



WEBBIEN'S

CIRCLE

early years of

Mathematics at IAS



The prospect of a visit from an architect usually costs Professor Veblen a day's work and a night's sleep.... He is a most excellent person, but the word 'building' or 'farm' has an intoxicating effect upon him.

— Abraham Flexner to Herbert Maass,
15 December 1937



Institutes like nations are perhaps happiest if they have no history.

—Abraham Flexner, 13 April 1936

Professor Lowe has suggested that we make available for sale a picture postcard of the Institute. The School of Historical Studies thinks this a good idea provided the picture is not too revealing of what the Institute really looks like. Do you concur?

—J. Robert Oppenheimer, 5 January 1954

The Institute is like a cat: it pees and then puts sand over it.

—Jose Cutleiro, March 2003



James
Alexander
1915-1947

Marston
Morse
1892-1977

Albert
Einstein
1879-1955

Frank
Aydelotte
1880-1956

Herman
Weyl
1885-1955

Oswald
Veblen
1880-1960



John
von
Neumann
1903-1957

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

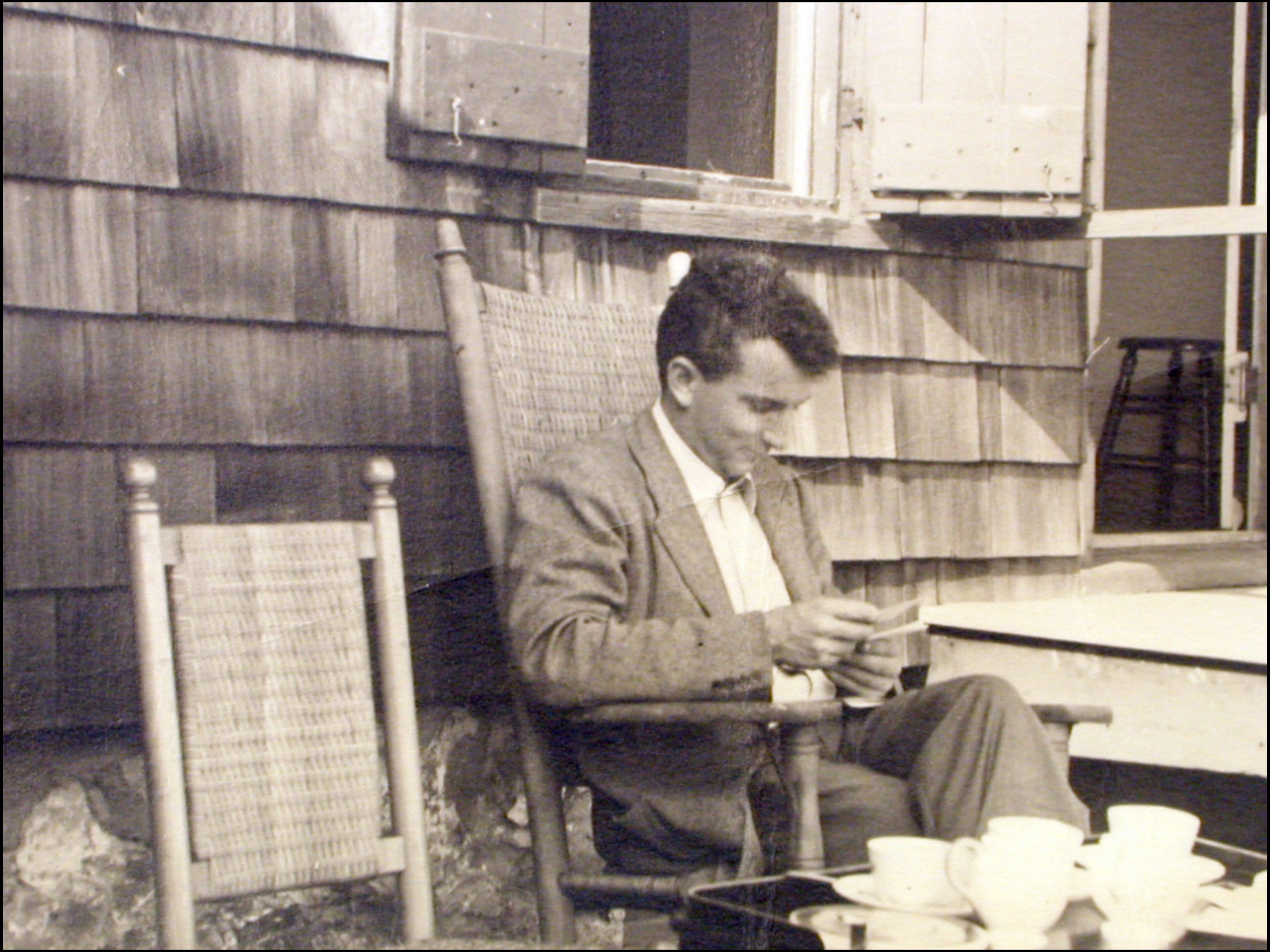
Princeton, New Jersey

To: Prof. S. Chandrasekhar
Prof. M. J. Lighthill F.R.S.
Sir Geoffrey Taylor
Prof. Sydney Goldstein
Sir Edward Bullard

October 20, 1954

I have been commissioned by the faculty of the Institute to collect a few outside opinions and views on a question of long-range policy which we feel we ought to make up our minds about. Namely, what is a proper rule for the Institute to play in the fields of applied mathematics and electronic computing? We are faced with this question in trying to decide upon some new appointments which are now under consideration. We would be very grateful if you could spare the time to let us have any comments you may care to make upon this question. Of course, this letter, and anything you may say in reply to it, will be treated as confidential.

Our present situation is the following. The School of Mathematics has a permanent establishment which is divided into three groups, one consisting of pure mathematics, one consisting of theoretical physicists, and one consisting of Professor von Neumann. Von Neumann originated in 1946 and has since directed our Computer Project. The Computer Project built and operates a fast digital computer, the cost of the machine and of almost all the staff being paid by government money and not by the Institute.



THE HIGHER LEARNING
IN AMERICA

A MEMORANDUM ON THE CONDUCT
OF UNIVERSITIES BY BUSINESS MEN

BY
THORSTEIN VEBLEN

FOR ALL



October 24th, 1923

Dr. Simon Flexner,
Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research,
66th Street and Avenue A,
New York City, New York.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

In considering the proposal to enlarge the scope of the fellowships in Physics and Chemistry so as to include Mathematics, I should think it desirable to have clearly in mind the close inter-dependence of all the sciences. It is well-known, of course, how Medicine constantly uses the results of Physics and Chemistry, and how, in return, the problems arising from Medicine stimulate research in Physics and Chemistry. The relation between Mathematics on the one hand and Physics and Chemistry on the other, is of precisely this sort. It has frequently happened that an attempt to solve a physical problem has resulted in the creation of a new branch of mathematics. A classical example of this is in the theory of the conduction of heat. When this problem had been stated in mathematical terms, it was found that the mathematics then in existence was inadequate to solve it, and new mathematical machinery had to be devised. The resulting studies by Fourier and others not only gave to Physics the theorems and formulas it required, but also led to new mathematical developments which have affected most of the branches of mathematical analysis.

Another example of the hand-in-hand development of Mathematics and Physics is the history of the theory of electric waves which resulted

February 23rd, 1934

Dr. Simon Flexner,
Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research,
66th Street and Avenue A,
New York City, New York.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

In your capacity as a mathematician you will perhaps be interested in a few observations of a general nature which I am venturing to send you. I have already submitted essentially the same ideas to Dr. Kellogg and he seemed to think it might be worth while to try to spread them about a little. But I have decided before going further to seek your advice.

My experience this year has made me rather acutely conscious of the fact that the needs of mathematical research have not yet been brought to the attention of those whose position enables them to have a view of the strategy of Science. This, I think, is chiefly the fault of the mathematicians themselves, who have too easily assumed that an outside world which cannot understand the details of their work is not interested in its success. That such an idea is erroneous has been well illustrated by the generous action of the Rockefeller Foundation in providing funds for Research Fellowships in Mathematics of the same type as for Physics and Chemistry. This was done immediately, and apparently as a matter of course, when the need for such fellowships was pointed out. This experience, as well as much evidence of a less tangible sort, of the friendly interest in mathematics, leads me to hope that it may be worth while to draw attention to the fact that we are now in a situation where another very important step of a similar sort may be taken.

The way to make another step forward is obvious. Indeed it has already been partially recognized by the Rockefeller Foundation in establishing a series of Fellowships in various sciences which afford opportunities for research to men of promise at the outset of their careers. What remains to do is to find a way of assuring the continuance of their research to men who have already proven their ability. This is already provided for, to a certain extent, in the laboratories of the experimental sciences, but, as already indicated, there is no provision for Mathematics. To provide it, there are at least two ways which would be justified by the actual amount of mathematical talent in the country.

The first of these would be to found and endow a Mathematical Institute. The physical equipment of such an institute would be very simple; a library, a few offices, and lecture rooms, and a small amount of apparatus such as computing machines. There should also be provision on a small scale for stenographers and computers. But the main funds of such an institute should be used for the salaries of men or women whose business is mathematical research. These people should, however, be provided with the equivalent of the routine work which is always present in laboratory sciences. Such work could consist, for example, in editing a mathematical periodical or in preparing a new edition of the Encyclopedia of Mathematics. The latter enterprise would be a very large one but would be tremendously

The way to make another step forward... is to found and endow a Mathematical Institute. The physical equipment of such an institute would be very simple: a library, a few offices, and lecture rooms, and a small amount of apparatus such as computing machines...

—Oswald Veblen to Simon Flexner,
23 February 1924

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

66TH STREET AND AVENUE A
NEW YORK

March 11, 1924.

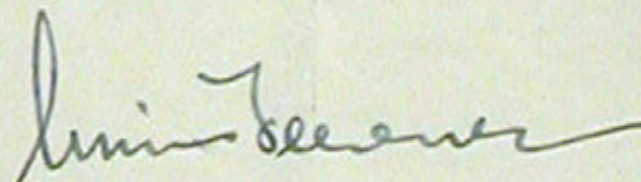
V-4


Dear Prof. Veblen:

I am very glad to have your interesting letter of February 23. I am very ignorant regarding the conditions under which Mathematics is pursued in this country. I wish that sometime you might speak with my brother, Mr. Abraham Flexner, of the General Education Board. The subject, aside from my general interest, is as you know wholly outside my field of activity.

With many thanks, I am,

Yours sincerely,





Abraham
Fleisher
(1926)

Oct. 28, 1949.

THE
AMERICAN COLLEGE

A CRITICISM

BY
ABRAHAM FLEXNER



NEW YORK
THE CENTURY CO.

1908

Publications of the Bureau of Social Hygiene

Prostitution in Europe

BY

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

INTRODUCTION BY

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR.
Chairman of the Bureau of Social Hygiene



NEW YORK
THE CENTURY CO.
1914

The Inglis Lecture, 1927

DO AMERICANS REALLY
VALUE EDUCATION?

BY

ABRAHAM FLEXNER



CAMBRIDGE

HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS

1927

UNIVERSITY PATENTS

DR. ALAN GREGG has done a notable service not only to research in medicine but to scientific research in general. John Maynard Keynes has recently said that nothing is more important than that we should get rid of the profit spirit in modern life. His opinion applies more definitely to research than to any other social or human activity. As a matter of history, the scientific discoveries that have ultimately inured to the benefit of society either financially or socially have been made by men like Faraday and Clerk Maxwell who never gave a thought to the possible financial profit of their work. They were driven on by the spirit of curiosity, and that alone should animate workers in scientific laboratories. The moment that research is utilized as a source of profit, its spirit is debased. The state's and the individual's interest in its support is necessarily weakened, and the most glorious characteristic of modern science is debased. There may be a few who will think that Dr. Gregg is treading on their toes. If so, let the "galled jade wince."

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

[1933]



THE USEFULNESS OF USELESS
KNOWLEDGE

BY ABRAHAM FLEXNER

[1939]

In this paper I shall concern myself with the question of the extent to which the pursuit of these useless satisfactions proves unexpectedly the source from which undreamed-of utility is derived.

January 27, 1930

Dear Professor Veblen:

Thank you very much for your kind note.

I agree with you absolutely.

And now I should like to ask another question. What would American scholars and scientists do if some fellow or some foundation set up a "sure enough" institution of learning? Is it necessary to carry the mill-stone of the college about the neck of the graduate school?

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Oswald Veblen
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Evening News

WEATHER: Fair tomorrow.

**CITY-COUNTY
EDITION**

WALL ST. COMPLETE

Pages 2*, 3*, 4*, 5*

Entered as second-class matter, September 11, 1883, at the Post-office at Newark, New Jersey, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1930—40 PAGES

215-221 Market St., Newark, N. J.
Daily, Except Sunday

TWO CENTS

Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld Give \$5,000,000 to Establish Institute of Advanced Learning

Donors of Institute Fund



Initial Endowment Announced For Graduate Foundation In Newark or Vicinity

The gift of \$5,000,000 by Louis Bamberger and his sister, Mrs. Felix Fuld, to establish an educational foundation to be called the Institute for Advanced Study was announced today. It will be located "in Newark or its vicinity."

Exclusively for post-graduate work and scientific research, the first of its kind in this country, the institute will bring Newark to the forefront among world educational centers.

The \$5,000,000 will be placed by Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld at the disposal of a distinguished board of

Cites "Duress"

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June 14, 1948

Professor Niels Bohr

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<i>Cr. 38 Housing Mtd.</i>	Gray Candlewick Spread	8.00
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3/4	-	4/4/48	=	\$125.00
4/4	-	5/4/48	=	125.00
5/4	-	6/4/48	=	125.00
6/4	-	6/15/48	=	<u>45.83</u>

420.83

TOTAL BALANCE

\$ 489.57



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

West
Vinton

23 Dec. 1930

Department of
MATHEMATICS

Dear Mr. Flexner: -

I have just finished
reading your book. It makes me wish
all the more that you would set up your
University in the strict sense here in Princeton
The communal background for it would be
good, and if you do not try to build
it to limit the presence

It has always been our intention to devote our accumulated wealth to a public benefaction which in its very nature would ^{achieve} ~~accomplish~~ several thoughts we have in mind: first, that it be of a character which, so far as possible, would avoid duplication of the good works of others, or lie in a field already amply supplied with funds commensurate with its purpose. What we desire to accomplish is ^{to} ~~an~~ ~~extension~~ ^{the} ~~of an~~ operation of plans ^{already} ~~now~~ in effect which would enable some institution to carry on to a point not yet achieved ~~in~~ some vital educational ~~respect.~~ ^{function.}

Second: Mindful of our obligations to the community of Newark and to the State of New Jersey, of which we are residents and citizens, and wherein our labors have been so handsomely rewarded, to locate whatever institution we may endow in such State and in the vicinity of such City, thereby reflecting in ~~large~~ part upon that City and State the benefits of the results we seek to bring about.

