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5th Floor, Hunt Library  
Carnegie Mellon University  
4909 Frew Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890  
Telephone: 412-268-2434  
Email: [huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu)  
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The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.



TELEPHONE  
DYCE 3131

FARBURN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,  
DYCE,  
ABERDEEN AB2 0PB

Sept 24/75

Dear Al,

Very many thanks for your letter and batch of reprints. I do apologise for having taken so long to send you reprints of my papers. I have now done this — and trust you will receive them shortly. I should be glad if you would continue ~~you~~ to send me copies of your papers as they become available. I have added your name to my reprint distribution list.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

David Batten

December 3, 1975

Dr. D. J. Batten  
BP Petroleum Development  
Farburn Industrial Estate  
Dyce, Aberdeen, Scotland  
U.K.

Dear D.J.:

Thank you so much for the most welcome batch of reprints which arrived recently. I have enjoyed reading them all, but will make special use in the near future of information from "Use of Palynological assemblage-types in Wealden correlation" and the other papers which bore on the same general subject. You certainly are doing some interesting things. Looking forward to a possible future reunions with more time for conversation, and with very best wishes for the holiday season, I am

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT:jb

24 October, 1980

Dr. David J. Batten  
Dept. of Geology, Marischal College  
The University  
Aberdeen AB9 1AS, Scotland

Dear David:

Thanks for yours of 16 October. Perhaps you could help me spread the word that I no longer have any connection with the Catalog of Fossil Spores and Pollen. In the meantime, I have turned your letter over to ~~shh~~ appropriate authorities here for answer.

Best wishes. Good to have seen you in Cambridge.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

*D. J. Batten*

*16/6/83*

*AL*

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF

*David Batten*

*Many thanks for the reprint  
received some weeks ago, and for*

Department of Geology and Mineralogy  
Marischal College  
Aberdeen  
AB9 1AS

*your kind  
remarks about the batch  
of papers I sent you last year!*

14 September, 1983

Dr. David J. Batten  
Dept. of Geology, Marischal College  
The University  
Aberdeen AB9 1AS, Scotland, U.K.

Dear David:

Many thanks for the three reprints. One of my Ph.D. students and I have a mess of Triprojectacites from Ellesmere and Axel Heiberg Islands, so your Greenland evidence is apropos (yours is "marginal palynology!"). The two papers on palynofacies deal with subjects in which I've long been interested and are most useful. Palynodebris is a frontier!

Thanks for keeping me posted.

Best wishes.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

P.S. If you insist on using the name Classopollis, a later synonym of Corollina, why not formally submit it for conservation? Bill C. would advise on method.

7 December, 1984

Dr. David J. Batten  
Dept. of Geology, Marischal College  
The University  
Aberdeen, AB9 1AS, Scotland

Dear D.J.:

Packet of reprints, including paper I requested in letter you will have since received, has arrived. Many thanks.

Corollina (= Classopollis) ecology paper very interesting. Re the "15 types" on p. 9, could you sharpen it up a bit for me? Do you think that there are 15 species?

Too bad about the reproduction of figures in "Fossil plant remains....", because one can tell that the photos are very good.

"Source-area environment...southeast England" (w. C.P. Sladen), "Depositional silts...." and "Identification of amorphous...." remind me to reiterate request for use of one of your palynofacies plates for my forthcoming small textbook--would be very helpful. I would return original immediately. Extra prints, brief loan of the negatives, or loan of the original plates for copying, would all be o.k.

Batten and Morrison, 1983, reminds me to repeat request for explanation of "NPD Bulletin". I'd like to quote, and our librarian claims to "draw a blank". I have read this methods-description with great care--the dialysis-procedure is absolutely a new idea to me--all the other procedures we have been using for some time. One thing about your no-centrifuge procedure I can't fathom--how do you get rid of the excess H<sub>2</sub>O in final stages, so as not to dilute the glycerin-jelly? Do you feel that centrifugation is actually bad? Have you made observations? Would be very useful info.

My Ph.D. student, Volkan Ediger, has been experimenting with what seems to be identical apparatus to your diagram on p. 40. I guess as long as he references you, it's o.k., as his readership is probably pretty different from yours. The idea came, of course, from Reissinger, of about 50 years ago. We are calling it a "Modified Reissinger Apparatus" ("MRA").

Well, you've really improved my day! All the best, and thanks again. H  
Hoping to hear from you, I am

Yours very truly,

cc: V. Ediger  
at/et

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

14 December, 1984

Dr. David J. Batten  
Dept. of Geology, Marischal College  
The University  
Aberdeen AB9 1AS, Scotland

Dear David:

Thanks very much for yours of 3 December--a quick response indeed, and crossed with some of my inquiries, I fear. Oh well--In the meantime I had found out about NPD, but good to have confirmation.

The negatives for your palynofacies, if labelled so that I can figure out which ones correspond to which figures, would be fine--better indeed even than the plates. I'm very pleased that you are willing to help, and I sure don't want to get it fouled up.

All the best for the holidays and ever.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY  
MARISCHAL COLLEGE, ABERDEEN, AB9 1AS

Tel. No. .  
S.T.D. Code 0224

16/1/87

Professor Alfred Traverse  
Dept of Geosciences  
Pennsylvania State University  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA

Dear Alfred

I have been asked to organise a half-day workshop/symposium for the Annual Meeting of the AASP to be held in Nova Scotia <sup>this</sup> ~~next~~ year (October, 1987), the theme to be "Palaeobotany of spores and pollen". This means dealing with affinities of these palynomorphs and the need to understand them as botanical rather than purely morphological entities. Aspects that could be considered include correlation of in situ with dispersed miospores, evolution as manifested by morphological changes in groups of fossil taxa, comparison between morphology of fossil and modern forms, and palaeoecological (in the sense of composition of vegetation, not depositional environments) implications of dispersed spores and pollen grains.

I would like the session to be stimulating and thought-provoking. I think it is important that speakers put forward interesting observations and ideas clearly within an allotted time, especially since there are only a few hours at our disposal.

You are among a select few that I am contacting in this connection. Would you be able to contribute? Please let me know as soon as possible. Thankyou.

With best wishes,

D.J.

Dr D.J.Batten

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
(814)863-3419 or (814)865-6393

18 February, 1987

Dr. David J. Batten  
Dept. of Geology, Marischal College  
The University  
Aberdeen AB9 1AS, Scotland  
U.K.

Dear David:

Sorry it has taken so long to answer yours of 16 Jan. 87. It didn't get here until about 1 Feb., for one thing.

I am planning to be on deck at the Nova Scotia meeting. So, at least from that point of view I could take part in the symposium (I hate the expression "workshop"--I conjure up images of people working at anvils in a steaming room).

It happens that I was planning to present a paper on my studies on pollen in the water of Trinity River and Bay, Texas, at the meeting. Perhaps that is too much like your "depositional environments", which you wanted to avoid? There is considerable tie-in with the extant vegetation of the area, of course, so maybe it's within your established limits? It certainly is related to what one can expect to find in older sediments.

Anyway, I offer that, if it's of interest.

All the best to you.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY  
MARISCHAL COLLEGE, ABERDEEN, AB9 1AS

Tel. No. 480241  
S.T.D. Code 0224

DJB/SC

February 25th, 1987.

Professor Alfred Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Department of Geosciences  
Palynological Laboratories  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802,  
U. S. A.

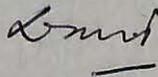
Dear Alfred,

Many thanks for your letter of February 18 which came reasonably quickly!

I hate the word "workshop" too. I was originally asked to organise one but I have by degrees been turning it into a symposium!

I am sure your Trinity River and Bay paper would fit well into the programme, particularly if emphasis can be placed on links with the extant vegetation of the area, and on how ~~they~~ can be related to what one can expect to encounter in older sediments. I am happy, there<sup>fore</sup>, to include it.

With best wishes,



D. J. Batten

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY  
MARISCHAL COLLEGE, ABERDEEN, AB9 1AS

Tel. No. 40241  
S.T.D. Code 0224

5/5/87

AASP Seminar: Palaeobotany of spores and pollen

Dear *Alfred*

We have been allotted 4 hours for the above during the afternoon of Wednesday October 7. Since there are 9 of us down to present something (possibly 10), there is not a lot of time for extended presentations, to say the least. In view of this, and if we all wish to contribute a 'lecture', we will have to aim to speak for only 15 to 20 minutes followed by 5 to 10 minutes of discussion: total allocation 25 minutes.

I think it would be a good idea if each of us prepares a poster which summarises the main thrust of our contribution via diagrams and photographs, and perhaps adds to it. These could be on display for perusal and further discussion with interested parties during the tea-break and after the oral presentations. I would be very happy if a few of us could agree to speak for only 10 minutes and let the poster do the remainder of the talking; in other words we would merely introduce our poster. If such an approach is adopted, it will allow much greater flexibility in organising the programme.

**Please let me have your comments as soon as possible.**

As far as the contents of the presentations are concerned, the aims set out in my letter of invitation still stand. Most contributions are likely to concentrate on either techniques for solving problems or interpretations of sets of data or observations which are likely to, or definitely, have wider application.

