

COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION

# ENQUIRY

### INTO

### THE CONDITIONS OF INTELLECTUAL WORK

#### Second Series

# INTELLECTUAL LIFE

#### IN THE

# VARIOUS COUNTRIES

# **United States of America**

## The Principal American Foundations

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Henri REVERDIN

Professor at the University of Geneva

expert on the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation

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### LEAGUE OF NATIONS

COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION

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### THE PRINCIPAL AMERICAN FOUNDATIONS

Among the institutions and foundations in the United States of America which afford valuable assistance to intellectual life we shall in the present note deal with :

The Smithsonian Institution,

The Carnegie Foundation,

The Rockefeller Foundation.

#### I.

#### SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

"The Smithsonian Institution for increase and diffusion of knowledge among men" was established by means of a legacy bequeathed by James Smithson, an Englishman, who was born in Somerset in 1765 and died at Genoa in 1829. Smithson had spent the greater part of his life in Paris with French *savanls*, among whom was Arago; his publications did not bring him the fame which he had hoped would be his when, in his youth, he said : "My name will live on in the memory of man when the titles of the Northumberlands are extinct and forgotten"; but his legacy secured him the immortality which had been his ambition.

His donation, first offered to England, which did not consider its terms sufficiently definite, was accepted in 1846 by the United States, owing to the efforts of John Quincy Adams.

The Institution is established at Washington and the President of the United States is *ex officio* its president. The "Board of Regents" includes a certain number of members of Congress; the secretary of the Institution is at the same time President of the National Museum, which is maintained out of Federal funds.

As the meaning of the terms "increase " and "diffusion" was not clearly enough defined, some doubt was felt with regard to the purpose of the Institution. The question arose as to whether it was intended for an institute for research work or for a museum.

Joseph Henry, who had been appointed as Secretary, submitted a programme in which he determined the meaning of the words "increase" and "diffusion": (1) to stimulate men of talent to make original researches by offering rewards for papers containing new truths; and (2) to appropriate annually a portion of the income for particular research under direction of suitable persons. To "diffuse knowledge" he proposed: (1) to publish periodically reports on the progress of different branches of knowledge; and (2) to publish occasional separate treatises on general subjects.

This programme was adopted by the Board of Regents ; as broadly taken, it has been maintained.

Joseph Henry developed the system of International Exchanges of Publications.

S. F. Baird, who succeeded him, devoted his efforts to the development of the museum, for which he had a building erected; he supervised the building of the vessel *Albalross* for purposes of scientific exploration.

The Secretary, S. P. Langley, who made experiments in aviation, was specially interested in the National Zoological Park and the Astrophysical Observatory. He was succeeded by the present Secretary, Mr. D. C. Walcott.

Among recent activities, mention should be made of geological explorations, palæontological research and biological and botanical work in Cuba, Haiti, China, San Domingo, etc. There is no clause to limit the number of subjects of research. The Institutionpu blishes papers on anthropology, astronomy. ethnology, botany, geology, palæontology, metorolæogy, magnetism, physics, physiology, philology, etc.

The following are its principal publications : Annual Reports submitted to Congress by the Regents ; the Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge ; the Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collection (about 30,000 pages) ; the Bulletins of the National Museum (since 1878) ; the Annual Reports of the Bureau of American Ethnology ; the Bulletins of the Bureau of American Ethnology ; the Annals of the Astrophysical Observatory : the reports of the Historical and Patriotic Societies. The History of the Institution during the first fifty years of its existence was published in 1897.

The Smithsonian Institution possesses a *research library*. The publication of the various series of papers has led to a very active correspondence with the learned societies. The majority of the communications have been deposited in the Congress Library. The Institution also possesses a *working library* containing more than 300 American or foreign periodicals.

The first assistant Secretary, Ch. C. Jowett, devoted his entire attention to the catalogue and bibliography. His successor, Henry, also took a great interest in this side of the work, and it was at his suggestion that the Royal Society in London began its catalogue of scientific articles, which has since become the catalogue of international scientific literature. As regards its share of this work, the Smithsonian Institute represents the United States. It has established a regional bureau for the United States of the international catalogue of scientific literature.

