

1955, July 31.

Mrs. Carl G. Hinrichs,
3101 Hawthorne Blvd.,
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mrs. Hinrichs:

Thank you for your letter of July 19th. I thoroughly realize that Mr. Hinrichs' loss and the manner of it were a great shock to you, and I hesitated about even writing at all. I can certainly understand why it would be some time before you could get around to replying.

I can understand also that due to weather conditions this would be no time to get into your attic or even the rooms at the laboratory to search for the meteorites and get them assembled, and that can all very well wait until fall. We can check again with each other about September or October. There is certainly no hurry on my part.

The 73 small specimens to which I referred are those listed on pages 100-101 of the Hinrichs book "Amana Meteorites". One of these (no. 30, 1016 grams) weighs about 2 pounds and another about 1 pound, but all the rest only about 6 ounces or much less each, so that these are smaller pieces. I am not sure that all of these were at the laboratory, but I know some of them were. If I recall aright after a good many years, they were in a room to the left as one entered, and at the front of the building on the first floor. They were in a sort of portable case perhaps 12" x 24", and I recall distinctly that the glass cover for the case was a specially made piece curved at one place.

I recall this because after we had looked at the specimens and I was putting the cover back on, it slipped and the glass was cracked and broke. I felt very bad at my awkwardness and apologized to Mr. Hinrichs and offered to pay for a new piece, but he very kindly seemed to think nothing of it and assured me everything was all right.

In addition to the 73 pieces mentioned, Mr. Hinrichs seemed to have had several larger pieces of the Amana meteorites totalling 19.4 kilograms (about 42½ pounds) and the one "White Crust" stone of 22.8 kilos or 50 pounds.

These are mentioned at the top of page 98 of his book. The White Crust stone is the one I think came from Texas.

It is of importance that the identity of the various pieces be established as well as possible, and therefore please be careful not to throw away any labels. Leave everything as nearly intact as you can. Maybe I could make a preliminary trip by there some time during the fall and help you in finding and identifying these. I would be willing to do that.

The two stones in your book case that are not black but almost white, something like rock crystal, may be just that; they do not sound like any meteorite. My guess is that they are some kind of other rock or mineral entirely that interested Mr. Hinrichs or his father.

If there is any correspondence about these meteorites, especially the "White Crust" one, I would be most anxious to get it. Such papers would be necessary in the case of the "White Crust" to establish where it came from. I could never get Mr. Hinrichs to tell me, tho at one time I understood it was from near the town of Lampasas, Texas.

I once made a special trip to Lampasas and made many inquiries there about a possible meteorite which had been sent to Iowa. As nearly as I could determine after the passage of so many years, it actually did not come from there at all originally, but was found near the Texas town of Kaufman, and taken from there to Lampasas.

Therefore, if, in cleaning out files and papers you find any correspondence relating to any of these meteorites, I hope you will save it so that I can use it to establish something about these various unanswered questions.

The typical black-crusting Amana meteorites need not worry you shy. They are easily identifiable and even if some have lost their labels I could ultimately check their weights and trace them thru the book. So don't go to any work on them. In fact, it will not be necessary for you to do any work on them except to find them and keep them intact just as they are.

Yours sincerely,

P. S. Altho I type, you will observe I am no expert and the typewriter is somewhat out of adjustment on the left margin--please forgive the defects.