

The Claridge Apt. Hotel,  
333, West Washington Ave.,  
MADISON, Wisconsin.

17th February, 1960.

Dr. Emmaneul Hackel,  
Michigan State University  
EAST LANSING, Mich.

My dear Hack,

Jean and I have been doing our best to wrestle with the problem of my making a visit from here in the short time remaining; but it seems to be scarcely possible either through Chicago or through Detroit and now I have partially incapacitated myself through a match folder exploding in the palm of my hand, so you must excuse me for giving up the attempt at this time.

The best that I could have done would have been something like a six-hour journey arriving at Lansing at half past twelve in the morning and, though I would trust you to face anything, it is not the sort of visit I should like wantonly to inflict.

I gave a lecture yesterday to the effect that blood groups showed the section of mankind that evolved in tropical Africa to be more distinct than any other variety and that the severance must have occurred when the Riss-Wurm interglacial period converted a pluvial North Africa, in which *H. sapiens* had been multiplying, to a wide belt of desert such as it is now, while a considerable later sub-speciation took place when our species, doubtless displacing populations of more primitive form, spread into Asia by widely divided northern and southern routes. This makes rather good sense of the way really distant peoples like the Ainu in Japan or the Abos in Australia are much more like Caucasians than they are like either negroes or Mongolians. However the main thing was to give an outline framework for the evolution of our species.

Will you be in Rome in 1961?

Love to your family,  
Sincerely yours,