

# Maurice STIASSNIE

An unrecognized French microscope maker,  
Heir and descendant of XIX Century microscope manufacturers

Alain BERJONVAL

## Introduction

Owners of some microscopes manufactured by Maurice Stiasnie may well be surprised by the real absence of articles and information related to this optician who exercised his activity from the end of the 19th Century until the first half of the 20th Century. This prompted me to write this brief monograph.

## History

It's maybe necessary to explain the creation of the firm Maurice Stiasnie in 1882 by his family links and his relationship which united him to Constant VERICK, his father-in-law.

In fact, Constant VERICK, optician, served his apprenticeship with the title of "Special pupil" with the manufacturer of microscopes Edmund HARTNACK, nephew himself of Georges OBERHAEUSER, (1798-1868), a well known optician and microscope maker of the 19th Century.

Edmund HARTNACK (1826-1891), was a Prussian microscope manufacturer who learned his craft in Berlin. In 1857, he joined the instrument factory of his uncle Georges OBERHAEUSER, based on 21, place Dauphine in Paris where they set up a partnership named "Oberhaeuser & Hartnack" from 1857 until 1860. In 1860, he created his own company "Hartnack & Co, Paris and Potsdam" which was always based in 21, Place Dauphine in Paris as well as in 39, WaisenStrasse in Potsdam from 1857 until 1860.



He was one of the best opticians of his generation and a distinguished microscope maker of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, with a reputation for high quality products. A similar microscope of his, Statif VIII, has been depicted by Albert EDELFFELT's in his painting dated 1885, showing Louis PASTEUR at work in his laboratory. The French-Prussian conflict (1870 war), forced him to leave Paris in 1870 to manage the Potsdam factory.

Constant VERICK, after the departure of his mentor Edmund HARTNACK, took over in 1870 a workshop specializing in the manufacture of microscopes (L'atelier DEPENNE), located in 2, rue de la Parcheminerie, Paris. (From 1870 till 1885)

So, Maurice STIASSNIE, by means of his family relationship with Constant VERICK was in this way, the heir of this family of microscope makers of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.



## Some models of production

Here are some extracts of the 1905 catalog showing the microscopes manufactured at the time with photos of earlier Stiasnie microscope models (1900), until the later models C. 1920 & 1930.

1320271

M 9963

Médailles d'Or aux Expositions Universelles de Paris 1889-1900

**MAISON VÉRICK**

— 000 —

**MAURICE STIASSNIE**

OPTICIEN

SUCCESSEUR DE VÉRICK (c. 1882)

Officier de l'Instruction publique, Chevalier du Mérite Agricole

Fournisseur de l'Institut Pasteur  
de la Faculté des Sciences, du Collège de France, de l'École de Hautes Études  
de la Faculté de Médecine, de l'École de Pharmacie, de l'Assistance publique  
des Ministres de l'Instruction publique, des Colonies, du Commerce  
de la Guerre et de la Marine, des Lycées et Collèges, des Hôpitaux civils et militaires  
des principales Facultés françaises et étrangères, etc.

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**MICROSCOPES**

ET

**APPAREILS ACCESSOIRES**

pour les Études micrographiques

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**Catalogue descriptif et Prix Courant**

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204, Boulevard Raspail, PARIS (14<sup>e</sup> Arr)  
Anciennement : 43, Rue des Écoles, 43

TÉLÉPHONE 705-79	MÉTROPOLITAIN, STATIONS	EDGAR-QUINET RASPAIL
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(c. 1905)



