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

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

December 20, 1974

Dr. John W. Hall
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear John:

Thanks for yours of 20 November regarding the Golden Valley Formation, and my student John Bebout's interest in it. I really think we had sufficiently covered this previously, but a couple of busy bodies brought the subject up and insisted that still further assurances be obtained.

Best wishes to you as always. I especially hope you are feeling in good shape for the holiday season.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/vsi



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Department of Botany
220 Biological Sciences Center
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
(612) 373-2211

November 20, 1974

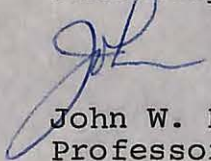
Dr. Alfred Traverse
529 Deike Bldg.
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dear Al:

No, Eddie Robertson has not finished his Ph.D. thesis; a second draft is still on my desk being read as time permits. Thus, in fairness, I think it better not to send xeroxes of his material. But let me report that his concern with the Golden Valley Fm is not profound. He has established a palynofloristic zone which includes the Golden Valley, but he has by no means done a thorough study of the microflora. I still feel that this is desirable, intensively, rather than the brief way Eddie is doing. Eddie touches only incidentally on the paleoecology of the Golden Valley. This, too, could be expanded.

When Eddie will finish up is not yet predictable. The other two members of his committee are making nearly opposite requests, and it remains to be seen how he can satisfy all of us.

Sincerely,



John W. Hall
Professor

JWHjp

October 25, 1974

Dr. John W. Hall
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear John:

I understand that Eddie Robertson was at the Calgary meeting, but our paths did not seem to cross. Tate Ames did talk to him and has expressed some concern about the possible conflict between John Bebout's thesis and Eddie's. I told Tate that you and I had thoroughly discussed this earlier, and I still think everything is okay. However, I understand that Robertson's thesis is now complete, and I wonder if we could possibly be provided with a xerox copy (for which I would be glad to pay) in order to determine whether there is indeed any real cause for concern for Bebout.

The meeting in Calgary was pretty good, and I think you would have enjoyed it but the year will slip away quickly, and you can make up all the lost ground at Houston! Of course, I would like to see you again for purely personal as well as scientific reasons!

Looking forward to hearing from you about the possibility of getting a copy of Robertson's thesis and with very best wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/vsi



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Department of Botany
220 Biological Sciences Center
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
(612) 373-2211

October 4, 1974

Dear Al:

Your prediliction for finding bon mots in the literature may already have led you to these which I enclose, all by the same author. I read him for kicks! No doubt there are others, even whole articles.

Would have given these to you personally at Calgary were I to be there, but cannot take the time from classes this year. It does look like a good program, and I shall be missing a lot, I know.

My regards to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. W. Hall'.

John W. Hall

100% COTTON

January 29, 1974

Prof. J.W. Hall
Department of Botany
220 Biological Sciences Center
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear John:

Thank you so much for your kind and very complimentary letter of 22 January. I hasten to say that I am not "running" for editor of the American Journal of Botany, either, and was surprised as you are that I turn up on the list of nominees.

Thank you so much for the news about Liz Cahoon, of whom I haven't heard in a long time. I will dash off a letter to her right away about the Triassic material, because I have a great interest in such things naturally. It certainly was good of you to think of me.

Keep up the good work. Let's get together one of these days.
Best wishes.

Yours cordially,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/vsi

Esbeck



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Department of Botany
220 Biological Sciences Center
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
(612) 373-2211

January 22, 1974

Dr. Alfred Traverse
529 Derke Bldg.
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pa. 16802

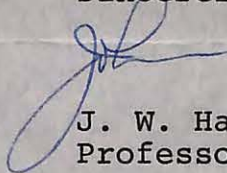
Dear Al:

The palynological output from Penn State is just fabulous - reprints received already, work in progress taken from the just-arrived questionnaire, presentations at AASP - all overwhelming.

I have just had a call from Liz Cahoon, who is now working for the AEC in South Carolina. Among other things, she mentioned that the AEC had taken a core that penetrated a Triassic "trench". Not much information here to go on, I admit, but if you would care to follow up write to:

Elizabeth J. Cahoon
AEC
Savannah River Plant
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29801

Sincerely yours,



J. W. Hall
Professor

JWH/jt

PS. Just got a communication from Norman Boke, listing us as competitors for the editorship of AJB. I bow out now! Paleobotanists are numerous on that list, aren't they.

September 27, 1972

Dr. John W. Hall
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear John:

Thanks for yours of 19 September. I hope you don't interpret your "defeat" as rejection--I have heard only good comments about your work on the Newport meeting. As I am sure you realize, what's occurred is the continuation of a "mini tradition". This is the third year in a row that the reigning Vice President has been defeated in the Presidential election. In each of the two previous cases the defeated candidate came back to win the next year. Two years ago Geoff Norris lost to me. Last year Engelhardt lost to Geoff Norris, and this you have lost to Engelhardt. If the tradition is followed, you should be elected next year! In any case, chin-up, and I look forward to seeing you at Rhode Island.

Best wishes as always.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Geology & Biology

AT/vsi

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STRATIGRAPHIC PALYNOLOGISTS

PRESIDENT: Geoffrey Norris
Department of Geology
University of Toronto
Toronto 181, Ontario, Canada

SECRETARY- TREASURER: Robert T. Clarke
Mobil Oil Corporation
1001 Howard Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

VICE-PRESIDENT: John W. Hall
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

EDITOR: Richard W. Hedlund
Amoco Production Company
P. O. Box 591
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74102

19 September 1972

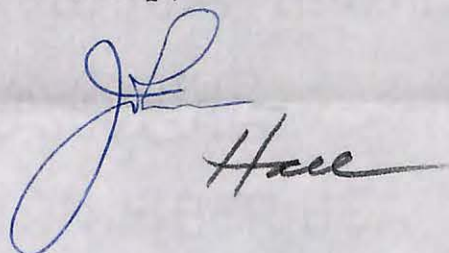
Dr. Alfred Traverse
Dept. of Geosciences
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pa. 16802

Dear Fellow Lame Duck:

I, too, shall be able to relax at the Newport meetings, knowing that once these are over my current duties with AASP will be at an end. Really, it is a relief to know that I will not have to battle with such things as another appointment to JCPI, the ICP affair, and all the nitty-gritty that seems inevitably to arise. And I never could have kept up the tremendous image that both you and Geoff have given to AASP. I don't envy Don Engelhardt!

