

June 10, 1963

AIR MAIL

**Dr. William A. Berggren
c/o Oasis Oil Company of Libya, Inc.
P. O. Box 395
Tripoli, Libya**

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your newsworthy letter of May 29. I had intended to write you for some time, so your last letter has triggered my letter writing. It is good to know you have a house to yourself and furniture coming from Denmark and Sweden. You could not get any better furniture than Danish furniture. The dining room I bought in 1960 in Copenhagen has aroused admiration by all my friends and is very serviceable and beautiful. Danish furniture is tops. With a house and furniture you should now feel happy and contented even if Hofker does not believe your paleontology.

I did see the Hofker article before you wrote and noted the references to you. Don't let it bother you; don't let it raise your blood pressure. It is not worth it. However, check your work carefully in the light of his criticism and gradually assemble evidence, new and additional evidence, to refute him. It is, of course, not possible to refute all his statements; he puts them out too fast for a careful, analytical reply to them. By publishing so much in a haste he lays himself wide-open to criticism on many points--and deserves it. Relax.

Your AAPG application was received and sent on. I suppose Rainwater did his share.

I received another set of Gekker's books direct from the Academy in Moscow. There was no indication of who really sent the package. These books may have come from Gekker or Naidin or perhaps from Korobkov. There is no way of telling.

Two boxes of fossils arrived from the University of Moscow, Geology Department. They are 8 by 11 by 17 inches and made somewhat roughly of plywood. The remarkable thing is that they are in so good a shape after so long a trip. These must be from Naidin. Considering the circumstances,

Naidin has been very generous to send his fossils and deserves a courtesy in return. Could you buy him a good gift in western Europe and take it with you? I shall be glad to pay for it. You ought to know what is scarce in Russia. How about a nylon jacket for field work?

Please be on the lookout for fossil oysters. Needless to say, more study material is desirable here. Dr. Sornay of the National Museum in Paris is one of my best sources. He received Cretaceous ammonites from Texas in exchange.

My work is progressing nicely. The oyster monograph now has 229 typed pages and is going well. The last revision of the chapter on "Living Nautilus" for the Nautilida volume of the Treatise was sent to Raymond Moore a month ago and is now in press. A paper on generic features of oysters has been sent to "Systematic Zoology" and has been accepted. This year is going to be very productive.

Best wishes to your long-suffering family and you.

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:jmf