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A Travel Journal;

ASADA, MINAMI and SHEEHAN in Japan; Entries from SHEEHAN's Travel-log,
April and May 2004

By

William SHEEHAN

"The fancy took me to go to Noto. It seemed a strange fancy to my friends...."Why not in fact have set my heart on going to Noto just because it was not known! Not that it is well to believe all the unseen to be much worth the seeing, but I had an itching sole to tread what others had not effacingly betrodde." *Percival Lowell, Noto* (1891).

Wed., **April 28, 2004**. Mikuni, beginning our roundabout trip to Noto peninsula. (I stay in a modern hotel here, through the kindness of MINAMI and his wife.)

At Mikuni there is a lovely overlook - we only stayed briefly because of the gale-like winds but this is the point from which, as MINAMI told me long ago, one can see the Noto peninsula. (See *Noto*, p. 28)

At Kaga. The central city of both the Noto and Kaga districts, where Tadashi ASADA was born and lived through graduation from high school. His mother still lives here.

We're now at the point which connects Kaga-Noto-Etchui areas.

Etchui is an old name, and no longer

used. This city where we are now, Toyoma, is the center of the Etchui plain and the old feudal capital of the province. Lowell came here from Noto and stayed in an inn. Which inn is not known but it must have been near the Castle, which is currently undergoing restoration. I stayed just long enough to take a picture. The Castle is surrounded by an impressive stone wall and a moat, along which a series of weeping willows weep like mourning widows.

Toyoma is a very developed city now, though even in Lowell's day it was a bustling town, busy with trade. The Castle was made into a school in Lowell's time. Lowell, in the inn, "where the neighboring daimyos were wont to rest on their journeys through,"

contemplated the extent to which feudal times had already passed away both in practice and in memory:

“The feudal times,” he says (*Noto*, p. 61), “were to the students in the public school as much a tale as the making of the plain itself where its ruins stand already mantled with green!”

Lowell left Toyama after lunch in the best of spirits, in *jinrikisha*, for Kamidaki, or Upper Falls. (*Noto*, p. 63) He thus traveled by *jinrikisha* along the road we are now traveling by car, to begin his attempt to cross the Harinoki Toge.

In contrast to Lowell, we will have lunch at Kamidaki (Kamiichi). The road starts out in Toyama as a typical thoroughfare, and is utterly devoid of romance. It has been paved and no longer yields, as in Lowell’s time, to rice paddies requiring a change of conveyance from *jinrikisha* to foot. But the rice paddies still exist, and not far out of town the road narrows abruptly—there can be little doubt that this is exactly the same road Lowell took. It narrows about a third of the way out of Toyama, which is where, in Lowell’s time, it gave out altogether

The town of Kamidaki is overhung by a forested hill where Lowell, “after the usual delay,” found porters. We stopped to photograph a shrine at Kamidaki. Lowell describes (p. 63) what he calls the Jinzdūgawa river. A railway runs along here now. The stream becomes multi-stranded, and is very swift in places; it would have been impassable in Lowell’s time— and still today— by *jinrikisha*, even though it may have been lower then than now. He says: “At the time of our visit, it was, for the most part, a waste

of stones through which two larger and several lesser streams were in much worry to find the sea.”

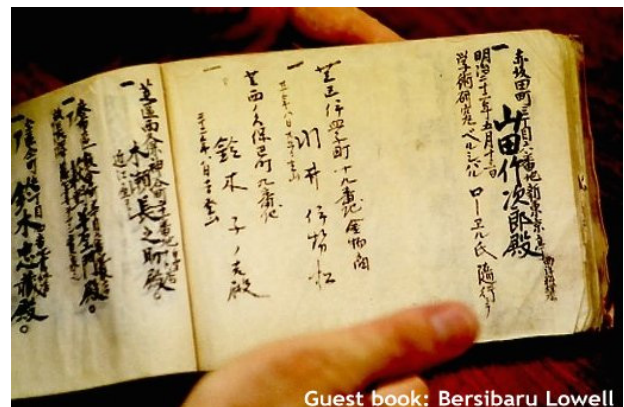
Lowell’s way led up the left bank. At Kamidaki, we followed a road that initially ran along the right bank—opposite that Lowell construed to be the most expedient. But eventually we took a small bridge back across and resumed Lowell’s route.

We made a pilgrimage to Ashikuraji Temple (芦嶽寺) (Ashikura is related to the term Kura (嶽), which means “where the gods come down”), and were shown, by one of the archi-



At Ashikuraji Temple

vists there, Mitsuru FUKUÉ, Lowell’s name in a book kept by the genial Inkyo (mentioned by Lowell in *Noto*, at pp. 67 and 80). This is where Lowell rested after his attempt on Harinoki Pass (see *Noto*, chapter xiv). His name in the guest book appears as “Bersibaru Lowell,” and the date is given as May 13, 1889.



Guest book: Bersibaru Lowell

We discovered some possible leads as to the identity of Yeijiro, his guide. He lived in Tokyo, and was a member of the clan of the temple and so Lowell was permitted to stay here one night.

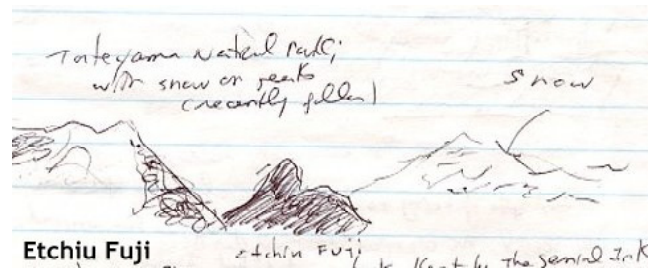
The genial Inkyo's name is known. It was SAHEKI (he was of that family). He was 62 years of age, and though in retirement, still powerful, and well-connected, to persons in Edo (Tokyo).



