

weight when 1st cut 120.2 gms  
after grinding, polishing  
& etching (Nov 1939) 117.2 gms

Mar. 16, 1940

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

I am finally mailing to you today a cut and etched section of the Floydada ironmeteorite, weighing 117 grams (about 4 ounces). I appreciate your long patience, but I am sure that you will think it was well worth while to wait for what I am sending you.

The meteorite is evidently a very old one which fell years ago, for it shows considerable signs of oxidation. When I cut this tip off, one or two of the plates were at once seen to have oxidized all the way thru. These are the black sections on the cut surface.

Altho it was not part of our bargain, I went ahead and polished and etched the section in order to bring out the lines of crystallization characteristic of an octahedrite--the so-called "Widmanstätten figures". Then I took a photograph of the section and enlarged it greatly, and I am sending you a copy of this picture.

The cut section will rust more or less, tho I have covered it with a protective coating of lacquer. It should be handled carefully so as not to scratch the etched surface. Also, you will have to be careful with it as there is going to be a great tendency for it to come apart along the oxidized plates. I think it would break rather easily if handled roughly or dropped. Keep it in a dry place and out of sunlight exposure; this will slow down the rusting process. If, after a year or so, it has rusted considerably, send it back to me and I'll repolish and re-etch it.

I want to ask you to do me this favor. If your collection or this item should ever be disposed of, will you please see to it that we get this section back for our collection?

Kindly please keep the stones you have, and I'll yet get up there to see you.

Sincerely,