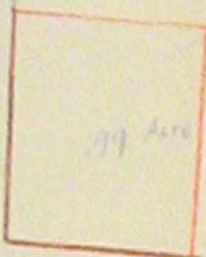
...such institution shall be located in the vicinity of Newark, New Jersey upon lands which we may convey or devise to it for that purpose, or, failing which, upon such lands as it may acquire for that purpose in such location...

— Founder's letter, 1930

PROPERTY OF
MRS. CARRIE B. F. FULD
ORANGE, EAST ORANGE
SOUTH ORANGE AND NEWARK
NEW JERSEY

1930

STERLING



CENTER ST

(HOUSE)

FINLAY PLACE

17.77 Acres

11.32 Acres

TREMONT AVE

ROSS ST

.99
17.77
11.32
2.05
 .79

Total 32.92 Acres

.79 Acres

VAIL ST

W

DERBY ST

W
EAST
FORD

MO
KAY

SCALE

FIRST: The name or title by which this corporation is to be known in law is the Institute of Higher Learning or the Institute for Advanced Studies to be situated at or near the City of Newark. The Institute shall have a faculty or staff headed by a Director, whose functions will be defined by the By-Laws to be hereafter adopted.

SECOND: The purpose for which this corporation is formed is the promotion of knowledge in all fields and the training of advanced workers for and beyond the Ph.D. degree and similar professional degrees of equal standing. The conditions under which such degrees will be awarded will be at least equal to those demanded by the most exacting educational institutions in the United States.

FOURTH: The corporation shall be managed by a Board of not to exceed fifteen Trustees who shall be divided into five equal classes serving respectively

[Veblen to Flexner, 19 June 1931]

V-5

Brooklin,
Hancock Co.,
Maine

Dear Dr. Flexner:-

As I said when you requested me to write you something about the plans for your new Institute, ~~my difficulty is that~~ I can do little but register what must seem like fulsome approval of ~~what~~ ^{your plans} ~~you have already in mind~~. The essential point is that the Institute is to be devoted in a single-minded way to scholarship. If you can resist all temptations to do the other good things that might be attempted, your adventure will be a success.

It is the multiplicity of its purposes that makes an American University such an unhappy scholar. Instead of being a haven within the com-

If you can resist all temptations to do the other good things that might be attempted, your adventure will be a success.

It is the multiplicity of its purposes that makes an American University such an unhappy place for a scholar. Instead of being a haven within which one can seek to develop his ideas in the company of other like-minded people, it is a kind of a market place where all kinds of enterprises are exhibited and where the particular enterprise of scholarship is generally on the defensive....

I think that salaries should be much higher than the present scale. The highest that I have heard of was \$20,000 plus a house. This was refused by the Physicist to whom it was offered....

The location of your Institute should be such that your group of scholars should be one of several cultural groups. It should never be too large. Otherwise scope would be given for “organization” and the failures we know so well. If money for too large an Institute should be available, let there be 2,3,...n institutes, all separate!...

So I come back to the suggestion that Princeton is in “the vicinity of Newark”...

[9 December 1931]

Dr. Abraham Flexner
100 East 42nd Street
New York, New York

Dear Doctor Flexner:

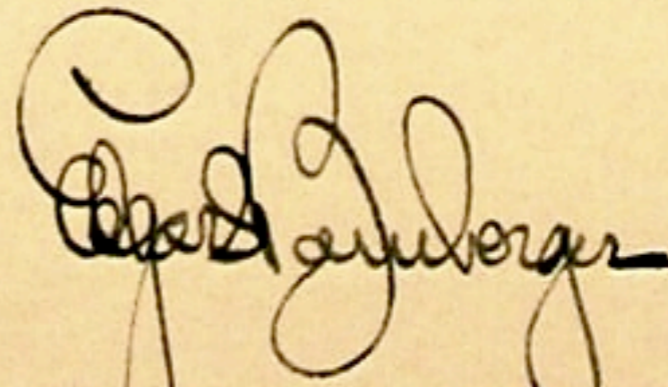
Enclosed is a current road map for the State of New Jersey.

You will note that circles have been drawn at ten mile radii, with South Orange Village as a center.

Princeton, you will notice, is roughly 35-40 miles by road from South Orange.

Kindest personal regards.

Yours most cordially

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles G. Loring". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed closing of the letter.



Orange
Essex
Union

NEWARK

JERSEY CITY

Elizabeth

Plainfield

Carteret

New Brunswick

South Amboy

Keyport

South River

Old Bridge

Red Bank

Long Branch

Holmdel

Fairtown

West Long Branch

West End

Marlboro

Scotchville

Colts Neck

Elberon

Tinton Falls

Scotchville

Colts Neck

Elberon

We are going to have a mathematical building here which will be dedicated to the memory of Professor Fine, whom you doubtless remember from your visit in Princeton. In one of the rooms there is to be an inscription over the fireplace, and we have thought that a remark which I heard you make when you were here in Princeton would be suitable. The remark is as follows:

“Raffiniert ist der Herr Gott aber boshaft ist er nicht.”

It was your reply when someone asked you if you thought that Miller's results would be verified. I've always supposed that the remark was an original epigram made on the spur of the moment, but there is a possibility that it was a quotation. Would you mind telling me if this is the case?

— Veblen to Einstein, 17 April 1930

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CABLEGRAM

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NLT VEBLEN

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C/O BROWN SHIPLEY & CO,
123, PALL MALL, S.W.

SHIPRAH LONDON,

ARRIVED YESTERDAY SAW EISENHART TODAY APPROVES
ENTHUSIASTICALLY WILL CABLE YOU HIMSELF AFTER
COMMUNICATING WITH ACTING PRESIDENT DUFFIELD,

FLEXNER.

When shown, the Filing time is LOCAL STANDARD TIME which differs from British Summer Time by an additional hour, as in the following examples:—New York 6 hours. Chicago 7 hours. Denver, Col. 8 hours. San Francisco 9 hours. Montreal 6 hours. Winnipeg 7 hours. Vancouver 9 hours.
Time of filing is not shown on cable letter messages. Time difference Chart on application.

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W.H.A.H.

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237 G PRINCETON NJ 23 25

WLT OSWALD VEBLEN

380 D

BROWN SHIPLEY LONDON,
FOUNDERS COURT, E.C.

HAVE TALKED WITH THOSE CONCERNED AND THEY APPROVE

CONGRATULATE YOU HEARTILY LOOK FORWARD TO BIG THINGS.

EISENHART.

When shown, the Filing time is LOCAL STANDARD TIME which differs from British Summer Time by an additional hour, as in the following examples:—New York 6 hours. Chicago 7 hours. Denver, Col. 8 hours. San Francisco 9 hours. Montreal 6 hours. Winnipeg 7 hours. Vancouver 9 hours.

Time of filing is not shown on cable letter messages. Time difference Chart on application.

I did not cable to Lefschetz for Alexander's address, as you suggested, because I felt that he would make a pretty shrewd guess as to why I wanted it... Weyl seems almost as enthusiastic as I am about your enterprise. The point that he emphasizes most is the desirability of having younger men in the group. The names that he and I principally discussed, after Lefschetz, Alexander, and Morse, were Dirac, Artin, and Alexandroff, all under 35. We both admire Miss Noether intensely — she is 50 but still improving, — and think Wiener a serious candidate.... For the next group, Assistant Professors, we mentioned the names, Albert, Douglas, Gödel, Gelfant. For a still younger group, Duren, Whitney, McShane. Later I thought of Stone, Whitehead, Bohnenblust as possibilities for A.P. or higher posts....

—Veblen to Flexner, 5 June 1932

October 1, 1933

The first meeting of the Faculty was held on Sunday, October 1, 1933 in Room 203, Fine Hall, Professor Veblen's office. Those present were Dr. Flexner and Professors Alexander, von Neumann and Veblen. Professors Einstein and Weyl had not yet arrived in the United States. Professor Einstein arrived on October 17, 1933 and Professor Weyl on *October 24, 1933*. Professor Weyl spent several weeks at Swarthmore where he gave some lectures before he took up residence in Princeton on *Dec 1, 1933*

Dr. Flexner declared the Institute to be open for its first session and made a few remarks about its purposes. The rest of us congratulated each other on the lack of formality attending this important occasion.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL



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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

To Dr Abraham Flemer Magnetawan July 19 1933

Mrs Fuld and I are surprised that you are again considering Wepl. We do not approve his method of dealing with us last year. Our understanding that Prof Neuman was engaged to take his place. Warm greetings to all.

Louis Bamberger

Flexner to Veblen, August 25, 1932.

"We had a charming visit here in the woods from Courant ten days ago. He spent two days with us and entered thoroughly into the simple outdoor life which we lead up here. He sawed logs, swam, and fished - the last-~~men~~ mentioned for the very first time in his life. His colleagues at Göttingen had written and telegraphed him about Weyl, and Weyl had told him that he would make no final decision until Courant returned. Nothing could have exceeded Courant's kindness and consideration."

Flexner wrote me that you are going to try to expedite the Weyl decision.... Yesterday there came another message from Weyl, via Zurich, saying that conditions have been getting worse since he went back to Goettingen after his last visit to Zurich. He would like to get away from Germany "today rather than tomorrow."

—Veblen to Aydelotte, 4 August 1933

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

SIGNS

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- LCO = Deferred Cable
- NLT = Cable Night Letter
- WLT = Week-End Letter

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J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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Received at 376 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y.

1933 JAN 28 PM 6 50

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DOCTOR ABRAHAM FLEXNER=

VANSTITUTE 100 EAST 42 ST=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER
43	

MANY THANKS FOR TELEGRAM AND QUICK ACTION OF APPOINTMENT=

NEUMANN.

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For complete service send your messages by **WESTERN UNION**

ST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

Everybody who wants a teacher of mathematics comes shopping to Princeton, just as the people who know what they are after go to L. Bamberger & Company in Newark...

—Flexner to Bamberger (in Arizona) 15 March 1935

If I may endeavor to visualize the Institute tentatively, I should
think of a circle, called the Institute for Advanced Study. Within this, I
should, one by one, as men and funds are available - and only then - create
a series of schools or groups - a school of mathematics, a school of economics,
a school of history, a school of philosophy, etc. The "schools" may change
from time to time; in any event, the designations are so broad that they may
readily cover one group of activities today, quite another group, as time
goes on. Thus, from the outset the school of mathematics may well contain
the history or philosophy of science; the school of economics, a chair of law
or political theory. Each school should conduct its affairs in its own way;
for neither the subjects nor the scholars will all fit into one mould. An

[Abraham Flexner 26 September 1931]

Now mathematics is singularly well suited to our beginning.

Mathematicians deal with intellectual concepts which they follow out for their own sake, but they stimulate scientists, philosophers, economists, poets, musicians, though without being at all conscious of any need or responsibility to do so. Moreover, it is no small, though an accidental and incidental advantage, at a time when we wish to retain plasticity and postpone acts and decisions that will bind us, that mathematics is the simplest of subjects to begin with. It requires little - a few men, a few students, a few rooms, books, blackboard, chalk, paper, and pencils. Let us endeavor, therefore, to bring together a fertile mathematical group; let us provide for them ideal conditions of work. In due course, provision can be made for mathematical physics, and the door thus opened for another step forward when conditions are ripe; and for statistics, which will open a door on the other side.

At the same time, assuming that funds are adequate and that the right persons can be secured, I am now inclined to include economics. It is, as I

There is a school of mathematics, let us say, made up of mathematicians; but the mathematicians will lunch, smoke, chat, walk, or play golf with the physicists; can any possible form of organization give the flexibility, the intimacy, the informality, the stimulus thus attainable? No "director" or "departmental head" or "executive" needs to worry for fear that independent or water-tight groups, ignorant of one another, will form or not form. If the spirit of learning animates the Institute - and without that there is no reason for its existence - men will talk together and work together, because they live together, have their recreation together, meet on the same humane social level, and have a single goal.

25/X/40

Professor Weyl

10.00 ✓

~~22/XI/40~~

Professor Morse

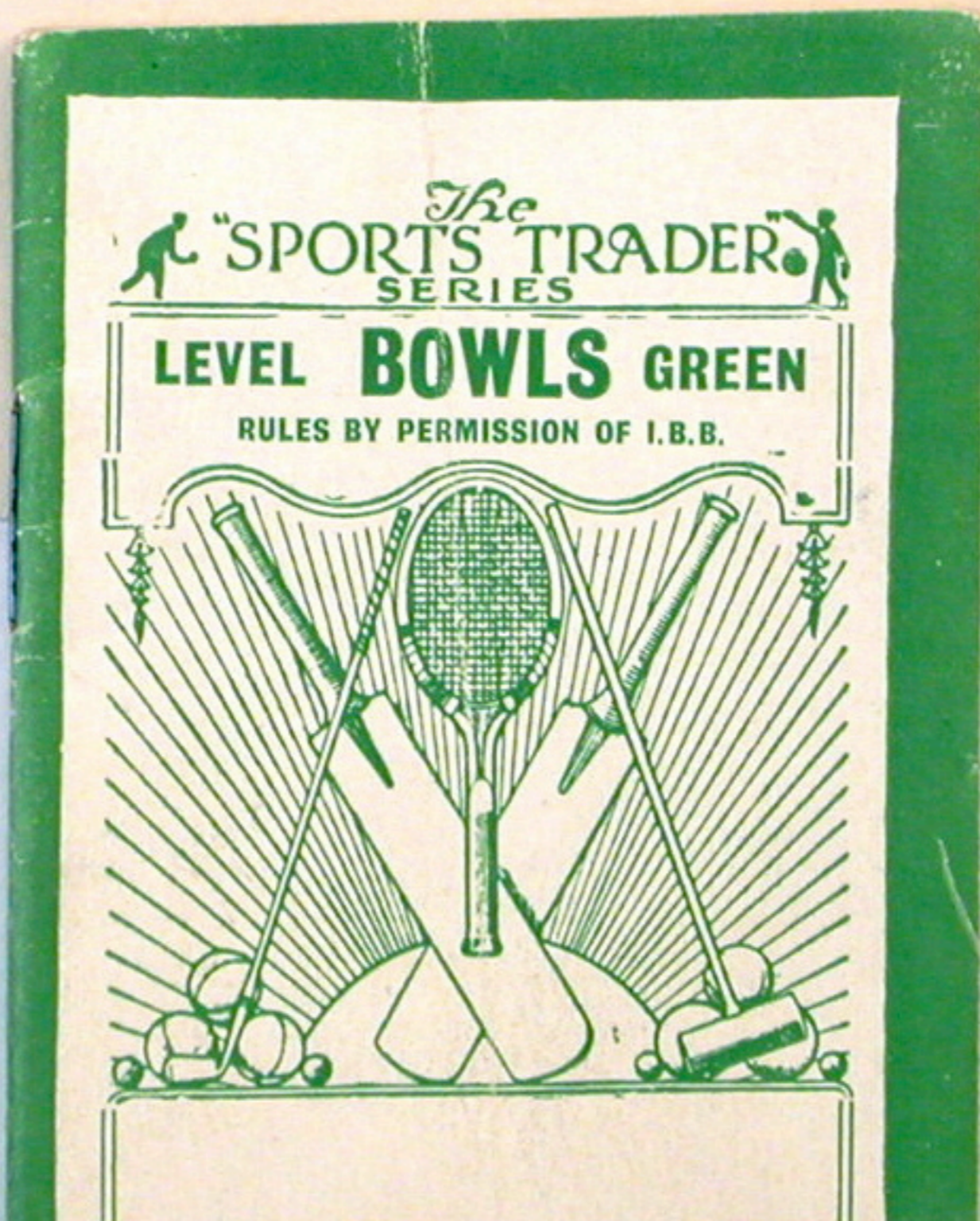
16/XII/40

10.00 ✓

9/XII/40

Professor Warren

5.00 ✓



THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Institute

Bowl

Bill

~~out value~~

Money goes
back to Institute
to be used for
sports

how to
divide
the
money

[Julian Huxley to Abraham Flexner, 11 December 1932]

The reason I ventured to butt in at all was that in talking to Veblen I got the impression that the general policy of the new Institute was still largely undetermined... One thought I have had for some time is of a place whose prime function should be the application of the mathematical method in every possible field--of course this has been very largely done in the physical sciences; but in biology (biometry, evolution theory, genetics, certain aspects of physiology, ecology, population studies) it is clear that much could be done...

