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1969, Dec. 24

Dr. Edward Anders,  
 Enrico Fermi Institute for Nuclear Studies,  
 University of Chicago,  
 5630 Ellis Ave.,  
 Chicago Illinois. 60637

Dear Dr. Anders:

Merry Christmas! This may be a few days late, but your present is coming in the form of a little plastic box. It contains about 100 mg. of Bells, Texas, the No. 1 stone that hit a rock and was picked up the next morning. This is the only one retrieved that has been subject to no weathering. It has been handled by very few people and kept in a plastic box, resting on tissue, in the safe and vault here in our fireproof building at the wholesale store.

You used to say you needed only about 50 mg., but I tried to double it. I have no milligram scales and wish you'd let me know what I really sent. The fragments were detached by pressing a knife blade against the broken edge of the stone on the side with the thinnest crust. I know you said you didn't want crust, but this is the most feasible way to get a little bit off; I don't like to mess up the stone by digging or boring in the broken surface. You are getting a few pretty little white chondrules, which I am told are shattered olivine. We made every attempt to keep the fragments clean and untouched; they are wrapped in a sort of glassine paper and you can look thru the plastic box and see them dimly. I suppose I need hardly caution you to open with care lest everything falls out or is blown away!

There seems to be sort of a tempest in a teapot about the inability of all you experts to detect anything you regard as meteoritic in the samples from the piece Ed. Henderson got while down here in the fall of 1961. So if you have any excess and want to send it to Roy Clarke et al at the U. S. National Museum, you may do so. After you gentlemen in the fraternity have explored this sample, we will take up the matter of the other pieces seriatim.

Happy New Year!