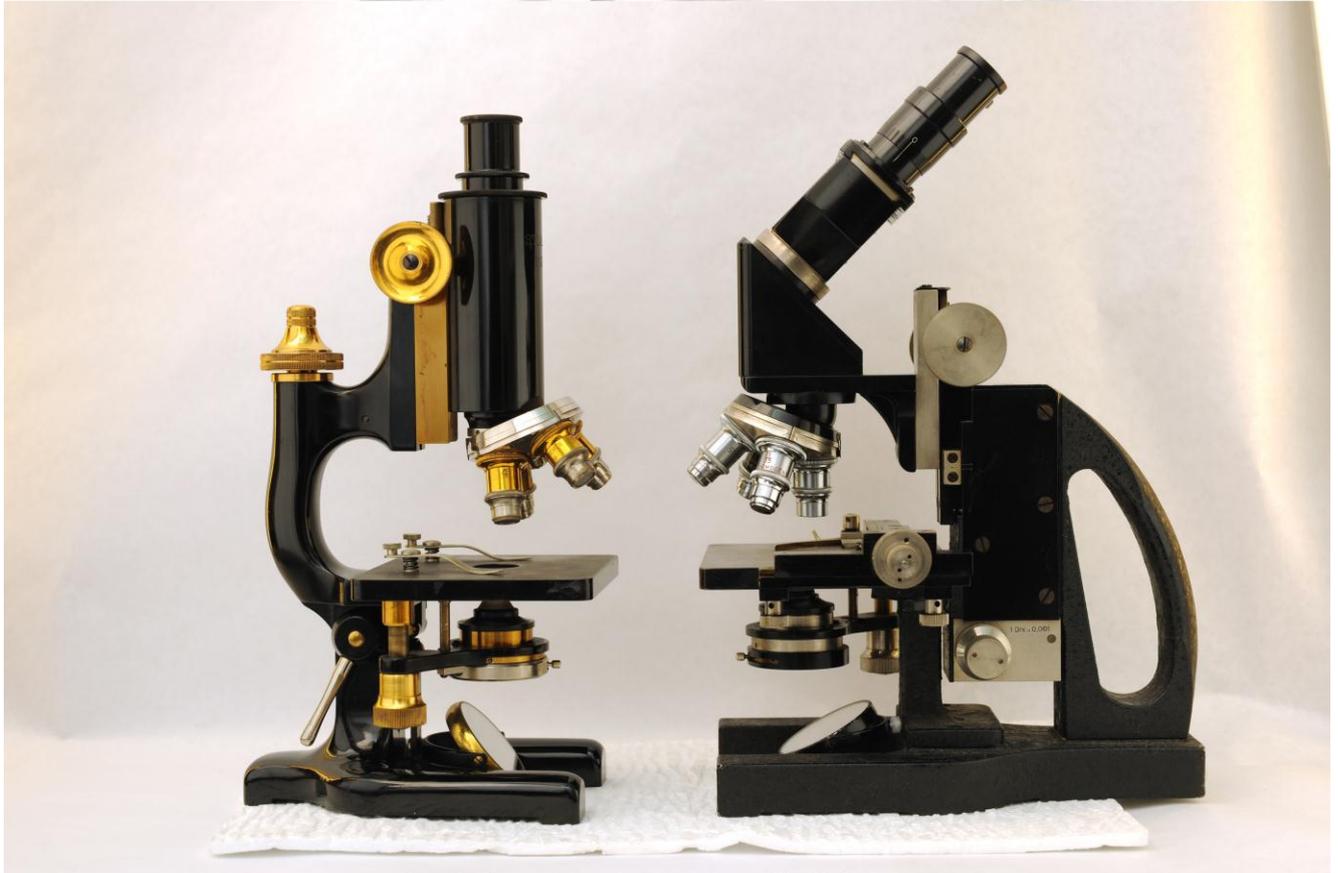
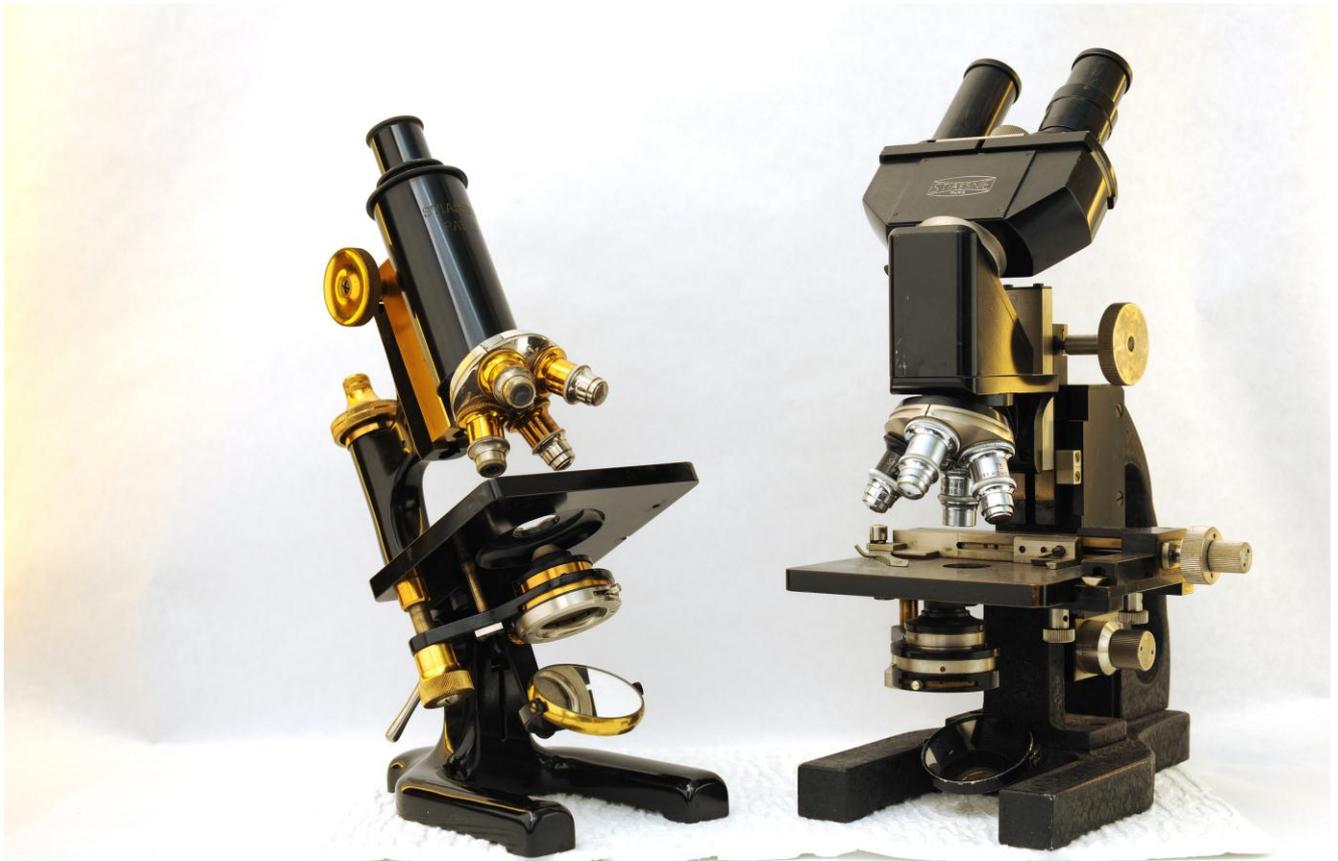
**Stiasnie-Verick**  
*Earlier Models C.1900*