With all best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. W. Hall". The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke.

COUNCILOR: W. R. Evitt
Department of Geology
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305

COUNCILOR: D. Colin McGregor
Geological Survey of Canada
601 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A-0E8

COUNCILOR: Alfred Traverse
Department of Geosciences
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

July 31, 1972

Dr. John W. Hall
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear John:

Just got yours regarding the program for the Newport meeting. The whole thing sounds absolutely great to me, and I am looking forward to it with considerable anticipation. Even if the meeting consisted only of the workshop and the invited speakers, it would be more than worth the trip to Rhode Island.

Congratulations!

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Geology & Biology

AT/vsi

May 1, 1972

Dr. John W. Hall
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear John:

I just saw a copy of your letter to Geoff Norris, and I agree with everything that you say. I only perhaps would enter the mild caution that it might be better to ignore what Kremp has done than to make a big splash about it. It was, of course, wrong of Kremp to issue such a statement implicating the AASP without anybody's approval. That took an incredible amount of gall, and Gerhard has an ample supply of it.

I am absolutely delighted with the news you have about preliminary indications for the October meeting. Probably the best news of all is that you have an acceptance from Bill Schopf. He always presents a good paper, and of course he is probably the best known paleobotanist under 40 years of age around in North America (you are over 40, aren't you?).

Best wishes as always.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Geology & Biology

AT/vsi

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STRATIGRAPHIC PALYNOLOGISTS

PRESIDENT: Geoffrey Norris
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SECRETARY-TREASURER: Robert T. Clarke
Mobil Oil Corporation
1001 Howard Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

EDITOR: Richard W. Hedlund
Amoco Production Company
P. O. Box 591
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74102

April 19, 1972

Dr. Geoffrey Norris
Department of Geology
University of Toronto
Toronto 181, Ontario, Canada

Dear Geof:

Geotimes has just arrived. I suspect I shall not be the only one to write (or call) about the publicity we have gotten. I just don't recall giving Kremp the authority to associate AASP with his data bank. In fact, I am incensed, to put it mildly. The implications here are simply too vast to comprehend, and so much out of line that I believe an apology should be forthcoming from Kremp. This the more so because of Bob Talbert's letter stating that AASP ought to move in new directions. This note makes it seem as though we were.

I would suggest that Kremp send a letter to the entire membership, pointing out that

- (1) the palynologic data bank is not a project sponsored or supported by AASP.
- (2) the membership of the fact-finding committee was not established by AASP.
- (3) AASP has had no input into the phases of work that seem to exist.
- (4) AASP has not been involved with any of the work of Hans Tralau (Phase 1):
- (5) AASP has had nothing to do with Phase 2.
- (6) AASP is not involved with the international cooperation suggested in Phase 3.
- (7) AASP did not establish 3 classes of cooperation. This point is particularly galling to me. He has made up these categories of whole cloth as far as I am concerned.
- (8) AASP is not carrying out discussions with scientists in other countries.
- (9) The usefulness of palynology is not dependent upon any of the foregoing activities singly or in toto.

COUNCILOR: W. R. Evitt
Department of Geology
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305

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Geological Survey of Canada
601 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A-0E8

COUNCILOR: Alfred Traverse
Department of Geosciences
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dr. Geoffrey Norris
University of Toronto

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April 19, 1972

This kind of naivité (if that's what it is) only reinforces my feeling that Kremp should not be on JCPI.

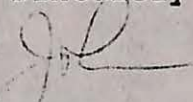
Let me repeat, I believe Kremp owes AASP a public apology. He has been quite irresponsible.

I have acceptances from Loeblich III for a keynote paper, and Alan Graham has also agreed to give one. Alan's name has not been brought up as a "holdout", but it occurred to me that he has been neglected. He and I are on good terms, and I was able to twist his arm to talk about Tertiary vegetation in the Caribbean region. Herb Wright has declined. I still have not heard from several others to whom I wrote.

Also, two contributed papers so far. Progress!

Bill Schopf accepted today, also.

Sincerely yours,



John W. Hall
Professor

JWH/caq

P. S. How ironic. AASP is not one of the member societies of AGI. We aren't really entitled to such publicity.

JWH

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
8 BOTANY BUILDING • MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455
PHONE 373-2211 • AREA CODE 612

October 1, 1971

Dr. Alfred Traverse, President
Department of Geology & Geophysics
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pa. 16802

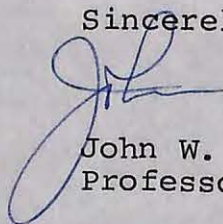
Dear Al:

It will be a challenge that I shall be pleased to meet to serve as Vice President and program chairman for the AASP. I do look forward to these duties and in fact, already have some thoughts about a field trip that I can discuss with Gene Tynan. I sent Bob Clarke a quick note that I will be in Tucson in time (hopefully) for the executive meeting. My plane arrives at about 12:00, which should be soon enough to allow for the required travel time to the motel.

This does promise to be a busy year. I have also been asked to serve as local representative of the Botanical Society for the meetings here in Minneapolis the next August, which will be in addition to what I must do for the paleobotanists (field trip, symposia). The GSA meets here in November of 1972, also. And I am going to Lucknow in December for the Sahni Institute jubilee. Worst of all my right hand assistant, for 4 1/2 years, has left. But then, two members of the council-to-be have had experience in program organization, and I am sure they can provide help in time of need.

See you in Tucson for a good time.

Sincerely,



John W. Hall
Professor

JWH/fe

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
8 BOTANY BUILDING · MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455
PHONE 373-2211 · AREA CODE 612

December 16, 1970

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Deike Building
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pa. 16802

Dear Al:

Let me try to provide some reassurance on the items you brought up in your recent letter.

