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Chondrule (850 μm in diameter) from the unmetamorphosed Chairun meteorite, containing excess 26Al from decay of 26Al 4.6 billion years ago. Initial abundance of 26Al is one-fifth of that in Ca-Al inclusions, the oldest solids formed in the solar system, implying that chondrules formed — and the solar nebula lasted — for more than 2 million years. The chondrule includes glass (dark magenta), brightly colored olivine and dendritic pyroxene, and blocky spinel (light magenta). See page 757. [Transmitted polarized light (plus gypsum plate) photo: G. J. MacPherson]

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