

THE KIRBYVILLE, TEXAS, METEORITE

In the forenoon of a day in 1905, a man living about 45 or 50 miles northeast of Beaumont, near Kirbyville, in Jasper County, Texas, saw a meteorite fall within 20 or 30 feet of him. He was operating a cane mill at the time, as a part of the work of making syrup. The fall was accompanied by a great noise, like the rumbling of a heavy wagon being rapidly drawn. The man dug it up immediately, and found that it was still warm; it had buried itself about 16 inches in a sandy soil.

The man referred to was the grandfather of Mr. Gordon Grimes of Ft. Worth, Texas, and Gordon's aunt (-----Morgan?) now lives on the same farm. There has been no change of ownership of the meteorite, which has been in this family's possession all along, and locked up in a cabinet most of the time. Thru Mr. Grimes, the writer has just obtained the meteorite, which is a small stone of 97.7 grams weight. Details of the fall are being secured by Mr. Grimes, and the writer will check the matter by a personal visit as soon as possible.

The specimen is a beautiful one, marvellously preserved. Apparently it has never been chopped or worked on. About 4 sq. cm. of the crust, and perhaps a very small part of the original meteorite, is missing; the major breaks are on two corners, with the crust along the edge joining these also missing.\* The crust is typically black and shines beautifully, especially at what was apparently the rear side in flight, where it is thickest and blackest.

\* All the breaks are on part toward the front in flight, & probably resulted directly or indirectly from the ground impact.

The general shape of the object is that of an irregular, truncated pyramid. The base of this pyramid, <sup>about 4x4 cm.,</sup> is by no means flat, but has a marked, tho small, knob in the center, several ridges, and several well marked areas where material has been removed during the fusing process--"pits" in a very broad sense. The base was apparently the brustseite, as the flow lines seem to originate on it, pointing more or less towards the little central knob, and "spilling" beautifully over the edges and back along the sides of the pyramid.

Two of the pyramid sides are roughly in planes at right angles to each other, but the other two are combined in a gentle, sweeping curve. The truncated top of the pyramid is rectangular, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  x 2 cm., concave, well marked with small pits, and beautifully encrusted. This was apparently to the rear in flight, tho much smaller than the assumed brustseite.

Where the crust is thin, as on the forward side (pyramid base) it has a brownish cast in color, perhaps a result of handling or deterioration. The exposed <sup>interior</sup> surface is mostly dirtied thru handling. It is obviously a gray in general in original color, and casual examination with a small 10x magnifier seems to show tiny black chondrules in a white groundmass. Sparkling flecks, probably metallic, are also revealed. Showing thru the crust are numerous tiny yellowish to brown globules, presumably olivine. The interior seems to be relatively hard.

Oscar E. Monnig,

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