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March 16, 1989

Dear Viktor:

My autobiographical book entitled, "The Never-Ceasing Search," is in the hands of the publisher, the American Philosophical Society. It has been copy-edited and returned to me for approval or alteration. This has also been completed and the MS will be returned to the Editor.

In the meantime, I have many things to do, one of which is to obtain the permission of individuals whom I have directly quoted, to publish the quotation.

The enclosed copy of pages 42-44 of Chapter VIII contains the quotation. If you approve the use of the letter you wrote me, would you please so indicate; only a single sentence will do. Many thanks.

I look forward to attending your Kuffler lecture at Boston University on May 8.

Cordially yours,

Frank

Francis O. Schmitt

Dr. Viktor Hamburger
Department of Biology
Washington University
St. Louis, MO 63130

gridiron dinner to entertain us and to put us in our proper places! All of this was lubricated with drinks. I noticed that after my glass had become empty, while watching the hilarious show, my glass would miraculously be replenished with more of the same. I found out that one of the graduate students, Milton Slein by name, earned his way through college by tending bar in the evenings and weekends. It was he who tended my glass faithfully, a bit too faithfully I think.

It was a wonderful send-off and our farewell to Washington University.

Two days after the party given by the graduate students, I received the following letter from my close friend and colleague, Viktor Hamburger, with whom I had had many friendly arguments at Prof. Grave's Thursday evening seminars:

St. Louis, May 9 1941

Dear Frank,

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When I came to St. Louis, still half a stranger in this Country, it was like homecoming when you took me to the "Schmitty-Verein." The Schmitt's I had been familiar with all my life, and my feelings towards their clan are those of the Lord who, obviously, likes them because he made so many sub-species and local varieties of their kind: the t-ts, and the d-ts and the ds. And "Verein" - I had keenly felt its absence in this country, and I have never considered a "Club" a fair substitute for them.

My real surprise came when I found out that by uniting these two time-honored institutions of my former Lebensraum with a double bond following the equation "Schmitt + Verein = Schmitty Verein. You have created something entirely new and unique: that strange combination of stimulating shop talk, of brilliant fireworks, occasionally quenched by weak coffee, of heavy brainstorms, calmed by Barbara's cookies; and all this well seasoned with a good strong dose of scientist's favorite spices, the criti- and the witticisms!

1 cm
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By the way, this, your own product, settles an old argument between us (in my favor.) Do you remember that I always maintained that no matter how much you know about oxygen, and about hydrogen, you cannot foretell the properties of H_2O? Or, to put it more appropriately, no matter how much you know about grapes, and about yeast, you cannot guess how champagne tastes! Or should one turn the argument in your favor and argue that the good chemist who knows the efficiency of his catalysts (e.g., Cori-Esters) and who chooses a combination of more, and less, sweet grapes as a substrate cannot fail to produce champagne?

H_2O

No matter how you argue, I always felt "at home" and happy "in Verein." I am sure the Verein will live on, and you will always be our "Ehren-Vereins-Ober-Praesident."

For this letter I am most grateful and may hope that

it conveys a sentiment of all my friends, the members of the Verein.

I am happy to say that Viktor Hamburger succeeded me as chairman of the zoology department and has received many honors for important discoveries in life-science.