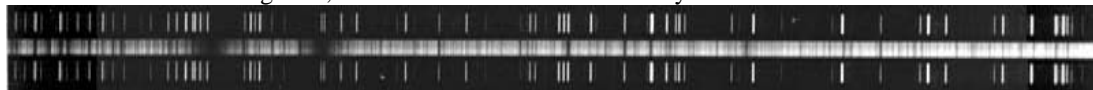


Observations have been received from Clive Brook and Marie Cook. I am writing this article about a week earlier than normal because I am preparing to move back to the UK to start a lectureship at Nottingham University. Any subsequent observations will be carried over till next month. I will certainly miss both seeing the Moon high in the sky, and the frequent clear nights, although the Jul/Aug 90-100F Washington temperatures and 50-90% humidity will be nice to leave behind! As I am not sure where I will be living in Nottingham yet, if you see any TLP please call my parents number below (but NOT after midnight) and they will pass the information onto me. Hopefully I will be able to attend the BAA exhibition meeting this year, and so may see some of you there.

For those of you considering lunar spectroscopy, Maurice Gavin's recent diagram should have been of interest. It is also possible to build a simpler device by just positioning a transmission diffraction grating (held in a C-ring) approximately 1 cm in front of the CCD, and placing the whole apparatus at Newtonian focus. Obviously because there is no slit, the device will yield mixed up and blurred spectra over most of the illuminated Moon. However where there are effectively point sources e.g. isolated terminator Mt peaks or star-like impact flashes in Earthshine, clear unambiguous spectra can be obtained. Below are example low-resolution spectra off Mt peaks close to the lunar south pole – as the terminator thickens the spectra start to blur out. The technique can also be applied to bright lunar occultations. I used a 92 line/mm blazed glass grating to give me short, but bright spectra, suitable for detection at 1/30th sec video rates, but cheaper holographic (500 line/mm) plastic gratings would work well with integrating CCD.



Incidentally just out of historical interest Gerald North was very busy obtaining spectra of TLP sites back in the 1980's using a spectrograph at the former Royal Greenwich Observatory, Herstmonceux. Below is part of one of his high resolution spectra 390-420 nm of the N. wall of Plato obtained on 1985 Mar 05 21:15.5 UTC. So if any of you would like to get into lunar spectroscopy (high or low resolution) with the aim of recording TLP, this would make a valuable analytical tool to the TLP sub-section.



Do not forget to look up the September predictions from last month – below are dates to enter into your diary for October. These are for repeat illumination-only observing times for past historic TLP. Again if you get clouded out on a particular day, but find you can see the Moon on another day, then providing its at least ~20 deg clear of the horizon, please observe any features of your choice.

2002-Oct-16	UTC 20:00-22:00	Aristarchus & Proclus	(P.Moore, 1985 May & M.Cook, 1989 Jul)
2002-Oct-17	UTC 20:00-22:00	Gassendi & Aristarchus	(A.Cook, 1977 Oct & P. Moore, 1985 May)
2002-Oct-17	UTC 23:00-24:00	Bullialdus & Plato	(A.Cook, 1980, G.North, 1992 & P.Foley, 1983)
2002-Oct-18	UTC 20:00-22:00	Langrenus limb Mt	(R.Baum, 1947 Aug)
2002-Oct-18	UTC 20:00-21:00	NE of Philolaus	(R.Baum, 1948 May)
2002-Oct-19	UTC 00:00-01:00	Aristarchus & Gassendi	(M.Cook, 1987 Sep & P.Moore, 1987 Sep)
2002-Oct-19/20	UTC 20:00-02:00	Torricelli B, Bullialdus	(M.Mobberley, 1985 & J.H.Robinson, 1979)
2002-Oct-20	UTC 00:00-02:00	Mt Pico & Torricelli B	(P.Moore, 1990 Feb & P.Foley, 1985 Sep)
2002-Oct-20/21	UTC 20:00-03:00	Plato & Torricelli B	(G.Blair, 1980 Sep & P.Foley, 1985 Sep)
2002-Oct-21/22	UTC 20:00-04:00	Aristarchus, Plato, Pico	(P.Foley, 1978 Nov & G.Blair, 1980 Sep)
2002-Oct-22	UTC 21:00-22:00	Aristarchus & Plato	(M.Kidger, 1978 Nov & G.Blair, 1980 Sep)
2002-Oct-25/26	UTC 22:00-06:00	Aristarchus	(J.Pedler & P.Foley, 1978 Nov)

Please post all letters/TLP reports to: *Mr & Mrs Cook, 6 Lakeland Drive, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey, GU16 8LD*. If you see a TLP during September (Only) please call 01276 27945 (before midnight) where a message will be taken and redirected to me. Email: tcCook@nasm.si.edu