

The PHSC E-MAIL

Volume 11-8, Supplement to Photographic Canadiana, December 2011
The Photographic Historical Society of Canada

Wednesday, December 21st, 2011...

YOUR FAVORITE PROGRAM SHOW & TELL NITE



RETURNS FOR THE DECEMBER MEETING

Dig out that mystery box or photographic thingamabob and try to stump the gathered members as to what it is. It can be unusual, stange or rare. It makes for a very entertaining evening.



We will also be staging a SILENT AUCTION SALE

So get ready to bid for some bargains

We will auction off donations to the Society that have accumulated over the year. If you wish to donate anything to the Society please contact President Clint at 416 919-9617 OR fair@phsc.ca.



AND DON'T FORGET THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

We will hold our Annual Christmas Party with the exchange of gifts. Remember to bring a wrapped photographic gift (worth about \$15) to put under the Christmas tree, otherwise you won't qualify to participate in the gift swapping. Appropriate refreshments served.



Meetings in the Gold Room, (basement) of the North York Central Library, at 5120 Yonge Street.

Handy TTC Subway stop and plenty of underground parking.

NOT A MEMBER OF THE PHSC? THEN JOIN CANADA'S BEST PHOTO HISTORY SOCIETY. A GREAT BARGAIN FOR MEETINGS, AUCTIONS, FAIRS, AND PUBLICATIONS – ONLY \$35.00.

PHSC Monthly Meetings

are held on the third Wednesday from September to June in the Gold Room, of Memorial Hall in the basement of the North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St., North York, Ontario. The meeting officially begins at 8:00 p.m. but is preceded by a Buy & Sell and social gathering from 7:00 p.m. onwards. For information contact the PHSC or Program Chairman Scott Rickard at srickard@persona.ca

Programming Schedule:

December 21st, 2011

-Its the SHOW & TELL NITE for our December meeting. Included is a mini silent auction and the Christmas Gift Exchange. Bring a wrapped gift.

January 18th, 2012

-Roy Ramsay of Markham will be our guest speaker for this first program of the year. As editor of Canada Outdoor Photography Roy will be talking about his favorite subject – outdoor photography in Canada.

February 15th, 2012

-David L. Jentz of Indiana will enlighten us on the cameras used during the conquest of Mount Everest with emphasis on the Retina camera. He spoke at PhotoHistory XV.

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Robert A. Carter – Webmaster

Toronto Notes

Reported by Robert Carter

— OUR NEXT MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON DECEMBER 21ST, 2011

THE OCTOBER MEETING

Two long-time Hamilton/Burlington area professional photographers, Tom Bochsler and Bob Chambers brought their show to the PHSC meeting on Wednesday, October 19th. Their show titled "115 (actually 116) Years Of Photography, And Still Having Fun" is about, well so many different things. Basically, a broad overview of their multi-faceted careers, mostly showing dramatic images and accompanied by "much description of same and fielding many interesting comments and questions" from the members of the PHSC.

Tom's career began in Hamilton photographing with a 4x5 Speed Graphic. Electronic flash was the next phase, that is, until the ubiquitous Hasselblad became his workhorse. Tom's social and press photography evolved into the commercial and industrial photography that became his specialty. At the time, industry photography was "dirty, dark and dangerous." His partner is Bob Chambers. Bob took a summer job as a darkroom flunky and "assistant" photographer at *The Welland Tribune*. It was a summer job that lasted 31 years! He did work mainly at the *Hamilton Spectator* as a newspaper photographer and in 1988, Bob started his own business in Burlington doing advertising and industrial photography. In this final 18 years of his career, Bob's client assignments took him to every province and all three oceans.

The talk this evening started with reminiscences by Bob Chambers. Bob started with a first photo of a train taken with a Kodak Pony on Kodachrome way back in 1955. In the course of his talk, he demonstrated his wicked sense of humour. The first series of pictures

showed what can be done with a single light source. Bob showed an eye-popping little girl obviously delighted to be snapped.

