



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

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

From: ken@erdw.ethz.ch (Ken =?iso-8859-1?Q?Hs=FC?=)
Return-path: <ken@erdw.ethz.ch>
To: bettyandal@juno.com (Alfred or Elizabeth I. Traverse)
Date: Tue, 27 Oct 1998 17:21:44 +0100 (MET)
Subject: Re: Here ya' go
Message-ID: <v01530505b25bade83c04@[192.33.93.30]>
X-Status: Read

>ok i understand. hope you can figure out your friends address. i got
>this from you if you want to try and send it again. wb
>~Rachel

>
> Hi, AL: I sent my email to the number daisy554@juno.com which you gave
>me,
>but the number apparently belongs to Rachel L. French. Could you check
>your
>number again. Meanwhile, I am trying to send the message through Penn
>State.

>

**YES I FOUND THAT ALL MYSELF. RACHEL L. FRENCH IS A 14 YEAR OLD GIRL IN
NC,
YOU MIGHT GET ME IN TROUBLE TO GET INTO CONTACT WITH SUCH MINOR PEOPLE.
ANYWAY, I SENT THE REPLY TO PENN STATE. HAVE YOU GOT THAT? WITH BEST
REGARDS, KEN**

From: ken@erdw.ethz.ch (Ken =?iso-8859-1?Q?Hs=FC?=)
Return-path: <ken@erdw.ethz.ch>
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Cc: daisy554@juno.com (Rachel L French)
Date: Mon, 26 Oct 1998 12:13:21 +0100 (MET)
Subject: Re: Here ya' go
Message-ID: <v01530500b259e8de3409@[192.33.93.47]>
X-Status: Read

K. Hsu

Hi, AL: I sent my email to the number daisy554@juno.com which you gave me, but the number apparently belongs to Rachel L. French. Could you check your number again. Meanwhile, I am trying to send the message through Penn State.

>>Dear Alfred: I SHALL REPLY IN CAPS.

>>

>>I am of course always willing to do whatever I can to be helpful to you.

>>Anthropology is not my forte, though I always have had a strong interest

>>in it. I took Hooton's course on racial mixtures at Harvard and found

>it

>>fascinating.

>>

>>It is, of course, a little dangerous to write a technical book in a

>field

>>outside of one's area of expertise, but some of the most stimulating

>>stuff in anthropology has been done by non-anthropologists. Such as

>>A Udrey's "African Genesis."

>IT IS NOT A BOOK ON ANTHROPOLOGY. IT IS MORE A BOOK ON HISTORY. IT IS A

>THEORY OF THE HISTORY OF THE PEOPLES. A SCIENTIFIC THEORY PREDICTS. THE

>PURPOSE IS TO FIND A SYSTEMATIC PATTERN OF THE EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF

>PEOPLES AND THE THEORY PREDICTS.

>

>>This has been a very difficult summer and early fall, however. I was

>>kicked out of my office space at PSU because Hiroshi Ohmoto got a

>million

>>dollar a year grant for his Institute of Astrobiology

(ridiculous--there

>>is no proof of life outside of this planet). We had an addition put on

>>at home to give me a place to do microscopy. But now they are taking

>>away my preparation lab as well, and that may be the coup de grace.

>>I can't duplicate that at home--environmental laws, among other things.

>>Do you recall when Shell moved my prep lab to the Shell Pipeline

>Building

>>across Bellaire Blvd., and my HF took out a section of the brick wall

in

>>about a year?

>I THINK THAT YOU MIGHT DECIDE TO ACCEPT YOUR FATE. PERHAPS GOD IS

TELLING

>THAT YOU COULD NOW DO SOMETHING ELSE INSTEAD OF PALYNOLOGY.

>>

>>Are you aware that "The Curse" is what educated women sometimes call

>>menstruation? Just thought you should know if you don't!

>YES. MY ORIGINAL TITLE WAS THE CAUSE. MY AGENT SUGGESTED THE CURSE, AND

>HE

>TOLD ME THAT THERE IS EVEN A BOOK BY THAT TITLE. HE THOUGHT THAT MY

>SUBTITLE COULD MAKE THE DISTINCTION. I LIKE THE TITLE. THE CURSE

CONSISTS

>OF CLIMATIC CHANGES AND HUMAN GREED. YOU CANNOT WIN EITHER WAY. THERE
>WERE
>WARS OF WANT AT TIMES OF GLOBAL CHILL AND WARS OF GREED AT TIMES OF
>GLOBAL
>WARMING. LIKE ECONOMICS, THE THEORY CAN EVENTUALLY BE EXPRESSED IN
>NUMBERS.

>>

>>I guess you must not recall that the baptism thing was brought up

>>previously? It is interesting that we have moved in opposite

>directions,

>>isn't it? I am now a secular humanist, though also in some sense a

>>theist. But I haven't practiced religion for almost twenty years, and

I

>>just couldn't perform a baptism with a straight face any more. I hope

>>this is something you can understand. As I said, I am virtually

certain

>>that this has been dealt with previously, about a year ago. (I haven't

>>been formally deposed, and don't want the publicity that would entail,

>so

>>technically I am still a priest.)

> YES, WE DID DISCUSS THAT. I DID NOT TAKE YOUR NO FOR AN ANSWER, BUT NOW

>I

>ACCEPT YOUR DECISION.

>I THOUGHT ABOUT THE MATTER A GREAT DEAL DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS. I
MADE

>THE DECISION DURING THE FUNERAL SERVICE FOR MY SISTER IN LAW ANNA

>EUGSTER.

>I COULD ACCEPT BUDDHISM, TAOISM, OR CHRISTIANITY, BUT I SHOULD ACCEPT
THE

>RELIGION OF THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH I LIVE. THEREFORE, I CHOOSE

>CHRISTIANITY.

>I HAVE NOT CHANGED VERY MUCH MY OPINION OF RELIGION AND OF THE CHURCH. I

>HAVE CHANGED A GREAT DEAL OF MY OPINION OF MYSELF. WE CHINESE WERE
TAUGHT

>SELF-RELIANCE, AND I HAVE ALWAYS PRACTISED THAT ALMOST TO THE EXTREME.

>WITH ADVANCEMENT OF AGE, THE STRESS OF SELF-RELIANCE IS TOO MUCH FOR ME

>AND

>I NEED THE GRACE OF GOD.

>THE STRESS HAS BEEN ALMOST UNBEARABLE BECAUSE I AM ON THE EVE OF A

>POSSIBLE

>SUCCESS. I BEGAN TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT MY CONCEITEDNESS. I BEGAN TO
THINK

>THAT THERE IS NO PROBLEM IN SCIENCE THAT I CANNOT SOLVE IF THE PROBLEM
IS

>SOLVABLE WITH HUMAN INTELLECT. ONLY MY NUMEROUS TRIPS ON AN AIRPLANE
HAVE

>TAUGHT ME GOD-FEARING. I REALIZE ALL TOO WELL THAT GOD WILL TAKE BACK
HIS

>GIFT ANYTIME HE CHOOSES.

>YOU KNOW THAT I HAVE FILED ALMOST A DOZEN PATENTS. I SHOULD KNOW BEFORE
>THE

>END OF NOVEMBER IF I SHALL GET ACTUALLY THE FIRST MILLION WHICH I WAS

>CONTRACTED TO GET. (IMAGINE THE STRESS UNTIL NOVEMBER 30!) IT IS NOT

>MONEY,

>BUT

>A VERIFICATION OF A VALUE JUDGMENT. (ARE MY PATENTS REALLY SO GOOD AS I
>THINK THEY ARE?)

>IF THINGS ARE GOING THE WAY WHERE THEY ARE HEADING, I MIGHT BE IN A

>POSITION OF BILL GATES. THIS IS THE REASON FOR MY BIG CONCERN WITH MY

>CONCEITEDNESS. I CAN ONLY SAVE MYSELF BY BELIEVING IN GOD, THEN, I CAN

>BELIEVE THAT IT IS ALL A GIFT OF GOD, AND THAT I HAVE NOT HAD MUCH TO DO

>WITH MY ACHIEVEMENTS.

From: Kenneth Hsu <ken@iodec1.oc.ntu.edu.tw>
Return-path: <ken@iodec1.oc.ntu.edu.tw>
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Date: Mon, 16 Feb 98 16:25:39 -0800
Subject: Re: When do you come?
Message-ID: <103020903b10e1ae22cc0@[140.112.68.164]>
X-Status: Read

I am writing again

You wrote in November, 1997 that

>>Our trip (or at least one trip) to Europe in '98 will be in October, as far
>>as I can remember. It has to do with a celebration of a colleague's 65th
>>birthday, and I think that's when it is, but I don't have any way of
>>checking that at the moment.

DO YOU KNOW BETTER NOW?

You were bragging about your successes at the stock market. That was before the Asian Crisis, when you were high on Hongkong. What did you do? Did you get out before you got burnt?

The Tarim AG, an intellectual property company, is doing fine. We now have a subsidiary Petrec (Petroleum Recovery) AG, a patent management company, of which Peter is the COB. We have been seeing NY investment bankers like Templemann (Jacquelin's "companion") etc., and may receive the first advance payment of 10 M in a year or two when and if our experiment is successful. Also, I am doing business in Taiwan.

By the way, I never heard from Echart. He missed the chance of being involved in our deals on EOR (enhanced oil recovery), but I have several other deals. He could contact me if he is still interested. We are now getting a group of investors together to exploit magnesium and lithium from brines. A 2-M investment will produce annually 12000 tons (or more if marketable) of high-quality magnesium salt at 100 usd per ton, and 500-750 tons of LiCl at 4000 usd per ton. He can work out the arithmetics. Another deal is orchard engineering to build orchards which might require no water in regions where the annual rainfall is as little as 300 mm to 400 mm (semi-arid). You might be interested in that, being a botanist!