1936-37

HALDANE, J.B.S.

Biography

PRINCETON

Relations W. O. A. I.

Veblen invited Haldane to the Institute (where the financial responsibility would be shared by Princeton Univ.) in Nov. 1936. Haldane replied (11/12/36) that he was going to Spain to help with defense of Madrid against a gas attack threatened by German and Italian invaders. Invitation renewed on 3/20/37. There is no answer in file.

File II-28 Vault

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS
FINE HALL

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

March 24, 1937

Dear Doctor Flexner:

I enclose herewith a copy of the letter to Haldane which I sent off last night after making the verbal corrections which you suggested. I feel that I was very much at fault in not having written you a note to embody my understanding of the matter after our first discussion. My recollection agrees with yours that I explained that Haldane was interested in the applications of mathematics to biological phenomena. The exact field to which he proposed to make the applications is genetics. The project is an experiment to determine whether mathematics (I don't mean here our School of Mathematics in particular) can profitably extend its activities into the field of genetics as it has already done into theoretical physics and chemistry. I thought that the support for this would appropriately come from general funds rather than from those already allocated to other purposes. In this I was doubtless influenced by my earlier experience on the committee administering research funds for the University.





December 1, 1932

Dear Mr. Bamberger:

You may be interested in reading a paper by Professor Munro of the California Institute of Technology, which makes the point I have so frequently made, namely, that the way to reform higher education in the United States is to pay generous salaries and then use any sort of makeshift in the way of buildings. Since Mr. Gilman started the Hopkins in two old boarding-houses, higher American education has gone wrong in this important point with the result that we have hundreds of millions invested in buildings and meagre salaries and retiring allowances for professors and their families.

Perhaps Mr. Maass or Mr. Leidesdorf would like to see this reprint after you and Mrs. Fuld have read it.

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Mr. Louis Bamberger
L. Bamberger and Company
Newark, New Jersey



The Institute should have, if possible, a large plot of land. Personally I am inclined to think that we are likely to make the mistake of getting too small a piece, rather than too large a piece. So far as I know, there is no educational institution in the United States which has not in the beginning made the mistake of acquiring too little rather than too much land... I think that any institution which becomes a part of a community like this one, has a duty to contribute something to the amenities of the place. This would be accomplished if the Institute owned a sufficiently large plot of land, which would thus be kept free from objectionable intruders...

—Veblen to Flexner, 12 April 1934

MRS. EDWIN M. NORRIS
REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
84 NASSAU STREET
8 Chambers Street

PRINCETON, N. J.

November 15, 1932.

Dr. Abraham Flexner, Director
Institute for Advanced Study
100 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Flexner:

I noticed in the "New York Times" that you are planning to locate the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and that you hope to ultimately build or remain here permanently so I am, as a Real Estate agent in Princeton, writing to ask if I may show you some of the properties listed with my office.

I am taking the liberty of telling you about a few of them which I shall be glad to show you. There are several others which I am not including in this letter but will be glad to show them also if you are interested.

If you wish a reference, I am sure that Professor and Mrs. Veblen and Dean and Mrs. Eisenhart who are my personal friends will be glad to give you one. I am also President of the Princeton Real Estate Board.

The properties are as follows:

The properties are as follows:

No.1.- 40 acres overlooking the golf course and close to the Graduate College and separated from the golf course by Springdale Road. There is no definite asking price on this property but it can be purchased for around \$80,000.00 and perhaps less. Adjacent to this property on the south and west is a large tract of land which is for sale but now without a price on it. The owner is open to an offer.

No. 2. -139 acres situated within ten feet of the Lincoln Highway and bound on the south by the Mercer Pike and on the west by the Provinceline Road. It is a beautiful farm with rich soil and sloping land from a high elevation to lowlands. It has an old frame colonial farmhouse and outbuildings, all in need of repair. Price \$35,000.00

No. 3.- 118 acres on the State road to Somerville with a magnificent view and woodland. It is within five minutes ride of Nassau Street with a car going at 30 miles andhour but the property is so secluded that it might as well be twenty miles in the mountains. The property is improved by a handsome stone house with modern improvements. There are 8 rooms on the ground floor and 5 master bedrooms and 3 master baths. Also 4 servants rooms and bath. There is also an old farmers house in excellent condition, built of stone, a stone garage with stalls for 5 cars and a large stable for horses. Price \$200,000.00

*If we are going to have inflation would it
not be well to speed up the land question?
At least two of the proposed sites seem
good to me...*

—Veblen to Flexner, 13 March 1933

Dr. Abraham Flexner
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey

[29 October 1935]

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Your letter of October 28 was quite impressive, as it expressed the thought that possibly some of our co-workers in the management of the Institute were inclined to rush along with more haste than wisdom. Mrs. Fuld has repeatedly commented on a policy of acquiring so much land for an institution that proclaimed not size but highest standards. This also has been my feeling.

After our present commitments are completed, our resources will not permit of further expansion at the present time. So far everything has developed beyond our fondest expectations, thanks to you. Nor have I any misgivings about the future.

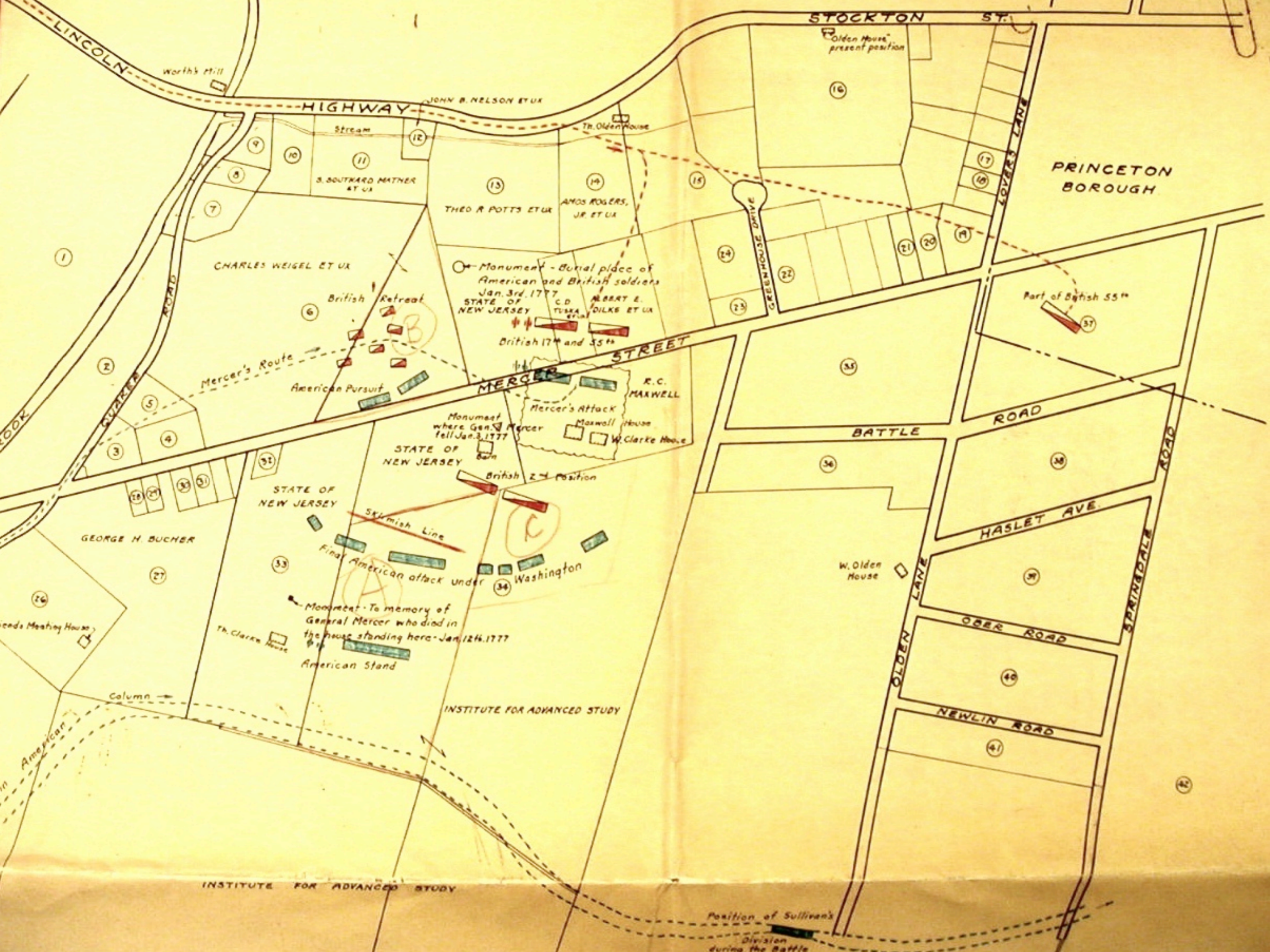
Kind greetings to Mrs. Flexner.

Cordially yours

Louis Brainerd

I have walked over the new property of the Institute several times since there has been a hard crust on top of the snow. This enables one to explore the woods down near the brook much better than one will be able to after the ground gets soft again...

—Veblen to Aydelotte, 13 February 1936



STOCKTON ST.

HIGHWAY

PRINCETON BOROUGH

CHARLES WEIGEL ET UX

THEO R POTTS ET UX

AMOS ROGERS, JR. ET UX

S. SOUTKARD MATHER ET UX

Monument - Burial place of American and British soldiers Jan. 3rd. 1777 STATE OF NEW JERSEY

British Retreat

British 17th and 55th

Mercer's Route

American Pursuit

MERCER STREET

MERCER STREET

R.C. MAXWELL

Mercer's Attack

Maxwell House

W. Clarke House

Monument where Gen. Mercer fell Jan. 3, 1777

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

British 24th Position

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Skirmish Line

Final American attack under

Washington

Monument - To memory of General Mercer who died in the house standing here - Jan. 26, 1777

American Stand

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

GEORGE H. BUCHER

W. Olden House

HASLET AVE.

OBER ROAD

NEWLIN ROAD

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Position of Sullivan's

Division during the Battle

MERCER STREET

QUAKERS

16' RIGHT OF WAY

R.C. Maxwell

Barou - 4

5 - Jan 72

6 B. Merrill

D3 - Montgomery
(to be condemned)

R. C. MAXWELL

INSTITUTE FOR

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Stott - 2

1 - Rockwell

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

December 19, 1935

Dear Mr. Bamberger:

Mr. Maass has told me that you have played Santa Claus by paying for the land which we have acquired. How can I ever thank you and Mrs. Fuld sufficiently for your generosity? I can only say that we are all trying our best to be worthy of it and thus far nothing could be more perfect than the situation of the Institute and the relationship between the Institute and the University.

With all good wishes,

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

"Egg-zactly" RIGHT
 SEND YOUR
 Easter
 Greeting
 by WESTERN UNION
 25¢ and 35¢ Anywhere 20¢ LOCALLY
 PRESIDENT



APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1201-S

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON
 CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
 FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS
DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

Received at.

PBB16 24=PRINCETON NJ MAR 23 354P

PRESIDENT FRANK AYDELOTTE=

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE W=

COMMITTEE ON BUILDINGS WILL MEET AT LUNCHEON AT CITY MIDDAY
 CLUB TWENTY FIVE BROAD STREET NEWYORKCITY ON FRIDAY THE
 TWENTY SIXTH AT ONE OCLOCK=
 ESTHER S BAILEY.
 420P.



CARTE DU JOUR

Thursday, October 21, 1937

OYSTERS AND CLAMS

- On half shell—Cape Cods 45, Blue Points 40, stewed 65, in cream 75
On half shell—Cherrystone clams 45 Little Necks 40
stewed 65 in cream 75
Tomato, clam juice or sauerkraut cocktail 35 Cocktail sauce 15

SOUP

- Chicken okra with rice, in cup 35, tureen 45
Cold strained Mongole, in cup 35

FISH

- Broiled Jersey sea bass, Tamshire bacon, Tarragon butter 95
Codfish cakes, Virginia bacon, stewed fresh tomatoes 85
Cold stuffed Crisfield crab, Ravigote, romaine and tomatoes 95

ENTREES

- Shirred eggs with grilled English bacon and mushrooms (1) 55, (2) 95
Assorted cold cuts, French endives and tomatoes 95
Tomatoes stuffed with turkey hash, grilled Virginia bacon 85
Corned beef hash browned, Zingara 95
Broiled spring lamb chops, bacon, Club potato 1 00
Risotto with chicken livers and saffron a la Turque 85

studies

~~off~~ - staff - auto
worker

fit room

Dance room -

lecture rooms

Open office

seminar room

Common room



VA to get receptors

Hofler man

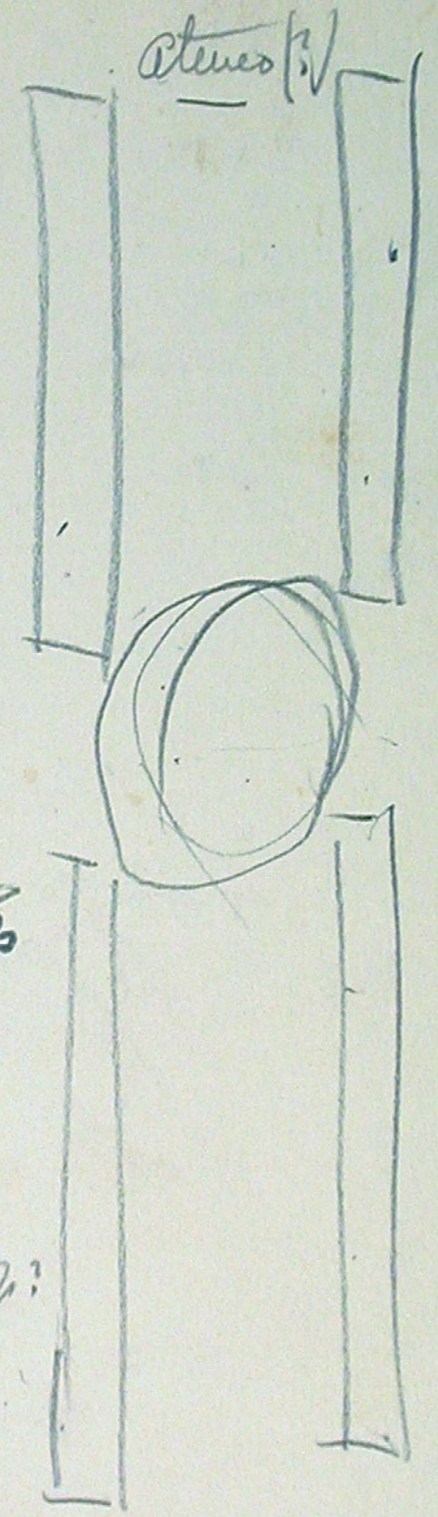
Laura scale House

at summit - Dr Woodbury?

