



METEORITE INVESTIGATIONS

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Dr. Oscar E. Monnig
29 Chelsea Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76134

Dear Dr. Monnig:

Thank you for your letter dated 24 January, and payment for the Guin specimen.

Guin was oxidized with loose scales to a depth of approximately 1/4 inch when found. Cutting showed oxidation in some areas to extend an additional 1/2 inch along inter-grain boundaries. This is undoubtedly due to problems with lawrencite due to chlorine contamination in ground water. These deeper oxidized areas have become fairly stable in the two years since I cut it. Soil type: Sandy with humus. I don't know the pH of the soil. As described above, the meteorite has remained stable for two years since cutting, except for minor lawrencite problems within 1/2 inch of the external surface. No oxidation whatsoever has developed on the specimen which I sent to you: It came from the deep interior of the meteorite. After cutting and appropriate surface finishing I sprayed the specimens with WD-40 and wrapped them in plastic. They remained this way for two years. Prior to etching I scrubbed the specimens with a soft brush and ethyl alcohol. I then etched by immersion and stirring in a 2% nitol solution. Another alcohol bath stopped the etching. After about ten days in a dessicator I sprayed the specimens with a product called "Incralac" containing acrylic resin dissolved in esters. The specimen I sent to you should be sufficiently protected and stable to withstand ordinary handling and storage in ordinary atmosphere without special precautions.

You might be interested in knowing that I used a machine shop surface grinder to remove saw marks on Guin. My wife and I then worked the surfaces by hand on a "flat" plate with sheets of carborundum paper, grit up, pinned to the

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February 8, 1986

Page Two

plate. Alcohol was used as a cutting aid. We ended this hand work using 3 micron paper. I believe we have a couple of "firsts" here in meteoritics.

I have another meteorite which might be of interest to you. It could be something very important for Dr. Ehlmann to obtain for research, trading material, and for material for graduate student projects: It is a large, uncut portion of the Colony, Oklahoma carbonaceous chondrite weighing 759g. I am asking the same per gram price for this as I obtained from the British Museum for a similar specimen of it a couple of years ago. At \$8.66 per gram, this specimen comes to \$6,572.94. Preliminary work was done by John Wasson and Alan Rubin, and published in "Meteoritics" on June 30, 1985. Alan Rubin tells me that Colony is perhaps the most significant meteorite find of recent years. By the way, this was a joint venture between Harvey Nininger and myself.

My wife and I send you our best regards.

Yours sincerely,



Jim Westcott

JW/aw