PREM 19/1906

E.H.

Confidential Filing

Gift of Moon Dust to People of United Kingdom from President of USA.

Prime Ministers

February 1970

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
~~22.11.71~~							
~~5.2.73~~							
~~14.12.73~~							
18.1.85.							

PREM 19/1906

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

Moon Dust

I telephoned Dame Margaret Weston today on the lines agreed by the Prime Minister (my minute of 15 January).

Dame Margaret confirmed that she had overheard the conversation involving the Prime Minister and she also recalled having seen the presentation display of moon rock and Union Jack which was on loan at the Science Museum back in about 1971. She further volunteered that it was not really a very exciting exhibit and that they could nowadays get a better specimen of moon rock from NASA if they wanted to do so.

I then explained the circumstances under which this presentation to the people of the United Kingdom had come into the possession of No 10, and said that while the Science Museum would be very welcome to borrow it for a further loan period, it was felt by the Prime Minister that the exhibit was not to pass into the permanent keeping of one particular institution such as the Science Museum.

Dame Margaret said she fully accepted this and indeed did not wish to press their claims particulary strongly. In fact, she did not really want to borrow the exhibit at all, but would want it to be noted on our files that should it be decided at any time in the future that No 10 no longer wished to retain possession of the exhibit, then the Science Museum would always be ready to give it a home. No further action appears to be needed.

18 January 1985

2

PRIME MINISTER

Moon Dust

minute to PM of 15 Jan 85

I have spoken to Dame Margaret Weston (as below) but find that she is not over-enthusiastic about having this exhibit on loan at present.

As a curiosity (ranking with a tooth-brush once used by Napoleon which they have at the Museum) they would always be very willing to give it a home if we no longer wanted the exhibit at No 10, but more significant specimens of moon rock are apparently now available from NASA if required as part of a scientific display. Dame Margaret nevertheless asked me to express her thanks to you for the kind offer.

I have noted the No 10 records accordingly, and propose that we should continue to retain the moon dust in the waiting room here.

ARC

MT

18 January 1985

PRIME MINISTER

Moon Dust

The specimens of moon dust at No 10 were mentioned during your recent visit to the Science Museum, and I have now looked up the old papers.

They were a "gift to the people of the United Kingdom" from President Nixon in 1970 when Mr Wilson was Prime Minister. After a good deal of discussion with Whitehall and with certain institutions (including the Science, Geology and Natural History Museums), it was decided that the exhibit should be placed on display in all the provincial museums in rotation, but that its permanent home should be No 10. (This decision was later endorsed by your more recent predecessors and was reported to you in 1979.) As a result of the 1970 decision, the Science Museum was asked to arrange for the exhibit to be displayed at some 20 centres in turn throughout the UK, until it was eventually returned to No 10. Since then it has once or twice been out on loan for special exhibitions, but we have had no further requests for some time.

As I think you know the exhibit has a curiosity rather than a scientific interest. There are four fragments of rock, each scarcely more than 1 mm across, encapsulated in a clear plastic hemisphere about the size of a golf ball, and mounted on a not very attractive wooden plinth along with a silk Union Jack measuring about 10 cm x 15 cm.

The Science Museum have made no further reference to the moon rock since your visit (I am not sure whether the Director overheard the conversation or whether it was merely the keeper of that particular gallery). If you wish, I will approach them informally to see whether they would like to borrow the exhibit for a further loan period, but in view of the past history I think it would be as well

not to allow these fragments of moon rock to pass into the permanent keeping of the Science Museum.

Agree that I should proceed on this basis? Yes

15 January 1985

10 DOWNING STREET

ROBIN.

I have now found another file on the gift of moon-dust.
I think the Feb./Mar. 1970 correspondence might be helpful.
(Later file also attached)

Susan C.F.
11.1.85

Moon Rock

PRIME MINISTER

Science Museum

Letters of thanks to both the Chairman and the Director, following today's visit, are attached for signature, please, if you agree.

I am looking up old papers on the moon rock particles which are at No 10. The plaque reveals that they were "presented to the people of the United Kingdom" by President Nixon in 1970. A number of institutions made rival claims at the time to be the permanent custodians, and to avoid arguments it was apparently decided to keep the moon rock here. I think it would be wise to check up on how that decision was reached before we commit ourselves now to hand over these specimens to the Science Museum. I will report further.

ORC.

7 January 1985

Miss Porter

1.

PRIME MINISTER

File kept in GR.

This is a letter from the British Astronomical Association seeking your help in obtaining a sample of lunar soil for an exhibition. There is indeed a specimen of moon rock in No. 10. It was "presented to the people of the United Kingdom" by President Nixon in early 1970. Messrs. Wilson and Heath both made arrangements for it to be circulated for public exhibition, but considered that it should remain firmly under the control of No. 10, and should come back here for permanent display. Unfortunately, Mr. Heath was unable to identify a sufficiently public spot in No. 10 aesthetically suitable for locating the contemporary style display stand containing moon rock samples, together with the 5"x3" British flag which went to the moon with Apollo 11.

I have now unearthed this exhibit from the cupboard in which it has languished for several years. It ought to be on public display somewhere. It would certainly not enhance the appearance of any of the No. 10 State Rooms. I think it is time that we made it available on semi-permanent loan, probably to the Institute of Geological Sciences - this was earlier considered to be the most appropriate recipient after careful enquiry.

That is a longer-term question, but perhaps a nice problem to consider during a Chequers weekend. !

1. In the short-term, can I please make it available on loan for the exhibition; Yes - delighted.

2. Do you agree that I should make arrangements for a semi-permanent loan for appropriate public exhibition, whilst retaining ultimate control in No. 10, so as not to breach the firm decisions of two of your distinguished predecessors?

Not yet.

At the top of the lift to the flat, there is a very big display cabinet with some stuffing throughout inside. Can we empty it, put some lighter stuff in and display some of these things. Just let's see what we have to display first.

MAP

Have asked Mr. Taylor to arrange this. Perhaps moon rock could go in cabinet outside Cabinet Rm.

6 July 1979

PRIME MINISTER

X I think here I think - I don't think like the idea of it being in one of the drawing rooms HW

Soon after you came into office in 1970 you agreed that the sample of moondust presented to Mr. Wilson by President Nixon in 1969 should remain under the general control of No. 10 and you endorsed your predecessor's decision that the moondust should belong to No. 10 in perpetuity. Since 1969 the sample has been passing round the national museums in this country, and for the past eighteen months or so, it has been part of a travelling museum going round small museums, the programme being run by the Science Museum. It seemed to me that four years was probably long enough for the specimen's travels round the country, and that if it were to remain out of No. 10's hands for too long we would eventually lose sight of it. I have therefore regained the specimen and it is now (temporarily) in the Private Office.

Yes (1) Do you agree that it should now remain here at No. 10 and should cease its journey?

(2) Where would you want it placed? As it is a gift to the people of the United Kingdom, presumably it should be placed where visitors to the house can see it. It is of fairly modern design and therefore is perhaps better fitted to the pillared drawing room rather to the blue or white - but you may care to decide this point when you have seen it.

X

MT.

14 December 1973

PRIME MINISTER

B.F. 17/12/73

Mark [See Mark's note below]

Is any action needed?

Roger D 10/12/73

Conf

Would someone pl. ring up Mr Laing on Monday 17 to ask where it is — it would be nice to have it back before Xmas.

AT. 10/12.

Now in No10.

14/12/73.

P.M

SCIENCE MUSEUM
South Kensington London SW7 2DD
Telephone 01-589 6371 ext

M F Forrester Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON

Your reference

Our reference

BU 10 December pt

Date 5 February 1973

Dear Mr Forrester

The Prime Minister's specimen of moon dust is still on tour in a small exhibition on Space Travel and is attracting unusually large numbers of visitors.

The enclosed itinerary attached back of file shows it booked until December 1973, and it will be returned to you about the middle of December if this is agreeable to you.

Yours sincerely

A C Laing
Research Assistant
Circulation

ENC

B/F 9.2.73

in yet?

PRIME MINISTER

Note

I spoke today to the Science Museum. They will let me have a list of the towns to which the moon-dust has been sent and those to which it is promised.

The programme runs up to the end December this year. I said that I thought that the dust ought to settle here by then.

MT
½

I'll return pps when they send their letter.

MT

PRIME MINISTER

Mark

You are probably not conversant with this subject but there is a BF for today at flag X to make arrangements for the safe return of the gift of moon dust that was presented to MR Wilson by Pres Nixon.

The moon dust has been on loan to museums in various parts of the country but it was agreed that it would be kept at No 10 at other times. Donald Pragnell had a hand in the matter since at the time Alan Sincock was

rather snowed under
with other matters.
Do you wish to
deal with the return
arrangements?

