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Sir Ronald Fisher, F.R.S.,
Gaius College,
Cambridge.

17th May 1961.

My dear Ron,

It is with the greatest possible pleasure and interest that I hear you are back in England. Mr. David Jones tells me that he met you the other day at Burlington House when I was away for a week working in Cornwall as I always have to be at this time of year. I do long to see you so very much and I hope indeed that you will be able to come to Oxford and stay at All Souls. I hear that you have been in England for three weeks to a month. I do wish so very particularly that I had known of this earlier, as it would then have been possible to offer you a wide choice of dates. As it is, I have got so terribly booked up between now and the time I leave for the Isles of Scilly early in July. Also, during that period there are certain dates, for example Encaenia and the College Meeting, when it is not possible to have anyone in College.

There are all sorts of reasons why I am immensely anxious to see you. First of all the great personal pleasure of doing so, secondly to get your opinion on various aspects of the work taking place here and thirdly, I am in the highest degree anxious to discuss with you the book which I am at present writing and which is now three-quarters done. There are two very special reasons for this, one which I should prefer to put to you when we meet.

The question at issue is when can you, with convenience, come to Oxford and when is it possible to fit in a visit relative to all the engagements already committed at this end? I have the following dates when it would be splendid if you could manage a visit;

Monday May 29th - Sunday June 4th inclusive. I have a long-standing engagement which necessitates I catch a very early train on the morning of Monday 5th June.

/ p.t.o.

Wednesday June 7th - Friday June 9th. I only reach Oxford about 2p.m. on the 7th. On June 10th we have a College Meeting when every room in the College is occupied and when the College is closed. The rooms begin to be filled up on the afternoon of Friday the 9th, but we should at least get a whole day and two evenings then.

I thought I had found a good period also to offer you of Thursday June 22nd - Saturday June 24th, but I now see that the second of the Royal Society Conversazione's is on Thursday 22nd. This I think I shall have to attend. It was impossible for me to be at the last one as I am always working in Cornwall during the second week of May (the period being dictated by my material), and being on the Committee that arranges the Conversazione's I do feel I ought to be present. I have an elderly lady coming to stay with me, arriving on the afternoon of Saturday June 24th and am bound to devote myself to her for the days when she is here. As I have to be in the north for two periods in June, one of them examining in Liverpool, it looks to me as if the next set of dates I could offer would be Saturday July 1st (I only get back from the North late on Friday night) to Monday July 3rd. I have to leave Oxford at the end of the morning on that day.

In case this seems a little confused, may I summarize by suggesting that there are three periods during when I should be delighted if you could choose a time for a visit:

Monday May 29th - Saturday June 3rd
Wednesday June 7th - Friday June 9th
Saturday July 1st - Monday July 3rd.

How very much I hope it will be possible for you to come during the first period or for either of the other two.

Yours affectionately,
Henry.