

September 8, 1946

Dr. A. S. Romer
Museum of Comparative Zoology
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Doctor Romer:

The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia is contemplating to appoint a curator of paleontology, and the grapevine information is that I am being considered for this position. The Academy was at one time very active in the field of Tertiary invertebrate paleontology of the Gulf and Atlantic Coastal Plain. The pioneers of this branch of paleontology, for instance, T. A. Conrad, Isaac Lea, S. G. Morton, E. C. Lea, and W. M. Gabb, worked there and left their type material there. Hence the collections of the Academy became specialized and are foremost in this line. The Academy is not well provided in other lines of invertebrate paleontology. It is obvious that, if a revival of invertebrate paleontology is contemplated, the Tertiary of the Coastal Plain should be the field. In addition the Academy has been very strong in recent mollusca, which are very useful for comparison with Tertiary fossils but of very little use for the Paleozoic or Mesozoic.

You are, of course, familiar with the fact that Tertiary invertebrate paleontology is the neglected child, although there is a great need for it in the Coastal Plain. A great deal of stratigraphic work is being done now in the Coastal Plain and much has had to be done without the aid of invertebrate paleontology. The Academy could be of great national service if it were to take up this line. It is my belief that I am particularly well-fitted for this work at the Academy on account of my extensive field experience in the Gulf Coastal Plain. I have done stratigraphic and paleontologic work in the Coastal Plain since the early '30's and am regarded as one of the authorities. A combination of the facilities of the Academy and my experience in the field should be ideal.

I am well placed here and under the new directorship the Bureau will improve considerably. However, the Bureau is primarily an economic institution, and we have to spend much time on economic investigations. Scientific work is restricted, and I have never been able to do as much of it as I would have like to. Nevertheless I have made a very good showing in

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paleontology. I have about 60 publications to my credit and many of these are stratigraphic or paleontologic. I am sending you a separate of the latest publications.

It is my impression that you are familiar with some of my work and know about me personally. I would be very grateful if you could see your way clear to recommend me to the President of the Academy (see address below). Dr. Sawin promised to write to you also, and presumably you will receive his letter soon.

With many thanks, I am

Sincerely yours

H. B. Stenzel

Mr. Charles B. M. Cadwalader
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