



Mathematical Institute
16 Chambers Street
Edinburgh, 1

29 November 1953

Sir Ronald Fisher, F.R.S.
Whittingehame Lodge,
44 Storey's Way,
Cambridge.

Dear Fisher,

Yesterday, Saturday morning, I had to cram in so many calls on people whom I wished to see and who wished to see me in Cambridge, that I could not do one thing that I principally wished, namely to see you and your guest Professor C.I. Bliss in occupation and action at 44 Storey's Way. However, Wishart drove me round in such brief time as I could spare (I had to go north by the 11.31 train) and I saw your habitat, a transformation of a residence into a research establishment without losing the character of the former or the quality of the latter. This was especially mirrored in your excellent garden, both garden and (with lythrum and peas) a research garden. Your secretary (did I catch her name aright: Miss Dance?) did the honours very well indeed.

You know, I often walk under the Lammermuirs near the original Whittingehame.

It was very indulgent of you and Professor Bliss to come and grace my show at the Archimedean. By my standards it was the poorest I have ever given; but I had had 92 days of insomnia (5 hours sleep on the average per night) following a tragic family happening. One needs to be at the top of form, and I was immensely below that. Memorizing π is a futile thing, but I could have done the 2035 places with no trouble. Let it go, however.

I was most glad to meet Professor Bliss, to whom will you please give my good wishes.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

A. C. Aitken

4th December, 1953.

My dear Aitken,

Thank you for your letter. I am exceedingly sorry that I had no idea the night before that you might be able to pay a visit to my department as I should certainly like, for my own part and that of my colleagues, to have seen you and let you see something of the work in progress.

You gave the Archimedeans a great show, really astonishing, and both Bliss and I felt ourselves most fortunate to see you do it. I am, however, a little annoyed with Wishart for bringing you along here fruitlessly when we could so easily have made convenient arrangements.

Sincerely yours,