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Correspondence re: Baron Gerard De Geer. 1920-1929

Thwaites, F. T. (Fredrik Turville), 1883-1961
[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1920-1929

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*Miss
Scandinavian (Ames) Foundation*

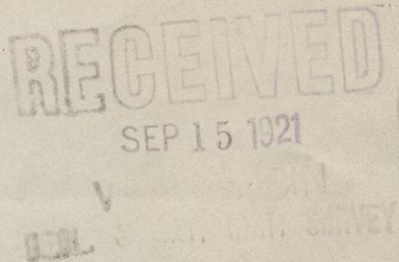
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Established in 1916 under the Congressional Charter of the
National Academy of Sciences and organized with the cooperation of the
National Scientific and Technical Societies of the United States

1701 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

September 13, 1921.

Dr. W. O. Hotchkiss,
State Geologist,
Madison, Wisconsin.



My dear Dr. Hotchkiss:

In reference to the communication of Dr. Mathews dated September 6th relating to the work of Baron DeGeer and Dr. Antevs, it has occurred to me as possible that although you undoubtedly have a general idea of Baron De Geer's work you may not recall at the moment the exact methods he employed and results he obtained. In order that you may not be put to the inconvenience of searching for summaries of his work I have had photostated what seems to me a very good summary of both methods and results from the "Quaternary Ice Age" by W. B. Wright, which I am enclosing herewith. The relevant matter begins at the bottom paragraph of the first page and extends to the bottom paragraph of the last page of the excerpt. The diagram on page 340 with the accompanying description is particularly pertinent. I am also enclosing for your information a photostat copy of an article of De Geer's which recently appeared. On a separate page I am enclosing the tribute to De Geer's work with which Wright closes his book (pages 451-2).

With the hope that these may be of use to you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Homer P. Little

Homer P. Little,
Executive Secretary,
Division of Geology and Geography.

HPL.MLD.
Encls.

September 12, 1921.

Mr. E. B. Mathews,
Chairman, Division of
Geology and Geography,
1701 Massachusetts Avenue,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mathews:

In reply to your letter of September 6 relative to the financing of Dr. Antevs, I regret very much to say that it will be impossible for me at this late date to do anything with regard to this. When Baron DeGeer visited me here at Madison, I suggested of my own initiative that we would be glad to do something of this kind, but he implied that it would be unnecessary, and as a consequence all of our available funds are pledged to our other undertakings for this year. I am sorry that this is the status, because I should like very much to have Dr. Antevs do some work in Wisconsin.

Very truly yours,

WOH-M

State Geologist

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1701 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

September 6, 1921.

Dr. W. O. Hotchkiss,
State Geologist,
Madison, Wisconsin.

Dear Dr. Hotchkiss:

Through the American-Scandinavian Foundation Baron DeGeer of Stockholm visited America last year with a corps of assistants to study our laminated clays and see if his Scandinavian series of annual laminations or "varves" could be paralleled in America. His work brought interesting results, some of which have recently been given out in Stockholm. His assistant, Doctor Antevs, remained to continue the work and during the summer Baron DeGeer asked the Carnegie Institution of Washington to support him. This was impossible at the time and the request was referred to the Research Council to see if some cooperative plan could be worked out by which Dr. Antevs could complete a thorough test and establish one or more standard sections, like that from Hartford northward to the Canadian border. In order that Dr. Antevs, who is particularly proficient in this line of work, might not return to Sweden because of lack of funds, the Council has appropriated \$500.00 to carry him pending the arrangement of some plan of cooperation. My suggestion is that each State Survey where there are laminated glacial clays allot a few hundred dollars for the study by Dr. Antevs of a local section which can become a local reference point. Dr. Antevs who writes English fluently and idiomatically would doubtless be glad to give demonstrations of his field methods and descriptive articles of the several local sections which could be used in reports as concrete evidence of work done.

Dr. Antevs' work so far has been limited to Western New England and New York where he has determined the rate of withdrawal of the ice at many points and has correlated the ice edge in the different valleys at different times.

There is, moreover, an apparent correlation with the great series of "varves" already worked out in Denmark and Sweden and the promise of much new light on the incidents of the ice age.

American geologists who have worked with Dr. Antevs in the field speak in high praise of his methods and results.

If this project appeals to you as worth while I wish you would give me any suggestions as to its promotion and an idea of the extent to which you find you can cooperate.

