



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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About the Institute

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.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES
16 DIVINITY AVENUE
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

Nov 1, 1951

Dear Al,

The enclosed letter from
Dr Aldrich speaks for itself. Please
return it to me at your con-
venience - or give it to me in Detroit
It would be desirable to take along
a copy of the thesis.

Will look forward to seeing
you next week.

Sincerely yours,
E. S. Bergstrom

President, WALTER H. BUCHER
Columbia University, New York 27, N. Y.
Past President, ERNST CLOOS

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419 West 117th Street, New York 27, N. Y.

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THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

419 WEST 117TH STREET, NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

February 28, 1955

Mr. Alfred Traverse
U S Bureau of Mines
Region III
Box LL, University Station
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Traverse:

In reply to your letter of February 25 we hereby
release your manuscript "Pollen analysis of the Brandon
lignite of Vermont" to the Bureau of Mines.

We are glad to do our part in helping you to get more
prompt publication than the GSA could have given you.

Sincerely,

H. R. Aldrich
Secretary

Region III
Box LL, University Station
Grand Forks, North Dakota

February 25, 1955

Dr. Henry Aldrich, Secretary
Geological Society of America
419 West 117th Street
New York 27, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Aldrich:

A memorandum has just come from our Washington Office stating that my manuscript, "Pollen Analysis of the Brandon Lignite of Vermont," has been accepted for Bureau of Mines publication. Hence, I must ask that you release the manuscript, as you indicated in earlier correspondence that you would do.

I very much appreciate the consideration you have shown me in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Alfred Traverse
Coal Technologist

Copy to: E. S. Barghoorn

ATraverse:vh

cc: J. H. East, Jr.
Traverse
File 625.1
C File

Region V
Box LL, University Station
Grand Forks, North Dakota

December 16, 1954

Dr. H. R. Aldrich, Secretary
Geological Society of America
419 West 117th St.
New York 27, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Aldrich:

Revision of my manuscript, "Pollen Analysis of the Brandon Lignite of Vermont," has now at long last been completed -- along the lines suggested by you, Wilson Laird, and others, and also with considerable alteration due to subsequent discoveries of mine and publications of others.

The manuscript has been prepared for publication in the Memoir series, as per previous correspondence between us, but is now being put through the conventional Bureau of Mines channels, because all of the revision work, including several trips to Boston, etc., have been supported by the Bureau.

It is possible that the Bureau will now want to publish the monograph as an official publication. If they recommend outside publication, however, do you now feel sanguine about the chances of publication as a Memoir? Does the manuscript still have its accession number, as per your letter to me of July 2, 1952?

Sincerely yours,



Alfred Traverse
Coal Technologist

ATraverse:vp

cc: East
Volin
Lankford
✓ Traverse
File 625.1
C File



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF MINES
Region V
Box LL, University Station
Grand Forks, North Dakota

RECEIVED

MAY 18 1953

U. S. Bureau of Mines
Grand Forks, North Dakota

May 11, 1953

Dr. H. R. Aldrich
Secretary, Geological Society of America
419 West 117th Street
New York 27, New York

Dear Dr. Aldrich:

The revision of my proposed monograph on the pollen and spores of the Brandon lignite has reached the stage of reworking the illustrations. At recent international meetings of investigators in this field, it has been suggested that photomicrographs of pollen should be published at a standard magnification of 500x to facilitate stratigraphic use of the information. Contact prints of my photomicrographs give a uniform magnification of 600x. Could the reduction from 600x to 500x be accomplished in reproduction of the plates, if exact directions on the final size of the photographs were given? If this is possible, I shall set up the plates so that after reduction by 1/6, they will be the size of the plates in Memoir 46, which I am using as a guide.

Very truly yours,

Alfred Traverse

Alfred Traverse
Coal Technologist

Yes

OK

Please give us
specific instructions
on reduction.

Region V
Box LL, University Station
Grand Forks, North Dakota

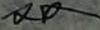
May 11, 1953

Dr. H. R. Aldrich
Secretary, Geological Society of America
419 West 117th Street
New York 27, New York

Dear Dr. Aldrich:

The revision of my proposed monograph on the pollen and spores of the Brandon lignite has reached the stage of reworking the illustrations. At recent international meetings of investigators in this field, it has been suggested that photomicrographs of pollen should be published at a standard magnification of 500x to facilitate stratigraphic use of the information. Contact prints of my photomicrographs give a uniform magnification of 600x. Could the reduction from 600x to 500x be accomplished in reproduction of the plates, if exact directions on the final size of the photographs were given? If this is possible, I shall set up the plates so that after reduction by 1/6, they will be the size of the plates in *Revoir 46*, which I am using as a guide.