BE
1/2

ITINERARY OF THE "MOON DUST" EXHIBITION

Based on the Moon Dust presented to the Nation by Richard Nixon, and loaned to the Science Museum by the Prime Minister.

Dates shown	Person Responsible & Place	Area Council
27 March - 20 April 1972	Mr V C Smith Museum & Art Gallery Civic Centre Bolton	North-West
21 April - 11 May	Mr J N Taylor City Museum Brunswick Road Gloucester	South-West
12 June - 23 June	Mr J Barwick Museum & Art Gallery Chequer Road Doncaster	Yorkshire & Humberside
24 June - 4 July	Mr J Nunney Leeds City Museum Municipal Buildings Leeds 1	Yorkshire & Humberside
5 June to 17 June	Mr A Butterworth The Yorkshire Museum Museum Street York	Yorkshire & Humberside
18 June - 30 August	Mr N Bertenshaw Museum of Science & Technology Newhall Street Birmingham B3 1RZ	Midlands
31 August to 1 October	Mr F R Woodward Shipley Art Gallery Prince Consort Road South Gateshead	North of England
4 October - 30 October	Mr Ian McKenzie-Smith Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museum Schoolhill Aberdeen AB9 1FG	Scotland
31 October - 29 November	Mr D R Shearer Museum & Art Gallery High Street Paisley Renfrewshire	Scotland
1 December - 4 January 1973	Mr H Coutts Canongate Tolbooth Canongate Edinburgh EH8 8BN	Scotland

6 January - 16 February		Mr A R Mountford City Museum & Art Gallery Hanley Stoke-on-Trent ST1 4HS	Midlands
20 February - 28 March		Mr C Barnett Museum & Art Gallery John Frost Square Newport Monmouthshire	Wales
28 March - 30 April		Mr J S Bunt Glynn Vivian Art Gallery Alexandra Road Swansea	Wales
31 April - 30 May		Mr D Tinker Art Department University College of Wales Aberystwyth	Wales
1 June to 30 June	refurbishing period	Circulation Science Museum South Kensington London SW7 2DD	(Exhibition Organiser)
1 July - 31 July	Museums Association Annual Conference 8 - 14 July	Mr J D Boyd City Museum & Art Gallery Albert Square Dundee	Scotland
4 August - 2 September		Mr K J Barton Cumberland House Museum Art Gallery Eastern Parade Portsmouth	South-East
5 September - 3 October		Mr P Smith Museum & Art Gallery Wardown Park Luton	South-East
6 October - 4 November		Mr G Teasdill Russel-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum East Cliff Bournemouth	South-East
7 November - 5 December		Mr T L Gwatkin Museum & Art Gallery Blagrave Street Reading Berks	South-East

BOOK LIST.

GENERAL BOOKS.

H. Young, B. Silcock & P. Dunn - Journey to Tranquillity. London, Jonathan Cape. 1969. £2.10.

P.J. Booker, G.C. Frewer & G.K.C. Pardoe - Project Apollo. London, Chatto & Windus. 1969. £1.80.

P. Fairley - Man on the Moon. London, Arthur Barker Ltd. 1969. £1.90.

H.S.F. Cooper - Apollo on the Moon. New York, The Dial Press Inc. 1969. $4.50.

E.I. Rabinowitch & R.S. Lewis - Man on the Moon. New York, Harper. 1970. $1.25.

J.M. Logsdon - The Decision to go to the Moon. Cambridge, Mass., M.I.T. Press. 1970. $10.00.

W.R. Shelton - Winning the Moon. Boston, Little, Brown & Co. 1970. $5.95.

G. Farmer & D.J. Hamblin - First on the Moon. London, Michael Joseph. 1970. £2.50.

P. Moore - Moon Flight Atlas. London, George Philip & Son Ltd. 1970. £1.95.

Anon - U.S. on the Moon. London, Collier-Macmillan Ltd. 1969. £0.90.

K.W. Gatland - Manned Spacecraft. London, Blanford Press. 1967. £0.90.

P. Ryan - The Invasion of the Moon, 1957-1970. Harmondsworth, Penguin Books. 1971. £0.40.

E. Fuchs - Moonwalk. London, Abelard-Schuman. 1969. £1.05.

J.N. Wilford - We Reach the Moon. London, Transworld Publishers. 1969. £0.37½.

A.M. Lindbergh - Earth Shine. London, Chatto & Windus. 1971. £1.50.

J.J. Haggerty - Apollo. Kingswood, World's Work Ltd. 1971. £2.25.

N. Mailer - A Fire on the Moon. London, Pan Books. 1971. £0.40.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION PUBLICATIONS.

Apollo 12: Preliminary Science Report. 1970.

Apollo 14: Science at Fra Mauro. 1971.

Lunar Photographs from Apollos 8, 10, & 11. 1971.

On the Moon with Apollo 15: By M.G. Simmons. 1971.

Apollo 11: Mission Report. 1971.

Apollo 14: Preliminary Science Report. 1971.

Analysis of Apollo 8 Photography and Visual Observations. 1969.

Apollo 11: Preliminary Science Report. 1969.

Analysis of Apollo 10 Photography and Visual Observations. 1971.

What Made Apollo a Success? 1971.

The Apollo Spacecraft: a chronology. Vol.1. By I.D. Ertel & M.L. Morse. 1969.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION PUBLICATIONS.

Apollo 12: Preliminary Science Report. 1970.

Apollo 14: Science at Fra Mauro. 1971.

Lunar Photographs from Apollos 8, 10, & 11. 1971.

On the Moon with Apollo 15.: by M.G. Simmons. 1971.

Apollo 11: Mission Report. 1971.

Apollo 14: Preliminary Science Report. 1971.

Analysis of Apollo 8 Photography and Visual Observations. 1969.

Apollo 11: Preliminary Science Report. 1969.

Analysis of Apollo 10 Photography and Vivual Observations. 1971.

What Made Apollo a Success?. 1971.

The Apollo Spacecraft: a chronology. Vol.1. By I.D. Ertel & M.L. Morse. 1969.

Prime Minister.

ULSTER MUSEUM

Chairman: His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, H.M.L.
Director: Alan Warhurst, B.A., F.S.A., F.M.A.

Telephone 0232 668251-5

Ref.:

STRANMILLIS
BELFAST
BT9 5AB

22nd November 1971

Received by Dr. M. Bassett on behalf of the National Museum of Wales, the following:

4 fragments of lunar rock embedded in a single block of resin

1 silk Union Jack

All specimens presented on a wooden mount

M. G. Bassett

M. Bassett, National Museum of Wales

T. Doughty

P. S. Doughty, Keeper of Geology,
Ulster Museum

Copies to: G. O. Jones, Esq., National Museum of Wales
A. J. C. Simcock, Esq., Prime Minister's Office, Downing Street, London

PRIME MINISTER

Letter to Alan Warhurst Esq
BA, FSA, FMA

Ulster Museum
Stranmillis,
Belfast,
BT9 5AB.

With reference to our telephone conversation today, I am writing to confirm that no insurance cover is required for the moondust sample.

Pse type.

D.P. 16/xi

Prime Minister

16 November, 1971.

Dear Mr Warhurst

With reference to our telephone conversation today, I am writing to confirm that no insurance cover is required for the moondust sample.

Yours sincerely

DP

Alan Warhurst, Esq., B.A., F.S.A., F.M.A.

Department
of
Technology

ROYAL
SCOTTISH
MUSEUM

Telephone: 031 225 7534

Chambers Street, Edinburgh

With the Keeper's Compliments

Prime Minister

Department
of
Technology

ROYAL
SCOTTISH
MUSEUM

Telegrams SCOTMUS Telephone 031-225 7534 Chambers Street, EDINBURGH EH1 1JF

R 1/11
Pps pse

D Pagnall Esq
10 Downing Street
Whitehall
London

29 October 1971

DP. 2/xi

Dear Mr Pagnall

The arrangements for the transfer of the moon-rock specimen have now been completed. Mr L Williamson of the Ulster Museum collected the box from us here this morning en route for the Airport.

I enclose for your file the copy receipts which he signed and trust this is all in order and that things go well with the little exhibition.

Yours sincerely

Alistair G. Thomson.