Lowell writes of the occasion: "In spite of being no longer in society, the father was greedily social. As soon as he heard a foreigner had arrived, he trotted over to call, and nothing would do but I must visit his niche early in the morning, before going away.

"After breakfast, therefore, the son duly came to fetch me, and we started off through the garden. For his sire's place of retirement lay away from the road, toward the river, that that dear old gentleman might command

a view of the peaks opposite, of one of which, called the Etchui Fuji, from its conical form, he was dotingly fond."

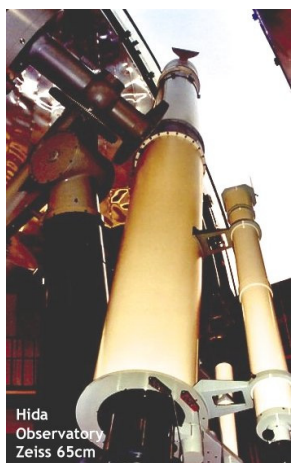


The name Etchui Fuji no longer exists on modern maps; but the conical form was easily visible from Ashikuraji Temple, the only peak without snow in the nearby Tateyama range. The temple consists of several inns (*bos*) which accommodated persons who came from across Japan to worship Tateyama (as they did Ontaké or Fuji-san). Ho-sen-bo was especially famous. SAHEKI Taion was very powerful with the government in Tokyo (the Tokugara of the Shogunate). The Ho-sen-bo existed as a network for promoting the Tateyama region throughout Japan. Also, Ho-sen-bo governed the Noto Peninsula.

We conclude that Yeijiro (Yeiri Ajo) was not just a simple servant as might be thought from Lowell's account but someone who was well-educated and well-connected. To be accompanied by someone able to draw on the network of connections - i.e., almost all the people called Saheki - gave assurance of safe travel. We can guess that Lowell had learned while in Tokyo of the fame of the Tateyama region, and also that crossing the Harinoki Toge (2821m) was considered a feat of bravery (it had been accomplished, for instance, by SASSA Narimasa, or Kura-no-suké (1536-1588), a famous samurai who died very unhappily). For that reason perhaps Lowell wanted to attempt the passage also, and per-

haps this interest led to an introduction to Yeijiro. Lowell was always eager to venture in places untrodden, and was drawn to places like the Harinoki Toge which were not on the inventories of the standard guide books. Why Lowell decided to try to make the passage at the time of the year he did is unclear, as the snow was still very heavy (and we ourselves, traveling at the same season Lowell did, just last night witnessed a heavy snowfall, whitening the higher peaks of the Tateyama range in the distance). Perhaps he did not have reliable information. However that may be, the connection with Yeijiro and the Ho-sen-bo explains how it came about that Lowell stayed at Ashikura Temple afterwards.***

Note: the Mars observer Tsuneo SAHEKI was not originally Saheki. His wife came from this area. Her father was Saheki, and may have worked at the temple. (We will inquire when we meet the son.)



We temporarily depart from the Lowell route and are driving under overcast skies. We have been following along a river gorge (the river is the Jinzū-gawa River) and reach Hida, the site of a 65 cm Zeiss refractor, as the sun is coming out again.

The refractor at the Hida Observatory was used by S. EBISAWA in 1973, and is the largest in the Eastern Hemisphere. It is not reputed to be very good. There is also a Cassegrain that used to be at Kwasan Observatory, Kyoto. (Both Hida and Kwasan are

operated by Kyoto University.)

Our view of the planets was in twilight, so the background sky was bright. Venus was little more than a blur of chromatic aberration. Saturn was very pale-one forgets how low its surface brightness is.

Though the observatory seemed a rather desolate place, chiefly notable for the long cold corridors between the domes (note, however, it had been snowing until 2 pm this afternoon) and the poor images we had of the planets, the latter were a sight in the dark Alpine sky-led foremost by Venus, beginning its headlong plunge back toward the Sun and its transit in just over a month from now, and trailed by Saturn and the Moon and Jupiter. The Moon was especially pretty, framed by thin vaporish cloud.

Last night, I was swathed in modern luxury at Mikuni. I am sleeping tonight at an inn, at considerable elevation. It dates back, I am told, a century and a half. It is a traditional Japanese inn similar to some of those in which Lowell would have stayed, with bamboo mats on the floor, a small table surrounded with flat cushions, and a shoji screen-in the case of the one in my room, perforated in places. The accommodations are quite quaint and comfortable. For nourishment, I had two small dried fish-salted - and ate them, rather adventurously, head to tail, in true Japanese fashion. Lowell did not care for this diet, but I am more cosmopolitan: when in Japan, eat what the Japanese eat.

April 29. Descending from Hida, the distant mountains were ghost-ridges-white with snow-hovering above the forested foothills.

We drive along a road lined with many a

cherry tree (sakura). When they were all in bloom it would have been, MINAMI says, like a milky way. There are still a number of late-bloomers giving some idea of the magnificence that has been (and Lowell himself had written, in *The Soul of the Far East*, “to see the sakura in flower for the first time is to experience a new sensation”) The weather is perfect, cool pellucid clear blue skies. The typhoon we have been experiencing cleared out yesterday afternoon, after it unloaded rain on the coast and laid down a mask of new-fallen snow in the mountains.

We travel on toward Ontaké. Lowell must first have seen it during his visit to this area in 1889, and returned again in 1891 when he climbed it with his friend George Russell Agassiz. It was after the latter visit he wrote the Author’s Club poem, entitled simply “Ontaké,” in which he records how he and Agassiz joined the “rosary of ten thousand pilgrims” who wound up Ontaké each summer, and expected to find nothing more than “probable picturesqueness” along the ↗

Ten thousand feet above the world where men
 Live out the common level of their lives,
 The closer thus to stand to heaven’s self,
 Great rock-built spire of God’s own minster work,
 Sacred Ontaké solitary towers:
 No rival summit near enough to seem
 But distant billow of uneasy earth,
 Peak-whitecaps on its vast blue sea of land.
 Most holy mount it is of all Japan.

