

Williams Inn

A "Treadway Inn"

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS



Philip G. Frank
1558 Massachusetts St.
Cambridge Mass

Min Gertrude M. Greenwood
Executive Secretary
Dorchester College, Dorchester, Mass.

Dear Min Greenwood:

Two weeks ago I heard from the Chairman of our (Harvard) Physics Department that your College was interested in some lecture I could give in spring. By chance, I gave yesterday a lecture at Williams College (Science Club), since Min College is very near to your place I could hear round about the interesting work done by your College and I hope you will not mind me to give some information about me which may be, perhaps, helpful.

The topic of my lecture at Williams was: "of what use is a training in philosophy to the science teacher?" Actually my interest is centered upon the relation of physics & philosophy and the use which can be made of this relation to contribute to the integration of science and humanities in a liberal education.

Besides of my work in physics proper in the Physics Department at Harvard I gave quite a few lectures on topics of philosophy of science and general questions of science, mostly to the people of the Harvard College Observatory. You may obtain information about this part of my work from the director of this Observatory, Professor Harlow Shapley.

Here at William, I gave only one lecture and I am going to leave to-night for Cambridge. But you may obtain some information about my talk from the Chairman of the Mathematics Department at William, who is also interested in the correlation of science and philosophy.

With my best regards

Sincerely yours

Philippe G. Frank
Lecturer on Physics and Mathematics, Harvard University.

December 6, 1943

Professor Philipp G. Frank
1558 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Frank:

Last October you were good enough to indicate in a letter to Miss Gertrude Greenwood that you might be interested in giving a lecture at Bennington College. I write to you today, therefore, to ask you whether you would consider an invitation to speak here next spring. I better say right away that we can offer you no financial inducement. Our standard fee is \$25 and expenses. But I think that I might add that this College has been very deeply interested in the relationship between science and the humanities, and that both student body and faculty would appreciate it very much if you could give us an evening of your time.

The date we have in mind would be sometime between the first of May and the fifteenth of June, preferably the second half of May. I think that it may be that you would be interested in what we are doing here and I have, therefore, taken the liberty of sending you our latest College Catalog as well as a recent speech of Mr. Lewis Webster Jones, the President of this College, on the integration of the liberal arts curriculum, in which a good deal of attention is being given to the place of science in the curriculum.

Being a girls' college Bennington does not have many science students. Hence we do not want you to address yourself to the science students as you did at Williams College, but to the general community, few of whom have ever gone beyond elementary algebra. At the same time we would not want you to be "popular" in the invidious sense but would want you to feel free to be as strict in your standards as you desire. It has been our experience that it is better to have a lecturer too difficult than too simplified.

As to the subject I think it ought to be somewhat on the lines of a discussion of the philosophical issues involved in modern physics. Maybe I am prejudiced but I remember very vividly

a talk you gave some fifteen years ago in Vienna to which I owe whatever little I know of modern science. In this talk - it must have been a short time after your book on the limits of causality had appeared - you showed how the Cartesian split between metaphysics and method had made possible modern science, how we had reached the limits of this philosophical system and how we need a new synthesis between metaphysics and method in order to continue work in science. This is probably a most inaccurate summary; and anyhow you may not want to give such a talk. But something along these lines would do a great deal to overcome the split between science and the humanities which plagues us here; we would like the scientists to see their own philosophical assumptions and we would like the non-scientists to understand that the same philosophical problems they are concerned with are the concern of science as well. Anything you could do along these or similar lines would be very much appreciated here.

We shall be happy to hear from you whether you could accept such an invitation for next spring.

Sincerely yours,

Peter F. Drucker, Chairman
Meetings and Exhibitions Committee

PHILIPP FRANK
HARVARD UN., DPT. OF PHYSICS
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Peter F. Drucker
Bennington College
Bennington Vt.

Dec. 15, 1943

Dear Professor Drucker,

Many thanks for your kind letter of Dec. 6. It has been very friendly of you to remember still my lecture of 15 years ago.

Since that time so many things have happened and I have experienced so many new impressions that I am hardly the same man I was at that distant date. I have been teaching at Harvard almost five years. While I was lecturing in Prague exclusively about technical problems of physics I have given at Harvard regular courses on the philosophy of physical science. Since I delivered the same lectures at Radcliff College I have also a certain experience about girl colleges.

