

Matthew Meselson

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Dear Matthew

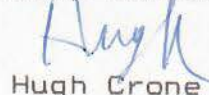
Shirley Freeman mentioned some time ago that you had expressed interest in my book "Chemicals and Society" and you would like details. I enclose a publicity flyer. You may know that it won the Phi Beta Kappa Science Book Award last December. This was a great boost for me; it is always nice to know that someone out there reads the thing. I am sure that Harvard needs a thousand copies. I myself am pleased with it overall, it has its weak points but does what I intended it to do. The production disappointed me, particularly the quality of the plates. I would be glad to have your comments.

Thanks for the reprint from "Foreign Policy" you sent in October. Yellow Rain is now history as far as I am concerned, or material for a study in social pathology. The events in Halabja are alarming; I think the Kurds must have been hit with a volatile nerve gas such as Sarin. HCN would not have been toxic enough to kill so quickly in a fairly open situation. It was the first real demonstration of the potency of nerve gas.

There is not too much of intellectual moment happening here, so I am developing an interest in science in historical Islam. The flowering of science and technology under the Caliphate was remarkable. I wonder whether there was much Jewish influence. It may well have been a genuine Semitic achievement, before Arabs and Jews starting clobbering one another. The events in Gaza are saddening, a return to the sonderkommando.

I will be in the US very briefly in the beginning of May, but hardly long enough to get my feet on the ground. Round the world in two weeks is the aim of our Department now. Someday I may be able to call in to Harvard to see you.

Yours sincerely,



Hugh Crone

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