# LUNAR NEWS 



## In This Issue:

| Editor's Notes | 2 |
| :--- | :---: |
| Curatorial Phone Numbers | 2 |
| New Assignments | 2 |
| Curator's Comments | 3 |
| Magma Ocean Workshop | 3 |
| Lunar Meteorites | 4 |
| Samples of Lunar Core 60014/60013 | 6 |
| are Available | 15 |

## Deadline <br> for <br> LAPST <br> Requests:

Feb. 12, 1992

Mailing List Update
see page 2

## Editor's Notes

"Lunar News" is published by the Solar System Exploration Division, Johnson Space Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. "Lunar News" is intended to be a forum of facts and opinions regarding lunar sample studiy. It is sent free to all interested individuals. To be included on the mailing list, write to the address below. Your contributions to "Lunar News" on topics relating to the study of the Moon and comments about "Lunar News" and materials appearing here should be sent to:

## Lunar Sample Curator

Code SN2, NASA/ISC
Houston, TX 77058-3696

## Curatorial Phone Numbers

## Lunar Samples

Jim Gooding ................................................(713) 483-5126
Phone Mail Number .........................................(713) 483-3274
Antarctic Meteorites Marilyn Lindstrom ..........................................(713) 483-5135
Cosmic Dust
Mike Zolensky ..................................................(713) 483-5128
Thin Sections, Educational Thin Sections
Chuck Meyer
(713) 483-5133

Contamination Control
Dave lindstrom
(713) 483-5012

Curatorial Secretary
Vacant
(713) 483-5033

Grants and Loan Agreements
Dale Browne
(713) 483-5132

Facilities
Jim Townsend $\qquad$ (713) 483-5331

Mailing Address: SN2 Lunar Sample Curator, NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas 77058-3696

## New Assignments

1990-1991 was a time of change for the JSC Solar System Exploration Division. In February 1991, Mike Duke announced he was leaving the division to take on the job of Science Manager in the Lunar and Mars Exploration Program Office which is located at JSC. Mike has long been a leading voice in the quest to return to the Moon and to explore Mars. His new position engages that task head-on and is responsible for maintaining a high science content in the program.

Doug Blanchard is now the Division Chief. Doug was the Lunar Sample Curator from 1981 to 1988 and the Chief of the Planetary Science Branch from 1988 to 1990. The division is in excellent condition and Doug expects no change in the intense level of curation and planetary and space science research.

Gordon McKay has taken over the reins of the Planetary Science Branch. Gordon brings a very strong background of research in planetary geochemistry and experience as the manager of the electron microprobe lab and as the technical manager of the Lockheed support contract.
| If you would like to | remain on or be added to | the "Lunar News" mailing list, please fill out this form and mail it to the curator's office. If you do not return it, your name will be deleted from the mailing list.

## PLEASE PRINT

Name:
Address:
City: $\qquad$ State: $\qquad$ Country: $\qquad$
Zip Code: $\qquad$ Phone:


# Curator's Comments 

By Jim Gooding NASAJJSC

## One Curator Retires While Another Aspires

Dr. John W. Dietrich retired from NASA service on December 31, 1991 after a successful career in lunar and planetary science. John's 25 -year career at Johnson Space Center began in 1966 with support for the Apollo program, first as a photogeologist mapping the Moon with Lunar Orbiter data and then as an instructor in the geological training program for astronauts who were to explore the lunar surface. After helping guide the Apollo missions to the Moon, John worked in the Earth Observations Division using data from a variety of space-based sensors, including LANDSAT. In 1981, he moved to the Solar System Exploration Division and joined the lunar sample curation effort. After accepting increasingly substantial responsibilities for lunar sample curation, John was appointed Lunar Sample Curator, and Deputy Chief of the Planetary Science Branch, in 1988. Thus, John's NASA career achieved poetic completion as he supervised distribution of samples from the same rocks that his mapping and coaching had helped to collect. We bid John a fond farewell and confess to being envious of his new freedom to return to the geology and scenery of Texas which he knows and loves so well.

I am honored by my appointment to succeed John Dietrich and I am committed to sustaining the planetary materials curation efforts for which our organization is well known. In my ten years at JSC, I have served separately as Associate Curator of Cosmic Dust and as Associate Curator of Meteorites, while remaining actively involved in planetary materials research. More recently, I have acted as Contamination Control Officer for the Cosmic Dust Laboratory although much of my time has been spent helping NASA plan possible future Mars exploration projects, including Mars sample return. Therefore, I understand and endorse the importance of high-quality curation of planetary samples while also enjoying a forward-looking perspective on new opportunities. Our lunar curatorial team would be delighted to someday receive and curate new samples from the Moon. Until then, we remain devoted to the Apollo lunar samples and to providing the best possible support for the scientists who study them. The Curator may be new, but our quest for excellence has not changed.


