



Book Review

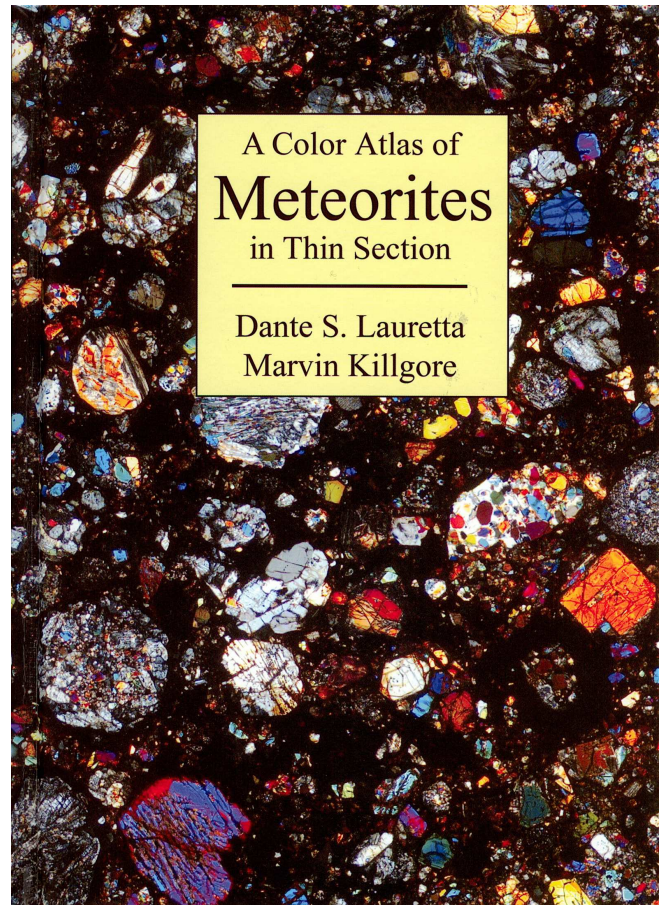
A color atlas of meteorites in thin section, by Dante S. Lauretta and Marvin Killgore. Golden Retriever Publications/Southwest Meteorite Press, 2004, 301 pp., \$98.00, hardcover (ISBN 0-97204-721-2).

As an undergraduate studying geological sciences at Rutgers University, I remember my mineralogy and petrology courses very well. I can remember going to the book store to purchase the books I needed for my courses and sitting down in the aisle reading through the two now famous atlases of MacKenzie and Guilford (1980) and MacKenzie et al. (1982). As I started to read them in the aisle, I was totally captivated as, for the very first time, I saw images of minerals and rock textures through plain and crossed-polarized light. I clearly remember the child-like joy I felt when examining these books. I have used these books time and time again and they live in a very prominent place on my bookshelf and every petrology course should use them.

Twenty years later, I was in the mail room in the departmental office of Kingsborough and noticed a package. I had been waiting for a new book, so I quickly opened the package as I walked from the mail room. To my great delight, it was the book I had been waiting for. I started to read through it as I walked up the stairs and was immediately captivated in a way that reminded of my undergraduate days of reading through the MacKenzie books. I soon reached the middle of the hallway and sat down, still reading. Shortly thereafter, Michael Weisberg and Cyrena Goodrich were walking past me in the hallway and soon joined me in curiously reading through the book and admiring the amazing photomicrographs of meteorites. It soon became apparent that I was going to need to have a proper read of it. As our little reading group broke up, I was walking back to my office when I heard Cyrena call down the hallway to me that she had wished she had such a book to learn with when she was first studying meteorites.

The book, *A color atlas of meteorites in thin section* by Dante S. Lauretta and Marvin Killgore, is a compilation of classic examples of beautiful photomicrographs of almost every meteorite class and type and accompanied by short descriptions of each class and type. I suspect that when you first read through this book you will have the same reaction as we did: you will not be able to put it down. If it is not already apparent, the book is outstanding, with respect to both the publishing and the quality of its contents.

The book starts with a succinct general introduction to the subject of meteorite classification. This section is



followed by a two-page introduction to ordinary chondrites with some 134 pages of micrographs of different ordinary chondrites. The authors stick to a brief, two-page introduction to each meteorite class and type, which works perfectly for the purpose of this atlas. After ordinary chondrites, the authors discuss separately enstatite chondrites, carbonaceous chondrites, and finally, other chondrites. At page 206, the authors leave their completed representation of chondrites and give separate attention to primitive achondrites and finally evolved achondrites (including SNCs and lunar). Since this is an atlas of meteorites in thin section, it rightly does not include iron or stony-iron meteorites. Throughout the book, plain and crossed-polarized light images are shown for what are or certainly could be considered type specimens of meteorites from each class and type. In specific cases, reflect light and backscatter electron images are also shown. The book is a perfect supplement to a course on meteorites or

planetary materials, or as a reference book when examining samples in thin section, either optically or through backscatter electrons.

In closing, the marriage of the two authors, who come to the profession of meteoritics from two highly different backgrounds, works excellently. They have created a timeless classic that will be highly desired by all those interested in meteorites. The book captures the attention of the reader in a fashion that promotes a child-like curiosity for the field of meteoritics while maintaining excellence in its scientific content. In a nutshell, this is an outstanding book that anyone seriously interested in meteorites must have for his or her reference library.

REFERENCES

- MacKenzie W. S., Donaldson C. H., and Guilford C. 1982. *Atlas of igneous rocks and their textures*. New York: Wiley. 148 p.
MacKenzie W. S. and Guilford C. 1980. *Atlas of rock-forming minerals in thin section*. New York: Longman Group Limited. 98 p.

Harold C. Connolly, Jr.
City University of New York
New York, New York, USA
American Museum Natural History
New York, NY
USA
