



American Academy of Arts and Sciences

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Professor Matthew S. Meselson
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Dear Professor Meselson:

I am pleased that you have accepted the invitation of Paul Freund to be a member of the Commission on the Year 2000 of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. It will be, I know, an interesting enterprise for all of us, and, hopefully, an important one as well.

I am enclosing a list of those who have so far accepted membership on the Commission. To our pleasant surprise almost all those we asked accepted with alacrity; the few who declined did so regretfully but want to be kept apprized of the Commission's work. We have not heard from a few persons, who may have gone abroad for the summer, but the list, as enclosed, is substantially the membership of the group.

You will notice that the names of some members are starred with an asterisk. These constitute members of the "working party" in addition to membership on the Commission. We felt that the work of the Commission would be advanced by the creation of a smaller group, a number of whom are working professionally on problems of "the future", which would meet more often than the Commission as a whole and prepare working papers and agendas for the Commission meetings.

I am also enclosing an annotated bibliography of works that have appeared in the last year or so speculating in some fashion on the future. You may be familiar with some of these works. If you are interested in any one or several of these, the Academy will be happy to obtain these for you for your reading.

In addition, I am enclosing a list of materials that will be sent to you, in a packet, well in advance of the first meeting. These are works (books, pamphlets, reports) which are relevant to our work, and I hope you will have the chance to read through a number of these (particularly the Rand study by Gordon and Helmer on Long-Range Forecasting) before the first session in October. Equally important, if you know of any books or articles that you think important in this area that you feel other Commission members might want to read, please let me know, and we will either obtain copies of these or xerox sufficient copies for distribution. I think one of the most useful things we can do, at the start, is to circulate among ourselves background papers and materials which might be useful for our purposes.