

Microscopy AND Microanalysis

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Microscopy and Microanalysis website: http://www.journals.cambridge.org/jid_MAM

**Indexed in Chemical Abstracts, Current Contents,
BIOSIS, and MEDLINE (PubMed)**

**MSA members receive both *Microscopy Today* and
Microscopy and Microanalysis FREE!**

Don Grimes

On February 17th Donald Grimes passed away. Among his many professional accomplishments is a long career in electron microscopy and the founding of this publication. He enjoyed his friends in this community and lived his life to the fullest. For more information: www.cressfuneralservice.com

HUMOR



Dear Abbe

Dear Abbe,

A colleague (“John”) and I have been at odds for a while now. It started when we lectured for an EM course and he taught the “right hand rule” of electron travel in a solenoid. I insisted that he was being prejudiced and that there could also be left-handedness to electron activity. You know, an “alternate” path. John flies into a frothing rage, claims the laws of physics are not subject to anthropomorphologic whims, and that I am a walrus’ behind! I am hurt that he would stoop to name calling and appalled at his narrow-mindedness. We believe you could help us resolve our disharmony.

Paul from Liverpool

Dear Paul,

What’s this katzenjammer? As if you could alter the laws of physics with your bleeding heart sophistries. Most serious scientists keep this kind of maudlin sentimentality for their loved ones at home. At work, there is only science! And coffee. And possibly a good strudel in the morning to get one’s blood running. But I digress. At the heart of this dispute is your premise that the forces of nature are altruistic and democratic. Rubbish! Physical and natural laws are like prowling weasels waiting for an innocent, such as you, to devour. If my friend Albert were here he’d probably reach up and tousle your hair like a small boy and go “tsk,tsk...”

Dear Abbe,

I’ve been hearing much lately about the benefits of a confocal microscope. What exactly is confocal microscopy? Is this something we can do for ourselves? If so, what would we need to know and how much would it cost?

Skinflint in San Antonio

Dear Skinflint,

I applaud your enthusiasm for industry and frugality at the expense of quality. Unfortunately, your microscope choice is being influenced by the success of slick marketing. It’s a shame that so many nattering nannies emphasize the negative aspects of microscopy by endorsing a contrary view of microscopy, or as it is frequently abbreviated “Con-Focal” microscopy. For example, it is a known fact that my surly countryman Otto Von Bismarck was a staunch advocate of the Confocal approach to life. Anyone wearing a helmet like that has got issues. I, on the other hand, have always been a positive and uplifting individual; consequently I am a proponent of Profocal Microscopy. If you pay heed to those “listserver” postings, you’ll note the whining and carping regarding file format issues, collection speed, “problematic waviness”, and all manner of tribulations associated with Confocal. In contrast, you will narry hear a single negative comment made about the Profocal Microscope. Indeed, most users of Profocal Microscopy can be found in the lab humming German drinking songs with the smell of Edelweiss wafting from the room!

Nothing is too mundane or inane for the Professor! If you need assistance with your petty problems, please contact his personal secretary at jshields@cb.uga.edu.