

1959, June 23.

Dr. Frederick C. Leonard,  
Dept. of Astronomy,  
University of California,  
Los Angeles 24, Calif.

Dear Frederick:

I attended a one day convention of amateur astronomers at Tulsa Saturday, and decided to take another whack at your Amber meteorite on the way home. It was only a little out of my way, and I made an advance appointment with Van Long.

The time seemed ripe, so I took the bull by the horns and paid him \$250 for all of it except one small end piece he wanted to keep. I assure you I tried my darndest to get it for the \$200 you had set as a maximum, but this old country boy just wasn't going to do it. He had even been corresponding with Ward's, he bluffed.

He told a long tale that his boy had once been interested in geology and he wanted to keep it for him, but it seems that the scion has now lost his interest in that field, and told father to go ahead and sell it. In the meantime, some local school teacher very much wanted a piece of it, and Van Long cut about half off the small end he had always reserved for himself, so that he now has only half the small end. If we had left it there, other pieces would continue thus to migrate, and it was high time we corraled it.

Van Long felt a prior ethical obligation to you, and I assured him I would agree with that point of view and work fully with you on the disposition of the meteorite. He will write you directly to ask if this is all right, and I told him I would write and tell you, too. I have the large end piece and two thick slices. They are well preserved tho the cut surfaces were covered with some sort of protective solution or lacquer that obscures detail.

I will do whatever you want about the disposition of this material, and will send you more precise weights in a few days. It would be well if you wrote Van Long this was satisfactory, and to go ahead and cash my check.

Yours sincerely,