With best regards, GREETINGS TO BETTY

KEN HSU

Dr. Min-Pen Chen
Interim Director, Center for Ocean Research/
Professor, Institute of Oceanography

National Taiwan University
Taipei, Taiwan 10617
Republic of China

Phone: 886-2-391-4442
Fax: 886-2-391-4442
Email: minpen@ccms.ntu.edu.tw

HI AL
YOU WROTE AND I REPLY:

>>Dear Ken:

>>We are just in this morning from the trip to Germany (haven't even been home
>>yet). Yours of 19 Oct. is among the many e-mail messages.

>>I copied your letter and sent it to Bob Eckhardt (note spelling). If HE
>>thinks it's a good investment, THAT'S worth listening to. He has a big
>>reputation as a stock market genius.

HE COULD INDEED BE A GENIUS WHEN HE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTERESTS
IN MY

PATENTS EVEN BEFORE THEY WERE FILED. NOW I HAVE FILED 3 PATENTS IN 6
MONTHS, WHICH INCLUDE

1) APPLICATION OF PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY TO A NOVEL PROCESS OF
SECONDARY RECOVERY OF OIL, WHICH COULD INCREASE THE ULTIMATE
RECOVERY FROM

40 TO 50% TO 60 TO 95%

WE ARE FORMING A CONSORTIUM OF US, FRENCH, TAIWAN COMPANIES TO WORK
WITH US

(TARIM AG) TO PERFORM PILOT TESTS, AND TO ACQUIRE MARGINAL AND DEPLETED
OIL

FIELDS FOR RESALE AFTER THE METHOD PROVED SUCCESSFUL. IF THIS METHOD
PROVES

SUCCESSFUL WE WOULD HAVE INCREASED THE WORLD'S ECONOMICALLY
RECOVERABLE

OIL RESERVE BY A FACTOR OF TWOFOLD. WE HOPE TO START AND COMPLETE THE
PILOT

PRODUCTION IN 1995.

2) APPLICATION OF PATENTED METHOD TO BURN LOW-GRADE OR THIN SEAMS OF
COAL

TO GENERAL ELECTRICITY IN-SITU. WE ARE CONTACTING TAIWAN ELECTRIC TO SEE
IF

WE CAN START A PILOT PROGRAM. THIS CAN BE REALIZED WITHIN A YEAR OR TWO.

3) DEVELOPMENT OF PATENTED METHOD TO HYDROGENATE TAR SANDS AND/OR
OF

Printed for travernis@ams.pau.edu (Alfred Traversa)

Date: Tue, 25 Nov 97 09:39:19 -0800

X-Sender: ken@iodec1.oc.ntu.edu.tw (Unverified)

To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)

From: Kenneth Hsu <ken@iodec1.oc.ntu.edu.tw>

Subject: Re: [Fwd: requests]

HI, AL.

YOU WROTE AND I REPLY:

>>Dear Ken:

>>

>>We are just in this morning from the trip to Germany (haven't even been home yet). Yours of 19 Oct. is among the many e-mail messages.

>>

>>I copied your letter and sent it to Bob Eckhardt (note spelling). If HE thinks it's a good investment, THAT'S worth listening to. He has a big reputation as a stock market genius.

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(TARIM AG) TO PERFORM PILOT TESTS, AND TO ACQUIRE MARGINAL AND DEPLETED OIL

FIELDS FOR RESALE AFTER THE METHOD PROVES SUCCESSFUL. IF THIS METHOD PROVES

SUCCESSFUL, WE WOULD HAVE INCREASED THE WORLD'S ECONOMICALLY RECOVERABLE

OIL RESERVE BY A FACTOR OF TWOFOLD. WE HOPE TO START AND COMPLETE THE PILOT

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WE CAN START A PILOT PROGRAM. THIS CAN BE REALIZED WITHIN A YEAR OR TWO.

3) DEVELOPMENT OF PATENTED METHOD TO HYDROGENATE TAR SANDS AND/OR OF

LIGNITE AND TO DISTILL OIL SHALE TO PRODUCE HYDROCARBONS. THIS IS A BUT LONG-RANGE PROGRAM WHICH COULD ASSURE THE SUPPLY OF HYDROCARBONS FOR SEVERAL MORE CENTURIES. I AM ENTERING INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE TAIWAN INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH CENTER THAT THEY TAKE OVER THE DEVELOPMENT WORK IN

EXCHANGE FOR A SHARE OF THE PATENTED RIGHT. I AM ALSO LOOKING FOR OTHER

SOURCES OF COOPERATION IN HONGKONG AND IN SWITZERLAND. THIS IS AN INTERMEDIATE-RANGE PROJECT OF 2 TO 5 YEARS.

4) APPLICATION OF PATENTED METHODS TO PRODUCE POTASSIUM, MAGNESIUM, LITHIUM

AND OTHER METALS FROM BRINES OF SALE LAKES. THE PROJECT IS COMING TO A HEAD

AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF LABORATORY TESTS, FIELD TESTS, AND ENDLESS DISCUSSIONS. THIS IS AN INTERMEDIATE-RANGE PROJECT OF 2 TO 5 YEARS.

VARIOUS

CONTACTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

5) DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW PATENT TO EXTRACT METALS FROM BRINES LEFT OVER FROM

DESALINAZATION OF SEAWATER. THIS PROJECT IS STILL IN THE FORM OF IDEAS, BUT

THE TAIWAN SALT COMPANY IS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING THE IDEA, AND

WE MAY HAVE A CONFERENCE IN JANUARY, 1998 TO INITIATE THE PROJECT.

6) DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW PATENT TO SAVE WATER IN IRRIGATION. THIS PROJECT

IS STILL IN THE FORM OF IDEAS, BUT I HAVE INITIATED DISCUSSIONS WITH SOME ORGANIZATIONS.

7) TO PATENT THE NEW PRODUCT-INVENTIONS IN VARIOUS STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT.

PRODUCT-INVENTIONS REQUIRES A BIG INVESTMENT TO SECURE PATENTS IN MANY COUNTRIES. WE HAVE NOT EVEN STARTED APPLYING FOR PATENT UNTIL WE CAN BE

ASSURE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

AT THE MOMENT, I AM OVERWHELMED. NOT ONLY I HAVE TO WRITE THE VARIOUS DRAFTS OF THE PATENT, TO MAKE CONTACTS FOR POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS, I HAVE ALSO

TO TAKE CARE OF CLERICAL WORK. THE TARIM STAFF CONSISTS OF TWO HALF-TIME

EMPLOYEES, PETER AND I. WE HAVE, THEREFORE, TO INCREASE THE CAPITALIZATION

SO THAT I COULD HIRE A PERSON TO DO THE BUSINESS END OF THE JOB.

BOB ECKHARDT AND I DID DISCUSS THE MATTER, AND I WONDER IF HE IS NOW INTERESTED. NATURALLY, WE ARE LOOKING FOR OTHER INVESTERS, IN SWITZERLAND,

IN HONGKONG, AND IN TAIWAN. WE CANNOT FLOAT STOCKS AND/OR BONDS, BUT WE
COULD TRY TO GET PRIVATE INVESTORS TO BUY A PIECE OF TARIM OR OF ONE OR
MORE OF THE TARIM PATENTS.
COULD YOU FORWARD THE EMAIL TO BOB, BECAUSE I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HIS
ADVICE.

>>

>>Our trip (or at least one trip) to Europe in '98 will be in October, as far
>>as I can remember. It has to do with a celebration of a colleague's 65th
>>birthday, and I think that's when it is, but I don't have any way of
>>checking that at the moment.

WE SHALL NOT SCHEDULE ANY TRIPS AWAY FROM EUROPE IN LATE SEPTEMBER OR
THE
FIRST HALF OF OCTOBER, SO THAT WE WOULD NOT MISS YOU. PLEASE TELL ME
THE
MORE EXACT DATE, SO THAT WE COULD MAKE MORE DEFINITIVE PLANS.

>>

>>For that matter, I don't dismiss the idea that we could visit Switzerland
>>some other time, if you want us to come. We could pick up a couple of the
>>cities in Italy we missed last time around (I really would like to see
>>Ravenna).

YOU COME NEXT YEAR, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU SOME OTHER TIME ALSO.
OF
COURSE, WE WANT YOU TO COME. RAVENNA IS BEAUTIFUL, WE CAN GO DOWN TO
VISIT
VENICE AGAIN, BEFORE PROCEEDING DOWN TO RAVENNA. WE COULD EVEN DO
THAT IN
1998.

>>

>>All the best. GREETINGS TO BETTY

KEN HSU

Dr. Min-Pen Chen
Interim Director, Center for Ocean Research/
Professor, Institute of Oceanography
National Taiwan University
Taipei, Taiwan 10617
Republic of China

Phone: 886-2-391-4442
Fax: 886-2-391-4442
Email: minpen@ccms.ntu.edu.tw

Hsu

ken@erdw.ethz.ch, 02:49 PM 11/4/97, requests

1

To: ken@erdw.ethz.ch
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: requests
Cc: ken@erdw.ethz.ch (Ken Hsu)
Bcc: BOB ECKHARDT
X-Attachments:

Dear Ken:

We are just in this morning from the trip to Germany (haven't even been home yet). Yours of 19 Oct. is among the many e-mail messages.

I copied your letter and sent it to Bob Eckhardt (note spelling). If HE thinks it's a good investment, THAT'S worth listening to. He has a big reputation as a stock market genius.

Our trip (or at least one trip) to Europe in '98 will be in October, as far as I can remember. It has to do with a celebration of a colleague's 65th birthday, and I think that's when it is, but I don't have any way of checking that at the moment.

For that matter, I don't dismiss the idea that we could visit Switzerland some other time, if you want us to come. We could pick up a couple of the cities in Italy we missed last time around (I really would like to see Ravenna).

