

CHANGXING METEORITE – OLD NEWS ABOUT ITS FALL AND RECOVERY. R. Bartoschewitz¹, F.G. Zhang and L.J.Peng², ¹ Lehmweg 53, D-38518 Gifhorn, Germany (Bartoschewitz.Meteorite-Lab@t-online.de), ²Shanghai Museum of Natural History, 260 Yanan Road E., Shanghai, China 200002.

About the discovery of Changxing meteorite only very few information is reported. Bian Depei 1980 [1], Wang Daode 1993 [2] mentioned, that it was found in summer 1964 on Changxing island/Shanghai in the Yangtze mouth, while Zhang [3] mentioned the fall in summer 1966.

The authors visited the finder and the falling site about 37 years after the event. One of them (Zhang) brought the meteorite one day after its fall to the Shanghai Natural History Museum.

In Bei xin da dui, on the NW shore of Changxing Dao, the 34 year old Gu Ya Xin was keeping 40 cows in a shed together with the 14 year old boy Yue Changfa on October 17th, 1964. On that sunny morning at 10:50 a.m. Gu Ya Xin heard an increasing loud noise in SW-direction, ending with an explosion. It was accompanied by a bright fireball. Due to the political situation within China, he was afraid of an attack. Then, something fell into the marshy soil, several meters beside Gu, and ejected a more than 5 m fountain of mud and water. Further impacts he observed into the river Yangtze in NE-direction. Short time later Gu dug about 200 m S of the river within a reed-grown area a black stone from a 0.8 m wide and 1.5 m deep pit with a bamboo stick. Close to that site a group of hydrologic surveyor worked, that also heard the explosion. Gu Ya Xin showed the strange stone to them. During their discussion the hydrologic surveyor recommended to investigate the further observed impact and Gu dug about 10 m SE of the former one a smaller stone from a

depth of about 1 m with his bamboo stick. The hydrologic surveyor informed the Natural History Museum of Shanghai and the young curator Zhang Fu Gen picked up the two stones by bicycle from Gu Ya Xin's home.

The stones showed firstly a indigo-blue lustrous fusion crust, as coated with micro-crystals, that changed within the following three days to black crust. Both stones were completely covered by 0.5 mm fusion crust. Their single weights 21.4 and 6.5 kg, the bigger one shows well developed regmaglyps, while the smaller shows only weak.

After the meteorite's flight in SE-NW-direction, the saved stones impacted within a distance of 10 m on 31°25'31" N, 121°40'47" E. Now-a-days this site is about 200 m north of Changxing island inside the Yangtze river. The former marsh has been moved by fluvial erosion within the last nearly 40 years.

The Changxing meteorite is classified as H5 chondrite [4]. It shows well developed chondrules and is of shock stage S4 and weathering class W0 (this work).

- [1] Bian, D. (1981) *Meteoritics*, 16, 115-128.
 [2] Chen, Y. and Wang, D. (1994) *Meteoritics*, 29, 886-890. [3] Zhang, Z. (1995) *Acta Museum Historiae Naturae Sinica, Museum Historiae Naturae Shanghaiense*, 69-79. [4] Kerridge, J.F. and Matthews M.S. (1988) Meteorites and the early solar system. The University of Arizona Press, Tucson, pp.1269.