

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH UNIT

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3909

15th January, 1959.

Professor Fabio Metelli,
Istituto Di Psicologia,
Corte Arco,
Valaresso 11,
ITALY.

My dear Metelli,

Very many thanks for your good wishes for the New Year.
I hope that 1959 may be a very good year for you too.

From time to time I have got a few more records from the experiment about "pulling", the material of which you sent me. As far as I have gone, it seemsto me that most people simply report that the small squares move in towards the sector. Very few say that the sector is pulling them in, and fewer still seem to regard the squares as having some kind of internal activity which itself urges them in. However, I shall try and get some more records, and when I think that I have enough I will get them analysed and send the results to you.

You will remember that some time ago I promised to send you, if I could get it, an abstract of a Ph.D. which had been written by a Greek student, Dr. Houssiadas, now I believe at Athens. I got this yesterday, and here is a copy. You may find it of interest. It seemed to me that the experiments were quite good, and as far as I can judge his results are definitely repeatable. As to the interpretations there must still, I think, be a little doubt. When I was in Louvain in September last, I had quite a lot of talk with Michotte about these and other matters, but he has been so disturbed by the unexpected and sudden death of his wife that he has to a very large degree lost his interest in these experiments and is very apt now to say "Well, I don't know what will happen. I have done my part, and it must be left for posterity to decide". But of course, he may recover all his old elasticity again. I don't know, but I don't think it is very likely.

Very kind regards to you and to your wife and daughter. I hope that we may see you this Summer in Cambridge if that is still in your plans.

Yours sincerely,

p.p.F.C. Bartlett.

161 Huntington Road

Cambridge

24 Apr. 1960

My dear Metelli,

It is good news that you may be visiting England again next month. We shall be here until May 29 & I shall, of course, be delighted to get you a room again at St. John if you can come & if you can let me know. Also I expect to be in London on May 12 & I shall be having dinner at the Royal Society Dining Club. Which meets at the Atheneum. This is an extremely informal dinner for which everybody wears his ordinary lounge suit. It is early - 6 for 2

6.30 p.m. in order to ~~allow~~ allow
time for members from a distance to get
back home, if they wish to, at a reasonable
hour. We can take a guest, & if it happens
that May 12 is included in your plan
for England I should be very pleased
indeed if you would come as my guest.
I must give early notice, & so I should
be very grateful if you could reply to
this at once & let me know. I greatly
hope that you can accept the invitation.
Maybe at the same time you will be able
to say if, & when, and for how long
you can come to Cambridge.

Best wishes.

Yours ever
Fredz

161 Huntington Road.
Cambridge. Nov. 30 1963.
England

My dear Fabio,

Let me at once try to remove from your mind any suspicion that you have done anything in the smallest degree incorrect. On the contrary I think it was extremely kind and good of you to propose me for an honorary degree at Durham, & if the proposal should go through I shall consider myself very greatly honoured. As you will know one of your famous foreign students of past days - Sir Thomas Linares - had also a specially close relation to St John's College, & we still celebrate this every year on May 6th, by holding "the Linares Lecture". I myself gave one of these lectures some few years ago & that also I counted an honour, for it is a famous lecture in this country, & the College very rarely asks one of its resident members to undertake it. I still realize of course that the proposal for me to receive a degree at Durham may fail to be accepted. Whatever may happen about that I am grateful to you for your confidence in me, & for your belief that what I have been able to do merits so great an award. I am sure that your not telling me anything about the suggestion until the Faculty had indicated their willingness to support it was wholly right & proper.

We - Mary & I - are sorry to hear of your mother's continued ill health, & hope that she may yet improve as the winter goes on. We still carry on reasonably well though we begin to realise that we are getting no younger. I am told that I must take things reasonably easily, & so I have now given up golf, & I don't go about lecturing very much. But in general we are both well & can find plenty to do for the enjoyment of life.

Hugh has been nearly a month in Australia now. He had a very pleasant voyage ^{out} & so far as we can tell has already settled down well, & is prepared to enjoy the very different conditions of life there. He seems already to have encountered a lot of extremely interesting & more or less new electronic problems.

Denis also has gone off to his new job in Gxford. This is with a Unit for Research in Population Genetics that is run by the Medical Research Council. Of course Gxford is not very far away & we still see him every now & then for a week-end, & I think the work is along a line that he likes, & it is with a small, but very active, group of research people.

Of course I am extremely interested to hear that you ~~at~~ have accepted a lecturing job in Social Psychology - a subject to which I have always been greatly ^{attracted} interested. The main trouble with it, so it seems to me, is that

It lacks any widely accepted methodology & remains
destinately speculative. Statistics cannot really replace
experiment, & questionnaires & surveys at the best
reveal only probable relationships between the facts or
movements with which they are concerned. But it remains
a field of study of vast interest and importance, & one
which offers splendid chances of development. I can well
realize however that all these things you have undertaken
will keep you more than busy.

I hope the experiment of the Boarding School will
work out well. It is of course as you will well know ~~As~~ a
regular device in the educational system of this country
& on the whole I think it is good. Both of your boys
were away at school for the usual years of their lives &
it certainly aided their development, in character &
independence, ~~it~~ ^{and} I also think in scholarship.

I suppose that your wife having to go to Leeds
or Milan takes her away a lot, but I can very well
appreciate that you should both feel forced ^{for her to be} away from
the Faculty for which you are yourself largely
responsible. When your daughter has finished her
fourth year at Dubrovna perhaps she will consider
trying for a job in England. There are many good
opportunities in mathematics.

I have heard little of Michotte for some time.
Though he sent me a copy of the English translation

of his book. Which is excellently well done, & also your recent paper - which he calls his "last" - but this does not I think contain anything new, that however is hardly to be expected. People who have seen him fairly lately say that he continues to be reasonably well, though I think, he stays mostly in bed.

It seems to me that current experimental work in psychology is moving more & more towards renewed interest in work on what we used to call "the higher mental processes". Have you seen a very excellent American monograph by Michael ^{POSWNER} which is an attempt to treat thinking partly as a reduction process applied to incoming information? He did this at Michigan, with Professor Paul Feltz, a good friend of mine. But there are several other recent approaches also, which seem to me to show much promise, & which bid fair to put "Thinking" within the range of effective experiment. I think if I were only a good bit younger this is the field I should like to work in. It has obviously much social significance also.

Let us know whenever you can undertake a trip here again. The Master of St John's was in Padova last autumn. Unfortunately I did not know till he was back here. But he remembers you & we should all be pleased to see you again in College.

Ever yours
Fred

161 Huntington Road

Cambridge. 8 Jan 1964
England.

Dear Fabio,

First let me thank you for the cards, the letters of good wishes & interesting news, and, very warmly indeed, for the two splendid books you sent us for Christmas. You need have had no misgivings about either of the books. We love these Italian colour reproductions, which are so much better than England can produce ~~but~~ ^{we} had none of Gauguin. Some of these pictures were in fact unfamiliar to any of us, & are beautiful & striking. As for the Giotto book, which has now gone to St John's, it revived happy memories of Tadua for Denis & me, & we had a great amount of pleasure in studying the splendid renderings of the famous frescoes. I took the volume to the Master soon after Christmas & if you may be interested to see the letter that he wrote. If you have not yet heard from Mrs Lee, the librarian, you will doubtless do so, & I am sure that the book will be very much welcomed here. It is still more a pity that I did not know that the Master would be in Tadua last September, for perhaps, if I could have given him an introduction to you, you could have got him an entry to the Chapel. But maybe he will go again some day. Meanwhile I think you need never worry about whether what you do is right or wrong so far as English folks go. So long as it seems correct to you it is pretty sure to be much appreciated by us, & most certainly that is the case this time.

