

Alfred Baber fonds

Correspondence - General.

Royal Institution of
Great Britain 2003-04

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A Chemist Helping Chemists

April 22, 2004

Dr. Martin Westwell
The Royal Institution of Great Britain
21 Albermarle Street
London W1S 4BS
ENGLAND

Dear Martin,

Thank you so much for your letter with the wonderful news that the Heritage Lottery Fund has given you almost £ 5 million.

Isabel and I plan to be in London for the old master sales during the week of July 5th and will then certainly visit with you.

With best wishes I remain

Yours sincerely,

Alfred Bader
AB/az





The Royal Institution
of Great Britain

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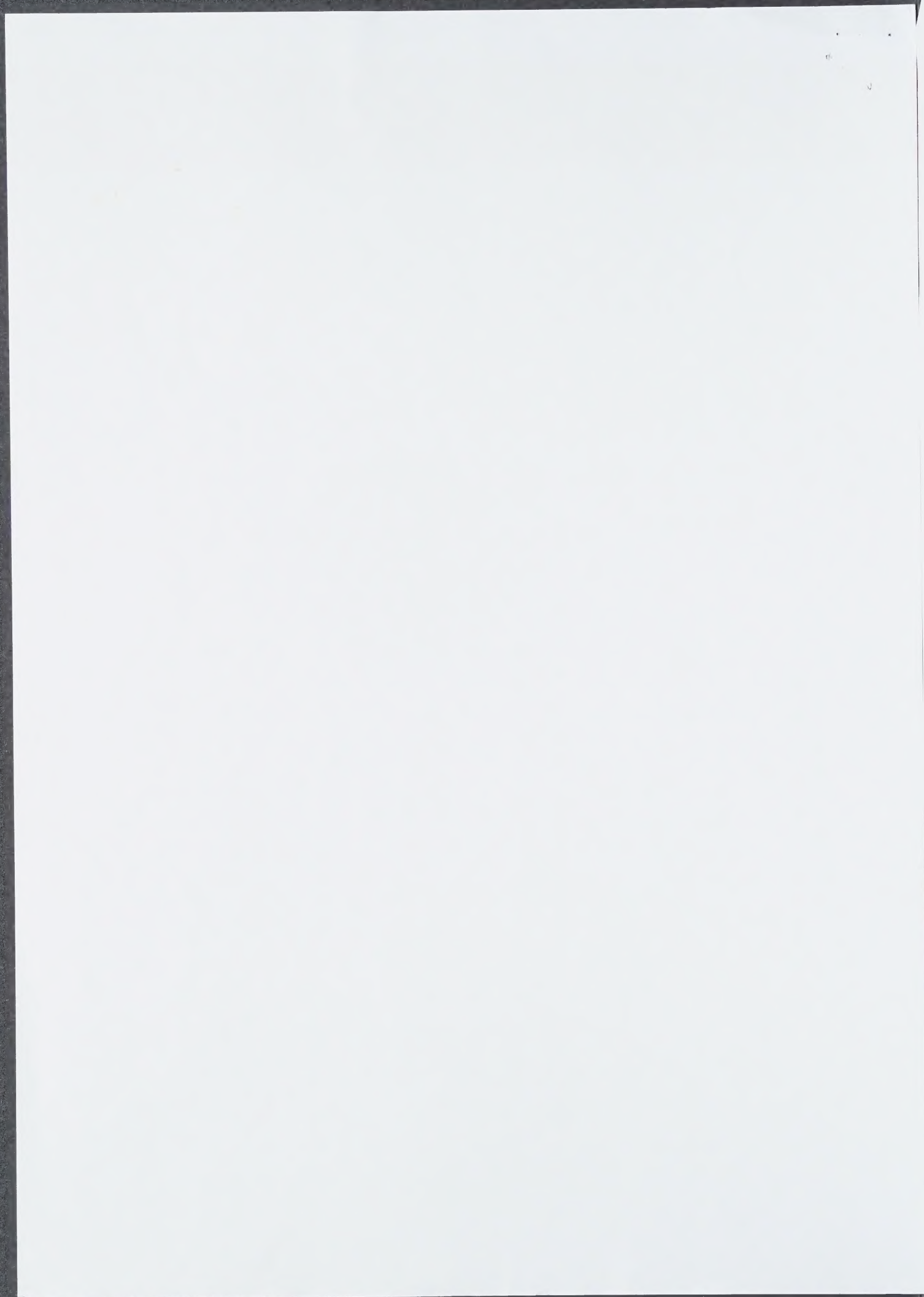
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Dear Alfred,

