

MRS. HUGH BRANHAM
THE BRANHAM SHELL MUSEUM
FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA-U.S.A.

Apr 2nd '52

My dear Mr. Stuegel

I see by Burck's Directory that you are interested in exchanging.

It might be possible, I believe, for us to arrange an exchange which might please us both. I have a fairly extensive collection of Florida shells and many fairly rare shells from foreign countries, especially Japan. I do not make a regular habit of exchanging and therefore do not make out regular lists and most of the specimens I particularly want are very rare. If you would care to send me a list of shells you would like to have and the best you have to offer in exchange I feel sure that I could satisfy you. But I must make

it is very clear that I have no pretense
to any scientific knowledge. I have
been collecting only a little over five
years and I was sixty years old when
I started - so you see that I have not
had much time to acquire any real
knowledge. Exchanging is often very
disappointing - as you probably know
well but I can refer you to Mr. Harold
Parker of the U.S.N.M., Mr. Wm. S. Cleveland
of the Museum of Comparative Zoology
(Harvard College) or to my friend Maxwell
Smith (Windsor, Florida). Any of
them will, I am sure, vouch for my
bona fides at least and Maxwell Smith
will tell you that I have many good
shells.

My knowledge is far short of what it
should be to justify my possession of
such a collection and most of my
knowledge of species has been acquired
by seeing pictures in books. The only
collection of any consequence I have

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Ever seen in Harvard College
(The Beal Malbia Museum) I have
had only glimpses of Maxwell Seely's
collection and that - which I know
nothing at all -

Some of the shells I am anxious to
get are the following -

Judaea spinosum ^{sp?} (Australia)

Pterocera violacea (Phil) *Verex cornutus*
Africa. *Murex saxatilis* (Africa) *M. calvus*
Murex chryostomus (W. I.) (Africa)

Any of the very rare *Cypraea* or *Comus*
or *Pecten*. Very small shells are of no
use to me now as they would add much
popular interest to the Museum.

I am very much interested in some of
the new shells brought in by the shrimp
boats and one of the specimens I saw
most is a shell supposed to be found

off the Texas coast in comparatively shallow
water. - *Epitoumus Micheneri*. I secured
water a full grown specimen - about $2\frac{1}{2}$
to 3 inches long.

I will be very glad to hear from you

Sincerely yours

M. R. Brantner