

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY  
LOS ANGELES 24, CALIFORNIA

60-3-1

Dear Oscar:

John Russell has kindly allowed me to read your ltr. of Feb. 15, which I <sup>have</sup> found most interesting. Referring to the 3rd paragraph of your ltr., I want to say that you are not the only one who is "discouraged about astronomy and meteoritics, both." Many of us professionals share that discouragement too, I am sure (at least I do), and for much the same reasons <sup>as</sup> you do! Not long ago I wrote Harvey Nininger on that subject, and, if I am not mistaken, he feels as you and I do about it. What is becoming of the good, old-fashioned astronomy and meteoritics---what, with all this space-technology stuff (some one called it "bunk"), interplanetary travel, &c., &c.?! I'm sure I don't know; there is, however, some satisfaction in being as old as I am (64 <sup>on</sup> the 12th of this month), and within sight of retirement. I am almost grateful that I am not at the beginning of my career or even in the middle of it! So, you see, you are not the only one who feels this way, even tho you call yourself an amateur!


I agree with everything you say also in your fourth paragraph---I couldn't say it ~~any~~ better, if as well. I quite agree that "it is hard to say whether the military or the scientific are the greater leeches on our economy"; both are, undoubtedly, "being carried to ridiculous extremes."

Both John and I sincerely hope that you will participate in the symposium at the forthcoming MS meeting next September. The dates are, I believe, the 6th, 7th, and 8th, and John will be the host to the mtg. When John spoke to me about asking you to participate in the symposium, I was most enthusiastic about the suggestion and urged him to do so: both he and I, then, are most anxious that you will be with us and will play a prominent part in the mtg.

I have been intending to write you for some time in regard to another matter---the Amber, Oklahoma, meteorite. In fact, I have a good ltr. from you on that subject that should have been answered long ago. I trust that you will accept my apologies for not having answered it sooner. I have a little money left in my research grant for the current academic year, and I should like to spend some of it for one or two sections of that aerolite, which I believe I was the first to describe and which you have been successful in largely collecting. I should like to purchase a sample or <sup>two</sup> ~~two~~ for our Meteoritical Museum here. Will you be so good as to quote the prices for the pieces that you would be willing to sell us? If so, I shall be most grateful, and I shall plan to place <sup>an</sup> ~~an~~ order very soon. Please do not be so slow about replying to this inquiry as I have been in answering your last ltr.! I should be happy to place an order by the middle of this month, if possible.

With very best wishes to you and Juanita, to whom I hope you will remember me,  
I am

Sincerely yours,

  
Frederick C. Leonard.