

<http://meteoriticalsociety.org>

## ARAB IMPACT CRATERING AND ASTROGEOLOGY CONFERENCE

In November 2009 the Meteoritical Society sponsored the first Arab Impact Cratering and Astrogeology Conference (AICAC), which took place in Amman, Jordan, and brought together scientists and students from a number of Arab countries and from Europe and the Americas. AICAC II is currently scheduled to take place in November 2011 at the Hassan II University in Casablanca, Morocco. Please take note of the dates and the information given on the conference website, [www.fsac.ac.ma/aicaii/index.html](http://www.fsac.ac.ma/aicaii/index.html). Current developments in the Middle East and North Africa will be reviewed in July, with a view to deciding on the final go-ahead for this conference, in good time before the annual meeting of the Meteoritical Society in early August.

## METEORITE NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE

### Report from the Chair, Chris Herd



The Meteorite Nomenclature Committee (NomCom), established in 1973 by the Meteoritical Society, governs the naming of meteorites and disseminates information on all new meteorites through the *Meteoritical Bulletin* and the Meteorite Database ([www.lpi.usra.edu/meteor/metbull.php](http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meteor/metbull.php)). NomCom assesses dense collection areas and develops the formal process for meteorite nomenclature. The Committee reviews names and classifications for several hundred new meteorites

from around the world each year. Since the last report, 603 meteorites (354 of which are non-Antarctic) have been approved for *Meteoritical Bulletin* 99 (forthcoming).



After nearly 4 years of service, Michael Weisberg is retiring as editor of the *Meteoritical Bulletin*. The committee is very thankful for his dedicated service. As of April 1, 2011, we welcome **Laurence Garvie** ([lgarvie@asu.edu](mailto:lgarvie@asu.edu)) as the new editor. Other membership changes were made at the start of the year; a list of current NomCom members and their roles can be found at [www.meteoriticalsociety.org/bulletin/TermExpirations2011.htm](http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/bulletin/TermExpirations2011.htm).

Part of the approval process for new meteorites is the designation of a repository for type specimens. Type specimen repositories play an

important role in preserving material for scientific research and in curation of that material over the long term. In order to keep our contact information up to date and to gather information on best practices for curation, we are in the process of circulating an online survey to curators. We expect that the outcome of this process will benefit repositories and the scientific community alike. On a related note, a small change has been made to the minimum mass in our guidelines (§7.1f): we now recommend (but do not require) that larger type specimens be provided when the total mass of a meteorite is greater than 400 g. The complete, up-to-date guidelines can be found at [www.meteoriticalsociety.org/bulletin/nc-guidelines.htm](http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/bulletin/nc-guidelines.htm).

Please do not hesitate to contact me ([herd@ualberta.ca](mailto:herd@ualberta.ca)) with questions or concerns about NomCom and especially with suggestions for improvement. As always, essential information on meteorite nomenclature, instructions, and the template for reporting new meteorites may be found on our home page, [http://meteoriticalsociety.org/simple\\_template.cfm?code=pub\\_bulletin](http://meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=pub_bulletin).

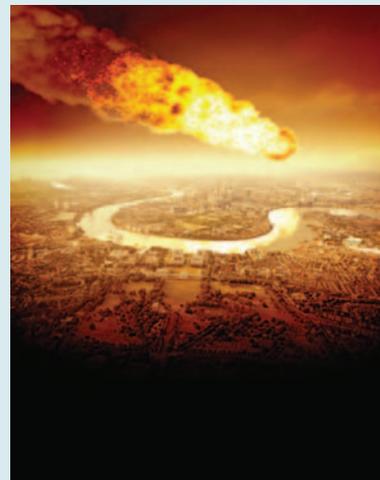
### From the Outgoing NomCom Secretary, Michael Weisberg



It has been a pleasure serving as editor of the *Meteoritical Bulletin* for the past three years, but the editorship is also a formidable task. NomCom is one of the most active and important committees serving the meteoritic and planetary science community. The editor, an *ex officio* member of the Meteorite Nomenclature Committee, manages the meteorite review and voting process, edits meteorite submissions, and is the central point of contact for submission of all new non-Antarctic meteorites. The editor is also responsible for publishing the *Meteoritical Bulletin* twice each year. As editor I was lucky to have support from the current chair, Chris Herd, past chairs Jutta Zipfel and Kevin Righter, and database editor Jeff Grossman. The meteorite database developed and managed by Jeff has become an invaluable tool for conducting NomCom business and a major resource for researching meteorite names, classification, and dense collection areas.

## GREENWICH EXHIBIT

From now until the end of August, the Royal Observatory's Impact Season is focussing on asteroids, comets, meteorites and the craters they produce throughout the Solar System. A brand new exhibition, "Impact: Collisions and Catastrophes," is accompanied by a programme of public events, including talks and lectures by scientists, meteorite-handling sessions, and specially produced planetarium shows. For more information, see the Impact website: [www.nmm.ac.uk/visit/exhibitions/on-display/impact/](http://www.nmm.ac.uk/visit/exhibitions/on-display/impact/).



Artist's impression of a large fireball over London