

December 2, 1964

Dr. David Nicol  
Department of Geology  
Southern Illinois University  
Carbondale, Illinois

Dear Dave:

Thank you for sending me copies of your three latest papers. The question of size of marine bivalves has always intrigued me. There are many puzzles in that subject. Why did the Miocene Crassostrea gryphoides Schlottheim, 1813, attain such large sizes in so many places of the globe, from Spain to Japan to California? The largest Exogyra I have is from near Austin; its largest dimension is 20.1 cm and it weighs 3939.5 grams (both valves). For the oyster report I have collated all kinds of data on extraordinarily large Ostreids.

I wish you good luck in your impending move to Florida. There is lots of paleontology in Florida.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:sb

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