



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation  
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)  
Web site: [www.huntbotanical.org](http://www.huntbotanical.org)

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized item.

#### *Usage guidelines*

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

#### *Statement on harmful and offensive content*

The Hunt Institute Archives contains hundreds of thousands of pages of historical content, writing and images, created by thousands of individuals connected to the botanical sciences. Due to the wide range of time and social context in which these materials were created, some of the collections contain material that reflect outdated, biased, offensive and possibly violent views, opinions and actions. The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation does not endorse the views expressed in these materials, which are inconsistent with our dedication to creating an inclusive, accessible and anti-discriminatory research environment. Archival records are historical documents, and the Hunt Institute keeps such records unaltered to maintain their integrity and to foster accountability for the actions and views of the collections' creators.

Many of the historical collections in the Hunt Institute Archives contain personal correspondence, notes, recollections and opinions, which may contain language, ideas or stereotypes that are offensive or harmful to others. These collections are maintained as records of the individuals involved and do not reflect the views or values of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation or those of Carnegie Mellon University.

#### *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  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
phone: 814-863-3419  
fax: 814-865-3191

(written) 19 December, 1989

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut, ETH-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Yours of 18 November and two enclosed reprints lie before me at a carrell in the St. Joseph, Michigan, public library. Betty is working on her thesis on the other side of the carrell. We are here to do things for my mother (having also been to Indianapolis about her mother). When the nurse's aide comes, I leave for a respite. Mother is having a bad day, and I think the end of her being in her own home is now imminent.

There is clearly not enough time to do justice to your letter and the reprints. I hope there will be later.

My statement, that gradualism/actualism works 99% of the time, meant that, in interpreting fossil sequences, gradualistic assumptions work fine except at crises. (Of course that means that gradualism doesn't work at the most critical times!) However, it should be noted that I write as a paleobotanist. The style of botanical evolution is clearly very different from that of animals. In my opinion, the incredible durability of plant lineages makes gradualism work for plants 99.9% of the time. Furthermore, the big crises for plants were apparently at different times from those for animals (e.g., mid-Permian, late Jurassic).

The rest of your letter, re your encounter at U. of Chicago, etc., was very interesting indeed. Regarding evolutionary concepts in relation to politics--they have of course played a role. I suspect I was already lecturing on that (began in 1966) before you were deeply into it. However, xenophobia is the root problem, and very ancient; politicians merely latched onto evolution as an up-to-date excuse. The Spaniards in the 16th century used other excuses for exterminating whole peoples (Caribs, for example).

Must return to Mother's place. All the best.  
Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

*Geologisches Institut*

Prof. K. J. Hsü

Durchwahl-Nr.: 01 / 256 3669

Sekretariat: 01 / 256 3680

Postadresse:

*Geologisches Institut*

ETH-Zentrum

CH-8092 Zürich

November 18, 1989

Dear Alfred:

Thank you for your letter of 7th November, and I am happy that we have calmed down for rational discussions on a seemingly emotional issue. Darwinism, as I indicated, is not science, but ideology, and this is the reason why people are so emotional about the issue.

I was sadly amused by the last paragraph of your letter. The new head of your biology department seems to be a stereotype of the geneticists who attended my lectures. If I should give a talk at Penn State on the subject of evolution, she would probably call a boycott. You tell her, Alfred, that evolution is history of life, and history needs historical documents and paleontology provides the historical documents. Even Darwin himself asked for that. I think the geneticists are engaged in mental masturbation. They experiment and theorize how could one best build a pyramid, but the pyramids of the Pharaohs were not built by modern methods; things did not necessarily happen as they could. I do not, of course, argue with such people. As Feyerabend wrote me, the small minds playing marbles could not understand that their game is very trivial indeed.

Going back to the first paragraph of your letter, when you wrote that Lyellian-Huttonian gradualism works 99% of the time, I don't know what is the meaning of 99% percent and how did you get that figure. I think we have progressed enough beyond the 19th century and Mandelbrot has discovered fractal geometry. Enclosed are two manuscripts of talks which I gave at the Lyell Hall of the Geological Society. I think the figure 1 of the Fermor Lecture illustrates the relevance and limitation of the Lyellian-Huttonian gradualism.

On natural selection, I would like to report to you one of my recent experiences. My friend, Dave Raup, has placed me in a most exposed position by inviting me not to give a talk, but to "lead a discussion" on the fossil record of natural selection in causing species extinctions. Instead of a small seminar with the graduate students in his class, the whole Department of Biology of the University Chicago showed up to take potshots at me. I could handle that crowd. Their comments and my reply (in italics) are:

(1) Natural selection could take place and could lead to origin of species on the basis of studies in genetics. *I did not debate, but pointed out that the opinion is not relevant to the theme of discussion.*

(2) Catastrophic extinction does not provide an adequate driving mechanism for evolution. *I did not debate, but pointed out that the opinion is not relevant to the theme of discussion.*

(3) There are species threatened to become extinct because of biotic interactions, such as the North American walnut. *I did not debate, but pointed out that the opinion is not relevant to the theme of discussion. Furthermore, I added that I never denied the fact that biotic interactions have become a very important factor after the appearance of Homo sapiens. The flux of energy in the modern world causing environmental crisis is comparable to that at the end of Cretaceous.*

(4) Mass extinctions do not change the trend of evolution. Organisms would have evolve into what we now see with or without the mass extinctions in the fossil record. *This is the opinion of some biologists or of some paleontologists, questioned by others. Furthermore, this is not the theme of discussion.*

(5) Environmental crisis may be instrumental in causing mass extinctions, but the background extinction which should be more than 90% of the record has been caused by natural selection in biotic interactions. *This is an opinion, not fossil record, on natural selection in causing species extinctions.*

The gist of the matter is that **no single item of the fossil record has been cited to support the postulate of natural selection through biotic interactions in causing species extinction.** The opinion is that biotic interactions must have taken place, but those interactions cannot be manifested by the fossil record. On the other hand, physical changes, thanks largely to the modern geochemical techniques, can be documented. If that is the case, then ideas on biotic interactions are idle speculations, not science which predicts.

Dave Raup was unusually silent during the discussions; he has to co-exist his biology colleagues on the campus. He told me later, however, as he accompanied to the taxi, that what has been said should be said, and, further, "natural selection" is an article of faith for biologists, just like the belief that Jesus is Christ is an article of faith for Christians. In other words, the Darwinism is not a scientific theory, but a religion. Thoughtful as you are on religious matters, perhaps you may analyse again what is the historical record for this view on the history of life.

Concerning my harsh remarks on Darwinism, it was not directed at Charles Darwin personally, but at the 19th century occidental society. Darwin was indeed one of 19th century gentlemen, who were at heart racists. A Chilean friend who is an avid reader of Darwiniana told me recently of his thoughts on Darwin's racism: Just because he took an anti-slavery stand does not free him from the accusation of being a racist. We Chinese, of course, are perhaps even worst racists than English gentlemen, and this is the reason why I was very much amused by Pusey's book. I have also agreed with you that there are genetic difference, statistically measured by groups. I think the statement that all men are created equal is meaningless, as all political propagandas are. The crux of the matter is that some are more advantageously endowed, other are less, in different aspects. The whole essence of love is that we tend to love more those who are less naturally endowed, because they need love more. This is the way I felt at the time when Martin did poorly, while Elisabeth and Andreas were shining lights, in school.

It is not Darwin's racism that I am fighting against, it is the implication that the less favored should be exterminated, the extension of the Malthusian ideology against the enactment of the Poor Law. Unfortunately, Darwinism has given aid and comfort to various modern ideologies who identify our neighbours, or our nearest relatives as our mortal enemies, because they share Darwin's belief that extinctions are exterminations effected by nearest relatives. I read the *Origin* again recently, and noted at least 12 times when the word extermination was used as a synonym for extinction, and 3 times the nearest relatives were explicitly stated as the potential exterminators. Adolf Hitler did not invent the Final Solution, he learned from

Darwin via Ernst Haeckle. Look at the way we spend money on defence: The kings in the Middle Ages did not use tax money for war; Charles the Fifth had to borrow from the merchants of Nuremburg. Their money for defence was used in building cathedrals, because of the fear of the Supernatural. The rise of the National States adopted Darwinism for their own purposes, like the Dynasties of China adopted Confucianism. How else could American people tolerate the military spending of 304 billion dollars a year, and the making of weapons capable of killing billions of people, if they have not been hoodwinked into such an evil ideology that our existence depends upon the extermination of an enemy. I gave talks recently on the theme, that our mortal enemy is not "the other group," but, as we discussed at Interlaken, the wanton habitat destruction which sooner rather than later would do away with all of us, as well as many other species now living. Peter laughs at the ineffectual way of my pacificism, but it is my modest service to God. I believe all too sincerely in St. Paul that life is service to God and death a reward.

This has turned out to be a longer letter than I intended, but I hope you could read my message with sympathy. If I have not written dispassionately, I have at least meant well.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Ker H/S

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

7 November, 1989

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Thanks for yours of 18 October and the reprint (yes, there was an earlier one--it was in the same briefcase of correspondence!). I am reading your letter on a plane between DC and Chicago. Now that you seem to be calm enough to discuss the matter, I will repeat what I've said before--you are quite right in your analysis of the weakness of Darwin's analysis of evolution vis á vis the particulars of natural selection and his complete rejection of catastrophism. But it's a very complex matter, and just as Lyellian-Huttonian gradualism works 99% of the time, so natural selection does clearly work 99% of the time. The problem is that the style of evolution of Galapagos finches doesn't explain the origin of birds from thecodonts very well at all. That natural selection is right most of the time you have overlooked. Perhaps you should read more Steve Gould--though a catastrophist, he understands this matter.

Secondly, while Darwin's analysis of the mechanisms was (partially) wrong, his contiribution in making sense of what had made no sense before, and getting the idea accepted, was a great stroke of genius. The rejection of a less-than-10,000 year-old world, for example, was greatly helped by the insight that the changes Darwin observed in such elegant detail had to be projected millions of years into the past. (One personal problem, I admit, is that I am a botanist, and plants have, in fact, been far more gradualistic than animals!--see my paper "Plant evolution dances to a different beat", Hist. Biol. 1, 1988, 277-301, which, according to my records, I sent you earlier.)

The other problem I have with your writings on this subject is that your analysis of the evils of social darwinism, in my opinion, deals too harshly with Mr. Darwin personally. As I read his correspondence, I see very little evidence that he was more narrow-minded than such a radical liberal contemporary as Lincoln, who though a noted friend of Afro-Americans, opposed "miscegenation." Again, it's a complicated matter. Clearly, genetics of humans is important (mapping the genome is the new Manhattan Project), and there was some truth to the eugenicists'

claim that breeding future generations from defective parents is likely to cause problems for H. sapiens. But in the hands of insane people the notion of finding ways to encourage capable people to propagate (they can offer better environments too) went off into sterilization programs and the like, and of course, to all the horrors of the NSDAP. But blaming good ol' Chuck for Himmler is absurd--about like blaming Einstein for Hiroshima.

I'm glad to see you're reading Popper and Feyerabend. Doubtless you've noted that the latter thinks we can't really know anything! Popper would have to admit that evolution as a fact, regardless of its mechanisms, could be falsified by fossils. That is why creationist nuts are always claiming evidence for Devonian or Cretaceous humans: a doctor in Lock Haven, PA, has a personal museum of "human remains" from the Catskill. (I recently realized that the picturing of humans with dinosaurs is, for creationists, an article of faith, not a silly mistake.)

In summary, the "one mistake" of Professor Hstü is throwing out the baby with the dirty bath water. One of these days I'll try to read the Pusey book--you had mentioned it before, but not so fully.

This sort of discussion is very stimulating. It takes the place this semester of the fun I had for 23 years giving philosophy of evolution lectures in the local evolution course. (I also did plant evolution.) The new head of biology here is a human geneticist who fired me from the course, along with the other paleontologist and the plant systematist, to replace us with three molecular types. I demanded a hearing, and she told me that an evolution course needs no paleontology or fossils--it can be done much better with DNA-sequencing.

All the best, old friend.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

Geologisches Institut

Prof. K. J. Hsü

Durchwahl-Nr.: 01 / 256 3669

Sekretariat: 01 / 256 3680

Postadresse:

Geologisches Institut

ETH-Zentrum

CH-8092 Zürich

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

Zürich, October 18th 1989

Dear Alfred :

It was great receiving your letter.

The book on Darwinism and China was written by Pusey, perhaps a relative of the former president of Harvard.† It is published by the Harvard University Press, and your library should have a copy. You could perhaps understand my psyche, and also my reaction against Darwinism better after you have had a chance to read a few lines from that opus. It is, by the way, very humorously written, especially the way he lampooned the Chinese racism.

Darwin, of course, did not invent evil. He only claimed to have found the scientific basis for evil. (He did that a century before "Scientific Creationists") The way Chinese Darwinists dealt with the matter of original sin is very funny. You have to read Pusey.

Did I send you the enclosed reprint ? If I have, please give it to another person. The manuscript was, by the way, rejected by the National Academy of Sciences, on the ground that the manuscript does not contain results of original research; that was the only excuse they could use, in order not to publish a manuscript submitted by a member or by a foreign associate. I would appreciate if you could point out to me where is the weak link in my logic. Or are biologists - the editor of the NAS proceedings is one - simply dogmatists ?

Your friend

Ken Hsü

† Hsü son!

PS : The June 4 massacre has made me realize once again how easily deluded I could be by politicians. Communism is bankrupt, be it international communism or national communsim. Lincoln was right, you cannot fool all the people all the time.

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

3 October, 1989

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

How nice to hear from you! Seeing you and Christine again, in April and May, was a high point of the year, and our lives. We won't miss good chances to see you--aber Ihr seid an der Reihe! Ihr seid auch hier immer herzlich willkommen!

Your words about palynomorphs and sedimentation were right down my alley (I'm doing a book on that for Cambridge Univ. Press)--but you don't say what and with whom you're disputing.

One day I should see the darwinism-in-China book. Christian theology has a lot about evil and teaches that it is part-and-parcel of the human character. Christianity is very pessimistic about H. sapiens, unless he is redeemed (mystically), considering our species to be under the cloud of "original sin". This is very broad and has to do with Adam and Eve only as a sort of caricature. Thus, to Christian theology, evil was considered natural law long (3,000 yrs.?) before Darwin.

I'm attending no scientific meetings until 1990--I have to travel too much on family business. Interlaken and the APP in Krefeld were it for 1989.

Best to you all!

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

Geologisches Institut

Prof. K. J. Hsü

Durchwahl-Nr.: 01 / 256 3669

Sekretariat: 01 / 256 3680

Postadresse:

Geologisches Institut

ETH-Zentrum

CH-8092 Zürich

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

Zürich, September 18th 1989

Dear Al :

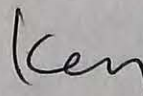
Digby told me that you were a little disappointed that you were not invited to give a talk at the Festschrift Symposium last week. I too was disappointed, because I am (via the work of Catherine Sidler) getting myself involved in controversy with Swiss palynologists. A talk by you on transported pollen would have been a most appropriate contribution. Unfortunately, the organizers did not think of that; I could assure you that it was not a consequence of our debate on Darwinism.

Kerry Kelts gave me a book on Charles Darwin and China, written by Pusey, son of the former President of Harvard. The monograph recounts the history of Darwinism in China, and I was happy to discover the basis of my understanding of Darwinism. Christine pointed out to me, like others, that evil existed long before Darwin. Of course, we all know that. Only, evil was considered natural law after Charles Darwin, whether he is to blame or not.

I don't intend to start a new round of arguments. At any rate, it was fun seeing you and Betty again. Hope you come and visit us soon.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Ken Hsü

PS : I shall be in GSA, St. Louis, Would you be there ?

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

Prof. Dr. K.J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich

Dr. A. Traverse  
Penn. State University

1 September, 1989

Prof. Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Savich, March 29, 1989

Dear Ken:

Dear Dr. Traverse,

Here's the final version of my Interlaken paper. It was reviewed by W. G. Chaloner of U.K. I accepted all of his suggested changes. I suppose one copy is enough, to save on airmail postage. There seem to be good xerox machines in Switzerland.

Digby told me yesterday a.m. that he's on his way to some sort of big deal for you. Whatever it is, I wish you all the best at it and always.

Regards to Christine. Thursday, April 27th. Your talk is scheduled for 45 minutes.

Yours very truly,

I hope this is sufficient information for the time being. The final circular will be sent out later this week.

Alfred Traverse

Yours sincerely,

*Ulrich Marten-Müller*

AT/et  
encl: MS

Ulrich Marten-Müller

Prof. Dr. K.J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut,  
Durchwahl-Nr.: 01 / 256 3669  
Sekretariat: 01 / 256 3680  
Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

Dr. A. Traverse  
Penn. State University

Zürich, March 29, 1989

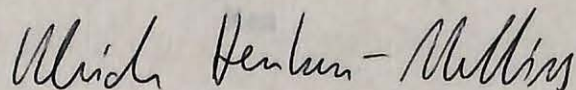
Dear Dr. Traverse,

thank you for sending us the revised version of your position paper.

Referring to your questions about the talk in Bern: The meeting will take place at the University of Bern on the afternoon of Thursday, April 27th. Your talk is scheduled for 45 minutes.

I hope this is sufficient information for the time being. The final circular will be sent out later this week.

Yours sincerely,



Ulrich Henken-Mellies

**ETH** Eidgenössische  
Technische Hochschule  
Zürich

Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Zurich  
Politecnico federale di Zurigo  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

*Geologisches Institut*

*Prof. K. J. Hsü*

*Durchwahl-Nr.: 01 / 256 3669*

*Sekretariat: 01 / 256 3680*

*Postadresse:*

*Geologisches Institut*

*ETH-Zentrum*

*CH-8092 Zürich*

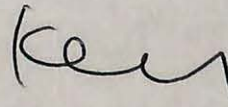
Dr. Alfred Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State  
University  
Department of Geosciences  
Palynological Labs.  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
U.S.A.

Zürich, March 6th 1989

Dear Al:

You have been invited to speak at Berne University on Thursday, April 27th,  
afternoon, for about 45 minutes.

Greetings



Ken

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

DEIKE BUILDING

UNIVERSITY PARK, PENNSYLVANIA 16802

College of Earth and Mineral Sciences

Department of Geosciences

Palynological Laboratories

Area Code 814

863-3419

Ca. 10-111-59

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
E.T.H. -Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH 8092 Zürich  
Switzerland

Dear Ken:

As you can see from the mistakes, I am typing this myself.

Enclosed is the revised version of the position-paper. I am still not at all happy with it, but it is a better document than it was before and does, I think, contain some original ideas.

ANOTHER URGENT PROBLEM: please send off an airmail postcard answering the question raised in mine of 24 February toward the end: where and when does the meeting sponsored by the Swiss Academy occur? How long do I have to speak? I need to know these matters for various reasons, partly obvious...planning the talk reasons. But also significant is that I am planning some side-trips between the end of the obligations in Switzerland and the German paleobotanical meetings, and the timing will affect that.

Best wishes.

As ever,

enclosures

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

24 February, 1989

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Help! Yours of 26 January with various enclosures has popped up here--I apparently let it get "buried" just before I left for Michigan. It provides much more info. Please ignore therefore the inappropriate parts of the other letter (but do answer the questions about duration and location of my post-conference lecture!). I will get you a second draft of the position paper before the mid-March deadline.

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

6-11-89

Dr. Matter  
Sedimentologist  
at ETH  
Lausanne

re Bern Talk

says nobody in Zurich  
knew title of my talk or  
whether I had accepted.

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802

(814)863-3419 or (814)865-6711

24 February, 1989

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Thanks for your cordial letter of 3 February. It took a while to get here and then arrived during my absence. (I was in Michigan tending to various of my Mother's affairs.)

You don't say anything about the question I raised earlier (my letter to you of 24 January) re a second version of my position paper. I don't know what your silence means--maybe to forget it and spend the time I would have devoted to a second draft thinking about the basic matters involved--that's what I am doing, in the absence of counter-instructions.

