

5th October, 1951.

My dear Luca,

I was glad to get your letter and to hear a little about you again. I think you know that you will always be immensely welcome if ever you have a chance of making me a visit and that there are others here who will be equally glad to see you.

I am a little perplexed as to the future of B<sub>n</sub>teriological Genetics in this department since although I have been during the last year prohibited by order of the General Board from refilling the post which you left vacant yet this situation cannot go on for ever, and in fact, other posts falling vacant are being filled. After a sufficiently long course of inconsiderate treatment by the University, I find that a large proportion of my colleagues take the view that it is no longer worth while considering making any particular effort, as indeed was the position with my predecessor in this Chair for twenty years or more. I do not think this is an estimable reaction but it is admittedly a most natural one. I am, however, really rather discouraged from offering a vacant post by the fact that I have no reason to expect the University to treat your successor any better than it treated you. Other-wise I should already be writing to you and other genetical friends for suggestions as to who

would be attracted by such a post in my department. As things stand, I presume I could offer with some confidence of getting the business through, £450 a year rising to £600, but it is very unlikely that anyone worth having would be attracted by this salary scale. However, if you do hear of anyone likely to be interested, do let me know.

I do not think I should stake a lot on Bailey's viability differences, for the data he used were very imperfectly balanced. If you manage to carry out the programme you mention you will have much better evidence, at least if you are not too precipitate in abandoning virus immunity.

Please remember me to your wife and to Giulio.

Yours sincerely,