



Celebrating 100 Years of
Microscopical Magnificence



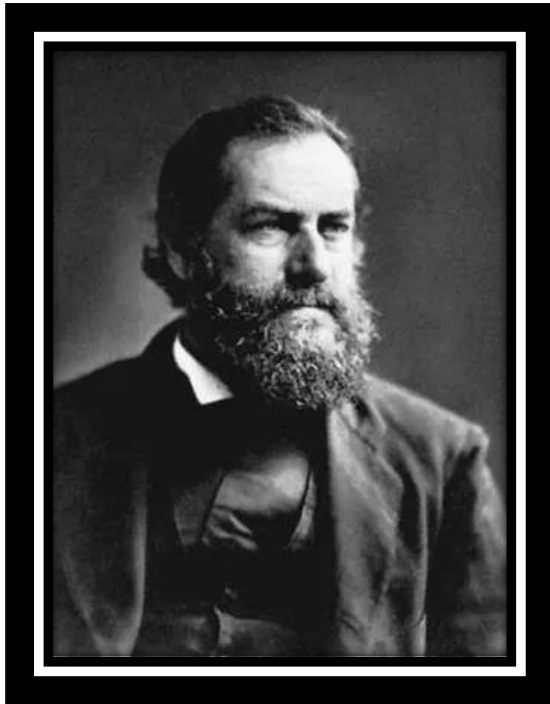
The Leidy Letter

Newsletter of The Leidy Microscopical Society
Volume 1 January 2025 Number 1

Joseph Mellick Leidy

"The Last Man Who Knew Everything"

Born: Sept. 9, 1823, Philadelphia, PA
Died: April 30, 1891, Philadelphia, PA



2025 Officers of the Leidy Microscopical Society

President – Eric Brosius

ebrosiusrock@aol.com

Vice President – John Ferrante

jjf41@comcast.net

Secretary – Karenne Snow

minerals.fossils.rocks@gmail.com

Treasurer – Don McAlarnen

donmcAlarnen@outlook.com

Newsletter Editor – Eric Brosius

ebrosiusrock@aol.com

Welcome to the inaugural issue of The Leidy Letter, a new newsletter for the Leidy Microscopical Society.

The proceedings of the Leidy Microscopical Society had been described through an agreement with the Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA, Inc.'s newsletter the Rock Chatter for the past 20+ years. Unfortunately, the Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA, Inc. disbanded at the end of 2024. Therefore, it was decided by the current Leidy Microscopical Society membership to provide a new communique, The Leidy Letter, for the current ongoings of the Society.

Microscopical news is paramount to our organization. Therefore, along with the proceedings of the Society, all members who have microscopical news that they would like to have published are encouraged to submit a complete written article to the editor for publication.

Meetings of The Leidy Microscopical Society are held at the

The Community Center at GIANT
315 York Road
Willow Grove, PA 19090

On the third Wednesday evening from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM in September, October, March, April, May & June and the third Saturday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in November, December, January & February.

The Annual Leidy Microscopical Society Micromount Symposium is held in March.



Program for January 18, 2025

The January meeting of the Leidy Microscopical Society will feature micromounts of Leonard A. Morgan. Members and guests are requested to bring six of their best Leonard A. Morgan micromounts for viewing. The group will then vote on the best overall Leonard A. Morgan mount that was viewed. Everyone is invited even if you do not have a microscope or any Leonard A. Morgan mounts.

The Legendary Glowing Rock Father

By Eric Brosius

The December meeting featured our annual Holiday Celebration with treats, micromounts, fellowship and the traditional silent auction, which was made famous by Ralph Thomas.

Ralph was a Rockhound's Rockhound. When it came to minerals Ralph would collect, conserve, promote, display, sell, talk, give-away and just about anything else you could do with the mineral collecting hobby. He coined the saying, "Buy Rocks Note Stocks". His love for minerals, especially micromounts and fluorescent minerals, instilled in him a desire to create a Micromineral Study Group, then a Micromount Swap-&-Sell and then in 1976 a Micromount Symposium through the now defunct Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA, Inc. (RMCLBC). His backing of micromounting continues to live on in the Leidy Microscopical Society's Annual Micromount Symposium. Additionally, his love of fluorescent minerals urged him to create an all-fluorescent mineral show, through the RMCLBC, known as "ULTRAVIOLATION", which continues to survive under the Fluorescent Mineral Society.

One of Ralph's favorite events, during shows and celebrations, was the silent auction. In his honor the Society continues the tradition at our Holiday Celebrations and the Annual Micromount Symposium.

In remembrance of Ralph's joy of micromounting, our group's December meeting subject was Ralph Thomas micromounts. Ralph Thomas micromounts have been documented in Rocks & Minerals magazine, and recently on the internet website Mindat.org where he is referenced as the Legendary Ralph Thomas. Ralph Thomas mounts were circulated among the group for viewing. At the end of the meeting a vote was held for the best Ralph Thomas mount. Karenne Snow to the top spot with an Aragonite specimen. Dick Braun came in second as almost all the mounts he shared were of exceptional quality.

