1968, March

Dr. E. P. Henderson, United States National Museum, Washington, D C.

Dear Ed:

Thank you for the informative letter of Feb. 29 on the cutting of the Tishomingo piece, and the statistics on loss per square inch of cut. I used to wonder whether sawings cotld be save d for analysis but I suppose contamination from previous cuts would be most difficult to avoid.

I thoroughly understood your reasons for not cutting parallel to the flat sides, and it certainly makes no difference that the two halves are so slightly unequal.

I suggest you not encase either place in plastic until we have had a chance to discuss it further, and you certainly need not be in a hurry to return them.

I have made two canvasses of the neighborhood in efforts to get further pieces turned up but don't want to hullaballoo the matter any further till I get the mainpieces. It turns out that Mr. Whiteley did not own the land on which they were found, but only rented it. This critical strip has since been sold to another man. I'm sure he would not and could not claim anything, but the prior owners might, and I have to move cautiously.

Some sweet day tell me whe ther this meteorite could be said to be composed almost entirely of plessite or whether you are going to eschew forever giving a name to the material (not the structure!). We may just have to call it natural stainless steel!

Sincerely,