How could I turn you down? I will do my best to be entertaining and stimulating in addressing the audience that meets under auspices of the Swiss Academy of Science.

The title of the talk will be:

Vegetable tenacity and the stubborn independence of "das grüne Reich"

Now, old friend, as soon as you get this, pop a postcard in the mail! HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO SPEAK? WHEN AND WHERE DO I SPEAK?

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

Geologisches Institut, Prof. Dr. Kenneth J. Hsü

Durchwahl-Nr.: 01 / 256 3669

Sekretariat: 01 / 256 3680

Postadresse:

Geologisches Institut

ETH-Zentrum

CH-8092 Zürich

February 3, 1989

Dear Alfred:

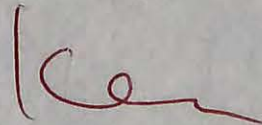
I am glad to learn that you have accepted the invitation to come to Interlaken for the Workshop on Past global Change. As you have learned from the Second Circular, the Thursday afternoon and evening will be scheduled as the time for the working group chairman and report of each group to write their reports. The Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences will invite the others to a symposium on Past Global Change to be opened to the scientific community of Switzerland.

I am writing to invite you to give one of the four talks at the symposium. Many of us in Switzerland are interested in your work on the patterns of plant evolution. If you could speak on that, I would be much obliged. You are, of course, free to deliver a talk on any subject which you would like to speak on.

Could you tell me if you could accept the invitation, and, if so, could you send the title of your talk to me before March 10.

I am looking forward to hearing from you. With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Ken Hsü

c.c. Prof. Dr. A. Matter, Bern

Geologisches Institut, Prof. Dr. Kenneth J. Hsü

Durchwahl-Nr.: 01 / 256 3669

Sekretariat: 01 / 256 3680

Postadresse:

Geologisches Institut

ETH-Zentrum

CH-8092 Zürich

January 26, 1989

Prof. A. Traverse  
Pennsylvania State University  
U.S.A.

Dear Al:

I read your position paper with interest. I think it is good. What I shall suggest are only to focus more on the theme of the workshop. I am writing you, with a copy to all working group organizers so that the others may also have some additional insight in what we hope to do.

The workshop was originally set up to produce a publishable report, such as the Dahlem reports, giving a review of our present state of knowledge on an interdisciplinary problem. For this reason, the organizers of the working group are given a free hand to choose the scientific leaders without consideration of their sex, or race, or national origin. This is unusual for an IUGS working group, and this results in an overwhelming predominance of the male WASP in the make up of the workshop. Ironically, this is the true spirit of the "affirmative action".

The theme is "Past Global Changes". On your subject, you have brought out several important issues. I like your statement:

*It is the destruction of hundreds of thousands of square miles of forest--green biomass -- in Brazil that really threatens to upset the balance of the biosphere vis a vis the carbon, oxygen and water cycles, among other matters.*

I hope the workshop can follow up with your warning. How does it threaten? Do we have an example from the geological past? Could it happen fast enough to make a difference for the next decades or centuries? What are the "other matters"? What are the kinds of symbioses among the various organisms in tropical forests? What consequences would that be to the mankind when many of those symbiotic species should become extinct? Do we have any lessons from the geologic past? Those are the types of questions which are, as originally intended by us organizers, to be discussed during the workshop.

I know the past record involves very slow rate. It may have taken 10 million years to destroy the tropical forests between Africa and Southeast Asia. But we *Homo sapiens* may be doing in decades or centuries what Nature did in millions of years. Could you paleobotanists

tell us what were some of the global consequences of the large-scale destruction of forests, by Antarctic glaciation? by paleogeographic changes? by transgression?

If you could revise your position paper and add some more comments along those lines, it would be fine. Otherwise, your position paper would be sent away in the middle of March as it is. **They will be read by all delegates, who will send their written questions and comments to me to be distributed to all delegates at the beginning of the Workshop.** Eventually revised position papers will be published in a book, which will be the proceedings of the Interlaken Workshop.

**Now I hope you all appreciate that you will not be giving a talk at Interlaken.** We shall have an overhead projector and a blackboard (or writing board) for discussions. **There will be no talks.** The chairmen of the working groups will meet before Interlaken on the eve of the conference to discuss the tactic of discussions. There will be some major themes of relevance, to be singled out from the contributions of position papers. The chairmen will keep the discussions under control and will have to have the courage to shut up those who forget. (We all do forget). In my experience of past Dahlem conferences, no person has the need to speak more than a few minute on any particular subject at one time. A speaker might come back to correct misunderstanding, to engage in debate, etc. But, I emphasize, that **we are not holding a symposium meeting to give scientific lectures, not even so much to discuss the theoretical aspects of science, but to discuss the relevance of science to the global changes which may be taking place in the next decades or centuries.** We shall see what could we, the community of natural scientists, could do to influence others toward the aim of slowing down or even preventing the undesirable changes.

This brings me to the second purpose of the workshop. We realize that the problem cannot be resolved by one Interlaken workshop, and not by more workshops. But we do not intend to have a second Interlaken workshops, or a meeting of the elite, in near future. At an IUGS meeting last week, I met with the Bureau and gave my recommendation that the work in future should be done by working groups of 10-20 scientists on specific themes, with adequate representation from countries where "serious" global changes are taking place. If we want to discuss the destruction of tropical forests, past or present, we should not only have the scientific leaders from North America and Western Europe, but also scientists from South America, from Southeast Asia, and from Africa, etc. Those working groups could exchange ideas, samples, information, hold field workshops, coordinate international cooperative investigations, etc., and etc. Aside from the scientific output, I expect to see a final report oriented to the general public, which will be brought to the attention, not only of the scientific community, but also of international political

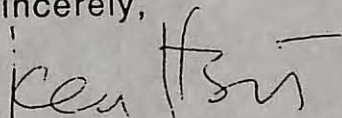
organizations, so that the results could influence political decisions, etc.

In order to finance 10 or 15 such working groups per year, we need organization and financial support to the extent that it is unlikely to be done by IUGS or by IUQUA, singly or cooperatively. We need an organization similar to the IGCP of IUGS/UNESCO. I have, therefore, suggested to the IUGS Bureau to initiate discussions with the UNESCO to implement a joint program, which might be called *Global Changes, Past and Present*, or *Global Change and Geosciences Development*. The President of IUGS is bringing up this matter to be discussed by Executive Committee of IUGS, which meet in Paris now. If approved, some actions will be taken in the months before Interlaken. Even if we are not going to have an IUGS/UNESCO program, the IUGS may decide to go on its own and to initiate a few key projects with funding support by IUGS.

With this plan of action in mind, we would like to see that Interlaken provides the opportunity for us to identify the most urgent projects, involving the maximum "grass-root" participation, to be initiated, and the dynamic scientists who may be leaders of the potential projects to be funded by IUGS/UNESCO or by IUGS alone. We expect this could be done not only during the formal discussions sessions, but also during evening cocktail hours, etc.

I hope I have given you enough information to prepare for this venture. With best regards to you and Betty both.

Sincerely,



Ken Hsü

c.c. Digby McLaren  
Nick Shackleton  
Nat Rutter  
Ian Thornton

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

24 January, 1989

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

I hope this gets to you before you reply to my last one! In the meantime, copies of things you wrote that Digby had sent a while ago finally arrived here and answered practically all of my questions, e.g., that I will not actually orally deliver my "position paper." Therefore, perhaps "handouts" are in order, rather than slides. Also, I see now that some different angles would be better for my contribution. That raises an important new question: what is the deadline for a second, final version of my paper?

I have misspent hours looking into NSF funding for the trip--"no dice." I am therefore hoping that at least a few \$ will come from IUGS. Penn State will probably, if all else fails, give me at least a few hundred toward the air ticket itself.

This semester Betty is teaching beginning German at Penn State, having taken courses every year since we last saw you. She therefore will not be able to join me in Switzerland until after the semester ends, that is, about 9 May. Between the end of the Interlaken meeting and then I suppose I should do something useful, such as visit one or two of my German colleagues (e.g., Schweitzer in Bonn).

It will be good to see you again, and Betty and I are both looking forward to seeing Christine too, in Zürich. We have an offer of lodging from one of my former Christuskirche parishioners, just around the corner from you ("in der Hub"). All of this presumes you won't be in Antarctica, Tibet, etc.

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

17 January, 1989

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

When Digby McLaren invited me last fall to take part in the Interlaken conference, he indicated that a "draft" of what I proposed to deal with should be sent to you "by the end of the year." Inasmuch as the various paperwork was not finalized until the end of October, I phoned Digby at that time and was informed that "sometime in January" would be acceptable. So, here we are.

I got some relief from teaching, as of 5 January, to prepare for the conference. That hasn't helped much yet--but will. I submit herewith what I have been able to dash off so far, with due apologies. Between now and mid-April I expect to fill in more ideas, more references, adequate illustrations, etc. I have had as yet very little input about the shape of this task. Could you let me know, for example, how long a presenter of a position-paper has to do so, and something about the structure of such a session? Would help in terms of preparation of visuals, for example. I really have almost no information about practical matters of that sort!

Best as always.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et  
encl: "draft"  
cc: D. J. McLaren

Geologisches Institut  
Prof.. Kenneth J. Hsü  
Durchwahl-Nr.: 01 / 256 3669  
Sekretariat: 01 / 256 3680  
Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

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

Zürich, November 3, 1988

Dear Al :

Digby McLaren told me that you will come to Interlaken next April. I am most pleased. He also indicated that you thought I was still angry with you. This is not so. I regret very much that I was rude, but my friendship to you and Betty should not be in any way affected by our disagreement on our judgment of Darwinism.

I cannot remember if I ever sent you a copy of the book The Great Dying. Anyway, I am sending you a paperback so that you will have a chance to read it if you have not already received a hard bound copy. I do hope that you will read the book and be specific in your critique.

With very best wishes to you and Betty.

Your friend,



Ken Hsü

End.

Geologisches Institut, Prof. Dr. Kenneth J. Hsü

Durchwahl-Nr.: 01 / 256 3669

Sekretariat: 01 / 256 3680

Postadresse:

Geologisches Institut

ETH-Zentrum

CH-8092 Zürich

President U. G. Cordani  
I.U.G.S.  
Sao Paulo, Brazil

13 September, 1988

Dear Prof. Cordani:

Thank you for your letter of September 6. Meanwhile, you should have received the various correspondence and reports which I sent you, including the draft copy of a written contribution to the ICSU's Stockholm meeting. I am pleased to note that I have been thinking along the same lines as the Bureau. Now that I have received your explicit instructions, I shall do my best to implement the policies of the I.U.G.S.

Concerning your three points, I shall comment as follows:

(1) I shall act according to your instruction that our Global Change Program should be developed in accordance with the IUGS interests, which may or may not be in complete agreement with the ICSU's aims. I shall inform the ICSU's IGBP Scientific Advisory Council of our ideas and our program during the Stockholm meeting in October. Thomas Rosswall indicated an interest for close coordination between our effort and ICSU's effort. This is desirable, but we shall certainly see to it that we shall maintain our independence of action, and shall not compromise our aims and objectives. To express more precisely, the IUGS effort could be viewed as an affiliated program of ICSU's, but not as a subsidiary, or a working group of ICSU's IGBP.

(2) Our program is and shall continue to be inclusive of the past and present geologic events that provide clues and guidelines for predicting Global Change in the future. The Task Group have always understood the instructions of the Bureau that the IUGS effort should incorporate studies of natural hazard and resource depletion factors and ongoing geologic processes that affect the environment, as well as the geologic record of past changes and events.

(3) The proposed workshop at Interlaken is only a first step in getting the IUGS effort off the ground, and we have certainly kept a broad view consistent with the aims of IUGS. Of the four working groups established by the Task Group for the Interlaken workshop, the first two are aimed at documenting the record of past changes, whereas the last two are oriented toward the other objectives as you are defining. There is, however, an uncertainty in our mind, if the theme on natural hazards should be handled by the Commission on Lithosphere, or be a task of the proposed Commission on Global Change. This point should be clarified by the leaders of IUGS.

I am pleased that you are proposing a meeting in Paris in conjunction with the IUGS Advisory Board for Research Development to better define the scope and objectives of our intended program. I would like to request, however, that you hold the meeting in early February rather than late January. I am joining the pre-congress trip to the Antarctic (IGC Field Trip T 180) and shall return to Port Arenas on January 29 and Buenos Aires on January 31, 1989.

I could be at the meeting only after February 1. The first week of February would thus be the best compromise.

Nat/

As I indicated in my last letter, the IUGS may consider if a Commission for Global Change (CGC) is to be constituted. If so, would that be an Interunion Commission, with a structure similar to that of the Geodynamics, or a cooperative program with UNESCO like the IGCP. If it is going to be an inter-union effort, representatives from which other unions should be invited to Paris? Ned Rutter from INQUA, for sure. We may consider contacting people from International Geographical Union. We would certainly like to have people from IUGG if natural hazard is to be an integral part of the program of the future CGC. We might have representatives from SCOR in the person of the Chairman of the Commission on Marine Geology, who is an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee of SCOR. (By the way, I shall step down from my chairmanship of CMG, after having served two terms. I shall be nominating Prof. Nick McCave of the Cambridge University as the next chairman of CMG; the nominations of the new chairman, new secretary, and several new members of CMG will be communicated to the Executive Committee by the secretary of CMG before the end of this year). From the UNESCO, we should invite Gunnar Kullenberg of the Intergovernmental Oceanographical Commission, Dale Krause of the Division on Marine Sciences, as well as the Executive Secretary of IGCP.

Nat/

For the Paris meeting, I would recommend that the members of the Task Group, and the leaders of the working groups of the Interlaken workshop be invited, in addition to the representatives of other unions or affiliated bodies. Those include Ray Price, Nick Shackleton, Robert Ginsburg, Ned Rutter (also as representative of INQUA), Ian Thornton, Digby McLaren, Paul Telecki, and perhaps several others as the members of our task group would recommend. I do agree with you that such a meeting is necessary so that the workshop could focus more specifically toward IUGS objectives.

Concerning the Stockholm meeting, I shall certainly inform the ICSU group according to your instructions. From my conversations with Thomas Rosswall, I have the impression that he envisions a program for the ICSU somewhat different from what we ourselves are planning. He has indicated, for example, his support of our effort to document the past Global Changes (WG 1 and 2 of Interlaken workshop), and is considering the assimilation of our effort in his WG on the techniques of extracting past environmental data. I believe I am voicing the sentiments of the IUGS bureau, when I told him that WG 3 and 4 are indispensable parts of our program, even if ICSU want to focus their objectives to climate changes only. I also mention that there is a distinction in our strategies of implementation: Whereas the ICSU pursues an ambitious plan to coordinate multi-million dollar international, interdisciplinary research projects, the IUGS is more focused on the synthesis of existing knowledge, and on bringing experts together to exchange ideas and make recommendations to appropriate authorities. Please inform me if I should amend or modify my statements to be delivered at the Stockholm meeting as I outlined in my draft report, a copy of which was sent to you last week.

You will hear from me again after Stockholm. Meanwhile, please confirm that an organization meeting on the IUGS Global Change Program will be held at Paris in early February of 1989. I expect that the IUGS Bureau and the members of IUGS Scientific Advisory Board will be there. Please keep in contact with me on the list of invited participants to the meeting. Since I shall leave for the Antarctica on December 27, I hope the planning for the Paris meeting will be completed before Christmas.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Hsü  
Chairman,  
IUGS Task Group on Global Changes

c.c. Sinding Larsen, Reinemund, Lafferty  
Price, Ginsburg, Rutter, Thornton  
Telecki, Shackleton, McLaren



President  
Prof. Dr. U.G. Cordani  
Instituto de Geociências  
Universidade de São Paulo  
Cx. Postal 20899  
01498 São Paulo, Brazil  
Tel: (11) 211-2847  
Telex: (11) 36950-USPO-BR  
Telefax: (11) 815-4272 (USP)

Secretary General  
Prof. R. Sinding-Larsen  
Geological Survey of Norway  
Leiv Eirikssons vei 39  
P.O.Box 3006 Lade  
N-7002 Trondheim, Norway  
Tel: (7) 921500/594737  
Telex: 55417 NGU N  
Telefax: (7) 921620

Treasurer  
Dr. J.A. Reinemund  
P.O.Box 890  
Leesburg, Va. 22075  
U.S.A.  
Tel: (703) 777-1491  
Alt. tel: (703) 648-6067  
Telex: 248418 GEOINT UR  
Telefax: (703) 648-4227

# International Union of Geological Sciences

September 6, 1988

Prof. Kenneth Hsu  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zurich  
Switzerland

Dear Prof. Hsu:

Thank you for your letters of July 8 and 18, 1988, concerning the **ICSU Global Change Program and plans for the IUGS Task Force on Global Change**. We appreciate your continuing efforts to explore and define the potential relationship between IUGS and the ICSU Program.

We discussed your letters during our IUGS Bureau meeting in Washington on September 3 and 4, and reached the following conclusions with regard to your recommendations and plans:

1. We agree that we should not try to pressure ICSU into modifying their goals or plans. It is, and has been, our intent to develop our own Global Change Program, for which the goals, scope, and plans will be consistent with our IUGS interests and views but not necessarily in accord with their views. We should inform ICSU about our ideas and program, but leave it to them to decide whether they want to incorporate, coordinate, or otherwise inter-relate their program with ours.

2. Our program should be inclusive of the past and present geologic events and processes that provide clues and guidelines for predicting Global Change in the future. It should certainly incorporate studies of natural hazard and resource depletion factors and ongoing geologic processes that affect the environment, as well as the geologic record of past changes and events.

Past Presidents  
Prof. Dr. E. Seibold (F.R.G.)  
(Acting President 1987-88)  
Dr. W.W. Hutchison (Canada)  
(1984-87)

Vice Presidents  
Acad. V.L. Barsukov (U.S.S.R.)  
Dr. M. Bensaid (Morocco)

Dr. G. Kautsky (Sweden)  
Prof. Z. Kielan-Jaworowska  
(Poland)

Prof. C.A. Kogbe (Nigeria)  
Dr. S.K. Mukerjee (India)  
Dr. Zhang Bingxi (China)

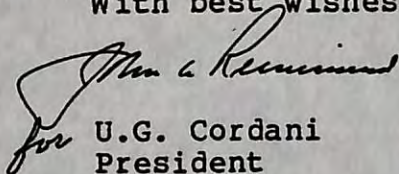
3. It follows from the paragraph above that we should not limit ourselves to past global change in the proposed workshop at Interlaken or in the proposed IUGS Global Change Commission. We want to include present geologic processes as well as past geologic events in our program.

To make certain that we agree on the scope of our intended program and the goals of the proposed workshop we believe that we should have a meeting in Paris in conjunction with our Advisory Board for Research Development, in late January to review and agree on our objectives before we complete the plans for the workshop. We would want to meet with you, the INQUA representative and two or three others from within the IUGS family to discuss and agree on the scope and objectives of the workshop and the general frame of reference for the IUGS program.

In the meantime, and with these ideas in mind, we would appreciate your recommendations as to those we should include in our meeting in Paris and a tentative listing of those who should be invited to the workshop in Interlaken. We feel that the Paris meeting would help focus the workshop more specifically toward IUGS objectives.

As for your participation in the meeting in Stockholm, we would like to have you inform the meeting concerning our plans for an IUGS Global Change program so they will be aware of what we intend to do, but the extent to which there is coordination between our program and the ICSU program should be left for ICSU to decide. We would also, of course, want you to inform us about the plans for the ICSU program after the meeting.

With best wishes,

  
for U.G. Cordani  
President

cc: Sinding Larsen  
Reinemund  
Lafferty

Geologisches Institut

November 5, 1987  
KH/bd

1020

Sonneggstrasse 5

Durchwahlnummer 01/256  
Telefonzentrale 01/256 22 11

Postadresse:

Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

Dr. Alfred Traverse  
Deike Building  
Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, PA, 16802  
U. S. A.

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of the 25th. I thought I should answer you so as not to insult you by remaining unresponsive.

