

January 4, 1963

Dr. Lewis B. Kellum  
Museum of Paleontology  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Dr. Kellum:

Thank you very much for your prompt and efficient reply to the Ostrea patercula question. A letter is being sent to Gus Cooper, because there is the possibility that the type ended up at the National Museum, even if it is not listed in the Schuchert type catalog.

Could you have the kindness to look at the fragmentary specimen in your collection labeled "Ostrea patercula, holotype, No. 1989" and decide whether it is an oyster shell at all? It might be a brachiopod fragment and might be roughly identifiable as to genus, perhaps. In the absence of any other specimen or information, it might be the only thing one can do.

Please, pardon my being such a persistent pest. Sometimes I have grave doubts about the usefulness of such sleuthing, as in this case. Perhaps, it is merely the desire to be able to say "Finis", definitely, in such questions. Yet, similar situations have shown up before in my work and some turned out to be really important in an unpredictable way.

Gratefully,

Yours,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:cd

Shell Development Company  
Exploration & Production Research Division