Dr. John Dietrich

New Assignments continued from page 2

John Dietrich, who replaced Doug as Lunar Sample Curator in 1988, served through 1991 then passed the baton to Jim Gooding (see "Curator's Comments, this page). The curatorial team has moved Chuck Meyer to lab manager for the Lunar Processing Labs. David Lindstrom has taken on the duties of the Contamination Control Officer. Marilyn Lindstrom and Mike Zolensky continue to curate the Antarctic Meteorite and Cosmic Dust collections, respectively.

## Magma Ocean Workshop

By John Longhi Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory

Some 58 planetary scientists from Japan, Canada, Russia, Czechoslovakia, and the U.S. participated in the LPI-LPSAT sponsored workshop on The Physics and Chemistry of Magma Oceans held in Burlingame, CA from December 6 through 8. Keynote speakers began each of the formal sessions and were followed by several contributed talks. Keynote addresses included: Evidence For and Against Magma Oceans (G.J. Taylor), Phase Equilibria (C. Agee), Dynamics and Evolution (D.J. Stevenson), Mechanisms of Formation (W. Kaula), and Geophysical Consequences (G. Shubert).

There were lively discussions in all of the sessions with most of the emphasis on the characteristics of a terrestrial magma ocean, although lunar, martian, and asteroidal magma oceans were not continued on page 4

Magma Ocean Workshop continued from page 3
neglected; and the possible lack of a primordial magma ocean on Venus (no giant impact?) was invoked to explain the observation that its volatile content is apparently higher than the Earth's. The possibilit; of collisions of planet-sized bodies producing extensive melting and vaporization no longer seems contoversial, although satisiactory explanations of apparent concentrations of many elements in the Earth-Moon system, in terms of such a model, remains elusive. Extensive melting of asteroidal-sized objects as inferred from iron meteorites implies that other mechanisms of formation of magma oceans were operative too. There was considerable debate over the most appropriate partition coefficients to employ in geochemical calculations stemming from the fact that different values for key elements have been obtained from experiments in different laboratories and from uncertainties derived from extrapolating partition coefficients obtained at moderate temperatures to very high temperatures. The ability of a large magma ocean to produce a lasting geochemical signature was also questioned, first in the context of solidification (vigorous turbulence might impede any significant fractionation among silicate and oxide phases until the late stages of solidification) and then, in the context of billions of years of solid state convection possibly removing any traces of layering. The only truly lasting signature of a magma ocean, or lack thereof, is the temperature profile that it imparts to the planet as reflected in subsequent contraction or expansion of the planet (initially cold planets expand as they heat up from radioactive decay, whereas totally molten planets contract). See page 14 for further details.

# Lunar Meteorites 

By Paul Warren<br>University of California, Los Angeles

Direct sampling of the Moon was accomplished at six Apollo plus three Luna sites. Unfortunately, these nine sites are clustered within a small region of the central nearside. The degree of clustering can be appreciated by noting that if a polyhedron is drawn so as to barely encompass all nine sites, its area is just $4.4 \%$ of the total lunar surface. A major development since the 1970 s has been the discovery, starting in 1982, of numerous lunar meteorites in Antarctica (Table 1). Lunar meteorites are rocks blasted to Earth by kinetic energy from collisions between the Moon and asteroids or comets. Evidence for lunar provenance is typically discernible simply on the basis of overall petrographic similarity to
lunar highlands-anorthositic materials. Low-Ti mare basalts are less obviously distinct from eucrites, but the distinction becomes clear enough once diagnostic ratios such as $\mathrm{Fe} / \mathrm{Mn}$, $\mathrm{Ga} / \mathrm{Al}, \mathrm{Co} / \mathrm{Cr}$, etc., are measured. Even more diagnostic are isotopic ratios; e.g., O-isotopic ratios for lunar samples (determined by R. N. Clayton and coworkers at Chicago) fall along the terrestrial fractionation line. Lunar meteorites also differ in texture from superficially similar meteorites, and lunar meteorites that are regolith breccias are distinctively enriched in solar-wind-derived noble gases.

Many recent studies of lunar meteorites can be found in a special issue on the MAC88104/5 meteorite which appeared November 1991


MAC 88105, NASA Photo \# S89-47064
in Geochimica, and in the Proceedings of the Symposium on Antarctic Meteorites, No. 4 (1991). The first non-Antarctic lunar meteorite was discovered in southwestern Australia, apparently sometime in the 1960's.

