



THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTRAL PARK WEST AT 79TH STREET, NEW YORK 24, NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF MINERALOGY

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Mr. Oscar Monnig,
29 Chelsea Drive,
Fort Worth 15, Texas.

Dear Oscar:

Thank you very much for all you did to make my visit to Fort Worth both a pleasant and instructive one. I was particularly glad of the opportunity to see your collection, and I greatly enjoyed our day in the country looking for more of the Bells meteorite. By the way, my trip to Louisiana did not yield any meteorite material - I saw the man who found it, and the spot where it was plowed up some thirty years ago, but no more has ever been found.

Since I got back to New York I have made some mineralogical investigations on both Crescent and Bells. They are actually very similar mineralogically, both of them having small chondrules of olivine in the carbonaceous groundmass. I do think Bells should be chemically analysed in order to establish its position in the classification and also to compare it with other carbonaceous chondrites. I have a slice of the Selma, Alabama, chondrite weighing 158 grams which I would like to trade for 5-10 grams of Bells (fragments of the first broken one recovered)- this is my idea of the relative value of ordinary chondrites to carbonaceous chondrites.

The Pribram chondrite fell in Czechoslovakia on the night of April 7, 1959. The data on the orbit are as follows:

a (larger half-axis) = 2.46
e (numerical excentricity) = 0.678
i (inclination of path) = $10^{\circ} 25'$
 Ω (length of the ascending node) = $17^{\circ} 14'$
w (distance of perihelion from node) = $241^{\circ} 23'$
q (perihelion distance) = $a (1-e) = 0.790$

I had to translate the above terms from German; I hope they are understandable. The meteorite was photographed from two stations 40.388 kilometers apart. I have written to Czechoslovakia for two copies of the paper describing the fall (in Bull. Astronomical Institutes of Czechoslovakia, vol. 12, pp. 21-47, 1961); if they arrive I will send one on to you.

Mr. Oscar Monnig

2.

In your collection I noted the Harrison (Kansas) and Patricia (Texas) meteorites. As far as I know these have not been recorded in the literature. I should like to include them in my list of meteorites of the U.S., and would be glad if you could give me their geographical coordinates, the date of find, and the weight. If you could send me small samples (about a gram of each) I could also examine them and classify them according to their mineralogy.

Regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,

Brian Mason

Brian H. Mason