

Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature (WG-PSN)

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Activities from 2015 IAU General Assembly to 24 January, 2018

From 15 July 2015 to 24 January 2018, 350 new names have been assigned for planetary surface features (Mercury: 31, Venus: 1, the Moon: 20, Mars: 69, Ceres: 121, Ganymede: 1, Titan: 93, Pluto: 14)

During this same time period the following additional actions have been taken:

- The Moon:
 - Changed Pikel'ner K to Hildegard K, when the name Hildegard was approved for the larger crater in which Hildegard K is located.
- Mars:
 - Expanded the theme for “Other features” to “*From a nearby named albedo feature on Schiaparelli or Antoniadi maps. If no nearby albedo feature name is available, then from a nearby named crater.*”
 - Added a category “Smaller features within a larger named feature.” The theme for the new category is “*The normal naming convention shall be suspended and instead their names shall be chosen so that they bear a mnemonic relationship to the given name of the larger feature, followed by the appropriate descriptor term (crater, cavus, patera, etc.).*”
 - Expanded boundary of Borealis Planitia.
- Ceres:
 - Changed Ysolo Mons to Yamor Mons. Changed Erntedank Planum to Hanami Planum. Changed Samhain Catena to Samhain Catenae and expanded boundary.
- Pluto: In August, 2016, a meeting was held in Flagstaff, AZ, USA, at Lowell Observatory. Representatives from the IAU and the New Horizons Team met to discuss nomenclature in the Pluto System. Following discussions at the meeting, previously approved themes were amended and assigned to descriptor terms as follows:
 - Faculae, maculae, and sulci: *Gods, goddesses, and other beings associated with the Underworld from mythology, folklore and literature.*
 - Cavi, dorsa, and lacūs: *Names for the Underworld and for Underworld locales from mythology, folklore and literature.*
 - Fluctūs, fossae, and valles: *Heroes and other explorers of the Underworld.*

- Craters and regiones: *Scientists and engineers associated with Pluto and the Kuiper Belt.*
- Colles, lineae, planitiae, and terrae: *Pioneering space missions and spacecraft.*
- Montes, paludes, rupēs: *Historic pioneers who crossed new horizons in the exploration of the Earth, sea and sky.*
- Charon: Following discussions at the Flagstaff meeting, previously approved themes were amended and assigned to descriptor terms as follows:
 - Maculae, plana, and terrae: *Destinations and milestones of fictional space and other exploration.*
 - Chasmata: *Fictional and mythological vessels of space and other exploration.*
 - Craters: *Fictional and mythological voyagers, travelers and explorers.*
 - Montes: *Authors and artists associated with space exploration, especially Pluto and the Kuiper Belt.*
- Styx: No changes made following Flagstaff meeting. Theme remains *River gods.*
- Nix: No changes made following Flagstaff meeting. Theme remains *Deities of the night.*
- Kerberos: No changes made following Flagstaff meeting. Theme remains *Dogs from literature, mythology and history.*
- Hydra: No changes made following Flagstaff meeting. Theme remains *Legendary serpents and dragons.*

Rita Schulz
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