The great value of the lunar meteorites stems from the possibility thet they represent otherwise unsempled regions of the Moon, but the rumber of such regions depencis on whether each meteorite represents a separate source crater. Some of the highlands meteorites are obviously paired with one another, in the traditional sense of having struck the Earth as part of a single shower (Table 1). Thus, the number of distinct lunar meteorites is not twelve but nine or less. To check for less obvious source-crater pairing, isotopic clocks sensitive to cosmic-ray exposure can be used to constrain the ages of the cratering events responsible for blasting the samples to the Earth. Exposure ages have thus far been obtained for five lunar meteorites: all four of the distinct highlands meteorites plus EET87521 (these data are
gathered by O. Eugster at Bern and K. Nishiizumi at San Diego, among others). The results reveal that at least two separate source craters, and more likely 3-5, are represented by this group.

Most (arguably all) of the four highlands meteorites are regolith breccias, which is fortunate in the sense that it implies they formed by thorough mixing of the crust surrounding their locations of origin. In terms of mineralogy, petrography, and major-element geochemistry, the highlands meteorites have basically confirmed the 1970s assumption that the anorthositic Apollo 16 site is representative of the highlands surface crust. Volatile and labile trace metal concentrations are also generally similar. For other trace elements, however, the meteorites indicate that the Apollo 16 site is highly unrepresentative. The highlands meteorites tend to have far lower contents of REE and other incompatible elements. The highlands meteorites also tend to have far lower siderophile-element contents, and less fractionated (relatively low, more nearly
chondritic) $\mathrm{Ni} / \mathrm{Ir}$ and $\mathrm{Au} / \mathrm{Ir}$ ratios. Also, among the many clasts found in these breccias are a few that appear "pristine" (i.e., they retain bulk compositions, although not necessarily textures, unaffected by impact-mixing). Several of these pristine clasts are geochemically unique, and thus add important new constraints for models of lunar crustal evolution.

Lunar meteorites composed dominantly of mare material have suddenly become relatively common. In late 1989, data for $\mathrm{Fe} / \mathrm{Mn}, \mathrm{Ga} / \mathrm{Al}, \mathrm{Co} / \mathrm{Cr}$, etc., revealed the lunar affinity of EET87521, which had been classified as a eucrite. Two other mare meteorites were found by K. Yanai and H. Kojima at Tokyo, and the Y-793274 meteorite once classified as highlands was shown from numerous detailed studies to consist of a mixture of highlands and mare materials, mainly the latter. Compared to mare samples from the nine Apollo/Luna sites, the mare meteorites all have uncommonly low Ti contents. At least two, and arguably all four, are dominantly composed of hithertocontinued on page 6

Table 1. Summary of Known Lunar Meteorites, as of End of 1991

| Meteorite | Mass, <br> grams | Rock <br> Type | Season <br> Collected | Year Shown <br> to be Lunar |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| MAC88104 | 723.7 | (paired) | Highlands | $88-89$ |
| MAC88105 | Highlands | $88-89$ | 89 |  |
| Yamato-82192 | total | Highlands | 89 |  |
| Yamato-82193 <br> Yamato-86032 | Highlands | $82-83$ | 84 |  |
| Asuka-31 | 412.1 | Highlands | $82-83$ | 85 |
| Yamato-791197 | 52.4 | Mare gabbro | $86-87$ | 87 |
| ALHA81005 | 31.4 | Highlands | $88-89$ | 90 |
| EET87521 | 30.7 | Highlands | $79-80$ | 83 |
| Calcalong Creek, Australia | 19 | Mare breccia | $81-82$ | 82 |
| Yamato-793274 | 8.7 | KREEP breccia | $87-88$ | 89 |
| Yamato-793169 | 6.1 | Mare-highlands breccia | $79-80$ | 91 |

Lunar Meteorites
continued from page 5
rare "very-low-Ti" (VLT) mare basalt. Also, mare-type clasts found within several highlands meteorites typically have pyroxene compositions that imply VLT affinity. These trends suggest that the global average Ti content for mare basalts is considerably lower than previously supposed. Alss, VLT-mare materials are relatively close in composition to some types of nonmare Mg-gabbronorites. Thus, the abundance of VLT meteorites suggests that the dichotomy of lunar magmatic events into mare and nonmare types was less abrupt than previously envisaged.

