

<http://meteoriticalsociety.org>

METEORITE NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE REPORT



Laurence Garvie

The purpose of the Meteoritical Society's Meteorite Nomenclature Committee (NomCom) is to approve new meteorite names, to establish guidelines, and to make decisions regarding the naming of meteorites. The committee also keeps the meteorite community informed of new meteorites through notices in the *Meteoritical Bulletin* and entries in the Meteoritical Bulletin Database (<https://www.lpi.usra.edu/meteor/>). While the yearly publication of the *Meteoritical Bulletin* (e.g. MB103 = 2014, MB104 = 2015) lags behind the

database entries, new meteorites are automatically added to the next issue of the bulletin by the database editor. The contents of the bulletin are accessible using the Publication dropdown window in the database. MB104 contains 2,282 meteorites (1,285 non-Antarctic) and MB105 contains 2,666 meteorites (1,121 non-Antarctic).

I would like to thank Takashi Mikouchi and Trevor Ireland (ex-officio) for their service on the NomCom. I also welcome Mutsumi Komatsu and Meenakshi Wadhwa (MetSoc Vice President) as new NomCom members. Current membership is as follows:

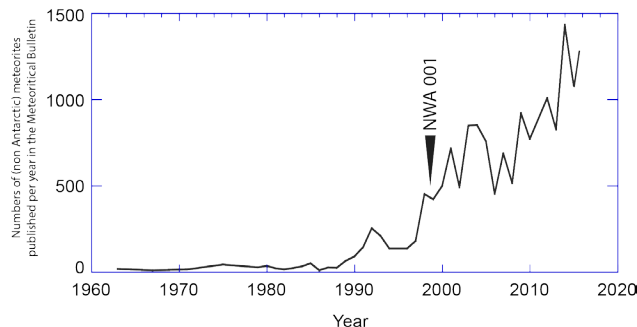
| NomCom Committee | Expiry Date |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Laurence Garvie (Chair) | 2018 |
| Mutsumi Komatsu (1 st term) | 2019 |
| Knut Metzler (2 nd term) | 2018 |
| Jérôme Gattacceca (2 nd term, Deputy Editor) | 2019 |
| Tasha Dunn (2 nd term) | 2019 |
| Emma Bullock (1 st term) | 2017 |
| Vinciane Debaille (1 st term) | 2017 |
| Hasnaa Chennaoui (1 st term) | 2017 |
| Francis McCubbin (1 st term) | 2018 |

Three ex-officio NomCom Members

Audrey Bouvier (MetBull Editor) – 2nd term
 Jeff Grossman (Database Editor) – 3rd term
 Meenakshi Wadhwa (MetSoc Vice President)

Meteoritical Bulletin Database (MBDB)

Meteorites: First and foremost, the database is a record of all recognized and classified meteorites as accepted by the Meteorite Nomenclature Committee (NomCom) of the Meteoritical Society. In addition, the database lists all approved dense collection areas (DCAs), including their keyhole markup language (KML) coordinates for direct viewing in Google Earth, and keeps a list of all collections and repositories. The Meteoritical Bulletin Database continues to grow significantly (Fig. 2), with over 3,145 meteorites added over the last calendar year for a total of 56,214 classified meteorites (as of 3 April 2017). Of these latter 3,145 meteorites, some 1,456 are not from Antarctica. The database also reflects changes in discovery and recognition of meteorites. For example, the NomCom has approved an astonishing 43 lunar meteorites during the last year alone, for a total mass near 40 kg! The database also shows some interesting numbers. Of the 42,173 approved meteorites from Antarctica, only 35 are lunar, with the largest being 1,226 g. However, of the 13,771 classified non-Antarctic meteorites, 252 are lunar, of which 31 have a mass greater than one kg, with several above 15 kg.



Many submitters understand the importance of the database as a world-wide source for meteoritical information, and the depth of their submissions reflect this understanding. I encourage submitters to see these submissions as mini-refereed publications – they are reviewed by the NomCom, a body that consists of 12 of your fellow scientists. Often, this submission will be the only time the meteorite is studied, and, as such, sufficient petrographic and geochemical information should be included to be useful for future scientists.

Dense Collection Areas (DCAs): There are currently 258 named and used dense collecting areas (DCAs). The NomCom voted on and approved 23 new DCAs in the last year, with the highest numbers from Iran (7) and Western Sahara/Morocco (5). A list of all DCAs can be found at <https://www.lpi.usra.edu/meteor/DenseAreas.php>.

Type-Specimen Repositories: The NomCom voted on and approved two new type-specimen repositories: the University of Leicester (UK) and the University of Silesia (Poland). The NomCom currently recognizes 80 institutions as repositories for meteorite type specimens. According to §7.1f of the *Guidelines for Meteorite Nomenclature*, type specimens of all new meteorites “must be deposited in institutions that have well-curated meteorite collections and long-standing commitments to such curation.” Repository information is at <https://www.lpi.usra.edu/meteor/MetBullAddresses.php?grp=country>.

Essential information on meteorite nomenclature, instructions and the template for reporting new meteorites, and NomCom membership can be found at http://meteoriticalsociety.org/?page_id=106. The template that should be filled out for a new submission can be found at http://meteoriticalsociety.org/?page_id=63. This template is in Excel format and contains instructions both on page one of this file and header for each column (just let your mouse hover over the column header name). Here is where I would like to make a special plea – please take the time to follow these instructions, especially for special characters such as micron, degrees etc. Having been the NomCom editor from 2011 to 2013, I found myself spending many hours editing submissions before sending them out for vote. In my opinion, the editor positions, which are currently held by Audrey Bouvier and Deputy Editor Jérôme Gattacceca, are the most time-consuming on the committee – a big “Thank You” to Audrey and Jérôme for taking on this mammoth task!

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns about the NomCom, especially with suggestions for improvement.

Laurence Garvie
NomCom Chair

ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

2017: July 24–28, Santa Fe, New Mexico (USA)
 2018: July 23–27, Moscow (Russia)
 2019: July 8–12, Sapporo (Japan)

