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1969, March 22.

Dr. Brian Mason,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Mason:

I have long worried about a generalization in your book on "Meteorites", p. 96. You state that Type II carbonaceous chondrites are weakly or non-magnetic.

The Bells, Texas, were very very highly susceptible to an Alnico magnet. In fact, that was the only way we had to gather up about three of the specimens that had been shattered on earth impact; you may recall one the day you were along that we literally picked up that way after Bob Brown had found it in that old field.

What do you say? Of course the classification of Bells as Type II rests entirely on your inspection as I recall and I realize I have been stingy and not allowed an adequate analysis, which would definitely decide its class. But do you think it could be Type I or does your general statement simply need some modification?

We didn't use a magnet on Crescent; I don't think Alnico's were available then. I hardly know whether it is magnetic.

Anders keeps fooling around with some little bits of the bad piece of Bells I let Dr. Henderson take the day we found it, and seems always to conclude the material (at least that given him) is terrestrial. Now I know it was not ab initio, so I ask this chemical question of you: will the minerals of a Class II alter to minerals that would seem entirely terrestrial--just what chemical changes would occur?

Sincerely,