First of all, Harlan Banks really volunteered to look into the matter of Høeg's nomination for corresponding member of the Botanical Society. There was some question as to whether Høeg might not already be a corresponding member, and it was more or less left to him (and I guess me) to follow up on this. As I remember the discussion, you were not really asked to do anything about Høeg. I have followed up with Harlan on this now, and he has agreed to gather the documents for Høeg's nomination. AS for A.G. Long, Canright did ask you to work on his nomination; I thought this was a kind of off the cuff request, but it did get into the minutes. Long was proposed a couple of years ago, but did not make it. Harlan thought we ought to push again for Long, with added documentation. Apparently this was what you were supposed to do. Again, perhaps this can be handled without your involvement. I already have the original materials on Long, and have just asked a few of our colleagues for additional letters of recommendation. I think a case for Long can be gotten together readily enough, now. A.G. Long, by the way, has worked on Lower Carboniferous seeds - Eurystoma, Genomosperma, etc. - has some theories on the origin of the integument and cupule, as follow up to the work of Walton.

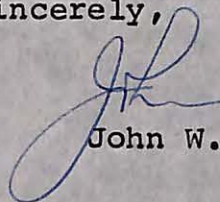
I have checked back on the old minutes of the Section regarding the changes in the By-Laws that you mentioned. Some time ago I found that all the changes you mentioned, but one, had been incorporated in the By-Laws. This one of course relates to the membership of the Sec.-Treas. on the Bot. Soc. council. Although the minutes in 1958 indicate that a motion to this effect was passed, this was not, to my way of thinking at the time, ~~not~~ the same as an amendment to the By-Laws. However, the sentiment of the group at Bloomington was that this was the intention, and you have re-inforced it. It seems to me that if I were to

proceed on this basis, and indicate to Barbara Palser, the secretary of the Bot. Soc. that Article II, paragraph 3 be amended to add the statement: "He shall serve on the council of the Botanical Society of America" I would not be taken to task by our membership.

All else seems to be going at the proper pace. I will get out a "newsletter" shortly, and a call for materials for the next Bibliography.

Best of Christmas cheer to you and your family.

Sincerely,



John W. Hall

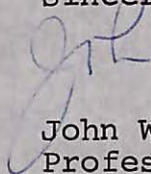
February 9, 1971

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Department of Geology & Geophysics
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pa. 16802

Dear Al:

The letter supporting Høeg is welcome. I also have one now for Schopf, and it seems to me the materials I need are pretty well at hand. I shall be sending them in a few days.

Sincerely,



John W. Hall
Professor

JWH/fe



USGS COAL GEOLOGY IN REPLY REFER TO:
P & S BRANCH

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Orton Hall, Ohio State University
155 S. Oval Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43210

February 4, 1971

John W. Hall
Secretary, Paleobotanical Section
Botanical Society of America
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear John:

I am delighted to support the nomination of Professor Ove Arbo Høeg as a corresponding member of the Botanical Society of America. Professor Høeg's contributions are many and outstanding. His study of the Downtonian and Devonian flora of Spitsbergen has been a standard reference ever since it was issued in 1942. His thorough study, with the assistance of M. N. Bose, of the Glossopteris flora of the Belgian Congo that includes a thorough consideration of microfossils as well as megafossils is a most important contribution. We are particularly indebted to Professor Høeg for his recent authoritative treatment of the Psilophyta, a most perplexing group, in which he has considered the worldwide literature and given us a definitive review resulting in a 243-page section in volume 2 of the Traite de Paleobotanique issued in 1967.

As a result of these and a great many other shorter contributions, as well as for his sterling character and most kindly personality, I feel that the selection of Professor Høeg as a Corresponding Member has been much too long delayed. I enthusiastically support his nomination and hope he can be elected by the Council at its earliest convenience.

Very best regards,

Sincerely,

James M. Schopf

cc: Dr. Alfred Traverse

*Al: This is a help-
I hope very strongly in
favor of Høeg.
Regards - Jim*

January 29, 1971

Professor John W. Hall
Department of Botany
8 Botany Building University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear John:

I have heard that plans are going forward to nominate Professor Høeg of Norway for corresponding membership in the Botanical Society of America. I believe I speak for many members of the Paleobotanical Section when I say that it comes as a surprise to learn that Professor Høeg is not already a Corresponding Member! As the dean of Scandanavian paleobotany, and one of the foremost authorities in the world on early Paleozoic floras, Professor Høeg richly deserves this honor. I understand that he is now an emeritus professor, and it only grieves me that he had not been elected before he is so old. However, I understand that he is still quite active, and I'm sure he would appreciate this very much deserved honor. I believe it should be stressed in the nomination of Professor Høeg, that the Paleobotanical Section was unanimous in feeling that we should propose Høeg's name if it should turn out that he was not already a corresponding member, as most of us thought he was.

Best wishes to you as always.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Geology & Biology

AT/mdw

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
8 BOTANY BUILDING • MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455
PHONE 373-2211 • AREA CODE 612

January 22, 1971

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Department of Geology and Geophysics
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania

Dear Al:

Since Harlan was to assume the responsibility for Høeg's nomination, if he has arranged with you to help, it would seem to be out of my hands. I shall do what I can about Long, having gotten some responses to my pleas. But Harlan was to gather the Høeg material, some of which he has sent me copies.

I am returning the bibliography you sent me, not only because I have one, but because I think you and Harlan ought to straighten out the lines of communication and responsibility. I have a letter from Harlan, dated 18 January, in which he seems to assume that you are preparing a statement.

Sincerely,

John W. Hall
Professor

JWH/fe

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Professor Ove Arbo Høeg

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January 7, 1971

Dr. John W. Hall
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear John:

Enclosed is a self-explanatory photocopy of a letter from the Bot. Soc. It would seem to me that drawing up a suitable dossier on Professor Höeg is something that would be a worthwhile activity for the Section, and I gather from your previous letter to me on this subject that it is being taken care of and that I need not concern myself further about the matter. Right?

Best wishes as always.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Geology & Biology

AT/vsi

Enclosure: photocopy of letter
from B.F. Palser

December 7, 1970

Dr. John W. Hall
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear John:

I have been perusing the minutes of the Annual Meeting in Bloomington, and have several comments. First of all, regarding item #6, I am not entirely sure what I am supposed to do about "A.G. Long". I confess that I don't even know who Long is! However, I have written Harlan Banks, who seems to know what the history of the proposition may be, and I suppose that I can begin assembling materials on Long and Höeg, if I develop an indication that he is not already a corresponding member. I presume that the secretary of the Society would know that. If you can add anything, please do. Who is Long?