These are just a few of the important lunar-science implications of these meteorites. As the total number of collected meteorites continues to grow, we can be sure that additional lunar rocks will be among them, at a rate of roughly one per thousand. Although the exact locale of origin of any individual lunar meteorite cannot be determined, collectively these samples afford a vastly improved coverage of the compositionalpetrologic characteristics of the total lunar surface. Improved coverage is necessary because, as the lunar meteorites have underscored, the Moon's upper crust is in some respects remarkably heterogeneous. Many key models relatable to the Moon's crust (e.g., origin of the Earth-Moon system, the magmasphere hypothesis) are to a high degree testable through further investigations of lunar meteorites.

# Samples of Lunar Core 60014/60013 Are Available 

By Carol Schwarz<br>Lockheed Engineering \& Sciences Company

Dissection of both segments of the Apollo 16 double drive tube 60014/60013 has been completed. The core was dissected in 0.5 cm depth increments along three 1 cm thick longitudinal layers (passes), starting at the lunar surface and continuing through the length, 61.9 cm , of the core. (The length of 60014 is 28.2 cm and 60013 is 33.7 cm .) Soil from each increment of the first and third passes was separated into coarse and fine fractions using a 1 cm sieve. The coarse particles were examined under a binocular microscope, classified (as much as possible), and photo-documented. All samples are now available for study. Thin sections of 60014 are available now and those of 60013 are being prepared and will be available soon.

This core sample was taken in April 1972 at Station 10', about 75 m west-southwest of the LM (Lunar Module) at the Descartes landing site in the Central Highlands. Three cores were taken near the LM in a triangular pattern; 60010/60009 and 60014/60013, both double drive tubes; and 60007-60001, a deep drill string. The material sampled by the 60014/60013 core is believed to be South Ray Crater Ejecta.

Core 60014 was extruded from the drive tube on October 26, 1990. The color was determined to be approximately $10 \mathrm{YR} 5 / 1$ on the Munsell color scale and no distinct color boundaries were observed
during dissection. After the dissections and peel were completed, no boundaries were evident except for a very subtle darkening in a wedge-shaped area extending across the width of the core approximately 3 to 7 cm from the top. Noticeable textural variations were observed while dissecting. The upper 5 cm was loose and followed by a more coherent zone from 6 to 13 cm . From 13 to 19 cm the core became loose once again, grading into a coarse-grained layer at 21 cm and continuing to about 22.5 cm . In this interval were a large number of $4-10 \mathrm{~mm}$ particles, mostly soil breccias. The remainder of the core- from 23 cm onwas similar to the coherent 6 to 13 cm zone.

A close examination of the $>1 \mathrm{~mm}$ fraction showed that about $80 \%$ (by number) of the particles were in the $1-2 \mathrm{~mm}$ size range, $19 \%$ were $2-4 \mathrm{~mm}, 1 \%$ were $4-10 \mathrm{~mm}$, and less than $1 \%$ were $>10 \mathrm{~mm}$.

The lithology of the $>1 \mathrm{~mm}$ fraction was determined by binocular examination of the particles and is summarized as follows: $17 \%$ of the particles were white or light gray, $15 \%$ were dark and coherent, $13 \%$ were glasses, and $55 \%$ were breccias. The white or light gray particles included plagioclase, anorthositic breccias, crystalling anorthosite, and light gray basalts, and were distributed evenly throughout the core. The dark particles were fine-grained,


Carol Schwarz, scraping a layer off of the lunar core sample 60014. NASA Photo \# S91-26935
coherent, and often dusty. The glasses consisted of $68 \%$ agglutinates, $3 \%$ shards, $2 \%$ spheres (usually not much larger than 1 mm ), and $27 \%$ miscellaneous glass fragments. Finally, the breccias included soil breccias, soil breccias with glass, dark matrix breccias, light matrix breccias, and those breccias too dusty to identify. The eleven particles at least 1 cm in diameter which were given
individual split numbers included 5 breccias, 2 anorthosites, 2 basalts, 1 agglutinate and 1 of unknown classification.

Core 60013 was extruded on June 19, 1991. A distinct color boundary was observed in the core approximately 18 cm from the top. The upper 18 cm was dark, 10YR $5 / 1$ on the Munsell color scale. Below about 18 cm the color was lighter, 10YR 6/1. Approximately

3 cm above the 18 cm boundary (at 15 cm from the top of 60013) marked the beginning of a zone characterized by numerous large friable soil breccias. Below about 18 cm the number and size of soil breccias decreased abruptly. Near the bottom, at a depth of about 31.5 cm , a less obvious darkening was observed. It was irregular and varied with each successive pass. The peel exposed a light-colored zone between 16 and 17 cm with numerous $1-2 \mathrm{~mm}$ particles across about half the diameter of the core.

