

Please reply to:  
GENETICS BUILDING

June 23, 1958

Dr. Thomas Gold  
Harvard College Observatory  
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Dr. Gold:

I have heard at second or third hand of your interest in the lunar dust, as expressed at the Denver meetings in April. I am sorry not to have learned of this earlier, as Dean Cowie and I recently wrote a semi-popular article for Science on some possible objectives for biochemical research in lunar investigation. I hope you will not find this too amateurish from an astronomical point of view; we did not find too much in the literature on the problem of the lunar dust. This ~~article~~ is scheduled to appear very soon; I believe that Dr. Mensel may also have a copy that Professor Davis may have forwarded to him.

What I am writing to ask you about is whether you have collected a bibliography on the question of lunar dust, and if so whether you could send me a copy of it (or I will have it copied and promptly return it).

I gather from one of the weekly newspaper magazine sections that your colleague, Dr. Whipple, has written a paper expressing rather negative views on the same question. I haven't seen any of the content, but would suppose that the evaporation of molecular fragments split from meteoritic grains by solar ultraviolet might come into the picture. (This might mean we would have to look in a shaded crevice for the stuff we're interested in.) In any case, I am looking forward to seeing the detailed arguments.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics