

January 27, 1968

Dear Hannes:

Thank you so much for your letter. WE are obligated to YOU for letting us celebrate you, and the mood and the lagge attendance at the symposium were a great tribute to you, much deserved.

I don't think I meant to ask you to look at the ms after it is shaped up for publication, though if it ever is I perhaps might be glad for you to see it before it goes in. What I really wished was your comments on the paper as delivered orally so that I could decide how or whether to shape it up to be published. Accordingly, your letter told me what I wished to know, and I am most grateful for your comments, which couldn't be more helpful. I had really believed the talk was organized tightly about two or three points, and if that didn't come across, I need to know it. Perhaps you are correct that a more elaborate exploration should be left for another occasion, and perhaps I should wait to do more thinking and reading before putting anything in print. The criticisms I had from it by others were chiefly about important things and thoughts that I had omitted, i. e. they asked for more, not less. Well, I shall think about it.

The long quotation was not from Wilson but from T. H. Morgan. It was meant to imply, and I thought I said this, but perhaps that didn't get across either, that while we had made much progress in many fields of embryological study, the nature of biological organization still eludes us. I also said specifically that you had helped us study it. I know what I said because I read from a completely written out manuscript that I have before me.

reprints

I too received all these reprints from Løvtrup and don't know what to make of them. I haven't yet read carefully what his experimental basis is for thinking Vogt didn't know where the mesoderm was. I don't think one has to worry any more about what goes into textbooks because I don't think anybody reads books any more, that is really a doctrine of despair! I think you are correct, we should keep our own house in order.

I must thank you too for the prints, I adore Holtfretter-in-a-cave, but then, I am prejudiced deeply in favor of them all, as I am in favor of Holtfretters themselves. Very best wishes to you both, and thanks again for your help. I'll think a while about the ms,

Yours,