Lafcadio HEARN in New Orleans

Lost Worlds: Lafcadio HEARN and Percival LOWELL

By

William P SHEEHAN

Though somewhat tangentially relevant to the main preoccupation of readers of the CMO Bulletin, M. Minami has asked me to pen a brief article about Lafcadio Hearn (1850–1904). Most readers of the CMO Bulletin know Hearn, if nothing else because of his connection with Percival Lowell, but more substantively, for his role as prolific popularizer of all things Japanese in the West. His was a more sympathetic view of Japanese culture than was Percival Lowell’s, though it was the latter’s mania for Japan (and his best-known book on the Orient, The Soul of the Far East) that helped inspire Hearn’s even more supersized mania. (“I have a book for you,” Hearn wrote to a friend in 1889, after reading Lowell, “an astounding book—a godlike book. But I want you to read every single word of it… It is the finest book on the East ever written; and though very small contains more than all my library of Oriental books. And an American wrote it!” Above all, Hearn was enamored of Lowell’s idea that Japan was “topsy-turvy,” the opposite in all ways to the West. Lowell, thought Hearn, had discerned “the fluttering of the Human Soul in its chrysalis.” Hearn was eager to follow his lead.

Lafcadio Hearn was a man without a country, or at least without a settled country. He was born on the island of Leukas (Lefkas), the son of an Anglo-Irish surgeon in the British navy and a beautiful but illiterate Greek woman. When Hearn’s father learned she was pregnant, he deposited both mother and son in the care of Dublin relatives and took up a new post in the Caribbean. By the time young Patrick Lafcadio (Lafcadio was derived from Lefkas) was seven, his mother returned to Greece—he would never see her again—and he was placed under the (heartless) care of strait-laced great-aunt, who sent him to boarding schools in England, where he lost an eye in a playground fight, and France (a classmate there was Guy Mau-passant). Finally, at nineteen, the family decided to get rid of him once and for all: he was shipped off to a distant relative living in Cincinnati, a booming city of mostly German immigrants on the Ohio River. Not surprisingly, the relative wanted nothing to do with him; henceforth Hearn was on his own.

According to his biographer S. Frederick Starr, “Hearn fit in nowhere and spent his entire life searching for a place he could call home.” Rootless as he was, he shared—with Percival Lowell, whose family conflicts were different from Hearn’s, but who also experienced, at least for a time, restless
uncertainty about his direction of his life which he tried to resolve through travel—a strenuous search for identity. In Cincinnati, Hearn—a rather gnome-like figure with a bulbous hypertrophied left eye and a gimpy right eye, with an adult height of only five-foot 3 inches—caught on as a cub reporter for the Cincinnati Enquirer. He soon made a name for himself by showing the dark and sordid underbelly of the brawling city then known as “Porkopolis.”

In his spare time he immersed himself in French literature and married a half-Irish ex-slave—an unforgivable social faux pas as it would have been anywhere else in the United States at the time. As a result, the Examiner promptly fired him. Before he left Cincinnati, however, he agreed to do a series of articles on Louisiana for a rival paper. The fees for these articles tided him over until he caught on with the newly founded New Orleans City Item.

Christopher Benfey, in his Great Wave: gilded age misfits, Japanese eccentrics, and the opening of old Japan, has said of Hearn that the “pattern of [his] life was to arrive in a place just as what he loved there was on the point of disappearing.” Recalling from the complexity of modern thought and the super-regulated, oversophisticated, and emotionally impoverished world of the bourgeois culture of his time, Hearn—who had almost completely missed out on his own childhood—embraced the widespread late-Victorian tendency to idealize the child’s capacity for unrepressed emotional and imaginative experience. Related to this was a tendency to idealize “primitive,” i.e., pre-Industrialized peoples, who were seen as appealing childlike, spontaneous, energetic, and unspoiled. Hearn shared psychologist Stanley Hall’s suspicion that “civilization is at root morbific and sure to end in reaction and decay.” Though Hearn would—as noted by T. J. Jackson Lears in his No Place of Grace: antimodernism and the transformation of American Culture, 1880-1920—eventually seek to find his ideal in Japan, a country which he saw as a “toy land” whose people were “in many respects a race of children,” he first applied what has been called “affectionate impres-

sionism” to New Orleans.

