

Abstract

This Special Publication has 24 papers with an international authorship, and is prefaced by an introductory overview which presents highlights in the field. The first section covers the acceptance by science of the reality of the falls of rock and metal from the sky, an account that takes the reader from BCE (before common era) to the nineteenth century. The second section details some of the world's most important collections in museums - their origins and development. The Smithsonian chapter also covers the astonishingly numerous finds in the cold desert of Antarctica by American search parties. There are also contributions covering the finds by Japanese parties in the Yamato mountains and the equally remarkable discoveries in the hot deserts of Australia, North Africa, Oman and the USA. The other seven chapters take the reader through the revolution in scientific research on meteoritics in the later part of the twentieth century, including terrestrial impact cratering and extraordinary showers of glass from the sky; tektites, now known to be Earth-impact-sourced. Finally, the short epilogue looks to the future. The History of Meteoritics and Key Meteorite Collections should appeal to historians of science, meteoriticists, geologists, astronomers, curators and the general reader with an interest in science.

Inhalt

*Early beginnings: MARVIN, U. B. Meteorites in history: an overview from the Renaissance to the 20th century - GOUNELLE, M. The meteorite fall at L'Aigle and the Biot report: exploring the cradle of meteoritics - JANKOVIC, V. The end of classical meteorology, c. 1800 - HOWARTH, R. J. Understanding the nature of meteorites: the experimental work of Gabriel-Auguste Daubrée
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te collection of the Natural History Museum of Vienna - GRESHAKE, A. History of the meteorite collection at the Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin - RUSSELL, S. & GRADY, M. M. A history of the meteorite collection at the Natural History Museum, London - CAILLET KOMOROWSKI, C. L. V. The meteorite collection of the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, France - CONSOLMAGNO, G. J. A brief history of the Vatican meteorite collection - IVANOVA, M. A. & NAZAROV, M. A. History of the meteorite collection of the Russian Academy of Sciences - CLARKE, R. S., JR, PLOTKIN, H. & McCOY, T. J. Meteorites and the Smithsonian Institution - EBEL, D. S. History of the American Museum of Natural History meteorite collection - KOJIMA, H. The history of Japanese Antarctic meteorites - BEVAN, A. W. R. The Western Australian Museum meteorite collection - BEVAN, A. W. R. Desert meteorites: a history
Contemporary meteoritics: McCALL, G. J. H. Chondrules and calcium-aluminium-rich inclusions (CAIs) - De LAETER, J. R. The history of meteorite age determinations - BOWDEN, A. J. Meteorite provenance and the asteroid connection - GRADY, M. M. The history of research on meteorites from Mars - BRUSH, S. G. Meteorites and the origin of the solar system - McCALL, G. J. H. Meteorite cratering: Hooke, Gilbert, Barringer and beyond - McCALL, G. J. H. The history of tektites - McCALL, G. J. H., BOWDEN, A. J., WOOD, J. A. & MARVIN, U. B. Epilogue