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August 18, 1978

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Dr. Ernst Mayr
Museum of Comparative Zoology
Harvard University
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Dear Ernst,

Thank you for your letter of August 7 which I found here after my return from a 6-week trip to Germany and Switzerland. I worked part of the time at a Max Planck Institute in Tuebingen with my friend Max Cowan on a book, but the distractions were many, and too pleasant to be passed up.

I have quite a number of commitments for writing including the above-mentioned book and I don't feel that I should accept another task. I am sure another competent embryologist would be willing to read the translation of the Russian book. Names that occur to me would be Clem Markert, Trinkaus, Howard Hamilton, Ray Watterson, Florence Moog, Jane Oppenheimer.

While I am writing to you, may I mention another--perhaps touchy--point. No mention has ever been made of the publication of the 1976 Conference reports on the origins of the "Modern Synthesis." I have reread my article on "Embryology and the Modern Synthesis," and I find that it would be of interest to students of history of biology of that period. I have invested considerable efforts in writing it. If its publication by you within a year or so is not intended, then I would like to withdraw it and get your permission to publish it elsewhere. Plesae let me know at your early convenience.

With cordial greetings to both of you,

Yours,

VH:im

Viktor Hamburger

P.S. It may interest you that Carola has quit her Professorship in Classics and is entering Yale Medical School this fall!