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One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

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Contact: Rossilyne Culgan
Office: 412.237.1537 / Mobile: 724.989.4473
CulganR@CarnegieScienceCenter.org

ASTEROID NAMED FOR PITTSBURGH PHILANTHROPIST HENRY BUHL JR.

Carnegie Science Center to Celebrate 75th Anniversary of Buhl Planetarium this Fall

PITTSBURGH, June 20, 2014 — The International Astronomical Union has announced that an asteroid now bears Henry Buhl Jr.'s name. Asteroid number "1990 AA" is now referred to as "Henrybuhl."

Henry Buhl Jr. (1848—1927) was a Pittsburgh philanthropist who established The Buhl Foundation "for the well-being of the citizens of Pittsburgh and the County of Allegheny." The foundation supports education, human services, youth programs, and economic development. It established Buhl Planetarium, the predecessor organization of Carnegie Science Center, in 1939.

Carnegie Science Center will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Buhl Planetarium this fall. The festivities will include recognition of the newly named asteroid, also called a minor planet.

With assistance from the Minor Planet Center, Science Center staff asked to name an asteroid after Henry Buhl Jr. as a way to recognize his legacy. The International Astronomical Union, the group responsible for naming planetary objects, approved the "Henrybuhl" name as a permanent designation. The Minor Planet Center, which operates at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory as part of the International Astronomical Union, made the announcement on June 13.

"It's fitting that something of the magnitude and permanence of an asteroid would honor Henry Buhl's legacy," said Ann Metzger, co-director of Carnegie Science Center.

"Over the course of his life, Henry Buhl made such significant contributions to the planetarium, science education, and the community. It's truly gratifying to honor his impact in this way," said Ron Baillie, the Science Center's other co-director.

The previously unnamed asteroid was discovered in 1990 by T. Hioki and S. Hayakawa in Okutama, Japan. It's one of millions of asteroids in the solar system.

Asteroid “Henrybuhl” will join a legion of Pittsburgh-named asteroids, including “Misterrogers,” “Myroncope,” “Carnegie,” “Warhol,” and “Pittsburghia.”

About Carnegie Science Center

Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center’s goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh’s premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums dedicated to exploration through art and science: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. Annually, the museums reach more than 1.2 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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