N. Wiener's Office  
Department of Mathematics  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge 39, Mass., U.S.A.

Dear Mrs. Ritter:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 15, which has given me the recent activities of Professor and Mrs. Wiener in Europe. We are all happy to learn that they are enjoying their life in the foreign countries.

As for my interest I have been through the Departments of Physics, Chemistry, Electrical Engineering and now in the Department of Mathematics. I do not understand the many aspects of Professor Wiener's work, and yet I am rather "greedy" in getting all I can get. For I am supposed to know anything about Professor Wiener. In fact, I have had much difficulty in helping my friends in the compilation of Professor Wiener's papers.

Following your suggestion I am sending the translation of CYBERNETICS to your office to wait for the master's return in Cambridge.

With best wishes for the holiday season,

Sincerely yours,

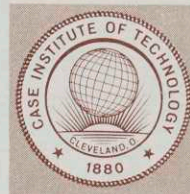
S. Ikehara

Shikao Ikehara

Sent 12 reports  
more recent ones  
Feb. 11, '63

# CASE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Systems Research Center



UNIVERSITY CIRCLE  
CLEVELAND 6, OHIO  
SWeetbriar 5-1000

December 4, 1962

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

Dear Prof. Wiener:

The past several years have witnessed the development of a new trend tending to unify concepts from a variety of disciplines ranging from the theory of control and communication, theory of computers and finite automata, to the study of organization and learning properties of biological and social systems. This trend points to the development of a general "systems theory" which will provide a firm conceptual basis for the so-called "systems approach" in diverse fields of science and engineering.

The Systems Research Center at Case Institute of Technology is organizing a conference on Systems Theory in order to stimulate the growth of this important new trend. The conference is designed to bring together the leading experts who are largely responsible for the present state of the art and provide a forum for their discussion of the essential elements of the Systems Theory.

It is intended that the meeting be concerned solely with the topic of Systems Theory. In particular the conference will aim at clarifying the following issues:

1. Basic characteristics of systems theory
2. Review of some of the results obtained so far
3. Immediate problems
4. Prospects for further development.

*did not answer.*



CASE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY CIRCLE • CLEVELAND 6, OHIO

The conference will include formal presentations by the invited speakers. Speakers will be asked to address themselves to the topic of systems theory per se, i.e., to what they consider system theory, in the general sense, to be and ought to be and to comment on the four issues above. Papers will be delivered to an open audience with discussion and comments from the floor. In addition, provisions will be made for informal discussions involving both speakers and conference attendees.

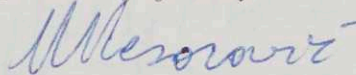
A financial arrangement is planned by which the travel expenses of the speakers and an honorarium of \$ 200. per day of participation at the conference will be paid to each speaker. The honorarium is intended to be a token of appreciation for the time the speakers will devote to the preparation of papers and participation in the conference. It is planned that the proceedings of the conference be published in book form. In such a case it is customary for the publisher to award an additional honorarium.

Because of your contributions in the field of systems theory, and your expressed interest in the topic we are pleased to invite you to prepare a paper for this conference. Enclosed is a list of other scientists to whom invitations are being extended. We will contact you by telephone shortly after you have received this letter in order to provide you, in an informal way, with additional information.

The conference is tentatively scheduled to last two days in the first week of April, 1963, and adequate publicity will be given as soon as the participation of the speakers is secured.

Hoping for your favorable response.

Sincerely yours,



Mihajlo D. Mesarović,  
Program Chairman

MDM/lh

Enclosure

[ans 12/23/62]

TENTATIVE LIST OF SPEAKERS

FOR

THE CONFERENCE ON SYSTEMS THEORY

Bellman, Richard	The Rand Corporation
Boulding, Kenneth	University of Michigan
Drenick, Rudolph	Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn
Gagne, Robert	Princeton University
Gerard, Ralph W.	University of Michigan
Linvill, William K.	Stanford University
Mesarovic, Mihajlo	Case Institute of Technology
Rosenblith, Walter A.	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Simon, Herbert	Carnegie Institute of Technology
Wiener, Norbert	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Zadeh, Lofti	University of California, Berkley



December 4,

2

Dr. K. H. Blacker  
The Langley Porter Neuropsychiatric Institute  
401 Parnassus Avenue  
San Francisco, Calif.  
U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Blacker:

First I wish to apologize for this late answer to your invitation to address your institute's Wednesday Noon Conference on May 22. After some consideration I decided against my coming to the Interdisciplinary Program at the Medical Center at this time. I feel highly honored by your request, and I am certain I would enjoy meeting with your group.

With best wishes I remain,

sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

December 4,

2

Mr. Carroll Bowen, Director  
The M. I. T. Press  
M. I. T.  
Cambridge, Mass.  
U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Bowen:

I am glad to hear that you stand in need of reprinting my Nonlinear Problems in Random Theory. As you perhaps know, I am returning to M. I. T. at the beginning of the second term. At present I am so busy closing up my work here before sailing in January that it would be impossible for me to find the time and the necessary leisure to go over the book for any changes or corrections. If you cannot wait until I am home again, you will have to print it as is. The only other suggestion I could make is that you consult Professor Y. W. Lee of the Electrical Engineering Department in the meantime, since he is practically the co-author of the book.

With best wishes, I remain,

sincerely,

Norbert Wiener

December 4,

2

Professor Karl W. Deutsch  
Department of Political Economy  
Yale University  
New Haven, Connecticut  
U. S. A.

Dear Karl:

Of course, you have my permission to use any excerpt you wish from the Human Use of Human Beings or any other of my books. Thank you also for the chapter on Political Power and Social Transactions which you sent me earlier this year. I shall be back at M. I. T. for the second term, and we shall most likely see each other there. In the meantime, the best to you and your family. Margaret and I are well and have had a wonderful year.

Sincerely,

Norbert Wiener



## RADIO TV GUILD

5 December 1962

San Francisco State College  
1600 Holloway Avenue  
San Francisco 27, California  
JU niper 4-2300

Dr. Norbert Weiner, Professor of Mathematics  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Massachusetts Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

I am presently gathering information on cybernetics, more specifically, cybernetics in broadcasting. I have found little or no information on such a subject and so I would like to explore the idea from beginning to end.

I have chosen to write my Masters thesis on this subject since few broadcasters have ever heard of cybernetics, and most of these are reticent to speak on automation in broadcasting.

This semester I have completed a lengthy report on your two books, Cybernetics and The Human Use of Human Beings. The ideas and theories and social implications contained in these two volumes are most astounding, however, could you direct me to someone who is directly connected with the use of cybernetic principles in broadcasting. Any help from you would be received with the greatest thanks.

Sincerely,

*Mike Biele*  
Mike Biele

806 Cresta Vista Way  
Aptos, California

[ans 1/17/63]

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

December 5, 1962

Professor Norbert Wiener  
c/o Professor E. R. Caianiello  
Istituto di Fisica Teorica  
Universita di Napoli  
Mostra D'Oltremare  
Naples, Italy

Dear Professor Wiener:

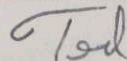
It was good to receive your letter of November 12. On behalf both of the Department and of the Second Century Fund, let me tell you how much we appreciate your generous gift. We in the Department value it very much and especially thank you for designating the Department.

I was interested to receive your remarks and the other information about Mr. Della Aricia. I hope that we can have him here. Norman Levinson and Irving Segal have a research contract with the National Science Foundation and they offered to place Mr. Della Aricia on that contract if you feel he would be interested. We could accordingly offer him an appointment as Research Associate in Mathematics for the two semesters, spring 1963 and fall 1963-64 (February 1, 1963-June 15, 1963 and September 16, 1963-January 31, 1964) at a salary of \$7300 for the nine months period. From your letter I understand that he expects to receive the doctorate in February 1963. His obligations under the appointment here would be to collaborate with you on research. He would be expected to acknowledge support for his part of the research to the National Science Foundation by footnotes in any papers published based on the research. If this proposed arrangement meets with your approval and if it interests Mr. Della Aricia, I will be glad to send him a formal invitation. If you prefer that the appointment be for only one of the two semesters we can arrange it on that basis. I will await a reply from you before writing formally to Mr. Della Aricia.

