15608
Unusual Basalt
1.2 grams

Figure 1: Photomicrographs of 15608,6 by C Meyer @ 30x.
Figure 2: Photomicrographs of thin section 15608,5 by C Meyer @ 150x.
Figure 3: Photo of thin section 15608.6 @ 150x.
Introduction
15608 was collected by rake from the Terrace on the rim of Hadley Rille (see section on 15614). It is a basalt with unusual texture interpreted as the result of rapid cooling at the edge of a lava flow. Hey, guys, it deserves some study.

Petrography
Ryder (1985) describes this particle as the chilled margin of a lava flow. It consists of numerous skeletal pigeonite microphenocrysts in a finer-grained variolitic groundmass of pyroxene, plagioclase and opaque minerals (figure 2 and 3). One edge of the particle is a beautiful example of “comb layering”. Fine parallel crystals of pyroxene project towards the edge. Beautiful radial clusters have formed around nucleation centers.

There are clusters of olivine crystals in the center.

Chemistry
None reported

Processing
There are three thin sections of this particle.

Figure 4: Euhedral olivine with chromite inclusions in 15608. Meyer
Figures 5 and 6 illustrate radiate (above) and comb layering (below) textures in 15608.