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**Albert Einstein: Edited by Diana Kormos Buchwald, , Ze'ev Rosenkranz,
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Vol. 10, 4a. To Frieda Huber

[Berlin, 2 May 1920]^[1]

[Not selected for translation.]

Vol. 10, 39a. From Frieda Huber

[after 13 May 1920]^[1]

Something for the dear, good Professor.

You must know that I saw your little Albert! That was already before I went to La Tour.^[2] I had to go to Zurich & used the opportunity to say hello from you to little Albert. But I have to say right off—my mission did not turn out as I wished! I had asked little Albert to come to the train, with the intention of going on a walk with him & then telling him about his good Ätti.^[3] But no little Albert was there. He hadn't yet received my card, or in any case strangely late. But I did want to convey your greetings whenever possible, & since I was already crossing the area of Züriberg,^[4] I looked up little Albert at home, in the greatest hurry, because I was staying in Zurich for only a few hours.

I rang the doorbell, whereupon a strapping youngster came toward me in the stairwell. That was him, all right. "But," I thought, "this isn't a little Albert anymore, this Albert is quite hefty." I introduced myself & as coming at his father's request. "From 'Pa-pe'," came his resounding voice in the best Zurich dialect [*Zürütütsch*!] Little Albert eyed me a little warily, because I was wearing civilian clothes & had nothing nurselike on me. During our brief conversation I noticed something moved in the doorway above, by the stairs; but all there was to see was a tuft^[5] of hair, a bold little brow, a stubby nose & two curious little eyes peering around the door post, which two little paws^[6] were still gripping. When I asked, "Does that up there belong to Tete?"^[7]—everything vanished, just a few little fingertips stayed put. If I'd had the time, I could have coaxed the little tyke out nicely. But as it was, I hurried down the hill again a minute later. I was sorry that I couldn't really report anything to little Albert. Time & place wouldn't permit it. Still, I consoled myself that soon the father would be coming himself & would tweak his boys' ears.—^[8]

In the end I almost ran right into you!^[9] Suddenly we were standing opposite each other. Albeit—double glass & window frame shielded us from a collision. I was delighted to see you again, but I couldn't claim that my friendly hello was returned with a friendly expression. You looked so earnestly pensive & full of worry, despite cigar in hand^[10] & the new honors that the C[olumbia] Un[iversity]

in N.Y. bestowed on you.^[11] I nodded good morning to you a few more times on my way to the pharmacy, until one day a N.Y. skyscraper gawked back at me instead of you—then it wasn't so nice and familiar to go by there anymore.— You are probably at home now, refortifying your fondness for travel. Your trips are strenuous but—the Gislifluh^[12] would certainly not be!

“Switzerland would very much have liked to have you,” says Dr. de Giacomi,^[13] who sends amicable greetings! He knew that you are staying in B[erlin] out of virtue, but grumbled into his beard, “You belong in Switzerland! He is very interested in your r[elativity] theory, but it puts him quite to task! The whole world wants you now, the whole world admires you, yet some tear their hair out because the theory of r. is too hard.”

How fortunate I am to be acquainted with what I admire—your goodness!
Nur[se] Frida^[14]

Vol. 10, 39c. To Fritz Haber

[15 May 1920] Leyden. Saturday

[Not selected for translation.]

Vol. 10, 82a. From Hans Albert Einstein

[between 23 July and 1 August 1920]^[1]

Dear Papa,

With regret I saw that you completely misunderstood my postcard. And that's why I want to write you today in a bit more detail. I wrote you about the money because we are completely dependent on what you send us. Mama had to use a large portion of what she had here during her illness.^[2] She had to pay out another portion as an advance for Aunt while she was here, because the grandparents had lost a great deal of their money in the war and so couldn't pay.^[3] For the time being there isn't any prospect of getting this money right away. The small portion that's still left must definitely be saved up in case of an illness. So you see that we are completely dependent on what you send us. We live as simply as possible and even then we sometimes don't quite know how to get by. We also tried to earn something on the side but we haven't managed up to now. You know that we haven't received much recently, and in the postcard I just wanted to ask you to send regularly whatever you can.^[4] If you put yourself in our place you'll understand this request and won't be able to think of it as anything malicious.

