

1960, July 17

Dr. E. P. Henderson,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Henderson:

A local lady brought me a probable meteorite found by her brother, one J. Ralph Jackson of Holliday, Texas. So far I am told only that he is a fossil collector and found this in Rattlesnake Canyon north of Holliday. He is said to have wanted me to have it; I am writing him for confirming details.

Holliday is just southeast of Wichita Falls, Texas, which is some 125 miles NW of here. The town of Holliday is in Archer County, Texas, but the locality of the find is presumably across the nearby county line and on up in Wichita County, Texas.

I am practically sure this is a meteorite, but of course one cannot say absolutely until an area is ground thereon and a test made for nickel and interior etch figures.

I could do this in a crude sort of way but there is so little material available, since the piece weighs only 12.7 grams, that I am sending it all to you with this proposition:

would you be willing to grind this down on a small area, say the fairly flat spot on the squarish end of the somewhat convex side, make a nickel analysis from the grindings, and etch the exposed interior to determine whether it is a meteorite and if so the Widmanstätten structure? Some right-angled features of the piece make me guess a set of lines running at 90° to each other will be exposed--or maybe it's one of your pet hexahedrites!

I would like to have the entire piece back save for the minimum amount of material it is thus necessary to remove for analysis and classification. The classification would be of special interest to see if there is any relationship to the Wichita, Texas, iron, or the famous Red River iron. Probably not. There is also the ever present danger this is misplaced Canyon Diablo.

Don E. Moring