

PARK HOTEL
SPIEZ
H. J. ARNET

(1)

As from
17 Stanhope Street
Glasgow.

Friday Sept. 16. 1927

Dear Sir,

I rang you up on the telephone this morning from Basle hoping that you might not have left Zurich yet but I found you were in Bavaria and would not be back till after I return to England.

I wanted to see you to have a talk with you to clear up what are evidently misunderstandings between us.

First of all, we have no ~~the~~ wish whatsoever not to tell you who is translating your book.

It is being translated by Mr. Shearer, a lecturer in the Department of Natural Philosophy in the University of Glasgow. He is making the first English version. His version will be revised by our own senior mathematical editor - a member of our own staff - Dr. John Douglass. He is a very distinguished Scottish mathematician



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From you have no doubt heard. We ~~never~~^{do not} give out translations of important works to outside people & just print what we get from them! - our experience shows us that we can only avoid mistakes if the work is carefully edited by our own trained scientific editors, and then referred to the author (if he ^{reads} ~~speaks~~ English as you do) for his final revision. What I meant when I told you that we ourselves were ~~revising~~ supervising the translation, was just this - and that correspondence about the translation should be sent ^(ie Blackie & Co., Ltd) to us ^{& not} ^{& translation} to the our editors/direct.

Secondly, we wish, with your approval to add at the end of the English version some notes for the benefit of the less erudite of the English readers, and we shall be grateful if you will look over these notes when they are prepared, if you approve of the idea. After all, highly skilled ^{English} mathematicians will not require the translation, for most of them can read German

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quite well. The notes will perhaps (as we hope) be helpful to the less erudite people & so help to sell the book.

Thirdly, about the words "eigen values," etc.; other words that are ^{being} used are "proper values," etc. These words were used in a paper in the ~~1st~~ September number of the Phil. Mag., so you will have seen. If you prefer these words to "characteristic values" etc, let us use them - for we can quite well use them as the equivalents of "valeurs ^{caractéristiques} ~~characteristiques~~", etc., and the English words "proper values" etc. have perfectly clear English meanings.

I hope you will see that we have every wish to fall in with your wishes, and that all we want is to issue an English version worthy of the original, both scientifically & linguistically.



Will you please reply to this letter to
Glasgow, where I shall return next week.

I hope to hear from you soon, as it will
be necessary for you to see & approve
of the English version before publication
- if we are to publish it.

I hope you will also approve of the idea
of the Notes, & help us with them by
looking over them for us, for which of course
a fee will be due to you. We can arrange this
in due course.

Yours truly

J. D. P. Bisacre.

To Professor Schroedinger

Kuttenschane 9.

Zurich.