



Award

2006 Service Award for Jörn Koblitz

This year, the Meteoritical Society has assigned the Service Award for the first time.

The purpose of the award is to honor members who have advanced the goals of the society to promote research and education in meteoritics and planetary science in ways other than by conducting scientific research. Through this award, members active in education and public outreach, service to the society and the broader scientific community, or in the acquisition, classification, and curation of new samples for research are supposed to be honored.

Mr. President, it is my privilege to present the winner of the Service Award 2006, Mr. Jörn Koblitz.

Jörn Koblitz was born in Hamburg in 1961. In 1983 he started to collect meteorites and meteoritics literature and he became a member of the Meteoritical Society.

Jörn Koblitz studied Materials Sciences at the University of Osnabrück (Germany), was engaged with the metallography of iron meteorites, and in 1987 received his bachelor's degree in engineering with a thesis on the metallurgy of REE/FeCo alloys.

Subsequently he worked as a process engineer for Philips Semiconductor Division in Hamburg, where he joined the bipolar IC research group. He then joined a contractor company in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where he worked as a project manager on the planning of an IC fabrication site. After returning to Germany, he became facility manager at the Institute of Microsensors, Actuators, and Systems (IMSAS) of the University of Bremen (Germany).

Since 2001, Jörn Koblitz has been the managing director and cofounder of microFAB Bremen GmbH, a MEMS silicon wafer foundry.

As the first and so far only "amateur" to serve as a member of the Nomenclature Committee of the Meteoritical Society (1997–2003), he took part in the labor-intensive task of checking the classifications of several thousand new meteorites to vote for their official acceptance by the Society.

A much larger impact on the meteoritical community had his idea and his private engagement to develop a computer database for all known meteorites. When he introduced MetBase, a meteorite retrieval software, back in 1994, it was the first of its kind.

This database has been kept up-to-date, was further developed and improved up to version 7.2, which is currently available. At present, the database is the most comprehensive meteorite data reference. It makes the basic data of all officially accepted meteorites (about 31,200) available,



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combines them with their analytical data (mineral and chemical analyses, noble gases, cosmogenic radionuclides, stable isotopes, TL measurements), literature and photographs, and makes those data utilizable through specific search routines. Additionally, the database lists the inventory of meteorites in hundreds of public and private meteorite collections worldwide. The literature compilation is so valuable that it has been partly incorporated into the NASA ADS online system and it is also used as one of the data sources for the Meteoritical Bulletin Database, placed on the Meteoritical Society's Web site.

This makes the database of Jörn Koblitz an often-used and a valuable tool for professional researchers, curators, and private collectors.

I am pleased with the decision of the committee to select Mr. Jörn Koblitz as the recipient for the 2006 Service Award.

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