A close examination of the $>1 \mathrm{~mm}$ particles showed that about $75 \%$ are in the $1-2 \mathrm{~mm}$ size range, $23 \%$ are $2-4 \mathrm{~mm}, 1 \%$ are $4-10 \mathrm{~mm}$, and $<1 \%$ are $>10 \mathrm{~mm}$.

The lithology of the $>1 \mathrm{~mm}$ fraction was determined by binocular examination of the particles and is summarized as follows: $55 \%$ were breccias, either soil breccias or miscellaneous breccias. About 13\% are white and light gray fragments (plagioclase crystals or anorthositic breccias). About $18 \%$ of the $>1 \mathrm{~mm}$ particles are black, fine-grained, coherent, dust-covered particles. Basalts comprise $2 \%$ of the $>1 \mathrm{~mm}$ particles, and about $12 \%$ of the particles are glasses, including agglutinates, shards, spheres, and breccias with glass splashes. Among the 21 particles $>10 \mathrm{~mm}$ in diameter which were given individual split numbers, include 1 anorthosite, 6 breccias, 11 soil breccias, 1 agglutinate, and 1 possible oblong glass object.

The diagrams which follow illustrate the three dissection passes for each core segment and identify sample splits which are available for allocation. Is $/ \mathrm{FeO}$ data was provided by Dick Morris.

## DRIVE TUBE 60014 (First Dissection)



DRIVE TUBE 60014 (Second Dissection)


DRIVE TUBE 60014 (Third Dissection)


| \|| $\\|$ | Breccia |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Glass |
| 为 | Soil Breccia |
|  | White |
|  | Basalt (?) |

DRIVE TUBE 60013 (First Dissection)


|  | Breccia |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Glass |
| :: | Soil Breccia |

::: Soil Breccia

## DRIVE TUBE 60013 (Second Dissection)



| $\\|\\|d\\|$ | Breccia | White |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Glass | $4 / \square$ Basalt (?) |
| $\because \because$ | Soil Breccia | $\#$ Soil Clod |

DRIVE TUBE 60013 (Third Dissection)




## Special Section of JGR-Planets: Magma Oceans

Many participants at the recent, highly successful LPILAPST sponsored workshop on The Physics and Chemistry of Magma Oceans (see page 3 of this newsletter) expressed interest in contributing to a special issue of a journal. JGR-Planets editor Clark Chapman is enthusiastic about devoting a portion
of a Fall issue of JGR-Planets to this interesting topic. Papers need to be submitted to him by mid-May, 1992. Jeff Taylor, Associate Editor, will coordinate the review process. Address questions to Jeff: (808) 956-3899; gitaylor@esther.pgd.hawaii.edu; NASAmail: jefftaylor.

## Deadline for

JGR-Planets
Fall Issue is
May 1992

## Accessing the JSC SN2 Curatorial Databases

The curatorial databases have beem moved from node SN to node CURATE, and; the LDEF database has been added to the menu. Node CURATE may be accessed as follows:

| Via SPAN | 1) Log onto your host computer. <br> 2) Type SET HOST 9300 at the system prompt. <br> 3) Type PMPUBLIC at the USERNAME; prompt. <br> NOTE: Your system manager may add node CURATE to the DECNET database on your host computer; the SPAN node number is 9.84 . You may then access CURATE by typing SET HOST CURATE instead of SET HOST 9300. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Via INTERNET | 1) Type TELNET CURATE.JSC.NASA.GOV. <br> 2) Type PMPUBLIC at the USERNAME: prompt. |
| Via modem | The modem may be 300,1200 , or 2400 baud; no parity; 8 data bits; and 1 stop bit. If you are calling long distance, the area code is 713 . <br> 1) Dial 483-2500. <br> 2) Type SN_VAX in response to the Enter Number: prompt. <br> 3) Hit $<\mathrm{CR}>2$ or 3 times after the CALL COMPLETE message. <br> 4) Type J31 in response to the \# prompt. <br> 5) Type PUBLIC in response to the Enter Username $>$ prompt. <br> 6) Type C CURATE in response to the Xyplex $>$ prompt. <br> 7) Type PMPUBLIC at the USERNAME: prompt. |

For problems or additional information, you may contact:
Claire Dardano
Lockheed Engineering \& Sciences Company
(713) 483-5329

FTS: 525-5329

