

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
INTERNATIONAL FINANCE SECTION
(Department of Economics)

P.O. Box 644
Princeton, New Jersey

August 22, 1961

Dr. J. Herbert Furth, Adviser
Division of International Finance,
Board of Governors of the Federal
Reserve System
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Herbert:

Thank you for your good letter of August 16. It was very helpful to me. Some time this fall I shall send you the manuscripts of two articles bearing on the problems in which we both are interested. Incidentally will you be at the Fund meetings in Vienna? It would be nice to see you there.


Last fall, when I proposed that you write an essay for us, you mentioned that you were too busy at the time but would hope to find some time in the future an opportunity to spend an undisturbed year in research. Ever since that time I pursued the idea of inviting you to come to the International Finance Section and to engage in the research on problems of your choice.

Gottfried, in a letter from Europe, now raises the question whether the planned expansion of our Woodrow Wilson School might create an opportunity for inviting you to a permanent position. It is much too early to discuss such a plan because the ideas for the expansion of the Woodrow Wilson School have not yet crystallized. This may take quite a while. I, however, am quite independent of the expansion plans and we could start talking about an invitation to the International Finance Section. What I don't know yet^{is} whether I can make long-term commitments; I probably would have no difficulty in getting authorization for a one-year appointment. Perhaps we can talk this over after I come back from Europe.

Can you help my memory and tell me whether you were a member of the Mises Privatseminar. I know for sure that you were in the Nationalökonomische Gesellschaft. My question concerns a seminar meeting we are planning for Friday, September 29, to celebrate Mises' eightieth birthday. I am enclosing a copy of the invitation that

I sent to those of whom I was sure that they were regular members. I hope you were and, if so, I hope you will come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fritz".

Fritz Machlup

Professor Ludwig Mises will be 80 years old on Friday, September 29, 1961. We thought it would be nice to hold an extraordinary meeting of the Vienna "mises Privatseminar" to celebrate this occasion and indulge in the pleasant memories of the intellectual and social activities of that unique group. Since neither the Handelskammer nor the Grune Anker are convenient meeting places for most of us, we propose Princeton, New Jersey as the place for the reunion. Husbands, wives, and widows of the members of the Privatseminar are invited.

Please let one of the undersigned members know whether you may be able to attend the meeting. If you find it impossible to come, please send us a letter to be read out loud, in honour of Professor Mises and perhaps containing some of your recollections of the old Privatseminar.

Incidentally, copies of the Felix Kaufmann Song Book will be on hand, so that this old tradition of the Seminar can be revived.



Fritz Machlup

Oskar Morgenstern

Princeton University

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PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

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June 12, 1978

Dr. Barbara A. Chernow
The Free Press
866 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Dr. Chernow:

I am right on time with my entry on Hayek, but it is only the semi-final version. It contains 4,700 words instead of 3,500. I am sending copies to a few friends with the request that they check my data and suggest the most expendable words or passages for deletion. I am asking you for the same advice.

As you will notice on page 3, I started marking sentences for possible cuts. I stopped this, because I first wanted to have your judgment. The article contains information that could easily be omitted from Hayek's biography if, but only if, the background information were available elsewhere, particularly in other articles of the IESS.

To offer some examples: On pages 4 and 5, and then on page 9, I discuss the Mises Circle, the Austrian Economic Society, the Geistkreis, and the Mont Pelerin Society. Hayek was founder or co-founder of the last three of these groups. If these groups are not described, the reader will make little sense of Hayek's role in them. I could well imagine a separate entry in the IESS on "Vienna Circles"; it would describe the Schlick circle of philosophers (always designated in the literature as the Vienna Circle), the Mises circle of economists and other social scientists, the Wittek-Pribam circle of historians, the Friedjung society of historians, the Geistkreis of humanists, art historians and social scientists, etc. This could be a fascinating article, covering groups that were in existence from around 1921 until 1938. As long as such an article does not exist, Hayek's biography needs descriptions of the groups whose influence he often recognized.

The article contains many sentences that noone would miss, but which give it much flavor. Instead of saying, for example, that 1921-1922 were years of hyper-inflation, I say that Hayek's salary rose within nine months from 5,000 kronen to one million kronen. Such an experience with inflation is apt to shape a person's mind.

