

Moon Rocks

Tom R. Chambers visited the Lunar Sample Laboratory Facility (LSLF, Building 31) at NASA (Houston, Texas) in 2016. He was a research analyst at the Lunar Receiving Laboratory (LRL, Building 37) during Project Apollo, 1969-1972.

Courtesy of NASA:

The LSLF at Johnson Space Center (JSC) is NASA's chief repository for materials returned from the moon during the Apollo era. Between 1969 and 1972, six Apollo missions brought back 842 pounds (382 kilograms) of lunar rocks, core samples, pebbles, sand and dust. The spaceflights returned 2,200 separate samples from six different exploration sites. These lunar materials are 3.1 billion to 4.4 billion years old.

Before the construction of the LSLF, lunar materials were stored in the LRL and in vaults across the JSC campus. With 14 percent of the collection in remote storage and 11 percent of the collection being used for scientific and education purposes, 75 percent of the 842-pound collection, most in pristine condition, is stored in the LSLF.

The curatorial team keeps the collection in pristine condition, while making the samples available to approved scientists, engineers and educators. The samples are stored and handled in stainless steel cabinets purged by high-purity nitrogen gas. The nitrogen is continuously monitored for oxygen and moisture contents.

Scientific study focuses on three main topics: comparative planetology, the history of the planets and investigating the collision theory for the origin of the Moon. The engineering community focuses on the physical properties in the samples.

The origin of the Moon is being revealed by the study of lunar samples. The collision theory, supported by most planetary scientists, holds that the Moon formed from debris ejected from the Earth when a large object (possibly as large as Mars) crashed into the Earth.