Regarding item #5, I must say that it is in conflict with my memory of the situation, though I admit that I am not infallible as to memory. My memory of what was done, and I am almost certain that I am correct, is that the Section intended to amend the By-laws by its action in 1958 (if that's when it occurred). I should know, because I was the one who pushed that thing through, and I well remember the prolonged and at times acrimonious debate. It was, I am virtually certain, done as an amendment, and I wonder if some rooting around would not establish that fact. It had become very obvious by the middle '50's that it was not working to have the chairman represent the section on the Society's council, and we decided to do something about it.

Dr. John W. Hall
December 7, 1970
Page 2

All of this makes me wonder whether other modifications in the by-laws were ever properly incorporated. For example, I have before me my minutes of the annual business meeting held at Stanford on 28 August, 1957, with a whole slug of by-law amendments. For example, Article 2, no. 6 was amended to read that a nominating committee must consist of three persons. Article 4, no. 4, sentence 3 was amended to read "affiliates shall pay \$1 dues per annum...." I am presuming and hoping that you have a copy of minutes such as those.

I believe the fault may possibly lie with me in that in the minutes for the meeting of 27 August, 1958, I did not use the words "amend the by-laws" but I am sure that was the intention of Mamay and Scott, who introduced the proposal, and I believe that the by-laws should be regarded as amended, since all that amendment requires is a vote. There had been so much opposition to the proposal among a very small group of people, alleging that I was trying to increase my power base, that I was not eager to dramatize the situation very much.

It seems to me there are two ways you can proceed. One would be to regard the by-laws as having been amended and inform the proper authorities of the BSA accordingly. It is clear to me that the minutes of the August, 1958 meeting indicate just that, and it was passed unanimously or nearly so. Alternatively, one of us should see to it at the next business meeting that it is made official by amendment labeled as such.

Merry Christmas to you and yours.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Geology & Biology

AT/vsi

HALL

November 30, 1970

Dr. John W. Hall
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear John:

Thanks for the reprints on Callandrium and Callospermarion. I have found on rereading the Callandrium paper just how useful it will be in presenting a story about the evolution of pollen and pre-pollen. The phylogenetic diagram on page 401 is especially useful. It's a bit of a shock to think of "conifer-like" pollen evolving by parallel evolution in completely unrelated groups such as the conifers and the advanced seed ferns, but I must say that it makes understanding the pollen of the Caytoniales a little bit easier for me. Best wishes to you for the holiday season and keep up the good work!

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Geology & Biology

AT/vsi

6 May, 1966

Mr. B. F. Hall
Pack Apartments
Pepper Street
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

Dear Mr. Hall:

Glad to have yours of 29 April and to hear of your interest in palynology. I had not realized that there is a faculty member at Virginia Tech who is qualified to supervise a program for a master's degree in palynology.

Unfortunately there are no reprints of the articles from the Kummel-Raup volume. By not allowing reprints they hoped to increase sales of the book. Proceeds go to the Paleontological Society.

In answer to your questions:

1. Although many of the palynologists are now using silicone oil as a mountant, I still prefer glycerin jelly for all palynological purposes--better refractive index, soluble in water, easy to make up if commercial sources fail.

2. Centrifuge as long as necessary at the speed your centrifuge can operate at without breaking the tubes you happen to be using. You can't go too fast if the tubes can take it. Most centrifuges have a safety guide in the instruction book. Ordinarily 3000 is plenty fast. Over 3000 breaks many glass tubes. Over 2500 breaks some types. Under 2500 takes too long. Too long centrifugation will throw down some very fine mineral matter and organic matter that you would just as soon not throw down. You hardly ever need to centrifuge 15 ml. tubes longer than 2 min. Larger tubes take longer at the same speed.

3. Mested screen not available commercially. You can improvise one from commercially available screens and funnels.

4. Aluminum heating blocks not commercially available. Easy to machine one from a block of aluminum. Use ordinary hot-plate for heat source. But a water-bath will work, subject to drawbacks that I discussed in my paper.

Note that I am here for this year as visiting lecturer in geology. Next year I'll be at Penn State permanently as associate professor of palynology. Perhaps you will want to pay me a visit. I plan to be up there by mid-June. Better write before coming, of course.

Yours very truly,


Alfred Traverse

Pack Apartments, Pepper Street
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060
April 29, 1966

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Shell Development Company
P. O. Box 481
Houston 1, Texas

Dear Dr. Traverse:

I am a graduate student at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and am engaging in a polynological study for my Master's degree.

I read with interest the article you wrote for the book, Handbook of Paleontological Techniques edited by Bernard Kummel and David Raup. I would appreciate receiving a reprint of that article if it is available. Also I would appreciate your consideration of a few questions.

1. You indicate a preference for glycerin jelly as a mounting medium for modern pollen. Would this medium be your preference for post-Pleistocene lake sediments or bog sediments?
2. When you use the word centrifuge in your preparation schedule, what is implied with respect to r.p.m. and time?
3. Is the nested screen apparatus shown in Fig. 3 available commercially? If so who makes it?
4. Is the aluminum heating block shown in Fig. 5 available commercially? If so who makes it? It certainly seems that this apparatus would be preferable to a water bath.

Any assistance you can give me with the above will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

B. F. Hall

B. F. Hall

BFH:w



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Department of Botany
220 Biological Sciences Center
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
(612) 373-2211

30 August 1973

Dr. Alfred Traverse
529 Deike Building
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pa. 16802

Dear Al:

I agree in principle with your comments about bringing in a visiting paleobotanist, and so indicated to Tom Taylor, but I did also raise the same questions that you did, about cost, and whom we invite, and who makes the decision. My suggestion was to bring in some one from Mexico or other parts of Latin America, since we will meet jointly with the Mexicans in Tempe next year. However, it is Tom Harris that was in mind when the matter was raised in Amherst.

The decision to send out the questionnaire was made over a couple of beers at the Conference Center, by Taylor, Jim Schopf and others. Because our symposium is to be on the gymnosperms, and because Schopf would like to have Harris come over here, which he would not be able to do without some support, Taylor agreed to follow through with a questionnaire to the members. If this goes through, it will certainly put a crimp in our budget, which I have watched grow over the past several years, and it will be a long time before we could do this kind of thing again. I think it would be great to have Harris come over, but whether we pay all expenses might be questioned.