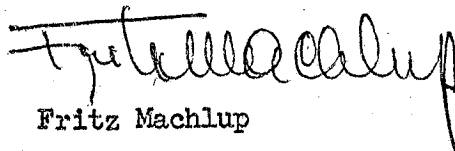
Your advice will be of great help. I suppose you will want me to do some cutting before the copy-editor tries to squeeze unnecessary verbiage out of the text.

I have another question on which I need your decision before I send you the bibliography. Hayek was editor of at least ten books for which he wrote important biographical or bibliographical introductions. My preference would be not to include these works among "Works by Hayek," because they are really works by Mill, Thornton, Menger, etc. I propose to have after the list of "Works by Hayek" a list of "Works Edited and Introduced by Hayek." When in my text I refer to Hayek's introductions to these works, I have added an "E" to the years of publication.

One last question: Hayek often published certain items first in German and later in English. Should I avoid the German titles in my text? Should I give both titles in the bibliography, or only the German or only the English?

I apologize for asking all these questions, but it saves your time and ours if I send you a clean copy that does not have to be completely revamped by your editor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fritz Machlup". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Fritz Machlup

4515 Willard Ave., # 2009 S
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015
June 26, 1978

Professor Fritz Machlup
P.O. Box 644
Princeton, N.J. 08540

Dear Fritz,

Thank you very much for your letter of June 12 and the draft of your excellent biography of Fritz Hayek.

It is a pity that it has to be shortened; if this is unavoidable, however, I'm afraid you will have to cut out the charming anecdotes of M's youth, family background, etc., as well as the mention of his Viennese friends. I'm deeply honored to have my name mentioned twice (once by mistake; contrary to the German edition of Mises's "Notes," I've never been a regular member of the Mises seminar) but I sincerely believe that neither my name nor those of the participants of the Mises seminar (excepting Haberler, yourself, and Morgenstern, who have deeply influenced M's work, and perhaps Eric Voegelin, the greatest of the greats among our Viennese friends) have a rightful place in such a short sketch. The story of M's "nobility" should, if possible, be put into a footnote; it needs to be mentioned only because of the tendency of people (like the Nobel committee) to call M. "von" -- and perhaps to counteract the silly habit of some Americans to talk of M. (as well as of the others of us whose name had that appendage) as of "aristocrats" (most recently in one of these "libertarian" books).

The fact of M's finishing his law course in three rather than four years was caused by a special dispensation due to his wartime military service, not to special ability (all of us did that).

You rightly want to mention our "circle," the Mises seminar, and the "National-Ökonomische Gesellschaft"; but I think, this ought to be done in chronological order. Not just because of pedantry but because the Mises seminar drew its most important participants from our "circle," and then the N.G. from the Mises seminar -- the "overlapping" you mention was no coincidence.

Finally, I wonder whether you ought not to mention two facts concerning M's background and youth. First, the extreme German nationalism of his family (his father was president of Vienna's Association of "German" -- i.e., Nazi -- physicians, and his mother as well as at least one of his brothers were fanatic Nazis); I'm convinced that his extreme anti-nationalism is a reaction against that family background (suggested, I think, when as a high-school student he fell in love with a Jewish girl). Second, in the fall of 1918 he founded (again with me -- but that's not the point) the Association of Democratic Students -- his first overt action in his life-long fight against both nationalism and socialism.

I suggest therefore a reformulation of the first 4-1/2 pages of the draft on the lines of the appendix to this letter. As to the rest, I have only the following suggestions:

Page 8: in line 3, eliminate the F.B.A. (duplication; see p. 13); in line 14, add Bernard Mandeville to the list of British thinkers.

Page 9: in line 14, mention that Lenerl was also his "childhood sweetheart" -- which makes the divorce more understandable.

Page 10: eliminate lines 6 - 9 (see above).

Page 11: in the last para., you may mention that Streissler is Austrian.

Page 12: I shouldn't call M's lagging output in the early '70s a "depression"; I should therefore suggest elimination of the sentence beginning in line 7 and of the words "recovered from his depression and" in line 12.

Page 13: you have already mentioned the Nobel prize; therefore, I suggest the following reformulation of the last sentence: In addition to the Nobel Memorial prize, he received the Austrian medal . . ."

Page 16: I think --- perhaps wrongly --- that H's views of competition are not as important as most of his other work, and believe therefore that the second para. could be eliminated. I'm also afraid that the last para. is extremely difficult to understand, and should suggest a simplification, perhaps on the following lines: "H. showed the conceptual and empirical links between an economic system based on a free market and a political system based on "liberty under law." H's ideas were gradually refined, . . ."