All the best. Regards to Christine. Al..

Printed for traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)

1

Date: Sun, 19 Oct 1997 15:12:33 +0100 (MET)
X-Sender: ken@129.132.21.18
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
From: ken@erdw.ethz.ch (Ken Hsue)
Subject: Re: BOB ECHARDT

Dear Alfred:

I have filed a patent which will revolutionize the petroleum industry. Eventually, the technology will permit the economic, and environmentally friendly exploitation of oil shale and tar sands. More immediately, the technique is to improve the efficiency of hydrocarbon recoveries in existing oil fields from about 25 to 40 percent to about 60 to 95 percent. I have been talking to people at Schlumberger, etc. If the technology is indeed what is promised to be, I just discovered as much recoverable hydrocarbon reserves as that, or more than that, of the world's reserve today.

Bob Echardt once expressed an interest in investing my ventures. I misplaced his email address. Could you forward this message to him and ask him to contact me.

I am making plans for next year. Which month will you be in Europe? Please let me know at your earliest convenience so that we shall remain in Switzerland.

With best regards, ken

To: khsu@slate.mines.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: various, geobotany-historical
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Ken:

I just had to resend Betty's message to you from yesterday. She had left out the u on edu, and it came bouncing back. I will enjoy showing her tomorrow, because she is always on me for doing that sort of thing.

Now I have another message from you. Responses:

1. Oh, yes, of course, flax--it's very commonly cultivated in North Dakota, and the fields are gorgeous blue when flowering. Up there it is cultivated for the seeds (linseed oil), and the straw from which linen could be made is discarded!
2. Why did people go....that's a mixed bag of questions. People from UK went to New England for religious reasons, that is true. The first batch went to Mass., and that was always the main event in New England until the mid-nineteenth century. Mainly it was extreme calvinist folk, and that is why Mass. was so religiously radical (forbidden to celebrate Christmas, etc.) The extreme religious province of Mass. naturally spawned religious protests. One bunch founded Rhode Island (Roger Williams), and another crowd left in a huff over the religious and other policies of Harvard and founded Yale and other things in Connecticut. Vermont, NH, and Maine (originally a part of Mass., it became a state in 1850 as part of the Missouri Compromise) are much later and had non-religious histories.

Virginia was founded by folks who wanted to make their fortunes in the New World. The best sign that it was not very religious is that the Church of England (=Episcopal, Anglican) was the established church. That was a guarantee that there wouldn't be any silly extremist religious ideas around.

Pennsylvania was founded by Quakers. William Penn was a dynamic convert to the Quakers--a group persecuted in England because they were too "enthusiastic" about their convictions. Penn, however, had important connections in England, and something had to be done to mollify him and, preferably, also get rid of him. Charles II gave him Pennsylvania (=Penn's Woods) as a personal fiefdom, and he founded Philadelphia. Because Penn and his followers were so liberal, PA attracted people from all over Europe, especially from what is now Germany. Germantown, near Phila., is a living relic of those days. Many of the Germans were fleeing both religious persecution and military duty.

(Presumably you know that much of the British army in the latter part of the 18th century consisted of Hessians and Hanoverians who were drafted in those parts of western Germany and "rented" to the British. The King of England at the time was simultaneously Elector of Hanover. The Royal Family's home town is Celle, in what is now Niedersachsen, and it is

rumored to be no coincidence that Celle is unique for a town of its size for not having been bombed in WW2. The little palace there has memorabilia about all of the Electors down to Victoria, who was the first of the Hanoverians in UK who gave up the title of Elector and didn't visit Celle any more.)

By the time of the Amer. Revolution, the population of PA was over 50% German. By the time of the Revolution each of the 13 colonies had a distinct character that descended from the mode of founding. I should also say that even in the colonies where religion was fanatically observed--Mass., RI, CT--there were plenty of people who were really in it for the money and or power.

That seems to take care of it. Betty was in her performance of Mendelsohn's Elijah last night. Elijah was performed by a big star from the Metropolitan Opera whom they paid \$25,000 just for that one performance! Today Betty is organizing the monthly church supper at her little church--they serve about 70 usually, and it is their main means of financial support. Etc.

Hope you and Christine are flourishing. Best. Al.

violet bloom, which
the seedling was flax, not hemp. Flax is used for linen, but not for
rope. So the rest of what I said was indeed 100% ok.
AT: This is only one species, but there are many varieties. Some are good for
the seeds, others are very high in cannabinin and are used for marijuana.
>Others are almost devoid of the drug substance, and it is this plant that is
>raised here for animal food and other purposes.
KJH: I saw hemp in southwest China and also in Korea, not flax.
>
>AT: Cannabis comes from Central Asia. It likes a moist, rich soil. It grows
>in North America in exactly the same places that are good for corn and
>peas. I note in my North Dakota flora it is said that this species had
>only been reported a few times, as ND is too dry and cold for hemp. I also
>note that in my Colorado flora it isn't reported at all, although my Rocky
>Mtn. flora says it has been reported in CO. I gather that it requires more
>than 20 inches of rain per year and a growing season of more than 100 days.
>So, I probably missed it in Anzolia, Greece or venetia, as you suggest.
KJH: My ideas were thus not so far off. I am now indeed interesting in the
evolution of pottery using the Naalee and its relation to the
Indo-European migrations.

>There is another message from you about Geobotany etc.
>
>AT: In if you pose (or asked) many intriguing questions. Here are responses.
>in order.
KJH: Italian migration of your very late--1800 and later, mostly this century.
>It is overwhelmingly from Sicily. Mostly it was Catholic--Sicily was and is
>very poor and very productive of children. To a small degree, this has
>suspected much attention. Italian immigration was linked to organized crime.
KJH: Why did people go to New England, to Virginia, to Pennsylvania?

Date: Wed, 23 Apr 1997 14:41:40 -0600

To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)

From: khsu@slate.mines.edu (Ken Hsu)

Subject: Re: Cannabis sativa

>Dear Al:

Thanks for your letter. I sent by fed express the two books, hope you receive them and give them back to the library. How much do I owe the Penn State?

AT: However, there is apparently some confusion because hemp (*C. sativa*) doesn't have, ever, "beautiful violet blooms." It is related to nettles and has very small, very inconspicuous, colorless (i. e., pale yellow or pale green) flowers. I'm wondering what plant you saw in northern Germany. Hmm. No plant with pretty flowers was hemp. However, the rest of what you say is 100% o. k., and is indeed about hemp.

KJH: Christine says that the plant with the beautiful violet blooms, which we saw last year was flax, not hemp. Flax is used for linen, but not for rope. So that the rest of what I said was indeed 100% ok.

AT: There is only one species, but there are many varieties. Some are good for >the fibers, others are very high in cannabinin and are used for marijuana. >Others are almost devoid of the drug substance, and it is this plant that is >raised here for animal food and other purposes.

KJH: I saw hemp in southwest China and also in Kansu, not flax.

>AT: *C. sativa* comes from Central Asia. It likes a moist, rich soil. It grows >in North America in exactly the same places that are good for corn and >soybeans. I note in my North Dakota flora it is said that the species had >only been reported a few times, as ND is too dry and cold for hemp. I also >note that in my Colorado flora it isn't reported at all, although my Rocky >Mtn. flora says it has been reported in CO. I gather that it requires more >than 20 inches of pptn. per year and a growing season of more than 100 days. >So, I wouldn't expect it in Anatolia, Greece or deserts, as you suggest.

KJH: My ideas were thus not so far off. I am now indeed interesting in the evolution of pottery during the Neolithic and its relation to the Indo-European migrations.

>There is another message from you about Geobotany etc.

>AT: In it you pose (as usual) many intriguing questions. Here are responses, >in order:

>1. Italian imigration was very late--1880 and later, mostly this century. >It is overwhelmingly from Sicily. Mostly it was economic--Sicily was and is >very poor and very productive of children. To a small degree, tho' it has >received much attention, Sicilian immigration was linked to organized crime. KJH. Why did people go to New England, to Virginia, to Pennsylvania.

Historians claimed that it is for religious reasons. Could there also be economics involved. Who were those people anyway, in addition to those puritans on Mayflower.

>

AT. I am sure Betty will read with interest, as I have, the stuff about >climatic connections (perhaps!) to changes in the pronunciation of vowels.

KJH. It is indeed interesting to relate linguistics to climate. If you could get that book (German texts) which I returned to you out again, you can find an article by Meyr as I recall on that subject. Interesting indeed.

AT Turkish has umlauted u and o, incredible numbers of them--so far the >most I have found in one word is six, but four is very common! They are >pronounced just as in German. I have no knowledge of the history
KJ Christine told me the same pattern in Finnish.

AT. I gather that you want me to forward the letter to Bob Eckhardt (Dr. >Robert B. Eckhardt, 0109 White Building, PSU, University Park, PA 16802.) >I will do that.

KJ. Thanks, and he has written.

>

I shall be gone for two weeks, but shall want to be educated on geobotanny etc. when I am back again. cheers, ken

Ken Hsu
Institute for Resource and Environmental Geosciences
Colorado School of Mines
Green Center
1500 Illinois Street
Golden, CO 80401

Office: (303) 384-2211
Fax: (303) 384-2026
e-mail: khsu@mines.edu

To: khsu@slate.mines.ed
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: overdue aryans
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Ken:

This is Betty speaking--just got the books (very fast!). We thank both you and Christine profusely for being so prompt to respond. I just went up to the main library, hat in hand (naturally I didn't mention that the book in question had made a trip to Colorado and back), and managed to persuade them to waive the fee. Good thing--would have been \$38 (as you know, equivalent to 2 one-way senior bus tickets to Philadelphia!) All's well that ends well. Thanks again! Best as always, Betty.

* The notice says due 6 April, and the fine is \$2 per day.

