

NEW AND/OR INTERESTING IN MICROSCOPY

☛ The Directors of Gresham Lion Technology Ltd., the Power Supply and Scientific Instrument Manufacturer announced on 18 December that it has sold the assets of Camscan, its Electron Microscope Business to a consortium led by Dr. Hugh Montgomery. Gresham purchased Camscan in August 1994 and has successfully returned the business to its former position as an international supplier of sophisticated scanning electron microscopes.

Dr. Rob Sareen, Gresham's Managing Director commented "We are proud to have been involved in Camscan's recovery and this strategic disposal enables Gresham to focus on its X-ray detector and acquisition systems business free from potential market conflicts. We are sad to see Camscan leave our Group but we look forward to working with all Electron Microscope and Diagnostic Medical Instrument companies in the future."

☛ **Golf Anyone?** The sponsors of the great golf outing at Microscopy & Microanalysis '96 are again doing their thing - this time at the championship Rancho Cañada Golf Course, Carmel Valley, CA, in conjunction with SCAN-NING 97. For information, contact S.L. Erlandsen at (612)624-1491 or J. Arnott at (802)878-6711.

☛ NIST-NIH Desktop Spectrum Analyzer (DTSA) Spring 1997 Workshop - 26/28 March 1997

A three-day intensive Workshop on NIST-NIH Desktop Spectrum Analyzer (DTSA) will be held at NIST, Gaithersburg, Md. DTSA is a software platform for electron-excited energy-dispersive and wavelength-dispersive X-ray spectrometry developed by Fiori, Swyt, and Myklebust for Macintosh computers. The Workshop will cover practical aspects in utilizing DTSA, including spectrum processing (background and peak interference removal), quantitative analysis for bulk and layered specimens (matrix corrections, including the comprehensive CIT-ZAF resource), analytical electron microscope quantitation for thin foils (Cliff-Lorimer sensitivity factor method), generation of X-ray spectra for first principles, and development of analytical strategy through "desktop" simulations. Attendance at the DTSA Workshop is free, but is limited to 25 attendees.

For reservations and/or information, contact Dale Newbury at dale.newbury@nist.gov or telephone (301)975-3921, fax: (301)417-1321

A REAL HORROR STORY

Don Grimes

Background: The Committee of European Societies for Microscopy (CESM) is part of the International Federation of Societies of Electron Microscopy (IFSEM). CESM gave a mandate to organize a microscopy conference, EUREM96, which was held on 26-30 August 1996 in Dublin, Ireland. CESM appointed a David Cottell as president of this conference. Dr. Cottell is apparently associated with the University College Dublin.

Important: While the facts behind the following have come from a number of sources, including CESM, it must be stressed that the following is **ONLY ONE SIDE** of the story. Others, certain to include Dr. Cottell, are not only welcome but are encouraged to supply other viewpoints/facts. Such additional viewpoints/facts will promptly be published in this newsletter.

On signing up to participate in EUREM96, Dr. Charles Garber of SPI Supplies received permission to have Mr. David Henriks of South Bay Technology as a guest in his booth. Conference booth specifications were that all booths would have three paneled walls. Based upon these specifications, Dr. Garber ordered furniture suitable for an efficient display of his products.

At the conference, the SPI booth was supplied with only two paneled walls. It was explained to Dr. Garber that the conference ran out of paneled walls. There was no furniture in the booth. It was first explained to Dr. Garber that he did not order furniture. After proving that he did order furniture, the organization admitted that they ran out of furniture. The organization was able, however, to supply several odd pieces.

At this point, yet before the start of the conference, Dr. Garber approached Dr. Cottell to discuss these problems. Dr. Cottell advised that he was too busy to talk with Dr. Garber and suggested that Dr. Garber resolve the problems with the conference floor staff. The conference floor staff were most helpful and in arranging what furniture as was available, the furniture extended several feet into the next vacant area. There was no comment by any party relative to additional booth charges.

Dr. Garber advises that the conference went well, and Dr. Cottell passed by the SPI Supplies booth several times and made no comment about anything.

At this point in the "story" I note that Dr Cottell apparently mismanaged EUREM finances - and the conference was out of money. This fact may, or may not, have influenced Dr. Cottell's following actions.

On the morning of the last day of the conference, Dr. Cottell stormed,

red-faced, into the SPI Supplies booth with no less than eight security guards, threw an invoice on a desk and shouted that Dr. Garber had one hour to pay the equivalent of some \$5,000 U.S. for the additional booth space - or his booth equipment would be confiscated and that he would be arrested. Dr. Cottell refused to talk with Dr. Garber. Security guards were put at the SPI Supplies booth and at all exits.

Mr. Henriks was physically prevented from leaving the conference by these guards.

At this point, as there had been absolutely no conversation at the conference between Dr. Cottell and Dr. Garber, Mr. Henriks sought out Dr. Cottell in the hope of understanding, if not resolving, the problem. Dr. Cottell promptly had three security guards take Mr. Henriks into custody (arrested). Dr. Cottell and security guards, which Mr. Henriks believes were in the uniforms of the Dublin police, then escorted Mr. Henriks to a local bank and forced him to draw some \$5,000 U.S. from his credit cards. The bank manager gave the money to Dr. Cottell - who did not even give Mr. Henriks a receipt for the money.

Since that time, and after some pressure by Dr. Garber and Mr. Henriks, CESM met on the topic of the Dr. Cottell and his handling of Mr. Henriks. Much to their credit, CESM recommended to Dr. Cottell that he return the money to Mr. Henriks and offer an apology - both before 15 December 1996. Needless to say, Dr. Cottell has refused the recommendations from CESM - and he has neither apologized or returned Mr. Henriks money.

CESM has advised both Dr. Garber and Mr. Henriks that they consider the matter closed and wish no further communication from them.

I have proposed to CESM that IFSEM/CESM give South Bay Technology credit equal to his expense in future conferences and have advised that Dr. Garber would be pleased to have an independent arbitrator decide the question of additional booth space costs. A response will be interesting.

With some restraint, I have attempted to be only as factual as possible in the above. That being said, I submit the following thoughts:

That such activity would **never** happen at functions sanctioned by the Microscopy Society of America (MSA) or the Microbeam Analysis Society (MAS). But, if any did, I further submit that the first thing that MSA or MAS would do is have a **proper** investigation, without the friends of involved parties included, and would take swift action. That action could even result in expelling individuals from the societies. And, if they determined that an innocent party was out money, rather than publish a "recommendation" would they not see that he was promptly reimbursed - out of their own funds?

Remember - I request comments on the above from any interested party - and will publish all that are in any way relevant.

— Ed.