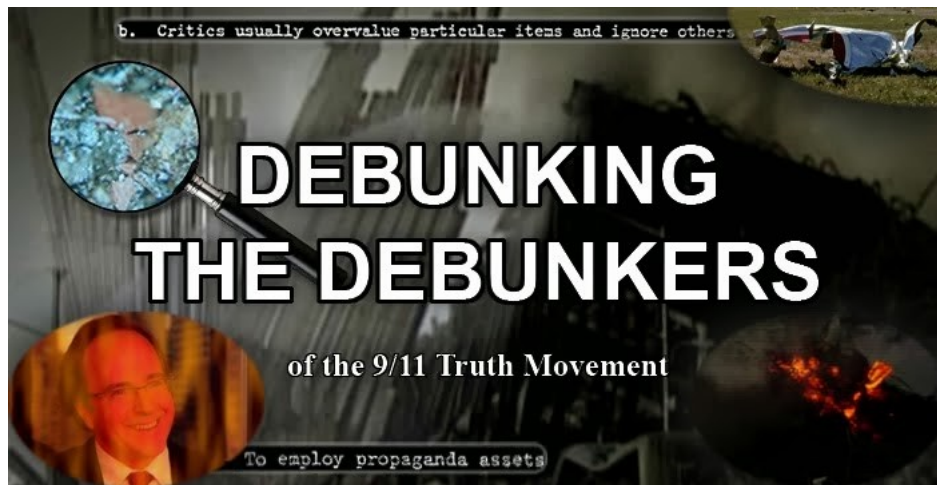




"Debunking the Debunkers" Claims About "Fraudulent Steel-Wool Experiment" are Based on a LIE. So Much for 9/11 "Truth"

By Dave Thomas

May 2014 (Some links may no longer be active. Try the Wayback Machine at Archive.org)

One Ziggi Zugam of the "Debunking the Debunkers" blog has repeatedly attacked the supposedly ["fraudulent steel wool experiment"](#) I have [posted on YouTube](#).

Background: After soliciting some soundbites from JREF members regarding iron-rich microspheres and thermite, I posted the first version of a YouTube Video about making iron-rich microspheres by burning steel wool, on October 19th, 2011. The **8min 22sec-long video** was [announced on JREF](#), and posted on [YouTube](#).

On the next day, October 20th, 2011, JREF's Oystein [posted some critical comments on the video](#), specifically regarding the incorrect description of the steel-wool-produced microspheres as 'pure iron' (6:23 in the video), and an incorrect assertion that WTC office fires were *hotter* than a BIC lighter's flame (7:47 in the video).

While critical of parts of the video, Oystein gave the overall conclusion good marks:

Your conclusion is of course correct: Iron-rich spheres are not indicative of exotic high-tech incendiaries and malicious intent, but can be produced under quite mundane conditions and are not as such proof of anything.

I acknowledged Oystein's comments within the hour, and deleted the video that same morning, as verified by Oystein himself at [11:05 am](#).

Pro-truther JREF commenter MirageMemories approved of the video's removal, saying [Well that is good news. Nice to know Dave has some integrity. MM](#)

A couple of weeks later, on November 10th, 2011, I posted a **revised, 1min 54sec-long** version of the steel wool video on [JREF](#) and on [YouTube](#). The segments Oystein had criticized were **removed**, as was about 78% of the content of the first video. A JREF commenter quickly observed that [the claim that](#)

[has been refuted is that thermite is the only possible source of iron-rich microspheres](#), and Oystein himself responded to this comment with an approving "[Yep](#)".

If I had simply re-posted the "same old video" which Oystein had so strongly criticized just a few weeks before, his reaction would have been outright anger, and not a satisfied "Yep."

Zugam and "Debunking the Debunkers" discuss the steel wool/iron-rich microsphere video [here](#). The Problem on this page is that Zugam explicitly declares

But Oystein was too quick to assume that the JREF forum could live up to the standard of true skeptics, and MM was too quick to congratulate Dave for having integrity, because Dave Thomas ***re-posted the same old video again a couple of weeks later, without retracting any claims.***

Zugam's claim that I "***re-posted the same old video again a couple of weeks later, without retracting any claims***" is an obvious LIE.