The money Mama received since she's been back is:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| from Mr. Karr ^[5] | Fr. | 600.– |
| from Auer Company | Fr. | 1 000.– |
| from Kantonalbank ^[6] | <u>Fr.</u> | <u>600.–</u> |
| | Fr. | 2 200.– |
| less for taxes (semiannual) | <u> </u> | <u>200.–</u> |
| remainder | Fr. | 2 000.– |

At the current rate of inflation^[7] that's very little for 3 persons for 5 months. So I hope you understand me now and won't hold it against me.

I can't arrange for an extended vacation; Mama is going to do it for me soon.^[8] So we'll be coming on the 5th or 6th, I think.^[9] Also write me whether it's possible to play music there and whether I should maybe bring some scores along. You could arrange for the violin. I haven't been able to go to the consulate because I always have school during office hours.^[10] In any case, the fees are high, over 30 francs per visa, I heard from acquaintances. It would be good if you filed a petition for a reduction as soon as possible.

If I still don't find the time to go to the consulate in the next few days, (I) Mama will go.

Lots of love from

Adn.

Vol. 10, 232a. From Hans Albert Einstein

[after 25 December 1920]^[1]

Dear Papa,

I haven't answered your letter until now because I was on a school excursion over Christmas. Nor is it particularly easy to answer it.^[2] We already discussed last year your suggestion of leaving here.^[3] Mama definitely wants me to take my diploma here.^[4] I also find this most favorable, as I wrote you.^[5] We do understand that our expenditures are a great burden for you but we must also take our own needs into consideration; and before we let ourselves in for any change, we want to look around seriously now whether it wouldn't be possible for us to earn something here and cover at least part of our consumption.

Your suggestion is not easy to carry out in another regard as well. For it's impossible for us to rent out our apartment furnished,^[6] because the landlord doesn't want to.^[7] Already last year he made an exception and allowed us to do it [just] for a short time.^[8] In addition, we wouldn't be able to get a permit from the city to rent out the apartment, because just recently very stringent regulations about rentals of furnished apartments were issued.^[9] So if we went away from Zurich, it would

come down to selling our furnishings. We'd only get very little for them, and then we'd probably never be in a position to be able to buy them back again. That's also a reason for us to consider this matter carefully. It's naturally also no fun, of course, to live somewhere where you don't know a soul. In any case, we want to look around to see if we can find some other income and want to write you about it then.

Prof. von Gonzenbach's wife, with whom we used to play music together,^[10] requested I ask you whether it wouldn't be an impossible thing for her sister, the former Miss Frenkel, who has studied at the Polytechnic and was in America the last few years, to become your assistant.^[11]

We thank you very much for the two books you had arranged to be sent to us for Christmas; we like them and they give us much pleasure.

This little picture is a woodcut that I drew from life; the print is unfortunately so bad because I wasn't able to round up proper printer's black ink, but I'll have a better one sent to you.^[12]

Lots of love from

Adn.

1. From Hans Albert Einstein

[between 26 December 1920 and 14 March 1921]^[11]

Dear Papa,

We received the 7,500 francs (seven thousand five hundred francs) from Lucerne^[2] and I'm very surprised that you ask about it, since I already told you so in the last letter. Neither did you reply to me regarding Mrs. Gonzenbach.^[3] Did only half my letter reach you in the end? There isn't any censorship anymore. Still, I would like to ask you kindly to reply to Mrs. Gonzenbach's question, since she would like to have an answer. We did agree about the moving matter and I think it'll be best that you let us decide for ourselves at our own risk.^[4] In any case our friends here aren't guilty of anything, as you had been thinking.^[5]

I'm very glad that you liked my bird and I just want to say that it was made during a German lesson when we were close to dozing off; that is, I carved it here.^[6] The sketch came from drawing class.

But I've begun to abuse another art as well. Piano isn't enough anymore, so I chose a monster instrument: the double-bass; I had already been a bass player in one of our concerts. It was a good opportunity: I got the instrument from the student orchestra and I've been taking lessons for about a quarter of a year.

Lots of love from

Adn and Tete,^[7]

who's already in bed right now and is asleep.

2. From Heinrich Zangger

[Zurich, between 24 December 1920 and early January 1921]^[1]

Dear friend Einstein,

Not a sound from you since [Bad] Nauheim.^[2] Happy 1921, despite all the relativity in the world.

