

A mammoth No. of observations have been received this month from C. Brook, M. Cook, W. Haas, and R. Gray. These totaled over 12 hours for Sep. I would have joined in myself, but during Sep my telescope and the rest of my family's belongings from the States were still on a container ship crossing the Atlantic. Hopefully I can put in some observing time during October if the telescope arrives in one piece.

A drawing of Herodotus was received from Walter Haas, made on Sep? 2002. Alas there is still no sign of the grey shadow from 1954 repeating.

BAA observers may be interested to know ALPO's Brian Cudnik reports that the number of confirmed impact flashes on the Moon has increased to 15 following the publication of papers in *Icarus* and the *Astrophysical Journal* by Japanese and Spanish professional astronomers. It can be only a matter of time before someone captures a spectra of one of these events and we learn if much of the Moon's sodium atmosphere comes from meteors as theory and other evidence suggests. Incidentally was anybody from Europe observing at 19:27UTC on Aug 12th – the ALPO web page says that James Cook from Chelmsford, UK detected a visual flash at this time. Also a number of flashes detected by US observers for the Perseids is too many to report here, but these are largely unconfirmed – for further details see the ALPO lunar Section web page. I received a TLP alert call from Clive Brook on 2002 Sep 27 UTC ~00:00 concerning the central peak of Alphonsus. He noted that it was quite a lot brighter than he would normally have expected – certainly brighter than the central peak of Arzachel, however it then noticeably dimmed “I continued to observe until 02-15 hrs UT but the central peak had dimmed down considerably and there was no further change. I estimate it had dimmed down at least 2 degs on Schroter's scale (shadow=0 Aristarchus=10). The sky continued clear but there seemed no further activity...”. As it was beyond most UK observers TLP alert (bed) times, and I was unable to confirm it myself due to lack of scope, a limited alert was issued to one of our European observers via text message, and to the US, but no follow up observations could be made.

Robin Gray of Nevada, USA has also been sending in reports – and his observations highlight that it is important when using color filters to make sure they are of equal density. Indeed I would be interested to hear from ALPO members if they have experienced problems with using Wratten 25 (red) and Wratten 38A (blue) filters for Moonblinks – namely that the blue filter is too dark?

Finally, it has been usual in the BAA Lunar Section TLP articles to list observing times for UK observers such that repeat illumination and/or libration events could be observed for past historic TLP. However this is a little unfair on non-UK observers, so I am putting the predicted times on-line for different parts of the world on the following web-page link below. If you do not have access to the internet, please do drop me a line and I will post individual predictions to you. I will however be detailing the rarer illumination and libration repeat events according to their geographical visibility:

<http://www.lpl.arizona.edu/~rhill/alpo/lunarstuff/ltf.html>

If you would like to join TLP telephone alert team, please let me know your phone No. and how late you wish to be contacted. If in the unlikely event you see a TLP, please give me a call on my cell phone: +44 (0)798 505 5681 and I will alert other observers. Note when telephoning from outside the UK you must not use the (0). When phoning from within the UK please do not use the +44!

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