Lafish - Washington

Robert Kohn - mentions Strauss - el Emerson

Woodbury -

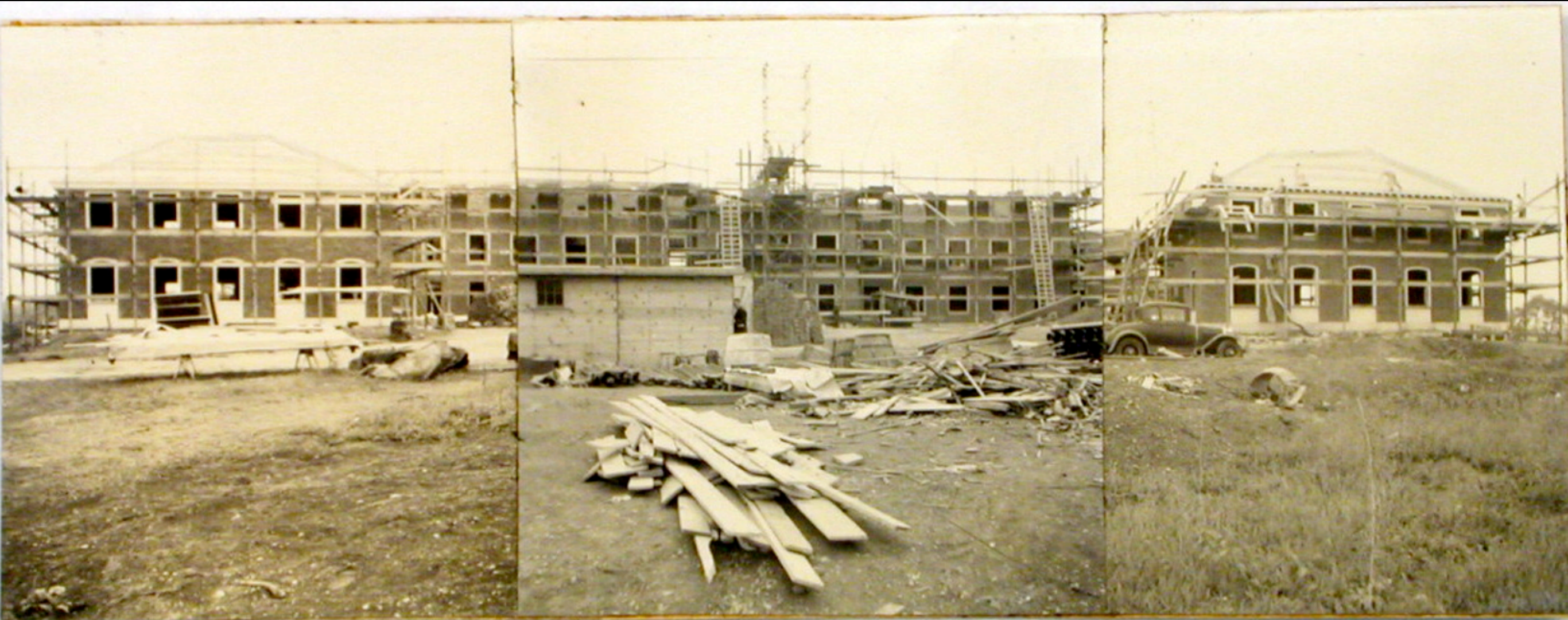


1) Pride for Human —

Econ - adu + our rooms prill
for math (Einstein - algebra -
wyle)

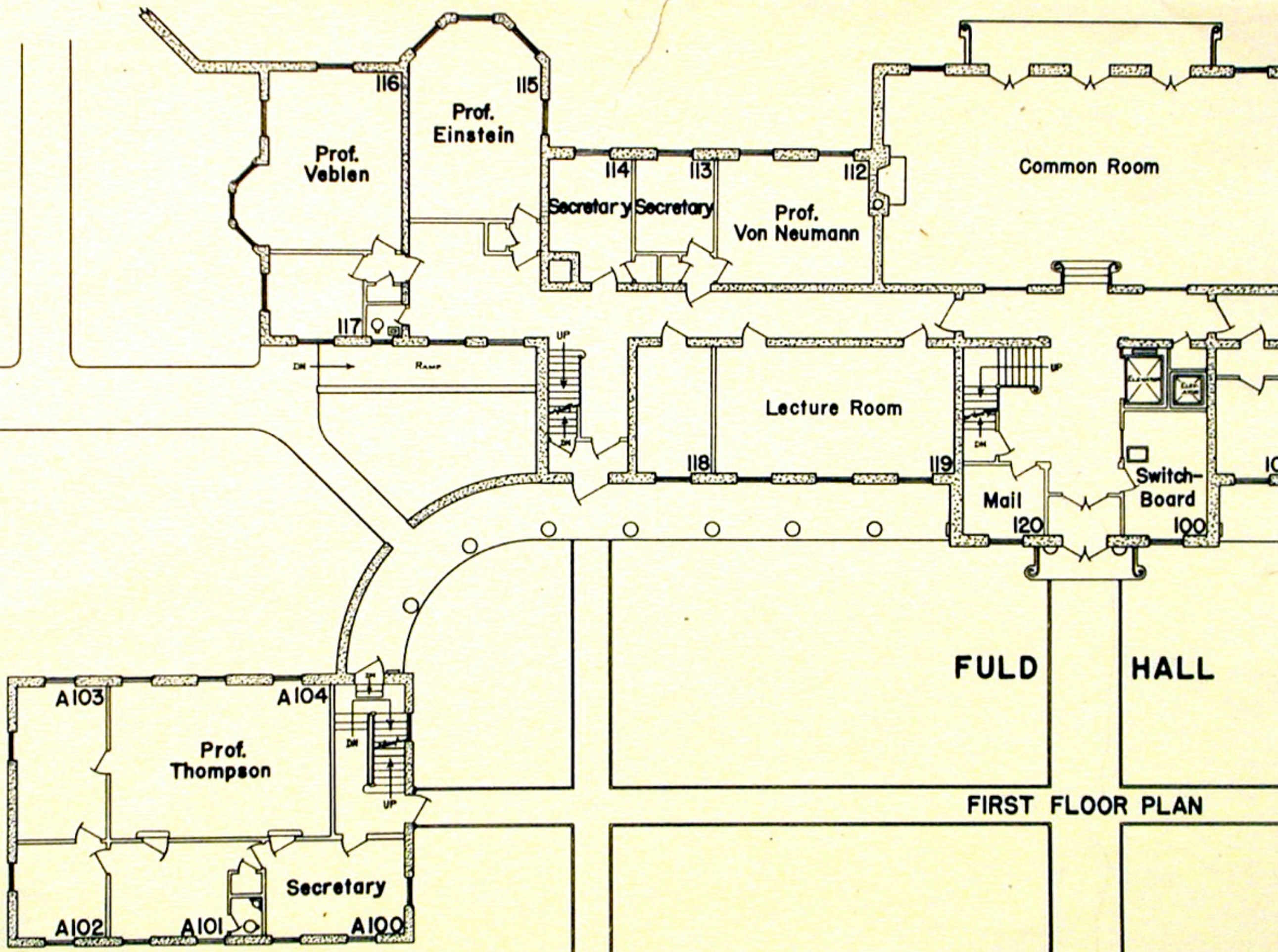
Library + common rooms in
lake led in wings - probably
will adu

