

JOHN STEINBECK  
190 East Seventy-second Street, New York 21, N. Y.

February 7, 1964

Mr. Jack Rudloe  
Centre d'Océanographie et des Pêches  
Nossi-Bé, Madagascar  
Malagasy Republic  
Africa

Dear Jack:

Your wonderful letter just arrived and your reaction to organized collecting is almost like Ed Ricketts'. He found that he was content to do it his way, and make less money and I imagine that will be your final decision. But I must say that your training in method will be invaluable to you as well as the little letters after your name for having taken part for once in decent society collecting. I know what you mean, though, about the zombie approach. I think that you have invented a whole new ecology; - if not invented it, discovered it. Collecting marine animals in a fish market should have been obvious to anyone. But here you see how you widened the horizons of your ecological section to include beggars, buyers, dogs and dervishes or whatever they have in Madagaŝcar. I hope I will be in New York when you come through, because I will be terribly pleased to see you and you will have a great fund of stories. I suggest that you go back to Florida, put up your feet and start writing some of them.

Thanks for your letter. It gave me a great deal of pleasure and I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

J.S.