

EARLY REPORTS ON METEORITE FALLS IN THE CARPATHIAN BASIN

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Notes from 16–17th century chronicles and manuscripts on meteorite falls observed in the Carpathian Basin are discussed briefly. Original texts will be published elsewhere.

Keresztes-mező, S of Torda, Transylvania (= Turda, Romania), July 26, 1558.
According to a short manuscript note of Forgáts (publ. 1903) three stones fell, measuring 26, 28 and 30 pounds. A similar note was taken by Sepsi Laczkó (see Mikó, 1858).

Miskolcz (= Miskolc), Hungary, May 10, 1560?
Istvánffy (1622) reports the fall of five stones accompanied by a strong detonation in clear sky, and suddenly rising then ceasing wind. One of the stones had been kept in Diósgyőr, the others had been sent to Vienna, but neither of them was traced by Chladni (1819). He and an 18th century manuscript (Pekár, 1904) date the event to 1559 (cf. Hey, 1966). Istvánffy, however, writes 1560, and Szent-Iványi (1699) reports the fall of five stones on May 10, 1560 at Mosócz, which is obviously an error for Miskolcz.

?Odranec, Moravia, Czech Republic (outside of the Carpathian Basin), June 11, 1619
Çelebi (in Karátson, 1916) describes the fall of black balls accompanied by loud noise, fire and smoke in the sky in North Hungary “in the Morava [= March] region” in mid-Sha’ban, 1028 (= mid-July, 1619). Hey misdates this fall to August, 1618, and lists it as “Steiermark”, since Chladni claimed after Hammer (1816) that the stones had fallen “in the Mur district”. The event may correspond to the Odranec fall (q.v. Burkart, 1953).

Between Gran (= Esztergom) and Ofen (= Buda), Hungary, December 11?, 1642
Stories on the appearance of five fiery balls in the sky accompanied by heavy detonations leading into a celestial battle of three hours with a subsequent shower of lead and tin may have been inspired by a meteorite fall. This event is dated by Chladni to November 30 or December 12 referring to unspecified sources (Hey gives December 2), but a copy of a contemporary manuscript (Anonymous, 1642) states December 11.

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