Meteorites: a journey through space and time

by Alex Bevan and John de Laeter

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Meteorites: a journey through space and time is an introduction to the world of meteorites: what they are made of, where they come from and what they tell us about the solar system. As stated in the preface, this text aims to appeal to everyone by keeping the ‘necessary evil’ of jargon and technical terms to a minimum.

The book begins with an account of meteorite impacts in historical times, from the Egyptian age to the present day. The section discusses subjects from the forging of daggers in Java from meteoric iron to retrieval of micrometeorites by melting ice in Antarctica, and many things in between. Meteorites: a journey through space and time then goes on to describe the processing and differentiation of the solar system’s raw materials, explaining how melting, alteration and fractionation have led to the planets and the range of meteorite types we find today. This section, constituting the greater part of the book, contains wonderfully concise and intelligently devised diagrams. One drawing depicts the series of events that produced meteorites we recover today, from supernovae explosions ~4.7Ga ago to cosmic ray interaction and impacting on the Earth. No mean feat in only two thirds of a page! With equal clarity, the authors have devised sketches explaining the formation of chondrites versus achondrites with elegant simplicity.

Next, the authors present a comprehensive overview of the impact structures on Earth, including some wonderful photographs of less well known impact craters which I, for one, have never seen before. Meteorites: a journey through space and time concludes with a discussion of the future of planetary science, looking to sample return missions from comets and asteroids, and is accompanied by a well chosen list of references which will furnish the reader with up to date knowledge of every area of meteoritics without overwhelming an interested amateur with needlessly complicated details.

The authors state that ‘This book is written for people who are not scientists.’ Quite true, Meteorites: a journey through space and time is instantly accessible to anyone with even a passing interest in the building blocks of our solar system. It is a richly illustrated and succinctly explained record of our current ideas about the early solar system, which should be bought and enjoyed by everyone.

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New meteorite and tektite books. Click on book covers to see larger images. "METEORITES - A JOURNEY THROUGH SPACE AND TIME" by A. Bevan and J. de Laeter, 256 pages, 11" X 9", 160 color photographs, 20 b & w photos, plus numerous tables, maps, and diagrams, cloth binding. Meteorites â€” the fragments of space debris that survive their fall to Earth â€” have much to tell us. They hold answers to the complexities of star formation and can help to explain the earliest events in the birth of the solar system. They may also have brought to Earth the water in the oceans, gases of Start by marking â€œMeteorites: A Journey through Space and Timeâ€ as Want to Read: Want to Read savingâ€¦ Want to Read. The authors trace the formation and breakup of the planets, asteroids, and comets where meteorites originated, their long journey through space, their fall to Earth, their recovery, and what scientists are learning from them. The book contains a great deal of material about the â€œ84001 Martian meteorite,â€ which has raised provocative new questions about life on the red planet. The authors trace the formation and breakup of the planets, asteroids, and comets where meteorites originated, their long journey through space, their fall to Earth, their recovery, and what scientists are learning from them. Meteorites are unique objects. After a long journey in space, they penetrate the Earthâ€™s atmosphere and then land on its surface. Throughout time, they have enjoyed high status as both cult and scientific objects. The exhibition was originally developed by MusÃ©um national d'histoire naturelle (the French National Museum of Natural History) in Paris. The Natural History Museum of Denmark has expanded the original exhibition by adding the most extraordinary meteorites from its own collection together with some rarities from private collectors. We expect the exhibition to attract a wide range of people.â€ Meteorites â€” A Journey Through Time and Space will run at the Geological Museum from 5 September 2019 to 30 August 2020. The Natural History Museum of Denmark.