

1970, Sep. 27

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

Dear Dr. Henderson:

I am returning to you by insured parcel post, altho it hardly seems worth insuring, the specimen material which Dr. Anders has so aptly called "putative Bells". This is what you lent me when I was there last January, and I examined it pretty closely some time back.

It is clearly not Bells, or any kind of meteoritical material. I am very sorry that my intended gesture of giving you a few grams of weathered Bells has so backfired. I apologize to you and to Dr. Anders for causing you some fruitless trouble and I regret the waste of the sophisticated experiments that were carried out on this false specimen.

We still have not been able to determine just what the source of this material was, so coincidentally right under the path of the fireball and unique for this region in being so thoroughly imbued with magnetite as Bells itself, but the question becomes non-significant since it is so obviously not a meteorite.

Tentatively I am planning to be at the meeting of T.M.S. at the end of October, but with all due respect to your city and our national capital I dread the thought of coming to Washington. My best regards to your associates there and to Mrs. Henderson.

Sincerely,

cc Dr. Edward Anders