



BUREAU OF ECONOMIC GEOLOGY
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October 20, 1994

Dr. Tim McCoy
Code SN4
NASA/Johnson Space Center
Houston, TX 77058

Dear Dr. McCoy:

I have your letter of October 16, 1994. So far as the distribution of material from the Bluff meteorite is concerned I am enclosing a copy of pages 590-592 of my ancient Catalogue of Texas Meteorites. Most of the meteorites that were in my charge, including a portion of the Bluff meteorite, were turned over to the Texas Memorial Museum in 1984. I retained a slab of the Cedar stone and a few odds and ends to demonstrate to the public what meteorites look like. These will eventually go to the Texas Memorial Museum. Jorn Schmutzler, who prepared a Computer Database for Meteorites (see enclosed copy of his letter), may have additional information on the distribution of the Bluff meteorite.

So far as the apparent lack of awareness of bediasites by the indigenous population is concerned, I too wondered how this could be. During the many hours that I hunted bediasites I have never found bediasites that showed evidence of flaking nor have I found chips produced by flaking. In the Philippines in an area where obsidian had been flaked we found several tektite flakes. The aborigines in Australia were aware of tektites and elongate types were shaped to use as abortion stones. I have not examined arrowhead collections to see if tektite arrowheads are present.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virgil E. Barnes".

Virgil E. Barnes
Director, Tektite Research

VEB:w1
Enclosure