

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

November 18, 1965

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

Dear Oscar:

The little specimen you trusted me to bring with me home has been examined but not in great detail. However, I can definitely say it is a meteorite, an ataxite with a nickel content around 30%. We need to reevaluate the results before giving a definite value.

Now we must jointly describe this because it will extend the ataxites group above their normal range. Also, more important, this iron has very interesting structure.

Oscar, I am asking with tears in my eyes please let us go in with you on the purchase of the meteorite. We are now working on a new display and I need a large section of an ataxite. Truly, I need it very much.

I would like to purchase the mass with you then cut a good section and display it. It would be highly desirable to have some non-destructive measurements made on a large piece to determine, if possible, its terrestrial age.

It will make your specimen more valuable if we can get such a section on display because I think this may prove the largest iron with such a high nickel content.

The part I expect to return is ready but I am holding it for a little while to see how stable it will be.

Your Harriman, Tennessee, iron has been found and will be crated for shipment soon; it's now on the packing desk ready for packing.

Sincerely yours,



E. P. Henderson  
Curator  
Division of Meteorites