MURCHISON METEORITE

Of the almost 2000 known meteorites, only fourteen exist which fall into the same catagory as the Murchison Meteorite. It is a Type II, carbonaceous chondrite, one of the very rarest types known. It is unique in that there is a 13% water content, accounted for by its having combined with some of minerals which compose the meteorite, and there is a 2% to 2.5% carbon content, a small portion of which is combined in a large number of organic compounds. Because of the presence of these compounds this particular group of meteorites has caused a great deal of excitement and activity, since it fell September 28, 1969. In early December 1970 Dr. Cyril Ponnamperuma, a researcher for NASA, reported isolating seventeen different amino acids in minute amounts from the Murchison meteorite. A simple process, such as that of the Urey-Miller experiment, operating in a primitive atmosphere at the beginning of our planet's life is capable of producing the basic building blocks of life, and amino acids such as those found in the Murchison meteorite could have begun that process. For this reason the Murchison meteorite is not only a rare collectors item as far as meteorites are concerned, but of tremendous scientific interest.

These specimens are all in excellent condition, having all or most of their fusion crust. They are listed below, individually; any questions concerning the specimens may be addressed to me, but if you have specific questions about the material, its nature or chemistry, may I suggest you write the Meteoritical Division of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.

1 pound, 6½ ounces	-	$360.00
8 3/4 ounces	-	$222.00
8½ oundes	-	$216.00
5½ ounces	-	$132.00
4 3/4 ounces	-	$114.00
3 ounces	-	$72.00
2 3/4 ounces	-	$66.00
1 3/4 ounces	-	$42.00
1 ounce	-	$24.00
3/4 ounce	-	$18.00