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THE UNIVERSITY,
EDGBASTON,
BIRMINGHAM, 16.

GENETICS DEPARTMENT
PROFESSOR K. MATHER

1st March, 1954.

Professor Sir Ronald Fisher, F.R.S.,
Department of Genetics,
44 Storey's Way,
Cambridge.

My dear Ron,

Thank you for sending me the draft of your project for a "Genetic Garden". I have long felt the need for some provision for maintaining stocks of material whose genetics is at least partly known. There was the case of Primula sinensis at the John Innes, for example, where I believe time has taken a serious toll of the many stocks which existed some 10 or 15 years ago when the chief work with this plant ceased. Whether the A.R.C. will feel able to find the money to do anything on at all a sizeable scale is another matter. I know that financial stringency has been pressing on them just recently. The notion of using the potato greenhouses is attractive. Do you think the University would help by providing a bit of land near to the present Potato Station, which, I believe, has virtually no land of its own?

Please let me know what Slater's reaction is. I think that it might be well worth while enlisting Harland's interest as he will continue a member of the A.R.C. for rather more than a year whereas I shall finish during the coming summer.

I believe I mentioned to you that my mathematician, Hayman, will be presenting his thesis for a Ph.D this Spring. I wondered whether you would agree to act as external examiner. I think you would find the thesis to be of interest and from my point of view an oral examination would have the advantage of bringing you to Birmingham.

All good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth Mather