

WORKING GROUP FOR PLANETARY SYSTEM NOMENCLATURE

(Committee of the Executive)

CHAIRMAN: H. Masursky
MEMBERS: K. Aksnes, G.E. Hunt, M. Ya. Marov, P.M. Millman, D. Morrison,
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CONSULTANTS: J.M. Boyce, G.E. Burba, A.M. Komkov, J.D. Rosenthal

Since the last General Assembly in Patras, Greece, we have held three meetings of the Working Group. The 10th Meeting was held in Mzkheta, the ancient capital of Georgia, USSR, hosted by their Academy of Sciences on April 3-7, 1984. All members except one, who was represented by a member of his Task Group, were present at the very productive meeting.

We decided at that meeting (1) that subsequent meetings would be held even if only part of the membership could attend. Actions will be reviewed by correspondence: Decisions of a controversial nature will be delayed until those episodic meetings, with larger attendance, are held. The 11th Meeting was held at the COSPAR Meeting at Graz, Austria, on July 30, 1984 and the 12th was held at Kailua-Kona, Hawaii in connection with the Division of Planetary Science Meeting of the American Astronomical Association on October 8, 1984. At the Graz meeting, the decision (2) was made to form a Task Group to name features on primitive or small bodies including asteroids and comets. We will propose the membership and Chairman of this Group at the IAU General Assembly Meeting at New Delhi, India, in November, 1985. We decided (3) to publish annually a computer listing of planetary nomenclature with limited distribution. This annual gazetteer of about 400 pages will appear as a softback U.S. Geological Survey open file report. An illustrated gazetteer will appear in 1986 as a widely distributed hardback national aeronautic and space administration special report with many maps and photo mosaics. Revised versions of the illustrated atlas and gazetteer will appear about every six years. Next year's gazetteers will contain revised coordinates of all named features. The coordinates published in the Transactions of the IAU customarily are taken from preliminary version maps that are semi-controlled. Subsequent maps include geodetic control nets and more sophisticated cartographic techniques, resulting in substantial changes in latitude and longitude locations of named features. These revisions will be listed in the annual printouts.

A large number of new features (4) on Mars, the Moon, Mercury and the satellites of the outer planets were approved and will be presented to the General Assembly in New Delhi.

The coordination in naming new satellites (Commission 20 and WGPSN) is working well: The orbit of additional satellites have been established (5) and will be presented at the General Assembly. Two new feature types were approved (6) for use on Venus: Corona, pl. Coronae, meaning multiple ringed features of low relief and Tessera, pl. Tesserae-intersection features that have a mosaic tile-like pattern. Also, two new feature types were approved for use on high resolution Mars maps: Labes, pl. Labes, meaning landslide and Fluctus, pl. Fluctus, meaning lava flow.

Additional ringlets and gaps in Saturn rings (7) will be named for scientists who contributed to ring studies. Name banks have been enlarged for all bodies including Uranus, new satellites of Uranus will be named for characters in

Shakespearean plays and Pope's Rape of the Lick as has been done in the past. Features on Ariel will be named for good spirits, fairies and nymphs from many cultures. Features on Umbriel will be named for bad spirits, gnomes and dwarfs. Features on Miranda will be named for heroines from world culture. Future meetings of the Working Group will be held in France in the summer of 1985 and in New Delhi.

The current modified list of members of the Working Group and Task Groups are as follows:

Working Group for the International Astronomical Union
Planetary System Nomenclature:

President: H. Masursky
 Members: K. Aksnes (Norway); G.E. Hunt (UK); M. Ya. Marov (USSR);
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Task Group for
Lunar Nomenclature:

V.V. Shevchenko (Chair) (USSR)
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 S.K. Runcorn (UK)
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Task Group for Mercury Nomenclature:

D. Morrison (Chair) (USA)
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 A. Dollfus (France)
 N.P. Erpylev (USSR)
 J.E. Guest (UK)

Task Group for Venus Nomenclature:

M. Ya. Marov (Chair) (USSR)
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Task Group for Mars Nomenclature:

B.A. Smith (Chair) (USA)
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 H. Masursky (USA)
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Task Group for Outer Solar System Nomenclature

T.C. Owen (Chair) (USA)
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