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26 November '96

Dear Josh,

For reasons known only to the U.S. postoffice, my copy of October 1996 Genetics reached me two days ago, thus the delay. Thanks for an enjoyable Perspectives essay on the E. coli recombination story. I couldn't help but think how much fun we had just after the end of World War II. I suppose we were a small community of geneticists, so small that we knew almost everyone in the field. Now when I go on occasion to a Drosophila research conference, 1400 people are in attendance! I feel lost — and for sure unknown.

*

When I read about the late Harriet Ephrussi-Taylor, I was reminded of a comment she made to me at the 1953 International Genetics Congress in Bellagio: You are wasting your time with Drosophila; it's a dead organism. Too bad she's not around to witness the resurrection — a demonstrable one!

I'm still pushing flies but not making progress, just enjoying myself.

All the best,

Mel

(Green)

* Harriett (sic)
Well, she was wrong about some other matters, but I still weep a tear.

Josh.

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X.. ots 12/4/96