

CHONDRULES **and their** **ORIGINS**

edited by Elbert A. King



Lunar and Planetary Institute
Houston

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FOREWORD

The origins of chondrules are fundamental problems of most stony meteorites and some planetary surface samples. Yet, until now, no single volume has been devoted entirely to this topic that is so essential to understanding these rocks. Most researchers agree that many chondrules were free molten drops during some portion of their histories, but there the agreement ends. Virtually all other aspects of chondrules are in dispute between competing interpretations and genetic models. The contents of this volume are designed to provide the reader with a broad overview of current ideas in this area of research. Both reviews and original research contributions are included.

All contributions to this volume were technically reviewed under the supervision of an Editorial Board, whose membership is listed on the next page. The concept for the volume grew out of the planning for a Lunar and Planetary Institute Topical Conference of the same name, which was held November 15–17, 1982. However, this is not a proceedings of that conference, as additional papers on the subject were solicited. An abstract volume for the conference is available from the Lunar and Planetary Institute (LPI Contribution 493).

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It is obvious that there is still much to be learned about chondrules and their origins, and many contributions are yet to be derived from standard laboratory research methods. It is equally clear that some of the most important answers must be obtained through further solar system exploration, particularly through remote investigations and sample returns from asteroids and comets. We can only urge that these programs not be too long in coming.

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