

JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PLASTINATION

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It's always exciting to establish something new. This is the first issue of the first volume of the Journal of the International Society for Plastination, an idea come of time.

Since we have no editorial board (yet), I have elected to adopt a rather flexible set of criteria for our articles. Responses registered on the membership questionnaires indicate that most of you want this journal to emphasize practical information, equipment suggestions and a how-to-do-it approach to technique. In keeping with that principle, the very first article in this issue will cover the very first step in the plastination process, fixation.

Those of you who attended the Third International Conference on Plastination in San Antonio will remember that Karine Oostrom not only told us about fixation but showed us that scientific reporting need not be overly formal to be effective. In preparing her paper for publication I have attempted to retain as much as possible of her charming style.

The next two papers, by Drs Lischka and Prihoda again contain practical, useful information. I was particularly impressed by their description of the institute and its teaching program.

The following paper by Andreas Ghur and collaborators reports a plastination technique that has potential for application in both diagnosis and research. It should attract a wide readership. Unfortunately, our limited budget has precluded publication of the many, excellent half-tone illustrations that accompany this article.

Finally, a paper by the editor and other members of Mercer's pathology department, consisting of a somewhat lengthy discussion of the S 10 Standard Technique. In this article, we have tried to answer the questions most asked us by individuals attempting to start plastination.

We will publish one issue of this journal in January and one in July of 1987. Those of you who are now members will remain in good standing for all of 1987 and will receive both issues.

A simple list of members is also included in this issue. By the time the next one is ready we should have the questionnaire broken down into more detailed information and be able to include more than just names and addresses.

This is a very precarious time in the development of this organization. Like any neonate, we have a higher risk of failure than those with even a little bit of history.

Our needs at the time of this writing are formidable. For example, we need:

1. more members. Dues collected to date will just about cover the printing of stationery and the publication and mailing of two issues of the journal.
2. more manuscripts. Members and others are invited to submit manuscripts of good, practical articles on plastination and related subjects. Diagrams are welcome but halftone illustrations may prove too expensive for our limited budget.
3. sponsorship and advertising copy from industry. If you know of someone who would like to reach many plastinators with little effort, please recommend that they advertise their products or services in the journal.
4. suggestions for enhancing our potential for survival and improving our services.
5. active participation by all members.

Most of you who returned the questionnaires indicated that general meetings should be held every two years. In keeping with this preference, I have scheduled the next (4th) International Conference on Plastination for March 21 through March 25, 1988. Since we have no planning committee (as yet), we will hold this first meeting here in Macon. Succeeding biennial meetings should be held at other locations, preferably coordinated by a host institution at which plastination is being performed. In keeping with our international orientation, the next one ought to be held outside the United States. Anyone like to volunteer?

Please mark your calendars!!!!

4th International Conference on Plastination
Monday, March 21 through Friday, March 25, 1988
Macon, Georgia, USA

This time is unusually good for a meeting in Macon since we will be right in the middle of the Cherry Blossom Festival. I have reserved a block of rooms at the Hilton which is downtown, in the very center of festival activity -- amidst our 70,000 cherry trees, all of which (with nature's cooperation) will be in bloom. Truly spectacular! I am including a brochure on the festival with the mailing of this issue. Other mailings will follow.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Harmon Bickley
Editor (interim) and
Executive Director (pro tem)