New Scientist

WEEKLY 15 February 2025

THE MICRO VIRUSES RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NATURE OF LIFE

MYSTERIOUS ANCESTORS OF EUROPEANS REVEALED

HOW OMEGA-3 CAN HELP SLOW AGEING

SPECIAL REPORT

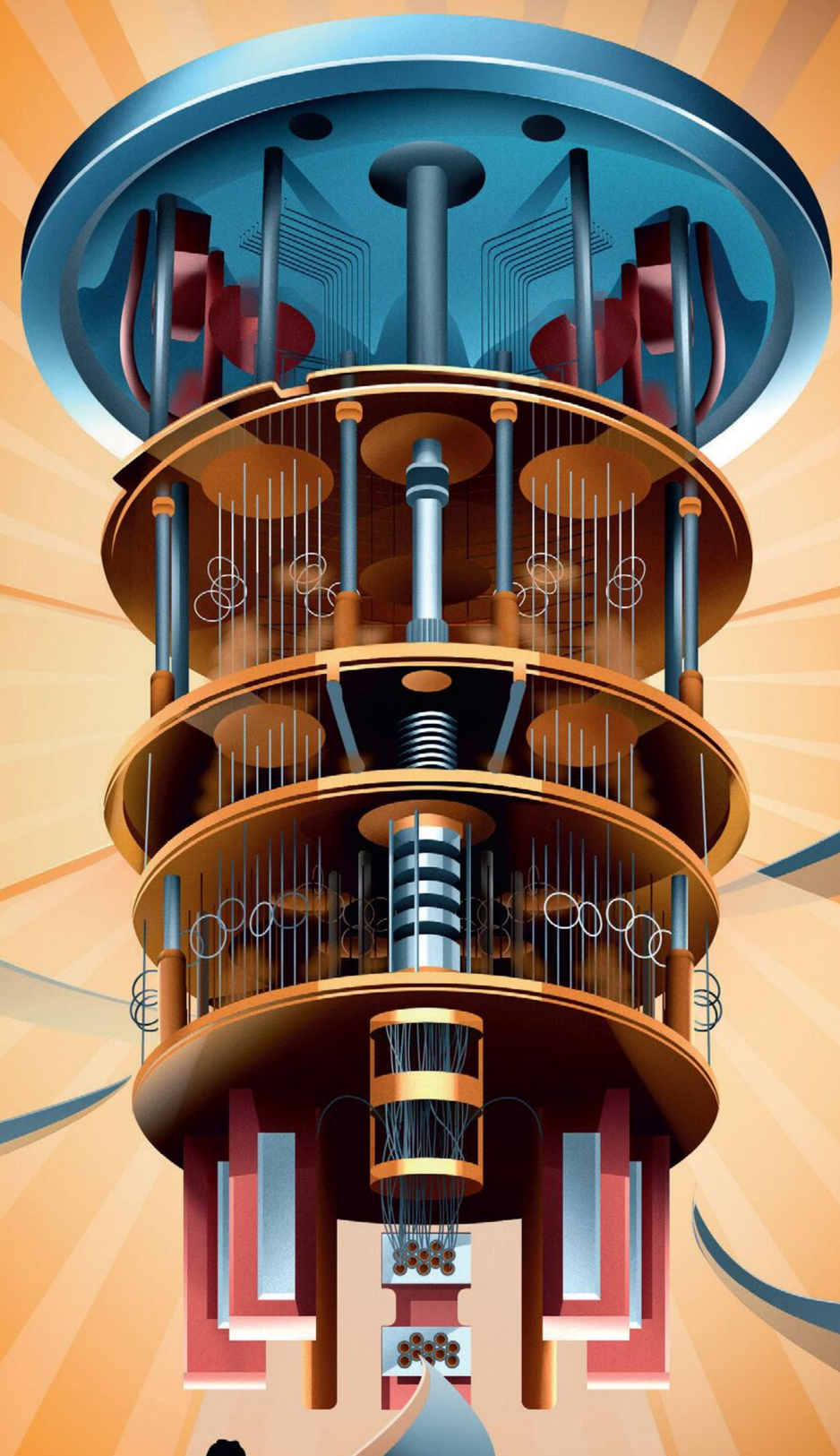
OUR QUANTUM FUTURE

Quantum computers are finally here. What next?

The mega machine on the horizon

Rise of quantum geopolitics

From Google to IBM, who's winning the race so far?



PLUS
AN ALTERNATIVE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE / PERFECT BOILED EGG / **CYBORG HUSBAND** / **EARLIEST BIRD** / WILL AI RUIN ONLINE DATING?

