Meteorite Times Magazine

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Accretion Desk will return in August.

Martin and son Lucas in Ensisheim right after he was honored as a Guardian of the Ensisheim Meteorite. Photo Credit: Peter Marmet
I have for many years had an up-to-date database of my officially recognized meteorites. And I maintain that very carefully adding each new acquisition as soon as possible after it arrives. However, I have not done so with my unclassified meteorites. I have painted identification information on many of them. It is a code that tells me when they were bought, and where, with their weight. But, most of my unclassified meteorites have had no acknowledgment at all except for sitting around visible in my office or being stored in boxes.

Well, I have decided to change all that, and to catalog my unclassified meteorites by at least weight and a serialized number. I am in fact curious as to what that number will be when I reach the end of this project. I have a lot of these meteorites. Some I have windowed. Some have great shape and surface features so I have not windowed them and probably will not. I once thought in the early years of the “NWA meteorite rush” that I would be able to get many of these classified. Now after the rush has mostly passed I have watched the laboratories become so busy with fantastic rare material that I doubt now that they will ever be wanting for material and get back to accepting and classifying submissions in a couple months.

I have come to accept that my unclassified meteorites will most likely remain in that state and I will have to enjoy them for their extraterrestrial origin, aesthetics and the learning opportunities they offer. Which is really enough by the way. I offer this month a glimpse at a small number of these anonymous beauties I have gotten in the last dozen years or so.

I hope you will enjoy what is essentially from this point on a picture book with simple descriptions and weights. I have tried to pick specimens that have not been featured in other articles. But, there may be one of two that have slipped by. I have said often enough that I am a sucker for pretty crusted stones. This small sampling should give you some idea of what an easy sell I really am. Too bad that finds like these are getting so much harder to buy as the years pass.
632 gram nice shaped stone with well preserved fusion crust on most of the surface. Regmaglyphs cover the stone.

Small 50 gram stone with a mostly smooth surface but has several deep regmaglyphs.
85.8 gram stone with delicate regmaglyphs covering its surface. It shows the effects of violent breakup during flight through the atmosphere. Sharp edges and surfaces with different size thumbprint tell the story of multiple periods of breaking and ablating.
An older 193.5 gram stone showing some cracking from exposure to weather, but retaining patches of blck fusion crust.
This is a 30 gram oriented stone with nice nose cone shape. The back side is shown here with its bubbly blown back material and roll over lip around the edge. Though not fresh it still has these important features well preserved.
This is a rather non-descript 681 gram stone that has been around for a while. Cracking is beginning but not too serious yet. Under normal conditions it would make a great meteorite to cut up and sell as slices. But, it will probably be saved from that by having made it into my collection. Though quite plain in shape it does have some regmaglyphs and there is still fusion crust on most of the surface.
Meteorite Market Trends

by Michael Blood

Like 3 likes. Sign Up to see what your friends like.

This Month’s Meteorite Market Trends

by Michael Blood

Please Share and Enjoy:
This was the year that I finally made it to Ensisheim. For years I've been reading about and seeing the images from all of the meteorite collectors and dealers who attend this "Show". But this was the year that I got the opportunity to return to Europe, so I made sure my trip would coincide with this annual event. But choosing this time of year to visit France and Germany is a "no-brainer" because the weather is so mild in the late Spring. In June the weather is quite variable, and although there were brief storms during the week prior to, and after the "Show", the conditions over the course of the weekend of the event were excellent.

I mentioned "return to Europe" because I actually lived in Germany for a short while nearly 40 years ago. It was during that time that I met for the first time a very young woman by the name of Monika Waiblinger. That girl impressed me so much that, 40 years later, she is now my fiancee. Yes, that's right, you know her as Moni "Meteorite-Huntress". And being my fiancee, I felt that this was a good time to go to Germany to meet her family and relatives.

So, our trip to Ensisheim is actually just a part of a 2-week long European vacation. That weekend of the "Show" spent in the Alsace region of France was "bookended" by a prior trip to the Steinheim Crater, and then a subsequent return trip to France for the "Mineral Show" in St. Marie sux Mines, soon followed by another trip to Nordlingen and the Ries Crater. I won't be describing those trips in this article because they each deserve their own individual articles.
Another thing I won't be describing is the history of the Ensisheim Meteorite Show or the fall of the Ensisheim meteorite, or the origin of the Saint-George's Brotherhood. Since this article is already one of several in an on-line magazine dedicated to meteorites, I will spare the devotees an education they have already acquired. But, for those of you who may have arrived here by way of an errant Google search engine result, or are otherwise un-initiated to our peculiar subculture (yet are now curious about "Alsacian sky rock collecting") you would be best served to go directly to my "REFERENCES" section at the end of this article.