In the annual report for the year ending June 30th, 1920, Mr, Henry E, Armstrong mentions with admiration the 242 volumes containing an index of the scientific literature published between 1901 and 1914, to which the majority of countries have contributed. The author hopes that such collaboration will be resumed after the war in spite of financial difficulties.

The Service of International Exchanges dates from the year 1850. Its object was to establish a free exchange of publications between men of science in the various parts of the world. It is in communication with numerous correspondents — their number has nearly reached 50,000 — two-thirds of whom reside outside the United States. In 1867, Congress, for the benefit of its Library, instructed the Institution to exchange fifty series of all official publications (the number was increased to 100). A treaty concluded in 1889 between the United States and other countries settled the question of the exchange of scientific and official publications. This service has already been of extreme value to scientists and has largely contributed to the development of American libraries ; by undertaking to defray the cost of such publications, it has enabled societies and scholars to save considerable sums for their own research work.

The report on the financial period ending June 30th, 1922, gives the following figures :

Consignments from America.	Consignments from other countries to America.
344.848 parcels.	38,309 parcels.
Weight : 497,148 lbs.	Weight : 95,452 lbs.

We have already mentioned the *Bureau of American Ellinology*. This bureau, which has been attached to the Institution since 1879, undertakes research work on the language of the Indians, their habits, customs, organisation in tribes and mythological conceptions.

The Astrophysical Observatory was established in 1890. It is intended chiefly for research work dealing with the invisible portion of the solar spectrum lying beyond the infra-red. It has organised important expeditions for the purpose of observing total eclipses of the sun.

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The National Zoological Park was established by Congress in 1890. Its object is to preserve from total extinction American fauna which is fast disappearing from that continent. It is also intended for public instruction and amusement.

The National Art Gallery is also attached to the Institution.

#### II.

#### CARNEGIE FOUNDATION.

The generosity of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, who was born in Scotland at Dunfermline in 1835, and died at Lenox, Massachusetts, in 1919, provided funds for the following institutions:

#### A. Carnegie Institute of Fittsburg.

This institution, founded in 1896, comprises a group of cultural and educational departments embracing Fine Arts, Museum, Music Hall, Library, School and Institute of Technology.

The great *Carnegie Library Pittsburg System* is added to the departments named ; it was founded in 1890.

In 1918, Mr. Carnegie's gifts amounted to 28,000,000 dollars. The Library is a free public reference and circulating library (founded in 1890) and it contains a total number of nearly 450,000 volumes, of which about 40,000 in foreign languages. A special children's department makes a study of children's literature.

#### B. Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Founded in 1902, to encourage in the broadest and most liberal manner investigations, research and discovery, and the application of knowledge to the improvement of mankind. The principal departments are:

1903

1903

 $1903 \\ 1904$ 

 $1904 \\ 1904$ 

1905

1905

1906

 $1907 \\ 1914$ 

1917

 Department of Experimental Evolution

 —
 Marine Biology

 —
 Historical Research

 —
 Economics and Sociology (suppressed in 1916)

 —
 Terrestrial Magnetism

 —
 Mount Wilson Observatory

 —
 Geophysical Laboratory

 —
 Botanical Research

 —
 Nutrition Laboratory

 —
 Meridian Astrometry.

 —
 Embryology

 —
 Eugenic Record Office

The results of the researches have been published in 450 volumes. These publications have been purchased by or presented to nearly all the leading libraries of the world. The total fund placed at the disposal of the Institution up to October 1918 amounted to 15,459,944.45 dollars. The yearly budget amounts to about 1,000,000 dollars.

The Institution, which has its headquarters at Washington, is directed by a President — Mr. J. C. Merriam now fills that office — and a Board of Curators composed of from 24 to 27 members, selected from among scholars, financiers and prominent politicians. The President of the United States, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Chamber of Representatives, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and the President of the National Academy of Sciences are *ex-officio* members.

