

AMHERST COLLEGE

Amherst, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 1, 1944

(Personal and Confidential)

Professor Winfield W. Riefler,
Institute for Advanced Study,
Princeton, New Jersey.

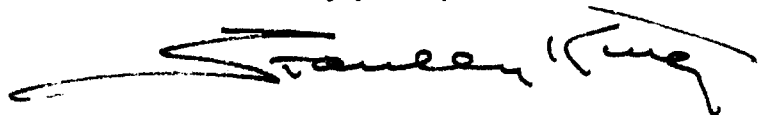
Dear Dr. Riefler:

It is a profound satisfaction to me to advise you that the Trustees of Amherst College at their meeting on January 30th voted to confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, at our forthcoming commencement, which will probably take place on Sunday, June 4th. You know how happy this action of the Trustees will make your friends, and how deep a satisfaction it will give me to hang an Amherst hood upon your shoulders. I hope that your plans will permit you to join us at commencement.

The degree is conferred in accordance with the usual custom in such cases, on condition that you are able to be present to accept it in person. In the meantime, I must ask you to hold this information in entire confidence until such time as the College shall make public, just preceding commencement, the list of those on whom honorary degrees will be conferred.

With cordial greetings, I am,

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stanley C. May". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left and a loop at the end.

King 56
Amherst

February 18, 1944

President Stanley King
Amherst College
Amherst, Massachusetts

Dear President King:

Few things move an alumnus more deeply than the knowledge that his college has voted to confer an honorary degree. I am very grateful.

As you know, my time and movements are not at present under my personal control. I can assure you, however, that if conditions at all permit, I shall be at Amherst on Sunday, June 4th to accept the degree.

Very sincerely yours,

Winfield W. Riefler

Night letter sent May 30.

Mr. Riefler here stop in all probabality will be able
to take degree stop will wire immediately if any unfore-
seen change in plans.

H. M. Wise

May 31, 1944

Professor W. J. Newlin
Secretary of the Faculty
Amherst College
Amherst, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Newlin:

According to present plans Mr. and Mrs. Riefler
plan to arrive in Amherst sometime on Sunday, June
4th. No other members of the family will be attend-
ing the exercises.

Will you please reserve a double room at the
Lord Jeffery Inn.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mr. Riefler

AMHERST COLLEGE

Amherst, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE FACULTY

May 18, 1944

Professor Winfield W. Riefler,
The Institute for Advanced Study,
Princeton, N. J.

My dear Riefler:

I am delighted that you are to be the recipient of an honorary degree at the Amherst Commencement exercises on Monday, June 5th, in Johnson Chapel. We are hoping that Professor George Taylor will be back from Washington by the first of June, in which case he will act as your escort and will meet you in the President's office, on the same floor as the Chapel, between 9:30 and 10:00 on that Monday morning.

If you do not have your own academic costume, we shall provide you with a cap and gown to be worn during the exercises. The hood of the degree will be provided by the College, and will be placed on your shoulders when the degree is conferred. Will you kindly let me know whether you wish us to provide you with an academic costume, and, if so, will you send us your weight, your height and your hat size?

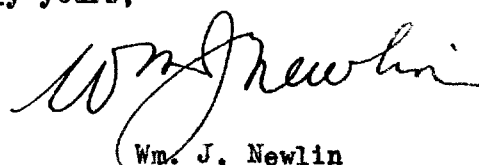
I shall be very happy to arrange for reserved seats for the exercises, for the members of your immediate family, if you will let me know the number. Mrs. King will have the tickets when you arrive.

If you are to come to Amherst by train, and will let us know when you expect to arrive at Northampton, we shall be glad to have you met at the station and brought to Amherst.

Professor Walter Stewart is also to receive a degree from Amherst at this same time, and I am notifying him that both of you will be in Amherst for this occasion.

I hope you will feel free to call upon me for any further information you may desire.

Very sincerely yours,



Wm. J. Newlin
Secretary of the Faculty

WJN/C

May 19, 1944

Mr. William J. Newlin
Secretary of the Faculty
Amherst College
Amherst, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Newlin:

I am taking the liberty of replying to your letter of May 18th, since Mr. Riefler is still in London. When he left here early in March, he hoped to be able to return in time to receive the degree from Amherst on June 5th. But I am beginning to fear that he will not be able to take it. A letter which I have just received from him dated April 25th gives no indication that he will be back as early as the date of the Commencement exercises. I think it would be best for me to cable him shortly to ask whether he still hoped to be able to take the degree. How long in advance must you know whether or not he will be there?

In any case I may as well give you the information that you ask for. Mr. Riefler has no academic costume but does have the hood received when he took his Ph.D. He is about 6 feet tall, weighs 170 and wears a fairly large hat size, I should say 7-1/2. If he should be able to go to Amherst, there would probably be three members of the family attending the exercises and we will be glad to let you know when we will arrive.

It would be delightful for Win to receive a degree at the same time as his former teacher, Professor Stewart, and I know that if he cannot make it, he will be very much disappointed.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Winfield W. Riefler

AMHERST COLLEGE

Amherst, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE FACULTY

May 31, 1944

Professor Winfield W. Riefler,
The Institute for Advanced Study,
Princeton, N. J.

My dear Riefler:

We are delighted to learn by the
telegram that we can expect you here next
Monday.

I am enclosing with this note, for
your convenience, three tickets which Mrs.
Riefler suggested you might like to have for
the special balcony section at the time of
the Commencement exercises.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wm. J. Newlin". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Wm. J. Newlin

AMHERST COLLEGE

Amherst, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE FACULTY

June 1, 1944

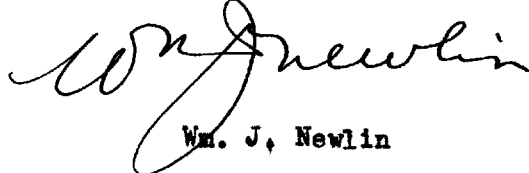
Professor W. W. Riefler,
Institute for Advanced Study,
Princeton, N. J.

My dear Riefler:

You will find a double room at the
Lord Jeffery Inn reserved for you and Mrs.
Riefler when you come to Amherst on Sunday.

If you can let us know just what time
you expect to arrive in Northampton, we will
arrange for your transportation to Amherst.

Cordially yours,



WJN/C

Wm. J. Newlin

Ward WWR - 6/2/44

June 1, 1944

Professor W. J. Newlin
Amherst College
Amherst, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Newlin:

Mr. and Mrs. Riefler are leaving direct for Amherst from Washington, arriving in Springfield at 9:05 A.M. Sunday morning. They will take the bus to Northampton and would appreciate it if they could be met there.

I am sending two tickets on to Mrs. Riefler at Amherst and returning one to you. In the event that only one of the tickets is used, Mrs. Riefler will return it to you before the exercises.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary

P.S. Mr. Stewart is arriving at Northampton at 4:30 pm. Saturday afternoon and would greatly appreciate being met.

Honorary degree,

see also

1930-45, Scrap Book