

JEAN DELACOUR  
DIRECTOR

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM

EXPOSITION PARK  
LOS ANGELES 7, CALIFORNIA

May 23, 1957

C. F. BEHRING  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

AIRMAIL -- SPECIAL DELIVERY

Mr. G. E. Untermann  
Utah Field House of Natural History  
Vernal State Park  
Vernal, Utah

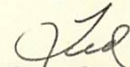
Dear Ernest:

This is a letter I greatly dislike writing to you for fear that it may cause considerable concern and trouble. I understand that Mr. Ogawa has forewarned you of our problem here. Officially, I am now able to say that we are getting the late Dr. Chester Stock California Institute of Technology collection, consisting of about 55,000 fossil vertebrate specimens including a dozen or so exhibit specimens. The opportunity to buy the collection very recently presented itself, consequently we had no idea until now that we would be faced with storage and exhibiting of these fossils. We have tried to work out a plan to accommodate the Diplodocus project, but could not do so for the present. We should like to be included on a waiting list -- for possible operation five or so years from now.

Higher authority in the museum has transferred funds, earmarked for shipment of the molds, to another project; so, it is impossible for me to go through with the plans we made. This must place you in a predicament unless it is possible that McNeese College will take the molds this summer. I have suggested to Mr. Ogawa that he might make an arrangement similar to ours with McNeese College. Also, Dr. Howard has been asked about getting the molds for Louisiana State University by George Lowery. Dr. Rollin Baker, of Michigan State University, has asked me by letter to be on the list to receive the molds. It also occurred to me that it might be possible for Ogawa to ship the molds to Japan and let them make a cast. Of course, first of all, I should like to get your reactions (including your justifiable irritation) as to the best alternative. I am going to write Lowery to see whether they are really interested in the project.

I deeply regret this unfortunate turn of events, and still hope that we may be able to include this project in our exhibit plans someday. I am sure you understand that we had to get the Cal. Tech collection once we learned it was for sale. We hope that you and Mrs. Untermann will be visiting us to see the transformation.

Very cordially yours,



Theodore Downs  
Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology

TD:LG