

1955, March 28.

Dr. E. P. Henderson,  
U. S. National Museum,  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Dr. Henderson:

It has been over a month since I got your letter of Feb. 25, but in that time we have completed our annual audit, paid the government our first half installment of income tax and done many other things which the world considers of more importance than working on meteorites. Of the tax, which amounted to over \$100,000.00, you will probably get 10 cents, for work in the U. S. National Museum!

I am sending you a set of photographs of the iron from Boaz, Alabama (allegedly from Hope, Ark.). There is little unusual about the form and the oxidation is so evident that I cannot believe it is anything like a recent fall. It may never be possible to establish much about the correct place of find. My Birmingham collaborator, Mr. C. C. Pinckney, has re-worked the story and there is still insistence that it fell near Hope, Ark., breaking a plow, but for which fact it would not have been found. It seems there is also some tale to the effect that there were two pieces, one burying itself pretty well.

Your letter is agreeable except that I don't like to swap a slice for the cutting work. I have plenty of money, Mr. Henderson, but not plenty of meteorites. It is far easier to earn money than it is to find meteorites. Can't I pay you for the cutting and swap you the slice for something else?--maybe a slice of the Sylacauga.

I have no preference as to direction or mode of cutting, and you may have carte blanche on that. I did test the iron for nicekl since I last wrote you, and got a positive result. I was a wee bit suspicious because there is one slightly porous looking small area on the iron.

I appreciated your review of the nearby Oklahoma irons. You can take Meers, Okla. off your list. You have forgotten that I made two trips up there with the information you kindly gave me on this iron several years ago. I found the original owner of the sample sent to Merrill in 1913--an old, dirty smelly prospector sort of bum who still had some 8 or 10 samples in a burlap sack under his bed. They had allegedly been found near Lawton, Okla., their presence being as usual inexplicable. But they definitely looked like artificial iron, and I managed to borrow one piece and test it. Then I sent it to you and you checked it. We both concluded it was non-meteoritic and I had to return it to the owner, who had made me give him a receipt and take a blood-oath to that effect.

Have you asked Nininger about the McAlester iron? I believe that is the only way you will get the facts on it. I never have. But twice I have been thru McAlester and have inquired about it to no avail. Once we ran an article in the paper there, and they were very friendly to us. I talked to a local geologist, too. I could never get any trace of it.

I was glad to hear that you got the second Sylacauga stone. I figured you would when I heard it had been submitted to some one connected with your institution shortly after it was picked up. I never even try to get in on one when I hear some other competent collector or institution is already on the trail. But I have been tempted to try for the original rock by writing the lawyers involved. Do you know what their best bonafide offer is? I naturally greatly discounted the newspaper tales of \$5,000.00.

Yours sincerely,