



Criminalistics Section – 2004

B45 Dr. McCrone's Teaching Methods in Forensic Microscopy, Their Nature, History, and Durability

Gary L. Laughlin, PhD, McCrone Research Institute, 28205 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL*

The microscopy teaching activities of Walter C. McCrone started long before the McCrone Research Institute (McRI) was incorporated as a not-for-profit research institute in Chicago. McCrone obtained his first microscopy training at Cornell University, with Emile Monnin Chamot, and was shortly thereafter appointed a full instructor in chemical microscopy before obtaining his PhD in 1941. After leaving Cornell, he had classes at the Armour Research Foundation (now Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute - IITRI) from 1942-1956 and founded McRI in 1960.

The course and student totals from Dr. McCrone's educational activities are impressive. As of January 1, 2002, the cumulative for McRI (1942-2002) is 2,130 courses for 22,557 students. There has been an average of 600 students in an average of 60 classes for the last several years. Nearly all of the courses contain one week of intensive hands-on microscopy training with usually only one instructor for the entire duration of the class, making it a unique teaching experience for both student and instructor.

Thousands of students have successfully completed at least one of Dr. McCrone's specialized forensic microscopy (trace evidence) courses and the number will steadily increase as a result of McRI's continued efforts to interest forensic investigators in microscopy.

Dr. McCrone, Microscopy, Teaching