To the newly-arrived Hearn, New Orleans in 1877 seemed “a land of perfume and dreams,” as later would seem the Lotus-land of Japan. Starr asks:

“How did it happen, then, that a writer-journalist who arrived not speaking a word of Japanese could, within a few years, establish himself as the premier interpreter of Japanese culture to the English-speaking and European world? ....

“Back in Louisiana Hearn had mastered the art of precise observation. He had learned how to convey the telling detail and to relate it to larger traits of culture. Equally important, he had developed a Manichean world view that pitted Good against Evil in an unequal struggle. His notion of a gentle, aesthetically rich, feminine, sensual and fragile Creole culture gradually losing out to the Anglo-Saxon world of Mammon could be transferred to Meiji era Japan....

“In short, Hearn constructed a Creolized version of Meiji Japan using ideas and techniques he first developed while working [in] New Orleans...Those aspects of Hearn’s portrait of Japan that most appealed to the Japanese themselves were already stowed in his intellectual and artistic baggage when he arrived, the fruits of his years in Louisiana and of his own tortured inner life.”

Even today, a traveler to New Orleans is allowed, if only briefly, to (in Starr’s words) “escape the modern world of which one is a part and to revel in a more innocent world of beauty and eros in the moments before its demise.” We are still enthralled with the image that Hearn created even as the world he sought there was passing away before his eyes. The following passage from “At the Gate of the Tropics,” which Hearn penned on November 19, 1877, soon after his arrival in the Crescent City, is characteristic. (Reflect a moment on that date, and on what else was going on: Giovanni Schiaparelli was still watching Mars from Milan, while Percival Lowell had returned from his post-graduation “Grand Tour of Europe,” and was beginning to
work in his father’s office on State Street.)

“It is not an easy thing,” writes Hearn, “to describe one’s first impression of New Orleans; for while it actually resembles no other city upon the face of the earth, yet it recalls vague memories of a hundred cities. It owns suggestions of towns in Italy, and in Spain, of cities in England and in Germany, of seaports in the Mediterranean, and of seaports in the tropics. Canal street, with its grand breadth and imposing façades, gives one recollections of London and Oxford street and Regent street; there are memories of Havre and Marseilles to be obtained from the Old French Quarter; there are buildings in Jackson Square which remind one of Spanish-American travel I fancy that the power of fascination which New Orleans exercises upon foreigners is due no less to this peculiar characteristic than to the tropical beauty of the city itself. Whencesoever the traveler may have come, he may find in the Crescent City some memory of his home —some recollection of his Fatherland —some remembrance of something he loves....”

Already by the winter of 1884-85, alas, Hearn had come to realize, with regret, that the New Orleans he so relished—with its perfumed strolls among moss-draped oaks by the Mississippi—was nearing extinction; that year the World’s Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition was held, and Hearn beheld electric lights go on “like a million moons dawning slowly at once.” It was the harbinger, writes Benfey, of a great industrial future for the New South, but the beginning of the end for Hearn, who had come to New Orleans precisely pledged to “the worship of the Odd, the Queer, the Strange, the Exotic, the Monstrous.” He would leave the Crescent City for Martinique, where he hoped to discover a still more authentic Creole world, before encountering Lowell’s book and heading out for what would become his ultimate goal, Japan (as for Lowell, disillusioned in his turn with Japan, it would be Mars).

Are not all our most cherished visions drenched in nostalgia?

Hearn would find in Japan that the world of “fair-folk” of childlike “grace and simplicity” was also nearing its denouement. Indeed, it would become apparent to most Western observers within a year of Hearn’s death, following the shock of the Japanese attack on the Russians at Port Arthur, that Japan was not a country not of “children” but of an educated urban elite that was fast on the way to modernization and status as an international rival to Western powers. Lowell’s Mars would also be cut out of the same romantic cloth as Hearn’s Japan (or New Orleans). Mars was a world that was well and fatally on the way out. Its oceans had dried up, and it was in a state of advanced desertification. The Martians clung to bitter existence through the laying down of their desperate planet-wide canal network.