Actually, compiling a list of references that are Ensisheim-related was my main objective when I wrote this article. I wanted to offer a web page that would serve as a compilation of all the various image galleries for the 2011 Ensisheim Show. Besides, most of those galleries were far superior to my images anyway. And now I am free to write a more personal reflection of our trip to Ensisheim.

**Translation** = "Ensisheim - meteorite 2011 Show, 12th Annual Exposition & International Exchange(or Study) of Objects of Extraterrestrial Origin: Meteorites & Tektitites & Impactites
Title of Lecture: NWA, the Bonanza of Saharan Meteorites.
At the Regency Palace, Ensisheim Alsace, France, 18-19th June 2011".
(This is a very rough ENGLISH translation.)
(You can click on the above image in order to ENLARGE.)

This wasn't Moni's first trip to the Ensisheim Meteorite Show. She had attended the 2006 Show. So, this was great for me. I had my own personal guide. Moni was able to offer me a running commentary as what was the same from her 2006 visit, and what had changed. The good news is that Moni didn't see any major changes. There were some vendors from 2006 that didn't set-up this year, but overall there were more people selling (but they all weren't selling meteorites). Moni didn't go so far as to say that there were more meteorites being offered by vendors, but she did say that the percentage of unclassified NWA was less. It was my impression that there was very little room for any additional vendors, and the room that was made available for each vendor precluded that only the very best material would be displayed.

My one suggestion (in order to make for more display/vendor space) would be to move the table with all of the Omani meteor-wrongs (at the top of the spiral stairwell, right at the entrance) to a less conspicuous spot (like across the courtyard and into the cathedral, where only prayer and a miracle could turn those -wrongs into -rites). At the least, the meteor-wrongs were an amusing distraction for the seasoned collector, but must have been very misleading for the neophytes. Unfortunately, everytime that I would enter or exit the display room in the Palace, I would pass by this table full of rocks that some poor soul had brought all the way from the Omani desert. And as if the table was beckoning me to try and find a real meteorite, I would stop and examine a few more of these meteor-wrongs, hoping that one of these desert rocks was a meteorite. But it was a waste of my time, because they were all terrestrial. In hindsight, my time would have been better spent had I went straight down to the plaza and had a few more drinks in the
tent with the other attendees.

Come to think of it, we should have spent more time down in the plaza. Because we had a great time there; whether we were drinking in the tent with old friends, or meeting people, or making new friends, or eating with them out in the open-air cafe.

Five more Guardians are inducted into the Saint George's Brotherhood. In this image our own Martin Horejsi from Montana USA, author of the "Accretionary Desk", stands front and center with his award. (You can click on the above image in order to ENLARGE.)

Speaking of meeting old friends, it was a pleasure to run into Martin Horejsi early on the first day, and we were thrilled to be present at the ceremony when he was inducted as a Guardian into the "St. George's Brotherhood of the Ensisheim Meteorite". Martin was one of the first Americans that we met upon our arrival, and I found it appropriate because his article, "Ensisheim! The King of Meteorites" is one of the best tellings of the Ensisheim story that I ever read.

Martin had brought his son, Lucas, with him. In fact, entire families were not the exception at Ensisheim. Lucas was kept company with Dave Gheesling's daughter, Maddie. Dave's family was often seen with Russ Finney's family, as well as, with Sven Buhl's entire family. We all stayed at the same hotel, The Domaine du Moulin. According to Moni, this hotel had been recently renovated. She said that it certainly wasn't there in 2006, as best as she could recollect.

Another improvement since 2006, according to Moni, was the expansion and renovation of the museum (Musee de la Regence) on the first floor and in the basement of the Palace (Place de l'Eglise). This is where the Ensisheim Meteorite is presently on display. There were two other display cases of meteorites that were on temporary display, just for the Show. The rest of the museum had great natural history displays with professionally prepared exhibits depicting Ensisheim's Archeology, History, and Potash Industry. I found this museum to be a convenient and very good reference point for all of the other attractions in the Ensisheim-Alsace area.

"A village with history, a town with a future!"
Plan well your visit to Ensisheim - Meteorite 2012, and give adequate time to view all of the many great museums and historical sites. (You can click on the above image in order to ENLARGE.)

Time went by quickly and I didn't get to photograph every meteorite that I found interesting at the Show. But that wasn't my main objective. I figured that would be done by others anyway, and probably done so even more professionally, especially by the owners of those special meteorites. It was my hope that I could give a different perspective on this "Exposition". I hope that my personal view of this event (in the context of a side-trip as part of a 2-week long European vacation) will give the reader another insight into this unique international gathering and of the town of Ensisheim, itself.

I am looking forward to the next time that we can return to Ensisheim.

