

75 Years of The Microscope

This year marks *The Microscope's* 75th anniversary. Founded in Great Britain by Arthur L.E. Barron, the inaugural issue rolled off the press in August 1937 as *The Microscope* subtitled as *The British Journal of Microscopy and Photomicrography* and incorporating *The Entomological Monthly*. Barron, considered one of Britain's finest microscopists of the time, was Editor for 25 years with editorial and publishing offices in London. [See "How the Microscope Came About" by Arthur Barron, *The Microscope*, Vol. 47, Third Quarter, p.128, 1999.]

In 1962, Barron "handed it over to another enthusiast" by the name of Walter C. McCrone, and went on to edit *The Journal of the Queckett Microscopical Club*. McCrone's new company, Microscope Publications Ltd., purchased *The Microscope* and changed its name by adding "*and Crystal Front*." That year, Harold M. Malies became the journal's second Editor, publishing in Brighton on England's south coast until 1965. Readers will recall the passing of Mr. Malies in 2010 and the remembrance of him written by his son, Jeremy Malies, in *The Microscope*, Vol. 58, First Quarter, pp. 41–42, 2010.

Succeeding Malies, McCrone became the journal's third Editor, and in 1967, it became a quarterly publication and was aptly retitled *The Microscope*. With a new design and first issue in the new series, Vol. 15, Third Quarter, July 1967, it continued to be published in Great Britain for another 15 years with offices at McCrone Mews in London and U.S. offices in Chicago.

At the end of Vol. 30, Fourth Quarter, 1982, the first cumulative index was published and included author, subject and book reviews published since 1937. This supplement and all subsequent issues were now entirely edited and published by Microscope Publications, a division of McCrone Research Institute in Chicago. Walter McCrone edited the journal, followed by David Stoney, Robert Weaver and Gary Laughlin.

Through the years, *The Microscope* continued to gain popularity and hosted several esteemed columns, including Robert B. McLaughlin's "Diatoms," published between 1985 and 1995. (Mr. McLaughlin recently passed away; see "Remembering Robert B. 'Mac' McLaughlin" on page 39.) John Gustav Delly penned "Diffraction Lines" from 1986 to 1999, and in 2010, *The*

Microscope launched Brian J. Ford's always-engaging "Critical Focus" column. In this issue, Ford celebrates his own microscopy milestone (see page 17).

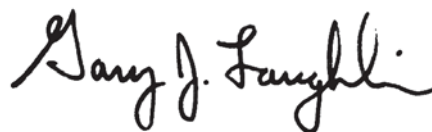
Recent inquiries also show a renewed interest in many of the topics in articles originally published in *The Microscope* decades ago. Some recent requests include past articles on mineral identification, schlieren microscopy, use of compensators, the Inter/Micro symposia, thermal behavior of explosives, art conservation, microscopes for kids, dispersion staining, spindle stages, fusion methods, liquid crystals, polymer microscopy, and authentication research on the Vinland Map and Shroud of Turin. These last two have garnered more than their share of controversy over the years.

At 75, *The Microscope* has published thousands of papers and hundreds of authors, representing tens of thousands of hours devoted to the study of the minute world that is usually invisible without a microscope. Each issue features a new discovery of information available exclusively here, and rarely, if ever, encountered in any other publication. Readers of this journal are amazed by the depth and quality of microscopy studies, photomicrographs, and illustrations.

It is also worth noting, that nearly all the original volumes in good condition are still available. Back-issue and article requests from readers all over the world remain frequent and steady. Microscope Publications is now in the process of digitizing these issues and will make them available soon. A goal is to produce a complete archive of past issues dating back to 1937.

On behalf of the journal's staff, I would like to offer my thanks and gratitude to the scientists and authors who have published their research in *The Microscope* so that every one of us can learn and grow as scientists.

Most of all, I would like to thank you, our readers, for your loyal support over the years. It is because of you that *The Microscope* persists.



Gary J. Laughlin, Editor