

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

February 4, 1957

Mr. Oscar E. Monnig  
1010 Morningside Drive  
Fort Worth 4, Texas

Dear Oscar:

The meteorite from Hinrichs collection arrived and I have given it about all the attention one can give a stony meteorite without sectioning it. It is a chondrite and the metal contains nickel, there is troilite present but I would like to polish a section. To save material it would be best to section it and then polish the surface on the main mass. The portion cut off can be used for something. The value of the meteorite will not be harmed.

This stone resembles the Tadjera sample in our collection only ours has one polished surface. If this meteorite fell in Texas and you can satisfy yourself that the evidence is good, work hard on this find. Since it is indistinguishable from Tadjera it would be smart to make a search and compare the other stones that have similar properties.

The white crust is essentially calcium carbonate and definitely is of terrestrial origin. A little bit was removed from about three places and tested for sulfide but got no positive reaction. Oldhamite, troilite and sulfides that decompose in dilute acid will darken a silver coin. I placed this powder on a bright quarter applied some dilute HCl and the silver did not darken. Once I put a bit of troilite with the crust and repeated the test and that darkened the surface so possibly that is why they assumed this is calcium sulfide. I am confident that this is a secondary terrestrial product.

The present specimen weighs 427 grams and I promise not to do anything more with it until I have been advised to. This will be returned to you as soon as you reach some decision about what more I should do about it.

The attached typed copy of the translation and your original copy may be important to save.

With kindest regards, I remain

Cordially yours,

*Ed.*

E. P. Henderson  
Associate Curator  
Division of Mineralogy  
and Petrology

Enclosure