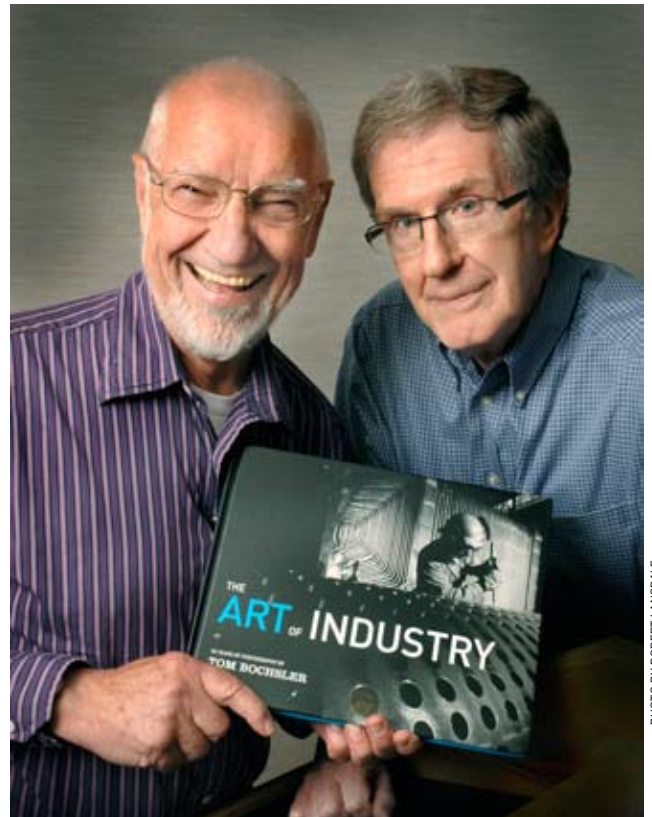
He talked about his skill to shoot some scenes such as the ice boat enthusiasts. Then he casually explained the photograph. Turns out the boats look no different whether sailing or, as in this shot, at rest. The choice of position gives a distinct sense of motion in the static shot.

Another newspaper shot of a fireman busily attacking an early morning fire looks somber - until Bob mentions the sign (soft ice cream - hot waffles) which is so appropriate for the scene. A second shot shows some apparently topless boating enthusiasts waiting at the dock. The boat's name "Ship Of Fools" with its pair of drooping "O"s says it all - and no, the girls aren't topless. They have a front "bib" that is supported at the neck and hidden by the girls' hair.

The next slides show that the picture doesn't always tell the story - at least at first glance. The old Japanese veteran seems to be signaling victory, or maybe telling of tale of a battle - until it is explained that he is stating he had two girls in this town during the war. The next shot, "Squeeze Left" bought a chuckle with the obviously curvy young lady on the left. That is, until Bob deadpanned that he only took the shot to show that

a word was mis-spelt. The audience howled when they realized the word was spelled as "Squeeze" (without the "u").

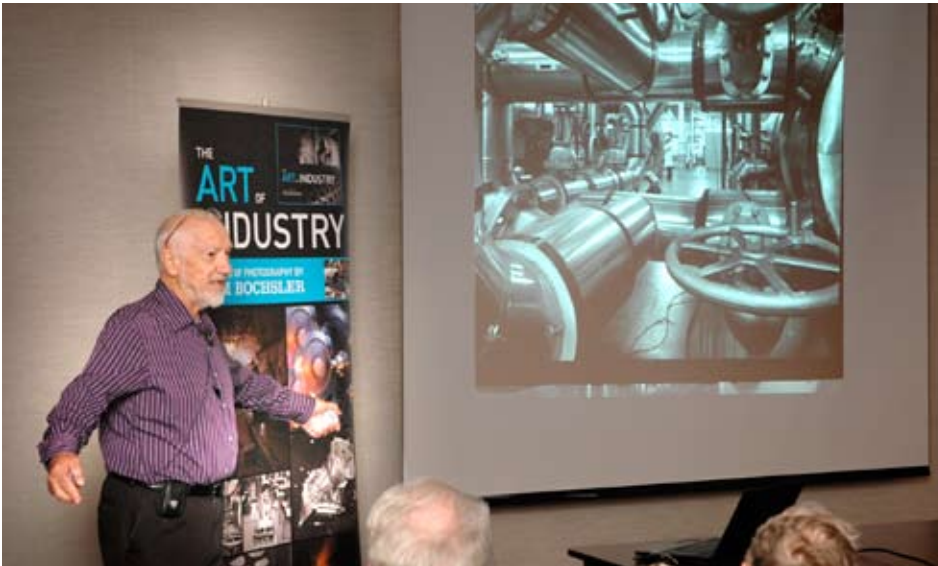
Bob went on to show a series of shots using mirrors to confuse the eye as to the number of subjects. I found these two were of



TOM BOCHSLER and BOB CHAMBERS

particular interest. In the first, a girl wrapped herself around a mirror at a plaza. The mirror made her appear like a large part was missing. According to Bob, the main problem was waiting for other mall patrons to walk out of camera range. This picture set up the audience for the next shot. When Bob asked how many models we saw, we all saw one plus a mirror. Then he explained there were actually two models - twins - and a plain frame that made the eye think there was a mirror.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Bob went on the discuss multiple-light sources before turning the lectern over to Tom Bochsler (Tom spoke to us back in May 2006, four years before his book “The Art of Industry” was released.)