Dr A G Thomson
Keeper

ENCS

Department
of
Technology

ROYAL
SCOTTISH
MUSEUM

Telegrams: SCOTMUS Telephone: 031-225 7534 Chambers Street, EDINBURGH EH1 1JF

Received by L. Williamson on behalf of the Ulster Museum, Belfast, the Apollo 11 lunar sample and flag (on display stand) (RSM 1971-L20)

L. Williamson, Ulster Museum

Alistair G. Thomson

A.G. Thomson, Royal Scottish Museum

29 October 1971

Department
of
Technology

ROYAL
SCOTTISH
MUSEUM

Telegrams: SCOTMUS Telephone: 031-225 7534 Chambers Street, EDINBURGH EH1 1JF

Received by L. Williamson on behalf of the Ulster Museum, Belfast, the following four objects :

a. Apollo 11 lunar sample, and flag ; on display stand (RSM 1971-L20)

b. Space food : 'Pineapple/Grapefruit Drink' (RSM 1971-L13.G)

c. Space food : 'Bacon Bars' (RSM 1971-L13.H)

d. Gemini heat shield section (RSM.1971-L14)

L. Williamson, Ulster Museum

A.D.C. Simpson, Royal Scottish Museum

29 October 1971

Copies to :-

Alan Warhurst, Ulster Museum

A.J.C. Simcock, Prime Minister's Office

W. Winton, Science Museum

AJCS

Prime Minister

ULSTER MUSEUM

Chairman: His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, H.M.L.
Director: Alan Warhurst, B.A., F.S.A., F.M.A.

Telephone 0232 668251-5

Ref.:

STRANMILLIS
BELFAST
BT9 5AB

R 28th

27th October 1971

D. Pragnell, Esq.,
Prime Minister's Office,
10 Downing Street,
Whitehall

AJCS

Dear Mr. Pragnell,

Moon-Dust

Thank you for your letter of 22nd October confirming your telephone conversation that the moon-dust will be made available to us for exhibition in Belfast from 1-20 November.

I have made arrangements with Dr. Thomson at Edinburgh to collect the material from the Royal Scottish Museum and we shall, in due course, make arrangements with Dr. Bassett, Keeper of Geology at Cardiff, for the transfer there.

Thank you very much indeed for your good offices in arranging the loan.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Warhurst

Director

Prime Minister

TBF 1.2.73

Moon Dust Samples

Norwich are particularly anxious to have the sample for the whole period of their exhibition from 18 December 1971 to 23 January 1972, since without it there will be little point to their exhibition.

To allow for this I have cut the time at Belfast and Cardiff to three weeks each. Both are happy with this.

The arrangements therefore are as follows:-

(i) 1-20 November: Belfast

(ii) 22 November - 10 December: Cardiff

(iii) 18 December - 23 January: Norwich

I have arranged that all transfers will be direct so that we are not involved.

Thereafter the sample will be part of the Science Museum's circulating exhibition, which is due to start in February 1972 and go on for about a year. We had better bring up the file after then to make sure we get it back.

DS.

22 October 1971

22 October 1971

I am writing to confirm that the specimen of moon-dust presented to the Prime Minister by President Nixon can be made available to you for exhibition from 1-20 November.

It is at present on display at the Royal Scottish Museum at Edinburgh, and I have asked Dr. Thomson of the Museum(s Department of Technology, to get in touch with you to arrange a suitably secure method of transferring it from Edinburgh to Belfast. No doubt you will already have in hand suitably measures for safeguarding the specimen whilst it is on display.

After leaving you, the specimen is due to go on display at the National Museum of Wales, in Cardiff for three weeks from 22 November. Could you, in due course, kindly get in touch with Dr. Douglas Bassett, the Keeper of Geology in the Museum to arrange the transfer.

D.P

Alan Warhurst, Esq., B.A., F.S.A., F.M.A.

22 October 1971

I am writing to confirm the telephone message which I left with your office on 22 October about the moon-rock specimen, to the effect that we would now like to arrange for it to be transferred to the Ulster Museum in Belfast where it is to be on display from 1-20 November.

I am sorry that we cannot leave it with you for as long as you would have liked, but I fear that the fairly tight programme now mapped out for it makes this impossible.

I suggest that the simplest way of proceeding would be for you to get in touch with Mr. Alan Warhurst, the Director of the Ulster Museum, to arrange for a direct transfer by suitably secure means. Perhaps you could let me know if this is agreeable to you.

DP

Dr. A.G. Thomson.

J4

22 October 1971

I am writing to confirm that we shall be able to lend you the specimen of moon rock for the whole period of your exhibition from 18 December 1971 to 23 January 1972.

Before coming to you the specimen will have been on display at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff and I have asked that Dr. Douglas Bassett, the Keeper of Geology in the Museum get in touch with you direct to arrange a suitably secure method of transferring it. No doubt you also have in mind suitable measures for safeguarding the specimen whilst it is on display.

At the end of your exhibition I should be grateful if you could arrange for the specimen to be transferred to Mr. Winton, of the Science Museum in London, who, as you probably know, is arranging a circulating exhibition, including the moon-dust, to begin in February 1972.

I hope that all goes well and that the exhibition is a great success.

DP

B. McWilliams, Esq.

22 October 1971

Thank you for your letter of 21 October about the arrangements for the display of the moon-dust sample at the National Museum of Wales.

I confirm that the specimen will be available to the Museum from 22 November to 10 December. Before going to Cardiff it will have been on display at the Ulster Museum in Belfast and I have asked their Director, Alan Warhurst, to get in touch with Dr. Bassett to arrange a suitably secure method of transfer. No doubt Dr. Bassett already has in mind suitable measures for safe-guarding the specimen whilst it is on display.

After leaving Cardiff the specimen is scheduled to go to the Castle Museum at Norwich. I should be grateful if Dr. Bassett could, in due course, get in touch direct with Mr. McWilliams, Norwich's Keeper of Natural History, to arrange the transfer.

DP

R.A. Mundy, Esq.,
Welsh Office.

22 October 1971

I am writing to let you know that we have now arranged for the moon-dust sample to be put on display at the Ulster Museum, Belfast, from 1-20 November; at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, from 22 November to 10 December and at the Castle Museum, Norwich from 18 December to 23 January 1972. This will leave comfortable time to get it back to you in time for the start of the provincial tour, which I understand you have in mind to start on 1 February.

I have asked Mr. McWilliams, Norwich's Keeper of Natural History, to get in touch with you direct to arrange for the sample to be returned to you in a suitably secure way, after his exhibition ends.

DP.

W. Winton, Esq.

Pse type.

DP. 22/x

A. G. Thomson
Dept of Technology,
Royal Scottish Museum

I am writing to confirm the telephone message which I left with your office on 22 Oct about the moon-rock specimen, to the effect that we would ~~be grateful if you could~~ now like to arrange for it to be transferred to the Ulster Museum in Belfast when it is to be on display from 1 to 20 Nov.

I am sorry that we cannot leave it with you for as long as you would have liked, but I fear that the fairly tight programme now mapped out for ~~we are anxious to have it on display in the~~ it make this impossible.
~~other provincial capitals before it go~~

I suggest that the simplest way of proceeding would be for ~~Could I leave it to~~ you to get in touch with Mr Alan Warhurst, the Director of the Ulster Museum, to arrange for a direct transfer

transfer by suitably secure means. Perhaps you
could let me know if this is agreeable to you.

Mr Williams Esq
Castle Museum
Norwich, Norfolk

Pse tyre
DP. 22/x

I am writing to confirm that ~~the~~ ~~we~~ ~~we~~ we shall be able to lend you the specimen of moon ~~rock~~ rock for the whole period of your exhibition from 18 Dec 71 to 23 Jan 72.

Before coming to you the specimen will have been on display at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff & I have asked that Dr Douglas Bassett, the Keeper of Geology in the Museum get in touch with you direct to arrange a suitable secure method

-/d

No doubt you also have in mind of transporting it. ~~they I etc. suggest~~ ~~also consult~~ ~~that you get in touch with Mr Winton~~ ~~dept~~ ~~of the Science Museum in London who~~ ~~was~~ suitable measures for safeguarding the specimen whilst it is on display.

At the end of your exhibition I shd be grateful if you cd arrange for the specimen to be ~~returned~~ transferred to Mr Winton. of the Science Museum in London who, as you probably know is arranging a circulating exhibition, including the moon-dust, to begin in Feb 1972.

I hope that all goes well & the the exhibition is a great success.

R.A. Munday Esq.
W.O.

Pse type.
D.P. 22/x

Thank you for ~~the~~ your letter of 21 Oct about the arrangements for the display of the moon-dust sample at the National Museum of Wales.

I confirm that the specimen will be available (to ~~for~~ the Museum) from 22 Nov to 10 December.

Before going to Cardiff it will have been on display at the Ulster Museum in Belfast & I have asked their Director, Alan Warhurst, to get in touch with Dr Barnett to arrange a suitably secure method of ~~the~~ transfer. No doubt Dr Barnett already has in mind suitable measures for safeguarding the specimen whilst it is on display.

