

University of Edinburgh
CHEMICAL BIOLOGY UNIT,
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY, THE ASHWORTH LABORATORY
Professors: Michael Swann FRS, FRSE: J.M. Mitchison Telephone NEWington 1081

WEST MAINS ROAD, EDINBURGH 9

28th March, 1966.

Professor S. Spiegelman,
Department of Microbiology,
University of Illinois,
127 Burrill Hall,
URBANA,
Illinois 61803,
U.S.A.

Dear Professor Spiegelman,

Many thanks for your letter of March 24th, for the information concerning Q β and the opportunity of coming to work with you.

With regard to the base ratios of Q β and ~~our~~ phages Z1K/1 and ZJ/1, they certainly look similar although ours have less U (28.3 \pm 0.3). However of more importance from the point of relationship is the fact that Z1K/1 ^{colony formed} also has neither methionine nor histidine and probably no tryptophane - the most abundant amino-acids are serine, alanine, valine and aspartic acid.

We are almost ready to write up the properties of the phage protein; papers on the RNA have been accepted and are in the press at the moment - though they won't appear in the Biochem. J. till the Autumn. With regard to the phage protein let me list what we are intending to publish. The extraction and amino-acid composition of Z1K/1 and ZS/3 (the latter is almost identical to MS2), the behaviour of Z1K/1 protein on Sephadex and DEAE, equilibrium centrifugation in the presence or absence of detergent, determination of the % binding of detergent and consequent calculation of the protein molecular weight.

I expect that your data will overlap ours if the two phages are similar and I will look forward with interest to your publication. If you have the detailed amino-acid composition of Q β I would very much like to compare it with ours and put the comparison in the paper we want to write.

With regard to my intended visit to your laboratory. I would prefer to come this fall for several reasons, not the least of which is the point that at present our spheres of study obviously overlap and it would probably be mutually advantageous to combine at this stage. Moreover it would fit in well with my personal and research plans. So I would definitely prefer to come this fall if it can be arranged.

We will all be delighted to have you visit us here late in

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DR. D.H.L. BISHOP,
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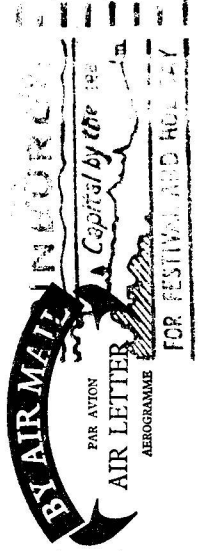
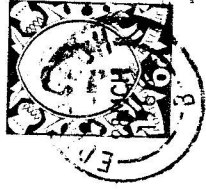
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Professor S. Spiegelman,
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University of Illinois,

127 Burrill Hall,

URBANA,

Illinois 61805,

U. S. A.

David Bishop

David H Bishop

With best wishes,

April and are looking forward to it.