a Quick and Dirty update on ANSMET, The Antarctic Search for Meteorites program

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• Project began 1976 under Bill Cassidy, with field work supported by NSF and curation supported by NASA and the Smithsonian.

• 37 field seasons later, more than 20,000 recoveries from hundreds of distinct sites.

• Thousand of samples provided to hundreds of investigators on a yearly basis.

• In 2012 NSF quit funding ANSMET; NASA came to the rescue.
A field season is underway right now, with current funding through the 2014-2015 season.

For cultural and other reasons, we are VERY happy to be a NASA program.

Changes still looming in terms of funding mechanisms, personnel, equipment and logistical availability.
What has ANSMET done for SBAG recently?

You need chondrite? We have LOTS of chondrite.
What has ANSMET done for SBAG recently?

We’ve brought Ceres home for you (salts included at no charge).
What has ANSMET done for SBAG recently?

We’ve brought you more bits of Vesta (some breakage and settling may occur during shipping).
What has ANSMET done for SBAG recently?

We continue to supply hundreds of things you didn’t know you needed (like any good online retailer).

And we take requests.
Our biggest challenge:

“All Science is either Physics or Stamp Collecting”

-Ernest Rutherford
The cost / Value of ANSMET?

Let’s just say that........

•...... the Osiris-REx budget would fund ANSMET for over 900 years.

•.......in a typical season we recover the mass equivalent of about 1700 Osiris-REx samples from dozens to hundreds of different parent bodies and give them away to just about anyone.
• about the fieldwork: http://case.edu/ansmet

• about samples: http://curator.jsc.nasa.gov

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