

January 24, 1961

Dr. H. G. Kugler
Naturhistorisches Museum
Geological Department
Augustinergasse 2
Basel, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Kugler:

Thank you and Dr. Gasche for the so prompt and thorough reply to my letter. Your material will come in very handy, and I shall be glad to return it in a reasonable time. The package should arrive in about a month if it was sent by parcel post, and that will be a very good time for the work.

All collections suffer from some misidentifications; I shall check all the specimens according to my means (literature, etc.) and give you my opinions for what they may be worth.

I am very happy to hear you have some Ostrea knorrii topotypes available. The genus Catimula Rollier, which is based on this species, may be quite difficult to place in its proper position in my classification, and good reliable specimens will be necessary. The other specimens, even if they are not exact topotypes, will be close enough, I am sure. Some of them will be photographed for illustrations in the Treatise.

At present, I am finishing a manuscript on a few - by no means all - of the oysters from the Midway Group of Texas and Arkansas. To correct misconceptions I had to investigate some oysters from New Jersey too. I am well satisfied with this work, it has served to clarify some ideas that are of more than local importance. The manuscript is planned for the Journal of Paleontology. Shell Oil Company is very generous in letting me work on such materials and publish immediately.

It is surprising that you succeeded in talking to Vialov in Mexico City. I tried very hard to get in touch with him there. I had a note tacked up for him and had asked the leader of his group to put me in touch with Vialov, but all to no avail. Since then, I have had letters from Vialov, although I did not write him. The latest is a Christmas and New Year card from him. I am going to write him soon. He has created many new generic names, some of them based on species from Russia and Asia that are not available outside the U.S.S.R. and very poorly illustrated. Altogether his generic names will be the most difficult ones.

Oysters can be used to some extent for intercontinental correlation. For instance, the Bartonian Pyonodonte (Gigantostrea) gigantica (Solander, 1766) from England matches the P. (G.) trigonalis (Conrad) from the Jackson group from

Mississippi very closely. Also, the Maastrichtian ~~is~~ of the Atlantic countries and is characterized by large *Exogyras* (*Ex. costata* Say, 1820 and others from New Jersey to Mexico and *Ex. auricularis* Munster in the tuffeau de Maastricht). The *Exogyras* became extinct with the end of the Maastrichtian, so their extinction can be used for correlation just like the disappearance of the ammonites and belemnites.

Best wishes and a thank-you.

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel

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Shell Development Company
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