



# THE LUNAR OBSERVER

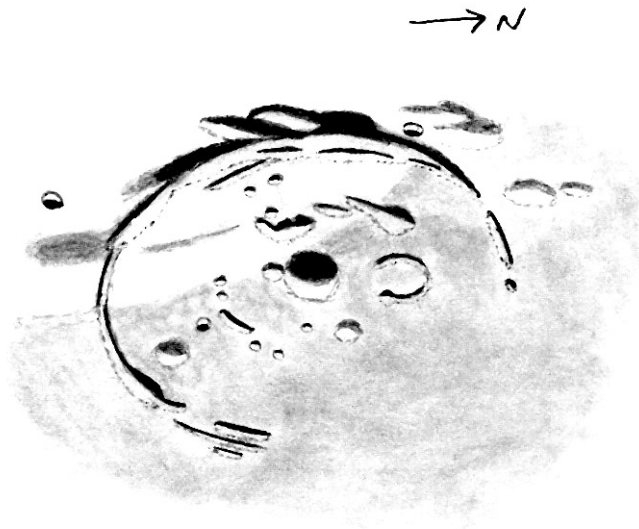
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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENTS OF THE MOON . . . DECEMBER 2002

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## FEATURE OF THE MONTH



### DOPPELMAYER

Sketch and Text by Robert H. Hays, Jr. – Worth, Illinois, USA  
April 24, 2002 – 15cm Newtonian – 170X – Seeing 7-8/10

I sketched this crater on the evening of April 23/24, 2002 shortly before the moon hid a faint star. This partially flooded crater is on the southern edge of Mare Humorum. Doppelmayer has a large central peak and a varied assortment of other hills on its floor. Two of the elevations northeast and southeast of the central peak may be domes. I saw a small crater pit near the southeastern dome, and a probable ghost ring north of the central peak. Doppelmayer has a complete rim to the west and south. There were a couple of detached segments to the north and a group of narrow ridges to the east giving the impression of a triple rim. This crater has no rim at all to the northeast. The western rim is fringed with an assortment of ridges and shadows, with two small craters seen nearby. The Lunar Quadrant Map shows the one to the southwest as Doppelmayer A, but the tiny one near the northwest rim is not indicated there. The map does show Doppelmayer P and H to the west, but I didn't notice any craters there. Perhaps they were masked by the other detail there. The northeast two-thirds of Doppelmayer has obviously been flooded by Mare Humorum; the tint there is the same as the mare. This area is very smooth, but from what I saw elsewhere in Doppelmayer, this area may have been quite cluttered before it was flooded.

(Editor: Doppelmayer may be found on Map #52 of Rukl's Atlas of the Moon.)

## Received During the Month

JAY ALBERT – BOCA RATON, FLORIDA, USA

Sketches of Torricelli (2)

MICHAEL AMATO - WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, USA

Ray Maps of Proclus (4), Menelaus (4). Messier (4)

ED CRANDALL - WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA, USA

CCD Image of Mare Humorum & Gassendi

DANIEL DEL VALLE - AGUADILLA, PUERTO RICO

CCD Image of Unnamed feature near Atlas (2), Barrow Crater Sunrise Ray (2)

COLIN EBDON – COLCHESTER, ESSEX, ENGLAND

Sketches of Opelt and Gould, Montes Rhiphaeus, Zeno & environs

PETER GREGO – REDNAL, BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND

Sketch of Suess & Suess B&D

CLAUDE LIBERT – GENT, BELGIUM

CCD Images of Ptolemaeus Chain, Archimedes, Birt & Rupes Recta, Clavius, Copernicus (2), Eratosthenes, Bullialdus, Parry, Ramsden

ROBERT WLODARCZYK – CZESTOCHOWA, POLAND

Sketches of Gauss to Mare Humboldtianum, Hesiodus A, Davy, Pallus & Murchison, C. Herschel & Heis & Environs, Phocylides & Wargentini, Regiomontanus & Purbach & Herner

## LUNAR CALENDAR – DECEMBER 2002

02 . . . 04:00 . . . Moon at Perigee (225,106 miles – 362,279 km)

04 . . . 07:35 . . . New Moon (Start of Lunation 989)

08 . . . 08:00 . . . Moon 5 Degrees SSE of Neptune

11 . . . 15:49 . . . First quarter

13 . . . 04:00 . . . Moon at Apogee (251,602 miles – 404,903 km)

19 . . . 19:11 . . . Full Moon

27 . . . 00:31 . . . Last Quarter

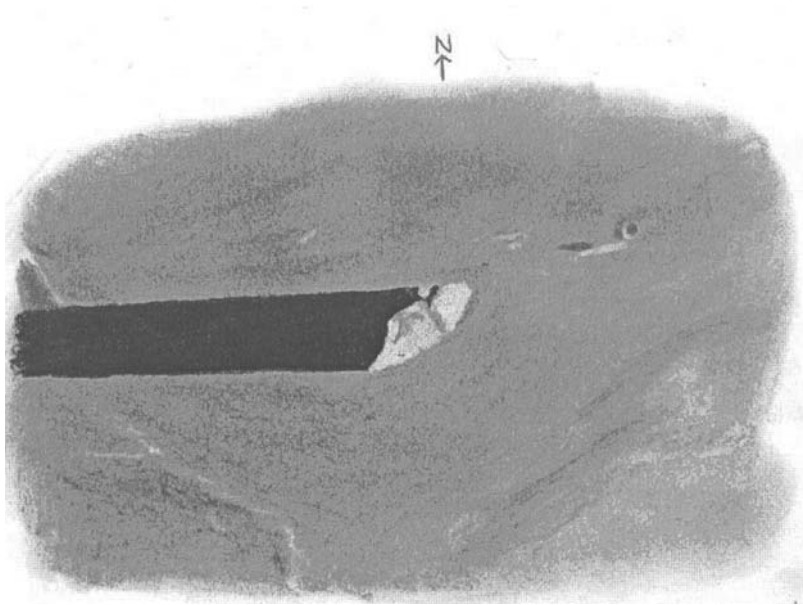
30 . . . 01:00 . . . Moon at Perigee (228,604 miles – 367,892 km)

30 . . . 01:00 . . . Moon 1.1 Degrees NNE of Mars

30 . . . 07:00 . . . Moon 2.0 Degrees SSW of Venus

Just as deep sky observers look for interesting objects between the stars,  
lunar observers can find many treasures

## BETWEEN THE CRATERS

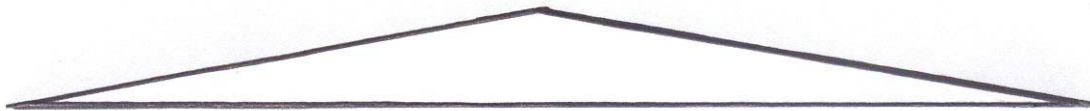


### MONS PICO

Sketch by Daniel del Valle – Aguadilla, Puerto Rico  
December 8, 2001 – 8 inch SCT – 450X – Seeing 8/10

#### Text by Bill Dembowski

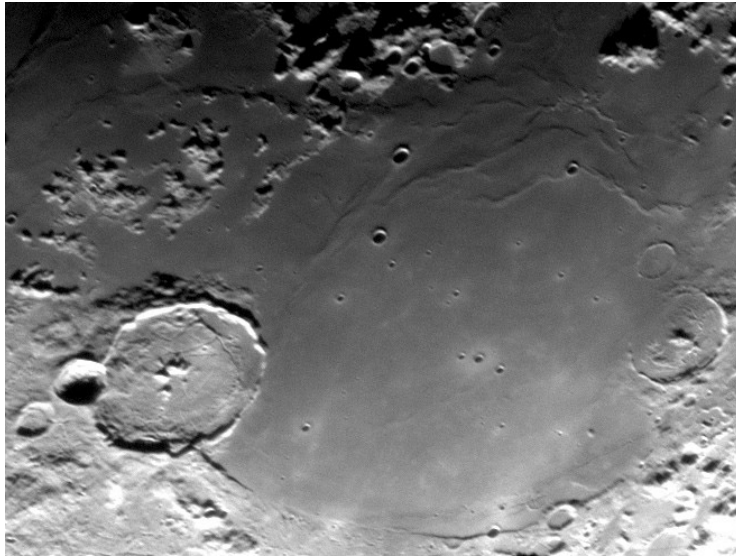
In northern Mare Imbrium are several sparsely populated mountain ranges (ie: Montes Recti and Montes Teneriffe) and a few isolated mountain peaks. One of the more interesting solitary mountains is Mons Pico. The dramatically long shadows cast by many lunar features under a low sun can be very deceptive. (See Daniel del Valle's sketch) Measuring 15km x 25km at the base, and about 2400 meters high, Mons Pico is more than ten times as wide as it is high and hardly the "immense obelisk" that Walter Goodacre described nearly 100 years ago..



Simplified profile of Mons Pico

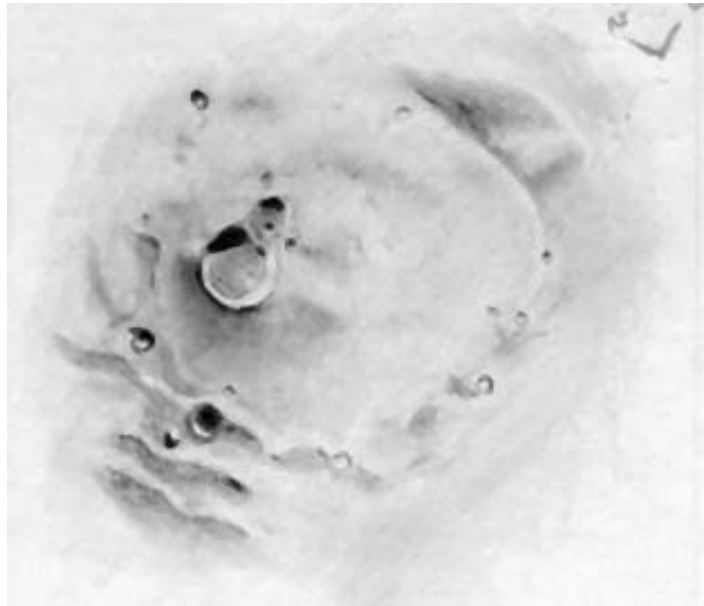
Best seen about one day after First and Last Quarter, Mons Pico is brilliant white at both sunrise and sunset. This is in contrast to its equally famous cousin, Mons Piton, which tends to take on a rather dull appearance at sunset. This brilliance, coupled with the illusion that the mountain changed in appearance over time, led W. H. Pickering to believe that he had seen "snow storms" over the mountain. Although we now know that such things are impossible, I still find it fun to look for such phenomena with the eyes of a nineteenth century observer. Between its "towering profile" and "wintry weather", it is a most fascinating feature indeed.

# TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



## MARE HUMORUM & GASSENDI

CCD Image by Ed Crandall – Winston-Salem, North Carolina, USA  
August 3, 2002 – 10 inch Newtonian – Starlight Express HX-516



## TORRICELLI

Sketch by Jay Albert – Boca Raton, Florida, USA  
August 27, 2002 – 7" Mak-Cass. – 297X – Seeing 7/10