

***Holt to Brewster Smith—October 24, 1957***

TO: Dr. M. Brewster Smith  
FROM: Robert R. Holt  
SUBJECT: Rapaport's paper on developmental psychology

Dear Brewster:

I'm sorry about having to recall the copy of the letter; after I sent it to you, I realized that the tone of the whole letter was too personal and much of its contents too private for it to be appropriate for me simply to send you a carbon.

Let me tell you more directly my thoughts about the suitability of this paper for the Journal of Abnormal and Social. When I first thought about it, somehow I completely overlooked your statement to me that Dr. Rapaport had said that he would want to spend eight or nine months revising it, and I thought about it in terms of the suitability as it stands. That was a rather stupid lapse on my part, and the fact that the paper as it stands doesn't strike me as suitable in level of sophistication in psychoanalytic theory presupposed for the reader, is irrelevant. I am sure that, if he wanted to, Dr. Rapaport could rework this paper in a way that would communicate adequately with our readers. As I told him, however, in a telephone conversation, my feeling is that it would take more work than would probably be worthwhile.

I hope that you won't be discouraged by two false starts, and that you will still give a friendly hearing to a theoretical paper from Dr. Rapaport. I hope to get a chance to discuss with him a little bit in the near future what sort of papers might be most appropriate for this purpose.

Cordially,

Robert R. Holt

cc: Dr. David Rapaport