

October 15, 1962

Professor R. Castaing  
Department of General Physics  
Faculty of Sciences  
University of Paris  
Orsay, France

Dear Professor Castaing:

I am very sorry to have missed your recent presentation at Stanford, but my colleague, Dr. Levinthal, was most enthusiastic in his account of your report on image-formation based on mass discrimination. For some time we have been speculating about a related approach to some biological problems, and I would be deeply grateful for an opportunity to discuss this with you, and perhaps to explore the application of the design you have already studied. May I ask whether it would be convenient for you if I visited your laboratory during a trip I will be making next month? I will be in London and Milan from November 26 to December 6; my schedule after that is subject to some unpredictable perturbations, but the period December 7-8-9-10 includes the most plausible dates. May I ask whether any of these would be suitable for your to receive me?

Meanwhile, it would be of the greatest interest to us to know more of the capabilities of your apparatus with regard to sensitivity, resolution and mass discrimination, and the kinds of sample (e.g., with regard to thickness) it can accept. If you are kind enough to encourage our interest, perhaps there would even be some possibility of my bringing some sample materials (merely bacteria and viruses) with me for preliminary examination. You will then have to caution me how these should be mounted so as to scrutinize their organic molecular composition, unless it would be most convenient to mount them in Paris.

To facilitate last minute communication, please permit me to note that I could be reached in

London

The Ciba Foundation  
41, Portland Place  
London, W. 1  
Telephone: Museum 9456

Milan

Dr. L. Cavalli-Sforza  
18, Via Fatebenesorelle  
Telephone: 63-4706

Pavia

c/o Dr. Cavalli-Sforza  
Istituto de Genetica  
Via Sant 'Epifanio, 14  
Telephone: 23029

I realize I am asking a considerable favor, and hasten to indicate my appreciation for any measure of help you may be able to offer.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

JL:edf