Very truly yours,


Alfred Traverse
Coal Technologist

AT:dm

cc Region V
Lankford
File 626.1
C. File
✓ Dr. Traverse

Region V
Box 11, University Station
Grand Forks, North Dakota

January 23, 1953

Dr. H. R. Aldrich
Secretary, Geological Society of America
419 West 117th Street
New York 27, New York

Dear Dr. Aldrich:

Since our last exchange of correspondence, I have had opportunity to consult carefully with Dr. Wilson Laird about revision of my monograph on the pollen-analysis of the Brandon lignite, as you suggested. Some work has been done on the revision but much remains to be done. (I must do this job in my spare time, since my research here is in coal petrography.) I have been using various numbers in the memoir series as guides to form of presentation - especially Pfeleger's Memoir 46. I believe I shall have an acceptable volume.

Do you have any further comments at this time?

Very truly yours,


Alfred Traverse
Coal Technologist

cc Region V
Dr. Traverse ✓
File

Region V
Box LL, University Station
Grand Forks, North Dakota

August 14, 1952

Dr. H. R. Aldrich, Secretary
The Geological Society of America
419 West 117th Street
New York 27, New York

Dear Dr. Aldrich:

Your letter of July 18 came while I was on a sampling trip in the western part of the state.

I believe that we are much nearer an understanding of each other's positions than we were before, and I naturally appreciate the considerable effort you have expended to this end, and I am sure that this correspondence will prove fruitful.

I think your ideas for reorientation of the monograph are good. Perhaps it could be entitled, "Pollen and Spore Analysis of Tertiary Sediments; A Study of the Brandon Lignite", or something of the sort. The description of the Brandon material itself could not, however, be much condensed despite this sort of revision,- that is, if the work is to be an adequate study of the Brandon lignite. I tend to agree wholeheartedly that an overhaul job along the lines we are working out will increase the potential audience, especially among animal paleontologists and the general geological readers, without in any way weakening it for paleobotanical investigators.

My work on this will not be in high gear until a month from now, because I am going to the A. I. B. S. meetings in September, and I am at the moment trying to complete work on a short paper for the Coal Committee (S. E. G.) meetings in November. In the meantime I shall surely discuss all of this with Dr. Laird, as you suggest. (Although petroleum has, of late, pushed coal pretty much into the background for him, and he is astonishingly busy.) I am hopeful that the revised volume can be ready before the end of this year and that the Geological Society will be able to publish it.

Once again, thank you for the effort you have put into getting this project started along a road which can end in publication.

Sincerely yours,


ALFRED TRAVERSE
Coal Technologist

cc Region V
Dr. Traverse ✓
File

President, THOMAS S. LOVERING
U. S. Geological Survey (Geol. Div.), Federal Center, Denver, Colo.

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THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 18, 1952

Mr. Alfred F. Traverse
U S Bureau of Mines
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Traverse:

May I start out by returning your check herewith. The Society has never expected an author to recover cost of postage for manuscripts in any stage of processing.

I stand ready to apologize for what you have called acidity in my recent letter. Surely nothing in the situation requires anything to be formalized by PH reading.

Something is still missing in the chain of the all too brief conference and correspondence with respect to the overall policy and procedures with respect to publication.

To begin with the files of the Society are open at all times to all authors of papers in the field of geologic science regardless of membership, nationality or specialized field. Manuscripts received are assigned to competent critical readers to advise as to the originality and value of the content and with respect to the organization of the paper, its adequacy or inadequacy of text and illustrations, all with view to publishing papers of importance in advancing the science and with maximum of economy of words and illustrations commensurate with the values of the content.

Having established the acceptability of a manuscript for the Bulletin or Memoir Series, the editorial people then indicate revision in the light of the reports of the critics and in the light of their own experience.

If the manuscript requires drastic revision then it is returned to the author for attention. He is asked to accept full responsibility. If the revision is less drastic or only minor then the paper may be edited in full or it may be spot edited to show how it may be done. The author is then asked to continue the process. Following final editing in the office it is again returned to the author for his final approval before being sent to press.

