

1961, March 30

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Thanks very much for your letter of Feb. 23 returning the map with the marked location of the best ascertainable point of find of the Utah meteorite from near Moab.

It may interest you to know that I donated a couple of slices off one end of this to the United States National Museum. They etched these and the end of the main mass returned to me, and the pattern is that of a "coarse octahedrite", WHICH LOOKS sufficiently different to me from that of the meteorites from the Arizona crater fall to convince me it is a separate fall. I believe Dr. Henderson of the U. S. Nat. feels the same way, but naturally these "experts" won't stick a neck out as freely as you or I might!

The main piece is now on display here at the Children's Museum.

I did run into a disquieting story of a meteorite similar to this which disappeared from an exhibit in Utah some years ago and has not been found. When I find a letter I got on this from a Dr. Clyde Hardy I am going to quote it to you. While I don't think it probable, I still have a lurking dread that the story of this find may not be 100% bona fide, and I am wondering if this could be that old stolen meteorite. This is said to you in complete confidence.

Thanks for the Ford booklet with the story of the Sylacauga meteorite that hit the woman. I got in on this matter originally and was finally offered the meteorite for \$1,000, but there is a limit to what these things are worth. There had been a legal fight between the man who owned the house and the woman tenant whom it hit, and I imagine they had \$500 wrapped up in it by that time. At any rate, I passed, and some unknown donor bought it for the University over there. As a meteorite, it was a very common variety.

Did you decide the piece you located in the hands of Mr. H. V. Schultz was false? I still hope to see you one of these days and maybe check that specimen.

Sincerely,