

June 14, 1963

Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Frost  
Route 1, Box 632  
Cedar Hill, Texas

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Frost:

Thank you very much for your letter and kind offer. I appreciate it.

The work on the oysters is progressing slowly, because it is so difficult. An enormous amount has been written on living and fossil oysters; it has to be searched for and read, although one can not possibly read all of it. Specimens for study are very hard to come by. Although interesting, most species do not have much that can be used for this work. Certainly one should neither describe nor redescribe all the species that are accessible, but the various genera must be described carefully. There are about 100 genera in the family Ostreidae. Without seeing your collection, it would be difficult to name those that should be studied.

The following give you an idea what might be of immediate interest. (1) Coloration traces on fossil oysters. Any well-preserved specimens showing traces of coloration, such as Exogyra tigrina Stephenson and other species. (2) Oysters that have grown on an ammonite and show the ribs of the ammonite. (3) Exogyra arietina - only those specimens that are long and unusually cork-screw-shaped. (4) The very large oyster from the Upper Cretaceous west of San Antonio (More than 12 inches long). I believe it is Ostrea cortex. Or any exceedingly large oysters.

With many thanks,

Sincerely yours,

H. P. Stenzel

HPS:jmf

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