Its denizens were, as Lowell pointed out, such as whose acquaintance was well worth making, as Hearn had found the “colored Creoles” of New Orleans, and as both had found the childlike, feminine, and artistic people of Medieval Japan.

Hearn and Lowell sought for exotic worlds, fin de siècle worlds of nostalgia, regret, and loss: New Orleans, Japan, Mars.

“I have spoken with enthusiasm of the beauty of New Orleans,” wrote Hearn. “I must speak with pain of her decay. The city is fading, mouldering, crumbling —slowly but certainly.

“As moulders and crumbles some quaint pleasure-house in the midst of weed-grown gardens once luxuriantly romantic as those which form a background for the warm pictures of the Decameron, so moulders this fair, quaint city in the midst of the ruined paradise of Louisiana. So, also, are mouldering all the old cities of the South, for their prosperity had its root of nourishment in the enormous wealth of the planters of cotton and rice and sugar, and that wealth is gone.

“I suppose that when the hatreds of the war have burnt themselves out; when the descendants of the ruined planters remember the family misfortunes only as traditions are remembered; when a new social system shall have arisen from the ashes of the
old, like the new world of the Scandinavian edda from the fires of Ragnarok—then shall the old plantations be gain made fertile, and the cottonwood cleared away, and the life of those southern cities be resurrected. But the new South shall never be as the old. Those once grand residences that are being devoured by mossy decay can never be rebuilt; the old plantations ... will be parceled out to a hundred farmers from States that are not Southern; and the foreign beauties of New Orleans will never be restored.... The new South may, perhaps, become far richer than the old South; but there will be no aristocracy, no lives of unbridled luxury, no reckless splendors of hospitality, no mad pursuit of costliest pleasures. The old Southern hospitality has been starved to death, and leaves no trace of its former being save the thin ghost of a romance.... The period of decay seems to me the close of the romantic era of Southern history.”

So, too, in The Soul of the Far East, Lowell had evoked the same note of “beauty that must die”; of beautiful, childlike people, about to be overtaken by the more robust—and sophisticated—peoples of the West:

“Just as surely as the morning passes into afternoon, so surely are these races of the Far East, if unchanged, destined to disappear before the advancing nations of the West. Vanish they will off the face of the earth and leave our planet the eventually possession of the dwellers where the day declines.... Their Nirvana is already being realized; already it has wrapped Far Eastern Asia in its winding-sheet, the shroud of those whose day was but a dawn, as if in prophetic keeping with the names they gave their homes,—the Land of the Day’s Beginning, and the Land of the Morning Calm.”

Finally, Lowell would close Mars as the Abode of Life with the same elegiac note:

“A sadder interest attaches to such existence: that it is, cosmically speaking, soon to pass away. To our eventual descendants life on Mars will no longer be something to scan and interpret. It will have lapsed beyond the hope of study or recall. Thus to us it takes on an added glamour from the fact that it has not long to last. For the process that brought it to its present pass must go on to the bitter end, until the last spark of Martian life goes out. The drying up of the planet is certain to proceed until its surface can support no life at all. Slowly but surely time will snuff it out. When the last ember is thus extinguished, the planet will roll a dead world through space, its evolutionary career forever ended.”

It is a deep-seated tendency of human nature to sentimentalize and romanticize the past—and the far away and exotic. In fact, as we now know, the Martians have not vanished; they were never there. The other worlds we imagine through the mistifying eyes of nostalgia are often but idealized and gilded visions of our own childhood, fading recollections of something that existed in the mind alone, not otherwise. And the glamour of that which has not long to last is the glamour of life itself, which relentlessly sifts from us and which we are able to grasp for but a fleeting moment.
Letters to the Editor

● ○ Subject: Mars 19 sept
   Received: Wed 21 Sept 2011 06:02 JST
   Hi, Poor seeing & average condition. PLS see it.
   [link]

○ Subject: Mars 23 Sept
   Received: Sun 15 Sept 2011 03:39 JST
   Hi, on 23 Sept seeing was fair so that I took one image. PLS see them. B.W
   [link]

● ○ Subject: Mars 30 sept
   Received: Fri 30 Sept 2011 14:01 JST
   Hi, Average condition with 35 degrees above. I took one image of mars. PLS see it.
   [link]