I shall be very glad to speak at Bennington in the spring term. The program of your College and the address of your President outlined a type of studies which seems to me an excellent basis for a general education. It will be for me a great honor and a great pleasure to address your faculty and your students on a topic related to the interaction between ^{the} advance of science and ^{the} advance of philosophy.

Perhaps a good title would be: Birth, life and fossilization of scientific doctrines. Or, if you prefer a short and a little provoking title: The fossilization of science.

However, it is perhaps not necessary to choose a final title right now.

There is also another subject which I discussed recently in several addresses: Science and Politics. The subject would be, exactly speaking, the use or misuse of scientific doctrines to bolster up political creeds.

I do not yet know my time table for the spring term exactly. We have at Harvard a reading period between June 4th and 14th. During these days I am certainly free.

But I am pretty sure that I could also manage to come to Bennington some Friday evening in the second half of May.

Please give my best regards to ~~the members of~~ your faculty. I shall be very glad to meet you again and to get acquainted with the members of your staff.

Very sincerely

yours

Philip Frank

I am sending with the same mail some reprints of papers which I published recently in the line of thought to which you refer in your letter.

April 8, 1944

Professor Philipp Frank
Harvard University
Department of Physics
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Frank,

Mr. Drucker has asked me to write you to find out if your plans are such that you could now set a definite date for your lecture at Bennington this spring. Our evening lectures are usually held on Mondays and Thursdays and I would suggest either Monday, May 15th, or Thursday, May 18th. If either of these dates is not convenient for you, however, Friday, May 19th, or Friday, May 26th, would also be possible. Will you please let me know if one of these days would be possible for you?

Mr. Drucker will write you a little later about the title of your talk.

Sincerely yours,

MB
Marjorie Beebe, Secretary
Meetings and Exhibitions Committee

JEFFERSON
PHYSICAL
LABORATORY

THE PHYSICS LABORATORIES
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

Mon. May 15

April 12, 1944

Dear Miss Beebe:

Thank you for your letter of April 8. The most convenient date for me would be Monday, May 15. However, there is one difficulty. I have a class in the morning and can probably catch no train before 11.25 A.M. Please let me know whether I will be able to arrive at your college on time, if I take this train.

By the way, I do not know the exact hour of the lecture, nor how to reach the college from the station.

With my best regards I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Philipp Frank

Philipp Frank

Miss Marjorie Beebe, Secretary
Meetings and Exhibitions Committee
Bennington College
Bennington, Vermont.

April 15, 1944

Professor Philipp Frank
Harvard University
Department of Physics
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Frank,

On behalf of Bennington College I want to tell you how happy I am that you can speak here on Monday, May 15th. We are looking forward with great anticipation to this talk which will probably be the first in a rather informal and loose series discussing some contemporary problems of philosophy. As far as our plans are now, the other speakers in this series of meetings will talk on the meaning and function of symbols, the philosophy of Henry Adams, and some basic philosophical problems in the modern churches. As you see, we have made no attempt to impose any central idea upon the meetings; nor is there any intention of making them anything else but a personal expression of the speaker's interests and beliefs.

As to the concrete topic which we hope you will be good enough to talk on, our main interest would be in the philosophical issues in modern physics. This would probably be very close to what you had in mind with your title, "The Fossilization of Science" - actually this is probably the best title and the best subject we could have here just at this moment.

I also want to say that our meetings are rather informal. We usually have a talk of some forty-five to fifty-five minutes, followed by a question period in the student lounge lasting for half an hour, after which some members of the faculty hope to have the pleasure of your company at a small party. And we also hope that it will be possible for you to stay on as our guest for as long as you want to because we should like very much to show you what we are doing here.

The lecture would be given at 7:35 in the evening, so that if you are able to get a train from Boston at 11:25 a.m. you will surely have enough time. We shall be glad to have the College car meet you in Hoosick Falls, which is the station nearest the College on the Boston & Maine Railroad, if you will let Miss Beebe know a little later just when you plan to arrive.