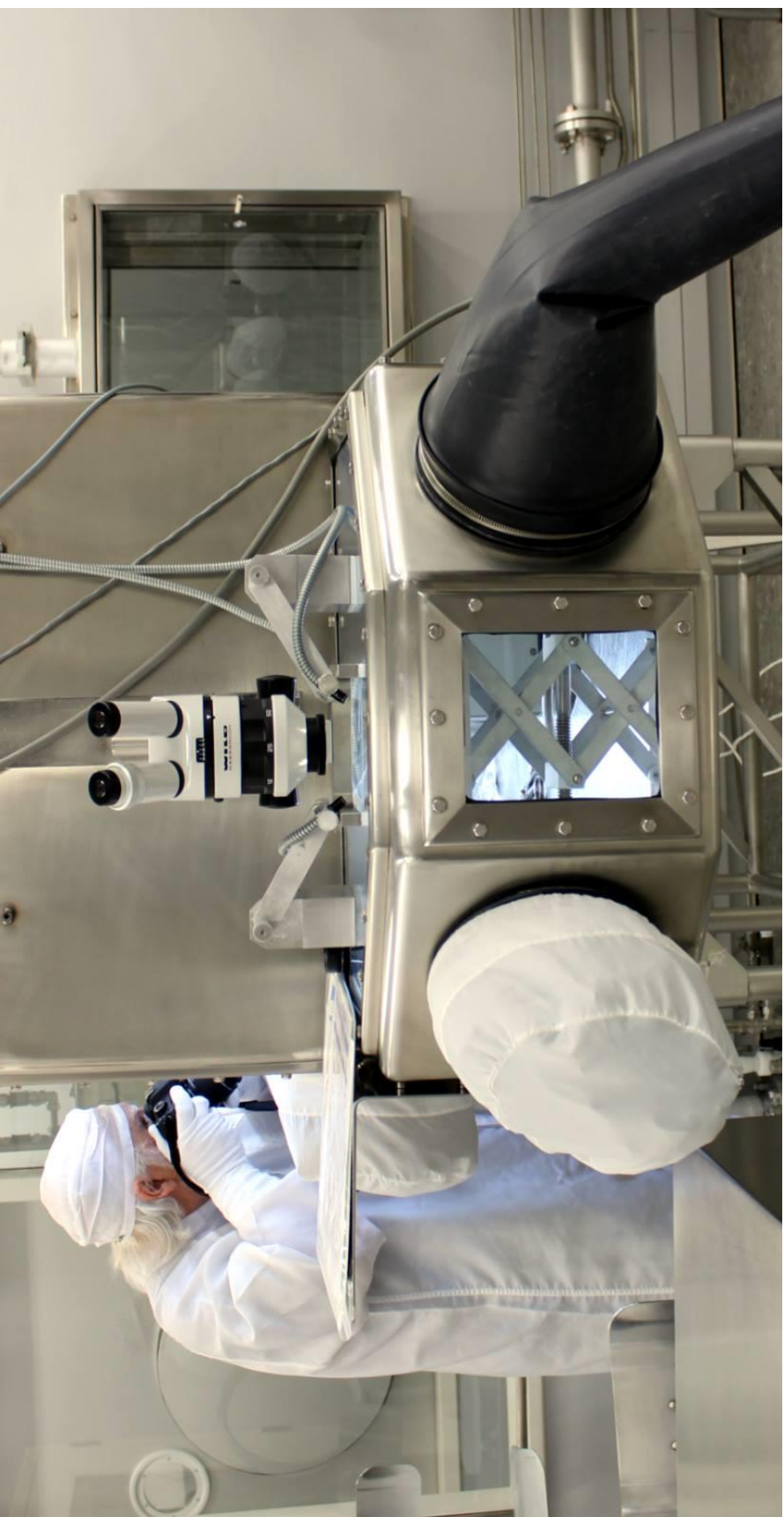
LUNAR SAMPLE
LABORATORY
FACILITY











Cho Eunmi





