

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY
LOS ANGELES 24, CALIFORNIA

56-12-26

Dear Oscar:

Your ltr. of the 20th came today. Incidentally, my short paper on the Amber aerolite (it was I who gave it that name) will appear in the Dec. issue of the PASP, and an abstract will be included in the '56 issue of MRTCS., now in press.

I am quite in favor of your ^{idea} ~~proposal~~ that "several of us working together on the possible ultimate acquisition of the meteorite Mr. Van Long of Chickasha, Oklahoma, has" may eventually meet with success.

Mr. Long, I may say briefly, is one of the most difficult persons I have ever had anything to do with, in the way of acquiring a meteorite. I finally offered him \$20 a lb., or \$200, for his 10-lb. aerolite, if he would sell it to the departmental collection of mrts. (I could not afford to buy it, at such a price, for my own private collection!). Since he refused to sell it, even at that price, I quit, and would offer him no more. The trouble with him is, I think, that he expects to make himself rich by the sale of his mrt., after having heard the stories about the Sylacauga, Alabama, specimen; I am wondering whether most of them are not "stories," since, as far as I can see, the only reason why that stone should bring an unusual price is that it hit a woman on its way down to Earth! I have no doubt that otherwise it is simply a "common, garden-variety" of aerolite. (Probably ~~an~~ olivine-hypersthene chondrite, as the majority of aerolites seem to be!)

I should be willing to acquire any part or all of the Amber aerolite for our collection here, but I doubt whether I will offer Long as much as \$20 a lb. for it (part or whole) again, if for no other reason than that I do not believe in encouraging the kind of avariciousness that he evidently has in the sale of mrts.

If you have any further suggestions as to how we may go about acquiring his mrt., please let me know. What do you think we ought to pay for it on a "per-lb." basis? I hope that eventually I may get a slice or an end of it for our collection here, and I should like to see you, ~~and~~ possibly Henderson ~~also~~, each get a piece for your respective collections. Perhaps the best policy for us to pursue for the present is to let Long cool off, until he sees that no one of us, or all of us, ^{are} ~~is~~ going to pay him any fantastic price for his mrt.! What do you think?

With the season's greetings to you and Juanita, in which my family join me, I am

Sincerely yours,



Frederick C. Leonard.

P.S.: The most important thing ^{for} ~~about~~ Amber, or any other mrt., for that matter, is to put it on record, ^{fortunately,} & that, ^{has} already been done for Amber. 