



NYMS NEWS

NEW YORK MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY

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MEETING

Speaker: Thomas A. Kubic, J.D.

Topic: "Microscopy and the Forensic Scientist"

Date: October 18, 1985

Place: American Museum, Room 419, 8:00 pm

Our speaker, Thom Kubic, is a Detective-Criminalist and specialist in forensic chemistry and microscopy with the Scientific Investigation Bureau of the Nassau County Police Department.

Forensic science embraces scientific investigation as it pertains to civil and criminal law. While samples taken from crime scenes can be characterized and identified readily using all types of contemporary scientific instrumentation, including the microscope, there still is needed all the skills and knowledge of the forensic scientist to present the resulting information in a communicable form suitable for acceptance in a court of law.

The speaker is eminently qualified in this regard. Thom has a graduate degree in chemistry from C.W. Post College and a law degree from St. John's University. He has written extensively on forensic techniques and is a welcome speaker at meetings of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, International Association of Forensic Sciences, Intermicro, as well as the American Chemical Society, to name a few of his many meeting presentations.

Mr. Kubic is a past president of the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists, a member of the Executive Board and Fellow of the Academy of Forensic Science, as well as a member of many other technical societies. He is also on the Board of Managers of the New York Microscopical Society.

The meeting room will be open at 7:00 pm
for use of the library and microscopes.

Dinner is available in the Museum restaurant
in the basement level.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

Our recording secretary, Roscida Tordesillas, is in the intensive care unit of Lenox Hill Hospital. She would appreciate hearing from her many friends in the Society.

Lenox Hill Hospital
77th Street and Park Avenue
New York, NY 10021
(212) 794-4242

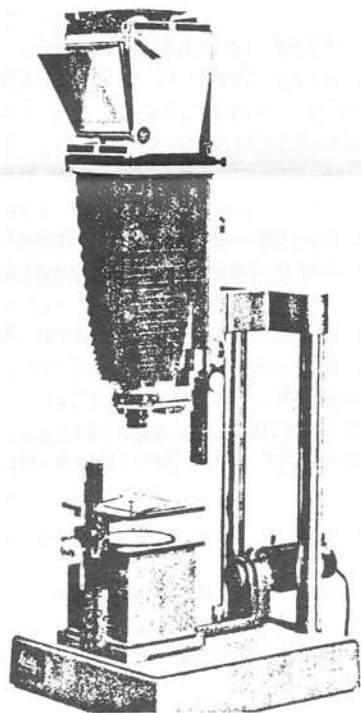
FOR SALE

Leitz Aristophot 4x5" bellows camera

consisting of 542 048 twin column support; 542 051 bellows (new) with two 4x5 Graflex film holders; 542 075 lower bellows support and instantaneous shutter; 549 022 Summar 120 mm f/2 lens, and Leitz 6V transformer with 30 watt lamp.

The above in excellent condition. Will consider best offer or trade for Hasselblad camera equipment.

Call weekends or weekday afternoons after 3:30. R.A.Mendez, Bogota, NJ
(201) 343-7006



THE ULTIMATE TEST

(second day)

INSTRUCTIONS: Read each question carefully. Answer all questions.

TIME LIMIT: 4 hours. Begin immediately.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: 2,500 aborigines are storming the classroom. Calm them. You may use any ancient language except Latin or Greek.

ENGINEERING: The disassembled parts of a high-powered rifle have been placed in a box on your desk. You will also find an instruction manual, printed in Esperanto. In ten minutes, a hungry Bengal tiger will be admitted to the room. Take whatever action you feel is appropriate. Be prepared to justify your decision.

ECONOMICS: Develop a realistic plan for refinancing the national debt. Trace the possible effect of your plan in the following areas: Cubism, the Donatist controversy, the wave theory of light. Outline a method from all possible points of view. Point out the deficiencies in your point of view, as demonstrated in your answer to the last question.

POLITICAL SCIENCE: There is a red telephone on the desk beside you. Start World War III, but make it look like Algeria's fault. Report at length on its socio-political effects, if any.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Describe in detail. Be objective and specific.

EXTRA CREDIT: Explain, with examples, the development of cuneiform writing on the basis of plate tectonics.

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TRADE FAIR AND SWAP MEET

KEVIN BENNET has informed us of the latest activity of the fledgling Maryland Microscopical Society (see August NYMS NEWS for story of its founding). MMS is sponsoring an instrument fair and swap meeting on October 27th at the Holiday Inn just outside of Washington, D.C.

