1965, Nov. 6

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

Dear Dr. Henderson:

The mother of the boy who found the Tishomingo irons (note that superb ambituity) phoned me after I was in bed last night that she was visiting in Dallas and had brought the larger of the two little pieces with her in accordance with my request. I am expressing it to you tonight. I weighed it as 5 pounds 8 ounces but for the record you might re-weigh it before working on it as I think our scales are slightly in error.

I am now enclosing two selected slides in color showing the meteorites as we placed them in an attempted reconstruction. I think we were close to right on the two big ones, and the two little ones fit each other nicely. Where the two little ones would fit onto the two bigger ones was fairly indeterminate.

If these are not meteorites, then never again let it be said that anybody can identify one by inspection. I am sure you have thought of the fact that the little one(s) could represent a sort of single nodule or crystal, thus representing a homogeneous mass of uniform composition. I know it has always been the thesis that meterites cooled very slowly, but we may have to get away from that—perhaps some cooled rapidly. You know I used to read that they all cooled under tremendous pressures, but now that idea seems to be undergoing considerable modification in favor of milder pressures.

I would greatly appreciate a written statement of the dilemma you outlined to me over the phone the other day, with the several reasons your metallurgists give for questioning the origin of these masses. I am also still astounded at your first calling it an akite when it showed such definite tho very fine figures.

Sincerely,