

A. Vibert Douglas

Correspondence

1950s

4.

Loc 2303.9
Box 1

23. March 1950.

26. KINGORA ROAD,
CLONTARF,
DUBLIN.

Dear Professor Lemaitre,

I have two papers of Eddington's in front of me, "The pressure of a degenerate electron gas etc." Proc. Roy. Soc. A 152, 253 1935 and "The physics of white dwarf matter" Mon. Not. 100, 582, 1940. (Dr. Symonds kindly sought them out for me.)

It is such a pity that this genial man, from a certain moment on, has insisted on using his own private language, succumbing to the illusion that, once he had published his ideas, everybody, if not accepting them wholeheartily, is at least able to put himself on that point of view. This is not so. One stumbles over inconsistencies every where, inconsistencies of a kind that shows that nobody, not even he himself, can really work with his apparatus. For instance I run again against his formula (p. 254 of the first paper)

$$T_{\alpha\beta} = - \frac{1}{m} \frac{\delta^2}{\delta x_\alpha \delta x_\beta}$$

"where δ stands for covariant differentiation and m is invariant". I do not know what this means. It looks very nice and 'invariant', but as an operator to represent the components of the matter tensor in wave mechanics it is no good. To begin with, it is not symmetric because covariant differentiations do not commute. A few lines later he says that the connection between macroscopic theory and wave

mechanics "has commonly been made" through the momentum vector

$$p_\alpha = -i \hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x_\alpha} \quad \left(p^\alpha = m \frac{dx_\alpha}{ds} \right)$$

But here again $p_\alpha p_\beta \neq p_\beta p_\alpha$, while it certainly is commonly held that the components of linear momentum commute. In addition this operator is not self-adjoint, it would in general not have real eigenvalues. Take the simplest case, a scalar wave function ψ , so that covariant differentiation is ordinary differentiation, and take un-curved space-time, only with some curvilinear coordinates, say polar co-ordinates in space, producing a $ds^2 = g_{ik} dx_i dx_k$. Form the quantum integral for the expectation value of p_α

$$I = -i \int \psi^* \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x_\alpha} \sqrt{-g} d\tau$$

over a region where ψ vanishes at the boundary. Then by partial integration

$$I = i \int \psi \frac{\partial (\psi^* \sqrt{-g})}{\partial x_\alpha} d\tau \neq i \int \psi \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial x_\alpha} \sqrt{-g} d\tau,$$

(as one would wish). The only rational generalization of the elementary $-i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_\alpha}$ to curvilinear coordinates seems to be

~~$$-i \frac{1}{\sqrt{-g}} \frac{\partial (\sqrt{-g} \psi)}{\partial x_\alpha}$$~~

(I wrote this to Pauli years ago and I think he agreed in a way, that I took this to be common knowledge which only poor me had rediscovered for myself.)



As regards the problem actually at hand, I should say the following.

1.) The question is about the relation between energy E and momentum p , (the relativistic connexion being $E^2 = m^2 + p^2$). For the waves this means the connexion between frequency ν and wave-number $\frac{1}{\lambda}$, that is to say the law of dispersion (= index of refraction depending on the frequency). That this should ~~be~~ be different for standing and for progressive waves is unheard of. I really think this idea has to be dismissed.

2.) In the two cases commonly dealt with, that is block-body radiation and the electron gas in a metal, one uses successfully $E = \nu$ and $E = \text{const} + \frac{p^2}{2m}$, that is to say the limiting cases of the general relativistic formula. It seems clear to me then, that without anything more the general formula itself has to be used for intermediate cases. Therefore it seems impossible to deduce from general principles that something else has to be done, to hope for an adequate description of the behaviour of white dwarf matter.

3.) But, of course, there is something more, namely the legitimate suspicion, that the customary treatment will be inadequate, because it deals with one kind of particles only and neglects their interaction, while we are faced with a mixture of two gases of oppositely charged particles, and presumably with enormously enhanced interaction, since the average distance is about 40 times smaller than in a metal.

4.) To my mind it would be nothing short of a miracle if this complex complication could be met

by simply using the non-relativistic approximation for the dispersion-law of the waves. For the reasons described above I am unable to follow the considerations by which Eddington proves that this is the case.

I shall, of course, think further about the question, and I am grateful to you for directing my attention to it. But it is a thing one cannot just go ahead with, because there is nothing to go ahead with. From the particle-point-of-view there are at least four kinds of particles in that funny 'jam', viz. protons (nucleons), electrons, photons and mesons, the latter two species amounting to 'forces' between the former two. But probably the particle-point-of-view is altogether inadequate. For, as Eddington justly points out, we cannot hope to deal with any quantum-mechanical problem, unless we start from 'states' which are already fairly 'stable', so that the actual goings on can be pictured as (not too frequent) transitions between them. (The classical analogue is gas-theory: the single particle moves for a long time uniformly in a straight line, the encounters are comparatively rare events.) In our case waves of 'something' seem to be the only hope. But how are we to guess their properties? We must go by something, we must not just invent, for that is no good. -

Many thanks again for your visit which I enjoyed thoroughly.

Yours very sincerely

E. Schrödinger.



CANADA

Department of National Defence

Royal Canadian Air Force

Camp Borden, Ontario,
September 6, 1950.

Dr. A.V. Douglas,
Queen's University,
KINGSTON, Ontario.

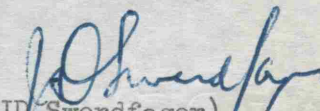
Dear Dr. Douglas,

I was most gratified indeed to receive your envelope in the mails last night. Thank you so very much for letting me have your pamphlet, "From Atoms to Stars", and for being so kind as to enclose, as well, three other pamphlets of yours which I had not previously read. I spent a truly enjoyable evening last night with them -- although browsing through certainly made me realize that I have only scratched the surface of the science of astronomy. What a terrific field!

The speed with which you forwarded these to me has added greatly to the effectiveness of a course I am currently teaching. I shall now have the very great privilege of reading some of your work to my classes in pedagogy to-morrow morning. In addition to the wonderful ideas therein, the English is simply superb! How can one individual be master of so much! Receiving these excellent pamphlets marked with your compliments, is a source of very real pleasure to me, and I thank you for this honour, and for your kind attention to my request, which must have been an interruption in a busy programme of pre-school activities.

With kindest regards, I am,

Yours very truly,


(J.L. Swerdfager)
Flight Lieutenant.



Department of National Defence

Royal Canadian Air Force

R.C.A.F. Officers' Mess,
Camp Borden, Ontario.

August 30, 1950.

*Write from sent
atoms & stars*
Dr. A.V. Douglas,
Queen's University,
KINGSTON, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Douglas:

I wonder if you remember my sitting in your classes in Astronomy during the summer of 1947? At that time, you very kindly gave me a copy of your article reprinted from the Atlantic Monthly, From the Atoms to the Stars. I was delighted by it, and have read excerpts to many of my classes since that time.

In November of last year, I gave a course in pedagogy in Edmonton, during which I again read some of your pamphlet. One parcel of my materials was lost in the mails when it was being returned to me here at Camp Borden. Unfortunately, this pamphlet was in it. I am wondering if you have another copy of the leaflet which you might let me have? If not, might I borrow one and have it typed here? In the event that you no longer have a copy, could you tell me where I might obtain one, Dr. Douglas?

With happy memories of our all-too-short association, and kindest regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

J.D. Sturdfager
(JD Sturdfager) Flight Lieutenant.

PS I saw F/L Everard the other day. He sends his best wishes.



KINGSTON UPON HULL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

TELEPHONE:
CENTRAL 7228.

PRINCIPAL:
MISS H. TODD, M.A., M.Ed.

MUNICIPAL TRAINING COLLEGE,

COTTINGHAM ROAD,

KINGSTON UPON HULL.

July 12, 1952.

Dr. A. Vibert Douglas,
Queens University,
Kingston, Ontario,
Canada.

