

May 9, 1967

Dr. Wendell P. Woodring
U.S. National Museum (Natural History)
Room E-507
Washington, D. C. 20560

Dear Wendell:

It is good to hear from you and to see that you are active in paleontology. Let me tell you, you are much too good a paleontologist and stratigrapher to be wasted by retirement. Keep it up, please.

By the way, would you be willing to give one or several lectures here before our seminar, say on the geology of the Canal Zone or on the Panamic land bridge or on Tropical molluskan faunas of the Caribbean Sea, or others. If you are willing, I could start to set the wheels in motion. LSU has funds to pay travel costs and a honorarium, but it takes a little time to arrange this. The lecture could be in the fall; the present semester is already shot and booked solid. We have a constant stream of visitors.

About your oyster~~s~~, it seems to have had good-zig-zag folds in earlier stages and lost them in senility. That sort of regression is not uncommon. Thus the earlier stages are the diagnostic ones. Pycnodonteine oysters that have zig-zag folds belong to the as yet unnamed genus of which "Ostrea"hyotis (Linné) [= O. sinensis Gmelin] of the Indo-Pacific is a prominent living species. Here belongs O. haitensis Sowerby, too. The description of this genus will have to be published by me before the Treatise comes out. The generic description is already typed. Figures of the future type-species have not yet been made. It may cause some difficulties to get this new genus out before the Treatise, but Ray Moore has told me he would have means to rush it and several other such new genera out in time. This is just an example of the many difficulties I face in the work for the Treatise. Enclosed is a xerox copy of the description of the new genus as it is to appear in the Treatise. You may use it provided your work is not published before my generic description appears.

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This genus is a tropical, euhaline, shallow-water genus. It is represented today by 4 geographically separated species, which are circumglobal in the tropical seas. Ostrea hyotis (Linne') is selected as the type-species because some anatomical data on it has been published already.

Please note that your specimen has an incipient reduplication of the resilifer (top left part of inside view). You might point that out in your discussion. Similar freaks occur in other genera too (compare the supposed genus Pernostrea Manier-Chalmas).

With best wishes

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel
Visiting Professor

HBS/bjc

Enclosures: Xerox copy of one ms. page
and 2 photos.

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