



SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

May 23, 1960

To: Members of the Faculty and Staff

From: Centennial Celebration Committee

Subject: Plans for the Centennial

We are happy to report that the firm outlines of a program for the Institute's Centennial Celebration in 1961 have now been established.

Although the general celebration will begin next fall and will continue throughout 1961, there will be a concentration of activities in the week preceeding and culminating in the actual anniversary date, which is Monday, April 10, 1961 -- one hundred years from the day on which the Commonwealth of Massachusetts granted the Institute its charter. The period from April 2 to April 10, 1961, will be known as Centennial Week.

A major event of Centennial Week will be a closed conference on scientific and technological education, to take place April 2-6. Planning is being conducted by a committee consisting of Professors Rosenblith, Shapiro and Millikan, Dean Johnson and Professor Whitman, Chairman. A hundred distinguished participants drawn from around the world will discuss the relevant issues. It is the hope of the committee that these discussions will contribute significantly to our understanding in this area and will result in the publication of an important book on the subject.

Beginning on April 7, there will be a three-day series of public meetings devoted to discussions of world problems, both practical and philosophical. The opening session is expected to be addressed by an international personage, and participants in the discussion panels for the subsequent meetings will be drawn from delegates to the centennial conference.

Centennial Week will culminate in a "birthday party" banquet on the evening of April 8, at the Statler Hotel, and in a formal centennial convocation and academic procession on the afternoon of Sunday, April 9. A centennial concert

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will be given Sunday evening in Kresge Auditorium.

In conjunction with Centennial Week, the Institute will issue a Centennial Album of important music that has been played or recorded at M. I. T., a Centennial Essay on education, and a travelling exhibit of photographs illustrating the influence of engineering on architecture over the past century.

National attention will be drawn to the M. I. T. Centennial through a series of six one-hour television programs to be presented by the Columbia Broadcasting System in prime evening time beginning next fall and carrying over to 1961. CBS and M. I. T. are collaborating on the programs, which will be devoted to broad issues involving science, technology and society. The Centennial Committee has also applied to the Post Office Department for the issuance of a Centennial Postage Stamp.

Within the Institute family there will be many other events associated with the Centennial. An official faculty party is expected to be held in May, 1961. Student organizations are planning activities on the campus, and alumni will participate in meetings in Cambridge and in other cities. The Technology Review is discussing plans for its Centennial Year volume, and the School of Industrial Management will hold a special conference to observe both the Institute's Centennial and its own tenth anniversary.

The scope of the Institute and its manifold interests suggest the possibility of many other activities and programs appropriate to the Centennial Celebration. The committee will welcome suggestions from any members of the faculty, staff, or student body to help us mark appropriately this milestone in our history.

Sincerely yours,

COMMITTEE on the CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

John E. Burchard, Chairman

Francis Bitter  
Walter H. Gale  
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