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American Chemical Society Film on Lunar Science Released

Museum of the Solar System, an American Chemical Society film on lunar science, has been produced by Stuart Finley, Inc., Falls Church, Va. The 23-minute color film focuses on the analysis of the rocks and soil from the moon and what this information can tell us of the history of our solar system.

Dr. Harold C. Urey of the University of California at San Diego and Dr. Paul Gast of NASA set the theme for the film, and the methods of lunar analysis are illustrated by five principal investigators: Dr. Gerald J. Wasserburg of the California Institute of Technology, Dr. James R. Arnold of UCSD, Dr. Robert L. Fleischer of the General Electric Company, Dr. George H. Morrison of Cornell University, and Dr. John A. Wood of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.

Intended for a secondary school to adult audience, the film illustrates how basic facts about the lunar materials were gathered—their ages, minerals, elemental abundances, and history of bombardment by solar and galactic particles.

The film opens with a richly colored cross section of lunar materials changing color as it turns under a microscope. It ends with an earth rise. Unique segments in the film include a slow “zoom-in” on a microcrater in a lunar grain magnified thousands of times, tiny nuclear tracks in moon crystals, and a simulation of how lunar rocks were formed from hot liquids.

“Mother Earth is alive and active and few of its rocks are more than 20 million years old,” the narrator says. “Moon rocks are billions of years old. These differences and others—its chemistry, its minerals, its landscape—testify to a planet that harbors clues to our own past.”

Museum of the Solar System was produced, directed, and narrated by Stuart Finley. It was photographed and edited by Theodore Jones, and written and coordinated by Norman Metzger of the ACS. In addition to the participating scientists, NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory of the California Institute of Technology cooperated in the production of the film.

For further information write to Stuart Finley, Inc., 3428 Mansfield Road, Falls Church, Virginia 22041.