

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

Dec. 30, 1943.

Dr. Viktor Hamburger,
Zoology Department,
Washington University,
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Viktor:

I now have a letter from Dr. Hanson in which he outlines the aid which they have given to Holtfreter in the past. He also mentions that he wrote a strong letter of recommendation to Mr. Moe of the Guggenheim Foundation recommending Holtfreter for a fellowship. He stated that in his opinion it would be a very good thing for Holtfreter to spend his fellowship year in our laboratory. He points out that it is against the policy of the Rockefeller Foundation to attempt to take a part in effecting Holtfreter's entrance into this country.

Yesterday, while I was in New York on other business, I dropped in on Mr. Moe and had a chat with him about Holtfreter. There is no question at all that Moe appreciates thoroughly that Holtfreter is one of the leaders in his field and that everything possible should be done for him. He did not say so in so many words, but from all he said I gathered that all that is necessary for the Guggenheim Fellowship to be settled is a formal approval of his Board. Moe himself has apparently decided favorably already. Moreover, Mr. Moe agreed that our laboratory would probably be a good place for him to spend a year.

Accordingly, it appears that everything is all set if Holtfreter wishes to come here. Concerning his entry into the country, Mr. Moe indicated that he would probably approach the proper persons in the State Department to make recommendations to bring this about. I am informed that he knows his way around the State Department very well. Nevertheless, I told him that if he wishes additional backing from the Institute we will be very glad to make it available. So, at this time it seems quite possible that Holtfreter may be here in the near future. I have not received any communications on the subject from Holtfreter himself. Perhaps it would have been more orthodox for him to have written me first, but under the

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circumstances I shall write him today indicating that you had discussed the matter with me and that as far as the Institute and I are concerned we should be glad to have him come. Naturally, I will say nothing to him about my discussions with Hanson and Moe or any plans which we might have in connection with the State Department. I only hope if he does come that we can find the necessary space in our over-crowded quarters to take care of him adequately. I am sure we will gain very much from his stay here.

You have no doubt heard about the surprise birthday party which the Medical faculty is planning for Dr. Erlanger's seventieth birthday. I had hoped very much to get to St. Louis for the party. However, at the present sitting there doesn't seem to be even a remote chance that I shall be able to do so.

As ever yours,

Frank

Francis O. Schmitt.

FOS:O