Above its girdle of ancestral trees,
 Above its scarfs of immemorial snow,
 Huge lava blocks in buttresses make crown
 To eight successive craters, set in stair,

way-rustic tea huts at leisurely intervals, patches of snow and cloud, and a view from the top encompassing Noto peninsula in the distance. Taking a breather and sipping bitter green tea in a hut four-fifths of the way up, they encountered some Shinto pilgrims who entered the hut from below, and decided to follow after them. In due course they witnessed these pilgrims in a trance, and so came across the “undiscovered country” of spiritual possessions - the subject of Lowell’s last, and in some ways most adventurous, book on the Far East, *Occult Japan*.

This poem seems to be written in emulation of Percival’s second-cousin James Russell Lowell’s much more conventional “The Cathedral”; it stands up to the comparison. But it can also be book-ended with the never-published “Mars,” which Percival wrote before beginning his observing campaign at Flagstaff in the summer of 1894. The passage below touches themes which bear on Lowell’s soon-to-be-developed astronomical attitudes:

Crest upon crest in passion's pedigree;
Of these the lower now rim each its pond,
Blue eyes to hold the heaven they gaze upon,
Or dim with mist at touch of chilling cloud,
Eyes that each night in star-set solitude
From their still depths fathom infinity,
Unlike the sightless sockets of the moon-
That plaster death-mask of a world that was-
Confronting them across the void of space.

Not so the topmost crater of the eight.
Athwart the sometime sparkle of its fire,
Dulled now so long, deep drowsiness has drawn
Involuntary eyelid of soft ash,
Dame Nature's curtain to compose to sleep
That fierce spent passion of its yesterday
The morrow destines to awake again;
For past its fringing lashes of fine crag
One may look down beyond its outer edge
Through giddy gulf to heart of an abyss
Whose fresh-rent cliffs of ocher, red and gray
Make ruddy rim to bowl of purple shade,
As from the pageant west the level sun
Flames all their tops, but leaves the awful chasm
To an imperial half-light hued of heaven;
While far below a solfatara's steam
In incense to the spirits of the spot
Steals slowly up to lose itself in air.
In front the slope in one full sweep falls off
Into a sea of cloud that veils its foot
From contact base, and isolates the peak
To undisturbed communion with the sky....

A sacred goal of pilgrimage, the mount,
To holy men, clad all in white and cleansed
Through long ablution, outwardly and in,
From base contagion of the lower world;
Men who, while yet in contact with their kind,
Essay to live in company of gods,

And to the fuller compass of their end
 Through one midsummer of their lives, at least,
 From far home-province hither toil afoot
 What time the gods their annual audience grant
 Upon its peak to such as have attained
 To an unworldliness kin to its own,
 That sprung from earth is yet in touch with heaven...



When MINAMI, ASADA and I approached the peak at the end of April 2004, it was, as Lowell had found it, “a volcano sunk in trance.” Only recently did it waken from its trance - it erupted on September 27, 2014, killing over 50 people.

MINAMI patiently explained that it is indeed the most sacred peak in all Japan, as Lowell called it. Fuji, of course, is better known, and more convenient to Tokyo - hence more popular. But Ontaké - because it is located in a more remote part of Japan - is inaccessible and mysterious. This explains in part Lowell’s attraction to it. The guidebook (Murray’s of 1891, written by Lowell’s friend Basil Chamberlain) warned that it was “beyond the reach of railways and modern civilization” and that the climb was rough. As with the Harinoki Toge, hearing such challenges was “music to Lowell’s ears.” For our part, we did not attempt to climb the sacred

mount. Instead we stopped at a tea-house and with Ontaké ahead of us and a very pale moon -Tsuki- rising above the mountains behind us, we enjoyed some Tololo noodle soup, made from a large tuber that grows native to Japan.

Then we traveled on, through a region shot through with the beauty of the white cherry blossoms, over the Shiwojiri Pass through the southern peaks of the Hida-Shinshiu range, and saw the lake of Suwa (Suwako), from which the Tenriugawa river -River of the Dragon- originates--down to the inn at Shiwojiri where Lowell met a man who spoke English. The garden and Shinto shrine must still have been much as they were when Lowell visited, and perhaps he saw the shrine. The structure, however, has burned to the ground, and been replaced by a modern one.

Suwa Taisha, a famous shinto temple, is located close to a district of inns, including one Lowell visited. The inns were, of course, established to provide lodging for the worshippers at the shrine. The one Lowell stayed in here was well-known for catering to foreigners, which is undoubtedly why Lowell chose to lodge there. We had a Japanese cookie and green tea there and looked at old pictures shown to us by the innkeeper, Yumi MOROZUMI. We also found the site -now

vacated- where there was a post office to which Lowell came. He had gone out of his way to the River of the Dragon in order to pick up his mail. (He writes in *Noto*, p. 96: "We were still a doubtful day off from where it is customary to take a boat ... and ... were



committed to a digression for letters I expected at Shimo-no-Suwa.")

We continued to follow the Lowell road, and enjoyed spec-

tacular views of distant mountains in the central Japanese Alps. They were a succession of slopes-one layered onto the other like transparencies, and each a slightly fainter wash of blue according as it receded farther into the distance. The farther we forged on, the more majestic the mountains became, and we even had a sight - in the far distance - of the Minami Alps. The sun disappeared behind the mountains, and we were in shadow. Just at dusk, we arrived at Iijima, Lowell's goal.

(To be continued....)

CMO/ISMO 2013/14 Mars Report #13

2013/2014 Mars Observations in July 2014

♂..... This is the 13th report of the 2013/2014 Mars apparition and deals with the observations made during the period of July 2014. The outgoing planet was moving still in the Vir constellation, and passed the north of Spica on 12 July. The apparent declination went down from 7°S to 13°S, being quite low in the evening sky on the Northern Hemisphere. On 6 July, there occurred an occultation of Mars at the American areas, but we have not receive any report. The Martian season proceeded from $\lambda=154^\circ\text{Ls}$ to $\lambda=171^\circ\text{Ls}$ during July 2014, and approached the northern autumnal equinox (as well as the southern dust season). The angular diameter was $\delta=9.5''$ at first but went down to $\delta=7.9''$ at the end of July. The phase angle increased from $\iota=41^\circ$ to 43° , and the tilt was from $\phi=25^\circ\text{N}$ to $\phi=21^\circ\text{N}$ during July.