According to the founder's deed of trust, its aims are :

1. To promote original research.

2. To discover exceptional man in every department of study whenever and wherever found inside or outside of schools, and enable them to make the work for which they specially designed their lifework.

3. To increase facilities for higher education.

4. To increase the efficiency of the universities and other institutions of learning throughout the country by utilising and adding to their existing facilities and aiding teachers in the various institutions for experimental and other work, in these institutions, as far as advisable.

5. To enable such students as may find Washington the best point for their special studies to enjoy the advantages of the museums, libraries, laboratories, observatory, meteorological, piscicultural, and forestry schools and kindred institutions of the several departments of the Government.

6. To ensure the publication and distribution of the results of scientific investigation, a field considered highly important.—(The founder's deed of trust, signed : "Andrew Carnegie, 28 I. 1902".)

Work of the Department of Historical Research, Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Dr. Waldo Leland has given the following information :

This department was established in 1903. It has a staff consisting of a director (Dr. J. F. Jameson) and five investigators, one secretary, one editorial secretary, one stenographer, and a varying number of copists and clerical assistants.

Its work consists of editing the American Historical Review, which is the official organ of the American Historical Association, and in research in American history. The principal tasks which have been undertaken by the department are as follows :

(a) Investigations of archives.

Preparation of a guide to the archives of the Government of the United States.

Preparation of more detailed lists and information respecting certain sections of the Governmental archives.

Preparation of guides to materials relating to American history in foreign archives (Great Britain, Spain, France, Netherlands, Russia, Scandinavian countries, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Cuba, Mexico, West Indies).

(b) Editing of documents.

Treaties between European countries bearing on the history of the North American continent.

Debates in the British Parliament relating to North American affairs (1774-1789).

Letters from delegates to the Continental Congress relating to the proceedings of the Congress.

Despatches of the British Ministers to the United States.

(c) Preparation of an historical atlas of the United States, and other work.

This department acts as a centre in Washington of the historical interests of the country, maintains international relations, carries on a very wide correspondence, endeavours to promote the interests of history, especially in working for an adequate provision for the housing and maintenance of the national archives (at present without a central depository), provides offices for the secretariat of the American Historical Association, and assists investigators in their work in Washington and abroad, etc.

#### C. The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, 1904.

#### D. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, 1905.

 $\Lambda$  letter of Mr. Carnegie, dated  $\Lambda$ pril 16th, 1905, reads as follows :

" Gentlemen,

" I have reached the conclusion that the least rewarded of all the professions is that of the teacher in our higher educational institutions... Able men hesitate to adopt teaching as a career, and many old professors whose places should be occupied by younger men cannot be retired. I have therefore transferred to you and your successors, as Trustees, 10,000,000.00 dollars..., the revenue from which is to provide retiring pensions for the teachers of universities, colleges, and technical schools in our country, Canada and Newfoundland, under such conditions as you may adopt from time to time... without regard to race, sex, creed or color..."

(The universities supported by the States and the sectarian institutions were excluded for reasons expressed in the letter.)

The letter ends :

" I hope this fund may do much for the cause of higher education and to remove a source of deep and constant anxiety to the poorest-paid and yet one of the highest of all professions."

Mr. Carnegie showed great foresight in allowing his Trustees to modify, or under certain circumstances to change completely, the methods of employing the endowment. The Trustees of the Foundation were led, after several years, to institute a pension system widely different from that which they first contemplated. Mr. Carnegie took the keenest interest in the process and approved the modifications of the original plan. He did everything possible to help higher education and maintain the position of a teacher. The Trustees had to frame definite rules, they decided to extend the benefits to institutions which deserved to be placed on a level with colleges or universities, and made regulations for the provision of pensions to professors in these institutions. These are known as "Associated Institutions". The rules adopted for their pensions were based upon length of service and age. But the Trustees soon exercised the right to make such changes as experience indicated, and in 1908 extended the privileges of the Foundation to widows of teachers, and to instructors as well as to professors, and in 1909 eliminated the pension granted on the basis of service alone.

