

1963, Dec. 22.

Mr. Sam Bishop,  
2305 West Shandon,  
Midland, Texas.

Dear Mr. Bishop:

You certainly went far above and beyond the call of any duty to a casual acquaintance like me in investigating and reporting on the Schultz Bosque County meteorite, and I am quite grateful.

Mr. Porter Rankin had reported about the same attitude on Mr. Schultz' part but apparently had hoped to persuade him to part with the object. Now I am quite convinced that all I can do is put Midland on my agenda and do as you suggest.

You perhaps know that about 90% of the meteorites that fall are essentially stony with a sprinkling of nickel-iron blebs thru them. Iron falls are rare (the finds are frequent, because of obvious high density). The true stony-irons, a transition between the two groups, are of several types but in general will be about half iron, half silicates. If Schultz really has one of these, it will be only the second one found in Texas. I did not gather for sure from your letter whether you were able actually to look at the object, or whether Schultz withheld it.

One of the commonest stony-irons is the type called the "pallasite", in which the silicate is olivine, generally occurring in inclusions that are greenish-yellow and up to a centimeter in diameter.

I did not mean to keep you in the dark on values. Pre-war, something like \$1 a pound would buy any of the old stone meteorites and even some of the irons, but post war I generally started at a \$2 basis. The highest I have ever gone is \$10 a pound for an unusual iron and I've been near that on some small objects. You can't go entirely by weight; a very little meteorite might be highly desirable. After all, they are worth about one fool will pay and another take, but the surge of recent scientific interest has resulted in a few outlandish payments for fresh falls procured immediately in order to test for short-lived cosmic ray induced radioactivity. I would not like to go over \$150 for Schultz's but might; he doubtless would want much more.

The men from the Astro-geology division of the U. S. Geological Survey are now stationed at Flagstaff, having moved from their former quarters at Menlo Park, Calif. They had hoped all fall to get to Sierra Madera for some further investigation and I had a deal with Dr. Donald Elston to meet him and Dr. Eugene Shoemaker there and come on up to see the Colorado City formation. They have had to defer this trip to the spring, but I still hope it materializes. I am sure they would have no magic answer to the mode of origin but we might arouse their interest and I would be curious at their offhand reactions.

You'll hear from me again one of these days. Meanwhile, Merry Christmas to you and your family.

Sincerely,

P. S. I appreciate Glenn Eyans' interest and friendly attitude. I met him a couple of times years ago and know of his activities. Dr. Sellards introduced me to him down at the University of Texas.