As I promised, I am writing to update you about the progress we are making at the Royal Institution. We are delighted that our application to the Heritage Lottery fund received a positive response and they have decided to give us just short of £5M, as we requested. This has been a tremendous boost to the Heart of Science campaign - the endorsement from the HLF has stimulated a number of potential donors to come forward.

You may be interested to know that, through Susan, we have a contact in the Jewish Community Centre in London. We have been wondering if we could work together and I suggested that an event, or even a book, exploring the science and scientists' stories of those who were interned by either side in the Second World War would be interesting. This was, of course, partly inspired by your story. The people at the Jewish Community Centre we been on this idea and we are continuing with our discussions around this concept.



David Bevan has not been able to make it to London yet to visit the Ri, but we have been exchanging emails and I hope to see him soon.

I hope that the next time you and Isabel are in London you will take me up on my standing offer of coffee or afternoon tea (though we might have to find an alternative venue as Browns is closed for refurbishment). In any case I will keep you up to date with any developments at the Ri.

Yours ever,

Martin Westwell

MARTIN WESTWELL





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A Chemist Helping Chemists

January 9, 2004

Dr. Martin Westwell
The Royal Institution of Great Britain
21 Albermarle Street
London W1S 4BS
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Dear Martin,

Isabel and I were sorry to miss you when we stopped into the RI in December, shortly before returning to the United States.

We will be back in London in the summer and hope to be able to stop by then again.

Of course I remember your Director's request for (if my memory serves me correctly) £2 Million but I then did make a contribution to the Friends of the RI, I believe for US \$5,000.

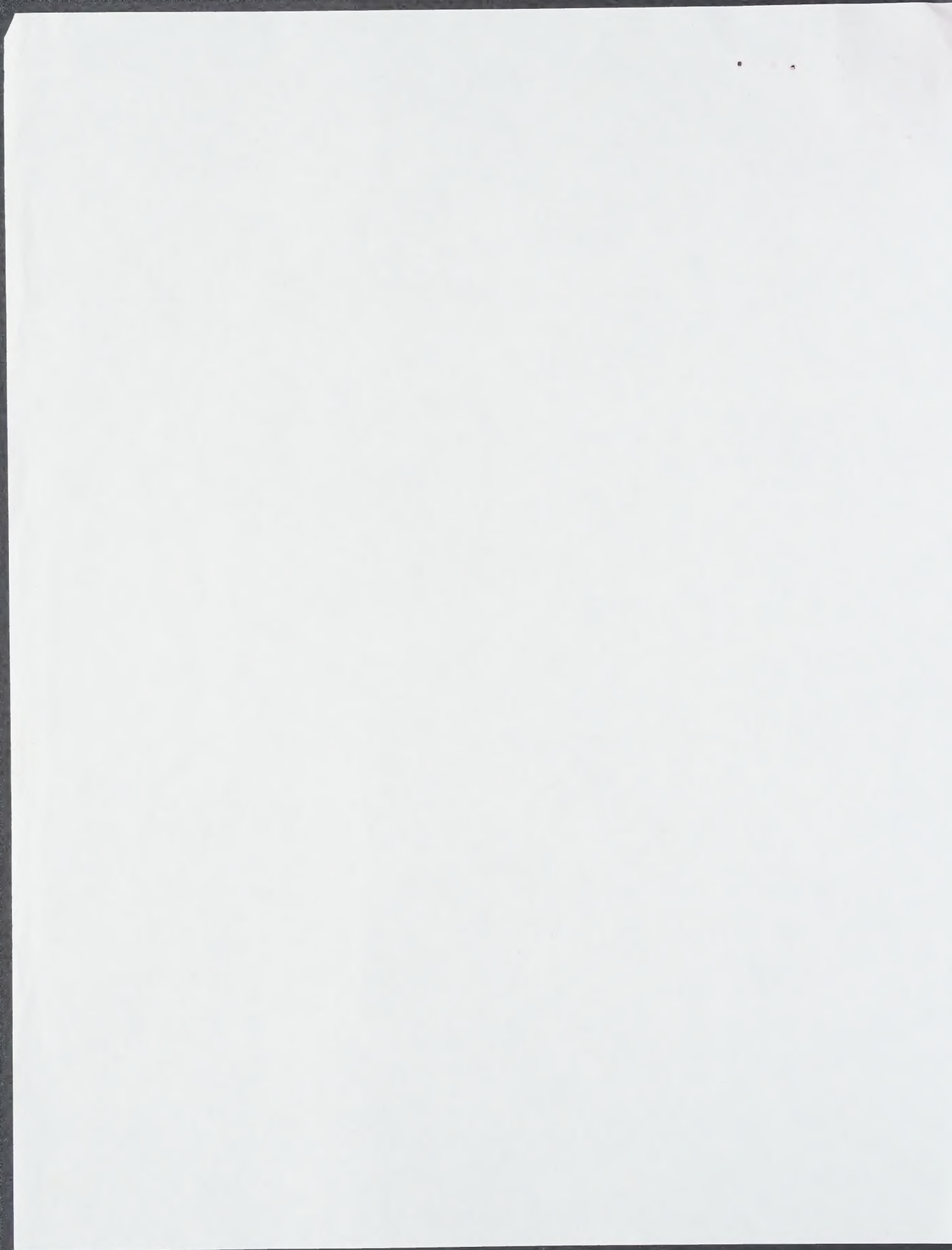
But I understand of course that you are more interested in establishing a link between the RI and the ISC at Herstmonceux Castle and I hope that you will be successful.