1) I was surprised that you wrote: "I'm 100% out of it". Was "it" religious membership? While I am very irritated by church bosses like the Polish pope, I really am not against religions, as long as they preach love and believe in their preach.

<sup>what</sup> 2) To accuse that the Chinese are imperialistic in Tibet is an expression of ignorance of history, or an inability to analyse a complicated problem. You have only been fed by propaganda from the Dalai Lama ~~Group~~ <sup>clique</sup>, who are not much different from the white Russians who fled Petersburg. I did not answer your accusation because the answer lies in a manuscript which may be published one day.

3) Let us leave the issue of racism in peace. I would not pretend that I am not bigoted, but I am not a hypocrite. (By the way, I am not accusing you of being a hypocrite.)

4) No, Al, I do not write you off. I only ask that we do not discuss the issue of Darwinism in correspondence, because it does not help our friendship. We may talk about it one day when we can have a "give and take" in conversation, but not in writing. Concerning your wish that we jointly explore an ethic, I would be happy to hear from you. I myself am more and more inclined to taoism and its philosophy of wu-weh (no-do). Unfortunately, I have been too much immersed in the western culture to remember my own heritage.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Ken

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

2 October, 1987

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Am reminded of you at the moment because I recently reviewed a MS for Academic Press. In lieu of an honorarium I selected a copy of Mountain Building Processes, ed. by one KJH. I am sitting at the breakfast table where I've misspent an hour ~~over~~ trying to understand it. The trouble with such books (practically all of them) is that, written by a panel: 1) there is no thread or theme to the book and 2) each article is too technical. I'm going to go back through it for things I could use in historical geology, but there is damned little that wouldn't "snow 'em". However, your own article was a good up-date on geosynclines. A few of the illustrations could be made into useful slides.

I also have your letter of 27 March on the pile. It would have been answered long ago, except that we've been really out-of-pocket. We spent most of the summer away (West and East Germany, Belgium, France, Calgary, Indiana, Michigan, Greece--a marvellous botanical-archeological excursion.)

It doesn't surprise me that you are not at your best in the biological realm (a matter that Bob Ginsburg and I discussed over beer in Calgary)--as far as I can recall you were even more innocent about plants, animals, fungi, protists and monerans than I was about rocks (which still, per se, bore me). Your characterizations of Charles Darwin are overblown. He made a great and lasting contribution by calling attention to the fact that organic things as a whole make sense, that they are not unrelated independent creations. For that contribution he belongs in the Pantheon where he is (Westminster Abbey!). In his personal life he was unremarkable for a rich man of his times. He never had a job. He very seldom left Downs. He had no direct political influence. That his ideas were important to Marx, Nietzsche, and many others who used them in their own ways, one can hardly, logically, blame on Darwin.

Your worship of "the good old religion days" before the industrial revolution is funny. Have you never heard of the bubonic plague, the crusades, the Thirty Years War, the Inquisition, "witchcraft", the Islamic sweep over Europe in the name of Allah, etc., etc.? Your scolding in print of Europeans about their China policies of the 19th century could only be taken seriously by folk who know no history. If the British behaved worse in eastern China than the Chinese Empire did with its own people, to say nothing of its vassal areas over the centuries, I would be surprised. For that matter, the treatment of Tibet in the late 20th century should make any Chinese a bit cautious about pointing fingers at the suppressors of the Boxer Rebellion.

News here is that the two mothers are at the moment stable--mine at 95 is fine, but getting blinder. I arranged a meal service for her last month and will take over her financial affairs in December. Betty's mother is permanently in a nursing home hospital in Indianapolis--we have removed the last vestiges of their household with a final truck trip in August. Celia and baby arrive here in a month for a stay of undetermined duration--her marriage is apparently shaky. I am very nervous about the whole business, as it will perforce be very disruptive.

Best regards to dear Christine and to Peter--I love his letter<sup>s</sup>, and others if you see them. It would be so good to see you all again--on our trip last summer it was just not possible to arrange to go to Switzerland.

As ever.

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

**ETH****EIDGENÖSSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE  
ZÜRICH**

Geologisches Institut  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
Durchwahlnummer 01 / 256  
Telefonzentrale 01 / 256 22 11  
Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

March 27, 1987  
KH/bd

Dr. A. Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State University<sup>1020</sup>  
Dept. of Geosciences  
Palynological Laboratories  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
U. S. A.

Dear Al:

Yes, M.E. Soule, a biologist specializing in studying actual extinction, made a statement during the discussions on causes and consequences of extinction at Dahlem Conference to the effect that no other species in the history of life, except Homo sapiens, can be held directly responsible for exterminating another species. Even the human (or inhuman) acts of exterminating other species are not a necessity in their struggle for life. The extinction of the biotas of the tropical forests is a consequence of greed, not a matter of the preservation of the favored races in the struggle for life.

There are, of course, biotic interactions in the history of life, but the keyword is co-evolution, not extermination. (Darwin liked the word extermination and used it repeatedly, and he was to be followed by Darwinists like Adolf Hitler.) You know, of course, the so-called Gaia hypothesis: The Earth, Gaia, is a super living being, and the various living organisms are the cells of Gaia. The interactions of the various cells keep Gaia alive. What are we Homo sapiens in the scheme of Gaia? We are the living cancer cells. We multiply like cancer cells, and we are going to kill Gaia. When did we become malignant cancer cells? We became malignant when profit instead of love (or materialism instead of religion) became the paradigm of our society.

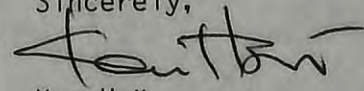
I cannot understand that you, a profess~~or~~<sup>ed</sup> Christian, could be a fan of Charles Darwin. Darwin and Darwinism give aid and comfort to materialism, to capitalism which Darwin favored, and to socialism which was advocated by Karl Marx. Reading history of the East and of the West, I see that the rise of materialism during the late 18th century is one of the great misfortunes of mankind. Prior to that, we had ethics in the East and you had religion in the West. Love, not profit, was the essence of life. The industrialization started the change and Charles Darwin thought he had found the natural law to support the basest instinct of Homo sapiens (sapiens indeed!). Now the paleontological data tell us that he was dead wrong. Why are you still so blind?

I gave a lecture at Cambridge on Darwin's Three Mistakes. The custodian of the Darwinian collection at Cambridge, Professor Oxburgh, told me that Darwin was a brilliant observer. I did not dispute his conclusion, only added that many brilliant observers are fuzzy thinkers. It is not surprising that the Darwinian ideology was never a favorite of thinking philosophers, only second-rate biologists worship him as if he were a God.

Several more of my replies to discussions will be published by Geology and the Journal of Sedimentary Petrography. Hope you continue to have interest in the matter.

Cheers,

Sincerely,



Ken Hsü

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

12 March, 1987

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Insitut  
ETH-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Perhaps somebody has called your attention to one example of a biological agent of mass extinction that is certainly not subject to challenge. The agent is a certain well known primate of the late Quaternary!

Just read the comments and reply in Geology with usual interest.

Cheers.

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

26 January, 1987

Dr. K.J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Good to hear from you again.

Re "Social Darwinism" (capital S & D!), you are just stone-walling. You must know from glancing at my annotated biblio. for the evolution course that I am as aware as you are of the influence of evolutionary thought on fascism, communism and other social movements. Nevertheless, "Social Darwinism" as a so-named field of sociology allied to eugenics, founded by Sumner and others, has been dead for more than 40 years, and it is misleading to use that expression as if it were a live movement.

Your assessment of Darwin's own political influence, on the other hand, is a matter of opinion, on which I believe we differ somewhat. That is worth more consideration. However, I am pretty sure you're going too far, as there were widespread pogroms centuries before Darwin and Hitler, and I doubt that the founders of this country in the late 18th century were much influenced by Erasmus Darwin, to say nothing of his grandson, in evaluating blacks as constituting fractional human beings (U.S. constitution).

Best for 1987.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

P.S. You all going to be in residence in July? We might take a brief "Abstecher" to Z. enroute to Int. Bot. Congress in Berlin.

11 December, 1986

Dr. K. J. Hslü  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Two items enclosed that might mildly interest you---a xerox of a passage I bumped into while preparing an evolution lecture. The other is a hand~~out~~ (#7) from these lectures.

Speaking of philosophy reminds me of your mentioning in both of your last two letters that your positions are strengthened by the fact you've suffered a lot. I'm sure that, on reflection, you'll realize that is an ad hominem (i.e., invalid) argument, of no more value than is the faulting of Rousseau's ideas on social form because he personally abandoned his own children.

Best to you all for the holiday season.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et  
enclosures

Geologisches Institut  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
Durchwahlnummer 01 / 256  
Telefonzentrale 01 / 256 22 11

Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

November 4, 1986  
KH/bd

Prof. A. Traverse<sup>1020</sup>  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Deike Building  
University Park, PA, 16802  
U. S. A.

Dear Al:

I did think that my last letter was a little arrogant, even though I did make a few minor changes after the first version. I was, however, only sending you a reply, because your letter was also very arrogant to imply an ignorance on my part. I may not have read as much about Nietzsche as you have, but the relevant question to me is not arguing who has more influence on Hitler. It is not what is done in the name of philosophy that concerns me, it is what is done in the name of science, and in the name of biology. Haeckel may have been a philosopher, but he achieves his fame as a biologist, and he sells his ideas as scientific ideas. That is my point.

You may indeed have made a study of social Darwinism, or as some people suggested, social Spencerism. I am not so much interested in social Darwinism as such, but more in the way that Darwin gave aid and comfort to social Darwinism, and mistakenly thought he had found scientific basis for that evil philosophy.

Your letter reminds me of one by a creationist, who feels very emotionally upset if the name of Jesus Christ is mentioned in vain. Dear Al, you have not suffered as I have in my life. To me, Darwin's teaching has been the source of much of the misery of the modern world. I do not understand exactly what is the meaning of the American expression "playing to the bleachers". My feelings about the sad consequence of that evil teaching are genuine, as strong as what you feel about your religion; Darwin is not a scapegoat, he is a demi god to many of you! If he did not start he certainly added fuel to several evil schools of ideology, and he did all that through his fuzzy thinking, his three mistakes.

My editor gave me her copy of "The Great Dying". I intend to have a copy purchased as a Christmas gift for you. I spent four years "living" with the book, as Christine and Peter will tell you. Maybe my editor did some revision in order to "play for the bleachers", but I could send you a copy of my original manuscript on the relevant passages, so that you could see the passionate outcry of a victim. I do hope I can visit you sometime next year, now that we have more to talk about. *even*

With best regards,

Your friend,

Ken *Alsi*

PS: Would you knock off your professorial title?

*PPS. Christine read your greeting. Zlee is now in Cambridge studying linguistics. Martin back from England. Andrew FINALLY started his music study. Peter has 33.600 diff. stamps.*

23 October, 1986

Dr. Kenneth J. Hsl  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

First, thought you might not have seen enclosed review (I believe from St. Louis Post Dispatch, as it looks like their style, and my brother-in-law who sent it lives in the St. Louis area). Bro's name is Charles Turner, and he's Kathleen Turner's uncle (as well as Martha Traverse's by marriage!).

Now, to yours of 3 Oct. If I am "innocent" (how nice!), you have a tendency to be arrogant. Fact is, I doubt very much you've read either more biology or more philosophy than I. I have been trying to tell you that I teach a course on the philosophy of evolutionary thought, and of course have for the whole 20 years of it taught the Darwin-Marx and the Darwin-Hitler connection. Each year I pick some author to "cram" in preparation for these lectures. Last year, Nietzsche--this year, because of you, I'll have another go at Haeckel (you spell his name wrong), but I doubt I'll change my mind that Nietzsche had a far bigger influence on Hitler and National Socialism.

Back to "Social Darwinism." You don't seem to know there was such a field, founded by Sumner, among others, and enjoying, in alliance with eugenics people, a considerable vogue from 1910-1945 (or so). Theodore Roosevelt bought it hook-line-and sinker ("...carry a big stick."). It was at one time a popular position for anthropologists, but was laughed out of "court" in the late 40s and is now, under that name, dead.

That there were links between Marx and Lenin's and Mao's thought and evolutionary concepts is certainly true. It is, however, very far fetched to continue to use Darwin and Haeckel (why not Wallace, Huxley, Haldane, Goldschmidt, etc.?) as scapegoats for this. It seems to me to smack of "playing to the bleachers," because the fans all recognize Darwin's name.

Anyway, all the best, old friend. We still ache that you passed us up last time in N.A.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

encl: clipping

**ETH****EIDGENÖSSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE  
ZÜRICH**

Geologisches Institut  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
Durchwahlnummer 01 / 256  
Telefonzentrale 01 / 2562211  
Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

October 3, 1986  
KH/bd

Prof. A. Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Deike Building  
Palynological Laboratories  
University Park, Pennsylvania, 16802  
U. S. A.

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of the 26th.

I wish you would chide me in print, say, the Forum of Geology, so that I can air more of my grievance against Darwin, who may have been more destructive to humanity than any other historical figure I can think of.

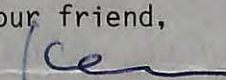
Concerning your presumption that social darwinism has been dead for decades, I would say that is the first of Traverse's two mistakes. Social darwinism is very much alive: it forms the basis for oppression in Marxistic countries. It is the inspiration for terrorism and "national liberation movements". It was the slogan of the Great Chairman's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. It supports the dogma of free trade, which has been exploited by your Japanese and German friends to the detriment of the welfare of your future generations. The paradigm of our society is social Darwinism, and you say it is dead!

Traverse's second mistake was, of course, innocence. You should read the Scientific Origin of National Socialism by Daniel Gasman (American Elsevier). In that book you would find the documentation which would enlighten you on the link between Haeckel and Hitler. By the way, Theo Sommer has also reported that Mao confided to Helmut Schmidt his indebtedness to Ernst Haeckle, who gave the Great Leader his idea that endless revolution can be materialized in a Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. If you had so many relatives who perished or suffered during the GCR as I have, you would not think that I am unfair to Haeckle. He was a monster.

Thanks by the way for thinking of us on our 20th wedding anniversary. We are having a successful marriage.

Best wishes,

Your friend,

  
Ken Hsü  
Professor of Geology  
Foreign Associate, National  
Academy of  
Sciences

26 August, 1986

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Re your recent piece in Geology, I would chide you on only two points:  
1) Social Darwinism has been dead for decades, in the sense of major figures or parties citing evolutionary theory in support of racism, etc. You are therefore trying to take credit for shooting a dead serpent; 2) you give Ernst Haeckel an unfair (implied) share in the blame for Nazism. The culprit is Nietzsche. (By the way, a pre-Darwinian evolutionist, Herbert Spencer, invented "social Darwinism" before Darwin.)

I have given lectures on these particular matters for years in our evolution course and have often wondered if I shouldn't write it up as a book.

Best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

17. 8. 16.

Dear Al: This is the first formal presentation of my cry: "The Emperor has no clothes".

From the vicious tone of one of the referees, I thought I might get killed for <sup>having</sup> criticized a "dem.-led", who has been given support & comfort to demagogues.

But the discussions are so far

Gentle.

I also thought that my election to the NAs would be black-balled, but fortunately the article appeared just after the "dead" had been announced.

With best regards.

P.S. Catherine's sister

Sincerely

→ writing her thesis!!!

7 October, 1985

Dr. K. J. Hsu  
ETH-Zentrum  
Geobotanisches Institut  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Sorry you can't come, but health is certainly a no. 1 reason for cancelling!

I am going to AASP in El Paso in mid-October and eastern AAPG in Virginia in mid-Nov., and cannot add still another meeting, so I'll miss you at GSA. Under the circumstances, maybe you should cancel GSA too?

We're o.k. but very overworked and over-stressed. Betty goes to Indianapolis while I'm in El Paso to do some more business about her parents' recent move to a nursing home, sale of their home, etc. We just had a 3rd grandchild (Paul's second boy). Martha now is (at least temporarily) a big star as Guenivere in "Camelot" with Richard Harris. John and family are settling into a new area (Memphis, TN). Bug Celia is having acute personal problems (again). So it goes. We'd love to drop in for a Cinar (or however that was spelled!).

Best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

**ETH**EIDGENÖSSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE  
ZÜRICH

Geologisches Institut  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
Durchwahlnummer 01 / 256  
Telefonzentrale 01 / 2562211  
Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

September 23, 1985  
KH/bd

Dr. A. Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State University<sup>1020</sup>  
Deike Building  
Department of Geosciences  
Palynological Laboratories  
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802  
U. S. A.

Dear Al:

I have been afflicted by a funny sickness during the last few years, from time to time I would lose my balance and could not walk straight any more. The doctors said that it may be caused by virus infection of the inner ear. The attacks always came suddenly without apparent reason. Now they told me that it was "stress", and that I could prevent recurrences if I substantially cut down my travels.

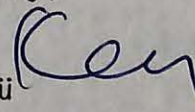
This leads to the reason why I write, namely to ask you to cancel my scheduled visit. I would very much like to visit with you and Betty but please take a rain check. Anyway, I shall go to GSA, and we may have dinner together on Monday or Tuesday. I have requested lodging at the Marriott Hotel.

Sorry again for having broken this "date", but you will understand that my health is important to me.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Ken Hsü



**ETH**

**EIDGENÖSSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE  
ZÜRICH**

Geologisches Institut  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
Durchwahlnummer 01 / 256  
Telefonzentrale 01 / 2562211

Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

July 2, 1985  
KH/bd

Dr. A. Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Deike Building  
Department of Geosciences  
Palynological Laboratories  
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802  
U. S. A.

1020

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of the 14th.

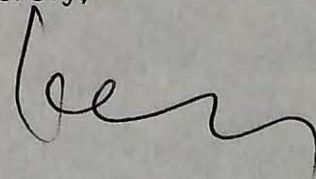
So it is all set for 7 and 8 November, and I shall come on Wednesday the 6th, and shall talk on the themes extinction, and Appalachian-China respectively. It will be easy to make my own travel arrangement and receive your honorarium in cash.

Christine and Peter are looking forward to going to China. Peter might learn Chinese after all, because he wants to start a joint venture with Deng Hsiao Ping on a philately company in Beijing.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Ken



14 June, 1985

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Yours of 31 May awaited Betty and my return from the difficult and sad job of closing her parents' home and "putting" them in a "retirement home".

Dave Egglar, our seminar chairman, and I have discussed your proposal-- needless to say, we're all delighted that you're coming! We beg leave only to reverse the dates for the two talks. Tuesday is the "regular" day for our broadly-based lectures, and Thursday is the backup day. We'd like your extinction lecture for Thursday, 7 November, as it will be of multidisciplinary interest, and will be widely advertised. The Appalachian-China lecture will be a special departmental lecture, which mostly (if not entirely) geologists will attend. It will occur on Friday, 8 November, in a more intimate setting.

Dave authorizes me to say that you can expect (your choice) of either \$250 honorarium, or the air ticket you suggest. Obviously, you are worth more, but that's what is now being offered. You will have no expenses here in PA, of course.

Good to have your news. Maybe Peter will learn some Chinese this time. I frequently recall with great amusement his answer in 1981 when I asked him if he'd learn it: "Keineswegs! Es ist nicht die Mühe wert. Es ist viel zu schwierig. Man muß mindestens 2000 der wahnsinnigen Zeichnungen lernen, bloß eine Zeitung zu lesen."

Best to all.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

**ETH****EIDGENÖSSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE  
ZÜRICH**

Geologisches Institut  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
Durchwahlnummer 01 / 256  
Telefonzentrale 01 / 2562211

Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

May 31, 1985  
KH/bd

1020

Dr. A. Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State University  
College of Earth and Mineral Sciences  
Department of Geosciences  
435 Deike Building  
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802  
U. S. A.

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of May 22.

After I wrote you, I realised that I shall have to return to Europe for a talk to the European Science Foundation on November 17. I have decided, therefore, to make another plan. After the end of the GSA I plan to visit some friends in the south, but come up to you on November 6, and stay on till Sunday the 10th, when I plan to visit friends at Chicago.