**All of us are required to send abstracts to Halifax no later than July 15. Please forward a copy to me at the same time. Thankyou.**

With best wishes

*D.J. Batten*  
D.J. Batten

Contributors: D. Nichols, N. Frederiksen, J. Rowley, T.N. Taylor, A. Traverse, A. Graham, M. Farabee, A. Cross, D. Batten, B. van Geel.

PS. NB above: Seminar - not workshop!

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation (Thanks for your little "German note")

↑  
poster  
only

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
(814)863-3419 or (814)865-6393

19 May, 1987

Dr. David J. Batten  
Dept. of Geology, Marischal College  
The University  
Aberdeen AB9 1AS, Scotland, U.K.

Dear David:

Yours of 5 May was something of a bombshell, in that my limited experience with poster presentation suggests that they're roughly 200% more work than a conventional "paper". However, I also know from considerable experience how hard it is to arrange things, and I want to be helpful to you. So, I will go the poster route if you get yes votes from the others.

Actually, 20 mins. + 5 mins. discussion for a conventional paper is quite standard, and that would go, if the Chairman is very strict about us keeping to the time.

I appreciate non-use of "workshop", but it's a lost cause, I fear! I just wrote another letter of protest about such-a.

Best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY  
MARISCHAL COLLEGE  
ABERDEEN, AB9 1AS  
Tel. 0224-480241 Telex 73458 UNIABN G

DJB/SC

June 3rd, 1987.

Dear *Agnes*

AASP Meeting, Nova Scotia: Seminar on  
Palaeobotany of Spores and Pollen

The following titles or themes have been offered:

- Rowley: Is the exine receptor system of conifers unique or typical for present and extinct seed plants?
- Traverse: Pollen in Trinity River and Bay, Texas, and <sup>its</sup> correlation with vegetation.
- \*Taylor: Wall modification within major groups of pollen grains and developmental parameters that affect grain identification.
- Graham: Palaeoecological implications of dispersed late Eocene-late Miocene spores and pollen grains in Central America.
- \*Farabee: Evolutionary trends on Aquilapollens and aquiloid modern pollen.
- Frederiksen: Times and rates of floral turnover and changes in diversity in the Eocene of the Gulf Coast compared with the Eocene of Southern California.
- Batten: Wall structure of dispersed spores and pollen as a taxonomic indicator.
- \*Taggart and Cross: Source vegetation dynamics as indicated by the pollen record of Tertiary volcanic sediments.
- Cross: Representation of source plants and communities by palynomorphs in modern sediments, Gulf of California and western Mexico.
- \*Nichols and Upchurch: Correlative studies on pollen and dispersed leaf-cuticle fragments.

I am under pressure from the meeting organisers to provide a detailed programme. The asterisks above indicate that I have still not had a reply to my letter of May 5! Results so far suggest we should begin with "lectures only" (Graham, ?Traverse) followed by short, 5-10 minute, introductions (Frederiksen, Rowley, Batten) to a poster session which will take up the rest of the afternoon.

Best wishes,

*DJB*

D. J. Batten

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
(814)863-3419 or (814)865-6393

15 June, 1987

Dr. David J. Batten  
Dept. of Geology, Marischal College  
The University  
Aberdeen AB9 1AS, Scotland

Dear David:

Thanks for yours of 3 June.

I really appreciate being given the option of a lecture instead of a poster, as I don't see how I could organize a poster in the time-frame available. I guess part of what I'm saying is that I'd rather give a good lecture than put up a fair/poor poster. A good poster is a very demanding assignment.

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
(814)863-3419 or (814)865-6393

3 November, 1987

Dr. David J. Batten  
Dept. of Geology, Marischal College  
The University  
Aberdeen AB9 1AS, Scotland, U.K.

Dear David:

Good to see you in Halifax, tho' I don't seem to recall getting your ear very often. That's the way it goes at meetings.

I just was finally able to secure a "reading day", and have been through your papers that came a while back: Normapolles (very interesting) and other matters.

It would have been interesting to discuss your systematics paper--not too much to argue about, except that the statement that purely systematic papers (p. 255, para. 3, ll. 1-4) are a waste of time seems unfortunate. Isn't it just such work that is needed, provided that the work is carefully done, backed by plenty of new descriptive effort, etc.?

I do hope you'll agree to take part in the sedimentation of palynomorphs symposium at Brisbane (per a separate letter from me)--you're deservedly regarded as a leader in that field.

Best wishes.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

make sensible observations on biostratigraphic, evolutionary and other topics. Good systematics papers in fact almost always bring in some discussion of this sort, as I'm sure you agree!

Thank you again for your contribution to my symposium in Halifax.

With best wishes.

Ken  
→ Batten



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY  
MARISCHAL COLLEGE  
ABERDEEN, AB9 1AS  
Tel. 0224-480241 Telex 73458 UNIABN G  
273061 Direct Line

13/11/87

Dear Alfred,

Many thanks for your letters of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, and for the reprints which are also much appreciated.

As it happens, I probably could contribute to your symposium on "palynologic/lithologic relationships". There is a co-authored manuscript in my files which has been waiting to be "polished" for some months now. It would have to be abbreviated as well if it is to be published in the conference proceedings, and this could be difficult to achieve without loss of fact. I am also in danger of agreeing to do too much at Brisbane - the limit being 1 single and 2 co-authored contributions. However, perhaps I should say yes to your invitation! Thankyou for thinking of me.

I have noted your P.S. on the possibility of a post-congress symposium volume for longer papers on the subject. This might be a good idea provided there are sufficient manuscripts on hand and "publication-time" is reasonably speedy. Unfortunately, in my experience, this is commonly not the case!

Re your comment on my observation that purely systematic papers are commonly of little value (or in your words, a waste of time), I do believe this is true. There must be some reason for describing palynomorphs - whether it be to improve stratigraphic correlation, to determine botanical relationships, to clarify a morphological classification or whatever. I have had to deal with far too many papers that consist of little more than a bunch of inadequate diagnoses, descriptions and illustrations. No reason is given for this exercise, and the fact that there is usually little or no geological background, information on the sampling localities, age of the beds, observations on relative abundances etc. etc. means that it is difficult to make much use of such papers.

Of course, if the work is carefully done - backed by new descriptive effort, that is fine. But then it has a purpose! - to improve our <sup>knowledge and</sup> understanding of palynomorphs so that we can

2

19 January 1988

We very much hope that you will be able to give us a reasoned appraisal of the quality of Dr Batten's original research or scholarship. It would be helpful to us if we could receive a reply by 2 March 1988.

Yours sincerely  
G P McNicol

G P McNICOL

Professor A Traverse  
Department of Geosciences  
Pennsylvania State University  
UNIVERSITY PARK  
Pennsylvania 16802  
USA

University of Aberdeen  
Regent Walk,  
Aberdeen,  
AB9 1FX



From the Principal and Vice-Chancellor  
Professor G.P. McNicol

Tel. (0224) 272134  
272135

Fax. (0224) 491439

CONFIDENTIAL

19 January 1988

*Dear Mum Travers* → *file*

The University of Aberdeen is considering whether it would be appropriate to confer upon Dr David J Batten in the Department of Geology and Mineralogy the title of Reader in Geology and Mineralogy, and I am writing to ask if you would be good enough to give us your confidential advice on this question. Although Dr Batten may be aware that the question is under consideration he does not know that we are making this enquiry to you.

The University attaches great importance to the advice it receives on these matters from referees in the USA and Canada, especially with regard to the light which that advice may throw on the international standing of the candidate for a Readership. It therefore asks such referees not to make their assessment in the context of any particular academic hierarchy with which they may be familiar, but to consider its request in the light of the following remarks and criteria.

In the University a Readership ranks academically next to a Chair (Professorship) but it does not in itself imply any administrative responsibility for a department. Holders of Chairs (whether Established or Personal) and Readerships represent no more than about 15% of the permanent academic staff of this University. A Readership is not a regular promotional step on the academic ladder but is a personal distinction conferred in recognition of outstanding achievement in original research or scholarship irrespective of age. It is expected that a Reader should be eminent in his/her particular branch of the subject and a person to whom scholars would refer as an authority. All proposals for the conferment of the title and status of Reader are considered by a committee selected from all the Faculties in the University, assisted by ad hoc members selected from the department concerned and allied disciplines.

Dr Batten's special interest is concerned with palynology and micropalaeontology and palaeo environments.

A curriculum vitae and a list of publications are enclosed. Should you have any difficulty in seeing any of these publications, we can arrange for you to see copies of most, if not all, of them.

I wish the future looked brighter.

All the Best

Sam . Satter



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY  
MARISCHAL COLLEGE  
ABERDEEN, AB9 1AS  
Telex 73458 UNIABN G Fax (AB) 487048  
Telephone 0224-273601

2/2/88

Dear Alfred,

I was hoping against hope that I wouldn't have to write this letter, but now I have no option. I am afraid I have to let you down. I hate to do such a thing, and I profusely apologise. The reason for this is the thoroughly depressing predicament in which I now find myself.

The situation here has gone from bad to worse during the past year. The university is being decimated by the latest round of government cuts in funding, with compulsory redundancies now apparently inevitable of the books are to be balanced during the next 3 years. Nearly 1/3 of the academic staff must go. This is on top of major losses since 1981.

