

January 4, 1951

Dr. Tracy M. Sonneborn
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Dear Tracy:

I am very sorry that I have not been able to manage a trip to see you and talk over the plan of the book. I am quite enthusiastic about working with you, and hope we can come to some compromise between the subsidiary part I would prefer to take and the more ambitious participation you have indicated. Meanwhile, I am giving the matter as much attention as I can amidst the inevitable other duties.

Some weeks ago, the American Cancer Society invited my participation in the 2d International Conference to be held at Cincinnati; the initial proposal was quite unattractive, but Anderson later explained the program much more satisfactorily, and I plan to attend with a promise not to talk about cancer. I was especially pleased that Anderson mentioned that you were on the panel; I hope that most of the meetings will be dull enough that we can spend some time together.

I have printed your microfilm, but cannot pretend to have studied it closely so far. The negative is enclosed.

Lately, I've become interested in the literature on intracellular symbioses, and am looking forward to Buchner's new book (to be published by Verlag Birkhauser). Pascher has some very provocative illustrations of "cyanelle" symbioses in a summary in *Jb. wiss. Bot.*, 71. (1929). The *Paramecium bursaria* complex intrigues me too, for I think that an experimental study of symbiont specialization might be possible. Loefer claims to have succeeded, where Pringsheim did not, in culturing the zoochlorellae. One could look for chlorophyll mutations in the free chlorellae (Aulacosticta) and then study their interaction with the host genotype (presumably capable of heme syntheses) by reimplantation. I was also struck by a comment by Wichterman (*Biol. Bull.* 81) that the zoochlorellae of some stocks were toxic to other stocks of *P. bursaria*. Do you know of any followup on this? All this is a rather naive reaction to a field whose complexity I had not previously suspected, but as various people have pointed out the geneticist may find much to learn in it.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

J. L.