THE LUNAR OBSERVER

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENTS OF THE MOON . . . . . JUNE 2000
EDITED BY: Bill Dembowski - ALPO Coordinator, Lunar Topographical Studies - President, American Lunar Society
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FEATURE OF THE MONTH

MENELAUS - (13.6^{O}N - 16.0^{o}E)
Sketch and Text by Robert H. Hays, Jr. - Worth, Illinois
6 inch (150mm Newtonian - 170X - Seeing 7/10

I observed this crater on November 27/28, 1999 shortly after timing the reappearance of an 8th magnitude star. This crater on the south edge of Mare Serenitatis is bright at Full Moon and, like its near neighbor Manilius, is a favorite target for lunar eclipse crater timings.

Menelaus has a conspicuous peak slightly north of center and a smaller peak to its east. The rim of this crater was unremarkable except for a high area on the east edge. Nearby are an assortment of elevations; this is where the Montes Haemus peter out toward Mare Tranquilitatis. A broken, squarish feature southeast of Menelaus is the crater Auwers according to the Lunar Quadrant Maps. The edge of Mare Serenitatis is sharply defined near the north edge of Menelaus. The sketch depicts what I saw better than words can.

Editor: Menelaus is a 17 mile (27 km) crater named for the Greek astronomer (c. 100 AD) and is one of the target craters for the International Bright Lunar Rays Project. Menelaus can be found on Map #23 of Rukl's Atlas of the Moon. I would like to thank Robert for his continued contributions to The Lunar Observer. His sketches and written observations are always informative and enjoyable.

RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH

MICHAEL AMATO - WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, USA
Sketches of Tycho, Reiner Gamma, Rays of Aristarchus (3), Menelaus (4), Messier (4), Proclus (5)

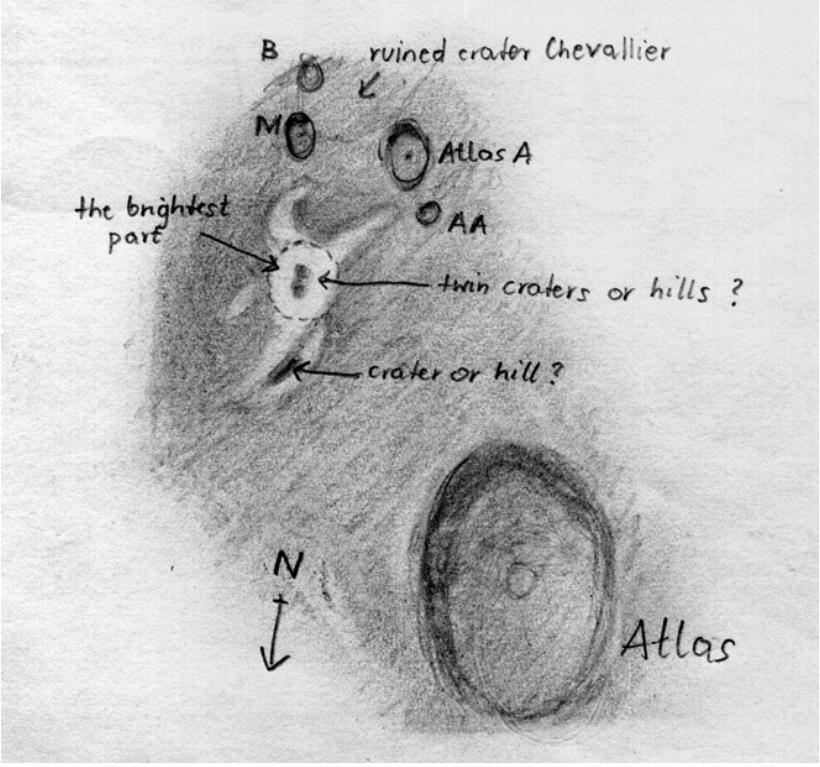
DANIEL DEL VALLE - AGUADILLA, PUERTO RICO
Sketches of Schiller, Harpalus, Piccolomini, Lichtenberg

ROBERT H. HAYS, JR. - WORTH, ILLINOIS, USA
Sketches of Ross & Maclear, Stevinus
Written report, 36 crater timings, and color sketches of lunar eclipse
Timings of 150 stars occulted by the Moon
Photograph of western Mare Imbrium

ROBERT WLODARCZYK - CZESTOCHOWA, POLAND
Sketches of Posidonius, Schroter's Valley, Bright feature near Atlas

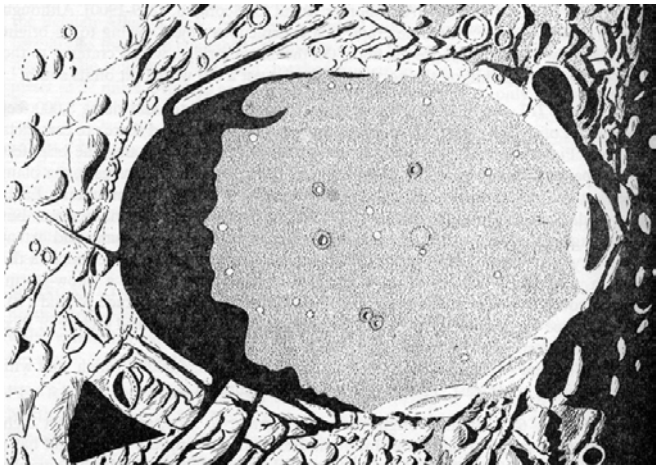
LUNAR CHALLENGE

In last month's TLO, Daniel del Valle of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico sketched and described a bright feature near the crater Atlas. We asked TLO readers to contribute their observations of the same feature. Robert Wlodarczyk of Czestochowa, Poland responded to the challenge with the following sketch. Well done Robert!:



Sketch by Robert Wlodarczyk - Czestochowa, Poland
May 10, 2000 - Approx. 20h UT - 180mm Newtonian - 140X, 240X, 300X

ONE MORE TIME !!!!



Sketch of Plato by H.P.Wilkins - April 3, 1952

As a result of recent email conversations with Paolo Morini of Ravenna, Italy, I have decided to resurrect one of my very favorite lunar challenges; the search for Plato's Hook. Plato's Hook is the strangely curved shadow shown in the above sketch by H. P. Wilkins. This challenge, originally issued in February 1997, is always worth another try. Favorable times to catch this elusive feature in 2000 are: June 11 (00:50 UT), August 8 (22:43 UT), October 6 (22:34 UT), and December 5 (01:56 UT); but any sunrise on Plato may reveal The Hook. Give it a try and let us know how you fared.

LUNAR CALENDAR - JUNE 2000 (UT)

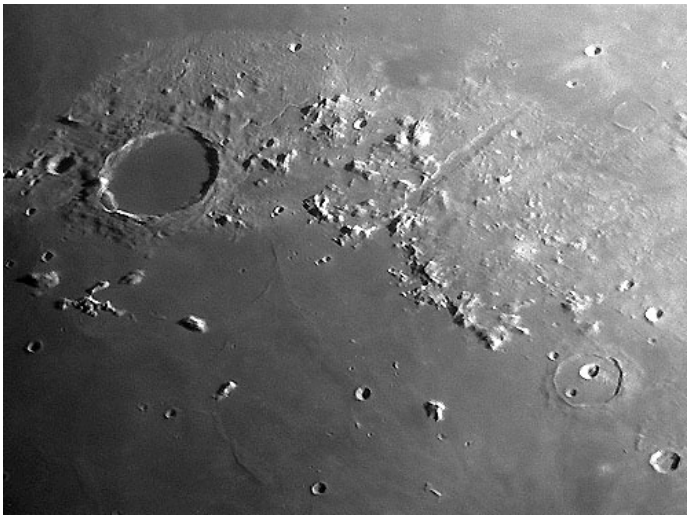
1 . . . 05:00 . . . Moon 2.6 Degrees SSE of Saturn
1 . . . 06:00 . . . Moon 3.7 Degrees SSE of Jupiter
2 . . . 12:15 . . . New Moon (Start of Lunation 958)
3 . . . 13:00 . . . Moon at Perigee (233, 128 miles - 375,173 km)
4 . . . 04:00 . . . Moon 3.6 Degrees S of Mercury
9 . . . 03:29 . . . First Quarter
16 . . .22:27 . . . Full Moon
18 . . .13:00 . . . Moon at Apogee (252,346 miles - 406,100 km)
20 . . .07:00 . . . Moon 1.3 Degrees S of Neptune
21 . . .13:00 . . . Moon 1.6 Degrees SSE of Uranus
25 . . .01:01 . . . Last Quarter
29 . . .03:00 . . . Moon 3.5 Degrees SSE of Jupiter

From the Editor:

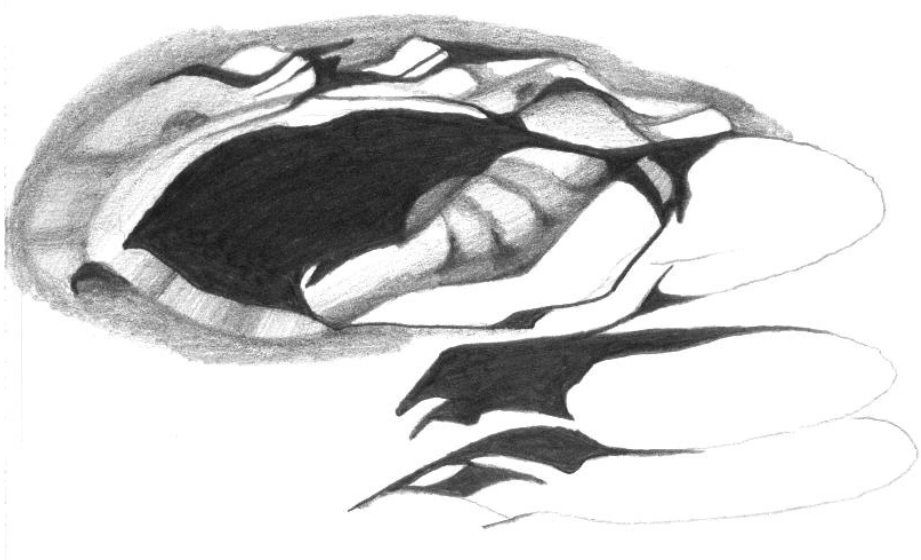
Just a reminder that hard copies of TLO can be obtained by sending me some self-addressed stamped envelopes. I will send you a copy a month for as long as the envelopes last. Or you may subscribe at the rate of $5.00 for 12 issues. Send envelopes or checks (payable to Bill Dembowski) to the address in the banner on Page One.

……Bill Dembowski

TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



PLATO AND ALPINE VALLEY
CCD Image by Alessandro Cipolat Bares and Piermario Gualdoni
Milan, Italy
February 14, 2000 - 250mm Mewlon Takahashi at f/12



SCORESBY
Sketch by Peter Grego - Rednal, Birmingham, England
March 14, 2000 - 19:49-20:30 UT - 250mm Newtonian