After leaving Cardiff the specimen is scheduled to go to the Castle Museum at Norwich

Norwich. I shd be grateful if Dr Barrett cd, in due course, get in touch direct with Mr McWilliams, Norwich's Keeper of Natural History, to arrange the transfer.

H. Wenten Esq
Science Museum
South Kensington
London S.W. 7.

Pse type
D.P.
22/x.

I am writing to let you know that we have now arranged for the moon-dust samples to be put on display at the Ulster Museum, Belfast from 1 to 20 Nov; at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff from 22 Nov to 10 December and at the Castle Museum, Norwich from 18 Dec to 23 Jan 72. This will leave comfortable time to get it back to you in time for the start of the provincial tour, which I understand you have in mind to start on 1 Feb.

I have asked Mr McWilliams, Norwich's

Keeper of Natural History, to get in touch with you ~~good~~ direct to arrange for the sample to returned to you in a suitably secure way after his exhibition ends.

Pse type as minute.

Moon dust samples

Norwich are particularly anxious to have the sample for the whole period of their exhibition from 18 Dec 71 to 23 Jan 72, since without it there will be little point to their exhibition.

To allow for this I have cut the time ~~also~~ at ~~Ulster~~ Belfast & Cardiff to three weeks each. Both are happy with this.

The arrangements therefore are as follows:-

(i) 1-20 Nov : Belfast

(ii) 22 Nov - 10 Dec : Cardiff

(iii) 18 Dec - 23 Jan : Norwich

I have arranged that all transfers will be direct so that we are not involved. The sample will be part of

// Thereafter the Science Museum's circulating exhibition, which is due to start in Feb 1972 & go

Ian

on for about a year. We had better b.u. the file after then to make sure we get it back.

4 drfts to issue.

Then psc b.u. 1 June 73

DS

22/x

Alan Warhurst Esq BA FSA FMA
Ulster Museum
Stranmillis
Belfast
BT 9 5AB

I am writing to confirm that ~~we~~ ~~can lend~~ the specimen of moondust presented to the PM by President Nixon can be made available to you for exhibition from 1 to 20 November.

It is at present on display at the Royal Scottish Museum at Edinburgh, & I ~~shd be grateful if you cd ~~ ~~arrange~~ ~~dat~~ get ~~in touch direct with~~ have asked Dr Thomson of the Museum's Dept of Technology, to get in touch with you to arrange a suitably secure method of ~~transporting~~ transferring it from Edinburgh to Belfast. ~~Dr Thomson will~~ No doubt you ~~too~~ will

will already have in hand suitable measures for safeguarding the specimen whilst it is on display.

After leaving you the specimen is due to go on display at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff (for 3 weeks from 22 Nov.). Could you, in due course, kindly get in touch with Dr Douglas Bassett, the Keeper of Geology in the Museum to arrange the transfer?

WELSH OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1
01-930 3151

Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1
01-930 3151

From The Secretary of State for Wales
Oddi wrth yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol

21 October 1971

Dear Douglas

We had a brief word on the telephone earlier this afternoon about the arrangements for displaying the moon dust samples at the National Museum of Wales.

I said that the 3-week period Monday, 22 November, to Friday, 10 December, would be the best from the National Museum's viewpoint. Perhaps the Northern Irish people, who you mentioned would almost certainly be having the samples for the 3-week period before this, could liaise with Dr Douglas Bassett, the Keeper of Geology in the Museum, about the detailed arrangements for transfer etc.

Yours ever

R A MUNDAY
Private Secretary

D Pragnell Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

File with
A JS
31/8/71

CITY AND COUNTY OF NORWICH

Castle Museum Norwich NOR 65B
Telephone 22233 (STD 0603)

Castle Museum of Art, Archaeology & Natural History
Strangers' Hall Museum of Domestic Life
Bridewell Museum of Local Industries & Rural Crafts
St. Peter Hungate Church Museum

Francis W Cheetham BA FMA
Director of Museums

Your Reference
My Reference BMcW/NW
Enc.

Please ask for ext. 638
Date 31st August, 1971.

Dear Mr. Simcock,

Moon Rock

Thank you for your reply to my letter which I received on the 1st June.

I would be grateful if you could raise the matter of the loan of moon rock as soon as possible as the exhibit is due to open on the 18th December this year.

Yours sincerely,

B. McWilliams

B. McWilliams
Keeper of Natural History

A. J. C. Simcock, Esq.,
10 Downing Street,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

Prime Minister — JS

B/F-31/8

6 August, 1971

I promised to try and let you have dates for movement of the moon dust specimen by the end of the week. I am afraid I have not been able to establish a timetable yet, and as I shall be away for the next two weeks, it will be a little time before I am able to let you have these.

AJCS

N. Winton Esq.

SCIENCE MUSEUM
South Kensington, LONDON S.W.7
Telex: 21200 *Telephone:* 01-589 6371, *ext.* 444.

Your reference: 22nd July 71. AW/JD.
Our reference: 4897/42/2.

Alan Warhurst Esq.,
Director of the Ulster Museum,
Stranmillis
Belfast BT9 5AB.

Aug 5th 71.

Dear Mr Warhurst,

The Science Museum is not committed to circulating the moondust (plus a small quantity of visual material) earlier than February 1972. Nevertheless, the sooner we gather this material together the better & we have already made a start by acquiring a plinth case fitted with bandit glass for the specimens.

Your request is noted & you may be sure that what we have by the time you want it is yours.

I am expecting a letter from Mr Simcock informing me of the dates for Cardiff & Belfast.

Yours sincerely,
N Winton.
Keeper Dept 3 & Loan Circulation.

Copy to A J C Simcock Esq., 10 Downing St., Whitehall, London.

ULSTER MUSEUM

Chairman: His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, H.M.L.
Director: Alan Warhurst, B.A., F.S.A., F.M.A.

Telephone 0232 668251-5

STRANMILLIS
BELFAST
BT9 5AB

Ref.: AW/JD

A. J. C. Simcock, Esq.,
10 Downing Street,
Whitehall,
LONDON.

22nd July, 1971.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of the 20th July. I was delighted to hear that we should have the opportunity of displaying the moon dust specimen at the Ulster Museum and we shall look forward to this very much indeed.

I understant that during the Autumn it will be on show at the National Museum of Wales and would therefore expect it to be available for display in Belfast at about the end of this year, or the beginning of next. Perhaps you would kindly arrange for the exact dates to be confirmed with me.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Warhurst

Director.

Prime Minister JS

3/E 27/7

20 July, 1971

You may recall that the then Prime Minister, during his visit to the United States in January 1970, was presented with a specimen of moon dust mounted for display, together with a miniature Union Jack which was taken by the astronauts to the moon and back.

This was a gift to the British people and Mr. Wilson made arrangements for it to remain permanently at 10 Downing Street but to be exhibited temporarily at the Science Museum. Mr. Heath has continued these arrangements and the specimen is now on display at the Royal Scottish Museum at Edinburgh.

It has also been offered to the National Museum of Wales for a display in the Autumn of this year. I now write to inquire whether the Ulster Museum would be interested in having this on loan before it is offered to provincial museums throughout the country. The Science Museum at South Kensington may be able to assist in providing additional material for a display, since the particles of moon dust are not in themselves particularly impressive. Should you wish to discuss this with the Science Museum, Mr. W. Winton is, I believe, handling the matter there.

Alex.

If your Museum would be interested in having this on display for a month or two, perhaps you would be good enough to let me know. We can then discuss modalities.

AJCS

The Curator,
Ulster Museum.

MESSAGE TO MUSEUMS AREA COUNCIL DIRECTORS

from W.WINTON, LOAN CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT, SCIENCE MUSEUM, SOUTH KENSINGTON, SW7

POSSIBILITY OF MOON DUST BEING AVAILABLE ON LOAN FROM FEBRUARY 1972

During a visit to Washington in 1970 the then Prime Minister of the United Kingdom was presented with a specimen of Moon-dust "for the British people" by the President of the United States. This consists of four specks of Moon-dust embedded in a hemisphere of plastic about the size of half a walnut mounted alongside a miniature Union Jack which was taken by the astronauts to the Moon and back.

Both the former and the present Prime Ministers intend that the gift should be kept at No 10 Downing Street in perpetuity but first desire that it should be publicly displayed in many parts of the country for all who wish to see, and the Director of the Science Museum has been charged with making the necessary arrangements for this through the museum's Loan Circulation Department.

METHOD OF CIRCULATION

The Moon-dust will not, as is customary with circulating exhibitions, be sent on a 12-month tour of one region at a time (in which case it could be 9 years before the last region received it) but, to secure a more equitable distribution, will go to one town in each region until all Area Councils have had the opportunity of one three-week showing. (Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast will be dealt with separately.) The Moon-dust may then make a second or third tour and so on until the demand to see it is satisfied.