Tonight Tom went over a few of the photographs in his history, choosing some old and some new. His photograph of the Nuclear Research Facility of the AEC at Pinewa, Manitoba shows the use of remote arms to manipulate the radioactive materials. His tripod even had special booties so it could be quickly reused without a laborious cleaning and decontamination. And he photographed these pipes at the Douglas Point Nuclear reactor to show how complex the facility can be. And this one at the AEC Turbine Hall, New Brunswick Power, which shows the huge size and clean beauty of the nuclear industry in converting steam to electrical power. Photography of electric power also included this picture of the DC to AC high voltage converter used by the AEC at Dorsey station in Manitoba. The massive rectifiers convert the efficient DC current sent down from the Nelson River to the less efficient 60 cycle AC power connected to the familiar Manitoba power grid.

A company called the Valley City Manufacturing company in Dundas was established in 1884 to make the early telephone boxes - the old magneto sets. From that

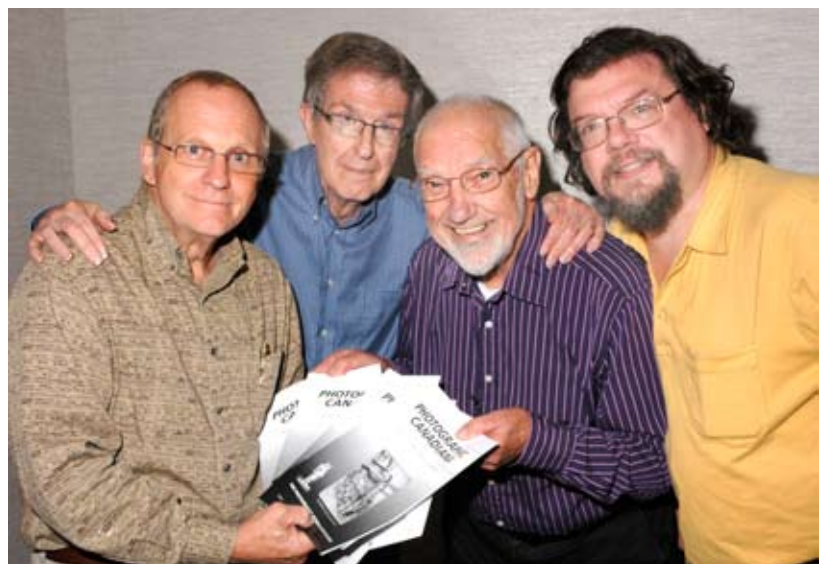
beginning, the company evolved into a company making special furniture for the church, lab, court house and office, etc. Here Tom shows a craftsman carefully sculpting some church related carvings.

Many of Tom’s signature shots were taken at the Hamilton steel companies. An example is this shot of the electric furnaces at Slater Steel. Tom mentions that he was waiting for the shot on the left when the nearer furnace seemed ready to pour. He quickly climbed a nearby crane access ladder and snapped the other furnace before the smoke began to billow making a much better shot than the planned photograph of the other furnace which began belching smoke, obscuring some of the display.

This massive orange gizmo is a “steel mill bridge crane” ready to be stripped down and shipped from the Bridge & Tank company in Hamilton. Tom described how he took this exposure over a period of hours by himself with the help of the company staff on site that evening. Both Tom and Bob were involved in photography at Slater Industries in Sorel Quebec, a plant that once manufactured cannon barrels. Here they managed to shoot a dramatic shot of the massive 400 ton Mesta Press in operation.

Tom shows this huge Timberjack Skidder made in Woodstock, Ontario for the forestry industry. The photograph shows the good housekeeping and safety so important in today’s industries. After a few more slides, his presentation wrapped up with his daughter’s silhouette of the progress of the photographer - with the chimp added to reflect retirement.

If you want to see the other photographs Tom discussed tonight, be sure to buy his nearly 200 page colour and black and white hard cover book “The Art of Industry - 50 years of photography”. A vigorous Q&A session followed the show and gave the audience the opportunity to hear how these two photographers turned 116 years into such a great success.



Rickard, Chambers, Bochsler and Hryhorijiw pose for their photographs.

PHOTO BY ROBERT LANSDALE

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Shannon Perry is a member of Library and Archives Canada in Gatineau Hills, Quebec. She holds a Masters degree in Photographic Preservation and Collections Management from Ryerson and GEH. Shannon is interested in the 19th century Canadian photographic industry and will begin working towards a PhD in Canadian Photographic History at De Montfort University in Leicester, England this fall.

