

C U R A T O R I A L
N E W S L E T T E R

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Principal activities in the Curatorial Facility are the processing of PI requests, dissection and distribution of core samples and thin sections, reexamination of Apollo 11 sample collection, and preparation of additional sections for the thin section educational package.

The Apollo 11 redescription work is essentially complete and a draft of the catalog is finished and in review. It should be ready for final editing and printing in late August or early September. Following its distribution, we expect to begin work on updating the Apollo 14 sample catalog, in part by obtaining new photography of cut faces of Apollo 14 breccias.

The thermal conductivity experiment on lunar cores under the direction of Dr. K. Hora has begun measurements on deep drill stem 70002. The measurements on the first core should be complete by late August, at which time the Curator will select another core for analysis.

A position paper on the measurement of paleomagnetic fields has been presented to LSAPT by Wulf Gose on behalf of the magnetics community. This paper was presented as an attempt to solve the present controversy over the accurate determination of a lunar paleomagnetic field. The LSAPT generally felt the suggested approach is satisfactory, which would attempt to identify samples that will provide a basis for comparison of paleomagnetic intensity determined by different techniques, requires additional work to verify the ARM method, encourages further controlled fO_2 experiments and basic studies of magnetic-mineral phase relations in synthetic systems. A complete explanation of the recommendations and their implications has been sent to the magnetic PI's.

The tools, containers and equipment used to handle lunar material are regularly cleaned in freon and benzene. It has recently been learned that benzene will be declared unsafe for use by OSHA with the chance that freon might be next. The Curator is exploring suitable substitutes. Any recommendations from the general scientific community are welcome.

The thin section educational package has been used by over 80 universities and colleges. The number of available packages is being increased, as the number of new and repeat requests has increased. We anticipate nearly 200 uses of the package during the next school year, including use of the packages in foreign universities.

The final date for submitting requests for consideration at the next review session is SEPTEMBER 1, 1976 .

After many years of dedicated service to the Lunar Sample Program, Bob Laughon has resigned from NASA to accept a position at Oak Ridge National Laboratories. His duties with respect to sample inventories and data will be assumed primarily by John Harris. We will all miss Bob's efforts and wish him well.