After careful study of the position of the State universities, several of which had submitted applications, Mr. Carnegie offered (in 1908) five million dollars additional endowment to enable the Trustees to enlarge the number of institutions. Some applications made by State universities have been favourably received. Over 70 institutions of higher learning have been admitted to the list of "Associated Institutions". In the first thirteen years of its existence, the Foundation has granted 469 retiring allowances and 151 widow's pensions in the Associated Institutions, and 135 allowances and 43 widow's pensions in 87 other institutions, at a total cost of 6,260,500.16 dollars.

After making these payments, the Trustees came to the conclusion that the system was faulty in several respects, and reconsidered the question.

The reports of the Foundation and the material collected at its office probably constitute the most complete statement in existence concerning *the question of allowances and pensions*. In addition, the Trustees sought the advice and aid of expert actuaries, statisticians and economists. They laid down the following principles :

"The function of a pension system is to secure to the individual who participates in it, protection against the risk of dependence due to old age or to disability.

"The obligation to secure this protection for himself and for his family rests first upon the individual. This is one of the primary obligations of the existing social order. Society has done its best for the individual when it provides the machinery by which he may obtain this protection at a cost within his reasonable ability to pay. The obligation of the employer to co-operate in sustaining a pension system is primarily a financial one and in the second place a moral one.

"A pension system designed for any group of industrial or vocational workers should rest upon the co-operation of employee and employer.

" Teachers' pensions should amount to a fair proportion of the active pay.

"A pension system conducted upon the actuarial basis of setting aside, year by year, the necessary reserve is the only pension system whose cost can be accurately estimated in advance."

According to the seventh Report of the President and Treasurer, the present number of allowances paid out amounts to 649, thirty-three more than the previous year, and the total amount paid during the year exceeds a million dollars. The number of allowances paid to persons connected with institutions not figuring on the list of "Associated Institutions" is 100, and they amount to 113,000 dollars. The total cost of all pensions and allowances amounts to-day to 10 million dollars. The following institutions have received more than 500,000 dollars: Columbia, 592,636; Harvard, 787,897; Yale, 677,518. Cornell, Amherst, Johns Hopkins, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton, the Stevens Institute of Technology, the Universities of California, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin have received very large donations each exceeding 100,000 dollars (see Bullelin of the Education Bureau).

#### E. Carnegie Foundation for International Peace.

This institution was established in 1910. It has a European Centre, with headquarters at Paris, 24, rue Pierre-Curie. Very interesting information concerning this European Centre is contained in a small volume published by M. J. Prudhommeaux, who was for a time the Assistant Director; the book contains a fine appreciation of Mr. Andrew Carnegie's personality.

#### F. Carnegie Corporation of New York.

This corporation was founded in 1911 "for the purpose of receiving and maintaining a fund or funds and applying the income thereof to promote the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding among the people of the United States, by aiding technical schools, institutions of higher learning, libraries, scientific research, hero funds, and useful publications ".

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In 1917, the Corporation was empowered by an amendment of its charter to hold and administer funds for use in Canada or the British Colonies, for the same purpose as those to which it is authorised to apply its funds in the United States.

The Carnegie Corporation of New York, the final and largest of the endowments, is the logical result of the theory which Mr. Carnegie expounded in his Essay, published in 1889 (American Review), under the title : "The Gospel of Health"; this theory is that all surplus of wealth should be disposed of during its possessor's lifetime. After the distribution of more than two hundred million dollars 'to many causes, Mr. Carnegie conveyed to this Corporation 125,000,000 dollars par value, in bonds of the highest security.

The institutions which we have already mentioned were founded by Mr. Carnegie for a definite purpose, but the "Carnegie Corporation" at New York was established to constitute, in the words of its founder, "a permanent reservoir of social energy".