You must have had some unpleasant journeys on your way
to lecture in the recent extreme cold in Italy. I have heard also
from one or two friends who went from England to Italy at
Christmas that they did not entirely appreciate the change. We here
had rather nice Christmas weather & it has been dry & not
very frosty ever since, but some mist & fog now & then.
Unfortunately I must have picked up a cold from somebody at
one of the Christmas parties, & I have had to spend more
of my time indoors than I like, but it is much better again
now. It seems rather hard luck to have to go on lecturing
all through what is for us a holiday season, but I am glad
that you find the job of some interest, & also that your wife
finds the Milan work of attractive. Do you see anything of
Ancora or know what is happening as regards the Linguistic
Genetic Institute? I still get notices of meetings, & copies of
the Journal as they appear, but I am afraid that I have done
nothing to help, although it seems that my attempted resignation
produced no effect. My general impression is that on the
whole things have considerably improved since Ancora took
over from Cohen-Sick, but I know nothing for certain.

We had Denis home with us all Christmas time,
but now he has gone back to Oxford. He appears to have

get copies of the quarterly reports from the MRB. What have, and also
see the two journals, you will probably conclude that on the whole
it is a period of preoccupation with perhaps somewhat detail
concerned with tones of voice + modes of discrimination. These
may look as if they are just the traditional experimental topics
that persist from year to year. But they are ^{linked} ~~linked~~ with
news about brain function (to my mind both rather speculative
& rather physiological or neurological) which may perhaps some
time break through to something new. With these go a
considerably increased occupation with problems of word use
(linguistics) the stimulus for which comes largely from USA,
(Professor Goldfield has got a vigorous linguistics group in Gxford)
& I think this is beginning to develop experimental
approaches to new studies of thought process.

I doubt very much whether Dr. Posner's thesis
which I mentioned when I wrote to you last time is available
for purchase. An article by him will be appearing some time
this year in the B.J.P. If you were to write to Professor
PAUL FITTS, HUMAN PERFORMANCE CENTER,
Dept. of Psychology, University of Michigan, ^{ANN} ~~ANN~~ ARBOR
MICHIGAN, U.S.A. & say that you are in touch
with me, & I have suggested that you would be interested

settled down well there & to like his work, which is almost wholly experimental, & so it seems to me, highly technical. The news we get from Hugh is excellent. He has found a good flat at Sydney, appears to like his job, & does not mind the Great summer heat. For Christmas they flew to Tasmania to some relatives in Hobart & they had a splendid time there. They are back in Sydney again now. Denis has also acquired a flat for himself in Oxford & will probably move in some time next week. He is very good at everything in a house, an excellent cook & all that sort of thing, & the change from being in lodgings will probably suit him well.

I had a brief note from Michotte the other day. He said he had not been very well, had had a touch of pneumonia again, & suffered from a tremor which made writing difficult. But on the whole it was a cheerful short letter. He is long back in his own home again. The English translation of his book has had a good reception in this country, as in fact it well deserves for it is extremely well done. But I cannot find that anybody is working along these lines just now over here. It is not easy (or at least I don't find it so) to get any very sharply defined news about English experimental psychology at the present time, though it is ~~still~~ extremely active. If you still

in hearing more about the Informational Approach to the study of human performance problems, & particularly about Posner's work and allied studies, he would send you offprints from which you could get a good idea of the work that is being done. It is very likely that some of your better students would get ideas for experimental approaches well worth pursuing, & maybe new to Italy, from some of this work.

I wonder if you know Professor E. G. Boring of Harvard. As he is the same age as I am myself he has now retired but he is probably a more earnest psychologist than I am & he still works like anything. I suspect you are familiar with his very fine History of Experimental Psychology. He was made honorary President of the Washington Congress & produced a public lecture with the somewhat odd title of EPONYM AS PLACEBO. We are very good friends & he very kindly sent me a copy of this lecture which has been published in a recent book of Essays by him. I confess that I could make little of the title, but it turns out to be all about the great mistake of supposing that individuals ever originate or invent anything important. So, he argues, these reputations which get tied up with the names of popular heroes of thought or action - like Newton, or Galileo, or Darwin - don't really properly belong to the individuals.

at all. They are strictly a construction of "the spirit of the age", of impersonal & socially determined forces. He has a lot of very interesting illustrations of what he calls "multiples" — the appearance several times over of the same inventions, the same methods of study, the same conclusions. But for these to have any real influence they have to appear at the "right" time, when the social milieu is in the right state to give them the boost they need. So the individual gets the credit for something which the society really does. I myself find this all amusing & attractive to argue about, but difficult to swallow, & I don't like the consequent loss of all my ~~best~~ heroes which it would mean.

As you are now lecturing on social psychological topics I wondered what you ~~would~~ would think of all this. The other day I came across a quotation from Benjamin Disraeli, who was an English statesman of some intelligence, to the effect that "No assassination ever made any difference to the course of world history." So maybe he would have agreed with Bourgeois.

Thus I stopped writing this

Yours ever
Lord

161 Huntingdon Road.
Cambridge.
7 Jan 1966.

My dear Fabio

I have many things to thank you for: your most interesting long letter & its good wishes for the New Year; the lovely wine; the delightful card from you all. That I should like to reciprocate all the good wishes you have sent us, & to send for you all our own wishes for all the family for a wholly good & successful 1966.

The wine is splendid. We opened a bottle of Vinho da Dentado 1961 (No. 4566) for Christmas, & in it we (Manny, Dennis & I) drank your health, and Hugh's (our distant son) & then for New Year we drank Cabernet 1961 & this too we vastly enjoyed. I thought them both most excellent. If anything I think we preferred the first, but there seemed to be little in it, and if the other bottles are as good we shall continue to regard you as a great benefactor, & ourselves as extremely lucky.

I was very interested to hear that there is a good chance of your going to lecture in Ethiopia. It is the sort of experience I should have loved to have myself when I was a lot younger than I am now. I remember how extremely happy I was in Swaziland with the natives there; but I imagine that normally the scene of your proposed lectures will turn out to be most highly civilized, probably with American style skyscraper buildings & the stores & shops full of internationalised goods. However

I hope you will go & have a jolly good time. I am sure you can produce lectures in English with great success & accuracy.

I shall also be very glad if, when you have time, you will send me the English version of the discussion of the transparency experiments. I shall read it with much interest & I will make whatever comments seem to me necessary to them. If you like send it on either to the editor of B.S.P. or to the J. of Experimental Psychology, whichever seems the better or you would most approve.

If your assistant is inclined to take up the fatigue problems of course I shall be interested. But fatigue studies have provided a sort of groove, or ^{sepulchre} ~~reputation~~ of many reputation. I should well understand it if after a year's physiology at Edinburgh he has other problems of his own at which he would prefer to work.