I stagger between attack and acknowledgment—favor and hatred. Active above all is hatred, when it still thinks it can eliminate—neutralize—someone.

Now come the reactions to the book:^[3] Every law is purportedly restriction, everything has to be freely tradable. The sale of poison, of course, is permissible, like any substitute product—without them nothing works anymore—the essence of the danger is ignored, assailing after first distorting.—^[4]

In Paris, on the contrary, it was very nice—well received on all sides, the book in particular, the goals—liberty—responsibility—everything passionately welcomed. The things any thoughtless scoundrel here contentedly believes he may secretly [exploit]! I now see in the history of medicine, [as well as] in the history of the Academy of Medicine that an immense persuasive force is needed for *a single* step to be able to *change* the course of traditions [and] conventions; [for] typhoid–tuberculosis 50 years were needed, and many men.^[5] (The route of relativity was quite different and faster.) Actions, effects on life are still a direct consequence of persuasion.

Now after you have seen your little Tete, you are probably also somewhat more satisfied with my medical optimism.^[6] There is much that is not relative—one must believe in optimal results.

On Weyl's behalf I was in Bern with Gnehm: I lobbied for sick leave for him for a few years, from Christmas until May + subsidy from a research fund—so that he can use the vacation for his cure without worry.^[7] The war between the two of you is surely increasingly interesting.^[8] He doesn't need the redshift at all for his theory—that's right—isn't it?^[9]

Now he has incorporated the limits of the physics of fields [in the] book.^[10] Einstein will respond. The book [by] Born is the *best*, just a little short-winded—especially the section at the back.^[11]

Best wishes,

Zangger

At Christmas I visited Romain Rolland in Paris.^[12]

3. To Hendrik A. Lorentz

[Berlin,]1 January 1921

[Not selected for translation.]

4. To Frieda Huber

[early 1921]^[1]

[Not selected for translation.]

5. To Heinrich Zangger

[16 January 1921]^[1]

Dear Zangger,

Finally, I'm pulling myself together to write. The fragmentation of one's intentions by the motley array of duties is crippling, especially for a person made more for concentration than for conformance. Your impressions of Paris don't surprise me. Among all Europeans one finds the Latin peoples have their hearts in the right place and have preserved a certain simplicity of mentality. By contrast, there is something subtle, shrewd about the Germans and Swiss. Perhaps it has something to do with the climate. How should a person who is forced by the climate to confine himself within his own four walls for 7 months a year have an open mind? And I frankly confess that I find the Swiss particularly petty. I'll never forget how university president Vetter complained to me, while I was holding my relativity lectures a couple of years ago in Zurich, about how much money the heating of my auditorium cost!^[2] No Frenchman could do that. God knows where your blood comes from, that you are so very differently disposed from the northern Swiss in general, whose brains are constantly centered around their dear francs.

I was very happy with the children. Albert has become a sound, independent fellow, self-assured, intelligent, modest. Little Tete also satisfied me, particularly as regards his health. He is active, mischievous, yet not as intense and sound as Albert. Both are somewhat mercantile in spirit—without any metaphysical yearning. I would so much like all three of them to move to Darmstadt.^[3] There they could

save something up for times of need, while now everything gets used up, *they* live in almost deprived conditions, and *I* have such a difficult time seeing them. But they are resisting it very much and there is no one in Zurich to explain the matter to them properly. Maybe *you* think objectively enough to find the plan reasonable. For me it would be a fine thing if they wanted to do so of their own accord; I'm not going to try to force them into it, because only what one does willingly works out well.

It is fine of you to be doing so much for Weyl.^[4] He definitely is a person of exceptional creative force and a talented genius. I am very curious about his new book insofar as its direction (limits of the physics of fields) lies very close to mine.^[5] But I never could find a useful approach for a new means of expression that held any kind of promise. Weyl's extension of the general theory of relativity, as it has stood for a few years now, I consider on a blatantly wrong track (in terms of physics). Redshift is sure to be demonstrated in a few years so it cannot be interpreted as an advantage of Weyl's theory that it does not deliver it. It is altogether questionable to see anything *formally* founded quasi a priori in relativity theory. It is a matter of (consequences) conformance of the theory to very definite *facts* (constancy of sp[eed of] l[ight]; equivalence of inertial and ponderable mass), not anything logically determined and preformed in the human mind; quite different from Weyl's attempt; I'd almost like to call it Hegelian.

