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Date: Fri, 02 Feb 96 12:16:43 CST
To: M.Grady@nhm.ac.uk
Subject: Misc.

Hi Monica,

I hope all is well with you in London these days. I am writing about a couple of things that I was hoping you could help me with. I spent the last few days in Ft. Worth, Texas looking at the Monnig meteorite collection at Texas Christian Univ. (TCU). Art Ehlmann is a retired professor there and curates the collection.

First, Art was hoping that the new version of the catalog might include Texas Christian Univ. in entries which include the Monnig collection. As it stands now, most people wouldn't know who to contact to access the Monnig collection. If this is possible, he would appreciate it.

Secondly, Art and I have been working on classifying many of the poorly known meteorites from the Monnig collection. In a drawer of unidentified meteorites is a fragment of a small light colored chondrite with a fresh fusion crust and a hand written note about its fall in 1814 in India. Monnig apparently bought the fragment from the mineral dealer John Albanese. Glenn Huss, who cataloged the Monnig collection originally, had written to Andy Graham and they had concluded that this fragment could be a second existing fragment of the Gurram Konda meteorite. The small card has the following text:

Meteorite var. Aerolite Found October 1814 by English Tax Collector
near Manga-patnan - Kadapa District Madras India
Present from son of a chemist at London Mint

A note of about 3 1/2 by 3 by the finder got lost through examination of my cases on arrival from England by Custom House Insp. The note said that on the day of find, he and his Police Troup hear a knattering noise and fearing attack by dacoite rushed out of his tent. No dacoits visible, but near the tent some small warm stones, which the Sentry has seen falling down. Not knowing what they consisted of, he send them to London.

Dacoit were robber bandits in India at the time.
The fall in 1814 would match that of Garrum Konda.
We have not fully located the site of fall yet, but believe it to be a small village (-patnan being a Hindi suffix for small village) in what is now the

Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh, India, near the coastal city of Madras.

The history given would also seem to be consistent with the history given in the catalog for Garrum Konda, which passed through several hands on the way to London, originating with the Punganur Rajah residing near Gurram Konda, which is in the same area. It would also suggest that Gurram Konda is not the same as the lost Punganuru fall, which supposedly fell in 1811.

We have no idea how Albanese obtained the fragment, but would like to confirm that it is Gurram Konda and probably publish a short complete history and description with a group of meteorites from the Monnig collection.

Would it be possible to borrow or examine your fragment of Gurram Konda, as well as the thin section (not PTS) which is listed in the catalog, for comparison with this fragment? In addition, might it be possible for us to examine xerox copies of any original documents to compare the handwriting on our card with that in your files? If it would be more convenient, you could bring these items with you to LPSC here in Houston.

*John
I wouldn't do that!*

Thank you for all of your help with this. As you may have heard, I was selected for the curator position at the Smithsonian, so I look forward to a long and productive professional relationship. Thanks once again, Tim McCoy.