

The History of Meteoritics and Key Meteorite Collections:

Fireballs, Falls and Finds

Edited by

G. J. H. McCall, A. J. Bowden and R. J. Howarth



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The History of Meteoritics and Key Meteorite Collections: Fireballs, Falls and Finds

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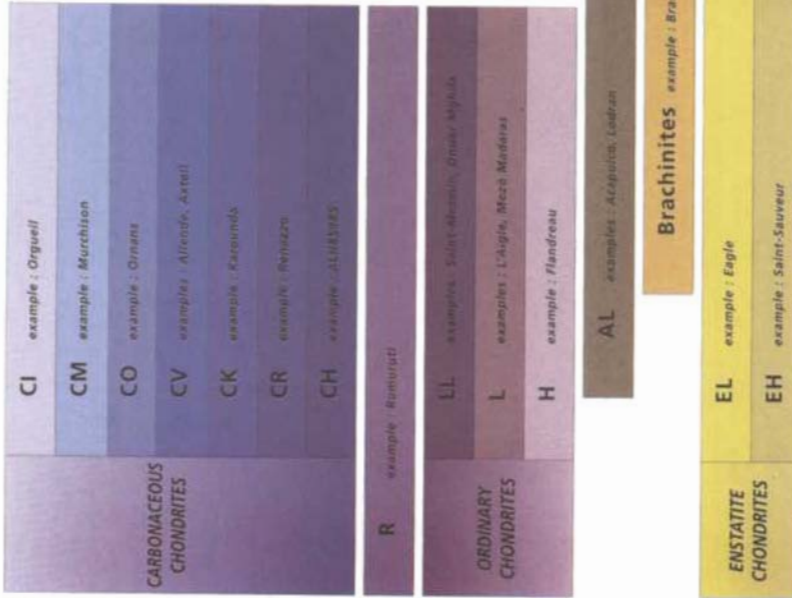
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Contents

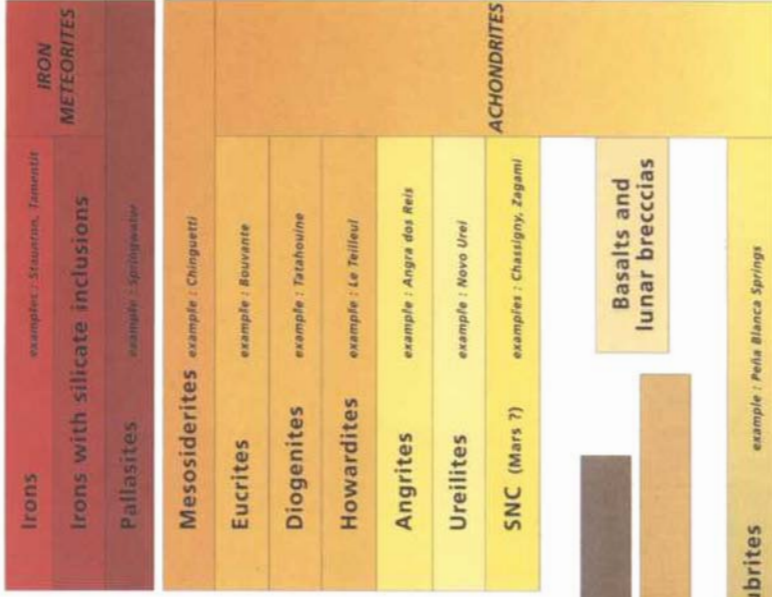
Foreword	ix
Acknowledgements	x
McCALL, G. J. H., BOWDEN, A. J. & HOWARTH, R. J. The history of meteoritics – overview	1
Early beginnings	
MARVIN, U. B. Meteorites in history: an overview from the Renaissance to the 20th century	15
GOUNELLE, M. The meteorite fall at L’Aigle and the Biot report: exploring the cradle of meteoritics	73
JANKOVIC, V. The end of classical meteorology, c. 1800	91
HOWARTH, R. J. Understanding the nature of meteorites: the experimental work of Gabriel-Auguste Daubrée	101
Key meteoritic collections	
BRANDSTÄTTER, F. History of the meteorite collection of the Natural History Museum of Vienna	123
GRESHAKE, A. History of the meteorite collection at the Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin	135
RUSSELL, S. & GRADY, M. M. A history of the meteorite collection at the Natural History Museum, London	153
CAILLET KOMOROWSKI, C. L. V. The meteorite collection of the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, France	163
CONSOLMAGNO, G. J. A brief history of the Vatican meteorite collection	205
IVANOVA, M. A. & NAZAROV, M. A. History of the meteorite collection of the Russian Academy of Sciences	219
CLARKE, R. S., JR, PLOTKIN, H. & MCCOY, T. J. Meteorites and the Smithsonian Institution	237
EBEL, D. S. History of the American Museum of Natural History meteorite collection	267

KOJIMA, H. The history of Japanese Antarctic meteorites	291
BEVAN, A. W. R. The Western Australian Museum meteorite collection	305
BEVAN, A. W. R. Desert meteorites: a history	325
Contemporary meteoritics	
McCALL, G. J. H. Chondrules and calcium–aluminium-rich inclusions (CAIs)	345
De LAETER, J. R. The history of meteorite age determinations	363
BOWDEN, A. J. Meteorite provenance and the asteroid connection	379
GRADY, M. M. The history of research on meteorites from Mars	405
BRUSH, S. G. Meteorites and the origin of the solar system	417
McCALL, G. J. H. Meteorite cratering: Hooke, Gilbert, Barringer and beyond	443
McCALL, G. J. H. The history of tektites	471
McCALL, G. J. H., BOWDEN, A. J., WOOD, J. A. & MARVIN, U. B. Epilogue	495
Index	505

