

October 12, 1944

Mr. Donald Coney, Librarian
The University of Texas
Austin, Texas

My dear Mr. Coney :

Please find enclosed a statement concerning malacology in general and the two items recently acquired by the Library. I hope this statement is what you wanted. Should there be any other additional statement needed, I will be glad to give it to you as I believe in the long run such statements will help improving the situation.

I wish to express to you my personal thanks for the fine way the purchase of the Journal de Conchyliologie was handled. I am very glad to have that series.

With many thanks,

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel, Geologist

HBS :MJC
Enclosure

Recent acquisitions of the library include the *Journal de Conchyliologie*, published in Paris, France, and the *Manual of Conchology*, published by the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia. These two items deal with the science of conchology or malacology, that is, the study of mollusks living or fossil. This science has many applications and ramifications. There are, for instance, those mollusks which transmit the dread schistosomes or Blood flukes to man. Blood flukes are endemic in the southwest Pacific, China, Burma, India. Should these flukes be brought over by returning soldiers and spread to our country we would have to know how to check the infestation and the mollusks that are intermediate host would have to be known. Other mollusks are intermediate hosts for worms that infest sheep. The knowledge of these mollusks is necessary to curb such infestations. There are many mollusks that provide food for us. One of them, the oyster, is known to all. Again there are mollusks that prey on and eat oysters. The oyster drill is just one of these. One should not overlook the mollusks that help to clothe us. All mother of pearl shirt buttons come from mollusks and Texas rivers are potential sources of shells for this purpose. Pearls too are products of mollusks.

Here in Texas we are interested in mollusks for a local and practical reason. Fossil mollusks are found in abundance in the oil-bearing strata of Texas. It is with their aid that paleontologists identify, trace, and correlate these strata. There is an extensive and ever growing research literature on this subject that is being used by petroleum geologists and scientists. The University staff is contributing to this research and in order that the research men of the University may be able to expand their studies such library items as these recently purchased are needed.

The Journal de Conchologie is the standard outlet for malacological articles in France. As such it has published articles of leading French scientists as de Boury, Lamy, Fischer, which are of importance in the field of biology, systematics, and paleontology.

The Manual of Conchology by Tryon and Pilsbry is a monumental work of considerable repute. It covers living land snails. This subject is of importance chiefly to medicine on account of the mollusks being intermediate hosts of parasites and to the study of evolution, because many land snail populations have been investigated in great detail and exhibit neatly the processes of speciation by geographic isolation.