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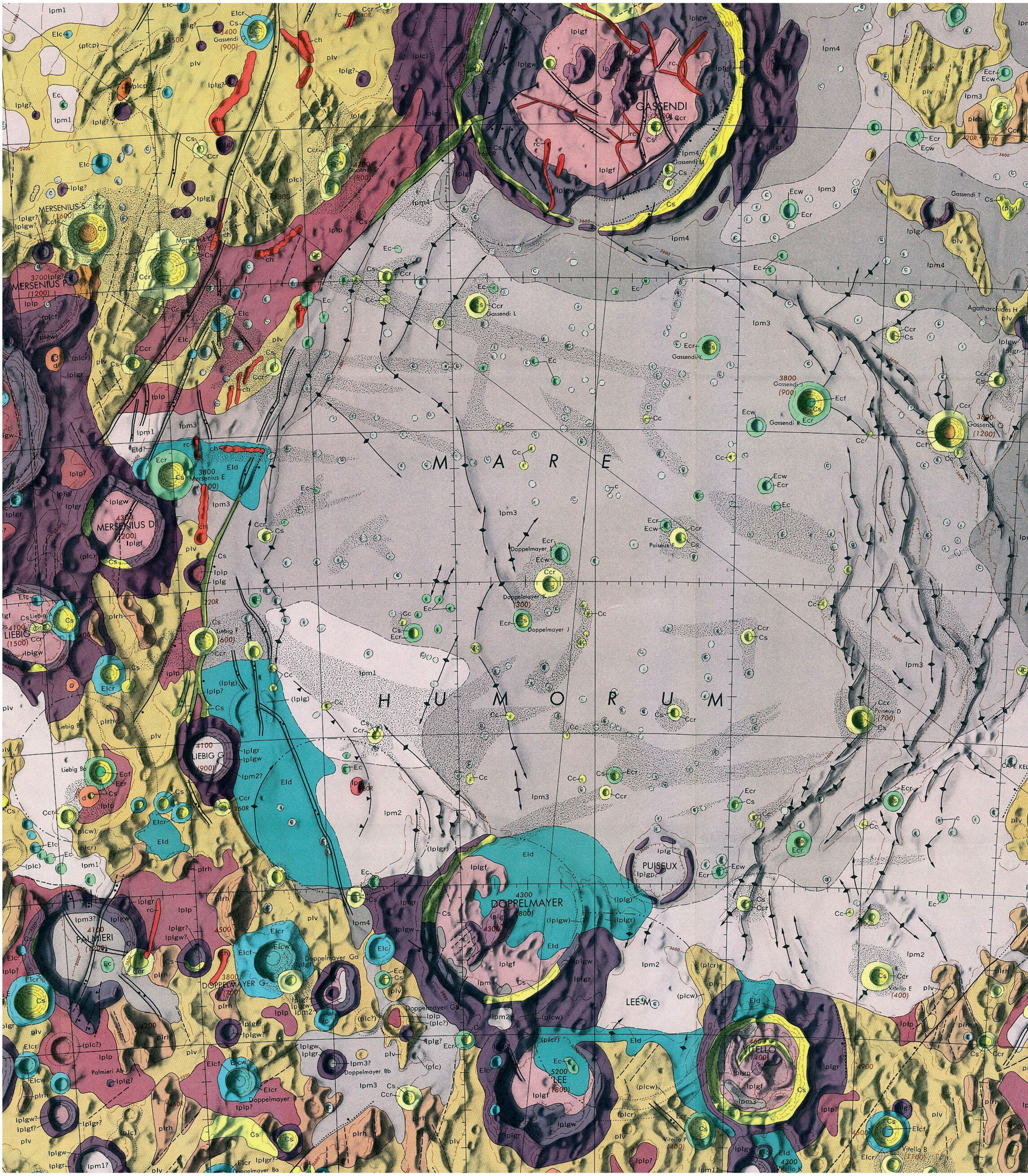
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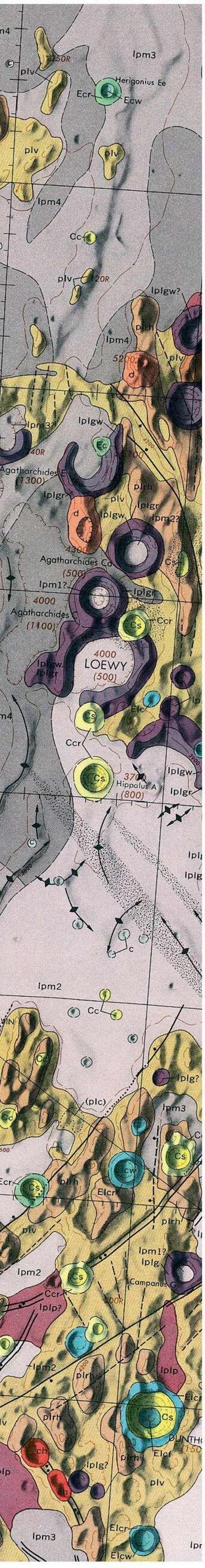
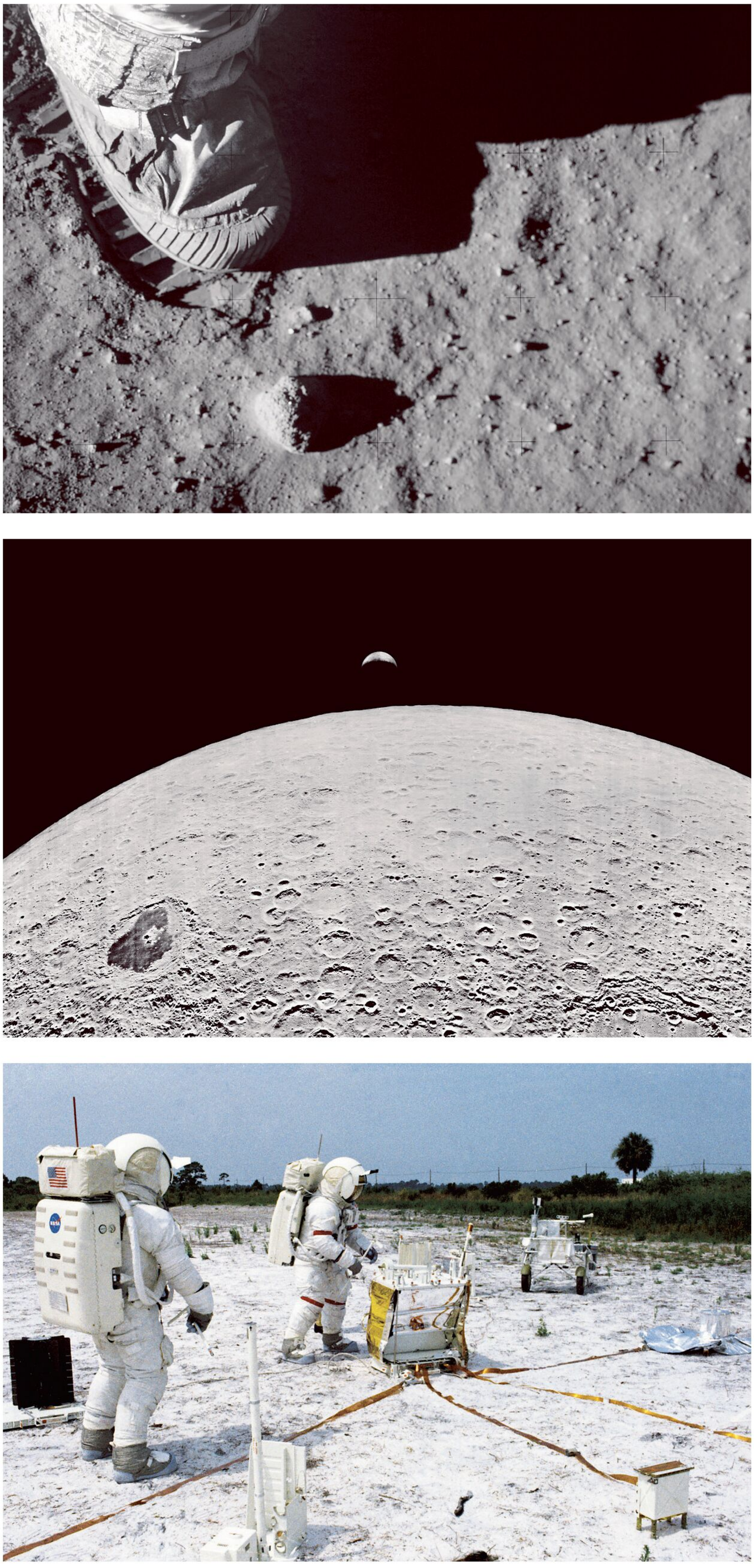


