

xzxxzxxzxxzxxzxxz 29 Chelsea Drive

X

15

1963, Oct. 6.

Mr. John D. Budchue,  
1210 N. Arroyo Blvd.,  
Pasadena, Calif.

Dear John:

It hurts my heart to turn a friend down, but I am going to do just that about the carbonaceous chondrites. Forgive me, but these things are so hard to come by that I just haven't done anything with those we acquired.

As you no doubt could surmise, I have had more than one request for some of these meteorites, but I have just not parted with any except a tiny scrap of each to Brian Mason to classify (both were Wilk's Type II). Both he and DR. Henderson were here subsequent to the fall and I took each to the region where we did a day of hunting. I let Henderson take one specimen we found the day he was here; it was only some 15 grams or so and was highly weathered.

The trouble is that only one perfectly preserved piece was retrieved; all others had varying degrees of rain on them, which dissolves some of the magnesium sulphate. In fact, three of the specimens were only fine powder or tiny scraps when found.

The Crescent, Oklahoma, fall of 1936 was of the same type, and we have one fresh piece of some 72 grams, and a second meteorite broken into 3 portions and found a month or two later (it weighed only 7 grams).

I have grown a little sour at advancing science since the government taxes me so heavily and supports science so generously with my tax money. I know I shouldn't take it out on you, but I just have the feeling I will eventually part with my collection for the best price obtainable, as Ninger did. Smithsonian et al are reported to have paid several thousand dollars for the Harleton, Texas, chondrite just because it was a fresh fall and they wanted it for the radioactive tests; it was a nice but ordinary stone of 17 pounds. If that kind of money can be paid for an ordinary chondrite, I'm not going to give away or trade a carbonaceous chondrite. I believe, however, that many c.c. fall, and that with the Harvard photographic program and more prompt and careful searches, many more will be found in the coming years.

EOM