

January 22, 1951.

Dr. F. M. Burnet,
Walter & Elisa Hall Institute of Medical Research,
Royal Melbourne Hospital,
Parkville NR
Australia.

Dear Dr. Burnet:

You may recall having granted a request to republish one of your papers on lysogenicity in a reprint volume being sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Press. The project is now in an advanced state of preparation, and I am concerned now with obtaining formal permissions from the copyright holders, and in setting up copy. I am about to ask a considerable favor of you in this connection, which I hope you will not hesitate to disapprove if it promises to be much of a burden on your convenience. The only justification for these requests is that they may help to expedite these long-distance connections.

The first problem is to obtain formal approval for re-publication from the proper copyright holders. The available issues of the Australian J. of Experimental Biology and Medical Science do not convey to me whether a copyright exists, or failing that, to whom application should be made for reprint-approval. May I ask you to secure this information for me? If you could, at the same time, recommend a letter of consent addressed to me, it would be of additional help in saving time.

Secondly,- the matter of copy. Our only copy of your article is in a bound volume with which I do not dare tamper. A suitable photographic copy (which must be of rather good quality to be rephotographed for the offset plates) would tax our facilities, and be rather expensive, although it could be arranged. Is there any possibility that a reprint or two has survived, which we could borrow for copy? Failing this, can you suggest whether it would be possible to purchase the issue in which your article appeared (March 1936)? If so, I will be glad to remit any reasonable charge.

We were, of course, greatly disappointed that you were, after all, unable to visit our institution. I hope that a more propitious occasion will develop before too long. Of course, we were greatly excited by your report on recombination in influenza, and hope that you are clarifying the details. With E. coli, Mrs. Lederberg is studying the transmission of a lysogenic phage in various crosses, with a system somewhat like the 'SF-C-C'. We have also found a large number of new, distinct strains which can be crossed with each other, and which provide much new material in which the genetic differences are of natural occurrence, rather than induced mutations. We are also making cytological comparisons of haploid and diploid bacteria (E. coli K-12 derivatives), and I am glad to be able to say that the nuclear patterns are, in general, easily distinguishable, although no simple interpretation in terms such as chromosome number is yet possible. A student has also made very considerable progress in crossing S. typhimurium, and sero-genetic studies on all these systems are under way.

May I express, in advance, my appreciation for whatever help you will be able to offer in connection with the reprinting of the Burnet&Lush '36 paper,

Sincerely,