You can see that we are not set up to do anything like a rewrite job or anything like a complete editing job on a paper which required essential revision. We divide responsibility between author, editor and printer.

Before any commitment can be made, any tacit promises that a paper will be accepted for publication it seems necessary to have an author of a paper requiring rather

considerable revision to accomplish this as a first stage. I realize quite well I think that the revision of your paper may consume quite a bit of your time but I see no escape under the circumstances.

You are quite correct that the Society recognizes paleobotany and know that we recognize the dependence of paleo upon the biological material. You have referred to Memoir 51 by Robert LaMotte which was prepared under a grant from the Society to Dr. Ralph Chaney, and which carries a quotation from a former president of the Society Prof. E. W. Berry. All of these things being true then it still remains that your manuscript is still under consideration.

I have seen a ray of light in the course of this last exchange of correspondence - in one of your closing paragraphs where you point out that certain of your ideas on method of attack are new and important and of service to potential new investigators in a field which is expanding. Would you like to give special consideration to this aspect of the potential volume and advise with me regarding emphasis upon this portion of the paper as a guide or treatise on the organization and procedure to be followed in applying pollen analysis methods to Tertiary sediments with the application to the Brandon deposit as an example of such an approach and procedure? Perhaps the title should be given further consideration that it may more faithfully represent what is to be found in the content of the proposed volume.

You might be interested in discussing our mutual problem with Doctor Laird, State Geologist of North Dakota at Grand Forks, who perhaps could help us get the proposed volume oriented with respect to best service to the general and specialized geologic reader. It could be of course that besides the missing link in our understanding of the GSA procedures there is also a missing link in the volume. Perhaps a short chapter which might serve the general geologic audience as some of your remarks are serving me as a guinea pig, which would express the service that paleobotanical research may offer in the solution of geologic problems.

I feel that we are getting somewhere by these several exchanges providing we get to understand each other, our common point of view and responsibilities and we can keep our tone at the neutral or more alkaline level.

Again assuring you that no low PH reading was intended in what I had written earlier and hoping we may stand toe to toe until we work this thing out to best mutual satisfaction, I am

Sincerely,

Aldrich

Secretary

U. S. Bureau of Mines
Grand Forks, North Dakota

9 July, 1952

Dr. H. R. Aldrich
Geological Society of America
419 West 117th Street
New York 27, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Aldrich:

Your letter of July 2, 1952, and the manuscript, have arrived. I enclose my check for \$2.43, to cover the postage for the paper.

I was startled by the acidity of your letter. I didn't think that anything I had done deserved such a PH reading! I understood from the conversation in Detroit last year that you felt it desirable to have my paper in the mill as soon as possible, to be followed by revision, as suggested by the readers. I thought that the idea was to ascertain whether the G.S.A. would be interested at all-- if so, I could then proceed with revision. You will remember that I had only a few brief words with you and Dr. Barghoorn in Detroit.

My letter to you of 8 January briefly expressed this idea, and I am sure you will understand my concern at not hearing a word about the fate of the thesis. I intended my letter of June 18 to be a brief but courteous request for information which perhaps I could have been sent earlier.

About the criticisms: nobody realizes more than I that revision is necessary. But I should like say a little about this botanical vs. geological business. My study of the Brandon deposit is paleobotanical. There is little discussion of purely botanical questions. The study was intended, however, to be a treatment of the whole method of pollen analysis as applied to a Tertiary sediment, not a study of the local geology of Brandon. The method is one of great potential value to coal geologists, which is one of my principal excuses for holding my job here. To come at it a slightly different way, the apparently botanical parts of my paper are essential to the work because paleontological research does depend on its biological material. The Geological Society recognizes that fact, as clearly demonstrated by the publication of Memoir 51.

In response to your query, I should confidently say that it is a geological contribution. I think that it can be revised as you suggest. There is no objection to putting the condensed details of preparation and study in appendices. Certain of the ideas on method of attack are new and important and might perhaps be left in the body of the monograph. But as long as the information is available for potential investigators (the field is expanding), I should as soon have it in appendices, and I agree that such a reorganization would be desirable for the general geological audience.