Looking forward to welcoming you here on May 15th,

Sincerely yours,

Peter F. Drucker, Chairman
Meetings and Exhibitions Committee

7/10


May 2, 1944

Professor Philipp Frank
Harvard University
Department of Physics
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Frank,

Our students would appreciate very much having a list of suggested reading which the Librarian might make available to them in advance of your lecture here on May 15th. I wonder if it would be at all possible for you to send us such a list at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,


Marjorie Beebe
Secretary, Meetings Committee

P. Frank

List of books.

- ✓ Eddington A. The Nature of the physical World. 501
- ✓ " Philosophy of Physical Science 530.1
- ✓ Russell B. Logic and Mystics mysticism and logic 192.9
- ✓ " The Scientific Outlook
- Stebbing Suzan, Philosophy and the Physicists.
- Jeans A. The mysterious Universe
- ✓ " ~~Philosophy and Physics~~ Physics and philosophy (just read)
- P. Frank Between Physics and Philosophy —
- Maritain J. The degrees of knowledge
- ✓ Bridgman P.W. Logic of Modern ~~Science~~ physics 530.1
- ✓ ~~De Broglie L. Matter and Light~~
- ✓ ~~De Broglie L. Matter and Light~~
- ✓ Darrow K. The Renaissance of Physics 530
- ✓ Born M. The restless Universe. 530.1

B-
phys/101
1932

Law
Philipp Frank.

Das Ende der mechanistischen Physik.
530.1

PHILIPP FRANK
HARVARD UN., DPT. OF PHYSICS
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

5-8-44
(L.A.B.) MB ✓

May 5, 1944

Miss Marjorie Beebe
Benington College
Bennington, Vt.

Dear Miss Beebe,

Thanks for your friendly word of May 2. Enclosed I send you some titles of books. They may not be very closely related to the content of my address. However they may give a certain idea of the subject matter.

If nothing comes across I shall arrive at Hoosick Falls station at 4.57 p.m. Monday, May 15. I hope to meet there some transportation. I could spend the night on the campus if there is some facility. Probably, I could stay at Bennington Tuesday morning and leave about the early afternoon.

With my best regards

yours

sincerely

Philipp Frank

*Miss Beebe
ask. no. directed
Mrs. DeKray
M. DeKray*

INTEROFFICE MEMO

Bennington College

Date May 10th, 1944

To Miss Beebe

From

Drucker
Mr. Lundberg

Re: Dr. Philipp Frank Lecture

There will be a dinner at 6:30 for Dr. Frank given by Mr. Drucker to which will be invited:

- ✓ Mrs. Drucker *ok*
- ✓ Mr. Lundberg *ok*
- ✓ Mr. Jordan *ok*
- ✓ Mrs. DeGray *ok*
- ✓ Flora Bond
- ✓ Idolene Hegemann *ok*

Drucker

with Frank

Bennington College
May 13, 1944

GENERAL MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Monday, May 15th 7:35 P.M. Theatre

Lecture by Dr. Philipp Frank on

"PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES IN MODERN SCIENCE"

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May 18, 1944

Professor Philipp Frank
Harvard University
Department of Physics
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Frank,

I have asked the Comptroller's Office to send you a check to cover your honorarium for your lecture at Bennington College. As you know, we should also like to pay your traveling expenses and if you will send me a statement showing the amount, I shall arrange to have a check sent to you in payment.

We were all delighted that you could visit the College and hope that you will come to see us again sometime.

Sincerely yours,

MB
Marjorie Beebe, Secretary
Meetings Committee

P. Frank
Dpt. of Physics
Harvard Un.

May 19, 1944

Dr. Peter Drucker
Bennington College
Bennington Vt.

Dear Dr. Drucker,

Being now back from my trip to Bennington I wish to thank to you and your friends ~~for~~ the kind reception given to me. I shall remember always with delight the picture of your College. The progressive way of teaching and educating has impressed me much. The discussions with you and some of your colleagues have been very stimulating to me.

The question period after my speech gave me a very good impression of your student body. They seem to me a lively group which has a spontaneous approach to human problems.

Please give, in particular, my best regards to President Jones, to Mr. Jordan, Mr. Lundberg, Mr. Neutra and, last not least, to Miss Crouse.

As for my expenses they have been \$ 10.-

With my best wishes

sincerely

yours

May 25, 1944.

Philip Frank

I forgot to mail his letter. In the meantime I received the check for Miss Debe. I am going to send her an acknowledgment and a note about my expenses.

your
Philip Frank