Irving Segal and I are delighted that you can give the opening lecture at the Conference on Sunday evening, June 9. We are sorry that you cannot stay the entire time but there will be no difficulty in your leaving in time to participate in the Symposium in Madison from June 12-14.

With best wishes to you and Margaret.

Sincerely yours,



W. T. Martin

WTM/bas

[ans 12/A/62]



ATLANTA PLANT

DEC 11 1962

**MEAD PACKAGING**  
A DIVISION OF THE MEAD CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 4417 / ATLANTA 2, GEORGIA / AREA 404 875-2711

December 5, 1962

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge,  
Massachusetts

Subject: Bibliography of Publications  
of Norbert Wiener

Gentlemen:

After seeing excerpts of a few publications of Norbert Wiener, whom I understand is associated with your Institute, I am very much interested in obtaining a bibliography of his works, particularly those concerned with the science of automation. If you should have such a bibliography available or know where one might be obtained, I should very much appreciate hearing from you.

Thanking you for your consideration of this inquiry, I remain with best regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Henry H. Wirth  
Foreign Sales Correspondent

HHW:lvh

December 5,

2

Dr. Bernard T. Engel  
School of Medicine  
Department of Pharmacology  
University of California  
San Francisco Medical Center  
San Francisco 22, California  
U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Engel:

Thank you for your kind letter of November 8. How I wish I could I could be in two places at the same time. I am afraid I must stick by my decision. Work to be done when I come back to M. I. T. is piling up at such a rate that I should reduce rather than increase my engagements. I am sure you will understand.

With best wishes for the success of your conference,  
I remain,

sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

(8th floor) V. A. Hospital  
921 N. E. 13th Street  
Oklahoma City 4, Oklahoma  
December 8, 1962

Professor Norbert Wiener  
Department of Mathematics  
M.I.T.  
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

This Fall, I moved to Oklahoma State University as a visiting associate professor of mathematics. My background in support of civil liberties has now led to a peculiar situation.

On October 30, I was "committed for observation" by Payne County Judge Max E. Sater, of Stillwater. He ruled that I was "not dangerous" to myself or to others, but that I "need psychiatric attention." The primary "evidence" was a collection of political essays, fables, and letters—some of which had appeared in the papers. I was prevented from having a lawyer during, and for two weeks after, the trial. Whatever benefits might otherwise result from psychiatric treatment will, of course, be offset by the enforced (and sustained) nature of the confinement.

Any assistance will be much appreciated, including funds to help pay legal expenses. I have retained Carroll Samara, Cravens Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Willis R. Stark, of Jones, Oklahoma, as my attorneys.

Sincerely,

*Wm. A. Pierce*  
(Dr.) Wm. A. Pierce *ass*



Write Carroll Bowen  
Director, MIT Press

to tell us what to do  
in this case and  
others related?

copy

May 26, 1962

Honorable John Fitzgerald Kennedy  
President of the United States  
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Kennedy:

Concern about "Communism" in the United States has produced widespread activity directed against radicals and alleged "Reds." Events have made me an involuntary expert on the methods used, because I have been one of the victims. A hidden alliance has developed among extremists, certain politicians, and a few 'scientists,' especially science-administrators. Their techniques include scientific harassment, but their true motivation is often concealed. In the "legends" of Bill Bailey and Dr. Joe, I have hinted at some of the activities of the extremists.

The "legends" are authoritative, because I am the real Bill Bailey-- and also the real Dr. Joe : After my initial refusal to 'give in,' I was subjected to constant cloak-and-dagger harassment. It was years later that I found the device in my fillings. Attacks against me have utilized drugs, brainwashing, and mental paralysis ( induced in a mild form ). The REAL truth -- and the WHOLE truth -- ought to be told. (Imagine paralyzing a ballplayer until he is 35, or incapacitating a mathematician until he is 40.)

I trust that the government will provide investigative and technical facilities, so that I may expose the truth and prove it. The story is not pleasant, but needs telling. It involves systematic slander, spurious evidence, 'bugging' devices, and auditory disturbance. I can establish the details, but shall want the aid of conscientious leaders.

Thank you for your kind attention; shall hope to confer soon with the proper authorities.

Respectfully,

*Wm. A. Pierce*

(Dr) William A. Pierce

Professor of Mathematics

encls

b

copy

May 31, 1962

Honorable Robert Kennedy  
Attorney General of the United States  
Justice Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

Enclosed are materials about the activities of "right-wing extremists." This is an expanded version of what I sent you earlier.

I have been victimized by weird techniques—as unbelievable as rockets on the moon ! Yet what I report is the Truth; and I expect to prove so.

It is my hope that the Justice Department will take a hand in exposing the criminal and unconstitutional activities here outlined.

Sincerely,

*Wm. A. Pierce*

(Dr) William A. Pierce  
1064 Van Voorhis Road  
Apt J-121  
Morgantown, W. Va.

enclosure

# The Brookings Institution

1775 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

Robert D. Calkins, PRESIDENT

Robert W. Hartley, VICE PRESIDENT

ADVANCED STUDY PROGRAM: James M. Mitchell, DIRECTOR.

SENIOR STAFF: Fordyce W. Luikart Walter G. Held John Osman Harry R. Seymour

CONSULTANTS: Fred K. Hoehler, Jr. William L. Reno

December 10, 1962

Professor Norbert Wiener  
Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

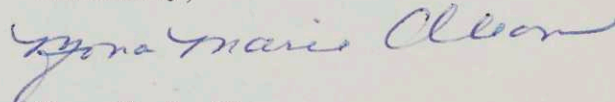
The Brookings Institution is conducting a series of conferences for Federal executives, designed to contribute to their continuing education. The Institution is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization devoted to research, education, and publications in economics, government and the other social sciences.

In connection with these conferences, pertinent materials are distributed to the participants to serve as background for their discussion. We would very much like to use your article "Science and Society", which was originally published in Voprosi Filosofii and later in Technology Review, July 1961.

We are having some difficulty in obtaining a complete copy of your article. Would it be possible for you to send us a copy? If not, may we have permission to use the extract from "Science and Society" which appeared on page 651 of the November 9, 1962 issue of Science?

I would appreciate learning from you if this article is in reprint form and, if not, if we could have permission to reproduce it for use at these conferences.

Sincerely,



Mona Marie Olean  
Secretary to Mr. Seymour

We don't have reprints of it.

E-R.

Answered  
Jan. 19, '63

414 Pring Dr.  
San Antonio, Texas  
Dec. 11, 1962

Dear Dr. Wiener,

Now that I have finally secured your present address and actually find myself writing to you, I feel as if I had reached the end of a long road in which I am now qualified to become a member of the Missing Persons Bureau of the F.B.I. I realize that neither you nor your close contemporaries in Boston, Italy, or wherever you have been in the past twelve years, were conscious that you were lost or even missing. In my stupidity it never occurred me to call long-distance to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, your last listed address in 1950; they would have reassured me that you were indeed very much alive, present, and accounted for. Instead I attempted to locate your whereabouts and destiny the hard way, by making local inquiries through book-stores, library card-catalogues, "Who's Who in American Science" etc; but here in San Antonio few of the doctors, scientists, teachers, or even librarians that I discussed your work with seemed to have the faintest inkling of who you are, what you are, or where you are, and every local avenue of inquiry seemed to lead to a dead-end. I began to feel a sense of panic, feeling that perhaps my interest in you had developed "too late" (the story of my life); and that, putting it delicately, you were perhaps no longer among us. Finally, in desperation, I did the simple thing I should have done months before: I phoned person-to-person to Robert Wiener at M.I.T. Within a matter of moments a charming feminine voice announced, "This is Robert Wiener's secretary." My heart rejoiced because I reasoned that anyone employing a secretary must be very much alive. While the operator patiently waited, your secretary spelled out a very complicated Italian address, which I hope I took-down accurately, in view of my agitation.

Despite this lengthy long-distance exercise in Italian spelling, the operator said there would be no charge for the call. (How often I have learned The Best Things in Life Are Free.)