Dear D. Vibert Douglas,

When I got your letter I wondered what on earth I could have said in mine that could possibly warrant its being thought of as a social document! It was probably a wail to the high and unheeding stratosphere about the maleficent influence of venal local politicians in education. The which continues. The remedial measures which the Socialist Government prudently left to their opponents by the device of a general election were so unwelcome that they affected the Local Government elections all over the country, even in some Tory strongholds. In Hull the Socialists got control of the City Council by a good majority, so the chairmanships of all important committees are in their hands. As prices continue to spiral upwards and employment to take the downward curve the Government becomes the universal scapegoat. A Liberal like myself can't help wishing that more people could be won from their extremes, so often based on strong prejudices and ideological dogma.

We are near the end of the term and I am trying to cope with the usual routine following the final examination for the Certificate in Education and a first year teaching practice complicated by falling numbers of students for next year, and interviewing, and having to reject most of, applicants who have heard the wireless appeal for teachers and read the advertisements in the national press. It is mostly a waste of time, because nearly all the applicants vainly expect that shortage will excuse the absence of qualifications, both academic and personal, and that a grateful government will support them in a style to which they have never been accustomed as they dawdle painlessly through two years of training. Some withdraw as soon as they hear that they will have to take an entrance examination. Others are so cocksure that no tests hold any terrors for them. One typical instance was a young woman of 20 who presented herself at the college and inquired when the term began so that she could get ready for it. I found that she had been married just under a year and when I asked her what her husband thought about her entering a college she told me that it was 'no bloody business' of his. She had left an elementary school at 14, had never read a book since, only the more sensational newspapers and cheap periodicals, had gone to no evening classes. But she knew that she would make a good teacher.

Becoming curiouser and curiouser in the inquisitive sense of the word, I told her that she would have to take some examinations. "That's O.K. by me", said she, with all the brash insouciance of the ignorant, "I'm not bothered about exams. I know I can pass them". So I dutifully arranged a time for her to begin the array. First I gave her an Intelligence Test and followed it with an English paper. Whilst she was coping with an unfamiliar tongue I marked the I.T. and found without surprise that she was a low D in a five point scale. Her English paper was neither literate nor very legible. After which I decided that not even a local councillor could complain that her application had been insufficiently considered and did not squander any more time on her, but left her unrescued from the box factory in which she has worked since leaving school. The L.E.A. is very concerned because there are 40 vacant resident places at present in a college for 160 resident students. They can't understand why "their" college in "their" city should so liberally share the general dearth. The position really is that the Socialist Government determined to provide training college places for the number of teachers actually needed in the primary schools regardless of exiguous sources of supply, which they could tell from the birth rate statistics, and fondly hoped that women who had not thought of teaching as a career would be attracted from their present jobs. They weren't, aren't and won't be. Actually there are about 300 more students accepted for the whole country than at this time last year, but there are over 1,000 vacant places in the two year colleges.

Outside London those in beauty spots or thickly populated areas are full, but those which have neither advantage are very empty. A very bad result of opening so many new colleges is that students are all tending to go to the ones nearest their homes. In 1944 only one student in 70 in this college came from Hull and the East Riding. Now over 50% do. This is very restrictive, as they will teach in their home areas when they leave, both from parental pressure and the financial impossibility of living on their salaries in rooms.

I am having a vacation away from the arena. I leave for New York on July 23 and do not expect to return until September 9. First I go for a day or two to Northern Illinois State Teachers College at De Kalb, then to Cedar Falls, Iowa, for a few days. Between then and August 17 my plans are as yet nebulous but from the 17th to the 23rd I shall be at Ypsilanti State Normal College, Ypsilanti, Michigan - a most interesting experience, I hope. The Treasury has graciously given me permission to take sufficient currency out of the country to cover my stay in the U.S.A! A very heartening concession to education in these days of a depleted exchequer.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

H. Todd

Dean Douglas

This is really
a most interesting
document, telling
so much about
actual conditions
that I hope you'll
keep it. (In historian's
instinct).

Thank you for
allowing me to
see it.

Eric Hammon

I have appended another letter
& herewith give you both for
your files. Av. Douglas
1952 July 15

PRINCIPAL'S HOUSE,
MUNICIPAL TRAINING COLLEGE,
COTTINGHAM ROAD,
HULL.

February 17, 1952

Dear Dr. Douglas,

Professor and Mrs. Jessop were delighted to have your message, and I was equally so to hear from you.

What a Jeremiad I must have inflicted on you when you were here.

After a long and trying period of conflict, mainly of the subterranean kind which makes dealing with it so difficult, my bite-noise did what I had always hoped for but never expected, overstepped the limits of the permissible so flagrantly that only retirement saved him from exposure. As I had always been convinced that prudence would always govern ~~undictiveness~~ I was astounded, but once recovered from the shock, sent up a psalm of rejoicing.

It takes a long time for the desruption and corruption of a staff to

be remedied, but the three most deeply affected have all gone, one of them very fortunate in escaping prosecution for making false academic claims in her application. My tormentors found it difficult to use her as a tool once that had been revealed.

Nothing will change such people, but the Socialists would never have gone to such lengths had they not been deceived & exploited by a brilliantly able and unscrupulous administrator. The furthest they have gone by way of amends was to send the Chairman of my Governing Body to ask me to let bygones be bygones. It would have been useless to try to make them realise what harm they did & what a dreadful atmosphere of suspicion and untrustworthiness they created amongst my Staff. Since the ~~enforced~~ retirement there has been a great show of consultation and support. The local councillor elections gave the Municipal Association Group a slender majority, but the Socialists still have a majority on the City Council, because Aldermen have to be re-elected only once in six years.

It is the Local Government, not the National one that most immediately affects the college. However, I now have the Principal of University College and the Director of the Institute of Education on my Governing Body. The Ministry at last insisted on the Local Education Authority reconstituting the Board of Governors in accordance with the 1944 Act.

I cannot say that I rejoiced over the change of Government, except that it did rid us of such careerists as Bevan as Minister, and Hugh Dalton & a few more of that ilk, who can't do so much damage when their Party is not in power. The Conservative Government inherited a dreadful chaos, and I doubt if that grand old man in Opposition, Mr Churchill, is really the best person to be Prime Minister. As a War Prime Minister he was peerless; whether he will be able to keep together

his team in alleged peace no one can say. He looks very tired, and sounds it too when he broadcasts. The polished oratory is still there, but it has a curious lack of conviction and warmth.

I am a liberal, but the country obviously has 'no use' for my party. Only extremes are in favour. The famous circular ordering a five per cent cut in educational expenditure has created an uproar.

Rumours of curtailment of school life were circulating. Unfortunately the issue took a political turn; the Socialists have exploited the situation to the utmost.

The mistake the Government made was in the timing and imprecision of the circular, which have given local authorities the excuse to lop educational expenditure in the most arbitrary & un-educational way.

I am convinced that five per cent could easily be saved if the method means were left to Heads. I could save it here

with no loss of efficiency and no decrease at all in the supply of equipment, even with rising prices. In their desire to protect the proletariat etc. the Socialists were recklessly generous over colleges such as this, which prepare only for primary teaching. The salary scales for Tutors bear no relationship to the salaries of those engaged in grammar school training work, nor do the conditions.

The anxiety to attract Tutors and students for the work has led to an entirely wrong attitude, because it is based on the fallacy that money can do anything. Three quarters of my students not only do not pay a penny towards tuition and boarding, they also have grants for travelling expenses, books, laundry, and in some cases £20 or £30 a term in addition. They spend far more on personal pleasures than they ought to expect the State to give & give & give. And so it has - up to now.

Before this economy circular I inquired into the books students were supposed to have bought from their book allowance, and only 5 per cent had spent it on books. They were now surprised when I suggested that they were perhaps not being very honest at the taxpayer's expense, and were quite concerned when I declined to sign for book grants unless they could produce the books. I have one student whose father earns £1300 a year. She is the only child. As her L.E.A. at home is socialist every student from the area gets the same grant. All women are equal! So she gets exactly the amount a girl with a widowed mother gets. Yet I have one from another socialist area where the L.E.A. will not give her any assistance because her brother has been sent to a Public School.