♂.....The total number of observations reduced by half, and we just received 35 observations from twelve observers around the world. Domestically four members reported 12 observations, four American observers sent us 14 observations, two European observers produced 4 observations, and one Iranian observer sent one observation. Unexpectedly we received from one African observer 4 observations which were excellent. No report from Australia in July, but we resume to receive some in August.

♂.....The following are the members who submitted the observations for July with information of instruments

DUPONT, Xavier (XDp) Saint-Roch, FRANCE

3 Sets of RGB Images (2, 4, 16 July 2014) 18cm Spec with an i-NOVA PLA C+

FOSTER, Clyde (CFs) Centurion, SOUTH AFRICA

4 Colour Images (30 June; 1, 2, 3 July 2014) 36cm SCT @f/33 with an ASI 120MC

GHOMIZADEH, Sadegh (SGh) Roudehen, IRAN

1 Colour Image (14 July 2014) 36cm SCT with a DMK21AU04.AS

GORCZYNSKI, Peter (PGc) Oxford, CT, the USA

1 Set of RGB + 1 IR Images (1 July 2014) 36cm SCT with an ASI 120MM

ISHIBASHI, Tsutomu (*Is*) Sagamihara, Kanagawa, JAPAN

1 *Colour* Image (26 July 2014) 31cm Spec with a SONY HC9 VideoCam

KUMAMORI, Teruaki (*Km*) Sakai, Osaka, JAPAN

2 *LRGB* + 1 *B* Images (15, 25 July 2014) 28cm SCT with an ASI 120MC & Basler Ace acA1300-30gm

LEWIS, Martin (*MLw*) St. Albans, Hertfordshire, the UK

1 *Colour* Image (3 July 2014) 22cm Spec with an ASI 120MC

MELILLO, Frank J (*FMI*) Holtsville, NY, the USA

5 *Colour* Images (1, 7, 12, 18, 22 July 2014) 25cm SCT with a ToUcam Pro II

MORALES RIVERA, Efrain (*EMr*) Aguadilla, PUERTO RICO

6 Sets of *RGB* Images (1, 9, 13, 22, 24, 30 July 2014) 31cm SCT with a Flea 3

MORITA, Yukio (*Mo*) Hatsuka-ichi, Hiroshima, JAPAN

6 Sets of *RGB* + 6 *LRGB Colour* + 6 *L* Images (1, 11, 21, 23, 26, 28 July 2014)
36cm SCT with a Flea 3

NISHITA, Akinori (*Ns*) Awara, Fukui, JAPAN

3 Sets of *RGB* + 3 *IR* Images (25, 29, 31 July 2014) 30cm Spec with a DMK21AU618.AS

PARKER, Donald C (*DPk*) Miami, FL, the USA

2 Sets of *RGB* Images (4, 12 July 2014) 36cm SCT @f/24 with an ASI 120MM

♂.....In July 2014, the angular diameter of Mars went down under $\delta=9''$ (and to $\delta=7.9''$ at the end of July) and furthermore the apparent declination of the planet was -13° , that is, quite southward in the lower evening sky. Therefore it turned out to be harder to observe from the Northern Hemisphere, and hence the days without any observation increased. Namely we had no data on 5, 6, 8, 10, 17, 19, 20, 27 July. Since we newly began to receive the observations produced by Clyde FOSTER (*CFs*) in South Africa from 30 June, we start here to review every work from 30 June.

30 June 2014 ($\lambda=154^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=9.5''$)

The previous report in CMO #246 ended with the observations on 30 June made by **Yukio MORITA (*Mo*)** at $\omega=214^\circ\text{W}$, while we newly received **Clyde FOSTER(*CFs*)**'s work on 30 June at $\omega=281^\circ\text{W}$, and so we resume to review from this. In the following months images by *CFs* will appear a lot. His observation site is at Centurion, Gauteng, South Africa whose latitude is about at 26°S (while longitude is about 22°E), and thus his site is so deep in south, that we should say *CFs* stays in a favourable place to observe Mars when the planet shines deep in the southern sky. This first work shows a single colour image where a good looking Syrtis Mj is shown at the morning side: The colour of image does not appeal, while dark markings are described rather definitely and the quality is above average. There is visible a fainter streak at the southern district of Syrtis Mj. There is also a dusty small lighter spot between Casius of Utopia and Boreosyrtis. Nodus Alcyonius is definite, and the sinking Olympia is visible sending a tail southward. Rima Borealis is darker.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140630/CFs30June14.jpg>

1 July 2014 ($\lambda=154^\circ\text{Ls}\sim 155^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=9.5''\sim 9.4''$)

Frank MELILLO (*FMI*) put forward a single colour image at $\omega=046^\circ\text{W}$. M Acidalium is large and dense, but without details. The south polar cap (spc) is a bit visible. Maybe also the north polar cap (npc).

The following area of the morning Tempe is misty.

Peter GORCZYNSKI (PGc) produced a set of R, G, B images at $\omega=047^\circ\text{W}$ together with the IR742 image at $\omega=050^\circ\text{W}$. The angle is similar to the foregoing image, but the present image set appears fairly detailed: Near the preceding limb, S Meridiani's twin nails are apparent together with Brangæna. The minor projections and protrusions seen at the southern boundary of Chryse are all described up until S Auroræ. Ophir-Candor, still quite near the terminator, is bright. The area from Oxia Palus to M Acidalium looks as before. The WN end of M Acidalium is darker, and Iaxartes is visible. At the latter part there seems that a mist exists. Hyperboreus L is quite dark, emphasising the roundish minimal npc. Thus the npc is still present at $\lambda=145^\circ\text{Ls}$. The spc is seen on all R, G, B components.

