

Haude,

Avondale Road - Croydon.

March 10. 1938.

Dear Sir J. W. Dawson,

I have with this forwarded to you by 'Book post' the Notes I have made on the Sponges you sent me. If you think they are sufficiently interesting to appear in print, I should be glad if you could let me have some separate copies to distribute as soon as the paper is published. The specimens themselves are also returned in the same box they came in. I have only retained the slab with the new species of Buthotrephis - a very interesting form since there must have been an actual substance of some kind to be replaced



by the pyrites — and this specimen I  
have handed over to Dr Woodward in  
your name for the British Museum  
and I am indebted to Dr Woodward for  
franking the specimens back to you.

If there is anything in my notes  
which you think require emendation  
I shall be very glad to alter them.

I wrote out a separate note on  
the spicules found in association  
with Archocyathus Minganensis  
and sent it to the Geological Maga-  
zine and I expect it will appear in  
the next number. I have not referred  
to the nature of Archocyathus itself,  
(since I have not had the opportunity  
of studying it under the microscope)  
beyond stating that it was originally  
a calcareous organism and consequently



that the spicules of siliceous sponges occurring with it, could not have any structural connection therewith. I fully agree with you that Walcott has made a great muddle of this genus and I do not think he had any right to propose Echinophyllum for the form which Billing and everyone else regarded as the type of Archaeocyathus.

As the spicules I found in the material you sent me belong to three or four distinct species of monactinellid sponges, it is probable that many of those present in Trichospongia maybe merely accidental inclusions.

I have but little doubt that Trichospongia and Calathium as well, were siliceous sponges, and the occurrence of so many detached spicules tends to show that there is a definite sponge horizon in the Calceiferous at Mingau, like that which you have discovered at Métis, only the sponges belong to different groups, for



There are no hexactinellid specimens in  
the Mingan material. It would be  
very desirable to have these fossils re-  
examined - I suppose they are in the  
collection of the Canadian Survey - but  
I doubt if Mr. Whiteaves has had suffi-  
cient experience of these organisms to  
make much out of them.

Hoping that the specimens may  
reach you safely.

I remain

Yours very truly

Georg J. Hervey