



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

GEOLOGIC DIVISION
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DAVENPORT 5-6761

May 12, 1961

Dr. Henryk B. Stenzel
Shell Development Co.
Houston, Texas

Dear Henryk:

I was glad to hear from you. However, your request was not necessary because I intended to send you a copy of my Okinawa paper very soon. I just received the author's copies week before last and I am still in the process of mailing them. In the interest of International relations I managed just this week to get an allotment of 21 extra copies to send to Japanese correspondents where the greatest interest will be.

You are to be admired for your effort in working up the oysters. I don't believe I will be satisfied with the way the arcs are done, but I just couldn't find the time to do them myself. I receive the regular alarms Newell sends out just as I always did, and I answer most of them, but that is about the extent of my contribution. I couldn't even find time to write the note on the ligament. Myra Keen has taken over what Vokes had agreed to do, so she is really snowed. Leo Hertlein has finished his part on the pectens and turned it in. I hope you didn't vote for Bivalvia!

I did not write any note on the ligament of oysters. When I was a student I worked up a lengthy paper on the evolution of the pelecypod ligament, mainly on the morphology and evolution of the layers, and dealing only with the bearing of ligament evolution in the taxodonts and prionodonts. I never published it, nor did I quite finish what I set out to do. In all I recognized 6 different layers in ligaments, but most ligaments have only 2, 3, or 4 of them. The oysters have only two. It might be of interest to you to know that the fibrous layer (in the pit) is more related to shell layers than to the laminar layer on the surface bordering the pit. The laminar layer is an intervalve structure, but the fibrous layer actually begins as two parts, one common to each valve. These fuse and assume the function of opening the valves, the only mechanism for doing this. In very young shells the two parts of the fibrous layer are disconnected.

I would have said that Grover Murray's book on the Coastal Plain would be ancient history to me, but it now seems that I may have a revived interest. I plan to go to western Kentucky in June to give

some help to the men mapping the counties west of the Tennessee River on the Kentucky project. My closest knowledge is northern Mississippi, but considering that I have worked over the section from South Carolina to the Tennessee line, the jump will not be a great one.

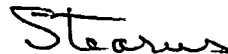
I am still working away on the Vicksburg mollusks, and the end is in sight. However, I spend so much time now on Alaskan problems that it goes slowly.

In between I put in a lot of thought on my plans to monograph the genus Neptunea, which I may have told you about in Copenhagen.

Last week I turned in a correlation chart (there are four authors) for the Tertiary of Alaska that we are sending to the AAPG, and in connection with it I had a valuable assist from Shell. They turned over their Alaskan collections to me in return for identifications, and I was able, on the basis of them, to straighten out a lot of butches Dall made.

With best wishes. Merle sends his too.

Sincerely,



F. Stearns MacNeil

PS Send me your criticisms of the Okinawa paper. Don't worry about what you say as I value your opinion in such matters.