

Contents

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <i>List of figures</i>  | <i>page</i> vii |
| <i>List of tables</i>   | ix              |
| <i>Preface</i>  | xi              |
| 1 Historical introduction   | 1               |
| 1.1 Rocks from the sky  | 1               |
| 1.2 Museums and collectors  | 4               |
| 1.3 The instruments   | 4               |
| 1.4 The space age   | 10              |
| 1.5 The great expeditions   | 11              |
| 1.6 Cosmic sediments  | 12              |
| 2 Potential meteorite parent bodies                                   | 21              |
| 2.1 Asteroids as potential meteorite parent bodies                    | 21              |
| 2.2 Impact and cratering processes                                    | 40              |
| 3 Chondrites and their main properties                                | 49              |
| 3.1 Classification and composition                                    | 49              |
| 3.2 Formation history   | 60              |
| 3.3 The challenge   | 70              |
| 4 Chondrules and their main properties                                | 73              |
| 4.1 The diversity of chondrules                                       | 73              |
| 4.2 Chondrule groups  | 75              |
| 4.3 Composition of chondrules   | 80              |
| 4.4 Physical processes affecting chondrule history                    | 90              |
| 4.5 Chondrule rims and matrix – implications for<br>formation history | 94              |
| 4.6 Stable isotope studies of chondrules                              | 98              |
| 4.7 Radiogenic isotope studies of chondrules                          | 103             |
| 4.8 Interclass comparisons  | 105             |
| 4.9 Refractory inclusions   | 106             |

|    |  |     |
|----|--|-----|
| vi | <i>Contents</i>  |     |
|    | 4.10 Relationship between chondrules and refractory inclusions | 107 |
|    | 4.11 “Chondrules” from other planetary bodies                  | 109 |
| 5  | Theories for the origin of chondrules                          | 111 |
|    | 5.1 Some general comments                                      | 111 |
|    | 5.2 Processes occurring in the primordial solar nebula         | 112 |
|    | 5.3 Processes occurring on parent bodies                       | 119 |
| 6  | Discussion of theories for the origin of chondrules            | 125 |
|    | 6.1 The primordial solar nebula and possible cosmochemistry    | 125 |
|    | 6.2 Critique of nebula theories for chondrule formation        | 129 |
|    | 6.3 Formation of chondrules by impact into a regolith          | 137 |
| 7  | Discussion of theories for metal–silicate fractionation        | 141 |
|    | 7.1 Chondrule sorting  | 141 |
|    | 7.2 The metal–silicate fraction in the nebula                  | 143 |
|    | 7.3 Metal–silicate fractionation on the parent body            | 147 |
| 8  | So how far have we come and where do we go next?               | 151 |
|    | 8.1 Chondrules and chondrite classes as impact pyroclastics    | 151 |
|    | 8.2 The details  | 154 |
|    | 8.3 So far, so near  | 158 |
|    | 8.4 Why the impasse?   | 159 |
|    | 8.5 Breaking the log jam?                                      | 160 |
|    | <i>References</i>  | 163 |
|    | <i>Index</i>   | 199 |