Unfortunately we will not be in London for the Friday evening discourses hosted by Professor Richard Catlow. As you perhaps know I spoke about Archibald Scott Cooper before the Lab Dinner at University College and then had the pleasure of sitting right next to Professor Catlow.

With all good wishes I remain

Yours sincerely,

Alfred Bader
AB/az





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of Great Britain

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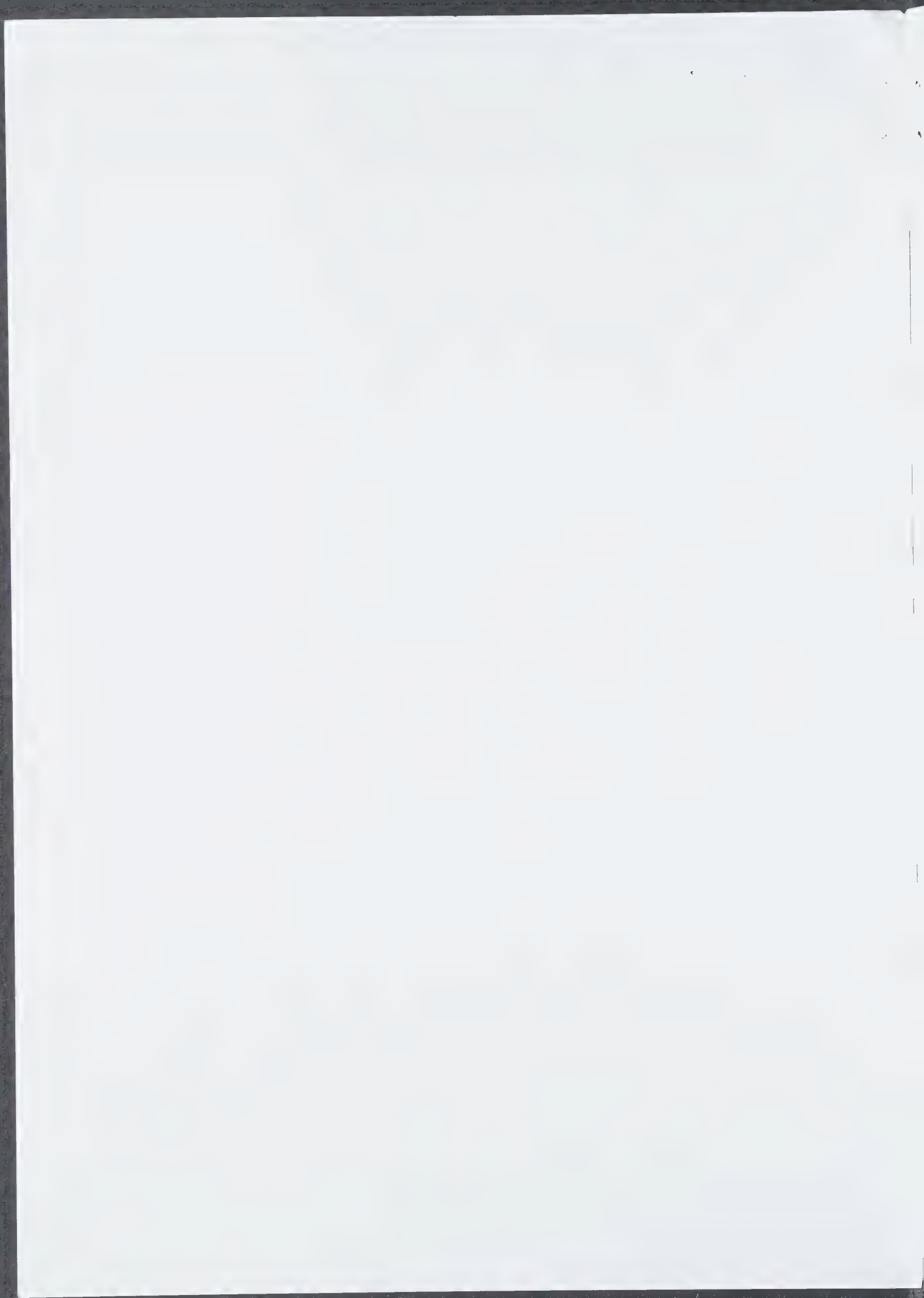
12 December 2003

