

To Chicago.

Freiburg, July 3, 1935

Dear Friend! Your letter arrived here almost on the day [birthday, June 29]; I enjoyed it very much as a sign of faithful remembrance. Not less so on account of the good news which it contained. [offer of a position at Wash. U. in St. Louis]. There may be many things unsaid below the surface which are difficult (heavy). But I have the firm trust that you will construct (Zurecht zimmern, colloquial) a fine life and that at the end everything will turn out well for you - which however, we cannot credit to us, as our merit.

You have certainly acted wisely, when you held tight to North - America (declined an offer from Sao Paulo, Brazil); since you had to decide between it and Sao Paulo. Therefore I have no ~~for~~ a moment thought of you, that is, thinking of you I did immediately, but only in order to reject the idea at once. In the meantime you yourself had made your decision in the same sense. I have now - after checking back with Beltzer and von Utsch - suggested the letter [for the job in Sao Paulo] ^{with} whose one grand mother there is something wrong (jewish "stimmt nicht"). I am anxious (to know) whether he will be asked (offered the job) and if so, what he will do. In many

ways he fits there excellently. I ^{had} advised ⁽²⁾
him already 20 years ago to become an explorer.
In that I am in agreement with Beltzer; less
so in the assessment of his abilities and
accomplishments as an investigator. With the
letter [publications of v. Ubböck] I have engaged
myself rather meticulously ~~in~~ in the preparation of
the last chapter of my Silliman Lectures, about
the scope [validity] etc. (of v. U.'s research?)

(Spe refers here to the sea urchin experiments of v. Ubböck.
Since Beltzer worked also on sea urchin exp. embryology,
Spemann consulted him. I think ^{Beltzer} Spe and v. U. both
were in Boveri's lab. in Würzburg, the latter after Sp. had
left. Spe discusses the sea urchin exp. of v. U. in
great detail in a chapter in the German edition which
was omitted in the English edition. v. U. and Hör-
stadius had some disagreements, and Spe tended to
side with H. I think Spe was right. In the English edit-
ion, only the work of v. U. on lens induction is discussed.
Since there was a controversy between the two on this point,
Spe defended his conclusions, as would be expected.
Altogether, he did not think very highly of v. U.'s ac-
complishments. But one should give Spe. credit
for engaging himself in the effort to help v. U.
find a job. He was one of the unfortunates to ~~be~~ be '4
recently impure. He did not get or take the job in S. Paolo.
His wife was Norwegian or Swedish and he ended up
(I think) ^{at} a Norwegian Marine Biol. Station)

There is much contained in this last sentence! I
hope really that I can complete ~~it~~ in these ver-
sions which have started yesterday the German
manuscript (M.S.) and soon thereafter also the English
(manuscript). To mark everything ~~for me~~ come alive
for me once more, in context, before I put the

finishing touch on it, I have read aloud (3)
the entire lectures, behind the handle-less tea
cup [= during the afternoon tea hour in his re-
print room, where the whole Dept., staff, guests
were assembled.) There I had missed you very
much. I have made several necessary corrections
in detail, and also decided on some major trans-
positions, but by and large, the work was de-
clared as ~~for~~ finished (complete). I shall be not
a little relieved, when it really is, and then I
have to see how I can find my equilibrium
again, after almost 4 years of exertion, with-
out vacations and almost without Sundays.
When that has been achieved, then I hope ^{yet} for
~~for~~ some pleasant years of learning and ~~teaching~~
teaching. I am supposed, for the present, to stay
in office for another year.

In this summer I have had again the greatest
joy in the Institute work. Once a week was great
demonstration, in which the students got to see
really beautiful things, and we too. All this: long-
entertained and finally materialized wishes. I
have made very many preparations myself, also in the
course, and with greatest enjoyment (Freude). Now
of course, I live in the illusion that after com-
pletion of the book I'll have time for everything.

At the beginning of next week I march with
a strong column of troops (Heerschar) to Stuttgart
to the Zoological Congress. Süffert will give one
of the two big lectures; Rohmann will report on very
beautiful xenoplastic inductions, Bernhard Meyer
on inductions by half organizers; Prof. G. Fischer

on the chemism of the inductions. I shall - 4 -
listen silently and grinning (schmunzelnd =
smiling contentedly), Vogt, von Frisch, A. Kühn,
Reinhard Dohrn [director of the Naples Zool. Station]
Mrs. Boveri will come. Hence it can be pleasant
(hübsch). [Strangely enough, Mengold and Hottelner are not
mentioned].

I can well understand that the chicken does not
let go of you (release you - loslassen). Since you now
master the technique so well, it would be nice
if you would investigate the psychological con-
sequences of congenital [brain] defects and compare
them with the consequences of defects, produced later.
But you have probably long since your own plans
we have devoted one demonstration entirely to the
development of the chick, and we were all quite
enchanted by the beauty.

How fortunate it is for you that your wife likes
it in the U.S.A., I find this simply decisive; it
could easily have been different. For instance my
daughter [Mrs. Margrit Cloos, then in Baltimore, where
her husband was Prof. of Geology] suffers much from what
is foreign to us; besides that also purely physically
from the climate and the excess of work. Her two
children are well, and the husband makes good head-
way with his work.

Everything moves forward slowly. Rudo (his
second son, because ^{calligrapher} ~~of the~~ artist) will give up his assist-
ant position in Stuttgart in 3 weeks. It is time
that he comes into something new. At the
moment he visits script (~~writing~~) people and publishes
(calligraphic)

in Frankfurt, Leipzig and Berlin, provided ⁽⁵⁾
with self-earned recommendations and good
pieces, Ulli (youngest son, architect) has passed
his examination 4 1/2 years ago and a few letters
received the offer from B...? to join his
office. There he helps now to build villas for
industrial magnates. About us old ones there is
not much to say, except that we enjoy the young
ones.

How wonderful must it have been for you
to have had your mother with you and how
reassuring (soothing) for her to see the newly-
founded happiness (good fortune) of the children.
We both send you and your wife our most cordial
greetings and we hope for a happy reunion (seeing
you again) ~~at~~ next year [did not materialize].

Your old friend

H. Speer
(My mother had visited us in Chicago for several
weeks during the summer of 1935)