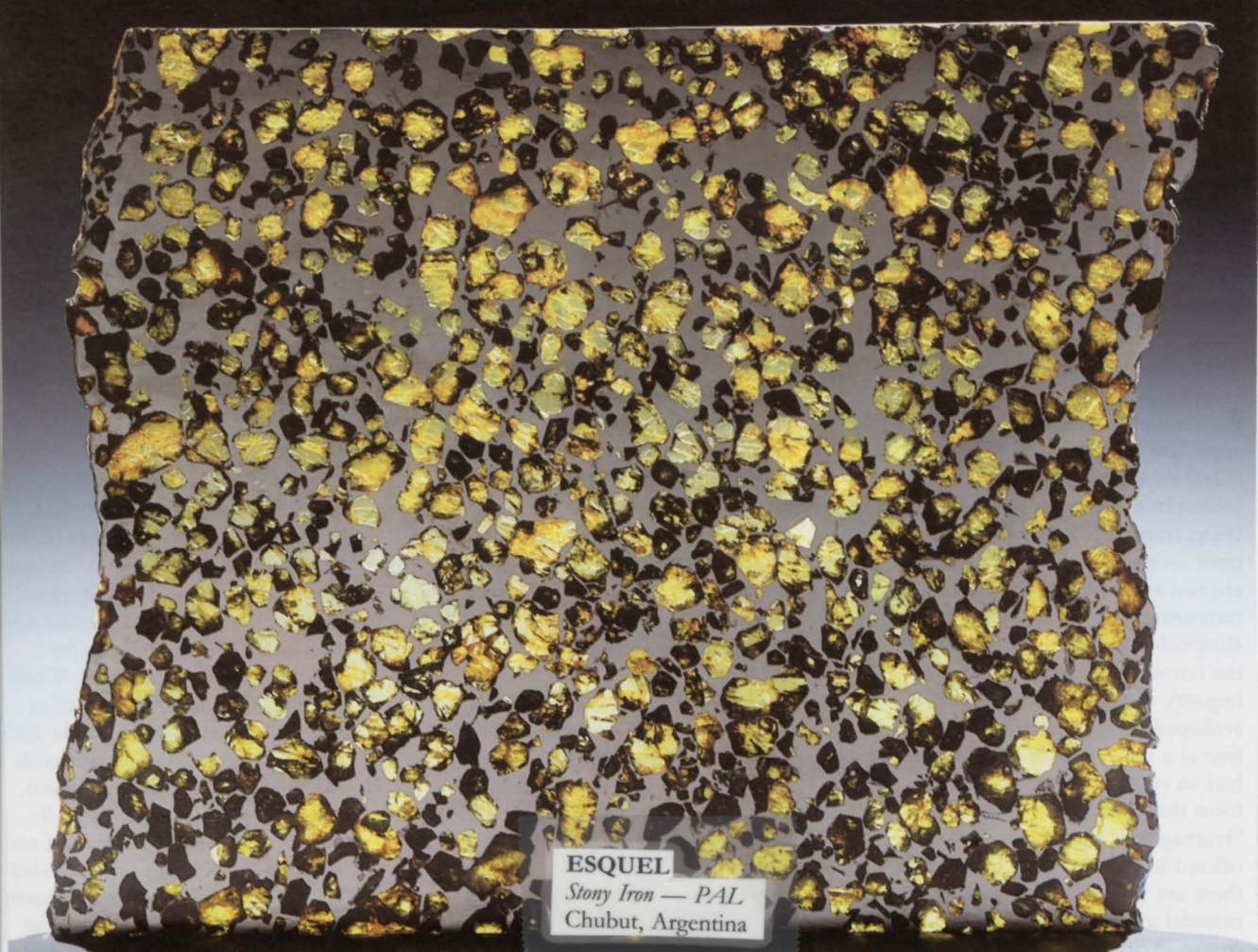
ESQUEL
Stony Iron — PAL
Chubut, Argentina

LOTS 230–233
SIKHOTE-ALIN — THE LARGEST METEORITE FALL SINCE THE DAWN OF CIVILIZATION

Iron, coarse octahedrite

Maritime Territory, Siberia, CIS
At 10:30 am on February 12, 1947, the largest meteorite fall since the dawn of civilization occurred. A fireball, brighter than the sun, streaked over the Sikhote-Alin Mountains and violently exploded at an altitude of 5 km, showering the snowy Siberian taiga with approximately 60 tons of material. While thousands of local inhabitants' hearts stopped — and sharp fragments impaled scores of trees — no one was injured. There are two types of Sikhote-Alin meteorites: jagged and twisted shrapnel-like specimens (results of the last-minute explosion before impact), and the smooth, gently scalloped specimens (which broke free at a much higher altitude and had an opportunity to ablate and form the thumbprints known as "regmaglypts"). Both varieties are offered in the next four lots. While there are still tons of unrecovered material in this remote and hostile region of Siberia, the obstacles to

• **231**
SIKHOTE-ALIN — LARGE AESTHETIC FRAGMENT
The result of an extraordinary explosion in the low atmosphere, this is a large fragment displaying twisting folds and deep striations on both faces. Having survived as part of a larger mass during the flight through the upper atmosphere, this specimen is testament to the explosive shearing force on a meteorite just before impact. An extraordinary counterpoint to the previous lot; a superior example in lustrous gunmetal burnished with a charcoal patina. *113 x 91 x 33mm and 597.7 grams.*
$350-450
See Illustration on page 36

232
SIKHOTE-ALIN — FRAGMENT
Similar to the previous specimen, a smaller fragment reminiscent of a landscape; with a combed plateau, deep furrows, and rounded edges. Very good overall. *79 x 47 x 19mm and 146.3 grams.*
$80-120
See Illustration on page 36

(Texas), Allende (*Carbonaceous chondrite*). This lot features a terrific 12.8 gram complete specimen of the pallasite Imilac, with a gleamin nickel-iron matrix and burnt-orang recesses of weathered olivine. *Average dimensions per specimen: 17 x 14 x 6mm and 8.15 grams. Total weight 81.5 grams.*
$200-300

• **235**
MURCHISON — THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF LIFE FROM OUTER SPACE
Carbonaceous — CM2
Victoria, Australia.
One of the most famous and studied meteorites in the world. When the Murchison carbonaceou chondrite rained down on the tow of the same name on September 28, 1969, a pungent ether-like odo enveloped the community for several disquieting minutes. While Murchison contains only half as much water as Orgueil (*see lot 196*) it includes dozens of amino acids (the building blocks of proteins), many of which do not naturally occur on Earth. As a result of suc research, Murchison has provided support for the Panspermia theory of creation: life on Earth having