In addition, all subject areas throughout the UK University system are in the process of being "rationalised", or soon will be. Unfortunately earth science departments are the first of the larger groups to be dealt with. There are currently 35 or so and we were told yesterday that a) there will be no more than 12 centres where undergraduate degrees in geology can be awarded (and not all of these "centres of excellence" can expect to be fully equipped) and b) Aberdeen will not be one of them.

It is possible that we might become a small, specialist department of petroleum geology, but this could be wishful thinking. It is also possible that I will have to transfer to one of the "centres" or else be faced with no longer being allowed to teach to degree level in Aberdeen not being able to obtain adequate support to permit me to carry on with my research. I could not take on graduate students or accept visiting scientists for periods of study in such circumstances.

I am sorry. Everything is happening so rapidly. It is totally unrealistic for me to contemplate going anywhere during the remainder of this academic year in case I also have to act quickly in order to remain satisfactorily employed. I do not exaggerate. The plague of Thatcherism with its obsession with "value for money" and its divide and rule policies is both ruthless and relentless. I hope you can accept my reasons for having to withdraw.



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY  
MARISCHAL COLLEGE  
ABERDEEN, AB9 1AS  
Telex 73458 UNIABN G Fax (AB) 487048  
Telephone 0224-273061

Professor A. Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, PA.

7/3/88

Dear Alfred,

Thank you very much for your recent letter. Yes -  
I will prepare a paper for your volume.

The news that I am, perhaps, in line for  
promotion is indeed a hopeful sign for my future. Unfortunately,  
however, the rationalisation of UK Earth Science Departments  
is taking place at the insistence of the University Grants  
Committee which in turn is being pushed by the present  
Government, as I mentioned in my letter of 2/2. There is not  
much that our University can do about any adverse  
decisions but several of the staff in our department are  
determined not to just sit back and "take it". 2 weeks  
ago we were told we were to be axed altogether. However the  
considerable local company and political support <sup>we mobilised</sup> has had  
some effect and we have been told we might be allowed  
to exist as a small department of 8 - not a lot better,  
but better than nothing. No doubt the situation will  
soon change again. We shall see.

I am most grateful for your strong support which  
will be much needed I am sure! As you say, maybe  
I'll do OK despite the threatening skies.

With best wishes, and again, many thanks

John Batten

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
(814)863-3419 or (814)865-6393

12 February, 1988

Dr. David J. Batten  
Dept. of Geology, Marischal College  
The University  
Aberdeen AB9 1AS, Scotland, U.K.

Dear David:

Got yours of 2 February. That's bad news but understandable.

However, I now have a publisher for the volume I mentioned (Columbia Univ. Press), and I hope you'll prepare a chapter in that, despite not going to Australia. It will not be strictly speaking a symposium volume, as several contributors will be non-participants. Please consider this very seriously.

Now, I must confess that your letter puzzles me in another connection. I have a very high level letter (from the Vice-Chancellor) from your university that implies you're in line for advancement. I believe I'm not supposed to reveal to you that they wrote me, but as my response was absolutely adulatory, I feel no compunction about mentioning it to you. Besides, you won't betray me to Prof. McNicol, I'm sure! Maybe you'll do o.k. despite these threatening skies.

Best wishes.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY  
MARISCHAL COLLEGE  
ABERDEEN, AB9 1AS  
Telex 73458 UNIABN G Fax (AB) 487048  
Telephone 0224-27 3061

24/5/88

Dear Alfred,

I have just learned that I have been promoted to the position of Leader! - so again, many thanks indeed for your support. Although the situation here is still gloomy, I must admit that the decision of the Promotions Committee and the University Court is a big morale booster. Our Head of Department and the Dean of the Science Faculty both told me yesterday that the 8 referees contacted were unanimous in their opinion of me and my work. Wow!

Palaeontology is taking a knocking in this country too. In the current reorganisation of UK Earth Science departments in Universities, geochemists and geophysicists and others of their ilk seem to be more favoured than those who study fossils. Thus the opening remarks in your recent letter (May 8) also apply here.

My answer to your question about a contribution from me for your book along the lines you suggest is yes (hence confirming my initial interest of March 7) as long as the deadline for receipt of manuscripts isn't before the end of the year. I would have difficulty in meeting an earlier date because of the number of things I must accomplish during the next few months.

Warren Kovach and I may join forces in this endeavour or in preparing a separate contribution, whichever seems to be the most appropriate as the writing progresses. We spoke about this today. I gather you have also been in touch with him.

Presumably you will let me know in due course whether the project is indeed feasible.

Again, many thanks for your support.

With best wishes

David

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
(814)863-3419 or (814)865-6393

8 May, 1988

Dr. David J. Batten  
Dept. of Geology, Marischal College  
The University  
Aberdeen AB9 1AS, Scotland, U.K.

Dear David:

Yours of 7 March was read with great empathy and interest. Here our fears are that paleontology of all sorts will be abolished, but, as real as the fear is, it doesn't mean that I personally am threatened, as long as I want to remain here. It "only" means I'll be succeeded by an organic geochemist or some such.

Now, to the important matter of the volume I'd like to get out on palynomorph sedimentation, etc. While the idea was stimulated by getting together the symposium, it's really a different deal, with only some overlap, and I very much want a chapter from you, preferably enlarging on and summarizing your palynofacies ideas. The chapter could and should be longer than a paper for the symposium to be published in the Proceedings would have been. I have an expression of serious interest in publishing the volume from Columbia University Press. I have one MS (Darby & Hart) already. I contemplate an introductory summary chapter by Farley and me, a summary chapter on palynomorphs in water by me, a summary chapter about sedimentation of palynomorphs by Farley, and a number of articles about environments of deposition vis à vis palynomorphs of various ages by various people. Farley has also a very valuable annotated bibliography of the literature concerning these matters which I'd like to see in print and might include in the back as an appendix.

What I need at the moment (ASAP) is a yes/no, so that I can ascertain the feasibility of the project.

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
(814)863-3419 or (814)865-6393

8 June, 1988

Dr. David Batten  
Marischal College  
Department of Geology  
Aberdeen, Scotland AB9 1AS, U.K.

Dear David:

Big brown envelopes that seem to contain reprints sometimes get consigned to my read-later pile, but fortunately something told me to open the one from you containing your very important letter of 24 May. Congratulations on your promotion. (I remember when I studied with Hamshaw Thomas his title was "Reader," and as a Yank I found that amusing.)

The project is a definite "go"--with 14 yes answers (including a number of non-participants in "Symposium 12," such as yourself, Caratini and Dan Habib). So now I need to get on with the negotiation with Columbia Univ. Press. I need a preliminary title and very general abstract, for use in these negotiations, and I need that quickly, so sit down now and flash out something general and preliminary for me. The manuscript deadline hasn't even occurred to me yet--but I suppose early 1989 sometime is a reasonable aim--Feb., maybe?

As you know, I was hoping for a ~~t~~reatment of your palynodebris-palynofacies ideas. If you can work Warren's megaspore data into it and make it a Batten & Kovach chapter, great. Perhaps the need of producing a title and abstract now will help you and WK get it organized?

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY  
MARISCHAL COLLEGE  
ABERDEEN, AB9 1AS  
Telex 73458 UNIABN G Fax (AB) 487048  
Telephone 0224-27 3061

4/11/88

Dear Alfred,

I have received a copy of your very "good looking" book. I've read the first 3 chapters and look forward to digging further into it - especially in connection with my palaeobotany / palytology course which is due to be revamped in line with the new goals of our Department (NB above; Ugh! What a horrible title; my protestations were outvoted at a recent staff meeting). Did you request that the publishers send me a copy? \* If so, many thanks. I would be happy to write a review of it if you like. (\* they did not say)

With best wishes

Kurt  
- Batten



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY  
MARISCHAL COLLEGE  
ABERDEEN, AB9 1AS  
Telex 73458 UNIABN G Fax (AB) 487048  
Telephone 0224-273061

28/11/88

Dear Alfred,

Thankyou for the outline of the proposed volume on sedimentation of palynomorphs etc. There will definitely be one contribution from Warren Korach and myself. Depending on the time available, I could also prepare a "chapter" on the clarification of particulate detritus and palynomorphs identification. Although this would undoubtedly overlap some of the other topics to be included in the volume, there are bound to be differences in approach. It will, in any case, be impossible to avoid some repetition in other chapters because of the interconnected nature of the subject areas.

However, I don't want to promise this second contribution just yet, and hence would rather you didn't include it in your list of titles until such time as I can let you know whether I can get the paper written, assuming you would actually want it! I have inferred from previous correspondence that you probably would but I could be wrong!

With best wishes

David

Batten

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
(814)863-3419 or (814)865-6711

29 November, 1988

Dr. David J. Batten  
Department of Geology  
Marischal College  
The University  
Aberdeen AB9 1AS, Scotland, U.K.

Dear David:

Just had a reading day at home and re-read yours of 4 November, in which you mention receiving a copy of Paleopalynology, etc. Yes, you were one of those for whom I requested a copy--maybe you would have got one anyway. If you wished to write a review for somewhere, that would be nice. So far I've only seen one such, by John Birks, in Nature. (I have a feeling that I already wrote you about this--but neither Betty nor I can prove it!)

Thanks also for the reprints. The Aachen beds certainly produce some marvellous Normapolles, and you say that some samples are very productive. Any chance of a piece of such for the students to study and to make reference preps?