Born's book is really excellent.^[6] Born is not just discerning but also downright gifted as a writer, and he has the requisite sense for reality.

Cordial regards to you and your family, yours,

Einstein.

Special greetings to Gina, whose amicable regards I reciprocate.^[7] Have found a few pretty little things but not made any more progress on the large scale.

6. To Arnold Sommerfeld^[1]

[Berlin,] 4 January 1921

Dear Sommerfeld,

Your recent letter embarrasses me very much.^[2] I absolutely cannot understand why so much value is attached to my lecturing about relativity in person.^[3] But now I face the fact and must make arrangements accordingly. I am ready to come to Munich in June and will leave it to you to determine the exact day. Most likely it won't work in the fall because I probably have to travel to † America.^[4] It doesn't matter if I have to live in a hotel then, in June, since I have become quite a resilient

fellow again. If the engineers want to wait so long, I am ready to relieve you of your sermon, if you like.^[5]

Regarding the electron problem, I am pessimistic. A really new idea is needed that isn't forthcoming. I don't believe in the correctness of Herzfeld's idea.^[6] Consider two identical little rods hung up coaxially at a distance of 1 m and constantly magnetized in opposite directions and the magnetism is concurrently reversed. In this case the hypothetical wave processes are practically completely eliminated at a great distance. But nobody will believe that the angular momentum acting on one rod is substantially influenced by the magnetic reversal of the second.

I have an *experimentum crucis* for whether or not the electromagnetic undulatory field is really present in thermal electromagnetic radiation in the distribution demanded by Maxwell's theory. I am immensely curious about the outcome. Quite frankly speaking, I myself do not know what to expect. The dichotomy energy quanta/undulatory field relentlessly still stands.

Rümelin's death affects me very much; I was also really close to taking an early leave this way.^[7]

Good luck for the New Year and best wishes. Yours,

Einstein.

7. From Edouard Guillaume^[1]

Bern, 4 January 1921

[Not selected for translation.]

8. To Jewish Community of Berlin

[Berlin,] 5 January 1921

Nobody can be forced to join a religious community.^[1] Those times are, thank God, gone, once and for all. I hereby declare ⟨again⟩ definitively that I do not intend to join the religious community ⟨& that I do not deem it necessary to [...]⟩, rather remaining unaffiliated to any faith, as I have done up to now.^[2]

In your letter I notice that the word Jew is ambiguous in that it refers (1) to nationality and origin, (2) to the faith. I am a Jew in the 1st sense, not in the second. Thus the answer to the contentions contained in your letter automatically follows.

With gr[eat] respect.

9. To Urania in Vienna (Ludwig Koessler^[1])

Berlin, 5 January 21

[Not selected for translation.]

10. From Paul Zacharias^[1]

[Nuremberg], 6 January 1921

Dear Professor,

I just discovered the enclosed notice in the paper, which I request be returned, and therefore take the liberty of most respectfully requesting your response to a few questions:

Are you a member of the New Fatherland League?^[2]

Are the newspaper's reports on Mr. Lehmann-Rüssbuldt's statements accurate?

Was Mr. L.-R. commissioned to speak in the name of the League?^[3]

Do you personally, if the newspaper's information is correct, state that you are in agreement with the content of Mr. L.-R.'s information, as well as with the fact that he addressed the same issues to the agent of the *Matin*?^[4]

I owe you an explanation for the reason I pose these questions to you. I am firmly convinced that certain quarters, whom I do not need to describe more specifically, are going to make use of this notice for attacks that are also going to be directed against your person. In order to be able to counter such attacks on the spot if necessary,^[5] I would like to be precisely informed.

For the time being I regard this newspaper notice as a quite usual erroneous press report.

With respectful regards to you and your esteemed family, also from my wife,^[6] yours very truly,

Dr. Zacharias.