Let me now introduce myself: I am an ordinary 37-year-old housewife with three children, and my husband is a professional real-estate appraiser. (This is a person who attempts to establish the exact mathematical market-value on any given tract of land, commercial property, building, or individual home.)

Approximately five years ago I suffered what the public euphemistically refers to as "a nervous breakdown", and doctors prefer to term an "emotional illness". Whatever it is called, I only know that I was sufficiently ill and incapacitated to require the services of a psychiatrist whom I saw on a semi-weekly basis for a long period of time. (Incidentally, he is a former Bostonian and graduate of Harvard Medical School, by name of Dr. Donald Dodge, about 47 years old. You may have heard of him.)

In the course of one of our sessions of therapy, he was discussing the subject of "stresses" on the human nervous system, and to illustrate his point he said, "Now according to Wiener's 'Cybernetics', — and then he stopped short and asked me, "Do you know anything about the science of cybernetics?" When I answered in the negative, he immediately amended whatever it was that he was going to say and closed the subject by adding, "Well never mind about it. It will only confuse you more. Just forget it." That's where he made his mistake. It so happens that I'm a semanticist in the sense that I love words, especially strange and unfamiliar words, and the word "Cybernetics" had a lovely, resonant ring to it. Furthermore, the very fact that he peremptorily told me to "just forget it" made me doubly determined to find out what it was all about, and I stored it away in my mind for future investigation. Unfortunately, however, for the next three years I was so preoccupied with investigating my psyche, under his skillful auspices, that the

subject of cybernetics had to remain dormant and unplumbed for a considerable while longer.

Over a year ago, I discontinued psychotherapy. It was not because my psychiatrist had discharged me as "cured", by any means; but he did indicate I had "greatly improved". (I am still taking substantial doses of tranquilizers four times daily under the careful surveillance of my family physician.) I had gained immeasurable help in psychotherapy: new insight, greater maturity, solutions to many problems, and a great lessening of tensions etc. Nevertheless, the sessions of therapy had become more or less repetitive and unproductive of fresh material, and I finally reached the point that I felt if I hadn't "caught on" to his message in three years, I was never going to. (Also, and more to the point, we had run out of money.)

Shortly after freeing myself of my "helper", and trying out my new modus vivendi with a pleasant sense of independence (but well-fortified with pills, of course), the subject of an unfinished business called cybernetics "came jumping back into my consciousness. The card-catalogue of our local library informed me that two books by Norbert Wiener were available: "Cybernetics", and "Human Use of Human Beings"; but both were checked-out. (Only later did I learn of a novel called "The Tempters"). As I wished to read them in chronological order, I put in my request for "Cybernetics" first. After a wait of several weeks, I was informed that the book was "in" and waiting. I ran to the library and clutched the book to my breast with the avid excitement of a twelve-year-old finding an unexpurgated edition of "Lady Chatterley's Lover". I dashed home, and armed with cigarettes and a coke, I stretched out comfortably on a chair, and prepared myself to absorb the science of cybernetics in one rapid reading. — As I look back upon my naivete, I blush with embarrassment. You know what happened next. As I paged through the first twenty or thirty chapters, I found that I understood

The words "and", "the", and "but" between mathematical formulae, and the rest was totally and utterly incomprehensible. I felt an impotent fury in my frustration, but it was not directed at you, but at the inadequacies of my education. I had majored in English, history, and music in high-school, and college. My background in science consisted of one ghastly year of high-school chemistry, and one year of college-freshman zoology. (Both experiences had been traumatic miseries.) My background in mathematics was not merely inadequate; it was non-existent. In learning to play bridge I had finally mastered counting up to forty points in Charles Ewen's system, but I surreptitiously use my fingers and toes as an aid. My children watch and laugh patronizingly as I laboriously total a grocery-list or make out the household accounts. Even my little nine-year-old says, "mommy, how come you add so funny and it takes you so long?" I plaintively defend myself by telling her, "I was sick in bed the year they taught beginners arithmetic at school." This is not a complete exaggeration. I was absent <sup>because</sup> of illness more than I was present. However, even on the days I was physically "present" in school, I remained mentally "absent" during arithmetical drills. I was the chronic laggard in this area, but always managed to just squeeze through my arithmetic and science courses with a "C" average. I was determined to separate these subjects from my life as quickly as possible. All in all, I remained a poetical and musical child. It is only ~~now~~ now at 37, when it is too late, that I realize the inherent poetry and music that lies in mathematics. My only inkling of this as a child was when I lovingly practised Bach's 2 and 3-part Piano Inventions or Fugues. I have been smitten with Bach all of my life; and I felt, rather than knew, that there was a precise, mathematical perfection and orderliness in his contrapuntal motifs.

Getting back to your book "Cybernetics", I did not give up. I read the last two chapters, entitled "Cybernetics



and Psycho-pathology," and "Cybernetics and Society." Now, at last, the language came alive for me, and I understood most assuredly what I was reading about. I grew very excited as I read. Here was the first lucid, common-sense explanation of left and right-handedness in its relation to the brain that had ever been available to me. But most of all, your explanation of malfunctions of the brain, resulting in various psychoses or psycho-neuroses, by comparisons of mechanical malfunctions such as an over-loaded telephone switch-board etc. were revelations that no doctor or psychiatrist had ever been capable of explaining to me before. I had always been deeply curious to know ~~by~~ what physiological processes the brain underwent causing such break-downs as "involuntional melancholia" or possibly schizophrenia, and I know that we are still years away from a complete understanding. When you discussed such therapies as insulin, metrazol, and <sup>electro</sup> shock treatment I felt I was on "home-ground", for I have not only read exhaustively on these subjects and anything pertaining to psycho-pathology since I was fifteen years old, but have had innumerable personal conversations with people who have been treated with these various forms of therapy. (May I note here that among these many people I have talked to, the only ones who seem to have emerged relatively intact, productive, and moderately happy people following their treatment were those who underwent the electro-shock therapy, consisting of about ten to twenty "shocks". The paranoid-schizophrenic person I grew to know intimately for two years was given insulin-shocks. She still hovers between sanity and madness, <sup>and has</sup> for the past ten years, but her periods of lucidity are additionally burdened and marred by her terror of receiving another insulin-shock. Perhaps, however, the relatively rapid recovery of my electro-shock friends was primarily because they were not psychotic in the first place, but only temporarily melancholic.)

However, at the risk of seeming grossly over-emotional, when I read your paragraph devoted to that very "humane" operation

Known as pre-frontal lobotomy, in which you stated that the chief benefits of <sup>this</sup> bit of surgical "adjustment" accrued to the custodian of the patient rather than to the person who was sick, by rendering the patient so permanently "tractable", I wept. I was overwhelmed that a Professor of Mathematics, as far back as 1947, was cognizant of and articulate about a situation that many psychiatrists, psychoanalysts, and neurosurgeons either didn't know or refused to publicly acknowledge. (On this subject, may I refer you to a moving and beautifully written biographical novel published early this year called "Faces in the Water", by Janet Frame.) Thank God, due to the availability of our many new and miraculous drugs, most of these surgical and chemical atrocities are a thing of the past.

