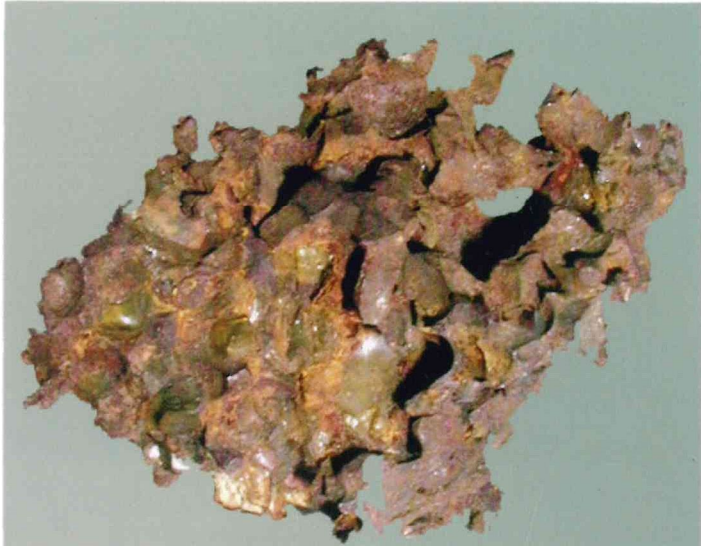


**The Vatican
Observatory
Meteorite
Collection**



Catalogue

Vatican Observatory Meteorite Collection Catalogue

Current to June 2001

*an update of the previous catalogs
by Adrien-Charles, Marquis de Mauroy (1913);
Ernst W. Salpeter SJ (1957);
and
Rosamaria Salvatori, Adriana Maras, and Elbert A. King (1986)*

Guy Consolmagno SJ
Specola Vaticana (Vatican Observatory)
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About the Cover: *Three meteorites from the Vatican Collection are illustrated, showing the range of materials and the beauty of the samples available.*

Top: **Krasnojarsk**, a pallasite, was found in Russia in 1749. Though clearly oxidized, this 108g sample nonetheless is in fine condition, showing both the remarkably irregular shape and many of the embedded olivine crystals characteristic of pallasites. In 1808, G. Thomson first etched material from this fall and discovered the crystalline pattern now known as Widmanstätten figures.

Middle: **Agen**, an H5 ordinary chondrite, was seen to fall in France in 1814. Though nearly 200 years old, this 685g specimen is in remarkably fresh condition; very little weathering is visible in the interior, and the contrast between the fusion crust and light gray interior is especially evident.

Bottom: **Indian Valley**, a IIAB Iron, was found in Virginia in 1887. This unetched 577g slice reminds us of the beauty of the silvery metal to be found in meteoritic iron. Like many of the Vatican meteorites, it was collected by the Marquis de Mauroy before 1900.

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