or library + adu in one
allwaeu in another

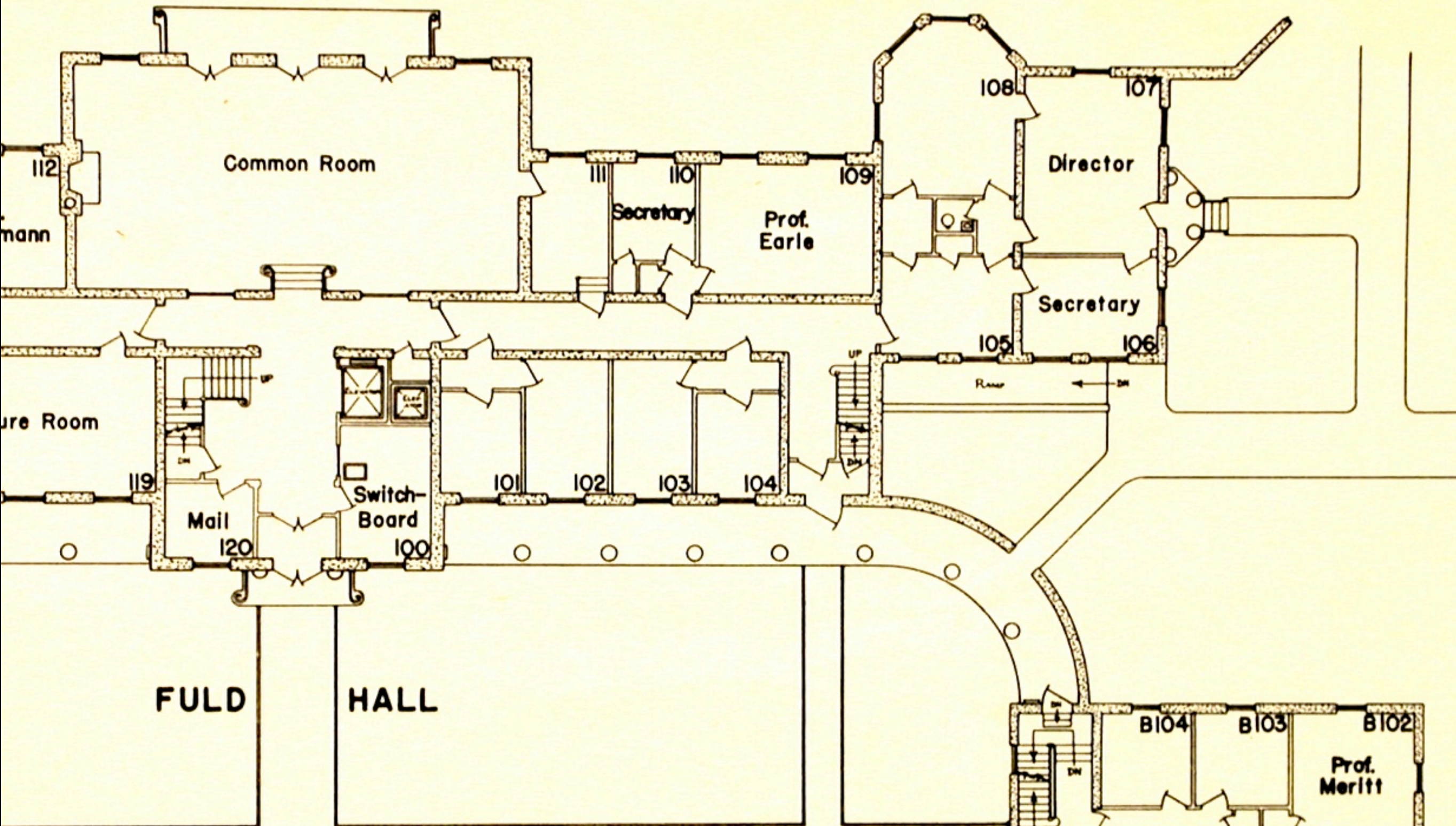




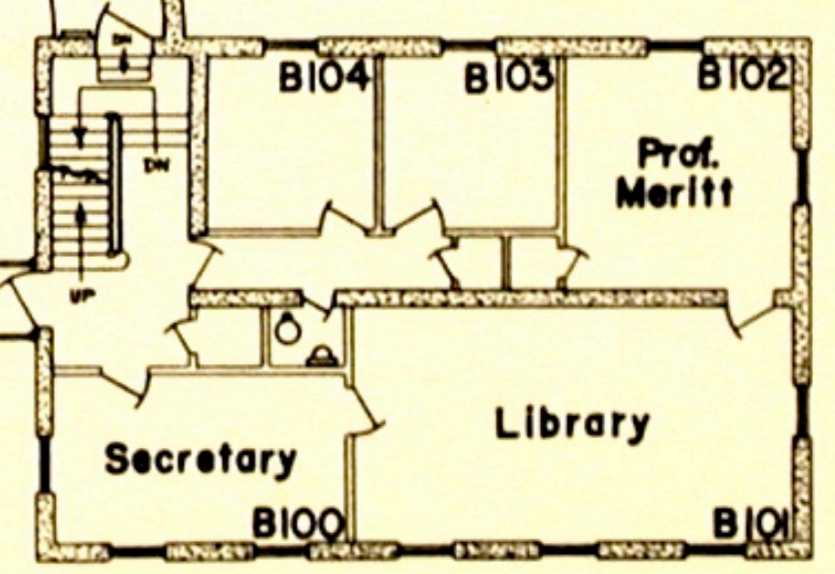




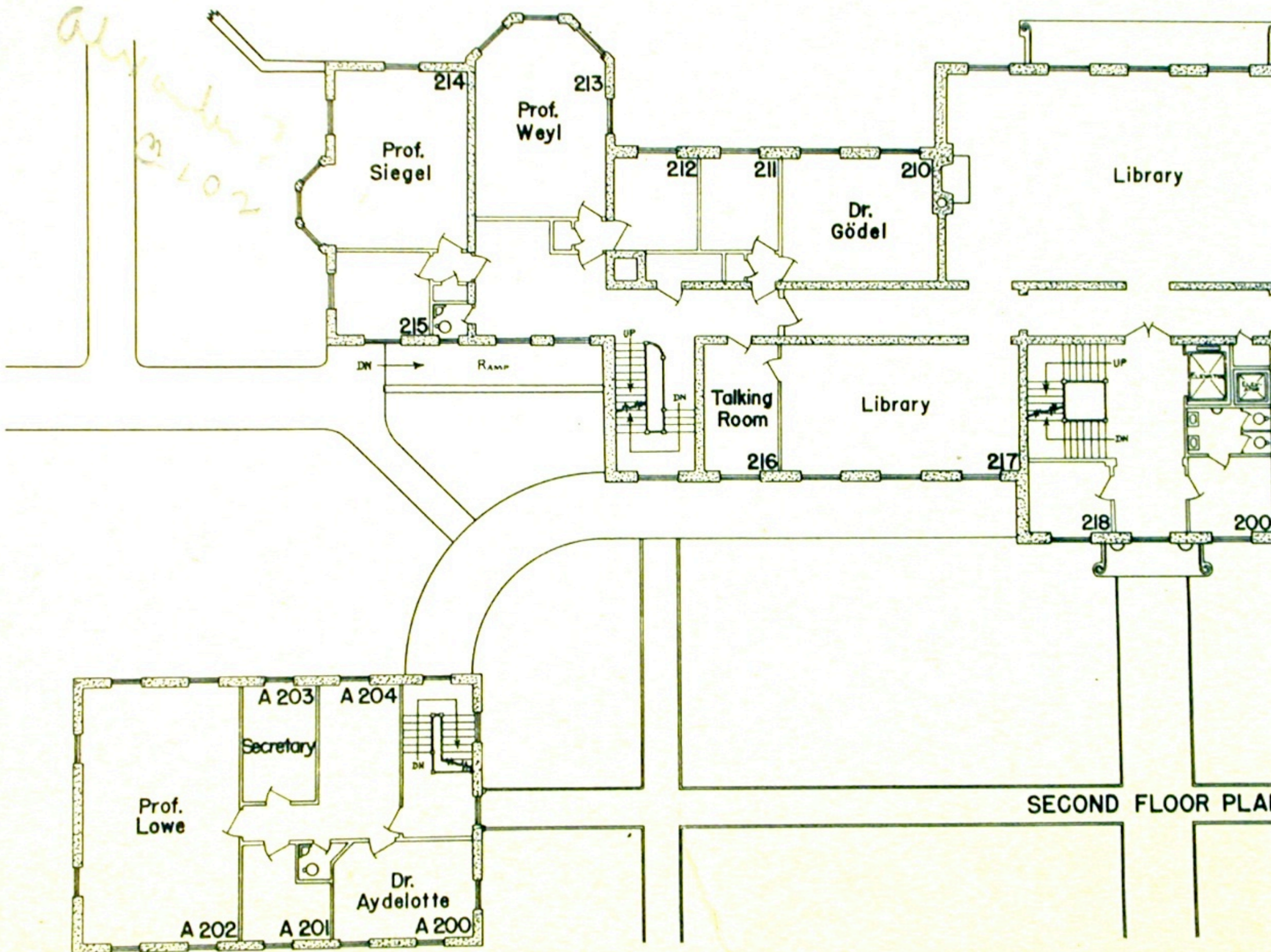
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



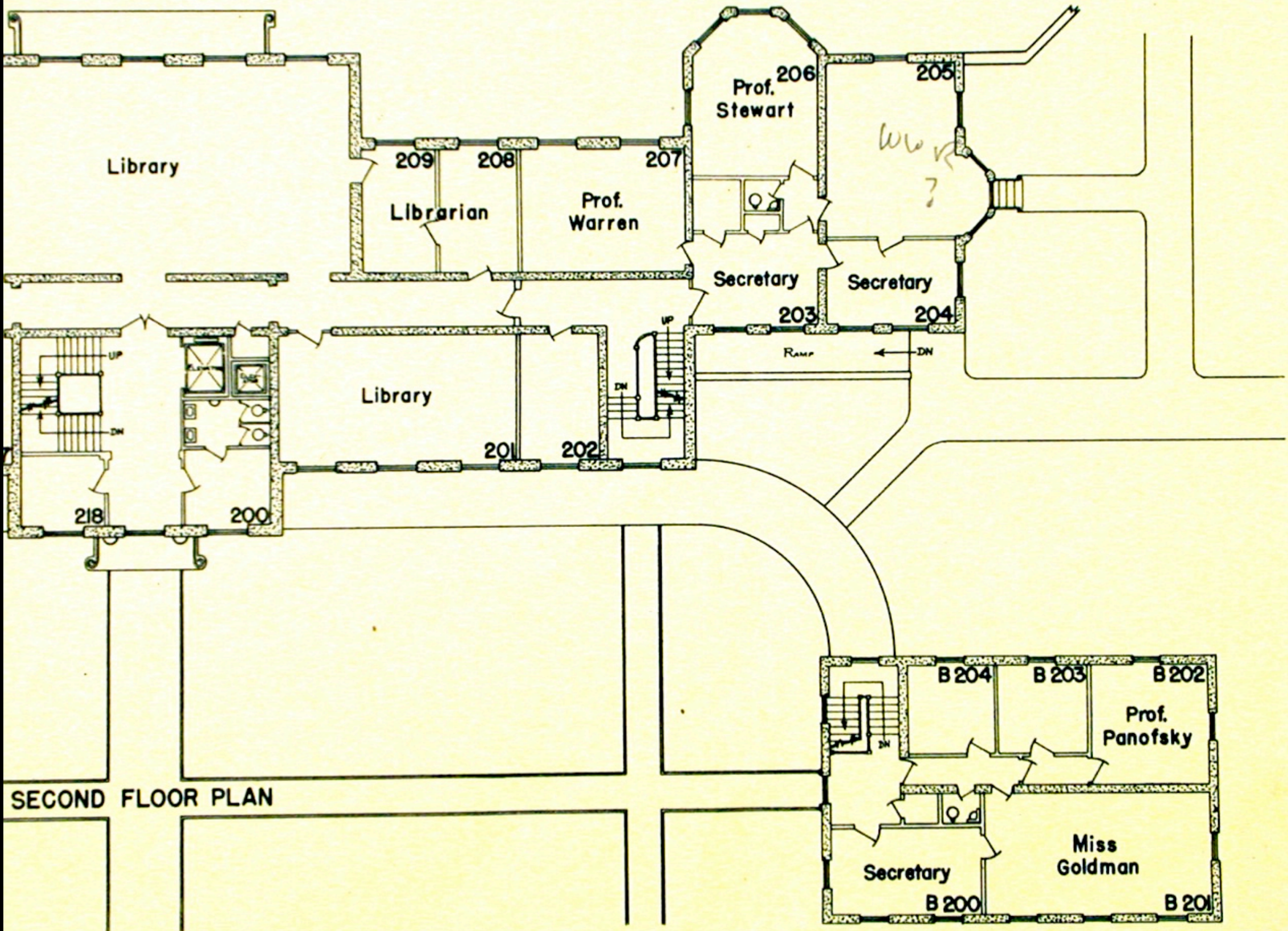
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



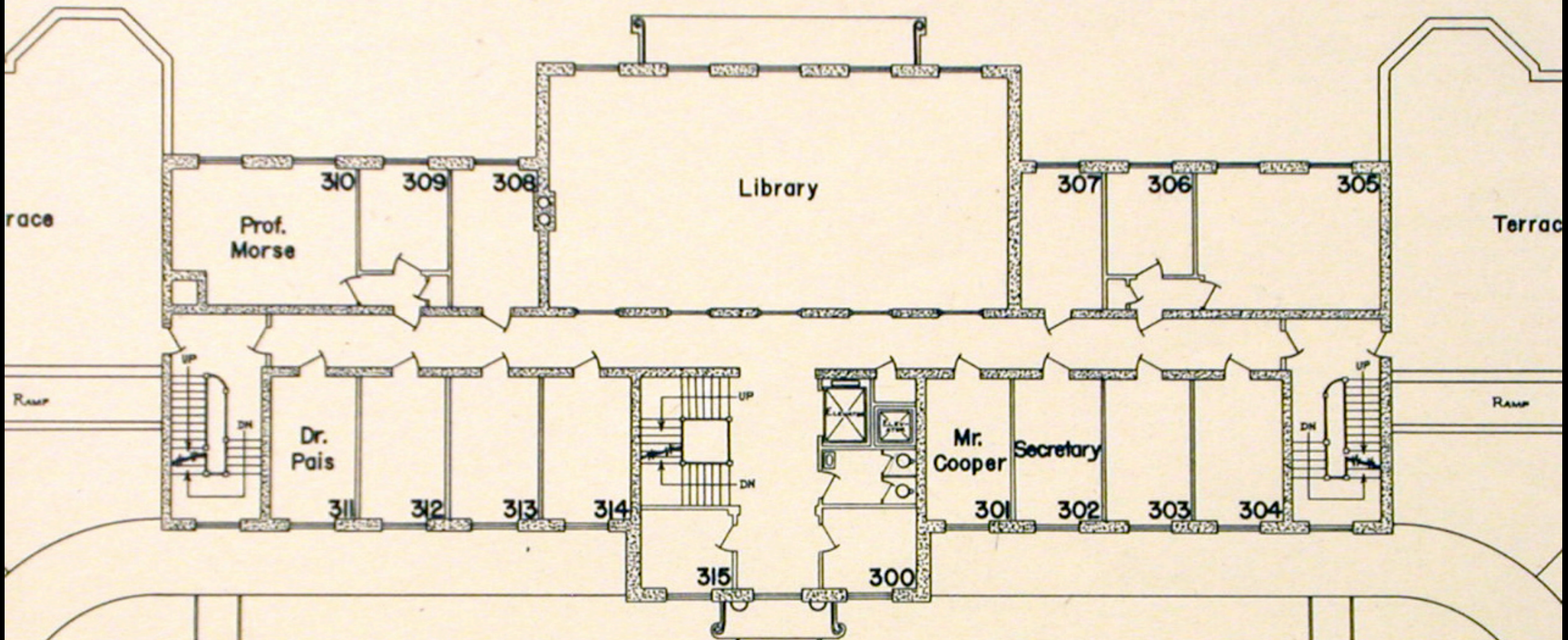
BUILDING B



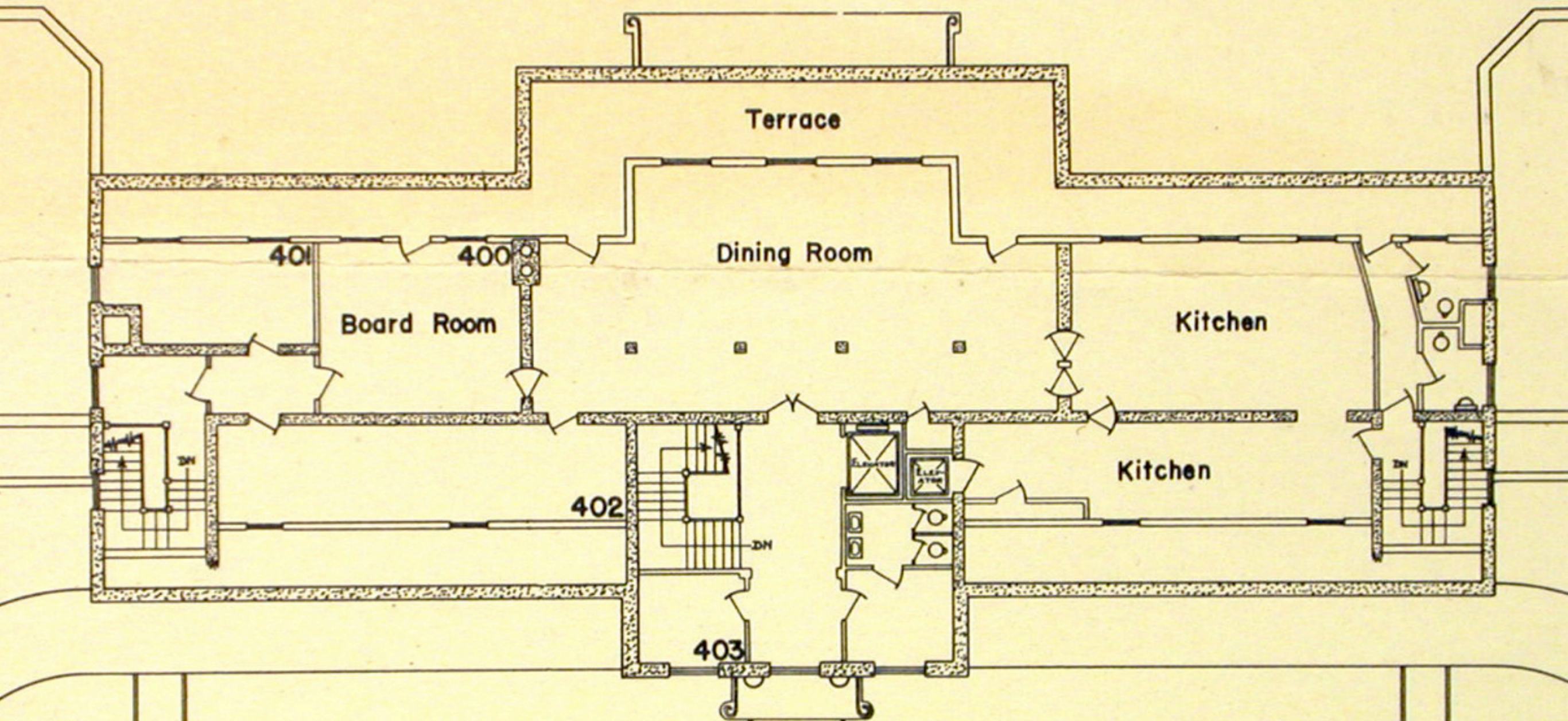
SECOND FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



THIRD FLOOR PLAN



FOURTH FLOOR PLAN

Procured by Mrs. Veblen in February 1934 for use in Fine Hall in connection with afternoon tea, parties, etc., of mathematical groups of Princeton University and the Institute for Advanced Study

6 towels

Soap powder, bon ami, and pewter polish

~~Key to Fine Hall~~

8 doz. Punch glasses

12 doz. After dinner cups and saucers

12 doz. Pie plates

12 doz. After dinner coffee spoons

N o t i c e

The Tea Committee earnestly requests the members of the Tea Club to pay their dues as quickly as possible as it feels it unwise to buy more supplies while the Tea Club remains in debt.

The Treasurer has collected and turned over to the disbursing officers of the Tea Club, dues amounting to \$232.00

May 12, 1934.

L.M. Blumenthal.

