EOGRAPHS
From F J Ryan

Columbia University
in the City of New York
[NEW YORK 27, N. Y.]
DEPARTMENT OF ZOÖLOGY

10/4/46

Dear Josh,

I enjoyed reading your manuscript very much. Not only is it, as I have already told you, a very significant and nicely conceived piece of work but you have managed to present most of it in a very readable fashion. Congratulations on all accounts.

I have appended a few comments for your consideration and also have made a few marginal notes. I also asked Dave Perkins to look the manuscript over and his notes are also attached along with my comments on Perkin's comments. Marcus' comments are on the manuscript.

There are just two other points

which I would like to mention.

First, I know how you feel about acknowledgments. I once felt that way myself. Now I think they're somewhat silly & later on you may think the same. I wish that you would tone down the very much appreciated, yet disapproved of, reference to me. If you must thank me in print why not simply say that you are indebted?

The second point is that your fame for this work has spread fast wide and this without any publication. Along with this fame has gone infamy. Your bad-boy behavior has spread from Massachusets to California (I haven't heard from Maine.) Your reputation is

spread by many people, including some who have just returned to Europe, where they will certainly carry the same story, "He's a very bright fellow but he misbehaves." He's overanxious to push himself forwards & he tramples over people. Because this makes a spectacular story, & less so because you already have two papers in press (CSHS & Nature), your name is inseparable from recombination of genes in bacteria. Ed has never been mentioned to me in this connection although he is junior author on all three papers. Yet this work would have been next to impossible to perform without his contributions. And it certainly is a contribution

from his laboratory. Yet that will be hard to see in view of the notoriety attached to your name. I am not trying to belittle your contributions in thought or in laboratory work but I do want to suggest that you reverse the order of names on this, the third paper.

Its not a matter of great importance but I think of less importance to you than to Ed, despite his security. As you approach 30 & begin to mellow you will probably chuckle at the ram-bunctious activities of your early 20's. But try to be sure you can mellow if you want. Don't seem to rid order Ed.

I keep thinking of Shapiro

who was another bright young fellow. But he has reacted to a lot of injustice in such a way that as to accellerate the development of animosity & the ruin of his career.

And don't forget that in sheltering you Ed takes buffets from alot of people. When some of these are close to him they are especially hard. I know.

Lillian tells me the needles were sent early last week. If they haven't arrived let me know immediately & I'll bring some along on Sat the 12th when we hope to pay New Haven a visit. We've decided to hold

off on all but the most preliminary work on *E. coli* until Y10 arrives. Our method will be more rigorously demonstrated valid & such things as the possibility of selection etc are examined in that strain o not inferred from work on 679-680

Do you think you could have it ready by the 12th?

Regards to all,

Sincerely,

Francis