

1947, Sep. 11

Dear Eugene:

Nininger writes as follows about

Brady: This is a well-preserved, nearly complete stone. Crust shows very slight staining and is of the dull black variety of crust.

A polished face of about 4 sq. in. shows a gray interior, richly chondritic, with both spherical and fragmental chondrules which are mainly the same as matrix (one small black one). They range in size from 5 mm. to microscopic. One fragment is of the conspicuously grated variety.

Metallic grains somewhat less than average in abundance, vary greatly in size and distribution, very irregular in shape. Much like Colby, Wisconsin. Sulphide grains very irregularly distributed. One area of 2 sq. cm. exceptionally rich in sulphide and matrix stained to a deep brown color.

Chondrules break with the matrix, takes fair polish. Veined with thin black vein material. Should be classed as veined intermediate chondrite.

I make no claim on territory because I've done little work on it. I hope you have luck.

I think I asked Nininger the point-blank question whether he thought his stone might be part of the 1917 fall, but apparently he did not want to take a position. I happen to know from talking to him that he thinks judging the age of a stone very tricky and uncertain business. Offhand, from the way he describes this one, I'd think that it might be even more recent than 1917, as I believe some 20 years would produce more rusting or brown coloration in the crust than he describes. I would say it is certainly possible, however, that this is a piece of the 1917 fall. I would say it is only 50% probable. I was really expecting this to be a very old stone, which would definitely rule out the possibility of any relationship to the 1917 fireball, and that is not the case.

Yours sincerely,