

1948, August 25.

Dear Dr. Henderson:

The synthetic stone arrived safely some days ago, and I appreciate your trouble. I paid \$75 for it, or about \$2.50 a carat, which is about an over-the-counter retail price now, I'd think. So I don't figure I was hurt, as I liked the looks of the gem. At least I didn't do any worse than the purchasers of the recent Norton County, Kansas, stone meteorite!

When I asked you about the method of identifying the gem, I was by no means planning to do it myself. I was just wondering how definitive your determination could be, from sp. gr., refraction, etc. In short, can you make an absolute pronouncement in such a case, or is it only really a pretty sound scientific judgment?

I will work with you on the Harriman iron business, but don't make me promise just when I'll find time to box up this iron and ship it to you. It weighs about 67 pounds, and is much subject to oxidation from lawrencite oozing. Shortly after we got it I cleaned it off thoroughly with a wire brush and alcohol, and then lacquered it, but all to no avail, for after a few years it was again in bad shape. That is one reason I hate to cut it--I know the slices will deteriorate speedily.

I was talking to Mr. Robert Brown of our group of amateurs about your letter, commenting on the similarity of the iron analyses you spoke of making. He thought that one possible factor accounting for such similarity is that many of the really old irons still surviving must be of some class that is very stable (lacking in lawrencite), and presumably many of these stable irons are of similar chemical composition. For example, I don't think our Harriman would have lasted in the Alaska placer deposits!

By the way, what do you know about this scheme of certain Alaskans to sell gold (dust or nuggets) to purchasers in the states at \$48 an ounce? I read about it when in the East in June, and ads are now appearing in papers here. It seems to be quite legal if anybody wants to pay more than the \$35 Treasury price, but you couldn't export it and would take your chance whether it would ever be worth that much in an open market.

Sincerely,