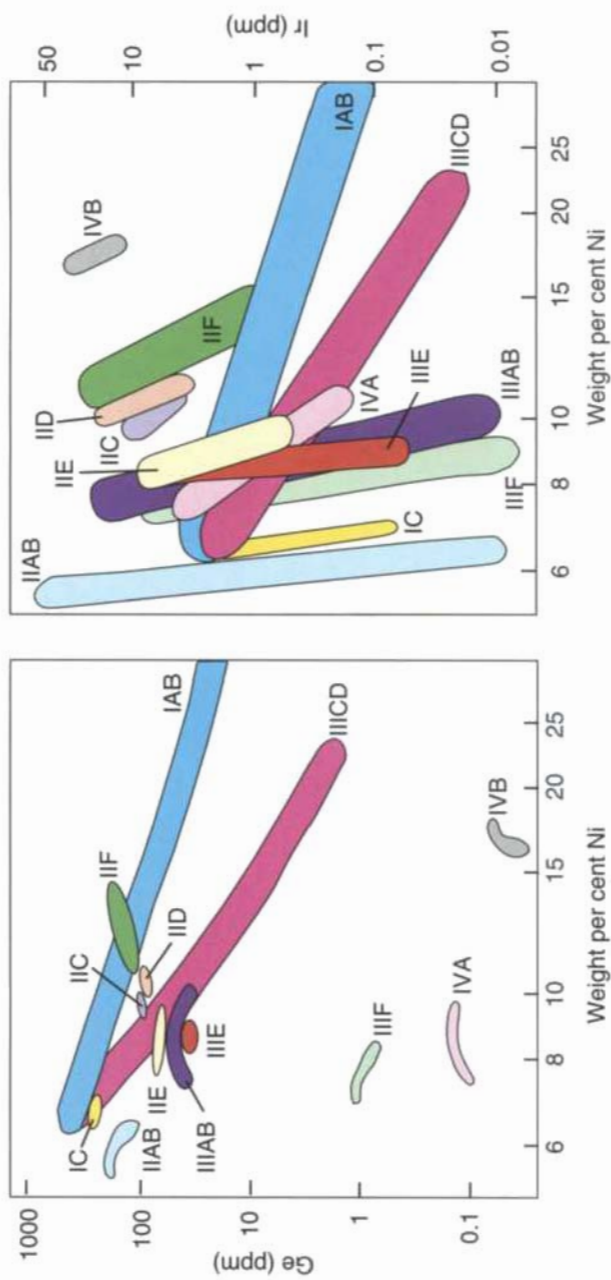
CLASSIFICATION OF METEORITES CHONDRITES



CLASSIFICATION OF METEORITES DIFFERENTIATED METEORITES



Caption: the classification of meteorites in general use in 2005 (after Zandà, B. & Rotaru, M. 2001. *Meteorites: Their Impact on Science and History*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 128 pp). SNC include Sargottites, Nakhilites & Chassignites.



Caption: The chemical families of iron meteorites are defined by their contents of germanium and iridium relative to nickel. Twelve groups were originally distinguished by this method, but the IAB & IIIICD groups are now thought to be closely related. This system largely replaced the former system represented by the terms octahedrite, hexahedrite and ataxite based on etch patterns, though these terms are still also used in loose descriptions of iron meteorites. (After A. W. R. Bevan and J. R. de Laeter *Meteorites: A Journey through Space and Time* University of New South Wales Press, 2002, reproduced with permission).

Foreword

As the corresponding editor of this volume I must express my appreciation for the hard work put in by my two co-editors, Alan Bowden and Richard Howarth. Alan has handled the demanding task of keeping the records. Richard has displayed a deep knowledge of the correct styles and usages in a historical volume – I also owe him a debt for nudging me back to meteoritics in 1995, after a gap of 12 years. The quality of the volume depends on the quality of the articles submitted and we have all three been impressed by the high quality all round. Ted Nield and Wendy Cawthorne at the Geological Society have been particularly helpful in tracking down portraits of important players in the story.

A word about the Overview. This is intended to give a shape to the volume by connecting up the 23 other articles, highlighting various important points made in them, and mentioning a few topics that have not been covered in the

articles but are of interest in the story of meteoritics. This is essentially an historical treatment, and I am aware that it does not cover the innumerable state-of-the-art scientific developments in meteoritics in the last half century. This could profitably be covered by a later volume, under the corresponding editorship of someone much better qualified than me. During a long career I have never been solely concerned with meteoritics, I have done much in the more run-of-the-mill fields of geology, but meteoritics has exerted a fascination on me, as it has on the many remarkable curators who figure in this account. I write this shortly before my 85th birthday, hoping for a few more years in which to see even more astonishing developments in the story.

JOE McCALL

Acknowledgements

To all the authors who have contributed to making this book a rich and valuable resource we extend our grateful thanks. The willingness of the meteoritical community to engage in such a project has made the task a most enjoyable enterprise.

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