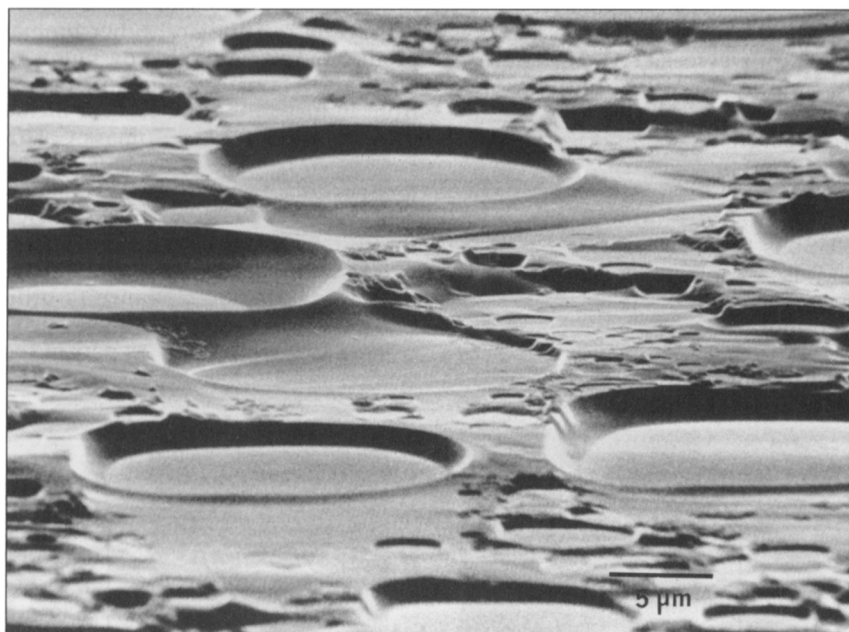


Figures appearing in the EDITOR'S CHOICE are those arising from materials research which strike the editor's fancy as being aesthetically appealing and eye-catching. No further criteria are applied and none should be assumed. When taken out of context, such figures often evoke images beyond and unrelated to the original meaning. Submissions of candidate figures are welcome and should include a complete source citation, a photocopy of the report in which it appears (or will appear), and a reproduction-quality original drawing or photograph of the figure in question.



While browsing the pages of the *Journal of Applied Physics*, Volume 73 to be precise, one encounters the above scarred landscape a tad past page 4937. To an explorer-adventurer, it would certainly suggest the austere beauty of lunarlike terrain. An environmentalist or run-of-the-mill cynic might see the festering backyard of an abandoned chemical plant. But we romantics see the bittersweet aftermath of the parting of kindred elements which had theretofore enjoyed a perfectly smooth relationship. The pockmarked surface resulted from Arsenic, a relatively high vapor pressure, flighty, and often venomous element, abandoning its mate, Gallium, a more down-to-earth type which won't even boil until pushed to nearly 2000° Celsius. Bereft of Arsenic, the Gallium lies strewn in mournful puddles across an (001) crystal facet. Of course, desertion is not new to our fluent friend Gallium. Its very etymological parentage has over the years been coldly misattributed to *Gallia* where its origin in the Hautes-Pyrénées and the place of its discovery (Cognac) and its isolation (Paris) lay. Despite the association with an admittedly romantic locale, its true namesake and father-discoverer, Emile-Paul (*dit* François) Lecoq de Boisbaudran, is thus consigned to ignominy.* It is no wonder then that authors T.D. Lowes and M. Zinke-Allmang of the University of Western Ontario decided to put poor Gallium out of its misery in a bath of nitric acid, thus revealing the pictured smooth-bottomed vestiges of a compound that once was but alas is no more. The authors defend their arguably humane solution by noting that we may rotate this month's EDITOR'S CHOICE by 180 degrees to see, where there had been pits, an illusion of mesas that evokes a feeling of renewal and growth rather than tragic loss. We have tried this and feel much better now.

*Gall(us), Latin for "cock," is, of course, also the meaning of *Le coq*.

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