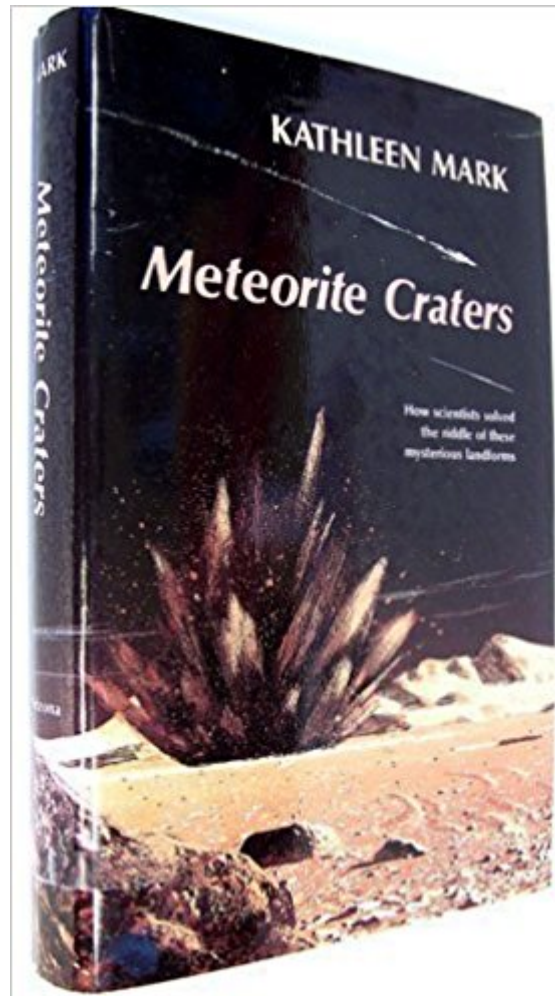




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# Meteorite Craters



## Synopsis

The scientific community has argued for decades over the origin of giant craters on the earth. In a highly readable fashion, Kathleen Mark recounts the fascinating detective story of how scientists came to recognize meteorite craters, both ancient and relatively recent.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A splendid account of just how [meteorite craters] came about." *—Geology Today* "Kathleen Mark gives a lively picture of this amazing chapter of the history of modern geology, and of many scientists who played a role fighting for or against the new concept. Her report is based on an authentic knowledge of the widespread literature, documented in an extensive list of references, and vividly illustrated by anecdotal details. For anyone interested in the origin and the early history of impact geology, this book is informative reading, made pleasant by the author's clear language, which avoids overly technical terms." *—Wolf von Engelhardt in Earth Science History* "For an accurate, well-researched introductory overview of the field, you could not find a better book." *—Gail O. Clark in Astronomy* "An invaluable reference on the history of the recognition of terrestrial cratering." *—L. Lundström in Impact* "This text is a model of clear non-technical exposition and apt illustration." *—Philip Morrison in Scientific American*

The scientific community has argued for decades over the origin of giant craters on the earth. In a highly readable fashion, Kathleen Mark recounts the fascinating detective story of how scientists

came to recognize meteorite craters, both ancient and relatively recent.

The first book that has been written on the subject on finding and properly identifying true meteorite craters. Because much of the Earth's early historic impact sites have a lot of the same characteristics of volcanic sites, weird land formations, both subsidence, and domes, it's a long process to identify a meteorite crater as being a crater. For over 80 years, the ranchers, Indians, and many of the so-called "college professors" all called the Barringer Meteorite Crater, a steam explosion, Coon Butte, and Franklin Hole. Most people saw it from a distance, and wasn't really looked at until the local rancher went looking for some stray cattle, in the late 1870's. Most craters are showing off the results of long term erosion, and the remains of rock formations that are usually much deeper in the earth, than in the local area.

Excellent book! very informative and readable for anyone wanting to know more about this complex area of geology.

A very well written and informative book. You really feel like you are Barrington or Ninninger at times, on the trail of a mass find. Also contains extensive information about craters in several countries outside North America.

This is a thorough account of meteorite craters intended mainly for the layman. However it does not shortchange the technical side when necessary. It uses the historical method, unrolling the story of meteorites and meteorite craters from about the 17th century to the present. It starts with the story of how scientists came to accept stones falling from the sky as a real phenomenon. It then proceeds to the long process whereby scientists were led to understanding of what geological structures on earth are impact related and how to distinguish them from other types of geological structures. This is not as easy as you might think as this book makes clear. In fact many respected geologists did not accept that there were any meteorite craters on earth at all until well into the twentieth century. I prefer the historical method of presenting scientific subjects as used in this book since knowing the history of how we got to where we are makes much more sense of the current state of our knowledge. This book is so thorough that it can be a little dry at times. I was originally going to give it a 3 star rating instead of 4. However, when I picked up the book to do this review I noticed how well thumbed it was. This is because although the book is written as a historical narrative it is thorough enough to use as a reference work. When I ran across a reference to the Sudbury structure in the

news I looked it up this book to get the background. When I needed an example of how science proceeds in the absence of direct experimental data and with mostly anecdotal evidence I looked up the story of how scientist came to accept meteorites as real phenomenon by the beginning of the 19th century. It has plenty of footnotes and references if you want more specific information. This book can serve as a historical narrative of, survey of, or reference for, meteorite craters. Some nits: This book has a lot of illustrations but because of the nature of the subject it could use more. The author occasionally forgets her audience and uses technical geological terms without explanation. There is one complaint that there is no help for. Many questions are left hanging at the end of the book. This is inevitable since it is an account of a story that is still unfolding. Still, the book was copyrighted in 1987 so updating it would help some. I would recommend this book to any adult having an interest in meteorite craters and I am including non-specialist geologists as well as scientifically inclined laymen. I also think it would make a nice gift for an inquiring teenager or maybe a bright sixth grader. They will not understand everything that is in this book but there is a lot that they will understand. Just the kind of thing to stretch their minds.

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