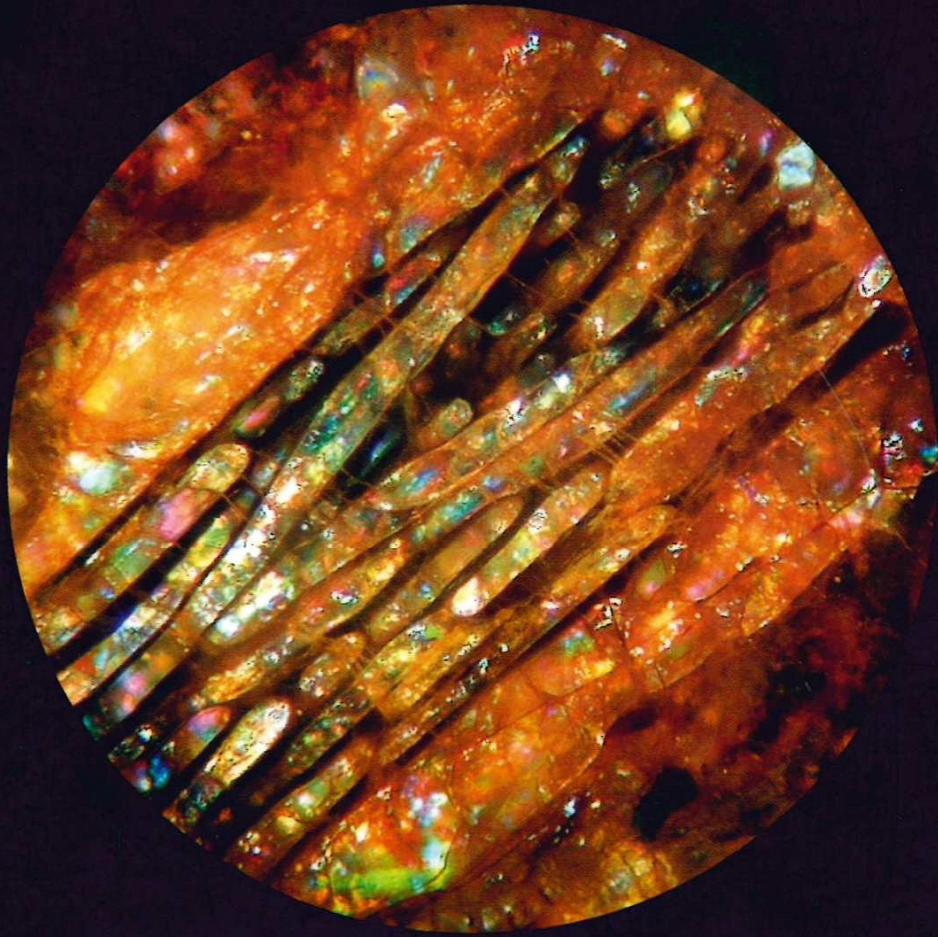




THE ART OF COLLECTING
METEORITES



KEVIN KICHINKA

Bookmasters
2005
© 2005 Kevin Kichinka

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form, except the inclusion of brief quotations in review, without written permission in writing from the author.

First edition
First published 2005
Printed in the United States of America

#474

This book was typeset in New Baskerville and Helvetica Neue and created on a Macintosh.

Cover and interior design by
Geoffrey Notkin/Stanegate Studios
www.stanegate.com

Front cover: A single chondrule of Sayh al Uhaymir 001 (L4/5) is imaged with reflected xenon and crossed polarized light. Photograph courtesy of Tom Phillips (starsandscopes@aol.com)



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	v
Foreword by O. Richard Norton.....	vii

INTRODUCTION

First Words	ix
Release and Preview	xi

THE ENLIGHTENED COLLECTOR

After the Dreamtime	1
Why Do We Collect...Anything?	2
Why Collect Meteorites?	3
First Meteorite Purchase—Hand Me a Henbury	4
Beginnings	6
Harvey H. Nininger “Do Something Worth Doing”	6
The Evolution of Meteorite Marketing	12
Robert Haag “Following in the Footsteps of Nininger”	13
Sparks	16
Bernd Pauli “The Heart and Soul of a Meteorite Collector”	17
Warning Label—Meteorite Collecting May Be Hazardous to Your Wealth	18
Where We Are Now	21

PLANNING A COLLECTION

Sources of Material

Established Dealers	23
Auction Houses and eBay	24
Rock, Mineral, Gem, Fossil (and Meteorite) Shows	25
Find Them Yourself	27
Steve Schoner—Glorieta!	29
Meteor-ites and Meteor-wrongs	32
The Law and Meteorite Collecting (And If You Break the Law...) ..	34
Tools	38

Collection Categories

Collecting Only Individuals, Fragments or Slices	40
Type Set	41
“Falls” Collection	41
Historical Collection	42
Topical Collection	43
Micro Set	43
Dean Bessey “Speaking of Specks”	45
Thin Sections	46
David New “Bringing New Things to Light”	48
A Few Words on “Finds”	51
Weathering Factor	52
Curating Your Specimens	54

Documenting Your Collection	59
Buying Iron Slices—Why It’s a Contemplative Decision	61
Featured Process—Jim Hartman “An Etching Solution”	64

METEORITE MAINSTREAM

The Perfect Meteorite—Let’s Talk About Condition	65
Invited Essay—Norbert Classen “The Phenomenon of NWA”	68
When to Buy	70
Invited Essay—Jeff Grossman “Dealers v. Scientists”	71
What is the Value of that Meteorite?	73
Introducing “CRW”—Catalogue Repository Weight	74
<i>Let’s Make a Deal</i>	
A Purchase	77
A Trade	80
Darryl Pitt Propels the Phillips Auctions; NWAs and the Mining of the World’s Museums	81
Feed Your Mind	84
Research is Fun	86

MYTH AND MISNOMER

Nakhla and the Dog	91
The Thomson Structure (né Widmanstätten Pattern)	98
Is a Freshly Fallen Meteorite “Hot”?	105
A Magical Meteorite Tour—A Little Monica in My Life	107

A METEORITE HUNTING EXPEDITION

Part One: The Search for Bolivia’s First Authenticated Meteorite	115
Part Two: A Meeting of Heaven and Earth	134

METEORITE HISTORY

A Timeline of Historical Meteoritical Events Including Thumbnail Biographies of Select People	155
Ernst Chladni	162
Gustav Tschermak	169
Frederick C. Leonard	176
Oscar E. Monnig	195

HELP AND INFORMATION

A Bibliography of Sources Used for Background in this Book	199
Where to Get a Possible Meteorite Checked	201
Useful Websites	203
Last Words and Testament	205
Index of People, Places and Terms	207
Index of Meteorites	217