Page 17: in line 8, you mean rules of "a spontaneous order" (not "spontaneous orders" --- I assume it's a typo).

Page 18: in the last sentence you mention H's writings on (do you really mean "in"?) intellectual history as testimonies to his scholarship. They certainly are --- but not more so than his writings on economics and on social philosophy! I think, even more memorable are his chivalry and tolerance in his polemics, and the modesty and humility he shows (especially in his Nobel lecture) in such stark contrast not only to so many of his opponents but also to Mises (one of the reasons for my belief that H. is by far a greater scholar than Mises ever was -- and wherever I disagree with H., it's a point in which H. feels compelled to follow Mises).

I'm afraid that's all I can contribute. Once more: I was delighted to be able to read your draft and to make some suggestions; and it would be nice if we had an opportunity to talk of these (and other) matters the next time you come to Washington.

With best regards to both of you from both of us,

Yours,

J. Herbert Furth

PS: I don't know whether you've learned of the death of Ilse Schüller Mintz. For reasons unknown to me, there was no announcement in the Washington Post; I don't know whether there was one in the NY Times.

4515 Willard Ave., # 2009 S
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June 27, 1979

Professor Fritz Machlup
Department of Economics
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ 08540

Dear Fritz,

Thanks for your letter of June 21, and your highly interesting draft paper on Austrian Economics. I'm deeply flattered by your asking for my comments (though I know you're kidding when you talk about my "editorial skill"; you know very well that your English is much better than mine). In any case, here they are, two major objections, and a few minor suggestions (I don't need to tell you about the virtues of your paper -- you don't want a review but criticism).

A. You consider it a "major" difference between Menger and the other founders of neo-classicism that he was "entirely verbal" while the others "employed mathematical notations." In consequence, you call Auspitz and Lieben and, more importantly, Schumpeter "un-Austrian Austrians": very witty but, in my opinion, untenable. Mathematics is a language, and it does not make any substantial difference in principle which language you use to express your ideas (in some cases, the use of one or the other may lead to errors, and I'm quite aware of the pitfalls of using mathematical language -- but that's a question of which language is most appropriate for which idea, not a systematic problem). In fact, you're inconsistent: if you were right, you'd have to call Morgenstern un-Austrian, too!

I consider this point fundamental because it prevents you from pointing out the role of Schumpeter in developing Boehm's ideas. Schumpeter's theory of economic change and economic development -- which I consider the greatest feat of Austrian economics, and of economics of this century in general -- is the "logical" consequence of Boehm's theory of capital and interest (as he himself makes clear in his wonderful summary of Boehm's teachings), both in its original formulation of 1911, and its more pessimistic final formulation, thirty years later (with every passing year it seems to me to become more obvious that Schumpeter's vision of the development of the world economy and of economic thought was correct, rather than the vision of Keynes, Marx, or Mises-Hayek, not to speak of second-raters such as Galbraith).

B. Just as you seem to underrate Schumpeter, I'm afraid you're overrating Mises. All of us must admire Mises' genius; nevertheless, he was a narrow-minded dogmatic fanatic (as some critic once said, a theologian more than an economist), and while he was an unsurpassed teacher, he also was as dangerous as (in Grillparzer's famous lines) Vienna, the "Capua of the minds." I'm sure that Hayek, for instance, would be an even greater economist than he has become anyhow if he had been able to emancipate himself from some of Mises' most extreme teachings. As usual, I think that Schumpeter was right in his warning of identifying Austrian economics with "libertarianism"; after all, a theoretical system can lead to very different political proposals, depending on the value systems in which you believe (my Heidelberg teacher, Emil Lederer, told me nearly 60 years ago that he was in theory a pure Austrian though in politics a good social democrat; one can even be a Marxian in theory and a libertarian in politics, e.g., if one believes -- as I do -- that the danger to social and individual freedom involved in government ownership of all means of production far outweighs any potential benefit such ownership may have for production and distribution of economic goods).