For Teas at Fuld Hall

Paid by Marie Aydelotte

1 urn		\$16.95
2 tea kettles at \$2.60		5.20
4 doz. tsp. "	1.45	5.80
4 " glasses at	.60	2.40
2 pitchers "	.41 2/3	.83
4 trays		8.70
1 dish drainer		1.50
5 teapots		6.01
4 extra teapots		7.59
6 dish towels & dish cloth		.65
1 sink strainer		.15
2 tea strainers		.20
1 sauce pan & cover		.30
6 round trays		.60
6 sets sugar & cream jugs		1.20
2 sandwich plates		2.00
7 doz. <i>extra</i> glasses		4.20
Maid's uniform and 2 apron sets		4.70
35 extra teacups		14.00

\$82.98

TEAS

	<u>1940-41</u>	<u>1941-42</u>
Sept.	no record	556 from 9/15
Oct.	"	1,421
Nov.	"	1,642
Dec.	"	1,235
Jan.	624	1,566
Feb.	790	1,634
March	935	1,551
April	912	-----
May	<u>885</u>	<u>-----</u>
Total Persons	4,146	9,605 Total Persons

Food
Cost for above
\$110.30 or
.026 per person

Food cost for above
\$254.28 or
.026 per person

In the current year 1941-42, the teas have taken half time of a maid who receives between \$62.50 and \$70 a month. At present, it is taking additional help as one maid cannot make and serve tea and wash cups for such large groups, sometimes numbering 80 and above. This additional service, it is hoped to discontinue during May.

RAM

Number of Members

(Members)

1933-34	23	
1934-35	35	
1935-36	45	
1936-37	58	
1937-38	40	
1938-39	46	
1939-40	46	
1940-41	52	
1941-42	53	
1942-43	28	
1943-44	19	
1944-45	<u>25</u>	(first term)
Total	470	

Budget S.F.M.

To
June

1936 — 146,479

1937 — 147,129

1938 — 143,159

1939 — 145,459

1940 — 129,780

1941 — 129,759

1942

COPY FOR PROFESSOR STEWART

PRELIMINARY BUDGET 1947-1948

School of Mathematics	\$170,303
School of Economics and Politics	101,628
School of Humanistic Studies	79,382

L. Trinterud
4:15:47

July 14, 1941

OCCASIONAL VISITING LECTURERS

Not surely complete

(Usually \$50 honorarium per lecture; sometimes Princeton maintenance only)

1934-35

Prof. Carl L. Siegel
Prof. Emmy Noether (No honorarium)

1935-36

Prof. Max von Laue
Prof. C. E. Weatherburn
Prof. Otto Szász
Prof. Kazimierz Kuratowski

1936-37

Prof. T. Vijayaraghavan (about \$123)
Prof. Niels Bohr (about \$125) *P. M. winter*
Prof. Karl Menger (about \$56)

1937-38

Prof. Karl Menger (\$100)
Prof. Emil Artin (\$100)
Prof. Oystein Ore

1938-39

Prof. A. A. Albert
Prof. Arnaud Denjoy
Prof. Hassler Whitney

1939-40

Prof. Alfred Tarski

1940-41

Prof. A. A. Albert
Dr. Victor F. Weisskopf (Entertainment only)

IAS SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS STIPENDS ACTUALLY PAID

1939 - 40

Warren Ambrose	\$1,500	
Valentin Bargmann	1,500	
Walter H. Barkas	1,800	
Garrett Birkhoff	1,075	(2d term)
Paul Erdős	750	
William W. Flexner	1,800	(Outside funds)
Guido Fubini	1,500	(Outside funds)
Kurt Gödel	2,400	(Arrived Mar./40)
Paul R. Halmos	750	
Stephen C. Kleene	1,250	
Henry Margenau	800	(1st term)
H. Lyle Smith	500	(2d term)
Carl L. Siegel	1,000	(Arrived Apr.15/40)
Paul A. Smith	2,250	
	<u>\$18,875</u>	

Professor Veblen thought Dr. Aydelotte would be interested in the following cable just received from London

NLT BLAKE

1941 Dec. 16 PM 10:56

INSTITUTE SECRETARY FINE HALL PRINCETON NJ

PLEASE SEND GOEDEL CONTINUUM HYPOTHESIS NOTES

A M TURING KINGS COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE ENGLAND



Vienna, March 31, 1933

Kurt Gödel

Dear Professor Flexner:

I thank you very much for your kind letter of February 6, offering me a position for the year 1933-1934.

I have a great pleasure in accepting it and taking part for a year in the scientific work at the Institute for Advanced Study. For further details I have written to Professor Veblen.

Looking forward with interest to your further news I am

Yours faithfully

Kurt Gödel

Vienna, August 2, 1933

Dear Professor Flexner:

I thank you very much for your kind letter of July 13. My travelling expenses from Vienna to New-York will amount to \$ 150.

At the American Consulate I have been told, that the immigration-office might demand of me a security of \$ 500 on my landing and I would beg you, to write me, what I should do in this case.

EDGAR S. BAMBERGER
131 MARKET STREET
NEWARK, N.J.

September
25 1933

Dr. Abraham Flexner
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey

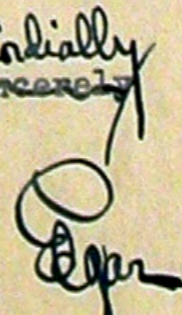
Dear Doctor:

I have been informed that I will be requested to sign a \$500.00 bond when Kurt Gödel arrives here on Friday next. I assume you wish me to sign that bond in the name of the Institute for Advanced Study, per myself. It is possible that a letter may be needed from you indicating that I have that authority.

May I at the same time acknowledge a call for the meeting Monday, October 9th at the Uptown Club in New York City. I have placed that date on my calendar.

With kindest regards.

Yours most sincerely

Cordially




DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
VD 811.111 Godel, Kurt

OCTOBER 10, 1939

My dear Mr. Flexner:

I refer to your letter of October 4, 1939, with enclosure, concerning the case of Professor Kurt Gödel of Vienna, Germany, who is stated to be encountering some difficulty in coming to the United States.

You will appreciate of course that if Professor Gödel's difficulty arises from some question relating to military or other matters within the jurisdiction of a foreign government, our consular officer at Vienna would be unable to intervene on his behalf since Professor Gödel is not an American citizen.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

NOVEMBER 4-, 1939

In reply refer to
VD 811.111 Gödel, Kurt

My dear Dr. Flexner:

I refer to your letter of October 21, 1939, with enclosure, concerning the case of Professor Kurt Gödel, which has been the subject of previous correspondence.

Although the enclosure to your letter contains helpful information concerning Professor Gödel I regret that certain questions raised in my letter of October 10, 1939 appear to have been overlooked. It is particularly desired to know whether Professor Gödel will be a member of the faculty of your Institute and to what extent he will be engaged in teaching. Also, whether there is an expectation that the one year appointment offered him by the Institute will be renewed at the end of that period. It is inferred from Professor von Neumann's letter that Professor Gödel will not be a member of your

Vienna, Nov. 23, 1939.

Dear Dr. Flexner!

I am very sorry that I have not succeeded so far, to obtain a visa from the German authorities. But it is still possible (though unlikely), that I shall be able to come for the second term. Otherwise I should be glad to come in autumn 1940, if you can maintain your invitation until that date.

Charge d'Affaires
German Embassy
Washington, D. C.

[1 December 1939]

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, I venture to request your good offices in securing permission for Dr. Kurt Gödel, Himmelstrasse 43, Vienna, to come to the United States in order to occupy a post in the Institute, to which he was duly elected last year.

Dr. Gödel is an Aryan; he is thirty-three years old and married. He would, I suppose, be liable for military service, but since he is one of the greatest mathematicians in the world, we very much hope that the German government will in this case think it more important for him to continue his scientific work, which would be of great value to the Institute for Advanced Study and to departments of mathematics in many other institutions with which the Institute cooperates in research.

Dr. Gödel has already spent three years at the Institute, between 1933 and 1939. There are a great many mathematicians in the United States whose work depends upon his leadership, and there is no question but that his presence here makes a significant addition to the prestige of German science.

Vienna, Jan. 5, 1940.

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

I am greatly obliged to you for the request, which you have addressed on my behalf to the German Chargé d'Affaires in Washington. It is probably on this account, that I was ultimately granted leave by the German authorities. In view of Prof. Veblen's letter of Dec. 1 I am hoping now, that it will make no difficulty to obtain the American visa and that I shall be able to leave Vienna in a few days. So the only complication which remains is, that I shall have to take the route through Russia and Japan. The German certificate of leave makes explicitly this requirement and in addition

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

JANUARY 2, 1940 19

To OSWALD VEBLEN

Street and No. ISLAND INN

Place SANIEEL, FLORIDA

~~GOEDEL WIRED ANNOUNCING GERMAN PERMISSION FOR HIM AND WIFE TO LEAVE VIA JAPAN
STOP APPLIES FOR USA VISA AT VIENNA CONSULATE STOP ASKS TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS
ADVANCE AND EXPRESSES EXPECTATION OF FOUR THOUSAND SALARY WE FAVOR GRANTING
BOTH STOP ARE WE COMMITTED TO ERDOS HALMOS STOP ALSO WE MIGHT ASK
ANDELOTTES AUTHORIZATION FOR FIFTEEN HUNDRED NEXT YEAR AND THEN ANNOUNCE GOEDEL
SALARY FOUR THOUSAND FOR ONE YEAR BEGINNING AT HIS ARRIVAL PLEASE WIRE
OPINION~~

Official

WEYL VONNEUMANN

91

Sender's address
for reference

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY
IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE.

Sender's telephone
number

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1201

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

- DL = Day Letter
- NL = Night Letter
- LC = Deferred Cable
- NLT = Cable Night Letter
- Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

1940 FEB 22 AM 9 22

NZ42 VIA RCA=F YOKOHAMA 22 2/830S

LC VANSTITUTE:

PRINCETON (NJ)=

WAITING FOR CLEVELAND UNLESS YOU CAN RESERVE EARLIER BOAT
PLEASE WIRE 200 DOLLARS TO YOKOHAMA NEW GRAND HOTEL GOEDEL.
VANSTITUTE 200 GOEDEL.

Cleveland Feb 15 - 1st Am ship - Res made

Due SF Feb 29

Previous advances

574.44
2001

774.44

2000
774.44

1225.56

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

Date December 12, 1941

Full name KURT GÖDEL

Alien Registration No. 409 1237

Date and place of birth April 28, 1906

Brünn, Czechoslovakia

Married ~~yes~~

Name of wife ~~or husband~~

Adele Gödel

Citizenship Austrian German

Name and age of dependent children and registration numbers None

Under what kind of visa did you enter the United States? Non-quota Immigration

What kind of visa do you hold now?

" " "

Visa No. 57

Place and date of issue Vienna, Germany, Jan. 8, 1940

When does visa expire? No expiration

When and where did you enter the United States? March 4, 1940, San Francisco, Calif.

When does entry permit expire? No expiration

Statement of relevant facts, including plans for citizenship

1st U.S.A. Naturalization papers obtained Dec. 12, 1940, at Trenton, N.J., No. 3510

Princeton home address 3 Chambers Terrace

Telephone 2433-W

Permanent address

Same

If automobile owner, give (1) automobile license number
(2) driver's license number

College or university, degrees, year conferred University of Vienna Ph.D. 1930

Honors and societies - American Mathematical Society

Positions you have held, giving dates, or are holding (including any graduate scholarships and fellowships)

University of Vienna - Venia legendi 1933 - 1938

Institute for Advanced Study - Member 1933-4; fall term 1935-6; fall term 1938-9; spring term 1939-40; 1940-

University of Notre Dame - spring term 1938-9

Voluntary statement of any other facts which may be of possible use to the United States government.

I was deprived of my position (as a Privatdozent in Vienna) by the Hitler government in ~~the~~ April 1938.

Benjamin F. Havens, Esq.
Clerk of the Court
Trenton, New Jersey

[21 March 1942]

Dear Mr. Havens:

May I ask your assistance in a matter which concerns Dr. Kurt Gödel of the Institute for Advanced Study? Dr. Gödel came to the United States in March, 1940. In December of the same year he filed with you a declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States, as did his wife, who accompanied him to this country. Dr. Gödel was born in Brünn, Moravia, which is a part of Czecho-Slovakia, and in 1928 was naturalized as a citizen of Austria. His wife was born in Austria and has always been a citizen of that country. Dr. Gödel was deprived of his teaching post at the University of Vienna when Hitler came into power, and when his Austrian passport expired and he applied for a renewal he could get only a German passport.

Consequently, when Dr. and Mrs. Gödel filed their declaration of intention they were put down as of German nationality, he being listed as born in Brünn, Germany, and she as being born in Vienna, Germany. These cities were, of course, not German at the time that Dr. and Mrs. Gödel were born and these statements on the declaration of intention should, it seems to me, be corrected. I am at a loss to know just how to go about it to get this correction made. Would it be possible for Dr. and Mrs. Gödel to call on you in your office so that you could make the correction or could the thing be done by mailing the papers to you? I could indicate in pencil on the form the actual facts if you wish to have me do so. I should very greatly appreciate your assistance in getting this document properly made out.

March 12, 1942

Earl G. Harrison, Esq.
Department of Justice
615 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Alien Registration Number:
Kurt Friedrich Gödel 4091237
Adele Thusnelda Gödel 4091238

My dear Mr. Harrison:

My wife and I, through a misunderstanding of the regulations, registered as German citizens in the first alien registration and we wish now to take the necessary steps to have this registration corrected.

I was born in 1906 in Brun, Moravia. In 1918 I became a Czechoslovakian citizen. In 1928 I was naturalized in Austria. When Hitler came into power I was deprived of the right of lecturing in the University of Vienna, where I had been a Privatdozent. In 1933 and again in 1935 I came to this country on an Austrian passport, as your records will doubtless show. When I applied for an extension of my passport, only a German passport was available. I have never taken an oath of allegiance to Germany.

My wife was born in Vienna and has been an Austrian citizen ever since. When she applied for a passport in 1939, only a German passport was available. She has never taken an oath of allegiance to Germany.

MEMO
FROM THE OFFICE OF
BENJAMIN F. HAVENS
CLERK UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
TRENTON, N. J.

March 27th, 1942.

Dear Sir:

Acknowledgment is made of your letter, and in reply thereto I would state that, as Mr. Godel is a naturalized Austrian citizen and Mrs. Godel an Austrian Citizen through birth, their nationality, as far as the declaration of intention is concerned, will have to remain German due to the fact that this Country recognized Germany's conquest of Austria/making it a part of the German Reich. This is borne out by the issuance of a German passport.

However, when Mr. and Mrs. Godel file their petitions for citizenship, this status will be changed in accordance with the modified rule regarding Austrians.

For more definite information, I would suggest that you contact the

Honorable Charles M. Phillips
United States Attorney
Post Office Building
Trenton, New Jersey

[29 January 1942]

My dear Mr. Phillips:

I am afraid I must trouble you again on behalf of two of our members.

Dr. and Mrs. Kurt Gödel made application some weeks ago for permission to go to New York to see their doctor. The completed form was mailed to you approximately one week ago and they have been hoping each day to receive a letter of permission from you, for Mrs. Gödel is in rather urgent need of seeing her doctor. If you could grant them this permission promptly it would be a great relief to them and would be very much appreciated.

I should like also to ask if you could give attention to the application of Dr. Felix Gilbert, who has asked for permission to go to Boston next week for a meeting of the World Peace Foundation. He is getting anxious because he has not received this permission from you.

