

T. W. Webb's Lunar Map

derived from that of

Beer & Mädler

and published in his

Celestial Objects for Common Telescopes

Francis J Manasek

www.mappingthemoon.org

Thomas William Webb's Moon map

Thomas William Webb's *Celestial Objects for Common Telescopes* was first published in 1859. This influential work, written for the expanding number of amateur astronomers, was republished many times and is still available in reprint form.

Webb (1807-1885), an Anglican clergyman, was a keen observer and had great influence on amateur astronomy both in Britain and elsewhere. An avid lunar observer, he contributed to the *Selenographical Journal*, along with such notables as Edmund Neison. Realizing that the great Beer & Mädler Moon map (1834) was too large for practical use at the eyepiece, had too much detail and was too expensive for most amateurs, Webb abstracted the detailed German map and greatly simplified it. Webb did not use hachures but rather employed simple outlines, greatly uncluttering the presentation and perhaps influencing the cartographic style of maps by Walter Goodacre and H Percy Wilkins.

Published as a fold-out in *Celestial Objects* the map was supplemented by an extensive descriptive text. It was also keyed to the original Beer & Mädler map. Unfortunately, the map was printed on extremely thin paper and is quite fragile and is missing in many early editions of *Celestial Objects*.

Few, if any, Moon maps made during the pre-photographic age of visual observation had a pedigree relying upon previous maps. Each mapmaker began anew, not relying upon earlier works other than for positional data. The Beer & Mädler map is perhaps the first Moon map to become a true mother map, spawning derivatives. Webb's map was not intended to add to the Beer & Mädler effort, but rather to modify it for use at the eyepiece by amateurs. As such, it removed, rather than added new detail.

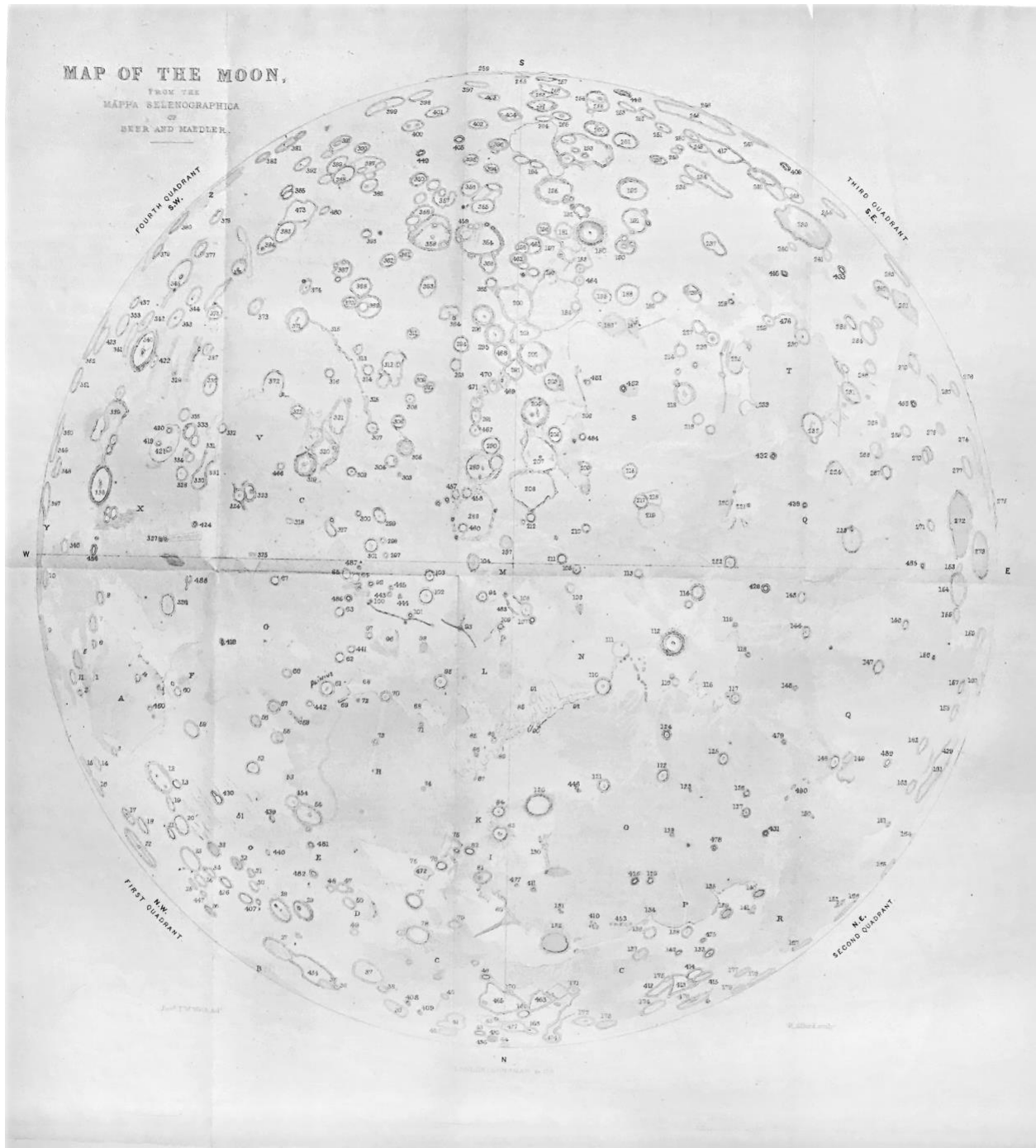
In the following pages I present photographs of the Webb map, including some details to show clearly Webb's technique. I chose to photograph the original rather than scan it because the original was too fragile and still tipped into the book.

