Note: The person who came to visit Marjorie was paleontologist Mario Sánchez Roig, Sr. (1890-1962)

Dear Pal,

Dr. Roig, the elder, has just left and I’m feeling sad. These last three weeks have been trying in the extreme but they haven’t taken the wind out of my sails; I’ve broken into that last ten dollars, and I’ve been going hungry, and I can’t seem to get a job – but none of those things have affected me so much as Dr. Roig’s visit. He came to present me with his son’s paper on “La Fauna Jurásica de Viñales.” And there were figured all the fossils I had identified for him, the horizons that I had written to him, even my correlations. Of course he gave full acknowledgements and many flowery expressions of gratitude but to see the results and indeed being the basis of the paper just makes me unhappy. I know that neither father nor son were conscious of having done anything out of the way. They named a species after me and gave me priority. But the true correlations Pal which no one had made before are all there in print now under Roig’s name. Of course I announced the correlations at the Palaeontological Soc in 1918 and again in 1919, so that there can be no doubt who did the work, but it’s the first paper in print on anything that makes a hit. I feel as though I had been robbed of one of my intellectual children. The first proof of Kimmeridgian\* from Cuba was that offered by my identification of two genera in Roig’s material. [\* The Kimmeridgian is an age in the Late or Upper Jurassic epoch or series, between 157.3 ± 1.0 Ma and 152.1 ± 0.9 Ma.] But he never would have found it out. Now he has the whole succession of formations. I would have published a short stratigraphic and correlation paper, but I thought that that more properly belonged in your part of the report. When I did all those specimens for Roig and told him the exact horizons of his things I never thought he’d rush into print ahead of us. I am not ungenerous in scientific matters but it sort of hurts to see someone else get a paper out of my work.

And it’s such an amateurish thing. No scientific descriptions except where Roig has translated verbatim from other authors into Spanish but without the little item of quotation marks. Roig Senior told me with evident pride that he had translated word for word. The illustrations are very poor and the printing is abominable there being mistakes in spelling and proof-reading errors all the way through. Roig Senior was so proud of the paper and of course I never let him guess what was in my mind. Do you think I’m selfish? I’d been looking forward so to our making a real scientific scoop.

I’ll tell you what. When we publish we can refer to my spoken announcements in 1918 & 1919 and of course the abstracts of my papers are printed in the GSA Proceedings. Isn’t it good that I worked as a salesgirl in Wanamaker’s and earned my trip to Boston at Christmas? It’s those three papers at the Pal. Soc. that clinch the priority for us.

My paper will be out this summer I guess and of course scientifically it will throw Roig’s in the shade. But I described only Oxfordian species and made no mention of species from higher horizons, thinking I’d leave them for other papers. Roig’s paper is 61 pp. long, large print and big margins. My paper I estimate won’t be more than 40 pp. His descriptions are wholly superficial and untutored; he worked out no sutures. Did I tell you that I prepared a whole new set of plates for my paper because I hadn’t done it as well as it should be the first time, not having had any experience preparing that kind of plates with half tones. Rather than have the job look in any way botchy I told Dr. Hovey I’d do them all over. He had a new set of prints made for me and I mounted them most carefully. It took a lot of time, but I do like to see neat workmanship.

Pal we must get out that report soon. It won’t be much work now that you have your data in hand and the correlation tables are made. Let’s make it extra fine with physiography, stratigraphy, palaeontology, palaeogeography and correlations. We could make it wonderful and your photographs would be a great help. It’s ideal that you should have all the field knowledge while I have been able to do so much work on the material and literature. It’s an invincible combination.

I haven’t been to the Museum since I’ve been out of work because I can’t afford the carfare to go there nor can I buy my meals in restaurants when I’m not working. I’m spending only fifty cents a day on food at home, whereas dinner down near the Mus. costs eighty cents. So far in replying to advertisements I’ve asked for $25.00 a week; if I get nothing in the next two days, I’ll go to work as a salesgirl again and then I’ll return to my night work at the Museum. I must finish those ammonites.