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University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations, "2 associate professors from Japan examine rare animal specimens at UM" (1974). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present.* 23807.

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2 ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS FROM JAPAN EXAMINE RARE ANIMAL SPECIMENS AT UM

MISSOULA--

Two faculty members from Japanese universities recently visited the University of Montana to examine rare fossil animal specimens known as conodonts and to visit with the man who found the specimens, William G. Melton Jr., curator and lecturer in the UM Geology Museum.

Dr. Masae Omori, associate professor of geology in the Geological and Mineralogical Institute of the Tokyo University of Education, and Dr. Iwao Kobayashi, associate professor of geology at Niigate University, were at UM several days during October to learn more about Melton's discovery. Melton found carbonized impressions of fossils more than 300 million years old in the fall of 1969 in the Bear Gulch region east of Lewistown.

Before visiting UM, Omori and Kobayashi attended the International Symposium on the Mechanical Mineralization of the Invertabrates and Plants at the University of South Carolina, Columbia. They also visited Yale and Princeton Universities.

Melton is coauthor of a paper dealing with conodonts which was published by the Geological Society of America in June 1973 and translated into Japanese. He has received about 550 requests for reprints of the article.