Last month, encouraged by those last two chapters of "Cybernetics", which revealed that you were not the completely cold, detached scientist but a man of humane sensibilities, I phoned our available book-stores to order, sight unseen, "Human Use of Human Beings". Although I had no assurance that I would comprehend fully the contents of this book any better than I had understood "Cybernetics", I somehow felt that I wanted to own this book more than I have ever desired "possession" of any object in my life. I am not by nature an acquisitive person who has any interest in collecting valuable "things", objects d'art, rare-books etc. (I have learned that the more impedimenta one clutters one's home with, the more complicated life becomes.) I soon discovered to my dismay, however, that my interest in this book would have to remain ~~at~~ academic, for the book-stores informed me that it was no longer in print. I found one copy in San Antonio, the property of the Public Library. It was a gift of a local journalist, who is the book-reviewer and Jack-of-all-arts for the San Antonio Express and Evening News. I called this gentleman to thank him for having contributed his copy. Otherwise I should never have seen it at all. After laboriously digesting

half of the book, I was a little amused at your Foreward or Introduction in which you implicitly stated that this was going to be a much simpler book for the layman's understanding. Dr. Wiener, with your stratospheric intellect, your assessment of the comprehension of the "average layman" is highly flattering, but a trifle over-optimistic. Nevertheless, this book is all that I had wished for and more. My capacities for understanding may be limited, but my children with their vastly enlarged backgrounds in math and science, will be able to understand more. I have a feeling that within a year or two, "cybernetics" will become as much a household word, even among non-comprehending non-scientists, as The Theory of Relativity became after Albert Einstein (whom nobody understood), or Psychoanalysis became after Sigmund Freud observed Charcot and made his experiments with hypnosis in the study of hysteria. Already I have heard rumblings from the book stores that various publishing-houses are putting out "simplified" renditions of the science of cybernetics by other authors, who are going to make capital of your genius, your definitions, your innovations etc. This is inevitable. In fact I am not claiming that had you never lived, other scientists perhaps, in other parts of the world, might not eventually have written a comparable series of books, arriving at the same conclusions. God knows, the equations involved in all the various phases of astro-physics seemed to <sup>have</sup> "accurred" to a hundred different men in a hundred different places almost simultaneously, and these men have allowed their work to complement and enrich their fellow-physicists' work, to their mutual advancement. Perhaps the exact situation has been happening in the relatively new field of cybernetics. I have no idea, nor have any of the reference works I've referred to here enlightened me.

I have heard of only one man, Norbert Wiener, who has to my knowledge created a new science and affixed a definition to it; and that definition is available in only the most recent dictionaries. I know that I do not want another man's simplified, written re-hash of Norbert Wiener's work; I want the original and authentic material. I do not seek the status of owning a rare-book; I wish only to have, within the confines of my home, a rare idea. This will be a treasure that my children will, <sup>be</sup> able to refer to repeatedly in the future, that will enrich their lives.

You are justifiably wondering what is the purpose of this long, haranguing, tedious letter in which I have been presumptuous enough to impose upon your time and attention. I simply wish to know where, how, or from whom I may purchase a copy of "Human Use of Human Beings". Surely, there must be a copy available somewhere. Also, I admit, I have felt a compulsive need to communicate with you and extend my heart-felt expression of gratitude for your work and pray that you are a relatively happy man in good health. Thank you for your time and attention.

Yours very sincerely,  
Fleur Tamon  
(Mrs. Harvey D. Tamon)  
414 Prinz Dr.  
San Antonio, Texas

## MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CAMBRIDGE 39, MASS.

No. 18

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

December 12, 1862

Dear Prof. &amp; Mrs. Davis,

Most of the items enclosed are self-explanatory, but I should say a few words about John Kotelly's application to Yale. - Apparently, he has been working quite hard, cramming 8 yrs. of Philosophy into 2 mos. of reading on his own - with the usual enthusiasm. As there will be a lot of applicants, he'll probably need a very good recommendation, but that is up to you. I typed up a handwritten note on which he had explained his work & plans. It is enclosed. He would be grateful if you could send it out in time for the Jan. 15 deadline for applications. -

Besides the mail forwarded to you herewith, I have already collected quite a few X-mas cards for you. Should I save them & send them along? I imagine you would like to see them.

Nothing else is new. All is well here. Have been thinking about a clean-up campaign in the office. Pretty soon we shall be crowded out of "house & home" by reprints.

With very best regards,

as always,

Geo. Maria Roberts

No. 18

December 12, 1862

Dear Prof. & Mrs. Dews,

Most of the items enclosed are self-explanatory, but I should say a few words about John Kotelly's application to Yale. - Apparently, he has been working quite hard, cramming 4 yrs. of Philosophy into 2 mos. of reading on his own - with the usual enthusiasm. As there will be a lot of applicants, he'll probably need a very good recommendation, but that is up to you. I typed up a handwritten note on which he had explained his work & plans. It is enclosed. He would be grateful if you could send it out in time for the Jan. 15 deadline for applications. -

Besides the mail forwarded to you herewith, I have already collected quite a few X-mas cards for you. Should I save them & send them about? I imagine you would like to see them.

Nothing else is new. All is well here. Have been thinking about a clean-up campaign in the office. Pretty soon we shall be crowded out of "house & home" by applicants.

With very best regards,  
'as always,  
Geo. Warren R. H. W.

Brief note on work done and planned by J. C. Kotelly

1. Have a technical memo coming out on a possible mathematical model of visual perception where I have made correlations with the work of Prof. Kolars at Harvard. It seems, from the model, that some of the recognizer devices of the visual patterns might be "objects" whose output is similar to what Prof. Wiener once said.
2. I am working on a logical model of the brain and hope to have a paper out on it. It is my belief that the work on Homotopy theory of topology will be used in the problems of the brain and memory.
3. I need the philosophy for some of the ideas of people like Plato and Kant to give insight into the workings of the brain.
4. Because of this research, though it sounds grandiose, I believe I can develop a new theory of sets and give a basis to a science of value.

(J. C. Kotelly)

request for recommendation by Prof. Wiener  
to the Yale Grad. School of Philosophy —

Dec. 12, '62

1. Have a technical memo coming out on a possible mathematical model of <sup>visual</sup> perception  
where I have made correlations with the work of Prof. Koles at Harvard.

It seems, from the model, that some of the recognizer <sup>devices</sup> of the visual  
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3. need the philosophy ~~to~~ for some of the ideas of people

like Plato and Kant to give insight into the working of the brain.

4. Because of this research, though it sounds grandiose,  
I believe I can develop a new theory of sets

and give a basis to a science of value.



D. ALEKSANDER

JOHANNESBURG  
46 UPPER PARK DRIVE  
FOREST TOWN

~~P.O. BOX 9754~~

PHONE 41-3249 (RES.)

.. 33-7268 (OFFICE)

13th December, 1962.

Prof. Dr. Norbert Wiener,  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,  
77, Massachusetts Avenue  
CAMBRIDGE 39  
Massachusetts  
U.S.A.

Dear Prof. Wiener,

I have recently read the article "Der Vater der Kybernetik warnt: gegen wissenschaftlichen Massenbetrieb, von Prof. N. Wiener" published in the Swiss weekly "Die Weltwoche", and I was greatly impressed by many sentences in this article.

The reading of said article has prompted me to write to you personally. I presume that due to your position in scientific circles, and as a result of the works you have published, you are probably receiving so many letters from people unknown to you, that you can hardly have the time to read them all carefully, particularly as perhaps in ninety-nine out of a hundred cases the reading of such letters must be nothing but a loss of time for you. In spite of this I take the liberty of approaching you, trusting that in the case of my letter you may make an exception and read it in spite of its length.

In 1948, while studying a problem of the theory of numbers, certain ideas occurred to me on which I then elaborated further and on the basis of which, in the first half of 1952, I completed a mathematical study in manuscript (in Italian language). The object of this work is an until then (to my knowledge) unknown numeral system. From the attached copy of the "Introduction" you will be able to see on what lines the work is written.

At the time, i.e. exactly 10 years ago, for family reasons I was unable to go on with the typing of the manuscript and consequently had to postpone my intention of having the study published. As it happens, this temporary interruption lasted a full ten years. In the last 5 to 6 years I was actually not even interested in publishing my work, since I was under the impression that, in line with the great advancements in the design and in the practical use of digital

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-2-

computers, "my" system would no doubt have been discovered by somebody else and at least partially put into use with modern digital computers. However, on recently reading about modern digital computers, I have gained the impression that there have been no fundamental changes over the past 10 years as far as the use of numeral systems is concerned. When I finally read your article in "Die Weltwoche" (where, inter alia, you complain that "..., so dass dem Wissenschaftler, und besonders dem jungen Wissenschaftler, keine Musse bleibt, seine eigene Ideen reifen zu lassen"), I had the explanation as to why there have been no changes. This has now prompted me to proceed after all with my intention to publish my abovementioned study, and the manner in which I thought of doing it would be to send one typed chapter after another to various institutes and mathematicians interested in the subject, more or less at the same time.

