

US Nat Museum

1948, July 10.

Dear Mr. Henderson:

I recently took a flier and bought a gem from a boy here; he got it in Germany during the war, the story being that it was taken out of a house (private residence), where it was found in a safe. This was supposed to have been near Berlin, and Magdeburg was mentioned. One never knows how <sup>much</sup> to believe of such a pedigree.

If I sent it to you, could you identify it for me? It is a clear light blue--what I'd call a baby blue. It seems to be about 30 carats and is cut pretty deep to bring out the color, and rather highly faceted. It is not a typical aquamarine color and I've not seen a topaz like it. My guess is that it is a synthetic. It is not the right blue for most sapphires.

Mr. Morse and I spent last week end on an errand for Nininger. His "Saturday Evening Post" article had brought him a report of a meteorite from Haskell, Texas, which he asked me to get for him. It turned out to be an old stone of about 80 pounds, found in plowing (first breaking the sod) in 1909 or 1910. It is moderately well preserved and substantially complete; a lost piece spalled off one side probably represents no more than two or three pounds at the most. We spent about a day and a half canvassing all other farmers within a mile to 3 miles of the point of find, showing them this rock and urging them to be on the lookout for others, but there are no reports of any others having been noticed.

I have not broken off or checked any of this in detail, but believe it is a chondrite, with originally at least some light interior areas. Nininger will probably see it and share it with us, but I leave this entirely to him. I do not think he would have any objection to my giving you these facts, but it might be better if you kept them semi-confidential for the time being.

Yours sincerely,