

W.L. Crone



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

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Our Reference: 64/9/36

Date 21 June 1983

Prof. Matthew Meselson
Department of Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology
Harvard University
7 Divinity Avenue
CAMBRIDGE. MASS. 02138. USA.

Dear Matthew,

Shirley has asked me to thank you for the documents under cover of your letter of 3 June, as she herself is once more bound for Geneva. The documents are indeed interesting and your ideas seem to supply the missing link in an interpretation of events.

I initially dismissed the bee excrement hypothesis as a bit wild, but have gone back to a study of insect physiology (an old subject of mine) and have, of course, now found the theory quite tenable if not yet proven.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Hugh Crone'.

(HUGH CRONE)
Head, Personnel Protection
Group



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Our Reference: 64/9/36

Date: 27 September 1983

Professor Matthew Meselson
 Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
 Harvard University
 7 Divinity Avenue
 CAMBRIDGE. MASS. 02138. USA.

Dear Matthew,

Your further comments on bee faeces were interesting, especially as you mention uric acid. You will see from the enclosed report that we also have looked at uric acid content. We have not been able to do a thorough comparison of bee excrement with Yellow Rain because we do not have sufficient samples. The April 1982 samples have been used up for various examinations. We therefore suggest that the various nations with samples examine theirs for uric acid and exchange results. Our US contact is Dr E.W. Sarver of Chemical Systems Laboratory (or whatever it is now called).

It follows from the above that we cannot send you any specimens, as they have all been used up apart from a few traces on leaves and pebbles. I am not sure whether you have seen a copy of my earlier report with photographic prints. In case you have not I enclosed some photos of the specimens.

I am convinced that bee faeces are not the only way that pollen is naturally deposited in drops. Shirley has reported seeing pollen deposits (splattered and rainlike) on her brother's car after it had been standing overnight in conditions of early morning dew.

You comment on my earlier conclusion that the April 1982 samples were fakes. Remember at that time pollen was not generally known as a component of Yellow Rain. Therefore the fact that the samples had no toxicity, and that we knew of no natural way pollen could be deposited in drops led us to conclude they must have been man-made. Now I am not so sure.

I was able to attend the Mycotoxin Symposium in Sydney on the 12 to 15 August. The presentations by Col David Bunner and his staff from USAMRIID at Fort Detrick continued to impress me. I had heard him before when I was in the US and felt the research was good quality toxicology, which will be one permanent asset from the current affair.

2.

You have no doubt read Grant Evans' "The Yellow Rainmakers".

We continue to learn in obscure areas of science. After
bee shit, what next?

Yours sincerely,



(HUGH D. CRONE)
Head, Personnel Protection
Group

Encls. 1. OCD 83/13
2. Photos

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Dear Matthew,

Congratulations on receiving the Lasker Special Achievement Award last year. I am sure it was very much deserved, not least in recognising the significance of pollen in yellow spots. There seems to be a basic law which says: "Do not believe any statement by a Secretary of State". I almost felt sorry for Colin Powell when he had to make his feeble statement to the UN just before the war. I had a letter and an article published in The Age (Melbourne), but our Prime Minister had said the Australian Government knew that Saddam Hussein had C and B weapons and was seeking nuclear ones, and who can contradict a Prime Minister?

Now a person can be imprisoned indefinitely without trial. Goodbye to 500 years of struggle to achieve personal liberty. We survived the 1930s and 40s, but seem to be back in that era. Great advances in technology are accompanied by no progress at all in social matters.

Age has made me a little cynical, it has also had a physical effect as I had a tumour removed from my abdomen, along with the duodenum, pancreas and spleen. However, I am making good progress, if a little reduced in energy. My interest now is in the history of medicine, and I have just published a book on Paracelsus, the 16th century physician, alchemist and philosopher. It got a rather sniffy review in JAMA (Nov 3, 2004, vol 292, No 17, p2153).

Once again, congratulations, and I hope you continue to contribute to public affairs for many years yet.

Yours sincerely



(Hugh Crone) 10 January 2005