

VASSAR COLLEGE  
POUGHKEEPSIE · NEW YORK  
*Department of Geology*  
Nov. 16, 1957

Dr. H. B. Stenzel  
University of Houston  
Houston 4, Texas

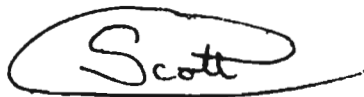
Dear Henryk:

Herewith are some thoughts about the SVP's proposed rules for collecting in the public lands. There was very brief discussion of this at the PS Council meeting in Atlantic City, so I went on to the SVP meeting to learn more.

Also at Atlantic City, an ad hoc committee was set up to consider PS policy in regard to nominating Correspondents, and to make specific suggestions as to possible nominations. As you know from past PS Council meetings, the question of Correspondents comes up on the agenda at about 11.45 P. M., when no one can, or is willing to give it the deliberate thought which it properly deserves. This happened again at Atlantic City, and I protested it--- so I'm on this ad hoc committee.

At your convenience, could you send me whatever ideas you have in this matter? Thanks. I would also appreciate it if you could urge other PS members to make their feelings known to this committee. It is not a matter for Council alone to decide.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Scott", enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

A. Scott Warthin Jr.

Yassar College  
November 16, 1957

**Paleontological Society Council**

**Gentlemen:**

You will remember that at our meeting in Atlantic City there was brief discussion of the proposed rules for the collection of fossils in the public domain, as outlined by the SVP committee.

I felt rather uninformed in the matter, and attended the SVP meeting at which the rules were discussed; from which I can report to you:

- A. A few field officers of the government are presently enforcing their interpretation of the Antiquities Act very strictly. One in the southwest has confiscated collections (only partly made on public lands), but has not turned the confiscated materials over to any government repository.
- B. Tribal lands are not mentioned in the draft because discussion of that phase is yet to come.
- C. In Section 2 the phrase "or other recognized organizations" is meant to include oil companies.
- D. SVP feels that these rules will not work hardship on any reputable private collector, as such a person can always arrange a loose "affiliation" with a museum.
- E. Minor changes in wording were made at the SVP meeting, the general intent being to keep these applications off the desk of the Secretary of the Interior.
- F. These proposed rules have been vetted by two law school professors.

While I regret the necessity for having rules such as these, I am afraid that there is a necessity, and am personally supporting SVP's action. After attending their meeting ~~their session~~ I feel somewhat happier about it than I did at the time of our Council meeting.

Sincerely,

W. Scott Martin Jr.