KIRBYVILLE

Forgotten In A Bureau Drawer

Fell November 12, 1906	Jasper County, Texas
Achondrite, Eucrite	
TKW: 97.7 grams	One stone

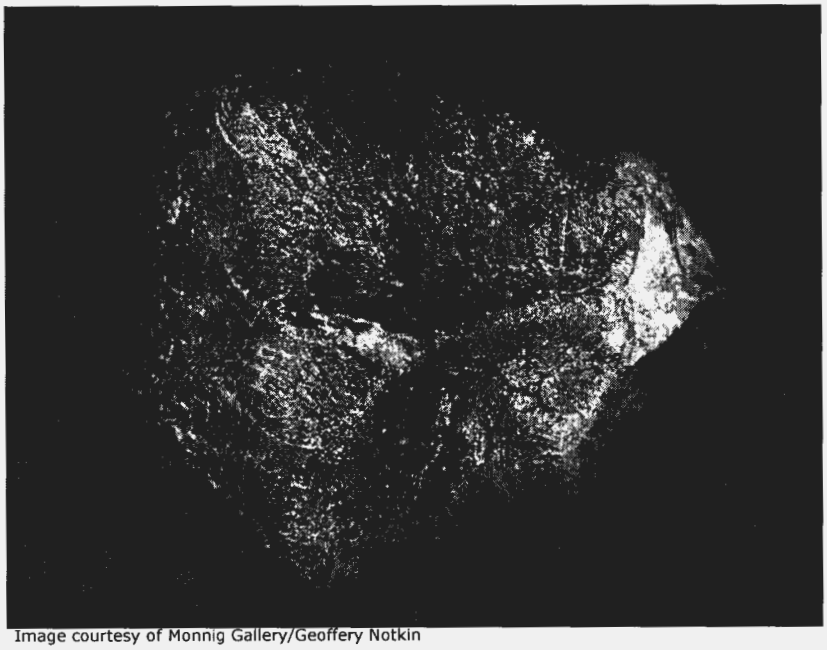

Image courtesy of Monnig Gallery/Geoffery Notkin

The photo above shows the remaining main mass of 63 grams and the thin flow lines of the rich brown fusion crust radiating away from the nose of this beautiful oriented meteorite. (~ one inch or 2.5 cm. in longest dimension)

In 1932, Oscar Monnig and his astronomy group contacted Harvey Nininger about how to locate fallen meteorites, and borrowed two small specimens to show others. They exhibited the meteorites in a bank display window in Fort Worth, Texas, and were rewarded for their efforts a few weeks later when a small freshly fallen stone was brought in. The meteorite had lain forgotten in a bureau drawer in Kirbyville, Texas since soon after it had fallen in 1906. The stone had apparently fallen within ten feet of a man in East Texas who picked it up and took it home. Monnig recalled his first look of the stone, writing that I "*could have fallen through the steps...because he handed me one of the most beautiful meteorites I had ever seen.*"

Kirbyville is classified as an eucrite, a calcium-rich differentiated rock containing little or no metal. The name "eucrite" was proposed by Gustav Rose in 1863 from the Greek word meaning "clearly determinable". Eucrites are the most common achondrite meteorite and are easily recognized by their shiny-black fusion crust and grayish-white, finely crystalline interior; a mixture of pigeonite pyroxene and anorthosite feldspar. Chemically and texturally, they are similar to terrestrial basalts and represent ancient shallow intrusives and lava flows on or near the surface of an asteroid.