Manasek, F.J. *A Treatise on Moon Maps Visual Studies on Paper 1610-1910*. Bragg Hill, Hanover, 2023

Moore, E.G. (1975) The reverend Thomas William Webb: 1807 – 1885. *Journal of the British Astronomical Association*, Vol. 85, p. 426 - 429

Webb, T.W. *Celestial Objects for Common Telescopes*. Two volumes. Longmans, Green, & Co., London and New York, VD

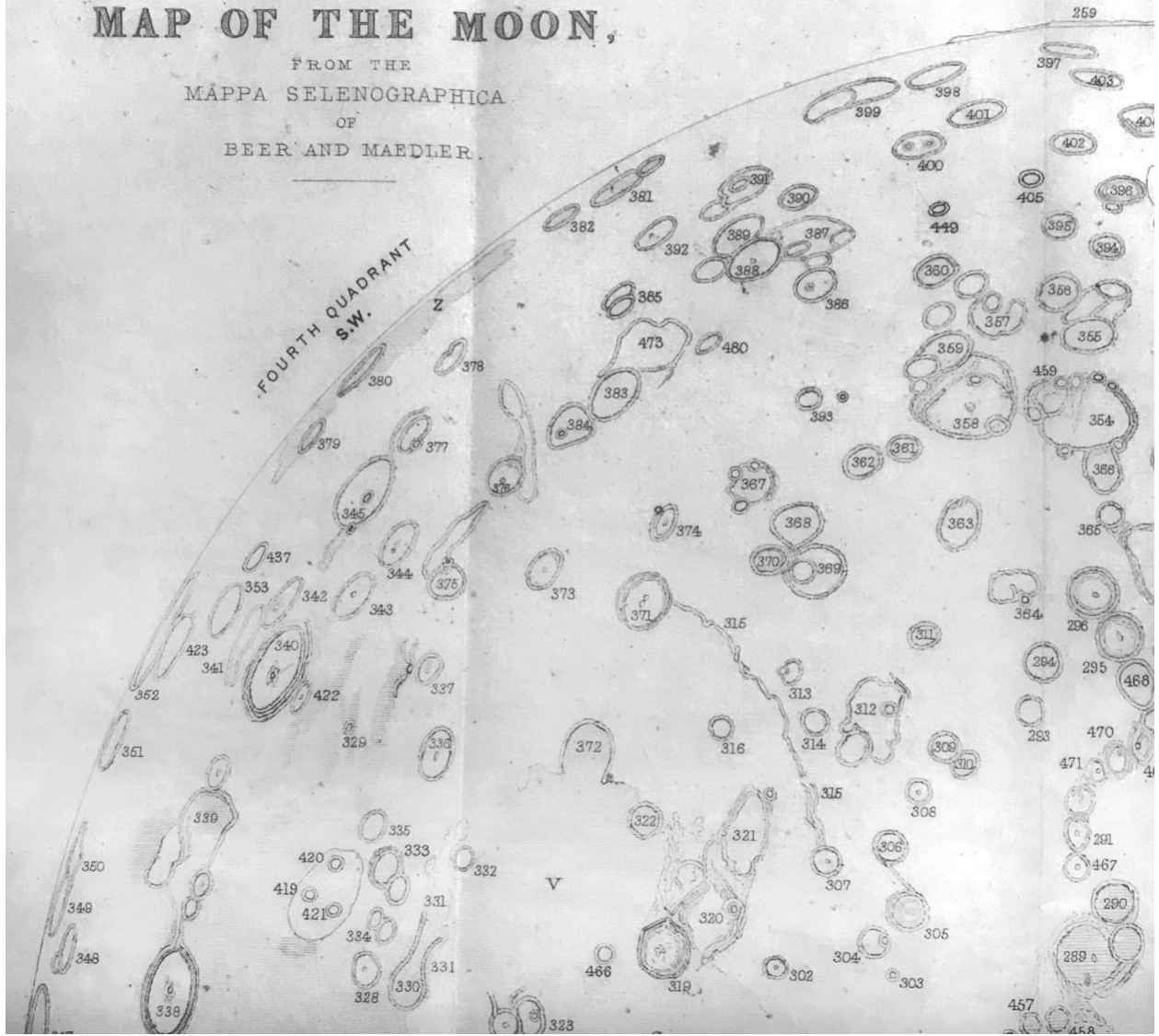
Hanover, NH
February, 2025

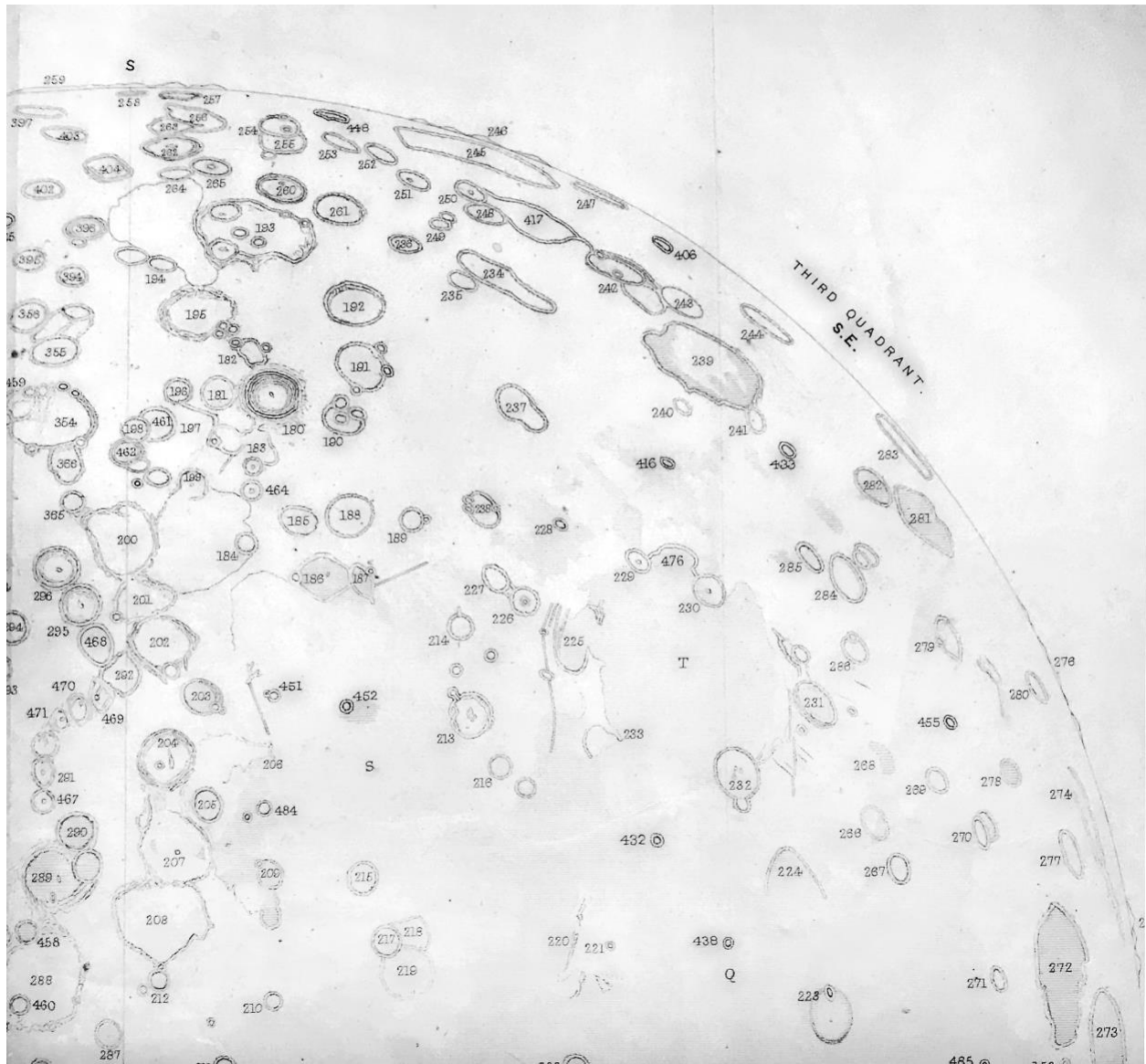


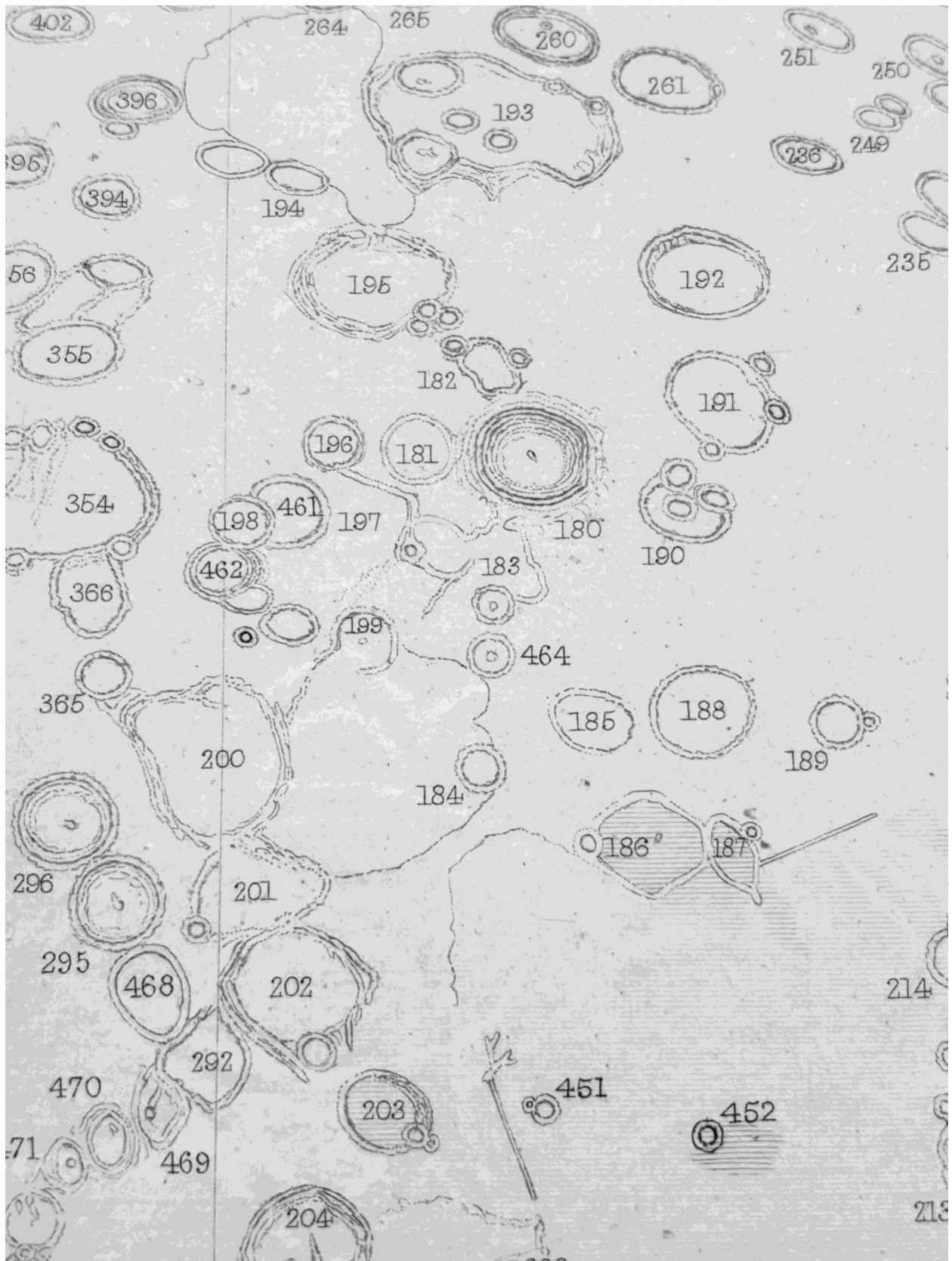
Lunar diameter: 30.5 cm.

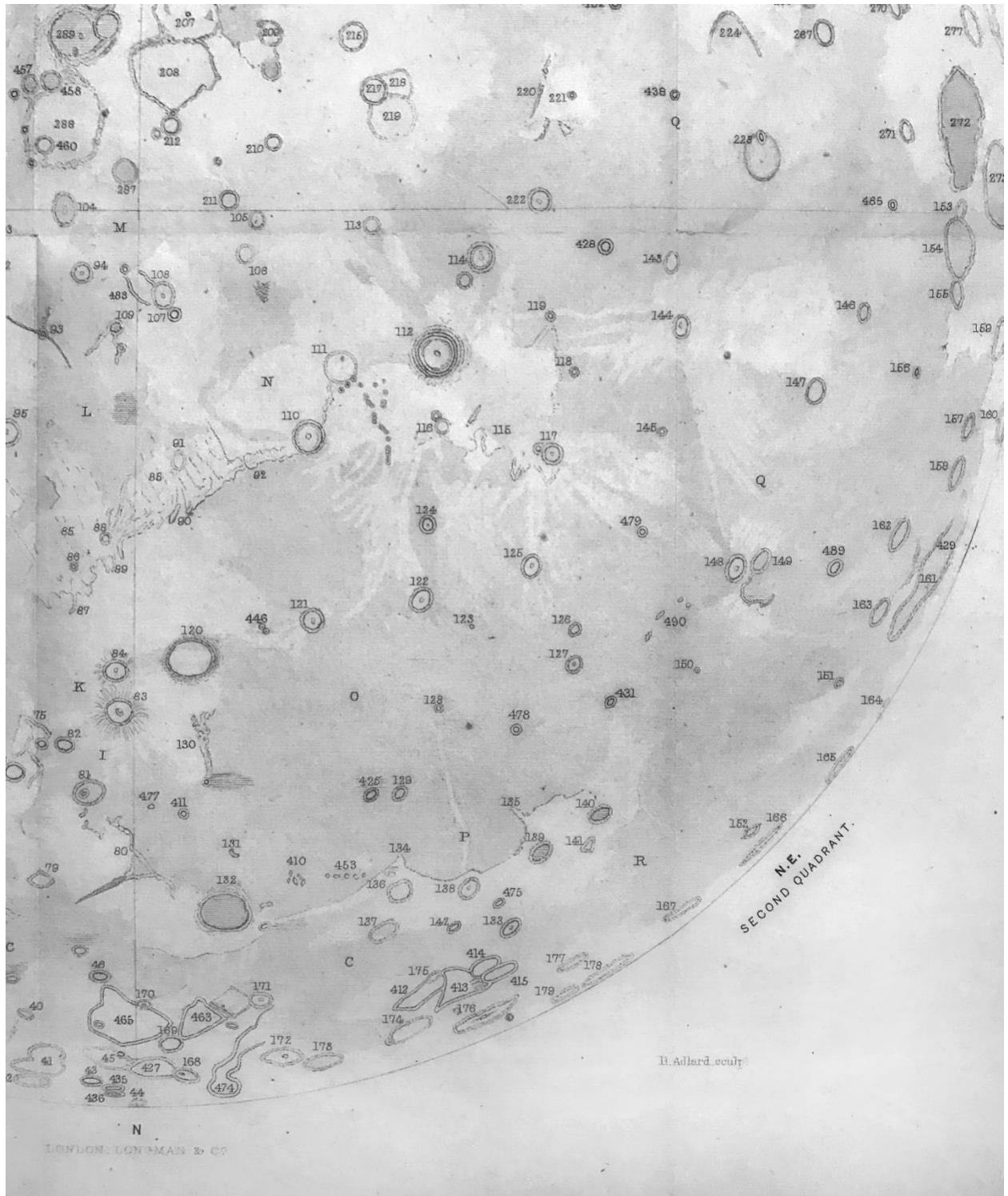
MAP OF THE MOON,