I guess you should send the book to my ABAP, and we can argue later about how to divide up the fine.

DEAR AL,

I SHALL ASK CHRISTINE TO SEND BOTH BOOKS TODAY BY FED EXPRESS, NATURALLY.

THE FINE WILL BE PAID BY ME, I SHALL SEND YOU A CHECK WHEN YOU GIVE ME THE NOTICE.

WITH BEST REGARDS, KEN HBU

Ken Hsu
Institute for Resource and Environment Geosciences
Colorado School of Mines
Green Center
1500 Illinois Street
Golden, CO 80401

Office: (303) 384-2211
Fax: (303) 384-2000
e-mail: khsu@mines.edu

Date: Tue, 22 Apr 1997 09:32:59 -0600
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
From: khsu@slate.mines.edu (Ken Hsu)
Subject: Re: book

>YOU WROTE AND I REPLY IN CAPS

Dear Ken:

>
>Am now going through the snail mail that arrived during our absence.
>
>One item is bad: the book I borrowed for you, "The Aryans/Childe," has been
>recalled. This usually means that someone else wants it. If it weren't for
>the recall the book was good until end of the semester.
>
>The notice says due 5 April, and the fine is \$2 per day.
>
>I guess you should send the book to me ASAP, and we can argue later about
>how to divide up the fine.
>
DEAR AL;
I SHALL ASK CHRISTINE TO SEND BOTH BOOKS TODAY BY FED EXPRESS.
NATURALLY
THE FINE WILL BE PAID BY ME, I SHALL SEND YOU A CHECK WHEN YOU GIVE ME THE
NOTICE.
WITH BEST REGARDS KEN HSU

Ken Hsu
Institute for Resource and Environmental Geosciences
Colorado School of Mines
Green Center
1500 Illinois Street
Golden, CO 80401

Office: (303) 384-2211
Fax: (303) 384-2026
e-mail: khsu@mines.edu

To: khsu@slate.mines.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: Cannabis sativa
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Ken:

We are back. Had a great time. A week ago today we were in the snow up at the peak of Aetna, in Sicily. My bio-rhythms seem to take longer to sort out than used to be the case. I am still not normal after almost five days back here. Betty had only one full day at home before leaving for Toronto for her Mediaeval convention.

I have a stack of e-mail printouts before me. Let's see...there is one from you about subject plant listed above. However, there is apparently some confusion because hemp (*C. sativa*) doesn't have, ever, "beautiful violet blooms." It is related to nettles and has very small, very inconspicuous, colorless (i. e., pale yellow or pale green) flowers. I'm wondering what plant you saw in northern Germany. Hmm. No plant with pretty flowers was hemp. However, the rest of what you say is 100% o. k., and is indeed about hemp.

There is only one species, but there are many varieties. Some are good for the fibers, others are very high in cannabinin and are used for marijuana. Others are almost devoid of the drug substance, and it is this plant that is raised here for animal food and other purposes.

C. sativa comes from Central Asia. It likes a moist, rich soil. It grows in North America in exactly the same places that are good for corn and soybeans. I note in my North Dakota flora it is said that the species had only been reported a few times, as ND is too dry and cold for hemp. I also note that in my Colorado flora it isn't reported at all, although my Rocky Mtn. flora says it has been reported in CO. I gather that it requires more than 20 inches of pptn. per year and a growing season of more than 100 days. So, I wouldn't expect it in Anatolia, Greece or deserts, as you suggest.

I also have another message from you among the 165 awaiting my return in which you explain the subject matter of your dispute with Kevin F. Interesting.

+++++

There is another message from you about Geobotany etc.

In it you pose (as usual) many intriguing questions. Here are responses, in order:

1. Italian imigration was very late--1880 and later, mostly this century. It is overwhelmingly from Sicily. Mostly it was economic--Sicily was and is very poor and very productive of

children. To a small degree, tho' it has received much attention, Sicilian immigration was linked to organized crime.

2. I am sure Betty will read with interest, as I have, the stuff about climatic connections (perhaps!) to changes in the pronunciation of vowels.

3. Turkish has umlauted u and o, incredible numbers of them--so far the most I have found in one word is six, but four is very common! They are pronounced just as in German. I have no knowledge of the history

4. I gather that you want me to forward the letter to Bob Eckhardt (Dr. Robert B. Eckhardt, 0109 White Building, PSU, University Park, PA 16802.) I will do that.

Now I must get on with the stack of e-mail, and other matters.

We both got much pleasure from your visit, and we hope you will change your mind about it being your "last visit." All the best. Regards to dear Christine. Al.

I was interested in hearing that you had seen *Hemp* plants in Italy. I was surprised by the fact that the plant called *Hemp* with the scientific name *Cannabis sativa* was distributed in many places throughout the world. *Hemp* was first planted in Asia for textile fibers. *Hemp* of a variety of marijuana was planted in China for textile fibers. In southern China, but I have seen it planted in more and countries as far as Northwestern Mexico province.

I wonder about the ecology of the *Hemp* plant. It grows in warm and cold climates. But what has in common between north Germany and south China is the humid climate. Is *Hemp* a plant that needs a lot of water and will not grow in arid countries like Greece, Aristotle or Turin desert?

Could you enlighten me on that subject?

Did you have a good trip to Italy. With many regards to you both from Christine and from me.

Ken Rau

Ken Rau
Institute for Resource and Environmental Geosciences
Covarde School of Mines
Evan Center
1500 Illinois Street
Golden, CO 80401

Office: (303) 374-2211
Fax: (303) 374-2020
e-mail: khsu@slate.mines.edu

Date: Tue, 15 Apr 1997 09:11:49 -0600
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
From: khsu@slate.mines.edu (Ken Hsu)
Subject: Re: Distr. plant for making ropes

A/ (he explain error in another message)
Dear Frank:

shortly before 2000 BC, the Nordic people of northern Europe adopted an invention by their Thuringen neighbour and start to make Corded Ware, i.e., they decorated their pottery by impressing the clay with Schnuren before firing. And the Corded Ware became a "trade mark" of the Nordic conquest to central Europe, to southern Russia. However, the invaders to the south to the Balkan, Greece and Anatolia, and to northwest China, no longer made Corded Ware. They either incised or painted their pottery. Although the other "trade marks" such as the battle axe and the burial customs went farther.

I wonder if this fact can be explained by the distribution of the plants which enabled the Nordic people to make their Schnuren.

When I travelled in northern Germany last year, I was impressed by the fact that the plant called Hemp (with beautiful violet blooms) was planted in many places there. Christine told me that Hemp was also planted in Appenzell for the weavers. Hemp or a relative of marijuana was planted in China for textile fabric, in southern China, but I have seen it planted in more arid countries as far as northwestern Kansu province.

I wonder about the ecology of the Hemp plants. It grows in warm and cold climate. But what has in common between north German and south China is the humid climate. Is Hemp a plant that needs a lot of water and will not grow in arid countries like Greece, Anatolia, or Tarim desert?

Could you enlighten me on that subject?

Did you have a good trip to Italy. With many regards to you both from Christine and from me.

Ken Hsu

Ken Hsu
Institute for Resource and Environmental Geosciences
Colorado School of Mines
Green Center
1500 Illinois Street
Golden, CO 80401

Office: (303) 384-2211
Fax: (303) 384-2026
e-mail: khsu@mines.edu

Date: Thu, 27 Mar 1997 09:28:39 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
From: khsu@slate.mines.edu (Ken Hsu)
Subject: Re: reprints, etc.

>DEAR AL; YOU WROTE AND JUST A SHORT REPLY IN CAPS.

>

>In connection with recording your e-mail address on your card I note that I
>haven't sent you a reprint in YEARS. I seldom send them, except in response
>to a specific request. Saves money and time. However, you always have such
>interesting reactions to such things, that I think it was dumb not to send
>to you. Unfortunately, since the last one I sent, #48, there are many
>locules, but I am sending a packet of what there is to you at
>Frohburgstrasse. You will have a huge pile of stuff there--be sure not to
>toss my packet in the trash (without first looking, that is).
YES, I SHALL BE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE THOSE.

>

>It was great fun to have you here, and I think it all went very well.
>Heavens, the family of Amish people I arranged to come to Bellville to talk
>with Christine even arrived on time. All the best to you both. Kevin
>Furlong asks to be remembered (Ha!).

>

IT WAS FUN FOR US TOO. ALSO I GREATLY APPRECIATE THE CHANCE TO HAVE MET
BOB
ECKHARDT. THE TALK WITH THE PEOPLE IN ANTHROPOLOGY WAS ALSO
EDUCATIONAL FOR
ME.

ABOUT KEVIN FURLONG, I TALKED WITH MARTIN BRANDON AT YALE. HE EXPLAINED
TO
ME WHAT KEVIN WAS DOING.

THERE IS ONE PIECE OF OBSERVATION BY A CERTAIN DR. GERBAUER. THE AUTHOR
GAVE AN INTERPRETATION OF AN EXPERIMENTAL OBSERVATION, AND CLAIMED
THAT IT

IS AN EXPERIMENTAL FACT. THE EXPERIMENTAL FACT IS THE ZIRCON
METAMORPHISM

IS DATED 38 MILLION YEARS. BUT THE HIGH PRESSURE METAMORPHISM HAS BEEN
DATED (BY NUMEROUS OTHER SCIENTISTS) TO BE 100-110 MILLION YEARS.

GERBAUER,

ONE OF OUR FORMER STUDENTS, DID UNDERSTND LOGIC WHEN HE CLAIMED THAT
THE

AGE OF THE ZIRCON METAMORPHISM IS THAT OF THE HIGH-P METAMOPHISM. HIS
CONCLUSION IS NOT WARRANTED, AS MARTIN BRANDON TOLD ME. KEVIN GOT INTO
THE

ARGUMENT, BECAUSE HE LIKES TO ARGUE. YOU MIGHT PRINT THIS PART OUT FOR
HIS
REFERENCE.