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
(814)863-3419 or (814)865-6711

6 January, 1989

Dr. David J. Batten  
Dept. of Geology, Marischal College  
The University  
Aberdeen AB9 1AS, Scotland, U.K.

Dear David:

For some strange reason yours dated 28 November (postmarked 30 Nov.) apparently came sea mail--it just arrived. It will presumably have crossed with an item from me--an outline, now with a stab at precis of the chapters. I hope I didn't offend you too much with my attempt at a precis for your and Warren's chapter. By the way, please send me info on what to say about Warren--if he's back home now, etc. Best thing would be to write out a sentence or two for me to stick into the outline. (It has now been through a further revision and is about to go off to Cambridge Univ. Press for review.)

Now, regarding a separate chapter by you on "classification of particulate detritus and palynofacies identification." You are a leader in this field, and I think such a chapter would be ideal for this volume. As you note, it doesn't matter if it disagrees with some of the other authors--I have already written several others who are so concerned. I think it will be valuable to have all of the principal approaches pulled together in one place. But I must know about your willingness to do this pdq, as we are getting into the takeoff mode. I am hoping for MSS by late Spring (1 June?). The length limit per chapter will be about 20 MS pages, plus figures, tables, etc. So please let me have your yes asap.

Happy 1989!

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

nomenclature at a later date. I would like to  
hope that you might agree with this argument -  
though I have no wish to have a good fight later!

All the best.

Yours sincerely

David Batten



D. J. BATTEN  
UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY  
MARISCHAL COLLEGE  
ABERDEEN, AB9 1AS  
Telex 73458 UNIABN G Fax (AB) 487048  
Telephone 0224-273061

16/1/89

Dr S. A. J. Pocock,  
RR#1, 1655 Lakeview - Arrow Creek Rd  
Creston, BC

Dear Stanley,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Although I sympathise to some extent with your comments  
on the classification-nomenclature problem, I have to say  
that I am not convinced that there is any necessity to  
worry unduly about this. So I understand the current  
state of the literature on the subject, there is a fair  
amount of disagreement over what terms should and  
should not be used. I doubt that the differences  
could be reconciled within the time available to us  
before manuscripts are due (late Spring). I would  
find it very difficult, for example, to match my  
approach with that of Mike Boulter, and to judge  
from his attitude, he would not willingly compromise  
either! Thus, I see numerous problems ahead in  
trying to obtain some sort of a consensus - at least  
for the present.

In fact, I think that publication of the varying  
approaches in a single volume would be very useful.  
It could provide the stimulus needed to generate  
a generally acceptable system of classification and



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY  
MARISCHAL COLLEGE  
ABERDEEN, AB9 1AS  
Telex 73458 UNIABN G Fax (AB) 487048  
Telephone 0224-27 3061

14/1/89

Dear Alfred,

Your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> of January arrived quickly, so perhaps the postal services have got their act together, now that the Christmas/New Year rush is over.

Warren Kosach is staying here until probably the late summer, by which time he may have a job to go to in the USA. In fact, he would like to remain longer in Aberdeen, but that depends on the availability of money! After much hassle I was able to obtain a grant from British Petroleum to keep him going until the end of August (his NATO fellowship terminated at the beginning of October last year). It is possible that more funds might be forthcoming after this, but unfortunately there is no guarantee; indeed the odds are less than 50/50 at the moment. He is working on some numerical approaches and assessments of palynofaunas - since he is a "computer nut". This is where he will fit into the proposed joint paper for your book. The megaspore aspect of his work is likely to take a back seat because he has published on this already (more than once!).

You could, therefore, add to your blurb about our topic that "Methods of palynofaunas analysis have been assessed using computer-based statistical tests and numerical techniques".

The second contribution which I really would like to propose is "Classification and nomenclature of dispersed sedimentary organic matter". Need I say more? In this connection I enclose a copy of a letter I received from Stan Pocock and my reply to it, which I presume meets with your approval? I would have difficulty in reaching an agreement with Boulter, Habib, Hart and Pocock at this stage (as you have already implied in your draft proposal!) because of the degree of entrenchment that has taken place in the approaches adopted.

With best wishes



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY  
MARISCHAL COLLEGE  
ABERDEEN, AB9 1AS  
Telex 73458 UNIABN G Fax (AB) 487048  
Telephone 0224-273061

5/1/89

Dear Alfred,

Many thanks for your letter of Nov 29, which took more than two weeks to get here, and for your postcard which arrived just before Christmas.

You had indeed previously commented on my letter about your book - I think on the back of the circular about the proposed volume on palynomorph sedimentation (I don't have this to hand at present - so can't check). This is probably why you don't have a record of it!

Unfortunately most of the samples I have from the Aachen Formation are very small. The productive borehole material is in particularly short supply. I will, however, check my own collection of outcrop samples. These are larger, and a few yielded reasonably good assemblages of Normapollen pollen. I will see what I can do - and dispatch some rock under separate cover.

With best wishes

Sam

Batten



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND PETROLEUM GEOLOGY  
MARISCHAL COLLEGE  
ABERDEEN, AB9 1AS  
Telex 73458 UNIABN G Fax 0224-487048  
Telephone 0224-273061

Professor Alfred Trause  
Dept of Geosciences  
Palynological Labs  
435 Deike Building  
University Park  
PA 16802

20/11/89

Dear Alfred,

Thank you for your note of the 13<sup>th</sup> which came today.

Megaspores will be included in the Batten + Kovach chapter.

I am glad you think my letter to Stan Porock echoes your opinion. I have not heard from him since I wrote, so I assume he has given up on me!

I haven't had a chance to check my samples re your request for one that is rich in Normapollen. Will do shortly.

Best wishes

Karin Batten

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
(814)863-3419 or (814)865-6711

13 February, 1989

Dr. David J. Batten  
Department of Geology  
The University  
Aberdeen AB9 1AS, Scotland, U.K.

Dear David:

Yours of 14 January should have been answered long ago! It arrived about the 20th.

I do hope you get Warren to work something about megaspores into one of your two chapters, as that is all there is likely to be about them!

Your letter to Stan Pocock echoes my opinion--that diversity of opinion will make the book stronger, not weaker.

At the moment I am sweating out Cambridge Univ.'s review of my proposal. One problem that worries me is most of the experts on the subject are authors for the book!

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
(814)863-3419 or (814)865-6393

25 September, 1989

Dr. David Batten  
Dept. of Geology  
Marischal College  
The University  
Aberdeen AB9 1AS, Scotland, U.K.

faxed to: 0224-487 048 ✓

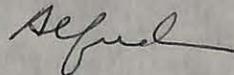
Dear David:

You probably are very busy with your own MS, but would you be willing to read a MS for me? It's Martin Farley's contribution on palynomorph concentration studies. Please fax back if o.k., so that I can get it off to you.

I'm going to keep this sort of thing to a minimum, but I can't get many critics from outside our author list, as it's such an all star team!

All the best. Hope the Batten & Kovach chapter is coming along o.k.

Yours very truly,



Alfred Traverse

AT/et



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN  
 DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND PETROLEUM GEOLOGY  
 MARISCHAL COLLEGE  
 ABERDEEN, AB9 1AS  
 Telex 73458 UNIABN G Fax 0224-487048  
 Telephone 0224-273061

22/9/89

Dear Alfred,

Thank you for your faxed letter about Martin Farley's paper. I shall be happy to referee it. Please use fax number 0224 645519 in future (at least until I depart from here in December for the University of Wales, Aberystwyth - more on this later in a "regular" letter). Messages will then get to me almost immediately. The number printed above in blue is unsatisfactory because the material sent may not reach me for a couple of days because it arrives in Old Aberdeen (the main campus) and internal mail can be slow - as in the case of your letter which did not materialise until yesterday afternoon!

Best wishes

Howard

to move away - despite all the domestic problems  
this creates, as I have mentioned before.

Some reprints will follow later today under separate  
cover.

Get best wishes

Ann.



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND PETROLEUM GEOLOGY  
MARISCHAL COLLEGE  
ABERDEEN, AB9 1AS  
Telex 73458 UNIABN G Fax 0224-487048  
Telephone 0224-27

21/10/89

Dear Alfred,

I am surprised I have not yet received the manuscript you wanted me to referee (your fax message of 25/9/89). I'm not short of things to do however, so there is no need to chase the author if that is where the holdup lies! The paper Warren Korach and I have been putting together is nearing completion. We are at the revising - of - complete - draft stage. All of the figures are done.

Enclosed are two items which are of some interest to you - no doubt! You may already have seen my review of your book?

Concerning the new address - it has become clear to me during the past year that I have to leave here if I am not to become merely an appendage of the newly organised petroleum group which will in future get most of the oil money, students and perks! Unfortunately our new Professor of Petroleum Geology has so far behaved rather like a bull in a china shop in his handling of things, but even if he should learn how to get the best out of his colleagues in the long run, it is highly unlikely that will ever regard palynology as anything more than secondary to what is now seen to be the main line of research to be carried out in this department (i.e. petroleum geology s.s.s.). Fortunately I still have the opportunity to transfer to Aberystwyth where things seem to be happening in research areas in which I have a much greater interest. I am certainly very glad of this, but I am also sad to have to leave here; indeed I am also angry about this, but I see no way out of the Aberdeen claustrophobia other than

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
phone: 814-863-3419  
fax: 814-865-3191

6 November, 1989

Dr. David J. Batten  
Dept. of Geology, Marischal College  
The University  
Aberdeen, AB9 1AS, Scotland, U.K.

faxed to: 0224-645519

Dear David:

Yours of 21 October in hand. I guess (from the files) what happened about the MS for you to review is that your fax came while I was out of town, and I somehow later had it in the back of my mind that I'd already sent the MS. Anyhow, it has been sent out airmail to you today. Please get it back as soon as you can under your trying circumstances.