○ ○ Subject: Mars 2 oct
   Received: Tue 4 Oct 2011 10:58 JST
   Hi, Under fair seeing, I took one image of Mars. PLS see it.
   [link]

Sadegh GHOMIZADEH (Tehran, IRAN)

● ○ Subject: Nix Olympica
   Received: Sun 25 Sept 2011 00:23 JST
   Dear Masatsugu, Thank you for the very illuminating article on the aspects of Olympus Mons as observed from the Earth. I remember your expounding on this at the Paris meeting. One cannot hear this often enough as there is so much confusion on these points.

   Over the summer, I have read a novel in manuscript about Percival Lowell—as seen through the eyes of his secretary Wrexie Louise Leonard—by Jan Milsapp, a filmmaker in San Francisco, and just received notice that the novel about Percival Lowell by Jean Cave, whom you met in Paris, is about to be published. The title is Nos Reves sont plus Grands que le Ciel.

   Have been very busy but hope to get to Hearn for you after a while. Best

○ ○ Subject: Wm. Herschel and Mars
   Received: Sun 25 Sept 2011 00:57 JST
   Dear Masatsugu, Just after I sent the last, I resumed work on a chapter of a Galaxies book describing the career of William Herschel, and returned to the excellent article by Hitomi Tsunemachi (translated by you in No. 377 of the CMO or No. 3 of the International Society of Mars Observers). It raises some interesting points; namely, that Herschel’s interest in Mars went back to early in his career as an astronomer—he was observing the planet already in 1777, and making observations which would eventually lead him to assert: “That planet has a considerable but moderate atmosphere, so that its inhabitants probably enjoy a situation in many respects similar to ours.” Ms. Tsunemachi makes an interesting point I had not thought about before: when William Herschel moved from No. 5 Rivers Street in Bath back to No. 19 New King Street, it was because the latter had a fine southward-facing garden, which the house on Rivers Street lacked (in fact, William had to set up his seven-foot reflector on the cobblestone street in front of his house), and he mentions the interesting circumstance that that summer of 1781 Mars was inexorably moving to a very fine opposition, similar to that in 1986, when it would be close to the Earth but far to the south. I think it is quite likely that the move was in anticipation of this grand Martian event, though I don’t know of any place where Herschel specifically mentions it.

   As Ms. Tsunemachi points out, Herschel’s observing log books for March 12 and 13 show that:

   On March 12, he observed Mars at 5:45 in the morning, and noted “Mars seems to be all over bright but the air is so frosty & undulating that it is possible there may be spots without my being able to distinguish them.” At 5:53 he includes an entry: “I am pretty sure there is no spot on Mars.” He also looked at Saturn and noted, “The shadow of Saturn lays [sic.] at the left upon the ring.”
On March 13 his log book reads: Pollux is followed by 3 small stars at about 2’ and 3’ (thus he was examining it for companions as part of his double star research project)

Mars as usual.

In the quartile near Zeta Tauri the lowest of two is a curious either nebulous star or perhaps a comet.

A small star follows the Comet at 2/3rds of the field’s distance.

The “comet” was of course Uranus.

It appears clear from all this that Herschel observed Pollux and Mars in the morning of March 13, and then the discovery of Uranus occurred as he commenced observations (presumably after he returned from giving concerts or whatever) that evening.

It is at least possible that Herschel’s move to the house at New King Street—and the discovery of Uranus—owed something to his early fascination with Mars.

Bill SHEEHAN (Willmar, MN)

○------Subject: Mars 2011/09/26
Received: Tue 27 Sept 2011 04:04 JST

Hi all, As usual, it’s always a thrill to start again imaging a planet for a new apparition. That was the case for me this morning, for my first image of Mars since almost 1 year and a half.

For now, I’m rather satisfied despite the small 5.1 arcsec diameter:

http://astrosurf.com/delcroix/images/planches/m20110926-MDe.jpg

We can see North Niliacus Lacus and Mare Acidalium, and East Deuteronilus, and South Chryse very bright, dark Mare Erythraeum, with Sinus Meridiani/Sabaeus East. And the North Pole covered with clouds. And of course the usual limb artefact always very strong in my images.

