
OBITUARY

CHARLES ARTHUR CROSS: 1922-1980

By the death of Arthur Cross, the Association has lost one of its most eminent and most popular members. Though not a professional astronomer, his work was internationally recognized, and as a lunar and planetary cartographer he has had few equals.

Arthur Cross graduated from Cambridge, and subsequently held a number of important research posts; for instance, he made a significant contribution to the development of Polythene. His career as a research chemist was distinguished, but one of his main interests was astronomy, and at his home in Northwich he established a private observatory, equipped first with a 150 mm reflector and then with a 300 mm of unorthodox design; it was modelled upon the telescope developed by Dr E. G. Hill, in which the reflector is actually outside the rotating observatory.

Cross was an excellent observer, but it is as a cartographer that he will be best remembered astronomically. He was a skilled artist, and when he began to produce accurate, realistic lunar maps it became clear that his ability was quite outstanding. In 1973 he produced the first complete atlas of Mars based on the *Mariner 9* photographs, and later he revised the maps to include the *Viking* findings; he also worked upon maps of the Galilean satellites of Jupiter, and in fact completed them only a few weeks before his death. This was carried out with the full co-operation of NASA, who were only too ready to make use of his skill. Quite apart from their precision, the maps are artistically beautiful; Cross habitually employed a charcoal-and-chalk technique that he perfected for the purpose.

He was a first-class lecturer, both at technical and popular levels, and made many broadcasts on radio and television. His books and papers were widely distributed, and he belonged to many societies—including the British Interplanetary Society, to whose publications he made many contributions.

Arthur Cross was popular wherever he went. His loss, after an illness lasting for over a year, will be keenly felt not only by the astronomical world, but also by his numerous friends in many countries. His marriage was ideally happy; all members of the Association will wish to extend sympathy to Mrs Margaret Cross and their son Nigel.

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