

Hans Fässler, Weiherweidstrasse 5, 9000 St.Gallen, Switzerland, hans.faessler@louverture.ch
Hans Barth, Grand Rue 16, 1700 Fribourg, Switzerland, hansbarth@bluewin.ch
Sasha Huber, Toinen Linja 31 B 52, 0530 Helsinki, Finland, sasha@sashahuber.com

St.Gallen, Fribourg, and Helsinki, 1st October 2018

Rita M. Schulz
Chair of Working Group Planetary System Nomenclature (WGPSN)
PO Box 299
2200 AG Noordwijk
Netherlands

**RECOURSE AGAINST RULING OF 2ND NOVEMBER 2017 BY CHAIRWOMAN RITA M. SCHULZ
(WORKING GROUP FOR PLANETARY SYSTEM NOMENCLATURE)**

Dear Madam

On 6th September 2017, we wrote you a letter, asking for Lunar "Agassiz Promontory" (42.0°N 1.8°E) to be renamed.

On 2nd November 2017, you answered in the negative by e-mail.

On 11th November 2017, we sent you an e-mail, arguing our case in more details and asking you to point out appeal procedures within the IAU. Copies of that e-mail were sent to some 70 national IAU member organisations. You did not reply, but some IAU members did.

Upon our repeated request to have IAU appeal procedures pointed out to us (e.g. our e-mail of 16th January 2018), you told us to address our formal complaint to IAU General Secretary Dr. Piero Benvenuti, which we did on 9th February in our letter entitled "RECOURSE AGAINST RULING OF 2ND NOVEMBER 2017 BY CHAIRWOMAN RITA M. SCHULZ (WORKING GROUP FOR PLANETARY SYSTEM NOMENCLATURE)".

Since then we have not heard from Dr. Benvenuti nor from the IAU nor from you.

It is one thing for a scientific body, which is organized along the lines of democratic participation and the rule of law, to differ in their opinion concerning a question at hand and to argue their cause.

It is an altogether different thing for the same organization to ignore their own procedures and to simply refuse to answer requests submitted in due form. It is an outrage, and it is a scandal.

We are therefore informing you that unless you reply by return of post that you have forwarded our request to the new IAU president Erwine F. van Dishoeck, demanding of her that she immediately take at hand our recourse so shamefully ignored by her predecessor Dr. Benvenuti, we are considering the following action:

=> We will take matter straight to IAU president Erwine F. van Dishoeck.

=> We will inform the international and particularly the scientific press.

=> We will inform the Swiss Academy of Sciences, who incidentally share our conviction that Agassiz Promontory should be renamed on account of Agassiz' "views and activities concerning human 'races', which he himself considered part and parcel of his scientific work" (their letter of 6th July 2018, translated from the German by HF) and informed us that they would be willing to agree to such a renaming proposal within the WGPSN.

=> We are about to alert our comrades of several French anti-racist NGOs, and we are considering preparations to picket the IAU Secretariat on Blvd Arago in Paris during the Officers Meeting from 14 January 2019 to 16 January 2019.

In addition, we should like to emphasize that since our initial request of 6th September 2017, not only has the European Geosciences Union (EGU) decided to rename their Agassiz Medal, but very recently the municipal council of the Swiss City of Neuchâtel have announced their plan to rename Agassiz Square situated at the centre of one of their university campuses, a university which notably Louis Agassiz helped to found by creating the "Académie" in 1838.

In conclusion, we should like to humbly suggest a possible new name for Agassiz Promontory: "Johnson Promontory". Katherine Johnson was an African-American mathematician, whose calculations of orbital mechanics were a crucial contribution to the Apollo 11 mission. She turned 100 last 26th August...

Yours faithfully,

Hans Fässler
Hans Barth
Sasha Huber