



# *Antarctic Meteorite NEWSLETTER*

A periodical issued by the Antarctic Meteorite Working Group to inform scientists of the basic characteristics of specimens recovered in the Antarctic.

Volume 2, Number 3

November, 1979

Supported by the National Science Foundation, Division of Polar Programs, and compiled at Code SN2, Johnson Space Center, NASA, Houston, Texas 77058

## Status of Meteorite Processing:

The initial processing and classification of Antarctic meteorites continued at a low level during June-September because of the large support required to finish the new Lunar Sample Facility and move lunar samples into it. Consequently, no new meteorite data sheets are included in this Newsletter. In October the meteorite processing facility regained these lost personnel, as well as several equipment items left behind in the lunar sample move. During the coming months, we anticipate that we shall be processing a large number of specimens from both the 1977 and 1978 recoveries, as well as preparing allocations made at the September meeting of the MWG.

The next meeting of the MWG is scheduled for early April 1980. The next Newsletter should appear in February or March 1980.

## Latest Antarctic Meteorite Allocations:

The Meteorite Working Group met in September, 1979, and allocated about 95 samples of 42 meteorites to 25 investigators. A summary of these allocations is given in the accompanying tables.

The MWG decided to attempt to arrange for "consortia" studies of a few achondrites with complex textures. It is planned to establish three "consortia" teams to study the following groups of meteorites: ALHA78132, 158, and 165; ALHA78040; and ALHA7877302 and ALHA76005. Each consortium will be led by a petrologist and will include investigators from various scientific disciplines. No allocations were made of the above listed meteorites pending formation of these consortia.

### Availability of Small Meteorites for Classification:

The MWG announces a new option for the study of Antarctic meteorites which will be of interest to petrologists. This new study option is intended to speed up the processing and classification of small meteorites from the 1977 collection and to enable a greater number of investigators to participate in the classification and description of these specimens. Approximately 150 small specimens from the 1977 collection weighing less than 150 grams each are as yet unclassified. Most probably are ordinary chondrites, but rarer meteorite types may be represented. A generous piece of each of these specimens will be available for allocation to qualified investigators who request them. Guidelines for this new study option are given below.

Small (<150 g), unclassified meteorites will be weighed, photographed, and either sawed or cleaved in half for division with Japan. A piece weighing about 3 grams or 25% of the entire specimen, whichever is less, will be set aside for allocation. These operations (except for sawing) will be conducted in a flow bench on several meteorites at a time, i.e., on small batches of meteorites. These ~3 g chips will be allocated to qualified investigators for the purpose of preparing thin sections and classifying the meteorite.

Investigators who request and receive these meteorite samples must agree to do the following:

- 1) Prepare two polished thin sections of each meteorite. One of these sections is to be returned to the Curator at the same time the meteorite description is published (below).
- 2) Provide a basic min-pet description including a textural and compositional classification of each specimen.
- 3) Prepare and publish a catalog containing the pertinent min-pet descriptive data and the meteorite classification.
- 4) This work, including preparation of the catalog, should be completed within one year from the receipt of the last sample.

No additional allocations will be made of these meteorites during the course of these investigations until the descriptive information is published in the Newsletter or elsewhere. The MWG encourages potential investigators in this new study option to request large numbers of specimens, e.g., 50. The MWG will entertain requests for smaller numbers of specimens, however.

### August Newsletter:

Apparently several people did not receive their copy of the August 1979 Newsletter (Volume 2, Number 2). If you did not receive a copy of this Newsletter, please let us know.

## ANTARCTIC METEORITE NAMES

The Nomenclature Committee of the Meteoritical Society met in Sudbury, Ontario, during August 1978 for the purpose of naming Antarctic meteorites. That decision is reprinted in this Newsletter with the request that all researchers please endeavor to follow the conventions established

1 - A place name shall precede the number of each meteorite found in the Antarctic. This place name will refer to the geographic feature closest to the find.

2 - Following the place name, a letter designating the search party will be assigned.

3 - A five-digit number beginning with the December year of the austral summer season as the first two digits and the individual meteorite number as the last three will also be assigned.

4 - The Nomenclature Committee of the Meteoritical Society will approve the names and expedition letters prior to the arrival of any year's finds from Antarctica.

Example:

The Allan Hills finds of 1978-79 are labeled Allan Hills A78XXX, or can be abbreviated ALHA78XXX.

## ALLOCATIONS:

In addition to those in the Table, the following single allocations were made:

C. Allegre:	ALHA77271
P. Buseck:	ALHA77306
R. Clarke:	ALHA77255; 263; 289
E. Fireman:	ALHA77004
R. Fisher:	ALHA77250; 283; 290
W. Herr:	ALHA77002; 150; 272
J. Macdougall:	ALHA77015; 230
U. Marvin:	ALHA77140; 190; 258; 261; 264; 269
C. Pillinger:	ALHA77288
A. Reid:	ALHA77005

SAMPLE/	ALHA 77003	ALHA 77081	ALHA 77167	ALHA 77216	ALHA 77219	ALHA 77231	ALHA 77249	ALHA 77256	ALHA 77257	ALHA 77260	ALHA 77262	ALHA 77278	ALHA 77294	ALHA 77299	ALHA 77304
INVESTIGATOR															
C. Allegre				x		x					x		x		
G. Crozaz						x									
E. Fireman							x						x		
E. Gibson									x						
W. Herr			x											x	
R. Hewins								x							
G. Kallemeyn		x													
M. Lipschutz		x			x										
J. MacDougall	x			x						x	x				x
U. Marvin	x					x			x	x	x				
H. McSween		x			x							x			
M. Prinz					x			x							
A. Reid								x							
K. Rosman														x	
R. Score				x											
J. Wasson			x				x			x		x		x	x
L. Wilkening							x					x			x

SAMPLE/	ALHA 77307	ALHA 78006	ALHA 78019	ALHA 78113	ALHA 78252	ALHA78 001-009
INVESTIGATOR						
V. Buchwald					x	x
P. Buseck	x					
R. Clarke					x	x
E. Gibson			x			
R. Hewins		x				
M. Lipschutz	x			x		
U. Marvin	x					
J. Papike		x	x	x		
C. Ponnamparuma	x					
M. Prinz		x	x	x		
A. Reid		x		x		