

July 25, 1961

Madame E. Basse de Menorval
10 Avenue Paul-Appell
Paris 14e, France

Dear Madame:

In response to your letter of June 21, I am sending you enclosed my own copy of the article by Kauffman and Kesling. There must be some sort of mix-up. I am sure Dr. Kesling would be glad to send you a copy, if he had received your letter. The article is very important, in my opinion, and I regret that it was not published in a journal that is more readily accessible to the public.

I am happy to hear some efforts are being made to select those specimens of oysters that are needed for the Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology. There is really no haste in this matter, because the work is going to be long drawn out anyhow. I find the work very difficult, because there is so much neontological and paleontological literature to read and digest.

The basal conglomerate (Littig Conglomerate) of the Danian (Midway group) here in Texas contains ammonites that are reworked from the underlying Maastrichtian beds (Kemp Clay of Navarro group). The ammonites are internal molds of the air- and body-chambers composed of phosphorite (francolite). Several hundred (411) have been collected; 97.08 percent are Baculites sp., and only 2.92 percent are normal coiled ammonites. In these collections, there is no personal bias, all ammonites were collected without any preference. Also, since all ammonites have air chambers, they were all equally capable of being preserved as phosphorite molds. It is therefore evident that in Late Maastrichtian time only the Baculites were abundant and other ammonites were already very rare in this area. Does that signify the beginning of the extinction of the ammonites in very Late Maastrichtian time?

With warmest regards.

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:mh

Enclosure

Shell Development Company
Exploration & Production Research Division