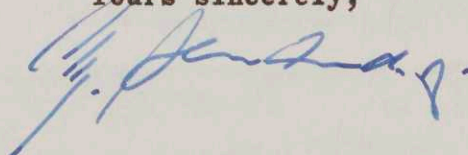
The purpose of my letter therefore is to ask you, if you should be personally interested in my study, to be so kind as to let me know it with a few words, and I shall then send you single chapters as and when they are ready for despatch. If on the other hand this matter should be of no personal interest to you, I would be most grateful if you could help me to make my completely new ideas on number representation, and on the execution of the basic operations based on such ideas, known to other scientists who are interested in this particular subject. In other words, I should very much appreciate if you would let me know the names and addresses of those mathematicians with whom you are acquainted to whom this matter might be of interest.

I can well imagine that on reading the attached "Introduction" your first impression (and that of anybody else with knowledge of number theory, to whom you may possibly show it) will be: "too good to be true", and I only regret that you have no way of personally knowing my seriousness and my pedantry, because if this were possible I have no doubt that you would be convinced that there is no slip-up.

Since on contacting certain institutions and persons which I thought might be interested and actually proved to be, the first question every time was whether I have a university degree, I enclose herewith a short "Curriculum Vitae"; but please do not waste your time to read it unless you are interested in my abovementioned study.

Hoping I'll get a reply from you, I am,

Yours sincerely,



Encl.

D. ALEKSANDER

JOHANNESBURG  
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PHONE 41-3249 (RES.)

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Born in 1904 in Croatia (at the time part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire), I was interested in pure mathematics from an early age. - As a compromise with my Father, I did not take up the study of mathematics, and went instead to the Technische Hochschule, Berlin-Charlottenburg, where in 1928 I obtained the degree of "Dipl.Ing." However, pure mathematics always remained my hobby to which all of my free time was dedicated.

When in 1941 Yugeslavia was occupied by the Germans, I escaped to Italy for racial reasons. - In Italy, by force of circumstances, I found myself with plenty of leisure for mathematical contemplations.

After the war, in 1948, I emigrated to South Africa.

In order to draw the reader's attention from the start to certain basic properties of "System F", which will be exposed step by step as the system is explained, I shall already at this stage list some of these properties comparing them to the respective properties which are common to all potential systems:-

- (1) With system F, as with any potential system, all integral numbers can be represented bi-univocally.
- (2) With any potential system the rational numbers can only as an exception be represented with a final number of places. In any of these systems, most of the rational numbers can be represented only by introducing the concept and symbolism of periodicity.

With "System F" all finite rational numbers can bi-univocally be represented with a finite number of places.

- (3) No irrational number can be represented with any of the potential systems.

With "System F" some of the irrational numbers can be represented by introducing the concept and symbolism of periodicity.

- (4) In any of the potential systems the criteria of divisibility and congruence, if known at all for certain moduli, become highly complicated with the greater values of the moduli.

In "System F" there is only one basic rule both for divisibility and congruence, whatever the modulus.

---

To my knowledge, potential systems are the only systems in use at present, and very few of them at that.

It is known that all potential systems have many common characteristics. Only in respect of practical every-day use there is one system which differs from the others, and that is the decadic system. This system differs from all the others for its universality and the exclusiveness with which for so long it has been used by civilised peoples not only in written representations of numbers but also in purely linguistic number terminology prior to writing itself. Even if this characteristic is not something inherent to the system

in itself, it will not surprise us therefore that other numeral systems, although known for centuries, had very little practical application. In cases where there has been some application (as for instance in certain systems of measurement, monetary systems etc.), such systems were gradually superseded by the decadic system, and mathematically they were often reduced to a strange conglomeration of rudiments. Only recently there has been a development in the opposite direction. A few years ago, as a result of developments in electronics and with the increased necessity and the only possibility of solving certain problems with calculating machines, the binary system (known for centuries, studied and used by many mathematicians in connection with studies on the theory of numbers) has succeeded, in certain cases, to assert itself next to the decadic system.

Since a machine as such is ~~not~~ influenced neither by conventional language nor by the inertia of human mental habits, the use of one or the other system and its choice for the construction of digital computing mechanisms becomes dependent only on the inherent characteristics of individual systems (or groups of systems) and on the technical possibilities of profitably utilizing them. With regard to this possibility of technical utilization for digital computing mechanisms, I can mention already now that I have without any difficulty (i.e. with only few changes and with very simple and primitive means) converted to "System F" some very well known pocket "Adding & Subtracting Machines" originally made for the decadic system. Instructions for the use of these machines are given in Chapter XI(A). It is significant that these instructions are nothing else than a faithfully transcription of the instructions for the use of the machines as originally intended for the decadic system, leaving out the superfluous and changing or adding only a few words.

When, more than four years ago, studying a problem of the theory of numbers, I began to decompose various integral numbers in a manner which, as I know today, is actually the decomposition on which, under certain conditions, System F is based, I did not realize that it could be a bi-univocal decomposition suitable to become the foundation of a new numeral system. Later, however, this aspect of the decomposition with the various characteristics of the system itself crystallized gradually. I am fully convinced that the characteristics of the system are such as to make it profitably applicable to a great variety of practical as well as theoretical uses. However, in addition to the importance due to the characteristics of "System F", there is also the importance which derives from the principle on which "System F" is based. This principle soon revealed itself capable of being widely extended and generalized so as to include both the principle of potential systems and the principles of infinite other numeral systems of which "System F" is only one, but ~~is~~ the simplest one.

## I N T R O D U C T I O N

A numeral system is the complex of conventions the purpose of which it is to represent numbers with the greatest possible accuracy, by means of symbols called figures. In addition to representing numbers, a numeral system must have the property of facilitating the solution of as many as possible numerical problems, among which primarily the four basic operations.

Those systems in which figures have also a positional value in addition to their own specific absolute value are called "Positional Systems", and they are the most suitable to meet all the requirements of a system. - "System F", which is the subject of this study, is a positional system.

Well known is the group of numeral systems having the common feature of the decomposition of integral numbers (and similarly of all other rational numbers) according to the following equation:-

$$N = \sum_{r=1}^{r=n} a_r \cdot B^{r-1}$$

where:

B = the basis of the system

a (the so-called figure) = the integral number equal or greater than nought, but always less than B.

r = ordinal number of the place of each individual figure.

It is also well known that any positive integral number can arbitrarily be taken as basis. Consequently, the number of systems possible within this group is unlimited. To these systems we shall give the name of "Potential Systems", and to any one of these systems that of "a potential system".

System F does not belong to the group of potential systems. It is based on an additional decomposition completely different from the above-mentioned decomposition which is common to all potential systems.

BELL TELEPHONE LABORATORIES

INCORPORATED

MURRAY HILL, NEW JERSEY

TELEPHONE  
AREA CODE 201  
582-3000

December 13, 1962

MRS. RITTER  
Room 2-276  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Ritter:

I would appreciate it if you could send me a set of reprints of Professor Wiener's papers on the Quantum Theory. If the reprints are not available, I would like a bibliography of the papers. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

*Edward Arthurs*

EDWARD ARTHURS

MH-1233-EA-TG

RT-1389

13 December, 1962

Dr. C.R. Rao  
Professor and Head of the Division  
of Theoretical Research & Training

Dear Prof. Wienw,

Professor P.C. Mahalanobis F.R.S.,  
Director, Indian Statistical Institute, will  
be completing his seventieth year by the end  
of June 1963. On that occasion, it is proposed  
to present him with a Volume of essays (or  
scientific papers) written by those who have  
been interested in the progress of the  
Institute and who have come into contact with  
Professor Mahalanobis or worked with him,  
during the last 30 - 40 years.

I have been specially requested by  
the Editors of this Volume to request you to  
contribute a paper on a subject of your  
choice. It is enough if you send your  
contribution by the end of ~~1962~~ February 1963.

I hope you will find it possible to  
comply with our request and help us in  
making the project a success.