I shall begin work on this revision as soon as possible--I shall be in the field in the lignite region for some time in the immediate future. My estimate that I could have it ready to be re-submitted by the first of December. Would that be satisfactory?

In closing, may I say that your comments and those of the reader have been very helpful and give me a clear idea of how to tackle this job? Many thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred Traverse

PRESIDENT, THOMAS S. LOVERING
U. S. Geological Survey (Geol. Div.), Federal Center, Denver, Colo.

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CARL O. DUNBAR
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University of Rochester, Rochester 3, N. Y.



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JUL 7 1952
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Grand Forks, North Dakota

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HARRISON SCHMITT	
IAN CAMPBELL	} 1952

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 2, 1952

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Box LL, University Station
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Dear Doctor Traverse:

Your more or less understandable impatience with us would be relieved if you had a chance to have a copy of my letter to Professor Barghoorn of June 13, 1951 in which I said that ... "we have 5414 pages which means something like two years or more of normal production." I went on to say that "rather than have the manuscript lie fallow here for any length of time I would like to suggest that you and Mr. Traverse get the proper authorities in the field of the manuscript to evaluate the contribution and to have the author apply his best hand at condensing the contents." You chose to do it precisely the other way around, you see. You wish to have the paper accepted before it is in final form.

Remember too that on receipt, the manuscript took its "accession number," and would be handled in its proper turn.

You now feel that since the work is already over a year old you would like to know what the GSA wants to do. If we are not to publish it you "should like to submit it elsewhere." The manuscript was sent to your office in January. You see your impatience is mounting above my original forewarning that you could not expect action within two years,

In the mean time however I have asked a Fellow of the Society to serve as an independent critical reader and herewith is a copy of his report. You note that he suggests revision along lines of your own proposal. Were you in my place would you care to commit the paper to publication until you had seen the revised version?

You note also that the critic feels that perhaps the paper would be more useful to scientists if published in some botanical journal.

I have made a quick re-survey of the volume today and note with some impatience how the reader, expecting to learn about the pollen and spores of the Brandon lignite is put off and off as the pages are turned until he comes to page 57.

Dr. Alfred Traverse - 2

These earlier pages are no doubt necessary to one interested in planning such a study, the procedures and techniques. You propose to condense these, but wouldn't they be just as useful after condensation if moved into an appendix?

The body of the volume - pages 57 - 132 inclusive - is for reference and not for reading. It requires some introductory material.

On page 133 we are given the geological relations of the lignite deposit. If to be published by a geological organization, should not the volume begin with this section? This and the paleoecological section might well be considered for emplacement before the 75 pages of descriptions?

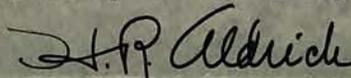
If the volume is to be presented to a geological audience, principally to the paleontological section of that audience, wouldn't you believe it should begin with the geological setting followed by the attendant problems of structure, stratigraphy, ecology and then the basic data offered via the discipline of paleobotany and their usefulness in solution of the geological problems? Wouldn't the organization of your attack, the idea of the ideal reference collection belong in appendices to be referred to by specialists only if desired?

These paragraphs contain my current ideas. I believe it is really your turn to give the entire matter some study. Is it essentially a botanical contribution? Who would profit most, geologists or botanists? Have you not prepared it for botanists? Is it not organized in an inverted order if to be presented to a geological audience?

The manuscript retains its accession number until you release it. But before it can be officially accepted, I believe you should revise it to emphasize the geological or paleobotanical values and following condensation to the essentials of the contribution.

I return the volume to you under separate cover and await for further word from you.

Cordially and sincerely,



Secretary

1. Yes. It contains an original contributors wordy of publication

→ 2. Rewritten would be much better. ←

Yes. Condensation? Yes. Expansion? No.
Reorganization?

3. Drawing need reconsideration.

This is a fine study but needs to be rewritten.

The author has pretty well covered the subject of revision himself. I am wondering if this paper would not be better published in some botanical journal than in the Bulletin.

March 15, 1952

Box 11, University Station
Grand Forks, North Dakota

8 January, 1957

Dr. H. R. Aldrich, Secretary
Geological Society of America
419 West 117th St.
New York 27, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Aldrich:

I was pleased that I was able to alter my course from Pittsburgh here to allow me to attend the Detroit meetings and doubly pleased that you could see Professor Sargis and me about publication of "The Pollen and Spores of the Brandon Lignite" in the Memoir Series. Since the meetings I have been either on the road or furiously trying to get things organized here in my new job. This explains my tardiness in writing you.

