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St.Gallen and Fribourg, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018

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

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

Dear Sir

On 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017, we wrote a letter to Rita M. Schulz, chairwoman of the "Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature", asking for Lunar "Agassiz Promontory" (42.0°N 1.8°E) to be renamed. Please find a copy of that letter enclosed.

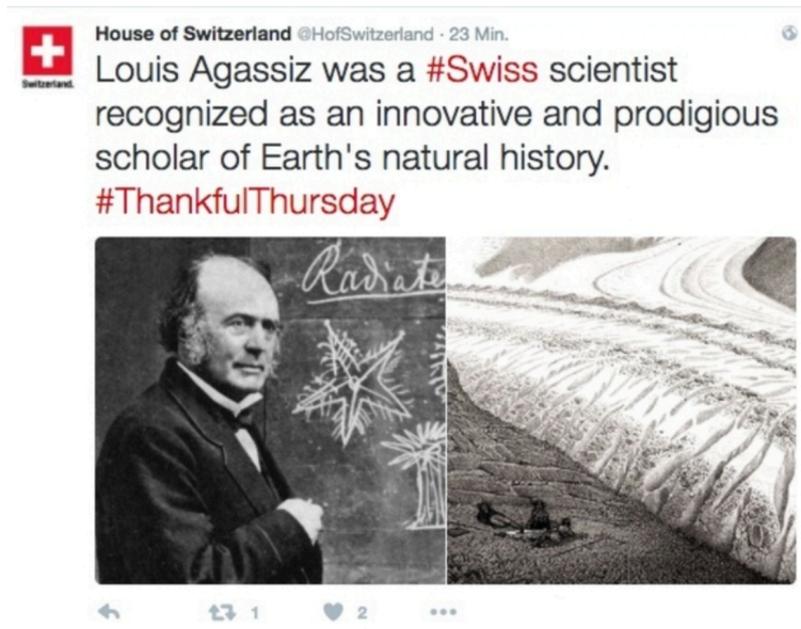
On 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017, Ms Schulz answered by e-mail in the negative. You will find her answer attached to this letter.

On 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017, we sent an e-mail to Ms Schulz, arguing our case and asking her to point out appeal procedures within the IAU. Copies of this e-mail were sent to some 70 national IAU member organisations. Ms Schulz did not reply, but some IAU members did.

Upon our repeated request to have IAU appeal procedures pointed out to us (our e-mail of 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018), Ms Schulz told us to address our formal complaint to the IAU General Secretary (her e-mail of 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018), which we are herewith doing.

Would you please consider all the arguments we have put forward in our letter of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and our e-mail of 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018. In addition, we would first like to refer you to the case of Agassiz School in Cambridge (Mass.), which in 2002 was renamed Maria Baldwin School (honouring the first black principal in a mixed-race school in New England) and at which occasion a ninth-grader emphasized, "Agassiz's legacy in education shows one of hate". If the community responsible for an American elementary school is able to respond to historical research and to altering sensitivities, why not the scientific community?

And second, we would like to mention that it was no less than the Swiss government who in 2016 responded to the fact that Louis Agassiz had been used by a government agency as a scientific role model (see below) by stating that, on account of his racism, Louis Agassiz could no longer be used by Switzerland as a “person of reference”. If Switzerland can do it, why not the IAU?



In order to underline the gravity of the matter at hand, we are also enclosing a study by Hans Barth: "Louis Agassiz and Adolf Hitler. Documents of Racist Mania".

In the hope that you will take due account of our arguments, we remain

yours sincerely,

Hans Fässler

Hans Barth

Enclosures: Letter of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to Rita M. Schulz  
E-mail answer of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 by Ms Schulz  
Our e-mail of 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017 to Ms Schulz, copies to IAU members  
Hans Barth: "Louis Agassiz and Adolf Hitler. Documents of Racist Mania".