11. To Elsa Einstein^[1]

[Prague, 7 January 1921]

Dear Elsa,

After a successful trip I arrived quite well and healthy in Prague, where I was awaited by Frank and his young wife, Pick, and a few friends.^[2] I traveled with the film[maker] Fanta.^[3] Yesterday evening I was invited with the local friends to go to the Winternitzes,^[4] where it was very festive. I like it indescribably much. I am

living with Frank at the institute,^[5] the young wife, a former Russian student (very nice), in a private room—Prague apartment shortage. The people live here somewhat better than in Berlin.^[6] It is very comfortable.

This evening lecture, tomorrow discussion.^[7]

Best regards from your

Albert.

This fine picture I got from Mrs. Frank.^[8]

12. To Elsa Einstein

[Prague,] 8 January [1921]

Dear Else,

My lectures here^[1] are already over, the discussion evening too. The latter was very amusing (also with Kraus).^[2] This morning we had a quartet—very fine, like the old days.^[3] The first violin is a youngster of 80 years! Tomorrow it's onwards to Vienna.^[4] The stay here was a great pleasure for me; I am strongly inclined to shorten [my stay in] Vienna and spend the meantime here. Who knows?

But now I'm just about fed up to the teeth with relativity! Even such a thing pales when one is too occupied with it. I saw very little of the city because I slept long & in the afternoon again. So it wasn't at all strenuous, even though last night a huge gathering was held for me,^[5] during which, instead of replying to all those speeches—I sawed away on my fiddle!^[6]

Warm greetings to all of you, your

Albert.

Tomorrow I'll still be seeing a former musician friend, Miss Nagel.^[7]

13. To Elsa Einstein

[Vienna,] Monday [10 January 1921]

Dear Else,

I arrived here safely yesterday, after having been accompanied to the train by Pick, the Franks, and Winternitzes.^[1] There is a lot here that one *must* experience.^[2] But departure is on Saturday morning. Mrs. Winternitz^[3] has thoughtfully taken care of me and stuffed my pockets full of treats; one has to be very attentive to the young Winternitz.^[4]

My health is impeccable. I enclose the autograph. Warm regards to all of you (in haste). Yours,

Albert.

14. From Otto Neurath^[1]

Vienna I, 23 Herrengasse, 12 January 1921

Esteemed Professor,

Allow me to summarize for you briefly the outcome of our conversation of 11 January 1921^[2] and to request that *you send me your approval of this version in as much detail as possible, so that I can use it as a basis to start negotiations with other collaborators and publishers*. You declared your willingness to sign on as editor of a collection of popular books on science which is intended to transmit knowledge of all sorts to larger segments of the population, especially to workers. The goal to be pursued is linking together series of individual volumes graded according to level of education and systematically laying out the entire collection. Besides brief serialized essays, discussions in the style of worker communities are also envisioned as well as catechismal-type publications. A comprehensive subject index ought to turn the complete collection into a surrogate encyclopedia.

You agreed that mainly Professor Frank (Prague) and Professor Löwy (Vienna) would cooperate on the editing of the physics section.^[3] You stated your willingness to subject to your scrutiny the plans drawn up by us, to review more important individual articles, and to support us through your work in the effort to create a collection of a modern bent; in particular you expressed your readiness to discuss the organizational tasks personally in Berlin with Professor Frank or one of our other collaborators.

You also stated your willingness, in the event you hold popular lectures and discussions on physical topics again,^[4] to have them stenographically recorded and after they have been modified for publication, perhaps by Professor Frank, to publish them upon your approval of the draft.

We would be very grateful if you would do us the favor now of informing us which staff members you would recommend as collaborators, for which fields and kinds of exposition.

We hope that if you sign on as editor of such a collection, not just physicists but men in other fields of knowledge can be more easily recruited. If a part of this collection is modifiable to purposes of educating work councils or laborers, one could anticipate from it an important stimulus in the future.

With great respect,

Neurath.

15. To Urania in Vienna (Ludwig Koessler)^[1]

[Vienna,] 15 January 1921

[Not selected for translation.]