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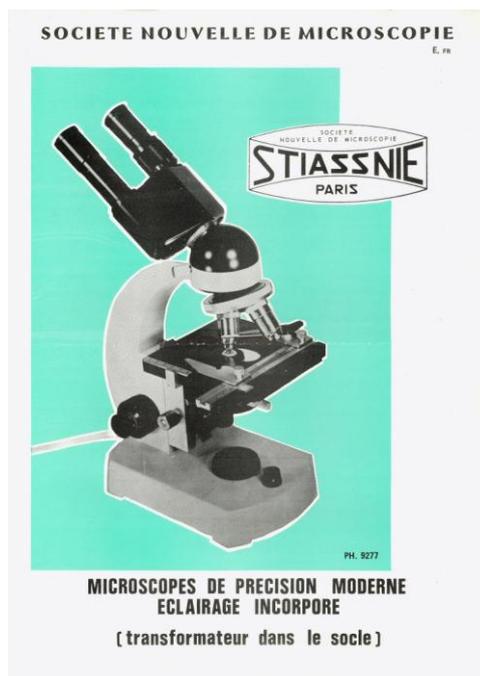
***Maurice Stiasnie microscopes Circa 1920***

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**Maurice Stiasnie microscopes C. 1930 and later**

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## References

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CNAM (2010) – Catalogue et prix courant des « Microscopes et appareils accessoires pour les études micrographiques », Auteur : Stiasnie Maurice

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All comments to the author : [alain.berjonval@orange.fr](mailto:alain.berjonval@orange.fr) are welcome

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