



THEATRUM MUNDI'S HIGHLIGHT AT BRAFA 2020

AN AUTHENTIC AND EXTREMELY RARE MARS METEORITE

This meteorite is characterized by an exceptionally out of standard weight of 1,992 Kg making it the biggest martian meteorite currently on the market. This meteorite is currently one of the 10 biggest uncut martian meteorites in private hands.



This is a Martian basalt meteorite of the shergottite group, an extremely rare fragment of extraterrestrial matter. Dar al Gani 489 is the official meteorite name. It was found in 1997 in the desert of Libya. Dimensions: 15 x 19 x 11 cm. Weight: 1,992 Kg. Provenance: private collection.

After an interplanetary journey of thousands or millions of years in space, very few rock fragments from Mars, expelled from the surface of the Red Planet following a violent asteroid impact, have fallen to Earth. Of the 60,000 or so meteorites that have been discovered on Earth, only 124 have been identified as originating from the planet Mars.

This meteorite, found in 1997 in Libya, belongs to the group of Shergottites, a type of basaltic igneous Martian rocks that owes its name to the Indian town of Sherghati, where the first meteorite of the Red Planet fell on 25 August 1865. From the early Eighties, it was quite clear that the so-called "SNC meteorites", Shergottiti, Nakhliiti and Chassigniti, were significantly different from all the others rediscovered hitherto.

In 1983, the analysis of the chemical composition of the gas trapped in the EET7900 shergottite revealed incredible similarities to the atmosphere of the Red Planet, analyzed by space probes of NASA's Viking Program that descended on Mars with three objectives: finding traces of alien life, characterizing the structure and composition both of the surface and atmosphere and capturing high resolution images.

The age of formation of the shergottites, calculated thanks to advanced radiometric dating techniques, is included for the most part between 150 and 575 million years ago. The age of the relatively young crystallization age of this type of Martian rock seems to imply that there has been an intense volcanic activity on the Red Planet up to a few hundred million years ago. The recent period of formation of the Martian meteorites was one of the first characteristics that led scientists to think that their origin was determined to be from a planet like Mars.



For more info:

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