

July 11, 1938

Mr. Leo Haynes  
Secretary to the Board of Regents  
The University of Texas  
Austin, Texas

My dear Mr. Haynes:

Your note and letter from J. C. Melcher came to the office late Friday. I had a visitor on Saturday, Dr. Longwell from Yale, and did not find time to reply.

I am glad Mr. Melcher has written to the Regents, since his letter may open the way to dispose of a matter that has bothered Dr. Schoch and myself for sometime.

Some weeks ago Mr. Melcher submitted a sample which he said came from near LaGrange, Fayette County, exact locality not given. This sample was first examined by Dr. Barnes and myself. It seemed to us that the sample contained a mixture of two minerals, one being bauxite, identical in appearance with that produced in Arkansas, the other being common clay of no special promise.

I sent the sample on to Dr. Schoch with a note saying that the sample had been submitted by Mr. J. C. Melcher for analysis. Without any comments from me, Dr. Schoch also arrived at the conclusion that the sample contained bauxite from Arkansas. For this reason and because the exact locality was not given, Dr. Schoch thought it best not to analyze the sample until better information could be secure, in which I think he is correct.

In order to get better information on the sample I requested Dr. Stenzel to visit Mr. Melcher at his home near LaGrange, which he did. Dr. Stenzel asked Mr. Melcher to allow him to take a sample from the deposit so as to have an authentic sample for analysis. This Mr. Melcher refused to do saying he was not willing to reveal the locality. Stenzel found that Melcher's collection at his house contained samples of bauxite from the mines in Arkansas.

I am sure that Mr. Melcher is not trying to mislabel the samples. However I am confident that in some way unknown to him he has sent us a mixed sample. Both Dr. Schoch and I feel that to analyze this mixed sample and credit its locality to Fayette County would be misleading and might become embarrassing to the University.

If it is considered advisable I suggest that some appropriate University official, the Regents, the President, or yourself as Secretary to the Board of Regents, reply to Mr. Melcher's letter to the effect that if he will permit a representative of the University designated by the Regents or by the President to take a sample of the clay in which he is interested, that this sample will then be examined by the University departments concerned and fullest information that can