



*National Museum of Natural History · Smithsonian Institution*

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560 • TEL. 202-

April 5, 1979

Mr. Oscar E. Monning  
29 Chelsea Drive  
Fort Worth, Texas 76134

Dear Oscar:

Enjoyed your letter of March 11 and regret the reply was so delayed. I am pleased that you are still doing a good job with the store but have an idea that filling that job is not as much fun as hunting meteorites. The more I read the papers and journals the more pleased I am that I am not involved with the managing humans. It is beginning to look like the people today want good pay, short working hours, more coffee breaks, office parties and double pay on their retirement after 10 years of service.

It seems the day has passed when we both jumped into action when a good fireball report came in. We have walked many miles and talked with a lot of people, but now and then we got a reward. Looking back on it, we had fun, and perhaps did a good job of generating public interest in these objects.

Now and then I get phone calls from people who recall visits to their area and they report having a meteorite. On two occasions the contacts lead to getting some meteorites from a local museum who had small collections of things they did not know, and wanted help. Have one such a contact who is about to send the samples they call meteorites and have us identify them, if possible.

Have been doing some work on iron meteorites and somewhat concerned with the thermal changes that take place in irons after heating to 600°C. for 6 hours. Also have got some interesting data on the hardness pattern in shocked meteorites.

Have learned that your collection of meteorites has gone to the Texas Christian University. As you possibly know I had a better home in mind for your collection and I feel certain that it would have been to your advantage to have given that more consideration. But I dare say you still have a reasonable number of meteorites at home. Sorry that I was not a better "Billy Graham" in getting converts, but as you know there are some sinners who will never be saved.

Have not been attending many meetings because my one ear is not as good as it was, and there is nothing worse than attending a lecture and not hearing about 15 to 40 % of the things that are said. But I do get to the office every day and stay until about noon.

Sorry that you are not going back and forth to N.Y. anymore because I enjoyed your stop offs in our city. So how about making another trip up this way.

Think Roy has taken up the Harriman matter with you. Roy discussed that matter with me sometime ago.

Oscar, I done want our contacts to end and I hope you are well and that your good luck will continue. Kindest regards.

Cordially,

*Ed*

E. P. Henderson  
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EPH/cbs