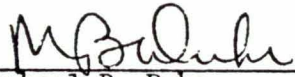


CURATORIAL NEWSLETTER	Date: October 13, 1976	No. 11
	 Michael B. Duke Lunar Sample Curator	

### Luna 24 Samples

The Soviet Union successfully collected a 2-meter core of mare material in Southwestern Mare Crisium on their Luna 24 mission. They currently are subjecting the core to preliminary examination in the Vernadskiy Institute in Moscow. NASA and the Academy of Sciences of the USSR have a formal agreement that lunar samples from the missions of each country will be made available to the other; this agreement has resulted in exchange of material from all previous missions and we have no reason to believe that a change has occurred in the willingness of the Soviet Academy of Sciences to continue that arrangement. The Associate Administrator of Space Science is taking the appropriate steps to make arrangements for an examination of Luna 24 samples by a U.S. delegation and for the exchange of samples. It is expected that the total amount of material received from the Soviet Union will be 3 grams, as that precedent has been established for all previous exchanges. The samples of Luna 20 material were received in the U.S. only 6 weeks after the mission.

When more information is available on the nature of the samples, we will make a general announcement to the PI community and when samples are received, we will solicit sample requests. Several letters have been received, which we are considering letters of intent; however, sample allocations will be considered based on information obtained on the samples and requests received or verified at the time the samples are in hand. Pat Butler and Don Morrison have prepared a report on the geology of the Luna 24 landing site, which will be distributed soon to all PI's.

### Addition to the Curatorial Facility

The addition to the Curatorial Facility, which provides for a sturdy vault to store the sample collection and a small amount of new laboratory space for sample preparation has been approved by Congress. Though no new funds were allocated by Congress, NASA currently intends to reprogram funds from a different construction project to build the Curatorial Facility addition. The building is in the final design stage, it will be let out for bids in December, construction may start in February 1977 and, on a nominal schedule, construction will be completed around September 1978.

At this time, we do not expect a significant impact on ongoing curatorial activities until the facility has been completed. However, we are studying the possible hazards to the sample collection now stored in Building 31; it is possible that there will be some especially dirty or otherwise potentially harmful periods in which we may temporarily close the Curatorial Facility in Building 31.

### Core Thin Sections

The preparation of polished thin sections of the impregnated cores has created a new tool for core research, which has been picked up by a few investigators. So far, Papike, McKay and Keil are studying complete sets of sections from the Apollo 16 and 17 drill stems and 60009/60010. There are potential opportunities for study of these core sections by other investigators. We are receptive to requests for the polished sections where the studies are complementary to studies in progress.

### Sample Requests

Sample requests should be received by NOVEMBER 10 to insure rapid review.