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UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

August 15, 1969

Dr. H. B. Stenzel  
Department of Geology  
Louisiana State University and  
Agricultural & Mechanical College  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

Dear Dr. Stenzel:

I have been asked by A. R. Palmer of the Paleontological Society to sample interest in, and if warranted, organize a speciality group of fossil bivalve experts that might meet formally or informally for a half-day session at this years' GSA convention in Atlantic City. This is in line with some of the changes GSA is trying to make in its annual meeting program, and I strongly support the idea. Such a session would provide a most effective means of communication of new ideas and current projects in our field, and give us all a chance to meet students and new researchers interested in Bivalvia. Similar meetings of specialists in other groups have met with considerable success.


The meeting could take two forms: (a) a series of specialty papers in Bivalve Paleobiology with adequate time for discussion--the more formal approach; or (b) a general bull session in which each of us could free-wheel on any topic, including such worldly things as the general direction the science is taking and should take in the future. In such a session perhaps each of us could be responsible for reporting informally on our current and proposed research. For the 1969 meeting I would suggest the informal approach as it would give us the opportunity to discuss the organization of the group and set up some general ground rules. It might eventually be possible to combine the two formats.

This letter is being sent to all North and Central American fossil bivalve specialists and foreign visitors listed in the 1968 Directory of Paleontologists or otherwise known to me. Please feel free to contact and invite students, visitors, or other specialists that might have been overlooked. A general announcement is planned at GSA.

I need to know as soon as possible whether or not you are interested in participating in a 2 to 3 hour session during the 1969 GSA meeting, or if you can't make this, at future meetings.

Any suggestions relative to the organization of the group will be most welcome. Because of the need to reserve the right size room and get formal announcements distributed, it is critical that I get your answer within a week. Many thanks, and I look forward to seeing you at Chicago and Atlantic City.

Sincerely yours,



Erle G. Kauffman  
Curator  
Division of Invertebrate  
Paleontology

P.S. Specialists in Pelecypoda and Lamellibranchia are also cordially invited.