A Brief Document on Zunhua Meteorite

Basic information

Name: Zunhua (provisional)
Class: Ordinary chondrite
Fall time: 4:50 PM Beijing time, April 12, 2008
Location: Xinglongquan village, Dongling town, Zunhua city, Hebei province China
TKW: ~4kg
Coordinates:

40 09.921’ N

117 41.601’ E

Story

At around 4:50 PM (Beijing time), April 12, 2008, a whopping noise was heard by several farmer housewives when they were chatting with each other at the door of the local farmer Wangyuehua’s house. They searched the sky, and saw an unidentified object with a tail of white smoke fling towards them from north to south. Suddenly the object hit through the roof of the farmer’s main house, which was just several meters away from the chatters. They were frightened by the scene happened, and fortunately, none of them were injured.

A basketball-sized hole was created by the hit on the roof’s outer side; a small piece of ceiling was shocked off from the inner side of the roof. The main mass of the stone (932.2 grams) sat at a corner of the heatable brick bed and other fragments were scattered around the room. The edge of the kang and the surface of the sofa were stricken also and a few dents were left. A mirror on the wall and the TV set in the room were scratched by small fragments.

The falling happened at Xinglongquan village, Dongling town where the Qing dynasty royal tombs are located. Most of Chinese people call the stone as Dongling meteorite at the very beginning.

After the meteorite fall, many Chinese newspapers, TV, and internet websites reported the event. The following are a partial list of the media,

TV stations
CCTV-10
Jiangxi Satellite TV
Guizhou Satellite TV
Newspapers
Beijing Evening
Xinmin Evening

Yanzhaodushi News

Research progress

The classification is still in the progress as of today. Zunhua is just a provisional name for it. The meteorite laboratory of Beijing Planetarium is carrying on the research and determines it is of L4 type. A Noble Gas Analysis has been done by the Tokyo University, Japan, that can tell us about the origin of the parent body, and the result will be published soon.

Ma Lan
IMCA #8234
Web http://www.malanmeteorites.com/
May 9, 2009