Mr. Carnegie intended that this foundation should afford assistance to any cause or activity which the Trustees considered, or might at any time consider, likely to encourage science and knowledge and to render them accessible to the people.

These provisions have already made it possible to grant funds to various libraries, to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Learning, to the Carnegie Institution at Washington, to the Carnegie Institute at Pittsburg, to the National Research Council, to various institutions for purposes of medical education, etc.

It should also be pointed out that Mr. Carnegie devoted part of his fortune to works intended to benefit *countries other than the United States of America*, as well as to other works of *international interest*.

#### G. The Carnegie United Kindgom Trust.

The income of the Trust "shall be employed for the improvement of the well-being of the masses of the people of Great Britain and Ireland by such means as are embraced within the meaning of the word 'charitable'".

#### *II.* The Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland

Reminds us of its founder's Scotch extraction and testifies to his unfailing interest in the development of higher intellectual culture.

#### I. The Simplified Spelling Board,

Founded in 1906, is intended to hasten the "process of rational orthografic change". The American Philological Association in 1875 started the present movement to improve the English spelling, resulting in the formation of the Spelling Reform Association, and joined with the Philological Society (London). A plan was proposed to Mr. Carnegie, who approved it in 1966, and assured the material

A plan was proposed to Mr. Carnegie, who approved it in 1966, and assured the material support. The membership was representative of the American P. ilological Association, the (British) Philological Society, the Spelling Reform Association, the National Education Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Learning, the Modern Language Association of America, and other learned societies, and included the editors of the Century, Oxford, the Standard, and Webster's Dictionaries, eminent philologists, educators, scientists, men of letters, and men of affairs.

The following important results were soon obtained : 461 universities, colleges, and normal schools, with 27,000 teachers and 330,000 students, now either use simplified spelling in their official publications and correspondence, or permit students to use it in written work.

Campaigns have been carried out in state schools, among journalists and editors of magazines, and a "Handbook of Simplified Spelling" has been distributed. During the war, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The figure given in the French edition of this brochure, owing to a misprint 2,000,000 dollars, should read 200,000,000 dollars.

board considerably reduced its activity, but it will resume its work as soon as conditions are more favourable.

The board trusts that the great work which a rational simplification of English spelling can do, not only in the more speedy Americanisation of the foreign population, but also in rendering English available as a means of international communication, will make a forcible appeal to all those who cherish these patriotic aims, and will make it possible to continue auspiciously and whole-heartedly the work inaugurated by Mr. Carnegie.

In this brief survey of the support generously and liberally granted by Mr. Carnegie to intellectual and humanitarian work, mention must also be made of the following institutions :

- J. The Church Peace Union,
- K. The Palace of Peace at The Hague,
- L. The Centrale American Union Building,
- M. The Pan-American Building,
- N. The Engineering Building,
- O. Library Buildings, gifts of organs to churches, erection of colleges, etc.

Over 1,500 college buildings were erected, or their erection promised, by Mr. Carnegie, at a cost of 30,000,000 dollars.

#### III.

#### ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION.

At the request of the American citizen, John Davison Rockefeller (born in 1839), Senator Gullinger submitted to the Senate a Bill for the establishment of the Rockefeller Foundation.

This foundation was established in conformity with the laws of the State of New York, on May 14th, 1913, for the purpose of "receiving and maintaining a fund or funds and applying the income and principal thereof to promote the well-being of mankind throughout the world."

"It shall be the purpose of the said Corporation to use as means to that end research, publication, the establishment and maintenance of charitable, benevolent, religious, missionary, and public educational activities, agencies, and institutions, and the aid of any such activities, agencies, and institutions already established and any other means and agencies which from time to time shall seem expedient to its members or trustees." — (Charter approved on May 14th, 1913).

