May 19, 1951.

Dr. D. H. Wenrich,
Zoological Laboratory,
University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Dear Dr. Wenrich:

Thank you for your letter of May 16.

I had not originally planned to attend the Christmas meetings, for what little energy I have for that sort of thing will be dissipated at the Cold Spring Harbor Symposium this summer, and the Genetics Society meetings with the AIBS in September. However, the symposium that you are organizing seems such a splendid idea that I would like to participate if I can arrange it.

I should like to ask, however, whether I might defer my reply for about one month so that I can give the matter some thought. At the instant, I find myself tied up with preparations for a three-weeks trip, and unable to give you a considered reply. If it becomes necessary for me to withdraw this tentative acceptance, I am sure you will have no difficulty in contracting a very suitable alternative speaker. There has been very little symposial discussion of recent developments in bacterial and viral genetics as a problem of comparative biology.

Meanwhile, I would appreciate it if you could inform me whether the symposium is planned for publication and so far as possible, who the other participants are likely to be. I take it there is no provision for travel expenses- which has become an important consideration with all of the meetings this year. I trust that your reference to two sessions does not imply that they will be concurrent.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg,
Associate Professor of Genetics