

1964, June 14.

Dr. Elbert A. King, Jr.,
Lunar Surface Technology Branch, EA 6,
N.A.S.A. Manned Spacecraft Center,
Houston, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Thanks for your letter of June 9 regarding the meteorites I am hoping to get from abroad. I knew the astronauts were taken to the Big Bend and to the Grand Canyon and I rather assumed you were involved and away.

I appreciate your making inquiry of the transportation officer and can appreciate the necessity for the ruling. I am more than grateful for your additional offer to help get the items thru Houston and forwarded on to me, but I don't think I'll have to lean on you in this respect. If something unforeseen should arise, I will not hesitate to ask your help in this way.

These are presumably not meteorites from a new fall or find, but are supposedly related to the many irons from Southwest Africa going by the various names of Bethany, Gibeon, Great Namaqualand, etc. I believe most authorities feel they are related and they are mostly fine octahedrites. I am buying these two largely on faith from a reputable dealer, but I have not seen them and there is always a chance they are not even meteorites.

In addition to this general uncertainty a complication has arisen in that the shipping weight shown by the forwarder differs from that shown by the shipper by an amount roughly equivalent to the weight of the smaller meteorite. It may have got lost tho both were supposed to be inside a steel drum with bars welded thereon. Under these unexpected circumstances, I had better let my broker straighten out the whole thing and get the shipment on up here. If there is only one meteorite involved, I have always represented to the Children's Museum here that I would let them put it on exhibit. Should the affair get around to where I actually do get both meteorites, I will again take the matter up with you about letting one be shown down there.

Sincerely,