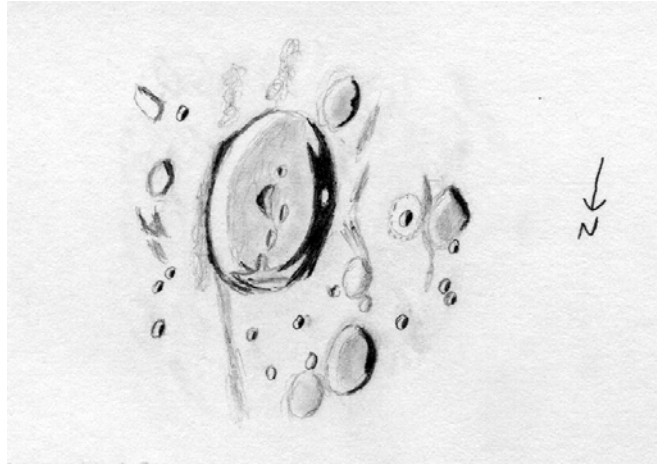


THE LUNAR OBSERVER

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



STEVINUS (32.5°S - 54.2°E)

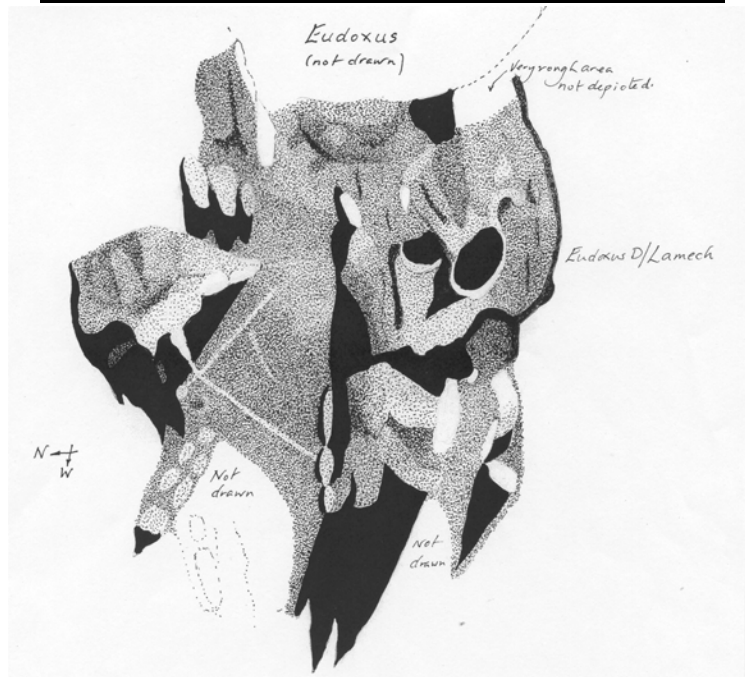
Sketch and Text by Robert H. Hays, Jr. - Worth Illinois, USA
6 inch (15cm) Newtonian - 170X - Seeing 6/10

I sketched this crater and vicinity on the evening of March 21/22, 2000 shortly after the reappearance of a 7th magnitude star. The moon was only two days past full but the sky was very clear. Stevinus is a mid-sized, sharp-edged crater south of Mare Fecunditatis. It has a chevron-shaped central peak, and at least three other detached internal elevations. Its interior shadow indicates terracing on its inside walls. An isolated sunlit peak was seen sticking out of this shadow.

The area around Stevinus is dominated by craters of varying sizes and degrees of crispness. The largest crater drawn northeast of Stevinus is Snellius B. A much vaguer crater was adjacent to it on the east. Also appearing as a shallow saucer was Stevinus B, to the south of Snellius B. By contrast, Stevinus A is a small, but very bright crater to the west of Stevinus. West of A is Stevinus R with a straight southwest wall and a craterlet perched on its northwest edge. Stevinus C is the fairly large, crisp crater just south of Stevinus. A curious oblong crater was noted southwest of Stevinus, near associated craters K and L. This area is normally fairly close to the southwest limb, but the libration that evening was favorable for that direction.

Editor: The crater Stevinus is named for Simon Stevin (1548-1620), a Belgian mathematician and optician. The crater can be found on Map #69 of Rukl's Atlas of the Moon

EXPLORING THE MOON



REGION OF RIMA EUDOXUS I

Sketch and Text by Colin Ebdon - Colchester, Essex, England

March 12, 2000 - 10 inch Newtonian - 183X

The purpose of this observation was to examine what appears, at low powers, to be a 'crossed swords' pattern of linear features a short distance to the west of crater Eudoxus. The area concerned lies between two mountain blocks to the north of the craters Lamech and Eudoxus D.

The overall effect is of two crossing 'rays'. At the time of this observation, the 'ray' running NW-SE, was the brighter of the two. Research shows that it must be caused, in part at least, by Rima Eudoxus I, the visibility of which in small telescopes must be questionable, under less than very good seeing conditions. Rima Eudoxus II, which is actually more prominent than Rima I, lies to the northwest, adjoining the mountain block to the left of this drawing, and was thus in shadow during this observation.

Both I & II appear in the best available maps and photographs to be composed, in part at least, by a chain of craterlets. It should be said that this whole area is covered with tiny craterlets, no doubt many the result of the impact which created Eudoxus.

The second linear feature in this drawing, running NE to SW and apparently terminating at the central peak in a series of three hills, was indeterminate in nature at the time of this observation, appearing again as just a thin ray of light. Research suggests that it is probably caused in part by either a ridge, or a scarp, perhaps similar in nature to the Straight Wall (Rupes Recta) though smaller and much less impressive. Observations under various lighting conditions would need to be made to confirm this.

The short line between the two main linear features on this drawing seems, from the Lunar Orbiter image, to be composed of two irregular craterlets tailing off into a short rille, although again these were not resolved. The overall 'crossed swords' pattern can just be made out in Plate 2d of the Harfield Photographic Lunar Atlas, and in Rukl would be situated under the last letter 'S' in the word Caucasus at Plate 13. Lunar Orbiter image 4-10312.jpg refers. However, one of the best images of the area to date can be found on the internet at www.mikebrown.free-online.co.uk

RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH

MICHAEL AMATO - WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, USA
Ray maps of Menelaus (4), Messier (3), Proclus (2)

COLIN EBDON - COLCHESTER, ESSEX, ENGLAND
Sketch of area around Rima Eudoxus I

RICK GOSSETT - DETROIT, MICHIGAN, USA
CCD image of Full Moon (2), Proclus & Mare Crisium (2)

ROBIN GRAY - WINNEMUCCA, NEVADA, USA
Ray maps of Proclus (3), Messier

ROBERT HAYS, JR. - WORTH, ILLINOIS, USA
Sketches of Maskelyne F, Bambart B & C, C.Hershel & Heis
Timings of 19 stars occulted by the Moon

JACK KRAMER - LIBERTYVILLE, ILLINOIS, USA
Ray map of Proclus

HARRY PULLEY - GUELPH, ONTARIO, CANADA
CCD images of Menelaus (3), Anaxagoras (3), Aristarchus, Copernicus & Kepler, Copernicus, Kepler,
Proclus

DOUG SLAUSON - SWISHER, IOWA, USA
CCD image of Anaxagoras

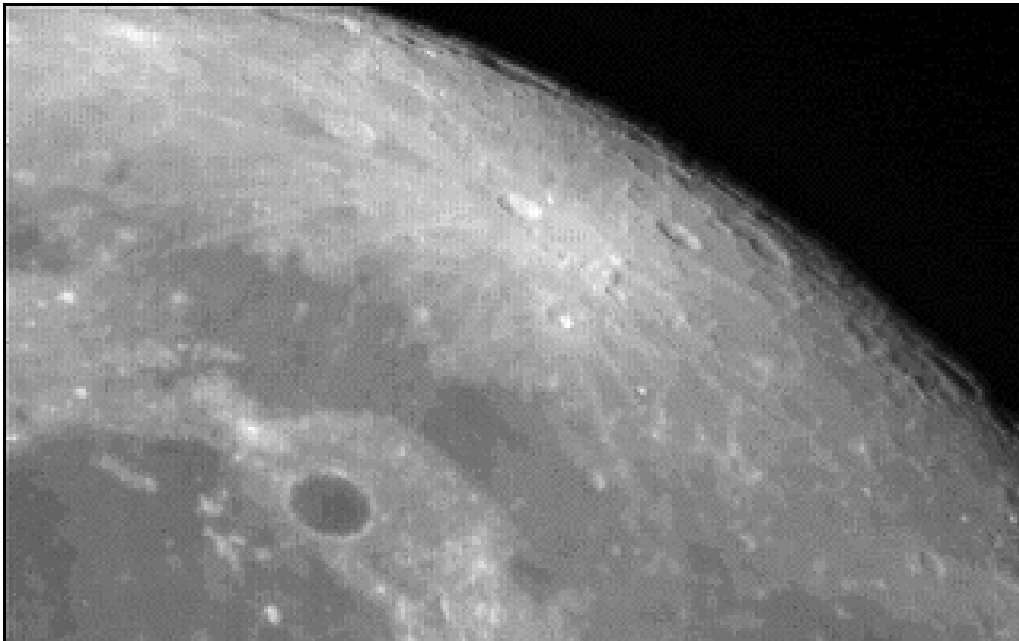
ROBERT WLODARCZYK - CZESTOCHOWA, POLAND
Sketches of Unnamed feature near Atlas (2), Menelaus Rays, Tycho, Plato, Montes Caucasus &
Promontorium Fresnel, Aristillus & Autolycus

DAVIDE ZOMPATORI - ANZIO, ITALY
CCD image of Proclus

LUNAR CALENDAR - OCTOBER 2000 (UT)

5 . . . 10:59 . . . First Quarter
6 . . . 07:00 . . . Moon at Apogee (251,140 miles - 404,160 km)
7 . . . 06:00 . . . Moon 1.3 Degrees S of Neptune
8 . . . 08:00 . . . Moon 1.5 Degrees S of Uranus
13 . . . 08:54 . . . Full Moon
16 . . . 06:00 . . . Moon 1.6 Degrees S of Saturn
17 . . . 01:00 . . . Moon 2.2 Degrees S of Jupiter
19 . . . 22:00 . . . Moon at Perigee (229,979 miles - 370,105 km)
20 . . . 08:00 . . . Last Quarter
24 . . . 08:00 . . . Moon 3.2 Degrees NNE of Mars
27 . . . 07:58 . . . New Moon (Start of Lunation 963)
30 . . . 10:00 . . . Moon 4.4 Degrees N of Venus

TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



ANAXAGORAS

CCD image by Doug Slauson - Swisher, Iowa, USA
September 15, 2000 - 24cm f/10 SCT - SBIG STV Camera



PROCLUS AND MARE CRISIUM

CCD image by Davide Zompatori - Anzio, Italy
August 7, 2000 - 200mm Newtonian - Color Webcam