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The Tunguska Mystery

 Springer

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Our editor at Springer, Maury Solomon, should be praised for her keen interest in the subject and patient waiting for the final version of the manuscript to be produced.

From personal experience I can say that the enigma of Tunguska is utterly compelling. Hardly any of those who became well acquainted with it (especially in his or her younger years) has been able to put it aside. Physicists and engineers, geneticists and geologists, science amateurs and professionals – all of them could find in this field something to attract them. Having once set foot on the Tunguska road, these people still persistently continue their quest for truth despite so many different obstacles. Even dissenting between themselves, they comprise a research community united by the same goal – and by the same values. I wish to express my sincere thanks to all friends and colleagues with whom we have been traveling on this road – first of all to Dr. Victor Zhuravlev, whose advice and encouragement have always been so helpful. Victor is remarkable for his wonderful ability to wed intellectual bravery with strict logic – a true man of science.

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Author's Note

This book is different from previously published books on the greatest explosion in recorded history in that it offers a truly interdisciplinary approach to the subject. Unfortunately, many theorists who try to solve this enigma are aware of only two facts: in 1908 something flew over Siberia, and this “something” exploded. Actually there is far more to this story. I personally researched this subject for 35 years and this book presents the wealth of information collected in Russia during the past 100 years.

Theories that attempt to explain what happened at Tunguska in 1908 must use all the facts established by hundreds of investigators (scientists and their assistants) on numerous expeditions since the 1920s. Some theories have come close to doing so, although none has fully satisfied the available data, much of which have only been recorded in Russian. Readers will soon see that this subject is much more complex than was once thought, and that the interdisciplinary approach seems to offer the only way of knowing what actually hit Earth with such force in 1908.