Dear Alfred,

I am sorry that I missed you when you called into the Ri today. Thank you so much for the print of Faraday and Poussin Blue which will go on the wall of my study at home when we have finished rebuilding it (but that's another story!)

I have been looking through some old files and noticed copies of correspondence sent by Michael Dungefield (the development director at the Ri before my time) to you. I see that he approached you for a significant contribution to the "Heart of Science" campaign. I am embarrassed to think that my approach to you would have looked like it was with similar intent. If in the future you decide that you would like to support the Ri with a donation then of course I would be delighted but at the moment I am more concerned with pursuing our common interests.

Richard Cottow is hosting a few of the Friday Evening Discourses in the forthcoming season, including dinner afterwards, and I have suggested that you and Isabel

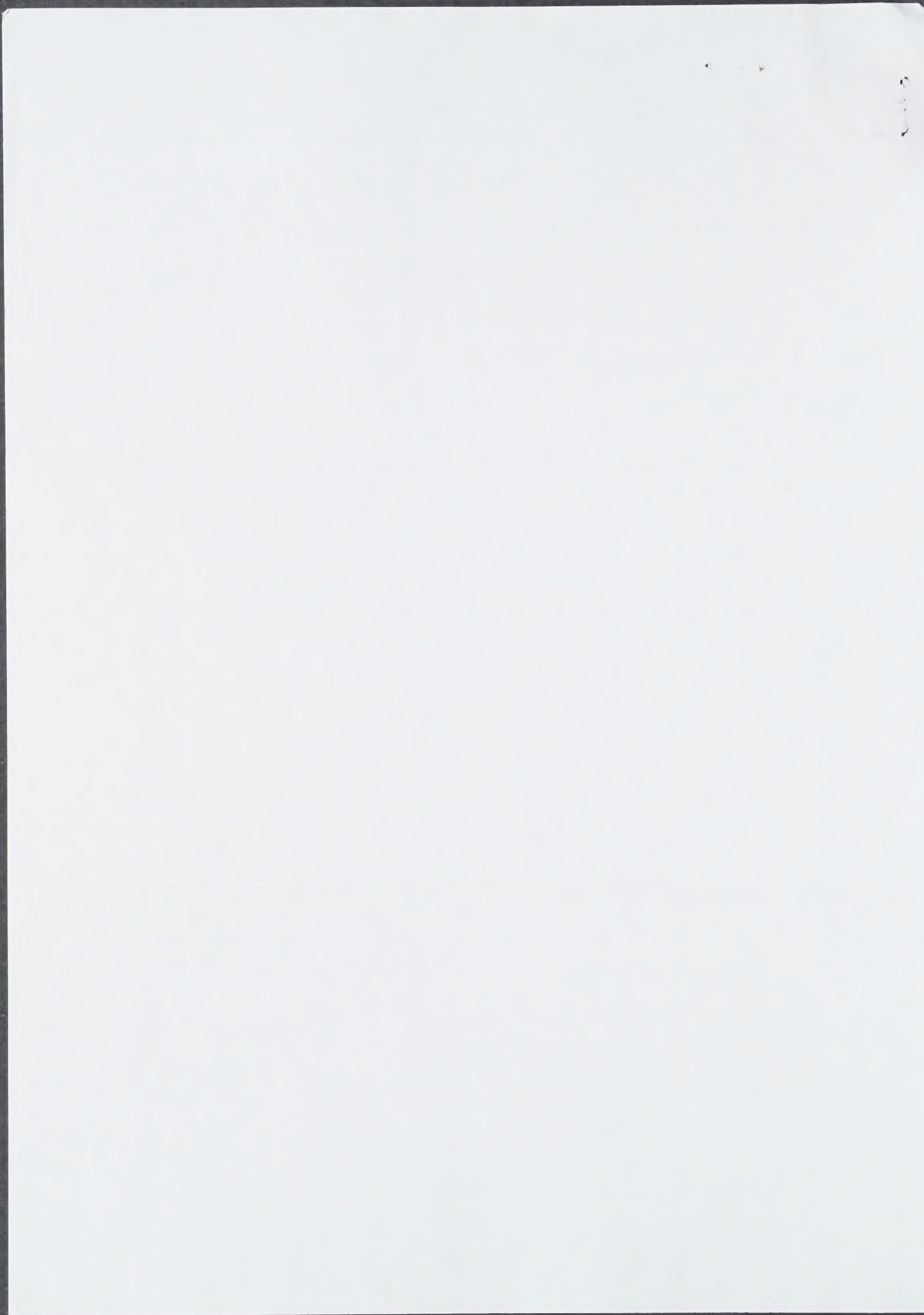


be invited to them. To give you advanced warning, the dates are 20 February, 5 March and 26 March and I am sure you will be given the choice of these dates. I am sending a copy of this letter to Milwaukee in case this misses you at Bexhill. I hope that you and Isabel both enjoy the holiday season and have a happy Chanukka.

Yours ever

Martin

MARTIN WESTWELL





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of Great Britain

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2 July 2003

Dear Alfred,

As I recall, you are due to be in Bexhill next week and I hope this letter finds you and Isabel in good health. I am looking forward to seeing you if you do have time to pop in to the Ri during a trip to London.

