

1957, Dec. 4.

Dr. E. P. Henderson,
United States National Museum,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Henderson:

I continue to get some occasional irons from the shower at Deport, Texas, and once in a while a "false one" of artificial iron.

The other day one of these unlikely specimens came in, and I get a negative test for nickel so I returned it to the finder. However, a little section I etched on it did show a rather unfamiliar sort of pattern to me, so I thought I'd ask you to check me briefly.

I therefore enclose two little fragments that broke off while I was grinding a flat surface on the piece. These are of no value and need not be returned. I imagine you can look at them closely and pretty well make up your mind. The one with the light gray material bothered me as I couldn't find just where it came off the main piece.

I see some tiny gas bubble holes in these pieces and other earmarks of slag. I wish I had more skill and confidence in myself as a chemist, but this home-kitchen business is not too satisfactory! I always get a red color when I test for nickel with dimethylglyoxime, but a precipitate only where there is Ni. Should I always get that red color?

Sincerely,