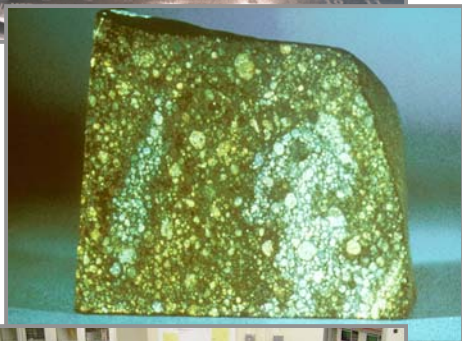
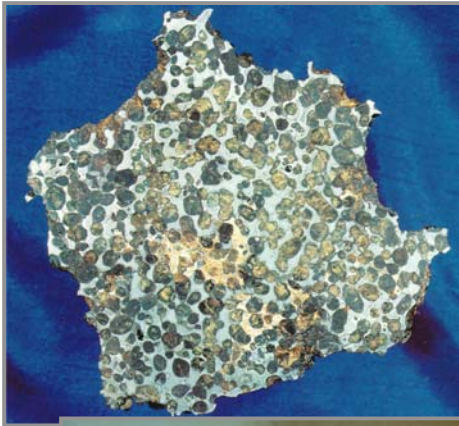


# ASU THE ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR METEORITE STUDIES



The ASU Center for Meteorite Studies seeks to create new knowledge about the origin of our planetary system so that we may understand the pathway to forming habitable worlds. At the center of these studies are meteorites, rocks from outer space, that bore witness to the birth of our system of Sun and planets. *The ASU Center for Meteorite Studies houses the largest University-based meteorite collection in the world, with over 1620 specimens.*

Most meteorites are pieces of asteroids -- left over building blocks of the planets. Thus, these rare and unique rocks preserve within them critical clues to the nature of the materials that originally made up the solar system, and the processes by which this material was transformed 4.5 billion years ago from a massive cloud of gas and dust to the star and planets we see today. In addition, the fall of large meteorites has fundamentally affected the history of life on Earth -- humans owe their existence to meteorite impacts!

Some meteorites are pieces of Mars that were blasted off in impact events and have made their way to Earth. As our only samples of martian materials here on Earth, these martian meteorites are crucial to understanding in detail the geologic and possible biologic processes occurring on Mars.

In addition to performing cutting edge scientific analysis and research on meteorites, the ASU Center for Meteorite Studies is responsible for curation of our valuable meteorite collection, and distribution of samples to the best scientists worldwide. Moreover, the Center seeks to use the unique resource of the meteorite collection as an education and training tool, with students from kindergarten through graduate school, teachers, and members of the public having the opportunity to experience *hands on space science*.

*For more information contact:*

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