



ABOUT THE **NEW YORK MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY**

The microscope was invented around 1600. Its perfection progressed rather slowly until about 1830 when fresh ideas about lens design were applied to microscopes. In the next 50 years the microscope's ability to show fine detail was improved at least five fold, which caused much excitement. In this era, 1877 to be exact, the New York Microscopical Society (NYMS) was founded.

From the beginning the members were a friendly mix of scientists and amateurs. The common purpose of both was the promotion of all phases of microscopy, theoretical and practical, for professional reasons or for pleasure.

Many things have changed since then but the goals are still the same. The Society offers courses in general and in polarized light microscopy. We invite a speaker once every month and arrange field trips and special topic workshops from time to time. Also, we also offer microscopy workshops for children and families, and many of these are held at schools and parks in New York City. At irregular intervals NYMS honors the lifetime achievement of persons who have acquired extraordinary merit as microscopists, physicists or teachers with the Ernst Abbe Award.

For about six decades the meeting place of the Society was the Museum of Natural

History but that came to an end when the museum needed more space for its own events. The Society was forced to look for new quarters and after two interim domiciles we found a building for sale in Clifton, NJ, that was ideally suited to our needs. While the headquarters of the NYMS paradoxically are in New Jersey, our location is easily reached by public transportation from New York and a substantial segment of our membership are New Yorkers.

We are elated to have our own place. There is sufficient space for workshops and meetings. In the many years of the Society's existence we have accumulated a trove of prized possessions. The walls are lined with shelves of books on microscopy and about 30 antique brass microscopes are on permanent display. There is a large collection of microscope slides, specimens and up-to-date microscopes with which to examine them.

We encourage anyone with an interest in microscopy to join NYMS.

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