

October 27, 1964

Professor Bernhard Kummel
Harvard University
Museum of Comparative Zoology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Bernie:

The pile of mail accumulated in Houston was not as bad as I had anticipated. For this reason, I am in a position to say an early thank you to you for your hospitality in Boston. It was a pleasure to discuss the quandaries of paleontology with you and to talk to your very good wife.

As the Treasurer of the P.S., you will be interested to note my observations on the article by Stokes & Stifel on color markings (Jour. Paleontology, v. 38, no. 5, p. 889), which are as follows:

1) "Gryphaea newberryi" has no author, no date, no references. It is not a fossil so well known that it does not need such information. In such articles a reference to a publication is necessary in which one can verify the identification. It is not a Gryphaea, but is clearly a Pycnodonte.

2) Nearly all the same objections pertain to "Gryphaea convexa (Say), "which is also a Pycnodonte".

I can't see anything so new and important about color markings in fossil oysters. There must be about 20 publications since Bruguière (1789?) which illustrate them.

All this reminds me of the Gryphaeas from Belvidere, Kansas, in your collection. I believe they were labeled tucumcari Marcou. Could you spare several specimens and donate them to a good cause?

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel

sent: 3 aragonite papers
HBS:jd + generic character

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