If it is agreeable with you, I would like to suggest to give two talks at Penn State, fulfilling your wishes:

- 1) An Appalachian Mountain on South China Platform, on November 7
- 2) Enigma of Extinction: Time and Chance in Evolution, on November 8.

The first is a comparative tectonics talk, comparing South China and Pennsylvanian Appalachians. The second is to present some new data on environmental changes at biotic crisis, including a definition of the Strange-love Ocean. Concerning the expenses, they are not important. If your department has enough funding then you could pick up my Florida-Penn State-Chicago part of the air fare. I shall, of course, be delighted to stay with you and Betty. If your department should decide to give me a nominal honorarium as well, I shall use the check to pay for a Chinese dinner for all of us. Peter and Christine are both fine. They will go to China with me in July. The garden is beautiful, with rhododendrons in full bloom. Wish you were here.

With best regards to you and Betty,

Sincerely,



Ken

435 Deike Building

May 22, 1985

863-3419

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut-E.T.H. Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092  
Zurich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Yours of 6 May was a thrill! I shared its contents with the proper authorities here, Wayne Burnham (Dept. Head) and Dave Egger (seminar Chairperson), and they are enthused about your giving a talk or talks here.

First, we need to explain some matters - our semester classes end on 9 Dec., and exams begin 13 Dec. Thus, of the Tues. regular seminar slots, only 3 Dec. (within the "early-mid December" time-frame you mentioned) is suitable. 10 Dec. would be very marginally possible.

Second, I am supposed to discover what sort of honorarium you would expect - help with your transportation, expenses in this area/actually Betty and I assume you'll stay at "Alfabet"), or what?

As to the topic, the Chinese tectonic talk arouses the more interest, though we all are fascinated also by "Strangelove Ocean"(!). For the modest honorarium PSU pays, it is too much to expect, but if you were willing one of these could occupy the traditional Tues. slot and the other could be a special lecture at another time.

In any event, the Traverses greatly anticipate your visit. After you've been here, the only remaining Hsu male who has yet to visit us is dear Peter.

Please greet Peter and Christine for us.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palontology

/jb  
cc: Dave Egger

ETH

EIDGENÖSSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE  
ZÜRICH

Geologisches Institut  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
Durchwahlnummer 01 / 256  
Telefonzentrale 01 / 256 22 11  
Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

May 6, 1985  
KH/bd

Dr. A. Traverse<sup>1020</sup>  
The Pennsylvania State University  
College of Earth & Mineral Sciences  
Palynological Laboratory  
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802  
U. S. A.

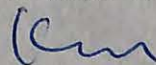
Dear Al:

I am writing to let you know that I am planning to visit the States next fall. I am taking a leave from ETH, and plan to attend the GSA meeting in Florida, before working my way across the continent and back. I plan to be in State Univ. sometime in early or mid December, and plan to spend sometime visiting old friends. If you would like to ask me to "sing for my supper", please let me know so that I could start making a schedule.

Aside from the subjects on which I have talked often, you might be interested to know that we have done quite a bit of work on Swiss lakes and on Chinese geology. I could give talks on Lakes as Laboratories of Experimental Geology (one on sediment-gravity flows, one on Strange-love Ocean, one on varves, one on Quaternary History), or on Tectonics of Southeast China.

Looking forward to seeing you in next fall.

With best regards,



Ken Hsü

→ Dec. 3  
Dec. 16 maybe

Geologisches Institut  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
Durchwahlnummer 01 / 256  
Telefonzentrale 01 / 2562211

Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

February 6, 1985  
KH/bd

1020

Dr. A. Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State University  
College of Earth & Mineral Sciences  
Palynological Laboratory  
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802  
U. S. A.

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of 21 January. I am pleased that I have friends. Many of us should get medals, but only those who have friends get nominated. I was not surprised to have American friends, but I was surprised, indeed, that I have British friends who gave me the Wollaston Medal. I made a completely different speech in London (one week after San Antonio), appealing to the British sense of humor with a gentle self mockery. It was more proper for that occasion.

You might note that I only mentioned the names of those who died or who are fading away from the profession. This is the reason that your name was not singled out; you are too successful.

Yes, I too noticed the high casualty rate of our former colleagues at Shell. There were several reasons: suicide, accident, but mostly depression-induced cancers and heart attacks. The management with Higgs and Nanz etc. had no idea that they needed a distant view in personnel matters; those who did have the vision, namely Gershinowitz and Noyes Smith had been pushed aside. So the lab was destroyed, and many first-rate people became victims. You and I were lucky rats who left the sinking ship early enough.

About Peter Hochuli's resignation, I think it is a minus for us, but a plus for Peter. We would like to keep him, and are trying to find a replacement. But it won't be easy.

Martin, by the way, is back from China. He is working but will go back to study in April. Elisabeth finished a diploma work on the chemical taxonomy of Betunica spp. She is now at Fine Art School in Paris. Andrew is finishing teachers' college, but will study music, after all. Christine sends you her best regards. *Peter too.*

Sincerely,

*Ken*  
Ken Hsü

*Love to Betty,*

21 January, 1985

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geobotanisches Institut-ETH  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Just read your response to the Twenhofel Medal in November '84 J. Pal. It was very moving and read with great interest and empathy. Hope you all are well.

The state of palynology in Switzerland makes me sad--surely Zürich somewhere should have a little place for one pre-Quaternary person?

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

ETH

EIDGENÖSSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE  
ZÜRICH

Geologisches Institut  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
Durchwahlnummer 01 / 256  
Telefonzentrale 01 / 256 22 11

Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

October 19, 1984  
KH/bd

Dr. A. Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Deike Building  
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802  
U. S. A.

1020


Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of October 9. There must be rumours that I have been complaining about ETH, because I am deluged from offers from the US. The fact is, as you know, I am too deeply committed to Switzerland (though not necessarily to ETH). I cannot lead you on a widegoose chase. Thank you very much for thinking of me. (You may hear at GSA that I am going to Berkeley, but this is only for a temporary visit).

Sorry that Jiang's stay in the US is so short. I remember her, and her work.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Ken Hsi

9 October, 1984

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

As you probably know, this very large department (Geosciences) is seeking a new Head. We were told that a world-class leader is sought, and would we please nominate. I nominated you, though I know of your deep commitment to ETH and Switzerland. Would you be interested? If so, send me a vita for our use.

Best to all.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

P.S. Did I write that Paul and family live in Vestal, only a few blocks from where you used to live?

14 August, 1984

Dr. K. J. Hsu  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

This will arrive much delayed, because I'm secretary-less at the moment--Betty will type when she returns. I liked your letter of 17 July. I look forward to the new book. Watch out for paleontologists riding hobby horses. Gould is one of, if not the, worst. His articles in Natural History contain so many pieces of special pleading and bad logic per inch that I scarcely know where to start in analysing them! (Revolutionary evolution, of course, greatly appeals to marxists.)

All the best, and to your dear wife and children.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

Geologisches Institut  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
Durchwahlnummer 01 / 256  
Telefonzentrale 01 / 2562211

Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

July 27, 1984  
KH/bd

Professor A. Traverse 1020  
Pennsylvania State University  
College of Earth & Mineral Sciences  
Palynological Laboratories  
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802  
U. S. A.


Dear Al:

I finished writing my book and could now answer your letter of 24th February. Need to have no fear, I quite agree that paleontology is biology and that evolution is history of life. However, even evolutionary biologists would like to know something about the environments, or their changes which may have worked on natural selection. Therefore, I have been invited to tea by biologists and paleontologists who are planning a Dahlem Conference on the paleontological record of evolution; I was, in fact, asked to be a member of the organizing committee.

Finally it may intrigue you that I have decided to use a biblical citation as the "theme song" of each of my chapters, but don't worry, I am lending the creationists any consolation or comfort.

*KSF*  
With best regards,

Sincerely,

  
Ken Hsü

18 May, 1984

Dr. K. J. Hsu  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

I always think of you a lot anyway, but the recent flap about Shell stock has made me think of you even more often than usual. When I left Shell in 1962, I kept one (1) share of Shell stock in order to get the annual report. Whenever they had splits or suggested dividends be used to buy more shares, etc., I always dutifully signed, and the one share by now is 41, still not much.

A couple of months ago Royal Dutch/Shell created a new holding company in the USA for the sole purpose of acquiring the 30% of Shell-USA stock they didn't already control. When and if they do, they will abolish Shell-USA as an entity. Reams of papers went out to stockholders asking them to "Tender" their shares at \$58. At the time negotiations began, Shell was selling at \$38, so that seemed fair enough. I tendered. However, there have been some very peculiar things about all this that nobody is discussing:

1. The reasons for acquiring the remaining 30%, so that Shell-USA can be fully owned and incorporated in RD/S are not credible ("to gain more complete control over reserves", etc., etc.), because Royal Dutch/Shell already controlled Shell-USA completely!

2. Mr. Bookhout kept and keeps issuing statements stressing his "independence". Bosh. He has a bedside phone to the Hague which he uses to secure permission to go to the toilet. This has to be a smoke-screen.

What are they really up to? Shell Canada issued new stock recently, with the stipulation that US citizens can't buy it. Is that related? What do those Shell internationalists in the Hague know about the situation in the USA and its future that we don't know? Very puzzling and disturbing. See enclosure #1.

Enclosure #2 is a xeroxed paper I thought you might not see and should. Best regards to Christine et al.

Yours cordially,

AT/et  
encl: clipping, paper by Laporte

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

24 February, 1984

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Thanks for the inscription-card, now duly pasted into the updated, expanded version of "Als das Mittelmeer eine Wüste war", which also graces my miscellany table.

"Actualistic Catastrophism...." is funn reading, and I'm sure you're basically right. However, I warn you once again about uncritical acceptance of opinions of paleontologists--e.g., Gould. He is potitically a Marxist, and I see continually in his writing (I subscribe to Natural History, and read his monthly columns) evidence of special Marxist pleading--the silly bit about Tielhard was a good example.

I would like to stress that paleontology is a branch of biology more than it is a branch of geology, just as geochemistry is more nearly chemistry than it is geology. One must approach fossils as a biologist if one is studying evolution, and it is not really possible to "do" evolutionary paleontology with only a smattering of biology, gleaned here and there, and he who tries this is likely to make egregious blunders, unless he consults biologically trained people constantly and knows which ones to consult. For example: "Aquilapollenites vegetation". Nobody knows what the systematic position of the producing plants was, but aside from that, it is extremely improbable that the Triprojectacites-producers were ever a primary constituent of vegetation anywhere. Aquilapollenites et al. are characteristic and easily recognizable and good zone-fossils, but never abundant. A new genus of the group is about to be published from the Eocene (species traversii!). For another example: the closest extant relatives of dinosaurs now alive are probably the birds, not snakes or even crocodiles. The sex of birds is most assuredly x-y-determined (though itii the male which is x-x!). Etc.

Where on earth did you get the idea that Darwin was "religious"? Because he's buried inn Westminster Abbey? His father and grandfather were both famous atheists, and I doubt that Charlie differed much. That he (briefly) was listed as a candidate for holy orders is meaningless. It was simply a requirement for being a don in those days (until about 1850). He didn't stay so listed long. From your letter I take also a few "texts" to argue. You do Darwin a disservice by accusing him of not studying geology in general (by lights of his time he was an excellent geologist, student of Sedgwick) and paleontology in particular. He studied fossils avidly and is still quoted for some of the South American work. Darwin only got one idea (a good one) from Malthus--he was hardly "inspired" by Malthus. Natural Selection is not disputed even by hard core "punctuated equilibrists" today. It is a proven

Hsu, pg. 2

fact now based on much experimental evidence. I think in your "P.S." you meant to say you are not anti-Semitic, not so?

I am interested that you are advertizing yourself as a Taoist. How the wheel turns?? I am not sure where I stand nowadays, though I still am a theist. I describe myself usually as "retired Anglican".

Well, it is and always has been great fun to know you and to be considered a good friend. Hard to believe it's going for 4 years since we were getting set to go to Switzerland. All the best to Christine and Peter, others if you see /em. We are now grandparents, if I didn't already mention it-- Anna Traverse born 18 January to John & Cynthia in Charlottesville, VA. We visited her last weekend and reveled in grandparenting.

As ever.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

Geologisches Institut  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
Durchwahlnummer 01 / 256  
Telefonzentrale 01 / 256 22 11

Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

February 3, 1984  
KH/bd

Professor A. Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State University  
College of Earth & Mineral Sciences  
Palynological Lab.  
Deike Building  
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802  
U. S. A.

1020

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of 27 February. "Als das Mittelmeer eine Wüste war" was an article in a magazine, and you got a reprint of that article, not a book, although you could call the reprint a booklet. It was, by the way, more or less the prologue of the Princeton University volume. Enclosed is a small card, with inscription, and I hope you find time to read the book.

Concerning the new opus, I have decided to use a biblical quotation as my title, namely, "Time and Chance". You should know the bible well enough to find it. If not, I give you a hint, the chapter starts with the sentence, "I returned and saw under the sun that race is not to the swift, ....".

I disagree with you that evolution is a matter for biologists. In fact you touched a sore nerve and waved a red flag in front of a bull, when you made that statement. A biggest mistake in natural science was made when evolution was left to biologists. Evolution deals with history of life, the record comes from paleontology, from geology, not from biology. Darwin made a big mistake when he let himself be inspired by Malthus, a sociologist, rather than by Cuvier, the great paleontologist of his time (or be inspired by the Bible)! He kept on dwelling on animal breeding, but dismissed the paleontological record in a few paragraphs. Asking biologists to write on evolution is to be compared to asking sociologists to write on history of the antique world. Ignoring the historical and archeological records, sociologists might decide that Egypt was a constitutional monarchy, or Greek tyrants were elected by secret balloting.

The expression "creationist" in my last letter was used in a strict sense and applied only to members of the Society of Creationist Research and their adherents. Speaking of the "devil", your former student, Steven A. Austin, Ph.D. (from Pennsylvania State University), consultant in coal geology, from El Cajon, California, wrote me. He sent me a copy of his article, and I must say that I find no hard evidence for creationist-leaning in the opus. He is a clever guy. No wonder he fooled you all for three or more years.

Quoting the bible, attacking Darwin, and "precising" SAA may make you feel that I am becoming a card-carrying member of SCR. Have no fears, my philosophy is expressed in my presidential address to IAS (see enclosed reprint).

I don't know if the Twenhofel medal is a gold medal. I would hardly think so, since SEPM\* is so stingy that they have asked me to pay the registration fee for the meeting, during which the medal is to be awarded. It is the so-called "highest award" of the society, and I appreciate the sentiments of my friend just the same, even if all I got was a sheet of paper.

I understand I shall get more a solid medal, when I receive the Wollaston Medal from The Geological Society (London) upon my return from San Antonio. I was told by a previous recipient that the medal is heavy and has platinum or palladium (on the outside at least). It may actually be worthy a few francs if it is melted away, naturally not so much as the World Cup stolen from the Brazilian Football Association.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Ken Hsü

PS: <sup>SEP</sup> I am anti-semitic, but they did have a <sup>y</sup> sting of president of Jewish origin. The sister organization (IAS) has been managed by a more generous president and treasurer of Chinese origin. The IAS will pay travel from Europe to Australia plus all expenses for their medalist. The "Jews of the Orient" have class!

Encl.

27 January, 1984

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

The "book" I referred to was "Als das Mittelmeer eine Wüste war". (Es ist eigentlich ein "Buchlein".) The information in it seemed a shorter version of your book about Leg 13. I, of course, did not mean "Ein Schiff revolutioniert die Wissenschaft", which I am currently using in my historical course--especially the illustrations.

No chance I'll go to San Antonio, even though it would be fun to see you get a twenhofel medal. Is it as good as a gold medal?

Back to inscriptions--sending book back would be silly. Just write some little blurb on a card if you are inclined and send it to me. I'll paste it in. I appreciated the book very much.

Best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

**ETH****EIDGENÖSSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE  
ZÜRICH**

Geologisches Institut  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
Durchwahlnummer 01 / 256  
Telefonzentrale 01 / 256 22 11  
Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

January 19, 1984  
KH/bd

Professor Alfred Traverse 1020  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Deike Building  
College of Earth & Mineral Sciences  
Palynological Laboratories  
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802  
U. S. A.

Dear Alfred:

Thank you for your letter of December 21.

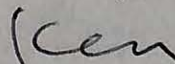
The book on the Mediterranean does not have a German version. If you would read it you might find that the text is almost completely different. The German book is about all DSDP cruises, and the Med book is devoted to Leg 13.

Sorry that you did not appreciate the card, which was obviously put there by the Princeton U Press. I asked them to send a copy directly to you, so as to reach you before Christmas. If you like, you can send me the copy back for me to make a proper inscription.

I shall be in San Antonio AAPG SEPM, mainly to receive the Twenhofel Medal, as well as an Alumni award. Is there any chance that you might go down there?

With best regards,

Sincerely,

  
Ken Hsü

P.S. Informatic given by Peter Roth is correct, although translation may be less than accurate. Diploma  $\cong$  M.S., instead B.S., as he claimed, & There is a Silbermedaille.

21 December, 1983

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Many thanks for the copy of "The Mediterranean was a desert", which I have read in its German version. The "compliments of the author" card, however, is very impersonal--could I have a little square of paper with a suitably gushy inscription to paste inside the cover?

All the best for the new year.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

13 December, 1983

Dr. K. J. Hsu  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Just got a proposal to review from a guy named Peter Roth, whose Ph.D. is from ETH during your tenure. What do you know and think of him? It's too late for this proposal, which I had to return immediately, but I'd like to hear your opinion anyway. I gave the proposal a fairly high rating. I note he claims to be a winner of "Kern Price and Silver Medal"--66 ETH (surely he means "prize"?)--for "outstanding doctoral dissertation". True? He also claims "B.A. Geology ETH". But you don't give such a degree, do you?, etc.

All the best, as ever, old and esteemed friend.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

DR. ALFRED TRAVERSE  
Deike Building  
Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, Pa. 16802  
USA

14-VII-83

Dr. K. J. Hsu  
etc.

Dear Ken:

Betty has been gone for several weeks,  
caring for her parents, thus the great  
delay in answering your good and interesting  
letter of 17 June. Her absence also accounts  
for my handwritten scrawl (Christine can help  
you - she's good at deciphering it!).

Right to the point: that moraine sediments are  
rich in coriander pollen is so well-known

that it is hard to find a good reference: regarded  
as "common knowledge". Preservation, however, is terrible.  
My friend, Jack McAndrews, in Toronto tells me:

he has a paper in press in Just. Res. that

deals with parts of the problem. Your idea  
of simple washing from the glaciers is o.k. as  
a first approximation. However, various people

Are stressed that recycling is very important  
in producing the final result (classic paper:

Cooking, E.J., 1964. Amer. Journ. Sci. 262:1075-1088;

he actually shows low conifer<sup>all</sup> in an alleged

tuff (<10%!). One very interesting paper notes

that the high values of conifer pollen in some

glacial sediments, <sup>also may</sup> result from differential

destruction of everything else! (Hall, S.A. 1981.

Determined pollen grain at the interpretation of

Quaternary pollen diagram; Rev. Paleobot. Polyn.

32: 193-206). Mc Andrews tells me that he

find a big difference between contemporaneous

glacial-fluvial and precipitated CaCO<sub>3</sub> (in the

same sample): "fluvial" rich in conifers (mostly

Pinus); CaCO<sub>3</sub> not rich in conifers, suggesting

denudation of conifers from remaining and differential

preservation! So, be careful about this - it's

not necessarily simple. Watch for Mc Andrews'

paper.

Re K-T boundary problem.



To St. Louis to visit my sister. Betty continues  
German studies, but the damned courses are  
heavy on the Goethe & Schiller & light on the  
practical use of language. The paper I wrote in June  
has been my "best-seller" - I only bought 300  
reprints - long since gone, and were mailed out at least  
200 reprints. My text is coming along.

All the best to you all.