Best regards,

Sincerely yours,

C. R. Rao  
(C.R. Rao)

[ans 1/3/63]

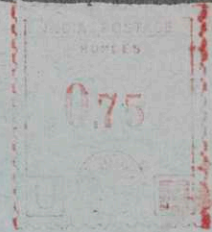


BY AIR MAIL

RT-1389  
हवाई पत्र

AEROGRAMME

NO ENCLOSURES  
ALLOWED



Professor Norbert Wiener

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Department of Mathematics

Cambridge, Mass.

U.S.A.

← First fold here →

← Third fold here →

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address :-

INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE  
208 BARRACKPORE TRUNK ROAD  
CALCUTTA-35

← To open cut here →

Professor E. R. Caianiello

Dear Professor Caianiello.

You have asked me for a definition of the field of cybernetics. As I have already defined cybernetics as the science of control and communication in the animal and the machine. Control is the use of communication for obtaining a desired action and, in particular, a desired application of power. As I am saying in my course of advanced lectures at the Institute, the animal nervous system represents a remarkable case of partial and extensive separation of sources of power from sources of control. To a very considerable extent the power in the human body is carried by the blood to the tissues and stored there for immediate use. The communication is carried partly by the hormones and other chemical substances of the blood to a very important extent along the fibers of the nervous system and their interconnections by synapses.

In studying this action of communication the anatomical and physiological work done in Dr. Braitenberg's laboratory and by ourselves is of the utmost importance. This importance not only extends to the study of biological communications, but is a fundamental model of the study of other communication systems such as we now find in the machines where the use of amplifiers and relays such as the vacuum tube or the transistor have permitted a high degree of separation between power problems and communication problems. Thus biological work in cybernetics may furnish and is furnishing patterns for the development of engineering cybernetics. In other words, the engineering of the future must lean heavily on the sort of work done in Dr. Braitenberg's laboratory.

I hope this will clarify my attitude to the work being done at your institute.

Sincerely yours,

Chuck Robinson

December 13, 1962

Dear Chuck:

I have looked over the plan of your article and have discussed it with colleagues here. As you are quite aware, it needs a great deal of working on and writing up before it is an organized article. There are interesting ideas in it, but I do not find it satisfactory in its present form. You have made a good case for something of the antibody nature being important for the memory, but I cannot believe that whatever this system may contain, it is an adequate explanation for memory as a whole. The nervous system with its complicated structure is certainly there for some purpose, and I believe that fully developed items of memory are not carried at any one point of the nervous system, but involve a multiplicity of widely diverse factors located in different parts of the brain and not dependent on any one chemical substance. What a theory of the antibody type may do is to account for the reestablishment of connections in the brain not completely dependent on the individual cells, but maintaining the pattern of ingoing and outgoing responses even the individual cells may die and others take their place.

We know that this happens on a large scale as is shown by the changing statistics of cell population in the brain of younger and older individuals. Here we need local memory of a nature that will preserve the general path of impulses in the brain independently of the coming and going of individual neurons. This would demand that as the chemical substances in question travel along the neuron and reestablish connections at the other end, have a rather specific nature. There is nothing at all improbable in such a travel of chemical substances along the neurons. We know that this happens with certain viruses such as that of tetanus or of rabies. Furthermore, something of this sort is indicated by the way in which regenerating nerve fibers seek their proper connections with muscular or sensory end organs. In man and the mammals this does not extend to the organs of special senses such as the eye, but in the amphibia eyes can be regenerated and become functional, so there is definite suggestion that the regenerated eye has the proper nerve fibers going to the proper end organs.

In other words, I think you have put your finger on an important element of memory, but your explanation is far from complete and must be supplemented by an explanation involving the nervous structure much more in detail. There is a suggestion of a similar idea in the complexity of neuromuscular action brought out by the recent study of the gamma fibers which go to the muscles and are directly responsible for the motion itself, but for the establishment of a state of tonus making quick responses possible. The suggestion lies in the fact that the speed of action of the nervous system, as for example in the recovery of memory, may depend on relatively slow processes making this action possible. In any argument based on speed considerations of this sort are unavoidable.

I am glad that your work is going successfully, and I hope that my criticisms are constructive. As to my own work I am getting important results with Della Riccia of this Institut whose parents, by the way, are living in Israel. I return to the States in a little more than a month. The prosthesis work seems to be going well and I shall take it up again when I am home. It looks like a busy year. With best regards,

UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI  
FAKULTETA ZA ELEKTROTEHNIKO  
LJUBLJANA

AŠKERČEVA 9 - TELEFON 21-312, 21-387

Doz.Dr.Mgr.Ing.Lojze Vodovnik  
Zadeva:

Ljubljana, dne 16.XII.1962

Mr. Norbert Wiener, Ph.D., Professor,  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,  
Belmont 78,  
Massachussets

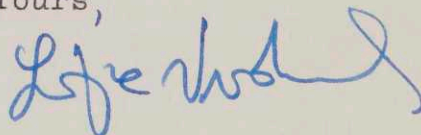
Dear Professor Wiener,

Last summer I had the honour to speak you for some minutes at the Symposium in Opatija. A friend of mine made some snapshots and now I take the liberty to send you two photos.

Some months ago I finished my "doctor" and now I would like to devote myself to bionics problems concerning parapsychological signal transmission (telepathy). I have been told that prof. L.Vasilev at Leningrad is working on these problems with cybernetics methods. Do people at the MIT work on such problems too? If yes, is there a chance for a Yugoslav to work in your teams?

I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy  
New Year and remain

Faithfully Yours,



[ans 2/25/63]

December 14,

2

Professor W. T. Martin  
Department of Mathematics  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge 39, Mass.  
U. S. A.

Dear Ted:

Your letter of December<sup>5</sup> has arrived, and I have informed Mr. Della Riccia of the appointment offered him. He and I are both equally delighted at the opportunity to continue our collaboration. I wish to thank you for the prompt and effective way in which you granted my request.

If this meets with your approval, Mr. Della Riccia proposes to finish his thesis in Paris in February and come to M. I. T. early in March. I hope this will be satisfactory to you. After attending a summer school in physics in Boulder, Colorado, he intends to return to Paris to finish the formalities for his doctorate. He is engaged to a young lady here in Naples and intends to marry and return with her to the States for the fall term. At the end of the year he will return to Italy.

I am very grateful to you for this appointment and for the opportunity for us to continue our work together. I am helping Mr. Della Riccia with the immigration formalities which will not be arduous. I have rarely seen a young man so happy. He joins me in thanking you.. With best wishes, I am,

sincerely

ARMIN HERMANN DIPL.-PHYS.

8018 Grafing b/München, 16.12.62.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Bürgerlingstr.8

Postfach 36

Tel.08108/9074

Herrn Professor Dr. Norbert Wiener  
Istituto di Fisica Teoretica  
Università di Napoli  
Mostra d'Oltremare, Pad.19

N a p o l i

Italien.

Sehr verehrter Herr Professor,

ich danke Ihnen sehr für Ihre Genehmigung, Ihre seinerzeitige gemeinsame Arbeit mit Max Born in Band 1 unserer neuen Reihe "Dokumente der Naturwissenschaft" abdrucken zu dürfen und erlaube mir, Ihnen in der Anlage meine Biographie Max Borns, die als Einleitung desselben Bandes dient, zu übersenden. Wie Sie daraus ersehen, habe ich dabei Ihr schönes Buch "Mathematik mein Leben" das erst dieses Jahr im Econ-Verlag erschien, als Arbeitsunterlage benützt.

Ich würde mich sehr freuen, wenn Sie, sehr verehrter Herr Professor, Zeit finden würden Ihre Meinung zu unserem Programm der "Dokumente der Naturwissenschaft" mitzuteilen, insbesondere welche grundlegenden Arbeiten Sie für wichtig halten würden. Die vorläufige Titelvorschau finden Sie auf der letzten Seite des Sonderdrucks; unsere Gedanken zu der Reihe, die in der Art der früheren "Ostwalds Klassiker" Quellentexte neu vorlegen will, auf der vorletzten Seite.

In den nächsten Tagen beginnt auch die Auslieferung der ersten Bände; ich werde mir dann erlauben, Ihnen ein Belegexemplar zuzusenden.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen und

vorzüglicher Hochachtung

Ihr

Armin Hermann

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

19.....

