

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
URBANA, ILLINOIS

November 8, 1950

Dr. H. B. Stenzel
Bureau of Economic Geology
Austin, Texas

Dear Dr. Stenzel:

Each year SEPM offers a symposium on a topic of broad interest. For the April meeting in St. Louis in 1951 we are planning a symposium on "The Paleocology of Shale and Evaporite Deposition." We hope to discuss such subjects as the paleocology of black shale deposition, green and red shale deposition, the transition from evaporites to normal marine deposits, and the relationship of faunas to the physical environment.

It is our hope that we can keep the discussion focused on the broader phases of the subject so that it will be attractive to a large number of people. The present plan is to have papers of about 25-30 minutes in length, followed by a five-minute discussion period for the morning program. For the afternoon part of the program we hope to have a round table discussion on the points brought out in the papers given that morning.

I have been asked to organize this symposium and it seems to me that a paper which would present the significance of fossils in the interpretation of marine shale environments is needed to balance the program. I am wondering if you would be willing to prepare a paper with a title approximately as follows: "The Use of Fossils in Interpreting the Paleocology of Marine Shale Deposition."

I hope you will be willing to prepare a paper on this subject for the spring (1951) meeting. Among other members who will appear on the symposium are Ralph Grim who will discuss the environment of red and green shale deposition, Lowman, who will discuss certain conditions of sedimentation in the Gulf Coast area, Sloss who will discuss the significance of evaporites in the sedimentation sequence, and Parker Trask on the topic of paleocology of black shale deposition.

The over-all purpose of the symposium is to present a basis for the interpretation of the environment of deposition. At this early stage it seems that consideration of the faunal and the sedimentary characteristics offers the greatest opportunity for arriving at a true picture of environment of deposition.

I will appreciate any comments that you have concerning the proposed symposium or the title of the subject matter mentioned above. I sincerely hope that I may have a favorable reply from you, because I feel that your thought in this field will be a real asset to the program.

Cordially yours,



Harold W. Scott