

July 15, 1953

Mr. H. E. Vokes
APO 928, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.

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c/o U. S. Consulate
Cebu City, P. I.

Dear Harold:

Thanks for your letter of June 10 which I did not see until my return from the vacation trip. It was quite a surprise to learn from Singewald that you were in the Philippines. Seems I did not keep up with my friends lately. How one can miss out on all the news if one does not go to the G.S.A. convention!

I have had too many personal troubles lately, since the sudden death of my wife in April 1952, to be able to pay much attention to what is really going on. However, this time I devoted a good part of my vacation to visiting. Miss Gardner has had a brain hemorrhage from which she is recovering nicely, but she was not able to walk when I saw her in the hospital. Her legs are paralyzed. No doubt you have heard of the sudden death of Joe Bridge.

I am glad to hear you have had a good year in the Philippines. It sounds glamorous and interesting. That area must be immensely rich in living mollusks.

As to alcoholic specimens of Nautilus, the possible market is rather small at the prices which alcoholic specimens of Nautilus are fetching. I remember one was offered not so long ago for either \$10.00 or \$20.00. I would consider \$10.00 a fair price for good material delivered in the U.S.A. However, a lower price would probably bring out more customers. There seems to be a good market for well-preserved mollusk shells to judge by the continuous offerings I am receiving from all kinds of places. We order some shells here, about \$20.00 to \$50.00 worth every year; most of the orders are for type species of genera and subgenera or for material suitable for beginning paleo classes. No doubt there are numerous collectors, amateurs, schools, and universities here who can buy and do buy mollusk shells. I am sending you an old directory of shell collectors for your information. Many of the addresses are still good.

The most active shell dealers are John Q. Burch and Mrs. F. K. Hadley. Preserved material is bought by Ward's and General Biological Supply House, 761-763 East 69th Place, Chicago 37, Ill. By separate mail I am sending some price lists, which will give you an idea of the prices.

Mr. H. E. Vokes (continued)

My zoologist friends are out of town so I can not get much information on zoological materials right now. Don't hesitate to ask me again if I can be of help to you.

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel
Geologist

HBS mh