Ever since 1918, when Hayek and I founded the democratic students association at the University of Vienna, I've been trying to persuade Hayek that such things as social security are a necessary corollary of the judgment that every society must protect all its members from starving; and I strongly believe that all other "reasonable" government interventions in economic activity can similarly be justified on strictly individualistic grounds, and are thus consistent with

"Austrian" economics. It's not a coincidence that those men who formulated the interwar system of Austria's social insurance (my father-in-law, Julius Kaan; my old teacher and family friend, Karl Pribram; and my cousin, Karl Forchheimer) were good "Austrian" economists. I'm afraid that your treatment of Mises will persuade the average American reader that he is right in committing exactly the error castigated by Schumpeter -- an error which, more than any other, prevents "Austrian" economics from prevailing against Marshall, Keynes, and Marx.

C. After this general sermon, the concrete suggestions:

Page 2: As far as I know, Gossen's formulation of the laws of marginal utility was far superior to that of his predecessors (I've long ago forgotten whatever I once knew of Galiani, Condillac, and Lloyd, and I must confess I never knew anything of Dupuit); I should therefore suggest inserting "especially" before "Gossen". Incidentally, good old Howard Piquet has recently published a book on Economic Axioms of the Austrian School, which I haven't read (Gottfried has) but which he expounded in a lecture I attended. Most of it was rather trivial but he made one point that impressed me as correct: he objected to translating "Grenzgutzen" as "marginal utility" because "utility" implied a value judgment, and proposed instead "marginal use" to emphasize the subjective and variable nature of the concept. You may want to look the book up.

Page 4: You seem to pass over one point I've always assumed to be one of the most important achievements of Menger's, especially in comparison to Jevons and Marshall: the unification of economic theory through abolishing the fundamental split between the theory of the monetary and the real sectors of the economy, and within the real sector, between the theories of value and prices, of capital, profit, and interest, and of labor, and thus especially between the theories of production and of distribution. In other words, by reducing economic activity to a varying expression of demand for use of goods and services, the theory becomes nearly as simple and elegant as Newton's theory of mechanics -- which had been the goal of economists ever since the days of Cantillon. My formulation of this point is too wordy; but if you think it worth while, I'm sure you'll find a good abbreviation.

Similarly, in discussing opportunity costs, you may want to point out that a basic difference between Austrian and classical (and therefore also semi-classical Marshallian and Keynesian) economics was the insight of the unimportance of historic costs, i.e., the "actual" costs of producing a commodity, for the evaluation of optimal rational economic behavior; I believe that this is one point in which Austrian economic theory has a direct impact on economic practice.

Page 3: In line with my remarks under A., I suggest the following reformulation of the first full sentence: "Their exposition, however, employed . . ."

Page 5: (mere editing) The first two lines may read better if they were changed to: "obtained from given inputs by means of processes taking more time."

More importantly, your formulation of the first full para. gives the impression that Boehm's capital theory were based on some erroneous value judgments of consumers and producers. Actually, of course, the "undervaluation" of future goods is completely rational (if I starve today, no amount of food tomorrow will be of any use to me); and incidentally, the distinction between perfectly rational time horizon valuation of individuals and of society as a whole is an excellent "Austrian" justification of government intervention in all cases in which society necessarily uses a lower discount rate than any individual member (e.g., in trying to avert damage to natural resources that would be felt in, say, 100 years). It is not so much the "satisfaction from future consumption" is discounted as the urgency of future needs -- the future being both uncertain (Knight!) and dependent on the present. I should therefore propose the following formulation of the passage following the paren in line 4: induces consumers to discount the urgency of future needs. Hence, saving (postponement of consumption out of income) is limited, and/capital is scarce.

capital is based on the need to bridge the gap between the initial use of the primary factors of production (labor and natural resources) and the availability of the final product, a gap that is steadily lengthening as more and more "roundabout ways of production" are employed in order to increase output." (the last sentence of the para. would be left out as it belongs to the next section).

Most importantly, I should suggest to start the next section right here, and to put the paragraphs dealing with Mises under the heading of "controversies," where they belong. I suggest the following shortened formulation:

Mises wanted to add the following tenets to that list:

7. Consumer Sovereignty. The control exerted by consumers through their demand on the production plans of producers and investors should remain free from all government interference with markets, and especially from all restrictions on the freedom of buyers and sellers of consumer goods and services as well as of labor, natural resources, and capital to follow their own judgment regarding quantities, qualities, and prices.

8. Political Individualism. Full economic freedom is necessary to secure political and moral freedom, and any restriction of economic freedom necessarily results sooner or later in the destruction of the basic liberties the capitalistic societies were able to attain in the 19th century.

