

1969 , June 22

Dr. E. P. Henderson,  
U. S. National Museum,  
Washington, D. C. 20560

Dear Dr. Henderson:

At last I have closed the deal on the Tishomingo's. Part of the final agreement was that one half of each of the smaller pieces be retained by the finder.

He already has half of the smallest piece, which I had had cut before you saw and obtained from me for examination when you were here the other half of that piece. This is the one you have now, which it was apparently thought at one time I had given the Smithsonian, but you will recall I wrote promptly pointing out that it was not to be taken as an accession but merely was on loan. Now the hour of truth has arrived; would you want to return it to me at this juncture?

Then you have the piece of about 5½ pounds which you cut one end of for examination; you wanted to go a little below the surface revealed to check the presence of a suspected troilite nodule. I must ask you whether you would be willing to cut this so as to leave a piece of about half, to be returned to the finder. Actually, the whole thing should be returned to me and then I would send half of it to the finder and keep the other half. The matter is complicated because you have cut it into two unequal pieces, as I understand. Write me how you prefer to handle this.

Mason told me you might be off to South America for a trip; I hope you have a wonderful time. Spring weather was rainy many weekends here and I didn't get to make as many meteorite expeditions as I had hoped.

Sincerely,