

## 5. Agpalilik, Greenland: Estimated weight: 20 tonnes



Photo: [FunkMonk](#)

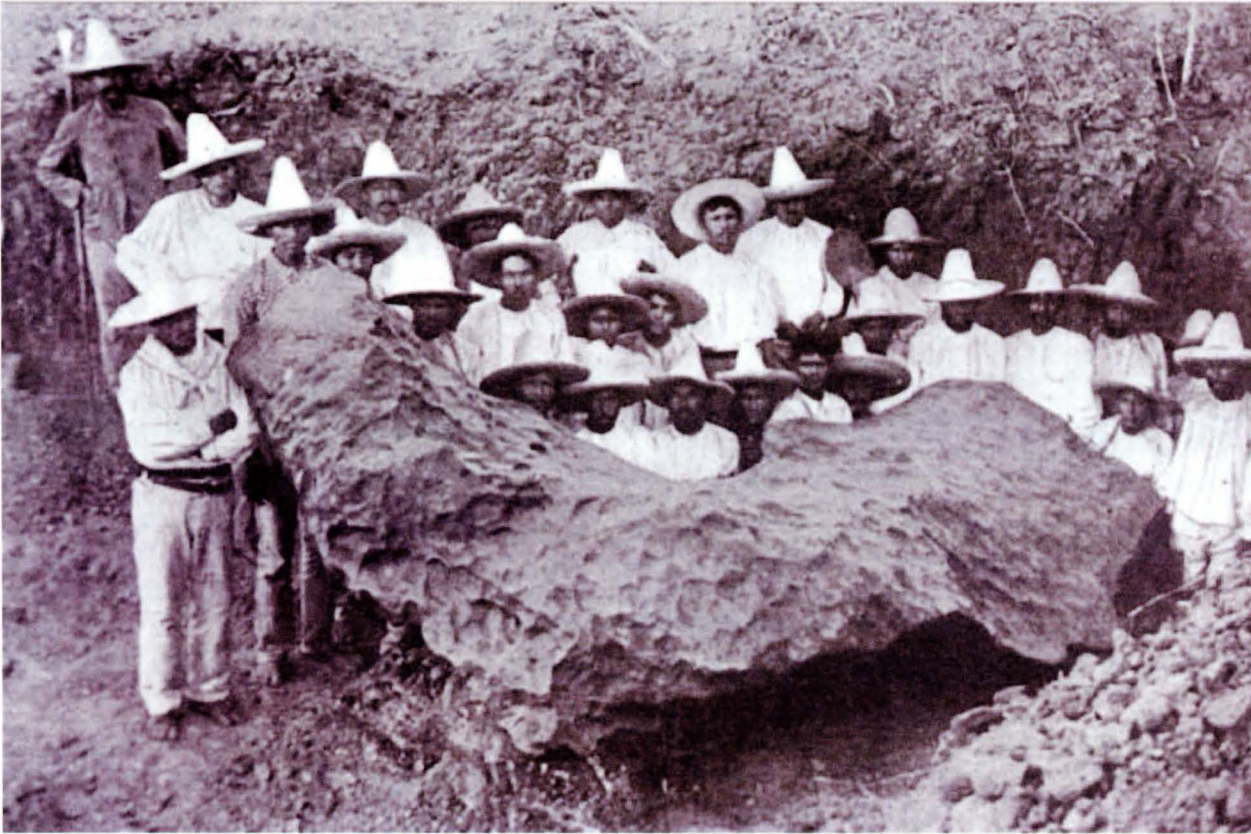
Discovered in 1963 by Vagn F. Buchwald, Agpalilik, aka the Man, is the fourth major piece of Greenland's Cape York meteorite and the smaller of the Cape's two celestial visitors that make our top seven. Still, at a less than modest 20 tonnes, it's not to be scoffed at, and can be seen at the Geological Museum in Copenhagen.

