

Chapter XX

Isolated mountains



Apart from the Central mountains already mentioned, which are at the bottom of the craters, in many places on the plains of the Moon, individual mostly clear mountains arise; they are rarer in small groups.

Neither its height nor its breadth and steepness is considerable, and among the mountains of this kind, there are probably none that reaches 1400t above its surroundings.

In the Mare Crisium, in the west, many small hills lie close together, but quite separated, without touching each other at the base; one of them reaches 900t, while on the east side of the surface a bright and broad mountain rises up 1100t. The Mare Serenitatis, Tranquillitatis and Nectaris, as well as the Mare Focunditatis, lack the more striking isolated mountains of this type.

They are much more frequent in the Mare Imbrium, where the brilliant, but not quite mile wide mountains: Pico, Pico A, Pico E, Pico B can rise up to 1200t, 1200t, 1300t and 1000t height.

The mountain Lahire is 900t, its western neighbour 590t high. All rise very brightly from the dark grey of the plains, without any noticeable connection with other objects.

From the sight of their long and pointed shadows, it is easy to erroneously conclude they are imposing figures, but a profile drawing in which I assumed the width of the bases of Pico and Pico A to be only 11000 Toisen, showed little markings, respectively a 3- and 2-summit ridge, whose shape is reminiscent of any of the steep Alpine heights, and not even comparable to the 1200 Toisen high pyramid of the Niesen on Lake Thun. [112]