Memo to Prof. Martin Room..... Ext.....

Prof. Wiener suggested that I show this to you - in case you might hear of an opening somewhere.

Thank you. I'll keep it <sup>in</sup> mind, but I do not usually hear of possibilities in his area. w. T.M.  
 from E. W. Ritter Room 2-276 Ext. 158 April 3, 1963

# IBM

Thomas J. Watson Research Center  
P.O. Box 218  
Yorktown Heights, New York

*International Business Machines Corporation*

WG 5-3000 (Area Code 914)

December 18, 1962

Professor Norbert Wiener  
M. I. T.  
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Professor Wiener,

On several occasions, we wanted to write to you, but we were afraid that you would be on a trip somewhere in Europe and it would take a long time before you would see our correspondence. But, today, I decided to write you at the MIT address whether or not you are in Cambridge now.

We ourselves also were in Europe last summer to attend various meetings and visited also East Germany and Hungary. It was exciting, but five lectures, three symposia and nine countries in three weeks were a little too much.

Dr. Koenig of this laboratory, who met you at IBM Zürich Lab., conveyed your greetings to me. Thank you very much for thinking about me. After six years with IBM, I am now entirely tired of industry (I often think about your novel), and am anxious to go back to the academic world. If you hear of any good vacancy, please give thought to my possible candidacy.

The other day I was so happy to find your healthy face on the IBM Research News. Although you may already have seen this, I enclose herewith a copy.

Our son Francis is now a teaching fellow at Harvard and is teaching logics. It is unbelievable. My wife Dorothea joins me to wish you and Mrs. Wiener a real happy vacation season.

Most respectfully yours

*Michael Satoshi Watanabe*  
Michael Satoshi Watanabe

Dorothea is still hoping that we shall have the good fortune of having both of you at our house in White Plains. Please let us know when you have time in the New York area.

[ans 3/20/63]



# ITALCABLE

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LUN698/IAT509 WASHINGTON DC 23 18 212P

PER LA RISPOSTA  
TELEFONATE AL N. 325333

= DOCTOR NORBERT WIENER

281 VIA POSILLIPO NAPLES



TELEGRAMMA *via Italcable* *via Italo Radio*

18 VII 9 35

319



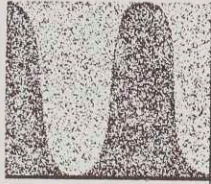
= REMYLET NOVEMBER 28TH WOULD LIKE YOUR ANSWER IN ORDER TO FINALIZE PROGRAM

ROBERT TEITLER SPARTAN BOOKS +

MOD. 100-MLT/50 g.

[anz 1/23/62]

Il Governo Italiano e la Società Italcable non assumono alcuna responsabilità in conseguenza del servizio telegrafico  
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MATHEMATICS RESEARCH CENTER UNITED STATES ARMY

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
MADISON 6, WISCONSIN

December 19, 1962

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

I am writing in regard to the Symposium on Stochastic Processes in Medicine and Biology. We are now in the process of arranging for the circulation of an announcement which will contain the program in detail.

Most of the participating speakers have submitted the titles of their presentations, but we have not heard from you. Would you please let us have the title at your early convenience?

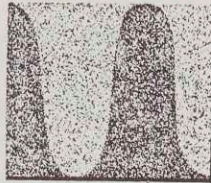
We are pleased that you will be participating and we are looking forward to your presentation.

Sincerely yours,

John Gurland

JG/gk

[ans 1/14/63]



MATHEMATICS RESEARCH CENTER UNITED STATES ARMY

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
MADISON 6, WISCONSIN

December 19, 1962

Professor Norbert Wiener  
Universita di Napoli  
Istituto Di Fisica Teorica  
Mostra d' Oetremare Pad.19  
Napoli, Italy

Dear Professor Wiener:

I am writing in regard to the Symposium on Stochastic Processes in Medicine and Biology. We are now in the process of arranging for the circulation of an announcement which will contain the program in detail.

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We are pleased that you will be participating and we are looking forward to your presentation.

Sincerely yours,

John Gurland

JG/gk

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

~~DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES~~  
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

December 21, 1962

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

I understand that certain of my colleagues interpreted a lecture that I gave in the sense that I invalidated my own data or suggested that they had been the result of pre-conceived bias. I was simply giving a lecture on method and its pitfalls. I am glad to tell you that my data have been since independently confirmed by Drs. Huebel and Wiesel, <sup>said</sup> these physiologists with whose work it had been <sup>our</sup> study was at variance. I have had since new interesting results along the same line.

Sincerely yours,

*J Lettvin*

Jerome Lettvin

December 21, 1962

Professor Norbert Wiener  
c/o Professor E. R. Caianiello  
Istituto di Fisica Teorica  
Universita di Napoli  
Mostra D'Oltremare  
Naples, Italy

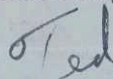
Dear Professor Wiener:

Thank you for your letter of December 14. We are happy that it was possible to arrange the Research Associateship for Mr. Della Riccia. It will be perfectly satisfactory for him to come to M.I.T. early in March instead of for the full spring term. Of course his salary would be prorated over the shorter period. That is, he would be paid at the rate of \$811.11 per month from the selected date in March until June 15, and then for the entire fall semester.

I would appreciate it if you would ask Mr. Della Riccia to let Professor R. D. Schafer know as soon as he conveniently can what date in March he plans to be at M.I.T. We shall not be able to recommend his appointment to the Administration until we know what date it should begin.

With best wishes to you and Mrs. Wiener.

Sincerely yours,



W. T. Martin

WTM/bas

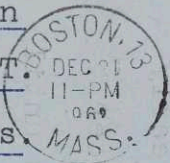
FOLD SIDES OVER AND THEN FOLD BOTTOM UP  
MOISTEN FLAP WELL AND APPLY PRESSURE TO SEAL

Prof. W. T. Martin

Math. Dept., M.I.T.

Cambridge 39, Mass.

U. S. A.

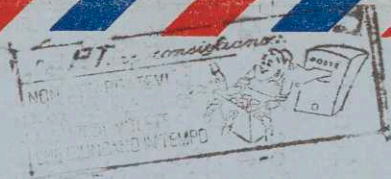


Professor Norbert Wiener  
c/o Professor E. R. Caianiello  
Istituto di Fisica Teorica  
Universita di Napoli  
Mostra D'Oltremare  
Naples, Italy

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

**AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION**



DO NOT USE TAPE OR STICKERS TO SEAL  
NO ENCLOSURES PERMITTED

[Dec. 22, 1962]

Dear Professor Wiener,

I wondered whether you remembered meeting my wife & I this Easter in Amsterdam, as well as many years ago at Urechtfont Manor. I wonder also whether you have seen my book "The Brain as a Computer". The position is that the University of Bristol are unable to judge the value of my work because I am the only senior member of staff who is in Cybernetics. You can guess the difficulty met in getting Cybernetics recognized.

If you have seen my book, which was published in 1961 by the Pergamon Press, & could say a very informal word to me in a letter about it, so that I could point to your words as the authority on the subject, then this would increase greatly my chances of persuading Bristol to take both me & Cybernetics more seriously!

My best regards to you & your wife

Dr Frank H. George

[ans 1/4/63]

Sender's name and address:

Dr F.H. George  
Dept. of Psychology  
University of BRISTOL  
BRISTOL 8

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY  
ENCLOSURE ; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED  
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

← Second fold here →

First fold here



Please Forward  
if necessary

Urgent

Professor N. Wiener

Dept. of Mathematics

Massachusetts Institute  
of Technology

BOSTON

Mass  
U. S. A.

← open cut here →



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

.....19.....

Memo to..... Room..... Ext.....

No 19:

occ. 22

sent a letter Dec. 26  
Lencel.

no. 20 sent Jan. 2.

from..... Room..... Ext.....

December 23,

2

Professor Mihajlo D. Mesarovic  
Program Chairman  
Case Institute of Technology  
Systems Research Center  
University Circle  
Cleveland 6, Ohio  
U. S. A.

