

Contents

I. Introduction: Meteorites as Probes of Processes Occurring Very Early in the History of the Solar System	1
II. Classification of Meteorites	11
A. Introduction	11
B. Classification of Silicate-Rich Meteorites	15
1. Chondritic Meteorites	16
2. Differentiated Silicate-Rich Meteorites	24
C. Classification of Metal-Rich Meteorites	29
D. Summary	35
III. The Study of Meteorites: Sources, Bibliographies, and History	39
IV. Bulk Composition	42
V. Mineralogy and Phase Composition	46
A. General	46
B. Pressure-Indicating Mineral Systems	49
C. Temperature-Indicating Mineral Systems	51
D. The System Fe-FeO-MgO-SiO ₂ -O ₂ and Prior's Rules	53
E. The Fe-Ni System and Cooling Rates	54
F. Other Mineral Systems	60
VI. Petrology	61
A. Petrographic Descriptions of Individual Meteorites	61
B. Metallographic and Metallurgical Studies of Metal-Rich Meteorites	61

C. Chondrules, Chondrite Petrology, and Metamorphism	63
D. Calcium-Aluminium-Rich Inclusions	68
E. Differentiated Silicate-Rich Meteorites	70
F. Shock and Brecciation	73
VII. Trace Elements	77
A. Introduction: Mean Solar-System Abundances	77
B. Partition between Coexisting Phases; Studies of Rare-Earth Elements	80
C. Volatile Elements	84
D. Refractory Elements	86
E. Siderophilic Elements	87
F. Miscellaneous Elements	89
VIII. Stable Isotopes: Elements Other than Rare Gases	91
IX. Stable Isotopes of the Rare-Gas Elements and Related Particle-Track Studies	97
X. Primordial Radionuclides and Associated Chronologies	110
A. Introduction	110
B. Formation and Metamorphism Ages	110
C. Formation Intervals	116
XI. Breakup and Accretional History of Parent Bodies, Meteoroid Shape and Erosion, and Terrestrial Ages of Meteorites	122
A. Cosmic-Ray Interactions	122
B. Erosion and Preatmospheric Shapes	123
C. Exposure-Age Distributions and Their Significance	124
D. Accretional History	130
E. Terrestrial Ages	130
XII. Orbits	133
XIII. Fall and Recovery	143
XIV. Morphology and Macrostructure	149

XV. Organic Matter	164
XVI. Magnetic Properties	169
XVII. Miscellaneous Physical Studies	175
A. Density and Porosity	175
B. Mechanical Properties	176
C. Thermal Properties	177
D. Electrical Properties	178
E. Optical Properties	179
XVIII. An Example of the Interpretation of Meteorite Properties: The Origin of Ordinary Chondrites	181
A. Introduction	181
B. Formation Ages and Intervals	183
C. On the Number, Size, and Location of the Parent Bodies	184
D. Evidence for Metamorphism	186
E. Fractionation of Highly Volatile Elements	187
F. Metamorphic Reheating	190
1. Temperatures	190
2. Heat Sources: Internal Versus External Heating	191
3. Internal Versus External Heat Sources	192
G. Genomict Chondrites and Solar-Type Rare Gases	193
H. Siderophilic-Element and Oxidation-State Fractio- nations	196
I. Chondrule Formation	198
J. Fractionation of Moderately Volatile Elements	200
K. Fractionation of Refractory Elements	202
L. Summary: Temperature History of the Nebula	203
References	206
Appendix I: Glossary	242
Appendix II: Lists of Classified Meteorites	245
A. Introduction: Alphabetical List of Well-Classified Meteorites	245

B. Listing of Chondrites by Chemical Group and Petrologic Type	262
C. Listing of Differentiated Silicate-Rich Meteorites by Chemical Group	292
D. Listing of Differentiated Metal-Rich Meteorites by Chemical Group	296
Subject Index	310