Sincerely

John W. Hall

September 11, 1970

Dr. John W. Hall
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear John:

Thank you for the group of reprints on Azolla,
and related genera. I suppose I should regard these
as among the first items to be especially filed in
connection with my work as secretary of the Inter-
national Committee on Fossil Plant Nomenclature!
At any rate, that's the way I have filed them.

Thank you for remembering me. Looking forward
to seeing you in Toronto, I am

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Geology & Biology

AT:kc

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STRATIGRAPHIC PALYNOLOGISTS

PRESIDENT: George R. Fournier
Gulf Technical Services Center
3820 Buffalo Speedway
Houston, Texas 77006

VICE-PRESIDENT: Geoffrey Norris
Department of Geology
University of Toronto
Toronto 5, Ontario
Canada

file Hall

SECRETARY-TREASURER: Alfred Traverse
Department of Geology & Geophysics
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

EDITOR: Richard W. Hedlund
Atlantic Richfield Company
P. O. Box 2819
Dallas, Texas 75221

May 5, 1970.

Dr. James Canright, Chairman
Dept. of Botany and Microbiology
Arizona State College
Tempe, Arizona

Dear Jim:

Because of a slight mixup as to the total number of members who are eligible to receive the Bibliography, there is an over-run of about 100. These are expensive to produce, and were we to charge it all off to the section, our balance would be much less than the \$1100 we now have. Of course, the department takes a major share of the cost, but there are squawks about this, too.

There is nothing in our by-laws that says we cannot sell the bibliography. It would be a departure from our past policies to do so, but I do not feel that we have to subsidize the cost for all those who might want a copy. We have given away a lot in the past, and perhaps ought to continue to do so to those who are friends of paleobotany. But I am sure there are others who would be willing to pay a modest sum for it. This includes libraries, as well.

I hope this note I have sent to Hedlund meets your approval. If you agree with the general principle, I would like also to move ahead with a library circulation. *John W. Hall*

Even as a non-profit organization we are entitled to engage in trade. A price of \$1.00 barely covers cost, - would not, in fact, if secretarial time is considered.

John W. Hall 

Councilor: Charles F. Upshaw
Pan American Petroleum Corp.
P. O. Box 591
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74102

Councilor: Daniel Habib
Department of Geology and Geography
Queens College of the City
University of New York
Flushing, New York 11367

Councilor: John W. Hall
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

November 18, 1969

Dr. John W. Hall
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear John:

Doug Nichols has just brought me the reference which I discussed with you over the phone earlier today. It is: *Ubbereine fossile Tiliaceen-Blüte und tilioiden Pollen aus dem deutschen Tertiär*; *Geologie Beihefte* 32 (vol. 10):54-93. The article is by D.H. Mai and was, we believe, published in 1961. I think that Mai is an East German.

Thanks for discussing the question of future employment for Nichols also, even though you weren't too encouraging! Best wishes to you.

Yours cordially,

Alfred Traverse
Associate Professor of Geology
and Biology

AT:vsi

October 7, 1969

Dr. John W. Hall
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear John:

Thanks for yours of 4 October. I am sure that Charlie Upshaw and all the rest of us want the newly elected Executive Committee members to be present at the meeting on the 18th, but I am sorry if this necessitated changes in your plans. Actually, as you will hear in a few days, we are moving the meeting to 5:00 in recognition of the fact that plane connections will make it impossible for most people to arrive before that time.

Don't worry about the "power politics" bit--what's done is done. You were under pressure, and I fully understand what you had to do. I appreciate very much your letting me know about it. Perhaps I should also be completely candid in telling you I personally contacted the NSF people and told them in no uncertain terms what I think of the sort of pressure to which you and others have been subjected. "Unsolicited testimonials" are one thing, BUT....

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Secretary-Treasurer
AASP

AT:kc

October 1, 1969

Dr. John W. Hall
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear John:

Thank you very much for your letter of 24 September and the copy of the statement sent to Wilson. I suspect that despite your hopes, he will want to use it! I really regret the high pressure salesmanship that is going on in this business. I suspect that if I were at the National Science Foundation and read a number of statements such as the one you were dragooned into making, I would put my money on the University of Oklahoma. Perhaps it will go that way. If it does, I can spend my time doing some other things. I really think, though, that Bob Sanders is in a position to build up a more satisfactory system here at Penn State if he were given the chance.

Looking forward to seeing you in a couple of weeks,
I am

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Associate Professor of Geology
and Biology

AT:kc

September 29, 1969

Dr. John W. Hall
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear John:

Many thanks for the handsome publication "Paly-nology of the Upper Cretaceous and Lower Tertiary in the type locality of the Hell Creek formation, Montana, U.S.A." I am writing to you rather than to Norman since I noted that the package came from Minneapolis, and I presumably owe the courtesy and generosity represented by the publication to you. As I said, perhaps foolishly, at the Seattle meeting, I find myself wondering whether the Fort Union may not turn out to be Danian in the European sense rather than lowermost Tertiary. At the moment, I cannot substantiate this notion in precise terms--it just a sneaking suspicion.

Thanks again for your much appreciated efforts to keep me abreast--Holy Smokes, what a job!

See you in State College next month.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Associate Professor of Geology
and Biology

AT:kc

Sept. 24, 1969

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Dept. of Geology
Penn. State University
University Park, Pa. 16802

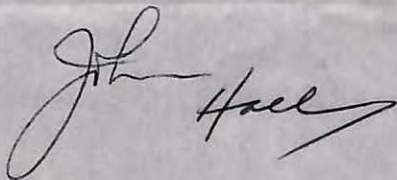
Dear Al:

Here is a copy of the statement I sent to Wilson. I really hope that he will not want to use it.

I hope to learn what JCPI has going, for I am the PSBSA representative on that committee, and had a chance to talk with Alan Shaw at Chicago. Hopefully, we will set up a meeting at AGI in Washington this fall. Am not anxious to go to GSA this fall, though.

Will see you before long.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Hall".