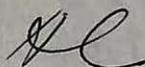
Your personal news is distressing. The British academic situation is as difficult to follow and seem~~s~~ to have as many changes as an ice hockey match. Just when I thought we'd seen you promoted, etc., etc., and you were permanently secure--whhst!--the puck is going the other direction, and you end up in Aberystwyth, which I thought of as an agricultural (?) college. I hope it will all come out o.k. I wonder about such things as your equipment, lab, etc.

Incidentally--please send me a fax number for you in Aberystwyth that I can use when you get there (1 Jan., right?).

Good to hear about the Batten/Kovach paper. I look forward to seeing it.

I'm airmailing this letter as well as faxing it, to be on the safe side. All the best.

Yours very truly,



Alfred Traverse

P.S. Thanks so much for sending the book review, which I had not seen. Thanks also for being so kind. I am assembling material for a corrected edition some day. There are too many boo-boos.

AT/et

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
phone: 814-863-3419; fax: 814-865-3191

19 March, 1990

Dr. David J. Batten  
Institute of Earth Studies  
UCW University of Wales  
Aberystwyth SY23 3DB, U.K.                      faxed to: 0970-622659

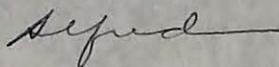
Dear David:

Your and Warren's review of Farley's chapter was most useful--I'm afraid my off-and-on 'flu' (at times severe) since mid-December has interfered with my keeping as straight about acknowledging things like that as would be desirable.

I have received finally a chapter by Dan Habib et al., entitled "Palynology of sedimentary cycles." It is close to some of your interests, and you are a natural choice to review it, but I would understand if you said you've done your share. I hope you won't, though! How about it?

All the best.

Yours very truly,



Alfred Traverse

AT/et

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
phone: 814-863-3419; fax: 814-865-3191

2 April, 1990

Dr. David J. Batten  
Institute of Earth Studies  
UCW University of Wales  
Aberystwyth SY23 3DB, U.K.                      faxed to 0970-622659

Dear David:

Haven't heard back from my fax of 19 March. In case the faxes aren't reaching you, I enclose a xerox of the previous fax with the mailed version of this fax.

In that message I asked if you and/or Warren would review a chapter by Habib et al. I also asked Jan Jansonius. He has now agreed. It would be fine to have two reviewers--that was my plan--but now I have a more urgent problem. I have a manuscript from Bob Gastaldo on "Genesis and sedimentation of organic nanodetritus...." Could you and/or Warren please review it? If you'd like to do both, that's fine, but the Gastaldo MS is now the more pressing.

Hope you're reasonably settled in Wales. Moving is the pits.

Best regards.

Yours very truly,



Alfred Traverse

AT/et

The Pennsylvania State University  
Department of Geosciences  
Palynological Laboratories  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
phone: 814-863-3419  
fax: 814-865-3191

29 May, 1990

Dr. David J. Batten  
Institute of Earth Studies  
UCW University of Wales  
Aberystwyth SY23 3DB, U.K.

faxed to: 0970-622659

Dear David:

This is just to acknowledge receipt of the reviews of the Gastaldo and of the Habib et al. manuscripts. That was a heck of a lot of work, and I very much appreciate it.

Personal problems continue to plague this project, most recently having to drop everything and go out to Michigan to get my mother out of her home and into a nursing facility. Now I have to close and sell the house, etc. However, I'll get the book done!

All the best.

Yours very truly,



Alfred Traverse

AT/et

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
phone: 814-863-3419; fax: 814-865-3191

11 September, 1990

Dr. David J. Batten  
Institute of Earth Studies  
UCW University of Wales  
Aberystwyth SY23 3DB, U.K.

Dear David:

Your comment re abstracts for the book has caused me to do a bit of thinking about it. My intention was to write my own precis as a header for each chapter. However, I would like it if you'd have a go at producing an abstract for your chapter, and I probably will invite others to do the same.

Hang in there.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

biostratigraphy. Distinct zones will be clearly indicated by distinct clusters in the dendrogram. However, if neighboring samples are very different, distortion will be introduced into the dendrogram in the form of reversals (Fig. 8). A constrained form of minimum variance clustering has been used in some of the studies discussed below.

### Other Methods

Many other types of multivariate analyses are available (Davis, 1986; Kovach, 1989; Pielou, 1984). The methods discussed above work well for the analyses presented here, as the data used are close to being normally distributed, particularly after log transformation. In cases where they depart drastically from normality, other non-metric techniques may be more effective (Kovach, 1989). It is best to initially experiment with a variety of methods, observing how well each performs with the available data. These results, along with knowledge of the assumptions made by each method, may then guide the investigator in choosing the best one for a particular study.

### Data Transformations

Many types of geological data are recorded as proportions. Analysis of proportional data is problematic because of closure, which is the restriction that all variables must sum to a constant value, such as 1.0 or 100.0, or the number of miospores that are counted from each slide. This leads to a negative bias in correlations between variables. For example, if the absolute abundance of one taxon increases and another remains the same, a zero correlation would be expected. However, the increase in the proportion of one necessitates the decrease of the other, thus giving a negative correlation. Many techniques have been developed to deal with these problems. One is the centered logratio transformation (Aitchison, 1986), in which the original proportions are replaced by the log of the ratio between the proportion and the geometric mean of the sample. In mathematical terms, this is:

$$x'_{ij} = \log(x_{ij} / g_i)$$

gymnosperm and angiosperm pollen types that is different from that found in the oldest strata.

This trend very clearly represents the vegetational response to a transgressive-regressive sequence of events, but with different assemblages of land plants dominating in the two non-marine phases. The presence of Taxodiaceapollenites as a major component of the assemblages in the lower part of the section suggests that the coals which occur within it were formed in taxodiaceous swamps. The absence of this pollen type and the deposition of other species of angiospermous and gymnospermous grains during the second non-marine phase implies that these stable swamp communities had not yet regenerated after the transgression and that instead the newly exposed land area was colonized by an early successional flora in which monocots and gymnosperms were important elements.

#### (A) OTHER APPROACHES TO QUANTITATIVE PALYNOFACIES ANALYSIS

The above examples show the usefulness of PCA and minimum variance clustering in analyzing quantitative palynofacies data. These methods provide good results with data that are close to being normally distributed. Their mathematical basis is also relatively simple, which we think is important; nothing is to be gained from using a technique with a complex mathematical basis when a more basic one will provide equally satisfactory results. However, there is a wide variety of other methods which can be used for analyzing multivariate data. We ~~turn now to a~~ review of some of the approaches that have been taken by other investigators in applying quantitative methods to palynofacies data (summarized in Table 1). 07 01

#### (B) Miocene palynofacies from offshore Louisiana

LeNoir and Hart (1988) used several multivariate techniques in their investigation of the distribution of palynomorphs in a Miocene borehole from offshore Louisiana, USA. Principal components analysis was used first to extract the axes which account for the greatest amount of variance. These were then used as the variables in a factor

such as principal components analysis, as long as no statistical or probabilistic assumptions are made. The use of the ten-class octave abundance scale can be recommended as a means of simplifying data and removing the 'noise' of minor fluctuations.

Many of the studies reviewed in this paper have been based on proportional data (including those in which counts out of a standard number of grains are recorded), but none has used transformations designed to eliminate problems caused by closure. As shown in Fig. 1, the results from raw data can be dramatically different from those obtained after transformation. Thus the results of any analyses of proportional data that do not use the appropriate transformations, such as logratio, should be viewed with ~~a~~ cautious ~~eye~~. o/  
n/

Most multivariate techniques have a variety of different options which can affect the results. For instance, PCA can be calculated using either a covariance or correlation matrix. The standardization implicit in the latter places greater weight on the rarer taxa, thus giving very different results (Kovach, 1989). Unfortunately, few authors specify which technique they have used. There are dozens of similarity measures applicable to cluster analysis, as well as many alternative clustering procedures. Different combinations of these will give varying results. The reader cannot evaluate the results properly if the precise method used in a particular study is not indicated.

Multivariate analyses are based on all available variables; no a priori decisions need to be made as to which to choose or combine, a ~~necessary~~ prerequisite of bi- and tri-variate analyses. However, it is still necessary to decide which variables to measure. Some palynofacies studies have included abundance data for each species present as well as of phytoclasts. Others are based on higher taxonomic and morphological groups which appear to have similar environmental responses. o/

The inclusion of more specific miospore and plankton data usually aids the interpretation of environments of deposition, even when abundances are generally low. However, if occurrences of one hundred or more taxa are recorded, interpretation can be more difficult and the computer analyses more time consuming (or impossible because of



# The University College of Wales Aberystwyth

University of Wales

## Institute of Earth Studies

Aberystwyth, SY23 3DB, UK

**Director:** Professor D Q Bowen

**Head of Geography:** Dr C R Lewis

**Head of Geology:** Dr M R Dobson

Professor J W Aitchison

Professor R A Dodgshon

Professor J R Haynes D.Sc

Professor J A Jacobs

Professor J Lewin

Professor M J O'Hara FRS

Professor J A Taylor

Professor R C Whatley

Professor Dennis Wood

Tel: (0970) 623111

Direct line: (0970) 622573

Fax: 0970 622659

Telex: 35181 ABYUCWG

21/1/91

*Done please put these  
corrections on the Kovach  
- Baden diskettes return this*

Dear Alfred,

I enclose a couple of reprints of recent papers of mine in collaboration with others.

