NOTABLE METEORITES FROM THE REGIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES IN TURIN, ITALY

OVIDIU GABRIEL IANCU¹, ALBERTO VITALE BROVARONE², GABRIELA IANCU³

 ¹ "Al.I.Cuza" University of Iaşi, Department of Geology, 20A Carol I Blv., 700505 Iaşi, Romania
² Università degli Studi di Torino, Dipartimento di Scienze Mineralogiche e Petrologiche, Via Valperga Caluso, no. 35-37, 10125,Torino, Italy
³ "Gh. I. Brătianu" School, Ciornei str., no 18-20, 700350, Iaşi, Romania

Abstract

The purpose of the paper is to present the most important meteorites from the collection of the Regional Museum of Natural Sciences in Turin. The collection is part of the Mineralogy-Geology-Petrography section and it includes 30 stony meteorites, 19 iron meteorites and 4 stony-iron meteorites, as well as 3 tektites. Notable pieces kept in Turin include one fragment of Orgueil (fallen in 1864 in France), one of eight known meteorites belonging to the CI chondrite group, remarkable for having a composition that is essentially identical to that of the Sun, excluding gaseous elements like hydrogen and helium, one fragment of the Cañon Diablo meteorite (found in 1891 in USA), which impacted at Barringer Crater, USA, one fragment of Sikhote-Alin (fallen in 1947 in Russia), an iron meteorite whose fall is among the largest meteorite showers in recent history and, last but not least, one fragment of Mezö-Mădăraş (fallen in 1852 in Transylvania), one of the most important L3 meteorites, intensely studied because they afford a unique opportunity for exploring preplanetary processes.

Keywords: stony meteorites, iron meteorites, stony-iron meteorites, collection, Turin, Orgueil, Cañon Diablo, Sikhote-Alin, Mezö-Mădăraș.

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¹e-mail: ogiancu@uaic.ro