

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Johnson Space Center
Houston, TX 77058

Dr. Chris Durden
Texas Memorial Museum
2400 Trinity
Univ. of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78705

July 27, 1994

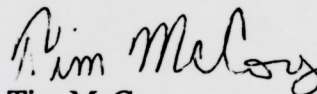
Dear Dr. Durden,

My name is Tim McCoy and I am a postdoctoral research fellow studying meteorites at Johnson Space Center. I am currently collaborating with Dr. Klaus Keil of the Univ. of Hawaii (from where I recently graduated with my Ph.D.) and Dr. Art Ehlmann of Texas Christian Univ. in the classification of many of the meteorites collected by Mr. Oscar Monnig between the 1920's and 1960's. These meteorites have now been donated to Texas Christian University. Our goal in studying these meteorites is both to classify individual stones and determine relationships among the stones. Often we find that meteorites collected in the same area may sample two or more individual falls, with each fall depositing numerous stones.

We are currently studying meteorites from Bluff, Fayette County, Texas. This fall is represented by three stones of 320 lbs. (widely distributed among meteorite collections), 30 lbs. (Texas Christian Univ.) and 17 lbs. (Texas Bureau of Economic Geology). Also found in the vicinity of Bluff are the Round Top meteorites (three stones, all in the TCU collection) and the Cedar stones. Cedar is represented by four stones of 16.5 lbs. (Field Museum, Chicago), 12.5 lbs. (Smithsonian, Washington, DC), 25.5 lbs. (Texas Bureau of Economic Geology) and 2.5 lbs (Baylor Univ., Waco). It is our understanding that the Bluff and Cedar stones which were in the possession of the Bureau of Economic Geology have been transferred to the Texas Memorial Museum and are in your care.

I am writing to inquire about the possibility of examining the Bluff and Cedar stones and removing small pieces (< 10 grams each) for study. We would prepare a polished thin section of this piece for examination by optical microscopy and electron microprobe techniques. We would wish that this polished thin section could remain in a larger collection (either the Univ. of Hawaii or Texas Christian Univ.), but a duplicate could be made for your museum if you so desire. I would like to call you at your number (512-471-1604) in the coming week to discuss the possibility of securing some material of these stones. If you are agreeable to such a loan, I could travel to Austin in the near future to sample material. I hope you will have a chance to consider this matter and I look forward to discussing it with you.

Sincerely,



Tim McCoy
Code SN4
NASA/Johnson Space Center
Houston, TX 77058
Phone (713) 483-5436
FAX (713) 483-5347