Editorial

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Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to introduce myself as the incoming Editor-in-Chief of *Earth, Moon and Planets*. I would like to thank the outgoing Editor, Dr Murthy S. Gudipati, for his sterling service to the journal since 2009 and for his continued help in smoothing the transition. I have already greatly benefited from his advice and guidance.

I am Prof. of Planetary Science in the Dept of Earth and Environmental Science at the University of Manchester, UK. My personal research is focused on reading the record of solar system history preserved in extra-terrestrial samples, ranging from the nucleosynthesis of heavy elements to timescales of solar system evolution and the origins of planetary volatile reservoirs. However, I am constantly struck by the range of disciplines that contribute to our understanding of planetary systems, and excited to have the chance through this appointment to contribute to the development of mutual appreciation across this diverse field.

“*Earth, Moon and Planets*” was first published as “*The Moon*” in 1969 under the leadership of Profs Z. Kopal, H. Urey and H. Alfvén. It has evolved to reflect changes in the field of lunar and planetary science, but the international nature of planetary science and the need for mutual understanding across disciplines have remained cornerstones. In his preface to the first addition, Prof. Kopal noted that a physicist, a chemist, and an astronomer had joined forces...

To provide an inter-disciplinary but monothematic medium for publication of the results of original investigations in all field of lunar studies - including astronomy (both optical and radio-astronomy), astronautics, chemistry, geology, space physics, and all other aspects of the scientific study of our satellite by spacecraft as well as by the more traditional approaches of ground-based astronomy.

Kopal, Z. Preface. *The Moon* 1, 3–6 (1969).
<https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00561767>

The need for this medium has intensified over the intervening years. The journal was launched at an exciting time for planetary science driven by the exploration of the Moon. By 1978 the field had broadened, but the range of disciplines and techniques remained. In

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their editorial of that year, Profs A. G. W. Cameron, Z. Kopal and C. P. Sonett wrote that a change of the journal's name to "The Moon and Planets" was justified because...

...it has become equally evident that a proper understanding of the structure and past history of the Solar System (including its origin) can be gained only on the basis of a combined testimony of all planets, and their interpretation requires an interdisciplinary approach on a broad front.

Cameron, A.G.W., Kopal, Z. & Sonett, C.P. Editorial. *The Moon and the Planets* 18, 3 (1978).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00896695>

As intended, this development placed the journal at the forefront of the emerging discipline of comparative planetology. The journal's position was reinforced when it adopted its current title in 1984, extending the remit to the Earth as an astronomical body, studied by space-borne means. The then editors (Profs A. G. W. Cameron, Z. Kopal and M. D. Mout-soulas) particularly noted...

the importance of the studies of the Earth from space in the general framework of comparative planetology of the solar system.

Editorial. *Earth Moon Planet* 30, v (1984).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00118085>

Thirty-six years later our field has broadened still further, and the pace of change shows no sign of reducing. Missions have explored the further reaches of our solar system and begun to enter interstellar space. The field of comparative planetology is being greatly extended by the characterization and investigation of extrasolar planetary systems. Accordingly, the need for a journal such as *Earth, Moon and Planets* is at least as compelling now as it was in 1969, 1978 and 1984. I am keen that *Earth, Moon and Planets* continue its proud tradition as an interdisciplinary and international journal covering all aspects of planetary science and advancing our understanding of comparative planetology. I would be very happy to hear comments and suggestions as to how we might best take this proud journal forward.

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