

The Microscope in Changing Times

If you are reading this, it is a pretty safe bet that microscopy is your field and the microscope is your instrument. And at some period of time during the 74 years since our first issue, *The Microscope* has been your microscopy journal of choice, written by microscopists for microscopists. Amateurs and professionals have contributed to its pages and have had much valuable information to share about their explorations in the microscopic world.

As part of its policy, *The Microscope* has always offered its pages to research papers and other articles dealing with microscopy, written by researchers working in a variety of fields from all over the world. This means that those who contribute to the journal largely determine its contents and make its existence possible. Inter/Micro, the international microscopy conference sponsored and hosted by McCrone Research Institute (McRI), has been an invaluable source of submissions to this publication since Inter/Micro's beginning 63 years ago. The idea behind this affiliation is that the academic talks presented by researchers are subsequently published each year as research papers in this journal, making it somewhat of an official record of proceedings for the conference.

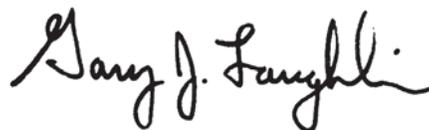
As Inter/Micro continues to attract microscopists, including younger ones, journal circulation has been declining in academia and industry but steadily increasing among individual professionals and hobbyists. Perhaps this is due to an increasing number of retired microscopists who are clinging to their microscopy roots. Or the reason is possibly economic, be-

cause *The Microscope's* individual subscription rates—compared to rates for companies and libraries—are more affordable. (Please refer to the subscription form in the back of this issue for current rates.)

Another possibility is the gradual closing of technical and scientific libraries, which offer books and journals that folks can share in the workplace. Disappearing are the—I hesitate to use the modern term—"brick and mortar" libraries. Many people today use libraries of the digital kind, be it on a desktop computer or on a variety of portable devices. But as I tell my McRI students who are learning microscopy for the first time, most of the resources that microscopists rely on today remain largely unavailable in a digital format and are accessible only in print. But that is changing.

As the 75th anniversary of *The Microscope* approaches, we the readers may want to re-evaluate the practicality of having the journal delivered in its current form, in a digital format, or both, to suit our own needs and those of our new and future readers.

As always, we welcome your thoughts and comments. Write to us at: *The Microscope*, 2820 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60616-3230; or at themicroscope@mcri.org.



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