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27. Oct.

Dear Joske,
 alas! there was no need for you to be Christian for, if I remember correctly, I always said I might come and I wanted to come, not that I would come to Boston. As it turned out I stayed in Berkeley until the last minute to finish off some idiotic papers for some idiotic volume reporting the proceedings of some idiotic conference. I shall certainly write you a luscious Guggenheim recommendation especially as I now know how to apply myself (your application will serve as a guide line). This will be an attempt finally to get out of the philosophy of science which I find more and more uncomfortable a subject to live with. Students come to me with marvellous problems in the philosophy of the quantum theory and to start with I tell them quite honestly that I think they are wasting their time, that they should go to a movie, but there is no reaction, and so I have to go on and have to listen to some cute points. I am sorry to say it bores me no end. So does the lecture on quantum theory I am giving here at the college and which has an overflow audience. I begged them "please go away"; I told them "you are supposed to be philosophers; then the first thing you ought to have is a sense of proportion which tells you that there are more important things around than the quantum theory etc". No dice. Well, so I am now giving boring lectures full of formulae for I do not see any reason why I should try to lure people into this field. My lectures at the LSE, on the other hand, are exactly my cup of tea. Thesis (which may be false, but which I use just to stir them up): Copernican science at the time of its invention, and especially at the time of Galileo was much worse off than Ptolemaeism - so why did people want to defend it. This thesis used to criticise certain items ~~in~~ in Popper-Lakatos. Imre is in all my lectures and we have sometimes quite a ~~very~~ nice argument. I also attend his lectures and there he discussed your views for an hour ("your views" meaning the view that science can well live and should live without corroboration). The LSE audience is marvellous, they have all wide interests. But at UC a philosopher is a philosopher is a philosopher. I gave your regards to Wilkie, he sends his love. So does Sabra with whom I had lunch ~~yesterday~~ yesterday. London is a marvellous town, and I love it more every time I come here. I take long walks in Hyde park, ~~xxxx~~ Kensington gardens etc. and visit movies and theatres. Compared with London Berkeley is the provinces. Also the students are much more mature here, no inclination to turn one into a father figure or what have you. I saw Lynn very briefly, also Peggy, both attend my lectures, but I don't see very much of them. Nor do I see anything of Karl who is busy on Tuesday when he is ~~in~~ in London, and who is away for the rest of the time. But I do

see a lot of Imre and of John. By the way - have you noticed the letterhead? Have you noticed that I am Executive Vice President of the Busoni Society with Casals, Rubinstein, Serkin etc. as advisors? In this capacity I write little articles for the brochures accompanying recordings for ANGEL records, I may have to sue the Royal Philharmonic etc.etc. - all attempts to get out of the Philosophy of Science.

Yesterday I was supposed to give a talk in Karlsruhe, I had to cancel it because of too much pain. Today I am still quite dizzy, and have a slight tremor in my hand (this is why I am writing with the typewriter) - I took too many pills. So I did not see Hans Albert. This evening there is a party at LSE with all the students which I shall attend - maybe I shall then have an opportunity to talk to Lynn a little longer. And now - this is all for today, be well and you'll soon hear from me again. Best regards to Judith, to Aaron - is Tirza still around? and, if you see her, to the red herring.