

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Februaru 25 1955

Mr. Oscar E. Monnig
Monnig Dry Goods Co.
Fort Worth 1, Texas

Dear Oscar:

It certainly was good to hear from you and specially since you have found a new meteorite. Hope you will continue to do that often enough so I may get frequent letters.

We will be interested in cooperating with you in sectioning the iron if you will agree to the following conditions or most of them. So send the sample on.

It appears you need about 5 sections. You indicate how the cuts are to be made or let our cutter use his judgement. Actually I will bet that both parties will select the same direction because usually there is one way better than another.

The slices we now make are just thick enough to look good, I did not like the old way of cutting and ending up with thick slices. Each slice will be polished and etched and the 4 slices will be sent to you at your expense as soon as we are through the cutting.

Usually the end piece or the first slice is not very useful because it will be just deep enough to get below the depth of the oxidization however since this is a small meteorite it may be best to make the first cut wider than usual and let one side of it have the old altered surface.

Before the sample is cut I will make some pictures of any unusual features it has and one to show the general form and size of the specimen. It is important to have that for the records.

If you will agree to let us select any of the sections we make for our collection and give it to us we will do the cutting as a service. We then will accession the meteorite as an exchange for service rendered.

If you want I could analyze it and give you the results because you might like to join in publishing a description of the new discovery. What do you say?

I will be interested in seeing this iron and comparing it with others from that area. There are no irons from near that place in Arkansas but Okla. has several irons which are not so far away but the information for some is not very reliable.

We have listed an iron from Meers, Okla. but its present location is unknown. In 1913 an iron was offered to Merrill but the deal was never completed and the specimen returned. So we still carry that name in the records but we have no information about the size or type of meteorite.

The Knowles, meteorite is listed as a find octa, and is in the American Museum of Natural History in N.Y. This also is undescribed.

An iron called McAlester was mentioned in Our Stone Pelted Planet but since then it has not been listed in any publication.

Soper was described by Perry and myself several years ago and we have a sample.

Safra is a coarse octahedrite and is in the American Museum of Natural History, undescribed.

You may be interested to know that we have the second largest of the Sylacauga stones. The one which struck Mrs. Hodges is still on the market. Although we have possession of the meteorite actually it is not ours because the owner has not turned it over to us. His reason may interest you because the delay is because of income tax.

I hope that you will stop off and see me on some of your trips to N.Y.C. I would certainly enjoy a visit from you. We are separated so far that contacts are not frequent enough for me.

Many thanks for offering us a chance to get a slice of the meteorite. With kindest personal regards to you and Mrs. Monnig I remain

Cordially yours



E.P. Henderson
Associate Curator
Mineralogy and Petrology