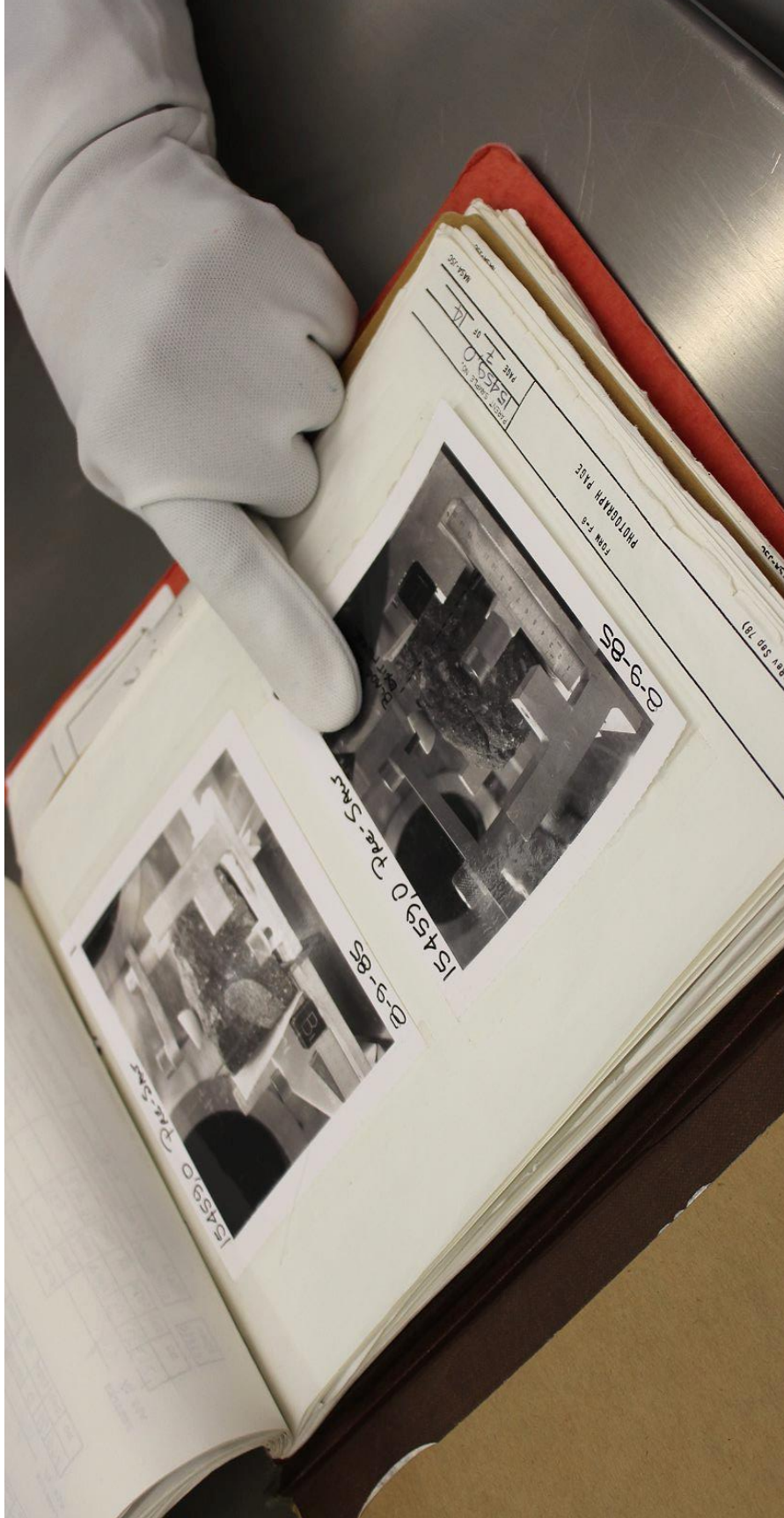


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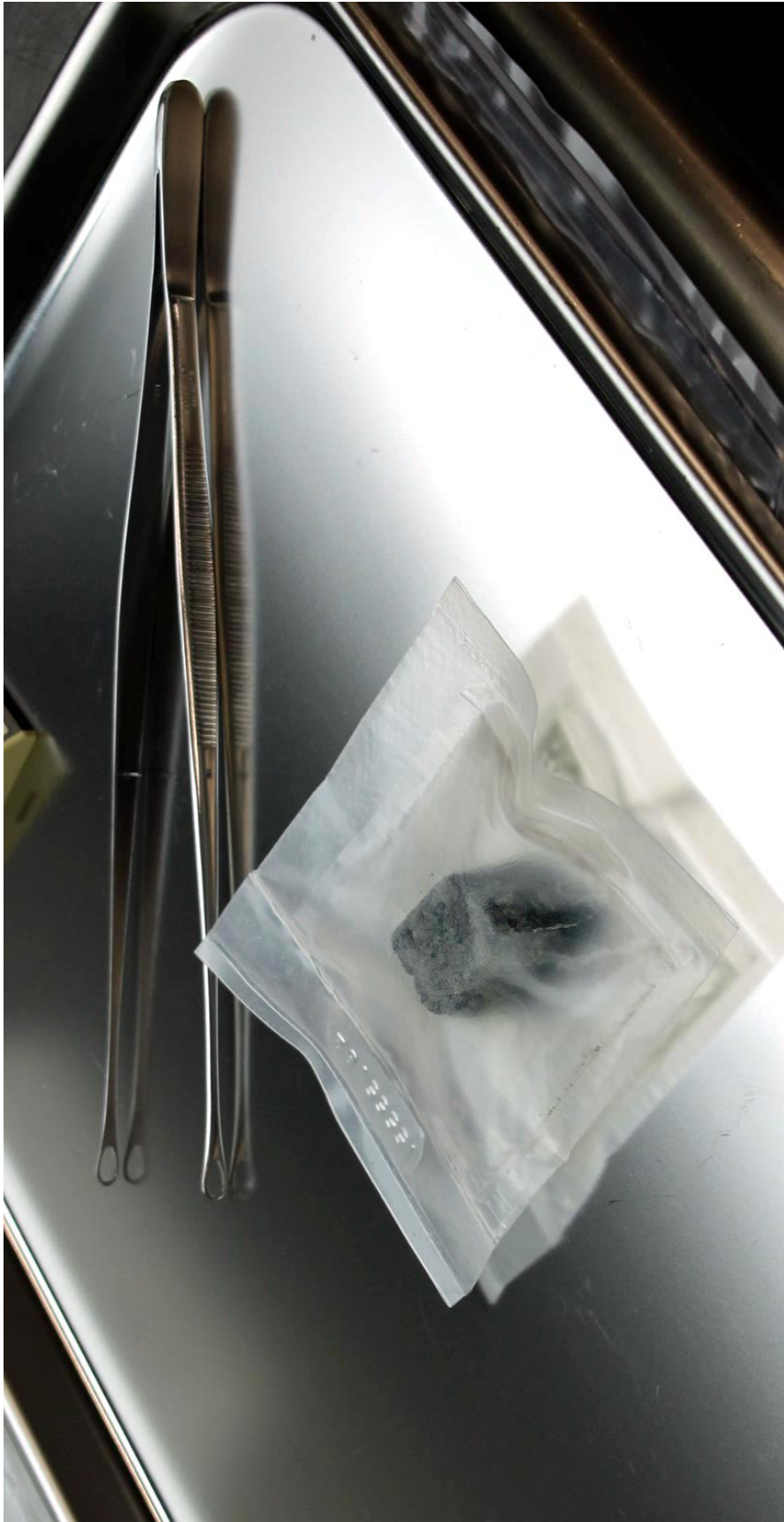