Teruaki KUMAMORI (Km) showed an LRGB single image at $\omega=199^\circ\text{W}$. A dark area is seen vaguely from Propontis I to Phlegra which proves the position of Elysium.

Yukio MORITA (Mo) obtained a full set of ingredient images at $\omega=204^\circ\text{W}$. The spc is found definitely at the southern limb, where only the preceding part is the spc and the following part must be Hellas which is not totally evident from us. To the north of the bright limb, there is visible M Cimmerium. In addition to Phlegra, the Ætheria dark patch is definite near the morning terminator. The inside of Elysium looks, according to the L ingredient, to show two light streaks as was apparent before. To the southern neighbourhood, a broad misty whitish band lies down. The npc is not definite but the area is roughly whitish. The preceding hemisphere is not plain but suggests a further detail in L.

Clyde FOSTER (CFs) took a single image at $\omega=287^\circ\text{W}$. The npc must be clearly visible, but from this angle the area of the npc seems to suffer from a dawn effect. On the other hand the preceding Olympia looks equally brighter accompanied by an evening haze. The most important fact on this image is a bright dust flow-out at the way-out of Hesperia which was not visible on the preceding day. However there is no further chase of the phenomenon on this day. Note on the other hand the season ($\lambda=155^\circ\text{Ls}$) is not yet ripe for a big dust storm to be entrained (even the quick-tempered global dust storm in 2001 started at $\lambda=184^\circ\text{Ls}$ on 24 June 2001). (*Note added in proof:* The rotating globe on 1 July 2014 revealed by the MRO MARCI Weekly Weather Reports implies over the place an assembly of very bright white bubbles. This part must have been taken in the evening when something like an orography occurred near the dust.)

Efrain MORALES (EMr) provided a good set of images at $\omega=023^\circ\text{W}$. The region from the twin of nails at S Meridiani to Oxia P and further to M Acidalium until Hyperboreus L is well described. A morning mist is visible at Tempe near the terminator. The npc is roundish/whitish bright. The tip of the spc is evident near the southern limb. Unfortunately however the NS line does not look perpendicular.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140701/FMl01July14.jpg>

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140701/PGc01July14.jpg>

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140701/Km01July14.jpg>

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140701/Mo01July14.jpg>

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140701/CFs01July14.jpg>

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140701/EMr01July14.jpg>

2 July 2014 ($\lambda=155^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=9.4''$)

CFs obtained a single image at $\omega=286^\circ\text{W}$: It is a wise attitude to pick out the similar angle to the one employed on the preceding day. The previous dust near the way-out of Hesperia must have been extinct as soon as it went into the night side and seemingly it did not burst into much stormy state on this morn-

ing. However there remain some remnants inside M Tyrrhenum or at the southern part of Syrtis Mj. The image is excellent in digging up some details, but looks poor at colour reproduction.

Xavier DUPONT (XDp) gave a set of ingredient images at $\omega=310^\circ\text{W}$. Unfortunately the time is a bit delayed to catch the dusty area. The tip of the spc was caught: The NS axis looks exact.



<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140702/CFs02July14.jpg>

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140702/XDp02July14.jpg>

3 July 2014 ($\lambda=155^\circ\text{Ls}$ ~ 156°Ls , $\delta=9.4''$ ~ $9.3''$)

CFs took an image at $\omega=266^\circ\text{W}$. Syrtis Mj is visible on more morning side, and Elysium is near the preceding limb together with the Ætheria dark patch. The way-out of Hesperia looks still covered by sands. M Tyrrhenum must have been quite affected. Compared with the present image with **CFs's** image on 30 June, the faded streak at the southern part of Syrtis Mj on 30 June must have been under some effect of sand covering. The inside and the outline of Utopia is well described. Olympia is light and Rima Borealis is blackish dark.

Martin LEWIS (MLw) took a single image by a Dobson down to 22cm at $\omega=337^\circ\text{W}$. S Meridiani is explicit on the morning side, but not so detailed. The whiteness at the southern limb is unknown.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140703/CFs03July14.jpg>

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140703/MLw03July14.jpg>

4 July 2014 ($\lambda=156^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=9.3''$ ~ $9.2''$)

Don PARKER (DPk) gives an excellent image set at $\omega=025^\circ\text{W}$. This set given when $\delta=9.3''$ well competes with the superb one **DPk** already gave before opposition on 8 February when $\delta=9.5''$ at $\omega=015^\circ\text{W}$ (see the Façade). The present one also shows the twin nails of Meridiani S (detailed in R) as well as a whitish mist patch to its west which conceals a half of Brabgæna. Oxus is evident and surprisingly the Oxus dark segment is nicely extracted. The spc looks covered by some haze. The morning Tempe is misty, and also a mist is visible to the south of Hyperboreus L. The npc is roundish definite.

XDp gave a set of images at $\omega=278^\circ\text{W}$. Syrtis Mj is on the morning side so that the area of Syrtis Minor is visible though it is not explicit in particular. The tip of spc is not so white. Near the npc, Olympia is separated.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140704/DPk04July14.jpg>

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140704/XDp04July14.jpg>

7 July 2014 ($\lambda=157^\circ\text{Ls}$ ~ 158°Ls , $\delta=9.1''$)

FMI gave a colour single image at $\omega=351^\circ\text{W}$. Near the preceding limb, the tail of Syrtis Mj is quite dark explicit. The bright areas do not show their perimeters.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140707/FMI07July14.jpg>

9 July 2014 ($\lambda=158^\circ\sim 159^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=9.0''\sim 8.9''$)

EMr took a set of images at $\omega=324^\circ\text{W}$. Now $\delta=9.0''$. The inside of the images looks rather good. In R, the north of S Sabæus suggests to show some minor markings, though not so explicit. S Meridiani does not well receive the morning light yet. It is regrettable that the NS line looks not exact (it is necessary to find the NS line at this season when the spc begins to show its existence).

