

1960, May 19

Mr. Porter Rankin,
P.O. Box 1024,
Midland, Texas.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

This acknowledges receipt of the iron meteorite you phoned and wrote me about. Thanks for the good explicit information and pedigree, which is what we always try to get for every meteorite.

I was in Waco at our store there the day it came, and yesterday just got to examine it and work on the cut surface a little. I want to smooth this down and get a set of etch figures for identification.

I am not doubting you or the information you furnished, but I have to be sure this is not a piece from the Arizona Crater, commonly called "Canyon Diablo", or from Odessa. Such pieces are in wide circulation, and it is one of the penalties of paying liberally for meteorites that occasionally some one tries to pull a "fast one" on me. A little Bohemian girl in Central Texas tried some years ago to convince me she had found some irons that I learned she had bought (from the Henbury, Australia, crater), and I've had two other such cases tried on me.

Please take no offense at this as I am simply in a "caveat emptor" position. I am willing to accede to your \$400 price as soon as I convince myself this is a new find. I can do that from the etch figures, I believe.

Yours sincerely,