

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

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10 October 1986

Mrs. C. H. Vinnels
Box 1714 Gravenhurst
Muskota, Ontario POC 1G0
CANADA

Dear Mrs. Vinnels,

The letter which you addressed to Mr. J. Grimm has been forwarded to me, as Mr. Grimm is not associated with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. I do not have his address therefore cannot, in turn, forward the letter to him.

We decided not to attempt to retrieve any artifacts from the TITANIC during this past summer's return expedition. I feel at this point that such retrieval is too much akin to opening Pandora's box. It is my belief that the TITANIC should be left undisturbed to rest in peace. We have been able to thoroughly document her on film; in this manner, we will be able to show her to the world, without the threat of probable destruction through salvage attempts. A television documentary about the TITANIC, including our work and the video which we took, has already been shown in Great Britain; National Geographic is currently preparing a similar program for televising in the United States. Pictures, slides, and a home video will all be available to the public, thus anyone can share in our explorations.

It is difficult to say what might be the fate of the book which your friend illustrated. I fear that it is unlikely that it could have survived all these years, but who knows?

Sincerely,

RDB copy
Dr. Robert D. Ballard
Senior Scientist
Deep Submergence Laboratory

RDB:mva