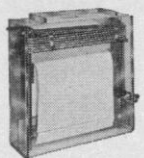


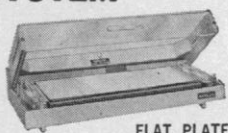
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of General Medical Sciences project for the separation of biological macromolecules. The following transfer RNA's from *E. coli* K-12 MO7, fMet (97 percent), Arg (70 percent), Phe 2 (78 percent), and Glu (~95 percent), and Glu (~85 percent) are fMet (~95 percent), Arg (100 percent), and Glu (~85 percent) are ready for distribution. The values in parentheses are the activities, expressed as amino acid acceptance per terminal adenosine. The arginine tRNA's contain more than one iso-accepting species; all of the others represent a single chromatographic peak. In addition, valine tRNA from *E. coli* K-12 MO7 will be available shortly.

Qualified investigators in the United States or other countries may request samples of these tRNA's by writing to G. David Novelli, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, P.O. Box Y, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830. The letter should include a brief justification and explanation of planned experiments as well as an indication of the quantity needed. These requests will then be reviewed by a committee appointed by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and samples will be shipped in accordance with their recommendations.

A. D. KELMERS
M. P. STULBERG

Oak Ridge National Laboratory,
Post Office Box X,
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Well-Rounded Egghead

Bohannan's letter entitled "Fest me no schriften" (14 Nov.) reminds me that the custom of *Festschriften* comes from Continental university systems along with the more common tradition (thank goodness!) of conferring honorary degrees within the framework of commencement and convocation ceremonies in modern colleges and universities. . . . Bohannan is right that *Festschriften* are expensive, space-consuming, and may leave long-lasting effects on the inches (or centimeters) of library shelves to which they are relegated. Perhaps they should all be reduced to microfilm so that they could be retrieved on demand by consulting published index lists.

Bohannan's negative approach to these historic and traditional customs leaves a little to be desired. He says, "Because I am the kind of egghead

who cannot look at only one article in a book, I also looked at the rest of them (I did not say read—I am not *that* kind of an egghead)." But what kind of an egghead is he? The reader is entitled to know since he chooses that appellation, and at Northwestern, Bergen Evans takes seriously his thesis that words mean what he means them to mean. I would only point out that most truly macroscopic eggs have two ends, a rounded one and a pointy one. While the latter gets there first (when laid), it is the well-rounded one that has in it the most stuff.

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Eskimos' Language Links

In Dumond's article on the prehistory of the Alaskan Eskimo (28 Nov., p. 1108), he has elected to propagate the myth that the Eskimo-Aleut linguistic stock is "genetically distinct" from any North American Indian language. He does, however, correctly relate the Eskimo-Aleut languages to the languages of northeast Asia, presumably to the Aral-Altaic languages. His citation of Swadesh's 1962 article (1) for placing the Eskimo-Aleut languages "distinct" from North American Indian languages is interesting in that Swadesh states, in 1969:

It was long thought that Eskimo-Aleut had no relationship with American Indian languages, despite a few points of similarity (such as the dual suffix *-k* of Eskimoan and the *-ki* plural of Algonkin). Evidence was brought forward in the late 1950s, however, to show systematic agreements pointing toward a common origin, particularly with the Wakashan stock Algonkin-Wakashan phylum of the northwest coast of North America (2).

It appears that the Ural-Altaic, Korean-Japanese, Eskimo-Aleut, and Algonkin-Wakashan languages represent a vast language spectrum of greater diversity than the Indo-European language family, with a prehistoric geographic spread of three continents, and a buried insight into the histories and cultures of a multitude of races and peoples.

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Queens Village, New York 11429

References

1. M. Swadesh, *Amer. Anthropol.* 64, 1262 (1962).
2. ———, "Eskimo-Aleut languages" in *Encyclopedia Britannica* 8, 706 (1969).