UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
205 Walker Hall
Gainesville, Florida 32601
Telephone (code 904) 392-0281

January 5, 1971

Professor George E. Andrews
Department of Mathematics
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dear Dr. Andrews:

Your kind letter of December 8 sent to Strasbourg was forwarded to me and I received it at the same time as your other letter of December 17.

It is indeed a great and valuable task to edit MacMahon's works. I should like to wish you a full success.

The list of all the papers you were able to gather is impressive. I did not realize myself that MacMahon had published so many articles. I am essentially familiar with his book and a few other papers of his. Let me answer your three questions successively.

1. The paper
P. A. MacMahon, The indices of permutations and the derivation there from of a function of a single variable associated with the permutations of any assemblage of objects, Amer. J. Math., 35, (1913), 281-322.

does not appear in your list. It contains a discussion about various indexes on permutations he introduced in his book. You will find in the enclosed reprint an explicit proof of his result. I do not see other papers but suggest that you go through the list of authors in the American Journal of Mathematics.

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March 24, 1972

Dear Professor Andrews,

Let me thank you very much for your kind invitation. It will be a great pleasure to meet and talk with you.

As for the title of my lecture I propose "Euler numbers and alternating permutations".

I think I will come on April 27 but will call you up to ask you if I can arrive at 11:01 a.m. that day and have enough time before the colloquium. Then I could have Friday night or Saturday morning.

Thank you again

Sincerly yours,

Dominique Foata