

18th of January 1953

Professor Dr. J. von Neumann  
Institute of Advanced Study  
P r i n c e t o n  
New Jersey

Dear Von Neumann,

We have here a very good young mathematician, Dr. Kurt Strebel. He is my assistant, but he is a pupil of Nevanlinna's. Dr. Strebel will shortly be admitted as Privatdozent. Now, both Prof. Nevanlinna and myself thought it would be very good for Dr. Strebel to spend a year in the United States. Would it be possible to obtain a fellowship for Princeton, beginning autumn 1953? I enclose a Gutachten on his Habilitationsschrift, from which you can see what his work is about. His previous publications are:

Eine Bemerkung zur Hebbbarkeit des Randes einer  
Riemannschen Fläche. Comm.math.Helv. 1949.

Eine Ungleichung für extremale Längen.  
Ann. Acad.Sci. Fenn. 1951.

Ueber das Kreisnormierungsproblem der konformen  
Abbildung. Ann.Acad.Sci. Fenn. 1951.

Dr. Strebel is Swiss, a very nice and jolly fellow, and an excellent teacher.

Would you mind sending me an application form, that is, if you judge that Dr. Strebel's chances are good?

Yours most cordially

B

(Prof.Dr.B.L.van der Waerden)

enclosure.



THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY  
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

January 23, 1953

Dear van der Waerden:

Thank you for your letter of January 18 concerning Dr. Kurt Strebel. His credentials look good to me, but our stipend funds for 1953-54 are already largely exhausted. It is, nevertheless, not impossible that we may be able to do something, but, because of the reason mentioned above, this is a good deal more uncertain than Dr. Strebel's objective qualifications should warrant. If we are unable to act favorably for 1953-54, would Dr. Strebel be interested in 1954-55?

I am enclosing the Institute Application Blanks with this letter, and I am also circulating your and Professor Nevanlinna's letters to my colleagues.

I am, with best regards,

Yours cordially,

*John von Neumann*

John von Neumann

JvN:eg  
Encl.

Prof. Dr. B.L. van der Waerden  
Mathematisches Institut der  
Universität Zürich  
Zürich, GERMANY

Dear Von Neumann,

Many thanks for your letter of Jan. 23.  
Dr. Strebel has applied for a Swiss stipendium,  
~~and it seems that he will be granted.~~  
~~which~~ will enable him to go to America. We  
have the impression that this will be granted.  
If not, he could perhaps apply for 1954/55.

In any case I keep the application forms you sent me.  
Yours most cordially



31.Jan. 1953

Prof. Dr. John von Neumann  
Institute for advanced study  
P r i n c e t o n  
New Jersey

Dear von Neumann,

Many thanks for your letter of  
Jan. 23. Dr. S t r e b e l has applied for  
a Swiss stipendium, which will enable him to  
go to America. We have the impression that  
this will be granted. If not, he could per-  
haps apply for 1954/55. In any case I keep  
the application forms you sent me.

Yours most cordially

(B.L.van der Waerden)



My dear Von Neumann,  
Many thanks for your kind letter. I shall be glad to accept the fellowship offered to him.  
Concerning the duration of his stay in Princeton  
he will write to the authorities of the Institute.

FLUGPOST

Prof. Dr. J. Von Neumann  
Institute of Advanced Study

P R I N C E T O N

(B.L. van der Waerden)

New Jersey

U.S.A.



Zürich 38, Rainfussweg 7  
February 25.1953

My dear Von Neurann,

Many thanks for your kind letter. Strebel will  
be glad to accept the fellowship offered to him.  
Concerning the duration of his stay in Princeton  
he will write to the authorities of the Institute.

Herzliche Grüsse  
Ihr  
Institute of Advanced Study

PRINCETON

(B.L.van der Waerden)

New Jersey

U.S.A.



13. Juli 1953

Professor J. von Neumann  
Institute for Advanced Study  
Princeton N.J., U.S.A.

Mein lieber Prinz,

Sie würden uns eine grosse Freude machen, wenn Sie nach dem Amsterdamer Kongress, am liebsten in der letzten Oktoberwoche, einen Vortrag im gemeinsamen Kolloquium der Universität und der E.T.H. Zürich halten würden. Es tut uns leid, dass wir Ihnen kein fürstliches Honorar anbieten können, aber 300 Schweizerfranken für Ihre Reisespesen stehen zur Verfügung.

Die Einladung geht von Finsler, Nevanlinna und mir aus, aber auch die Herren von der E.T.H. würden sich sehr freuen, wenn Sie zusagen wollten. Die Einzelheiten können wir dann im Sommer 1954 regeln.

Freundliche Grüsse

Ihr

(B.L.van der Waerden)



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
LOS ALAMOS SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY  
(CONTRACT W-7405-ENG-36)  
P. O. Box 1663  
Los Alamos, New Mexico

August 24, 1953

IN REPLY  
REFER TO:

Professor B. L. van der Waerden  
Mathematisches Institut  
der Universität Zürich  
Zürich, Switzerland

Dear van der Waerden:

Please excuse my delay in answering your very kind invitation of July 13--I have been travelling a good deal and was in Mexico during most of the last five weeks.

I would like to visit Zürich during my European trip next summer, but I am afraid that I won't be able to come there after the Congress. I expect that I will have to return then more or less directly (with at most a short stopover in England) to Princeton. I do expect to come to Zürich shortly before the Congress--but I am afraid that this may not be a very good time for seeing you or the other colleagues there or to give a talk, since this is likely to be your vacation period. Am I correct in this? If this is not the case, I would be more than delighted to stop in Zürich before the Congress and give a talk at this time, if this is agreeable to you.

With best personal regards,

Cordially yours,

*mit den besten Grüßen,  
Stef. Ziv*

John von Neumann.

JvN:mag

*J. von Neumann*

Dear von Neumann

You are right that August-September is a vacation period here. The vacations begin about July 18. I am very sorry that a talk at our Colloquium is out of the question. However, I'll be delighted to see you personally. I'll be in town from Aug. 20 until the beginning of the Amsterdam congress. Yours most cordially.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
LOS ALAMOS SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY  
(Correspondence)  
P.O. Box 1663  
Los Alamos, New Mexico

August 24, 1953

Professor E. J. van der Waerden  
Mathematisches Institut  
der Universität Zürich  
Zürich, Switzerland

Dear van der Waerden:

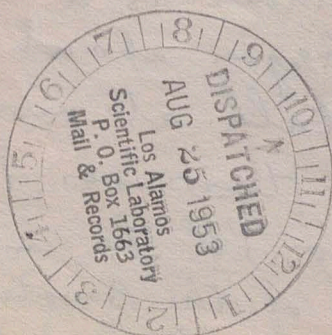
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a talk at this time, if this is agreeable to you.

With best personal regards,

Cordially yours,

John von Neumann





31. August 1953

Professor Dr. J. von Neumann  
Institute of Advanced Study

P r i n c e t o n

N.J. USA

Dear von Neumann,

You are right that August-September is a vacation period here. The vacations begin about July 18. I am very sorry that a talk at our Colloquium therefore is out of question. However, I shall be delighted to see you personally. I shall be in town from August 20th until the beginning of the Amsterdam congress.

Yours most cordially

(B.L.van der Waerden)