Yours very truly,

Edward B. Mathews

Edward B. Mathews,
Chairman, Division of
Geology and Geography.

H. P. L.

EBM.MLD.

RECEIVED

SEP 18 1920

WISCONSIN

GEOL. & NAT. HIST. SURVEY



THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION

25 WEST FORTY-FIFTH STREET

NEW YORK

CABLE ADDRESS: "SCANFOUN NEWYORK"

MISCELLANEOUS

Hulelts handling
Wash. Co. N.Y.
Sept - 15, 1920 -

GEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO
NORTH AMERICA

- Baron Gerard De Geer
- Baroness Ebba De Geer
- Dr. Ernst Antevs
- Dr. Ragnar Lidén

COMMITTEE OF RECEPTION

Executive Committee

- James F. Kemp, *Chairman*
- Olof H. Lamm, *Consul General of Sweden*
- John G. Bergquist
- I. C. White
- Henry Goddard Leach, *Secretary*

American Geologists

- Frank D. Adams, *McGill University*
- John C. Branner, *Leland Stanford University*
- Thomas C. Chamberlin, *University of Chicago*
- John M. Clarke, *New York State Geologist*
- A. P. Coleman, *University of Toronto*
- Herman L. Fairchild, *University of Rochester*
- W. O. Hotchkiss, *Wisconsin State Geologist*
- James F. Kemp, *Columbia University*
- Frank Leverett, *United States Geological Survey*
- L. M. Luquer, *Columbia University*
- Henry Fairfield Osborn, *President, American Museum of Natural History*
- William B. Scott, *Princeton University*
- George O. Smith, *Director, United States Geological Survey*
- Warren Upham, *Minnesota Historical Society*
- I. C. White, *President, Geological Society of America*
- J. B. Woodworth, *Harvard University*

Representing the Foundation

- John Aspegren
- John G. Bergquist
- James Creese, Jr.
- Baroness Alma Dahlerup
- William Hovgaard
- Hon. John Lind
- William W. Lawrence
- Henry Goddard Leach
- Charles S. Peterson
- Charles J. Rhoades

Dear Dr. Hultén,

Your good letter reached me yesterday, I see I made a break in not breaking a trail for the State Geologist's office when I was in Madison last summer, but we will remedy all that in Chicago next holidays. Anyhow I had the sense to tell the Scandinavians that they couldn't get along without you.

I am glad that De Geer is coming back through Madison because he is a fine fellow & you will enjoy meeting both him & his wife - What he is keen to see most of all in North America are laminated, glacial or post glacial clays. He is counting layers - much as Bukey did years ago in the northwest corner of the State, but he has gone into the matter much more extensively than anyone else & has reached extremely



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important conclusions in Scandinavia ~~date~~ about the time in years since the retreat of the Ice Sheet: the nature of the climate; certain extra warm years as correlated bench-marks in both Sweden & Norway & a lot more of which he will tell you - could you therefore be prepared to steer him to the best exposures & give him all the good advice regarding the visiting of them in the shortest time: so that he will not follow false leads - He is now probably in Ontario, north of Lake Erie, he goes thence to Winnipeg: swings later down thru Minn. & Wis - I presume he may be expected the first or second week in Oct - We have to reach him thru this New York Office & if you sent him a letter thru Mr. James Creese, Jr. he would get it. Our constant movements prevent anyone



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else keeping track of him -

GEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO
NORTH AMERICA

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- Dr. Ragnar Lidén

He has also studied annual recessional moraines, but we do not have them so well developed in America, even if at all recognizable.

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- John G. Bergquist
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- Henry Goddard Leach, *Secretary*

They are quite remarkable in Sweden -

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- John C. Branner, Leland Stanford University
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- I. C. White, President, Geological Society of America
- J. B. Woodworth, Harvard University

Here's goodbye - until we meet - With best regards -

*Sincerely yours,
J. F. Kemp -*

Representing the Foundation

- John Aspegren
- John G. Bergquist
- James Creese, Jr.
- Baroness Alma Dahlerup
- William Hovgaard
- Hon. John Lind
- William W. Lawrence
- Henry Goddard Leach
- Charles S. Peterson
- Charles J. Rhoades

September 9, 1920.

Professor C. K. Leith,
Science Hall.