Steady skies,

Marc DELCROIX (Tournefeuille, FRANCE)
25 October 2011

Instrument: 12" f/5 dobson, magnification: 416x.
Seeing: poor + very good. Filters: no colour filters used, apodizing mask used. Greetings,

Subject: RE: mars sketches 28/09 & 02/10
Received: Sun 2 Oct 2011 20:33:37 JST
Hi, here are my 2 sketches from september 28 & october 02.

Subject: Mars images (September 22nd, 2011.)
Received: Thu 6 Oct 2011 05:42 JST
Hi all, Some Mars images from the 22nd. Fair seeing and windy conditions. Solis Lacus is nicely seen along with clouds around the NPC. Ganges/Lunae Lacus looks especially dark and prominent. Some clouds over Tharsis.

Best Wishes

Subject: Mars images (September 23rd, 2011.)
Received: Sat 8 Oct 2011 06:26 JST
Hi all, Good seeing conditions on this morning. Chryse is again nicely presented. Weak clouds around the NPC with Ganges/Lunae Lacus again appearing distinctly dark.

Best Wishes

Subject: Mars images (September 28th, 2011.)
Received: Wed 12 Oct 2011 06:21 JST
Hi all, Here are some images from the 28th. Sinus Meridiani and Acidalium are prominent.

Best Wishes

Subject: Re: CMO/ISMO updated
Received: Sat 1 Oct 2011 2:16 JST
Dear Masami, Thank you for your emails and the printed CMO which is always a pleasure to read. This fall I will be trying out a new scope and see if it produces better planet images than my LX200. I look forward to the upcoming Mars season. Please note than from now on I have a NEW ADDRESS:
I would very much appreciate if you sent the printed CMO there. I now live 4 km from the Swedish south coast, about as far south in the country as you can come (55°25’ N). The planets are thus almost five degrees higher than in Uppsala.
All the best,

Subject: Mars obs. last 3rd from SMK
Received: Tue 4 Oct 2011 5:54 JST
Dear sir, Please find my recent observations performed last 3rd with the RC200mm. Some comments are noted with the sketch. I join the report from the Mr Gomizadeh’s images of last 30th sept. (nothing to see with the atmospheric refraction disturbance).

For your perusal. Have good receipt. Faithfully.

Subject: Mars: 27/09/11
Received: Thu 6 Oct 2011 05:44 JST
Greetings All!! Attached is an observation I made of Mars on 2011 September 27th. Alas, as one would expect, not a great deal is revealed on a 5” disk. Nevertheless, I was able to see M Acidalium, Sinus Sabaeus, and the bright NPC. I believe there may have been a bright equatorial cloud but I am far from certain of this.

Best wishes,

Subject: Mars 1 October 2011
Received: Wed 12 Oct 2011 12:39 JST
Here my best Mars of this year imaged in the wonderful night of October 1, 2011. For Dutch stan-
standard seeing was quite good. Considering the low altitude there are many details visible.


Regards,

John S SUSSENBACH
(Houten, the NETHERLANDS)

Hi everybody, please note my change of institution and change of e-mail address.

Best wishes for Mars observing,

Martín GASKELL (Valparaiso, CHILE)

2011/2012 ISMO Mars Observations in September 2011

Present report deals with the observations made in September 2011. During the period, the Martian season proceeded from $\lambda=354^\circ$Ls to $\lambda=009^\circ$Ls: On 13 September the northern spring equinox visited. The apparent diameter is still small which just went up from 4.7” to 5.2”. The central latitude however moved from $11^\circ$N to $17^\circ$N so that the northern hemisphere is facing towards us. Apparent declination $D$ decreased from $22^\circ49'N$ to $19^\circ33'N$. The phase angle $\iota$ augmented from 30° to 33°. (We hope every observer does not use the ‘phase’ but employs the ‘phase angle’.)

