

Rebirth of the International Microscopical Society?

Leafing through the pages of the *New York Microscopical Society Yearbook, 1964*, I happened upon a list of microscopical societies with brief descriptions of their history, mission and activities. Represented were some that most of us have heard of, the majority of which are, fortunately, still active today.

This distinguished company includes NYMS, RMS, Queckett, SMSI, San Francisco, American, Mikroskopische Gesellschaft Zurich, Reading, Leidy, Electron Microscope Society of America (now MSA), Biological Photographic Association, and others. But one group struck me as unfamiliar: The International Microscopical Society (IMS). A quick search online turns up no such organization (except for the currently active International Metallographic Society). Below is the original description published in the *Yearbook*:

The purpose of the IMS will be to encourage in every way the advancement of microscopy. The membership will not be limited to professional microscopists; the serious amateurs will also be welcome. Membership will be open to any serious microscopist or to anyone closely associated in a technical capacity with microscopy (as in design, teaching, or technical sales). Student and provisional memberships will be offered and conditions for election to full membership will be predicated on seriousness of purpose and ability based on accomplishments of record (chiefly publications).

For the present, membership will be offered independently of other microscopical societies although eventu-

ally we hope that arrangements can be made to have the presently established societies become affiliated with the IMS. The IMS will endeavor to assist any of the societies

in the arrangement of symposia or meetings and particularly by helping to furnish speakers and visual aids. It is planned to have a library films, slides, tapes of lectures and typed copies of prepared talks for distribution. IMS will also sponsor symposia in various parts of the world and will assist in arranging courses of instruction by furnishing

instructors, visual aids, course outlines, complete lecture outlines with or without slides and movies. IMS will have its own Journal but whether it will start a new one or purchase an already established one is not yet decided.

Interesting is the future tense used and the mailing address included with the description, c/o McCrone Research Institute in Chicago. Obviously, the Society was most likely never officially founded, and no meetings had yet been conducted. With its admirable goals in mind, I would like to propose that we resurrect the IMS, make *Inter/Micro* the organization's official symposia and *The Microscope* its official journal.

We would like to hear your thoughts and opinions; please contact us at themicroscope@mcri.org.



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