

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM  
WASHINGTON 25. D. C.

March 19, 1962

Mr. Oscar E. Monnig  
29 Chelsea Drive  
Fort Worth 15, Texas

Dear Oscar:

We have about completed our study of the Harleton, Texas meteorite, which chemically and mineralogically is identical to the Bruderheim, Canada fall.

In my discussion of the morphology of this specimen I conclude that this is only a fragment of a larger object. Something large must have broken high in the air and then the piece we possess retained enough velocity to carry on to the final end point. But even this portion broke off other pieces along the way because there are two rough places on it where small chunks came off.

The observers from whom I got the mass stated they heard an explosion and saw the burst before it fell. However, I feel that there must have been a greater burst and that many small pieces or possibly some large ones came down elsewhere to the West. When you took off in the search of this stone, did you interview people along the way? I wonder if you have any notes on the observations of the Harleton fall that I could use in the description, due credit for which will be given you.

In my efforts to obtain the Harleton stone from its owners and get back home, I did not have enough time to interview anyone about the fall. Thus, I would like very much to learn what you obtained to check it against my observations.

Did you receive a letter from the Museum acknowledging and accessioning your gift of the Bells, Texas meteorite? Since it is on record, I recommend that you claim it as tax deductible on your income tax return. This will help defray your field expenses.

Give my regards to Juanita and Mr. Morse.

Cordially yours,

*Ed.*

E. P. Henderson  
Associate Curator  
Division of Mineralogy  
and Petrology