

Lasserre Feb. 3, 2010

Dear Frans Gort,

This letter is motivated by your "coffee table" expository paper on the "algebraic fundamental group", in the book "Geometrie Galois Actions, 1", published in 1997. I was informed last month only, by the editors, of the existence of this book, and of the existence of the Luminy conference 27 August - 1 September 1995, of which this book is the first volume of Proceedings. (The editors met me the very next day of the conference, on September 2 1995, without ^{ever} mentioning the conference, nor the project of this book.) When looking through this book, I was struck at once by your presence among the contributors, and by your contribution. And I was glad to find there an earnestness, a warmth of tone, highly unusual nowadays in mathematical papers, and even elsewhere. I then thought at once of writing you, with a word of thanks for your warm implication in this coffee-table account. This was Jan. 12, and in the meanwhile some other matters have occurred to me, about which to communicate with you, if you should be interested. First I must check if this letter reaches you at your former address (as you may be presently retired). If so, I would appreciate getting your personal address, and will then write more extensively about matters close to my heart.

At present, I restrict to an inquiry: did you get the copy of "Récoltes et Semailles" I certainly sent you, among the Juveny fests, with a word of dedication to you, by September 1995? I do not remember that I got any echo from you in response, at that time or later. This "Reflection and Testimonial" on my life as a mathematician, unrelatable as it is I admit, has much meaning for me, if not to anyone else!

With my best regards, and hoping to read you very soon

Alexander Grothendieck