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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.

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

ORGANIC SEDIMENTS LABORATORY
UNIVERSITY PARK, PENNSYLVANIA 16802

College of Mineral Industries
Department of Geology and Geophysics

Area Code 814
865-6545
865-6543

October 21, 1966

Dr. W.S. Hoffmeister
Member, Advisory Committee, CFSP
Carter Oil Company
1133 North Lewis Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Bill:

Perhaps you didn't know that I've landed here--to teach and do research in palynology and become involved with the Catalog. It would be good to see you again. I recently attended the international meetings in Utrecht, and many people spoke of you.

I have proposed elimination of Option C (punch-cards) of the Catalog effective with Volume 26 (almost ready) as a step toward expedition of the operations here. The subscribers have responded slowly but mostly favorably to a questionnaire. Few (if any) people use the punch feature anyway. Any comments?

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse, Editor
Catalog of Fossil Spores and Pollen

AT:le

June 24, 1958

Dr. William S. Hoffmeister
Jersey Production Research Laboratory
1133 North Lewis Avenue
Tulsa 10, Oklahoma

Dear Bill:

You, John Funkhouser, Bill Evitt, and others of your staff showed us a fine time. I was mightily impressed with your facilities, staff and the breadth of the Jersey attack on palynological problems. I thought the nomenclatural conference covered as much territory as it could have, and I am sure we found it stimulating enough to have made the trip worthwhile even if nothing else had been accomplished. You certainly pulled all the stops to make the conference a success.

Thanks again for a very fine time at the Jersey laboratory.

Very truly yours,


Alfred Traverse

AT:mpd

Shell Development Company
Exploration and Production Research Division

June 13, 1958

Dr. William S. Hoffmeister
Jersey Production Research Company
1133 North Lewis Avenue
Tulsa 10, Oklahoma

Dear Bill:

Thanks for the nice invite. Mart Schemel and I will be on hand for the conference and to see your lab. We're looking forward to the visit. We plan to arrive in Tulsa on Wednesday, the 18th, in the a.m., spend that day with Cross, and come out to the Jersey lab on Thursday, the 19th, per my phone conversation with John Funkhauser. See you then.

Very truly yours,


Alfred Traverse

AT:mpd

Shell Development Company
Exploration and Production Research Division

JERSEY PRODUCTION RESEARCH COMPANY

1133 NORTH LEWIS AVENUE
TULSA 10, OKLAHOMA

GEOLOGICAL DIVISION
PARKE A. DICKEY, MANAGER

June 9, 1958

TELEPHONE - MADISON 6-1151

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Shell Development Company
3737 Bellaire Boulevard
Houston 25, Texas

Dear Al:

In reply to your letter of May 28, we shall be happy to see you here at the Research Center during the latter part of the week of June 16.

We look forward to discussing the problems of pollen and spore nomenclature with you and will certainly welcome the contributions of Max Schemel. We hope that it can be arranged for him to accompany you, for his knowledge of Paleozoic and Mesozoic problems would add a great deal to our overall coverage.

It is our understanding that Shell will arrange your accommodations here. However, if there is anything that we can do for you along this line, don't hesitate to let us know.

Looking forward to seeing you, I am

Sincerely yours,



William S. Hoffmeister

JWF:drh

May 28, 1958

Dr. William Hoffmeister
Research Department
The Carter Oil Company
1133 North Lewis
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Bill:

Enjoyed the conversation with you this afternoon and am looking forward to hearing more about your palynological tour in Europe.

I think the idea of getting heads together on pollen and spore nomenclature prior to the August meeting is salutary. It should result in a more concerted effort to get an acceptable slate of proposals through the works.

How about convening the proposed "committee" at the Carter laboratory? This would also provide me with a belated opportunity to visit your facilities. As far as date is concerned, early June would be good, say June 11.

Dr. M. P. Schemel, palynologist for the Shell Oil Company here, is known to you. He is an authority on Paleozoic and Mesozoic spores and, hence, should also take part in these discussions. Could he also be invited, by separate letter, if possible?

Very truly yours,


Alfred Traverse

AT:ml

cc: Dr. Schemel
Dr. Rittenhouse

Shell Development Company
Exploration and Production Research Division

December 16, 1957

Dr. William S. Hoffmeister
Research Department
The Carter Oil Company
1133 North Lewis
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Bill:

Enjoyed the phone call. It was good to know that you are going to be able to visit some of the European laboratories, and I know that you will find it a profitable experience. I wish I could be going along with you!

I find on closer inquiry that van Raadshooven will not be in The Netherlands when you get there, which is too bad. However, I am taking steps to see what can be done about getting permission for you to visit the laboratory in The Hague.

It would be a pity to be so near to some of the major pollen labs and miss visiting them. You should visit the Potonie group (Rein, von der Brelle) in Krefeld, Iversen in Copenhagen, Erdtman in Stockholm, and Faegri, in addition to Klaus, Deflandre, Wetzell, and the others that we mentioned this morning. I think you will find the visits with the three Scandinavians particularly rewarding. For that matter, you could profitably spend not a couple of days, but a couple of months with Erdtman. For instance, he has far and away the biggest pollen library and reference collection in the world. Faegri is, in my opinion, the best technician going. Iversen has a large group of interesting students and assistants working on a variety of problems.

