

Mr. William Smith

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

BUREAU OF ETHNOLOGY

203 Pacific Ave Jersey City
July 19th

Principal Dawson

Kind friend

I have just finished packing after my own post fashion (as I am alone) a small box containing several nice specimens of fossil fishes from Bounton N.J. as they are

of my own collecting
I consider them
the nicest offering
I could make
to your new Museum
and I trust they
will arrive safely
and please God
I will send them
by express prepaid
I was half inclined
to add a very
fine Palaeoscus
which I brought
from Germany

but concluded
that you probably
had that variety.

Have you
any fine Melonites?

I have always
given away a
great many spec-
imens but my
collection seems
to be like the
widows' "Cruise
of oil"

I shall be
very much
interested in

your collection
as I recall the
fact that the Cana-
dian exhibit in
your department
at our "Centennial"
was the finest
there, and the little
piece of "Ezra
Canadensis" which
I there received
from you was the
bread upon the waters
for which I trust
my fishes will back
to you!

Sincerely Yours
Ermine Smith.