These tenets have been accepted by many students of Mises but have been questioned or downright rejected by many other Austrian economists. Schumpeter, for instance, has protested against "an association between marginalism and capitalistic apologetics" (History of Economic Analysis, p. 870). Nevertheless, in the United States the label "Austrian Economics" is often believed to imply a commitment to a "libertarian" program, which would not be acceptable to many members of the school.

There have been numerous other heated controversies among Austrian economists. Menger and Wieser rejected Boehm-Bawerk's theory of capital and interest. Boehm-Bawerk and Wieser debated whether the "total utility" of more than one unit of a given commodity or service was equal to the sum or to the integral of the last unit's marginal utility. . . . "

Page 8: In line with my comments under B., I suggest the following reformulation of the page, beginning with line 9: "Two Viennese economist of that period, Rudolf Auspitz and Richard Lieben, combined the ideas of the Austrian school with mathematical and statistical methods. The same is true of Joseph Schumpeter, who gave his strongest allegiance to Leon Walras but at the same time made Boehm-Bawerk's theory of capital the starting point for his own theories of economic change and development, and should therefore be counted as the greatest of the "third generation" of Austrian economists. Most members of that generation had been members of the Boehm-Bawerk seminar, and began to publish after 1900. They include Ludwig Mises . . . "

Page 9: Don't you think that Ilse Schueller Mintz and Steffy Browne should be mentioned in the first para.? They are surely as important as Zuckerkandl, Komorzinsky, or Cuhel, whom nobody today reads (or knows) -- while Ilse is being quoted more and more often, and I understand that Steffy's Theory of Economic Policy is still regarded as a basic text, not only in Austria but even in Germany.

Among the "Non-Austrians," I should include Enrico Barone with the Italians. I must confess that I've never heard of Landry; Leroy-Beaulieu's first name was (according to my "Brockhaus") Pierre-Paul. In the next-to-last line, I should add, after "Sweden" the following: ", who in turn decisively influenced the younger Swedish school, from Gunnar Myrdal and Bertil Olin to Erik Lundberg and Asser Lindbeck." And should you not add some Germans, such as Wilhem Roepke, Walter Eucken, and the "social market order" school that was responsible for the postwar "German miracle"?

Incidentally, I'm sure you know that there were two Verrijn Stuart in the Netherlands (father and son, I believe); I met the younger one (who was simultaneously full-time professor, president of the country's largest bank, and chairman of the country's price and wage council) when we both taught at the University of Luxembourg in the summer of 1960. he was as good an "Austrian" economist as his father, and you may want to mention both of them.

Page 10: Again I must confess that I don't remember Smart and Scott (first para.) but don't you want to add T. W. Hutchinson? And if you give Haberler, Hayek, Mises, and Strigl their obsolete "von," you surely should call Robbins "Lord" and John Hicks "Sir" (are you sure that Hicks would like to be called an honorary Austrian?)!

I can think of quite a few American economists to add to your list (second para.) among the older generation certainly Frank W. Taussig (1859-1940) if only because he was responsible for bringing Schumpeter and Haberler to this country and thereby made Harvard the center of Austro-American economics -- until eclipsed (of course) by Princeton. Among our contemporaries Jacob Viner (1892-1970), whose work on economic integration is -- as your own work proves -- in the best tradition of Austrian economic thinking; certainly Howard Ellis (who not only spent quite some time in Austria but also married an Austrian girl), and my late ~~colleague~~, Arthur W. Marget (1899-1962), who had his disagreements with some Austrians (as with everybody else) but was deeply influenced by "Austrian" ideas and has quite recently been quoted by Hayek as the best if not only good monetary theorist of recent years. And what of Frank Knight (in spite of his polemics, which showed "Austrian" influence as much as complete agreement would have), and the entire Chicago school, up to Milton Friedman?

I'm afraid that you are right in mentioning the most recent "neo-Austrians" and "libertarians" though I assume you agree with me that they are a sorry bunch. They have inherited Mises' dogmatism without his genius, and are continuously quoting Hayek without (in my opinion) understanding a word of what he really means. I'm disgusted when I find Murray Rothbard arguing that freedom of expression implies that blackmail cannot be punished, or even a Milton Friedman trying to prove that individual freedom is in terrible danger as long as the Government opens national parks to the public without charge or requires doctors to study medicine and pass an exam before being permitted to practice (as he does, if you've forgotten it, on page after page in his Capitalism and Freedom). Nevertheless, as you cannot ignore them, Ludwig Lachmann and Murray Rothbard might as well be mentioned in addition to Kirzner (of whom I know mercifully little).