Dear Leith:

I have just dictated the inclosed letter to Kemp with regard to Baron De Geer. It seems to me the suggestion he makes of having De Geer ^{give} make a lecture or two at the University here is a most excellent one and I hope that arrangements to this effect can be made. With regard to De Geer's trip in Wisconsin, he ought to see the laminated clays at Grantsburg and Menomonie. In addition to these I think it would be very valuable if he could see some of the Glacier Lake Wisconsin clays about Friendship and some of the Glacial Lake Michigan clays from Green Bay south. If the weather is good and my time will permit, I should like to take him for a four or five day automobile trip to visit some of these localities; but inasmuch as I shall be away from Madison all the rest of the fall excepting for such necessities as arise to bring me back, I would like to leave it to you to get in touch with him and see how much time he has to give to Wisconsin

L...2.

and what things he is especially desirous of seeing. I am leaving word for my office here to turn over to you the reply I get from Kemp as to where De Geer can be reached.

I hope you are having a very interesting trip and that the weather is sufficiently good to make it enjoyable.

Sincerely yours,

WOLM

Director

September 9, 1920.

Professor J. F. Kemp,
Columbia University,
New York City.

My dear Professor Kemp:

Leith's secretary brought me your letter of September 6 yesterday morning with regard to Baron De Geer's trip. I am very glad to learn that he plans to come into Wisconsin and hope that he will have time so that we can show him some of the things which I know will be of interest to him. I should like very much if you can give me any information as to the details of his itinerary so that I can reach him to find out how much time he will have in Wisconsin.

I trust I shall have the pleasure of seeing you at the G. S. A. meeting in Chicago this winter and that we may have the opportunity of becoming so well acquainted that you will not have to write again that you do not know me so well as you do Leith. While I do not wish to boast neither do I believe in false modesty, and I am willing to back up the statement that you will find me

Please forward

V.P.K..S.

almost as much of a good fellow as Leith.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

WOL-M

Director



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AUG 14 1920

WISCONSIN
GEOLOG. & NAT. HIST. SURVEY

August 12, 1920.

Dear Director Hotchkiss,

At Baron De Geer's request, I am sending you a copy of a memorandum in which he outlines his plans for his American expedition.

If you should find it convenient to make any statement to the press of your own city with regard to this expedition, we would greatly appreciate it.

Very truly yours,

James Breesch
Acting Executive Secretary.

Director W. O. Hotchkiss,
Board of Commissioners,
Geological and Natural History Survey,
Madison, Wisconsin.

JC/ECP.

Memorandum

his expedition to Canada and the United States.

inspired by a paper called: A geochronology of the last 12,000 years, read as the presidential address to the International Geological Congress in Stockholm in 1910, the undersigned described how he had, since 1878, worked out and utilised a method of determining, by actual counting of certain seasonally distinctly laminated claylayers, the chronology of the past 12,000 years, or the period that witnessed the evolution of man as well as of the whole fauna and flora of those parts of Northern Europe and North America which during the Ice Age were barren deserts covered by extensive ice-sheets, but have since that time become changed into the very centres of civilisation.

By the new method of investigation it has now shown to be possible to follow, step by step, how the large ice-sheets receded and melted away this being registered from the melting season of every year by the annual deposition of meltingwater sediment and especially of seasonally laminated clays.

The annual lamina from warmer years being thicker and from colder ones thinner, the chronological self-registering is at the same time a thermographical one. In the same way the annual means of the recent temperature of the air show very similar changes all over the same climatic zones of the earth, and especially over the named large regions which from the same cause were glaciated during the ice age. In the same way the ancient normal variation of the annual temperature of the air, as registered by the lamina of the clay, has been found to be astonishingly coincident, not only at a great number of places in all parts of Sweden even at distances of more than a thousand kilometres and, where investigations hitherto have been carried out, in the adjoining countries, but, what is still more remarkable, the same identity of variation seems to occur also between several different points in North America and corresponding parts of the continuous Swedish time-scale, now worked out without interruption for the last 15,000 years.

These facts evidently implying very far-reaching consequences, the undersigned wishes, in cooperation with his wife and two other of his most experienced assistants, Drs. Ernst Antevs and Ragnar Lidén, to execute in Southern Canada and the north part of U.S.A. a somewhat more comprehensive series of measurements in order to test the international utility of the Swedish time-scale.