For Zugam to be telling the truth, a 1:54 video would have to be 8:22 in length, and that is clearly impossible.

Zugam's false statement that I re-posted the "same old video" is the very core of his accusations of "fraud" on my part, making this not just a Lie, but a *malicious* Lie.

After discovering how severely Zugam has lied about my revised steel wool video, I can no longer entertain a respectful dialogue with him, and will not respond further to him until Zugam publicly admits his fabrications, and deletes them from his website, and anywhere else that echoed it.

In the meantime, everyone should treat every single article on "Debunking the Debunkers" as suspect. If this blog's writers can not tell the Truth about something as simple as the length and content of a YouTube video, why should anyone believe any statement on the entire site?

UPDATE

On 28 May 2014, Zugam posted [yet another diatribe on Debunking the Debunkers](#).

One important point is obvious: Zugam has not apologized for his severe misrepresentations, but has instead ***altered the original page so as to make his mis-statements less obvious, without making any distinction as to what was originally there, what has been added, etc.*** If he honestly felt he was telling the truth, why did he not preserve his original text, a screen capture of which appears below (from May 19th, 2014), and explain why I was wrong to accuse Zugam of lying?? Instead, he has *altered the text*, with no clear indication of what was changed. His attempt at revisionist history is a very lame attempt at covering his tracks.

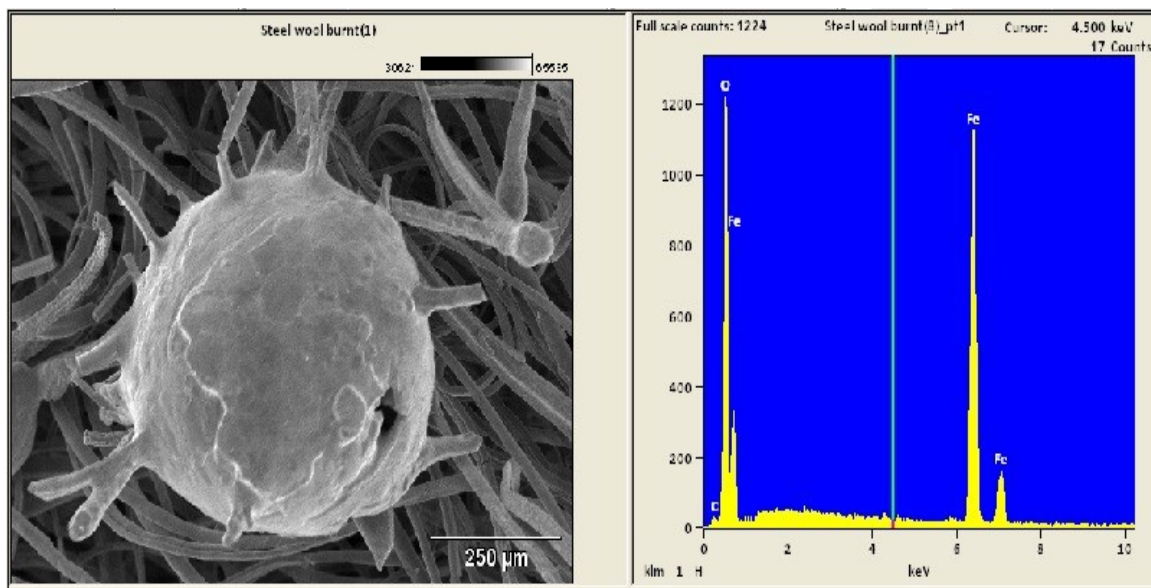
and "the difference between rational debate and stupidity. We listen to good criticism and listen to correct our mistakes" And MM replied, "Nice to know Dave has some integrity." <http://forums.randi.org/showpost.php?p=7688677&postcount=54>

