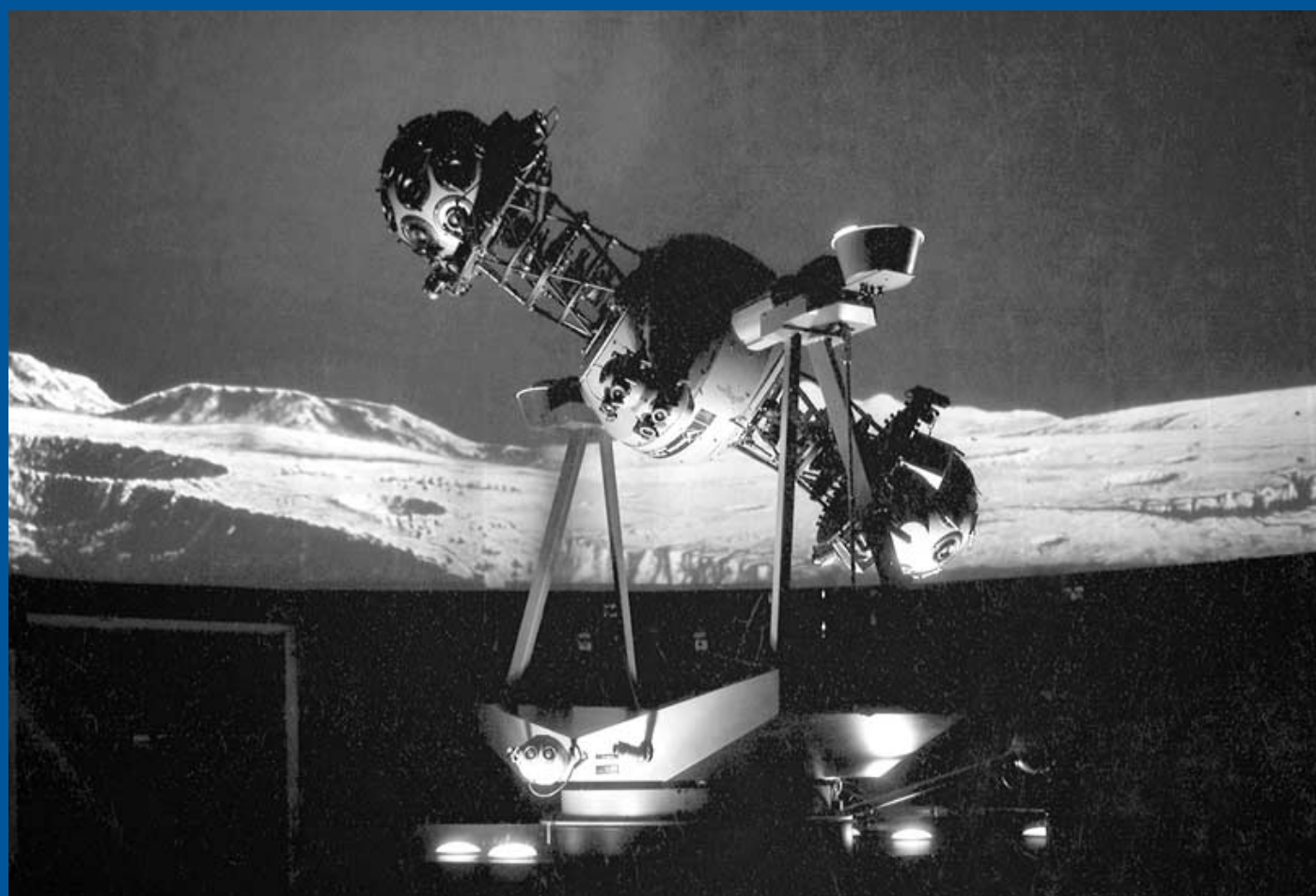


WHAT IS A PLANETARIUM?

All the stars a stage...

A planetarium is a theatre where visitors can enjoy entertaining and educational shows about the wonders of the Universe. The audience sits back in comfortable seats to watch as stars, planets and spacecraft are shown in full-colour on the surface of the planetarium's dome as narration, sound effects and music take the audience on a journey through space.



Right: Armagh Planetarium's classic Viewlex-Minolta dumbbell projector

Left: Armagh Planetarium's classic Goto dumbbell projector

The first planetaria

The modern planetarium was invented in Germany in the 1920s. Traditionally the planetarium projector used powerful lights shining through hundreds of tiny holes to project the images of stars on the dome. Usually the projector was a large dumbbell-shaped machine sitting in the centre of the dome.

Planetaria spread around the world



Armagh Planetarium's landmark dome

Planetaria became popular worldwide after the Second World War. Since then audiences have been fascinated by spectacular star shows. As technology has become more sophisticated, the audience's experience has become ever more thrilling and realistic. Many large cities now have their own planetarium – with Armagh being the first planetarium in Ireland.

Throughout our history, Armagh Planetarium has been proud to be one of the most respected and technologically advanced planetaria in the world.