That's all I can think of -- and I must apologize for my typing: both my typewriter and I seem to be getting older day by day. No, one more thought: should you not mention birth and death years for all scholars listed?

Thanks once more for having sent me your draft, and best regards from both of us to all of you,

Sincerely yours,

J. Herbert Furth

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7-21-79

Professor Fritz Machlup
Department of Economics
New York University
8 Washington Place, Room 700
New York, NY 10003

Dear Fritz,

Thanks for your letters of July 16 and 17. I enclose the first one and hope you'll return it to me.

I was happy to know that (i) failure to make a copy happens not only to oldsters like me but also to youngsters like you; (ii) you're going to insert "especially" before Gossen -- perhaps not the most earthshaking contribution I could make to the history of economics but certainly better than nothing.

I'm sorry that you didn't feel able to accept my other suggestions. You know that I consider Hayek the "Dean" of the Austrian School; nevertheless, he still is only one of many members, and has no authority to excommunicate those who are not fully in agreement with his views. Moreover, the sentences you quote don't contradict my opinion about Auspitz, Lieben, and Schumpeter: sure, they can be included in the school only "with qualifications" or "not wholly" -- but that is very different from calling them "un-Austrian"! Incidentally -- would you deny that you, too -- like every original thinker -- have absorbed "many other influences" besides Menger, Boehm, and Wieser? And as to the consensus of the "literature from 1871 to the 1940's," I think we should consider these economists members of the Austrian school who accept the correct teaching of ~~the~~ founders, not their errors!

You're quite right that your text -- in contrast to my sentence about Schumpeter -- excludes all value judgments; nevertheless, your original version made it clear that you regarded Mises as the "mainstream" and, at least by implication, all less radical "libertarians" as deviations from the true course -- while my views are exactly the opposite. You're also right that all those "Neo-Austrians" in the United States (and perhaps abroad) cater to the Misesian bias, and you're right that this fact must be mentioned in your article. Just for that reason, however, I still believe you should indicate that the equation of Austrian economic theory and radical libertarianism is simply wrong. Even Mises seems to have conceded that point: in his autobiography he calls my father "a good economist" although he knew very well that my father was a strong advocate of "social policy" (as was his close personal and political friend, Philippevich).

I'm quite shocked to hear about Steffy's approach to you; just for the record: she didn't approach me (and I'm sure, not Haberler either), and -- needless to say -- I suggested her name not out of friendship but because I really think she is more worthy of inclusion than any of those you name in your letter (I had thought of Franz X. Weiss -- but what have Landauer, Schams, or Tintner to do with the "Austrian" kind of economics? and what have the others contributed to economic theory? Zwiedineck-Südenhorst ~~was~~ have deserves inclusion not because of his writings but because I've always considered his name the most typical example of the Austrian "mélange"). And you certainly don't judge scholars by the quantity of their papers (incidentally, I got the notion that her work still is being studied not from her but from Knut Borchardt).

Two other names came to my mind: Alfred Amonn and Richard Reisch. And Verrijn Stuart's initials are C. A. (I got that from Gottfried, who got it from the Wieser "Festschrift"; Schumpeter and Boehm don't give them, perhaps because they thought that Verrijn was his first name).

Once more, thanks and best regards,

Yours,

J. herbert Furth

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REFORM CLUB,
PALM MALL S.W. 1.

28.8.39

Lieber Herbert,

Dein Brief kam knapp bevor ich noch auf eine kurze Rundreise durch den alten Kontinent abfuhr und die Woche, die ich seither zurück bin, war wenig dazu geeignet, die Ruhe zum Schreiben zu finden. Doch du glücklich untergekommen bist wußte ich natürlich schon und hat mich sehr gefreut - wahrscheinlich wird sich ja noch zeigen, daß trotz aller Unannehmlichkeiten der letzten Jahre Ihr die Ihr darüber seid, den besten Teil erwählt habt. Wie du siehst, werde ich jetzt langsam aus dem allgemeinen Pessimismus hier ergriffen, wenn ich auch ^{noch} verhältnismäßig hoffnungsvoller bin, als die meisten meiner Bekannten.

