

Box 82 Squankum Road  
Howell, New Jersey 07731  
May 23, 1975

By Certified Mail: 821781

Professor V. P. Guinn  
Department of Chemistry  
University of California  
Irvine, California 92664

Dear Sir:

I found your name in the Gulf Radiation Technology Project 295, FORENSIC NEUTRON ACTIVATION ANALYSIS OF BULLET LEAD SPECIMENS. The Federal Bureau of Investigation referred me to this document following my inquiry concerning the various bullet fragments from the JFK assassination. I now have copies of the spectrographic film plates along with notes but due to my lack of knowledge in this field, I was wondering if I sent these materials to you. If you would be willing to give me your professional opinion on them.

I hope that I may hear from you soon. Thank you

Sincerely,

Emory L. Brown, Jr.

Enclosures: 2

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DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92664

June 4, 1975

Mr. Emory L. Brown, Jr.  
Box 82, Squankum Road  
Howell, New Jersey 07731

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your letter of May 23, received May 27, concerning the FBI emission spectrography plates obtained on bullet-lead specimens involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. I am curious about your connection with, and interest in, this case--and your particular area of expertise.

To answer your question, no, I am afraid that I am not able to be of any help to you. First of all, although I am pretty expert in the field of neutron activation analysis, NAA (and its applications in the field of crime investigation), I am not expert in the field of emission spectrography (ES)--although I am reasonably well acquainted with the method. Secondly, it would be difficult to do much with photographic copies of the ES plates--you really need the original plates themselves. And thirdly, the FBI Laboratory is quite experienced in ES, and they were only able to find lead, a little antimony (> 90 ppm but less than 800 ppm), very approximately 400 ppm copper, traces of magnesium and iron, and very slight traces of silicon in samples Q2, Q4-5, Q9, and Q 14--and no measurable differences amongst these samples. They were not able to detect any silver, tin, or bismuth in any of these samples. I have a copy of their ES results on these samples.

Last year, I analyzed quite a number of specimens of bullet lead from four production lots of 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Carcano ammunition of the type and brand, and from the same production period, as was used by Lee Harvey Oswald--using the method of instrumental (nondestructive) NAA. Quite recently, I was supplied with a copy of the instrumental NAA data obtained by the FBI Laboratory on the various JFK case bullet fragments--measured in 1964, but never published. I am currently preparing a paper for publication summarizing all of the results.

Enclosed herewith is a reprint of one of our papers on the NAA of bullet-lead specimens, which may be of interest to you. A more detailed presentation of that work is contained in the report you mentioned in your letter, GA-10141, copies of which may be obtained from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, Virginia 22151, at a cost of \$ 3.00 per copy.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vincent P. Guinn".

Vincent P. Guinn  
Professor of Chemistry  
Telephone: (714) 833-5091

VPG/km  
Enc.

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