

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES
16 DIVINITY AVENUE
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

April 8, 1959

REC'D USNO-104

APR 13 1959
RECEIVED TO

Mr. George A. Derbyshire
Space Science Board
National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Derbyshire:

I am enclosing a copy of your draft of the minutes of the meeting on the problems of extra-terrestrial life, which Dr. Rossi sent me. I have made a few comments, in pencil, on the MS.

The one thing that bothers me a little is the Venerian temperature: the figures I have pencilled in are my recollection of what Gold said, but they may be misremembered. Also the temperatures you quote and the ones I have may refer to different altitudes--so perhaps there is no discrepancy. The temperature is an important biological datum and the figures should be as reliable as possible. For this reason also I suggest you quote figures for the Martian temperatures.

One further, very minor point is the choice of units for wavelengths. Since biologists tend to expect wavelengths to have 3 digits (i.e. to be in μ) I would suggest using μ in the biological contexts (pigments, etc.) and Angstroms or micra elsewhere.

If I can be of any further help, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

W. R. Siström
W. R. Siström

WRS:kd
Enc:
cc: Dr. Bruno Rossi

*Connections
investigated
[Signature]*