In Anbetracht der Umstände hatte ich seit deinem Brief noch keine Möglichkeit, mich um deine Fein Mutter zu kümmern. Aber sobald irgendwo Ruhe eintritt hoffen wir sie zu sehen. Es ist sonst in diesem Stadium

da Ungewissheit gar nicht zu bestehen - wenn
man nicht weiß, wo man morgen sein wird und
in keine Hinsicht Pläne machen kann ist
es schwer, von sich etwas zu erzählen. Ich soll
wohl in ein oder zwei Wochen zu zwei Konferenzen
in Genf und Paris fahren, aber all das kommt
mir jetzt völlig unvorstellbar vor.

Zu Hause geht es uns allen gut - morgen
sollten die Kinder die für sie gebaute Zimmer
bezichen; ob es wohl dazu kommt.

Heylliche Grüße an Euch alle, auch
von Wella, Dein Fritz H.

5. April 1973

Lieber Herbert,

Dein Brief ist immer eine grosse Freude und wenn ich die Beantwortung dann doch immer wieder hinausschiebe so ist der Grund, dass ich gerade beim Briefschreiben so stark merke, wie schlecht mein Gehirn funktioniert. Diesmal hat mich Dein Brief freilich in besonders schlechten Zustand erreicht: ich musste mich vor etwa sechs Wochen ziemlich plötzlich zu einer Gallenoperation entschliessen die eine Erweiterung des Gallenganges in sich schloss, obwohl alles normal gegangen zu sein scheint, finde ich nun ausserordentlich schwer, wieder zu Kräften zu kommen.

Warum bei so vielen (aber keineswegs allen) Menschen gerade bei etwa 70 die Leistungsfähigkeit so sehr versagt, ist mir nicht klar, aber Du hast sicher recht, dass man dann nach besser gar nicht mehr versucht zu schreiben. Es ist nur besonders bitter, wenn das auch die Vollendung eines Buches unmöglich macht, an das man noch sechs oder sieben Jahre der Produktivität aufgewendet hat. Ein erster Band von Law, Legislation, and Liberty wird wohl noch erscheinen und ich erwarte sogar mit grosser Angst jeden Tag das Einreffen der Korrekturen, aber die Hoffnung, den Rest druckfertig zu machen, habe ich ziemlich aufgegeben. Es war im letzten Winter in Freiburg, dass ich plötzlich nicht mehr weiter kam.

Komischer Weise kam am gleichen Tag mit Deinem Brief das Buch über Wittgenstein's Vienna, das Du erwähnst und ein zweites Buch über W., die ich für die N.Y. Review of Books besprechen soll. (Ich weiss nicht, ob Du weisst, dass ich vor zwanzig Jahren ein Biographie W. begonnen hatte, der ein sehr entfernter Vetter von mir war und den ich zwar nie gut aber doch über 30 Jahre und sowohl in Wien als in England gekannt hatte. Vor allem kannte ich natürlich seinen Familienkreis wenn auch die Beziehung - über ganz unintellektuelle steirische Grundbesitzer - schon nur mehr sehr lose war. Ich gab den Plan dann auf, als mir W.'s literarische Testamentsvollstrecker nicht gestatteten, die Briefe W.'s and Bertrand Russel abzdrukken, um die ich einen grossen Teil des Entwurfes aufgebaut hatte). Ich erwähne das alles um zu sagen, dass ich eigentlich für eine Besprechung der beiden Bücher eine Menge zu sagen hätte, aber nicht glaube, dass es mir noch gelingen wird, den längeren Aufsatz, den die N.Y.R.B. will, fertigzustellen. Es ist freilich auch nicht ganz leicht zu erklären, warum ein solcher Versuch, wie ihn das eine Buch macht, W. aus seiner Wiener Umgebung zu "erklären" misslingen muss - so interessant das Buch auch in vieler Hinsicht ist. Die Verfasser benützen die Gelegenheit auch, um sozusagen alles, was im Wien der Jahrhundertwende interessant war, darzustellen, ob es mit W. etwas zu tun hat oder nicht. Dass Wien in den ersten drei Jahrzehnten des Jahrhunderts erstaunlich fruchtbar war ist sicher - ich frage mich manchmal, ob das nicht ein Verfallssymptom ist, da London 1930-60 eine so ähnliche Erscheinung darstellt.

