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BY BILL HAGGARD
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Electron microscope

Taking a much closer look

"The scanning electron microscope creates public interest because people can relate to the surface of an object they know," John Brumbaugh, UNL professor of zoology, said Tuesday.

Brumbaugh said the university has had a transmission electron microscope for some time, but the scanning electron microscope arrived last June.

With a scanning electron microscope it's possible to look at the surface of objects, Brumbaugh said, while the transmission microscope looks at thin slices of internal structure.

Costs \$60,000

The new microscope, manufactured by Cambridge, cost about \$60,000, he said. It is in Bessey Hall.

The microscope sees with electrons instead of visible light rays, Brumbaugh said. The shorter wavelengths allow you to see smaller objects than possible with visible light, he added.

The electrons are emitted from a gun, focused with electromagnetic lenses and go through a scanning coil similar to the scanning coil in a television tube, Brumbaugh said.

Reads electrons

Then the electrons are scanned

across the specimen. Those that bounce off are collected and read out on a modified television screen, he said.

"It's possible to see a three-dimensional view of the object," Brumbaugh said, "and to see the architecture of anything you can think of."

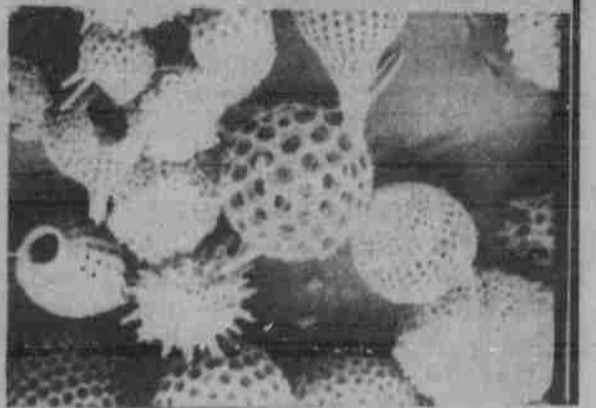
The microscope requires training for use, whether it is personalized or classroom instruction, Brumbaugh said. Graduate students or advanced undergraduates who have been trained are allowed to use the microscope. Kit Lee is the chief technician, Brumbaugh added.

UNL up-to-date

The scanning electron microscope brings the university up to date and gives it the capability of doing modern research, Brumbaugh said.

"It allows the university to compete in teaching and research with its sister institutions," he added.

Brumbaugh said the microscope can also benefit the community. Other agencies may use the microscope, and it also has many industrial uses in quality control, he added.



Above: Radiolaria, magnified about 240 times. Kit Lee, technician for the Electron Microscope Lab, operates the microscope, below.

UNL teacher inspects POW camps

By John Kalkowski

David Forsythe, associate professor of political science, had his share of high adventure when he visited Africa last summer as a consultant to the all-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), based in Geneva, Switzerland.

One of the major responsibilities of the ICRC is the supervision of detention facilities for prisoners of war, political prisoners and "administrative detainees" throughout the world, Forsythe said.

With a committee observer, he took a seven-hour jeep trip deep into the bush country of Zaire, formerly Belgian Congo, to check the conditions of Portuguese civilians being held there by the National Liberation Front for Angola.

"We started the trip on highways, then dirt roads and finally into the bush itself," he said. "My back felt those bumps for a week."

Forsythe also survived a plane crash on a primitive landing strip in Mozambique.

Research fellowship

He said he first became inter-

ested in the ICRC while working on a dissertation in the Middle East.

"Everywhere I toured, I found references to the ICRC," he said.

In 1972, Forsythe received a research fellowship from the United States government to do a private academic study of the ICRC.

"The ICRC decided that I would be useful and I became a part of the international committee as a consultant," he said.

Forsythe explained that the ICRC is only one group in a larger group, the League of the Red Cross Societies. The American Red Cross, the Bulgarian Red Cross and all other Red Cross groups are members of the League of Red Cross Societies, he said.

The Swiss committee received 75 per cent of its operating budget from the Swiss government, Forsythe said. The rest of its budget comes from other governments.

According to Forsythe, most of the remaining 25 per cent is from Western governments. About one per cent of the ICRC budget is from Marxist governments, he said.

Most reports not public

Forsythe said most ICRC reports

are not made public.

"This is the price of getting into the countries," he said. "Entrance to the countries is by voluntary permission from the governments and they expect the committee to be discreet."

According to Forsythe, each report done by the ICRC concerning political prisoners is given to each of the countries involved.

"Either country can publish the report, but only if they publish the entire report and don't lift out paragraphs favorable to their country," he said.

The ICRC helped with the exchange of the Arab and Israeli prisoners of war after the 1966 war. The ICRC also helped to reunite families in Israeli-occupied territories and help guarantee that Arab students in Israeli-occupied areas could attend Arab universities.

Forsythe said his experiences with the ICRC have helped him provide up-to-date topics for his political science classes.

"We talk about today's problems as they are, and not in abstract terms," he said.

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