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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

November 9, 1961

Mr. Oscar Monnig
29 Chelsea Drive
Fort Worth 15, Texas

Dear Oscar:

Thanks for yours of the 7th. The present schedule is set up for a departure from Washington on November 16th and an arrival in Fort Worth that afternoon. At this moment I do not have the ticket so I cannot set the hour of arrival. I am leaving from National Airport via American Airlines.

The trip you have scheduled sounds interesting but it may not be convenient to fit me into this excursion. Rebecca and I are making this trip together and although she would have no objections to going out, she will not be prepared to scramble over the rocks.

Hope you and your wife will be our guests for dinner that evening. We will be registered at the Texas Hotel.

Glad to see you are finding more and more of the Bells fall. Is there a chance that we can purchase a piece for the national collections? I appreciate the effort you have put into this recovery.

In my library there is a reprint by Yul Simashko, published in 1890 in St. Petersburg. In this I find that "The complete stone when found weighed 25 pounds. The peasant who found it chipped off about 8 pounds so the governor received about 17 pounds, which he sent to me for investigation. Later I obtained the rest of the pieces from the inhabitants of the village and almost reconstructed the original form of the meteorite."

From what I have learned by looking at this Russian article only one piece was recovered. They show pictures of it in two positions and it appears to be a nicely orientated stone but from its form this one must have broken in the atmosphere. The specimen fell about 200 feet from a native woman, so their recovery problem was rather simple. If that had not happened, they might never have found it. Had the Russians put as much energy into their field search as you did, perhaps they would have recovered many more specimens.

Hope this information is of some service.

Cordially yours,

EPH
E. P. Henderson
Associate Curator
Division of Mineralogy and Petrology