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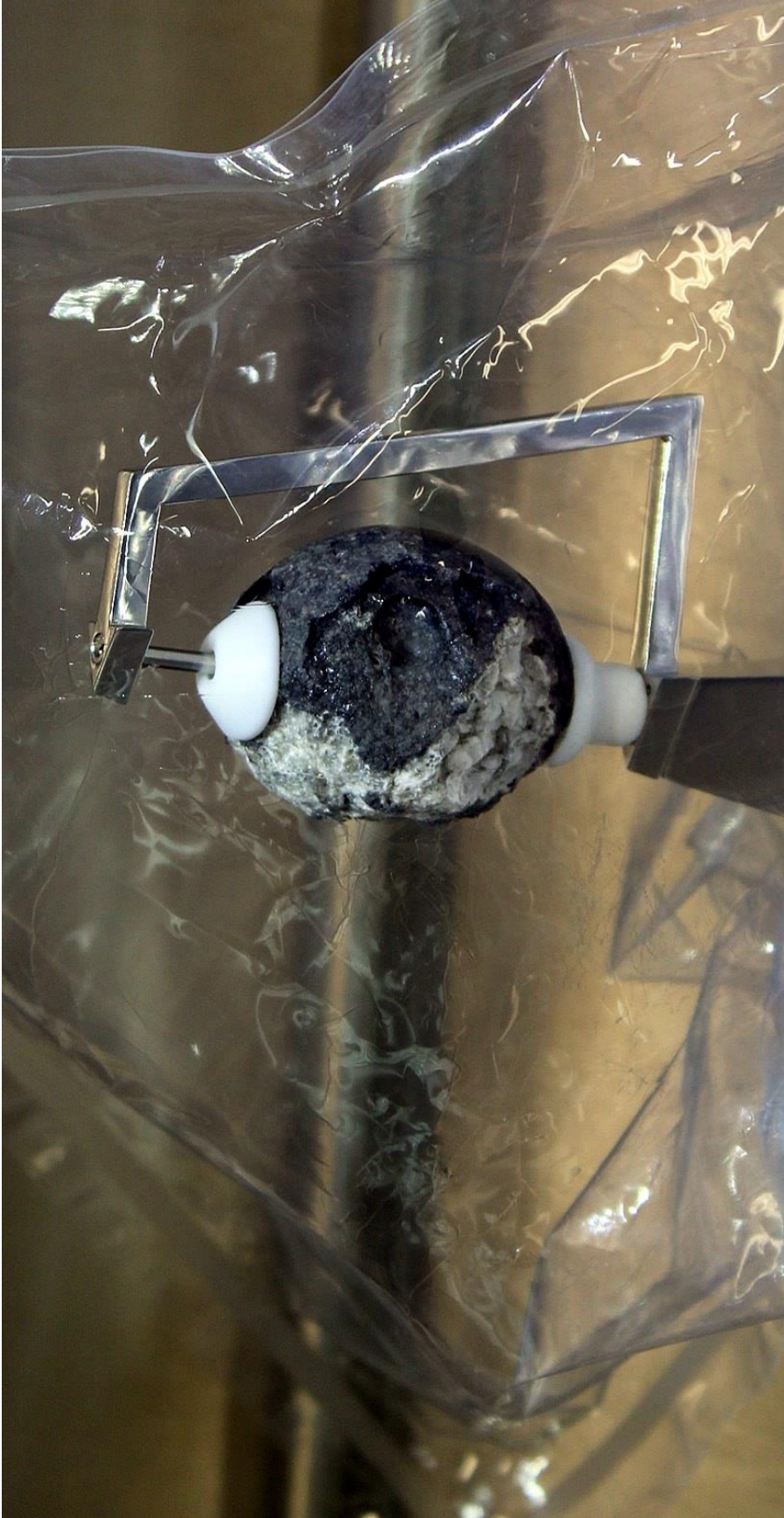