As to Tutors. The prevalent attitude is that they must have time for Research (that misused word) and for Preparation for Reading, and for Marking. Not one of them is in college more than half a day each day from Monday to Friday.

The highest "teaching load" is 15 periods of 50 minutes each a week, that includes tutorials. No class exceeds 16 and most are 10 or under. Yet when I asked one of them, a man, to do some library work, he demurred. He was engaged as Librarian Tutor at £800 minimum salary. His tutorial work was 6 hours 40 minutes a week with a class of 6. Finally he refused outright to do the library work on the score that I was too exacting in expecting it. He reported me to the National Union of Teachers. However, the Governing Body backed me up. I said that 6 hours 40 minutes a week for 36 weeks in the year was not enough & they requested him to resign or be dismissed. The N.U.T. could not possibly support him. But that is typical, although extreme. We hear much of productivity when measurable goods are being produced.

We are over-staffed at the moment, because at the beginning of the financial year we had 183 students now we have only 140 and no one has been dismissed. When this is compared with the overcrowded, understaffed schools, and with the poor salaries of graduates with high qualifications compared with the salaries of two year trained teachers, it makes the disinclination to do a good week's work seem appalling. My sister college in Hull is a Catholic one, and there they find that the secular staff will not do any evening or Saturday morning lectures & will not help with plays, concerts etc.

Many of mine are not so bad as that, but it augurs ill for education and is a disgrace to university women to have an outlook which could only be excused in a long exploited, suspicious, undereducated men & women.

Not one of my staff gives any time to any work in the city, and yet three of them were born in it & have homes here. It is astonishing. When I tried to interest them in the International Children's Village

all except one said it was a wild-cat experiment, doomed to failure. One gives the support of a subscription to U.N.A.

And so on. Yet working women in the Townswomen's Guilds take a very practical interest in these things. There are times when I think that even the rampant Communists who infect the teaching profession are more admirable, however dogmatic & dictatorial they are. I expected them to test me to pieces the other week. They have done their best to infiltrate into the Hull Peace Council, a worthy but woolly headed body. Hull U.N.A. has imitated their tactics to the extent of infiltrating also & preventing them from being appointed to key positions. I'm accustomed to being reviled by them.

The other Sunday the Peace Council had advertised a meeting with a speaker from Coventry who had just returned from Stalingrad. The speaker got 'flu at the

last minute. Their secretary rang up
Professor Castle, ^(like my self, a friend) I asked him to speak on
Palestine. He already had an engagement so
suggested that as it is just as important for
us to be enlightened about the U.S.A. as about the
Soviet Union, I should be asked to act as substitute.
Professor Castle is the kind of Christian who is an
encouragement to the Sadduceans to blow in some
direction, and as he thought I ought to go, go I did,
with knees like castenets. I spoke for forty minutes
and was then peppered with questions for over
an hour. But not once was I told how revolutionary etc. etc. I
am. I was amazed. Nothing conquers the closed mind,
but there was a sprinkling of more moderate leftists
there. They have actually invited me again to speak
on Alay Barth's book, *The Loyalties of Free Men*, so I
am reading and re-reading it. It was very interesting
at a meeting sponsored by U.N.A. when we got a
friend, Margaret Backhouse, one of the Quaker Delegation to
Russia, to speak. She was remarkable in her
dispassionate answers to questions, and little though
some of her reasonable replies could have pleased the
local Communists, they did restrain themselves to
questions instead of their usual practice of spouting
Marxist doctrine under the guise of a query. This letter
has grown unconscionably long. I hope to induce
the Treasury to give me a currency permit to allow
me to visit State Teachers Colleges next July & August.
With kind regards, Yours sincerely, H. Todd

March 22, 1952.

Miss H. Todd,
Principal's House,
Municipal Training College,
Cottingham Road, Hull.

Dear Miss Todd:

It was a great pleasure to receive your long and interesting letter of February 17th. I am glad to know that some of your worst troubles are over and that the wretched member of the local education committee is out of the way at last. You have had many thorns in the flesh these five or more years. It is good that Professor Jessop is on your board. Please remember me warmly to him and Mrs. Jessop and tell him that from time to time I hear people saying that his Dunning Trust lectures have not been equalled by anyone of the subsequent series.

I took the liberty of reading portions of your letter to our professor of History, an Englishman, once on the staff of London University. He said to me that as a historian he felt this record should be preserved as a commentary on the times. Would you have any objection? Would you wish me to delete the explicit references to Hull and give him a copy of those portions of your letter without local references or your name?

It is indeed tragic to see so-called educators so self-centered, and with narrow vision and lack of cooperation. One hopes this is a passing phase.

This has been a busy session at our University. A large extension to the women's residence is nearing completion and I expect to have over a hundred more students in residence next session, and a very fine second dining hall with new kitchens and servery to handle both the old and the new dining halls.

Lake Ontario is still frozen over at this lower end but the crows have come north. We expect a robin any day now and that the ice will move down the river within the next two weeks.

I send you my very warmest good wishes for your important and responsible work. It is good that your influence is so strongly felt in the U.N.A. and other community organizations beyond the confines of your College.

Sincerely yours,

AVD/IC

Dean

The Six Continents I Roamed

The six continents I roamed
and the seven seas
seeking from prophets and oracles
their auguries.

Nowhere was stilled my hunger
nor quenched my thirst;
nowhere came I on the love
spoken of Christ.

—Gustav Davidson

QQ 1952

A Reply.

Six continents he roamed
and seven seas
and found no trace of love.
Why went to prophets and oracles?
Why ^{searched} ~~to~~ over land and sea?

The love which is love —
Unspectacular deeds,
Kind words unrecorded,
The gesture of comrade
In life's hum drum,
The water ~~dropp~~ offered
To parched despair —
Such love is everywhere
On six continents
and seven seas
and in the air.

the sympathy deep in
an unuttered prayer

or it may make you fight for every hundred yards; or, what is perhaps worst of all, you may find yourself on a wide, open, unislanded expanse, a July sun and cloudless sky overhead, and there is nothing for it but to go on poking holes in the glassy, dazzling water, over which you appear to make no advance whatever.

But there are lucky chances. One night on Lake Temiskaming we went to bed knowing that in the morning we must paddle twenty-five dull, monotonous miles up the lake. While we were at breakfast, a tug passed, towing a long log-boom. Breakfast and everything else went into the canoes. After a chase of about a mile we caught the end of the boom. The skipper of the tug saw what we were up to and waved his permission. In a moment the two canoes were lashed side by side to the boom. We settled down for some lazy hours. Somebody put out a troll to catch a pike or bass for supper. Somebody else opened a kit-bag and fished out a tattered copy of Anthony Hope's *Rupert of Hentzau* and read aloud. So we went our sunlit way up Temiskaming, watching for the mouth of the Montreal River, our destination, and enchanted all the while by the excellent and romantic adventures of Rupert in Ruritania.

QQ

LIX - 2

Summer 1952

640 Bailey St
East Lansing
Michigan

Dear Miss Douglas:

Here are the verses I promised
to send you. I hope you will
still like them after seeing
the text.

It was good to see you again,
if only for a moment, during
my recent visit to Queens.

Jeannie asks me to send
her regards along with mine.

Sincerely,

Apr 3, 1958

Arthur Smith

TO HENRY VAUGHAN

Homesick? and yet your country Walks
Were heaven'd for you. Such bright stalks
Of grasses! such pure Green! such blue
Clear skies! such light! such silver dew! -
On each brief bud and shining twig
White pregnant jewels, each one big
With meaning, rich pearls cast before
Not swine but men, who toss ~~and~~ snore.

Thou didst not so: thou wert awake;
And stirring forth before the break
Of day, thou wouldst enquire
If, with the Cock, no angel choir
Meant to announce th'eternal Day;
If, in the sun's first quick'ning ray
Thou might'st observe the flaming hair
Of thy wish'd Lord, thy Bridegroom dear.

