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Dear Neville,

ages ago you sent me 2 creamish rocks, I think they might have been beads, and I thought that they might be porcelaine; then you forwarded 2 pieces of Chinese porcelaine to be sectioned for comparison.

Well, I've compared slides of the 2, and the porcelaines are much coarser grained and more heterogeneous; there is no resemblance to the cream material. Thus the latter must be rocks, but too fine grained to be analysable under the microscope. This extreme fine grain suggests 2 possibilities though: a) a very fine limestone- the fragments as I remember them had this look about them- do they fizz with dilute HCl?; b) a very fine hornfels, a metamorphic rock formed by recrystallisation under strong heating conditions. I think the former more probable. I you'd like to send these rocks again, please do so. I'll keep all the slides for reference.

I also a small green stone (Manda 78- enclosed). I can't name this, but think its metamorphic- sure it is in fact.

I'll contact our MSc metamorphic student about seeing you. I've read the article in Bull. de l'Acad. Malgache, but can't find anything on regional geology, which was what I was hoping for.

I'll be in contact.

Yours,

Adrian Lewis
