

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE MINERALOGICAL STATE COLLECTION MUNICH (GERMANY); METEORITES FROM MARS AND MOON AS AN ATTRACTION FOR THE PUBLIC

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Introduction:

Meteorites are an important field of research and investigation in the Mineralogical State Collection Munich (Germany). Thereby it is important to raise the interest of the public for our scientific work (Fig. 1). Especially children and young people but also adults are interested in everything that comes to us from outer space, therefore meteorites are an ideal exhibit. The Mineralogical State Collection owns a large number of meteorites, not only from Mars and the moon, which it shows to the interested layperson in exhibitions as well as in special educational projects. Main topics are (1) meteorite types (Fig. 2), (2) origin of meteorites (3) space research in general. So we show already the smallest visitors (from 5 years) meteorites, here amazed, the weight of the iron meteorites, their brown combustion crust or the magnetism. With older school kids and adults it becomes possible to go more into detail (Fig. 3). Here the different meteorite groups, mineral composition and other special features can be discussed. It is also possible to microscope thin sections or measure smaller samples with Raman. All in all, the guided tours and workshops on meteorites create an understanding for the research on this topic and they help to interest the public in natural sciences. More information and pictures about the workshops and guided tours can be found on the poster of the session Education and Public Engagement (LPSC).



Fig. 1. First look at a meteorite



Fig. 2. Pallasit, Brenham, Kansas, USA, 1882



Fig. 3 Visitors in the Mineralogical Collection