In the discussion around Ralph Thomas "isms":

- Christel Hoffmann recalled how she found out about the RMCLBC and Ralph through meeting Richard "Dick" Bostwick at the New England Mineral Conference. Dick Bostwick had called Ralph about a possible new member and before Christel even returned home Ralph had called her to visit a meeting of the RMCLBC.
- Dick Braun mentioned how Ralph would organize collecting trips, especially to Mont St. Hilaire. He also told how Ralph wanted members involved at shows with interactive



The Leidy Letter
Vol. 1 No. 1, January 2025

- displays. Ralph had Dick provide an overhead projector where he placed a chemical solution on a hot plate. As the solution evaporated mineral crystals remained. The audience could witness the actual creation of a mineral.
- Bill Prince remembered Ralph for his delegating ability. Ralph had the uncanny ability to get club members to do things, hold positions, renew memberships. Few members could refuse him.
- Your author recalled how Ralph had no problem contacting members day or night, including all hours of the night, about their dues, club tasks or other general mineral related questions.

Ralph, we honor you. Your love for minerals continues in all of us.

In other Society business, the annual micromount symposium advertisements have been sent out to all the hobby magazines and other clubs. Suggestions were made to include a list of available hotels, in the area of the annual micromount symposium, for out-of-town symposium attendees. Additionally, membership sign up forms will be made available at a membership table at the symposium.

Mention was made of the first of several George Butler Estate Mineral Auctions. The first auction concluded, and several members acquired some nice material. The members who participated in the auction were disappointed that none of the Paul Seel micromounts were included in the first round. Many who also participated were surprised at the high amounts for the winning bids of some of the microscope slides.

Finally, the January meeting will feature Leonard A. Morgan micromounts. Members and guests are requested to share their best Leonard A. Morgan mounts from their collections, for viewing

Ralph Thomas **Holiday Silent Auction**

Specimen # _____

Specimen Name: _____
(Donated By: _____)

Bidding Start: \$ _____

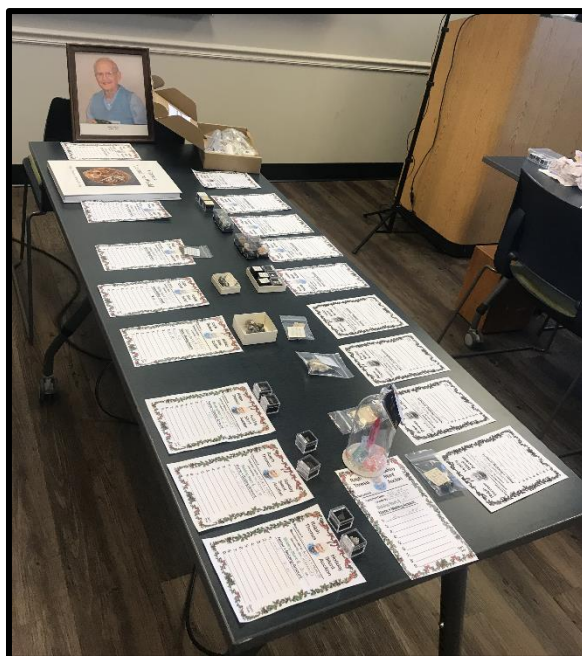
Name + Bidding Amount

1: _____
2: _____
3: _____
4: _____
5: _____
6: _____
7: _____
8: _____
9: _____

Con't Over

Typical of a Ralph Thomas Silent Auction.

Left: Silent Auction Donation/Bidding Slip.
Right: 2025 Holiday Silent Auction Items





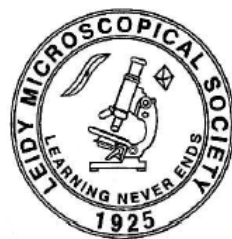
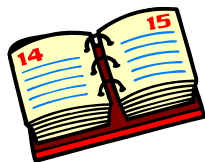
The Leidy Letter
Vol. 1 No. 1, January 2025



(Above) The Holiday Celebration treats as provided by GIANT. Note: the picture was taken after the hungry micromounters of the Leidy Microscopical Society had their fill.



(Above) From Left: Don McAlarnen, Christel Hoffmann, Leonard Porcelli, Karenne Snow, Bill Prince, Dick Braun, Paul Langer (forward), John Ferrante (to right). Not in picture: Matt Okasinski, Eric Brosius and Dr. Robert Carlton who was on Zoom



Calendar of Events

January 18, 2025 – Willow Grove, PA – Leidy Microscopical Society Regular Meeting 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Giant Community Center, 315 York Road, Willow Grove, PA, the subject of the meeting will be “Leonard A. Morgan micromounts”. Members and guests are requested to bring in their best Leonard A. Morgan micromounts for viewing. The group will then vote on the best overall mount of those that were viewed. Everyone is invited even if you do not have a microscope or any Leonard A. Morgan mounts.

