

1956, Nov. 5.

Dear Dr. Henderson:

You doubtless know about the meteorite a man near Chickasha, Okla., has. It is a typical old stone which he had identified and cut at the University of Oklahoma, which is nearby. He is a very determined tho nice sort of fellow, and thought he had a deal with them to cut off just one piece; I think he thought he'd give them that, and keep the main portion for himself.

Well, they cut it into about four pieces--a nice job that would cost a pretty penny anywhere--and now he is angry at the world in general and just isn't going to let anybody have any of the meteorite--or so he said when I went to see him a few months ago and try to get my hand in.

We therefore thought we'd try to do something constructive, and spent the rest of the time we had in interviewing his neighbors for a couple of miles around to see if we could stir up another meteorite--maybe something else from the same find. One of these persons interviewed that day has now sent me a chip which has me puzzled.

I am enclosing this and ask your opinion. I am 99% sure it is an igneous rock, presumably washed down in the geologic past from the mountains to the west, near Lawton, Okla. I think I see a lot of quartz in this. But a few doubtful things worry me: On the ground portion I find, pretty centrally, one little speck of bright metal--maybe this came off the carborundum wheel I used. There are several rusted areas and material which reminds me of troilite, but it may be just a little ordinary pyrite, partly decomposed. There are suggestions of circular inclusions here and there but they don't look like olivine or enstatite chondrules. Finally, the rock when hung on a string responds slightly to an Al-Ni-Co magnet, like meteorites do, but I am guessing this is from a magnetite content--the region around Lawton has much of this mineral.

I assume you can give me an opinion pretty easily and I don't expect any analysis or testing. Kindly return the chip so I can send it back to the man.

As to the original Chickasha meteorite, I had hoped to work together with you and the U of O and still do, but the owner said he would sell only for an exceedingly large sum, and I told him the rock just wasn't worth anything unusual.

Yours sincerely,