**Shifting a lump: Agpalilik meteorite being moved**



*Photographer unknown via [Gabriel](#)*

The Cape York meteorite from which the Aqpallilik is derived smashed into the Earth almost 10,000 years ago and is one of the largest iron meteorites on the planet. For centuries, Inuit living near the earlier located pieces used them as a source of metal for tools and weapons, before tales of their existence pricked the ears of scientists back in 1818. Between 1818 and 1883, five expeditions set out to track down the rogue iron source, all of which failed.



Photographer unknown via [Meteorite Art](#)

The monster of a meteorite that is Bacubirito was discovered by American geologist Gilbert Ellis Bailey in 1892 – who had been sent by Chicago journal the Interocean to Central and South America – and excavated with the help of local people. Like all meteorites, it was named after the place where it was found. A mighty fallen shooting star.

### **3. Ahnighito, Cape York, Greenland: 31 tonnes**



Photo: [VSmithUK](#)

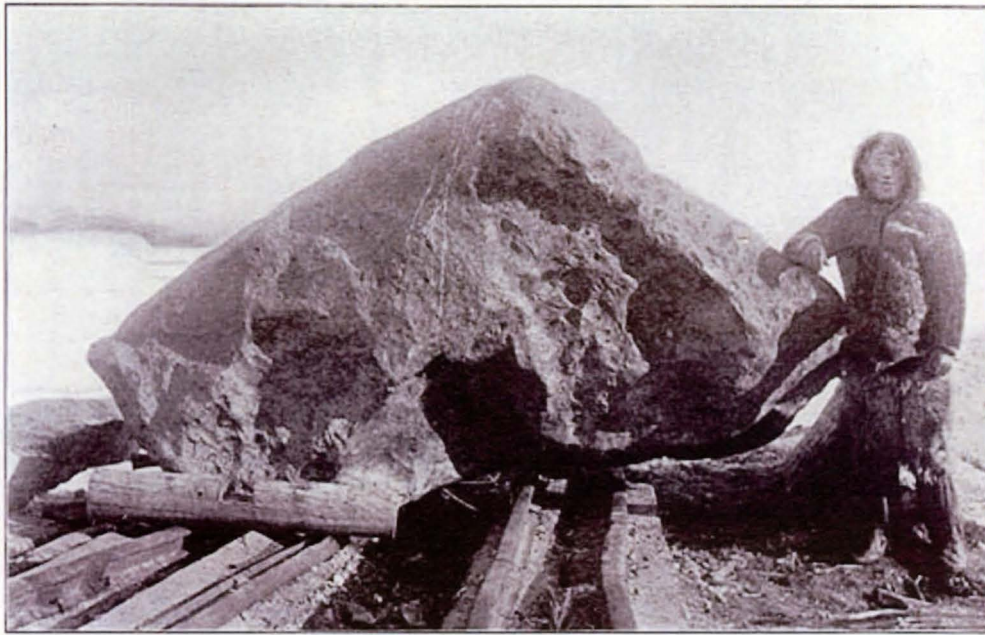
The largest chunk of the Cape York meteorite, Ahnighito, known to the Inuit as the Tent, is at 31 tonnes the heaviest meteorite ever moved by man. Rumours of the Greenland iron had reached scientific circles in 1818, but it was 1894 before the American Arctic explorer Robert E Peary finally located its source – with the help of a nameless local guide.

**Precarious operation: The Ahnighito being launched on board Peary's ship**



LAUNCHING THE "AHNIGHITO" ON BOARD.

Photographer unknown via [Meteorite Recon](#)



"TENT" OR "AHNIGHITO" METEORITE.

*Ahnighito or Tent meteorite c.1894: Photographer unknown via [Meteorite Recon](#)*

Like fugitives on the run from distant [solar systems](#), meteors hurtle through the earth's atmosphere, lighting up the eyes of observers on the ground. Often these fireballs of metal and rock burn up in a blaze of glory, and many do not survive their impact with the Earth's surface. Those that do though start a more settled life here on Earth as [meteorites](#). Some might even claim to be the new sheriffs in town – they're that big and resistant to weathering.