Yours very cordially,  
Al

Geologisches Institut

June 17, 1983

KH/bd

Sonneggstrasse 5

Durchwahlnummer 01 / 256

Telefonzentrale 01 / 256 22 11

Postadresse:

Geologisches Institut

ETH-Zentrum

CH-8092 Zürich

Professor Alfred Traverse  
Deike Building  
Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, PA, 16802  
U. S. A.

1020

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of the 6th and the gift of one your "finds". Yes, I did enjoy reading the about Social Darwinism. I think Mr. Headley idealized too much the Chinese society. He thought it was harmless to have an inefficient and corrupt government. However, I knew from what I experienced in my youth, the government was inefficient, corrupt, but not harmless, if the suffering of the people (the peasants) was not ignored.

Too bad the author probably did not live long enough to see the decline of the "progressive" British society. It would make interesting reading to learn of his theory on the decline of the British Empire. He would have to come up with something new, or were there hidden slaves somewhere?

I would like to ask you a question and ask you a small favor: The question: We found that the Zübo Würm cores contain almost exclusively conifer pollens (Pinus, Abies, Picea), ranging from 75 to 98%. Other evidences suggest that the sediments are either glacial moraines, or dropstone muds in a subglacial lake. In the first lacustrine sediments deposited when meltwater as surface runoffs again emptied into the lake, the pollen flora consist almost exclusively of steppe pollen (indigenous as one might expect). We (i.e. mainly I) now think that the pollen grains in the Zübo glacial sediments were mostly air-transported, fell like dust on the glaciers, and worked their way with meltwater down the crevasses to a subglacial lake hosted by the Lake Zurich basin. Looking now at the pollen diagram of Welton, I found that most of the moraines studied by him also have pollen assemblages dominated by conifer pollen. I would like to ask you, if your colleagues working on the glacial deposits of N. America have found the same pattern? The favor: If your answer is yes, could you send me a couple of xerox copies of reprints.

Another issue: C-T contact. My compatriot and your friend Tschudy came up with a finding that the fernspore percentage in C-T boundary sediments, Raton Basin, N. Mexico, increased from 15 to 30% below the boundary to 99% in a 20 cm boundary layer, and down to 15 to 30% again in the Paleocene. The results indicate mass deforestation. Because of reduced sunlight? Because of acid rains? If there had been total darkness for several months, wouldn't we have a lot of mushrooms everywhere, especially with all those dead trees lying around? What kind of fossil evidence would you expect to find? Do mushrooms leave any fungi spores behind? If acid rains were the cause of deforestation, the soil chemistry would be very critical (cf. forest destruction in the acid

soils of Black Forest in Germany, and their preservation in the alkaline soils of the Swiss limestone countries). Do you have any correlation of plant extinction to soil chemistry? Are the Acquilapollenites floras underlain by terranes deficient in limestones?

Miss seeing you and chat with you on all those interesting questions. The family is fine. Peter passed his examination to enter Gymnasium and is now sweating out his first quarter (probation time); there are signs that he will make it. Martin is working as a trainee in an architect's office. Elee will soon start a diploma work on botany. Andreas is learning and practicing to be a school teacher. I am busy as usual, about to finish rewriting all 18 chapters of our book on Zübo, badly written (or splashed together) by my less experienced co-workers.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

  
Ken

Book: Journal of  
Botanical Society  
me

AMQUA: Jack Andrews ← call!  
Absr.

Pierre Richard, 1977. 2 Vols. Histoire  
Port. Univ. de Zaire.  
la Recherche Ser. général de Bot  
Vegetation muséum de Turin + France.  
des Terrains travaux.  
méridional  
pour  
l'analyse  
pollinique / Gor. Zaire.

address: Geog. Dept.  
Univ. Montreal  
Statal, P. Q.  
H3C 3J7

McAndrews:  
works recycled

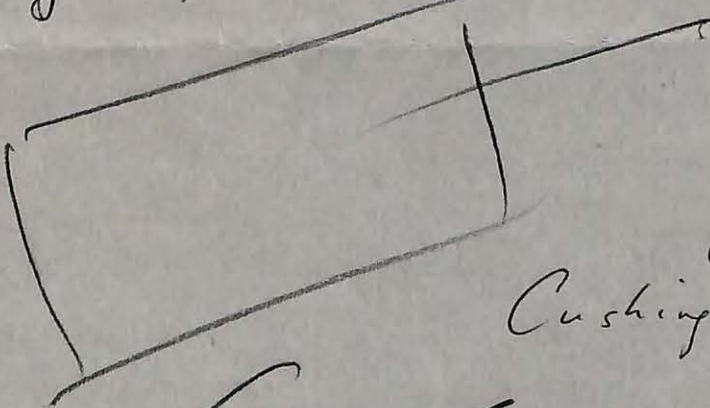
Q59.M3

Marie Genevieve ott Nfld. ←

Journal  
Research

Starr Hall - Rev. Palaeobot  
Palaeobot

ca. 1981  
Q5901.  
R49



EJ/1964  
Cushing: ref.: ledepo. pollin  
pollin = Tire for me  
pollin spores  
for E.  
Central univ

Q1.A5

Ann. J. Sci.  
262: 1075-  
1088.

Cushing, E. J., 1964.  
Ann. Journ. Sci.  
262: 1075-1088

tile palynology  
actually not exp.  
high temp (<100°)

25 March, 1983

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Z  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Enjoyed yours of 3 March--it was just like a visit with you.

Re the mistake on p. 25--I did have a question-mark in the margin, but I missed it when I wrote you. Actually, not even JFK's successor was president in 1969!

"My" publisher is not American, but British: Unwin. Furthermore, I don't want to rattle their cage just now, as I am months overdue with my book! However, I am off to NE-GSA tomorrow\* to give a paper on my Triassic/Jurassic project, and I'll look for opportunities to feed your suggestion to one of them (I'll take your book along). Also, I'll mention it to Freeman when I next write and to anybody else who comes to my office asking me to "write a book!".

The family news was interesting. Some of it we also heard in another version from dear Christine. The most interesting aspect of her letter is that she has obviously fallen in love with Samedan. When we were over there she expressed a lot of reluctance to let that happen! "Samedan is Ken's project".

All the best to you all. We surely miss you.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

\*dictated before the meeting--just typing now (several days later). BT

P.S. Have you ever wondered if your mail is censored? I have several times noticed that the envelopes are sealed with scotch tape, the way an envelope is when steamed open, then resealed. Or is it BDG's custom to use tape for extra security?

Geologisches Institut

March 3, 1983  
KH/bdSonneggstrasse 5  
Durchwahlnummer 01 / 256  
Telefonzentrale 01 / 256 22 11

1020

Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 ZürichProfessor A. Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Deike Building  
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802  
U. S. A.

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of 18th February, and for noting the several errors. I have made the corrections in my own copy, as references for possible future editions. The item 5, by the way, refers to Site 373, not 393. The item 6, refers to 38 m. subbottom and another 34 m in basalt. Figure 19.1 should be redrafted. Sorry for the very serious boo-boo on dinoflagellate; I trusted my memory once too much.

By the way, you did miss one error on page 25. You should be able to find it easily, when I give you the hint that President Kennedy was assassinated before he finished his term of presidency.

My students have also found the book informative, and suggested that it might be useful as a reference book (or supplementary reading) for non-science majors taking historical geology. I wonder if you might do me a favor, and write your textbook-publisher friend recommending such a project. The manuscript was written in English, and can be delivered right away after minor revisions, to correct errors as those pointed out; I (or they) could clear up the translation right with the Hoffmann und Campe company. I believe the book will sell, especially if it is adopted by some of the professors like you for their historical geology course. My publishing contacts are mainly European, but I think McGraw Hill, Freeman, etc, might be more appropriate people to contact; yet I have lost contacts with American publishers.

By the way, I have another book on my JOIDES experience being put out by the Princeton University Press (Mediterranean was a desert). It should be out in September, and you will receive it as X-mas gift 1983.

Martin moved out and stays now with Andreas in a Wohngemeinschaft also. He comes home about once a week as Elisabeth. He will go to China for architectural practice in October. Andreas is home for a day or two with a flu; he enjoys his carpentering work. Peter ran the Marathon (ski) in 3 and a quarter hours, I followed and got to the end some 2 hours later. Christine is, of course, busy as ever with her music and her many social duties.

With best regards,

As ever Ken

(signed by secretary  
after K. Hsü's departure)

18 February, 1983

Prof. Dr. K. J. Hsu  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Z  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

I have now read every word in the G.C. book, and have enjoyed it very much--also, my historical geology lectures will benefit! I am making slides from some of the figures for such use. Mostly, I read the book aloud as we drove from our farm to my office--7-8 pages a day. Betty's German is now pretty good--she spoke almost no English (except to me) on our trip to Germany in January. She is taking "German 201" at the moment, but I regret to say that the teacher still uses some English in class. Ridiculous.

Now for a few mistakes in the book--could you correct for the English edition?

1. There is a very serious boo-boo on p. 232, which is embarrassing to me because of "guilt by association": 3 lines from bottom. Dinoflagellates are not microfossils of unknown origin!! You were thinking of acritarchs. Dinoflagellate fossils are cysts of a very well known and extensively studied group of one-celled algae (or protista)--the Phytoplankton. When you first knew me, we called them, and what we now call acritarchs, "hystriosphæroids", and we didn't know what they were. But for 20 years we have known that many of the former hystriosphæroids are in fact dinoflagellates. The ones we don't recognize as dinoflagellates, or something else, are now called acritarchs (acritos=unknown; arce-ancient).

2. typo, I suppose: p. 235, para. 3, l. 3: Süßwassersee (?)
3. p. 245, l. 6: Assistentin
4. p. 248, l. 6: Smithsonian
5. 5. p. 248, l. 3: is "393" correct for 42A?--how could it, when 42B made 380?
6. p. 251, para. 3, last two lines--there seems to be something wrong with 38 & 34 meters here.
7. Abb.19:1 These figures are very hard to interpret. At first, one thinks they're sections, then one realizes that's wrong but still has trouble. "A." is not mentioned in the caption. The whole thing needs redoing.

Hsl, pg. 2

Many thanks for sending me the book--it's been such fun. Best to Christine and Peter and Martin (and A. and E., if seen!), and all the best to you, as always.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

29 December, 1982

Dr. K. J. Hsu  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Z  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Many thanks for your book--~~avery~~ nice Christmas present, indeed. I will probably take it along to Germany, if I have room. We leave on 5 January, return on 27 January. The time is pretty well programmed with my three hosts, and I don't contemplate that a side trip to Zürich is in the cards this time. Too bad, as I'd particularly like to compare notes with J. Pika about the Black Sea d.-l. pairs. The July Congress sounds great, but it conflicts with field plans connected with several of my current graduate students.

All the best to you for 1983--and also to Christine, Peter, Martin, Andreas and (if she's around) Elæ. We are still feeling guilty that we couldn't help A. in NYC--it just was a bad time. This month, it would have worked (Martha and Nick are "auditioning", meaning they're unemployed!)

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

ETH

EIDGENÖSSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE  
ZÜRICH

Geologisches Institut

Dec. 13, 1982  
KH/iz

Sonneggstrasse 5  
Durchwahlnummer 01 / 256  
Telefonzentrale 01 / 256 22 11

1020

Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

Professor A. Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Dept. of Geosciences  
Palynology Lab.  
Deike Bldg.  
University Park, Pa. 16802  
U.S.A.

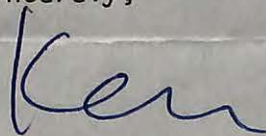
Dear Al,

I enclose a copy of my work on Glomar Challenger. You and Betty could practice your German reading. It was written in English and was translated by someone who never lived in an English-speaking country. I have corrected most of the mistakes, but some may have remained.

My next project is to write on terminal Cretaceous extinction. You might be interested to read p. 276 of the enclosed book concerning a conversation we had at Shell, when a seed was planted and was germinated some 20 years later.

With best regards,

sincerely,



Ken Hsü

P.S. I received Betty's letter. Many thanks and greetings for Christmas and New Year.

PPS. Could you arrange to come to Zurich for a few days during your European trip. We can

pay for your additional expenses.

10 May, 1982

Dr. K. J. Hsu  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Z  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Thanks for the voluminous and newsy letter of 28 April. It came while my historical geology class and I were examining the terminal K, and I read them excerpts from your letter. One of the girls in the class just came by with a current copy of OMNI, with a long statement about your views. She was thrilled that I know not

One of my graduate students (Duck Choi) is working on a project on Ellesmere Island that I set up in collaboration with Leo Hickey. The section (Eureka Sound Formation) crosses your famous boundary. I just asked Duck to plot up for you the known Aquilapollenites species-distribution in time--see enclosure. It appears that the Maastrichtian/Danian boundary was a crisis. 84 species terminated. However, 24 species sailed nonchalantly across the boundary.

The statement that Aquilapollenites represents a parasite is a bit thin. Some folks believe the pollen resembles that of the family Loranthaceae, most modern members of which are parasites. A few of the modern Loranthaceae are non-parasitic trees. Besides, the Loran-thaceous relationship is proven. But it is an interesting idea.

I guess you heard that Leo Hickey will leave Smithsonian to go to Yale as Director of Peabody Museum and professor.

We haven't heard recently from Andreas. We really enjoyed him and do hope he'll keep in touch with us and come again. I enjoyed "kidding" him, and he was good at "kidding" back. He was especially likely to be joshed by me for being more anti-conventional and romantic than rationality warrants. For example, he would spend days on Mr. Thompson's very poor dairy farm, but had zero interest, ~~in~~ letting let along in spending time at, Penn State's dairy-farming programs, which are the last word in their field. In brief, Andreas is at present hopelessly romantic. A professional cowherd at PSU isn't interesting, but a hillbilly cowherd is. The interest in art is worth encouraging. He could sell his 'paper-dolls'--no question about it. (Elee could have been a painter, for that matter.)

Hsl, pg. 2

All the best. Regards to Christine--we have just received a long, interesting letter from her which we will answer soon. Please tell her to correct and send back my last letter. Betty is finishing German 3 (gets only As), but still can't read a word, let alone write or speak.\*\* German 1, 2 & 3 is 90 lessons. Isn't language study a slow business?!

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

encl: Aquilapollenites blurb

\*\*(from et). I protest! Maybe I can't read Der Spiegel (which as everyone knows, is written in "Spiegelese", not German), or Goethe, but I can read some, and can write some--just read Christine's long German letter without a dictionary, and understood about 90%. True that I can't speak very well, though. Perhaps it's because a lifetime of speaking only one language makes me scarcely able to imagine speaking another one.

Geologisches Institut

April 28, 1982  
KH/bdSonneggstrasse 5  
Durchwahlnummer 01 / 256  
Telefonzentrale 01 / 256 22 11

1020

Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 ZürichDr. A. Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Dept. of Geosciences  
Palynology Laboratories  
Deike Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
U. S. A.

Dear Al:

I should have written you for sometime, but I was on the road all the time during the month of April and did not get back until last Saturday. Your last letter commenting on our Science article gave me the incentive to write.

Your observations of the too many "might have been"s are not very fair. I read the article again, twice the "might have been"s were preceded by "not ..." or "no ..." (e.g., "not subjected to changes which might have altered the isotopic compositions of ..."). You probably meant the article was too speculative for your taste. The fact is that much data by the work of 20 persons have been presented.

Concerning the changes of the terminal Cretaceous floral world (other than nannofloras), I have been an eager student, and have been very attentive to what masters like Jarzen, Dilcher, Hickey, and yourself have said. I was particularly impressed by the high casualty of *Aquilapollenites* spp. in the *Aquilapollenites* province. I was told that they were parasitic. They must have lost their ecologic habitat for a short while (say hundreds of years). Eventually the trees recovered but their parasites were gone (Brachiopods needing chalky bottom died out too when chalk sedimentation stopped for thousands of years). A question to you: "how long could parasites survive with their hosts"? Some additional information should be of interest to you. The sudden change of the fern/tree-pollen ratio at the K-T boundary layer suggests widespread deforestation for a brief span of time (hundreds of years ???). Carbon-isotopes suggest the same thing! The intense temperature of the mushroom cloud (after impact) should produce  $N_2O$  and  $NO_2$ . The latter, as I understand was used as a defoliant during the Vietnam war. I told Leo Hickey that the extinction pattern shown by his Science article is a confirmation of my postulate that the 65-million-year craters in Southern Russia (40°E 49°N) are the impact sites; the down-wind acid rains (cf. fallout patterns of Mt. Hellena) saturated with nitric acids should have devastated his forests in Siberia and in western N. America. Of course, mass mortality is not mass extinction. Trees grew back, without their *Aquilapollenites* parasites. How do you like this scenario as a paleobotanist?

Concerning the question if species or genera are more pertinent to the question at hand, Dave Raup, a master on that subject, spoke in the public that the relevant taxa are species not genera. Furthermore, I am publishing a paper criticising the paleontologist to measure the magnitude of extinction-events by reductions in generic diversity, or in percentages of generic or

specific extinction. It is the rate, not the percentage, which is relevant. The Lyellian half-life for Tertiary mollusc is about 8-10 million years, or an almost complete (98%) turn-over rate of about 20 million years. If 20,000 years have caused significant extinction, then it is a magnitude 2 or 3 catastrophe, depending if it is 10% or 100% extinction during that 20,000 years (People said that one may start to hear about Hsü-scale of extinction-catastrophes like Richter's scale of earthquakes).

O.K. enough of science.

I was at DC and spend two and half days with Andrew. Christine and I want to thank you and Betty for your kind letter<sup>s</sup> and your cares. (We also want to apologize for our jokes of very poor taste.) I believe that Andrew and I understand each other fairly well. I had some illusions before I went. However, he expressed a philosophy almost identical to what I had when I was his age, namely to be a free-lancing artist. He will not be a writer, nor a performing pianist, but he would not rule out the possibility of other musical or other artistic endeavors (e.g. painting, or even cutting "paper-dolls" - a work of his so admired by you). At the moment he is doing voluntary work in the slum (Martha's Tables, providing care and meals for needy children). He may do some travel before coming back in July for the Swiss Army. It is of course a disappointment to realize that he cannot be the hot-shot pianist that his teacher led him to believe. He might even seem depressed at times. However, I am not too worried about him. He has enough sense to grow up and lead a meaningful life, if not exactly the career we hoped for him.

Martin is going to the Army again next Monday for three weeks. They are making a pacifist of me!

My trip to North America made me again aware of the madness of Reagan and his administration. He does not seem to realize that he is heading for a holocaust while destroying the U.S. economy en route. I hope the Congress has some sense to cut him down somewhat (or just a little) to size. The mad man!

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Ken

20 April, 1982

Dr. K. J. Hsu  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Z  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Your article in Science (216) was read carefully and enjoyed. I do believe there are more "might have beens" per paragraph than I've ever seen in Science--but how could they turn down an article with 20 authors! Minor caveats in the very first paragraph: ".... many species...became extinct". That's not very impressive. Species are becoming extinct all the time. It's genera and families, especially genera, that should be emphasized. Secondly, I think when you say "plants became extinct" you need to say "marine plants", as the only firm evidence for that is the Coccolithophoridae, not so? As far as I know, land plants are still not known to have displayed this sort of disruption. Perhaps you should have had a paleobotanist on your team?

Best wishes.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

XXXXXX  
863-3419

15 December, 1981

Prof. Dr. K. J. Hsu  
Geol. Inst. ETH Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse' 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Enclosed is an item I think was a loan. I have finally (much enjoyed!) read it and return it herewith. We are thinking of you and Switzerland at this (and all other) seasons! Wish I could buy a Tageskarte and ride around all day again! Best to all!

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et  
encl

XXXXXX  
863-3419

12 November, 1981

Prof. Dr. K.H. Hsu  
Frohburgstrasse 96  
CH-8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

My MS. for the paper I wrote while with you in June-July is in press with Alcheringa in Australia. The editor is raising a fuss about the quality of the photo for my light-dark blurb. As you recall, I made it by having a negative made from your slide, then a print--not the best procedure! We did that because you weren't sure where the negative is (was?). Any chance of getting the negative? I enclose a xerox to refresh your memory, if necessary. I must do something about this somehow.

