

October 24<sup>th</sup> 1943.

My dear Ron.

Thank you very much for your letter, and for the abstract of what you ~~are~~ propose saying at the meeting of the Genetical Society.

I am very sorry to hear that you are meeting with all these difficulties at Cambridge. They are the more trying since, with reasonable foresight on the part of the University Authorities, they might largely have been avoided.

How kind of you to ask me over to Cambridge. That would indeed be a pleasure. I shall love to have the chance of hearing more of what you are doing, and how things are turning out. And, on my side, I have a lot I want to discuss with you and tell you of. It is most kind of you to ask me to dine with you in College. I wonder if the week-end of the 13<sup>th</sup> Nov. would be possible for you. I would arrive on the Saturday evening and leave early on Monday. This term is such an incredible rush that this would really fit in the best for me, if it is

a possible date for you. When I hear from you, I will book a room at one of the Hotels; for, if Cambridge is at all like Oxford, it will be necessary to do this well in advance.

Every spare moment (and I get very few in the terrible rush of this term) is directed to passing forward my butterfly book, the M.S. of which they want by March 1<sup>st</sup>. But the plates are an immense job. They are to cost an average of £250 each (including Photographer's fees), and there are 48 of them in colour. Then there are 24 black-and-white, maps and diagrams. The book is to be 80,000 words, and they propose printing a first-edition of 20,000 copies. In all, it will cost just over £25,000 to produce. This is the first of a series of about 40 (of which I shall write two; I hope; for I have been asked to undertake the books also). So the total outlay on the series will approach a quarter of a million pounds: it does seem a big undertaking for these days.

One small personal matter. Following a conversation which we had together at Sparkford, and

your kind advice on that occasion, I put in for the D.Sc. degree at Oxford. I have heard that it has now gone through all right, so nothing now remains but the actual formality of taking the degree on some Degree Day in the near future (and paying the fees!).

I look forward so much to seeing you.

Yours ever,  
Henry