The observations we received from the following observers in September are as follows:

**ABEL, Paul G (PAb)** Leicester, the UK
1 Colour Drawing (27 September 2011) 310x20cm speculum

**AKUTSU, Tomio (Ak)** Cebu island, the Philippines
2 Sets of RGB + 2 IR + 2 Colour Images (9, 11 September 2011) 36cm SCT @f/24, 55 with a DMK21AU04, DFK21AU04

**DELCROIX, Marc (MDc)** Tournefeuille, France
1 Set of RGB + 1 IR Images (26 September 2011) 25cm SCT with a Basler acA640-100gm

**GHOMIZADEH, Sadegh (SGh)** Tehran, Iran
1 Set of RsGB + 3 Colour + 1 R + 2 B Images (10, 19, 23, 30 September 2011) (28cm SCT @f/37 with a DMK21AU04.AS)

**KIDD, Simon D (SKd)** Welwyn, Herts, the UK
1 Colour Image (2 September 2011) 36cm SCT (with a DBK21AF04.AS)

**MELKA, James T (JML)** Chesterfield, MO, the USA
1 Set of RGB Images (6 September 2011) 30cm speculum with a DBK21AU04.AS

**MINAMI, Masatsugu (Mn)** *Fukui City Observatory, Fukui, Japan
27 Drawings (10, 12, 14, 15, 24, 27 September 2011) 340, 400x20cm Goto ED refractor*

**MORAVES RIVERA, Efrain (EMr)** Aguadilla, Puerto Rico
1 Set of LRGB Images (5 September 2011) 31cm SCT with a Flea3

**MORITA, Yukio (Mo)** Hatsuka-ichi, Hiroshima, Japan
1 Set of RGB + 1 LRGB Colour + 1 L Images (6 September 2011) 25cm speculum @f/80 with a Flea3

**NAKAJIMA, Takashi (NJ)** *Fukui City Observatory, Fukui, Japan
27 Drawings (10, 12, 14, 15, 24, 27 September 2011) 340, 400x20cm Goto ED refractor*

**PEACH, Damian A (DPc)** Maidenhead, Berkshire, the UK
6 Sets of RGB Colour Images (15, 22, 23, 28 September 2011) 36cm SCT

**POUPEAU, Jean-Jacques (JPp)** Essonne, France
2 Sets of RGB + 2 R Images (26, 29 September 2011) 35cm Cassegrain with a SKYnyx 2-0
As the month of September came in, good images were delivered. However the KIDD (SKd) image conveys a strange colour which might have been useless. MORALES (EMr) obtained a set of good LRGB images on 5 Sept (λ=356°Ls) at ω=282°W where Syrtis Mj was caught near the CM and the nph and Utopia were clearly shot. On 6 Sept (λ=356°Ls), MELKA (JMl) showed Syrtis Mj in the evening at ω=297°W (i=31°). On the same day, MORITA (Mo) in Japan imaged M Acidalium in the evening. On 9 Sept (λ=358°Ls), AKUTSU (Ak) in the Philippines took similar scene at ω=056°W(058°W) while Ophir and Ganges are more evident. On 10 Sept (λ=359°Ls) MINAMI (Mn) and NAKAJIMA (Nj) started observing: Since the planet soon went high up, they each obtained 4 drawings every 40 minutes until the sunrise. It was confirmed Margaritifer S was recovered as in the preceding apparition. On 11 Sept (λ=359°Ls), Ak took a set of images at ω=026°W where M Acidalium was evident as well as Margaritifer S. The northern spring equinox visited on 13 Sept (λ=360°Ls), and WALKER (SWk) produced excellent images at ω=212°W where M Cimmerium was clearly caught, and the area around of Elysium was well described. It is possible that there is a rift due to a dust inside the nph. On 15 Sept (λ=001°Ls), PEACH (DPc) also took a nice set of images at ω=122°W(125°W) where it is shown Tharsis Montes are thinly covered by the evening clouds so early. The npc may be seen as a core but still the cloud hood exists. On 19 Sept (λ=003°Ls) GHOMIZADEH (SGh) showed a thick M Acidalium at ω=017°W, and as KONNAÏ cautioned, the southern hemisphere may be affected by some effect of the dust MARCI pinned down (which was however not sensitised by THEMIS). On 22 Sept (λ=004°Ls), DPc showed the surfaces at ω=058°W and 063°W which are comparable with those taken by Ak on 9 Sept (λ=358°Ls). On 23 Sept (λ=005°Ls) SGh took an insufficient set at ω=339°W where S Sabaeus was evident, and the nph is thick on the morning side. On the day at ω=041°W and 050°W, DPc produced nice images where the evening M Acidalium prevailed and the npc shows a shadowy area at the northern limb. On 24 Sept (λ=005°Ls), TYLER (DTy) first made a shot at ω=008°W where M Acidalium was at the morning side. Deuteronilus is visible. It was said that the seeing on the night was very excellent (especially for Jupiter) at Bucks. On the same day SMET (KMs) drew at ω=019°W. On 26 Sept (λ=006°Ls) DELCROIX (MDc) and POUPEAU (JPp) observed at ω=006°W and at ω=019°W respectively, and supplemented the preceding observations. MDc’s images may show a dust inside the nph. At Fukui, Nj and Mn visually judged on 24 Sept (λ=006°Ls) and 27 Sept (λ=007°Ls) that the npc was apparent around ω=210°W~220°W bounded by a dark fringe though this must have been different from the region at M Acidalium: That is, the centre of...
the nph must be deviated from the pole. On 27 Sept (λ=007°Ls) ABEL (PAb) made a sketch at ω=356°W. On 28 Sept (λ=007°Ls) at ω=341°W KSm made a sketch, and DPa produced an excellent set at ω=358°W where Aryn’s nails (even in G) and Deuterolilus are evident. On 29 Sept (λ=008°Ls), according to the images of JPP at ω=351°W, the north of M Acidalium looked occupied by a disturbed nph. SGh’s images on 30 Sept (λ=008°Ls) at ω=270°W show Syrtis Mj near the CM: Utopia is visible but still looks to be covered by the nph. Hellas was shot not white, but every one should not only take B image, but also G image.