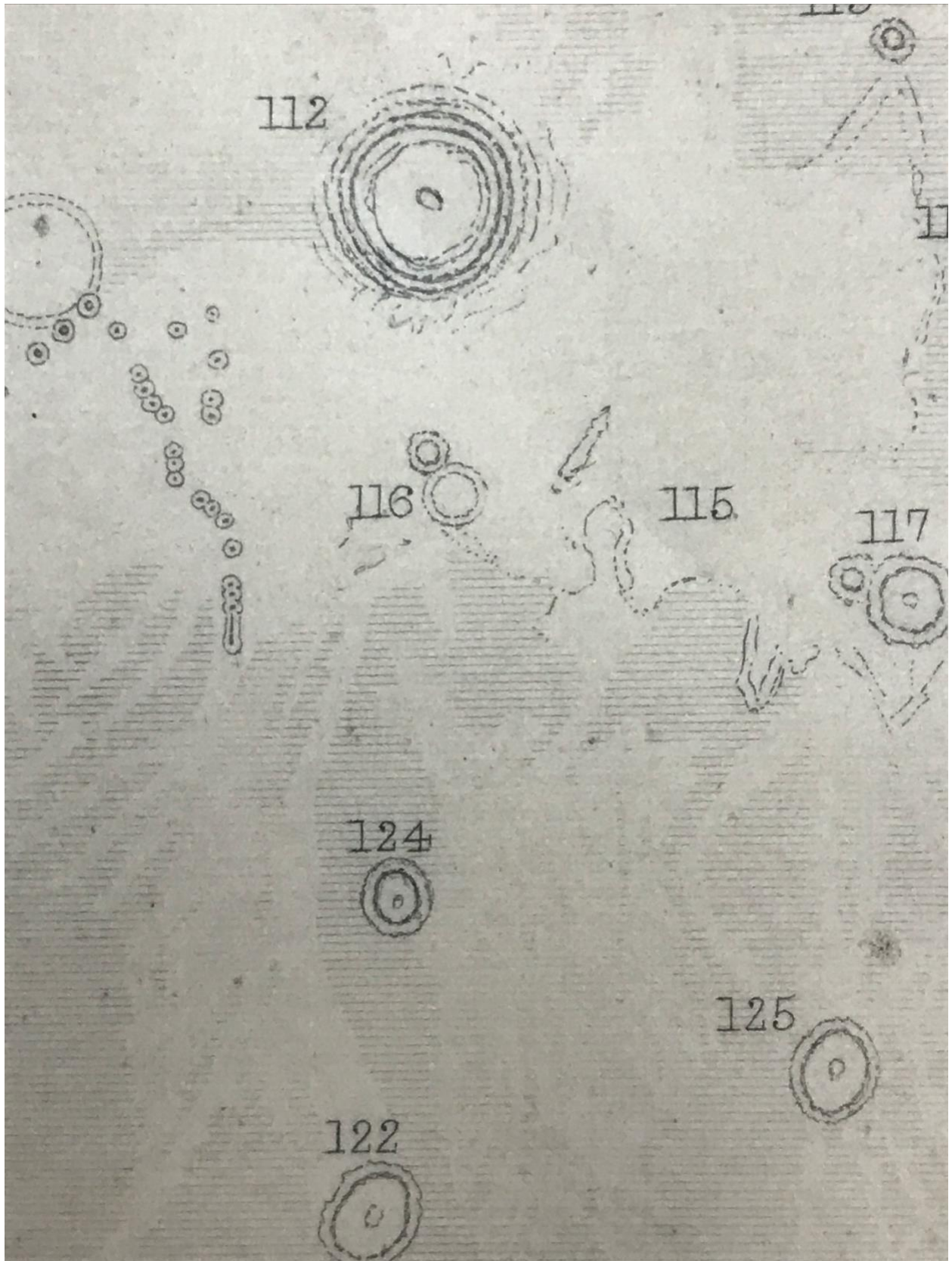
FROM THE
MAPPA SELENOGRAPHICA
OF
