

July 24, 1964

AIR MAIL

Miss Myra Keen
c/o Mollusca Section
British Museum (Natural History)
Cromwell Road
London, SW 7, England

Dear Miss Keen:

It is a great pleasure to receive a long letter from you. I had read somewhere that you were on sabbatical leave visiting marine stations abroad. If you meet Dr. J. Knudsen at the Universitetes Zoologiske Museum in Copenhagen, will you please give him my best regards and repeat my thanks to him for his prompt and detailed reply to my questions about oysters. There are also other good people, for example, Theodor Sorgenfrei of the Danish Survey, Alfred Rosenkrantz, and Wionberg Rasmussen. The Danes are wonderful people in my opinion.

As to Holocraspedum, the enclosed copy of my letter to Dr. Cox is all I know about it. Maybe that is sufficient. I might add that I have not seen Roemer's type specimens of Ostrea anomiaeformis; they are presumably at Bonn. I have not collected any oysters from Roemer's type locality nor have I seen any specimens identified by other persons as O. anomiaeformis except those mentioned in my letter to Dr. Cox. The case of Holocraspedum falls under Article 70(a) of the Code, I believe.

There is another oyster(?) genus that is suspicious looking. That is Ostreinella Cossmann in Cossmann & Peyrot, 1914, Conchologie néogénique de l'Aquitaine: Soc. Linnéenne Bordeaux Actes, v. 66 (or is it 68?), livr. 2, p. 398-399. The specimens which are available to me are identified as O. neglecta Michelotti and come from Pontpourquey, France. They would be good Ostreids if they were not so hyaline and thin shelled. The adductor muscle imprint is single and to one side, the ligamental area looks like it is ostreid. However, in some deeply convex valves the muscle imprint is on the wrong side, if the valves are left ones. It could be an oyster, but a very peculiar one. I have not seen anything like this species. On hasty inspection it looks like an Anomia.

Long-forgotten generic names in the Ostreidae are still coming to light. I have written two papers; one on Rastellum Faujas-Saint-Ford, 1799 (1801), and the other one on Cristacites Schlotheim, 1820. Both papers are of chief concern to European paleontologists, so I think they should be offered to "Palaeontology."

There is a chance that I shall go to London and France in late September or October to work on the oysters. I hope you will be at the British Museum then.

With best wishes for a successful trip in Europe,

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:jmf

Enclosures: Xerox copy of letter to Dr. Cox