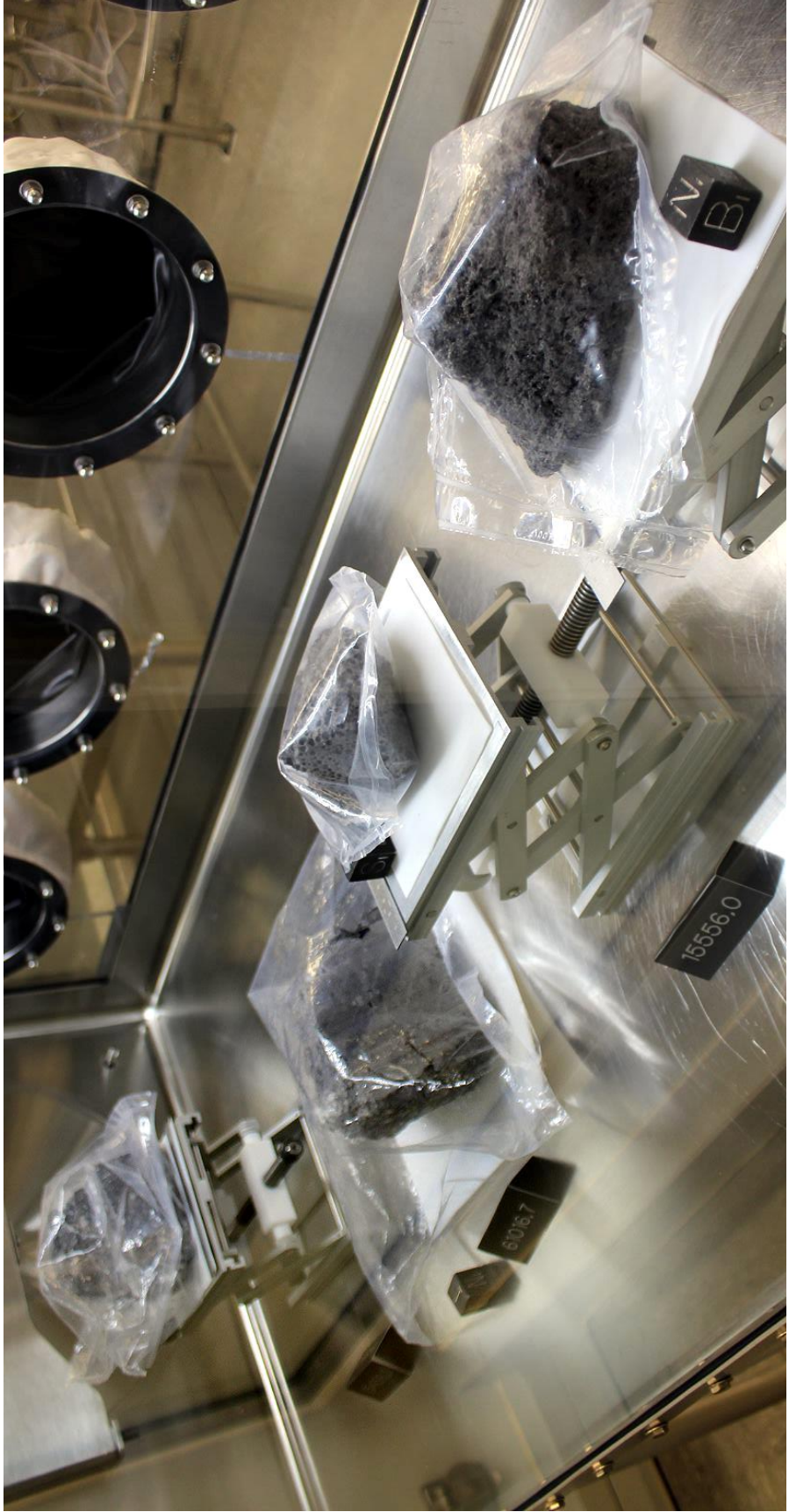






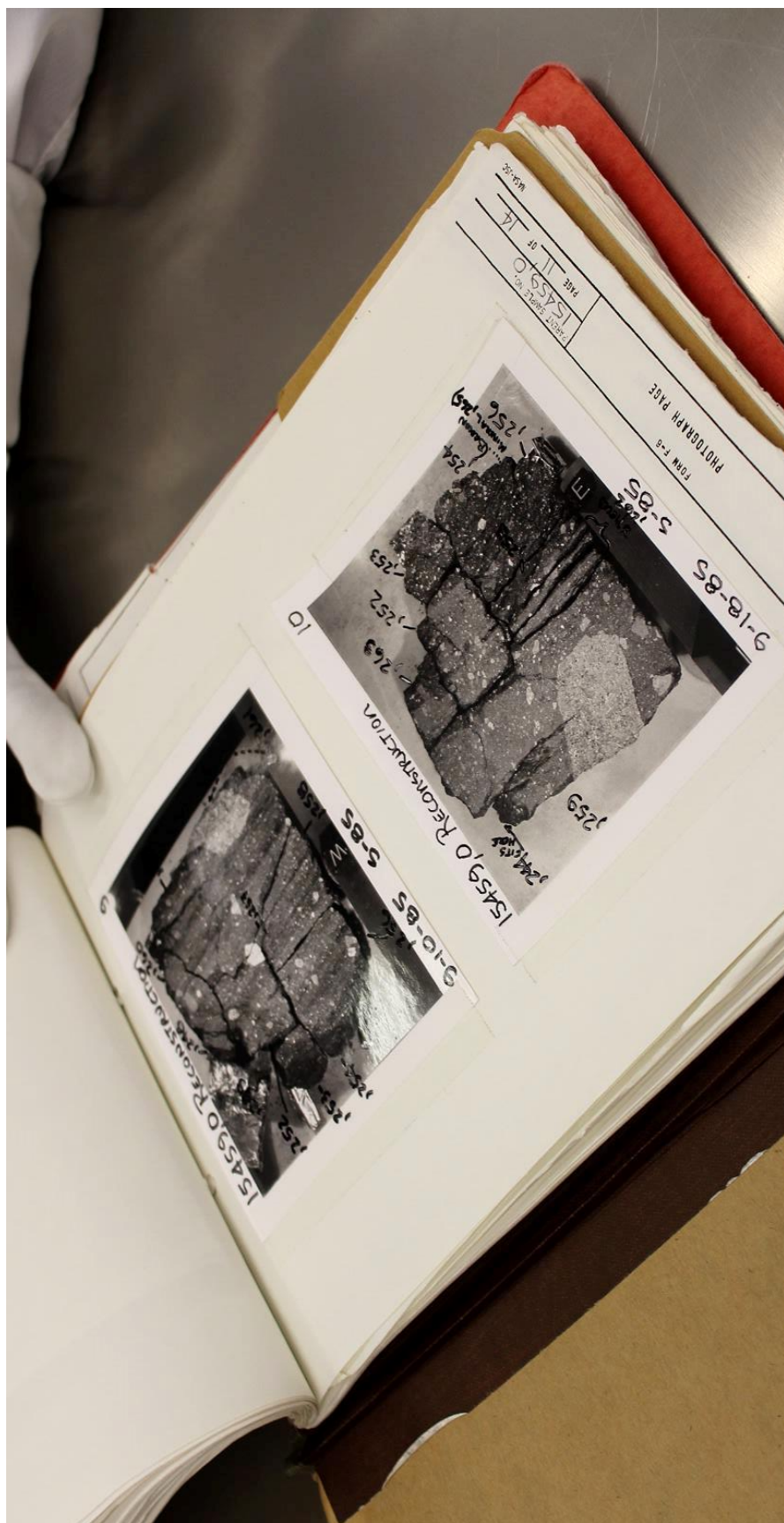



























This is a portion of a lunar sample
returned by Apollo 17 Astronauts
who traveled to the moon
in December 1972.



Bunny Suit
Area



Chambers is seen below with Andrea Mosie, Lab Manager:



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