

1955, Feb. 21.

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

Dear Dr. Henderson:

Thru a friend of mine in Birmingham, Ala., I have recently secured a 15 pound iron meteorite. It is a compact, single generally rounded lump and tests positive for nickel, but I have not actually ground on it to see if Widmanstatten lines are revealed.

There are the usual complications, only more so. To begin with, it was secured from a school teacher, to whom it was given or left by a student several years ago. In selling it to us, I think she feels that maybe the school has some sort of claim on it, and so she wants the school to have a slice, and that was part of my deal. Then my friend who was active in the entire matter is an amateur astronomer, and he would like a slice. Now, naturally I might like a slice and you might want a slice and we might want an extra slice!

So this is what it gets down to: can you have all the necessary slices cut there and let me pay for that work? If you want a slice I would rather trade it for another piece of some other meteorite rather than let it apply against the work. You know my old motto is that meteorites are too hard to get to trade them off for anything except other meteorites!

Let me hear from you. Oh, yes; this meteorite is supposed to have fallen near Hope, Ark., not too many years ago. It is pretty well oxidized now and doesn't look like anything that recent. That part of the story will have to be checked into, and will probably require a personal trip or two on my part this spring.

I send my very best personal wishes. I wish I could see you oftener, but now that the federal government has subsidized all science, it takes all the time of business men to make enough money to pay the taxes for such subsidies! I enjoyed very much being with you at Philadelphia in 1953.

Sincerely,