



Dear John,

Unbelievable – 70 years and still going strong!

The Hegerfeldt family has known you for more than thirty years – our daughters Anne and Sonja have even known you all their life. Over Christmas we had a look at some old photographs of you and realized that you look more or less unchanged. Anne and Sonja remembered that you visited us in Princeton in 1979 and read to them and, alas, there was pictorial proof of that. They also vividly remember our visit to Murray Hill in 1983 and the thrill they had when you introduced them to the computer – or, more mundanely,

played Pacman with them. Little Sonja had never been so excited in her whole (admittedly short) life. The two of you were also head on to head on the carpet trying to push each other out of the way, pushing so hard that one of the heads made a cracking sound.

One thing, among others, I learned from you was the importance of a good title. A paper we wrote at Bell Labs in 1971 dealt with quantum fields with no conjugate field obeying canonical commutation relations. After a little thinking you recalled a singles club in New York City by the name of "Parents without Partners", and so we called the paper "Fields without Partners".

Another thing is the importance of world-wide connections. Tickets for the Bayreuth Wagner festival are very hard to come by, and so when in 1991 you offered me your tickets because you couldn't go I immediately accepted. Imagine how astonished I was when the lady at the ticket office in Bayreuth explained to me "No, the tickets were not sold to America – they were sold to Japan!".

Dear John, we all wish you a marvelous birthday, good health, and many more productive years.

The Hegerfeldt family from Göttingen
(Gerhard, Birgit, Anne, and Sonja)