



LUNAR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 40

NOVEMBER 30, 1983

Douglas P. Blanchard, Lunar Sample Curator
Planetary Materials Branch, SN2, NASA/JSC
Houston, Texas 77058, 713-483-3274

NEXT LAPST MEETING IS DECEMBER 10 - 12, 1983

The Lunar and Planetary Sample Team (LAPST) met at the Lunar and Planetary Institute September 30 through October 2, 1983. LAPST reviewed seven requests for lunar samples from seven investigators and recommended allocation of 77 samples (total weight, 63.62 grams) and five thin sections. The team also endorsed the allocation of two samples (total weight, 1.10 grams) and 20 thin sections recommended by the Curator in response to eight lunar sample requests from three investigators between the June and September meetings.

Consortium studies of Highlands breccias generated requests from three investigators and accounted for more than half of the allocated samples. A study of regolith breccia samples selected from the list published to support the Regolith Initiative accounted for about a quarter of the allocated samples.

Other requests supported:

- o Studies of the magnetic properties of lunar samples
- o A search for zircon crystals suitable for age dating
- o Utilization of lunar materials.

One request reviewed at this meeting involved study of the samples in the Lunar Sample Laboratory by members of the investigator team prior to the final selection of samples for analysis.

LAPST will meet again December 10-12, 1983. We anticipate that LAPST will meet again about the time of the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference. Your requests are welcome at anytime; some allocations can be made between LAPST meetings. We especially encourage you to submit your requests well ahead of the LAPST meeting.

THE PLANETARY SAMPLE CURATION TEAM RECEIVES NASA GROUP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In a ceremony at Johnson Space Center on November 7, 1983, NASA Administrator, James M. Beggs, presented a GROUP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD to the "Planetary Materials Curation Team." At this same ceremony, Don Bogard and Larry Nyquist were each presented an EXCEPTIONAL SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD for their continuing excellent scientific work and especially their work on Antarctic meteorite EETA79001, which identified the strong possibility for a Martian origin.

The citation for the Planetary Materials Curation Team award is:

The Planetary Materials Team has managed the Lunar Sample Collection since 1971, when the samples were transferred from the Lunar Receiving Laboratory. In the last four years, the Team has added the collection of Antarctic Meteorites to its curatorial responsibility and has developed a system for collection, description, and dissemination of cosmic dust particles in the stratosphere which is now highly productive. The Team has accomplished these activities with exceptional dedication in a period of declining budgets and staff, through the mutual dedication of both civil servants and contractor personnel in a true team effort. Improvements in operations and decreases in costs have come from applying new technology and a continuous effort to develop efficient procedures. The Team has maintained a constant high level of service to the scientific community which is involved in sample studies, has a fine reputation outside NASA, and has significantly contributed to progress in the planetary exploration program.

The NASA and Northrop employees in the Planetary Materials Branch are especially proud of this award and we thank all of you who have contributed to this effort through your service on LSAPT, LAPST, MWG, and other advisory groups. It is significant that NASA continues to recognize the importance of planetary sample research, especially as NASA begins to make long term plans for additional lunar exploration and materials utilization.

REGOLITH INITIATIVE NEWS

The Regolith Initiative has made considerable progress with the success of the recent workshop on "PAST AND PRESENT SOLAR RADIATION: The Record in Meteoritic and Lunar Regolith Material." This workshop, held September 3-4, 1983, in Mainz, Germany, prior to the Meteoritical Society Meeting, was attended by 48 participants and chaired by Dave McKay and Bob Pepin. The informal workshop was sponsored by the LPI and hosted by the Max Planck Institute für Chemie. A report of the workshop including the revised abstracts is being prepared by the chairmen and the LPI and should be available soon from the LPI.

CURATORIAL ACTIVITIES

SLABBING-- We have finished sawing the present set of breccias in the queue for extended examination. The samples slabbed and the investigators most actively working on them are:

14303	No consortium established -- available immediately
14304	Klaus Keil consortium
14305	Larry Taylor and John Servais
14321	Larry Taylor and John Servais
61015	Odette James Consortium
64435	Odette James Consortium
76255	Chuck Meyer
77215	Chuck Meyer

REGOLITH COARSE FINES EXAMINATION -- We continue to make plans regarding the examination and reexamination of the 1-2mm and particularly the 2-4mm coarse fines. Although the possibilities of this new initiative are recognized, we simply do not have the staff at this point to carry this activity much further than the planning stage. We solicit your ideas, and we are especially receptive to volunteers!

CONFERENCE ON THE ORIGIN OF THE MOON

Plans are taking shape for the ORIGIN OF THE MOON Conference which will be held next October 13-16, 1984, in Hawaii immediately following the Division of Planetary Science (DPS) meeting. Chairing the Conference are William Hartman, Roger Phillips, and Jeff Taylor. All of the invited speakers have already agreed to participate. Pam Jones of the LPI has secured guaranteed accommodations for participants at the very reasonable rate of \$38/day (single or double). The LPI will soon send out an announcement about the details of the meeting. The review talks will cover the theories of origin of the moon, accretion dynamics, ancient orbital history, earliest differentiation events, lunar bulk composition, iron core, and the moon's place in the condensation sequence. Discussion sessions are planned to discuss chemical, petrologic, geophysical and dynamical constraints and a particularly interesting session on what new experiments and observations should we do when we return to the moon.

Abstracts will be due July 15, 1984, and papers for inclusion in a bound proceedings will be due December 15, 1984.

PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE LUNAR SAMPLE CUSTODY AGREEMENT

The Planetary Materials Branch has been negotiating with the Johnson Space Center procurement people and NASA Headquarters with regard to the legal agreement that allows investigators to have and study lunar samples. The permission to have samples has, in the past, been a part of the funding agreement that has been administered through JSC. As the program has matured, this approach has resulted in an increasing number of "no cost extensions" negotiated simply to retain samples for study and in some difficulty in arranging access to the samples for those investigators that are funded by sources outside NASA.

We have proposed a separate agreement that will cover only the permission to have and study lunar samples. This will be an agreement between the Principal Investigator's institution and the Curator. NASA funding agreements will continue to be negotiated as before, but will not have any requirements with regard to sample access. Both NASA JSC and NASA Headquarters have agreed to this change.

We will implement the change during the annual lunar sample inventory. With the listing of the samples that are in your possession you will receive two copies of the new sample access agreement with complete instructions. These agreements will run for up to three years between renewals; we will stagger the first terms to even out the renewals over time. This new arrangement will facilitate our work and hopefully not inconvenience you unduly.

UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

December 10-12, 1983	LAPST meeting, Lunar and Planetary Institute
January 9, 1984	Deadline for the LPSC 15 Abstracts
January 10, 1984	Target date for the Lunar Sample Inventory
February 1984	Next issue of the Antarctic Meteorite Newsletter
March 12-16, 1984	Lunar and Planetary Science Conference 15
April 6-8, 1984	Spring Meeting of Meteorite Working Group
April 16, 1984	Deadline for LPSC 15 papers