Shannon's talk tonight touched on a period that is unfamiliar to most of us. These are the recently discovered selection of World War II (WWII) colour photographs. Many people are unaware that colour film existed before WW2. Kodachrome was released in 1935 for 16mm movies and a year later for 35mm slide film. By the early 1940s there was a version of Ektachrome available for use as sheet film and for aerial photography.

Shannon explained that the Library and Archives (LAC) collection has about 30 million photographic items which are a mixture of private and government acquisitions. Of this volume only a small portion is searchable online and even less have a digitized image attached to the description.

In 2008, the LAC was the recipient of over 900 thousand photographic items from the Canadian Forces Joint Imagery Centre (CFJIC) which was the old DND Photographic unit. The photographs were a mix of B&W and colour dating from WWII to the late 1990s. An inquiry to the CFJIC suggested the colour component of the transfer was a minuscule roll or so of colour. Surprisingly, the colour images totalled far more than the single roll suggested. In this talk, Shannon selects less than a hundred of those photographs to discuss. All those

discussed can be pulled up on line at the LAC site and inspected or printed.

The images are from the "Canadian Film and Photo Unit" which was formed in 1941 under the command of Captain William Abell of Winnipeg, and staffed by



SHANNON PERRY

enlisted Canadians. Their goal was to capture Canadian military personnel in action for the DND, primarily for public relations use.

Records show that by the end of WWII, fifty-nine Canadian photographers and cameramen had been involved in combat operations in Europe with six of them killed and eighteen wounded. Shannon showed a few of the



images in both B&W and colour so we could see the dramatic impact colour had on the subjects. She explained that no effort was made to correct the colour balance or exposure of the photographs. Hence, some are beautiful while others are struggling to show the benefits of colour.

The LAC site offers this summary of the colour photographs: "Colour transparencies from the Canadian Army, with the assigned prefix ZK. The images date from the later days of WWII through Korea, and peace time. Most of the images are staged and/or public relations opportunities such as parades, formal dignitary visits, etc.

"The ZK series WWII coverage includes Canadian troops in France, Holland, Germany and Italy, as well as bases and training in Canada. It also includes portraits of notable military figures, CWAC in Europe and Canada, and images of post D-Day landing in Normandy photographed by Canadian Film and Photo Unit member Ken Bell."

The late Ken Bell spoke to the PHSC back in March of 1986. Some of his work was discussed by Robert Lansdale in the June 2004 E-Mail Newsletter. Bob recalls that Ken Bell always preferred using the Rollei 2 1/4 square twin lens camera for his journalism photography.

A selection of the images are shown on the PHSC web site while all can be seen on the LAC web site by calling up the "ZK" number.

After a very interesting overview of the selected WWII images Shannon hosted a very active Q&A session before wrapping up her presentation which can be seen on a video created by Ed Warner.

-RC

PHOTOGRAPHIC CANADIANA Volume 37 No. 3

We've got an exclusive story in our present issue of *Photographic Canadiana*. The question is: What was George Eastman doing in Newfoundland in 1906 and 1910?

George Eastman was a very private individual and didn't like to expose his personal life. In his biographies the writers tell of his vacation to Africa and to summer American retreats, but nothing has ever been told of his trips to Canada or to the independent country (at the time) of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Turns out he visited Canada quite often and the list is long. Quebec – 1912 and 1915; Nova Scotia – 1901 and 1910; British Columbia – 1919, 1921, 1922, 1925 and 1930; Newfoundland and Labrador – 1906 and 1910; and others.

Well, our sleuth Edith Cuerrier has the whole story and she has pictures to boot. She's from Paradise, Newfoundland and loves to tell the story. The full thesis is only in this issue of *Photographic Canadiana*.

On the other hand, I've always wanted to visit the Library and Archives Archives in Ottawa to peruse the special finds that their archivists have found over the years. What treasures do you think can be found there? Well, we start off a new column in this issue to bring you the inside scoop on what the archivists, themselves, cherish out all their finds. This time it is something from the Gold Rush in Dawson City, NWT.

Have we found another portrait of Eli J. Palmer? This fascination with Toronto's first long-staying photographer (arrived in 1849) continues and we have several items and images to add to the biographies that have enlightened readers in previous issues. You can read it ONLY in the December issue of *Photographic Canadiana*.

We save our best stories for the 20 page *PC* journal, published four times a year. It costs close to \$50 per member to publish each year but we only charge \$35.00 (\$8.75 each).

