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*Sasha Huber, Toinen Linja 31 B 52, 00530 Helsinki, Finland*

Fribourg, St.Gallen, and Helsinki, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018

IAU General Secretary  
Dr. Piero Benvenuti  
IAU–UAI Secretariat  
98-bis Blvd Arago  
F–75014 Paris  
France

**Subject: Lunar "Agassiz Promontory" (42.0°N 1.8°E) To Be Renamed**

Egregio Signore, dear Mr Benvenuti,

In our letter of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017, we submitted to the Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature the proposal to rename "Agassiz Promontory" on the lunar surface, because – in the context of international space research – we held it to be unacceptable to see the name of a white supremacist immortalized by an outstanding lunar structure.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017, Chairwoman Schulz told us on behalf of the IAU Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature (WGPSN) that it had been decided to keep the name "Agassiz Promontory" on the Moon, because "Agassiz was being honored for his scientific work".

In our e-mail response of 11th November 2017, with copies to 70 national IAU member organisations, we exposed both the historical inaccuracies as well as the contradictions of the WGPSN's line of argument.

Not having heard from Chairwoman Schulz for weeks, we asked her in our e-mail of 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to point out to us the appeal procedure which we thought were bound to exist in a democratically established institution like the IAU, so that we would be able to request a reconsideration of our proposal submitted to her in our letter of 6th September 2017.

In her e-mail of 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Chairwoman Schulz told us to address our formal complaint to you, the IAU General Secretary, which we did in our letter of 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018, entitled: RECOURSE AGAINST RULING OF 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2017 BY CHAIRWOMAN RITA M. SCHULZ (WORKING GROUP FOR PLANETARY SYSTEM NOMENCLATURE).

In our e-mail of 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018, we informed you that the European Geosciences Union (EGU) had meanwhile decided that the name of their "Agassiz Medal" award was not appropriate, did not reflect the values of their organization and would no longer be used in 2019.

Unfortunately, we have not heard from you since then. The planets, however, have not stood still, nor has the world of historical processes and attempts to address the injustices of the past. Firstly, it might interest you that the renowned *Historical Dictionary of Switzerland* has commissioned us to revise the entry on Louis Agassiz, which is now online and no longer portrays Louis Agassiz merely as an important, albeit retrograde naturalist, but also as an influential and particularly harmful racist. Please find the revised entry under: <http://www.hls-dhs-dss.ch/textes/d/D15920.php>.

Secondly, it might interest you that the fact that a white supremacist and pioneering thinker of segregation and racial hygiene is still immortalized in space is already becoming an issue in the international world of art. Sasha Huber, Swiss-Haitian-Finnish artist, will exhibit her SPACE RACE project 1<sup>st</sup> June – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2018 in Turku Art Museum (Finland). Sasha Huber has been a member of the "Demounting Louis Agassiz Committee" since 2008 and has been working with us for many years. We have therefore decided to include her as signatory of this document.

We quote from the Turku Art Museum website:

*For a decade Sasha Huber has been working worldwide artistically on the Demounting Louis Agassiz campaign through means of collaboration, photography, filming and interventions, around mapping reparative voices that are applied to her work as a practitioner who enters new spaces connected to the history of racism in an attempt to change the dynamics of the historical conversation.*

Please find more about Sasha Huber and her work, particularly as far as Louis Agassiz is concerned, on her artist website [www.sashahuber.com](http://www.sashahuber.com).

Let us conclude by saying that, on the advice of Joergen Christensen-Dalsgaard, chair of the Danish National Committee for the IAU, in his e-mail of 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017 (with copy to Chairwoman Schulz), we have contacted the Swiss national IAU member organization, i.e. the Swiss Academy of Sciences, encouraging them to bring the matter before the IAU General Assembly of 20<sup>th</sup> August – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 in Vienna.

Hoping that the IAU will finally follow the anti-racist example of the EGU, we remain yours sincerely,



Sasha Huber



Hans Fässler (also on behalf of Hans Barth)