

A NEW METEORITE FROM BALDWIN, MISS.

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The writer has recently received from Mr. Allen Cox of Baldwin, Mississippi, a small and very perfectly encrusted meteoric stone weighing 345 grams. It was accompanied by a letter from which the following extracts are made:

"On the 2d of this month (i.e. Feb. 1922) a meteor fell on our farm and came near hitting one of my negroes on the head. It fell in the day time with quite a good deal of fuss and buried itself in the ground and he was afraid to touch it; but took me to the place and I got it and now have it."

The present writer submitted the stone to Dr. George P. Merrill of the United States National Museum and allowed him to cut from it a thin section from which he prepared the following description and very kindly offered it for inclusion in this article.

The chondritic structure is quite indistinct and the single thin section examined shows the usual fine granular ground with irregularly outlined areas of larger granules the evident residual of chondrules partially obliterated through metamorphism. The determined silicate minerals are olivine and an orthorhombic pyroxene with small, interstitial areas of a clear, colorless doubly refracting mineral which in a few instances shows plainly the twinning striae characteristic of a plagioclase feldspar. The cut surface shows numerous black veins, some of which are mere lines, but in one instance 4-5 mm. in diameter enclosing fragments of the silicates, the whole imparting a somewhat breccia structure to the stone.

Under the prevailing system the stone would be classified as a veined white chondrite.

This stone, and the doubtfully meteoric iron of Oktibeha represents the sole contribution of the state of Mississippi to our knowledge of the distribution of these very interesting bodies.

The stone is in the Vanderbilt University collections. A cast of it and a thin section are in the National Museum.

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