

## 17. THE MOON (LA LUNE)

PRESIDENT: A. Dollfus.

VICE-PRESIDENTS: G. P. Kuiper, B. Levin.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: A. Anders, G. Fielder, D. Menzel, P. Millman, T. Weimer.

The President of Commission 17 "The Moon", M. Minnaert, died soon after his election at the IAU 1970 general assembly. His fundamental contribution to lunar photometry and nomenclature is well remembered. A. Dollfus, former President of the Commission, was invited by the IAU Executive Committee to serve again as President for the period 1970–1973.

Other members, whose deaths are regretted, are W. J. Eckert and C. B. Watts; and among the former members V. G. Fesenkov and N. P. Barabashov.

The period 1970–1973 corresponded to the apex and the completion of the U.S. Apollo manned lunar exploration program, and to the development of the U.S.S.R. Luna automatic lunar exploration program. It has been an unparalleled period in the annals of lunar studies. The major task of the IAU Commission has been to respond to new requirements by an adaptation of the international structures of science. This has been effected by the organization and guidance, within the IAU and other international scientific unions, of suitable working groups, a working party and an inter-union commission. The groups set up are:

IAU Working Group "Lunar Nomenclature" (Chairman D. H. Menzel).

IAU Working Group "Figure, mouvements et positions observées de la Lune" (Chairman Th. Weimer).

IAU Working Group "Geology and Geophysics of the Moon" (Chairman G. Fielder).

IAU-COSPAR-IUGG Working Party "Lunar Laser Ranging Experiments" (Chairman C. O. Alley).

ICSU "Inter-Union Commission for Lunar Studies" (IUCM-CIUL) Affiliated to IAU-URSI-IUGG-IUGS-COSPAR, (Chairman A. Dollfus).

The individual activities of these groups are outlined below.

The coming period 1973–1976 will be dominated by the USSR Luna automated lunar exploration program, the U.S. post-Apollo lunar science program, and the extensive exploitation of the vast quantity of lunar observational data already acquired.

The international groups listed above are preparing their individual contributions to this fundamental task.

### INTER-UNION COMMISSION FOR LUNAR STUDIES (IUCM-CIUL)

In 1965, the former President of IAU Commission 17, Prof. Menzel, in view of the proposed NASA-Apollo manned lunar landing program, predicted that future studies of the Moon will involve more diversified fields than astronomy, namely, space sciences, geology, geophysics. He proposed to study the need for organizing a coordinating body grouping scientists representing the different disciplines involved.

During the first part of his mandate (1967–1970), the following President (A. Dollfus) re-investigated possibilities with a view to the urgent pressure triggered by the large amount of scientific results outcoming from the first manned landing operation (Apollo 11). The International Committee of Scientific Unions (ICSU) decided, during their 13th General Assembly (September 1970), to create a "Inter-Union Commission for Lunar Studies – Commission Inter-Union pour l'Etude de la Lune" (IUCM-CIUL).