Now the Martian surface is making a fresh start, and every observer should pay attention to the activity of Hellas and the variations of the npc as well as the orographic phenomena and so on. (MM INAMI & MM MURAKAMI)

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**Ephemeris for the Observations of the 2011/12 Mars. IV**

**November 2011**

Masami MURAKAMI

A sequel to the preceding list of the Ephemeris for the physical observations of Mars, we here list up the necessary elements of the Ephemeris for period from 26 October 2011 to 3 December 2011: The data are listed for every day at 00:00 GMT (not TDT). The symbols ω and φ denote the Longitude and Latitude of the sub-Earth point respectively. The symbols λ, δ and ι stand for the Areocentric Longitude of the Sun, the Apparent Diameter and the Phase Angle respectively. We also add the column of the Position Angle Π of the axis rotation, measured eastwards from the north point: This is useful to determine the north pole direction from the p←. The Apparent Declination of the planet is also given at the final column (denoted D). The data here are basically based on The Astronomical Almanac for the Year 2011.

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<th>Date (00:00GMT)</th>
<th>ω</th>
<th>φ</th>
<th>λ</th>
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<td>30 October 2011</td>
<td>332.57°W</td>
<td>21.8°N</td>
<td>022.39°Ls</td>
<td>5.86&quot;</td>
<td>36.1°</td>
<td>5.7°</td>
<td>+15°07'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 October 2011</td>
<td>322.91°W</td>
<td>21.9°N</td>
<td>022.86°Ls</td>
<td>5.89&quot;</td>
<td>36.2°</td>
<td>6.0°</td>
<td>+14°58'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 November 2011</td>
<td>313.25°W</td>
<td>22.0°N</td>
<td>023.32°Ls</td>
<td>5.92&quot;</td>
<td>36.2°</td>
<td>6.4°</td>
<td>+14°48'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 November 2011</td>
<td>303.61°W</td>
<td>22.1°N</td>
<td>023.79°Ls</td>
<td>5.95&quot;</td>
<td>36.3°</td>
<td>6.7°</td>
<td>+14°38'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03 November 2011</td>
<td>293.96°W</td>
<td>22.2°N</td>
<td>024.25°Ls</td>
<td>5.98&quot;</td>
<td>36.3°</td>
<td>7.0°</td>
<td>+14°28'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 November 2011</td>
<td>284.30°W</td>
<td>22.3°N</td>
<td>024.72°Ls</td>
<td>6.01&quot;</td>
<td>36.4°</td>
<td>7.4°</td>
<td>+14°19'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05 November 2011</td>
<td>274.66°W</td>
<td>22.4°N</td>
<td>025.18°Ls</td>
<td>6.05&quot;</td>
<td>36.5°</td>
<td>7.7°</td>
<td>+14°09'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06 November 2011</td>
<td>265.01°W</td>
<td>22.5°N</td>
<td>025.65°Ls</td>
<td>6.08&quot;</td>
<td>36.5°</td>
<td>8.0°</td>
<td>+13°59'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 November 2011</td>
<td>255.38°W</td>
<td>22.6°N</td>
<td>026.11°Ls</td>
<td>6.11&quot;</td>
<td>36.6°</td>
<td>8.4°</td>
<td>+13°49'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08 November 2011</td>
<td>245.74°W</td>
<td>22.7°N</td>
<td>026.57°Ls</td>
<td>6.15&quot;</td>
<td>36.6°</td>
<td>8.7°</td>
