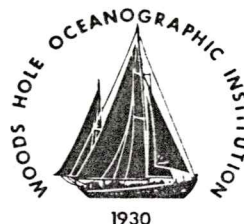


Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Woods Hole, MA 02543

Phone: (617) 548-1400

Telex: 951679



4 August 1986

John M. Wilton  
158 Middlesex Avenue  
Iselin, NJ 08830

Dear Mr. Wilton,

I appreciate your desire to join an expedition to the site of the TITANIC; as a fellow TITANIC enthusiast, I understand your fascination with this great ship. We simply did not have any more room for additional personnel on this last trip. As it happened, we were leaving just about the time your letter arrived.

I do hope that you have enjoyed the information and photographs released thus far. We hope to make more of the video footage and still photographs available to the public later this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. D. Ballard", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Robert D. Ballard  
Senior Scientist  
Deep Submergence Laboratory

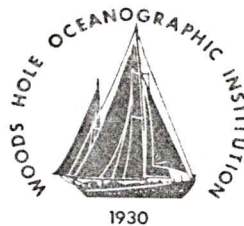
RDB:mva

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Woods Hole, MA 02543

Phone: (617) 548-1400

Telex: 951679



11 July 1986

John M. Wilton  
158 Middlesex Avenue  
Iselin, NJ 08830

Dear Mr. Wilton,

We have received the letter which you wrote recently to Dr. Robert D. Ballard. At this time, Dr. Ballard is leading another expedition to the TITANIC. He will respond to your letter as soon as possible upon his return to Woods Hole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary D. von Alt".

Mary D. von Alt  
Assistant

158 Middlesex Ave.  
Iselin, N.J. 08830

July 2, 1986

Dr. Robert Ballard  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute  
Woods Hole, Mass. 02543

Dr. Ballard,

I had met and spoken with you some time ago at a lecture which you gave at Rutgers University explaining how you had found the TITANIC. At that time, I gave you a cassette tape of stories told by the survivors from the T.H.S. Do you remember?

Let me introduce myself just the same.

My name is John Wilton and I am currently an active member of the Titanic Historical Society Inc. I am twenty-one years of age and have had an obsession with the Titanic since the age of eight. Also, I am a member of the Philadelphia Maritime Museum.

It is to my understanding that the research team from Woods Hole will be leaving again on July, 9th for further photographic work with the Titanic. If any way possible, I would like to join you and your team. I understand that this request may be strange, but this has been a dream of mine for as long as I can remember. Of course, I will help in any way I can.

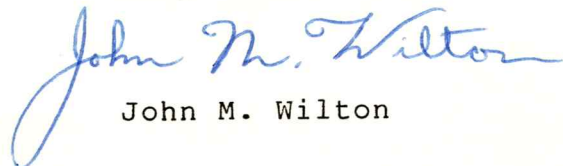
Please contact me if possible.

9a.m. to 5p.m. 1-(201)-494-3200

5p.m. to ----- 1-(201)-283-0704

Thank you very much for your time and understanding.

Best of Luck,  
Many Thanks,

  
John M. Wilton