

OPTICAL SOCIETY

ROCHESTER SECTION

ROSA News

February 2012

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Mari de Wit
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Cisca Sugiro

2012 Membership Renewal Process:

It's time to renew your Rochester OSA membership! We have recently updated our website <http://www.osarochester.org/> and improved our on-line membership renewal process. One of the benefits of the new system is that your contact information will be saved for future years.

Click here if you would like to register and renew your 2012 ROSA membership online:

<http://www.osarochester.org/membershipform.html>

By signing up now you will be registered for the entire 2012 calendar year. Payment options include online payment and mailing a check. Please refer to the following the step-by-step instructions:

- 1.) Browse to www.osarochester.org/membershipform.html
- 2.) Choose your membership level (Individual 1-year, 5-year, etc...), and click "Next."
- 3.) Fill out your e-mail address and click "Next."
- 4.) Fill out your contact information and click "Next."
- 5.) Click "Confirm and proceed with payment"
- 6.) Click "Pay Online" to pay via credit card, or send a check to the address below. Payments by check may delay membership activation by 7-10 business days.

OSA Rochester Section
Attn: Membership Application
150 State Street
Rochester, NY 14614

- 7.) After paying, you're finished. Thank you, you will receive a confirmation when your membership has been activated.

A Bit of History ... by Mari de Wit

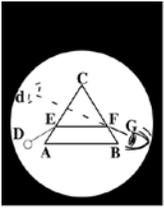
This month's spotlight is on Charles Edward Kenneth Mees who served as our local ROSA president in 1922. C. E. K. Mees was born on May 26, 1882. He was Eastman Kodak's first director of research. In 1918, Dr. Mees wrote a letter to George Eastman about a critical situation facing American chemistry. War had shut off Germany as a supplier of synthetic organic reagents, and the only American source was a small laboratory at the University of Illinois. Dr. Mees said, "The continuance of effective research in pure organic chemistry is largely dependent upon the establishment of a satisfactory source of synthetic organic reagents. No such source is at present in sight.... Unless something is done immediately, organic research will languish...." He proposed establishing a nonprofit department of synthetic chemistry as part of the Eastman Kodak Research Laboratory. Mr. Eastman simply noted "Approved." This was the one word that launched Kodak into the chemistry business.

Charles Edward Kenneth Mees
May 26, 1882 - August 15, 1960



Dr. C. E. K. Mees, circa 1912

Served as OSA-RS president: 1922



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Some curious bits of info regarding Dr. Mees...

Famous Quote: "If cows didn't like mustard we couldn't go to the movies."

This quote is from C. E. K. Mees, the great 20th Century film emulsion expert, a fascinating man (how many people have a crater on the moon named after them?). Apparently Dr. Mees noted that gelatin made from cows that ate hot tasting plants yielded better quality, giving the films a higher sensitivity.

C. E. K. Mees Medal: This award was established in 1961 in memory of C. E. K. Mees, who contributed preeminently to the development of scientific photography. It is presented biennially to a recipient who exemplifies the thought that "optics transcends all boundaries," interdisciplinary and international alike.



Interesting historical fact: <http://www.trivia-library.com/b/story-behind-inventors-and-inventions-color-film.htm>

Mees Observatory: The University of Rochester has an astronomical observatory named after Dr. Mees located in Bristol, New York. For more information: <http://www.pas.rochester.edu/urpas/page/mees> and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C. E. K. Mees Observatory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C._E._K._Mees_Observatory).

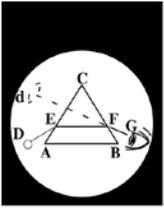
9 Sep 1953: Presentation dinner for Dr. Mees (left to right, 3rd standing) for his 2nd Gold Medal from the Royal Photographic Society



Short Biography:

- See <http://rsbm.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/7/172.full.pdf+html?sid=f4edfd04-33b1-4b3c-8e1c-b11deb4557ac> for a very detailed biography.
- In 1912 the Eastman Kodak company acquired Wratten and Wainwright Co. because they were interested in the skills Mees provided. He moved to the United States and set up the Kodak Research Laboratories in Rochester, New York, and became the first director.
- Later he was named vice president in charge of Research and Development for Eastman-Kodak, and remained at that position until he retired in 1955.
- International Photography Hall of Fame inductee





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Links/Papers:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenneth_Mees
- http://image.eastmanhouse.org/files/GEH_1961_10_01.pdf
- http://www.iphf.org/Hall_Of_Fame/Inducties_Bios/Dr_C_E_Kenneth_Mees_Bio.html
- <http://www.croydoncameraclub.org.uk/ClubArchiveHome/ClubArchiveMees/MeesOrbituary/MeesOrbituary.htm>
- http://www.croydoncameraclub.org.uk/ClubArchiveHome/ClubArchiveHistory2000/ClubArchiveHistory2000_041.htm
- Book: Some Photographic Aspects of Sound Recording (<http://journal.smpte.org/content/24/4/285.abstract>)
- Book: The Path of Science. 1946 (<http://www.archive.org/details/pathofscience00mees>)
- 1920: Book: "The Organization of Industrial Scientific Research," reporting a survey of the National Research Council, which counted 462 US companies with 9350 workers engaged in research.
- A 1100-page tome compiled by the legendary director of Kodak's research section; also the guy who hired "God & Man" (Leopold Godowsky, Jr. and Leopold Mannes) to invent Kodachrome.