WITH BEST REGARDS, I SHALL WRITE YOU AGAIN AFTER YOU COME BACK. KEN HSU
P.S. CHRISTINE AND I WANT TO THANK BETTY AND YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR
HOSPITALITY.

Ken Hsu
Institute for Resource and Environmental Geosciences
Colorado School of Mines
Green Center
1500 Illinois Street
Golden, CO 80401

Office: (303) 384-2211
Fax: (303) 384-2026
e-mail: khsu@mines.edu

It was great fun to have you here, and I think it all went very well. Heavens, the family of
Amen people I arranged to come to Bellville to talk with Christine even arrived on time. All
the best to you both. Kevin Furlong asks to be remembered (Ha!).

Affectionately, Al

To: khsu@slate.mines.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: reprints, etc.
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANICAL
POLYMERICAL LABORATORIES
432 BRIDLE BUILDING
UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802, USA
Phone: (814)863-3476, Fax: 814-863-3500

Dear Ken:

In connection with recording your e-mail address on your card I note that I haven't sent you a reprint in YEARS. I seldom send them, except in response to a specific request. Saves money and time. However, you always have such interesting reactions to such things, that I think it was dumb not to send to you. Unfortunately, since the last one I sent, #48, there are many locules, but I am sending a packet of what there is to you at Frohburgstrasse. You will have a huge pile of stuff there--be sure not to toss my packet in the trash (without first looking, that is).

It was great fun to have you here, and I think it all went very well. Heavens, the family of Amish people I arranged to come to Bellville to talk with Christine even arrived on time. All the best to you both. Kevin Furlong asks to be remembered (Ha!).

Affectionately, Al.

...hearing Prince Charles speak from that pulpit. As we
...he was on the way to court Diana at a ski resort...
...last year, we attended a similar (but a smaller scale) event for
...Bill Chaloner, at the Univ. of London. I even proposed the
...official toast at the dinner.

I've read your lecture and of course find it interesting. I can
...at least some of your ideas when and if I write up my
...reflections on religion.

...they are getting ready for the new semester--first lecture a
...week from today. We are also preparing for next month's trip to
...Spain, where I will give a "keynote talk" for the Spanish 10th
...polymerical convention. In English, of course.

...best wishes to you, Christine, et al., from us both.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

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

18 August, 1994

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

Dear Ken:

Thanks very much for both the preprint and the final copy of your Abschiedsvorlesung. Would have been fun to have been there. (We recall hearing Prince Charles speak from that podium. As we learned later, he was on the way to court Diana at a ski resort.) Last Nov. we attended a similar (on a smaller scale) event for Bill Chaloner, at the Univ. of London. I even proposed the official toast at the dinner.

I've read your lecture and of course find it interesting. I can use at least some of your ideas when and if I write up my reflections on religion.

Betty are getting ready for the new semester--first lecture a week from today. We are also preparing for next month's trip to Spain, where I will give a "keynote talk" for the Spanish 10th palynological convention. In English, of course.

Best wishes to you, Christine, et al., from us both.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

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

20 June, 1994

Professor K. J. Hsü
Geol. Inst., ETH-Zentrum
Sonneggstraße 5, Room G 48
CH-8092 Zürich
Switzerland

Dear Ken:

We are just in from our annual June trip to the Adirondacks to see about our property there. This year we had the bathroom totally renovated. Thanks mostly to money inherited from my mother, the place is really getting quite nice. We rent it for the prime season in order to be able to pay the taxes, which are incredible. This year we had bad luck with both weather (hottest I've ever seen it there) and insects (Betty especially was eaten alive by black flies). Nevertheless, we got everything on the program accomplished--repairs to the dock, cut up into firewood a large tree that had fallen across the lane, some new posts for the railings, repainting here and there, etc. Also had dinner conferences with rental agents, contractor, and caretaker. That part is fun, as there is a fabulous restaurant across the lake.

Well, there is a late-breaking development regarding my retirement that I would want you to be the first outside of PSU to know. Actually, I've told nobody, but I know that MA has been crowing, so it is possible you will have already heard. Almost immediately after I shocked him with the story about my ancestor and the threat to visit him in a nursing home, I got a call that there was a confidential letter to be picked up in the departmental office. It was from MA, and it was an offer that, after consultation with a financial advisor, and especially with Betty, I decided was a Godfather-like "offer you can't refuse." First of all, it offered to give me a retroactive increase in pay in order to create a situation by my 70th birthday that my last three years' salary (on which pensions are calculated) would be more nearly average for the department (because Wayne Burnham despised me, and was for so long head, my salary had remained very substandard). Of course, if I didn't retire, I would get the 2% annual increases and by 2000 would be up to the offer, but as Betty pointed it, it was quite a gamble, as I could have a stroke or something before that date. More importantly, and for me this was the crusher, the letter promised formally that I could retain my laboratory facilities until at least 1998. The letter said that if I refused the offer, that stipulation would not be in effect, and made it quite clear that I would lose my

space. Yes, he could do that. I still think it is stupid of the department. I just got a grant from NOAA to study climate alteration with palynology, and it included a sizable summer salary stipulation, which is now down the drain and would have benefitted the department. Further, I just published a paper that cleared me with NSF (one of my Ph.D. students got an irreversible congenital eye disease and had to quit, and it left the NSF grant project high and dry--I eventually finished it myself), and I could have expected funding from that source also. The department, and this college, are responding to worldwide "fads" to emphasize computer-based modelling approaches and deemphasize paleontology. (Eric Barron says that he can reconstruct Eocene vegetation with the computer and doesn't need paleobotany.) It is absurd for all universities to do exactly the same things. PSU was well positioned to be one of the few places to carry on geological palynology. Why not? So, that's the story. I will retire at 70, in 1995. It will be quite a year, as Betty will get her Ph. D., and my only nephew is getting married. (He's in his last year at UC-Berkeley Law School, and his intended is the Hilary Clinton of her time and place--first in the class, etc.) According to the deal, I can continue to offer my courses in palynology and paleobotany. I intend to go right on with my research. If the department lives up to their side of the bargain, life shouldn't change much, but we'll see.

Thanks for the family news. We have nothing new to report, except that our granddaughter (Paul's 4 year old) had a very long serious kidney operation for a congenital problem (ureters not properly connected, kidneys degenerating) that seems to have gone well. She is a very brave little girl. Latest sonograms indicate that she may escape with about a third to a half of normal kidney function, which is enough. We are fortunately overdesigned in that area.

As to our mutual interest in philosophy: currently I am meditating on whether it is meaningful to make any theological statements at all, in the absence of revelation, and I am not convinced that any such has ever occurred, not to Mohammed, not to Joseph Smith, not to Saul of Tarsus, not to Hindu gurus, not to Buddha, not to anybody. Religion based on the use of human reason is all idiosyncratic, devoid of palpable worth--"cash value." Did I mention in my last letter Rustom Roy's "Experimenting with Truth," the Hibbert Lectures for 1979, Pergamon Press, 1981? I'd like you to take a look at it. He has a column in our local paper. I enclose a xerox copy of a recent article. I've had several discussions with him over the years. If I understand him correctly, he thinks that religious observances that all participants interpret entirely differently are quite commendable, and indeed he heads up a community that acts that way, the "Sycamore Group," which is in effect a religion. Rustom Roy calls it a "house church." They meet once a week for dinner and discussion AND "worship"--of WHAT? I have a standing invitation but have never attended.

Best to Christine, Peter, and the rest. Tell Martin that if he formalizes his relationship with his nice artist friend, I'd like to come to the event. I suppose in a way that demonstrates the value of such rites of passage--provides an opportunity for celebration that one is otherwise denied.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

Encl: xerox

P. S. Digesting your "Why Isaac Newton was not a Chinese" will take a while! I loved the bit on p. 4 about the fundamentalist. J. of N. was a very charismatic first century rabbi. Period. Simon (otherwise known as Peter) and Saul of Tarsus (=Paul) cooked up Christianity, originally as a Jewish sect, after J.'s death. Saul, in fact, never ever saw the man. Among religions it seems unique, in that only the stated founders' disciples claim revelation. The founder is portrayed instead as not needing revelation. He was himself the revelation. Neat trick.

NO Gebäude, Sonneggstrasse 5, Room G 48

Prof. Kenneth J. Hsü

Postal Address :
Geologisches Institut
ETH-Zentrum
CH-8092 Zürich
Switzerland

Direct Dial Number (1) 632 36 69
Secretary (1) 632 36 80
Telefax (1) 632 10 30

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

Zürich, 31 May 1994

Dear Al :

If I had known that you have been harrassed by MA, I would not have joined his cause. I'm sending a copy of my retirement address. I have tried to be as graceful as I could. Nevertheless, there is the anger at the human follies which are epitomized by MA. You are a tough customer too. With the support of the American civil liberty union, you may indeed by teaching palynology after MA has gone to a nursing home. Not everyone has your tenacity and wisdom. I have a very dear friend who was too sensitive. If he had only waited out for 4 or 6 years, he would still be the chairman of the department at Stanford (after the dean killed himself a few years back on the eve of his arrest for child molestation). Unfortunately, my dear friend is too good a person. He could not survive under the harrassment. He resigned his tenure professorship, became unemployed and is now living in poverty on social security. Of course, he is a different kind of person than you are. If he had stayed on at Stanford, he would probably have killed himself before the criminal was removed from the scene. It's tragedies like this that are driving me toward a crusade against the scientific establishment.

In my retirement address, I mention that scientists are supposedly seeking the truth, but how could truth be found in a language which excludes beauty, hope, faith, love ? I think you are honest and practise science because it is a good profession. You don't make any pretentions of idealism in your pursuit of science. Truth has to be found in a language with a vocabulary much more profound than mathematic physics, if it can be found at all.