December 5, 1941

Dear Dr. Gruenthal:

I appreciate very warmly your letter of December 4th. I may say at once that the evidence we have had here of Dr. Goedel's difficulties comes from the fact that he thinks the radiators and ice box in his apartment give off some kind of poison gas. He has accordingly had them removed, which makes the apartment a pretty uncomfortable place in the winter time. Dr. Goedel seems to have no such distrust of the heating plant at the Institute and he carries on his work here very successfully. In a general way I have always been a little worried by the fact that he does not take more recreation.

I am trying to get Dr. Goedel's friends to see to it that he consults you more frequently. They advise me that it would perhaps be more tactful not to ask his authorization for a full report from you to me at this moment, more particularly as the indications are that he is somewhat improving. Perhaps it is best then for us to concentrate on seeing to it

Selective Service Board
6 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey

[14 April 1943]

Attention Miss Jones

Dear Miss Jones:

Dr. Kurt Gödel, a member of the School of Mathematics of the Institute for Advanced Study, informs me that he has recently been reclassified and ~~down~~ as IA. Dr. Gödel, like most refugees from Nazi Germany, is eager to do anything he can in support of the American war effort, but under the circumstances I think I ought to inform the Selective Service Board that Dr. Gödel has twice since he has been in Princeton shown such signs of mental and nervous instability as to cause the doctors who were consulted to diagnose him as a psychopathic case. When he was here in 1938 this mental disturbance was so severe that it became necessary to send him back to his home in Austria. He responded so well to the treatment that we invited him again to come to the Institute in 1940 and he has been here since that time. Last year, however, the symptoms returned and it has been necessary for him again to have medical treatment, which was carried out under the direction of Dr. Vanneman, who knows more about the case than anyone in Princeton.

Mathematically, it would perhaps not be an exaggeration to call Dr. Gödel a genius. There are people who believe him to be the best man in the world in his particular phase of the subject. This ability, however, is unfortunately accompanied by certain mental symptoms which, while they do not prevent active work in mathematics, might prove serious from the standpoint of the Army. Dr. Vanneman would be the best person to supply you with medical details concerning this case.

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

LOCAL BOARD NO. 1
For Mercer County
6 Nassau St.
Princeton, N. J.

(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

Princeton, N.J.,
April 20th, 1943.

Mr. Frank Aydelotte, Director,
The Institute for Advanced Study,
Princeton, New Jersey.

Re: Kurt Frederick Gödel
Order No. 1324 ~~SECRET~~

Dear Sir:-

We are in receipt of your recent letter relative to the above named registrant.

Although the Board is in sympathy with your knowledge of Mr. Gödel's condition, we are unable to effect a disqualification for this man at the local board. It will be necessary for him to be forwarded to the induction station for the Army examination, unless the local board doctors find that he has another type obvious defect which would be disqualifying. Even though Dr. Vanneman has personal knowledge of this man's emotional instability, unless there is history of commitment the registrant cannot be disqualified before being sent to the induction station. However, to preclude the possibility of a man of this type being accepted by the Armed Forces without a complete psychiatric examination we use a social record card system, which is forwarded to the

Selective Service Board
6 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey

[19 May 1943]

Attention Miss Jones

Dear Miss Jones:

With reference to my letter of April 14, concerning Dr. Kurt Gödel, copy of which is enclosed, I wish to report that I have secured a certain amount of additional evidence concerning him which I believe the Selective Service Board would be glad to have.

Dr. Gödel spent some time at the Institute for Advanced Study in 1935. In the latter part of that year his mental condition became so serious that the authorities of the Institute felt it necessary to send him back to Austria, which was done. After he reached Austria he was a patient for some months in two sanitariums which receive individuals afflicted with mental disorders. The first of these was Rekawinkel Sanitarium at Rekawinkel, Austria, near Vienna, where he was a patient from January to March, 1936. The second was the Purkersdorf Sanitarium at Purkersdorf, Austria, also near Vienna, where he was a patient during April and May, 1936.

In Rekawinkel his situation was serious. He had the idea that all the sanitarium food was poisoned and he would eat only things that were prepared and brought to him by a young woman friend of the family (whom he later married) and then only on condition that she eat with him from the same plate and with the same spoon. Before he went to the sanitarium his mother, who could do nothing with him, was so frightened concerning his condition that she slept always in a locked room at night.

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Minutes of a meeting of the School of Mathematics, held February 11, 1950

Present: Profs. Einstein, von Neumann, Siegel, Veblen, Weyl, and Morse, Secy.

1. There was unanimous agreement that Gödel's work is first class.

2. Veblen, Einstein and von Neumann were no longer convinced that

earlier arguments against making Gödel a full Professor are now sufficient.

It was pointed out that Dr. Aydelotte took the point of view that Gödel is not the type of person to be appointed full professor.

3. Weyl and Siegel believe that the position of Permanent Member is perhaps the most suitable for Gödel.

4. Under the circumstances Morse is satisfied with neither solution.

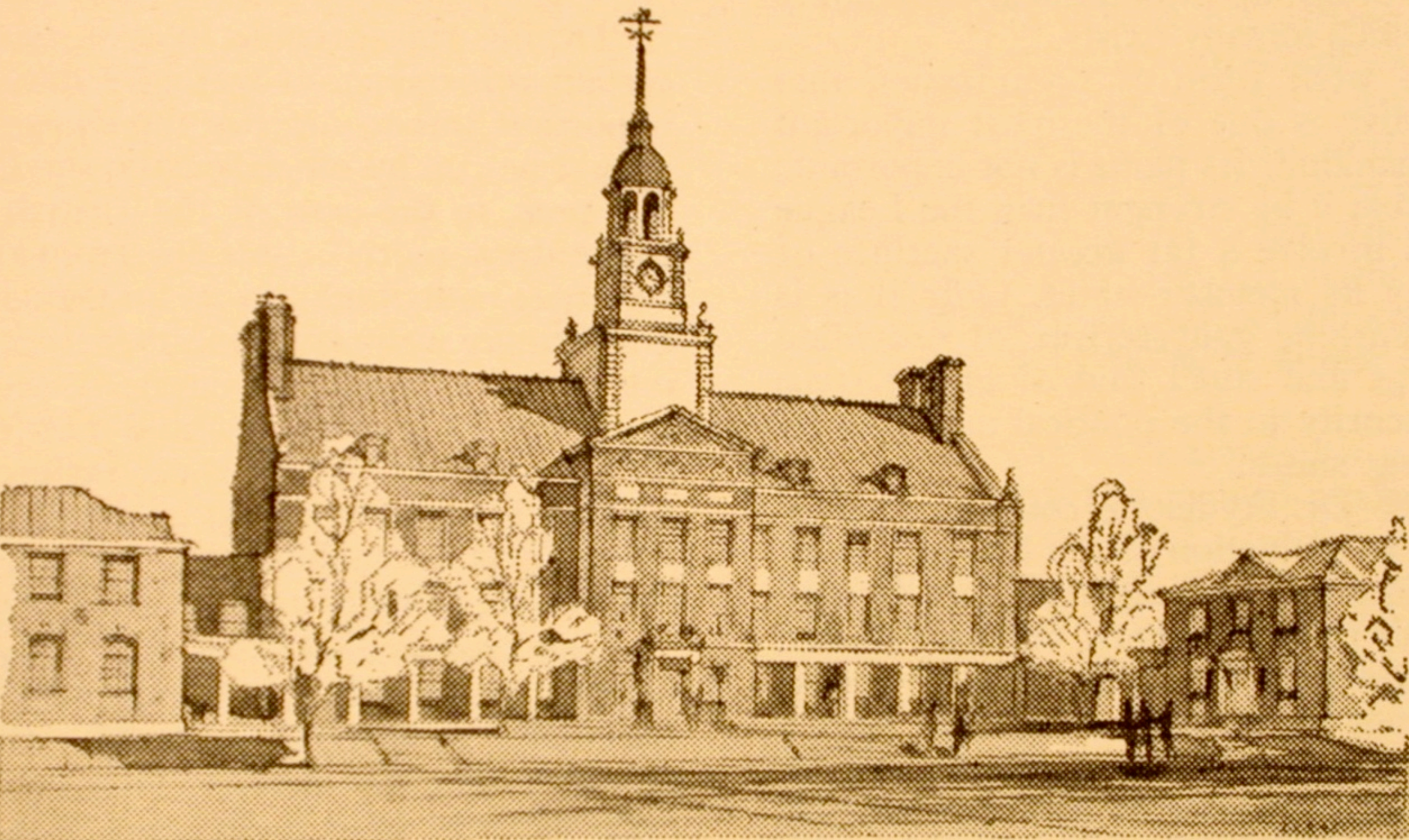
5. It was agreed that it is not wise to press for a decision at the

moment.

Marston Morse

Secretary





Drawing by Louis Conrad Rosenber

**Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, Where the Economic, Financial and
Transit Department of the League of Nations is at Work**

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

[23 March 1940]

The Dutch physicist, P. Debye, who has been Director of the Physics Institute of the Kaiser Wilhelm Gesellschaft in Berlin (supported by the Rockefeller Foundation), has been sent abroad by the German authorities in order to free his Institute for secret war work. When one of us met him at dinner the other evening, he made no secret of the fact that this work is essentially a study of the fission of uranium. This is an explosive nuclear process which is theoretically capable of generating 10,000 to 2,000,000 times more energy than the same weight of any known fuel or explosive. There are considerable deposits of uranium available near Joachimsthal, Bohemia, as well as in Canada. It is clear that the Nazi authorities hope to produce either a terrible explosive or a very compact and efficient source of power. We gather from Debye's remarks that they have brought together

Some effort, not entirely successful, has been made to enlist the help of the United States Government, but this process is slow and cumbersome and has met serious obstacles. It seems to us, therefore, that the problem is one which might well be brought to the attention of the Rockefeller Foundation, which would be in a position to act in a simple and direct manner. We are not prepared to suggest a very definite way of attacking the problem, but suppose that if the officers of the Foundation were interested they would consult with physicists who are familiar with the practical questions involved.

We have quoted Professor Debye rather freely in writing to you, but obviously we should have to be very cautious in using his name any further. In any case his only role was unintentionally to stimulate us to bring up a question which we have had on our minds for several months, without knowing exactly what, if anything, to do about it.

Very truly yours,

Johnson W. W. W. W.

Osmond Veblen

OV:MGH

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Minutes of a meeting of the professors of the School of Mathematics with
Dr. Aydelotte June 2, 1945

Present: Dr. Aydelotte and Profs. Einstein, Morse, von Neumann, Veblen, Weyl
and Alexander, Secretary.

Meeting called to discuss to what extent the Institute should become
involved in questions involving Experimental Physics.

Von Neumann: In all probability, Fermi and Oppenheimer will soon be
leaving full-time war work. Doubtful whether they will return to former uni-
versity posts. Oppenheimer reported not happy in Berkeley and considering
offer from Harvard, and according to Rabi also offer from Columbia. Fermi is
still attached to Columbia but very seriously considering offer from Chicago.

Aydelotte: Smyth thinks U.S. Government will continue to support ex-
perimental work generously. Should work be done in U.S. Government laborator-
ies or at picked universities? Aydelotte and Smyth suggest Government labora-
tories, with scientists from universities working on leave of absence.

Einstein: Fears that emphasis on such projects will further ideas of
"preventive" wars.

A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

by the

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
OF ATOMIC SCIENTISTS

INCORPORATED

PRESENTED TO THE
FRIENDS OF THE COMMITTEE

ON

Sunday, November Seventeenth, 1946

AT THE

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Princeton, New Jersey

Food Conservation

Mrs. Dilks agrees to the following:

1. No BREAD will be consumed on THURSDAYS
2. No FOOD STUFFS will be fried on WEDNESDAYS
3. No PIES OR CAKES will be served on
MONDAYS OR FRIDAYS

Please note:

The Mayor's program calls
for NO BREAD STUFFS in RESTAURANTS

Sunday Noon dinner

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday evening
dinner

(This latter of course cannot be allowed
at the Institute unless there is a special
dinner).

B. A. Miller
5/17/46

10/14/46

MENU MONDAY

Scotch Broth-----.10
 Tomato Juice-----.10
 Grapefruit Juice-----.10

TOASTED SANDWICH

Spiced Ham, Cheese, Lettuce & Tomato-----.25

BUDGET LUNCHES

Creamed Halibut with Eggs on Potatoes-----.25
 Stewed Mushrooms on Biscuit-----.25

HOT LUNNH

Fresh Boiled Salmon, Parsley Sauce, Potatoes-.50
 String Beans, Pickeled Beets

COLD SANDWICHES

Sardine Salad	Cream Cheese & Olive
Fresh Salmon Salad	Blue Cheese
Egg Salad	American Cheese

DESSERTS

Apricot Shortcake--.15	Prunes-----.10
Devilsfood Cake----.10	Grapefruit----.10
Baked Apple----.10	

DRINKS

Coffee-----.05
 Tea-----.05
 Milk-----.10
 Buttermilk-----.10

June 28, 1946

Dear Mr. Maass:

The Standing Committee of the Institute met yesterday to consider the housing problem and approved the following expedients:

1) That we should comb Princeton and nearby towns for rooms and apartments which the Institute might rent immediately and allot according to our best judgment.

2) There is just a chance that we may be able to get one or two rooms in a dormitory of the Lawrenceville School.

3) We are making efforts to secure some apartments in a chicken farm at Rosedale, in the Hun School at Princeton and the St. Joseph's Monastery near Kingston, and in the Rockefeller Institute, where we hope that they will be able to convert some laboratory rooms into living apartments.

4) We are trying a large number of individuals who have large houses and who might be able to take a certain number of Institute members. I am afraid the returns, however, will be small.

5) I am inquiring today of a lawyer in Princeton whether it would make any differences in our taxes if we allowed a certain number of our members to have cots in their offices and to sleep in Fuld Hall. This building is well supplied with bathing facilities for men; and if there is no tax question involved, we might be able to take care of a certain number of members in that way.

11. The question of office space was discussed and it was agreed that the room connected with Dr. Gödel's office might be used for people working on the computing machine. Professor Pauli offered to make his room available while he is away. Reference was made to the need for more suitable rooms for Professors Siegel and Pauli, and Professor Morse called attention to a room on the fourth floor which he thought would make a desirable office.

[28 June 1946]

PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF THE LOGICAL DESIGN OF
AN ELECTRONIC COMPUTING INSTRUMENT

BY

Arthur W. Burks

Herman H. Goldstine

John von Neumann



RETAINER AGREEMENT

Von Neuman and IBM

This agreement made at New York City as of May 1, 1945, between Professor John von Neuman of Princeton ~~University at Princeton, New Jersey, and International Business Machines Corporation, a corporation of New York State, having principal offices at 590 Madison Avenue, New York City, hereinafter referred to as IBM, as follows: -~~

1) IBM agrees to retain von Neuman for a period of one year from May 1, 1945 at a retainer compensation of
Dollars (\$) per month.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1201

(20)

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

NZ 106 30=SAN FE NMEXX 9 156P

JOHN NEUMANN=

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY PRINCETON UNIV A= 1945 AUG 9 PM 4 22

STAN AND NICK CAN NOW ACT OPENLY AS COMING FROM LOS ALAMOS
WILL UNITED WAR DEPARTMENT PASS SUFFICE OR IS ACCREDITING
LETTER NECESSARY PLEASE WIRE TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING=

EDWARD TELLER.