16. To Paul Ehrenfest^[1]

Vienna, 16 January 1921^[2]

Dear Ehrenfest,

It was a nice, jolly time here, despite the difficult circumstances lurking in the background, and we thought of you very much, spoke about all of you. I'm pleased to have met your brother.^[3] I'll write you very soon. The car is coming to whisk me away for departure.^[4]

Cordial greetings, yours,

A. Einstein.

17. From Emil and Johanna Zürcher

Zurich, 16 January 1921

Esteemed, dear Professor,

The picture you sent us was a big Christmas treat and it will always remain dear and important to us.^[1] It will always remind me of the hour in the Zurich courthouse when you tried to grant me an insight into your theoretical thinking.^[2] As I am too little schooled to comprehend the material substance, I must confine myself to thinking of the psychological preconditions of thought, of the essence of objectivity; of impartiality, feeling distrustful towards conventional ideas. This already is much, so I may say: even where I understood nothing I learned much.

We see your sons daily and we can *assure* you that they are developing into capable, level-headed, valuable persons.^[3] The guidance and upbringing is good; a short while ago my wife said that the care and education could not be better, and that later, when both children have become independent young men standing before you and wanting to learn from you, you will surely feel a profound gratitude toward the mother,^[4] who is trying so hard. There can be no doubt that the mother

is on the right track in the manner of caring for these children. We check this against the result; the calm steadiness of both children's emotional development, their firm sense of will, and the fine intellectual maturity toward which they are advancing. I believe this tranquil continuity is of greatest importance, and I would really fear seeing this continuity interrupted now; I do not believe that Albert could be removed from the Zurich preparatory school and thrown into an entirely new milieu, in a new school environment, without risking an important part of his emotional life, and cause his fine receptiveness to harden or develop in an undesirable way.^[5] I think, if ever possible, he should finish preparatory school here, at least to avoid risk, if not harm. Little Tete's health is not very stable; I have a feeling, though, that he has adjusted well to our climate now and you should only in the direst emergency conduct the experiment of removal into an entirely different air.^[6] You must forgive my impositions into your affairs, but as a kind of watchman we must report to you,^[7] while it is completely clear to us how difficult any reflection is, because of the money issue. My Berlin friends (Dr. Ernst Hoffmann)^[8] told me: if I had children, they would have to stay as long as possible in Switzerland to be raised in the Swiss mentality which is so important for children. I particularly think highly of Dr. Hoffmann's advice, because he is considered an important educator.

We send you our most respectful greetings, with warm regards from your
Zürchers.

I happily confirm every one of my husband's words and send you my wishes with the same cordial remembrances.

Johanna Zürcher-Siebel.

18. To Friedrich Michael^[1]

Berlin, den 17. 1. 21

[Not selected for translation.]

19. From Arnold Berliner^[1]

Berlin W9, 23/24 Link St., 17 January 1921

Dear Mr. Einstein,

The report by the *Physikalische Zeitschrift* about the [Bad] Nauheim discussion is so fragmentary and in places so garbled that, without attacking Debye,^[2] one can describe it as worthless.^[3] The fault also ought to be directed less at Debye than at Hirzel, who did not make the necessary space available.^[4] In the interest of the

cause I consider it absolutely necessary to publish the discussion *in extenso* and will very gladly make available the necessary space (I think I can very easily procure the transcript of the discussion). I would, however, first like to secure your approval before I go ahead with publication. You might be against it for some reason, and then I would desist, of course.

I have a letter by Fricke^[5] that I have to show you in the original, the effect of which I would also personally like to observe on you. There are far too many fine things about you in it. I don't know whether I can come to the colloquium^[6] on Wednesday, because I have a meeting around 4 o'clock with Scheel and various other editors of scientific journals that are supposed to be consolidated.^[7] How and what for I don't yet know, though. But I will certainly guard my own independence.

With best regards, yours very devotedly,

A. Berliner.

20. To Otto Neurath

[Berlin, after 17 January 1921]^[1]

[Not selected for translation.]

