

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

Curator
Strecker Museum
Sid Richardson Hall
Baylor Univ.
Waco, TX 76706

July 14, 1994

Dear Sir or Madam,

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. A paper written in the 1940's listed the 2.5 lb. stone as being at Baylor Univ. We believe that your museum may contain this complete 2.5 lb. stone, labeled as either Cedar or Bluff. To our knowledge, this stone has never been studied by modern techniques and, thus, its membership in either the Bluff or Cedar fall is uncertain. We are also attempting to obtain samples of other Bluff and Cedar stones from other museums.

I am writing to inquire about the possibility of examining this meteorite and removing a small piece (< 10 grams) 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 (817-755-1110) in the coming week to discuss the possibility of securing some material of this stone. If you are agreeable to such a loan, the stone could either be sent to me at Johnson Space Center or I could travel to Waco to sample material. Sampling of the stone would be somewhat easier at Johnson Space Center where saws for cutting rocks are available. Registered mail would provide security of the sample in transit. I hope you will have a chance to consider this matter and I look forward to discussing it with you.

Sincerely,

Tim McCoy
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