X

see note overleaf

SECURITY

The specimens will be delivered to each museum securely mounted in a display case measuring 3' x 3' by 6' high, but only those institutions whose security rating is high should take on the responsibility of exhibiting the specimens. The Moon-dust will not be passed on from town to town but collected and delivered at each change and handed over personally into the safe-keeping of the curator-in-charge of the museum who will be required to sign a receipt.

No insurance cover is asked for, or indeed would be of any avail if the specimens were lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed.

SUPPORTING EXHIBITS

To some the particles of Moon-dust are a disappointment reminding them of tea-leaves or bits of coke, so, in order to counteract bathos, there will also be made available on loan mounted photographs of the surface of the Moon, the men who went there, (I wonder how many people can remember their names!) and photographs or models of the rockets and modules and capsules in which they travelled. All or part of this supporting material could be displayed in order to relate the unimpressive-looking particles to the remarkable human and technological feat of the Moon-landing.

ITINERARY

In order to estimate the potential demand for borrowing and so that a provisional itinerary and timetable may be drawn up, I should be obliged if Area Council Organisers would submit lists, in order of priority, of museums in their area which are well enough equipped and willing to take on the responsibility of putting the Moon-dust on display. There can be no promise at this stage that all bids will be accepted or the dates required met, though every effort will be made to schedule a tour which will accommodate borrowers' wishes as far as possible. As it is an exhibition requiring little space museum curators might be willing to accept for <u>any</u> period of three weeks and this would make the arrangement of a tour much easier.

Will Area Council Directors please let me know the wishes of their Councils by the 30th of September in order that an itinerary may be scheduled and submitted to Downing Street for approval.

AJCS

Dear Mr Sincock.

This notice has now gone out to Area Council Organisers.

Pl. let me know what you have decided about ※ overleaf & whether you wish us to be involved in the 3 capitals.

M Winton.

July 15th 71.

Prime Minister JC

BF 22/9/71
to ensure that action at X takes place.

8 July 1971

Thank you for your letter of 3 June about the moon dust sample.

X I have arranged that the Royal Scottish Museum will relinquish the sample at the end of September. It would then be available for the National Museum of Wales for about a month to six weeks. The circulation section of the Science Museum is putting together a quantity of materials which can be used in conjunction with this exhibit and I would propose that the National Museum of Wales should get in touch with the Keeper of the Department of Technology of the Royal Scottish Museum, Dr. Alistair G. Thomson, to arrange for the transport of the sample from Edinburgh to Cardiff. If the National Museum of Wales wishes to contact the Science Museum, the official dealing with the matter there is Mr. Winton on Extension 414.

AJCS

R.A. Munday, Esq.,
Welsh Office.

Department
of
Technology

ROYAL
SCOTTISH
MUSEUM

Telegrams: SCOTMUS Telephone: 031-225 7534 Chambers Street, EDINBURGH EH1 1JF

DISPLAY OF SPACE MATERIAL
to be inaugurated by
MR JOSEPH GODSON
United States Consul General
at 11 0 am on Friday 9 July 1971

Four fragments of Moon rock, together with a British flag which was taken to the Moon and brought back by the crew of Apollo 11, will be on display in the Royal Scottish Museum over the Summer. The fragments and the flag are mounted in a commemorative plaque which was given to the Prime Minister by President Nixon for the British people. The Moon rock exhibit will be unveiled by the American Consul-General, Mr J Godson at 11 0 am on the morning of Friday 9 July 1971 to inaugurate the initial display on the Museum's new Space Gallery.

THE MOON ROCK EXHIBIT

The Apollo 11 landing site was in the southern part of the Moon's Sea of Tranquility, where the surface is a loose accumulation of fractured rocks, minerals and vitreous (glassy) matter. The Sea of Tranquility is a relatively smooth area and is covered with craters having diameters ranging from less than an inch to over a hundred yards. The larger craters apparently reach down to a base of solid rock that is between 10 and 20 feet below the surface soil.

Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin during their brief stay at 'Tranquility Base' on July 20/21 1969 set up various scientific experiments and gathered about 48 lb of lunar soil and rock. This was later distributed to scientists for analysis on behalf of NASA, the American space agency. Several British teams, including a group at Edinburgh University, were among those who conducted experiments on these first lunar samples. The fine lunar "dust" destined for analysis at the Grant Institute of Geology at Edinburgh University was exhibited at the Royal Scottish Museum in October 1969, and was seen by over 25,000 people during the 21 hours it was on display. A second exhibition in January 1970 featured a walnut-sized rock.

These four fragments, which are encapsulated in clear plastic, are each about 1/16" across. A preliminary examination indicates that three of the major types of rock and mineral encountered by the crew of Apollo 11 are represented:-

a,b) BASALT: A fine grained volcanic rock consisting mainly of the minerals pyroxine, olivine and plagioclase. One piece has a few small glass-lined vesicles (spherical cavities) visible at its surface, indicating the original presence of volatile constituents.

c) BRECCIA: A sedimentary rock consisting of angular fragments of rock debris, originating from mechanical fragmentation, that are fused together in a vitreous matrix under the action of pressure shock waves from meteoric impacts. This fragment would be termed a microbreccia.

d) RED GLASS: Fragments of glass, which originate from rock melts, are particularly characteristic of loose lunar sediment. These occur either as rotationally symmetric bodies, usually spherules, or irregular fragments such as this one. Its dark red colour indicates that it originated from a molten basalt. There are small inclusions of mineral fragments.

The small screen-printed 'Union Jack' flag was carried to the Moon, along with the flags of other nations, in the Ascent (upper)Stage of the Apollo 11 Lunar Module 'Eagle'. It was transferred to the Command Module along with the lunar soil and rocks when Armstrong and Aldrin rejoined their colleague Collins in lunar orbit. The flag had remained in the Lunar Module and was not taken out onto the Moon's surface. Similar plaques have been presented to other nations, including the USSR. The British plaque which has previously only been exhibited in the Science Museum in London will remain in the Royal Scottish Museum until mid-September when it will be sent to Cardiff.

THE SPACE GALLERY

The Technology Department has had an interest in Astronautics, or space science and technology, for a number of years, and gallery area has recently been allocated to display the growing collection in this section. To accompany the Moon rock exhibit an interim display of space material has been prepared, much of it related to the Apollo programme.

At the entrance to the Gallery is a photographic panorama of the Moon's surface at the Apollo 11 landing site. The first exhibits concern the British Skylark sounding rocket programme. Rocket payloads carrying ultra-violet spectrophotometers built by the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, will be displayed opposite the 17 foot long Raven

rocket motor which launched them. The Cuckoo boost motor for Skylark, which has just been acquired, will be placed on view for the first time.

The next cases treat the first Russian and American manned spaceflights, and important scientific bases established on the Moon. The Moon rock is exhibited in this last case.

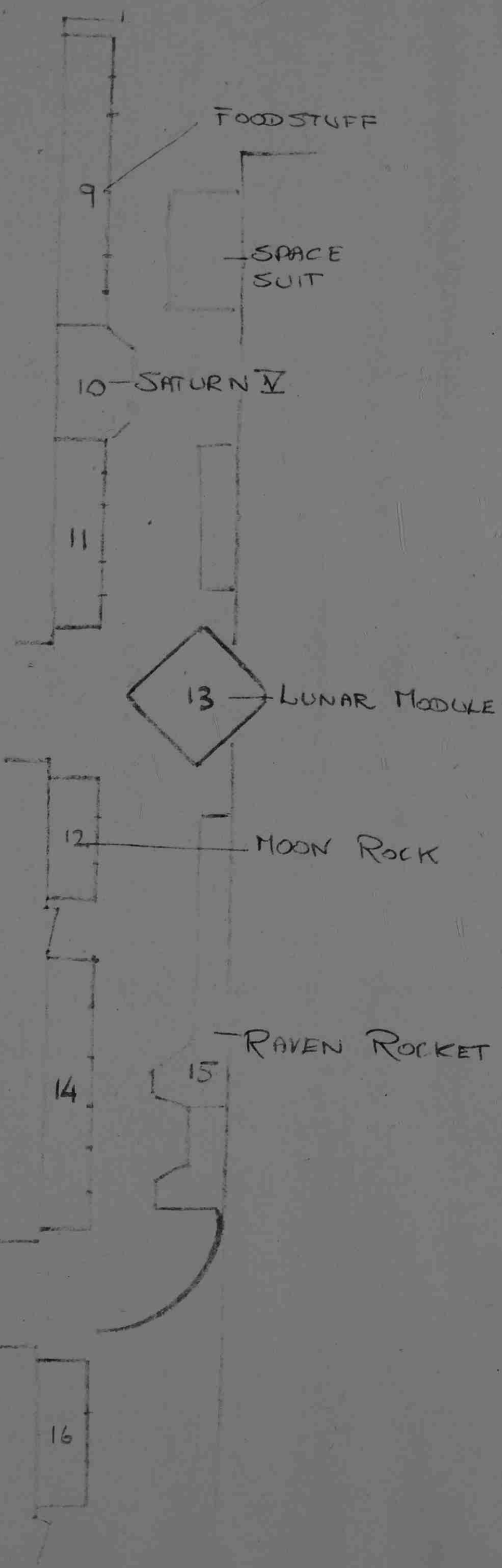
A one-third scale model of the Apollo 11 Lunar Module, which was finished in the Museum Workshops, dominates another entrance to the Gallery, while in the adjacent case the Apollo programme is discussed briefly and a continuous projection of slides illustrates some of the highlights of the Apollo 11 mission. The 15 ft high, 1/24th scale, model of the Apollo Saturn V rocket was made in the Museum Workshops, and the progress in rocket technology that it exemplifies is best seen by comparing it with America's first man-carrying rocket, the Mercury Redstone, which is also on the Gallery and modelled to the same scale. These form part of a series of uniform-scale models being constructed by the Museum.