Also included are photocopies of 3 pages from our revised MS for your book, which Warren has just sent you, with some suggested changes made in pencil. I send these now because W didn't give me the opportunity to have a final read through the MS before he dispatched it. He knows how fussy I am!

Three of the four minor changes indicated were noted on a previous draft but have not been made. If you agree that they do improve the text, please alter your copy of the script accordingly. I would like to keep the peace at this end (because W and I work well together) while getting my own way if possible! Many thanks.

Best wishes

*David*

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
phone: 814-863-3419; fax: 814-865-3191

25 February, 1991

Dr. David J. Batten  
Institute of Earth Studies  
UCW University of Wales  
Aberystwyth SY23 3DB, U.K.

Dear David:

This responds to yours of 21 Jan. 91. Thanks for the reprints, about which I'll respond separately and a little later.

Regarding the corrections for your MS with Warren--that brings up a problem that I wrote to WK about on 15 Feb.--your diskette as received was totally unreadable, although we and others in our department tried it in five different PCs. As I mentioned to Warren, perhaps it fell victim to a magnetic probe of some sort. I returned it to Warren. Awaiting your response to this mishap, I am holding the corrections.

Best wishes.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
phone: 814-863-3419; fax: 814-865-3191

1 March, 1991

Dr. David J. Batten  
Institute of Earth Studies  
UCW University of Wales  
Aberystwyth SY23 3DB, U.K.

Dear David:

Just read the Hesselbo et al. and Ruffell & Batten reprints. The former seems a workmanlike job. Re the latter--your conclusions are probably correct, but "spore assemblages of limited... diversity, and...numerous coniferalean and cheirolepidacean..." could, in my experience, juswt as well mean deposition in marine conditions. But, of course, one would then expect other indications of the marine environment!

Best regards.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 DEIKE BUILDING  
UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802  
Phone: (814)863-3419; Fax: 814-863-7823

2 December, 1991

Dr. D. J. Batten  
Institute of Earth Studies  
UCW University of Wales  
Aberystwyth SY23 3DB

Dear David:

Just read about the Int. Comm. Org. Matter Class. in TSOP News 1.  
8:3 (1991). According to the note therein, you could help me  
"see a copy of the provisional classification." That I would  
like very much!

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

I STRUCTURED DEBRIS

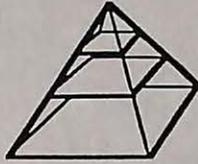
- +woody
- +plant epidermis/cuticle
- +plant tissue (other)
- +animal
- fungal
- opaque
- indeterminate

II AMORPHOUS

- finely dispersed
- +homogeneous
- heterogeneous
- opaque

IV INDETERMINATE [*not identifiable as I-III*]

- +opaque
- +other



## AMSTERDAM PALYNOLOGICAL ORGANIC MATTER CLASSIFICATION

Results of the meeting held on June 27th and 28th 1991 in Amsterdam

### 1st Division

- PALYNOMORPHS
- STRUCTURED DEBRIS
- AMORPHOUS
- INDETERMINATE

### 2nd (and 3rd) Division

#### I -PALYNOMORPHS

- ↳ sporomorphs
  - + pollen
  - + spores
    - + megaspores (> 200 µm)
    - + small spores (≤ 200 µm)

- ↳ 'algae' *dinoflagellate cysts*
  - dinocysts
  - prasinophytes
  - chlorococcales
  - cyanobacteria

-acritarchs

- zoomorphs
  - ↳ foram linings (= "microforams")
  - + chitinozoa
  - + tintinnids
  - + scolecodonts?
  - + rhizopods

- + fungal spores
  - + spores
  - + sclerotia

- ↳ indeterminate, [microscopic]
- ↳ opaque
- ↳ seeds

D. J. Batten  
Institute of Earth Studies  
UCW University of Wales  
Aberystwyth SY23 3DB  
Wales, U.K.  
Telephone (0970) 622573

Professor Alfred Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Department of Geosciences  
Palynological Laboratories  
435 Deike Building  
University Park  
PA 16802  
USA

16.12.91

Dear Alfred,

Thank you for your note of December 2.

The enclosed doesn't suggest that a great deal was achieved in Amsterdam, but at least some progress was made. At first I thought we were not going to get anywhere, such was the diversity of opinion. Now there is also the expectation of further agreement on what to call what when the second meeting on palynological organic matter takes place in Bergen next summer.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

*D. J. Batten*

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 DEIKE BUILDING  
UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802  
Phone: (814)863-3419; Fax: 814-863-7823

22 March, 1993

Dr. D. J. Batten  
Institute of Earth Studies  
UCW University of Wales  
Aberystwyth, UK SY23 3DB

Dear David:

Thanks for writing as you did for Palynos! You are less likely to be accused of pontificating than I. The main point is that a newsletter simply should not publish papers that include nomenclatural changes. It is, as yet, however, perfectly legal.

The word "valid" is so overused that it approaches "constrained" in meaninglessness. You even added a new one for me: "not a valid publication" (col. 2, para. 3, l. 7). Of course, zoologists use "valid" differently from ICBN. That august source refers only to valid publication or validly published, in the sense of an act of publication. A newsletter can be neither a valid or invalid publication but only a locus where something can be validly, or not validly, published.

Best regards.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

c:J. H. Wrenn

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 DEIKE BUILDING  
UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802  
Phone: (814)863-3419; Fax: 814-863-7823

15 April, 1993

Dr. David J. Batten  
Institute of Earth Studies  
University of Wales  
Aberystwyth, United Kingdom SY23 3DB

Dear David:

Thanks for your letter of 5 April.

Re the book: over a devilishly long time, Cambridge sent us their edited versions of peoples' MSS. We worked through these, finding zillions of little things that the editors had inadvertently introduced through their efforts (though on the whole I'd have to say that they helped improve most MSS), and shipped the whole thing off to them about six weeks (more?) ago by air parcel post (cost me \$150). Since then we haven't heard boo, though we did ask by fax for word about whether the package arrived. Your letter prompts me to try again. As one of only a handful (2?) of British authors, you would be in a position to act dumb and call the responsible lady directly with a query about how it's going. You could then let ME know! (Catherine Flack, CUP, tel:0223-312393). I hope to God she doesn't tell you that my package never arrived!

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

*D.J.Batten, Institute of Earth Studies, University of Wales,  
Aberystwyth SY23 3DB, UK*

Professor Alfred Traverse  
Department of Geosciences  
Palynological Laboratories  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
USA

5.4.93

Dear Alfred,

Thank you for your letter of March 22. I have also received a couple of other notes thanking me for writing the way I did!

Concerning your observation about 'valid' publication: yes, of course, I do agree that printed matter, no matter what kind, can neither be valid nor invalid as such. The difference between "valid publication" and a "publication .. not deemed to be valid for taxonomic/nomenclatural purposes" (Palaeontology Newsletter 17, p. 40) is, however, pretty subtle. The disclaimer in the Palaeontology Newsletter should perhaps be expressed differently. Maybe I should write to the present editor about this.

When are we going to receive proofs of our paper (Kovach and Batten) in your book on the sedimentation of organic particles? CUP have surely had our manuscripts for ages now?

With best wishes

*Batten.*

D.J.Batten, Institute of Earth Studies, University of Wales,  
Aberystwyth SY23 3DB, UK

Professor Alfred Traverse  
Department of Geosciences  
Palynological Laboratories  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
USA

21.5.93

Dear Alfred,

Thank you for your letter of April 15 which has been forwarded to me in Copenhagen.

I may not have told you that I was taken very ill in mid-January when on an intended short visit to this city, and since then I have either been in hospital here or convalescing following the surgery to which I have been subjected (hence the Danish origin of this fax). Unfortunately I am not finished with all of this yet, but I now anticipate returning to Aberystwyth on June 3, by which time I should finally be properly on the way to (nearly) full recovery.

Since your letter only arrived last week (I had asked for correspondence not to be sent to me until I felt able to do something about the contents following recent further surgery) I have yet to get in touch with CUP. I shall do this when I get back to Wales unless in the meantime I hear something positive from you about the state of play with the book.

If you wish to contact me within the next 12 days, please use the Greenland Survey Fax Number c/o E.B.Koppelhus, which is 33-93 53 52, even if this communication has not been sent from there! Otherwise, please write (or fax) to my Welsh address.

Many thanks.  
With best wishes

*DJB*

DJB

FAX: 009 1 (814) 863-7823

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 DEIKE BUILDING  
UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802  
Phone: (814)863-3419; Fax: 814-863-7823

27 May, 1993

Dr. David Batten  
Institute of Earth Studies  
University of Wales  
Aberystwyth, SY23 3DB  
United Kingdom

Dear David:

What a shock to hear about this terrible health problem. I don't want to pry, but some day I'd like to know if it could be related to our common profession. I worry occasionally about some of our lab procedures.

