

4 MAR 1954

Dr. John von Neumann
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Dr. von Neumann:

Thank you very much for your telephone call. This letter will confirm our understanding.

First, with respect to my letter of 1 March 1954, in which on behalf of Dr. Cairns, the Chairman of the Board, and Mr. John C. McPherson, Board member and Chairman of the Electronics Panel, I extended an invitation to you to join with the latter in the work of a special committee in the Electronics Panel: It is my understanding that you would not wish to promise to attend meetings of this special committee on any sort of regular or periodic basis, but that you would like to know whenever meetings are scheduled, so that if it is possible for you to attend, you could then participate in the capacity of a visitor or observer. I am of the opinion that this sort of an arrangement would be quite acceptable to Mr. McPherson and to Dr. Cairns, but I shall communicate your wishes to them and let them make the decision.

Second, with regard to my visit next week to see you and Professor Panofsky: Your courteous offer to meet Mr. Tiltman and me at Princeton Junction at 5:20 P.M. on Tuesday, 9 March, is gratefully accepted. I am sure we shall be very happy to call first at your home and then go on to the Nassau Club, for dinner, as you indicated. Mr. Tiltman plans to leave Princeton the same evening, after our conference, on a train departing for New York City around 10 o'clock or so. As for myself, I thank you for making the room reservation for me at the Nassau Club to spend the night. I shall plan to return to Washington on Wednesday.

If not inconvenient, you might give Sam Wilks a call and tell him that I will be in town and may call him either Tuesday night or Wednesday morning for a brief social chat. Of course, if he is interested and would like to sit in on our discussions on the Voynich Mss., I am sure he would be very welcome so far as Mr. Tiltman and I are concerned; but whether you or Professor Panofsky wish to extend an invitation to him is up to you. I shall bring along my photostat copy of the Voynich, together with some other papers perhaps.

4 MAR 1954

Looking forward to meeting Professor Panofsky and to seeing you again, I am,

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN
Special Assistant

Copy furnished:

Dr. S. S. Cairns
Mr. J. C. McPherson

cc: AG
C/S
S/ASST (Mr. Friedman)

M/R: Confirmation of telephone call of 4 March 1954, with Dr. von Neumann.

M.M.Felerski/S/ASST/60493