

16 December 1943
BY AIR MAIL

My dear Rasmus,

I have not written before through doubt as to the procedure in communicating with Sweden, and I am still in some doubt as to whether this will ever reach you. If it does, I hope you will convey my kindest good wishes to Mrs Rasmussen and to Kerle, who must be quite a bit of a lad now.

You have probably heard that, after a short intermission following Punnett's retirement from the Chair at Cambridge, it was offered to me and I decided to leave the Galton Laboratory, and have been here since last October. It will be a long job to make this Department anything like what it ought to be, but the University seems to be not so obstructive as some I have heard of, and I may be able to get something done before it is time to retire.

I have a scheme to run what I call 'inbred segregating lines'

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designed to include and exhibit all the well-established factors in mice, apart from a few troublesome ones with low viability or expressivity which would be more trouble than they could be worth. Through the kindness of the Rockefeller Foundation, I have been able to get the genes which were known only in the United States, which, with those I have in England, practically complete the material for this programme. There is however one, called 'Wellhaarig' by Paula Hertwig of the Institut für Vererbung und Züchtungsforachung, Berlin-Dahlem, showing I think a mild degree of waviness in the hair, which I should very much like to get hold of. Hertwig says she obtained it from Agnes Bluhm, and that she found it to be linked with Agouti. She did not test it with Pallid, which was I imagine only available in the United States (before I got it here), so the order of the three genes in the same chromosome is at present ambiguous.

I wonder if there is any official obstacle to getting a sample, e.g. two or three pairs, out of Germany via Sweden. It is, of course, difficult from this end to know what is and is not thought proper and allowable. I should of course be glad to meet all charges arising from their transit, though I suppose international payments also offer a certain difficulty in these times.

I hope the sugar-beet programme has gone well. Remember that I shall ^{always} be immensely interested to hear what came of the various experiments we had under discussion.

Yours sincerely,