

1963, May 16

Mr. Elvin R. Phipps,
943 Lakeview,
Emporia, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Phipps:

Thanks for your letter, and you need not apologize. After all, you owed me nothing—and I know how hard it often is to get around to things outside all the regular duties and primary routine each one of us has.

It may take me a few days to find my file and the letter I originally wrote you. At the risk of repetition, I shall say that I am really in the dry good business, but have been an amateur astronomer since the late 1920's, about which time I first met Mr. Walter Houston as a kindred soul intrigued by the same subject—the I think he later went into teaching English professionally.

I do have a representative selection of meteorites on exhibit at a Children's Museum here at Fort Worth and some at Texas Christian University in their Science Hall cases, and would probably put your on view there should I acquire them.

The 58.5 pound one which you recall Houston identifying as an iron was a stone one as I now recall his correspondence with me. The stony meteorites do get an iron oxide crust and have a high density, averaging about 3.6. (An iron meteorite would be about 7.5).

Pre-war the common field price for old stony meteorites was about \$1 a pound; postwar I figured \$2 was fairer because of inflation. I would be willing to negotiate with you on a \$3.00 a pound basis, especially if we could close the deal by mail and save me the expense of a trip up there, but for present, just write me your reaction. I would, of course, have to satisfy myself that the second stone is also a meteorite. I presume you mean it weighs somewhat more than the 58¹/₂ pound one, but is of about the same density.

Sincerely,