Yet when the Constellations fine
Stand where the sun before did shine,
You may not in your good-night pray'r
Ask day more holy, heav'n more near:
Earth's angels, these tall feathery trees,
Sang in thy loved one's praise; thy bees
Gather'd his Honey; one small bird
In three clear notes his Name preferr'd.

Celestial strings might not surpass
Thy morning breezes in long grass;
The slow rain from the laden tree,
Dropping from heaven, brought to thee
Sounds of the purest harmony,
Setting thy caged soul free to fly,
Borne on the breath of fruits and flow'rs
Sweeten'd and made fresh in silver show'rs.

And add to these thy bubbling rills;
Soft winds; the intricate rich trills
Of happy larks that climb the air
Like a broad golden winding Stair
To Heaven, singing as they climb,
Lifting the rapt soul out of Time
Into a long Eternity

Where Heaven is now, and still to be.

Yet art thou Homesick! To be gone
From all this brave Distraction
Wouldst seal thine ear, nail down thine eye;
To be one perfect Member, die;
And anxious to exchange in death
Thy foul, for thy Lord's precious, breath,
Thou art content to beg a pall,
Glad to be Nothing, to be All.

a. g. m. Smith

March 20, 1953.

Professor Albert Einstein,
Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies,
Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Einstein:

Miss Eddington has requested me to write the section of the Life of Sir Arthur Eddington which deals with his scientific work. A friend of Sir Arthur, Mr. C. J. A. Trimble, is writing the personal part of the Life.

I wonder if you would give me your estimate of Eddington.

What were his contributions in your opinion to relativity theory?
What is the value and where is the weakness in his Fundamental Theory?
Where do you rank him amongst the outstanding thinkers of this half century?

If you will be so gracious as to express your views upon these matters and to permit me to quote you I shall be tremendously grateful. I studied under and worked with Eddington in 1921-23 and I should like my tribute to him and my critical appraisal of his work to be enriched by the inclusion of a brief appraisal from you, of at least that portion of his work which is intimately associated with your own magnificent contribution to natural philosophy.

Very sincerely yours,

A. Vibert Douglas,
Acting Professor of Astronomy

AVD/IC

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

April 3, 1953

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Professor A. Vibert Douglas
Dept. of Astronomy
Queen's University
Kingston, Ont. Canada

Dear Professor Douglas:

Thank you for your letter of March 20th.
Here is my answer to your inquiry which you may, of course,
quote.

Eddington's main achievement, in my
opinion, is his theory of the stars. His creative
achievement in the field of relativity and the theory
of matter did not carry conviction for me. But this
may be my fault. The German physicist and philosopher
Lichtenberg once said: "If a head and a book collide and
it sounds hollow - this is not necessarily caused by
the book!"

Yours sincerely,

A. Einstein.

Albert Einstein.

27 Bergstrasse, Zurich, Switzerland, Oct. 31, 1953.

Dean A. Vibert Douglas
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario
Canada

Dear Dean Douglas:

Time flows by - if not in the universe, then at least in our lives. But I still remember vividly my visit to McGill many years ago, when the Hendels still were there.

To your questions I can not very well answer in the form of notes which you could reproduce in your life of Eddington. For it is now more than 20 years that I ceased to follow the development of theoretical physics and the various speculative attempts at establishing a unified field theory.

Nevertheless in 1950 I was prevailed upon to give at the first post-war meeting of the Gesellschaft deutscher Naturforscher a survey entitled "50 Jahre Relativitätstheorie", of which you will receive a reprint by surface mail. I have marked the places where I disavow (and in a certain sense correct) my old theory of 1918, and where I speak of Eddington's affine field theory. (I had done so before, in the same vein, but a little more explicitly, in the Rouse Ball Lecture given by me under Eddington's eyes in Cambridge in 1930. At that time I had the privilege of being Eddington's guest in the Cambridge Observatory. A German version of the lecture was printed in Die Naturwissenschaften, 19, 1931, 49-58; unfortunately I have no reprint of that paper.)

Eddington was, as everybody knows, the driving force in organizing the observations of the deflection of light by the sun's gravitational field during the total eclipse of May 1919, the first empirical test of an effect predicted by Einstein's general relativity theory. As to Eddington's own creative contributions to the theory, I would say that they consist chiefly of two things: first his idea of an affine field theory just mentioned, and then his later attempts to explain by epistemological reasons the pure numbers that seem to enter into the constitution of the universe, viz. the fine structure constant $1/37$ and the ratio electric:gravitational radius of the electron, of the order of magnitude 10^{40} (this latter in connection with the number of elementary particles present in the world).

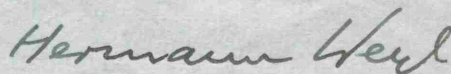
His first contribution certainly has borne fruit. Einstein himself took it up when he formulated an action principle for such a theory (which Eddington, I believe erroneously, had thought unnecessary). The later speculative part of his work, which is closely bound up with his whole "idealistic" philosophy of science, has been received by most theoretical physicists with considerable scepticism. Whittaker, however, and Schrödinger were an exception. For myself I must confess that I have never tried to understand it.

From the end of my talk on 50 years of relativity you will gather that I am ~~am~~ quite sceptical about Einstein's most recent unitary field theory. I am pretty sure that the last word on the nature of gravitation is not yet spoken, and I am inclined to believe that it lies in a direction quite different from Eddington's and Einstein's last ideas. The riddle may have to wait a long time for its solution.

I hope you will not mind if I add a personal reminiscence about my last encounter with Eddington, although the circumstances had something extraordinary only for me and not for him. In August 1933 the International Astronomical Society (or Union?) held its meeting in Göttingen, and I, who after the ousting of Courant, Max Born and many others by the Nazis had become director of Göttingen's Mathematical Institute, where most of the meetings took place, had to play the role of host to the Society. I was at that time preparing my flight from Germany, since I could not stand life under the Nazi regime, still uncertain, though, where I would find a refuge, in Spain or in the States. Eddington attended the meeting. On an excursion to the Weser river we shared, alone, the same railroad compartment, and there I confided to him my secret plans. Immediately after the close of the meeting I left for South Tyrol, and after my wife and children had followed me, I sent in my resignation from Switzerland. I will never forget that in those anxious days, at this decisive turn of my life, I had for a brief hour the comfort of Eddington's company, quiet understanding and encouragement.

With best regards

Yours very sincerely



Hermann Weyl



BELIER : 22 Mars au 21 Avril

Les natifs du Bélier sont vifs, nerveux, irascibles passionnés mais volages, ils aiment les plaisirs. Indépendants, studieux, innovateurs, ce sont des hommes de progrès, qui dirigent les autres mais qui agissent plus par impulsion que par raison.

Signes du Zodiaque

Cartes d'Art GAUTIER Frères





SAGITTAIRE : 22 Novembre au 21 Décembre

Les natifs du sagittaire ont l'esprit vif, enthousiaste, un jugement sain, un tempérament vigoureux. Ils aiment le sport ou les recherches scientifiques. Sociables, ils se font beaucoup d'amis. Ce sont des travailleurs à la fois tenaces et prudents.

Heaton Lodge - Saturday, Oct. 6. 59.

Darling little Lora - I can't tell you
how dear you were in your
loving thoughtfulfulness &
how lovely (lovely!) the trip
was in H Stand with you.
We shall all be very near in
Norway & brightness & /
where you have a grand trip &
great interest & enjoyment in your new
set-up. Signes du Zodiaque, much love. Effie.

10 October, 1953.

41 Queen's Road

Richmond

Surrey

Richmond 4750

Dear Dean Douglas,

Thank you for your letter. I am rather doubtful whether I have anything to say about Eddington that is worth printing. I did not know him really well and I could not understand his later writing, but what little I have to say I am sending on a separate sheet.

Yours very sincerely,

Bertand Russell

Richmond 4730

41 Queen's Road
Richmond
Surrey

My acquaintance with Sir Arthur Eddington was not intimate, being mainly confined to occasional conversations in the Combination Room of Trinity College. But, like everybody that knew him, I had the greatest respect both for his intellect and for his character. I followed his earlier work carefully, and studied his large book on The Mathematical Theory of Relativity with some minuteness; but his later work was largely beyond my comprehension and I could not form any critical estimate of it.