I write to make a request and will come straight to the point. Frank James is very keen to acquire a very important letter written by Faraday that is being offered for £2500 by Maggs Bros the rare book dealers in Berkeley Square. They have agreed to hold it for us for a limited time. We have been successful in raising £1000 from the Friends of the National Libraries. I know that you have contributed to the Ri before, but given your admiration of Faraday and the fact that Benjamin Abbott, the recipient of the letter lived in East Sussex, I hope that you will be sympathetic to our request for funding to allow us to achieve the purchase of the letter.

I have enclosed a page that we sent to the Friends of the National Library to justify acquiring the letter, a couple of papers that help place the letter in context as well as a photocopy and transcription of the letter.

We are planning an exhibition for next year celebrating Faraday and his rise from bookbinder to peerless scientist, on the 200 year anniversary of his being apprenticed on 7 October 1805 and this letter would play a crucial role in that. If you were able to agree our request for funding we would certainly acknowledge your kind gift in the exhibition and in the forthcoming Volume 6 of the *Correspondence of Michael Faraday*. We would also have the letter photographed and framed so that you could personally enjoy it.

Perhaps if you are planning a trip to London, we could arrange through Frank a visit to Maggs Bros to see the letter first hand.

I hope that you will not mind my direct approach but I consider you a straight-talking man and a friend of the Ri.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Martin Westwell