NASA/JOHNSON SPACE CENTER



LUNAR AND PLANETARY INSTITUTE/NASA

NASA/JSC

Looking up

Thames & Hudson

WE WILL never stop thinking and talking about the moon, says Matthew Shindell, a curator at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington DC. "In cities where there is a lot of artificial light that tends to make it hard to look at the stars, the moon still shines very brightly above us," he says. "The moon still is this very constant presence in our nighttimes, no matter where we are."

Lunar: A history of the moon in myths, maps and matter, which Shindell edited, tells the story of this coexistence between humanity and the celestial body through a series of insightful essays, striking images and detailed maps of the moon's geological features. In these maps, the moon is divided into 144 sections called quadrangles, some of which were named as early as the 1600s, when cartographers started sketching what they saw through newly developed telescopes. In the 1960s and 70s, images captured by NASA astronauts during the Apollo moon missions offered a new perspective on our planet. The next few years will add chapters to the centuries-long story of our obsession with the moon: in 2025 alone, almost a dozen spacecraft teams plan to visit the lunar surface.

Clockwise from far left: the Sea of Humors, or Mare Humorum, quadrangle; Buzz Aldrin uses a lunar surface camera to take a close-up of his fellow astronaut's shoe, 1969; a view of Earth from the moon, captured by the Apollo 8 crew in 1968; and Edgar Mitchell and Alan Shepard during a lunar surface simulation training at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, 1970.

Karmela Padavic-Callaghan