

1971, May 22

Dr. E. P. Henderson,  
National Museum of Natural History,  
Smithsonian Institution,  
Washington, D. C. 20560

Dear Ed:

I am highly disressed at our inability to trace the 5½ pound Tishomingo piece.

Here are copies showing I expressed it to you Jan. 24, 1968; there is a letter and the express receipt. There were some intervening letters from you on Feb. 7 and from me on Feb. 10; then your reply of Feb. 19 and my answer of Feb. 22; and finally your letter of Feb. 29 and my answer in early March, all discussing how to cut the piece. I assume you have all these in your files and am not sending copies.

I am enclosing a copy of your letter of Mar. 21, 1968 stating that you had cut and polished the piece, and another one April 2, 1968 discussing the matter further. Then here is a copy of a letter I wrote as late as June 22, 1969 in which I said you had the 5½ pound piece, and this is the last reference to it I can find.

In your Feb. 29, 1968 letter you quoted the weight of the main piece as 2,636 grams, and you said the two pieces you cut it into weighed 1410 and 1180 gms. I had asked about the amount of cutting loss and you quoted that as 47 grams, answering my curiosity.

Now, Ed, the Smithsonian is pretty particular about requiring receipts and unless you can find one there it is obvious that the two pieces are somewhere around the place, and I beg you with tears in my eyes to leave no stone (or iron) unturned until you have found them!

If you don't find it before you to Alaska, please sound a general alarm and have the hunt continued in your absence. I hope what I have furnished you will give you clues. I keep valuable specimens in the fireproof safe here at the store, and I have checked it and found nothing.

Sincerely,

Don E. Manning