258-0

2185 - Home No.

41311 V Mrs. Neuma

540P

c

Filed

5. Professor von Neumann explained the proposal for a Naval contract to further research in dynamic meteorology for the purpose of putting this subject on a better theoretical foundation, in view of the probability that high-speed computing devices will make it possible to attack problems which have been heretofore inaccessible. The project involves bringing to the Institute a small number of theoretical meteorologists who will work under the guidance of Professor von Neumann. Office space for this work would be provided by enlarging the proposed computing laboratory. The discussion considered the effect of such activities upon the progress of mathematics and upon the general atmosphere of the Institute. The personal views expressed ranged from that of Professor Siegel who, in principle, prefers to compute a logarithm which might enter into his work rather than look it up in a table, through that of Professor Morse who considers this project inevitable but far from optimum, to that of Professor Veblen who simple-mindedly welcomes the advances of science regardless of the direction in which they seem to be carrying us. In spite of this variety of personal points of view, it was agreed that the Institute should go forward with the project as proposed.

6. It is recorded that Åke Pleijel, listed in Minutes of March 21, 1946 (p. 111) as a candidate for further consideration, has written that he would prefer to come for the year 1947-48.

[14 May 1946]

Oswald Veblen

Secretary

ELECTRONIC COMPUTER PROJECT

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES FROM BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1945. to
MAY 31, 1946.

DISBURSED:

Salaries	\$ 5,326.16	
Communications	130.59	
Supplies & Books	1,531.19	
Travel	543.89	
Entertainment & Conferences	33.10	
Legal Services	591.87	
Equipment	1,177.66	
<u>Electrical Work</u>	<u>4.00</u>	
<u>TOTAL to 5/31/46 (Actual Expenditures)</u>		\$ 9,348.46

Blay.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

June 4, 1946

Dear John:

I have thought very carefully over the problem of disposing of these fifteen workers who are to arrive the middle of June. The only really useable space in our basement is that adjoining the men's lavatory, to which you are most heartily welcome. Aside from that, the only additional room in this building would be the lecture room and possibly the Mathematics Library, both of which I know you would be reluctant to use. Other space in the basement must, I think, be kept for the common purposes of the Institute, which are much more important than you realize.

Outside the Institute I have thought of two things: application to Princeton University for the use of a laboratory, and application to the R. C. A. for a similar accommodation. Would you consider either of these feasible? So far as Institute property is concerned, I think the best

Magnetawan, via Burk's Falls
Ontario, Canada
August 29, 1946

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

I have learned with some dismay that a group of electronic experts has moved into half of the basement of our wing at the Institute. I am very sorry that they have done this and I hope that you will manage it so that this will be merely a temporary expedient. Without the storage space that this room provided we will be unable to work on our engravings in the room that is now left, as I understand it, for the Humanistic School, and I want to get the heavy material that must simply be stored back into the other half of the basement.

This is all the more important as I expect to have a very large increment that must be stored as soon as I return to Princeton.

Very sincerely yours,



B. D. Meritt

LOWE, E. A.

From a postcard to Aydelotte, October 10, 1947, "Mathematicians
in our wing? Over my dead body! And yours? Sailing October 25;
put everything in order. Yours in earnest, E. A. L."

A. File, E. A. Lowe

June 5, 1947

Professor John von Neumann
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear John:

I am a little troubled about the tea service in the electronic computer building. Apparently the members of your staff consume several times as much supplies as the same number of people do in Fuld Hall and they have been especially unfair in the matter of sugar. Sugar is rationed and for a member of your staff to come up here as Thompson did and carry down a large quantity of sugar in excess of your rations is not cricket. I understand, furthermore, that the tea is served in several different places. We have never undertaken in the Institute to provide tea service in a large number of private offices and I should like to raise the question whether it would not be better for the computer people to come up to Fuld Hall at the end of the day at five o'clock in the afternoon and have their tea here under proper supervision. The only alternative seems to me to be to establish some central place in the computer building and have proper supervision there.

GENERAL ARITHMETIC

OPERATING LOG

From 10 March '53 through 31 May '53

P.O. & stop QΣ: 387EF 34300 ✓

Looks as though machine working perfectly shall continue 202 H=3

insert N check of 0003C8C000

27,21e full

Mouse climbed into blower behind regulator rack, set blower to vibrating: result no more mouse & a !!! of a racket.

HERE
LIES
MURDER
MURDER
BORN
DIED
4:50AM
5/27/58

QΣ' FBAC4 586ED

The science that they speak of is the science of cold newsprint, the crater-marked logical core, the page that dares not be wrong, the monstrosity of machines.... It is science without its penumbra or its radiance, science after birth, without intimations of immortality. The creative scientist lives in "the wildness of logic" where reason is the handmaiden and not the master. I shun all monuments that are coldly legible....

—Marston Morse, 8 October 1950

MATHEMATICS IN THE DEFENSE PROGRAM

by

MARSTON MORSE

Chairman of the War Preparedness Committee
of the American Mathematical Society and Mathematical
Association of America

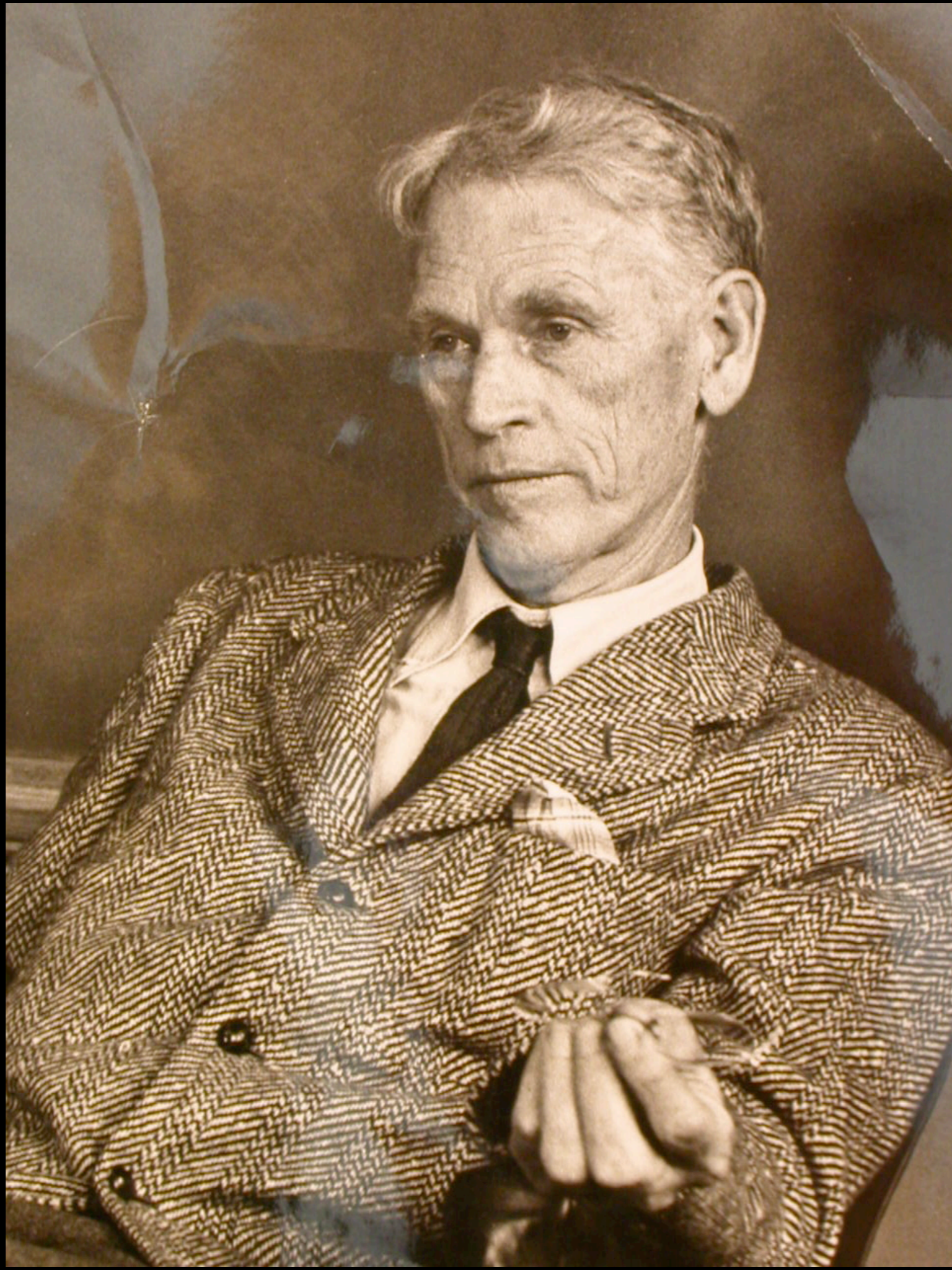
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, N. J.

Address delivered before the National Council
of Teachers of Mathematics at Atlantic City
on February 21, 1941.

I do not believe that the traditional influence of mathematics, its purposes, or its associations, are "entirely different" from the influence, purposes or associations of the humanities. Mathematics is both an art and a science. As a science it is classified with studies which are materialistic, such as chemistry or economics; as an art it is subject to the criticisms which are made of the humanities. In spirit we mathematicians at the Institute would cast our lot in with the humanists. Historically and traditionally, over the long range of years we belong there. It was so at the time of the Greeks, and has remained so through the days of Thomas Aquinas, Leonardo and Leibniz. The Christian church has ever used Aristotelian logic.

The humanists are finding that the study of the history of mathematics and science in general, like Panofsky's study of art, helps much in the broad understanding of civilization. Mathematicians are the freest and most fiercely individualistic of artists. They are subject to no limitations of materials or

— Marston Morse to F. Aydelotte, 5 June 1941



DEDICATED TO
LOUIS BAMBERGER
AND HIS SISTER
CARRIE B. F. FULD
WHOSE VISION AND GENEROSITY
MADE THIS INSTITUTE FOR
ADVANCED STUDY POSSIBLE

27 May 1959

Dear Professor Veblen:

At present the short road leading from Maxwell Lane up to the knoll where the Maxwell House stood, and where Weil's house and Strömberg's now stand, is called Portico Lane. This name does not very much appeal to me. It seems to raise unnecessary problems for future archaeologists, if any. Would you be friendly to the notion of calling it Veblen Lane?

Very sincerely,

Robert Oppenheimer

Professor Oswald Veblen
The Institute for Advanced Study

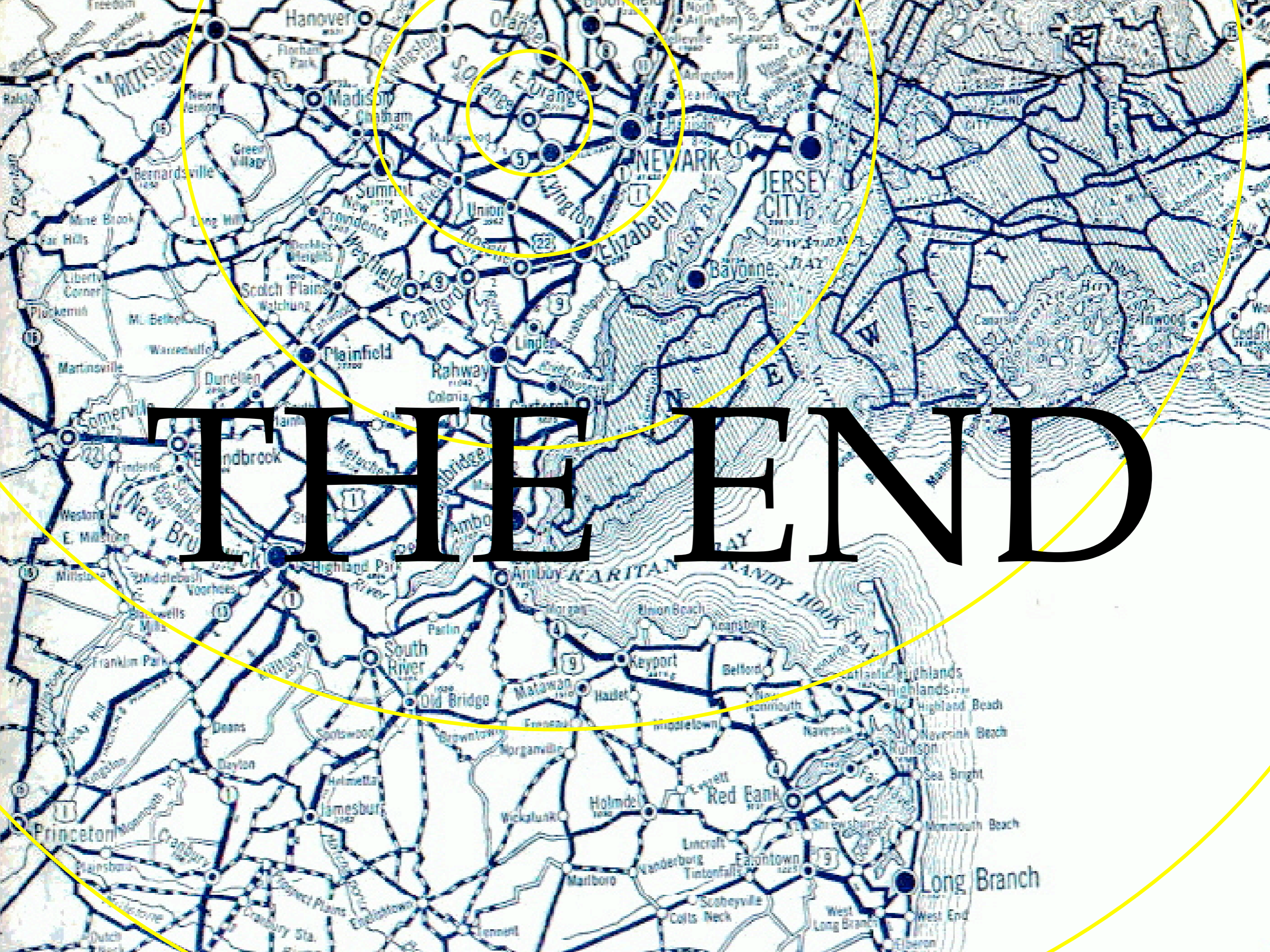
V. Said no; would rather
wait until dead.

VEBLEN CIRCLE









THE END

Special Thanks

to

The Archives

INSTITUTE

FOR

ADVANCED STUDY
