

December 6, 1960

Mr. Richard H. Ragle
Department of Geology
Dartmouth College
Hanover, New Hampshire

Dear Mr. Ragle:

I am sorry it has taken this long to follow up on your letter of November 2nd but I have been in correspondence with Dr. Sneath in London and have only recently heard from him. He writes that he would indeed be interested in looking at some moderately small frozen samples of the cores and I would be very pleased at any arrangements that he can make with you. You should be hearing directly from Dr. Sneath about this. I would anticipate that he would be most interested in having perhaps half a dozen samples that can be dated between 400 and 3,000 years - each sample to be the full three inch diameter and between one and three inches deep. The sine qua non of this study would be your confidence that these cores have never been melted since their purported dates. It is also important that the cores have been collected in such a way that external particles could not have reached the interior that will be sampled. If, for example, the core is crushed during the extraction, it would be hard to have such assurance.

When Dr. Sneath writes to you he may indicate that the shipping charges for the first shipment should be billed to us here, a commitment I am happy to undertake. I would just ask you to send the invoice to me for payment or reimbursement.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics