

which we call Anders' Earthrise, as 'Pasteur T', didn't sound as sweet (Adventures in lunar exploration and nomenclature on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Apollo 8). In Gullberg, S., and Robertson, P. (eds.). *Essays on Astronomical History and Heritage: A Tribute to Wayne Orchiston on his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday*. Cham, Springer. Pp. 79–112.

Dr Clifford Cunningham  
University of Southern Queensland  
3915 Cordova Drive  
Austin, TX 78759, USA.

E-mail: [Cliff.Cunningham@unisq.edu.au](mailto:Cliff.Cunningham@unisq.edu.au)

and

Dr William Sheehan  
2655 Turtle Creek Ovi Trail,  
Flagstaff AZ 86005, USA.

E-mail: [sheehanw987@gmail.com](mailto:sheehanw987@gmail.com)

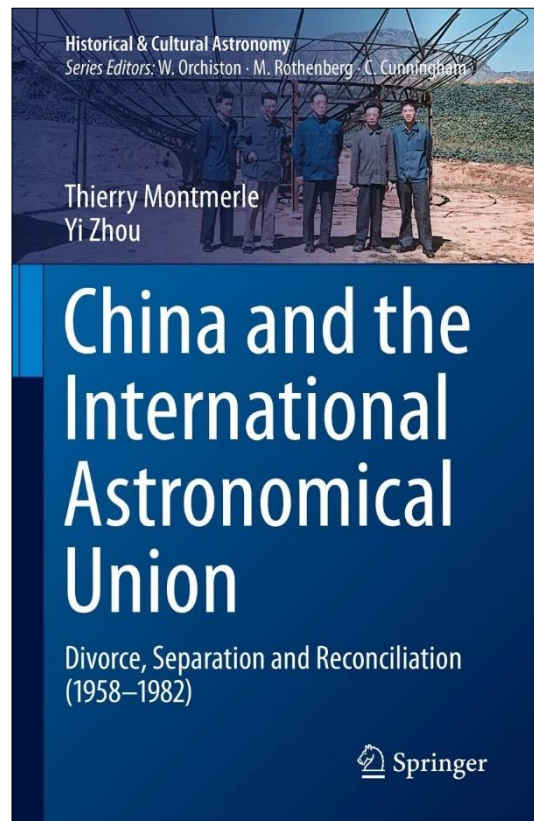
***China and the International Astronomical Union: Divorce, Separation and Reconciliation (1958–1982)*, by Thierry Montmerle and Yi Zhou. (Cham, Springer, 2022). Pp. xviii + 213. ISBN 978-3-031-01786-5 (hardback), 160 × 240 mm, US\$139.99.**

Thierry Montmerle and Yi Zhou's *China and the International Astronomical Union: Divorce, Separation and Reconciliation (1958–1982)* is a valuable historical account of Cold War science diplomacy. It focuses primarily on the interactions between China and the International Astronomical Union (IAU), but also sheds light on the geopolitics affecting the umbrella International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and its other members in addition to the IAU. Drawing on rich documentation from the IAU Archives in Paris and other sources, including Chinese historical studies, the book meticulously reconstructs the dramatic story of how the Chinese Astronomical Society (CAS), founded in 1922, entered ('adhered to') the IAU in 1935, withdrew from it in 1960, and then rejoined it in 1982 against the background of shifting international politics.

Calling China's withdrawal from the IAU in protest of the latter's admission of Taiwan "... the most important crisis in the post-WWII history ..." of the IAU, the authors focus, first, on the background to and dramatic events around the IAU's 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly at Moscow in 1958 that would lead to this 'divorce'. Remarkably, the CAS, based in Nanjing (Nanking), continued its membership in the IAU for several years even after the founding of the People's Republic in 1949 which had resulted in a disruption in many of its scientific connections with the West. In

1955, for example, Zhang Yuzhe (Yu-Che Chang 张钰哲), as the longtime President of the Society, attended the 9<sup>th</sup> IAU General Assembly in Dublin. In 1958, just prior to the opening of the Moscow meeting, however, a rival Chinese astronomical society from Taiwan, under control of the Chinese Nationalists, also applied for membership of the IAU.

Even though much of the IAU leadership was critical of the evident role played by the US Government in prompting Taiwan's application, it nevertheless voted, in 1959, to ac-



cept it as the only option in accordance with its statutes while trying to convince the CAS to stay. Zhang, on behalf of the CAS, however, wrote to the IAU by the end of the year to protest its decision to admit Taiwan, calling it a "... hoax of American imperialists of creating 'two Chinas' .", and declared that the CAS would withdraw from the IAU if it did not rescind this step (page 48). No compromise was reached, and China officially withdrew from the IAU in 1960. Then, outside of the IAU, Chinese astronomers nevertheless kept extensive connections with colleagues in Europe and Australia in the 1960s and 1970s through individual and bilateral relations, except for the most chaotic years during the Cultural Revolution (1966–1976).

When, on 25 October 1971, the United Nations admitted the PRC and expelled Taiwan, it led to pressures on the IAU and ICSU to do likewise, especially from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which provided partial funding for the ICSU. In fascinating details, the book describes how the IAU offered to welcome mainland China back to its membership but was reluctant to force Taiwan out. Through long and complex negotiations involving IAU officials and Chinese astronomers/scientists from both sides of the Taiwan Strait, including Zhang of the CAS and Shen Junshan (沈君山) from Taiwan, critical progress toward a compromise was finally made at the 17th IAU General Assembly in Montreal, Canada, in August 1979. It was based on the dual representation model that had been adopted by the International Olympic Committee the previous April: the PRC would return as the 'Chinese Astronomical Society' and Taiwan remained as the 'Astronomical Union located at Taipei, China' (page 127). In the early 1980s, when this IAU arrangement became official (and ratified in the IAU General Assembly in Patras, Greece, in 1982), the ICSU and most of its member unions adopted similar measures.

While the book provides thoughtful and welcome analyses, some of its assertions need to be treated with caution. For example, in explaining China's withdrawal from the IAU in the late 1950s, it speculates that

... this China-Taiwan "incompatibility" in international organizations was decided only in 1958, when the Taiwan Strait crisis erupted, and on the eve of the disastrous Great Leap forward. (page 132).

In fact, China had already acted on this 'incompatibility' principle in 1957 when it withdrew from the International Geophysical Year

(IGY) after Taiwan, encouraged by the US, joined the project.

The book is informative and well-written in general, but there are some typos that hopefully can be corrected in a future edition or in its ebook version. For example, 'Xinhua' should be 'Xinhai' (page 13), 'ISCU' should be 'ICSU' (page 101), 'IGGU' should be "IUGG" (page 103), 'IXth' should be 'XIth' (page 137) in the numbering of the Chinese Communist Party Congress in 1977, and 'Fu Chongqi' should be 'Fu Chengqi' (page 210).

The book also has some notable quirks. For example, even though the volume lists two authors, the lead author, a prominent astronomer and former IAU official, appears throughout the book in the first person. One of the main contributions of the second author is the Chinese-to-English translation of Fu Chengqi and Ye Shuhua's 2009 book *Under One Starry Sky: The History of the International Astronomy Union (IAU)* (傅承启、叶叔华《同一个星空：国际天文学联合会史》). It is quoted extensively in the book under review and parts of it dealing with China and the IAU are included as an appendix. Ye (born in 1927) is a leading Chinese astronomer and participated in many of the CAS's interactions with the IAU during her long and distinguished career.

In summary, the book, well-sourced and quite readable, serves not only as a solid contribution to the history of the IAU, Chinese astronomy, and Cold War science diplomacy, but also as a timely reminder of how geopolitics can powerfully reshape international scientific interactions.

Dr Zuoyue Wang  
California State Polytechnic University.  
3801 W. Temple Ave. Pomona,  
CA 91768, USA.  
E-mail: zywang@csp.edu