

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY, STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

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JOSEPH D. GRANT PROFESSOR  
OF GENETICS

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Professor Tracy Sonneborn  
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My dear Tracy:

I am sorry that you have had such a thin harvest of replies about attending to the preservation of scientific papers but I guess I am not surprised in the light of experiences we have already shared.

You raised some particular questions about the role that the Rockefeller archive center might play; I just have to say that I know virtually nothing about it at the present time and am, therefore, hardly in a position to give you any useful recommendations for your own purposes. I will, of course, be looking into it and hope by perhaps a year from now to have more to say about it.

I am also grateful that you caught my rather loose comment about "a nice place to stay" in New York City, and prompts me to say something more carefully thought out and concrete. No, unfortunately, we do not have the resources to begin to match what Ciba House used to do for the generality of scientific visitors. The Abbey Aldrich Rockefeller Hall is a financially self-sustaining convenience at the university. Customarily, visitors who have university related business will be invited to stay there and will be recorded as guests either on the budget of specific sponsoring groups or will pay their own freight.

However, you are hardly a random visitor and what I wanted to say was: 1) to avail yourself quite freely of the "privilege" of being a paying guest at a convenient location, with no further sense of responsibility of any kind to me or to the university; or 2) to give us the opportunity of offering the university's hospitality whenever it turns out to be convenient for you to spend sometime with us or with other members of the faculty or students. Far from there being any chance of your overstaying your welcome, I fear that the shoe will certainly be on the other foot and I just wanted to know that I would be glad to hear from you at any time. You have been an extraordinarily important and positive element for me personally and for the scientific development of the entire field and my only regret about our personal encounters has been that they have been so infrequent.

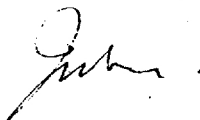
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So I do trust that there will be some opportunity to discuss a whole range of questions including the ones of historical opportunity when we can again meet in a more topical environment.

Quite apart from the general facilities of the archive center, I could give you my personal assurance of fond and tender care if you have reason to prefer to deposit your own papers at Rockefeller University. But I say this as a matter of personal regard and quite confidently, rather than being able to anticipate that there will or will not be a regular program of soliciting papers from other geneticists. If this is to be at all extensive, it may be necessary to seek some funding from other sources to take care of the inevitable costs that would be connected with such an enterprise of a significant scale.

With our best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be the name "John", followed by a period.

JL/gel