

# THE LUNAR OBSERVER 

## FEATURE OF THE MONTH



## MONS LA HIRE - $\left(28^{\circ} \mathrm{N}-25^{\circ} \mathrm{W}\right)$

Sketch and Text by Robert H. Hays, Jr. - Worth, Illinois, USA
6 inch (150mm) Newtonian - 170X - Seeing 7-8/10

I sketched this feature and vicinity on the evening of February $14 / 15,2000$ while timing six occultations. This is a large, isolated peak in central Mare Imbrium that does not seem to be as well known as Pico and Piton farther to the north. I'll try to remedy that with this sketch. This is a somewhat triangular peak crisscrossed by strips of shadow, and is highest at the south end. I thought there might be a craterlet on the peak's east side where I saw a small dark dot of shadow but, after looking at it more, I wasn't sure. There was also a deeply shadowed bay on the north side of La Hire. The triple peak La Hire alpha is to the northwest. La Hire alpha's middle peak is much larger and taller than the side peaks. There was a series of fine rilles south of La Hire alpha, and a coarser rille between La Hire and La Hire alpha.

Two saucerlike depressions were noted west of La Hire. One had a minute craterlet on its western edge, and the other was crossed by a rille. The craterlet is identified as La Hire C on the Lunar Quadrant Map, but the shallow features are not indicated. I saw a long, low ridge southwest of La Hire perpendicular to the rilles and interrupting them. At its western end it spread out into a large, low swelling with a few little peaks on its edge.

## LUNAR CHALLENGE

## Sketches and Text by Daniel del Valle - Aguadilla, Puerto Rico



Torricelli - August 6, 2000 20 cm Newtonian - 200X and 266X - Orange Filter

Richard Baum called my attention to this crater from an observation made by Clive Brook, an amateur astronomer of Plymouth, U.K., of a Lunar Orbiter Photo taken in the late 1960's. This was compared to a drawing made by Harold Hill on August 14, 1987. The Lunar Orbiter photograph shows an apparent landslip in the crater near a small craterlet on its southern rim. Harold Hill's drawing shows the craterlet intact; no landslip.

Comparing my sketch to the above observations, I think it is closer to the Lunar Orbiter photograph. There is a dark streak-like marking from the craterlet to the floor that appears like a landslip. This is not to discredit Harold Hill's drawing, but to point out that more observations are still needed, especially at a higher magnification. The Orbiter photo is not conclusive in my opinion, nor is my observation.


Torricelli - August 7, 2000 20cm Newtonian - 266X - No Filter

Torricelli has a slightly different aspect tonight. Shadows have receded. The floor is dark and there is an interesting dark curving feature that seems to emanate from the shadowed eastern rim. The craterlet can be clearly seen with no markings that would indicate a landslip. The mystery of the craterlet continues. However, the important question is "How reliable is an interpretation of a photograph?" Remember the "Face" on Mars. Careful observations and sketches still have a place in lunar studies.

# RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH 

MICHAEL AMATO - WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, USA<br>Ray Maps of Menelaus (12), Messier (10), Proclus (11)<br>CCD image of Mare Serenitatis<br>\section*{ALESSANDRO CIPOLAT \& PIERMARIO GUALDONI - MILAN, ITALY<br><br>CCD Mosaic of Gassendi Region}<br>DOUG SLAUSON - SWISHER, IOWA, USA<br>CCD image of Mons Vinogradov<br>\section*{DANIEL DEL VALLE - AGUADILLA, PUERTO RICO}<br>Sketches of Torricelli (2), Tycho (2), Bright Unnamed Feature near Atlas, Cepheus, Aristarchus, Diophantus \& Delisle, LeVerrier \& Helicon, Domes near Landsteiner, Arago and Domes, Dome between Vallis Alpis and Rima Archytas<br>Ray Map of Laland

## ROBERT WLODARCZYK - CZESTOCHOWA, POLAND

Sketches of Madler, Piccolomini

## LUNAR CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 2000 (UT)

|  | 03:00 | Moon at Apogee ( 251,268 miles - 404,366 km) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4 | 07:26 | First Quarter |
| 11 | 21:16 | Full Moon |
| 12 | 11:00 | Moon 1.5 Degrees SSE of Saturn |
| 13 | 04:00 | Moon 2.3 Degrees S of Jupiter |
| 14 | 23:00 | Moon at Perigee ( 227,4451 miles - $366,037 \mathrm{~km}$ ) |
| 18 | 15:26 | Last Quarter |
| 24 | 13:00 | Moon 2.8 Degrees NNE of Mercury |
| 25 | 23:12 | New Moon (Start of Lunation 964) |
|  | 24:00 | Moon at Apogee ( 251,825 miles - 405,262 km) |

## INTERNATIONAL BRIGHT LUNAR RAYS PROJECT

The International Bright Lunar Rays Project is a joint effort of The Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, The American Lunar Society, The British Astronomical Association, The Italian Union of Amateur Astronomers, The Society for Popular Astronomy, and various independent observers. To date a total of 392 observations have been received from 27 observers around the world.

If you would like to participate in the study of these fascinating features, please contact the editor at one of the addresses shown on Page One. Drawings, photographs, and CCD images from observers at all levels of skill and experience are welcomed.

BILL DEMBOWSKI - TLO Editor and Coordinator, International Bright Lunar Rays Project

## TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



## GASSENDI AND VICINITY

CCD Mosaic by Allesandro Cipolat \& Piermario Gualdoni - Milan, Italy September 23, 2000-250mm Dall Khirkam


## PICCOLOMINI

Sketch by Robert Wlodarczyk - Czestochowa, Poland
October 4, 2000-180mm Newtonian - 140X-240X