The following cases contain some models of early American scientific satellites, and a full-sized model of the Apollo lunar spacesuit. Opposite to these is a collection of the specially prepared and packaged foodstuffs used on American manned spaceflights.

The display in this gallery will expand to treat the historical origins and development of astronautics, and particular reference will be made to British and European as well as to the American contributions.

SPACE GALLERY – KEY TO DISPLAY AREAS

7.4.71



From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

HOME OFFICE
WHITEHALL · S.W.1

1st July 1971

AJCS.

Dear Alan,

You wrote to Graham Angel on 23rd June enquiring whether it would be safe to show the Union Jack which went to the moon in the Ulster Museum before its tour of the English provinces.

We have consulted the U.K. Representative in Northern Ireland, and our joint view is that it would be reasonably safe to offer this exhibition to the museum when its turn comes.

Yours sincerely

J. G. PILLING

Alan Simcock, Esq.

Prime Minister

Department
of
Technology

ROYAL
SCOTTISH
MUSEUM

Telegrams: SCOTMUS Telephone: 031-225 7534 Chambers Street, EDINBURGH EH1 1JF

25th June 1971.

Please BU to chase HO

A.J.C. Simcock, Esq.,
10, Downing Street,
Whitehall.

AJCS

Dear Mr. Simcock,

Thank you for your letter of June 23rd. We should of course return the Moon rock exhibit in mid-September if this is necessary. However we have suffered some unfortunate delays in preparing our display due to current development work here in the Museum, and I was about to approach you for an extension of the loan period. I understand from the Norwich Castle Museum that they are hoping to exhibit it in mid-December and wonder if it might be possible for us to retain it until then. However you will obviously have your programme of exhibitions to consider but I hope that you will be able to take our unavoidable delay into account and that the exhibition of Moon dust in Scotland may not suffer unduly.

We are expecting to be able to open the exhibition this coming week and I am sure that you will be hearing from our Miss Thomson who normally handles our relations with the press. You requested a few days' notice so that there would be time for any arrangements you might wish to make.

On your question of the return of the exhibit, I should of course be willing to arrange for its delivery by courier but would suggest that the next borrowing authority might perhaps make arrangements to uplift the specimin from us here in Edinburgh.

Yours sincerely,

Alistair G. Thomson

RESTRICTED

Prime Minister

BF2.7.71.

23 June 1971

No. 10 was endowed by President Nixon with a small display piece containing four specks of moon dust and a Union Jack taken to the moon by one of the Apollo expeditions. This has been on loan to the Science Museum in South Kensington, is on loan to the Royal Scottish Museum and will be on loan to the National Museum of Wales at Cardiff. There are also plans for it to be put on display at a number of provincial museums. The question arises whether it would be appropriate for this to be put on display in Belfast before it goes the round of the provinces. The Science Museum believe that the Ulster Museum would be interested in receiving it.

However, I have a slight reservation from the form of display itself. Since it contains this particular Union Jack, it would provide rather a good object for some demonstration of force by dissident movements in Northern Ireland. Although the flag is only about 2½ inches by 1½, its theft or damage would undoubtedly attract disproportionate attention.

Before suggesting that this loan might take place therefore, I would be grateful for your advice whether you think the proposal would be better left over until after the tour of the English provinces.

AT CS

G.L. Angel, Esq.,
Home Office.

JB

RESTRICTED

BF 6.7.71.

5

23 June 1971

We had some discussion on the telephone about the arrangements for the circulation of the exhibit of moon dust to provincial museums.

I am now negotiating with the Royal Scottish Museum for the return of the exhibit about 15 September. I would then expect the loans to Belfast (if we decide on this) and to Cardiff to take the period until Christmas so that we could arrange for Norwich to have it as they request between 18 December and 23 January. This will mean that it will be available for circulation from the end of January. Perhaps you could arrange for this information to be made known to those concerned and let me know what order you would propose for the various loans.

AJCS

W. Winton, Esq.,
Circulation Section,
Science Museum

S

BF 6.7.71.

23 June 1971

In my letter of December 9, I promised to keep in touch with you about the future of the exhibit of moon dust which is on loan to the Royal Scottish Museum until the end of the Edinburgh Festival. I think we shall want to think in terms of asking you to let us have this back in mid-September for display elsewhere.

Perhaps you could let me know how you would propose to return the exhibit to us.

AJCS

Dr. A.G. Thomson.
The Keeper,
Royal Scottish Museum

From the Assistant Private Secretary

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

CURZON STREET, LONDON W.1

14 June 1971

A Simcock Esq
10 Downing Street
Whitehall
London S W 1

Dear Simcock

I am sorry that there has been some delay in replying to your letter of the 26th May about the moon dust, but it has been necessary to consult a number of people.

The Science Museum has a Circulation Section which arranges the loan of scientific exhibits to provincial museums in England, Scotland and Wales. The Director, Sir David Follett, has confirmed that he would be very happy to act as agent for No 10 in arranging provincial loans of the moon dust exhibit. This would, we think, be a good and convenient way of dealing with the matter. If you agree I would suggest that you make arrangements direct with Sir David Follett.

Our attention has been drawn to the special interest of the Geological Museum in moon rock, and it is possible that they might like to have the exhibit for a period in the autumn of 1972 in connection with a new exhibition which is opening then. If you adopted the suggestion to act through the Science Museum, it would, of course, be a simple matter for them to fit the Geological Museum into their arrangements, since the two museums are next door neighbours.

I see you sent a copy of your letter to Munday of the Welsh Office, and I am doing the same. He will no doubt let you know if the National Museum of Wales is interested.

Yours sincerely

Frank W. Clark

Frank W Clark

Mr Winton
x. 414

PRIME MINISTER

Alan

We were expecting a reply from DES on Tuesday or Wednesday. However, nothing has arrived. Do you wish to remind them?

HW 10/6

Please do so

AJ CS

10/6.

Reminded DES but they are not certain as to when they can reply; they will try to phone us.

BF 17/6/71

HW 10/6

PRIME MINISTER

Alan o.r.

I asked DES about a reply to your letter of 26/5.

They have referred the question to the Paymaster General's Office and will probably be able to reply on the 8th or 9th June.

? BF 10.6.71

Vincent 4/6

Please ACS 7/6.

Prime Minister

From The Secretary of State for Wales

WELSH OFFICE
47 PARLIAMENT STREET
LONDON S.W.1

3 June 1971

BU with DES reply

ACS

Dear Alex

You copied me your letter of 26 May to Frank Clark about the moon dust sample.

The National Museum of Wales at Cardiff would like to receive the moon dust on loan for a month or so preferably after it has been released by the Royal Scottish Museum. There would, as I am sure you will appreciate, be presentational difficulties if Wales came after Norwich. As soon as you can let us have firm dates for the period of loan I will see that these are passed on to the National Museum.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Frank Clark.

Yours

R A Munday
Private Secretary

A J Simcock Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
No 10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Prime Minister

B/F 4/6

26 May 1971

If you consult your papers you will no doubt find the advice you gave us about the moon dust which was presented to Mr. Wilson by President Nixon last January. This was loaned to the Science Museum and is at present on loan to the Royal Scottish Museum. The intention of Mr. Wilson, and of the Prime Minister, was and is that this should be made available to provincial museums on loan, though it would have No. 10 as its permanent home. Norwich Museum have put in an application to borrow this at the end of the year and we are already committed to the Royal Scottish Museum until some time in the autumn. I would be grateful for your advice whether there is any body whom we could consult to find out what other museums might be interested to receive this on loan for a month or two.