I have just returned to Miss Casazza's, with abundant comments, a paper, in English, dealing with her experiments with the method of Repeated Reproduction. She has attempted to deal with her results in a rather less qualitative and more statistical form than I tried myself. I think the result - it is only a short paper - is interesting & worth publishing, but certainly the English needed a lot of amendment. It has

Italian translation needs as much for will, as we say, have
"your words cut out" to deal with it. But I believe her to be
an able & hard working student. She proposes to go to
the U. of Michigan (Ann Arbor) in the summer for some time
to work with Professor Arthur Nelson, & I think that is a
very good plan.

We have the sweets which you sent by the Mead's & will, as
you say, eat them with care. Those we have so far tried we
like very much. It is extremely good of you to send them to us
as an addition to these many other gifts, & we are grateful.

I hope that when you next pay a visit to Cambridge
you will accept recordings of our Choir. They are very good & I
think you would enjoy them. Obviously the best place would be for
you to take them to Italy yourself. So far I have heard no more
about moving to another room in College & perhaps there may
be a good deal of delay yet, or it may even prove not to be
necessary.

We had a good Christmas. Denis was with us for nearly
a fortnight, but has now gone back to Oxford. On the whole we
had pretty good weather over the Christmas Holiday, & not very
cold. We had various parties & exchanges of cards and good wishes
including some from our Hotel Regina in Venice whose many
made friends with one of the English speaking staff in the

"Reception". Very sorry Maude for the pressed flower of
the acacia. We were glad to hear that this plant has
prospered & to have this visual evidence that that is the
case. The Cambridge "fall term" for least began this week, but
the teaching term does not start until next Friday. This, of course,
makes no difference to me now. I think our teaching year is
considerably less than yours however & that you have to work a
good lot harder & more continuously than people here do.

Give our kind regards to your secretary. I am slowly
accumulating a few more stamps to send to her. I happen
however that some of the people in Dennis's Oxford Unit collect
stamps & so he walks off with a good many of those that come
here. This makes the collection for anybody else a slow job.

Now may I repeat our good new year wishes for
all of you, our great thanks for your generosity, our hopes for
much pleasure for you if you go to Africa, & in any case
for a period of successful achievement & happy endeavors.

Yours affectionately
Fred.

161 Huntingdon Road.

Cambridge

England

4 March 1966.

Dear Fabio,

As you have yourself suggested I do, in fact, find the article about perceptual transparency, none too easy reading. This is not because of its English, which is pretty good all the way through and does not stand in need of very much alteration. It is partly, I think, because I have not got the original references to which you refer to hand, and partly for other reasons which I will try to state now.

1. Obviously before separate publication the references to other work, especially to Koffka and Heider must be given, and a rather fuller summary of the earlier paper of yours to which you refer in the first sentence of this one. *2*

2. I agree that the Koffka-Heider hypothesis seems far-fetched and that probably what you call the "four-fields" hypothesis is a better approach; but there still seem to be difficulties. *non ha capito*

3. All of your own experiments and discussion seem to be conducted in achromatic terms: the epicostister, or other foreground, is a shade of white-black, so is the "figure", or middle area, and so is the most underlying area, or ground. In view of the differences between colour and achromatic perception, it seems to me rather unlikely that any single quantitative set of formulae will adequately cover all cases. At any rate surely this should be considered and experimentally investigated. *mi Valere per le color. achromatiche in figura*

4. In the final section of your article I think something more is needed to show how closely the actual experimental results that you have obtained fit the numerical expressions of the theory. You do, I believe, suggest that in some cases the fit is approximate, but one needs to know how approximate. *2*

Speaking very generally my feeling is that the paper is interesting, though in a field that few people are working at now, particularly in England, but that the exposition will need further consideration in the ways I have indicated before publication can be hoped for.

I thought it would be a good thing to get some comments on the paper from somebody who is more immediately in touch with experiment in Psychology than I now am, so I passed it on to Welford for further comment. I enclosed a copy of the remarks I have made above, asking him not to look at them until he had read your article. He added some comments the substance of which is as follows:-

(1) He says that he "fully agrees" with what I have said.

(2) Further results are needed from "groups of subjects". He thinks ~~that~~ that this would yield "different ^{numerical expression, or} ~~figures~~ different percentages of subjects of those reporting transparency" *Don't have copies*

(3) The paper could well be "simplified" and some technical terms, such as "figural neutrality" require explanation. *20*

(4) "The dividing lines in the illustrations seem to introduce something of importance more than A, B, P and Q. But he does not suggest what.

(5) He thinks the evidence indicates that "the one essential ^{prev. articles cond. optical} condition for seeing transparency is that P should be less than Q. The transparency effect is increased if A is less than P or B equals Q, but is still present to some extent if A equals B or B equals Q." *No*

He adds that he expects to be visiting you next month and hopes to have the chance of talking over the paper with you.

I should like to add, very tentatively, that I should ^{myself} like to see some attempt made to discover if there are other conditions which give a transparency effect, or one like it. It has seemed to me that in general the search for different objective conditions which can give rise to more or less comparable sensory effects is nearly always worth while. Is it necessary, for example, to have A, P, Q and B simultaneously present? What sort of an effect might you get if they were exposed, in some order, successively at rapid speed, and the succession repeated a number of times? I would like to ^{see} know more than just ^a the quantitative study can ^{be} tell about what probably actually happens in order to produce the appearance of transparency. What this amounts to is that I would like to see somewhat more attention given to the underlying biological (perhaps physiological) conditions.

I hope you will not be in any way discouraged by all this. I think the study is interesting and original, and I hope you will be able to go on with it. If you will consider these and other matters which I daresay you have in your own mind, I would like to see the result, and the question of the minor changes in expression that may be desirable can be taken up then.

I wonder whether you have gone off to Ethiopia yet or may be there now. I hope you enjoy it anyway. We had a letter from Rachel Mioli the other day in which she said you had probably decided to accept the invitation. It should be a wonderful experience: I can remember how vastly I enjoyed my visit to a very different part of Africa many years ago.

We are getting much nicer weather now, mild though with rather a lot of rain. The Spring flowers are rapidly coming into bloom, and the grass of the lawn, which has kept green all the winter, will very soon need its weekly cutting.

As you know by now your wine got great praise from the Fellows of St. John's.

Very kind regards to your wife, and to Clodia and Mark, and we both hope you are well and not overmuch pressed with uninteresting work

Ever yours,

Fred.

Incidentally in my experimental days I never much liked the episcotisker. This may have been that the only model we had was already old fashioned & troublesome to work with. There must surely be better instrumentation available now, or, if not, something less clumsy & more readily & exactly controllable could be devised.

161 Huntingdon Road,
Cambridge, England
April 6 1965.

My dear Fabio,

We duly arrived back in Cambridge, after an easy and comfortable journey last Thursday evening. We came back to bright sunshine & garden full of lovely Spring flowers: yellow Forsythia and daffodils; blue scilla, & wind hyacinths; blue, white and pink garden hyacinths; a great block of pink ranunculus; white viburnum, & the greenest of green grass. I must say that it was all looking very nice & welcoming, although it is ~~at~~ exceedingly dry, for there has been little rain. It is now warm and sunny, but we may soon get a shower or two.