I used to enjoy asking him questions to which nobody else would have given a definite answer. I would say, "Eddington, when was the world created?" and he would reply, "In the year ninety thousand million B.C." Or I would say, "How many electrons are there in the universe?" and

he would give me an answer, not in round numbers, but exact to the last digit. I asked him whether he had worked this number out himself, or had left the arithmetic to a pupil, and he told me that he had done all the arithmetic himself during an Atlantic crossing. He told me once, with evident pleasure, that the expanding universe would shortly become too large for a dictator, since messages sent out with the velocity of light would never reach its more distant portions. I naturally asked, "How about God?" but the answer to this question was not considered to be within the province of the physicist.

He was a man of the most absolute integrity, and had that kind of straight-forward simplicity which I have found characteristic of some of the greatest men of science.

10, SYGEMANS PLACE,
BLACKHEATH, S.E.5.

6/6/59

Dear Dr Douglas

erv many thanks for so kindly sending me an
advance copy of v ur an reciation of Dr McNeill.

It delights me . You have sk tched to the life
the scholar, hen y in his enjoyment of fine

lit ratur and his own skill in The lucid an

elegant and use of English. As I wrote yester ay to
the Principal, English he loved and after English
Queens ~~English Queens~~. Nobody knows be ter than I

the value of his work a Treasurer ,but he could
never have endured the dreary toil of it without
this love of language in his heart.

REGISTRATION OF DOCUMENTS
S.E. DISTRICT

I wonder if it is possible to publish a little memorial volume of his addresses. They were all models of happy and accurate expression and worth preserving. I don't think I ever saw his Congregation address of 1936 and should very much like to read it, if copies are available.

When I was last at Queens, I was just beginning a talk with you, when ~~when~~ I was summoned by business of the meeting which was held in Ban Digh. I have always regretted that in the , I fear unlikely event of your ever being in London with a little time to spare, will you ring me up?

Thank you again for saying just what should be said

about our friend. I shall sorely miss his

witty and interesting letters.

yours sincerely

W H Fyfe

On train - Princeton to N. Y.

1954 Jan 4

Mrs Chen

I have had a very wonderful $\frac{3}{4}$ hour with Einstein. He has a massive head + a great sense of humour. I got to Princeton at 1040 + walked on + on beyond the College Bldg + white houses of residents + then the huge Grad School + on another $\frac{1}{2}$ mile through fields + country side to the brick Inst of Adv. St. - To be told E was at home with a cold but would see me there. They kindly sent a girl in the Inst. bus to take me to his little white house in the town - a house keeper took me up to his study - a glass wall looking over fields + adjacent gardens - 2 walls of book cases, books + reprints. He in a large chair in his brown dressing gown with a brown silk muffler round his neck, his Sec. a Miss Hoffman by him at a small low square table with math books on it + ashtray + a little canned trout. He gave me one instance when God had the insight

Train to Montreal
K. to Montreal
I go to play with G. Research now & catch insects
Great love darlings & 1000th thanks mention LOVE

of our times"

Σ. was Edd's guest at Camb. when Edd was made a knight. He has happy memories of Edd in his home.

He thinks all the 137 theory is an ingenious highly imaginative tour de force - but is not convinced that Edd. achieved anything in his fund. theory - nothing new has come out of it to give deeper insight into physical law. in his judgment Edd was not sufficiently self-critical -

Of his astrophysics no words are too high praise
homines -

Also Σ. enjoyed Edd's beautiful use of English but feels that any attempt to put math ideas into words for the general reader - are inevitably misleading & he laughed & said a scientist should remain obscure - when he popularizes he is being a fakir!

I am so glad I went. a grand success - now I must run & will write tomorrow on

to realize first that "the displacement field
made the inertial field unnecessary" - I got
him at the end to dictate some two or three sentences.
He says every worker in this region has his
own cosmology & who can say who is right.
He thinks not Edd, nor Lemaitre, nor
Milne (much too uncritical) nor de Sitter
nor Weyl.

He does not like the creation of matter
theory of Jordan, Bondi Gold Hoyle

I asked him who were the greatest
intellects he had met - His reply:

Lorentz - "a towering" thinker &
pioneer. He thought Willard Gibbs
may have been in that category
but he never met him.

He liked & admired de Sitter, Levi-Civita,
Edd. & his old teacher of math in Zurich
Minkowski but did not place any of
them beside Lorentz.

Blanch he thought had imagination &
genius but was uneven.

In his downstairs sitting room are 2 lovely
inlaid wood against the wall cases & small
cupboards - one had a top & a canopy & on
a shelf of it a lovely small madonna & child
& 2 other objects of religious art &
a Chinese philosopher's far man statuette.
He said he enjoyed them as art.

Speaking about Quakers he said
"If I were not a Jew I would be a Quaker"

In his study a photo of Gandhi & of a Jewish
painter - Of Gandhi he said - The greatest figure

200 ALBERT STREET
KINGSTON, ONT.

July 7, 1956.

Dear Dr. Douglas:-

Thanks for the 1/2 hour
"City Minutes on the Election"
I enjoyed it. The "Quality"
should have had the printed
answers for questions etc.

Almost I am tempted to
write "Are home with
Society:

Sincerely

A. Clark

TELEPHONE: PAR 56.
STATION: PAR.
ONE & HALF MILES.

KILMARTH,
PAR,
CORNWALL.

28th July, 1956.

Prof. A. V. Douglas,
Queen's University,
Kingston, Ontario.

Dear Professor Douglas,

I have been reading your charming little paper
Forty Minutes with Einstein. How kind of you to have
sent it to us, and how beautifully it is written, if
I may say so. Thank you very much indeed.

Yours very sincerely,

Dorothea Helen Singer



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
KINGSTON, ONT.

27 June 1956

Dear Mr. Douglas: I am delighted with your article: Forty
Minutes with Einstein and am grateful to you
for sending me a copy. It is a fine thing that a
person so well acquainted with the pertinent
matters should have had the initiative to make
this visit and the ability to record it so
well. Your memory of it is rich and
satisfying and all of your readers will
appreciate the account very much, as I
do.

Sincerely,
Robert

26 June 56

Dear Dean Douglas,

Many thanks for your thoughtfulness
in sending me an off print of your article
on Einstein. I have been reading it with
interest and warm appreciation.

Sincerely yours

Eric Starbuck

The Princess Alice
Duchess of Athlone
Your Royal Highness

1956 Apr 3

I cannot tell you how greatly
I appreciated your card of greeting at
the incoming of the New Year, and
especially your added note of having
~~spoken~~ ^{talked} with the P. R. of her visit
to A. U. last autumn ^{of a long bout of overwork has kept me} ~~from writing to thank you~~
An event of that kind ^{provides a special} ~~means~~
to a ~~university~~ memory to be added to
those which distinguish one university
session from another. This visit
carried my thoughts back to the first
World War when the Princess Mary, a
year or two my junior, was a
VAD in the St. Edmund St Hospital.
I was a temporary civil servant then, doing
statistical work in the man power ^{branch} ~~department~~
of the War Office and Ministry of National
Service. With thousands of others I ^{saw} ~~attended~~
her driving home after the marriage ^{ceremony} on the

Abbey. ~~1941~~

Your visit to this ~~university~~ at
the time of our Centenary in 1941
is still a bright memory - and I
have not forgotten that your husband
in his ^{convocation} address quoted from
Henri Bergson "Think like a
man of action, act like a man
of thought." This is advice I

occasionally pass on to my
students <sup>of whom I have had many in my classes in my
34 years of univ. teaching.</sup> Nor have I forgotten your
generousness at the Reception at the U. of London
tendered by honours of the president of the S. F. U. W.

or have had a severe winter
in Europe and the British Isles + I
~~am sure that~~ and the international tensions have done
~~and on your~~ ^{their quota of strain}
May health and strength and ^{deep} joy
of spirit continue to be yours.