~~Thank~~ for the statement re Betty which just arrived--and the nice letter.

All the best to you, Christine, Peter and the others. You are marvellous friends! How I miss you all!

Love,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et  
encl: xerox

Geologisches Institut

November 4, 1981  
KH/bdSonneggstrasse 5  
Durchwahlnummer 01 / 256  
Telefonzentrale 01 / 2562211Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 ZürichProfessor Alfred Traverse 1020  
The Pennsylvania State Univ.  
College of Earth & Mineral Sci.  
University Park, Pennsylvania, 16802  
U. S. A.

Dear Al:

Sorry for this belated letter. I have been travelling till this week! Finally I am sitting down to clean up my desk.

My American friends have told me that I would not lose my social security even if I lose my citizenship; SS is also for resident or non-resident aliens who have contributed to SS. We'll see.

Saw Hickey at Salt Lake City. I tried to persuade him that the extinction pattern across C-T boundary would be exactly what I would predict on the basis of identifying the Karsk crater in Siberia as the smoking pistol. The new scenario pictures that nitrogen and oxygen in the atmosphere combined under heat to make a cloud of NO<sub>2</sub> to kill of many of his high-latitude plants downwind from the crater. Hickey seems to be an intelligent young man; he should jump into print with this "brilliant idea", with or without me.

The Australian trip was a pain in the neck, I would never perform such a service again.

I hope to stay in Zurich for most of the next nine months, except three or four quick trips to North America. This is the price you have to pay to be listed in the Who's Who.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Ken

PS: Enclosed is a statement typed by an amateur for Betty; the professional went on strike !!!!

22 September, 1981

Prof. Dr. K. J. Hsu  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Z  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Sorry this has taken so long. Your two "light-dark"  
slides returned herewith. I used the one on which my label  
appears. The other one seemed too fudgy.

I miss all of you terribly.

Best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et  
encl: 2 slides

6 August, 1981

Professor K. J. Hsu  
Geological Institute  
Swiss Federal Technical Institute  
5 Sonneggstrasse  
CH 8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

I miss you all very much, and long for news about Elie, Martin and Andreas, especially. I just got the neat letter from Peter and have been revelling in it. Here, I struggle along in Betty's absence. The one problem I have been unable to solve is the washing of my office dishes (cups, soup bowls, etc.) . The desperate measure of actually washing themself may be the only way. Betty is supposed ;to return this weekend by air from Indianapolis, just in time to see me off for Australia, but the air controllers' s trike may change both her and my pland. (I never thought I would be on RR's side, but I absolutely approve of his hard treatment of the controllers. They are government employees, like the Coast Guard, and simply cannot be allowed to throttle the country.)

Mr. Reagan has asked for and probably will get abolition of the Social Security minimum pension, which I discussed with you and which I projected to 1994 as about \$600/month. Your fear of losing that by abandoning US citizenship is therefore probably unreasonable--your minimum pension is probably down the ol' chute. Your claim to a pension is perfectly reasonable, but it is the sort of pension that will be first eliminated in the coming Soc. Sec. crunch. I heard a delightfully (unintentionally) funny program as I drove along the Ohio Turnpike yesterday (after taking Mother home), with various government economists and others discussing Soc. Sec. They tried desperately to get off the hook, that paying the ever-increasing pension bill from each year's Soc. Sec. payments is and always has been fundamentally wrong, and requires fiscal manipulation to make it work. Everybody, even Seanator Moynihan, admits that when the "baby boom" people retire, 2010 or so, there is no way current receipts can pay the pensions. ~~When~~ by 1990 the most optimistic estimate I have seen is for a \$5 billion deficit per year! One of the economists said, "That's no problem, they can make that up from reserves." A patent lie.

One task I'm desperately working on each evening after I come in from mowing. is my IRS return for 1980. In this connection, could you please send a ~~statement~~ official stationery such as (THIS IS IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ):

Profwssor Hsl, p. 2

"As the then Director of the Geological Institute, I confirm thatEElisabeth Traverse worked 5-6 days a week in this Institute from 15 November, 1980, to 15 May, 1981, as technical assistat to Alfred Traverse, Guest Professor of Palynology. Mrs. Traverse processed and studied samples in our palynological laboratory and assisted Professor Traverse in preparng lectures and reports."

This should be addressed "To whome it may concern".

Such a statement may make it possible to claim Betty's travel expenses, the lab fee she paid to RH. etc., as deductible from income. Thanks.

All the best to you all.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

typed by an amateur typist

*free file*  
≡

Geologisches Institut

February 4, 1981  
KH/bdSonneggstrasse 5  
Telefon 01 326211Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 ZürichDr. Leo Hickey  
Dept. of Paleobotany  
Smithsonian Museum of National History  
Washington, D.C.  
U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Hickey:

My old friend Al Traverse is on sabbatical here. I finally persuaded him to take a vacation from his farm. He mentioned that he knew you and that you two are cooperating on an Arctic project. To a friend of a friend, I could offer the other cheek and write an extra friendly letter.

I was more amused than bemused by your acid comment in the Letters section of Science. After a year, and much more work on the problem, I am less certain about the "flash frying" than "mass-gassing". In any case, I thought you might not find yourself immersed in such low pH if the Editor of Nature did not force me to delete the very wordy introduction of my article.

Your friend Al may have started the whole thing one day back in 1957, when we had our usual mid-day seminar on religion, philosophy and politics. He had just received the latest issue of JP, handed it to me with a smile and asked: "Do you think the guy is serious with his 'hot-air' hypothesis?" We had never heard of de Laubenfels, and never did since. It seemed to us that the name might be an anagram-pseudonym of some famous paleontologist who liked to make fun at all the "hot-air" that "killed" the dinosaurs! However, his discussion of the Tunguska Event clinged to my memory and the idea of a comet-fall was stored in the back of my "mind".

The 'hot-air' came back to me in 1978 when Nick Shackleton came to Zurich and gave a talk on Cenozoic ocean temperature at a South Atlantic deep-sea drilling site. He made a rather casual statement that the ocean seemed to have warmed up suddenly at the end of Cretaceous by about five degrees centigrade.

If this record is reliable, then the event had to be influenced by an extraterrestrial cause, I thought. So the "hot-air" could make all the dinosaurs die of heart failures. What killed the marine planktons? What made those with calcareous skeletons largely extinct? Then I remembered an article in Nature on cyanide in comet, which I had read some years back.

It took me weeks before I could dig out the de Laubenfels and the cyanide articles again. So that was my thought - process. Alvarez's iridium results were unknown to me until I was writing the last draft of my manuscript. Walter thought I might have stolen his thunder, while I thought he might have moved away from super-nova to asteroid through the grapevines. We both were talking to common friends who gathered at Copenhagen in late October of 1980. However, I now believe the development was independent thinking based upon different lines of evidence.

You might be kinder to the "mass-gassing" idea if I had a chance to show you our carbon-isotope data. (Unfortunately, the data cannot be rushed to print, because they have to be printed in the "Blue-Book" of DSDP first.) What we saw is what Wally Broecker called the "Strange-love Effect". The carbon-shift of two and half promille within an exceeding short time (probably less than a few hundred years) can only be explained by a sudden mass-mortality. A side-reaction of the mass-mortality, the catastrophic rise of CCD, made the matter worse and caused the extinction of most of the calcareous planktons. The benthics were spared because the benthic environment did not change much. However, a sudden decrease of bioturbation activities in the earliest Paleocene deep-sea cores hints that the deep benthic community did not go through the event unscathed.

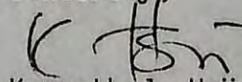
I am not as happy with the "flash-frying" because the oxygen-isotope data are not unequivocal. There is also the question if the dinosaur did not become extinct later. In the last few months, I was playing with the idea of "run-away green house" effects, which is one of the interpretations of our oxygen data. I have not completely given up the "flash-frying" though.

I did not write you this letter to convince you of my arguments, because I publish not to influence other people, but to satisfy an inner urge to express myself. We all appreciate approvals, but I am used to skeptics. (Skeptics are skeptics because they do not have to explain the data as I have.) I am writing you because you were quoted by Kerr's article concerning the extinction of plants at the end of Cretaceous. I am not sure if I read the article correctly, or if you were quoted correctly, I got the impression that nearly 80% of the high northern latitude plants suffered extinction in late or terminal Cretaceous, but almost none in the tropics. You use this fact to argue against the "black-out" scenerio of the Alvarezes. Now, I would like to ask you if this is true. As luck would have it, a reader of my Nature article, called my attention to the twin impact-craters near Kamensk, USSR. They are smaller than that predicted for a trillion ton solid-meteorite, but large enough for disintegrated fragments of a fallen comet. (The UCLA team recently interpreted the iridium data in favour of a disintegrating comet.) The iridium concentration patterns favors a comet-impact at 50°N. I would like to ask you what would be the "Tunguska-effect" on the plants of northern high latitudes if the Kamensk craters were indeed produced by two fragments of "my" comet? Would the "hot-air" of latitudinal winds create havocs with a "pyric" catastrophe? Now, if I could make you a saul of a paul would you be at all interested in a cooperation to study the implications of such a postulated event?

This happens to be a longer letter than I intended. It is possible that I might come to DC for the AGU meeting in early May. If the terminal Cretaceous event is of sufficient interest to you to get you away from more serious work for a couple of hours, I would like to drop by for a chat, and perhaps show you some laboriously gathered data behind the "hot-air".

With friendly greetings,

Sincerely,



Kenneth J. Hsu  
Professor of Geology

cc: A. Traverse

me

23 October, 1980

Dr. K. J. Hsu  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Just got back from a month's field-work in the Southwest (Triassic-Jurassic). When I arrived, there was Martin. What a joy! And I shudder how nearly we missed him, as Betty went to Indianapolis part of the time I was gone, and we could well have been unfindable! He is a FINE young man of whom you can be very proud! (I do hope dear Ruth somehow also knows.) Of course, this is not a time when I am as free as I would like to be to entertain him. But we are doing our best. He has had a thorough tour of PSU (Celia even took him to a Spanish class.) Tomorrow I have arranged a day for him at Juniata College, the very fine small college in Huntingdon; I am "Adjunct Professor of Geobiology" there, without duties or salary. Martin and I watched the World Series last night, 25 years exactly since his father and I did the same in Houston!

Don't worry about the visas--we did pay \$23.00 for them. The dire demand for us to get them came from the Swiss Embassy.

Better get back to work. All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

P.S. In order to get the most favorable airline ticket price, we are coming to Europe via Icelandair to Luxembourg (the only airliner offering more than a 90-day return ticket). We arrive there about 12:30 p.m. on 19 November. By the time we get our baggage, get into town, etc., it will be late afternoon and we will be tired, so we plan to spend that night in Luxembourg and take first morning train to Zürich on 20 November. I don't have the timetable, but would imagine we should be there about noon. Will phone your home when we arrive.

Geologisches Institut

Sonneggstrasse 5  
Telefon 01 326211

Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

September 30, 1980  
KH/bd

EXPRESS

Professor A. Traverse  
Pennsylvania State University  
College of Earth and Mineral Sciences  
University Park, PA, 16802  
U.S.A.

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of September 24th.

Yes, I see that it would be impossible to come before November 20th. Do your best and come on November 20th, and I'll appreciate.

There are many ways to make illustrations here, 35 mm slides on short notice, or acetates for overhead projector. Please bring your materials along, we shall make the illustrations here. Being pre-Quaternary, you must be older than 1.75 million years of age, three or four times older than the Peking Woman (just a revenge!).

About the health document, it never came to my attention before. I think other Americans simply ignore the whole thing. In fact, many simply came without visa. That would be against the rules, but Swiss immigration can do nothing against the practice, because Americans, unlike Turks, Greeks or Jugoslavs, can enter without visa. I noticed that a copy of the document came from my source, being sent by my ever helpful secretary on July 31 after I went to China. I appreciate your understanding that you do not blame her efficiency. Anyway, ignore the document as if it never existed. Better still, don't send your passports for visa at all (if you haven't done it already), and save the visa fee.

"Seams" was misspelling for "Teams". Now you have indeed kidded me enough about Big Foot. The trouble with me is that I am very gullible. You may or may not remember that I was one of the few who fell for the Schuss-yucca hoax!

Looking forward to seeing you soon. With best regards,

Ken

PS: Martin is leaving for the States tomorrow. He expects to find his way to University Park in one week or ten days. I told him to try to contact you during the office hour, because it would be difficult to find you at your "farm retreat".

file

24 September, 1980

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Thanks for yours of 18 September. You have probably sensed that I have been slightly upset by lack of communication from ETH, and also by the contemplated mess that my six-month absence will create for me here. It is all so complicated that I really can scarcely believe I got into it at all.

Thanks for the info that housing problem is being worked on.

Re arrival time--as I believe I have mentioned before, the final exam for my course (Evolution) is on 14 November. There are more than 200 students. It has always taken 48 hours to grade the papers, etc. Betty and I will then need time to close up our home. This is a matter which worries me greatly--we live in the country, and we must shut down our well, secure equipment in the barn, etc. We will be doing our best to secure things, but under present conditions, burglary and/or vandalism is a very distinct possibility and worry. An additional problem is that I'll be gone most of October in the field, making it difficult to prepare for my work in Zürich. The earliest we can possibly leave is therefore 18 November. The only practical way for us is Amtrak train to New York City from Huntingdon. Besides, we need to see our two children who are in NY. That means departure for Switzerland on 19 November, arriving 20 November (more details re flights, etc., later).

Re the proposed "course"--you know, of course, that I am primarily a pre-Quaternary man, although my work on pollen sedimentation, and lately on the Black Sea, gives me a small claim re the Quaternary. (Will I be able to get 35mm slides made for my lectures on short notice at ETH? As I don't do much on Quaternary in my courses here, I am pretty light on illustrative materials.) However, I suppose being forced to get on top of the Quaternary could work to my distinct advantage--especially for my proposed textbook of palynology. I'll do to my damnedest.

The health documents came from two sources--ETH, and from the Swiss Consulate in New York City. A copy of the one from ETH is enclosed. I concluded understandably that ETH's came from you (KH?). Obviously it is something that goes routinely to all Gastarbeiter,

Hsl, pg. 2

and "bd" should not be blamed. The fact that it's in no Swiss language, but in Turkish, Greek, and Serbo-Croat was not lost on me. (I was reminded of the infant Peter H. being directed to report for registration as a resident alien.)

Academia Sinica sent "to two seams" looking for Big Foot? Coal seams? But I've kidded you enough about that.

Best wishes.

Yours cordially,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et  
encl: health documents

*AS*

8 September, 1980

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
96 Frohburgstrasse  
CH-8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

It was so kind of Christine to phone just now. It was a perfect time of day--as I said in my cablegram--just before we depart for State College. I had been trying to phone you, but the recent change (apparently) of Zürich phone numbers was causing problems. However, the operator here had finally figured out that your number at ETH is 1-256 2211, extension 3669. Please correct, if need be. According to my info, Switzerland is "41". (Also, I now have 1-362 1462 for your home phone--correct?) I had planned to try again this morning at the office, but I wouldn't have found you at ETH anyway, so Christine's call was very much appreciated.

Briefly, I wanted to talk to you about the following items--and this can be a sort of agenda for our conversation when you call on or about the 17th.

1. Are we still "go"? I haven't heard much from you lately. Is, for example, the housing problem solved? (Remember, we have quite simple tastes--keep it basic.)
2. Is an arrival date of  $\pm 20$  November satisfactory? Because of my final exam for the Fall Term, on or about 15 November, that's about the earliest possible. We will return to PA on or about 1 May, 1981. Does that agree with your plans?
3. How many and what sorts of lectures, etc., will I be expected to present?--I will need to arrange and bring 35 mm slides.
4. For the research, what should I bring? Should (as I previously have asked) I bring my Black Sea microslides to work on? (I have heard very discouraging reports about prospects for the Zürich materials.) This question needs careful consideration, because I obviously must bring a "kit" of papers, possibly some tools, etc. Which ones?
5. Are the financial arrangements previously discussed still firm? Are you sure that will all be o.k.? Are there jealousies at ETH about this? Am I getting into "hot water"?
6. Will we really have to be deloused, etc., at the border like a couple of peasants?

Hsu, pg. 2

7. I will probably have one Ph.D. thesis defense during this period, ~~666~~ which I might have to fly back to USA for a couple of days. Two other graduate students will miss me very much. Other complications include the very recent development that a Chinese palynologist, Jiang Dexin (formerly Chiang Te-chin), from Lanzhou Institute of Geology, Lanzhou, Gansu, is coming in early November to work two years with me. Is it right for me to leave her to her own devices in my lab in State College for ±6 months? (By the way, there was a large delegation from China at our International Conference in Cambridge, UK, in July--I was impressed by them, and they all seemed to know of you.) Do you still think we should go ahead? We are about at the point of no return, but could still turn back, I suppose.

Hope you found your Big Foot, but if you persuaded your friends to stop using hallucinogens, it will have done more good.

Yours as ever,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

Cable gram

Sent 10:00 a.m.  
Sept. 5, 1980

Ken:

Have been trying to  
reach you by phone - but  
get only a recording that "number  
is changed." Could you phone  
me at home at appropriate  
time - best: 7<sup>00</sup> a.m. EST:  
Number 814-643-1958.

Al Towne

*file*

29 July, 1980

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Thanks for yours of 15-VII-80. I was beginning to wonder if you were still there! The "Chênese-Hebrew" article appeared in a fundamentalist source I consider dubiously respectable, so I sent it as a ~~±joke~~---about o n the level of my reaction to your Chinese "Bigfoot", or my pidgin-German letter (reaction to the x-page Aufenthaltshewilligung application I was sent). However, I am glad you found the article interesting. I believe the author was advocating "cultural" diffusion of monotheism, not racial connection? Across central Asia diffusion of such an idea would seem a possibility.

Your p.s. is technically ambiguous, but I believe "when will you be coming" refers to Zürich, not Tibet!? (Ill bet the motels are lousy in Lhasa.) Re lodging, you asked the same question in yours of 18 January, and I answered it affirmatively in mine of 6 February. However, I didn't say anything about the kind of place. We are now in a state of shock about European prices from our trip to U.K. earlier this month. I would say the most spartan accommodation possible (furnished) that would include a bath and a basic kitchen. Also in mine of 6 February I gave you our contemplated date of arrival: 25-XI-80 (my final lecture for Fall Term is 15-XI, and I have to grade papers and assign grades, etc). I wish we could go by boat and bring our newly acquired sub-compact car---that would also make the luggage problem easier. Suggestions?

Now for the negative aspect of this letter---in Cambridge I heard some rumors that the Z. See core-project you have in mind for me is not palynologically promising, and that I would be better advised to "complete" my Black Sea work in this precious free research time. Reactions?

Best wishes.

Yours very truly,

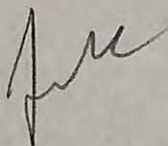
Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

Prof. Ken Hsü  
Geologisches Institut

Sonneggstrasse 5  
Telefon 01 326211

Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

July 15, 1980  
KH/bd



Professor Al Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Dept. of Geosciences  
Palynology Laboratories  
Deike Building  
University Park - PA 16802  
U. S. A.

Dear Al,

Thank you for sending me the article on "Do Chinese and Hebrews...?" While I discussed Chinese religion with my daughter, I have also come to the conclusion that the Chinese were monotheistic, their God was impersonal, and they had no idols. However, the similarity between the Chinese and Hebrew religions might be a case of parallel evolution. The Chinese may have had contact with the Jews, but studies of the many skeletons (including both rulers and slaves) at Anyang, ancient capital of Shang Dynasty, 15 century B.C. indicated that the people were racially similar to the present Chinese. It should be easy to detect the physical difference between the semites and the Chinese, especially by the size of their nose. Perhaps, scholars in this field should start looking into the skeletons of Anyang, which did include some odd types.

The analysis of Chinese characters was interesting, but not scientifically persuasive. Your author knows quite a bit of China, and I'll be interested to follow her writing. (May even buy her forthcoming book).