Angesichts meiner augenblicklichen Verfassung weiss ich nicht, ob ich meine Vorlesungen noch einmal aufnehmen werde. Ich habe vorläufig den Beginn bis nach Ostern verschoben. Im Augenblick bin ich, da ich mich noch nicht allein in die Stadt wage, mehr von Menschen abgeschnitten denn je und weiss nicht recht, was mit mir anfangen: nie ein richtiges hobby gehabt zu haben rächt sich schliesslich und bei meiner gegenwärtigen Kraftlosigkeit hilft auch die beste Ansicht nicht, Lenerl, die im Haus überlastet ist, zu helfen. - Engel-Janosi's (anklässlich seines 80. Geburtstages) erschienenen Aufsatz in der Presse habe ich auch mit Vergnügen gelesen.

ER war übrigens vor ein paar Wochen einmal hier und is in erstaunlich guter VERfassung. Dagegen höre ich jetzt betrübliche Nachrichten über den plötzlichen geistigen Verfall von Mises. Das sollte niemand erleben müssen. Wie weit wir jetzt noch zum Reisen kommen werden weiss ich nicht - jedenfalls musste ich meine geplante Frühjahrsreise nach London aufgeben und weiss nicht, wann ich meine Kinder wieder sehen werde. Es freut uns sehr zu hören, dass es Emmy jetzt wieder viel besser geht - vielleicht entschliesst Ihr Euch doch noch einmal zu einer grösseren Reise. Jedenfalls an Euch beider die allerherzlichsten Wünsche und Grüsse sowohl von Lenerl als von

Damen
Fritz

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11. Oktober 1977

Lieber Herbert,

Ich war gerade daran, Dir die beiliegende Kopie meines Wittgenstein-Aufsatzes zuschicken, als Dein sehr willkommener Brief vom 6. eintraf. Es ist mir nicht ganz klar, wie Du daraus herausliest, dass ich durch Wittgenstein's väterliche Grossmutter mit ihm verwandt war. Deine erste Vermutung war richtig: seine Mutter, Poldi Wittgenstein ("Poldi-Hütte") war eine geborene Kalmus und deren Mutter eine geborene Stallner aus Hochenegg bei Cilli, die Schwester meines Urgrossvaters Johann Stallner.

Ich bin augenblicklich dabei, mich nach einem sehr erholsamen Sommer in Obergurgl (wo ich freilich auf keine Berge mehr steige, sondern vergeblich versuchte, das Schlusskapital von L.L.&.L III fertigzumachen) von einer eher argen Magen- und Darminfektion zu erholen, die ich mir auf einem anschliessenden Besuch in England holte, wo ich, (nachdem ich meine Kinder in Devon besucht hatte) nur gerade aus meinem Bett im Club kriechen konnte, um zwei lang vereinbarte Vorträge für die BBC (denen ich monatelange Arbeit gewidmet hatte) auf Tonband zu sprechen. Jetzt bin ich bis Anfang November hier um dann am 6. nach einem Tag in New York zu einem Erscheinen in Firing Line und einem Tag in Hillsdale College (Michigan -um eine Mises Lecture zu geben) zunächst zu einem Monetary Congress in New Orleans und dann auf vier Wochen in vier südamerikanische Staaten zu fliegen.

Gerschenkron's Buch wird mich interessieren, wenn ich es mir beschaffen kann. Aber ich darf mich im Augenblick nicht ablenken lassen. Ich

"Still hope against hope" bevor ich die nächste
Reise ~~xxxx~~ antrete, Bd. III von L.L.&L. abzu-
schliessen: das an sich erfreuliche Hinderniss
ist, dass mir im Laufe der Vielen Jahre, die
ich an dem Buche arbeite, und besonders in
letzter Zeit so viele neue Ideen gekommen
sind, die ich noch irgend wie hineinbringen
möchte, das ausser dem systematisch erfor-
derlichen Schlusskapital, vor dem ich vor
sieben Jahren infolge meines Gesundheitszu-
standes die systematische Arbeit abbrechen
musste, jetzt noch ein langes Schlusswort
über das Verhältnis von Moral und Wirtschaft
und die Ursprung menschlicher Werte anfügen
muss. Andeutungen warum es sich handelt, wirst
Du in meinen New Studies on Philosophy etc.
finden, die DU hoffentlich in den nächsten
Wochen erhalten wirst.

Herzliche Grüsse auch "von und an"

Fritz