I am sending the thesis, one of the three extant copies, to you by registered mail. I have attached to it a few brief notes on ways in which I propose to alter the monograph for publication. Except for that, it is just as submitted for examination in Cambridge last June. I understood from what you told me in Detroit that it will be returned to me with the comments of the readers. There is not much use beginning any sort of revision until all notes are in.

Perhaps it would be helpful to note that, in addition to the Harvard people, the thesis has already been read critically by Dr. A. G. Dahl of the University of Minnesota, an outstanding authority on the pollen grain, and Dr. J. M. Schopf of the U. S. G. S. at the Ohio State University, one of the leading fossil spore workers. Both of these men have given me suggestions and criticisms, both have expressed themselves as anxious to see the thesis in print. Perhaps you would be interested in contacting them.

In any event, I should naturally like some sort of action as soon as possible, in order to begin the revision if the thing is accepted, or to submit it elsewhere if it is not.

Yours faithfully,

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

U. S. Bureau of Mines
Grand Forks, North Dakota

26 January, 1952

Dr. H. R. Aldrich, Secretary
Geological Society of America
419 West 117th St.
New York 27, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Aldrich:

As a consequence of my somehow getting an incorrect address for you, both my letter of 8 January and the thesis were lost in the mails. The letter has been redirected to you and should have reached you by now. Because the thesis was fortunately insured I have been able to trace it to the Morningside Station, 232 West 116th St. I have instructed the postmaster there to forward the package to you.

Naturally, I am distressed at this still further delay in getting the thing to you and the more so because the address was so nearly correct that it seems to me the Morningside Station people must be nearly completely lacking in imagination.

Yours sincerely,

Alfred Traverse

Region V
Box 11, University Station
Grand Forks, North Dakota

June 18, 1952

Dr. H. R. Aldrich, Secretary
Geological Society of America
419 W. 117th Street
New York 27, New York

Dear Dr. Aldrich:

Could I be given some word about the disposition of "The Pollen and Spores of the Brandon Lignite"? I feel that it is important and timely and should be in the course of publication as soon as possible. The work is over a year old now, and if the Geological Society is unable to publish it, I should like to submit it elsewhere. The manuscript was sent to your office in January.

Very truly yours,

rb

ALFRED TRAVERSE
Coal Technologist

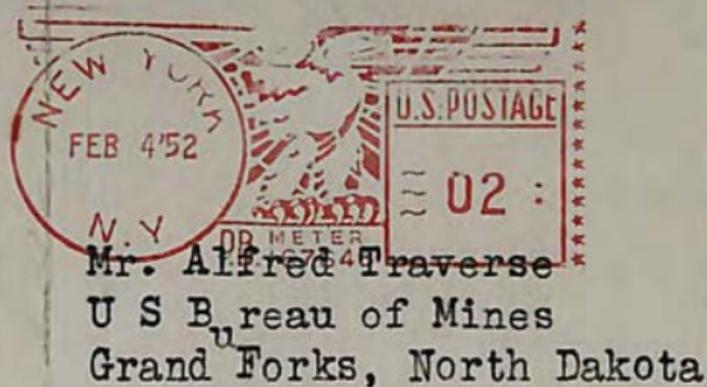
cc Region V
Dr. Traverse ✓
File

The Geological Society of America
419 West 117 St., New York 27, N. Y.

This acknowledges receipt of your
manuscript entitled Pollen and
spores of the Brandon lignite
.....

Report concerning it will be sent to you
as soon as it can be read critically.

H. R. Aldrich, *Secretary*



The Geological Society of America

Office of the Secretary

October 30, 1951

Professor Elso Barghoorn
The Biological Laboratories
16 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Barghoorn:

With further reference to the publication of the dissertation by Doctor Traverse and particularly in reply to your letter of 24 October, supposing we do try to get together at Detroit.

As to your hesitation to ask competent critics to read this paper prior to "reasonable possibility of publication" I had suggested this course as a device to expedite the handling of the paper. Critical reading will have to take place before or after submission here as a means for determining acceptability for publication in the Memoir Series.

Sincerely,

/s/ H. R. Aldrich
Secretary

Copy