Elee, who is very interested in things Chinese, did think about sinology as a subject of study (she is studying biology). I advised her that she should select a thesis to do research on the religion of China before the import of buddhism in the first century B.C., if she had chosen to study sinology. It seemed that James Legge (cited in your article) did just that.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

  
Ken

PS: Christine and I are going to Tibet in 10 days. When will you be coming? Do you want us to help you to find a place to stay? What are your requirements? Our borehole in the middle of the lake reached Molasse basement at about 165 m depth. The girls have prepared some samples, but made little progress with the pollen work. We are awaiting your arrival.

7 April, 1980

Dr. K. J. Hstü  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH 8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Well, I guess my little attempt at a weak joke by writing you in pidgin German must have offended--it was just a joke!

We are busily engaged in getting ready for the other trip to Europe. Betty and I will be in U.K. for much of July (International Palynological Conference).

Happy Easter to you all! I suppose it is likely we will spend the next Paschal Feast in Europe--the last time I did that was in 1947.

All the best, and apologies if I "rubbed you the wrong way".

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

*Full*

21 February, 1980

Dr. K. J. Hstü  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH 8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Thought you'd like to see this evidence that the sabbatical is "formal" now--apparently one never gets anything more formal than an article in the paper. I am glad, however, that you didn't see the dreadful first version of the story!

I decided to discuss the financial arrangements with Dean Hosler. He now knows all about it, has no objection (i.e., won't mention it at higher levels), and realizes very well that my Penn State salary would reduce me to street-corner begging in Zürich.


Did I tell you that my parish was pretty shocked by my resignation? Oh, well.

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et  
encl:xerox of article

  
23 January, 1980

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH 8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Thanks so much to you and Christine for the calendar, which came today (sorry about last year--don't you have our "new" home address?--RD 2, Box 390, Huntingdon, PA 16652.)

The calendar will be an appetite-whetter. The sabbatical leave has (last Friday) been approved, and I have (day before yesterday) resigned my church position, effective 1 July, to clear the way for our departure. Unfortunately the department has saddled me with an extra course to teach in Fall Term this year (making two for that term), which will delay our departure for Zürich a few days (grade cards, etc.) Final Exams are 17-21 November. I would imagine we could leave about 25 November for Zürich. Of course, there is an awful lot of stuff to do and to happen before that.

I hope the international situation and/or other factors do not now intervene!

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

XXXX

9 January, 1980

Dr. Ken Hsu  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Near Ken:

Thanks for yours of 21 December. I have already written you acknowledging the great letter to our dean. The only possible problem is that you mentioned help with the finances coming from your end. That could conceivably cause me problems if the dean wants to raise the matter, as one is not supposed to be obtaining pay while receiving Penn State pay for a sabbatical leave. My guess is that the dean will choose to overlook that matter, as he knows very well that our salaries do not make it possible to live in Switzerland, let alone travel.

Congratulations on the funding for the Zürich borehole. It sounds exciting, and I really look forward to whatever my involvement in the project will be.

Best wishes to you and your family for the new year, one in which we will certainly get to see you, God willing.

Yours affectionately,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

ETH

EIDGENÖSSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE  
ZÜRICH

Geologisches Institut

Sonneggstrasse 5  
Telefon 01 326211

ext. 3669

Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

Dec. 21. ,1979

Prof. A. Traverse  
Palynological Lab.  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Deike Building  
University Park - Penns. 16802  
USA

Dear Al:

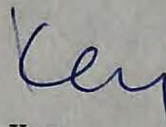
Thanks for your letter of 29th November. I am pleased that you seem to clear up things on your end. By the way, I did write your Dean a strong letter of support, although I was probably a little late to influence the matter. Meanwhile, I am optimistic about things on your end.

Do you remember, more than 20 years ago, you showed me an article in Jour. Paleo. postulating that dinosaurs were killed by "hot-air". Well, Al, new data are suggesting that the "hot-air" idea is super. I just wrote a manuscript on that subject and sent it to Nature. I am sure you would get a laugh when you read it. (You must be convinced that I am getting mad, first the story with the Chinese "big foot", now a manuscript on "hot-air").

We finally got our funding, 425,000 sfr (or almost 300,000 dollars) for the Zurich borehole. It will start in early March, weather permitting. Sybille and another girl will be working with the pollen as they come out. Naturally, they can't possibly finish and we expect big things from you when you come in November.

With best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

Your old friend,



Ken

XXXXX

14 December, 1979

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH 8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Thanks for the copy of the letter to Dean Hosler.  
Wow! I'm having that framed. What a marvellous letter!

I was down to Dean Hosler's office a while ago, and he said to me, however, that my best chance of getting famous is through being Martha's father. (She opened on Broadway this week, and the show has been very favorably reviewed.)

Happy holidays to you all. Next year in Jerusalem!  
(or some other city with a nearby lake).

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

ETH

*Fu* ~~1. September 1979~~  
EIDGENÖSSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE  
ZÜRICH

Geologisches Institut

→ Hsü  
August 29, 1979

Sonneggstrasse 5  
Telefon 01 326211  
ext. 3669

EXPRESS

Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

Prof. A. Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Deike Building  
University Park - Penns. 16802  
Palynological Laboratories  
USA

Dear Al:

I am sorry that you took such a dim view of a fascinating study of the "Chinese Bigfoot". Perhaps I am too gullible. However, you could be assured that I was quite sane when I wrote you. Incidentally, I have noted down a floral list of the supposedly relic flora of Hupeh. However, I shall not take the trouble to send you the list, lest that you think again I am losing my marbles.

Concerning your sabbatical leave, I contacted the authorities after I returned. There should be no problem. I could simply reactivate the request, which has been approved by the Academic Senate two years ago. Now I am about to do so, and I am proceeding with the assumption that you are coming in November, 1980. The financial arrangement will give you 4000 Sfr per month plus some travel expenses. That should be sufficient for you, Betty and Cynthia to live comfortably here. The final papers should be processed during the next two months. I hope everything will be all right this time, and you would not send me a letter to tell me that you could not come.

The timing will be perfect. We shall be finishing our drilling of the deep hole in Lake Zurich, and our pollen-workers may already get some data from the cores. You may give us some inspirations on the vegetational history of the central Europe on the basis of the newdata.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

  
Ken

XXXXX

29 November, 1979

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH 8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

The enclosed "press release" material was requested by the provost of the university the other day. I gather from our dean that Betty and I can now practically start packing (in our minds--we have another trip to Europe first!). Will keep you informed.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et  
encl: press release

XXXXX

22 August, 1979

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Re yours (?) of 8-VIII-79. We have subjected the letter to several kinds of cryptanalysis with as yet no luck. Even the local sinologists pass. China has a "Bigfoot" or "Abominable Snowman"? On the face of it, this is obviously not a genuine Hsü letter? (It has no signature.)

I thought there was some discussion of a sabbatical 3 months (or whatever) in Zürich, winter '80-'81. Is the hairy ape-man really a "figure" for AT? I guess we'll just have to wait to find out.

Davidia et al. are fascinating, but, of course, I don't have credentials as a taxonomic specialist--just in case that part of the story is straight, as seems possible.

We do hope you're all right, dear old friend.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

Geologisches Institut

August 8, 1979

Sonneggstrasse 5  
Telefon 01 326211Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 ZürichProf. Al Traverse  
Pennsylvania State University  
Dept. of Geosciences  
Palynology Dept.  
Deike Building  
University Park - Penn. 16802  
USA

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of 6th July. About Davidia, it was probably not a new discovery, but a discovery before the WWII, perhaps early the century. They did tell me that it occurred only as Tertiary fossils before its discovery at E-Mei. I have seen a picture of its flower, white and rather larger than dogwoods.

There was recently a very interesting article by scientists of the paleontological institute of Academia Sinica. There have been repeated oral accounts of sighting giant (some 7 feet tall) hairy ape-man in western Hupeh, where metasequoia was first discovered. The institute sent expeditions to search for it (or him) in 76 and 77. They did not see an ape-man themselves, but found hair on the tree, where one such was sighted (the hair was not bear hair, but primate's hair). Found footprints, excrements, and could determine the animal's diet as being similar to omnivorous primates. Fossil bones of gigantopithecus have been found in the vicinity. Scientists are convinced that such an animal does exist, and think that it may be the living descendent of Gigantopithecus. Fossil bones of Gigantop. are commonly found associated with those of Panda bears in South China, when the vegetation similar to the relic flora of Hupeh and Sichuan was widespread in China, - a flora including the sword-bambus which is the staple food of Panda. The theory now is that both Panda and Gigantopithecus faunas flourished in environments of that flora, which for some peculiar climatic circumstances, is preserved in Hupeh and Sichuan. Therefore, pandas are now found only in western Sichuan, and and Gigantopithecus ape-men are probably still living in the primeval forests of western Hupeh. Perhaps, you can organize an expedition by the American Botanical Society to come to study this very peculiar flora, which includes not only meta-sequoia, sword-bambus, and Davidia, but also a few other supposedly fossil species. What do you think?

Thanks for the tip about Sybille's need. I shall see that she gets what she needs.

Martin's long vacation is coming to an end. He is getting letters from home telling horrifying tales of the stress of schoolwork. I hope he survives.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Ken

*Hsü*

6 July, 1979

Dr. K. J. Hstü  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH 8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

How marvelous to get your lovely postcard from Chengdu! The stippled-in mountains in the background make the view unique! Rhododendron at 4000 m. isn't too surprising, if the latitude is low. Your info on Davidia is puzzling--Davidia is a very near relative of dogwood (remember from Houston?). My books all say "West China"--so it's not a new discovery. I know the pollen. It doesn't seem to be a case like Metasequoia (you had one in Houston), which was known only as (Mesozoic-Paleogene) fossil until discovered alive in China. I look forward to seeing the picture of Davidia with Martin.

Your card came as I was about to write you about Sibylle's visit. We enjoyed having her, and I think Betty and I taught her a great deal--she taught us some things, too. Unfortunately her arrival coincided with several crises, including a long manuscript to proof and fret over, and several NSF-generated, time consuming difficulties. Nevertheless, I believe she got her "moneysworth"!

From several long discussions with Sibylle I garnered the impression that a few of her problems are not caused by insufficient technique but by insufficiencies in her set-up:

1. She should have either a small processing lab available to her alone--or else part of a larger facility so she could have her own "end" (like me on the Glomar Challenger).
2. She needs more than one centrifuge--you will recall that I kept two busy on the GC--three is better yet. Better three Volkswagen centrifuges than one Rolls Royce.
3. She should have two magnetic stirring hot plates, preferably 4-place units.

I just got back from a two-week trip--business in Ottawa (Int. Comm. Palynology) and vacation in eastern Canada. I took

Hsu, pg. 2

my mother for "one last" visit to old friends, graves, relatives. It wasn't much of a rest for me!

Regards as ever.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

**ETH**

**EIDGENÖSSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE  
ZÜRICH**

Geologisches Institut

March 28, 1979

Sonneggstrasse 5  
Telefon 01 3262 11

Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

Prof. A. Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State Univ.  
Palynology Lab.  
Deike Bldg  
University Park - Penns. 16802  
USA

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of the 22nd. Sibylle should be able to come to you to learn the techniques. I shall ask here to contact you directly! I shall write again in a more leisurely moment.

Best regards to you all.                      Yours,

Ken

c.c. Sibylle Franks

**EIDGENÖSSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE ZURICH**

Geologisches Institut  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich  
Telefon 01 32 62 11

29 March 1979

Ken Hsü is on sabbatical leave in China until late August. I shall forward any mail you have for him.

best regards,

C. Hartendorf, Secretary

26 March 1979

Dr. K. J. Hsu  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH 8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Under separate cover (printed matter, will probably take a month to get to you) I am sending a copy of the sabbatical leave proposal submitted by Al for Winter-Spring, 1980-81, to visit you in Zürich. He wanted you to have it so you would know that he is working on the project. Perhaps by now you have already left for China--I don't remember exactly when you were going. Since the U.S. recognized the People's Republic it has become quite the fashion for Americans to go to China, so you will probably fun into any number of our colleagues. Geoff Norris, Secretary-Treasurer of the ICP (outfit Al is President of), is there now.

If we really are going to Zürich, I'll have to learn some German--or perhaps I should aim directly at the Zürich parlance. (I'm very poor at languages.)

Looking forward to seeing you one of these days.

Yours very truly,

Elizabeth I. Traverse  
(how about "Miscellaneous  
Assistant in Palynology"?)

22 February, 1979

Dr. K. J. Hstü  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH 8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Glad to hear that Sybille (what a lovely name) is processing Black Sea samples.

In some respects your memory is a little faulty, old friend--Patty P. only processed for me on 42B when she was free of other more pressing matters and then only when I threatened to jump overboard! Furthermore, what she did was assist me in the processing. She hardly did any samples all by herself. (It is a curse to have total recall.)

However, though your recollection of Ms. Paluso's contribution to my efforts in the hold of that tub are somewhat more sanguine than are the facts of the matter, your estimate of time required per sample is perfectly correct! In an ordinary 8-hour day, a decently equipped and industrious technician in a small palynological laboratory who is doing nothing else should process about 8 samples per day. I mean he or she could start 8 new ones each morning and complete 8 previously started by the end of the day. If Sybille has other responsibilities, two or so a day isn't bad!

Now, as to a set of instructions for Sybille---I give a course here in palynology, and a good many hours are spent in learning processing techniques. It would be very time-consuming to produce a workable manual, and I would not want a less than satisfactory one to be around with my name on it.

If one could raise the money, what needs to be done is for Sybille to come here, even if for only a few days. We could have her processing 100% up to snuff by the end of that time. I do hope you understand my reluctance to comply with the request for a "set of instructions". However, if Sybille would write me about any particular procedures that are causing trouble, I'd be very happy to respond.

Hst, pg. 2

I gave a lecture at the University of Pennsylvania on alpha-beta-gamma and whatnot a few weeks ago--very well received. The more I look in the literature the more I find to support it!

Wow!--your last paragraph is a thrill for Betty and me! We are excited just thinking about it. First--Celia will not be involved. That is one reason for selecting '80-'81. She will, God willing, be a freshperdaughter at Penn State (or wherever) and will not be living at home. The guest investigator idea is great! I will begin the paperwork on this end also--immediately. This time it'll happen!

Best regards to you, Christine and all.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

Geologisches Institut

Sonneggstrasse 5  
Telefon 01 326211Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

February 10, 1979

Prof. A. Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State  
University  
Dept. of Geosciences  
Palynological Laboratories  
University Park - Penn. 16802  
USA

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of 18th January. It got buried beneath my papers, before I finally pulled it out from the mess of my desk-top.

I am pleased to learn that you are resuming correspondence with your colleague in Nanking. You can be certain that the delay in response was not related to personal habits, but related to political philosophy of the country. I do hope that things will stay this way for a while.

Sybille Franks is now getting started. As a beginner, she is slow. However, she is perhaps a little slower than usual because our methodology is wrong. I remember that you made Pat process some 20 samples a day. Now Sybille said that she needed a week for 8 samples. What a discrepancy! Furthermore she has the acid, and you did not have it. Could you send us a set of instructions so that we could find out if and what did we do wrong?

Sybille would like to come to see you, perhaps in Spring. Her problem is that she has two school-aged children, who need their grandmother as the baby-sitter. She will contact you directly when she wants to come.

Concerning your last proposal to come in the Winter of 1980-81. It is an excellent idea. I could secure a Guest Investigator appointment for you for the months December, January, and February, with a salary of about 5'000 swiss francs per month, which should be enough for you and Betty and Celia. If you agree to it, I shall start paper work for you again when I come back from China in the autumn. I anticipate much activity on pollen research in connection with our deep bore hole, your presence would be very much appreciated by all.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Ken

c.c. Sybille Franks

18 January, 1979

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH 8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Thanks very much for yours of 18 December. I was delighted that it took you from 29 September to answer my previous one, because that makes me feel less guilty! By the way, while I think of it, best wishes to you for '79--hope we can get together sometime during it, but at the moment it doesn't seem likely.

It certainly is exciting that you all are getting to go to China. I wish I could be the proverbial little mouse in your luggage to see what it's like. That reminds me about the ICP business relating to China. I think we've got that straightened out, though I'm still a little nervous about it. At the AASP meetings in Phoenix in October I met with the delegation from Taiwan--it consisted of one person, Professor Huang. He seemed to me to be a very nice person. I convinced him that it would be necessary for the Taiwanese to style their small palynological organization as the Palynological Society of Taiwan which they have done. Under the circumstances there now seems to be no reason why that little organization can't belong to ICP as a constituent group. For example, we already have two palynological societies in India and a third one in the process of formation. In other words, we do not have the policy of one nation-one vote! Meanwhile we are in touch with palynologists in PRC. One of them at the University in Nanking just wrote me responding to "your two previous letters" and reprints I had sent him (her?). There was no comment about the delay in response, which is really amusing, because the time in question is not the matter of months that you and I apologise back and forth about but ten years!

Regarding Sybill Franks and the Black Sea project, that is good news and she and I certainly should be in contact. The idea of my visiting in your laboratory still appeals, and is quite practical in that I am contemplating terminating my church obligation one of these years--I certainly can't keep it going forever,

Hsü, pg. 2

and this could be the occasion for that. However, there is another problem, which I would like to run past you for your consideration. Betty and I have become the proprietors of a large country establishment as I may have mentioned before. It is extremely difficult to be gone from it during the spring and summer months. Indeed, last summer we left for two weeks in July, and had a terrible time getting the place back in order when we returned. Everything was grown up in weeds. On the other hand, it is quite possible to drain the pipes and close up the place and leave during the winter months. I would therefore suggest that it would be much more practical for us to contemplate coming or going to Switzerland for the winter term after you get back from China. As I understand your schedule, that would be the winter of 1980-81, and for us the winter term begins the late middle part of November and lasts until early to mid March. (Actually, I decided to look it up--in '80-'81, ~~winter~~ all term ends Nov. 21, and spring term begins March 9). How does that grab you? I am not reluctant to ask for leave for the term, but I probably should have a notion of when it's going to be, so I can get the paper work underway.

Glad to get the news about my godson, Martin. He will be all right, and he sounds as if his estimation of the meritocracy is probably more rational than mine. Best wishes, old friend, and regards to all of your family.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

**ETH****EIDGENÖSSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE  
ZÜRICH**

Geologisches Institut

December 18, 1978

Sonneggstrasse 5  
Telefon 01 326211Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 ZürichProf. Al Traverse  
Palynological Laboratories  
Deike 435  
Pennsylvania State University  
University Park - PA 16802  
USA

Dear Al:

Your letter of 29th September has been lying on my desk ever since it came. For once, I was a bad correspondent. The fact is, however, that I have shifted myself in high gear, to wind up four manuscripts during the last three months. It was a house cleaning job to report on work that have been done at various stages of my career during the last 25 years (including some of my old work on Ventura!). The work is not yet finished; I still have two more to go before I leave for China in early March. Meanwhile, Christine has noted the wear and tear on me and has given orders to slow down the week before the holidays. It is, therefore, time that I attend to my neglected correspondence.

The news over the weekend (Carter's decision to have normal relations with PRC) should facilitate your work at ICP to bring in PRC representatives. I would like to mention one thing, though, that you should recognize that Peking is very hard on the "judicial aspect" of the Taiwan question. When I asked one of their representatives, if PRC objected to Chinese individuals from Taiwan to participate in international organizations, he says that PRC welcome individual participations, but they take a critical look if those are indeed individual participants, and whom they do represent! For example, if some "individual" gives his address as "National Taiwan University", or "National Taiwan Petroleum Company", the term "national" is objectionable, because PRC does not recognize Taiwan as a nation, but as a province of China. Going back to your theoretical solution: Wyoming scientists theoretically could form an organization and get recognized by ICP, but then the US representatives in ICP would probably walk out if the Wyoming Government has declared that she is the United States, and that US Government in Washington has been usurped by bandits, etc.