Gratefully & sincerely yours,

A. S. D.

July 23, 1957

Escott Reid, Esq.,
Department of External Affairs,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Reid:

I greatly appreciated your letter of April 30th written in your busy weeks just prior to leaving India. Thank you very much for enclosing the newspaper copy of your address. I can well realize how deeply you came to love India and with what regret in many ways you must have left your post there.

I hope you are having a good holiday with your family. I wonder if you know yet where you will be posted next. I hope it may be to a healthy and interesting part of the world.

I agree with you that Morna could do better academically if she concentrated more on her studies. Student journalism demands a large amount of time. If that is her real interest she has probably obtained valuable experience with the student paper. If she is with you please give her my best wishes for a happy holiday. I felt sad for her when she was disappointed about the WUS visit to Ghana. Three names were sent forward to Toronto as requested and for various reasons including that of a good representation amongst the delegates of different faculties, a young physicist was selected instead of Morna. However, she has seen far more of the world already than most young Canadians.

Our Summer session is in full swing. It is a great pleasure to lecture to keen young high school teachers returning for more advanced work in their fields and kindred subjects. On August 1 I fly away for my holiday and am looking forward tremendously to visiting Greece for the first time.

Again thanking you for your letter and the clipping and with kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

A. Vibert Douglas.

AVD/d



OFFICE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA

PERSONAL

4 Aurangzeb Road,
NEW DELHI. India.

April 30, 1957.

Dear Dr. Douglas,

I owe you a very humble apology for not having replied to your letter to me last year. It arrived at a time when the pressure of work was particularly heavy. I put it aside till I would have time to read it carefully. It then got mislaid.

You will now have had talks with Mr. Brockington about the UNESCO conference and he will have brought you up-to-date.

Since the conference was held in November when the international crisis was at its worst I was not able to devote as much time to it as I would have liked. My own feeling is that there are immense possibilities in UNESCO but that they cannot be realized until there is a complete overhauling of the administration in Paris. If such an overhauling were to take place I would hope that countries like Canada might be prepared to contribute three or four times as much to UNESCO as they are now contributing.

There is so much to be done, for example, to improve the knowledge and understanding in the West of the culture of this part of the world. One simple thing, for example, which requires to be done is to have first rate translations done into English, French, German and Spanish of the religious classics of Hinduism and Buddhism. I do not know anything about the translations into Western languages other than English. I do know, however, that almost none of the translations into English are first rate.

You have been very good to Morna. She is enjoying her time at Queens and it is doing her good. Her difficulty, as you know, is that she tries to do too much.

We leave Delhi in a few days and will be in Canada this summer for a holiday before being reposted. I do not yet know what my next posting will be. We are looking forward to a family reunion at our farm at Ottawa.

You might like to glance at the enclosed farewell speech which I gave ten days ago.

Yours sincerely,

Escott Reid.

Dr. A. Vibert Douglas,
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY,
KINGSTON, Ont.
Canada.



POST CARD

PRINTED IN ENGLAND BY MARDON, SON & HALL, LTD. BRISTOL.

DISCOVERY BAY, JAMAICA.

14.3.58. I must send you a
line to say how much I enjoyed
your letter I had kept among
my things & never answered.
I hope I am very fit again
having an interesting time
as Chancellor of the University
enjoying the glorious scenery
of this beautiful island
swimming, bathing, etc.
I have been here since the end of Jan.
I am returning home, alas!
I hope you are all well.

Native Fruit of Jamaica,
B.W.I.
"Ackee" Pods,
67.

(Kodachrome by Amador Packer.)

J. A. Fort C. J. Dorjag.
Queen's University
Kingston
Ont.
Canada.

1958 Apr. 16

H R H The P. Albi

Ken. P.

London

Madam

How v. K. of you to send me this p.c. from Jamaica

Pr. Grass . . . Unscd . . . Xmas. 1954, mtb valleys. inst.
Gardens flowers. Univ. site - B Rooke - our J. students
& rel. & Firmly & coast.

1958-59 IFU awards. intl. list. Smed Maclean & Collins

& ad v. . . Enclose Summary report - (No. 3.)

To you I send my heart felt good wishes for health
and much joy in the quest of your own true spirit & in
the knowledge of the happiness & encouragement you bring
to other people.

V. Sincerely yours

A V — L —

September 12, 1958.

Mr. Leo Thorburn,
c/o Canada House,
Trafalgar Square,
London S.W.1., England.

Dear Mr. Thorburn,

Thank you for your good letter of September 5th. It was a pleasure to me to chat with you in London, both at Canada House and when you so kindly accompanied me to the National Gallery.

I think you have a rich store of varied memories as a result of these five years with all their difficulties, tribulations, and joys. I hope you can transmit some of your depth of feeling through the written word. I posted yesterday the latest Queen's Quarterly, and I have asked Dr. Shortliffe's secretary in the Queen's Quarterly office to send you an earlier and less specialized number. It may or may not be the one containing an article on hydrogen, which I wrote for the Quarterly. In any case, these two numbers should give you an idea of the variety of articles and the usual length.

Both Miss Royce and Dr. Tracy were very pleased to receive your messages. Professor Malcolm Ross says you should aim at two or three thousand words as a minimum. I sincerely hope you will persevere with this account of an unusual phase of experiences in Spain.

I have talked so much about the U.S.S.R. since my return that, plus a cold, I have almost no voice. I wish I had time to do some writing immediately while memories are so vivid, but three conferences and the problems of the opening of the new session are very all-absorbing.

Thank you for the beautiful Renoir and Cézanne cards. It was indeed kind of you to send them. I have The Sun Flowers and quite a good set of reproductions of van Gogh. Thank you also for the various quotations in your letter, especially Blake. I fear I have not read Edith Sitwell, and by no means much of Blake. Do you know Robert Bridges description of dawn in the Testament of Beauty? That is a great favourite of mine.

"Delicat as the shifting hues
That sanctify the golden gleams. . . ."
silent dawn

All my best wishes, and do write to me again.

Sincerely yours,

*with wonder gleams
whose evanescence is the seal of their glory
consumed in self-becoming of eternal
Till every moment as it flyeth cryeth "Seize
Seize me ere I die. I am the life of life -"*
AVD/BJT.

A. Vibert Douglas.

Rabindranath Tagore has some of this
mysticism when he writes of the lasting power
of eternity in the passing moments of
our life.

Ps - Could I
be remembered to
Dr. Tracy and
Miss Royce?

Go Canada House.

Trafalgar Square,
London, S.W. 1,

September 5, 1958

Dr. Alice Vibert-Douglas,

Ban Righ Hall,

Queen's University,

Kingston, Canada.

Queen's '143
and later B.A.
(Camb. 1951).
At Schworn, but not
in Holy Orders.

Dear Dr. Vibert-Douglas,-

This note, with accompanying picture post cards,
is to remind you of our meeting in Canada House,
our conversation in the basement "cafeteria" of the
National Gallery, and our brief tour when we looked at Remin's
"Les Parapluies", Van Gogh's "Sunflowers" (alas! no reproduction
— but I can get one at the Tate, if you would like
one) and Cézanne's "Old woman with a Rosary".

Please do not forget me.

I have begun to write about my experience
of a Spanish prison where I spent three weeks.
You told me that Queen's Quarterly might consider
something of this kind interesting. Could you beg, borrow,
or steal a copy of Queen's Quarterly for me? I should
like to know what kind of thing they publish.

I have been in Spain since the fall of '52
and I keep Spain very close to my heart.
Because I have suffered and have been intensely glad
there. Like any Spaniard.

I want only to give you a hint of a suggestion of how you ^{have} enriched my spirit with the description of your experience in ~~Russia~~ the Soviet Union, and how your valiant gaiety has encouraged me. It has been a year of trial and soul-searching. ~~for~~ ~~me~~. I have had a sense of utter failure. Your advent (I use the word deliberately) out of the sky must be part of a design by my good angel.

