

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE  
BATON ROUGE . LOUISIANA . 70803

*School of Geology*  
August 20, 1968

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

Dr. N.J. Norris  
British Museum (Natural History)  
Department of Palaeontology  
Cromwell Road, London S.W.7

Dear Dr. Norris:

Thank you very much for your letter of August 15, 1968, the enclosed detailed information on various species *Gryphaea*, and the photographs. Were it not for your information, I would be without detailed knowledge on *G. sublobata* and *G. bilobata*. It has been evident to me from the literature that the nomenclature of the various European species of *Gryphaea* is in an unholy mess. There are many loose, poorly defined species or variety names around.

As it is, the type species *G. arcuata* is not central amongst the various species of the genus, because of its unusual shape and nearly evanescent posterior radial groove. Contrary to Arkell, I am not a believer in the polyphyletic origins of the Jurassic European *Gryphaea* species, although they fall into several sub-generic fractions.

I have begged at many French universities for specimens of *Gryphaeostrea cversa* (Melleville), but have had no success. I went all the way to the type locality in northeastern France to collect my own specimens. The old sand pits are almost overgrown now and it was not possible to collect types or any other specimens. Your specimens will have to do, and I hope you can have the kindness to furnish photographs, perhaps enlargements to X2.

Dr. N.J. Norris

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August 20, 1968

From all this you can see perhaps what some of  
my difficulties are. Thank you very much for your help.

Sincerely yours

H.B. Stenzel  
Visiting Professor

HBS:smc