Mr. J. D. Rockefeller had already made generous donations; in 1892, he had founded the University of Chicago, to which, before creating his Foundation, he had already given 25,000,000 dollars. He had given 43,000,000 dollars to an organisation called the "General Education Board", to which Congress granted a Charter in 1903; in 1901, he founded the Rochejeller Institute for Medical Research in New York. The object of this Institute is to carry on or encourage research work in the sciences and arts of hygiene, medicine and surgery for the protection of public health and the development of medical treatment. Mr. S. Flexner is at present the Director of research work and laboratories, Mr. R. Cole of the hospital, and Mr. Th. Smith is in charge of the department of animal pathology. Mr. Rockefeller has given large sums to the Rush Medical College in Chicago, to the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, the Barnard College in New York, and to the Society of Baptist Missions. In 1909, he gave a million dollars for the creation of a medical commission of enquiry into the hook worm disease.

The Rockefeller Foundation tends more and more to concentrate its efforts upon medical education and public health.



The Foundation and its various committees take part in the world movements for the prevention of sickness and the betterment of sanitary conditions.

The numerous activities of the Foundation are carried on by the Foundation itself, but to a greater degree by its various services, which are :

- A. The International Health Board.
- B. The China Medical Board.
- C. The Division of Medical Education.

A. The report for 1921 shows that the *International Health Board* has contributed to the foundation of national sanitary services, including new Ministries of Health, in 63 States and countries throughout the world. Among its most important duties are :

International co-operation in the campaign against yellow fever and malaria. Enquiry into the hookworm disease. Development of schools of hygiene and of sanitary work in various districts. The improvement of public health laboratories. The establishment of a public sanitary service of male nurses in Brazil. Work in Czechoslovakia. Campaign against tuberculosis in France (1917).

B. In 1914, the Rockefeller Foundation established the *China Medical Board* for the purpose of encouraging the advancement of medicine and hygiene in China by means of schools of medicine, hospitals and schools for women nurses. In 1919, it organised the Medical College for the University of Pekin, a school for women nurses and a school for preliminary medical studies. The College is intended to indicate the lines on which Chinese medical education can best adapt itself to local conditions. If the hopes of its founders are realised, it will train a select group of medical instructors, scholars, public health officials and a large number of capable doctors and surgeons.

The China Medical Board assists numerous hospitals and schools of medicine. The report for 1921 contains the statement that "it is evident that medicine has made real progress in China during the last ten years".

C. The Division of Medical Education, established in 1919 by the Foundation, supervises medical education in the Far East. It works for the development of medical centres in London, and, when necessary, affords assistance to schools of medicine in Central Europe and Canada.

Among the schools of medicine which have received specially large grants are the University of Washington (\$2,345,000), Johns Hopkins (more than \$2,200,000), Chicago University (\$2,000,000), the School of Medicine at Yale (\$1,583,000), Vassar College (\$100,000 for new buildings and 3,000 volumes of Greek and Latin texts).

The Rockefeller Foundation has also contributed large sums of money to various States in the United States, to enable them to study every aspect of public education. According to information supplied by Mr. Duffield, the State of Maryland, for instance, has, with the help of a large grant, been able to reorganise its whole educational system.

In December 1920, Mr. Rockefeller gave more than \$115,000,000 to the "General Education Board"; at the close of the financial period 1921, that Board had contributed more than \$32,000,000 in the form of donations to various colleges. It acts on the principle of making its donations depend on contributions from other donors.

Lastly, a gift of \$1,000,000 should be mentioned, which was recently made to the "Teachers' College " at Columbia University, to enable the latter to develop its work for the benefit of

foreign students and to investigate the scholastic problems in the countries of origin of those students. Thanks to this gift, the College of the "International Institute of Teachers" was organised, under the direction of Professor Paul Monroe.

It is estimated that the total amount of donations made by Mr. Rockefeller already exceeds \$500,000,000.

All these gifts are made "free of all restrictions", as they were intended to serve the principal aims of the various corporations; the trustees have the right to dispose of the capital as well as of the revenue. In this way it will be possible to appropriate the funds to the needs of future generations, whatever form these needs may take.

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Hungary :
The General Situation by O. DE HALECKI, The Universities
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