UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
THE MEDICAL SCHOOL
MINNEAPOLIS 14

DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY
AND IMMUNOLOGY

December 5, 1957

Dear Josh and Esther:

Welcome back! I know that you will be very busy with the house and the laboratory for the next few weeks.

I was very interested to hear that you met Sermonti. I have accordingly written to him encouraging him to come to the U.S., offering space in our lab for a few days to the full year and telling him what limited financial aid was available and asking if I might explore other means of support on his behalf. Which Bonner — John Tyler or David — is assisting Sermonti at present. I feel I should tell him — i.e. Bonner — of my action.

It is finals week here — so the part time help is absent — as well as the graduate students. This leaves me alone — which is allright until the supply of clean petri dishes gives out.

We have not succeeded in obtaining a routine method for inducing our lysogenic Streptomyces. They come out in autolyzing cultures and can be induced by superinfection but neither are suitable. Nor have we been able to lysogenize.

We got excited for a few days about a transduction but turned out to more nearly resemble alanine auxotrophs in Brucella.

The anomalous heterokaryons are still there. Also there is a compatibility system for heterokaryon formation. Looks like there may be a recombination system there underneath the anomalous heterokaryons and heterokaryotic selection.

We also have recombination between two streptomyces-phages. We use 4 host range and 1 plaque marker. Select for two host range and then score for the unselected. Trouble is that mixed lawns won't work — nor replica plating — so we are doing it by brute force.

We have lots of mina past times which I will save until we get together.

Lois and children are fine. Will write again soon

Gaylen Bradley