

HISTORICAL-MUSEOLOGICAL DATA OF THE METEORITE OF KISGYŐR (BORSOD-ABAÚJ-ZEMPLÉN COUNTY, HUNGARY)

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Meteors (falling stars) and their parts falling on Earth, as well as meteorites are exciting the curiosity of mankind. If only we consider the history of mankind, which is neglectable in time compared to that of Earth, than we find that the number of them is quite significant.

There have been impacts recorded in Hungary as well, both recently and in past times. Considering the historical background one of the oldest meteorite falls was that of Diósgyőr in 1559 (1449? or 1560?). Furthermore, not far from Miskolc, at Kisgyőr a meteorite has also been documented in 1901, centuries later. Examining the arriving agenda of the natural history collection of the predecessor of Herman Ottó Museum, the Borsod–Miskolc Museum, I have found the particles of the Kisgyőr materials entered under register number 180. According to that there were 5 parts of the meteorite presented to the museum's fossil and mineral collection by Sámuel Nagy. The notes only describe that the parts touched down near Miskolc, at Kisgyőr — as it was known before — on 23rd May 1901. Some collection information could be found in the 1902 catalogue of the Borsod–Miskolc Museum. According to those the listed parts were put on exhibition in section “A” and “E” of the main hall on the ground floor. The list contained the meteorites of Kisgyőr under the numbers “120”, “121”, “122”, “123”, “124”. That may mean that the parts arrived to the museum not long after their impact. From 1905 the fossil and mineral collection did not form a separate part, but was handled together with similar collections under the name of “natural history collection”, which makes the processing of the collection agenda harder. They have probably been in museum property for many decades. Their time of destruction is supposed to be the 50s, when the natural history collection was eliminated. The geological material became part of the natural science collection of the National Museum. After all these the question is whether the meteorite found in the meteorite catalogue of TOKODY & DUDICH-VENDL (1951) and kept at the latter place derives directly from Kisgyőr or is a remainder of

the handover in the 1950s. It is mentioned under log number “b 121” here. Its weight is determined to be 3,61 grams. If the latter version is valid, than the only question is: what has happened to the other 4 particles, for according to the data, as I have previously mentioned, there were 5 parts recorded in the Borsod–Miskolc Museum, while there is only one in the meteorite catalogue. However if those were a part of a new collection enlargement it is also worth to examine their further destiny. Where are they? Are they still on storage? If not, what has happened to them? Later the Hey's meteorite catalogue (HEY, 1906) mentions them, though on the basis of the letter of Viktor Zsivny they are considered to be questioned, questionable meteorites. However, according to MTM, that part was also destroyed in the destruction reaching most of the mineral collection in 1956. The fact that the catalogue of Csaba Ravasz, prepared in 1969, mentions only two sites, the ones at Ófehértó and Zsadány, seems to support that. The collection shows the circumstances after the tragic conflagration of 1956. Though it is still not clear for me, whether that destruction reached only the part mentioned in the catalogue in 1951, or the parts from Miskolc were also included.

References

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