

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 28, 1939

Dear Monnig:

In reply to yours of July 25.

First, I think the meteorites are the property of any private land owner on whose ground either they fall or are discovered. Various departments have asked that we also consider those on government land as belonging to the government. It sounds reasonable does it not?

Now the government even goes one better than a private owner. We pay in every case a reward to the finder of the specimen - such reward being reasonable and just. In the case of the Goose Lake meteorite (the large California iron) the finders are very satisfied at their treatment.

If you know of any new meteorites on government land, I promise I will work with you to get it, will reward you for the find, or if you prefer will give you a portion of the fall for your collection, and will go the limit with anyone playing ball with us. Why not get something going?

The Floydada, Texas meteorite looks very good. May I keep the photograph? Will be glad to cut the specimen for you and will cut along the lines you mark. We will polish and etch the slice taken off. If you pay the charges of shipping the specimen to and from this Museum, we will cut the specimen without charge. I hope you will give us permission to remove a thin slice for our collection, unless you have other plans up your sleeve for us.

I am certain Mr. Reberholt can cut with less loss of material than any other cutter, and you know how nicely his etched faces turn out.

Please keep me informed of your new finds so that our records may be kept up to date.

Cordially yours,

*E. P. Henderson*

Mr. Oscar E. Monnig,  
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