

NEW AND/OR INTERESTING IN MICROSCOPY

★ Ian Cotton has accepted the position as Director of Marketing for Gatan, Inc. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Cotton was Director, Oxford Instruments, Microanalysis Group (a.k.a. Link Systems), Far East Operations. And previously, Mr. Cotton was General Manager, Canada for Link Systems.

★ South Bay Technology, Inc. has acquired the assets of VCR Group, Inc. VCR Group pioneered the development of the Dimpler for TEM sample preparation and has remained a dominate force in the EM products industry. The acquisition of the VCR Group products complements South Bay's current line of sample preparation products which include an extensive offering of products for lapping, polishing, cutting, and crystal orientation. VCR Group President, Vince Carlino, will join South Bay Technology to ensure a smooth transition of the product line. South Bay Technology: (949)492-2600, <http://www.southbaytech.com>

Just For Fun Micrograph Contest

The concept of the contest is based upon composite images, made up of two or more images, at least one of which must be microscopical in nature. Contestants may enter up to two entrees and do not have to be present to win.

Images will be displayed in our booth at M&M '99 (Portland, OR, August 1/5 '99) and conference attendees will be invited to vote on which they find the most "creative and interesting". Winning images, and perhaps others, will be featured on the cover of Microscopy Today. First prize will be \$300, \$200 for second prize and \$100 for third prize. All contestants will receive their choice of two microscopy prints by David Scharf.

Images must, of course, be in hard copy. They may be in either black/white or full color. While any reasonable size is acceptable, a size of around 8 1/2 x 11 inches is ideal. Images should be mounted on rather stiff material. A 3" x 5" card should accompany each entry - with image description and contributors name, affiliation, etc.

Images are welcome from all - including manufacturers and suppliers and overseas microscopists. And, as previously mentioned, one does not have to be present to win.

Once a firm decision is made to participate, we would greatly appreciate being advised - with the number of your images (1 or 2). That way we can be sure to have adequate space to display all images.

The images may be delivered to our booth at the start of the conference or may be mailed to me at my home address as follows.

- - - Don Grimes

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USA

In Memory

John H. L. Watson

John H. L. Watson, Electron Microscopy Pioneer, passed away on May 18. John was an early member of Professor Burton's group at the University of Toronto. The work of this group led to the early commercial development of an electron microscope in North America.

In 1939, having just completed his master's degree in physics at McMaster's University, John read an article in Maclean's Magazine alerting North America to the Toronto program. He became intrigued by the concept of an electron microscope. He was accepted by Professor Burton as a doctoral candidate and was assigned to help Albert Prebus. Because of Prebus' strong concern for developing a scientific basis for electron beam optics, John plotted the axial potential of their magnetic lenses using a small bismuth probe of his own manufacture and did the same for all the basic properties of their system. He was interested in doing microscopy and is the only member of the group who did not attempt to develop a commercial instrument - even though his thesis work was on the construction of the first improvement over the original Toronto Microscope. Indeed, this proved to be a decided improvement. In his Toronto work he had taken micrographs of thousands of samples. The applications to chemical and industrial problems were obvious but he was also interested in developing the medical and biological capabilities of the instrument. He made a wise decision to seek out a medical group to work with rather than take time out to get a medical degree. He found this opportunity at the Edsel B. Ford Institute for Medical Research at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He spent the rest of his professional career bringing many innovations to microscopy including the first microscopic motion pictures and the identification of carbon build up and its relation to oil vapor in the column.

In 1943 he joined MSA, then known as the Electron Microscopy Society of America. With his characteristic creativity and concern for his community he began an unbroken 56 years of service to EMSA/MSA, including Director (1953 and 1955) and President (1957). John was still doing the Society's Statistical and Job Opportunity work up to the last days of his life.

Those of us who have known John H.L. Watson consider ourselves blessed - as he was not only a splendid scientist, a true pioneer in electron microscopy in North America, but also an exceptional individual.

--- Sterling Newberry

Show Us Your Ash

The Portland Local Arrangements Committee is hosting "Show Us Your Ash", a Mt. St. Helens ash image contest being held during the Microscopy & Microanalysis meeting in Portland (August 1-5, 1999). To enter, obtain a St. Helens ash sample by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope (33 cents postage) by July 16 to John Dash, Portland State University, Physics Department, PO Box 751, Portland, OR 97207. Analyze the ash using any device and bring the image to the meeting for display. Prizes will be awarded based on as yet undetermined criteria, but entrants are encouraged to be imaginative. Prizes include a Pendleton blanket kindly donated by the Portland Oregon Visitors Association. Have a little fun with a piece of Northwest history and show us your ash this August.