

1969, Feb. 17

Mr. Eugene Cornelius,
1947 Texas,
San Antonio, Texas 78228

Dear Gene:

Writing you last week reminded me of something I have intended for a long while to say. Briefly, if you ever decide you want to dispose of your meteorites, I would appreciate first chance at purchasing them.

I am led to make this offer by several experiences I have had in the past. One of the choice Kendleton stones (a fall in 1939) was bought by a man in Houston whom I knew. I went to see him once and saw the specimen and kept in touch with him for some years, but never really asked him for the piece if his interests ever flagged. Well, I don't think they ever did, but something happened, because after his death I got in touch with his widow who said she would gladly give it to me, but now it can't be found!

Then A. R. Allen of Trinidad was a friend of mine and before his death offered to sell his collection to me, but I urged him to keep it because he was still interested. Well, I was a chump; when he died and I tried to buy it from his heirs, they preferred to sell to Smithsonian. I don't think it was so much a matter of price as a feeling they would rather have it go to an institution than to an individual!

I do worry some what to do with my collection in the event I die. I am trying to reorganize our exhibit at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History (formerly the Fort Worth Children's Museum--the name has been changed), but that is only a small part of what we have. But I am exceedingly ambitious to have a good collection stay in this region instead of gravitating to Washington.

Sincerely,