

Bentley, W.A.

✓

Jericho, Nt Dec. 15

REGISTER NUMBER	5097.11
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION	RECEIVED DEC 19 04
REF. TO	Secy.

Prof S. P. Langley
Secretary Smithsonian Institution
Washington D. C.

S.P.L.	DEC 21 1904
--------	-------------

Dear Sir.

S.P.L.	DEC 22 1904
--------	-------------

I have collected
photographs of man crystals during
the past 20 years, & now have a
collection numbering over 1100 no two
alike. It has been almost a life work
with me, & conducted entirely at my
own expense. In addition to the photos
of the man crystals, I have secured some
150 more photographs of frost & ice
crystallizations, of great beauty & interest.
My collections of both frost & man crystal
photographs are each in their class —

DEC 22 1904

far superior in both number &

beauty & I might add interest, to that
of any other collection in the world,

& picture quite completely the crystalline
forms of water. The great majority
of these negations are in my possession,
& no copies of them, except on paper;
(& some lantern slides at various
institutions,) are preserved ~~anywhere~~
in fire proof buildings. I have
felt strongly for some years, that
some institution, ~~like~~ & especially
the Smithsonian Institution, should,
possess copies indestructible permanent
copies on glass, of ^{at least} the chosen photographs
of my collection. The danger from
fire, & lightning, ~~or~~ accident here at
my home is not to be ignored, & has
caused me much anxiety. It seems to
me that such a collection as mine
should be placed beyond the possibility

of destruction by fire or accident,
 This is my excuse for troubling you
 in the matter. I write to ask
 if there is not some fund available
 from the Smithsonian Institution, or
 elsewhere, that can be drawn upon
 to defray the expense of making copies
 of these, on glass, to be stored, & kept for
 study, at the Smithsonian Institution.
 I have been to so much expense
 making my collection; far more than
 I could well afford; that I do not
 feel as though I could even do the
 photographic work, developing, exposing etc,
 free gratis, but I would willingly do
 it at my own expense, indeed. The
 expense of making the negatives would
 depend upon whether the copy^{desired} was to
 be a positive, (first copy), or a negative.
 (second copy), & in the case of the

4

position, I think the expense would not exceed 15 cts each, & ~~if~~ the negatives but 25 cts each, or possibly 30 cts. If but 500 of my best examples were copied in this manner, it would be a great relief to me, & would cost but about \$80.00 for the position, & about \$150.00 for the negatives, (if the latter were desired, instead of the former.) Should you, through your great influence, bring about the desire I have so long cherished, I shall be deeply grateful. & should you wish to publish a monograph, or article regarding the man & feet crystals, in the quarterly issue of the Smithsonian publication, I will gladly write, or furnish data for ~~such~~ it. (I think you mentioned desiring such an article, in a letter to Prof Abbe.)

Yours sincerely,

W. A. Bentley