

Feb. 1, 1952

Dear Heinrich:

I am trying to get out the paleoecology of the paleozoic nautiloids, and have run into a question on which I would be most grateful for your opinion: Is the preseptal gas space in Nautilus based upon reliable observation or inference? If it is real, is there any good basis for the implication I have found in some papers that the animal can move vertically by changing the amount of gas in this space? I see you mentioned the gas space in your article on Nautilus.

In looking this up, I happened to come across your last letter, way back. I haven't it at hand, but I remember you seemed dubious about the cameral deposits. They are organic, and unquestionably formed in closed camerae, further, they appear first some distance from the base of the living chamber, regardless of the growth stage, and at a distance which is uniform in the species.

Hope you had as enjoyable a time with Teichert as we did here.

Sincerely

  
Rousseau