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140709/EMr09July14.jpg>

11 July 2014 ($\lambda=159^\circ\text{Ls}\sim 160^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=8.9''\sim 8.8''$)

Mo gives a full set of the ingredient images at $\omega=109^\circ\text{W}$. However, though we can check that M Acidalium lies near the preceding limb in LRGB, other markings all look duller. *Mo* determines the $p\text{---}f$ line, but unfortunately the description near the southern limb does not show any sign of the whitish area.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140711/Mo11July14.jpg>

12 July 2014 ($\lambda=160^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=8.8''$)

FMI gave a single image at $\omega=297^\circ\text{W}$. Syrtis Mj is near the centre. The limb areas which contain the both polar caps are well white. The southernmost whitish part must be made of the spc + Hellas.

DPk provided a set of images at $\omega=314^\circ\text{W}$. Near the centre of the images, the northern part and the western side of Syrtis Mj show quite details (as well as the area around the Schröter crater). Furthermore the area around Boreosyrtis is also well described. The doubled tips of Utopia are very evident. Since the line of $p\text{---}f$ is shown, it will be possible to determine how much the spc shares the white area with Hellas. Note also that a white mist is visible at Noachis.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140712/FMI12July14.jpg>

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140712/DPk12July14.jpg>

13 July 2014 ($\lambda=160^\circ\text{Ls}\sim 161^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=8.8''\sim 8.7''$)

EMr gave a set of images at $\omega=280^\circ\text{W}$. Syrtis Mj is seen on the morning side ($t=42^\circ$), and it looks M Tyrrhenum has recovered. The NS line should be said unknown.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140713/EMr13July14.jpg>

14 July 2014 ($\lambda=161^\circ\sim 162^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=8.7''$)

Sadegh GHOMIZADEH (SGh) gives a single image at $\omega=162^\circ\text{W}$. Some markings are suggested, but not possible to identify.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140714/SGh14July14.jpg>

15 July 2014 ($\lambda=162^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=8.7''\sim 8.6''$)

Km obtained an LRGB image at $\omega=068^\circ\text{W}$ associated with a blue image at $\omega=070^\circ\text{W}$. M Acidalium largely occupies the left-hand-side of the hemisphere, and its north is largely hazed. Ophir-Candor is bright. To the north of the morning Solis L is misty. The area of Nilokeras and Ganges is brownish. The southern limb is whitish. At this time of the season, the image should be said above average.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140715/Km15July14.jpg>

16 July 2014 ($\lambda=162^\circ\text{Ls}\sim 163^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=8.6''$)

XDp gives a set of images at $\omega=167^\circ\text{W}$. To the south of M Sirenum, the spc is caught. The central area also suggests some details. The northernmost part is largely whitish dull.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140716/XDp16July14.jpg>

18 July 2014 ($\lambda=163^\circ\text{Ls}$ - 164°Ls , $\delta=8.5''$)

FMI gives a single image at $\omega=243^\circ\text{W}$. The southern limb area is whitish light, and at the opposite area, the bluish-white roundish patch suggests the npc. Elysium may be identified.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140718/FMI18July14.jpg>

21 July 2014 ($\lambda=165^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=8.4''\sim 8.3''$)

Mo obtained a full set of images at $\omega=005^\circ\text{W}$. Near the preceding limb, Syrtis Mj shows a slim figure. S Sabæus is seen and S Meridiani is definite. These are provided by the R image. The spc may be seen in R and so on, while the images as a whole look to lack the expression of the white colour ingredient. The area from Oxia P to M Acidalium is well described. What is next to be taken into account on these images is that the north of M Acidalium looks largely hazed equally in LRGB and RGB. The part is also largely light in B and so the water vapour must be also responsible for this phenomenon.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140721/Mo21July14.jpg>

22 July 2014 ($\lambda=165^\circ\text{Ls}$ - 166°Ls , $\delta=8.3''$)

FMI gives a single image at $\omega=197^\circ\text{W}$. The disk is surrounded by a white ling. Maybe the NS line is not perpendicular.

EMr gives a set of images at $\omega=200^\circ\text{W}$. The colour of the desert is vivid. In R, Propontis I and Phlegra are barely checked. The north polar region looks largely hazed without any detail.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140722/FMI22July14.jpg>

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140722/EMr22July14.jpg>

23 July 2014 ($\lambda=166^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=8.3''\sim 8.2''$)

Mo gave a full set of images at $\omega=353^\circ\text{W}$. Near the preceding limb, the southern part of Syrtis Mj is dark in a slim shape. On the R image, S Meridiani is well shown, and M Acidalium is vaguely witnessed along the morning terminator. The north of M Acidalium is largely hazed in accordance with the *Mo* case of 21 July. In B, the npc area is a bit lighter independently. At the southern limb, each of R, G, B has light part, but the white colour is not yielded in RGB. Since *Mo* is careful to point the southern pole by checking the line $p\text{---}f$, any tip of the spc at $\lambda=166^\circ\text{Ls}$ with $\phi=23^\circ\text{N}$ is rather hard to be watched from this angle because of shrinkage (to be examined).

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140723/Mo23July14.jpg>

24 July 2014 ($\lambda=166^\circ\text{Ls}$ - 167°Ls , $\delta=8.2''$)

EMr gave a set of images at $\omega=173^\circ\text{W}$. Propontis I is darkly seen, Elysium has now on the morning side. No clear white mist is visible. The area of Olympus Mons must exist deep in the afternoon, but it is hard to have a clear view of the area. M Sirenum shows up, and the spc is partly seen. The npc part is largely dull (rather light).

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140724/EMr24July14.jpg>

25 July 2014 ($\lambda=167^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=8.2''\sim 8.1''$)

Km got a shot at $\omega=324^\circ\text{W}$ without B image. Syrtis Mj stays on the afternoon side, and A Meridiani has just crossed the morning terminator. Utopia is a bit visible near the preceding limb, while the north polar region is quite dull (partly shadowy). Hellas is near the preceding limb, but does not show clear cut separation from the possible spc. It is necessary to make a line $p\text{---}f$ at these moments.

Akinori NISHITA (Ns) obtained a set images at $\omega=326^\circ\text{W}$. Without using *Mo's* method, it is dubious whether the NS line is well fixed. It is possible that S Sabæus must be more declined.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140725/Km25July14.jpg>

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140725/Ns25July14.jpg>

26 July 2014 ($\lambda=167^\circ\text{Ls}\sim 168^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=8.1''$)

Mo gives a full set of images at $\omega=310^\circ\text{W}$. At Syrtis Mj, the bulge area around the Schröter crater is well described. It may be possible to spot the npc, while the north polar region is largely hazed as before. This must be atmospheric phenomenon. The line $p\text{---}f$ proves that how much of the bright segment at the southern limb the spc part occupies. The whiteness is however not well shown.

Is gives a single image at $\omega=314^\circ\text{W}$ where just the position of Syrtis Mj is suggested but no more.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140726/Mo26July14.jpg>

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140726/Is26July14.jpg>

28 July 2014 ($\lambda=169^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=8.1''\sim 8.0''$)

Mo provided a full set of ingredient images at $\omega=298^\circ\text{W}$. Syrtis Mj is near the centre and is good-looking. Other dark markings are also reproduced in a way above average. Near the preceding limb, Hesperia is bit seen and Syrtis Minor is clearly shown (recovered). The south of Syrtis Mj shows signs of a spread of sands. The eastern neighbour of Syrtis Mj is slightly light, and so light also in B that some water vapour must associated. The L image may convey the Huygens crater in addition to the Schröter. The southern part of Utopia is well described, while the northern part is dull hazy without any clear npc. The southern limb region is bright but not clear. G and B suggest that the part in question is covered by the water vapour. We are quite discontented with the fact that *Mo's* images do not well reproduce the *white* colour.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140728/Mo28July14.jpg>

29 July 2014 ($\lambda=169^\circ\text{Ls}\sim 170^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=8.0''$)

Ns gave a set of images at $\omega=282^\circ\text{W}$. On R and IR, several details are visible along the latitude of the Ætheria dark patch. However concerning Syrtis Mj, the image lacks the descriptive details. Syrtis Minor is shown well, and M Tyrrhenum has thus recovered. Related with the description of the southern limb region, the NS line should be provided.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140729/Ns29July14.jpg>

30 July 2014 ($\lambda=170^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=8.0''\sim 7.9''$)

EMr gave a set of images at $\omega=115^\circ\text{W}$. Finally the angular diameter shrank to $\delta=8''$. M Acidalium is approaching the preceding limb. Ophir-Candor is bright. The position of Solis L is evident. On RGB, the area of Solis L and Agathodæmon looks separated from the foregoing dark marking region. Unfortunate-

ly the NS line is not asked.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140730/EMr30July14.jpg>

31 July 2014 ($\lambda=170^\circ\text{Ls}-171^\circ\text{Ls}$, $\delta=7.9''$)

Ns provided a set of images at $\omega=263^\circ\text{W}$ On R and IR images, the Ætheria dark patch is clearly shown, which shows how Elysium is. It is not bright because its local time is just after the noon. The morning Syrtis Mj is very faint on B, while its density on R is very dark so that in RGB the bluish colour is not well produced. It will be interesting if a lot of image sets are taken within a shorter time. It is plausible that the spc tip is visible in R. This is also related with the balance with the bright Hellas, so that a lot of images are welcome within a shorter time interval.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140731/Ns31July14.jpg>

Masatsugu MINAMI & Masami MURAKAMI

Letters to the Editor

● *Subject: Mars 4th September 2014*
Received: 4 September 2014 at 21:11 JST

Unfortunately, I have been unable to image Mars over the last few days due to rain & generally bad weather. This evening the sky was somewhat clear with only high cloud. The seeing looked quite good. Attached are some images of Mars taken in fair to good seeing, but with variable transparency. There may be some dust visible in southern latitudes, but edge effects make it difficult to be objective about the amount & distribution. Best wishes

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140904/MVI04Sept14.jpg>

○ *Subject: Mars 5th September 2014*
Received: 6 September 2014 at 18:03 JST

Here are two image sets of Mars taken yesterday in average to fair seeing.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140905/MVI05Sept14.jpg>

○ *Subject: Mars 21st September 2014*
Received: 21 September 2014 at 21:23 JST

The weather has been poor here for quite some time. This evening the sky was clear and I managed to capture the two data sets of Mars attached. Seeing was average to fair. Best wishes

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140921/MVI21Sept14.jpg>

○ *Subject: Mars 22nd September 2014*
Received: 23 September 2014 at 19:12 JST

Attached are two sets of Mars images taken yesterday in fair to average seeing conditions. We have rain predicted here for the next 3 or 4 days, so no more Mars images until it clears again....Best wishes
<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140922/MVI22Sept14.jpg>

Maurice VALIMBERTI
(Melbourne, AUSTRALIA)

● *Subject: Mars observation Sept 13*
Received: 21 September 2014 at 13:35 JST

Dear Mr. Minami, I hope you are doing well. Please find attached a Mars observation made on the 13th September from here in Bungendore. The seeing was good, and I had a chance to take L,R,G,B data. I'm not sure if I have the north-south correctly oriented in the image but I still hope that it is useful to you. I believe I can see Olympus Mons, plus some vague dark markings and brightness over both poles. It is becoming very difficult to resolve the details on Mars now, I have a 5" telescope, plus it is quite low once the Sun sets from my back garden, and is affected by the seeing layer towards the city of Canberra (it always seems worse towards the west, I assume due to the city).

