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Date: Thu, 19 Jul 2001 23:39:13 BST
Subject: Re: thanks

Jim

Sorry for such a short email .. i'm dead tired and its almost 12:00 ..

I thought your talk was great ... and I will help you achieve your goal in any way I reasonably can .. both because i consider you a good friend .. and also because I really believe in what you are doing ..

How about lunch / coffee this Monday ?

cheers

Mark

> Dear Mark,

>

> Thanks for coming to my talk at the National Museum of Science and
> Industry yesterday. The jammed slide projector diminished the strength of
> my presentation some what, especially as I have it organised so the
> left-hand slide makes the 'point' and the right hand one the 'supporting
> point', and that threw me a bit, but I hope it introduce you somewhat to
> the art I have made and what I'm about. Over all, it went pretty well.

>

> And I'm about as dissatisfied with the hand-out I passed out on the 18th
> as I was with the much shorter version I emailed you last week. Now it
> seems long and flowery. As I said, words are but a second language to
> me. And again I would be most appreciative of any and all comments,
> criticisms and observations you might have. Come hell or high water, I
> really hope to see you once more before I leave early on the 25th. It is
> important that I can express in words what I want to do, and what my
> sculpture is about, and your background (and your wife's) is an invaluable
> sounding board for me. As I asked, please be ruthless.

>

> My meeting with the NMSI personal, after my presentation, seemed to go
> pretty well. They don't have much of a grasp of nuclear issues or
> processes, but their hearts seem to be in the right place and would like me
> to collaborate with them on their three-year contract to revamp BNFL's
> visitor's centre. This might be my key for getting in the door, to make
> the significant art that is so important to me, somewhere down the
> road. I'll keep you posted.

>

> Although I have a draft (long-handed, the way I almost always start the
> outline of a letter) to Simon Franklin at CONSORT Reactor at Silwood Park
> Campus going, I'm really not sure what to say. I think I'll just say hello
> and leave it at that.

>

> Dave Wark, my physicist friend who I introduced you to at my talk at NMSI,
> is at RAL and has a spallation source at the ISIS accelerator that gives
> ultra-cold neutrons. It is very low flux, but mega-barns for blackening
> Technetium and he figures I could transmute 100 atoms per square
> centimetre per second on a test foil. I'm meeting with him once more
> before I leave London and we'll try and refine the numbers. I would still
> need an "umbrella" entity for making the sculpture and keeping myself
> afloat in UK during the work. Possibly an Artist-in-Residency at Oxford
> University would bring in the money but they don't have anything like the
> shop facilities at Imperial College's Blackett Lab. Well Mark details,

>all details that will have to be worked out (didn't someone say, "The devil
>is in the details"?).

>

>I can't help but think I haven't come this far, with such a good idea, to
>not have it work out. Also, once, we talked about using one of Imperial's
>AmBe neutron sources (under your custodialship) and I haven't ruled
>anything out. but I ask you to think carefully about doing something like
>that. I certainly wouldn't want you to come to any grief in helping me
>create this art, and when I do create it, it will draw publicity, perhaps
>not all good. I know you remember that meeting with Simon Franklin in
>Penney Labs in September, '99. Simon was far-sighted to foresee that my
>Tc >Ru could cause him trouble. I'm not asking you anything now Mark, I
>just want you to think about it, in case I ask down the road. And as a
>personal aside, as a young art student in 1961, I could never have imagined
>writing a letter like this to you.

>

>Coming and going from IC and NMSI I've been watching for a good coffee
>spot, to replace our traditional one, now closed, but to no avail. I guess
>our next meeting will be over tea.

>

>Looking forward to seeing you Monday or Tuesday, if we can work it out, so
>let me know your schedule. I would like to get back to say goodbye to my
>shop-mates at Blackett and perhaps one more personal visit with the NMSI
>teamleader on the BNFL contract, Ms Louis Fitton, would be wise.

>

>Meanwhile, all best,

>

>Jim Acord

Mark Ramsay
College Radiaton Protection Manager

(Out of Office email address)

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