

SWINNERTON

February 13, 1963

Professor H. H. Swinnerton  
The Headmaster's House  
Haberdashers' Aske's School  
Elstree, Hertfordshire  
England

Dear Professor Swinnerton:

You are very kind to send me your publications and to send them so promptly. Please accept my thanks. They have been and will continue to be stimulating and useful to the work on the Ostreidae.

It is true that the Treatise is mainly concerned with systematics. However, systematics must be based on a sound understanding of phylogeny, otherwise it would be largely fictitious. This is particularly true for the Ostreidae. Needless to say, I have been looking into the biological side of the literature extensively and have been analyzing the evolution of the various genera in the Ostreidae for some time. It is a most difficult task, but so far it has been quite rewarding. I am fortunate in having many friends who are oyster biologists on the coasts of this continent.

Thanks to the kindness of Dr. F. H. McLearn of Canada, there is on my desk a plaster cast of the holotype of his Gryphaea chakii from the Triassic of British Columbia. This small Gryphaea matches in every detail the Gryphaea arcuata of the same size. Please draw your own conclusions.

It is good to know that you are continuing to work on paleontological materials in your retirement, and I am looking forward to seeing your work in print. After teaching in various universities in Texas, I too have retired. However, I am very busy in research of various sorts and teach one course at Rice University as a visiting lecturer.

With good wishes for your health and continued activity,

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel

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Shell Development Company  
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