I would say under the circumstances to forget about contacting CUP. That particular emergency has come and gone. Concentrate on getting well and getting caught up! All the best to you!z  
What an experience you've had.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

from now on (it worries me slightly that it wasn't particularly unhealthy before), but other than that, there doesn't seem to be much one can do. I am sure stress doesn't help. In my case, it has always obviously affected by digestive system, and I have felt under a lot of pressure for several years for various reasons, both personal and professional. With respect to the latter, I found the upheaval caused by financial pressures placed by Mrs Thatcher's government on Aberdeen University during the 1980s, and in particular all of the uncertainties created by the so-called rationalisation of teaching and research in geology in UK institutions of higher learning from 1987 onwards gave me a hard time.

I also occasionally worry about what our lab procedures might be doing to us. Could the chemicals I have been using and the air I have been breathing some of the time for the past 25+ years have affected my health? I just don't know. It certainly concerns me that no matter how good the fume cupboard extraction system, metal objects in the lab still corrode much more rapidly than elsewhere!

Gosh, this letter is a lot longer than I had intended. Your query started me thinking and, hence, the words have been flowing! I must stop!

With best wishes

*Sauil*

DJB

[FAX: 009 1 (814) 863-7823]

*D.J.Batten, Institute of Earth Studies, University of Wales,  
Aberystwyth SY23 3DB, UK*

Professor Alfred Traverse  
Department of Geosciences  
Palynological Laboratories  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
USA

30.6.93

Dear Alfred,

Thank you very much for your letter of May 27. In the meantime I have also received copies of your correspondence with CUP. Let us hope proofs will be sent out soon.

I would like to refer to some of the articles in the book in my chapter on palynofacies for one of the AASP Silver Jubilee volumes. I believe Colin McGregor has been in touch with you about the possibility of my being able to see a draft version of this prior to completing my contribution. If you are agreeable, I think it would be easiest for me to do this when proofs have been circulated and corrected by their authors. To be realistic, it will be at *least* a month before I will be able to get back to writing the chapter, so with luck, this would coincide with some movement on the part of CUP. Please let me know what you think about this suggestion.

Concerning my health problem, I was originally opened up with suspected appendicitis, but the surgeons found instead that my colon had perforated, with the result that my body cavity was full of faeces and severely infected with hostile bacteria. This could have been fatal had I not been operated on when I was. They had to remove the diseased part of my colon (they also cut out my appendix), and I was fitted with a bag for my excrement until it was deemed safe to sew what remains of my colon back together again. This was accomplished at the end of April. On both occasions I had problems with secondary infections which slowed up the healing process; indeed I am only just clear of such things because one of the incisions eventually had to be allowed to knit together without the help of stitches (two previous attempts led to bacterial infection!). Needless to say, all of this surgery, together with the mental adjustment that is necessary to cope with having to have a bag attached to one's abdomen, has taken quite a lot out of me during the past 5 1/2 months. I had no prior warning that anything was seriously wrong. However, I am much better now.

I was told that I am rather young to have had what I had. Perforation of the colon as a result of extreme thinning of diverticuli on it is normally an 'older person's' disease. Unfortunately I have lots of diverticuli: some people have them, some don't. I have to take care to have a 'healthy' diet

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 DEIKE BUILDING  
UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802  
Phone: (814)863-3419; Fax: 814-863-7823

7 July, 1993

Dr. D. J. Batten  
Institute of Earth Studies  
University of Wales  
Aberystwyth SY23 3DB  
UK

Dear David:

Thanks so much for the complete rundown on your recent horrible series of problems. Ye gods.

I can tell that you've had some of the same thoughts as I. I have also always noted the corrosion of bright metal in the wet lab. Furthermore, at PSU the maintenance department comes around every few months and tests all hoods. I have four. They average about 90% efficient according to the certificate they post. Just before they condemn one and require a new motor or whatever, it may be 70%, however. What happens to the other 10-30%? The answer is obvious and unnerving. There are two desks in the wet lab, but I counsel students never to study there or to stay in the lab at any time longer than is absolutely necessary.

Still, as a non-medic (who has one as a son) I would say that your problem doesn't sound as if it were lab-related. I suspect liver damage, pancreas damage, brain tumors, and the like. I had a very close friend in systematic botany who died of pancreatic failure a while back, and I am sure in my own mind that he caused it by overexposure to PDB. He used it lavishly on his collections and worked over them for hours a day, even sleeping in the herbarium.

Regarding the book, I am really getting apoplectic about it. You will probably recall that Catherine Flack has been the responsible person for some time, in succession to another, who was in succession to the original one. She just wrote to say shes leaving to take a promotion with CUP, in California. We'll have yet another fellow now. It's scary. I was sure that we would have proofs by 1 August from what they had been saying. Now I don't know. In any event, I suppose that arranging to send you a copy of the whole massive stack of proofs could be quite a proposition. You and Warren will be getting your own chapter to proof, of course. In any event, there's not much use in discussing it at the moment.

All the best to you. We are all waiting anxiously to hear that you're full speed ahead.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse



D. J. BATTEN

INSTITUTE OF EARTH STUDIES

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF WALES - ~~COLEG~~ PRIFYSGOL CYMRU  
ABERYSTWYTH, DYFED, SY23 3DB, UK

Tel: (0970) 622573

17/8/93

Dear Alfred,

Have just received the depressing and frustrating news about the book. I know Conrad Guettler quite well. He was the Science Editor at Academic Press before he moved to CUP; I was answerable to him to some extent when I took over as Editor in chief of Cretaceous Research. I think I'll give him a ring. I also know one of the (erstwhile) editors - Douglas Palmer. I wonder whether he is the person to which you refer in the first paragraph of your letter to "fellow authors"! Best wishes DJB

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 DEIKE BUILDING  
UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802  
Phone: (814)863-3419; Fax: 814-863-7823

27 August, 1993

Dr. D. J. Batten  
Institute of Earth Studies  
University of Wales  
Aberystwyth, SY23 3DB  
UK

Dear David:

Thanks for the nice card. Maybe you can do some good with C. Guettler. What he seems to give no consideration at all is that these chapters are getting staler by the minute. He also doesn't seem to realize that the project has already been delayed over and over again by CUP's changes of personnel responsible for it.

Douglas Palmer was indeed one of the editors who for a time have had charge of our project. Each change has caused problems, and I am fearful about how it is all going to sort out.

It is great to have you sound so upbeat!

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

Sefydliad Astudiaethau Daear  
Cyfarwyddwr: Yr Athro D.Q. Bowen



FROM D. J. BATTEN

Institute of Earth Studies  
Director: Professor D.Q. Bowen

Adeilad Llandinam  
Aberystwyth  
Dyfed SY23 3DB  
UK

Prifysgol Cymru  
**Aberystwyth**  
University of Wales

Llandinam Building  
Aberystwyth  
Dyfed SY23 3DB  
UK

Tel: (0970) 622606  
Direct Line: (0970)

Telex: 35181 ABBYUW G

Fax: (0970) 622659

To: Alfred Trauensee  
Penn State U.  
Dept of Geosciences

13/10/93

Re: Kovach & Batten paper: your book

Dear Alfred,

Can you please advise? There is an inconsistency (introduced) in the proof of the above with respect to the use of the &. Should it be e.g. Kovach and Batten (1990) said ... but - as previously reported (Kovach & Batten, 1990) or and throughout, or & throughout?!!

Looking forward to hearing from you.

David

FAX : 814-863-7823

PENNSTATE



The Pennsylvania State University  
Department of Geosciences  
503 Deike Building  
(814) 863-7823 [FAX]

Date: 15 Oct. 1993

Mark here if urgent reply is requested.

**Fax Transmission to:**

Name: Dr. David Batten  
Company/Institution: University of Wales, Aberystwyth  
Fax Number: 0970622659  
Phone Number: 0970 622606

**Transmission from:**

Name: Dr. Alfred Traverse  
Phone Number: 1-863-3419

**Total Number of Pages (Including Cover Page):** 1

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**Message:**

Dear David:

In response to your fax just received, CUP guidelines dictate that references in the body of the text, such as Kovach and Batten (1990) should have "and" written out, whereas "...as previously reported (Kovach & Batten, 1990)" situations, i.e., when the entire reference is in parentheses, "&" should be used. Such is life. Looking forward to receiving your proofs. Hang in there!

Best.

  
Alfred Traverse

\*If any portion of this transmission is unclear, please call \_\_\_\_\_.

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Sefydliad Astudiaethau Daear  
Cyfarwyddwr: Yr Athro D D Gilbertson



Institute of Earth Studies  
Director: Professor D D Gilbertson

Prifysgol Cymru, Aberystwyth  
Adeilad Llandinam  
Aberystwyth  
Dyfed SY23 3DB  
Cymru  
Deyrnas Unedig

Prifysgol Cymru  
**Aberystwyth**  
The University of Wales

University of Wales, Aberystwyth  
Llandinam Building  
Aberystwyth  
Dyfed SY23 3DB  
Wales  
United Kingdom

Tel: 0970 62 . . . .  
International Tel: +44 970 62 . . . .

