

January 4th 1949.

My dear Ron,

I write to bother you on behalf of the Genetical Society! At the Committee Meeting (which you were not able to attend) after our last meeting in London, certain decisions were reached in regard to the 100th meeting of the Society which, as you will know, coincides with the Annual Meeting this year. Ponticorvo has just supplied me with minutes &c which have had to await my return here, so I am dealing with the matter now before leaving for Somerset tomorrow morning - where my address (for the next eight days) will be:-

Overleigh House,

57 rect. Somerset.

The relevant points which the Committee approved are as follows:-

- (1). The 100th Meeting, if possible, to be held in Cambridge - where the first meeting was held.
- (2). If possible, the meeting to last two days, with a dinner included in the programme.

(3) Cambridge Colleges to be approached about accomodation and possible hospitality.

Other points of less immediate importance (to keep you posted in regard to what is suggested) are:-

(4). Punnett to be asked to give a talk on the early times of genetics.

(5). Daily Press to be informed, and an account of the celebrations sent to Nature.

(6). All Hon. Members to be specially invited to attend, but not necessarily to give papers.

(7). Papers by invitation only: Punnett to open, with a balanced number of British and foreign ^{to follow} speakers).

(8). Invitations to be sent to all foreign genetical Societies.

(9). Explore the possibility of inviting foreign guests.

You will know how grateful the Society will be for any criticisms, comments, or suggestions, which you can make on the above when it is further discussed at the next Committee meeting (February 11th).

TELEPHONE 47726.

DEPARTMENT OF
ZOOLOGY AND COMPARATIVE ANATOMY,
UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, OXFORD.

Of course I am writing partly to give you this information, that we may have - I hope - the benefit of your views. But you will guess already the other reasons for my letter.

(a). The chief excitement of the visit (apart from its historical appropriateness as the place of the first meeting) would be the opportunity, which I do sincerely hope you would allow, of seeing your Department and something of the work going on there. You will know, my dear Ron, what a pleasure it would be to me personally if the last meeting for which I am responsible for the arrangements as President is one which gives the Genetical Society an opportunity of seeing the work of your Department, on which it is hoped to make an outstanding occasion.

(b). May I ask you, on behalf of the Society, to explore the possibility of a dinner in Cairns and accomodation there? That is a big thing to ask, everyone in the Society will fully realize.

(c). Where do you think the actual meetings could be held?

I know you are being wonderfully kind to my young men. Shepherd was full of excitement and pleasure today telling me how he was going to see you tomorrow and to stay in Cairns.

Also Michie and Mitchison are looking forward immensely to their visit, and most grateful for the info. I wonder what you will think of Mitchison - he is far from being a fool

With my most grateful thanks,

Yours truly,
H. Swain