

## Foreword

This volume is the Proceedings of the Sixth Symposium on Antarctic Meteorites which was held on February 19 and 20, 1981 at the National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR) in Tokyo. As it was so in previous two symposia on Antarctic meteorites organized by NIPR in 1979 and 1980, the Sixth Symposium also was participated by a number of foreign meteorite scientists, particularly from USA and People's Republic of China, in addition to a large number of Japanese meteoritic scientists. Meteorite samples discussed in this symposium are mostly those retrieved by the Japanese Antarctic Research Expeditions from Meteorite Ice Field near Yamato Mountains and those by the members of the Japan-U.S. joint teams during 1976-1978 and by the members of the United States Antarctic Research Program since 1979 from Victoria Land, both in the Antarctic Continent. In addition, two papers on Chinese meteorites were introduced by Chinese colleagues.

The total number of scientific papers contained in this volume thus amounts to as many as 36, the largest number among the series of Proceedings of Symposia on Antarctic Meteorites compiled to date. These papers may be classified into five groups, namely, 4 papers on the Antarctic field works to retrieve meteorites and their curation, 10 papers on petrology and mineralogy, 10 papers on chemistry including chronology, 10 papers on various physical properties and 2 special papers on Chinese meteorites.

These papers were critically reviewed by respective specialists in Japan and in oversea countries before their acceptance. It could be summarized that meteoritic papers contributed to the Proceedings of the NIPR annual symposia on Antarctic meteorites are not only increasing in their number, but also their substance is coming more and more significant in meteoritics and solar system sciences. It is hoped therefore that this volume of Proceedings of the Sixth Symposium on Antarctic Meteorites can be another new milestone in the course of progress and development of scientific researches of meteorites and their relationship with the evolution of the solar system.

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