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HV/nv

Professor Dr. Viktor HAMBURGER
Department of Biology
Washington University

St. Louis, Mo. 63130
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Dear Viktor,

Yesterday, Nolette and I drove by the Lake of Neuchâtel, heading home after a visit to Ramón, our younger son who studies there (Ethnology). It was beautiful weather and we thought of the visit you and we paid to your father's grave more than ten years ago.

We decided to stop there again and we remembered searching with you and finally finding Max Hamburger's simple stone. It is in good shape and overgrown, but for the frame and the stone with Goethe's words, with a plant of which I here enclose a branchlet.

How are you? What are you doing/writing/lecturing, these days? Are you in good health? How would I love to come and see you; but when I am in the States - which is, in fact, not so often - I usually do what is strictly necessary and then go back.

Our Institute continues to go well with people like Giorgio Innocenti (development of callosum), Peter Clarke (cell death), Laurence Garey (development of visual pathways) and myself (mostly on pattern formation in brain) having formed small, active groups. I believe we've got one of the most active neuroscience institutes in Europe at present, as far as that can be measured - in the absence of a yardstick of eternity - by things such as productivity, invitations, visits and applications from those who want to work with us. Although we could recently recrute Bernard Droz for the chair of Histology, the University here remains a provincial one with little emphasis on research. But on the other hand, money is not in so short a supply compared with other academic settings: one must live frugally but need not cut back. In other words: you got some, you loose some.

I think with fondness of my encounter with you and with admiration and gratefulness of what you have done for our field of science.

With warm regards, also from Nolette,

Yours most sincerely,

Hendrik

Hendrik Van der Loos

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