



John Rogers and Marc Delcroix at the afternoon session (Photo by Manos Kardasis).

while Pellier & Kardasis explained alternative methods of derotating videos, either frame by frame, or using stacking followed by derotation. The speakers demonstrated the software in more detail to those who wanted to see in the afternoon tea break.

After the break, Chris Hooker took us back to the Moon to explain a method he had been using, developed with Andrew Fearnside & Phil Masding, for analysing the lunar regolith. It turns out that lunar minerals reflect light in a pre-

ferentially-polarised manner, and measuring the brightness differences in images taken with a polariser in different orientations can yield refractive index information related to the composition of the lunar surface. This project is at a fairly early stage, but has given interesting results consistent with data from space missions, and more observers are needed to try out the method.

Jaquesson outlined the conditions necessary to extract accurate measurements from images,

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The day concluded with a talk by Prof Nigel Mason OBE from the Open University. He coordinates the British component of a joint European project to set up a comprehensive online database of atomic and molecular spectra (the

Virtual Atomic and Molecular Data Centre, at vamdc.eu). He believes this might be useful to amateur as well as professional astronomers, and could be the basis for PC-based 'Citizen Science' projects, yet to be developed. His talk was a call for people to look at the database and think about future applications, but it also ranged more widely over the future of European funding for research, which was, he said, likely to be closely tied to amateur and citizen activity. The BAA could be in a good position to coordinate and benefit from this in our area of expertise.

Due no doubt to being held on a working day, attendance at the meeting was not as high as at many BAA meetings, but this was offset by the benefit of having, unusually, so many of our overseas members, and some of our most active observers, together in one place, as a result of the attraction of the week-long EPSC programme. Non-BAA Congress attendees were welcome, and a few looked in.

Thanks are due to the organisers of EPSC 2013 for allowing us to use the facilities. Pro-am connections in planetary science, and the reputation of the BAA as a vital linking organisation, were certainly enhanced as a result.

David Arditti

Obituary

Philip Morgan, 1949–2013

With the death of Philip Morgan on 2013 July 25 the BAA Lunar Section, and indeed the world of lunar observation as a whole, has lost one of its most gifted practitioners. Phil had been an active visual observer of the Moon since the 1960s and his observational drawings have graced the pages of many issues of the *Lunar Section Circular*, as well as the Section's other publications *The New Moon* and *The Moon: Occasional Papers*. Phil's work was also frequently highlighted on the *Lunar Picture of the Day* website, edited by the American lunar scientist Chuck Wood, and this ensured that it reached an appreciative international audience.

Phil was born into a farming family in Ludlow on 1949 June 2. After surviving childhood tuberculosis he showed early artistic talent and won an art scholarship to Shrewsbury School. However, he found the boarding regime uncongenial and transferred after one year to a local school, finally leaving to work on the family farm at the age of fifteen. He worked as a farmer for the remainder of his life, in partnership first with his father and then with his brother. What little spare time this allowed he devoted to painting, travel and astronomy.

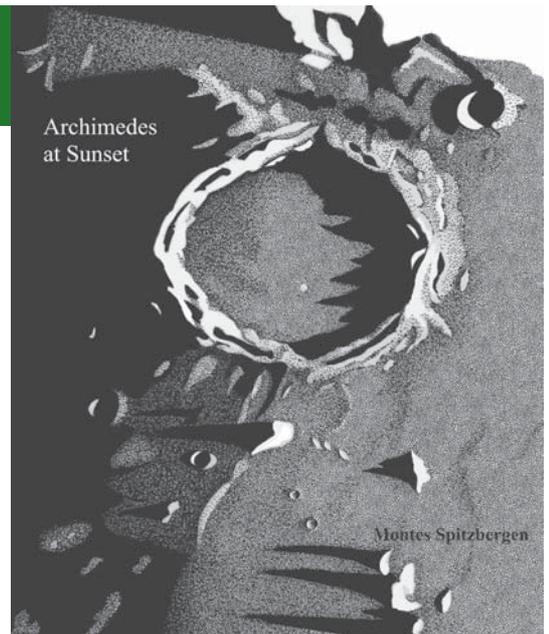
Phil never married, but his partner Heather enriched the last decade or so of his life

and she proved a great comfort to him during his final illness, which he endured with great fortitude and resilience. Indeed, he continued active observation and correspondence with friends and colleagues until only a few months before his untimely death.

Phil's death may indeed have been untimely, but his life was rich in achievement. A modest man, he was perhaps not widely known outside the world of lunar study. However, he was one of the finest visual observers that British selenography has seen, and the sheer number of outstanding drawings he produced over the years beggars belief. He was an 'old-school' lunar observer who liked nothing more than addressing long-standing topographical problems, and his dedication to the practice of visual observation was matched by supreme artistry.



His model in this regard was Harold Hill, whose commitment to long hours at the telescope Phil followed and whose techniques of representation he adopted. In particular he mastered the stippling method used by Hill, and he was able to use that most difficult and unforgiving of techniques to produce renderings of the lunar surface that were both artistic and realistic. However, artistry alone was never enough for Phil: his drawings reveal acuity of vision, sound observational judgement, an al-



Archimedes at sunset, 2010 September 1. Drawing by Philip Morgan, using a 30cm Newtonian reflector

most uncanny accuracy in the placement of topographic features and a deep insight into the nature of the lunar surface.

There is no doubt that Philip Morgan was one of the leading selenographers of his day. In his work he set standards that others both admired and strove to emulate. We shall miss both the man and his work immensely. In an age when the high-resolution camera increasingly challenges the dedicated visual observer at the eyepiece, I suspect, with considerable regret, that we shall not see his like again.

Bill Leatherbarrow, Director, Lunar Section