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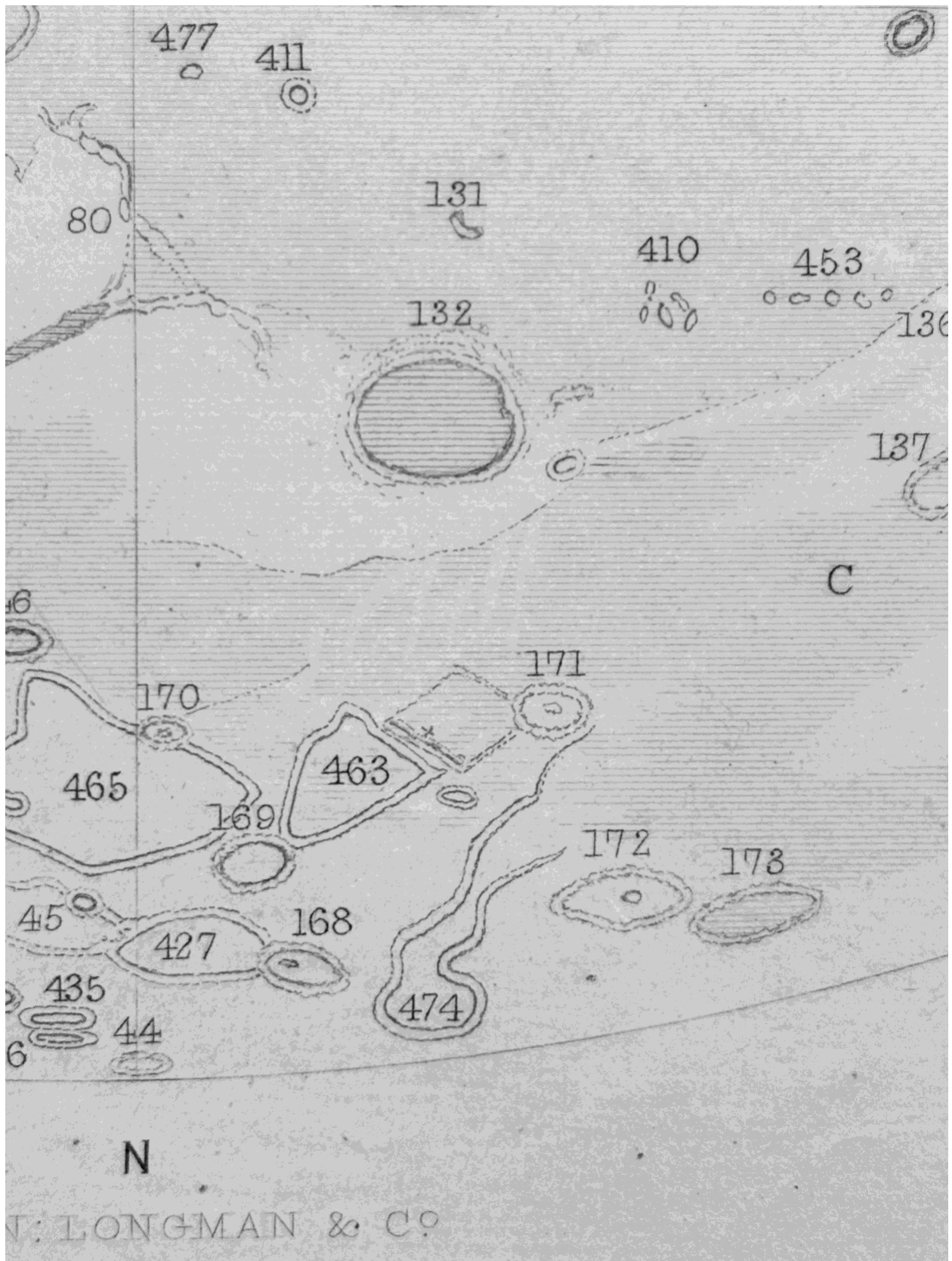


