

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

November 6, 1958

Mr. Oscar E. Monnig
1010 Morning Side Drive
Fort Worth 4, Texas

Dear Oscar:

The specimen which you sent was examined and the two microchemical tests showed no nickel is present. The etched pattern is the typical dendritic structure common to quickly cooled irons. As this specimen contains no nickel, but has much carbon and a dendritic etched pattern I am certain it is not a meteorite.

The nickel test is simple provided precautions are taken to get the iron oxidized before adding the dimethyl glyoxine reagent. Ferrous iron will turn pink with dimethyl glyoxine and people sometimes have taken this pink solution to be a test for traces of nickel. When nickel is present the dimethyl glyoxine forms a precipitate which is pink and the solution remains colorless.

This has an interesting shape and if it was a meteorite you were doing the proper thing in protecting the forward face. Sometimes I wonder if the rear of the Meteorite is not as interesting as the front face because now and then we find very unusual features on the rear side.

Last week I spent several hours putting my notes together on the Boaz specimen. As soon as I get them organized I shall send you a draft so you can see what has been done and correct my information about the history of the meteorite.

Mr. Wright's specimen is being returned under separate cover and thanks for letting me see what could have been an interesting meteorite. It is about time you get a real one, I hope you do.

Cordially your,



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