As the amount of palynological data continues to increase means for its retrieval become progressively more important. Although palynology is a relatively young science, data are increasing rapidly, perhaps more so in other countries than our own. This latter fact only emphasizes how important it is to American palynologists to keep abreast of the literature. Because palynology is interdisciplinary, we must have information about paleofloristics as well as pollen stratigraphy, and all that these disciplines indirectly imply. There is no question that the task is large and complex.

Although there may not yet be a sine qua non among the data retrieval systems now either in effect or in development in palynology, considerable effort has been expended on the GIPSY program at the University of Oklahoma. L. R. Wilson and his associates have already achieved what they call Generation I for retrieval of what may be called paleofloristic data, with emphasis on the Permian. This can be expanded to include earlier or later horizons. Generation II, for pollen morphology and other information, is being developed. I am sure there are many who would like to see these programs continued and expanded. For myself, a data bank to include the Cretaceous and early Tertiary literature would be extremely valuable.

John W. Hall

Dept. of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minn. 55455

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
8 BOTANY BUILDING · MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

October 4, 1969

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

Dear Al:

A brief reply to your letter of October 1 before I see you in just a short time.

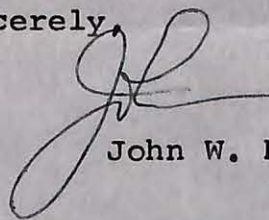
Your comments about the acceptability to NSF of statements like mine concerning the GIPSY program make me wonder whether reviewers will read them closely enough. I had hoped this was an equivocal enough statement so that between the lines one could read my less-than-complete endorsement. If you have read it otherwise, and do not feel that NSF will see my viewpoint, perhaps I can get in touch with NSF through the channels you mentioned over the phone.

I talked with Don Oltz the other day, and he said that he was expecting a call from Jack Morrison. I clued him in with my experiences, and gave him some counsel.

Flight connections to Penn State apparently will not get me there in time, on the 18th, for the council meeting, so I shall fly with Oltz in his plane so as to be there on time.

With all best wishes.

Sincerely,



John W. Hall

John Hall

Called 18-IX-69

Says Wilson has approached him for
a fulsome letter of appreciation to
support his NSF proposal to get
money for GIPSY. Says he feels caught
= middle.

July 28, 1969

Dr. John W. Hall
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis Minnesota 55455

Dear John:

You are going to think that I am very poorly organized, but it really isn't true--it's just that somehow or other I have let my PSBSA file slip behind lately.

Enclosed is afform which I was apparently suppose to send in some time ago. I cannot remember for which years I am paid up, so I enclose a further check for \$1, and if I was already paid up through 1968, please put me down as one of the first peple to pay for 1969.

I suppose there is a good chance I will be seeing you in Seattle--at least we do intend to go. The Traverse family will be camping during the Congress, which may cramp my style somewhat, but I should imaging there will be plenty of time for visiting with old friends nevertheless. I also hope, of course, that you will be able to come to the convention at Penn State in October. I suspect that it will be in some ways a better show for the money than what will happen in Chicago in September!

Best wishes.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Associate Professor of Geology
and Biology

AT:kwc

Enclosure: check for \$1 and application form, etc.

March 5, 1969

Dr. John W. Hall
Botany Department
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear John:

It is perhaps superfluous to be one's own PR man, but in an effort to leave no stones unturned, I thought it wise to state modestly that graduate students in palynology are being trained here under my direction, and that we would therefore appreciate being grafted into the grapevine along which information about various job opportunities is said to travel.

Also, I would appreciate it if you would consider advising prospective graduate students in palynology who want to sample education elsewhere to keep the possibility of Penn State in mind. We have laboratory and library facilities as good as any, located in the new Deike Building (College of Earth & Mineral Sciences). The personnel and library of the Catalog of Fossil Spores and Pollen and our "palynological data project", as well as the various research projects, make ours a stimulating place palynologically. We now have three full-time professional palynologists (H.T. Ames, R.B. Sanders, A. Traverse), as well as a paleobotanist with a strong collateral interest in palynology (W. Spackman). Spackman and I now both have joint appointments in biology and geology, so graduate students can organize work here toward degrees in palynology-paleobotany in either biology or geology. In terms of flexibility of requirements, this is a very desirable arrangement. For example, a botanically oriented palynologist can now enroll in biology at Penn State and does not need to satisfy the various local requirements for a degree in geology. Yet such a student has available to him at Penn State first class instruction, facilities and contacts in all those areas of geology which may be pertinent to his work and interests.

Please keep us in mind.

Yours very truly,

Affred Traverse
Associate Professor of Geology
Editor
Catalog of Fossil Spores and Pollen

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
8 BOTANY BUILDING · MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

January 20, 1969

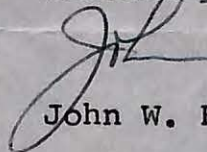
Dr. Alfred Traverse
Deike Building
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pa. 16802

Dear Al:

This belated reply to your letter of Dec. 12 comes ex post facto, for the minutes of the section's meeting are of course out, and in your hands; and I have obviously failed to mention your comments about the AASP, as well as Serge's remarks about the work Art Watt is doing on the Bibliographies. My apologies for both of these omissions, though with respect to the latter, I do have a long correspondence with Serge all tucked away in the files. The active members of the section are aware of the deficiencies during the last couple of years, and except in what ^{one} may want to find between the lines in the minutes I did not want to drag all of this before the membership as a whole. Anyway, I have written to several that the 1966-67 Bibliography would be out before year end - and it is not! It is ready for mailing, though, and I have my own sample copy.

With all best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



John W. Hall

December 12, 1968

Dr. John W. Hall
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear John:

Art Cridland sent me a copy of his note to you regarding minutes for the Columbus meeting. I am not surprised that the previous secretary cannot provide minutes, because I thought that he took none. Trouble is, I didn't have the brains to take some minutes to pass on to the new secretary in case my observation should prove to be correct.

For the sake of completeness, it might be mentioned up toward the beginning of the notes Art has prepared that Traverse made an announcement about the formation of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, of which he is Secretary-Treasurer. Traverse noted that the first annual convention of the AASP would be held at L.S.U. in Baton Rouge, October 17-19, 1968. (You need not note that Charlie Beck called on me without warning and that I did a very poor job of the announcement.)

