

Preface

The Third Symposium on Antarctic Meteorites was held on February 23rd and 24th, 1978. This symposium was a continuation of the previous two symposia on Yamato meteorites which were held in 1976 and 1977. The objects of the present symposium have been enlarged from "Yamato meteorites" to "Antarctic meteorites". It is because a number of meteorite are being newly retrieved from Victoria Land area in West Antarctica in addition to our previous collection of meteorites from Yamato Mountains area in East Antarctica.

This special issue of Memoirs of National Institute of Polar Research is published as the Proceedings of the Third Symposium on Antarctic Meteorites which consisted of twenty individual scientific papers. In addition to 16 papers dealing with petrological, mineralogical, chemical and physical characteristics of the collected Antarctic meteorites, a report of the West Antarctic field work to collect meteorite samples and three glaciological papers in relation to a possible mechanism of accumulation of a large number of meteorite on the Antarctic ice sheet also are included in this volume.

Field work efforts to find and collect more meteorites in Antarctica are still continued with success and will be extended in East Antarctica in the future. For this reason, scientific discussions of glaciological behaviors of Antarctic ice sheets in the neighborhood of meteorite fields will be significant for developing researches of Antarctic meteorites.

It is hoped that this third volume of scientific papers on Antarctic meteorite will be valuable to those who are interested in meteorites themselves and also those who are concerned with Antarctica.

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