

Letter to F. Oort

03.02.2010

par
Alexander Grothendieck

Transcription by



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Lasserre Feb 3, 2010

Dear Frans Oort,

This letter is motivated by your “coffee table” expository paper on the “algebraic fundamental group”, in the book “Geometric Galois Actions 1” published in 1997. I was informed last month only, by the editors, of the existence of the 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 spheres, 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 have 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 inquire: did you get the copy of “Récoltes et Semailles” I certainly sent you, among the very first, with a word of dedication to you, by September 1985? I do not remember that I got any echo from you in response, at that time or later. This is “Reflection and Testimonial” on my life as a mathematician, unreadable 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