Perhaps it would be wise, for accuracy and future historical interest, to relate the comments of Serge Mamay regarding the bibliography. He noted that his assistant (whose name slips me) works long and hard on the thing and that it is very frustrating to him to see the publication so long delayed. Mamay hinted that he would pull the rug from under the bibliography unless its publication schedule improved.

Regarding the discussion of the time to hold our business meetings, my recollection is that Delevoryas' comment that our meetings are of sufficient importance to be held "during prime time" carried the day, though I don't think there was actually a motion to that effect.

Perhaps it would be illuminating to ask for recollections of the meeting from others--I would suggest Beck, of course, Jim Schopf (who has total recall usually), and Gil Leisman. There never was a meeting of the

Dr. John W. Hall

- 2 -

December 12, 1968

Section with so many former chairman present, and it would be a pity if the session were not documented. (Even Darrah was there!)

Best wishes for the holidays. Happy 1969.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Associate Professor of Geology

AT:kwc

November 8, 1968

Dear Gil and Al:

Since both of you asked me specifically about what I might find in the records of the Paleobotanical Section when I got them, perhaps I can give you some of this now that I have gone down to Chicago specifically to get them from Don.

The records of the years 1960 to 1965 will be my guide. I am impressed with the thoroughness of what I find in your files of these years, and they give me clues as to what I might expect during my tenure, and of tasks that I must perform that have not recently been accomplished. There is a set of folders marked "correspondence 1966-1968, but I do not find anything with a date beyond 1966. There are, of course, no minutes for 1967, nor do I find any notes for 1968. I must confess that I failed to ask Don about this when I picked up the files, but I did rather feel that it was not necessary to ask him, either. It is so obvious that Don got the files from Gil in such good shape that he knew quite what to do next, but I am at a loss, partly because of the things that I know Don has but did not give me. I do not have his list of those who have paid their assessments; some of our members have been sending in their assessments without being reminded, and Don does have this list which he says he wants to bring up to date. I do not have any of the section's funds. They are still in Iowa, and apparently some in a bank in Chicago. I have asked him to send them to me. I do not have any of the master sheets for the past two Bibliographies. He assures me that these are being gotten out, but I am not fully convinced and am taking steps to circumvent him if necessary.

About all I am able to do is to try to get the membership list up to date. I have told Don that I will mail anything and everything from here, including the supposedly upcoming Bibliographies. I should like very much to be able to send out assessment notices, but must wait until I get his list of those paid up.

However, I believe I can get things rolling again, because he has suggested that I come back down to Chicago later this month to use their scanning scope. This may provide the opportunity I need to get what ever else he has. Once I get rolling, perhaps it will go easily enough, but I don't have any traction yet.

Alfred Traverse
Gilbert Leisman

Best wishes,


John W. Hall ✓

File to cones.

Regarding "Anachoropteris involuta Hoskins ... etc.," by John W. Hall, I have the following comments:

This presents a rather interesting coal ball discovery, one which certainly deserves to be published. I do not feel that the paper in its present condition is ready for publication, however.

As a starter, I would cite the fact that the paper has not been carefully edited and proofread by the author. Punctuation, for example, is not good at all. As just one example, I cite p. 3, l. 17, where a comma after Iowa is left out. There are many other examples, e.g., the sentence that begins on the bottom of page 2. Words are used in other than the accepted meaning and jargon is frequently employed. Example: p. 3, l. 22; the verb "righten" does not exist.

There are many sentences that seem hard to read or incomprehensible. For example, p. 12, l. 11: "Growth of limited extent (sic) may occur in fossil plants, as in Eggert's illustration in *A. glabra*." I wouldn't know where to begin to correct that sentence and still preserve the author's meaning, whatever it is.

Again, on page 4, l. 1: "It would appear likely that the present stem was transported with the associated aerial plant fragments and was itself an aerial segment; neither apex nor base was preserved." The author should say deposited instead of transported, but even with this change, it is hard to see what he is trying to say.

Or, again, p. 10, last paragraph: "Fossil plants obviously had an ontogeny, but equally obviously, with limited, incomplete and now

static remains ontogenetic sequences are virtually impossible to demonstrate, especially if one views ontogeny as dealing with present time." This is just so much verbiage, even disregarding the poor sentence structure. Surely it is not necessary to take up space in A. J. B. to relate that fossil plants are dead.

This same paragraph continues into a discussion of Psilotum, etc., regarding indeterminate versus determinate growth. I am unable to see that this discussion contributes to the understanding of the matter at hand. Determinate shoot growth is one thing, and determinate petiole growth would be another. Besides, what would determinate growth in Psilotum have to do with Tubicaulis, anyway?

In brief, and without going into further detail, we believe that the author needs to take this paper, rewrite the jargon-filled or unclear sentences into more understandable prose, and condense the whole thing so as to emphasize the rather interesting facts he has discovered. We feel that this paper should be not over 60% as long when finished as it now is.

File as correspondence under John Hall

Regarding the paper, "A Calamitean Shoot Apex from the Pennsylvanian of Iowa," by Melchior and Hall, I have the following comments.

The discovery of an apical cell and meristematic activity in a coal ball plant is of considerable interest. The specimen figured and described is rather unique. The authors should take the facts they have from this specimen and present their description in the succinct fashion that this sort of a discovery demands. They should not weigh it down with unnecessary sentence structure, as they have unfortunately done in some instances, as for example, p. 2, second paragraph. Almost all of this paragraph should be omitted. That there is only a single specimen and that the authors do not know what kind of a preserving fluid the original plant fell into are circumstances that the paleobotanical public will appreciate without being told.

Similarly, the description of the appearance of the apical cell on page 5 could be much briefer. A good diagram would show the salient features better anyway.

Some sentences need to be rewritten to clarify meaning. Example: p. 8, last paragraph: "Primary xylem - Except for those cells which are most resistant to decomposition, preservation in other portions of the shoot apex is not good."

Punctuation needs to be improved, especially where its present state makes for difficult reading.

The authors would have done well to have sought editorial advice for readability before submitting the paper for publication.

