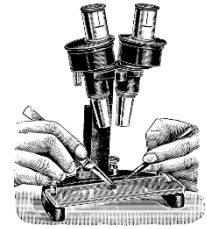




October 2023

Microscopes, Meetings & Memories

By Eric Brosius



The September meeting of the Leidy Microscopical Society is a much-anticipated event, by the membership, after the summer break. Conversations abound, smiles cover members' faces as they are reunited with friends, and micromounts are once again viewed and shared enmasse. Thanks to technology, we were also treated by appearances, via the internet, by members Bruce Geller from Colorado, Mike Rosso from North Carolina and locals Karenne Snow and Steve Stuart who could not attend in person.

One of the main subjects of the meeting was the returning of two of the Society's historical microscopes, "Beck's Binocular Best Microscope" and a "Zentmayer Centennial Microscope" that had been on long term loan to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, PA. We thank Society member, Robert Carlton, for taking the time to venture into Philadelphia to retrieve the scopes and we also thank the curators at the Academy, especially Robert M. Peck, for the care they provided the microscopes while on loan. The Society's historical microscope collection is now mostly consolidated at two locations.



Above pictures from Left: Guest and Members Matthew Okasinski, Bill prince, Robert Carlton, Don McAlarnen, Dick Braun, John Ferrante & Dick Tillett; The Leidy Society's Beck's Binocular Best Microscope and John Ferrante with the Leidy Society's Zentmayer Centennial Microscope.

A good portion of the meeting involved discussions about our meetings and the upcoming March 2024 Annual Micromount Symposium. Robert Carlton and Robert M. Peck had a nice discussion about having a joint meeting between the Leidy Microscopical Society and the Philadelphia Society for Microscopy at the Academy of Natural Sciences' Library. One of the subjects discussed at the meeting was viewing the Academy's collection of books on microscopy. Additional joint meetings with the Philadelphia Society for Microscopy are planned for September 30, 2023, October 28, 2023, and December 2, 2023, all at the Delaware County Institute of Science. These meetings will involve introducing microscopy to visitors of the Institute. A brief discussion ensued, involving the speakers for the upcoming 2024 Annual Micromount Symposium. Steve Stuart has graciously volunteered to give a talk on the "Winston Collection" aka the Hugh McCulloch Collection. Symposium Chairman, Don McAlarnen, is looking for one additional

speaker for either an in person or via on-line talk. Any suggestions should be directed to Don McAlarnen.

Finally, the micromount roundtable for the evening was somewhat of a somber activity. Don McAlarnen provided mounts from the late Barry Landes collection. Upon hearing of Barry passing, Don contacted the Landes family to inform them of the great friendship Barry and he shared along with the many hobbies of electronics, astronomy, and micromounting. He informed the family that when they settled the estate if they would contact him if they were going to dispose of his micromount collection. Nothing ever came about this, and Don really wanted to have a memento of their friendship in the form of one of Barry's best micromounts. By chance, Karenne Snow came upon a dealer at the Reading Market that was selling micromounts labeled from the Barry Landes Collection. She immediately called Don who acquired the mounts. Unfortunately, those being sold were not of the quality mounts that Barry and Don obtained together but were purchased by Don anyway. This collection was brought to the meeting for the roundtable that evening. Don McAlarnen would still like to obtain one of the quality mounts that he and Barry collected. If you happen to come upon one of Barry Landes quality mounts, please contact Don.

In other Society business, the group welcomed guest Matthew Okasinski. Additionally, a motion was made and approved unanimously, "*To withhold from having a business meeting at the annual summer picnic unless it is for an emergency situation*". Bruce Geller informed the group of the upcoming 43rd Annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium at the Macey Center of the New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology, Socorro, NM on November 10-12, 2023. The Symposium is introducing a new feature on Friday November 10, 2023, The Micromineral Aficionados Gathering. Other discussion involved ChatGPT which had recently been mentioned on Mindat.org. Finally, the October 19, 2023, meeting will be a roundtable on the phosphates of Kings Mountain, North Carolina. Please bring mounts of phosphates from Kings Mountain or if you do not have any, phosphates from other localities will be welcomed.