References:

The Wikipedia entry for: Ensisheim
- contains links to the Ensisheim Meteorite.  
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ensisheim

Martin Horejsi - Accretionary Desk: Ensisheim! The King of Meteorites
his November 2010 article in Meteorite-Times Magazine about...
"A November 1492 Witnessed Fall in Ensisheim, France - named: Ensisheim! The King of Meteorites - Born in 1492. Christened in 1727. Baptized in 1881...."  
http://www.meteorite-times.com/accretion-desk/ensisheim-the-king-of-meteorites/

The St. Georges Confraternity (Brotherhood) of the Ensisheim Meteorite Guardians:
is organizing a CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC EVENT: ENSISHEIM-METEORITE 2011...

The following REFERENCES are links to image galleries taken by individuals who attended, or were vendors, at the 2011 "Ensisheim Meteorite Show":

Hanno Strufe - Meteorites: Ensisheim 2011 - 1/7
Hanno's Foto Galerien (Photo Galleries 1 thru 7) 
Internationale Meteoritenbörse Ensisheim, France - on JUNE 18 and 19, 2011 - Meteoriten 2011 Show
http://www.strufe.net/0334af9a5a0cf8e1d/0334af9f090ec0002/.../index.p...

Peter Marmet - Meteorites: Images from Ensisheim 2011 —
Another link to Peter Marmet's personal image gallery for : Ensisheim 2011 - MARMET-METEORITES
http://www.marmet-meteorites.com/id55.html

Luther Jackson - Meteorites: Images from 2011 Ensisheim Meteorite Show —
The link to Luther Jackson's personal image gallery for :
Ensisheim 2011 - Meteorite Show
http://www.lutherjackson.co.uk/ensisheim_2011.html

The British and Irish Meteorite Society • View topic:
A forum for B.I.M.S. members only, for details on joining see ...

Robert Verish photo-article titled: "Ensisheim 2011", published in METEORITE magazine, date: AUGUST 2011, Volume 17, No.3
http://meteoritemag.uark.edu/back%20issues/months/2011%20August.htm
Zelimir Gabelica - post to the Met-List: posted on - Thu, 21 Apr 2011 03:17:57 -.

[meteorite-list] Ensisheim 2011 info - important information!
ENSISHEIM "METEORITE 2011" NEWS (April 21, 2011) -
Dear meteorite friends, My recent relative silence on the mail is the result of ...

Meteoryty [4338] - Meteorytyka - ENSISHEIM Meteorite Show 2011:
An excellent website (in Polish) with a great gallery of images from the Show.
"Postanowiliśmy równie? w tym roku pojawi? si? na targach w Ensisheim."
"Kontakt: Jestem cz?onkiem - Polskiego Towarzystwa - Meteorytowego - Je?li masz jakie? pytania: meteoryty@tuzobok.pl"
poniedzia?ek 20 Czerwiec 2011 - Opublikowane w Aktualno?ci - Zostaw komentarz
Copyright © 2010-2011 Meteoryty [4338]
http://www.tuzobok.pl/?p=1805

Mirko Graul - Meteorites: Images from Ensisheim 2011 —
The link to Mirko Graul's personal image gallery for:
Internationale Meteoritenbörse Ensisheim - France - Ensisheim Meteoriten Show 2011
http://www.meteorite-mirko.de/0334af993b0042c09/index.php

Click here to go to "Bob's Findings Article for July 2011 - Gallery of Images" to see more images from Ensisheim Meteorite 2011.

To go back to the top of this page, click on the word "REFERENCES:" for the list of links pertaining to the 2011 Ensisheim Meteorite Show.

My previous articles can be found "HERE"

For for more information, please contact me by email: Bolide*chaser
Hello,

I have so many “best” memories of the Show, but I will name 3 above all: First: meeting a grand lady of 57 kilos; despite its age and its oh-so-well known story, in print everywhere, to see it in person for the first time is an astounding way to start the show.

The second memory is simply the great pleasure of meeting so many French collectors who share my love of space rocks. And the third one is seeing on Marcin Cimala’s table the famous meteorite that fell in Poland in April 2001, a simple L6 but its fall made a lot of noise and it was great to be able to see here for the first time the first fall of the year. We waited a long time for its arrival.
From: Peter Marmet

Once again, Ensisheim was great fun this year! Perfect weather, great food and beer, entertaining music and dancers, meteorite aficionados from all over the world, on Saturday more visitors than ever...and yes, they did buy, so most sellers were quite pleased and - I'm sure! - likewise the buyers. I purchased or traded in Ensisheim this year: JaH 203 a great MESO-C2 15 g partslice, NWA 6069, a 17 g Ureilite full slice, a nicely polished 9 g slice of Greg Hupé's stunning new ungrouped achondrite.

Then two small part slices of NWA 6349, a very fresh Brachinite, two triangular part slices of NWA 4852, a nice ureilite, two Sikhote Alin individuals with very nice natural patina, each about 90 grams, a nice 4 g slice of NWA 5797, a stunning CM2, a rather weird 4.6 g slice of NWA 5553 (looks in the upper part like a eucrite and in the lower part like a typical L6 chondrite!), then a small slice of NWA 5884 another interesting ureilite and a set of 7 rather special thin sections...and finally a set of meteorite cards...great fun to play!

