



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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April 30, 1991

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Mr. S. K. Bagchi
Director
Birla Industrial and
Technological Museum
National Council of Science Museums
19A, Curusaday Road
Calcutta 700 019
India

Dear Mr. Bagchi:

Your letter of April 11th concerning the Haldane Centenary was forwarded to me here from Stanford.

You asked me to contribute an article on Haldane and Society. Thank you, but I really do not think I can add more to this issue than the collection of excerpts that I submitted to "Haldane and Modern Biology" edited by Dronamraju in 1968.

I am sure that I don't have to tell you that Dronamraju is a diligent bibliographer of Haldane and could provide many details. His recently published "Selected Genetic Papers of J B S Haldane" is still not quite complete and I would hope there might be an occasion to reprint the very prescient article that Haldane published in 1937 in "Perspectives in Biochemistry".

I will be giving you some very obvious names, probably mostly redundant; but I would want to be sure that you have thought of all of them. Above all, Haldane's sister, Naomi Mitchison, still thrives, at an advanced stage, at her home in Carradale, Scotland. Her sons, the various Mitchisons, are eminent British scientists. Dr. Sahotra Sarkar at Boston University has taken an active interest in the Haldane archives.

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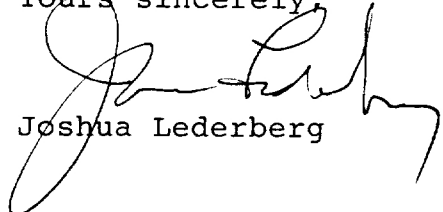
What would you think of a display of citations to Haldane's work, which I could get from the Institute of Scientific Information database?

My correspondence with Haldane has been deposited in the Haldane Archives in Britain.

I will scan whatever files I may have concerning my visit to Calcutta in 1957: if I can lay my hands on it (I am afraid that is doubtful) I had a marvelous picture of J B S at a zoo with a Bengal tiger on a leash. He certainly was fearless! In that connection I will remind you of Larry Altman whose book on self experimentation "Who Goes First" included a distinctive vignette of Haldane's contributions in that area.

I don't have to tell you about the other numerous J B S biographers -- I hope you will include them in your display.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg

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