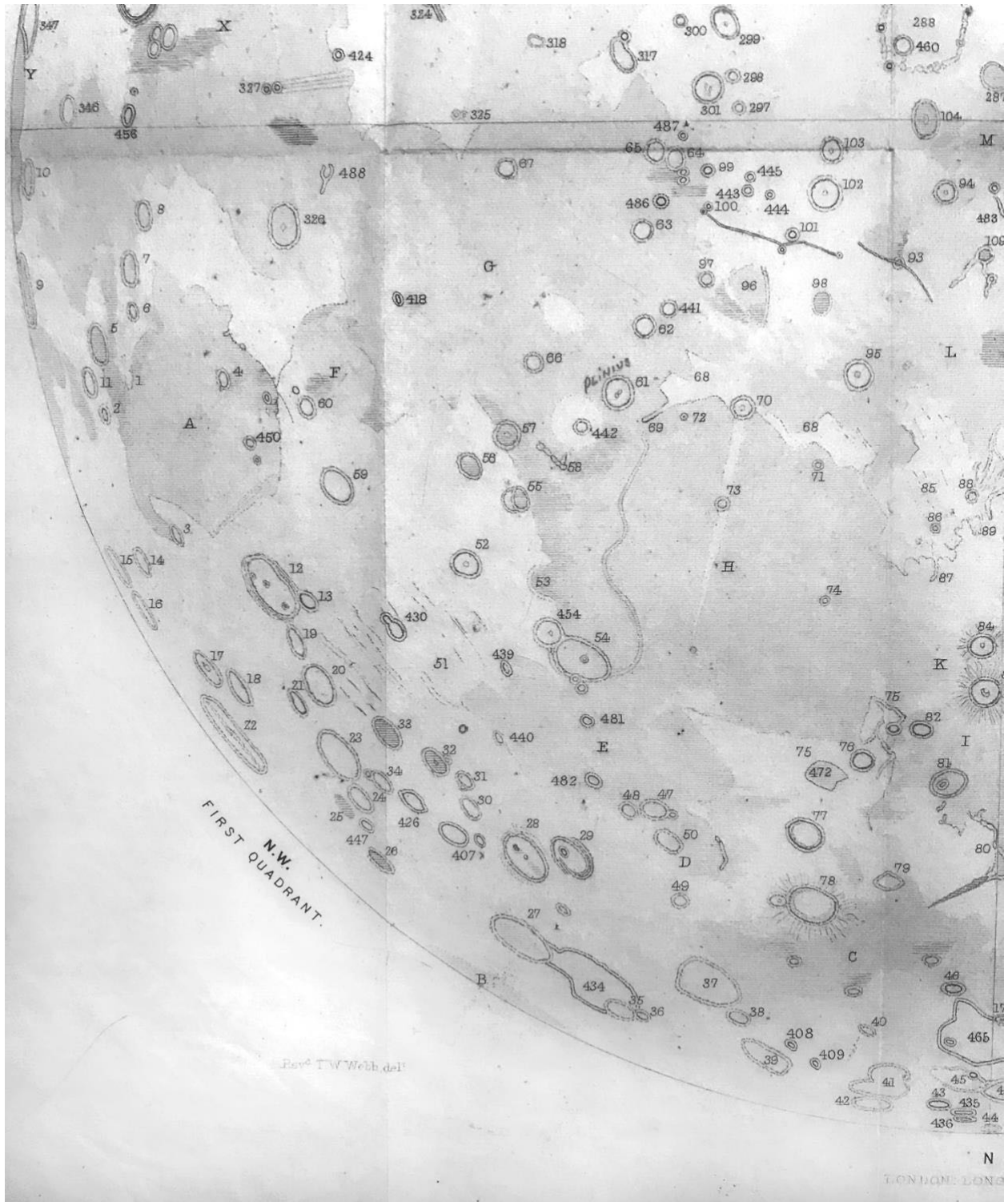












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