

In 1776:

English astronomer William Herschel, who will discover Uranus five years hence, imagined that the shading variations on the floor of the crater Gassendi were caused by ...

A. the changing shadows of a vast forest of trees that were several times taller than those on Earth.

B. sunlight playing off the ripples of a large lake – a "Lunar Crater Lake," so to speak. C. recent lava flows from the crater's central peak. They occasionally emanate vapors, causing strange refractive effects.

In August 2024, Gassendi is best seen

in the evening of the 16th and in the morning of the 28th. Use as much magnification as the telescope and the seeing conditions will stand.

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