

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

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IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE.....

May 19th 1953

Dear Professor Stenzel,

I felt I must write and tell you of the tragedy that has befallen the Bureau especially the palaeontological section. A disastrous fire burnt out the greater part of the section and was finally checked in my room but not until tremendous damage was done. Dr. Opik's Collections of Australian Lower Paleozoic material was almost completely destroyed as well as some manuscripts he had ready for publication.

I have been completely shocked by the disaster as much of my 25 years of work has either been destroyed or so badly damaged that it will take some time to restore. I have such completed the sorting of the library and microfossil collections and am feeling very sad. We had a wonderful collection of rare works on the foraminifera which was made by the late F. Chapman. This has been very badly damaged, more than 50% of the works being destroyed. I lost too all sorts of little precious things I had collected through the years, and little palaeontological treasures people had given me. Fortunately most of the American collections are safe but the literature has suffered badly. My own private library is in a sorry plight. I suppose I shall be able to build some of it up again.

I hope you and your daughters are well. I was just about to come to Texas this time two years ago.

My very best wishes

Yours sincerely

Irvin Cooper

*If you see Mr. George will you tell him
my best wishes. E.*

answered June 2, 1953