About our visit to Italy: you were wonderful, from first to last you were wonderful & we are most deeply in your debt. I hope that you are now back from your journey to Rome & Sicily and that everything went well on that trip. We very greatly enjoyed the visit to your house, the excellent lunch which your wife had prepared, & meeting your wife, Claudia, Marcus and your mother-in-law. I hope you will allow me to say that I thought that your son was a very attractive & sensible young man, & I hope very much that things may so turn out that he is able to realize his ambition & that his life may shape itself in the way he wishes.

The Degree Ceremony on the Saturday we found

Extremely interesting and rather impressive & everybody was most friendly, no doubt largely because of the way you had prepared everything. I am, of course, very proud to have this Doctorate. I was sorry that I had to wander a bit from my prepared address, but I don't see quite as well as I used to do; also the Latin struck me somewhat in places. It was a great pleasure to see the old medical rooms again & the picture of Linacre & Harvey. Mary was particularly happy to see them for the first time.

It was a splendid idea of yours to get Rachel to take us to Scrim on the Sunday & we enjoyed the visit immensely. For Mary it was, as you know, the realisation of a long-standing desire to see where Leamper wrote a poem which has long been one of her favourites. The lunch at the wayside restaurant was delightful.

To be back in Venice, & at the first-rate hotel which Denis & I had stayed at years ago was a great treat. It was good of you to drive us there, to give us the ride in the gondola & to come in again the next day, at a time when you must have been preoccupied with many things & not a little worried by some of them. It was a great pity that my knee swelled up again & became very painful, for this, & the

future. Everything was fixed to save us any trouble
on the return journey which, as I say was easy to
~~craft~~ comfortable. We were most lucky that everything
fitted in well; there was even a train waiting for us
in London & we were home on Thursday about 7 p.m.

We had a lovely fortnight but was, of course,
all due to my knee is practically normal again now.
Although I still feel rather lousy I am rested & largely
recovered. Mary unfortunately caught a cold from
somebody on the way back, but she is not too bad.
She wrote to you from Venice & I hope you got the
letter.

All in all our trip & the ceremony and the
very great consideration & friendliness we were shown
by everybody made up an unforgettable experience. Now,
according to Rachel, from whom we have had a letter,
you are in the throes of a University strike again,
though we don't know what for. I hope it will soon be
over & won't worry you much.

Our love to you all. We shall eagerly look
forward to seeing you in England, though I fear I

Just that in other ways I was not feeling very energetic
rather restricted our movements. However we did get a walk
everyday, & in a way I think we got some
understanding of the "spirit" of Venice more than we could
have done if we had done more outside exploration. The
people in the hotel were excellent & all their arrangements good.
Rachel & her husband came in one night to dinner which we
much enjoyed. Though unfortunately it came on well about
the time they had to leave. It was a pity that we had
to leave out Ravenna but there was no help for that.
My knee was better but still painful. The car from
Milan came promptly about 1 p.m. on Monday & we
had a guide, but rather hot drive by ~~autostrada~~ ^{autostrade} to
Milan. The chauffeur did not know much English (though
he has an English wife) but he was a delightful man
& extremely efficient. Nobody could call it a very pretty
drive though. At Milan everything possible was done for
our comfort & the meetings at the Istituto Agostino
Gemelli went off well. I was in fact considerably &
favorably impressed by the way the work there has
developed & I think it may well have a distinguished

shall not be able to match the great kindness that
you showed us. I have not yet been to my College
Rooms but if, when I go, I can find the books, or
books, by Dr. Ewing about the deaf children I will send
them on for your student. It may be however that I left
them for the Librarian when my time to retire came
along.

Yours ever

(And THANK YOU once more)

Fred

Please give our regards to your Secretary & thank
her for all she did to help us. I will be writing
to her ~~shortly~~ in a short time.

161 Huntingdon Road,
Cambridge, England,
Dec 9 1965.

My dear Fabio,

In a day or two I hope to pack up and send to you a picture book for Christmas. It is a very poor and inadequate return for all your kindness to us, but I hope that you and your wife and perhaps Mark and Clodia too may enjoy turning over the pages, though the originals of very many of ^{the reproductions} these come from Italy and you will almost certainly be familiar with them. I hope that you will all have a very happy Christmas and a good, prosperous and enjoyable ^{year} to follow. We are, according to your suggestions, letting our wine ^{from Jon} rest and recover from its journey, but I expect that by the time Christmas is here it will be back to full life again, and we shall be able to enjoy it with our other Christmas fare. As I said when I wrote last time you had arranged everything perfectly, and it all came through as you said it would. I was rather planning to send you a record, or records, of singing by St John's choir, which is a remarkably good choir just now, but the people here said they could not undertake any responsibility for seeing that the import duty was paid at this end. However I shall try again one day, and maybe it can be arranged, for I am sure you would enjoy listening to some of these reproductions.

I wonder why I wrote to you about "beetles"? Maybe it was because I don't like them, either their appearance or their products, and rather class them with Black-beetles for whom I never have had a great deal of love. I think the Beatle craze anyway is passing, its main interest ~~anyway~~ having been psychological and like some outbreak of the Middle Ages. When we were boys we used to be told never to step on a black-beetle, because if we did the next day it would be sure to rain. I am afraid I tried various experiments about this, but, as with many other experiments ^gnothin' got proved. I wonder if you also in Italy had this bit of folk lore?

We have had an abnormal amount of cold and ^dsnowy weather in England

since the winter began, and needless to say I don't like it. It is all wrong, according to the English proverbs, but I much prefer a "green" Christmas. Now I am looking out on a dull and cloudy sky, and it has been raining so much during the night that there are large pools of water in the front of the house. But at least it is mild again, and I hope it may stay so. We now have "long distance forecasts" and these say it will be cold, but they are often wrong.

The first of the Cambridge teaching terms came to an end last Friday, but of course this makes hardly any difference to me now a days. The great Oxford v. Cambridge rugger match was played, in fine weather remarkable to say, last Tuesday, and seems to have been a terrific rough game in which all the players were more interested in knocking every opponent about than in anything else. It ended in a draw of five points each.

It seems as if I may have to move from my present room at St. John's which I shall greatly regret, for I have had it for a long time, and as you know it is a pleasant one. But the College has recently sold some land and one of the Fellows who has been living outside may have to come into College. If I do move I hope I can find a place nearer to the front Gate, with all the room I need for books and furniture, and on the ground floor. This seems unlikely but we shall have to see.

I hope now that everything is flourishing with you and the family, that Padua is warmer and finer than Cambridge, and that Christmas will bring you all kinds of good things to enjoy, and the New Year peace and great prosperity.

Mary and Denis both send you their love,

Yours affectionately

Fred.

161 Hunti ~~Ed~~ington Road,
Cambridge, England.
Nov 19 1966.

Dear Fabio,

We have been very much worried and concerned to know what may have happened to you all during the tempests, gales, floods and disasters that have fallen upon your part of Italy this late autumn. So far as I have seen reports in the English papers there has been no record of severe damage to Padova, and it may be (I hope so) that you have escaped the worst of the damage. But you must, I should think, have been surrounded by disaster, and thrown into great perturbation by all the accumulating trouble. According to pictures which we have seen of Venice, the spot where we used to have lunch almost daily must have been several feet under water, and we think that our very nice hotel must have been severely flooded. The latest reports are of renewed storm and rain and the possibility of even more extensive floods. We offer you all our sincere sympathy, though that, alas, is worth little, and hope that you have survived without very heavy loss, or illness.

