

Ramón Ortiz Fornaguera

Residencia del Consejo Superior  
de Investigaciones Científicas.  
Pinar, 21  
M a d r i d .

December 24, 1947.

Representatives in Spain of the  
Allied Control Council for Germans,  
Avenida del Generalísimo, 4

MADRID.

Gentlemen:

I am interested in obtaining authorization to publish a Spanish translation of *Matematische Grundlagen der Quantenmechanik*, by J. von Neumann. Since this work was published in 1932 by Julius Springer Berlin, to whom I understand the author then ceded all rights, I presume that the copyright is now controlled by the Council. If this is indeed the case, I shall be very grateful if you will inform me on what terms the Council would be willing to authorize publication of the Spanish version.

My translation has been ready for the press for a number of months, and has been accepted, in principle, for publication by the Instituto Jorge-Juan de Matemáticas. The Instituto cannot, of course, proceed to print the book until the matter of copyright is clarified. My first effort in this direction was to inquire of Prof. von Neumann, now at Princeton University and a naturalised American citizen, concerning the status of the copyright and the procedure for having my translation authorized. The matter is apparently quite out of his hands. For whatever interest it may have, I enclose a copy of the pertinent part of his recent letter.

It will not be necessary for me to insist here on the importance of Professor von Neumann's book in the field of mathematical physics, nor on the prospective usefulness of a translation to Spanish-speaking scientists. The first is a matter of easily ascertainable fact and in view of it, the other is obvious. It only remains, then, for me to add my best personal thanks for whatever you may be able to do to expedite the matter of the authorization.

Yours very truly,

1 ENCLOSURE