

Bldg. 10, Room 9N-119

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Dear Drasko:

Was it really November when I received your letter? The winter has, fortunately, sped by. Fortunately, because it is a miserable season--damp and cold. The speed of its passing is related to how busy we have all been--parents and children. The busy schedules, as well as the cold, were interrupted by a delightful two weeks on the island of Curacao, 40 miles north of Venezuela. Needless to say, the days were spent in the sea. There are beautiful coral reefs there and the children seem to love it as much as we do. We are most pleased with David, who dives well and mangedd one day to snorkel a mile and a half!

The winter was brightened some by Paul's arrival in the States late November, to work for six months in Chicago. I say "brightened some" because we have seen almost nothing of him. I managed a brief visit in Chicago shortly after his arrival, but all our efforts to get him here have come to nought. He is working 7 days a week--hours and hours, trying to make the most of things. His family did not come and that, coupled with the painfully cold Chicago winter has made things unpleasant. Fortunately, the work is very interesting; and has gone reasonably well. He is working on the interesting polymer formed from NAD, by loss of the nicotinamide--a polymer of adenosine diphosphoribose, that appears to attach to histones.

Have you finished your writing and gotten back to research--I hope so. Writing is a terrible chore! I managed to write 3 papers this fall. Reprints should be available shortly and I will send them.

I had myself noticed that bit in the paper by Britten and Davidson. I also vaguely recall something relevant this winter in nature, but do not have the reference. Also, Dan and I sent off a copy of a book we thought you might enjoy--by Calvin, on chemical Evolution. I hope it arrives shortly.

If you can recall your letter--I would agree that an idea of the immediacy of the events seen on electrophorograms is of interest, but really only as a tool in determining which of the bands may be most interesting for further characterization. This question is really related to your point number 2, that is changing patterns in human organogenesis, together will go a long way toward helping decide the direction of the future work. Obviously, it is a long term project. I think I would feel somewhat more comfortable about such an undertaking if there were some way to follow something functional. Based on the literature, is it possible to make some guesses as to what some of the proteins might be?

I haven't forgotten your request for a photograph of the children but we need to have some prints made. Dan has taken little except color slides lately. I have, from Charles Cantor, a lovely photo of you, Paul, and Linda Cantor, sitting about a table on the beach. (other side of Spetses, near the cave) The table is piled high with watermelon rinds.

I see I scribbled on your letter something about a paper regarding evolution, by Woese, January 1968, Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci., U.S.A.

Very best from the Singer family to the Serman family.

Yours,

Maxine Singer

MS:vt