The addresses you wanted are:

Prof. Dr. Robert Potonie
Amt für Bodenforschung
Geologisches Landesamt Nordrhein-Westfalen
Krefeld, Westwall 1254
Germany

Prof. Dr. G. Erdtman
Palynological Laboratory
Ranh. 22
Bromma, Sweden

Dr. Johannes Iversen
Danmarks Geologiska Undersøgelse
Charlottenlund, Denmark

Prof. Dr. Knut Faegri
Botanical Museum
Universitetet
Bergen, Norway

With best wishes.

Very truly yours,


Alfred Traverse

AT:hmp

1950 Glen Dale Drive
Lakewood 15, Colorado

14 September, 1955

Dr. William S. Hoffmeister
Research Department
The Carter Oil Company
1133 No. Lewis
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Dr. Hoffmeister:

Probably I should have written sooner that I have resigned at the Bureau of Mines and signed on with Shell Development Company, Houston. But this has been almost literally the only free moment I have had in several weeks. Furthermore, I had thought I would see you at the East Lansing meetings last week and was disappointed not to do so. The meetings were, I thought, a great success and very profitable indeed.

The decision to resign at the Bureau of Mines came with electric swiftness. I had been trying to make up my mind about an offer from U. S. Steel to do coal and coke petrography for them at Pittsburgh at a very handsome salary indeed. Having made the decision to leave the Bureau for that job, Shell contacted me, completely by surprise. I went down to Houston for an interview and was signed up, all within a few days. The job is to continue basic research on paleoecological, taxonomic and other phases of palynology and is hence right down my alley. I presumed that the job with you, had it developed, would have been more on the applied side. Perhaps there was also an element of bird-in-the-hand reasoning involved. Hoping to see you one of these days, I am

Yours with best regards,

Alfred Traverse

August 26, 1955

Through Chief, Br. of Coal Tech.


Dr. William S. Hoffmeister
Research Department
The Garter Oil Company
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Dr. Hoffmeister:

Thanks for your letter and especially for the reprints.

I shall look forward to seeing you in East Lansing week after
next.

Very truly yours


Alfred Traverse, Head,
Fuels Microscopy Laboratory

cc ATraverse/dw
File



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES

REGION III

BUILDING 20
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
DENVER 2, COLORADO

1 June, 1955

Dr. William S. Hoffmeister
Research Department
The Carter Oil Company
1133 No. Lewis
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Dr. Hoffmeister:

It was interesting to hear from you this morning, and I am sorry that we were cut off before the conversation was quite finished. On the other hand, perhaps it is just as well that I amplify in writing what I said.

First, about the thesis. The full citation is, "The pollen and spores of the Brandon lignite, a coal in Vermont of Lower Tertiary age: Ph.D. thesis, Dept. of Biology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1951, 205 pp." If you write to Widener Library, Harvard, I believe they will loan it to you promptly. A revised and, I think, much improved version of the monograph is in the course of publication by the Bureau of Mines, in the Report of Investigations series.

Second, about the availability of a man for plant micropaleontology. Professor Barghoorn is well in touch with the status of graduate students in palynology around the country, and would be worth contacting. Robert McLaughlin, whom I mentioned to you as being at Tennessee, in the geology and botany departments, I believe is taking a fellowship at Harvard next year to complete his thesis under Barghoorn. Dr. William Spackman, Mineral Sciences Building, Pennsylvania State University, has several students working in Tertiary palynology, and you might write him. Unfortunately, the best of his men was recently drafted for military service. Professor Paul Sears at Yale has graduate students available from time to time, but their training is primarily in the Pleistocene, and the materials, techniques and aims are quite different from work with pre-Quaternary material. About L. R. Wilson's students you presumably are well informed.

Dr. William S. Hoffmeister

-2-

Thirdly, about my status. Your grapevine information was quite correct that I was not too satisfied in Grand Forks-- nor am I completely satisfied here. After all, I am a pollen and spore man by training and preference. I am employed by the Bureau of Mines as a coal petrographer, at best remotely related! I took this job originally in 1951, frankly because I did not find a palynological opening when I completed my Ph.D. work then. I had enough geology and paleontology to qualify for this job.

The Bureau, however, has treated me right. They recently promoted and transferred me here in an apparent effort to keep me happy, at considerable expense to the taxpayer. Hence, I would not feel quite right about deserting the ship without putting in, say, a year here, so that the Bureau would get something for its money. But if your offer is a now-or-never proposition, and if it is so attractive that I would be jeopardizing my future not to take it, I could perhaps make a case for resigning sooner.

I would be glad to hear more from you about this.

