

1965, January 9

Dear Dr. Henderson:

In so far as it is possible, I wish to stake a claim to a meteorite I do not have. I first heard of it thru a collector in early 1960 but he wanted to procure it and pass it on to me at a profit. He found the possessor adamant about not parting with it, for the usual family reasons, and died before he succeeded in getting it. I did finally learn who had it, and have been working on it ever since.

I have seen the piece and have pictures of it; I have tried unsuccessfully to get the owner to give me reasonably exact weights, but have not yet obtained them. I would say the object weighs about 12-15 pounds. It is nicely pitted on one set of surfaces, approaching a low four-sided pyramid, with the opposite side being relatively featureless. The owner let his brother knock a piece off years ago to test for uranium; it was apparently thrown away, there being no radioactivity found. The owner also cut off a small slice, using a rock saw, and does not seem to know for sure where this is. It is likewise suspected that a piano tuner at the house one day helped himself to a few small chunks! I pointed out that with this steady attrition rate they had better let me have the piece, but my logic, appeals and money are at present unavailing!

The cut surface shows very little metallic iron and I think you could quite safely guess it is a bronzite or hypersthene chondrite. It is typically old and brown and was plowed up about the 1940's. It should be named Cransfills Gap, Bosque County, Texas, as it was found very near that town at $31^{\circ} 45' N.$, $97^{\circ} 45' W.$

It has been seen by many people and is said to have been reported to "the American Museum", which may be either you or Brian Mason's. I am going to ask him about it when I am there next week. and am trying to get a chip so he can classify it.

Priez pour moi! (I am not sure of my French spelling).

Sincerely,