

October 20, 1960

Mr. Richard H. Ragle  
Department of Geology  
Dartmouth College  
Hanover, New Hampshire

Dear Mr. Ragle:

Thank you for your letter of October 3. Before going any further, I should like to ask you whether it would be possible to get samples from deep corings that have never been thawed so that we could take our own bacteriological precautions in extracting the interior. May I also ask you if you can estimate the age of your deepest samples?

Depending on how these matters work out, we might like to undertake something with the samples ourselves, or failing this, get them to one of my colleagues and former fellows in England, Dr. Peter Sneath, who is very much interested in the survival of micro-organisms over very long periods of time.

Yours cordially,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics