



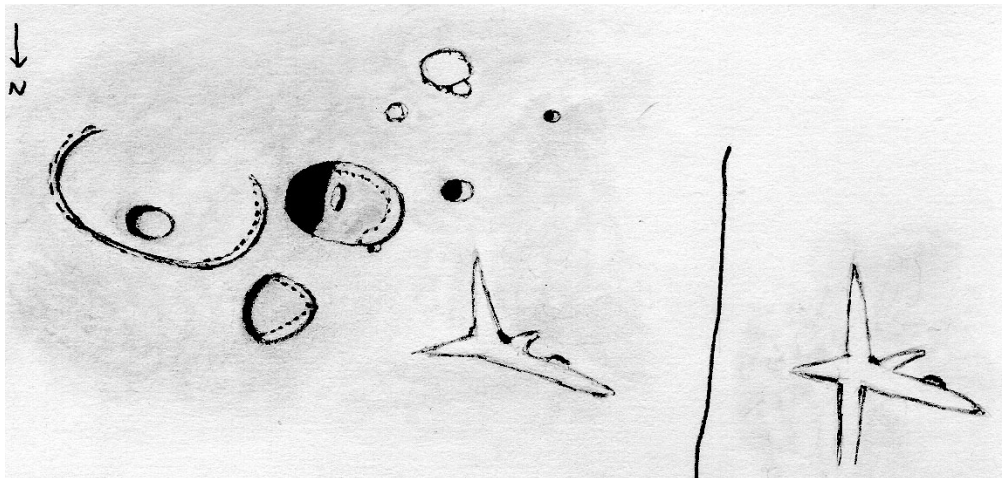
THE LUNAR OBSERVER

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENTS OF THE MOON... JUNE 2003

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Contributions by amateur astronomers are welcome regardless of the observer's skill, experience,
or organization affiliation. (For hard copies or back issues contact the editor)

FEATURE OF THE MONTH



ATLAS-A & ATLAS COMPANION - THE COMPANION
Sketches and Text by Robert H. Hays, Jr. – Worth, Illinois, USA
December 10-11, 2002 – 15cm Newtonian – 170x – Seeing 7-8/10

This area has been shown quite often lately in TLO and Selenology. It was well placed for observation on the evening of December 10/11, 2002, so I drew what I saw then. (This was near the disappearance of 6th-magnitude ZC 3374.) Atlas A is the largest complete crater on the sketch. This is a relatively ordinary crater with a central peak elongated north-south and a tiny pit perched on its northwest rim. Chevallier is the large but very low broken ring east of Atlas A. Chevallier B is within this ring, while Chevallier M is the oddly shaped crater north of Atlas A. This feature may be the combination of two broken rings as judged from the Lunar Quadrant Map. Atlas AA is west of Atlas A and another small pit is farther southwest.

The bright feature referred to as the Atlas Companion lies north-west of Atlas A. This feature appeared as a very bright elevation with three or four rays extending out from it. There were two long rays to the south and northwest, a shorter one to the east and probably a short ray to the west. There appeared to be

a hill along or just south of the long ray to the northwest. This long northwest ray did not seem as sharply outlined as the south and east rays.

I checked this feature again on the following evening. The three main rays were brighter and crisper, the short ray to the west was definitely visible, and a fifth ray was seen extending northward. This last ray was more diffuse than the others. The shadow cast by the central hill was less intense than it was on the 10th, and the shadow from the hill along the northwest ray was quite weak. These appeared to be ordinary rays since they became brighter as the sun rose higher on them. However, they do not radiate from a crater, but a hill. This really is a strange feature. I also noted some oval bright patches south of Atlas A and AA.

Editor: The area covered by Robert's sketch can be found on Map 15 of Rukl's Atlas of the Moon.

OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED

MICHAEL AMATO - WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, USA
Ray Maps of Menelaus, Messier, Proclus, Aristarchus, Kepler

ED CRANDALL - WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA, USA
CCD Image of Northern Apennine Mts., Meton

DANIEL DEL VALLE - AGUADILLA, PUERTO RICO
CCD Image of Clavius, Kepler (3), Clavius (2), Wargentini, Rumker
Sketches of Pitiscus, Cassini, Delisle & Diophantus

COLIN EBDON - COLCHESTER, ESSEX, ENGLAND
Sketch of Riccioli to Lohrmann

PETER GREGO - REDNAL, BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND
Sketches of Gassendi, Atlas & Hercules

ROBERT H. HAYS, JR. - WORTH, ILLINOIS, USA
Sketches of Pico, Hermann, Bessarion, Silberschlag & Rima Ariadaeus

K. C. PAU - HONG KONG, CHINA
CCD Image of Arago & vicinity, Sinus Iridum, Hortensius & Vicinity, Gassendi, Mare Humorum, Kies & Capuanus, Kies

RODRIGO VIEGAS - MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY
Sketches of Alphonsus, Anaxagoras, Gassendi, Aristillus & Cassini, Mare Humorum, Messier

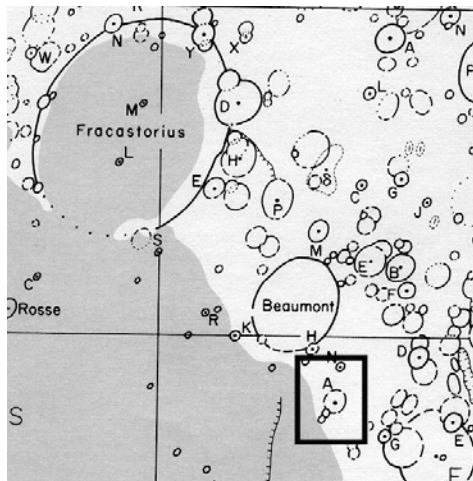
ROBERT WLODARCZYK - CZESTOCHOWA, POLAND
Sketches of Godin & Agrippa & Dembowski, Gassendi

LUNAR CALENDAR - JUNE 2003

- 05 . . . 08:00 . . . Moon 4.3 Degrees NNE of Jupiter
- 07 . . . 20:27 . . . First Quarter
- 12 . . . 23:00 . . . Moon at Perigee (223,958 miles – 360,416 km)
- 14 . . . 11:15 . . . Full Moon
- 19 . . . 07:00 . . . Moon 1.6 Degrees SSE of Mars
- 21 . . . 14:46 . . . Last Quarter
- 25 . . . 02:00 . . . Moon at Apogee (251,800 miles – 405,222 km)
- 29 . . . 18:38 . . . New Moon (Start of Lunation 996)

LUNAR CHALLENGE

Is there a central peak in Beaumont A?

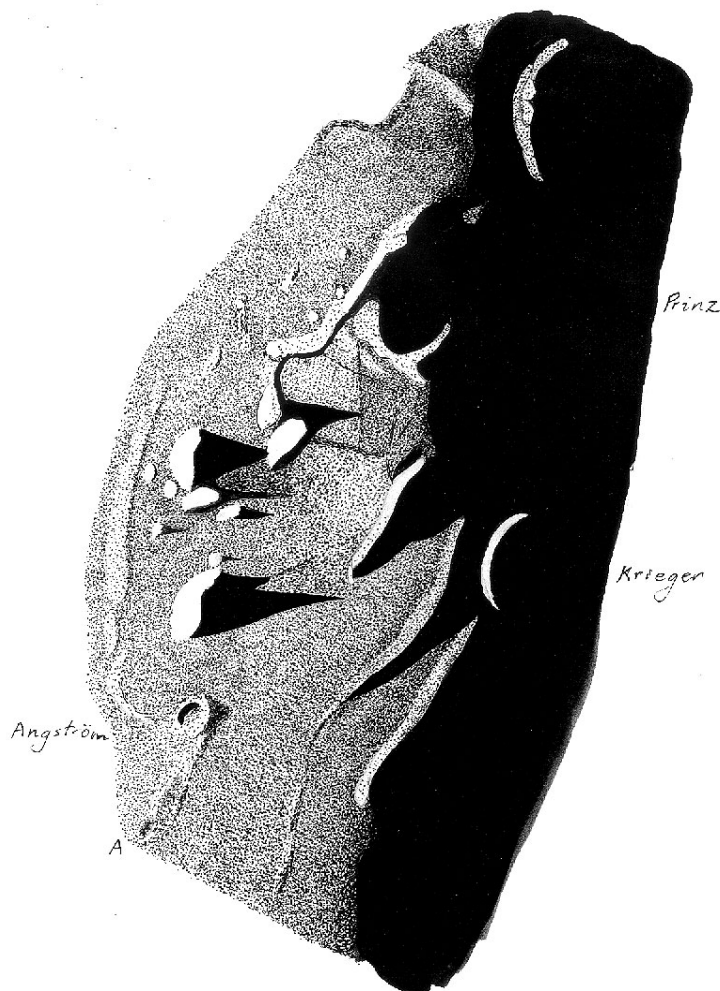


Map used with permission of Lunar & Planetary Laboratories, University of Arizona

This lunar challenge comes to us thanks to Ed Crandall of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, USA. Ed sent me a copy of an article that appeared in the March 1958 edition of Sky & Telescope Magazine. The article listed six “lunar observing problems” in the vicinity of Mare Nectaris. Although the Lunar Quadrant Map and Rukl’s Atlas both seem to indicate a central peak, the gist of the article was that hand drawn lunar maps are not necessarily 100% accurate. It should be noted that neither of these works were in existence at the time of the article. The LQ Maps were published in 1964 and Rukl’s in 1990. Is, therefore, the premise of the article now invalid? I don’t think so. One need only compare the double craterlet projecting out from the edge of Beaumont A on the above Quadrant Map with its portrayal on the Rukl Map. Rukl shows one of them as actually being on the primary crater’s rim, with the other nearly a craterlet’s diameter away. In any event, the question remains, is there a central peak in Beaumont A? Your observations are encouraged and welcomed.

..... W.M.D.

LUNAR NOTEBOOK



MONTES HARBINGER

Sketch and Observing Notes by Colin Ebdon
Colchester, Essex, England

April 4, 2001 – 10 inch f/6.5 Newtonian – 183x

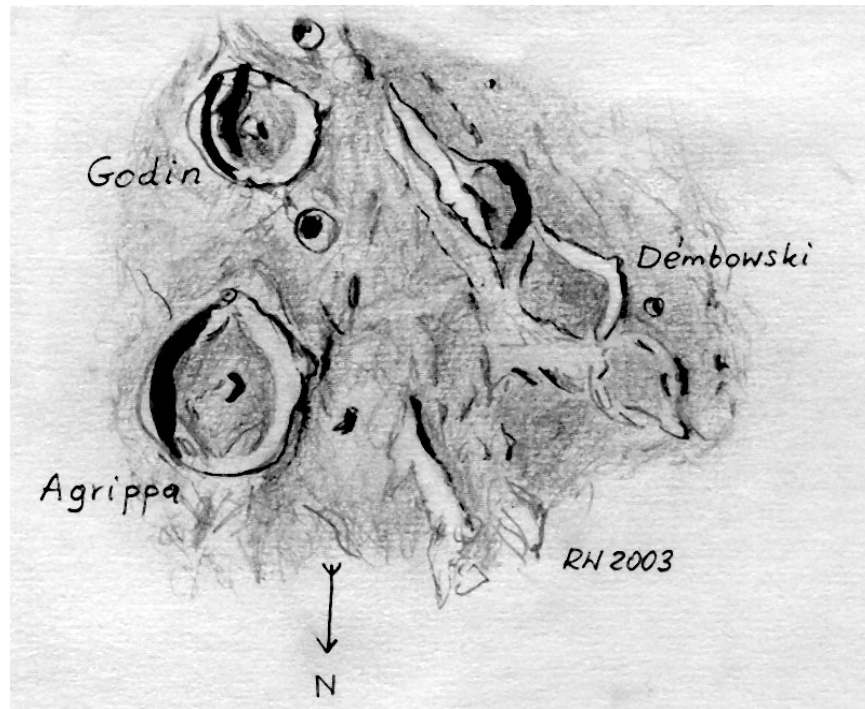
Note:

The rapidly changing shadows cast by the mountains were depicted by reference to a video image centred on 19hrs.52 UT. By the end of the observing session, the deep shadow in Prinz had receded to show jagged profiles.

Topographical Notes:

The area immediately North of Prinz was criss-crossed with thin faint lines evoking Lowell's drawings of the *canali* on Mars. Those running North-South were probably indications of Rima Prinz and associated Rilles, but those running East-West are not readily explained. Note that, unlike the other peaks, the first major isolated mountain block to the North of Prinz exhibited only a short shadow, from the centre of which seemed to extend a secondary 'spike' with somewhat ill-defined edges. Note also what appeared to be a very thin, curving shadow line running SW from the mountain block closest to the crater Angstrom. The wrinkle-ridges hereabouts are very beautiful under these lighting conditions and are not given full justice in the drawing.

TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



GODIN, AGRIPPA, & DEMBOWSKI
Sketch by Robert Włodarczyk – Czestochowa, Poland
April 9, 2003 – 120mm Newtonian – 120x



SCHICKARD, WARGENTIN, & PHOCYLIDES
CCD Image by Daniel del Valle – Aguadilla, Puerto Rico
May 13, 2003 – 8 inch SCT – Logitech QuickCam

TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



GASSENDI

Sketch by Peter Grego – Rednal, Birmingham, England
April 23, 2002 – 127mm MCT



KIES & CAPUANUS REGION

Video Still by K.C. Pau – Hong Kong, China
May 11, 2003 – 212mm Cass. Newt. – Philips TouCam Pro