

THE METEORITE COLLECTION OF THE SCHOOL OF MINES, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF OURO PRETO.

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The Science and Technical Museum of the School of Mines of the Federal University of Ouro Preto – MG (MCT/EM/UFOP), counts nowadays with a collection of more than 60 thousand objects. This museum has started its activities with the foundation of the School of Mines, by the French Professor Claude Henri Gorceix, in 10.12.1876, constituting the first College of mining-metallurgical sciences in Brazil.

Gorceix had as conception to offer an holistic graduation to their students. Therefore, some mineral samples, fossils, didactic models, scientific instruments, books, and others objects were brought from Europe to structure this new Institute.

Currently, the whole collection has been structured, organized and displayed in topical sectors (Mineralogy, Natural History, Astronomy, Metallurgy, Mining, Electrotechnic, Iron and Steel Industry, Drawing, Topography, Memorial Nucleus, Rare Works Library and Imperial Chapel), that now tidies this museum up.

The Mineralogy Sector was brought from the former Mineralogy Laboratory of Rio de Janeiro. This Sector has been improved through donations from teachers, students and former students of the School who gathered samples in field researches for practical works and exchanges with collectors and other institutions. Today it has a rich collection of minerals and meteorites from all over the world.

In the collection of meteorites there are fragments from Argentina, Chile, Hungary, Mexico, USA and Brazilian meteorites. The Brazilian meteorites are: Barbacena, Bendengó, Conquista, Itutinga, Santa Catarina, Santa Luzia, Serra de Magé and Uberaba.

In the moment our team started the characterization of meteorite Itutinga, because its main mass [1] (47.500 g) belongs to the Science and Technical Museum of the School of Mines of the Federal University of Ouro Preto.

The Itutinga is an iron meteorite (IIIAB), medium octahedrite, briefly described by [2]. Classification and analysis were performed by [3], with the following contents: 7,2 % Ni, 18,6 ppm Ga, 36,0 ppm Ge, 13,0 ppm Ir.

There is another meteorite named Itumirim (114.7 g), found only 4 Km of Itutinga. These two pieces could be fragments of the same meteorite. In order to test this hypotheses, we are currently doing XRF, Mössbauer spectroscopy and microprobe analyses. The results will be ready to be presented by the time of this conference.

This is a first effort in order to attach a scientific value to the museum's collection.

[1] GRADY M. M. 2000. *Catalogue of Meteorites* 254. [2] BUCHWALD V.F. 1975. *Handbook of Iron Meteorites* 688. [3] KRACHER A. Kracher et al. 1980. *GCA* 44:773.