

March 19, 1945

Mr. W. Book
Department of Geology and Paleontology
The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia
Nineteenth and the Parkway
Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Book :

The photograph and your letter of March 14 arrived recently. The identification of the animal hinges on the cheliped (so labeled on your photograph at the top). If you can prove to everybody's satisfaction that this is the manus and the dactylus of a true chela, it would place the animal into the Crustacea-Decapoda with great probability. The particular portion looks in the photograph as if it were a manus with a dactylus attached. However, I do not like to trust a photograph and could make a more definite statement only upon inspection of the specimen. The next procedure in identification should be to investigate the front of the cephalothorax. The photograph looks as if there had been a rostrum at the front end. If that can be made probable, it would aid in the identification considerably. The decapod crustaceans that have this particular shape are divided into the Raptantia (lobsters, etc.) and the Natantia (shrimp, etc.). As I see it, the specimen is not clear from the photograph alone and would require rather intense study of the actual specimen. If you feel like sending it to me, I shall be glad to see what can be done with it. At any rate the specimen is quite a find, even if it cannot be run down successfully.

Very sincerely yours,

H. B. Stanzel, Geologist

HBS :JC