21. From Paul Ehrenfest

Leyden, 18 January 1921

Dear Einstein,

1. Enclosed are two letters that arrived for you today.

2. I recently received (on our joint bank account) 1000 guilders from the univ. fund, which will later (July?) be followed by another 1000.^[1]—I can't cash the check by Methuen, already announced earlier, for 819 guilders (Nov. 1920), because it is made out to you.^[2]

3. All in all, it appears *desirable* that you hold some sort of *lectures* this spring at our university.^[3] I'll try *very* hard to spare you such things in coming years! Such as, throughout a very short period, about *anything*, with the number of hours as you please. I actually find it a sin that one should misuse you as a relativity Gramophone even here. I would find it much nicer if you spoke about your *least* known investigations and publications (photochemistry and the like) but, by God, do as you please.—Think now already of selecting the time on the basis of the following data:

a) Our lectures *end before Easter* on 19 Mar.

b) Congress in Brussels: "in the first days of April"^[4]

c) After Easter our lectures *begin* on *11 April*

{d) *Holland* scientific congress is 31 Mar. and 1, 2 Apr. in Utrecht.}

Please discuss this matter immediately with Ilse^[5] and let me know through her what you intend to do.

4. *Request to Ilse: Prof. D. Rozhdestvensky*—director of the Optics Institute at the University of Petrograd,^[6] will be coming to Holland around 15 January from Petrograd via *Tallinn* [Reval]^[7] and Germany, at the invitation of a number of Dut[ch] physicists (Lorentz, Zeeman, Julius, Onnes, Kuenen, Haga,^[8] Ehrenfest) to report about his optical investigations and also *to order and buy physical instruments*.

We have arranged that the *entry permit into Holland* be ready in Tallinn at the Dutch consul's when he arrives there.

We ask you please to help us: *namely, to arrange* that at the *German consulate in Tallinn* the

transit permit

through Germany be issued to him *immediately* when he arrives in Tallinn.—

For he has only a little time, then he has to be back at his institute in Petrograd, and one generally has to wait *terribly* long before one obtains a transit permit through Germany.

Rozhdestvensky's trip has a purely scient[ific] purpose; I act as guarantor to you about that.

[To be honest: very soon I'm going to have to apply for your intervention again likewise for a transit perm[it] to Holland for 5 other physicists, who are being sent abroad by the Academy of Sci. in Petrograd, likewise for purchases of instrum., books, period[icals]. But I'll write about that later.]^[9]

—•—

Dear Einstein, dear Miss Ilse, don't be cross with me for bothering you!!!!
Greetings to your wife and to Margot. Your old

P. Ehrenfest.

22. To the Nobel Committee of the Norwegian Parliament

Berlin, 19 January 1921

After friends^[1] drew my attention to the petition by the Czech parliament to confer the Peace Prize for 1921 to President Masaryk,^[2] I am taking the liberty of

lending my most enthusiastic support to this proposal. I believe I may do so even though I have no right to submit nominations, since I am neither a professor of history nor of philosophy.^[3]

Masaryk has earned the greatest merit as a defender of minority nationalities, especially of the Czechs and Jews.^[4] He never sacrificed his noble convictions to any policy that merely promised practical success, not even when the path he was pursuing appeared to hold no promise. In my conviction, an award of the Nobel Prize to him would be a fine victory for the idea of conciliation among peoples and would fully agree with the intention of the founder of the Peace Prize.^[5]

In utmost respect.

23. To Paul Zacharias

[Berlin,] 19 January 1921

Dear Doctor,

I am a mem[ber] of the pacifist society N[ew] F[atherland] L[eague],^[1] whose secretary is the writer Mr. L[ehmann]-R[ussbüldt].^[2] [Since] I only rarely am in a position to attend the meetings of the society and, in addition, the leadership possesses a certain liberty in its activities, I had no knowledge of the interview with the *Matin* correspondent in question, first learning about it from your letter.^[3] Now, as regards the matter at issue, I do consider it very questionable that large quantities of war materiel would be in the hands of unauthorized private persons, which fact, incidentally, the Entente would not have to rely on Mr. L.-R. to be informed about.^[4] With reference to your letter I made inquiries of Mr. L.-R., who only commented that the matter had been completely misrepresented and that the League is going to file suit against that newspaper.

In gr. respect and with best compliments to your wife also from my family,
sig. A. E.

