

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

June 21, 1966

Mr. Robert Maringer
Battelle Memorial Institute
505 King Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43201

Dear Bob:

Your letter of May 10 has needed a reply for some time now. I had hoped I would have something to say about the Tishomingo meteorite that Dick Bucheit did such a wonderful job on. Apparently, the owner is holding out for the total gold in Fort Knox. He knows he has a meteorite, but we hoped he would be reasonable. To our way of thinking his mental processes has become fixed at an unreasonably high figure. We will have to sit by until someone gives. If he knew all we know about that iron he would probably increase his price. We are hoping that a delay in publishing these findings will make him think we are not any more interested in his meteorite than any other one. Don't get me wrong because he has been offered a good price.

The Meteoritical Society will meet in Washington November 3-4. We hope you and some of your associates from Battelle will be here.

I have been working on the ataxites and find that there is a lot of interesting similarities among this group. Thus far, none have a structure like Tishomingo.

I have been organizing a display of the iron meteorites and this has shown that the published "dope" on ataxites is far out of date. There are several irons with nickel contents around 16% that are almost identical. They come from Africa, Chile, Mexico, U.S., and Australia, so if it's a shower their pieces got widely scattered. Since there are a few octahedrites with nickel content close to this range, we must consider that cooling rates are as important as percentages of nickel. The plissete areas in some octahedrites have about the composition and structure of the ataxites.

I am sorry that the Chile deal is stuck on dead center.

I don't think I shall be leaving the country any more this year, for I have more to do now than I can finish before December.

Best regards to your family. Why not give them a break this summer and come down to Washington.

Best wishes.

Cordially yours,



E. P. Henderson
Research Associate
Division of Meteorites

cc: Oscar Monnig