



New York University
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DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION, FOOD AND HOTEL MANAGEMENT

School of Education
35 West 4th Street, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10012-1172
Telephone (212) 998-5580
Facsimile (212) 995-4194

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Henry Blackburn, MD
Mayo Professor of Public Health
University of Minnesota
Epidemiology/School of Public Health
1300 South Second Street, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55454-1015

Dear Henry (I am tempted to say Enrico),

Thanks very, very much for the memoirs and scientific evaluation of the Seven Countries. I read the memoirs with avid interest, especially in the light of our last conversation. You give credit where it is badly overdue.

I'm just sorry I didn't get the books a few weeks ago when there would still have been time to cite them in my paper. Thanks for the kind words on the paper, by the way. Coming from you, they mean a lot. The paper is in press as part of the June 1995 Mediterranean diet supplement to the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. If you do not normally receive AJCN, let me know immediately and I will make sure that you get a copy. I expect to see it within the next couple of weeks.

I am also happy to know about the Japanese book. The Oldways people, who planned the 1993 Mediterranean diet conference that led to the AJCN supplement, have scheduled an Asian diet conference for late November/early December in San Francisco. It will be useful to have the Japanese results, systematic or not. I will suggest to the Oldways people that they contact you about participation or suggestions for participants.

Finally, may I again bring up the question of a scientific evaluation of Keys' work. I am often asked for biographical information, and have by now accumulated quite a lot, much of it from Bob Barnett, a free-lance reporter who interviewed Keys in Pioppi a year or so ago, but did not come up with anything that interested the editor who sent him there. His interview, which mostly repeats much of what Keys has been saying since the piece in Time, remains unpublished but he was generous enough to share it and his research materials with me. For obvious reasons, I still think that somebody should take this on--and soon, perhaps

as a piece for one of the medical journals. I'm intrigued, but don't feel that I know enough. If it's really true that nobody else is doing one, would you be willing to consider some kind of collaboration? It might be amusing to interview people about what they really think.

In any case, I'm pleased that we are in contact and delighted with the books. Do come to one of the next FDA meetings, as I am due to rotate off the committee very soon.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Nestle', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Marion Nestle, PhD, MPH
Professor and Chair