As it has been on exhibition in London and Edinburgh, it would seem appropriate to make it available to the National Museum of Wales or the Cardiff City Museum.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Munday (Welsh Office) and should be grateful if he or you would let me know if this would be appropriate.

(SGD.) A.J.C. SIMCOCK

F. Clark, Esq.,
Department of Education and Science.

26 May 1971

Thank you for your letter of 19 May. The Prime Minister has not yet made any arrangements for further loans to museums beyond the current one to the Royal Scottish Museum, but I am sure that we should be able to make the rock available to you during the period you wish. I will get in touch with you as soon as I have a definite arrangement to offer.

AJCS

B. McWilliams, Esq.

Keeper of Natural History,
City and County of Norwich

(1) I'd prefer us to keep control of the loans to the museums from No. 10.

PRIME MINISTER (2) I'd rather like to see it myself sometime!

AJW 25/5

You may remember that on one of Mr. Wilson's visits to the United States he was presented with a specimen of moon dust. This has been on exhibition first at the Science Museum and latterly at the Royal Scottish Museum.

Mr. Wilson intended that this should remain as part of the fittings of No. 10 in view of its considerable intrinsic interest. There has however been a steady demand from Museums up and down the country to borrow it as a focal point for exhibitions on space travel. If it is kept at No. 10 only a limited number of people will be able to see it and we will have these continuing requests for a loan.

I would therefore like to suggest that we transfer it on permanent loan to the Institute of Geological Science who have a standing selenological display, subject to the proviso that they make it available for suitable displays in the provinces.

May I make arrangements accordingly?

AJCS

PPS pse
AJCS
26/5.

25 May, 1971

CITY AND COUNTY OF NORWICH

Castle Museum Norwich NOR 65B
Telephone 22233 (STD 0603)

Castle Museum of Art, Archaeology & Natural History
Strangers' Hall Museum of Domestic Life
Bridewell Museum of Local Industries & Rural Crafts
St. Peter Hungate Church Museum

Francis W Cheetham BA FMA
Director of Museums

Your Reference
My Reference BMcW/NW
Enc.

Please ask for ext. 638
R22
Date 19th May, 1971.

Dear Mr. Simcock,

I am arranging an exhibition on a moon/space theme in the Rotunda of this Museum for the period 18th December 1971 - 23rd January 1972. I have been given your name by the Royal Scottish Museum as the person to approach for the authorisation of a loan of the moon rock originally on display in the Science Museum.

The Science Museum, the Institute of Geological Science and the Royal Scottish Museum have indicated their willingness to lend suitable material, but to provide a focal point to the exhibition we need an object of great intrinsic interest. Moon rock samples would be ideal for this purpose and I would be most grateful if you could let me know whether such a loan can be authorised for the relatively short period of the exhibition.

Yours sincerely,

B. McWilliams

B. McWilliams
Keeper of Natural History

A. J. C. Simcock, Esq.,
10 Downing Street,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

Prime Minister

SCIENCE MUSEUM

South Kensington London SW7

Telephone 01·589 6371 ext

A J C Simcock Esq
10 Downing Street
WHITEHALL

Your reference

Our reference
ScM 4897/42/1

Date
26 April 1971

AJCS. NFA 27/4.

Dear Mr Simcock

Further to my letter of 14 December, I ought to have written to you three or four weeks ago to record the fact that we had handed over the Moon Dust Exhibit to the Royal Scottish Museum for display in their special Space Exhibition at Edinburgh.

At the same time, we have lent them a number of exhibits from our Circulation Collection to augment their display which will, I am sure, attract a lot of attention in Scotland.

I am sure you will not have forgotten than we are interested in the 'Moon Dust' as a long-term exhibit and if, when its projected tour of provincial cities comes to an end, it should be found possible to deposit it here on a permanent basis, we would be delighted.

Yours sincerely

G. R. M. Garratt

(G R M Garratt)
Keeper

Alan

Your b.f. for today.

V.M. 5/1/21

NFA

AJCS 5/1

Prime Minister

SCIENCE MUSEUM
South Kensington, LONDON S.W.7[1]
Telex: 21200
Telephone: 01-589 6371, *ext.* 395

Your reference:
Our reference: ScM 4897/42/1

14 December 1970

A J C Simcock Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
Whitehall

AJCS.

Dear Mr Simcock

Thank you for your letter of 9 December regarding the moon dust. We will gladly co-operate with Dr Thomson regarding its display in Edinburgh and plan to make the transfer early in the New Year.

Perhaps I may take this opportunity of confirming that we would be happy to have it as a permanent exhibit when its projected tour in the provinces comes to an end.

Yours sincerely

G. R. M. Garratt

(G R M Garratt)

(9)

B/F 18/12

Prime Minister

December 9, 1970

You will recall that when the previous Prime Minister arranged for the gift of moon dust, which he had received from President Nixon, to be displayed at your Museum, the loan was initially for a period of six months or so. This period has now come to an end and the present Prime Minister would now like to make arrangements for the moon dust to be available elsewhere in this country. The Royal Scottish Museum have, I understand, a special interest in space exploration and travel and the Prime Minister considers it appropriate to make the gift available for display in Edinburgh for a period of time. This does not, of course, mean that any decision has been taken as to a permanent place of display. Dr. Thomson, the Keeper of the Department of Technology of the Royal Scottish Museum, would like to have the gift on loan and I have today written to him asking him to get in touch with you to make the necessary arrangements for transferring it to Edinburgh. I would be grateful if you could let him know about the security arrangements which you ~~took~~ made so that he may consider the arrangements at Edinburgh,

A. J. C. S.

G. R. M. Garratt, Esq.
Science Museum.

Twyg

B/F 1/1/71

file

December 9, 1970

Thank you for your letter of December 7 about the moon dust. I am glad to hear that the Royal Scottish Museum would be interested in this and I have today written to Mr. Garratt asking him to make arrangements for the transfer with you. I would be grateful if you could let us know a few days in advance of the display going on public exhibition so that we may make any arrangements which seem necessary for announcing it to the Press. Perhaps the best way would be for your Museum's Press Officer to get in touch with the Press Office here.

I note what you say about the duration and will get in touch with you about the time of the Edinburgh Restival to discuss the future of the exhibit.

A. J. C. S.

Dr. A. G. Thomson.
The Keeper,
Royal Scottish Museum.

ROYAL SCOTTISH MUSEUM,
LIND MEMBER,

DR. J. C. THOMSON.

J. C. S.

EXHIBITS.

EXHIBITED BEFORE THE SOCIETY THE TURTLE OF THE
MALI. REF. IN FORCE WHICH HAS SPOKE THE FINE OF THE
I HAVE SEEN HAS SELF SPOKE THE CONSTRUCTION THE

FORCE WITH THE PRESS OFFICE HELD.

MONTH OF THE HOUR MUSEUM, A PRESS OFFICE OF REF IN
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JUSTICE HOW THE HOUR. REFER. OF DECEMBER 1 SPOKE THE

DECEMBER 3rd 1910

The Royal Scottish Museum

Department of Technology

EDINBURGH 1 EH1 1JF

Telegrams SCOTMUS Telephone CAL 7534/5

A J C Simcock Esq
10 Downing Street
Whitehall
London

7 December 1970

R9

Dear Mr Simcock

Mr Finlay, our Director, has passed your most kind letter to me. May I say at once how greatly we appreciate the opportunity and the Prime Minister's thinking of this Museum as next recipients of the small moon dust exhibit.

We have, as you may know, a special interest in Space exploration and travel, both manned and experimental. Naturally the actual material of this branch of scientific research and achievement is scarce and we are more than delighted when something real can be shown.

My colleague who specialises in the space gallery is familiar with the Science Museum display and is now working on one for this Museum.

I should be glad to hear further from you on this project but in the meantime would suggest that mid- to end of January might be a suitable time for Mr G R M Garratt of the Science Museum and with the period you suggest, this would carry us just through the 25th Edinburgh International Festival.

Yours sincerely

Alistair G. Thomson.

Dr A G Thomson
Keeper

File

Prime Minister

December 4, 1970

Dear Private Secretary,

Mr. Simcock wrote to Mr. Finlay on December 2 with a proposal that a stand containing four pieces of moon dust should be displayed at the Royal Scottish Museum. The reference to the Royal Science Museum in the middle of paragraph 2 is a typing error and should read the Royal Scottish Museum. I do apologise and should be most grateful if you would make the necessary amendment.

Yours sincerely,

hpl

The Private Secretary to
W.I.R. Finlay, Esq., C.B.E.

The Director, Royal Scottish Museum.

Prime Minister

Also c. S.O.

