

1956, March 10

Mr. Van Long
Route 3,
Chickasha, Oklahoma.

Dear Sir:

Thanks for your letter informing me of the meteorite you plowed up. I am very much interested.

From what you say I assume you have some familiarity with the subject or at least have checked into the nature of your find enough to be sure it is a meteorite. From my point of view, I am wondering if you have a little chip you could submit to me. I don't want you to break it if you don't already have a piece that has come off it. Mutilation decreases the value of any piece for display or museum purposes.

The reason I am asking for a possible sample is so I can be sure it is truly a meteorite before making a trip up there to talk to you. I think that would be the best way to try to get together on a price.

A prominent pre-war field worker used to pay a dollar a pound for meteorites, and I figure yours weighs about 10 pounds. I would go considerably higher than that for several reasons, but just how high would depend partly on the stone itself, which I would like to see and inspect. I would come up there to do it. There were some misleading values quoted in popular magazines and the newspapers some time back in connection with a fall, and the fresh meteorites are more desirable than the old ones. I think we can together on the price, and await word from you so that we can work out a time for my trip.

I should explain that I am one of a group of amateur astronomers, but we have collected meteorites actively for some 20 years. This letterhead indicates my business. Kindly address your response to my residence address below. Thanks.

Sincerely

OSCAR E. MONNIG

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Fort Worth 4 TEXAS