It will thereby no doubt be possible by a kind of primary triangulation to fix at a sufficient number of points the very years when they were passed by the receding ice border. By interpolation between the figures thus obtained and by help of the already mapped moraine-lines, now to be accurately dated, the laws regulating the whole recession of the great ice-sheet certainly can be established and at the same time the rate by which the rideau was pulled away from the stage of life and the amount of time during which in

the northern part of the New World the plants and animals have had at
for their immigration and settlement; the time required for the development of
the soil and the vegetable mould, for the rivers and the lakes for their erosional work,
and for the evolution of our prehistoric ancestors.

If the investigations in North America, as highly probable, corroborate the preliminary results here indicated and thus prove that the greatest glaciations of the northern hemisphere disappeared at the same time and the same rate, it is obvious that the so much discussed Ice Age did not depend on any local causes, as for example change of level, but from general and probably climatic conditions, the nature of which can now at last be taken up for a real closer study, this being also the case with the whole evolution of our present climate, reckoned back from that of the Ice Age up to our days and possibly somewhat farther.

Still, the most far reaching result of the whole investigation might be that so rapid and at the same time so widely distributed variations of the temperature of the air scarcely can be attributed to any other cause than variations in the amount of heat reaching the earth from the sun. This annual output from our great source of energy having not yet been directly studied with sufficient accuracy more than a dozen of years from the renowned observatories on Mt. Wilson and Mt. Whitney in California, it would thus take a long time before we could in that way get any knowledge of different periodicities of the solar variation. Yet the late quaternary solar radiation being self-registered and fairly well accessible for investigation for probably at least some 20,000 years, of which about 15,000 are already tabulated in Sweden, we get here a material for studies that, with respect to its length, may to a certain extent compensate for such deficiencies which are a natural consequence of the very nature of this remarkable self-registration.

An important part of the plan for the expedition is to organise and start cooperation between the Swedish investigation and those which might be carried out in Canada and the United States, in order to get the same basis for all the different kinds of studies which have to deal with the evolution of nature and man after the tabula rasa epoch of the Ice Age. For this purpose it enters in the plan that some geologists from Canada and from the United States should take part of the methods of investigation in the field as well as of a series of lectures planned to be given at some universities.

The University of Stockholm Högskola 12.7.1920

(sgd.) GERARD DE GEER



THE AMERICAN SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION
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NEW YORK

RECEIVED
JUL 29 1920
WISCONSIN
GEOLOGICAL & NAT. HIST. SURVEY
July 27, 1920.

Dear Director Hotchkiss,

Do you remember that some months ago you consented to serve as a member of the Committee of Reception to the distinguished Swedish geologist, Baron DeGeer, who plans to conduct certain investigation in the basins of the Hudson and St. Lawrence Rivers? We have been advised that Baron DeGeer will sail from Stockholm on the 10th of August.

I do not believe that it will be necessary for us to call upon you for any particular services in connection with the reception of Baron DeGeer but we will keep you advised of our plans.

I am enclosing a copy of the list of American geologists, educators, and others who have consented to serve on the Committee.

Very truly yours,

James Breese
Acting Executive Secretary.

Director W. O. Hotchkiss,
Board of Commissioners,
Geological and Natural History Survey,
Madison, Wisconsin.

JC/ECP

Professor Frank D. Adams, Principal McGill University, Montreal, Can.
Professor J. C. Branner, President Emeritus, Leland Stanford Junior
University, California
Professor T. C. Chamberlin, University of Chicago, Illinois
Dr. John M. Clarke, State Geologist, Albany, N. Y.
Professor A. P. Coleman, University of Toronto, Canada
Professor Herman L. Fairchild, University of Rochester, N. Y.
Mr. William O. Hotchkiss, Director Geological and Natural History
Survey, Madison, Wisconsin
Professor James F. Kemp, Columbia University, New York City
Professor Frank Leverett, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
Professor L. M. Luquer, Columbia University, New York City
Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn, President American Museum of
Natural History, New York City
Mr. Charles J. Rhoads, Philadelphia, Pa.
Dr. George Otis Smith, Director United States Geological Survey,
Washington, D. C.
Mr. Warren Upham, Archaeologist, Minnesota Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minn.
Professor J. B. Woodworth, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

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Mr. C. S. Peterson, Chicago, Ills.
Mr. Charles J. Rhoads, Philadelphia, Pa.