

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

Ms. Clarita Nunez
Collections Manager
Meteorite Collection
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, IL 60605

July 28, 1994

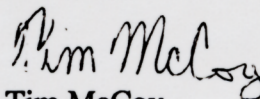
Dear Ms. Nunez,

My name is Tim McCoy and I am a postdoctoral research fellow studying meteorites at Johnson Space Center. You may have seen my name before, since I have collaborated with Ignacio Casanova. I was informed Dr. Casanova has recently left the museum and you are managing the collection. I am writing to inquire about borrowing materials of two meteorites.

Along with Drs. Klaus Keil (Univ. of Hawaii) and Art Ehlmann (Texas Christian Univ.), I am 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).

Published literature, including the Catalog of Meteorites, indicates that the Field Museum may contain significant pieces of at least two of these. I am interested in borrowing materials from these two pieces. First, I understand that the Museum contains a large piece of the 320 lb. Bluff stone (listed as 26.9 kg in the Catalog of Meteorites). Secondly, the Field Museum should contain the 16.5 lb. stone of the Cedar fall, although this meteorite was incorrectly labelled Bluff in the 1965 catalog of the Field Museum. I would like to obtain polished thin sections of these two stones. It is fairly important that we know which piece the thin section was made from. Many of the Bluff and Cedar stones have been mislabelled and the only possibility of sorting this issue out is to examine the main masses of the various stones. If it is impossible to know which stone the thin sections were made from, I would like to obtain small pieces (< 10 grams each) of each of these stones. We would prepare a polished thin section of this piece for examination by optical microscopy and electron microprobe techniques. The PTS could be returned to you upon completion of our work. I hope you will have a chance to consider this matter and I look forward to hearing from you. I realize that this is a complicated request and that your expertise may not be in meteorites. I do appreciate any help you could provide.

Sincerely,



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