24. To Paul Ehrenfest

[Berlin,] 20 January 1921^[1]

Dear Ehrenfest,

Now I'm back again from my "visitor's trip"^[2] and am in my nest with a grand bout of enteritis; thus I have more time for chatting. In Vienna I gained a much better impression of Ehrenhaft than I'd had of him before.^[3] I stayed at his home and got to know him very well. His biggest sin is—his lack of taste. But he is good toward people who are dependent on him and honest in his battles, which cannot

be said of his opponents in the faculty.^[4] His wife is an extraordinarily profound, worldly wise, and industrious person, a gem for him.^[5] One evening I visited your brother; I liked him very much as well.^[6] I noticed how much he loves you and how much he cares about your life and those close to you. What a pity that you can't get more out of each other. In Prague it was especially nice. Frank has married a very nice Russian (Jewish),^[7] with whom [he] leads a most charming bachelor's existence. She is studying, rents a room, he lives at the institute^[8] using a fold-up cot that hides itself away during the day like a bat. I also was put up at the institute. With Kraus I had a public-discussion evening, an exceedingly amusing circus performance; but he was perfectly serious about it.^[9] Then I had another talk in Dresden, invited by the students;^[10] in the process the dear boys subjected me to a test of genuine patriotic German tact, which I would rather recount to you personally, however.— Before I forget: send an appropriate sum right away in my name to the Zeeman fund; I hope there's still time.^[11]

I chanced upon an idea for deciding the issue of whether an undulatory electric field really is present in radiation. In powerful radiation the field is, according to Maxw[ell's] theory, of order of magnitude 100 volt/cm. Such fields already exhibit a perceptible line broadening via ⟨Zeeman⟩ Stark effect.^[12] I want to do the experiments together with Pringsheim.^[13] I'm very curious about the outcome; what ought one to expect, I wonder?

The letter by the perfumed lady seems to have gotten lost; so I fear it will have to stay unanswered. But it is, of course, impossible to answer every letter.

The business with the Hall effect is quite simple. The Hall force is compensated by induced electric fields that arise because of a temporal alteration in the magnetic field. This temporal alteration is, in the simplest case, the formation of a steadily expanding magnetic-field-free spot. The Hall effect would be ascertainable from the speed of this process.

Whether the trip to America will come about is still very doubtful. I actually would much prefer staying here—if it wasn't about the despicable money, i.e., independence.^[14] I only genuinely enjoy traveling to—Leyden. I'm just writing a very brief report for Brussels, which I request that de Haas incorporate into his own.^[15] I'm doing this because he is better at French and it would be tasteless to give a presentation in German. Please tell this to de Haas. This way time will also be saved and we will avoid repeating ourselves. I'm thinking of coming to Leyden after Brussels—Easter break precedes it, you know. I'll lecture a bit beforehand, roughly entitled: "Miscellany from Theoretical Physics." We can agree on the specific subjects then. I was able to assist your Russian friends somewhat.^[16] I'm not going to Copenhagen; it would be too much for me and, in the end, I shouldn't

always be away.^[17] I'm pleased that Busch appealed to you so much.^[18] He really is a splendid fellow, pure as a child. His playing is powerful; the only thing that sometimes disturbs me a little is the undue austerity and relentless rhythm. No dreaminess, no familiarity. Doesn't something of Berlin rub off there? The other great local violinists exhibit this phenomenon even more strongly than Busch.

Hearty greetings to all of you [with the youngsters] together, from your
Einstein.

with Maltschiks.^[19]

I straightened out the Methuen affair.^[20]

25. To Edouard Guillaume

[Berlin,] 20 January 1921

Dear Guillaume,

It is not true^[1] [But has nothing to do with the famous Manifesto of the 93.] that both statements,

1) The velocity of light is constant, but the bodies suffer a . . . contraction;

2) The bodies stay unchanged but the vel. of light is greater in the direction of motion than perpendicular to it,
are entirely equivalent.^[2] This equivalence is only valid with respect to the explanation of Michelson's experiment.

On the contrary, in case (2) the velocity of light would have to depend on the motion of the generating light source against the coordinate system, which means a physical hypothesis differing from Lorentz's theory (contrary to (1)).

I decidedly contest, furthermore, that the equation

$$c_2 = \frac{c_0}{\beta(1 + \alpha \cos \varphi_2)}$$

(where c_1 means the velocity of light with reference to K_1 , c_2 that of the same light with reference to K_2), is compatible with the Lorentz transformation. This equation is much rather merely derived via a blooper from the L[orentz] t[ransformation].

Best regards, yours,

A. Einstein.

P.S. Wasn't Hadamard, when he spoke the quoted words, venting some celebratory hot air?^[3]