

February 5, 1974

Dr. Whitfield J. Bell Jr. III  
American Philosophical Society  
The Library  
105 South Fifth Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Dr. Bell,

Further to our correspondence concerning your archives of material on the history of genetics. I have in front of me my letter of June 10, 1973 and I recall additional correspondence which at the moment eludes me. However, I believe we have had some discussion about the paucity of sources relative to the discovery of DNA and the reception of the work of O.T. Avery in 1944.

I am writing now to ask you specifically whether your records include the letters of M. Demerec. He had a strategic role as a Director of the Cold Spring Harbor Biological Laboratories and would have been instrumental in organizing the 1946 symposium. Any correspondence of that period, presumably beginning late 1945, that might pertain to the suggestions for inviting Avery and his colleagues McClelland and McCarthy to speak at the 1946 symposium would, I believe, quite revealing.

I believe I have already asked you whether the letters of F.J. Ryan or of David Bonner have come into your hands and I can hardly expect a positive answer but I wonder if you could reaffirm the facts.

I would, of course, be deeply appreciative of whatever help you can offer in trying to trace these materials. I have been working for the last few months with Robert K. Merton and Harriet Zuckerman on some of these historical questions and hope to be able to set a new kind of pattern of collaboration between professionals in respective disciplines.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr  
Enclosure

*J. C. Hartman*