I don't think you should call me a pan-theist. I'm not a pantheist, but christianity is just another ideology for me. My interest in Gaia is more scientific than philosophical or religious. I still adopt many of the confuzian, thaostic and christian dogmas as axioms to guide my behaviors. Your favorite St. Paul said something which I have remembered since Ruth's death: life is service to God, and death is a reward. The first could sound hypocritical, the second is what we search for before the time comes.

Christine and Peter are both very fine. Martin is still living in sin with that neat young lady. Since you mention BdG, I may mention to you that you now have a roommate in her doghouse, after I did not suppress a petition by the Mittelbau against her candidacy for the position of the institute's secretary.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,


Kenneth J. Hsu

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

8 May, 1994

Prof. Kenneth J. Hsü
ETH-Zürich
NO Gebäude
Sonneggstrasse 5, Room G 48
Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Enjoyed yours of 26 April. As you suspected, I picked up a MA/KJH link in that festschrift idea. He probably passed on to you that his wife, Jan Jenkins, has always said I was her best prof--how else would you have heard of a connection between her and me.? Actually, there are circumstances under which I would already have retired. If PSU had any intention of making palynology/paleobotany permanent here, for example. I would have retired, turned over my vast library and collections to my successor and done a little palynology and a lot of other things. However, under the circumstances I take MA's statements that I could continue to use my facilities here after retirement with a grain of salt. I have stopped introducing my distinguished visitors to him, as I found out he subjected each one to a tirade about how I should retire. The whole thing has been interesting--e. g., I am at last able to understand how racial minority folk and women feel when harrassed. Somebody has begun to put up personal attacks on my door and that sort of thing. There has been a temporary lull (?) in that since I posted a counter, citing federal and state law against such slurs based on age (as on race or gender). The offending parties (MA personally?) is/are probably worried that I am having fingerprints made and am inclined to litigate. The last time Mike was down here to berate me about retiring I told him something that made him pale visibly and may have brought on his present bout with (no kidding) chickenpox. I told him about my great, great grandfather (or is it great, great, great?) Chatterton (I believe that is the correct name). He apparently lived in three centuries, 179- to 190- (my father remembered him well). He lived to 110 and practiced his profession until well over 100 (profession was harvesting birchbark, which was used the way we use wallboard now--mostly exported to England). I told MA that I might be professing palynology here after he is in a nursing home.

Jerusalem is in some very technical sense the birthplace of Christianity, though Antioch is the first place that the movement

apparently ceased being just one of many Jewish sects of the time. But your interest in the city for any religious reason is a little surprising. My distaste is merely practical: too dangerous. I retain a large interest in religion, but my religious practice has been for over a decade purely personal. I belong to no religious body. I'm not sure that any has been good for humanity. The Gaia hypothesis I find very interesting, but I'm not sure it will ever come to anything. I've had a number of interesting conversations with Rustum Roy, the Indian materials science expert here. Have you read any of his stuff? I'm reading his Hibbert lectures at the moment. As he's of Hindu/Anglican upbringing it is not surprising that he pushes a sort of pantheism. Very interesting guy with fascinating ideas, but I am also pretty sure that intellectual pantheism, like Gaia, has little or no grassroots cash value. If I ever do retire I intend to put some of ideas on these matters on paper. One thought I've had is to write a novel that makes an interesting story of the ideas.

All the best. Best regards to Christine and to Peter. What ever happened to Martin's relationship with that neat young lady I met, along with Peter, in a restaurant in Z.? I liked her, but of course, I like practically all women.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

NO Gebäude, Sonneggstrasse 5, Room G 48

Prof. Kenneth J. Hsü

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Dr. Alfred Traverse
The Pennsylvania State University
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Zürich, 26 April 1994

Dear Al :

Thank you for your letter of the 7th which I read yesterday after I came back from Beijing.

It was my idea that you retire in exchange for a Festschrift Symposium in your honor. Although Mike Arthur may have picked up the idea and put pressure on you, now I want to make sure that I'm your friend, not a friend of M.A. You have convinced me that you are not interested in retiring. I understand your decision and shall say no more about that. I recognize that you and I have very different circumstances. I take an early retirement to relieve myself of the unpleasant atmosphere around here. I have my pick and choose of where to go. Christine and I like Jerusalem because of our interest in the birthplace of christianity. I'm therefore surprised that you would not go there for "all the tea in China". I am now making plans for the third year after my retirement which may be Northwestern or Colorado School of Mines. After that I want really to retire to Zürich and write on philosophical matters.

I'm quite sure that Professor Traverse is the best professor that many of your students have ever had. I have profited greatly from the seminars on theology which you conducted at your Shell office for Mike Lloyd and me. You have helped me from becoming an atheist. Remember my Gaia paper. I have come up with another one for the National History Museum of Taiwan. The critical point is whether the evolution of the history of life is purely random or whether it is guided by an unseen hand. The theists adopt the latter view, and the unseen hand is that of God. I'm not sure if I am a theist, because in my opinion the unseen hand is that of Gaia. Enclosed please find a copy of this manuscript.

I am very pleased to know that our Black Sea cruise together was a memorable experience for you. I also find it one of my more happy moments, not to mention that I learned a great deal during that trip. I have a standing invitation from a friend to be a guest professor at Istanbul, and I may come out of my retirement one day to make a stint out there. I like Istanbul and Anatolia.

Christine and Peter join me in sending you and Betty our best regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ken Hsü', written in dark ink.

Ken Hsü

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7 April, 1994

Professor K. J. Hsü
Geologisches Institut
ETH-Zentrum
CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

Thanks so much for the copy of your book! Too bad you didn't inscribe it, as that would have made it more valuable for my heirs. Guess I'll glue your letter in as a substitute.

Your reference to the "chronon manuscript" in para. 1 is opaque to us, though Betty can visualize you in Samedan working on whatever it is (was?).

Intriguing to hear you're "retiring" in Sept., 1994. My reaction to thoughts of retirement is, as George Burns says about dying, "Not interesting, it's been done already." Your appointment in Berlin should be fun, but I wouldn't go to Jerusalem for "all the tea in China," per the old saw.

Regarding a "Festschrift" for me, I can say pretty firmly that it won't happen. Practically all of my former graduate students have screwed me over one way or another at one time or another, and they seem to have enjoyed it. I apparently affect people that way, going back to kindergarten. I have always been misunderstood, which undoubtedly means that I'm hard to understand. I have also always been underestimated. The American palynologists, for example, have formally honored many of my colleagues who have done far less than I. As for recognition of my "teaching," that would be odd, because in the 28 years I have been at it so far the Penn State authorities have never even considered me for one of the 3-4 local teaching awards they pass out, though I know that my student evaluations have always been either the highest, or among the 2-3 highest in the college. Several last semester wrote across the forms, "Professor Traverse is the best professor I have ever had, period." or words to the same effect. I don't worry about non-recognition, indeed I rather enjoy the low profile.

I guess that makes it clear that I have no intention of retiring as long as my health is good, unless I get some sort of sweetheart deal elsewhere, which seems exceedingly unlikely. I suspect that Mike Arthur might work on you to change my mind, as I know he has done with other colleagues.

Dear old friend, I no longer (since 5 years) teach historical geology. I give paleopalynology and paleobotany every year. So, I can't help with your sales. Sorry. I would like to say that those three weeks on the Black Sea were a high point of my life that I owe to you. Rooming with you was especially memorable. A fallout of that trip is an abiding interest in Turkey. For about a year now I have even been studying the Turkish language.

All the best from us both, and greetings to Christine and Peter.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

14-5-92

Al: See you in
May or June,

Ken

P.S. Could you sign the guest
book.

Ken

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Technische Hochschule
Zürich

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

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FACSIMILE MESSAGE

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

Zürich, December 20, 1991

Dear Fulbright Professor at the Senckenberg Museum-Forschungsinstitut,
Dr. Al Traverse :

February 12 will be fine. Now it's silly to ask whether it is too convenient to stay with us ? Now Frohburgstrasse is one of the most convenient addresses in Zürich ! Of course, you will have as much freedom to see your other friends in Zürich as you wish, but we wish that you, or at least Betty, can stay longer, because Christine and I are inviting her to come cross-country skiing at Samedan. Please forward this invitation to her !

With best regards,

Merry Christmas & Happy
New Year!

Sincerely,



Ken Hsü

ETH Eidgenössische
Technische Hochschule
Zürich

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

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FACSIMILE MESSAGE

Dr. Alfred Traverse
The Pennsylvania State University
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435 Deike Building
University Park, PA 16802
USA

Zürich, December 16, 1991

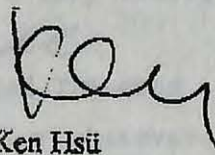
Dear Al:

To my horror, I found that I have to re-schedule your talk again. The Taiwan people told me that I could not come in early February because of Chinese New Year. Now I am going to China on 19 January and will be back on February 3rd. You could give your talk in February, as originally wished by you. I checked with our Institute's secretary and found that Wednesdays, February 5 and 12 are still open. Please let me know by Fax when would you come so we can register the date.

We would really be very upset if you, a friend of almost 40 years standing, would choose to stay with somebody else than us. Christine and I insist that you and Betty stay at Frohburgstrasse.

Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,



Ken Hsü



The Pennsylvania State University
 Department of Geosciences
 503 Deike Building
 (814) 863-7823 [FAX]
 Date: 18-XII-91

Marked here if urgent reply is requested.

Fax Transmission to:

Name: Dr. K. J. Hsl
 Company/Institution: ETH-Zentrum (Zürich)
 Department: Geologisches Institut
 Fax Number: 41-01-252-0819
 Phone Number: _____

Transmission from:

Name: Dr. Alfred Traverse
 Phone Number: 814-863-3419

Total Number of Pages (Including Cover Page): _____

Message: Dear Ken:

Your fax of 16-XII arrived--as you say, Feb. is really better for me, so I am not displeased at all. Why not go with the 12th?

As to housing, we would be delighted to stay with you and Christine. However, it was not clear that it would be convenient, and I wanted you to know that we have a standing invitation at the Stössels. I would like to have an evening with them, and want a little time to visit my priest friend, Pfarrer Konrad. So, I suppose Betty and I will want to arrive on the 11th and stay until about the 14th.

Best to you for the holidays. I can see so clearly the look of your home at this season.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

P.S. Don't forget in the publicity, announcement or whatever so "lay it on" that I'm a Fulbright Professor at the Senckenberg Museum-Forschungsinstitut. That will help me combat being over-committed to give lectures.

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

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5 December, 1991

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

Dear Ken:

Your nice letter of 25 November arrived today. I am just back from India, where I got not only the medal but also two weeks worth of "Delhi-belly" (as of today, I am finally essentially o.k.).

22 January will have to do! Betty will accompany me, and we will probably bunk with my former parishioner "in der Hub, nicht weit von der Frohburgstrasse". It will be fun to be back at ETH, ten years after the first sabbatical.

Incidentally, would you lay emphasis somehow on the fact that I'm a Fulbright Professor? I will report that to the authorities in Bonn and it will get me credit, perhaps helping me to get out of some of the many other invitations I am supposed to accept as F.P.

Some day I'd like to hear whether or not the computer has yet offered a way out of the horrendous problem of sorting the Chinese written language. Whenever I see one of the local Chinese trying desperately to look up a botanical word for me in a (so-called) dictionary I am appalled. It would seem that the computer is an answer to a prayer here, but I don't know if it's happening.

All the best. Happy holidays!

As ever,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

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Dr. Alfred Traverse
The Pennsylvania State University
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435 Deike Building
University Park, PA 16802
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Zürich, November 25, 1991

Dear Alfred :

Thank you for your letter of 10 November. Your talk here will have to be in January, because I shall be in China in February. Looking over our schedule, I found out that the only date possible is Wednesday, January 22nd. Your title "The plant kingdom as a buffer in world crises" sounds great.

As to my plans for a Chinese grammar, I mean, of course, Chinese grammar of Beijing Chinese. The Chinese dialects are really different languages, as different as French from German, etc. even though the basic structure is the same. What I meant to say is that Chinese is not an agglutative language, but an inflective language. It has conjugation and declension, it does not have prepositions, but it has post-positions. What I intend to show is that Chinese has a grammar very similar to that of English and not all that different from German. If I can get my point across, I may convince Peter that *Chinesisch ist nicht viel zu schwierig*.

Please confirm that the January 22nd date for your colloquium is convenient to you.

With best regards,

Sincerely,


Ken Hsü

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10 November, 1991

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

Dear Ken:

Yours of 30 Oct. just in. As I read it, I am within a couple of hours of departure for India - I'll be there 2 weeks.

Your various news items were, as ever, very interesting and challenging. You are a recent convert to "Tibet for the Tibetans", etc. That's o.k. and probably "correct." But you confuse me about your plans for a Chinese grammar. You taught me 35 years ago that the so-called "dialects" are really different languages, as different as French from German, etc., and that only the character-based written language enables Cantonese and northerners, etc., etc., to communicate. Therefore a foreigner should, it seems to me, learn the written language as top priority to be able to communicate. You'll need to work on Peter H., who told me in 1981 that he had no plan to learn Chinese-- "viel zu schwierig".

Now, about the lecture. Your proposal certainly would be easy!-- but not very new at this point. I can try to put in some new stuff, but won't have much time for that. I'll take the requisite slides. As to title, at Bern and at Stuttgart in 1989 I used the same title (I think) as for the PPP paper (enclosed). Perhaps this time: "The plant kingdom as a buffer in world crises." Not so ponderous.

Must dash. Best to you, Christine and the rest of the family.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et
encl

*I suggested
Feb.
for
date.*

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Dr. Alfred Traverse
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Zürich, October 30, 1991

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of 27 August and the short article on Rickshaw. Sorry for this belated answer, because I was in China until mid-October.

The Rickshaw article is interesting. I think the invention was most likely Chinese as everything Japanese. That brings up the matter about the invention of folded fans. Sooner or later their foreign origin will be established by research. Too bad the item is not important enough for the Needham Institute to do anything about it.

I have revised the JOIDES book. Thanks to your comments I have tried to make the book a readable textbook for non-majors in geology. The opus will be published by Princeton University Press next year. Perhaps you could recommend your students to get it as extra-curricular reading.

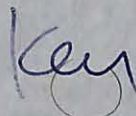
About your ETH lecture, I suggest that you give the same talk as you gave in Bern in connection with the Global Change. One of my friends attended the lecture and said it would be very interesting to us. Please give me a title and a date when you may come (in January of early February), so that I can contact the Department of Environmental Sciences to hold a joint colloquium.

I am certainly happy about the trend of history as it unfolds. Paraphrasing your expression, Darwinism also "couldn't fool the world for ever"; the slogan of survival of the fittest or the preservation of the favorite races in the struggle for life has proved to be an evil lie. By the way, I do not think the Chinese people want to "claim back the huge chunk of their country that the Russian Empire seized". The Chinese occupation of Inner Mongolia, Chinese Turkistan (Xinyiang) and Tibet has been a heritage of the Manchu Empire. Many thinking Chinese are realizing the stupidity of the Han-Chinese chauvinism. There was much talk among friends that we should give back Mongolia to the Mongols, Turkistan to the Uigurs, and Tibet to the Tibetans. It might be even better if China could be split into several autonomous republics. Only then could we expect democracy and good government for the billion Chinese.

Christine and I are looking forward very much to the visit of you and Betty. We are very interested in Betty's project on Mittelhochdeutsch. We are sure to learn something from her. I myself have got interested in the linguistic development of the Chinese language. I found the sinologists make the same mistake as I did to analyse Chinese on the basis of written words. If you look at the Chinese as it is spoken, it is a polysyllabic inflective language with a grammar not much different from that of Indo-European languages. After I retire, I shall write a Chinese grammar for Westerners. It would help them to learn spoken Chinese.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon, and with best regards, also to Betty,

Sincerely,



Ken Hsi

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20 May, 1991

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

Dear Ken:

Yours of 23 March 91 was read with great interest. Several people (including our son, Paul, who is a cardiologist in Binghamton and lives near your old abode in Vestal) sent or brought me the NY Times article about your paper. On the very long chance you could use another copy of it, I enclose one. It was fun to be able to say I had already seen the proofs of the original paper.

Your comments on truth, time and religion are most interesting. What concerns me certainly hinges on those matters but is also very practical. Humans individually, and society, clearly need a Glaube, and without one, things are a mess--respect for nature decays, respect for human society decays, the centrifugal forces (entropy?) take over. Even for simple matters such as rites-of-passage there needs to be a focus. The USSR tried hard to substitute the state, and ~~once~~ took a bunch of telephoto pictures at a "marriage center" in Leningrad of that pitiful business. Glaube can no longer be based on revelation of the various prophets--they have lost credibility in various ways. So, where do we go from here? I am still a theist, as I sense you are, but I no longer believe theism has been adequately embodied in any of the Middle Eastern religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam). About Buddhism and Taoism, etc., I know less. (Hinduism certainly is hardly more advanced than the various hellenistic cults.) How can a modern religion be created? Maybe, as you remarked once earlier, the Gaia hypothesis suggests a possible pathway? Some forms of Christianity (Quakerism, for example) are worth study for their good ideas--the ones that are most promising are all very far removed from mainline Christianity! Instructive.

We would like to visit Zürich sometime in our Jan.-July '92 stay in Germany. The offer of expenses and an honorarium are very kind and would be most helpful. What do you think your folks might like to hear from me? I will be working on Devonian

palynostratigraphy at Senckenberg in Frankfurt. I will also just have completed the book on palynomorph sedimentation, and your group might like something general about palynofacies/palynodebris studies and their use in interpreting sediments? I should get a couple of things together, so as to have the right slides with me on the trip. When did you think it should happen?

Congratulations on the JOIDES book!

Best wishes--also to Christine and the rest of the family.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

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27 August, 1991

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

Dear Ken:

Just a brief one, to check in, as I don't believe I've heard from you since mine of 20 May.

Can you believe it: I'm now fluent in WP5.1 and am producing this on my own computer, the one we'll be taking to Frankfurt next year.

We are now well into the "Fall" Semester. I have 11 in the palynology course, which is about average. It almost seems like a side issue, we have so many other things on the stove. I'm getting desperate about the sedimentation of palynomorphs book--long overdue. Mostly not my fault, but that of the other authors. I'll NEVER take on the job of editing a book again. Much more difficult than producing a book by oneself.

As I probably mentioned before, I have to go to India in November to get the international prize the Indians give out every two years and give the expected lecture. Harvard has also invited me to give a lecture in mid-October--40 yrs. after I left there. (Took them that long to forget?) It has occurred to me that I'd better use the same lecture both places, or there's no way I'll get it all done, plus the other things I need to do! I just sent off a paper J. of Paleo. about some fungal spores from Jurassic rocks of Idaho, from a suspect terrane. It's the oldest diverse assemblage of fungal spores with robust walls (chitin). That has renewed my long-standing interest in the whole question of robust-walled microfossils (palynomorphs). So, I'm going to speak on "Sporopollenin and chitin--'non-biodegradable plastics' trace major biochemical events of the geologic past. It deals with the question, for example, of why robust-walled fungal spores first appear in the Jurassic (in abundance and diversity).

