

St. Louis, August 5, 95

Dear Jane, thank you very much for your letter. Ger told me already that the Meeting in Belgium was very successful. I am grateful for your presentation of my paper, which, according to you and Ger, was much applauded.

I don't believe that Roux ever considered himself an anatomist. The earlier work did not focus on gross anatomy. As the title: "Kampf der Teile" indicates, he had a very dynamic aspect of the organism in mind. And in the many pages on Entw. mech. I read, I don't remember a single reference to the earlier book.

As to your second point, you yourself have written about different styles. I think you were right in your distinction of German and American styles in the last decades of the last century, but later the distinction was blurred. Spemann was philosophical, like many German academics of his generation, but Mongold and Holtfreter and Harrison were not. All Americans were positivists, if they had any philosophical "creed". Spemann was strongly organismic, Holtfreter broke with this mind-set and became completely reductionist. He grew parts of the embryo in vitro. Harrison was in one respect like Spemann: he used the whole embryo, and never used his in vitro method again. In other respects he was American, anti lofty theorizing, against the term "organizer", like Holtfreter. See p. 73 of my book. His 1933 paper is worth reading. I agree, dividing biologist of this century along national lines makes no sense.