

February 3, 1957

Dear Alain:

Alas, it has been too long since we have seen one another. What inhibits my correspondence is not a lack of things to talk about, but the accumulation of so many. If nothing else, L'Express reminds me every week how poor a correspondent I am.

But, as you know, we now have our first chance to visit Paris. Esther and I have the following plan: we arrive ~~Tuesday~~ Thursday morning, 1000, on Air France Flight 060 (from Chicago 11:15 the previous morning). The Club de Physiologie Cellulaire has me signed up for a talk (that may interest you— on the genetics of Salmonella antigens, which I had just started to work on while you were here) probably Friday night, though I hope for my own sake it can be postponed to Monday. We stay in Paris until 1900, Tuesday the 12th (flying to London on AF 590).

This is too short a time, we know, to see Paris for the first time, and our many friends there. But we hope it will not be the last time. At any rate, we do hope you will not be too busy to spend some time with us. You would be our guide *le plus preferé*— and we are rather anxious not to spend all of our precious time inside the laboratories, which can hardly be distinguishable from our own. We are also looking forward to meeting your wife, of whom you spoke so much here.

L'Express has lately reminded us that it is time for renewal. If we had more time, or were more fluent in French, this would be a very valuable investment, and we do get some information and amusement from it — what do you think of the 'fresh-call' therapy that may be becoming a vogue: it must be right up your line. However, it does come more frequently than we can cope with, and we should postpone until our visit any discussion of the best alternatives.

I will not take time now to review ~~what~~ what goes on in the lab— we can do this next month. We are very much involved now in a difficult decision, as we have two very attractive offers from Stanford University and from the University of California, at Berkeley. As you know, we are also very fond of Madison, and have not lacked for opportunity here either, so it is a dilemma, ~~if~~ though between choices of equal attractiveness, not distaste. You will recall that Aristotle's donkey starved between the equidistant bales of hay; perhaps the statistical mechanical theory, with random fluctuations from the mean will help both of us.

Alain— can you do one not very easy favor for us? That is, to help find suitable accommodation for us? We have a modest budget, and so would prefer neither ostentatious luxury nor stingy or dirty penury. We will rely on your judgment of our tastes, and guarantee whatever investment you may have to make in case of any unforeseen change of plans. As I wrote above, we shall need a room from Thursday night, March 7, to Tuesday noon, March 12. A double-bed will do very well, and I suppose we should take account of the possibility of enteric indisposition from our flight or the usual traveller's complaints. We have no idea ourselves as to the most suitable location.

Au revoir