January 25, 2025 – New Brunswick, NJ - Geology Museum Open House & Mineral Sale. Rutgers State University, Geology Hall 2nd Floor, 85 Somerset Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. For additional information visit: <https://geologymuseum.rutgers.edu/annual-open-house>

February 13-16, 2025 – Tucson, AZ – Tucson Gem & Mineral Show. Tucson Convention Center, 260 South Church Street, Tucson, AZ 85701. Thursday/Friday/Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For additional information visit: <http://www.tgms.org/>

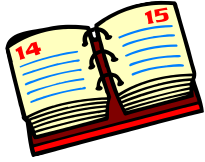
March 1-2, 2025 – Wilmington, DE - Delaware Mineralogical Society Show. DoubleTree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pike (Rt-202), Wilmington, DE 19803. Saturday 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sunday 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For more information visit: <http://www.dmsrocks.org/>

March 7-9, 2025 - Middleburg Heights, OH – Gem Street USA. Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 19201 East Bagley Road, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130. For additional information visit: <http://www.gemstreetusa.com/>

March 7-8, 2025 – Richboro, PA – 49th Annual Leidy Microscopical Society Micromount Symposium. Celebrating 100 years of Microscopical Magnificence. Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mill Rd, Richboro, Pa. 18954. Friday 12:00 Noon to 6:00 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. **Two great speakers – ‘Diving into Olivine’ by Geologist Chris Duerr and ‘The Fascinating World of Diatoms’ by Bill Dailey.** Table Space (for two days): \$25.00 for half of a 6-foot table, \$40.00 for a full 6-foot table. Visitor’s fee \$5.00 for Friday, \$10.00 for Saturday (Includes Lunch). Reservations/ Admission: Make checks payable to; Don McAlarnen, 916 Senator Rd, East Norriton, PA 19403 Phone: (610) 584-1364 Questions: Email: donmcalarnen@outlook.com

March 8, 2025 - Linglestown, PA - Rocks4Kids Jr Education Day! Linglestown Life United Methodist Church, 1430 North Mountain Road, Linglestown, PA 17112. Saturday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. For more information visit: <http://www.rocks4kids.org/>

March 8-9, 2025 - Meriden, CT - Annual Mineral & Gem Show. Maloney High School, 121 Gravel Street, Meriden, CT 06450. Saturday 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For additional information visit: <http://www.lmscc.org/>



March 8-9, 2025 - New York, NY - New York Gems Jewelry & Mineral Show. The School of Fashion Industries (Gym 3rd Floor), 225 West 24th Street, New York, NY 10001. Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sunday 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For additional information visit: <http://www.barygems.com/>

March 15-16, 2025 - Gaithersburg, MD - Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. For additional information visit: <http://www.glmsmc.com/>

March 22-23, 2025 - Chicopee, MA - Connecticut Valley Mineral Club Show. Castle of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA. Saturday 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Sunday 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. For additional information visit: <http://www.cvmineralclub.org/>

March 29-30, 2025 – Plymouth Meeting, PA - 2024 Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair sponsored by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and Delaware Valley Paleontological Society. Lulu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA., (PA Turnpike, exit 333; or I-476, exit 20) Free Parking. Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Adults: \$7.00. Kids 12 and under: \$2.00; Uniformed scouts and troop leaders free. Special Features: On both days a line-up of distinguished professional speakers will be presented. In addition, there will be fossil and mineral displays, educational materials, door prizes and a food concession. For additional information visit: www.phillyrocks.org

March 29-30, 2025 - Canton, OH - Stark County Gem & Mineral Show. Stark County Fairgrounds, 305 Wertz Avenue NW, Canton, OH 44708. Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For additional information visit: <http://www.facebook.com/StarkCountyOhioGemandMineralClub/>

April 5-6, 2025 - Midland Park, NJ - 35TH ANNUAL NORTH JERSEY GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW. Midland Park High School, 250 Prospect Street, Midland Park, NJ 07432. Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more information visit: <http://www.nojms.com/>

May 16-18, 2025 – Newry, ME - New England Mineral Association Conference. Grand Summit Resort Hotel at the Sunday River Resort, 15 South Ridge Road, Newry, ME 04261. For additional information visit: http://www.nemineral.org/annual_conference/

May 17-18, 2025 - Bennington, VT - Southern Vermont Mineral & Gem Show. Grace Christian School, 104 Kocher Drive, Bennington, VT 05201. Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. For more information visit: <https://www.manchestervermont.com/>

May 25-27, 2025 – Aurora, NC - North Carolina Fossil Festival. Aurora Fossil Museum, 400 Main Street, Aurora, NC 27806. For additional information visit: <http://www.aurorafossilmuseum.org/>