

Mines Branch Investigation Report IR 71-32

EXAMINATION OF SAMPLES FROM METALLIC MATERIAL
FROM LES ECUREUILS, QUEBEC

by

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SUMMARY

Samples have been examined from a large piece of ferrous material, found at Les Ecureuils, Quebec, in 1960, and thought by some investigators to be extra-terrestrial.

The piece was found to have two major components, one magnetic and one non-magnetic. The former was a 0.2% carbon, low-chromium steel containing boron; the latter was a low-chromium austenitic manganese steel. Microstructures and hardness measurements were consistent with the analyses.

From the shape of the piece, the composition, and structures of its constituents, it is concluded that the piece was most probably produced in a foundry by dumping excess metal from ladles into a hollow in sand, a process known as "pigging".

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