

1954, August 31

Mrs. Arnold H. Schmidt,
1421 South Willow,
Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Dear Mrs. Schmidt:

I appreciated very much your detailed letter of recent date about the fragment of the Arlington, Minn., meteorite about which I had inquired.

I am sorry if I over-impressed you about the importance of this. Scientifically, the recovery and preservation of the original main mass, still on exhibit in a hallway case in Pillsbury Hall at the University of Minnesota, is the important thing. The retrieving of some further fragments from the piece is of importance only to me as an individual collector. I have been a pretty avid amateur astronomer for some years, and have specialized in the study and collection of meteorites for some 20 years.

Scientists have learned a great deal about these things since I first began paying serious attention to them. It is pretty well established that they are fragments of one or more of the asteroids, that group of small planets revolving about the sun in orbits mostly between Jupiter and Mars. Presumably there was a collision out there some time in the past. Actually, most meteorites are of a stony type with only a small percentage of nickel-iron included.

I agree with you that there is apparently little chance of finding the little piece of this your father had left, but I do appreciate very much your kind interest. Thanks, again.

Sincerely yours,