Thursday papers.

Are you going to say anything about restrictions, jury, or access?

Thank you.

Do the others know what R.A.C. is? I wonder.

The timing about the 27th still may not be 100% correct, but I don't believe it matters, either way, for now.
A new physiology laboratory for Mirsky's research was completed in 1947, and the following year he was appointed a Senior Fellow of The Rockefeller Institute. With his first assistant, Hans Beilin, Mirsky worked out methods for studying the chemistry of isolated chromosomes and nuclei of different cells. They were among the first to demonstrate that the quantity of DNA per cell nucleus is a species constant, irrespective of the somatic origin (e.g., liver versus blood) of the cells; sperm cells were found to have only half the amount found in somatic cells. There is a letter in the collection from H. J. Muller to Mirsky, 11 August 1950, about the "grand discovery" of DNA constancy.

In the 1950s the research of the Mirsky laboratory shifted to the study of synthetic functions of the cell nucleus. The laboratory hosted many visiting investigators, and graduate students also joined the department as the Institute established itself as a graduate university in the 1950s and 1960s (the name was officially changed to "The Rockefeller University" in 1964). The correspondence from this later period is much more extensive, a comprehensive list of names is recorded in the unpublished guide to the collection. Letters relevant to the scientific work of the Mirsky laboratory include a letter from Salvador K. Luria to Mirsky, 15 March 1955, expressing "delight" at findings recently published by Mirsky's associate Vincent G. Alifier of the role of DNA in protein synthesis. Also of note in Mirsky's correspondence with M.H.F. Wilkins, April-November 1955, are X-ray diffraction studies of chromosomal nucleoproteins. Mirsky supplied Wilkins with biological material, and several X-ray diffraction photographs sent by Wilkins are in this file.

A very helpful overview of the Mirsky laboratory's contributions may be found in a biographical memoir of Mirsky by a former Ph.D. student, Bruce Institute for Medical Research: Mirsky at the laboratories in New York City, and Annen at the institute's Princeton branch. They were able to continue and expand their studies of protein denaturation, and between 1936 and 1937 co-authored 29 published papers. From 1935 to 1936 Mirsky was a visiting professor at the California Institute of Technology, where he worked with Linus Pauling on theory of protein structure. Mirsky's early scientific work is documented primarily in laboratory notebooks and unpublished scientific reports. There are also some valuable autobiographical and historical remarks in exchanges with Alfred H. Hershey (1970), Daniel Kochland, Jr. (1971), and Jeffries Wyman (1972).

The protein denaturation studies led to the fortunate discovery of new methods for chemically isolating constituents of cell nuclei. How this discovery came about is related in Mirsky's very interesting scientific report for 1941-42. Among the contributions of Mirsky and his collaborator A.M. Pollister (of the Department of Zoology, Columbia University), which was a general method for preparing denatured nuclear DNA, an improved method for isolating cell nuclei, and the identification of non-histone nuclear protein. Details of Mirsky's experience, references to the scientific literature, are preserved in the laboratory notebooks. Of special interest are the notebooks "Phloxsin" (1941-42), "Chromatin" (1942), "Nucleoproteins" (1942-44), "Bacteriology" (1943-44), and "Chromosomes and Gene-References" (ca. 1942). The overlay of Mirsky's work with that of Oswald T. Avery and his associates on transforming principle of Type III pneumococcus is documented in the Mirsky scientific reports for 1942-44 and 1943-44, as well as in several entries in the laboratory notebooks. Also of interest is a 1.2 inch subject file on C.T. Avery, which consists of reprints, articles.
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In 1968 Mirsky published in *Scientific American* an historical article, "The Discovery of DNA," on the work of Friedrich Miescher and his contemporaries. 10 Typescripts of the article are preserved with Mirsky's manuscripts; this file also has photocopies of background material, and a letter received from the physician of Mirsky's daughter Mary, dated 11 July 1978. There is additional Mirsky/Miescher source material in the correspondence files: letters from Karl Miescher, Friedrich Miescher's nephew, and a useful list of historical references compiled for Dr. Paul O.P. Ts'o in 1972.

The collection of personal photographs, approximately 2 inches, includes many informal pictures of Mirsky's laboratory associates. Several "vintage" photographs are of special historical interest: an informal portrait of Alfred E. Mirsky in 1922; an informal photo of T. Dobzhansky and L.C. Dunn; a portrait of the anatomist R.R. Bensley; and, an inscribed portrait from W.J.V. Osterhout to Mirsky.

The gift of the collection was made without restrictions; however, access to material of a confidential or sensitive nature may be limited.

An unpublished guide to the collection (92 pages) is available, compiled by Mrs. Gladys Lewis, Archivist.

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