It may even be, we think, that you and your wife have escaped the direct and shattering experiences by being far away in Ethiopia. But if so that will still have left you worried and anxious about the others. When you have the time and the energy to tell us we should like to know something of your experiences in these almost unprecedented troubles.

Cambridge, of course, is a safe refuge from most troubles, both "natural" and human. The summer here was rather cool and with a good deal of rain, but there were many fine intervals, especially when Hugh and his wife were here in June. A good many years ago now we were for a week or two seriously threatened with inundation from the Wash and by way of the East Coast generally. Many of the dykes built years earlier by the Dutch people who came over were burst by storms and high tides, and deep floods spread widely over the fens. But they went down before they reached Cambridge, and following this the sea defences were vastly strengthened so that there has never been any serious threat of this kind since.

You will have gathered, perhaps, from the card I sent you that we, with Denis, had a rather belated holiday in Scotland this year. It was an unqualified success. We took a car train to Perth and then Denis drove north with various stopping places, to a little village called Balmacara, on the coast of Ross, in the North West. This is a lovely spot, not far from a ferry across to the island of Skye [&] [^] ~~Mary~~ and I have had several holidays in Skye, but Denis had never been there. We went across this time on a lovely sunny day and renewed pleasant memories. Balmacara is on the shore of one of the Scottish lochs, and with splendid mountain country, and several other lochs near by. When we were there it was all beautifully quiet and with very little traffic on the roads, so that we could get about easily, and we were able to visit many places we had never seen before. The weather was pretty good while we were away. We got back 16

nearly a month ago, and just about the right time, for since then the days have deteriorated and there have been rain, snow and frost in Scotland.

It was in Scotland, at Pitlochry, that I achieved my 80th birthday, and when we got back here we found a lot of cards and messages of greeting waiting for me. The Unit made me a lovely gift of a very fine cinema projector. Hugh sends us films and recordings from Australia, and we had two packets of these waiting, records of his round the world trip last summer. Most of these we have now viewed to our very great interest. I expect sometime this month I shall have some off-print copies of the first lecture given in my name last July. If I do I will remember to send you one, and perhaps to comment on it a bit. I think the introductory remarks, about me, are very generous, and the bulk of the lecture, about linguistics (a current fashion in psychology here and in America) very interesting, but I cannot altogether agree with the approach adopted. However I can better say more of that later.

I have heard once from Signora Cavazzutti who is in Michigan, and apparently well-pleased. I hear that Professor Morton has gone off to California, and I am rather sorry about that for he seemed well disposed to her. He was here for a few days in the summer, and I saw him again, after a long interval since we had met in U.S.A. As you will know I also had some conversation with your student who is working in Edinburgh. I thought he was attractive and clever, and I much hope that his projected work on Fatigue will be successful.

Please give our kind regards to your wife, to Claudia, to Marco and to your mother-in-law.. I hope that they, and you, are all in good health, and not seriously affected by Italy's storms. Also remember us to your secretary. I have not forgotten that I said I would send her some more stamps, and I will try to do this before Christmas comes. I think our Postmaster General has gone mad about stamp issues and keeps on producing new designs, most of them hideous.

Wherever you are you have our warm greetings, and I hope that all your work is proceeding well, and that you are gradually winning the support that you ought to have from your University and your psychological and other colleagues.

Ever yours

Frederick

To day is Cambridge "Rag Day" when students work far harder than they normally do, inventing & carrying out odd stunts & collecting money for charities. We stay at home!

exper. congn. Ethiopia

person

Valente Uney

St John

Asford
Welford

161 Huntingdon Road,
Cambridge, England.
May 27 1967.

Analisa Fall
Clavin
fatica

Dear Fabio,

It is again high time that I produced a letter for you, for it is now quite a long time since I got your last (and very interesting) letter, describing, among other things, your visit to Ethiopia. I was very glad to know that you were able to undertake this journey and that you enjoyed the experience. It seems as if you ~~were~~ were kept pretty hard at work, and did not have very much time to relax or to try out any psychological experim~~ents~~ts on the less sophisticated natives. However perhaps you will be making a return visit some day with more knowledge of what to expect. But I am afraid that part of the world, like most of the rest of Africa, is in a very disturbed state. It does not seem that human beings learn very much about how to control, either themselves or others to much advantage. I suppose that, at a guess, about 70 or 80 percent of current psychological research and publication are concerned with lesrning problems, but it does not seem to have much value either in helping folks to understand the processes of learning, or, in particular, what it is really worth while making much effort to learn. As you will gather I am a bit pessimistic about the ways things seem to be moving in the world at the present time, and about the people who are able to get the upper-hand. However there seems to be very little that any ordinary people can do about it, except to hope for the better.

Let me be a little more cheerful! Mary, I am glad to say, is very much better than she was around Christmas time. I may have told you already that she was threatened with a kind of pernicious anaemia and retired to hospital for three weeks. Fortunately it was taken in time, and now she is pretty well back to normal again, and given reasonable care and occasional injections, should keep fit and active. We had a rather wonderful winter, so far as the weather went, with hardly any snow, and mostly rather warm days. But the Spring has so far been particularly horrid, cobl and with prolonged successions of thunderstorms. The garden looks very green and, from a judicious distance, quite lovely, but close up views show masses of weeds which neither I nor the gardener who comes more or less once a week can control. . However the persistent rain suits your hydrangea which can flourish in any amount ~~of~~ water. The roses are not out in bloom yet, except one dwarf one in the rockery, but there are buds and we will have plenty of flowers in a week or so.

The tremendous new Court at St John's costing rather more than a million pounds, and the gift of one wealthy and philanthropic family, was officialy opened about a fortnight ago. It poured with rain before the ceremony began, and it poured with rain, when the ceremony was over, but the sun shone brightly all the time the proceedings were going on, and I suppose this should be regarded as a good omen. The building I think is a success, and I hope you will be able to come here and see it, it not this autumn, at least next, when the International Congress in psychology is meeting

in London. But of course this does not mean that we should not be extremely glad to welcome you this year if you can manage it. Mary and I and Denis hope to be paying another visit to Scotland in September, but apart from that we expect to be here all the summer.

I hope to hear that your studies in Factor Analysis have had a good reception, and are helping to develop the proper treatment of experimental results in Italy and elsewhere. I believe that over here the method has had a greater influence in educational circles than anywhere else. But for the moment there is, as you may know such an awful lot of political dispute about how the education of children and adolescents ought to be organised, that there is not a great amount of energy left to apply the more scientific methods of analysis. Many people have rather lost faith in the overriding value of psychological tests and the prognostic significance of their results. It is rather out of my line and I cannot tell whether this is only a temporary set back or not.

I do not know whether Miss Cavazzuti is back in Italy again by now. I have had two or three cards from her from U.S.A., but ~~nothing~~ much to indicate how she got on there. The last year's sales of Remembering were well up again. It astonishes me how students seem to keep on buying it, for the C.U. Press keep on putting up the price which is now £3 - ~~far~~ too much I think. If you should meet the young lady I hope you will be able to encourage her to continue her own work on the processes of remembering.

You will know that Oldfield has gone to Edinburgh to direct a group in the study of language psychological problems. R.G. Gregory, whom also you have, I think, met here, is going to Edinburgh too, to look into the question of artificial brains, or something of that sort - rather a futile study I think, but no doubt I am prejudiced.

I trust that your wife's book is going well too, that Claudia, back home again now I expect, is well and flourishing, and that Marco is finding life not too bad. We had a dinner party last night, and a bottle of your wine was greatly appreciated. This, perhaps, reminded me that the time had come for a letter. Anyway our love and good wishes to you all,

Yours ever
Fred.

May 29

Today is a Bank Holiday here & for a wonder, so far it is nice and fine. Usually on such holidays various old students call to see me. I have just had one here who worked in the Laboratory during the war time. It is pleasant to see them again. How, if at all, is the proposed fatigue work progressing?

161 Huntingdon Road,
Cambridge CB3 0DH.
England,
March 17 1969.

My dear Metelli,

Last Wednesday we received a large carton from Dolamore's who are, as you will no doubt know, Wine Merchants in Cambridge. When I opened it I found your message and also a dozen bottles of fine French Vintage wine. It is overwhelmingly good of you to send us this magnificent present, and I am afraid we can make no adequate response except to say a very sincere "Thank you". We are familiar with some of this wine that you have chosen and we like it immensely, and I have no doubt that we shall similarly enjoy all the rest. It is a splendid present.

I was also of course very happy to get your letter a week earlier, though on reading it I realised that you must have had, and perhaps still are having, a trying time. I am not surprised to read that you propose to relinquish your work at Trieste, for it appears that the students there are particularly difficult and it must be most unsatisfactory to have to teach only what they decide that they want to hear. Cambridge has not reached that stage as yet, and I hope it never will, but here also undergraduates are claiming more share in the running of the University and Colleges than they have done before, and achieving some success in some quarters.

It seems a rather strange world that we live in, with rioting, unruly processions, banner carrying and disagreements all over the place. To judge by the televised versions of some of these they are being largely led, or at least kept going, by young people who find it fun to rebel against any form of control. Maybe some time or other, and I hope not too long delayed, there may be a reaction towards sanity. I hope it may come soon.

I wonder whether you have yet had any luck in your hope to get some help to pay the American visit that you mentioned in your letter. It seems to be less easy to get financial help to go there than it used to be. Have you got any particular place, or persons, in mind that you would like to meet? I do know a fair number of people in authority there and if I could do anything to help to reinforce your claim I should naturally be pleased to try.

We seem to be having a most prolonged winter, with more and deeper snow than we have had for several years. Here it has not been terribly bad, but both North and South of us there have been persistent frost and snow. Here it had been cold and day after day very very dull. However I have got rid of my lumbago and we are both reasonably well. Denis is still spending what spare time he has, which is not very much, getting his flat ready for residence. His editorial work is going very well so far as we can tell. Hugh, in Sydney, has had a spell of hospital with a wound of some sort in his leg which turned septic. But this also is much better

and he is back home and, I think, at work again.

I probably told you that the Penguin Books are reverting to what they call "Hardbacks", and have invited me to write one of them. I thought I would try a short volume mainly autobiographical about the rather unconventional way in which I became a professional psychologist, what happened during the period when I was practicing in the University here, some comments perhaps of a critical nature on all this and some attempt to state my views about the probable developments of psychology during the next few years. The subject was approved and I have written a first draft of the first chapter. If that also is approved I shall go ahead. It will be something to fill up my time in the summer months I hope, and may be of a little general interest. If it gets as far as being printed I shall hope to send you a copy. But I don't know whether I can put down what I want to say about our science in a way that can be both understood and approved. At least it is an amusing job.

Recently I have read a book called In Aethiopia with a Mule. It is an Irishwoman's story of how she did a walking trek from a port on the Red Sea to Addis Abbaba, living with the native people and becoming extremely fond of them. It is a first-rate story and I think you might well enjoy reading it, but I don't know whether I shall be able to get hold of a copy to send to you.

I sometimes wonder whether the student who was going to work in your Laboratory on some fatigue problems ever got down to them, and if he did whether he found anything interesting. Welford had designs on fatigue experiments when he went to Adelaide but whether he has yet been able to do anything about them I do not know. It is a great pity that your own research has been so much hindered, but I hope you may now find a bit more time to get back to it.

Mary joins with me in sending you, and all the family, our best greetings. I hope that Claudia and Marco and both well and not too much identified with the revolutionary student mass.

If you think of coming to England for the International Congress in July (or it may be August) I hope you will let us know, and of course you will be very welcome if you can stay some time in College.

Thank you again for your magnificent present.

Yours ever
Fred

Sir Frederick Bartlett
BARTLETT

161 Huntingdon road,
Cambridge CB3 0DH.
England,

~~Nov~~ ^{Dec} 6 1968

My dear Fabio,

The year is speeding on and it is time I began to think about my letters for Christmas. First therefore may I wish you all a very happy Christmas, and a good New Year less troubled with strikes, riots and general disorder than the last one has been.

Unfortunately about six or seven weeks ago I managed to acquire some sort of an infection, and although this very quickly disappeared I have been pretty much kept indoors by a prolonged spell of dull and inclement weather, and I have not been able to do any shopping. Maybe I shall still be able to do some of this, but I may be held up and have to delay sending you anything for the Christmas season until later. However I still have a hope that I may be able to find something, say some time next week.

We have all been very sorry to read about the various misfortunes that have befallen Italy ~~both~~ from the disastrous weather, from the strikes, and the students' difficulties. The weather was yours of course and we have not had anything like it, though it has been here a rather cold, sunless and generally inclement year. But the discontent and disorder, especially among students, seem to be acute all over the world, and we have our share of it, though Cambridge has so far been less adversely affected by it than a good many other Universities. Even here students are demanding to be given places on the College Councils and other Government ~~bodies~~ bodies, and in some places and to some extent they are getting them. When they do get on these bodies it is pretty certain that they will be bored stiff by a great amount of long-winded and uninteresting talk. In some places, as I say, such as the London School of Economics, Birmingham and perhaps Sussex, the students are much more vociferous and much more actively antagonistic to existing Governing Bodies. Our newspapers are full of stories of the same kind of thing all over the world. Much of it, like a lot of other movements that are producing a great amount of trouble, seems to have started off in America. Or it may be that the disorder among the young is mainly a reflexion or imitation of divisions and disagreements between various more or less conflicting national policies and aspirations. What the ultimate upshot can be, and whether there is any chance of improvement without some more serious clash of interests I do not know. And ordinary people, as we are, can do little except hope for the best.

Well, all this is not much of a topic for a Christmas letter, and I had better stop writing about it and turn to other matters. You will probably remember the Master of St. John's College, Boys Smith. He has decided to retire at the end of the present year, for he is not now particularly well. Who the next Master will be I have no idea, but if I am still going strong when he gets elected, he will be the fifth successive Master to be elected since I came to the College. This will be, I think, a somewhat unusual record. I am still not the most elderly of the Fellows

of the Fellows. There is one Mr Cunningham, whom you may have met, who is older but still very active: I think he is now 85 or 86. But I believe I am next to him in age.

There are other changes. As I believe you know the Welfords have gone to Adelaide, where he has become a Professor. I have had a letter from him, and they seem to have settled down very well, and to appreciate the change. Welford's book, as you may have seen, is published. It is called Fundamentals of Skill, and is a large and expensive volume of about 400 pages. Most of it is I think a review and criticism of other peoples' work, but I have not yet read very much of it. There is, of course quite a lot about his contention that on the executive side the C.N.S. is able to deal with only one set of impulses at a time. I am myself not quite convinced yet that he is right about this. But he seems to make out a fairly strong case.

Problems of skill are very much up in the psychological world at present, as you will well know. Professor Jeromy Bruner from Harvard was here about a fortnight ago, full of the very interesting experiments they have been doing on the detailed ~~experimental~~ study of developing directing movements of grasping and searching as they occur in very young children. I think this is extremely interesting and it seems to provide a reasonably strong case for the position that much of the skilled performance with words, in thinking out problems, for example, is based very much on earlier bodily acquisitions.

I often wonder how your own work is getting ~~and~~ on and whether, with all the other unavoidable preoccupations of your academic life, you can give it proper attention. I shall be glad to hear.

Denis has now returned to Cambridge, to take up the editorship of one of the leading scientific journals connected with his line of genetic research. It is quite a good job and we think he will do it very well. At the moment he is living with us, but he has acquired a flat and will be moving into it I expect before very long.

I hope all goes well with all of you. Give Mary's and my kind remembrances to your wife and to Claudia and Marko. I hear regularly from the Institute people in Milan, and they often send an invitation to me to visit them again; but I fear that is not possible. As far as I can judge they seem to be doing some very good work.

We read, as I had intended to say earlier, that in your latest inundations, Padua was partly under water. We hope that you did not suffer yourselves from this. The spot where we usually had lunch in Venice was flooded out in the pictures which we saw. It must have been all very worrying.

This doesn't seem to be a very cheerful letter, but the best of wishes to you, and I trust 1969 will see great improvements for us all.

Yours ever
Fred

Welford

161 Huntingdon, Road,
Cambridge, England.
Jan 225 1968.

Dear Faboio.

The wine has all been safely delivered (the final batch yesterday) and in perfect condition. Thank you very much: we are deeply grateful. I think it is wonderful of you to send it, and it puts me deeply into your debt once more. We enjoy drinking it very much and so do favoured visitors if or when they arrive. I will see that it is treated according to your instructions. The sweets also arrived this morning and I am sure we shall greatly enjoy them. There was no payment of any kind to be made for any of the parcels, and so all your arrangements were carried out according to your plan, and once again for all the trouble ^{you} have taken, as well as for your kind thoughts, very many thanks.

We were sorry to hear that you contracted a cold, or maybe flu, on your way back from here: I hope my clumsiness in deluging you with warm tea had nothing to do with this, and that you have now made a perfect recovery. I have had my share too, but not at all a bad one. We had a very cold spell with much snow just after Christmas, and I got a rather severe lumbago, or something of that sort, which made moving about very painful and difficult. I must also have managed to get a slight infection of some sort, not bad enough to be called flu, and so I had some days indoors. However all is well again now, and once again I can ~~s~~sally forth to town, most days to do the necessary shopping. It has fortunately become mild again, and so, I hope, it will continue.

Mary has kept pretty well I am glad to say, and vastly better than she was this time last year. We had Denis for Christmas, and an extremely happy and successful time, with a special film and tape recording from Hugh and his wife in Australia. There, as in most other places they seem to be smitten with strikes, and the last one has been a prolonged postal struggle, which has prevented any letters from reaching us from them for several weeks. ~~But~~ we had a telegram, to mark ~~M~~Mary's birthday, last week so obviously they are well

~~for~~We thought your last letter was a particularly interesting one, and so ~~from~~ your English having deteriorated, it seemed to both of us to be better than ever. I hope that your lecture at Frankfurt was a great success. I have not seen Zangwill since you were here, but I fear that he may meet with some difficulty in arranging for money to recoup you for the proposed lecture here this year. As you probably know the devaluation, and all sorts of Government muddles have made things difficult, and we are in, I am afraid, for a rather stiff and maybe unpleasant couple of years in England. However I will find out soon what chances ~~th~~ there may be of reaching any sort of a satisfactory arrangement. In any case of course we shall be delighted to see you again whenever you find it possible to come.

After your letter arrived I called at Heffers to find out about the paper backs, They received your order all right, and also the ~~money~~ ^{but two they} and told me that they had sent all the books you asked for ~~they hoped to get and send to you.~~ The delay, I think, must ~~be~~ ^{be} hoped to get one of them back to you. The other is fast out of print

have been in the post, whether here or in Italy of course I don't know. I called also at the other booksellers to find out about the Nicholson Diary. Apparently they had no record, but they said that the mistake must have been their own, and so of course no charge would be made. So this extra book does not cost either of us anything, and is all to the good. Harold Nicholson was a very influential person, and his record is said to be well worth reading. I remember his coming to the Lab here some time during the second war, and we had a long talk, but I have completely forgotten what this was all about. I know I liked him a lot.

I am very glad that Marco has now found something really interesting to do. I have long wished that I had a better knowledge of mathematics. Actually I find myself apparently quite well able to understand mathematical arguments, at least of the more logical kind, but a duffer at actually working out the detailed problems, and this is apt to be, as you will well know, a drawback to the proper appreciation of a good deal of current psychology, as well as in other fields. I hope your Factor Analysis studies are well on the way to their appearance in a proper book form. You may like to have a copy of my Remembering paperback, for record, or for your Department, and so I will send you one, but no doubt there will be the usual delay in the post. I think the C.U.Press have made a very good job of producing it.

Please give our kind regards and good wishes to Claudia, to your wife and mother-in-law and also to your Secretary. My I send remembrancees too to your students whom I met. I did not forget that I said I would send them one or two books I thought I had about deaf, or partially deaf, children, and I searched for these books but could not find them. I am sorry about this, and think I must have passed them on to somebody else already.

Our love to you all and thank you again,

Yours ever

Fred

It is nice to see bulbs coming up one more in

our garden. I snowdrops in bloom

161 Huntingdon Road
Cambridge, England,
April 2.

Dear Fabio,

Mary and I have lately been reminding ourselves that a year ago we were in Italy. By now the Padova ceremonies were over, we had had our delightful Sunday excursion which you fixed up, and we were in Venice, in fine and warm weather. I was not particularly fit, but still able to enjoy the beautiful Italian scene, and in retrospect the visit now seems to have been an outstanding success. Fortunately we have got over the worst of the winter now, though snow fell heavily in the North of England last night, and I have been very well throughout the colder months, and hope to continue so now that summer is near again. Our garden is gay with flowers and the grass is very green and once more needing to be mown.

We were both very pleased to get your letter which came at the last week-end, in spite of its story of overwork and of claims upon your time of one kind and another. I wonder whether you finally decided against going to Africa. I hope not, for I am sure you would find it a most interesting trip and also be able to do a lot of good, talking about your work to the Ethiopian audience. Maybe it is to come off a little later. I can well realise that the thought of having to prepare a special contribution to the Symposium at Konstanz must be rather daunting, when you have a lot of other things to do as well. I too have had to face that kind of a situation from time to time in past days, and have never relished it. However I have no doubt that if you do finally decide to go and take a leading part in the discussion you will in the end enjoy it and make what we call "a good show". When you see him give Metzger my kind regards.

