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Dear Viktor:

Thank you for your letter of April 27. For some weird reason all mail sent about that time from anywhere (including a building three blocks from here - here is home despite the stationery ) took a full week to be delivered. I think I have to disappoint you, the review for the Quarterly won't be a long essay-review. They asked for 300 to 350 words, as they usually do. I will send them more words than that but not enough to qualify for being entitled an essay (I like to think almost all of my reviews are essays, no matter what their length or lack of it.) The problem is that your book is one in a monograph series, I don't think they can do something for you that they aren't doing for the others in the series. The fact that they aren't doing it for others in the series is shown by the fact that the book about Jacques Loeb is also in the same series and they didn't single that out for something special (before it was reviewed they had no knowledge of its quality). Actually it is getting many most enthusiastic reviews in very prestigious places, including in NATURE. Thus, the fact that you agree with my criticism of it is of enormous relief to me, I was beginning to think, after reading all the highly favorable reviews of it, that I was losing my judgment. I had a letter from him (nice, very civil and friendly) taking issue with me. I replied to it, but will not continue any further correspondence with him. As I said above, I am at home, the letters to and from Pauly are at the lab which for various reasons I can't get to until next Tuesday, I'll send you copies then.

I was only partly puzzled by Holtfreter's letter to you. It is very very odd indeed, but consider it as an aberration (of which he has had many of varied varieties before, as you well know), and don't let it come between you on a serious way after all those years of affection and tolerance between you (the tolerance on your part, not his!).

I have no way of knowing whether Paul Weiss is alive or dead, I don't remember having heard of his death, but I might not. You, as a member of the National Academy, which I am not, and which he was -or is? -can write to the National Academy to find out; it used to be the Home Secretary who kept such records but that may have changed since 1963 when I was in touch with that office when writing a Memoir for the Biographical Memoirs they publish (Nick's).

I am not very well informed about Scott Gilbert's book. Two or three years ago he asked me on the telephone to contribute a chapter, it is something or other related to emrbyology but that is all I remember. He said at the time that I would soon be sent further details and a contract but nothing has been forthcoming. I had a letter from Jane Maienschein (who I think you like more than I do) asking me what I was planning to do since Scott had warned her not to overlap with me; but she didn't tell me what her subject was to be (I told her what I would do about Herbst). My reply to her did not require an acknowledgment and I did not receive one. I doubt that my vision and my life will last long enough to see that book in print All the best, Jane