<td>+13°40'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The 16th Report in 2001 treated the period from the latter half of September to the first half of October 2001. Four months passed since the emergence of the global dust storm while the markings were still obscure, and it was considered some were due to the fallout of dust. The atmospheric dust must have been fewer, but still local dust disturbances were occurring. The planet was in Sgr and the apparent declination was slightly going up. Just before the eastern quadrature, the planet was near the meridian when the Sun set down. The Martian season $\lambda$ was from 234°Ls to 253°Ls. The $\delta$ was under 10”, and the $\varphi$ was up from 2°S to 10°S, and the $\iota$ was maximal at 46°.

Reporters were 6 with 40 observations from abroad and domestically 7 members with 240 observations. Unfortunately MORITA (Mo) could not observe because of the machine troubles.

The aspects of the dust were picked out according to the regions. Olympus Mons was still covered by the dust float and the summit was a dark spot. At the area of Solis L the bright dust streaks were still visible, and Solis L itself was not well recovered. S Sabaeus was peculiar due to its western part was obscure together with S Meridiani. M Cimmerium was caught by every observer.
At the circumpolar region M Chronium looked rather darker. Hellas was the place with smaller dusts inside but because of the fall down of the angular diameter it was difficult to observe minutely. The spc was clear though small since the southern hemisphere declined towards us. Quite roundish. The season was near when Novus Mons should be detached, but nobody could check. Otherwise, such varieties of markings of Mons Argentius, Deltoton Sinus, M Tyrrhenum and so on were mentioned.

It was reported and touched that HST and MGS images were published on 11 October. It was criticised that it was no good to seriously take an MGS rotating lantern with images just made at 2 o’clock PM. Especially it does never show the morning phenomena including dust disturbances.

On the other hand the results by the TES was said interesting: (in the following, MGC/TES, HST, MGS/MOC, respectively)

http://tes.asu.edu/
http://www.msss.com/mars_images/moc/10_11_01_dust_storm

LtE shows ones from GRAFTON (TX), PARKER (FL), MELILLO (NY), WHITBY (VA), VALIMBERTI (Australia), QUARRA (Italy), DOMBROWSKI (CT): On the other hand, from Japan, KUMAMORI, MORITA, ISHADOH emailed.

TSUNEMACHI’s Essay (11th) was about “utility of copying”: She especially exemplified how a famous researcher (called S SHIRAKAWA) was able to newly unearth the meaning of structures associated with Kanji (Chinese characters) by copying the old style Kanji by his own hand; his research now being recognised revolutionary and very right from the oriental world. TSUNEMACHI suggests that the sketching of Mars will bring something more important than the just imaging. TYA (74) treated CMO #110 (25 October 1991): Mars twenty years ago was near the conjunction and the CMO began to describe how to observe “1992/93 Mars”. This apparition was rather aphelic but was indispensable to observe the northern hemisphere season.

International Society of the Mars Observers (ISMO)

Advisory Board: Donald PARKER, Christophe PELLIER, William SHEEHAN, and Tadashi ASADA, Masatsugu MINAMI


CMO #390/ ISMO #16 (25 October 2011)

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