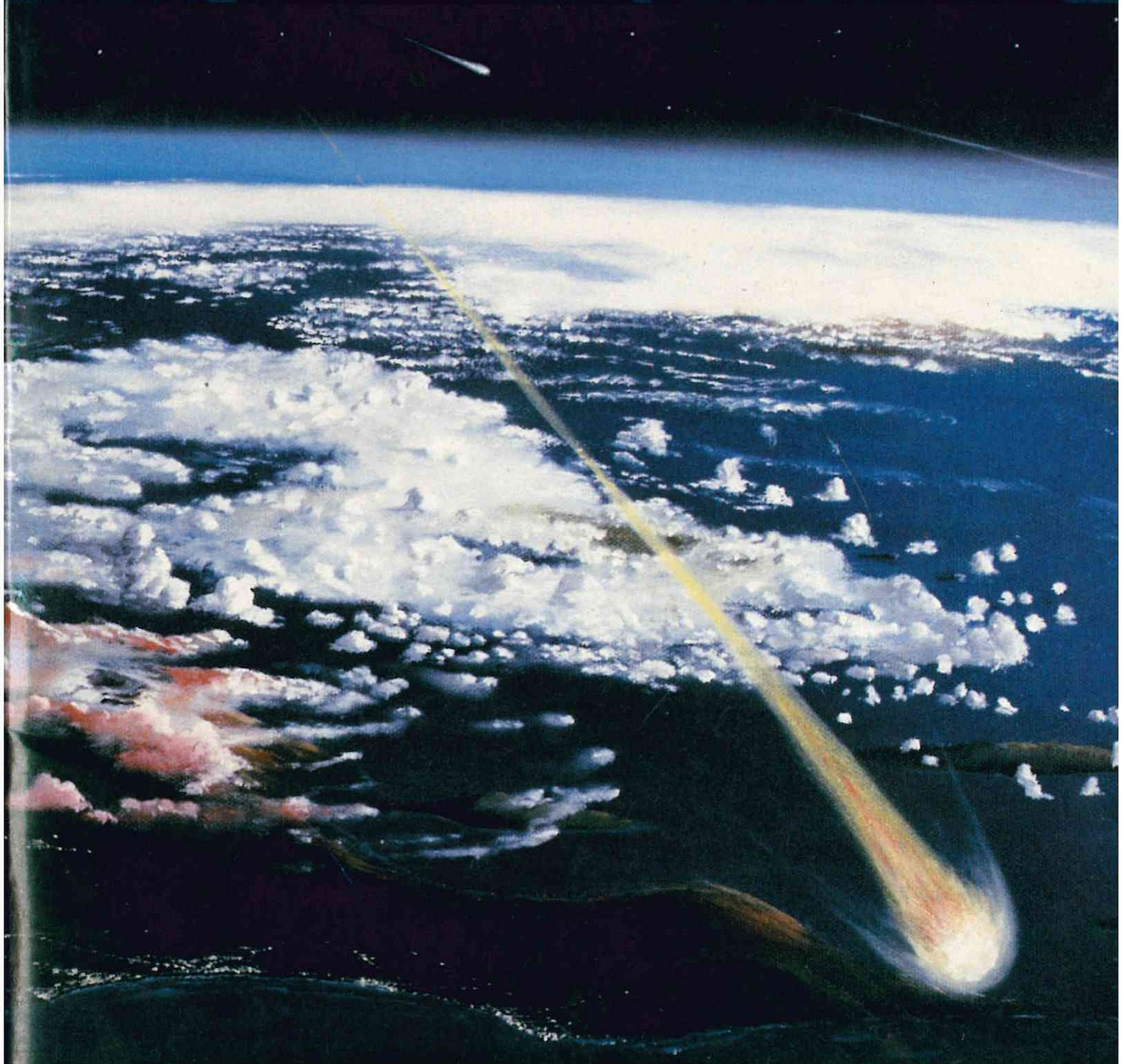


FALLING STARS

A Guide to
Meteors & Meteorites



Mike D. Reynolds

FALLING STARS

*A Guide to Meteors
and Meteorites*

MIKE D. REYNOLDS, Ph.D.

STACKPOLE
BOOKS

Copyright © 2001 by Stackpole Books

Published by
STACKPOLE BOOKS
5067 Ritter Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
www.stackpolebooks.com

All rights reserved, including the right to reproduce this book or portions thereof in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. All inquiries should be addressed to Stackpole Books, 5067 Ritter Road, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055.

Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First edition

Cover design by Wendy Reynolds

On the cover: A meteor shower as seen from space. Original art by Jerry Armstrong

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Reynolds, Michael D.

Falling stars: a guide to meteors and meteorites /Mike D.

Reynolds.—1st ed.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-8117-2755-6

1. Meteors. 2. Meteorites. I. Title.

QB741 .R48 2001

523.5'1—dc21

00-054140

Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Acknowledgments | ix |
| 1. Falling Stars! | 1 |
| 2. Meteor Watching | 14 |
| 3. Meteor Showers | 32 |
| 4. Meteorites | 51 |
| 5. Meteorite Classification | 63 |
| 6. Collecting Meteorites | 78 |
| 7. Meteorite Craters | 90 |
| 8. Tektites | 102 |
| Appendix A: Bibliography | 112 |
| Appendix B: Organizations | 119 |
| Appendix C: Meteorites and Museums | 123 |
| Appendix D: Meteorite Dealers | 127 |
| Appendix E: Meteorite Verification Laboratories | 133 |
| Appendix F: Sample Meteorites | 135 |
| Index | 145 |