Sincerely yours,



THE CARTER OIL COMPANY

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
1133 NO. LEWIS

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

P. S. WILLIAMS
CHIEF OF RESEARCH

POST OFFICE BOX 801

August 18, 1955

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Head, Fuels Microscopy Laboratory
Building 20
Denver Federal Center
Denver 2, Colorado

Dear Dr. Traverse:

Many thanks for the copies of the papers by Dr. Kremp. Sometime ago, you requested some reprints of mine. I have delayed sending you these hoping that the prints of our last article "Mississippian Plant Spores from the Hardinsburg Formation" which came out in a recent issue of the Journal of Paleontology would arrive. I will forward you a copy of this paper when they get here. I am including a copy of "Additions and Corrections" to the "Geologic Range of Paleozoic Plant Spores in North America" which I hope will appear in an early issue of the "Micropaleontology."

Wilson and I have just completed a paper on the spores from the Croweburg coal of Oklahoma which we hope to publish as Bulletin 32 of the Oklahoma State Geological Survey when the necessary approval is obtained. I am enclosing an abstract of this article which I hope to present at the forthcoming G.S.A. Meeting in New Orleans.

With best personal regards,

Yours truly,

William S. Hoffmeister

WSH:gh
Encl.



THE CARTER OIL COMPANY

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
1133 NO. LEWIS

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

P. S. WILLIAMS
CHIEF OF RESEARCH

July 8, 1955

POST OFFICE BOX 801

PERSONAL

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Head, Fuels Microscopy Laboratory
Bldg. 20, Denver Federal Center
Denver 2, Colorado

Dear Dr. Traverse:

Thank you for your letter of June 1. The reason for not replying sooner was due to my absence from the laboratory because of jury duty, field trips, etc. I will write Harvard University requesting a loan of your Ph.D. thesis.

We are very much interested in your possible availability for future pollen work in our laboratory. I can readily understand how you must feel in regard to resigning your position at this time, especially after the Bureau has gone to the expense of transferring you to a better position. Any time you feel like discussing employment with us further, we will be glad to consider your application. I enclose two copies of our qualification record form, and am sending under separate cover a brochure describing the laboratory. If you are interested in permanent employment, we may ask you to visit the laboratory at our expense.

Sincerely yours,

W. S. Hoffmeister

William S. Hoffmeister

WSH:cd

Encls.

Carter

THE CARTER OIL COMPANY

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
1133 NO. LEWIS

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

December 7, 1954

P. S. WILLIAMS
CHIEF OF RESEARCH

RECEIVED
MAIL ROOM BOX 801

DEC 13 1954

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

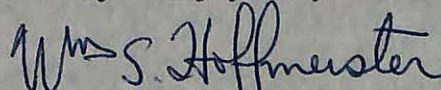
Dr. Alfred Traverse
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Mines, Region V
Box LL, University Station
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Dear Dr. Traverse:

I was sorry to hear that you will be unable to give a paper on fossil spores and pollen at the S.E.P.M. meeting in New York next spring. You requested information concerning the symposium. The symposium on microfossils will be held the morning of March 30. Seven papers are scheduled, which include an introductory talk, a paper on Mississippian spores, one on Pennsylvanian spores, another on Mesozoic spores and pollen, one on Tertiary spores and pollen, one on hystrichospherids and the last one on holothurians. It will deal mostly on how microfossils help in locating oil deposits and I believe it will be of general interest to the geologists in attendance.

I will send you at a later date a copy of the abstracts which I am sure will be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,



William S. Hoffmeister

WSH:ee

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

December 2, 1954

Dr. William S. Hoffmeister
Research Department
Carter Oil Company
1133 North Lewis
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Dr. Hoffmeister:

Your letter of November 17 posed something of a problem - hence my delay in answering it. When your letter came I had just discovered that I am soon to be transferred by the Bureau of Mines to Denver, Colorado. I would very much enjoy participating in the microfossil symposium in New York in March, but could not say whether I could do so until I find out more about the timing of the transfer of my laboratory to Denver. It now appears definite that the move will come some time in March, which I feel makes it impossible for me to prepare a paper for the symposium.

I would like to attend the symposium, if I get settled in Denver in time. Would it be possible for me to receive notification of the details about the meeting - I am not yet a member of AAPG.

Very truly yours,

AT

Alfred Traverse
Coal Technologist

ATraverse:vh

cc: Dr. E. S. Barghoorn

Region V
Lankford
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Traverse

Carter

THE CARTER OIL COMPANY

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
1133 NO. LEWIS

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

November 17, 1954

RECEIVED
NOV 22 1954
U. S. Bureau of Mines
Grand Forks, North Dakota

P. S. WILLIAMS
CHIEF OF RESEARCH

POST OFFICE BOX 801

Dr. Alfred F. Traverse
Lignite Research Laboratory
U. S. Bureau of Mines
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Dear Dr. Traverse:

There will be a symposium on spores, pollen and other small fossils at the SEPM meeting to be held in conjunction with the AAPG convention in New York City March 28-31, 1955. This symposium will be held during the morning of Wednesday, March 30. At the suggestion of Dr. Barghorn, who is co-chairman of the symposium, I am writing for a request of a paper from you dealing with Tertiary spores and pollen. I believe the interest would lie in a stratigraphic paper rather than one dealing with taxonomic problems. If you are willing to participate in the symposium, will you please submit a few titles so that we can choose the one which we feel will fit into the general pattern.

Very truly yours,

Wm S. Hoffmeister
William S. Hoffmeister

WSH:ee