I was hungry for someone genuinely Canadian and you turned up. In England, there are too many Canadians sidling up to

You went to look at Leonardo da Vinci. I am glad we looked at these simpler visions first. There is a poem by Edith Sitwell which Cérane's picture might have inspired,

You probably know it: "I, an Old Woman, whose heart was like the Sun / Wait for my Wanderer..."

And the incomparable "Sunflowers"! A perfect epiphany.

It is William Blake all over again when he says he does not see the sun as a guinea disc in the sky, but a company of heavenly angels, singing,

"Holy. Holy. Holy, is the Lord God Almighty". I think

that you would find no quarrel with Blake's vision,

although you are an astronomer and an astro-physicist. *

One of Blake's most touching lyrics is his "O

Sunflower, weary of time". Do you remember it?

It was also Blake who said that "Eternity is in

love with the productions of time".

[* I mean. Blake had some nasty things to say about Newton].

I am hungry for the sight, smell, touch of my own country, especially the Gaspé where I was born and Quebec City where I went to school, and where I should like to live ~~for~~ forever when I go home. I have to spend another year in England and then I shall be back for good. Among people like you, perhaps, but I suppose you are too rare. There is so much fussy respectability here.

I wonder if Dr. H.L. Tracy remembers me. He is with Mr. Northrop Frye and Dr. J.B. Trend of Cambridge & in my gallery of Great Teachers. That course, Latin 2, and that man, Dr. Tracy, I have no words to say what I feel. Yes, I have, but I'll say them another time. Dr. Trend died this year. It was impossible to listen to his grave and witty lectures on Spain and the Spaniards in their history ^{and not} ~~but~~ ~~falling~~ fall in love with a country one had never seen. He used to say that if you did not put your foot-notes in German, no one would take you seriously as a scholar. He was the first, Spanish or English, to recognize the genius of Federico Garcia Lorca. He (Dr. Trend) had such gay recesses of learning — (14th Arabic botany, the origins of Flamenco, where the Street of the Sad Oil-Can is.

This letter is not effusive. It is a poor expression of gratitude. Partly because of you, I have taken out of the Public Library B. O. Unbegaun's Russian Grammar. I have not yet learned "le chapeau de ma tante" ^{in Russian} but I shall. Meanwhile, I read Joseph Conrad.

I should like to keep in touch with you. Leo Thorburn

QUEEN'S *Quarterly*

Kingston, Ontario, Canada

December 10, 1958.

Dean A. Vibert Douglas,
Queen's University.

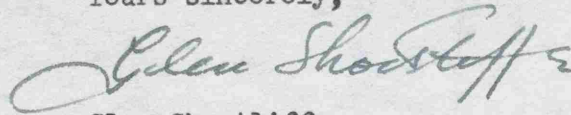
Dear Dean Douglas:-

Your delightful paper is most interesting. It succeeds in putting the probabilities opened up by present astronomical thinking with great vividness, clarity and economy of style.

I should very much like to use it in the QUARTERLY, but would not like to ~~commit~~ myself to do so before the Autumn Issue, 1959, for two reasons: first, your "Rosa Garibaldi" is appearing in the forthcoming Winter Issue, and we like to "space" our contributors, so to speak; second, I am considering the possibility that the next Autumn Issue might be specially devoted to a series of popular expositions on the present state of the sciences. Should the latter project materialize, your submission would fall ideally into that context.

Would you consent to that much delay for the reasons stated?

Yours sincerely,



Glen Shortliffe,
Editor.

GS:MH

*Yes, keep for Autumn
Return in July if neces.*

University of Toronto
David Dunlap Observatory
Richmond Hill, Ontario

Dear Allie -

That was a really wonderful surprise this morning, that I had when I saw that beautiful picture of you gazing at me from the cover of the Queen's Review. Really it is a marvellous photograph of a marvellous person! And your accompanying article is most interesting, and filled with the beautiful erudition for which you are so well known.

It was good to see you in Kingston - over a month ago now, and to have a chance for a visit with you. The name of your former student who wrote me from Timmins is Roy Jenkins. He says

"I am teaching science in a junior high school system and have had good success so far in the introduction of astronomy into the curriculum. I took the Astronomy 1a course with Dr. Douglas

at Luen's last summer, and found her a wonderfully helpful person.
(He is at 394 Cedar St. N. Temminis.)

We are at present opening the Galbraith Engineering Building and had a convocation last night at which Dr. Paul Hoffman of United Nations Special Fund spoke. You would have loved it! This afternoon the opening ceremony is to be held with Lieutenant Governor officiating.

Warm regards -

Allen

A request —

May I have a copy of your address, please? or will it be published for the O.E.A.?

There are two young cousins in Texas, just now making decisions about their futures.

They should see, in blacks and white, what you told us, although they will miss much in not hearing you.

— and I want to have it myself. Thanks you —
many

Dear Dr. Douglas,

→ You have just finished speaking.

— The above is all that remains of the original effort to express my feelings as I listened.

I can say only that if I were young — and yet as now, released from the dulling influence of my physical quibbles — I would start out with one goal in mind — to be a student under you.

→ The w.p.b. is crummed, and dozens of words died before reaching paper! There has been similar failure to tell

— My heart goes out to you in the love
of your beloved brother. The privilege
that was mine, to spend time with
such a family as yours, under warm
and homely circumstances, has left
a lovely memory — and an appreciation
of the heartache that a break in the
circle brings.

— I hope that you are well, in spite
of everything, and that the beauty of
the coming months will give you
added strength — and much comfort.

Sincerely,

Mary Edgar Faircloth

Cananogue R. P. 3.
April fifteenth, 1959.

you how your broadcast sounded,
without reference to its effect on me.

This morning a word came to me
and it says all that is necessary.

A name — Leonard W. Brockington.
There is nothing to add to that.

— For months I have been contributing
frequently to the W.P.B. Mrs Douglas
may have told you that I went to
see her. I have felt that if you had
any privacy at all it should not be
invaded by me; but to say the things
I wanted to to her was very different
to writing them. I just don't know how.
I depend too much on a handclasp —
inflection — something — to mitigate
inevitable blunders.

THOMAS NELSON AND SONS LTD EDINBURGH

Parkside Works
30th March 1959

Dept. 11/LM

Professor A. Vibert Douglas, Ph.D., M.B.E.
Queen's University
KINGSTON
Ontario Canada

Dear Professor Douglas,

It was kind of you to send me your charming account of Rosa Garibaldi. It is beautifully written and evokes the person and place wonderfully.

All good wishes,
Yours sincerely,

Lester Murby



..... Professor A. Vibert Douglas,
..... Ph.D., MBE.

..... Queen's University

..... KINGSTON

..... Ontario

..... Canada

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Sender's name and address: THOMAS NELSON & SONS LTD

PARKSIDE WORKS, DALKEITH R

EDINBURGH 9

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
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OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

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Indian Institute of
Astronomical & Sanskrit Research

इण्डियन इन्सटीट्यूट आफ् अस्ट्रोनोमीकल एण्ड संस्कृत रिसर्च

No. _____

New Delhi-5, the 19th Dec'59.

Dear Mr. Douglas,

The Indian Institute of Astronomical & Sanskrit Research was set up on 23rd November, 1957, with the object of promoting study of and research on ancient systems of Astronomy and allied sciences. The Institute is registered under Scientific, Literary and Charitable Societies Registration Act and its Executive Council includes seven Members of Parliament, one retired High Court Judge, one retired Accountant General and a leading Member of Delhi Corporation.

The Institute publishes a monthly journal named "JYOTISH VIGYAN". We propose to bring out a special issue of the journal on the next Republic Day (January 26, 1960). We hope to print about 20,000 copies of the issue, each running into 500 pages. This special issue would contain, among others, articles and other contributions from eminent scholars of foreign countries, like you. I may add that H.E. Chester A. Ronning, has been kind enough to suggest to us your name.

