

1960, April 30

Dear Frederick:

Yes, the check for the Amber meteorite got here some days ago, and I have your two letters of April 4 and 21.

May I please be selfish just now and retain both the other slices of the Amber? I would somewhat like to, and I have in mind vaguely two other possibilities: I might want to swap one to Henderson at the U. S. National for some specimen he has that I would want; second, I have some feeling that a piece ought to go to the University at Norman. Even tho the finder, Van Long, was angry with them for slicing up the meteorite more than he had authorized, they did identify it and I have some feelings for them. I want at least to vacillate a while!

I hope you understand and sympathize with my attitude.

I don't think there is any way to get closer to the integrated weight than has been indicated in previous correspondence, because we can only approximate at a few ounces the end piece Van Long kept, and of which he let another individual have about half. To get the name of that other person you would have to write Van Long; if you do, let him know, please, that you got the main mass and are happy, as I promised him to try to please you.

I am here at the store where I have no personal gram scales, but on our parcel post scales, which have to be quite accurate, one of my slices weighs almost 1 lb. 1 oz.; the other a shade under 2 pounds; and the total as nearly exactly 3 pounds as the scales will read. With yours, these total $8\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. My recollection of Van Long's retained end would make it easily $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and considering sawing losses I believe you are safe in saying the grand total was something over 9 lbs.

I'm glad you had a good trip to the Mecca's of meteorites at the crater and at S. dona; that was indeed a good trick to pick up the 5 pound Canyon Diablo on the flank. I found one just NE of the crater with a detector when last there, about that weight or a little less, and gave it to the young fellow from Harvard who was there at the time, just watering at the mouth for it!

Sincerely,