The work done, however, is interesting and deserves to be published when made more concise and readable.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS
MINNEAPOLIS 14

May 22, 1958

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Shell Development Co.
3737 Bellaire Blvd.
Houston 25, Texas

Dear Al:

This past week end I went to the Chicago Museum with a class, and called on Mr. George Langford who is taking care of the paleobotanical collection. He and Dr. Eugene Richardson, an invertebrate paleontologist, are close friends; Dr. Richardson told me about plans for the publication of some of the new and interesting material that Mr. Langford has collected at Mazon Creek.

I do not know how much is generally known about the situation in the Botany Dept. at the Museum, but I think it can be said candidly that Mr. Langford cannot expect any cooperation from the curator. One evidence of this is the fact that Mr. Langford's publication is to be privately sponsored and financed, and as far as I can gather the Museum will not be directly concerned with it in spite of the fact that it is based on Museum materials.

All this is leading up to the fact that I think some publicity ought to be given to this publication. Mr. Langford is a fine old fellow who has worked actively and hard, and has never been given due credit. At any rate, I suggested to Dr. Richardson that a mailing list of paleobotanists might be had if he or his associates would like to send out a circular. He has replied that they would. However, the only list I have is the 1956 directory which is somewhat out of date. If you can do it conveniently, a list can be sent to Mr. Harry Witmer, 5303 Victor St., Downers Grove, Ill. Publication date is June 13.

Dr. Richardson writes this about the publication: "The special autographed 'first edition' that is being subscribed to raise money for the publishing is priced at \$20.00; the 'trade edition' will be priced between \$9.50 and \$10." The Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois is sponsoring the book and Mr. Witmer is receiving orders for it.

I have not replied in the affirmative to any of your recent notices because I am not sure that I can make it to the meetings this year. A reproductive cycle suggests that it will not be feasible this year, and this is one thing in addition to time and tide that does not wait.

Best wishes,


John W. Hall

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

November 17, 1953

Dr. John W. Hall
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Dear John,

Your letter of October 30 came just after I left for Boston and Toronto, where I attended the Geological Society meetings. In other words, I didn't know that you were coming on the 13th. It's a shame that we missed connections when you had come so far.

Mr. Donovan and Mr. Koepfner seem to have done a good job of showing you around the laboratory and explaining the work I am doing. Mr. Donovan says that you were especially interested in my technique for making preparations of crushed lignite for petrographic study. I have an article in press in Economic Geology on that method and some results obtained by it. I shall send you a reprint when available.

Sorry to have missed seeing you, John, and hope that you can come up again.

Very truly yours,



Alfred Traverse
Coal Technologist

ATraverse:dm

cc: Region V
Lankford
✓Traverse
File 002
C. File

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS
MINNEAPOLIS 14

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

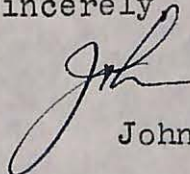
Nov. 24, 1953

Dr. Alfred Traverse
U.S. Bureau of Mines
University Station
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Dear Al:

Of course I was sorry not to have seen you on my recent trip to Grand Forks, but we were quite well taken care of by your colleagues. Actually, much of that week end was spent with friends in Fargo, and the entire trip was quite profitable. After several years in the Mid-West one becomes accustomed to the ease of travel over what to the easterner appears to be a great distance. It is really not too far from here to Grand Forks, and I will certainly drop in to see you again - but not until our winter weather has slacked off some.

Sincerely,



John W. Hall

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

March 3, 1953

Dr. John W. Hall
Assistant Professor of Botany
Department of Botany
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Hall:

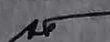
Your letter about the unusual stem from an Iowa coal ball was very interesting. The single branch trace is noteworthy. (In Mesoxylon thompsoni the branch trace is double at the pith; these two traces are united in the cortex to produce a single vascular strand. This fusing of two strands to one is a rather odd thing, but as you know, is characteristic of modern conifers.)

Mesoxylon stems bore Cordaites leaves. In my studies of Mesoxylon stems I do not remember that any of the traces had anything that I thought to be transfusion tissue. I have always thought of transfusion tissue as being characteristic of leaves, and not of stems. Cordaites leaves in Iowan coal balls probably belong to Mesoxylon (which would surely be called Cordaites but for careful study showing the small amount of centripetal primary wood). In other words, it would not be right to put much stock in the absence of transfusion tissue from Mesoxylon stems.

Transfusion tissue in both leaf and branch traces in the stem you are studying is indeed interesting. I wonder if the apparent transfusion tissue might not be part of the sort of secondary wood said to be characteristic of Loroxylon? This is just a rather wild suggestion, of course.

I appreciated hearing from you - I still maintain considerable interest in Paleozoic plants!

Very truly yours,


Alfred Traverse
Coal Technologist

cc Mr. Lankford
Region V
Dr. Traverse
File - 626.1

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS
MINNEAPOLIS 14

FEB 25 1952

February 24, 1953

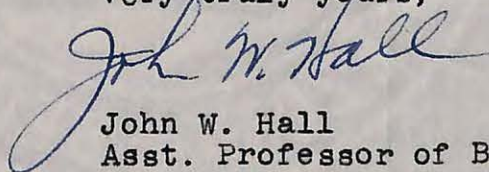
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

Dr. Alfred Traverse
U. S. Bureau of Mines Region V
Grand Forks, N.D.

Dear Dr. Traverse:

We have run across an apparently undescribed gymnosperm stem from an Iowa coal ball which exhibits a number of anatomical peculiarities. It is exarch for one thing and has extremely short paired leaf traces, about 8 cm apart vertically, and supra-axillary branches, with a single branch trace arising at an angle of about 120° and accumulating a wedge of secondary xylem as it passes through the main axis. One interesting character about both kinds of traces is the presence around them of abundant transfusion tissue. In your recent paper on Mesoxylon there appears to be no reference to transfusion tissue around the traces, yet leaves of Cordaites presumably have this tissue. I am writing to ask if you ever observed anything of the nature of transfusion tissue in Mesoxylon, or know of any references to its occurrence. At present I am toying with the idea this new stem is coniferous, but it does not appear to tie in with any known compression genus. If, as I suspect, Mesoxylon lacks transfusion tissue, this, with other evidence, would tend to exclude the new stem from the Cordaitaceae.

Very truly yours,



John W. Hall
Asst. Professor of Botany

JWH/jm