May I approach you, Sir, with a request to send us your learned contribution alongwith your photograph for publication in the journal. We shall very much appreciate if the article is pictorially illustrated. We shall get blocks for the pictures made here. I shall feel obliged if you could send your contribution by 15th January, 1960.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Ram Swarup Sharma)

Mr. A. Vibert Douglas,
M.B.E., M.S., Ph.D., F.R.A.S.,
Dean of Womean & Acting
Professor of Astronomy,
Queens University,
Kingston, Ontario:

Canada:

Director
Indian Institute of
Astronomical & Sanskrit Research
2239, Gurdwara Road,
Kartol Bagh, New Delhi-5.

To open cut here

Senders name & address:—

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF
ASTRONOMICAL & SANSKRIT

RESEARCH, NEW DELHI, 5.

INDIA,

Second fold here

AIR LETTER
IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS LETTER WILL BE
SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL



Mr. A. Vibert Douglas,
W.B.E., M.S., Ph.D., F.R.A.S.,
Dean of Women & Acting
Professor of Astronomy,
Queens University,
Kingston, Ontario.

CANADA:

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UNDER POSTAL CERTIFICATE

Number 4 · Wadsworth House · Cambridge 38

28 December 1959

Dear Dean Douglas:

Thank you for your most cordial note. I am overjoyed that action is being taken in the matter of gathering some of Dr. McNeill's addresses within the covers of a book.

I don't know just when I shall next journey to Montreal. But you may be sure that I shall do my best to take time out for the added trip west to Kingston, and shall let you know in advance. It would be very convenient and happy for me if I could remain there overnight. I had no notion that Lord Tweedsmuir's private library is now in Kingston. To inspect that is an incentive in itself.

With best wishes for the New Year,

Sincerely,

David McCord

David McCord

Dean A. V. Douglas
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario
CANADA

DMcC:R

I'll write later about your two delightful essays. Harlow Shapley & I belong to a little dining club: be most welcome! DMC.

Number 4 · Wadsworth House · Cambridge 38

4 December 1959

Dear Dean Douglas:

Please do not think me ungrateful, though I am late in thanking you for your kindness in sending me The Queen's Review for May-June, 1959 with such a full and understanding account of what Dr. McNeill was in the eyes of all who knew him and in the minds of many like myself who knew him only through correspondence.

Since early summer I have been deeply involved in a University project which has absorbed all my time and energy to the point of exhaustion. This is the only way in which I can account for my tardiness.

Ever since Dr. McNeill first made himself known to me -- and that was in the wake of the publication of my little history of the Harvard Tercentenary -- I have thought of him as an intimate friend. I chide myself that I never was able to reach Queen's in time to see him. There were a number of occasions when I was on the point of making the journey; but the last years of my mother's life kept me rather close to Boston. Saddest of all was my inability to be a delegate at your University some years ago. The date coincided exactly with the one on which I had to speak at the University of Pennsylvania (an ancestral place). What pleasure that would have been.

Among his many acts of friendship I recall a time when Dr. McNeill went to great trouble to have a book of mine reviewed. But most of all, I think of something in particular that he said about my Tercentenary notes. Those words of his have carried me through a good many moments of depression.

I see so well confirmed in all you yourself have said of him, and said with such insight, my own conviction that he must have been the sustainer of many, many people in our academic world. What a face of character he had! Does the University possess a small glossy print which I could keep and frame?

I hope very much that you will see to it that the tributes in this issue of your magazine are put into a little book which I among hundreds of others would treasure. Who could ever forget the dramatic opening of that quotation from his address on the occasion of the Centennial of your University!

Would you please tell someone in his family what a source of strength and encouragement he was to someone who never met him? I shall be grateful and honored if you will.

Dr Orr

Adkins

Number 4 · Wadsworth House · Cambridge 38

-2-

I am glad you ended your own tribute with his own words. Oddly enough, one of my oldest friends has just died: Ferris Greenslet, dean of American publishers. He was a close friend of Lord Tweedsmuir whom I much admired.

Every now and then something takes me to Montreal. Perhaps I shall still make that visit to Kingston. If I do, I shall tell you how much your instant of thoughtfulness has meant to me.

Sincerely,

David McCord

David McCord

Dr. A. Vibert Douglas
Dean of Women
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario
CANADA

DMcC:R

December 17, 1959.

Dr. David McCord,
No.4. Wadsworth House,
Harvard University,
CAMBRIDGE 38,
Mass. U.S.A.

Dear Dr. McCord:

Your letter of December 4, has given me very great pleasure. I know that Dr. McNeill would have appreciated what you say about his influence just as he appreciated all your letters to him.

I am posting to you a print of the photograph of Dr. McNeill standing in front of the first men's residence at Queen's, named in his honour. I hope this is the one you wanted. You may only wish to frame the central portion.

I have to-day talked with Principal W.A. Mackintosh about the possibility of reproducing some of Dr. McNeill's addresses in a little booklet together with the tributes to him. A former Principal of Queen's Sir William Hamilton Fyfe, who now lives in England, suggested the same thing to me when I called upon him outside of London, last August. Perhaps it will be possible to do this. Dr. Mackintosh has asked me to work with the University Librarian towards this end. If this plan reaches fulfilment I shall certainly have a copy.

I hope some time when you are in Montreal you will make the effort to come 170 miles west to visit us in Kingston. Those of us who knew Dr. McNeill best will welcome you. The late Lord Tweedsmuir's private library and desk and many of his manuscripts are in the University library here. You will be interested in seeing this collection. If you could let me know in advance of your coming, we could have a guest room available for you in the Memorial Union.

With the seasons greetings, I remain.

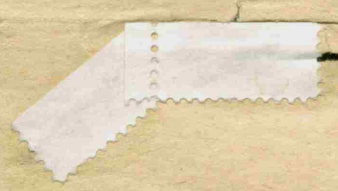
Sincerely yours,

A.V. DOUGLAS.

*Sent photo
and Reprint: Rosa Lombardi + Ship Ahoy!
in response to his booklet Xmas at Harvard*

For General Jackson

David M. Clark



A History of Technology

EDITORS: CHARLES SINGER, E. J. HOLMYARD. DEPUTY-EDITOR: A. R. HALL

~~NORTH BLOCK, THAMES HOUSE, MILBANK, LONDON, S.W.1~~ and
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IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE NO.

CS:JD

7th October 1953

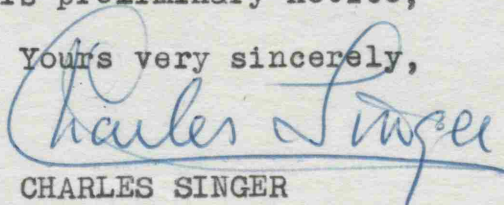
Dear Professor Douglas,

Very many thanks for your articles on Sir Arthur Eddington and for your admirable Foreword to his Life. I knew him a little and was introduced to him by the late Sir Richard Gregory. Eddington was one of the most modest and unassuming of men. He spoke very little but everything that he said was well worth saying, and I knew him enough to have the greatest admiration and respect for him.

It must be a very difficult Life to write because its events were entirely internal.

Again thanking you for your kindness in sending this preliminary notice,

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Singer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

CHARLES SINGER

Professor A. Vibert Douglas,
Queen's University,
Kingston,
Ontario.

from Sir Edmund Whittaker, 48 George Square, Edinburgh, 8.

1953 Oct 8.

Dear Miss Violet Douglas

Thank you for your letter of Sept. 22^d which came this morning.

I think that the man who could give you most help in connexion with Eddington's Fundamental Theory is an old pupil of mine who is now lecturer in Applied Mathematics in the University of Leeds,

Noel B. Slater, Ph.D.
3 Grosvenor Terrace
Leeds 6

He has not only done original research on it, but he is well acquainted with the work of Hilbert & others on it, & he has in preparation a book dealing with it. He went through Eddington's M.S. papers at the invitation of Miss Eddington, & found a lot of early drafts of chapters in Fund. Th.

I searched through my old letters to see if there was anything I could send to Trimble, but found nothing of value.

I hope to be in Edinburgh next March, & shall be very glad to see you. Please the time you might let me know your arrangements.

Yours sincerely
E. T. Whittaker