

THE LUNAR OBSERVER

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENTS OF THE MOON . . . JUNE 2002
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FEATURE OF THE MONTH



DANIELL (35.3°N – 31.1°E)

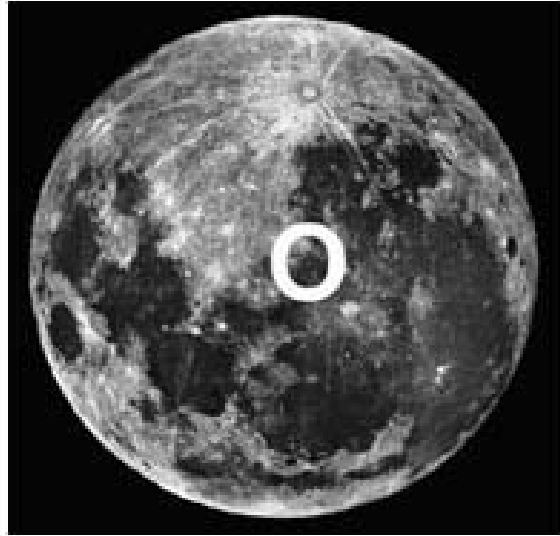
Sketch and Text by Robert H. Hays, Jr. – Worth, Illinois, USA
December 21, 2001 – 6 inch Newtonian – 170X – Seeing 7-8/10

I drew this crater and vicinity on the evening of December 21/22, 2001 after timing the disappearance of an 8th magnitude star. This crater is located in Lacus Somniorum north of Posidonius. It was relatively well placed due to favorable libration, but it still looked more elongated than did other craters in that general area. The interior shadow in the east rim indicates terracing, but otherwise, Daniell's interior looked featureless.

There was considerable shading outside of the southwest rim, indicating a possible dropoff in that area. Just north of Daniell is the crater pit Daniell W, and Daniell X is the larger pit farther north. A very small crater pit was noticed east of Daniell W. The larger crater drawn southwest is Posidonius M, according to the Lunar Quadrant Map. I noted a group of four little peaks northwest of Daniell, and some modest wrinkling and short, low ridges between these peaks and Posidonius M.

Editor: Daniell can be found on Map 14 of Rukl's Atlas of the Moon.

LUNAR CHALLENGE



Gruithuisen's Lunar City – (Approx. 5°N – 7.8°W)

In 1824, German astronomer Baron Franz von Paula Gruithuisen published a book in which he claimed to have evidence of the existence of intelligent life on the moon. An excellent, but eccentric observer he touted the *“discovery of many distinct traces of lunar inhabitants, especially of one of their colossal buildings”*. Gruithuisen's Lunar City, as it became known, turned out to be nothing more than a collection of ridges and hills; probably ejecta from the Imbrium event.

Although no one actually believes that the City exists; at least not as it did in Gruithuisen's mind, it is still fun to search for this historically interesting feature. Try looking for the City shortly after First Quarter near the center of the lunar disk. It lies about 60 miles (100 km) directly north of the crater Schroter (Careful, not Schroter's Valley!). The crater that marks the southern extreme of the City is Schroter W, about 10 miles (6 km) in diameter. The City itself is approximately 25 miles (40 km) in each direction. This area is covered by Map 32 of Rukl's Atlas of the Moon but the City is not shown as sketched by Gruithuisen (above).

As with many such features, the interplay of light and shadow is of prime importance and a little imagination doesn't hurt either. In fact, no subsequent sketches of the area that I've seen have the same appearance as Gruithuisen's (or each other's). As always, if you decide to accept the challenge, send the results (either sketches or images) to the editor (address on Page One) for possible publication.

RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH

MICHAEL AMATO - WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, USA
Ray Maps of Menelaus (6), Messier (4), Proclus (5)

ED CRANDALL - WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA, USA
CCD Images of Alpine Valley & Cassini, Plato, Plato & Vicinity, Sinus Iridum,

DANIEL DEL VALLE - AGUADILLA, PUERTO RICO
Video Still of Bailly, Aristarchus, Capuanus, J. Herschel, Longomontanus, Reiner Gamma

COLIN EBDON - COLCHESTER, ESSEX, ENGLAND
Sketch of Pingre,

PETER GREGO – REDNAL, BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND
Video Still of Kepler

TOFOL TOBAL – BARCELONA, SPAIN
CCD Image of Causasus & Alp Mountains, Cape Fresnel & Vicinity

STEFAN VAN CLEEMPUT – SINT-NIKLAAS, BELGIUM
CCD Image of Gassendi

ROBERT WLODARCZYK - CZESTOCHOWA, POLAND
Sketches of Humboldt & Phillips & Hecataeus, Ansgarius & La Perouse & Kastner

LUNAR CALENDAR – JUNE 2002 (UT)

3 00:06 Last Quarter
4 13:00 Moon at Apogee (251,358 miles – 404,540 km)
10 23:47 New Moon (Start of Lunation 983)
13 04:00 Moon 2.5 Degrees N of Jupiter
13 22:00 Moon 1.5 Degrees NNE of Venus
18 00:29 First Quarter
19 07:30 Moon at Perigee (229,478 miles – 369,299 km)
24 21:42 Full Moon (Penumbral Lunar Eclipse)
29 05:00 Moon 4.2 Degrees SSE of Uranus

TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



ALPS & CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS

Tofol Tobal – Garraf Astronomical Observatory – Barcelona, Spain

March 2, 2002 – 300mm Newtonian-Cassegrain



GASSENDI & NORTHERN MARE HUMORUM

Stefan Van Cleemput – Sint-Niklaas, Belgium

April 24, 2002 – 130mm Newtonian & Vesta Webcam