I wish you all the best.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140913/DWd13Sept14.jpg>

David WELDRAKE (NSW, AUSTRALIA)

●...*Subject: ISMO*

Received: 24 September 2014 at 05:30 JST

Dear Mr Murakami, I am a member of the Mars section of the BAA and also of ALPO and submit regular images to both organisations. I only now have discovered the website of ISMO/CMO and am very impressed with the publication. In order to submit observations, is it necessary to become a member? If so is there any application that must be completed? Thanks you and best regards

○...*Subject: Re: ISMO*

Received: 25 September 2014 at 03:51 JST

Dear Masatsugu and Masami, Thank you very much for your positive response. I have been submitting observations to the BAA (Richard McKim) and also ALPO (Roger Venables and Jim Melka), as well as the ALPO yahoo group. However, it does appear that your CMO is a very comprehensive document, so it would be a privilege to contribute. I only really started observing Mars seriously about 5 months, when I upgraded my equipment, and I have been learning image processing techniques over this period, so I still have a lot to learn.

I am not on facebook unfortunately, but am looking to set up a website over the next month or two. If there is any specific filenames that are required when I submit observations, please let me know. In the meantime, I attach an image that I took this evening. Best regards, and I look forward to further interaction with you

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140924/CFs24Sept14.jpg>

○...*Subject: RE: ISMO*

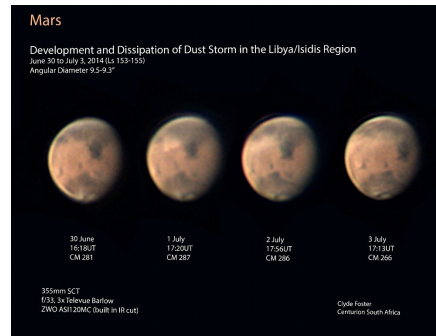
Received: 27 September 2014 at 14:37 JST

Dear Masatsugu and Masami, Thank you very much for the latest CMO! I did manage to capture an image yesterday evening. Unfortunately the seeing conditions were very poor, and I was also only able to image later in the evening, so Mars' altitude was also lower. If the quality is not good enough to post/publish, that is not a problem, but I am sending the image "for the record" anyway. Due to the poor conditions, I am not sure if the reddish tinge

to the spc is in fact accurate.

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140926/CFs26Sept14.jpg>

Regarding July observations, I was privileged to capture what is believed to be a dust storm over a



period of a few days at the beginning of July. Unfortunately I only had a color camera at that stage. I have

attached a mosaic of the images taken over the period 30 June ~ 3 July. Best regards

○...*Subject: Mars 27 September*

Received: 28 September 2014 at 03:28 JST

Dear Richard, Roger, Jim, Masatsugu and Masami (and Christophe) I hope that you don't mind, but I would like, if possible to copy you all on my images in one e-mail, rather than sending individual e-mails out to all of you. I hope that this is alright for all of you. If anyone does NOT want to receive my images, please let me know. You are welcome to respond to me individually if you prefer, but if you feel that there are any comment that are of value to the other people, please feel free to copy them as well. Last night, the conditions were very poor, but I was very pleased with the seeing conditions tonight, and to be honest, considering the size of Mars, I believe that this is one of my most successful images so far. I must thank Christophe, who I have cc'd, as I have incorporated some of his advice over the last few days, and it has helped me tremendously (Christophe, I will definitely be responding to your earlier e-mail as requested). Other than the significant clouds over the NPC, there also appears to be clouds in the region of Mare Sirenum and also possibly light cloud along the terminator in the Amazonis region. Best regards

<http://www.kwasan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2013/140927/CFs27Sept14.jpg>

Clyde FOSTER (Centurion, SOUTH AFRICA)

●...Subject: Mars and other musings
Received: 31 September 2014 at 05:12 JST

Dear Masatsugu, Thank you so much for your message, and please do not feel any need to respond right away, as I gather you are very busy.

I did indeed notice that Mount Ontaké had erupted—and remember you, Tadashi ASADA and I passing by it; it was still snow-capped at that season, and we admired it while we took tea from a tea-room nearby. I knew that it figured significantly in LOWELL's book "*Occult Japan*," and also in a poem he wrote for the Scribbler's Club—do you know of it? I believe it was written at the same time as another poem he wrote about Mars, which has never been published and shows the influence of Flammarionesque themes. I believe he must have written it between the time he discovered FLAMMARION's book and when he began observing Mars from Flagstaff, but it doesn't have a date.... Perhaps I should write something about LOWELL's poems—though I suspect that such a topic would tax even Reiichi KONNAI's very formidable skills in translating into Japanese! I could also write something about the famous picture of LOWELL looking through the 24-in. Clark at Venus by daylight —this picture was taken by Philip FOX on October 17, 1914, that is just a hundred years ago. If I write this it could appear a bit later than the date, and might still be of interest. This is one of the

iconic images of astronomy.

I was profoundly saddened to hear of your recent health problems, and the way that your problems with your eyesight have hindered the continuation of your long series of visual observations (going back to 1954?). It must be very unsatisfactory to have to resort to CCD imaging. I wonder if you have given thought to how your observations/log books are to be preserved (archived). Hopefully this will not be necessary to worry about for a long time, but might I suggest that they find a home in the new Collection Center at Lowell Observatory? I can't think of a better place for them. Perhaps if this meets your approval they can be sent with R. KONNAI during 2016 —though I am still hoping to have you here in person. You and your wife would be my personal guest in the house in Flagstaff if you were able to come but I realize that a long airflight would perhaps be too difficult.

In closing, dear friend, my deep wishes for better health, and for the favor of many more Mars observations. With kind regards,

P.S. Your comment about "suffering from the strong obsession, and not dealing with other things" while in the throes of your CMO/ISMO work brought a smile to my face; I realize the "strong obsession" only too well in myself.

Bill SHEEHAN (Willmar, MN)

☆☆☆

International Society of the Mars Observers (ISMO)

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