So, if you missed Ensisheim this year, the party goes on in June 2012!

See you all!
From: **Greg Hupe**:

The 2011 Ensisheim Show was particularly special for me this year. During past attendance to the show I was always on the ‘buying’ side of the tables. This year I had the pleasure of being on the ‘selling’ side offering two of my Ungrouped Achondrites, NWA 6704 and NWA 5400. I really had a fun time, NWA 6704 was very well received by everyone who stopped by my table! It was great visiting with old friends and meeting new ones, you can be sure I will be back in 2012!!
Ensisheim remains for me the perfect occasion to meet with other enthusiastic fans of meteorites, those weird rocks fallen from the sky, within a unique setting and friendly surroundings.

It is also the only time I can meet all the members (or at least, most) of the French Forum. Additionally this year two of them, Guy and Fabien, were promoted to Guardians of the Meteorite, in front of a large crowd. We now have 5 Guardians members of the Forum!
Guy ("Dark") amazed us during his lecture about his DarkoMeter, a device, still under development, that
could someday help hunters identify meteorites in the field. Within the Show, Ali and Mohamed had beautiful Gibeons, ureilites and achondrites, Marcin displayed Soltmany, the very latest Fall in Poland, Anne had not only a huge choice of thin-sections, but also some gorgeous slices of Tucson (Ring). Greg brought a large assortment of slices of NWA 6704, Mirko had superbly finished slices, and we can’t forget Hanno, Peter, Sergey, Moritz, Mike……

Now I can’t wait for astronauts to bring back rocks from Vesta to compare with the old ones we already have.

And this year, Anne (Impactika), JMM (Jean-Michel) and Stelvino (Vincent) joined us for our traditional meeting, the Dinner of the French Forum Saturday evening at “le Boeuf Rouge”, a great time to get to know each other. Much appreciated by all.
Finally, the high-light of the weekend, our visit to the monument marking the site where the Mona Lisa of meteorites fell in 1492.

I can’t wait for 2012 to do it all again.
From: **Guy Verlooven**

Thank you Laurent for this picture of the DarkoMeter. This beautiful Howardite shows clearly by the number “74” that it is a Vestoid like some of our dearest Achondrites, Vesta having lost some of its mass probably at the very dawn of our solar system.

(Comment by Zelimir Gabelica: This new prototype device that Guy has conceived and built can determine meteorite types by measuring simultaneously their magnetic susceptibility (variant of Rochette’s method) and their electrical conductivity).

From: **Anne Black**

And since they have all described very well the Show (Thank you!), I will close by saying something about the town of Ensisheim that welcomes all of us every year.

The square between the church, where the meteorite spent several centuries, and the Palais de la Regence, where the show itself is held, is closed to car traffic but wide open to us all.

Before the show even opens its door, the whole meteorite community meets in the Café right next door,
where the owner, a very accommodating person, greets everybody with delicious Donner plates (yes, Turkish food in Ensisheim!) and beer. Many deals are closed there before, during and after the show!
Dima and Taza

Kiosks all around the square are ready to distribute beer, wine, t-shirts, or Tarte Flambee (the Alsatian pizza). And the discussions continue under the tent late into the night on Friday and Saturday.

Photo Credit: Hanno

This year we also found that everybody's favorite hotel (and now the only hotel in Ensisheim), le Domaine du Moulin, is expanding. More room for all of us next year!!
And finally where else could you also watch up-close a stork walking calmly under your balcony, picking up every cookie Mirko is throwing down?

See you all next year in Ensisheim.

This article has been edited by Anne Black and Norbert Classen
The Meteoritical Bulletin database lists NWA 1109 as a polymict eucrite - at least a 2.54 kilogram portion of the find was classified that way. I know that in 2002 and 2003 some material was sold as NWA 1109 howardite. For some of the discussion of Eucrite versus Howardite you can Google NWA 1109 howardite.

There are more than 20 different basaltic textures in this meteorite according to Adam Hupé. Here is a small sample.
And some frothy fusion crust.
# Meteorite Calendar – July 2011

by Anne Black

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e-mail (impactika@aol.com)
NWA 1109 Meteorite – Polymict Eucrite

7.3 gram specimen of Northwest Africa 1109 Polymict Eucrite
Unusual Vietnam Tektite

by Editor

Top view of a 112 gram Vietnam Tektite from Lam Dong Province, Vietnam.
Side view.
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Once a few decades ago this opening was a framed window in the wall of H. H. Nininger's Home and Museum building. From this window he must have many times pondered the mysteries of Meteor Crater seen in the distance.

Photo by © 2010 James Tobin