

April 28th 1956.

My dear Ron,

I only got back to Oxford late last night and this morning receive your letter of the 26th. As I was called away unexpectedly I did not have your draft of the proposed B.B.C. address, or indeed any other papers, with me. I shall now go through it with great pleasure and return it in a couple of days. I very much value your wish to have my comments upon it.

You are, however, under a misapprehension in thinking that I have arranged, or am in any way responsible for, this set of broadcasts. I am no more so than you are.

So far as I know, these broadcasts were arranged entirely by the B.B.C. Having fished out the appropriate file, I find that my

invitation came from a certain John Simons (Broadcasting House, W.I.). The only step I took was the obvious one: on being invited, I wrote back to say that I presumed you were being invited also and that I judged this essential.

Subsequently, this Mr. Simons came to see me: briefly discussed the sort of broadcast he wanted and said that other speakers invited were Simpson (paleontology), yourself, and Cyril Darlington. I believe he mentioned one or two other names; but, if so, they did not accept - or something, for these are the only names which I find conformed in writing now that I dig out his subsequent letter. Apart from yourself (which I do not doubt he had already seen - marked) I did not suggest any of these. His letter tells me, and I have no other ground for knowing it, that -

E. B. FORD, F.R.S.,
University Reader in Genetics
and Director of the Genetics Laboratory.

GENETICS LABORATORY
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, OXFORD
TELEPHONE 55278

he proposes (and this, so far as I am aware,
is entirely his concern) that the order of the
broadcasts should be Simpson, you, me, Cyril.
This is merely what he states in his letter,
I do not know if it is to be adhered to.

Doubtless this Mr. Simons can
give you all information and can confirm or
correct what I have said here. But this is
all I know. I have not written my own
draft yet.

Yours,

