COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION
DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY

CABLE AND TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
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3/9/60.

Dear Josh & Esther,

I am returning your copy of my yeast paper Josh, together with an M.S. of my paper to the Inst. of Brewing. When I started to write this I realized that because of the nature of the audience I could only try to give them a very brief introductn to yeast genetics & breeding methods & point out the potentialities of the genetical approach. The paper was very well received and judging by the number of questions both at the time & later interest in breeding was aroused this will probably wane fairly quickly though.

Am also enclosing an outline of the program which I have outlined for my work on Rhizobium and would be very glad to have your comment. I still haven't really accomplished much, but am currently working hard on mutant production so I can look for recombination. This only started a couple of weeks ago so I am still in the stage of UV killing curves, testing penicillin for its utility as a ~~screening~~ selective agent for auxs. (if this doesn't work, may try tritiated thymidine) and screening for antibiotic resistant strains. A fellow called Schwinghamer at Brookhaven has apparently been working along the same lines for a year but he is mainly interested in transduction. Says he couldn't produce any auxotrophic mutants but didn't say if he ~~ha~~ used any selective methods or not. Trouble with Rhizobium is that it doesn't grow in any medium but may be able to ~~stop~~ change that.

I am also trying to get started, and finished, with my yeast stuff to be published with Ephrussi. He has at last sent over some haploids with which to repeat the small clone → small col. ~~%~~ %S? ~~%~~ experiment in which I previously used WY91 (Looking for different states of potential suppressive factor in R^+ cells). I have just about got myself set up with shakers, micromanipulator etc.

Attended the Radiobiology conference & Genetics soc. meeting in Sydney after the Brewer's show in Melbourne. Radiobiol. was especially good & was given quite a lift by the large number of overseas people — Koller, Alexander & Galton (Chester Beatty) Ford (M.R.C., Harwell) Curtis (Brookhaven), Furth (Roswell Pk. NY.) Galston (Yale) — he is in Canberra for a few months, & Berenblum (Weizman Inst.). Many of these were on their way to the Cancer congress in Melbourne. Peter Alexander is a stimulating chap to have around, though more impressive in his chemistry than in his biology. He, Koller & Curtis have

each spent a few days here since then & we have had some interesting talks & seminars. Curtis was not able to add anything on Schwinghamer's work that we hadn't heard from the latter by letter but I have a much better appreciation ~~for~~ of radiobiological research as a result of this conference. As you know there is a lot of exciting work going on with mouse chimeras and I think a lot of the problems will crack now the chromosome "labelling" methods of Ford are being more widely applied.

Genetics soc. meeting was also good, with a heavy dose of canalization — probably good for the soul of a bloke with my background. Another interesting talk by Dobzhansky, who seems inexhaustible on the subject of chromosomal polymorphism in Drosophila. Bruce Holloway gave his Pseudomonas transduction story but nothing had been added since I left Melbourne & he is still dodging the only possibility of a new concept in this field.

Spent the week in Melbourne at our flat where Marie & the girls are still living and apparently will stay for a while at least. Get down to see them fairly often — Sini is walking but not talking, or at least not saying anything intelligible much to Marie's dismay and Astrid is still turning out her major art works and ~~still~~ really blossoming in the Aust. environment.

What's going on with clonal prodn of antibodies & Gus Nossal. Burnett had a slide of you two & the Nossals taken at a picnic & you all looked fit & happy — & you look resplendent in a suit! What's with transformation. Is Ann finished yet. Still no reprints 19 — or "inform" on micromanip. exps on F transfer which I think I mentioned before.

All for now, Best regards, Rob.