

November 9, 1965

Dr. Ruth D. Turner  
Department of Mollusks  
Harvard University  
Museum of Comparative Zoology  
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Dear Ruth:

It was a pleasure to read your letter of October 18. I am glad your Teredinidae have progressed so well and would appreciate an inscribed copy, of course. That is something to look forward to. Evidently you have put a lot of energy and long hours into that manuscript.

Please give my thanks and regards to Miss Martin. It must have been a tedious task to decipher Professor Rugel's handwritten letters. Let her know it was not a thankless task. As it is, these letters had slipped my mind long ago. Originally, the expectation was that they might throw some light on the exploration for Tertiary fossils in the Gulf and Atlantic Coastal Plains. After all he passed through Alabama or Georgia in order to reach Florida from Tennessee. I suppose he made his living by collecting shells, plant specimens, and perhaps fossils. He might have stopped by at the famous Tertiary fossil localities. However, his letters do not indicate any such stops.

Off and on, I have some yearnings to visit again places that have good library facilities and I remember with pleasure the top floor lab room at the MCZ. You have a congenial group and a very tolerant boss, who does not get excited when someone spills a cup of coffee on the table there.

The oyster work is progressing slowly. There are too many articles and books to check and too many fossil genera to investigate. Lately, I have been very fortunate in persuading a Russian paleontologist to send me specimens of type-species from near Tashkent in Central Asia. What curious extinct genera they have

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there. Those people feel very isolated from the general open stream of science that courses through the western world and are grateful that their articles are noted by some one outside the iron curtain. I hope that avenue of exchange can be kept open and free of interference by the commissars.

One good result seems to be emerging now: The Ostreidae are biphyletic. Now I need more anatomical data on "Ostrea" hyotis (Linné) and its cousins.

My two daughters are going to be married this winter and move away to Mexico City and to New York. Those moves will put the majority of the Stenzels in the north-east (Wilmington and New York) and isolate me here. Perhaps, I should be looking for a place in that general area in the next few years.

The Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies, embracing 10 local societies from San Antonio and Corpus Christi to Florida, had its 15th Annual Meeting here recently. Their Transactions volume was dedicated to me for my contributions to Gulf Coast geology and paleontology. It was very nice of them not to wait until one is under the sod.

Give my best regards to Dr. Clench and everybody in the mollusk section and don't work so hard.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:bbh