

1952 Dec. 24.

Mr. J. A. Shelby,  
Route 2, Box 139,  
Lampasas, Texas.

Dear Mr. Shelby:

Please accept my apologies and belated thanks for the rocks you sent in last summer, and for my failure to answer you sooner.

I am sorry to say these are not meteorites. The very irregularly shaped one, while stained brown on the outside, is really a white laminated limestone, as you can see on the inside surfaces I ground on it.

The other two pieces are mostly "hematite", an iron oxide that grinds to a reddish powder. The smaller piece is almost pure; the larger one has more sand grains mixed with it. Such pieces are heavy and dark colored like many old stone meteorites, but they are of earthly origin. On the ground surfaces, they do look shiny and almost metallic, but they are not really metallic nor iron, nor do they show any metallic iron specks, where the carborundum wheel has exposed the inside. A meteorite would likely show some silvery-looking iron.

I am sending these back to you, and refunding your postage. Let me hear from you again if you find other pieces you think are meteorites. If I get by that way, I'll look you up.

Sincerely,

This is #1,  
the largest,  
belonging  
to you.

Smallest one;  
J.S.Brown's

Middlesized one;  
H.R.Shelby's