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Dr. Bořivoj Zaruba  
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Dear Dr. Zaruba:

Thank you very much for your informative letter of 15.6.1965 and the package of fossils, which arrived safely and without any trouble.

I am glad to have some information on Praeostrea bohémica Barrande and to have a chance to study the two latex casts. The casts are very well made and show very fine detail. However, for an evaluation of the systematic position of Praeostrea and its relationships with other Bivalvia, one will have to study the inside surface of the valves with their muscle imprints. I shall write to Dr. Jirí Kríz about Praeostrea.

Your Mesozoic Exogyras are very interesting too. There seems to be no end to various forms the Exogyras have achieved through evolution locally. Every region has different species.

Have you ever measured the size of Ostrea gingensis Schlottheim ( Crassostrea gryphoides (Schlottheim, 1813); compare Rutsch, R.F., 1955, Die fazielle Bedeutung der Crassostreen (Ostreidae, Mollusca) in Helvétien der Umgebung von Bern: Eclogae geologicae Helvetiae, v. 48, no. 2, p. 453-464)? Although there are many statements in the literature, no one seems to have measured large specimens accurately.

By separate mail I am sending you a package of fossil oysters. I hope they will be useful to you.

With many thanks for your kindness.

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:ms

References:

Zázvorka Vl.: *Ostrea gingensis* /Schlotheim, 1813/ ze spodního tortonu od Trenče u Lučence na jižním Slovensku.- Časopis pro Minerologii a Geologii, 2/1, p.82-83, tab.

Zázvorka Vl. *Exogyra reticulata* Reuss z francouzské svrchní křídly? - Časopis Národního Muzea, 132/3, p.178, fig.

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Enclosures: Separates  
15 specimens *Exogyra*  
2 latex casts