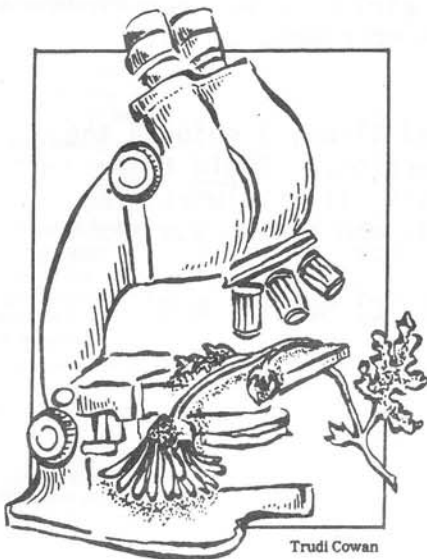
Full details of the fair are given in the flyer accompanying this issue.

ALGAE THREATEN SCALLOP HARVEST

A front-page news story in the New York Times on September 14th reported that an algae bloom covering Peconic Bay has succeeded in supplanting the organisms that the scallops normally feed upon, thus starving the scallops out of existence. Peconic Bay furnished almost 140 tons of scallop meat to the market in 1984, so this is a commercial catastrophe to the hundreds of baymen who scallop the Peconic.

It is possible that Hurricane Gloria may have roiled up these waters sufficiently to have a beneficial effect for next year's growth, although nothing is known at this time.

We hope that some of our members resident on Long Island will look into this situation and send details for inclusion in NYMS NEWS.



Trudi Cowan

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

"A life member of the NYMS and retired, I am living in Florida now for 7 years. The NYMS NEWS dated Sept. 1985 just received and I would like to take advantage of your 'Wanted/For Sale' corner. My request is not to buy or sell however, as I will explain.

"I sold my microscope which was in mint condition in its original wooden case to a gentleman who was a member of the NYMS. Unfortunately I do not remember his name or address but curiosity is getting the best of me and I now wonder if the microscope has served him well. If you have room to print the enclosed (see below), I will be grateful and perhaps get an answer to satisfy me.

"The new format of the 'NYMS NEWS' makes it an excellent communication tool and though far away, I enjoy reading about events and folks I used to know. Keep up the good work. If you will, please give my wishes for complete recovery to Hal Bowser who I understand had a recent hospital stay.

"Thanks for your help."

Yours truly,
/s/Frederick Smokay

Notice: To the gentleman who bought my B&L medical microscope Model HA8 some time around 1977. The sale took place in the Bankers Trust Company lobby at 130 Liberty Street, Downtown NYC where I worked. I am most anxious to hear from you to find out if the microscope is living up to its well-earned reputation. With my thanks, please reply to:

Frederick Smokay
2459 Aqui Esta Drive
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950

A piano is a piano is a piano.

Gertrude Steinway

ROCK HOUNDS HAVE FIELD DAY

The latest NYMS field trip was held on Saturday, September 7, at Franklin (Sussex County), New Jersey, the site of the Franklin Mineral Museum and Mine Replica, and its adjacent Buckwheat Dump. Including family members, about 20 people were present, picnic baskets and picks in hand, on what seemed like one of the hottest days of the summer.

We began the day with a guided tour of the Museum where on display were thousands of specimens, most of which were examples of the approximately 300 species of minerals that have been found in this area. They were collected during the mining operations of the New Jersey Zinc Company at the Franklin and Sterling Hill mines. As the company name implies, the product of these operations was zinc ore. The Franklin region contained one of the world's richest zinc ore bodies, including several dozen minerals not found anywhere else in the world. One of the prominent minerals of this area was zincite (ZnO), occurring in a highly fluorescent calcite and often associated with willemite and franklinite.

After touring the display cases of the main museum, we were taken to the fluorescent room where 100 to 150 mineral specimens had been placed on black shelves and could be viewed by both regular and ultraviolet light (both long and short wave). This was a real "showstopper". Under ultraviolet light, the fluorescent minerals from this area shone with spectacular brilliance and easily supported the reputation of this region as the fluorescent mineral capital of the world. At one end of the room, there were a number of images (birds, trees, etc.) that were created by arranging groups of various fluorescent mineral fragments on a supporting background board. I was immediately reminded of the arranged diatom slides with which most of us are familiar.

Next stop was a tour of the Mine Replica adjacent to the museum. This was a full scale reproduction of a section of a working zinc mine and included levels, sublevels, mine equipment, and low ceilings. Windowless, hot and humid, it was not this observer's favorite part of the day.

Following a picnic lunch behind the museum, we made our way down a stepped incline to the Buckwheat Dump. With picks and collecting bags, we searched for some of the fluorescent minerals that dazzled us on the tour. A small shed with electricity was located near the dump where collected specimens could be checked for fluorescence. After a few minutes in that "shed", one longed for the spaciousness of the Mine Replica. Bravely, in its airless heat, our finds were examined and its discomfort was forgotten when the specimens we collected glowed under the ultraviolet light.

That brought the trip to a close. Although hot and tired, I enjoyed the day, felt relaxed, and even kindled an interest in mineralogy. Field trips are fun! Even if the subject is not one of your passions, it is always nice to meet with fellow NYMS members and their families and, who knows, you might develop a new passion.

Frederick C. Skvara, M.D.