December 2, 1970

BF 25/1/74

When Mr. Wilson visited the United States in January last year he received from President Nixon a gift of a display stand bearing four small pieces of moon dust (these are very small indeed) and a Union Jack which was among the cargo of Apollo 11.

These have been on display at the Science Museum in London for the past seven or eight months and the Prime Minister now wishes to arrange for them to be available for display in other parts of the country. The Royal (Science) Museum would obviously be an appropriate place for their second period of display and I am writing to enquire whether you would be interested in receiving this for a period of, say, eight months for display. If you would be interested perhaps one of your staff could get in touch with me about the further details.

Scottish

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Scotland in view of his department's interest in the Museum.

Sgd. A.J.C.S.

W.I.R. Finlay, Esq., C.B.E.
Director, Royal Scottish Museum.

PRIME MINISTER

Agreed
12

Your predecessor received from President Nixon a gift of a number of small pieces of moondust arranged ~~for~~ on an exhibition stand together with a miniature Union Jack which accompanied Apollo 11 to the Moon and back. Arrangements were made for this to be displayed at the Science Museum for six months or so with the intention that it would later be sent to other museums for exhibition.

The six months display at the Science Museum is now up and I understand that the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh would be very pleased to have it for a period. I am sure that it would be a good idea to arrange for this to be done.

May I make arrangements on this basis?

AJCS

December 1, 1970

RF 16/3/70.

Gifts

SCIENCE MUSEUM
LONDON S.W.7

11 March 1970

R12a

A J C Simcock Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
Whitehall

AJCS

Dear Mr Simcock

Thank you for your letter of 6 March conveying the Prime Minister's desire that the gift of moon dust from the President of the United States should be displayed in the Science Museum for a period of about six months. I am pleased to have the opportunity to do this and am gratified that the Prime Minister should think that the Science Museum is a suitable place for its display.

The detailed arrangements for this can appropriately be made by Mr G R M Garratt, Keeper of the Department which includes our collections relating to Space Science, and Mr M R Preston, our Exhibition Officer, and I will ask Mr Garratt to get in touch with you for this purpose when he returns to the Museum tomorrow.

Yours sincerely

D H Follett

D H Follett
Director

3

CCDS

B.F. 13/3/70

Gifts

March 6, 1970

During his recent visit to Washington the Prime Minister was presented with a gift of moon dust for the British people. This consists of four pieces of moon dust mounted in a plastic hemisphere which is fixed on a wooden stand suitable for display. There is also on the stand a miniature Union Jack which was taken to the Moon. The Prime Minister intends that the gift should be kept at No. 10 Downing Street in perpetuity, but initially wishes to make arrangements for it to be displayed for the public to see.

The Prime Minister thinks that the Science Museum, with its large number of visitors would be a suitable place for the gift of the President of the United States to be put on show.

The Prime Minister intends that the initial loan should be for a period of six months. I would be grateful if you would let me know whether you could make arrangements for this to be put on display and what further details and arrangements would need to be made.

A.J.C.S.

Director,
Science Museum.

27


PRESENTED TO THE PEOPLE OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM
BY
RICHARD NIXON
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
This flag of your nation was carried to the Moon and back by Apollo 11, and this fragment of the Moon's surface was brought to Earth by the crew of that first manned lunar landing.

PREM 19/1906

Subject .....

.....

Negative No 273/70

PRIME MINISTER

Agree

PRIME MINISTER

You had objections to the Geological Museum (Department of Education and Science's first suggestion) as a place for the display of the moon dust, they would be content with the Science Museum. Do you agree the attached letter?

AJCS

S

CURZON STREET, LONDON W.1

R 2 March 1970

Alan Simcock Esq
Private Secretary to
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Simcock

Thank you for your letter of 25 February about the gift to the Prime Minister of moon dust.

The advice we gave was based on the fact that the Geological Museum has an annual attendance of over 400,000 visitors. True, this is lower than the million or more who visit the Science Museum but there is a gallery which connects the two and we happen to know that the Director of the Science Museum, Sir David Follett, would consider on scientific grounds that the Geological Museum had a fair claim to house the exhibit.

However, if the Prime Minister considers that he would prefer the gift to be displayed in the Science Museum, I am sure that they would be very happy to concur.

Yours sincerely

S R Chapple
Assistant Private Secretary

B.F. 4/3/70

GIFTS

AM

February 25, 1970

The Prime Minister has now considered your Department's suggestion made in your letter of February 18 that the gift of moon dust presented to him when he was in Washington should be offered for display at the Geological Museum. The Prime Minister thinks that the Geological Museum may not have such a large number of visitors as the Science Museum, and that the exhibit might not be seen by as many people as if it were displayed in, say, the Science Museum.

Contrary to the impression Moon gave you in his letter, the gift of moon rock actually consists of four miniscule pieces embedded in a clear plastic globule mounted for display, and is, therefore, of limited interest as a geological specimen. It would not, therefore, perhaps be particularly appropriate to a continuing display on the exploration of the moon. I would be grateful for any further advice you can give.

A.G.C.S.

S.R. Chapple, Esq.,
Department of Education and Science.

GLD

Not sure image wise. Remember 1933. a dor to you?

PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister

The D.E.S. regard the Geological Museum (which in spite of its name already has an exhibition on selenology) as the most appropriate place to exhibit the Moon Dust.

Do you agree to a six month loan in the first place?

AJCS
20/2

10 Downing Street
Whitehall

February 20, 1970

Dear Dr Dunham,

During his recent visit to Washington the Prime Minister was presented with a gift of moon dust for the British people. This consists of four pieces of moon dust mounted in a plastic hemisphere which is fixed on a wooden stand suitable for display. There is also on the stand a miniature Union Jack which was taken to the Moon. The Prime Minister intends that the gift should be kept at No. 10 Downing Street in perpetuity, but initially wishes to make arrangements for it to be displayed for the public to see.

I understand that the Geological Museum, which forms part of your Institute, has a continuing display on the theme of the exploration of the Moon. It would, therefore, seem appropriate that the gift of the United States should be put on show in its proper context at the Geological Museum.

The Prime Minister intends that the initial loan should be for a period of six months. I would be grateful if you would let me know whether you could make arrangements for this to be put on display and what further details and arrangements would need to be made.

Yours sincerely,

A J C Sumcock

The Director,
Institute of Geological Sciences.

S

CURZON STREET, LONDON W.1

18 February 1970

Peter Moon Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Moon

You wrote to David Tanner on 16 February asking for advice on displaying the gift of moon rock which was presented to the Prime Minister when he was in Washington.

We would like to suggest that the gift should be offered for display at the Geological Museum which is situated adjacent to the Science Museum in Exhibition Road. I understand that the Geological Museum already have a continuing display on this theme which would be enhanced by the addition of the recent gift.

The person to contact to arrange display is Dr Kingsley Dunham FRS, Director of the Institute of Geological Sciences, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, SW7. His telephone number is 01-589-9441. You may like to know that the Institute comes under the auspices of the Natural Environment Research Council.

I am sending copies of this letter to Graham (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Lloyd Jones (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely

S R Chapple
Assistant Private Secretary

c- last para

Gifts

February 16, 1970

Dear Tanner,

During his recent visit to Washington, the Prime Minister was presented with a gift of moon dust to the British people. This is in the form of a piece of moon dust about the size of a large marble mounted on a wooden stand. It is suitable for display.

The Prime Minister has in mind that the gift should belong to No. 10 in perpetuity but at the same time to ask an appropriate museum if they would like it for a period of, say, three or six months for display. A possible museum would be the Kensington Science Museum.

The Prime Minister has asked that this matter should be dealt with urgently and I should be grateful for early advice on whether you agree with these proposals and in particular whether you think the Kensington Science Museum would be the best recipient of the gift for display or whether you would wish to suggest some other body.

I should also be grateful for your advice, in the light of whatever recommendation you make as to the body to receive the gift for display, as to who would be the right person to whom to send the gift.

I am sending copies of this letter to Graham (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Lloyd Jones (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely

P.J.S.M.

D. W. Tanner, Esq.,
Department of Education and Science.

IC

PRIME MINISTER

Gift of Moon Dust

Among the gifts received during the Washington visit was the gift of moon dust to the British people.

This could be kept here, or it could be donated to a museum, such as the Kensington Science Museum, for display (Education and Science would, no doubt, advise on the most suitable recipient).

Do you wish any steps to be taken on this?

Yes I've been thinking about it.
(1) To belong to No 10 - perpetually or
(2) To ask appropriate museum (probably x) if they'd like it for a period of say 3, or 6, months.
(I've been approached by Home Secretary & Gerald is saying we've nothing among the people concerned to move quickly on (2) & when ready for announcement tell Joe Hu

February 10, 1970