Concerning the Black Sea project, Sybille Franks, who received her Ph.D. some time ago, has decided to work part-time with me on the Black Sea cores. She has got so far as to file forms to request additional samples from Site 380. I hope she could come to see you at Penn State, but she is divorced with two young kids and has difficulty with foreign travels. Anyway, I still hope she could go sometime in the next year or so. Meanwhile, I think the new solution of having you over is very simple for us both: It is easy for us, just to invite you here for 2-3 months as a guest investigator. We shall pay you enough for your travel and your stay here. You need not fight with

Penn State about sabbatical leave, etc., because you could come to spend the Summer Recess with us. I think the Summer 1980 would be excellent, when Sybille and one or two others will be working on Quaternary pollen. What do you think?

Martin is still active in the scouts. He is actually quite intelligent, except he has very little interests in his school work. However, he is mature to know that better life in our meritocratic society comes with high education. So he is doing just enough to "hang on " there!

With best wishes for the New Year,

Your old friend,

Ken

29 September, 1978

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH 8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

As you say, I'm not as good a correspondent as I should be. Not that I don't like to correspond--I just literally don't get a minute to take care of it. I did open your letter within a few days of its arrival, however, and am answering it only ten days after its dictation! That was a very useful letter as was the enclosure, and I've had both immediately xeroxed and fired off to our ICP Secretary inasmuch as he and I are faced with a confrontation with the Formosan representative urging their recognition in the ICP. Although your letter doesn't seem to say so, the enclosure states that the PRC would not agree to Formosa being represented even as Formosa. The situation may be different for us though, in that our statutes do not require that the organizations which make up the ICP be national. For example, an organization of palynologists in Wyoming could theoretically form and get recognized even though there's already in the field an American organization. However, we will be very, very careful about Mr. Huang and try very hard to get the PRC in, as that would be the only logical step.

Glad to hear you have a gal working on the Black Sea palynology. She by all means should spend some time here before getting too far into it, because I would like to think that I have some know-how about it which would be very important for her to absorb in connection with the work. Perhaps I will hear more about that from you in due time.

We are already looking forward to 1980 and my promise to myself that I will have cut back obligations. At the very least, I will be at the end of the road as far as scientific politics are concerned. I have no intention whatsoever of continuing any of that past 1980. As you say, we can talk about that during the coming two years.

I'm delighted about Martin's success as a scout. Don't forget frequently repeated statements that if he should wish to spend some time in the US, he would be welcome to visit us. Betty joins me in best wishes.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse, Prof. of Palynology

AT/et

Geologisches Institut

September 19, 1978

Sonneggstrasse 5  
Telefon 01 326211

Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

Prof. A. Traverse  
Pennsylvania State University  
Palynological Lab.  
College of Earth & Mineral Sci  
University Park - Penns. 16802  
USA

Dear Al:

Unlike you, I am a good correspondent. I am writing you by returning post! Concerning the political maneuvering, it is quite simple. It has been done by IUGS and by IUGG. Enclosed is a report by the IUGS General Secretary concerning their tactics during the political negotiations, you may take the same steps. The IUGS tactic is that:

"Taipeh can represent Taiwan but not Republic of China, only Peking or the People's republic represents China". This is not dirty politics, but a political fact recognized by practically all nations of the world (and by the U.S., de facto) except for the two chinas. Since Taipeh will not wish to give up its claim on China, and will not be content as the representatives of Taiwan only, they have no choice but to boycott the international organization which takes such a view. Once they withdraw their application, you could invite the PCR to join and they join gladly! Of course, you may have to change your tactic if the Taipeh finally wises up and decides that they would represent Taiwan only.

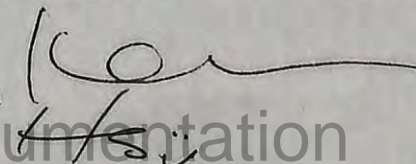
Concerning Zürich 1981, it would be possible. We can think about it when the time comes and when you are more sure of what you want to do. We can also think of a short stay for a month or two instead of a year. I am pleased to learn that you are reducing your commitments. This will be my wish too. Concerning the Black Sea, I finally got a girl interested to work on pollen part time. This will not be a thesis work (she had her Ph.D. in general geology), but a hourly paid research work. Therefore, would you be interested that we make the Black Sea a long-range cooperation. I could send the girl to you sometime to get experiences.

Thank you for remembering our anniversary. I almost forgot, but recovered in the last moment when I was on board an oceanographic vessel anchored at Santorini Bay. I sent a telegram just in time! Martin is doing fine, not so good at school, but a great success as a boyscout. Perhaps he will have an army career after all. He is talking about joining the air force as a pilot, but his grades may not be good enough!

With best regards,

Old friend

Ken



12 September, 1978

Dr. K. J. Hsü  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH 8006, Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Many thanks for yours of 31 July. It arrived during some absences and flurries of other activity, hence delay in answering-- I know....I can hear you saying that it was actually about average for elapsed time.

Re the S.A. article--seems fine to me, though I admit wishing that I had more data to support my part of it. I was a little disappointed that the "Anna" and "Betty" got "cleaned up". As far as being offended is concerned, I am reminded of a late, prominent bishop who said he didn't care what was written about him, as long as they spelled his name correctly.

It is disappointing that there will not be a fresh face from Zürich here, working on the Black Sea stuff, but I am happy that you encourage me to carry on the research, for that is my intention too. Indeed, I do work on it whenever possible.

Re an NSF proposal---good idea, but I am not going to submit another one until I feel like an honest man again--that I've finished the work promised in the last Black Sea proposal--perhaps another year. I will appreciate your help when I get to the project.

About 1980 and all that--I suppose it is improbable I can realistically expect to be free enough for any major deal by that time. It (confidentially) does remain my plan to terminate my church obligation in the fall of 1980, when I will have served the parish in Huntingdon for five whole years. Celia will also be into the next chapter of her life by June, 1980, at which time she graduates from high school. I will preside at the International Conference (Cambridge, England) in June-July, 1980, and probably will ~~also~~ attend the Geological Congress immediately after the palynological session. I believe that Congress is in Paris. Then I'll come home and resign at Huntingdon. Perhaps then I'd still be welcome at Zürich--in 1981?--but we have a long time to contemplate that!

Congratulations on your presidency!--I am glad to hear you'll get PRC involved. We are on the verge of getting PRC into the International Commission for Palynology, but there is a hitch--Formosa also wants in, and we can't figure out how to handle it. Trouble is, Formosa has an official society, and our Constitution provides no way for us to refuse them. We

Hsu, pg. 2

want PRC, so I guess we may have to play dirty?

Thanks for news re Martin. I am glad he is going to China--talk about "Roots"! I pray for his happiness. Life is such a challenge for us all. I hope we live long enough to get to go to China ourselves. It would be frustrating to have to settle for Hong Kong.

I am working on SEM studies of the famous 'Bag 51', and a number of other dinoflagellates. I am learning more about both SEM and dinos than I ever intended. Who says an old dog can't learn new tricks?

No big news here at the moment. Celia had a month in Belgium this summer with a physician friend of mine and his family. Betty and I had two weeks in the Gaspé. I am building a small barn for my agricultural equipment and cutting firewood for winter and for exercise.

All the best.

Affectionately,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et  
encl: ICP blurb

Geologisches Institut

Sonneggstrasse 5  
Telefon 01 326211

Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

Prof. Al Traverse  
College of Earth and Mineral Sciences  
Palynological Laboratories  
Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, Penns. 16802  
USA

July 31, 1978

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of 26th May. Enclosed is the SA article you referred to. I consider SA, like New York Times Science Supplement as a medium of popular reporting and not a medium of scientific reporting. Therefore, the article is a report not only of my own work, but that of other people's as well. I hope I did not misrepresent you in the article. I also hope that I have touched all the bases in my acknowledgements. I knew some people were upset with it for various reasons. Nevertheless, my duty is to serve the public and not to placate small-minded colleagues.

My student decided not to work on the palynology of Black Sea samples on a Ph.D. thesis. He felt you have started the work and you should finish the work yourself. So there will not be any one coming to Penn State to work with you. In a way, I agree with him, and would like to see that you finish working on the samples Betty prepared for you. Perhaps we discuss the merit of such a study when we meet again. (Heaven know when? How about GSA!) Also may be you could send in a NSF proposal, and I shall help you with the proposal-writing, so that a Ph.D. student under you could do the job, if you yourself cannot do it.

About 1980, I shall not make any commitment until I know more of your plans. I may re-activate our old application, which was about to be approved. There might be some uncertainty and I was not 100% (only 95%) sure as I was a few years ago about getting the appointment.

By the way, I have been elected the President of the International Association of Sedimentologists, "the highest elective office of my field of specialization", paraphrasing a Traversiana. I shall carry out a China-politics for our association and try to see that scientists from that country play an important role in our society.

Martin just left this morning as the troop leader of boy-scout to their summer camp. They shall march across a 10,000-foot mountain with their baggage on their back to get to their camp-site. Martin is a pacifist or a minimalist. He almost refused to become a Swiss citizen because he would not have to serve in the Swiss Army as an American living in Switzerland. He said he would do that if we forced him. Well we did! With this past history, I don't see an army career for him, even though I think he might be quite suited for that. By the way, Martin will go to China with me next year, when I shall take a sabbatical there to study deltaic and lake sediments.

With best regards,

Your old friend

26 May, 1978

Dr. K. H. Hsu  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Thanks for your good letter of 17 May which, for once, I am actually answering the day it got to my desk!

Don't even mention the impact of age on us, and maybe it will go away! Seriously, I am convinced I can be as productive as ever, given an environment conducive to work and reasonably free of emotionally disturbing things. I am sure that a large part of the observed decline on productivity in the middle years results not from senility but from the mountains of responsibility heaped on one (in my case, heavy teaching load, the international presidency, church duties, etc.) plus lack of domestic tranquility.

We do have the samples, and most of them are processed. I hope to analyze them this summer, but I can say already that they appear to be as expected (just from casual scanning). The correspondence about the samples came not from John but from some person in San Diego. Weird.

"Everybody" is telling me about your Scientific American article, but I haven't seen it yet. First I heard of it was at Juniata College. I was giving a lecture on the Pleistocene two weeks ago, and one student said "you got that curve from an article in the current Sci. Amer. by some Chinese fellow".

Re 1980<sup>*Turch*</sup>--I surely would like to keep that open as a possibility, but there are complications, of course. I believe I discussed them all with you. Celia will be out of the nest. I will have terminated my church duties. I will have ended my term as international president at the 5th Congress in Cambridge in early July, 1980. Really, the only problem is my home--it is quite an operation and an enormous investment. I suppose I might sell it, but at the moment that is an emotionally unacceptable idea to me. It couldn't be left untended for a year--but perhaps I could get neighbors to help out? I just don't know about that aspect of things! Nevertheless, nothing ventured, nothing gained, and I believe I'll push on as if I'll be with you in autumn, 1980.

Hstü, pg. 2

All the best to everybody--I was delighted by Martin's success--please tell him. Perhaps a career in the army?--what would dear Ruth have thought of that?

Yours affectionately,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et



Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale Zurich  
Institut de Géologie  
Ken Hsü

Prof. Al Traverse  
Pennsylvania State University  
College of Earth and Mineral  
Sciences  
University Park, Penn. 16802  
USA

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of March 25th. I have had some most unproductive time during the last few months. Signs of advancing age and oncoming senility!

The palynologist's name is Yang Chi-Tuan, Responsible member of the Scientific Section, Geological Society of China, Paleontologist. I get the impression that he is important in science-politics of the Geological Survey of China (more formally known as the State Bureau of Geology). I am almost sure that Bill Schopf will see him when he gets to China. Please ask Bill to give Mr. Yang his greetings if he sees him.

Al, I know of your complex life and do not expect quick decisions from you, which you may change anyway. I forgot to tell you at Nyack that our project to drill in the deep water of Lake Zurich is, in principle, approved by our administration (it should be a quarter of a million dollars worth of science, and much of it palynological!) There will be much preparatory surveys for site-selection so that we do not foresee drilling until late 1979. If you do get here in 1980, you will be in the middle of the excitement, and you can help us very much to work out the Quaternary vegetational history of Europe. This reminds me that you should get some money from Mr. Guggenheim, naming that as the project, and also me as one of the referees. I am sure that you will get some 5000-10000 dollars from them (see enclosed for address). We shall, of course, try to give you enough anyway, whether or not Mr. Guggenheim is very generous.

Did you get the samples from John Fiske. If not, write and ask him, or better still, call him up!

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Ken

p.s. Martin is a troop-leader in the boy-scouts now with 3 platoons and some 30 troops under him!

25 March, 1978

Dr. K.J. Hsu  
Geologisches Institut, E.T.H.  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH -8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

That was a great visit we had even if it was quite brief. I found it restorative. I certainly need more such! This will be somewhat rambling but that is unavoidable under the circumstances.

First of all, will you remember to give me the name or names of potential palynological contacts in China? It might be that I could still get such to Bill Schopf before he leaves. In any event, we could also try writing directly. If the ICP is to be truly international we must have representation from mainland China!

Betty and I are discussing the questions relating to 1980, but don't expect anything very quickly on that. It is a very complicated question involving the extensive property in Huntingdon County, my church obligation, children, parents, etc. I really sometimes think that you don't understand how complicated my life and life-style are. Nevertheless, we would like to keep thinking about the possibility of a period of time in Zürich, and I just want you to know that it is on one of the burners of the stove!

I will get to the proposal as soon as possible and send you a very preliminary draft thereof.

I do hope we'll get the samples from Lamont fairly soon. We will give them priority in order to be able to get something out on that light vs. dark question in the fairly near future. I think that's a fascinating question with many interesting implications.

I had read your updated Swiss lake proposal before going to Nyack, but we never got around to discussing it, though I had it in my briefcase. I don't know that I could really help any beyond the "political" assistance I rendered.

Best wishes to Christine and the kids. Looking forward to seeing you again one of these days, I am

Yours very truly,

*At*  
Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

Hsu

Mar. 11, 1978

TO Dr. Traverse  
DATE Fri. 3/11 '78 TIME 9:15

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

fill  
as  
corresp.

M. Hsu ←  
of Switzerland

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONED  PLEASE RETURN CALL   
CALLED TO SEE YOU  WILL CALL AGAIN   
RETURNED YOUR CALL  RUSH

MESSAGE Cannot meet you  
until 7:30 Mon. eve.  
in New York. His plane  
won't be in at 6:00 as  
you had planned

Signed

Judy

102705

ETH

EIDGENÖSSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE  
ZÜRICH

Geologisches Institut

Sonneggstrasse 5  
Telefon 01 326211

Postadresse:  
Geologisches Institut  
ETH-Zentrum  
CH-8092 Zürich

February 23, 1978

Prof. Al Traverse  
The Pennsylvania State University  
College of Earth and Mineral Sci.  
University Park, Penns. 16802  
USA

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of the 9th. I am pleased to know that you could come to New York to meet me. I suggest that we meet in the afternoon, say between 5:00 and 6:00 P.M. at the West Gate Motor Lodge, Nyack (where we stayed before) on Monday, March 13th. We can have a nice chat that evening and do some sampling and talk science the next day.

Thank you for your positive response about my student. We shall talk about it when I am there. Meanwhile, I am looking forward to seeing you soon. With best regards,

Sincerely,



Ken

EIDGENÖSSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE ZÜRICH

1720/41-1020.5

EF/2048/Me

DIE SCHULLEITUNG

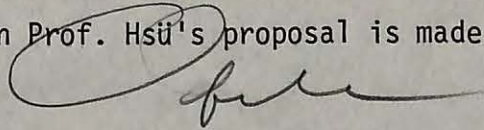
CH-8092 Zurich, February 17, 1978.  
Rämistr. 101

Professor A. T r a v e r s e ,  
The Pennsylvania State University,  
Department of Geosciences,  
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802  
-----

Dear Professor Traverse,

Thank you very much for your letter recommending Prof. Hsü's recent proposal to drill a deep core beneath Lake Zurich.

I expect to receive the relevant report of our research commission in about a fortnight so that your letter arrived in good time to be taken into consideration when the decision on Prof. Hsü's proposal is made.

  
Yours very truly,

*E. Freitag*

Dr. E. Freitag  
Betriebsdirektor

*Handwritten:*  
H. H. H.

9 February, 1978

Dr. E. Freitag  
E.T.H.-Zürich  
E.T.H.-Zentrum  
H G F 53.4  
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Freitag:

I hope it is not too late for me to add my voice to those who may have already recommended that Dr. K. J. Hsu be supported in his research efforts in Lake Zürich. I refer, of course, to the proposal to drill a deep core and carry out geothermal, sedimentological and paleontological studies on the cored sediments obtained. I am especially interested in the obvious applications of the work to study of the Neogene history of climate and especially of vegetation in central and southern Europe. It would be impossible to exaggerate the importance of Dr. Hsu's proposed project to these aspects of Neogene research, and I hope he will be helped in whatever way the Swiss authorities can render.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology  
President, International  
Commission for Palynology

*Handwritten:*  
100X-202-243W  
1978 FEB 10 10 11 AM  
E. T. H. ZÜRICH

AT/et

9 February, 1978

Dr. K. J. Hstü  
Geologisches Institut  
E.T.H.  
Sonneggstrasse 5  
CH-8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

I confess that I have let you down--but I really couldn't help it--Christmas, personal problems, flu, a terrible winter, etc.--have accounted for my poor performance. But that doesn't help you, of course. Mea culpa. "I firmly purpose amendment..." I should long ago have written you per yours of 2 December, 1977, re March (14-17 Mar., per yours of 27 Jan., 1978). I'll be there--which day or days do you suggest? I think more sampling with your help would be very good--undoubtedly helpful.

I did write Dr. Freitag as you requested and as strongly as I could--I only fear that my letter might have been too tardy to be helpful?

Now about yours of 27 Jan.--I would be delighted to see your Ph.D. student carry on the Black Sea work. Of course, I'd like to be involved in some way, too--perhaps that could be discussed at Lamont? (Where will you be staying, by the way?) Maybe I'll make it to Zürich yet? (We are talking of "retiring" from my church obligation in 1980.) Your student would be most welcome here--he would get most out of being here in winter term probably--the basic palynology course is given then. However, the lab is always active, and I think he'd benefit from being here anytime. (Where does Mr. Hochuli fit in?--he has already written me.)

Once again, apologies for my not answering sooner. Let me hear more about the March trip as soon as possible!

Best wishes, dear old friend, to you and your family.  
(I love getting news from my godson, Martin.)

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse  
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation



Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale Zurich  
Institut de Géologie  
Ken Hsü

Prof. A. Traverse  
Pennsylvania State Univ.  
Dept. of Geosciences  
Palynology Dept.  
Deike Bldg  
University Park - Penns.  
16802

USA

Dear Al:

We have a seminar on the Quaternary this year. It seems more urgent than ever that we should reconstruct a detailed climatic curve for the Black Sea, spanning intervals of about every 25-50 thousand years. This would require some 4-8 samples per core for terrigenous sediments, and some 40-60 samples per core for chemical deposited sediments. This would entail studying a few thousand pollen samples.

With your many commitments, I question if I could ever move you into such an ambitious project. Meanwhile, I have excited an interest of a very good student to get into the project for his Ph.D. thesis. I am writing you to ask:

- 1) If you would be happy to see someone working out a detailed climatic curve. The final product may only provide details to the general pattern you showed, or the details might even change the general picture significantly. (I talked with Nick Shackleton, and he encouraged me that the Black Sea profile might eventually be correlated with his ocean profiles.)
- 2) If the young man could stay some two or three months in your laboratory, as an auditor in the Penn State, when he could learn from you. (We do give our students palynology lessons, but both he and I would like to see that he broadens his experience by working with someone like yourself for awhile).

Please let me know if you would encourage our undertaking.  
With best regards,

Sincerely,

Ken

p.s. My other student is finishing his paleomagnetic study. I would like to get together with you concerning the publication of the paper to be co-authored with you, which will combine his paleomagnetic and your pollen data for a preliminary proposal of the history of climatic variations in the regions around the Black Sea. I shall be at Lamont, March 14-17. Could we meet there and then once?

c.c. Markus Buser