

John Steinbeck
190 East Seventy-second St.
New York 21, New York

Dear Jack Rudloe:

It was a great pleasure to get your letter of April 1 (P). As you must know, my mail has become a matter of horror to me. It is like the smooth wave and composed of flatterers (they think) people who want something, women who have confused prose and see, plus a large group of just plain long haulers. Your letter made my day.

I wish I could see your part of the country. The name panacea is charming. Your letter head (Hamm's head stark and a moray unless I ^{am} sleeping) very good.

Your restlessness with the specialists is not unknown to me. Ed and I had some of it, except for the great ones. They were always friendly and easy and open. Only the half are prestige. You see they aren't very secure. They are fighting for positions, and for promotions. They are usually pretty cruel people. Be kind to them. They are as vain as actors and flattery will get you any place with them. But they do have value in identification under our rotten taxonomic structure.

Of course there is a way of joining the club - a degree and a grant of some kind even from an institution you have to insert - will work. And still, there are some awfully good people working in the field. There is a tagging station on St John VI also studying the poison factors absorbed from some algae and the people there are fine and friendly.

You say you have difficulty with identification. We have found that in certain areas, even the Virgatus

non player animals may be new species - or variations
pronounced enough to be confusing

I have looked at the largest scale map I have
of the north east shore and cannot find Panama Fla.
Of course you would tell me the area. Is it east of
Panama City? Does it extend down the coast. The
swath seems to be all under 200 meters. I don't have
a hydrographic map of the Gulf nor any library of
currents. But it should be a fascinating area. Please
tell me more.

I am in a rough night now. Trying my best
under pressure to get some work done but your
letter was a breath of fresh air.

Yours
John Steinbeck

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Begins → 1963

John Steinbeck
190 East 72nd Street
New York, 21, New York

Dear Jack Rudloe:

It was a great pleasure to get your letter of April 1(?). As you must know, my mail has become a matter of horror to me. It is like the seventh wave and composed of flatterers (they think), people who want something, women who have confused prose and sex, plus a large group of just plain lung housers. Your letter made my day.

I wish I could see your part of the country. The name Panacea is charming. Your letter head (hammerhead shark and a moray unless I am slipping) very good.

Your restlessness with the specialists is not unknown to me. Ed and I had some of it, except for the great ones. They were always friendly and easy and open. Only the half assed are priestly. You see they aren't very secure. They are fighting for positions and for promotions. They are usually pretty dull people. Be kind to them. They are as vain as actors and flattery will get you any place with them. But they do have value in identification under our rotten taxonomic structure.

Of course there is a way of joining the club - a degree and a grant of some kind even from an institution you have to invent - will work. And still, there are some awfully good people working in the field. There's a tagging station on St. John VI also studying the poison factors absorbed from some algae and the people there are fine and friendly.

You say you have difficulty with identification. We have found that in certain areas, even the non pelagic animals may be new species - or variations pronounced enough to be confusing.

I have looked at the largest scale map I have of the northeast shore and cannot find Panacea, Fla. I wish you would tell me the area. Is it east of Panama City? Does it extend down the coast? The water seems to be all under 200 meters. I don't have a hydrographic map of the Gulf nor any library of currents. But it should be a fascinating area. Please tell me more.

I am in a rush right now. Trying my best under pressure to get some work done but your letter was a breath of fresh air.

Yours,
John Steinbeck