Fax: 0970 622659  
International Fax: +44 970 622659

E-mail: . . . @aber.ac.uk  
Telex: 83147 VIAOR G Attn U.W.A.

16/12/94

Dear Alfred,

Thank you for your efforts in putting together  
'Sedimentation of Organic Particles'! It is a very  
useful book.

All the best for Christmas and 1995

Yours

Batten

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 DEIKE BUILDING  
UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802, USA  
Phone: (814)863-3419; Fax: 814-863-7823  
E-Mail: traverse@ems.psu.edu

14 February, 1995

Dr. David J. Batten  
Institute of Earth Studies  
UCW University of Wales  
Aberystwyth SY23 3DB  
UK

Dear David:

Recently I had a reading day at home--a rare luxury. Your marvellous package of 16 Dec. 94 was on the table--wow! You are really turning out the stuff--great. Thanks very much. I also thank you for the nice tribute re the sed. book. It was a hell of a lot of work.

Comments: 1. Diversity studies of megaspores--very educational--I certainly hadn't realized that lycopsid megaspores remained so diverse for so long. I wonder what accounts for Isoetes hanging in there when so many others failed? Stable environmental niche--like turtles? 2. Extinct water-fern megaspores--ye gods, the systematic situation is a nightmare, your ideas stimulating. 3. Tr/Jr palynofacies--this is a really exciting subject. In the second edition of Paleopalynology I'm going to expand my coverage a bit, especially vis à vis sequence stratigraphy. 4. Zonate-cornate megaspores--have you thought of a massive catalog of megaspores? 5. Evolutionary...Late Cretaceous and Palaeogene...very useful counter to the extreme K/T extinction crowd. 6. Helgoland stuff--good use of palynofacies reasoning, and the first citation listed is by my boss. And I thought all of Helgoland is Triassic. 7. Reworking--bravo! I have collected a lot of such examples, and need to expand that section of Paleopalynology a bit. 8. 6 other contributions, all read, but you have already been bored enough by my comments.

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

encl.:reprints



Sefydliad Astudiaethau Daear  
Cyfarwyddwr: Yr Athro D D Gilbertson

Institute of Earth Studies  
Director: Professor D D Gilbertson

Prifysgol Cymru, Aberystwyth  
Adeilad Llandinam  
Aberystwyth  
Dyfed SY23 3DB  
Cymru  
Deyrnas Unedig

Prifysgol Cymru  
**Aberystwyth**  
The University of Wales

University of Wales, Aberystwyth  
Llandinam Building  
Aberystwyth  
Dyfed SY23 3DB  
Wales  
United Kingdom

Tel: 0970 622631  
International Tel: +44 970 622631

Fax: 0970 622659  
International Fax: +44 970 622659

E-mail: [ddg@aber.ac.uk](mailto:ddg@aber.ac.uk)  
Telex: 83147 VIAOR G Attn U.W.A.

27 February, 1995.

Dear *Dr. Trawense,*

Thank you for your letter to Professor David Batten. Unfortunately, he is in hospital at present but I will bring your letter to his attention when he returns to the Institute.

Yours sincerely,

*Linda James*

Linda James  
(Director's Secretary)



Prifysgol Cymru Aberystwyth  
Adeilad Llandinam  
Aberystwyth  
SY23 3DB  
Cymru  
DU

Prifysgol Cymru  
**Aberystwyth**  
The University of Wales

University of Wales Aberystwyth  
Llandinam Building  
Aberystwyth  
SY23 3DB  
Wales  
UK

Tel: 01970 62 . . . . .  
International Tel: +44 1970 62 . . . . .

Fax: 01970 622659  
International Fax: +44 1970 622659

E-mail: . . . @aber.ac.uk  
Telex: 83147 VIAOR G Attn U.W.A.

18/7/97

Dear Alfred,

As expected I didn't get the job referred to in my letter of May 20, which is more than a pity as it turns out because I learned yesterday that the geological side of the Institute is to close. I knew this was on the cards, but had not expected it so soon. Scholarship and students do not come into it. The aim is merely to save money, and the only way this can be done is to close departments — individuals who don't pull their weight cannot be targeted.

So, as of the end of the year I shall be "retired" with the possibility of returning for 3 years on a part-time basis to assist with the winding-down process. At the moment I have no idea what I shall do. There is so much more I had hoped to accomplish in the palynological field before being put out to grass, and I had not planned on having a much reduced income for a few more years.

With best wishes

Frank  
Batten

All the best to you.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor Emeritus of Palynology

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 DEIKE BUILDING  
UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802, USA  
Phone: (814)863-3419; Fax: 814-863-7823  
E-Mail: traverse@ems.psu.edu

12 August, 1997

Dr. David J. Batten  
Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences  
Univ. Wales  
Llandinam Building  
Aberystwyth SY23 3DB  
Wales, UK

Dear David:

Thanks for the impressive batch of reprints that arrived the other day. They are certainly a credit to your industry and talent. The color plates are fantastic. Several deal with sections close in age to ones on which I am working, and the papers have already been very useful and will be more so in the future. It is a comment on your thoroughness that you included a replacement version of the plate of megaspore SEMs, when the original was quite fine. I hadn't got around to reading the three volume box of stuff from AASP yet and didn't know how much you dominated it! The palynofacies papers are great--smashing, in fact. I really like them.

BUT you enclosed a letter that pretty much takes the joy out of the package, huh? I have been reading in Science about the economy drive in British higher education and worried about all of my friends involved. I really am sorry and can only say that friends in Germany have faced equally bleak prospects, and it has, in the end, worked out. Maybe something will yet break for you. Better start a consulting company or offer your services to the Utrecht group? Could you perhaps do this on the side right away?

Incidentally, if universities were doing the same sort of downsizing in USA, it would be the same story--people with tenure can't be fired, no matter how bad. So, whole departments or programs have to be eliminated.

Thank God, palynology hung in there for me until retirement! The six rooms I had at retirement are now three, and those only guaranteed until 31 Dec., 1998. We are having an addition put on our home to provide a work space for me when I lose the whole thing here. A wet lab is another story, and I am going to work hard to hold onto that one room as long as possible.

X-Sender: dqb@pophost.aber.ac.uk  
Date: Tue, 26 Aug 1997 10:39:15 +0000  
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu  
From: "D.J. Batten" <dqb@ultra1.aber.ac.uk>  
Subject: your posted e-mail message

Dear Alfred,

Thank you very much for your letter which arrived last week. I do appreciate your kind words.

Thanks also for the e-mailed message which arrived by post this morning. Unfortunately my address is given incorrectly in several places as dgb instead of dqb, despite attempts at getting it corrected. (The 'pophost' above should be ignored).

In connection with your query about the non-receipt of issues of the Journal of Micropalaeontology, I resigned last year from my commitments to the BMS after four years as Chairman of the Palynology Group. I think the best thing to do in the circumstances is to forward your 'letter' to Jim Riding at the BGS who is currently the treasurer of the society. I found him to be helpful when I also had a problem with my membership subscription, even though I think he was actually the secretary of the society at the time. I will, therefore, post it to him along with a covering note as soon as I have sent this message to you..

With best wishes

David

David J. Batten  
Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences  
University of Wales  
Aberystwyth SY23 3DB  
UK

Phone: +44 (0) 1970 622573  
Fax: +44 (0) 1970 622659  
e-mail dqb@aber.ac.uk

To: dgb@aber.ac.uk  
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)  
Subject: J. of Micropal.  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
X-Attachments:

Batten

Dear David:

Don't know that we've been in touch this way before. I just mailed you a snail mail letter about the great pile of reprints you recently sent.

But now I have a problem. Have a letter from another colleague requiring me to evaluate a paper in a back number of Journal of Micropaleontology. I went to my files to get the journal in question and I discover that I am complete through Vol. 12 (1993); of Vol. 13 (1994) I have only part 2; of Vol. 14 (1995) I have nothing at all; of Vol. 15 (1996) I have only part 1; of Vol. 16 (1997?--assuming there is such a thing) I have nothing.

I note in Vol. 15, part 1, that you have some responsibility for the underlying society, so perhaps you can help me or turn me in a right direction.

Do the records show that I somehow or other fell from grace in the Society? I don't recall resigning, but perhaps I mistakenly did? If so, why would I get 13:2 and 15:1?

In any case, can I get this straightened out and get the rest of 13 and 15 that I am missing, all of 14 that I am missing, and get on the list again so that I'll get 17?

Thanks a bunch and keep up your spirits. Best. Alfred.

To: dqb@aber.ac.uk  
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)  
Subject: cocoons, etc.  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
X-Attachments:

*Batten*

Dear David:

Just read your fascinating AJB paper on Glomerisporites.

Were you aware of a paper by Manum several years ago on cocoon-like structures he found in palynological preparations and interpreted as far as I can recall as animal remains? I was there when he gave it before APP, but I can't recall the age or the scale, both of which may be all wrong. Otherwise, the things sure looked like your cocoons. Somewhere I have a reprint of the paper when published, but at present it will be one of my 100 boxes of such stuff in the garage, while I am trying to get reestablished in my new home office.

Jeez, John Hall has now been gone a long time. I always enjoyed his papers at meetings.

Best. Alfred.