Laboratories of Animal Biology
Office of the Director of the Laboratories
Gilbert L. Houser

The State University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa

Pls return to

Iowa City, Iowa, June 30, 1917.

Dr. Casey A. Wood
Chicago Savings Bank Bldg.
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Dr. Wood:-

I find a presentation copy of your book on my table, and I write at once to express my deep appreciation of the courtesy.

The Fundus Oculi of Birds is a truly magnificent piece of work, and its publication in sumptuous format is fitting. The moment I had looked through the book, the monographs issued by Gustav Retzius of Stockholm were recalled. Of course we can do beautiful bookmaking in America, but it is rare for it to be carried out in any branch of American science. I congratulate you-- not only upon the publication of the work itself-- but also for having the imagination to see what money can do if you have it to spare.

I am particularly interested, of course, in the comparative value of your work. It is fine to trace the evolution of the pecten through a study of your plates. Students of genetics should accept with gratitude this addition to their facilities.

There are, of course, many questions that one would like to ask about the possible significance of the differences noted in the eyes of the several species examined. To answer these questions would involve a study of the modes of life and the adaptations through evolutionary changes of these birds. Perhaps you have in mind the undertaking of this wider study-- which would certainly make a traveler of you in no time.

But I do not need to dwell upon the possibilities of further work. You, of course, have had more problems arising in connection with your studies than any of the rest of us could imagine. In the interests of American science, I do hope you will continue.

Again I thank you for the generosity you are showing to American Science. I have the honor to be,

Truly yours,

Gilbert L Houser