

CORRESPONDENCE

the early decades of that century by . . .” It simply remains true that the hallmark of a Sherman reprint remains the inked correction. I am still, if not the world’s worst proofreader, at least tied for that distinction. We each have our small claim to fame!

As long as the subject has been opened, let me make some further remarks. In the first place, on page of 501 of my article, adjacent to the legend to fig. 2, there is another proofreading failure; in the parentheses, the roles of b, b’ and d, d’ have been interchanged. But more important, I should like to take this opportunity to call the attention of the reader to the reference to Franklin, a letter of his,² which was before me as I wrote. It is most interesting in many respects; he not only made a valid synoptic discovery, but also appended an erroneous theory. The whole letter is a good text for anyone teaching the scientific method. Finally, I am indebted to Prof. Munk of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography for supplying the missing reference to Redfield.³

² H. S. Shapley, S. Rapport, and H. Wright, *A treasury of science*. New York, Harper and Bros., 724 pp., 1954.

³ W. C. Redfield, “Remarks on the prevailing storms of the North American states,” *Amer. J. Sci. Arts*, 20, 1–36, 1831.

Reply*

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As pointed out by Professor Riehl, Franklin did indeed make this discovery during his lifetime, in the eighteenth century.

I wish that I could offer some novel explanation, such as “since calling the *seventeen* hundreds the *eighteenth* century is good, I sought to be superlative and went one better.” However, the truth is more prosaic; my opening sentence in an early draft¹ ran: “The discovery that storms were moving entities, made by Benjamin Franklin, was well known at the start of the nineteenth century and was followed in

* *Editor’s note, added in proof.* Meteorology sustained a great loss on 2 March 1957, when Dr. Sherman, at age 38, was killed in an accident in his automobile (or, as he might by now have said, autokinete: see his footnote 2 to his “On the propagation of isolines,” *J. Meteor.*, 10, p. 231, 1953). While the exchange of correspondence here appearing is in a somewhat jocular vein for the circumstances, I feel certain that Dr. Sherman would want it on record.

¹ *Editor’s note.*—While this is not an excuse for the inexcusable, Dr. Sherman’s submitted manuscript and the published article are identical. Indeed, while envious of Professor Riehl’s serenity (perhaps due in part to his valuable service as Associate Editor for many years), I have no excuse but fully share the following sentiments of the Associate Editor who reviewed Dr. Sherman’s article: “I must share the blame for putting Benjamin Franklin in the wrong century. It seems to me that a lot of people slipped here, including the typesetter, who must have learned something about Franklin in grade school. Perhaps it is best for me to say to the Editor ‘No excuse, sir,’ but I would like to explain my lapse. After long experience of reading term theses and similar literary efforts, I have formed the habit of skipping the first sentence, as I have found that it is normally written while the author is trying to think of what he wants to say and hasn’t yet succeeded. Hereafter, I will always read first sentences with great care. And may Benjamin Franklin henceforth rest easily in the eighteenth century.”