

TEXAS OBSERVERS

1935, Nov. 14.

Dear Mr. Bertillion:

I am glad to get your two letters, and I believe I am safe in saying that you still feel very kindly towards me, which attitude I much value and appreciate; but I am sorry to see that you feel somewhat unkindly towards Mr. Nininger and the Dallas Centennial. May I say a little in their behalf?

I don't believe Nininger was trying to run down your specimen or say it was not a genuine meteorite; all that he meant was that it is one of the Canyon Diablo iron meteorites so far as can be told from general appearance, and these are commonly worth only \$1 or 75¢ a pound, as they can be bought for that sum. Under these circumstances (as this was my final judgment, too), it was indeed fair of you to let me return the meteorite and to send back my check, as I undoubtedly paid more than the object was worth. Of course if Ellison could be found and if it could be proven to the satisfaction of the scientific world in general that the object was actually originally found at Abernathy, it would be of more interest. I am still hoping that you will some times submit the other little piece to me, as I believe it can be tested to settle the question definitely.

Now, I do not know for sure, but from what I read I feel sure that the Centennial folks want an exhibit of meteorites for their museum, and they probably consulted Nininger as to the possibility of buying some from him, as he has a large collection. I do not think they have any intention of trying to grab all the meteorites in this part of the country, or of trying to particularly compete with you or me. After all, we have to live in a world of competition--Washer's compete with Monnig's, you know, and yet both stores go on and are happy.

I am very glad you made such a good friend as the man you told me about, and I'm sure he'll give you much information. However, I've been working pretty hard on the subject myself for over three years, and if there's anything I can tell you or any way in which I can help you, you have only to ask and I'll gladly do it. I can tell you about the method of testing for meteoric iron with acid if you wish.

Now, as ^{to} the Anderson county specimen, please let me make a suggestion--I will even go so far as to beg of you that you follow this: get this specimen right away for temporary inspection, and if you want it passed on, send it to me and I'll tell you whether it's a meteorite at no obligation to you.

(over)

You needn't be worried that Nininger's publicity will immediately reach out and get this specimen, if you'll get busy and get an option on it at once. I'm anxious for you to do this, because it is not true that I could get it from Nininger if he obtained it. He is building up a collection of his own, and is by no means anxious to sell specimens.

I wish you all kinds of luck in finding the other meteorite whose location you think you may remember, and I hope to hear from you again soon. If you think it would be any advantage for me to come to Mineola and go with you to see the Anderson County specimen, I might be able to do so.

In the meantime, I hope you will not hold any feelings against Mr. Nininger or the Centennial people.

With best wishes, I remain

Yours sincerely,

Oscar D. Manning

11-28-35

Dear Mr Manning,

Pardon delay in writing, However the publicity did what I thought it would do, while the man still owns specimen - and I think it has not yet been tested, still he is all worked up over a prospective sale to that set of cheap screw centennial troopers, and just now I am unable to deal with him on his old price, But rest easy - when it comes to a show down - the Centennial folks will want him to Loan or Donate, so only time is required to cure him, kindest regards, Bertellon