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1973 Feb. 4

Dear Carlton:

I did not mean to be coy about the meteorite I mentioned in my last letter. It was in the effects of a former German professor at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, Dr. J. E. Hawkins.

His widow called Dr. Bronaugh of their geology department, suggesting that he come look over a considerable collection of mostly Indian artifacts that Hawkins had assembled over the years by frequent personal field trips which he apparently took as a matter of outdoor exercise. This seems to have been a consuming avocation with him. The widow thought Baylor might want some of the items for their museum or for class work in courses touching on archeology.

Among the items Bronaugh immediately spotted this meteorite. He recognized it at once because he is familiar with meteorites to some extent, having once before identified one in a box of rocks brought to him in West Texas (I believe this was the Crosbyton, Texas stone.) At that time Bronaugh was with the University of Texas, where there had been a resurgence of interest in meteorites at the time of the Texas Centennial in 1936.

I had made a lecture on meteorites at Baylor shortly before the time Bronaugh saw the meteorite, and he at once cued me in on it and sent me some pictures, one of which I enclose; it need not be returned. As noted thereon, the object weighs 10 lbs. 10 oz. and is more brownish and less gray than the photo shows.

Sixteen letters, several phone calls and four months later I have been absolutely unable to establish when, where or how this was found. It is not even known whether Hawkins found it himself or got it thru a student collector. The family knows absolutely nothing about it. A brother-in-law and one acquaintance knew of its existence but nothing more. A good guess is that it was found near Turkey, Texas, before 1950. It looks relatively fresh, has some primary crust and is well marked with thumbmarks.