Maybe that would be a possible subject for the ETH lecture? I mention this again only to emphasize that I need to give some thought to these lectures for Europe beforehand, in order to know what "dias" to take along. Apparently Fulbright scholars are

expected to give some lectures as part of the deal, and I already know of one I will be giving. I hope it doesn't get out of hand because I really need to grind away quite a bit at the microscope. That is, if it all really happens! So far, the Fulbright people, the Senckenberg Museum folk, etc., have failed to find us a place to live. Too many refugees.

That's enough for now. We are both o. k. Betty now has a Ph. D. project--mediaeval area. Huge doses of Mittelhochdeutsch, etc.

Sure has been an exciting week. I've been saying for years that empires are out of vogue, and that Russia couldn't fool the world for ever by claiming theirs was a "union". Wouldn't this be an opportune time for China to claim back the huge chunk of their country that the Russian Empire seized?

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

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Dr. Alfred Traverse
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March 23, 1990 91

Dear Al:

I was very happy to receive your warm letters. I am sure that Betty is also pleased that the tone of our correspondence has made another turn. We have always been good friends, but there have been misunderstandings.

Yes, we need religion. When I came to Switzerland shortly after Ruth's death, the key word for me was "Glaube." I was a little irritated. I thought I could think for myself and did not need to "believe." I thought that a scientist did not need to believe to do his science; it is only logical exercise of self-consistency. I now realize that the first assumption in science, as in religion, is the faith. We believe that the earth goes around the sun, even though we see that the sun apparently goes around the earth, because we believe what astronomers and physicists are telling us. I still believe in Galileo and Newton, and science has brought technical successes to send men to the Moon. But successful predictions are not to guarantee that the truth has been captured. People have successfully predicted the seasons, eclipses, planetary conjunctions, etc, for many millenia since the Neolithic Age. Those successes have been important to agricultural economy, like the scientific successes are to our industrial economy. We scientists now think that Ptolemy's successes had nothing to do with truth. But who are we to think that the Galileo/Newton successes are manifestations of the truth. In fact, Popper told us that science advances through falsification. The tremendous advance of science in the last few decades is thus a proof how much falsehood there was in science, and gives a hint on the scale of falsehood which is yet to be corrected. I begin to appreciate Feyerabend's remark that the modern science is not necessarily closer to truth than Greek mythology.

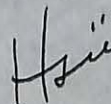
Richard Feynmann was sufficiently thoughtful a physicist to realize the futility of portraying truth only in terms of atoms, nuclear and subnuclear particles. Is there not also truth in hope and beauty? In my article on fractal geometry of music, Andrew and I made a first attempt to relate the language of physics (in terms of acoustic pitch) to the beauty of music (as manifested by the compositions of Bach and Mozart). Enclosed is a reprint for your reading pleasure. Our second paper, which is now in press at PNAS, is to use self-similarity argument to explore the depth of music; Bach and Mozart only give us one cross-section of their music truth and we could hope to understand them better through an explorations of different levels, and eventually different dimensions, of music truth. My latest "hobby" is a search for the meaning of time, and I shall send you the first draft of manuscript when I clean up it a little to smooth out the most obvious rough edges. The essence is that the time function has many dimension? The time defined on the basis of periodic motions at linear rate give us only a very narrow glimpse. Radioactive elements is measured by decay, and natural phenomena have a fractal geometry. Biological time as defined by growth, and neurological time as define by neuron communication are other dimensions which we only begin to grope in the dark as to their significance. Only through time, could we find a link between science and religion.

I hope you would come to visit us next year when you come to Europe on a Fulbright. I shall arrange that you give a lecture here and will be able to offer all expenses from Germany plus a honorarium. You could talk on a topic of your choice, but preferably on Quaternary research.

My JOIDES book which you read in German is finally coming out with an American edition by the Princeton University Press. I spent half year revising the text and it now reads much, much better. The distant view also has helped.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon. With best regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ken'.A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Hsi'.

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES
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12 March, 1991

Dr. K. J. Hsü
ETH-Zentrum
Geologisches Institut
Sonneggstrasse 5
CH-802 Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Ken:

What a thrill to hear from you, especially as the envelope from California carried no warning that I would find tidings from my dear old friend inside it.

You give me too much credit re religion. However, I do think humans must have it. The USSR is breaking up in large part for the lack of it, rather than for the economic reasons usually cited. There are and have been bad religions, and as practiced, many forms of Christianity and Islam are in that category. But because humans need religion they have appealed and still appeal to millions. Nationalism, including what a seminary professor of mine called "American civil religion" is a very bad form of religion, etc.

I should emphasize, if I haven't, that I have had no formal religious connection for 10 years. Of existing bodies to which I have access, I can imagine an eventual connection only with the Quakers--I agree with all their major stands, and they do provide for rites of passage and the need for community.

Your adherence to Taoism might be open to the criticism of "cheap grace," not so? I mean, you don't have to worry about any demands other Taoists might place upon you in Switzerland. Too easy?

I liked your letter a lot, and I really do wonder if we shouldn't do something jointly in this area? As far as your MS is concerned, I'd be glad to read it critically. As far as being gentle is concerned, I'll try hard, but in any case you KNOW I love you and would defend you even if you were a neo-Nazi!

All the best to you and your family. After a terrible 1990, featuring Mother's decline and death and other horrors, 1991

seems to be going better. I got the Fulbright, which I may have already told you. I just received word that I got the Indian International biennial Medal for outstanding contributions to paleobotany/palynology. I go to India in Nov. to get it and give the expected lecture. Not as glorious as your accomplishments, but nice.

Yours as ever,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

The consequence of those two postulates, and only those two postulates was, as William Godwit pointed out shortly after the publication of the Essay, to set the *Footnote*, a sort of solemn contract to no Christian and

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91125

1.3.91

Dear Al:

I was most pleased to receive your letter of 6 February, and your appreciation of my religion.

The idea contains indeed the germ of a new modern religion devoid of superstition. I have been thinking that my God is spelled G-A-I-A. Dobhansky, Simpson, Huxley, and other neo-Darwinists have emphasized the creativity of natural selection, which has been compared to Mozart, Michelangelo, and Shakespeare. After getting deeper and deeper into the record of evolution, I have come to appreciate the arguments of old-earth creationists that you cannot give a monkey a typewriter and hope by chance he would come up with a Shakespearean play, nor could we expect a Mozartian composition from a nightingale, or a David from a Gorilla.

I am writing a book called *The Fractal Geometry of Time*, with a subtitle *Pasadena Lectures on Geology, Evolution, Philosophy and History of Science*, because I have discovered a serious flaw in the foundation of modern science. Time is assumed to be linear, ticking away at a constant rate. With such a postulate, physicists have come to a dead end. They cannot talk about the time before the Big Bang, or the end of the Universe, because time has been warped to fit into the Big Bang Hypothesis. Studies of the history of earth, and history of life on earth have given me a new insight in time. Einstein was wrong when he insisted that God does not play dice. God may not play dice, but his laws are not deterministic: They are probably far too profound for us ever to understand. We could only get a gleam of the working of His ways in the fractal geometry of time.†

I have been reading Malthus recently, because both Darwin and Wallace claimed that they got their inspiration from the anglican parson. On p. 19 of his *Essay*, he wrote:

I think I may fairly make two postulates.

First, That food is necessary to the existence of man.

Second, That the passion between the sexes is necessary and will remain nearly in its present state.

The consequence of those two postulates, and **only** those two postulates was, as William Godwin pointed out shortly after the publication of the *Essay* in his *On Population*, "a code of morality conformable to his (Malthusian) creed.

This creed consists principally of negatives.

We must not preach up private charity. For charity, 'if exerted at all, will necessarily lead' to pernicious consequences.

We must not preach up frugality. For the 'waste among the rich, and the horses kept by them merely for their pleasure, operate like granaries, and tend rather to benefit than to injure the lower classes of society.'

We must deny that the poor, whatever may be the causes or degree of their distress, 'have a right to support.'"

We must preach down marriage. We must affirm that no man has a right to marry, without a fair prospect of being able to support a family... To the punishment of Nature he should be left, the punishment of want. He should be taught to know that the laws of Nature, which are the laws of God, have doomed him and his family to suffer for disobeying their repeated admonitions." (Italics are cited by Godwin from Malthus.)

As I religious man, you would probably agree with me, that Malthus the mathematician made only two necessary postulates, but not the sufficient postulates. He did not distinguish man from wildbeats; he did not see the necessity of a third postulate, namely: Many, if not all, men have a need to believe in God." With this, we could have faith that "God will provide".

You have been my teacher in religion, Al, since the Shell days. Ever since Ruth died, I have been religious. I shall remain a taoist, however, because my experiences with Chinese rice -christians will prevent me from ever being identified with a christian church, catholic or protestant. On the other hand, I am hoping that we are going into a better century, a new world, where charity rather than greed will be accepted as the Law of Nature, or Law of God.

I do hope to see you when you come to Europe next year. Please do plan to stay a week or so with us in Zurich when you come. It has always been a great pleasure to discuss with you the mystery of life.

Fond regards to you and Betty

Sincerely,

Koen 4/50

P.S. I have written a first draft, while preparing for lectures here. If you would promise to be gentle with me in your constructive criticism, I would be very happy if could look over the rough draft, + point out flaws of ^{my} logic, + naivety of my "theology".

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6 February, 1991

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

Dear Ken:

I greatly enjoyed your article "Ist Gaia endotherm" in ETH-Zürich (Jan. 1991)! I have read about "Gaia" in Lynn Margulis' work, but think your explanations are much easier to understand.

Does this idea contain the germ of a new modern religion devoid of superstition? As you know, men in the past worshiped the sun, not actually too crazy an idea. Could we perhaps "worship" the modernly-conceived "Gaia-Sonne-System"? It might make more sense than to worship a god, whose wishes and commands are transmitted by prejudiced people.

Hang in there. All the best as always, old friend.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et