

July 14th, 1936

Mr. F. R. Kirtland
401 South Street
Key West, Fla.

Dear Mr. Kirtland:

Please accept my thanks for your wonderful collection of shells from Florida. They are filling a large gap in my collection. All of the shells except one specimen arrived in very good shape. However, because you have been so generous and have sent numerous individuals for each species this one crushed shell doesn't mean a loss at all. I notice that one of the Arcas, namely Naetia ponderosa Say has attached to it branches of a red animal or plant with brown, horny axes. I am particularly anxious to know what this is, for the reason that we find similar attachments on Tertiary fossils. Until your specimens came I never could find out what these attachments were. If you could give me any information in this line, I would appreciate it very greatly. You may rest assured that in this way you will help science. I am enclosing in this letter a small piece of that animal or plant growth so that you may know what I am talking about.

The collection I have wrapped up for you is going off today. I am afraid that these Tertiary specimens are not as showy as your Florida shells but I hope you will be pleased with them. There are some very rare things in that collection. Many of the genera in that collection live now in far seas and are very hard to obtain. In that way you will be able to have a representative of these rare genera in your collection.

I would appreciate it greatly if you could from time to time send me other lists of duplicates as I would like to continue to exchange with you.

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stensel, Geologist

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