



**Smithsonian Institution**

*Smithsonian Institution Archives*

## **National Museum of Natural History, Division of Meteorites Correspondence - India**

Extracted on Mar-25-2023 06:22:12

**The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.**

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website ([transcription.si.edu](https://transcription.si.edu)), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the Smithsonian Institution Archives as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the Smithsonian Institution Archives website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact Smithsonian Institution Archives or [transcribe@si.edu](mailto:transcribe@si.edu)

For more information on this project and related material, contact the Smithsonian Institution Archives. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

Dr. S.P. Das Gupta, Director  
Geological Survey of India  
27 Jawaharlal Nehru Road  
Calcutta 700 013, India

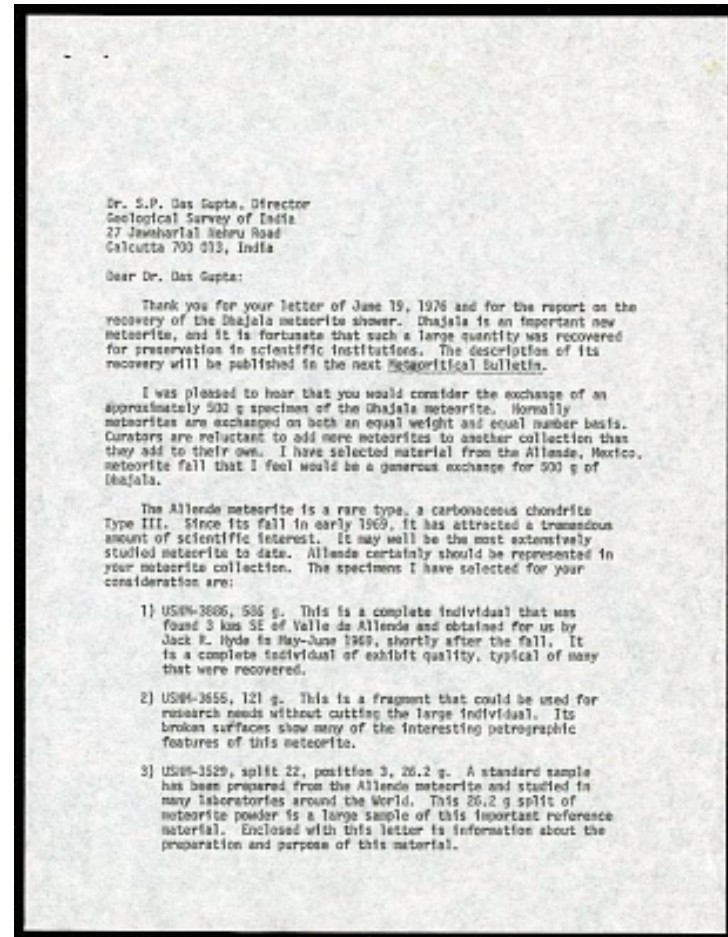
Dear Dr. Das Gupta:

Thank you for your letter of June 19, 1976 and for the report on the recovery of the Dhajala meteorite shower. Dhajala is an important new meteorite, and it is fortunate that such a large quantity was recovered for preservation in scientific institutions. The description of its recovery will be published in the next Meteoritical Bulletin.

I was pleased to hear that you would consider the exchange of an approximately 500 g specimen of the Dhajala meteorite. Normally meteorites are exchanged on both an equal weight and equal number basis. Curators are reluctant to add more meteorites to another collection than they add to their own. I have selected material from the Allende, Mexico, meteorite fall that I feel would be a generous exchange for 500 g of Dhajala.

The Allende meteorite is a rare type, a carbonaceous chondrite Type III. Since its fall in early 1969, it has attracted a tremendous amount of scientific interest. It may well be the most extensively studied meteorite to date. Allende certainly should be represented in your meteorite collection. The specimens I have selected for your consideration are:

- 1) USNM-3886, 586 g. This is a complete individual that was found 3 kms SE of Valle de Allende and obtained for us by Jack R. Hyde in May-June 1969, shortly after the fall. It is a complete individual of exhibit quality, typical of many that were recovered.
- 2) USNM-3655, 121 g. This is a fragment that could be used for research needs without cutting the large individual. Its broken surfaces show many of the interesting petrographic features of this meteorite.
- 3) USNM-3529, split 22, position 3, 26.2 g. A standard sample has been prepared from the Allende meteorite and studied in many laboratories around the World. This 26.2 g split of meteorite powder is a large sample of this important reference material. Enclosed with this letter is information about the preparation and purpose of this material.



National Museum of Natural History, Division of Meteorites Correspondence  
- India  
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers  
Extracted Mar-25-2023 06:22:12



## Smithsonian Institution

*Smithsonian Institution Archives*

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: [www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu)

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)