

1955, Oct. 10.

Dr. E. P. Henderson,
United States National Museum,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Henderson:

As to the Boaz, Alabama, iron, I would like to proceed along the lines suggested in your kind letter of last April 18th on this subject. On this basis, you were going to let me pay for the cutting, and then I will trade you the piece you want to keep for sometime you are willing to exchange. Any suggestions?

I can see that this arrangement of my paying for the cutting is rather burdensome to you and I will not force in on you again. I appreciate your doing it that way this time.

In addition to the slice you are to keep, I want one for John Farrell and one for the Mr. Pinckney in Alabama who identified the iron for us and procured it. That will make three slices in all, and I will have the end pieces. I would like to have both these polished and etched but if you have any objection please polish and etch at least one of them.

I do think it would be well to photograph this iron again before cutting. Also, I suggest you look at what is normally the upper side of it in a good light; I thought at times I could see some suggestion of a sort of rippling that might indicate original crustal signs of orientation. This is dubious, however, considering the obvious considerable age and oxidation of the piece in general.

Yours sincerely,

P. S. This iron weighed in at 1¼ pounds, one ounce. I retained some of the rusty crust which came off later and the present weight is probably a little less.