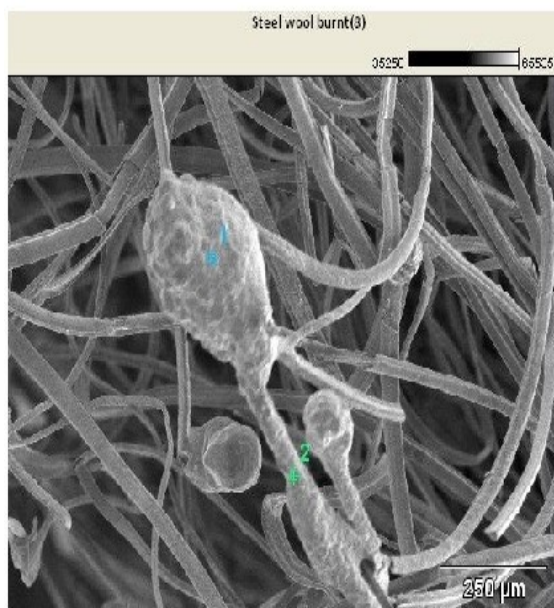
But Oystein was too quick to assume that the JREF forum could live up to the standard of true skeptics, and MM was too quick to congratulate Dave for having integrity, because Dave Thomas re-posted the same old video again a couple of weeks later, without retracting any claims: <http://forums.randi.org/showpost.php?p=7750048&postcount=74>

None of Dave's fellow "debunkers" on the JREF forum had a problem with that, and in 2014, Dave and friends continue to advertize the video and pretend to know nothing about the controversy. And that says

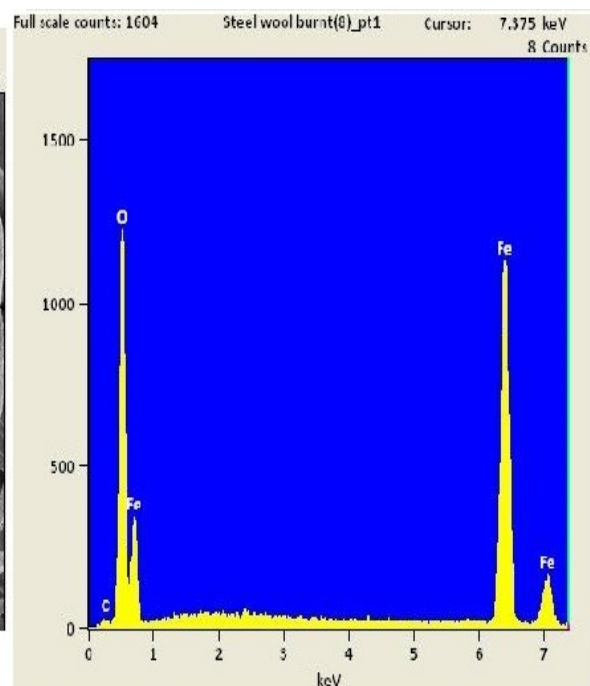
The short version: Zugam said I "re-posted the same old video," when I clearly hadn't. His failure to own up to that simple fact has me marveling at how truly Orwellian the word "Truther" is.

For the record, I still contend that burning the steel wool did indeed produce **iron-rich microspheres**. I have no problem with the fact that the iron might be in the form of iron oxide. If Zugam thinks my iron-rich microspheres "don't count" because of their oxygen content, then he should immediately contact Harrit, et. al., and inform them that **their own "iron-rich microspheres" ARE ALSO IRON OXIDES!** These images from my experiments, and from the Bentham Open paper **prove this point!** If the WTC spheres were themselves pure iron, they would *not* exhibit the large Oxygen spike in Harrit's XEDS spectrum.

