

1964, Sep. 20

Mr. Walter Wright,  
Original Curio Store and  
Prospector's Shop,  
201 West San Francisco St.,  
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Dear Mr. Wright:

I enclose my check for \$25.55 to pay for the meteorite specimen plus postage. It is a typical old iron meteorite, quite obviously, even without the evidence of the Widmanstätten lines, and clearly someone took a torch to it. However, that is a common impulse with any meteorite found, as people naturally want to see if it will melt, and I am not 100% sure this was really cut off a larger piece. This may be substantially all the piece and it may have just been "worked on" on one side.

I am not at all dissatisfied, but merely discussing the matter. The kamacite lines are of about medium width, the commonest type among the octahedrites, and on the basis of the etch figures it would probably not be possible to distinguish this meteorite from many others. The fear as to Mexico is always that someone will bring in one of the very common Toluca (also called Xiquipilco) specimens and offer it as "new find". Literally thousands of pounds of these were found in a region just west of Mexico City and as known as far back as 1776. I have a number of them I bought from a Mexican professor many years ago.

There is a Mexican law against the exportation of meteorites from that country and I feel sure you could not get a big one out. Somehow Nininger has got a number of smaller pieces out apparently with no trouble. The ones I once bought were brought back by a raucous friend of mine in an open pick up truck and simply declared as iron ore--no fuss, no bother. But that was way back in the 1930's and times have changed!

I looked up the other information I had on some meteorites in Mexico, from a friend of mine at Big Spring, Texas, but he had not mentioned anything from San Luis Potosi. I probably won't be able to do much more about this supposed main mass, but I may be able to work something thru others, as you suggest. Thanks for remembering me.

Sincerely,