

3883 Mt. Blackburn Avenue  
San Diego, California 92111  
27 February 1981

Dr. A. Myra Keen  
2241 Hanover Street  
Palo Alto, Calif. 94306

Dear Dr. Keen;

I will be chairing a session of Occasional Papers on the Gulf of California at the upcoming annual meeting of the Western Society of Malacologists (June 23 to 26) to be held at San Diego State University, San Diego, California. Your work on Gulf mollusks is known and appreciated by all of us and I hope you will consent to participate in this session. A talk by you on some aspect of your studies would be of interest to a great many people. Papers for this session will be a maximum of twenty minutes in length to allow time for questions and discussion.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience if you will participate in this program.

I hope you won't mind if I take this opportunity to ask you a question which has been puzzling me concerning range description in the second edition of Sea Shells of Tropical West America. In our work on the Gemmell collection from San Felipe, Joyce Gemmell, Barbara Myers and I often have occasion to examine the reported distribution of species in your book. A lively discussion often ensues because we have different ideas concerning the interpretation of the words "to" and "through" as they relate to distribution in the Gulf of California. For example, a problem page would be p. 514, species 975, 976, 977, 978. Does the word "to" imply up to but bypassing the Gulf or does it mean in to the Gulf? We have read your explanation on Range on p.7(6) and that part seems clear. If, however, the range states, as on p. 129, #295, "... San Ignacio Lagoon, Baja California; from there it ranges south to northern Peru" does that indicate that it goes through the Gulf?

I guess Joyce and I are the "up to's" and Tony D'Attilio and Barbara are the "in to's." Will you settle our problem once and for all?

I am looking forward to hearing from you and I hope you will decide to present a paper at the session on the Gulf of California.

Sincerely yours,



Carole M. Hertz



2241 Hanover St.  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
March 13, 1981

Dear Carole Hertz:

The only work I have done on any aspect of the Gulf of California fauna in recent years has been in connection with my continued studies of the family Vermetidae. I could talk about what we know and don't know about this enigmatic group. I had planned to give a report at the WSM meeting of a research project I am engaged in, on Vermetidae in the Miocene of the Dominican Republic. Perhaps two papers on this one unpopular family might be a little much. That's for you and the program committee to decide.

My recollection of what I intended about ranges "to" and "into" the Gulf of California is that I deliberately left it a little fuzzy. If I had definite records of species in the northern end of the Gulf, I was careful to say "to and through" the Gulf. If the documentation was not clear (many older workers would say "Gulf of Calif." when they really only meant "West Mexico"), I left it for future workers to determine how far up the Gulf the long-ranging forms might go. Many of them did cut across from Mazatlan to Cape San Lucas; others would move as far up as mid-Gulf. Only a relative few went all the way. At the time my book was being compiled, we simply did not have complete data on ranges, and so I felt it was better to be vague. Don't, therefore, try to read meaning into my usages other than the "to and through," which I did intend to be definite.

As you may have heard, I had major hip surgery in December. The surgery was successful, but my recovery has been slowed by an allergic reaction. I keep hoping it will clear up soon and let me get started with the exercising that I need to do.

Good wishes to you,

*Myra Keen*



2241 Hanover St.  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
March 27, 1982

Dear Carole Hertz:

Thank you very much indeed for sending me a copy of the article you and your friends have published on Chama. This is an exemplary piece of work, and just the photographs of the type material are a real contribution. The British Museum certainly has changed its policies since the days in 1958 and 1964-65 when I went there to study. Then, nothing went out to anyone anywhere for any reason -- loan, exchange, or gift. The best I could manage was to get them to do the photographing, and the man who did the work was none too skillful. I hope their new policy won't run into trouble with people who do not return material promptly. I am interested in your discussion of Chama producta and wonder whether you saw my comments on page 899 of my book. Did you compare your figures with any specimens of C. iostoma? If it can be shunted there, that still leaves the Hawaiian workers to deal with priority of Broderip's name.

Recently I received a reprint and a letter from Dr. Dan Laursen. He's a Danish zoologist who worked over there for years but moved to the U.S. when he retired. Now he lives in Tucson. His specialty has been the identification of gastropod larvae in the plankton tows. In the reprint he sent he has wonderful figures of these larvae that had been collected by a Danish plankton expedition. I have always thought it would be a fascinating study to connect these tiny larvae with the nuclear whorls of adult shells, and when I was talking to the Japanese Emperor a few years ago I suggested he ought to get the Japanese fishing boats busy collecting such material, which could then be used to answer a question he was asking about how many Japanese species manage to drift across the Pacific. Laursen's study gives admirable data on the drift across the Atlantic. Well, the reason I am telling you this is that he asked me whether there would be anyone at Scripps who might help him get a start on a project that he had been asked to attempt. He is getting up in years and isn't familiar with the Pacific fauna. The transect that the boat made was Panama to New Zealand. At least the one end of it is in our part of the Pacific. In replying I said I knew of no one working on mollusks at Scripps, but I did tell him of the studies you three had been doing on the Gulf fauna, and I said it might be that you would be interested in broadening your research. So, possibly he may be writing to you, at least to ask help in supplying nuclear whorls of some forms.

All good wishes to you  
Sincerely,

*Myra Keen*

Myra Keen



2241 Hanover St.  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
July 12, 1982

Dear Carole Hertz:

Thank you very much for sending me the latest issue of "Festivus," with the article on Diplodonta. Your synonymizing of D. suprema with D. orbella seems plausible, and I am gratified that, although I did not myself have such an idea, I did indicate the similarity of the two forms.

I notice that you consistently write "D. orbellus." Why? As I read the situation, the specific name was given to indicate the spherical form of the shell. The Latin noun is orbis, circle, with a diminutive form orbiculus. Either of these, if used as nouns in apposition, would be masculine, although their endings would not change. However, -ellus is an adjectival suffix that has been attached to the noun root: orb- + ellus. This, being an adjective, would have a change of ending to agree with the generic name it is used with. Gould named it in Lucina and correctly wrote "Lucina orbella." Diplodonta has conventionally been accepted as a feminine noun, so there would be no alteration of the adjectival ending when the transfer from Lucina to Diplodonta is made. The distinction between nouns and adjectives is tricky, I admit!

Eugene Coan is keeping the "Additions and Corrections to Keen, 1971" updated, so he was making out a card on your new synonymy yesterday. In doing so he noted that there are a couple of synonyms here that I missed. Better check with him before you do any further work on the group. In fact, it's a good idea to get an independent reading of any paper before publication. I find that Gene is the most critical and dependable of my students in this matter, and I always have him read my efforts before I publish them.

I haven't heard from the next year's editor of the WSM Report, Mike Kellogg, so I am beginning to doubt that he will want to see any more than the abstract of the Linnaeus paper. I will therefore begin to do the necessary re-working and will try to get it to you in a few weeks or months. I will need to alter some of the wording about "next slide"; "Here is a portrait of ..." etc.

It was a pleasure to have met you and your husband. Long may your good work continue!

Sincerely,

*Myra R.*