Dear Professor Mesarovic:

Your letter of December 4, in which you invite me to participate in a conference on Systems Theory was forwarded to me here in Naples. I shall be returning in January to M. I. T. after a year in Europe, where a considerable backlog of work awaits me, not to speak of other outside commitments. Under the circumstances I shall have to say no.

Thanking you for the honor of inviting me and wishing you all success, I remain,

Very sincerely,

Norbert Wiener

December 23,

2

Mr. Robert Teitler  
Spartan Books  
Washington, D. C.  
U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Teitler:

I received your telegram several days ago, but I have been unable to find any record in my files of a request by "Remylet". Therefore I am not in a position to answer your question.

Sincerely,

Norbert Wiener.

ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS LABORATORY

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

UNiversity 4-6900

J. FRANCIS REINTJES, Director  
GEORGE C. NEWTON, Jr., Associate Director  
JOHN E. WARD, Assistant Director  
RICHARD A. OSBORNE, Executive Officer

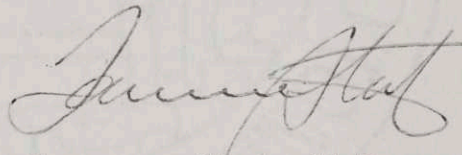
27th December, 1962.

Dr. Norbert Wiener,  
Room 2-276.

Dear Dr. Wiener:

I would be very pleased to have the opportunity to chat with you concerning our work in general and in particular concerning the invitation in the enclosed letter.

Sincerely yours,



Lawrence Stark, M.D.  
Neurology Section,  
Electronic Systems Laboratory  
and Biology Department,  
Room 32-101.

LS:pt

[ans 2/25/63]

# TOKYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS  
OH-OKAYAMA, MEGURO-KU  
TOKYO, JAPAN

December 28, 1962

Dear Margaret and Norbert:

It was gracious of you to send us the beautiful Christmas card from Naples and to inform us of your quiet and also stimulating life in Europe.

As for my family the eldest son, Masao is working at a regulator company connected with the Honeywell of Minneapolis, the second, Takeo is a college freshman, and the third, Kiyoo is a second year of the Junior High while the daughter, Reiko is enjoying her fourth grade.

The second edition of CYBERNETICS was published in Japanese, the first printing was 1,500. Its copy is on its way to Cambridge to await for your return. In spite of our effort, "perfection" has its own fault.

The Ministry of Education is planning to make films for high school students, one of which is entitled, "Cybernetics". I am hoping that my suggestions may prove true in conveying the original significance.

Asako and my children join me in wishing you both the best wishes for the season and another year of interest and value.

Sincerely yours,

Shikao

8 Ben Ganlah St.  
Katamon, Jerusalem  
Israel  
December 29, 1962

Professor Norbert Wiener  
Universita di Napoli  
Istituto di Fisica Teorica  
Mostra d'Oltremare Pad 19  
Napoli, Italy

Dear Professor Wiener;

Thank you very much for looking over my article. I found your criticism helpful, and plan to mention the nervous system more explicitly when I have an opportunity to rewrite the paper.

I have changed over to the Weizman Institute in Rehovoth, and am starting a two year program toward an MSc degree in physics. I would appreciate your filling out the enclosed recommendation form, which is in support of my application for an NSF fellowship for next year.

I am glad to hear your work is going well and that, as usual, you are in for a busy year.

Sincerely yours,

*Chuck Robinson*

Charles E. Robinson

*answer he is inclined to give permission but would like  
just to know what the book is about and its proposed title*

P.O.Box 4543  
Duke University Station  
Durham, North Carolina  
December 30, 1962

Norbert Wiener  
Simon & Schuster  
630 Fifth Avenue  
New York 20, N.Y.

*hold back these two pages*

Dear Sir:

I am writing a book on the writing requirements for graduate degrees which is to be published by Prentice-Hall, Inc. The book is designed for use by graduate students and graduate faculty. May I please have your permission to include the following material from:

Norbert Wiener, Ex-Prodigy ( New York, Simon & Schuster, 1953)

for use in my book and in future revisions and editions in all languages:

Page 174: From line 14 "It is often supposed...  
To line 20 ...poor master indeed."  
From line 23 "It is only when...  
To line 34 ...however."  
Page 175: From line 1 "...as the facts have...  
To line 20 ...for the doctorate."  
Page 191: From line 18 "For the first time...  
To line 22 ...thesis."  
Page 192: From line 19 "I know that...  
To line 28 ... incomplete."  
Page 194: From line 12 "...in 1925...  
To line 17 ...work of Einstein."

I propose to use the following credit line:

Norbert Wiener, Ex-Prodigy (New York, Simon & Schuster, 1953) p. 174 ( or p. 175, 192, 191, 194)

Your consent to this request will be deeply appreciated. For your convenience, a release form is provided below. Please retain one copy of this letter for your files; and use the enclosed stamped envelope to return the other to me.

Sincerely yours,

*Paul E. Koefod*  
Dr. Paul E. Koefod  
Associate Professor (on leave)  
The University of Florida

-----  
I (We) grant permission for use of the material as requested above.

By \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(title)

Date Feb. 19



175 BERKELEY STREET, BOSTON 17, MASSACHUSETTS ★ LIBERTY 2-4850

December 31, 1962

Professor Norbert Wiener  
53 Cedar Road  
Belmont, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

Re: Prosthetic Research Project

You will recall our letter of January 19, 1962, in regard to the details of your consulting services as related to the prosthetic research project.

The final quarterly payment in the amount of \$500, under the terms of the project arrangement, was deposited with the Cambridge Trust Company for deposit in your account, accompanied by our letter of October 1, 1962, a copy of which was sent to your home address. This completed our payment of your consultant fee as originally agreed in the first year of the project.

In accordance with our original discussions, much of your consultant service during this year was related to information which you might be able to gather during your travels in Europe which would provide helpful information, of a scientific nature, which would prove useful in terms of the further development of the project. Since the first year of the project will be drawing to a close by mid-January 1963, we are presently preparing a report to our company management on the accomplishments of the first year. We would very much like to have the benefit of your written report on significant ideas or developments which you may have observed in Europe and which would be of material assistance to the project staff.

In preparing the proposed project budget for the second year, it is our thought that we would like to leave the matter of any necessary consulting services entirely dependent upon demonstrated needs as the project progresses. We would like to be in a position to call upon you for special consultation, as your busy schedule permitted and the needs of the project dictated. We would plan to reimburse you on a per diem basis for any specific consultation dates which might be set up with you by the research staff.

Thank you again for your continued interest and encouragement, and with the hope that we can expect a report on your observations abroad at an early date.



Professor Norbert Wiener

Page 2.

With my best personal regards.

Sincerely,

*Scott Allan*

W. Scott Allan  
Assistant Vice President and  
Manager of Medical Services

WSA/cd

I have called informing them that  
you won't be here early enough for  
the deadline. Was told it's ok.

E M R

[ans 3/1/63]

[1962]  
December 31,

2

Mr. Rex Stout  
The Authors Guild  
The Authors League of America, Inc.  
6 East 39th Street  
New York 16, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Stout:

I am already wishing to call upon the Authors Guild for advice about a problem which I believe to be of general interest as you will see by the enclosed copy of a letter. "The Brookings Institution" is soliciting my permission to use an article of mine for "reproduction" for their conferences. They stress very much the fact that they are a non-profit institution, obviously as an excuse for making me no offer of recompense.

Now "The Brookings Institution" is certainly close to Big Business, and I have more than a suspicion that although it is non-profit, it is very profitable to interests which are decidedly not non-profit. I think that behind this there is a fairly general abuse, namely: that in the close association not only with general industrial enterprises, but with very specific corporations, there are affiliated organizations which are technically non-profit but are merely fronts for profit organizations. In asking for aid from writers and scientists they often find them naive enough to fall for this claim.

I am asking you as a favor a) do you know anything about the Brookings Institution in its relations with writers, b) should I in my own interest and in the interest of the other members of the Guild grant a gratuitous permission to reproduce or republish? Thanking you for any advice you are willing to give, I am, very sincerely, yours,

P.S. I am leaving for the United States from Naples on January 11; my address there is M. I. T. Cambridge, Mass.

Norbert Wiener