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510 Caswell Road
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
27514

March 22, 1969

Dr. J. Lederbert
Genetics Department
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

I am sorry that your communication was delayed in reaching me here where we have retired.

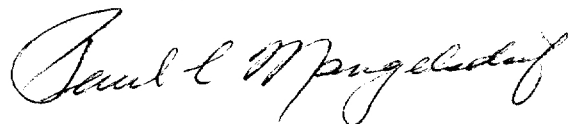
I have read the copies of your column with much interest and admiration. It must take a great deal of energy to keep up with a regular stint of this kind.

I know of no really good current monograph on the origins of cultivated plants. Most students of this general subject have become specialized as I have, concentrating on one important cultivated plant and its relatives. My specialty, of course, is corn and I am now in the throes of completing a book on that subject. There are several people in the world who are concentrating on the cultivated wheats; Kihara in Japan, Riley in England, MacKey in Sweden. Whitaker in California is a specialist on the squashes and other cucurbits; Rick at Davis on the tomato and its relatives. I understand that Darlington at Oxford is writing a book covering the field. He is one of the few people in the world who would have the nerve to do it. In the meantime you might be interested in a smaller work entitled "Essays in Crop Plant Evolution" edited by Sir Joseph Hutchinson and published by the Cambridge University Press in 1965. Also there is a recent book in German by Schwanitz entitled "Die Evolution der Kulturpflanzen" published by Bayerischer Landwirtschaftsverlag, München Basel Wien which covers a great deal of territory and has an extensive bibliography.

With respect to the origins of agriculture I can tell you that Sauer's ideas are not generally accepted and are not supported by archaeological discovery. I wrote a critical review of his book, "Agricultural Origins and Dispersals," some years ago. I am enclosing a reprint of my review. In the light of recent archaeological discoveries I could be even more critical now.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Paul C. Mangelsdorf

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