

## Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature (WG-PSN)

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### Activities from 2018 IAU General Assembly to 09 April, 2020

From 24 January 2018 to 09 April 2020, 213 new names have been assigned for planetary surface features (Mercury: 40, Venus: 2, the Moon: 13, Mars: 52, Ceres: 10, Bennu: 24, Ryugu: 13, Callisto: 1, Europa: 10, Ganymede: 1, Titan: 12, Pluto: 23, Charon: 12)

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

- The Moon:
  - The theme for lunar craters was changed from: *“Deceased scientists and polar explorers who have made outstanding or fundamental contributions to their field. Deceased Russian cosmonauts are commemorated by craters in and around Mare Moscoviense. Deceased American astronauts are commemorated by craters in and around the crater Apollo. Appropriate locations will be provided in the future for other space-faring nations should they also suffer fatalities. First names are used for small craters of special interest”* to: *“Scientists, engineers, and explorers, as well as other persons connected with astronomy, planetary, or space research who have made outstanding or fundamental contributions to their field. Russian cosmonauts are commemorated by craters in and around Mare Moscoviense. American astronauts are commemorated by craters in and around the crater Apollo. Appropriate locations will be provided in the future for other space-faring nations. First names are used for small craters of special interest.”*
- Europa:
  - Approved the following descriptors and themes for use on Europa:
    - *Mensae: “Celtic gods and heroes”*
    - *Cavi: “Places associated with Celtic myths”*
    - *Fossae: “People associated with the Europa myth, or Celtic stone rows”*
- Bennu:
  - Approved the theme *“Birds and bird-like creatures in mythology, and the places associated with them”* for all feature types.
- Ryugu:
  - Approved the theme *“Names in stories and fairy tales for children”* for all feature types.

- Arrokoth:
  - Approved the theme “*Words for ‘sky’ in the languages of the world, past and present*” for all feature types.
- General: Themes/Categories: Removed the word "deceased" from all themes in which it occurred (Mercury, Moon, Mars, Phobos, Deimos). This is to bring consistency to the wording of all themes in which planetary features may be named after people, proposals for which are accepted only after the three-year anniversary of the individual's death.

Rita Schulz  
Working Group Chair