I had not realised that Dr Welford was due to visit you so early in the year as this. I hope his visit went well, and that, in his rather deliberate way, he produced a good discussion. I think his (and others) 'Single Channel Theory' is interesting but hardly

yet fully established. There can be no doubt that the principles of selectivity of the C.N.S., whether for reception or action, are of the greatest importance, but their temporal limits may be less strict than the single channel views would appear to require. Of course this links up in various ways, as they well know, with memory, or quasi-memory, problems that still require further study. However Welford makes out a good case in experimental terms, though I do not think that he is himself doing very much in the way of original experiment at the moment. I am very fond of him, and I think he is good, and his wife too who was in the womens' National service in the Army during the War and who then came to special classes in my Laboratory which were being held to train people for psychological work having some military significance. I got a letter yesterday from Malcolm Jeeves who has also visited you. He is thinking of returning to a job in this country if possible and leaving Australia after a very successful seven or eight years there.

We may also get our son Hugh and his wife back here for a while in the summer. He has been given a commission by the Firm he works for to visit U.S.A., this country, Canada and perhaps S.America in order to find out what is happening in the way of the most modern ^{and} developments of television transmitters. We don't know when this will be or for how long he may be here, but most likely it may be some time in May, June or July. As you know some of my former students have decided to establish a 'Sir Frederic Bartlett Lectureship' to commemorate my arrival at the advanced age of 80 (if I should get there). The first of these lectures is to be given here in Cambridge on July 12, and the lecturer will be Professor Oldfield who was, as you know one of my people. Hugh is rather hoping to be here when this comes off, but we don't know whether he will manage it or not. It is, of course, a great honour and I do much appreciate it.

I did realise that the inter4sting article on transparency was a draft and not a completed paper, but I am now very glad to know that you think that the comments I made were not wholly off the point. The actual writing, as I said, was good, and I should think that when you have had time to continue and complete the experiments the final

~~result~~

resuot will be full of interest and I hope you may publish it in this country. I can well realise that, with all the other things you have to do, you must be hard put to it to find the proper time for original research, which takes a good bit longer in biological, and especially in psychological fields, than in some other directions. Couodn't you put a bit more on some of your assistants? I suppose not, as they have their own aspirations, and their way to make; but it is a great pity taht your won time has to be so much taken up with matters of a rather routine kind.

As you will know here we have been thrown into the muddle and confusion of a General Election. This has not in fact made much difference to Cambridge where everything went off with very little commotion or disturbance. We ourselves are by no means pleased with the over-all result, though it could have been worse. I don't like the present Prime Minister, or trust him very much, and I think modern politics anyway is a poor affair, and mainly a fight for power and money. The best brains seem to me now to go for scientific studies and in the main rather to keep out of political struggles. However, no matter what we may think of it we are now landed with a Labour Government for the next five years, and what they will make of their opportunities I would not care to guess.

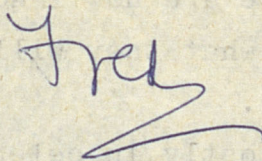
From time to time, mostly in celebration of some special occasion we open a bottle of your lovely wine, and gretly enjoy its bouque and flavour. We like everything we have tried, and always toast you and send off our thanks to you and to the Italian vineyards.

I hope that Claudia, still in Sicily until after next week, is continuing to have a very good holiday there, and that the snow has long disappeared. My kind remembrances also to Marco, and I trust that both his music and his philosophical studies are going well, Very kind regards also from us both to your wife and to your mother-in-law, and I hope that they are very well. Also, if, or when, you see them remember us to Rachel and Umberto. We had a card from them where they were having a holiday not long ago. No doubt they are back at work again now.

The Milan Institute continue to send me a considerable amount of literature, most of it rather detailed accounts of research, and so far as I am able to judge a good deal of this is excellent. I ~~think~~ think they have made a considerable success of this enterprize and deserve a lot of support. As you probably know they are now entirely free from any direct influence from Cohen Seat, and although he was very kind to me, and it was through him that I first got to know you, I must admit that I consider that to be a good thing. Their Journal, Icon, also seems to me to have improved considerably and to be getting some very good papers for publication.

I must bring this rather long and rambling letter to a close. We are always glad to hear from you, but I can realise well, I must say again, that you are very much pushed with so many other things to do. But let us hope that ^{as} the summer goes on you may get some relief and be able to ~~enjoy~~ ^{indulge in} a little leisure and have time for more quiet enjoyment of life.

Yours affectionately,



161 Huntingdon Road,
Cambridge CB3 0DH.
Cambridge,
England,

My dear Fabio,

This as you see will be a short letter only in partial reply to your welcome letter which came last week-end. I am very glad to hear that you have been awarded a Nato grant to go to U.S.A. on a lecturing tour. I think the list of people that you say you have written to contains most of the names to leading psychologists in America whom I now know, for it is a good many years since I was there. Possibly however you might like to add Professor Arthur Melton, Michigan University, Professor E.R. Hilgard Berkley, California, Professor J.Z. Szafran, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Professor Roger Russell, but I have forgotten his address for the moment. If Padua has a reference book of the learned professions you could find Russell's address from that, and it might be worth while to look up Columbia University, New York, Duke University, the University of South Carolina. An intimation to the Organising Secretary of the American Psychological Association that you have this grant and would welcome invitations to lecture might be well worth while, except that you might be snowed under with invitations. But it is easy enough to say "no" if you get too many. There is a very good University at Houston (I believe it is) in Texas, if you want to have a look at that part of America, but I don't remember who is the principal psychologist there now. It used to be Dallenbach, but I think he has died. Probably once it gets generally known that you are going you will get more invitations than you can accept, as I used to do. If I think of more people to contact I will let you know. I enjoyed a visit to Brown University in New England but I do not know who is in charge there now. Anyway I hope you will enjoy your visit as much as I did mine, but you will also probably find it a bit tiring and you had better allow yourself some free days.

All's well here in the private and personal sectors, though in a public sense we are less happy. The last few days have been pleasant with quite a lot of sun, and it is even a little warm. The Spring flowers are already looking a bit happier, but they are very late this year and should have been in flower some time ago.

I am not surprised that you think of giving the London Conference a miss. I don't like big Conferences myself and am not proposing to go to any of the meetings, but I expect there will be an official visit to Cambridge and I shall probably see a good many people whom I know. Several have written to say that they expect to come.

I had a letter some time ago from Miss Cavazutti and I think she would like to have her translation of Remembering back; but she may already have written to you about that. The Cambridge Press seem to have sold a very large quantity of the new Paperback form, and I fear they would not be at all likely to be willing to reduce the excessive charge that

they want to make for any translation.

Mary is pretty well and sends you all her kind regards. Denis is still very busy with his flat, and I think it will soon be fit for him to go there to live.

If there is any other way in which I can be of help in regard to your American visit, please let me know. Anything I could do would be a pleasure to me,

Yours ever,

Fred

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BY AIR MAIL
AIR LETTER
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PROGRAMME

APR 1953
INDONESIA



Professor Fabio Metelli,
Via Tre Garofani, 41,
Padova,
ITALY.

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