

AUG 22 1974

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA 19104

The College

August 19, 1974

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Dear Prof. Lederberg:

Many thanks for your letter of 2 August and its interest in my genetics work of some years ago. (I am slow in responding because of my distance from the office and the erratic forwarding pattern of our secretaries). I am afraid that I have been working largely in other areas since then and have not turned up much new material on the pre-history of bacterial genetics. The Blakeslee papers at the AmPhiloSec are -- as I recall -- somewhat thin on the problems which would interest you. (But I'm relying on memory). The LS Cole correspondence is in the UW Archives as part of the Dept of Genetics archives (which probably explains your difficulty in running it down) I would suggest dropping a note to the University Archivist and asking for a description; it's been so long since I worked on that material that I hate to provide (mis) information from memory. It is interesting that the 1916 paper of Cole's grew out of a background of active interest in the College of Agriculture in bacteriological questions -- and where the dean was a bacteriologist! (You might take a quick look at a recent biography of said dean, HL Russell by Edward Beardsley, UW Press).

1969

I spent a month in Stanford last spring and it's a shame I didn't know of your interest; perhaps we could get together at some point in the future (If you are in Philadelphia, for example).

I recently wrote a lengthy article on nineteenth-century ideas of heredity which might be of interest. (It is in press and should be out this fall but I will send along a copy of the ms. when I return to Philadelphia). My office has just been moved and things are so confused that I can't

*Henry L. Russell  
1916  
w/13*