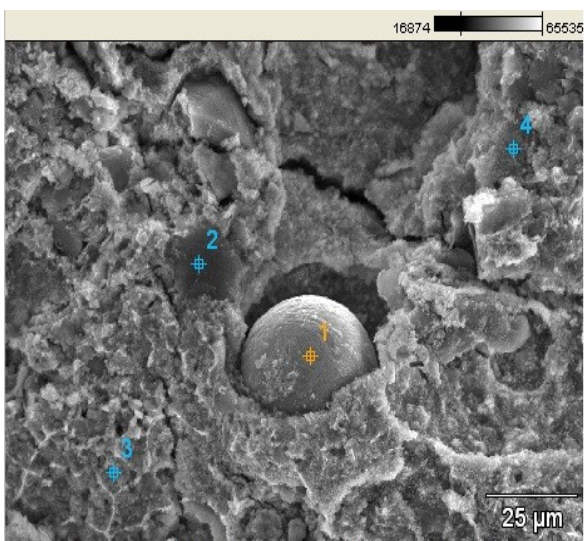




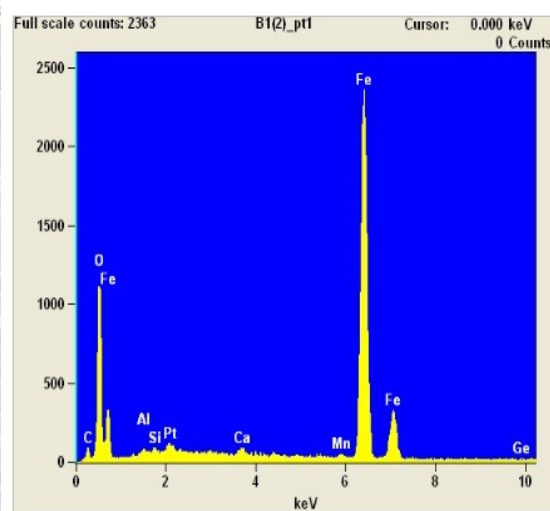
Spheroids extracted from burning steel wool.



XEDS from a spheroid extracted from the burned steel wool at left (point 1).



Sphere extracted from a painted beam after it was burned in a wood fire.



XEDS spectrum from the sphere at left (pt. 1).

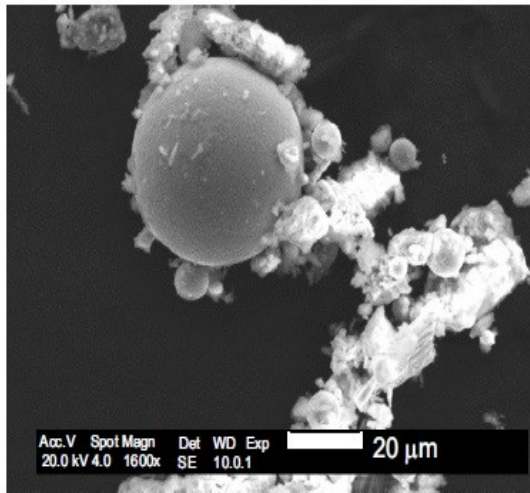


Fig. (27). Spheres extracted from WTC dust.

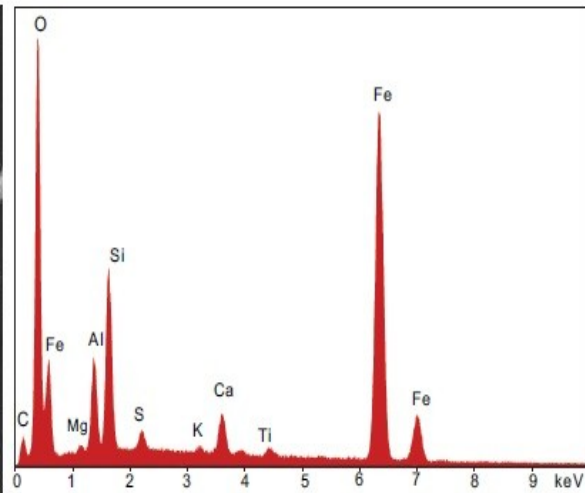


Fig. (28). XEDS spectrum from a sphere found in the WTC dust.

Somebody tell Zugam that my microspheres are just as iron-rich as Harrit's. I have nothing further to say to him.

I am continuing to learn about thermite, what produces iron-rich microspheres, and so forth. I no longer think that the "thermodynamic size effect" *itself* likely accounts for the microspheres from steel wool; they are most likely due to direct combustion. I think the production of iron-rich microspheres by burning painted beams is the more relevant experiment, and I stand by it.

I am now taking a second look at whether or not the excess of iron-rich microspheres in WTC dust might indeed be the results of thermitic reactions. Truthers AND Mainstreamers, you should prepare to have your socks blown off.