

March 9, 1970

Professor Harold E. Vokes  
c/o Geology Department  
Tulane University  
New Orleans, La. 70118

Dear Harold:

I am unable to give you the exact address of the man (Dr. Rene Cotala) who keeps an aquarium with Nautilus at Noumea. The best way to get information on this aquarium and on Rene Cotala is by writing to Professor E. J. Denton, The Laboratory, Citadel Hill, Plymouth, England, who spent some time there studying Nautilus in 1967 or 1966 and should know all about it.

The deep-sea oyster originally described by Poli from the Mediterranean is "Ostrea cochlear" Poli 1795. The species is world-wide in distribution, because the south tip of South Africa does not reach far enough to the polar regions to engender so cold a climate that oysters cannot live there and spread from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. I would love to have specimens of this species for anatomical dissection. It is not really rare in dredge hauls.

Please look out for me for oyster specimens that can be dissected. Out side of the common commercial oysters, there is very little known about oyster anatomy. Whenever you find oyster specimens that incubate their larvae, please save them for me so that I can identify the species involved. Because of the lack of information on these matters some of my oyster work is on very shaky grounds.

Saturday evening was a very enjoyable and stimulating visit.

Best regards,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:ssk