

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

February 29, 1968

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

Dear Oscar:

Thank you for your letter written from the store on George Washington's birthday.

The 2,636 gram sample of Tishomingo has been cut along the line B-B' and we only lost 47 grams in the cutting operation. When one calculates the area of the cut, the loss is about 8.27 grams per sq. inch. The surfaces which came off the saw are very smooth, so there will be little lost in the final finishing operations

It would have been rather difficult to make the cut parallel to the flat side of the specimen. We would have obtained one piece with a larger surface but the other would have been unattractive. The reason is the specimen is rather shallow and with a considerable curve, hence, it would be almost impossible to cut it down the middle and make attractive specimens.

I did my best to guess the line of cut so as to produce two equal halves but the pieces we have weighs 1410 and 1180 grams. However, if it becomes necessary to remove other slices from either of these pieces, this can be done without harming either specimen.

On this cut we uncovered a few small round inclusions, which I assume are troilite. I had wanted to locate another sizable troilite but luck was not with us. Its too early to tell if there are other inclusions but there seems to be no evidence of any sizable schreibersites.

The area of the exposed cut face is 5.68 sq. inches which almost doubles the area we have thus far examined in the Tishomingo iron, so, we will soon know if the martensite structure is more extensive than the small piece we examined first.

Both pieces are in the shop being polished and etched, and as soon as I have had a chance to examine these I will write and send a picture of its structure. At this moment we are concentrating our efforts on finishing just one of these end pieces, however, we will finish both and will be returning them soon.

I understand your idea of putting one of these pieces into plastic, it might save the specimen from being scratched up while it remains in private hands. We are hoping that you will find some way, short of armed robbery, whereby you can acquire the main mass.

Are you still opposed to going into the field in that area and making an attempt to locate some additional pieces?

We still hope that we can keep Washington quiet enough so that you folks will feel like making a visit here this spring.

Kindest personal regards,



E. P. Henderson
Curator Emeritus
Division of Meteorites