

Spined bones
Chicagensis
= prae-hispanica

Chicago April 21/94

Prof W. M. Dawson Ed.

Dear Sir. Having received from Prof Edward
Osten. State Geologist of Ohio. a few fragments of a "Shale
Boulder" from the "Glacial" deposit near Columbus, Ohio.
and finding in it some very fine and large "Macrosponges"⁵⁵
I take the liberty of sending a few slides - hoping that
they may be of some little interest. Nearly all of them
are of the "Spined" variety - first observed by me in
our Chicago clay and water supply in 1865-67 - but which
I was not able to associate with any known organism
until Prof Osten's reference to your paper in the American
Journal of 1891 at the Meeting of the American Association
in 1892. While in the Chicago clays and water supply we
find both large and small varieties. I think several dis-
cussing I suppose that several strata of shale have been
distributed through them - the largest and most abundant
carry these "Spines" & while possibly not averaging quite as
large as these I now send I think without doubt are the
same sh. It seems to me that the natural shape of these
Macrosponges was about that of a somewhat thick watch-
with spines covering say 1/4 of the diameter of each side.
I infer this - as the spines rarely reach the edge of the
disc - but occupy the center leaving a clear ring or margin
out side. (See Chicago Academy Bulletin page 28) and they are
so nearly uniform in this respect that it is probable that
on reaching ~~the~~ the bottom they rested and became fixed
on one of their flattened & spine covered sides. Presuming that
these "Spined" forms were first noticed here I have assumed
to label the slides "Chicagensis" but I fully recognize your
rights as having first identified and described them & will
most cheerfully defer to any claim or suggestions you may
be pleased to make. I shall be much pleased to hear
from you when convenient.

Most respectfully yours

W. M. Dawson

Spencer's
Chicago
=

Chicago, April 21/91

Prof. W. H. Dall

Shannon

Chicago
May 1991

Dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the Chicago Convention of 1890. I am sorry to hear that you were unable to attend the Convention, but I trust that you will find the proceedings of interest. The Convention was held at the Chicago Convention Hall, and was attended by a large number of delegates from various parts of the country. The proceedings were of a most interesting and profitable nature, and I trust that you will find them so. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours truly,
W. H. Dall