

1956, Nov. 30

Dr. E. P. Henderson,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Chickasha, Okla.
meteorite

Dear Dr. Henderson:

Here's the situation regarding the above. You wrote him May 10, 1956, but he says he didn't answer you because he didn't care to chip the meteorite or part with a slice for the examination, not knowing when he would get it back. As I've told you, he seems in a way not to want to trust anybody, especially since the U of O cut the meteorite into more pieces than he had understood or intended.

Meanwhile, it seems he has had an offer from Frederick Leonard which I consider very steep. I told him I'd match Leonard's offer but didn't care to surpass it because I thought it already unreasonably high for an old stone chondrite.

Assuming that Leonard had offered him a price for all, I told him I would agree to let him (Van Long, the finder) keep the end piece, and would agree to distribute slices to those he wanted to have them—you, Leonard, the U of O. I proposed to charge Leonard no profit and to work you out of a swap. Van Long still won't deal with me, saying he doesn't think it would be fair to Leonard, and he wants more, anyway.

So, it's a mixed up deal, and anybody that wants to pay a really handsome price can get it. I have a couple of new fireballs on my hand and I'll pay around with them in hopes of eventually stumbling into something really fresh and worthwhile.

Sincerely,