

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

February 19, 1968

Mr. Oscar E. Monning  
29 Chelsea Drive  
Fort Worth, Texas 76115

Dear Oscar:

You were correct, this specimen was photographed. I did recall the specimen but not the fact we photographed it, so that much of the job has been done.

Our experience with the specimen we have on the display is the Tishomingo meteorite is very stable. I can see no oxidization anyplace on the sample and the polished surface is still bright, about as good as it was when it was first made. Thus, there is no need of mounting this specimen in plastic.

I proposed cutting this meteorite along the line A-A' in the overlay enclosed. This is paralleled with the flat end, and in far enough to produce a polished surface possibly below the altered zone. However, since you suspect you may be able to talk him out of one of the portions of this iron why not make the cut about B-B'. By cutting here and assuming he becomes liberal and lets you have a portion for the effort you have put into this, you will get a better specimen.

But Oscar, if we cut it along the line B-B' and if he suggests you should have made the cut at a different place, tell him you will get that done, and return the specimen to us for cutting.

I would rather cut this specimen along one of the directions indicated than to attempt to section it more or less parallel to the flat side shown in negative m 1339.

Anyway this iron, if cut, should give us important information on the structure. Our faces would be red if we described this large meteorite after just sectioning the small specimen and then later cuts would show most of the mass had a different microstructure.

Roy Clarke suggests we cut along either of these suggested lines but at a slight angle. This would give two portions with each one having a slightly larger polished surface. This could be done with no extra trouble.

I am glad to learn that Juanita's finger is O.K. I am told that those infections are painful. I still think it would be a good idea to visit Washington so don't push this suggestion lightly to one side.

With kindest regards to both of you, I remain,

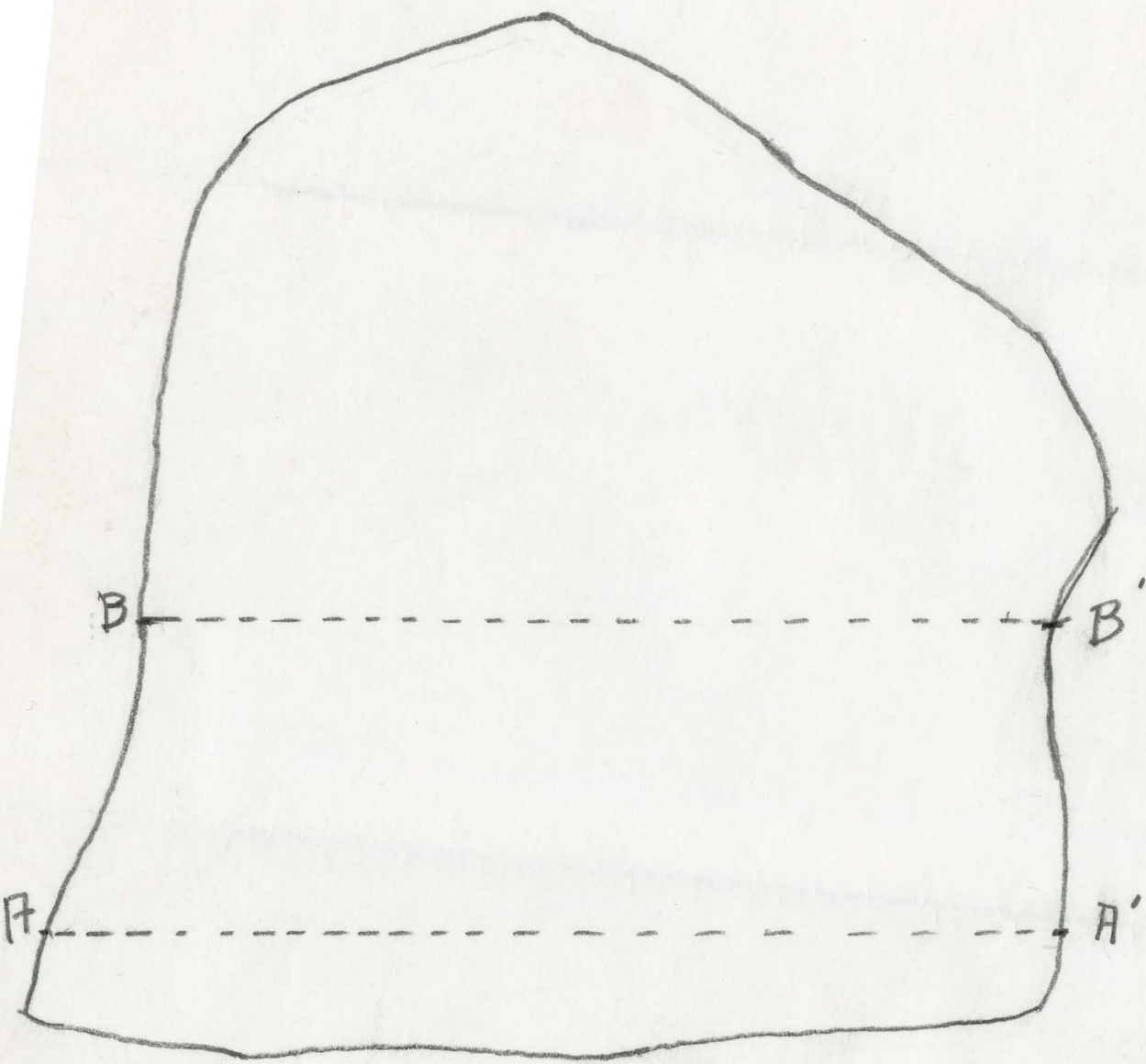
Cordially yours,



E. P. Henderson  
Curator Emeritus  
Division of Meteorites

P.S. I will not cut the meteorite until I get final instructions but please write soon as its difficult to delay this job when I am so eager to see the texture of the meteorite.





M 1339 a TISHOMINGO.