

# The University of Chicago

CHICAGO 37, ILLINOIS

**Lick Observatory**  
WILLIAMS BAY, WIS.  
October 27, 1947

Dear Dr. Reber,

Thank you very much for your letter with the enclosed manuscript. I do not know the writer; neither does Dr. Oort who is here at present. The paper in "Hemel en Dampkring" he refers to is the paper I wrote on recent astronomical research in America. As I mentioned to you last month, I had in this paper also mentioned your work as a new type of astronomy.

Although you may not have realized it, the fact that you have become an authority in a certain branch of astronomy will have certain implications. One of the less pleasant implications will be that you are exposed any fantastic idea of any would-be discoverer. Such people exist in all grades and shades and your answer should fit the type of person who writes. One of the common types is people who know entirely new explanations of Kepler's laws.

Mr. A. Peace is certainly one of the more favorable cases. Probably he is a high-school boy, or a middle-aged man who is an enthusiastic astronomical amateur and knows something about the motions of the planets. I think he deserves a polite answer and a vote of thanks but not too much encouragement. You might say that the one or two cases he quotes are not sufficient ground for the conclusion and that, moreover, there are very good theoretical grounds to believe that such an effect does not exist. Further it is up to you. I hope this brief exposition will help you to determine your policy.

My plans for next year are beginning to get some definite shape. Probably I shall return to Holland in September and go West for a short visit before that time. I certainly hope to be able to visit you before I leave. With best greetings,

Sincerely,

*H. C. van de Hulst.*

H. C. van de Hulst