SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560

May 9, 1969

AIRMAIL

Mr. Oscar E. Monnig
29 Chelsea Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76134

Dear Oscar:

Thank you for your letter of May 5. I'm glad to learn that you have obtained some of the Allende meteorite for your collection - fortunately, there is evidently enough of this meteorite on the ground to supply most serious collectors and researchers.

I don't think the loss of crust, especially along the edges, is generally due to handling. Many of our specimens obtained directly in the field also show this feature, and I would ascribe it to flaking off late in the flight history. It seems unlikely that individual specimens would have collided with each other during flight, but its certainly not impossible.

Sorry to confuse you by the term grossular; actually this is the approved term for calcium aluminum garnet accepted by the International Mineralogical Association. With regard to the Coorara garnet, we have now elucidated its composition, with the aid of Professor J. V. Smith of Chicago. The composition is complex, but it is essentially pyrope, $Mg_3Al_2Si_3O_{12}$, with much of the Al_2 substituted by MgSi - this is pretty much in line with Geller's idea.

King's original work on Allende was done in great haste, and several of his published figures have turned out to have considerable errors.

I'm glad to hear that you may be able to close the deal on Tishomingo - I'm sure Ed will be delighted at the prospect of seeing a large surface of this unique meteorite.

I am leaving here May 26 for Australia, for a final field season on the australite problem. I will be back around October 1.

Ed is not accompanying me this time; he has a trip to South America planned for later this year.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

Brian Mason
Chairman
Department of Mineral Sciences