By joining now you get a free DVD containing past PHSC publications as PDF files (Vol. 1-35). We're proud to spread the word about these great stories with revealing historical facts.

Download an application from our PHSC web site. See www.phsc.ca/camera/?page_id=110. Check the menu under MEMBERSHIP or use PAYPAL for easy registry.



Library and Archives Canada Pa-186696



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There's more to this DVD as it contains all published E-Mail Newsletters, Supplementary News Sheets, Directories and Indexes in Acrobat PDF format. All text is searchable for easy research while thousands of pages and photographs are ready for reading.

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Mail to:
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Dues: - Canada \$35.00 Foreign: \$35.00 US FUNDS



FROM THE NET

With the flooding in Thailand the Nikon factory there, and two out of three Sony factories in Thailand – all of which produce DSLR cameras and lenses, have "no prospect of recovery" after being damaged in recent flooding.

Nikon's Thai factory, located in Ayutthaya, produces all of its APS-C format DSLR cameras, which account for 90% of Nikon's DSLR production, according to Yomiuri Shimbun. The factory also produces many Nikkor lenses. Last week, Nikon reported that the first floor of its factory was submerged.

Sony has two factories in the same region and both are flooded. Yomiuri Shimbun's story states that all of Sony's DSLR cameras are manufactured in Ayutthaya (whether in one or both factories is unclear), meaning all of Sony's DSLR production is now halted.

Sony USA has announced that limited quantities of the new NEX-7 camera will begin shipping to pre-order customers this month. Overall production capacity remains restrained as a result of the recent floods, but they've made significant progress recovering their manufacturing capabilities and supply chain. The company lowered its camera sales forecasts in its quarterly results published on November 2nd but said it had not yet factored-in the effects of the floods. However, its current assessment was that, taking into account the returns from its insurance policies, the cost of the flood damage would be around 25 billion yen (\$324m).

The last of the floodwaters have been pumped out of Nikon's production facilities. Following this, the Japanese camera maker stated that it has plans to resume operations in parts of its production facilities from January 2012 onward. Nikon also issued revised earnings estimates for the current fiscal year, which ends March 31, 2012. The company is currently estimating that the impact of Thai flooding will reduce its net sales

for the year by US\$830 million and reduce operating profits by US\$320 million. This can be taken as certain evidence that APS-C format DSLR cameras and many lenses will be in short supply for months.

Lytro, a Silicon Valley startup, unveiled its radical new camera-- also called the Lytro with which the company hopes to rewrite the rules with a technology called light-field photography. It's a striking industrial design for those accustomed to cameras festooned with buttons, protruding lenses,



scroll wheels, and knobs. But the biggest differences are on the inside. Conventional digital cameras use lenses to focus a subject so it's sharp on the image sensor. That means that for an in-focus part of the image, light from only one direction reaches the sensor. For light-field photography, though, light from multiple directions hits each patch of the sensor; the camera records this directional information, and after-the-shot computing converts it into something a human eye can understand. The result is that a Lytro camera image is a 3D map of whatever was photographed, and that means people can literally decide what to focus on after they've taken the photo.

Once ranked among the bluest of blue chips, Kodak shares sell today at close to \$1. Kodak's chairman has been denying that the company is contemplating a bankruptcy filing with such vehemence that many believe Chapter 11 must lurk just around the cor-

ner. The Rochester, N.Y., company said it had \$862 million in cash on hand as of Sept. 30, but at the rate it's losing money from operations (more than \$70 million a month), that hoard would barely last a year. As for future revenue, it's banking heavily on winning patent lawsuits against Apple and the maker of BlackBerry phones.

Bloomberg reports that Olympus Corporation Chairman and President Tsuyoshi Kikukawa resigned today after questions about the company's mergers and acquisitions have caused the company's value to plunge more than 50% in less than two weeks. The questions began when Olympus fired its previous president, Michael Woodford, after only six months on the job. Olympus paid a US\$687 advisory fee to two connected, now-defunct firms. The fee, worth 36% of the value of the transaction, was above the customary 1% or so for M&A advisory services.

It's time to get a Camera Table Dolly to reduce camera shake in your recordings. The dolly looks



like the skeletal frame of a race car with an extendable arm. It allows users to achieve near professional panning shots without the visible camera shake which occurs when a camera is handheld. Its wheels are also adjustable so shutterbugs can capture video in a rotation or a curve. Users can easily mount their iPhones or dSLRs via a clamp or a tripod mounted 28cm friction arm.

Assembled with thanks from reports by CNET Asia and Fastlens.

THE NEWEST PHOTOED IS OUT

Editor Felix Russo has completed the winter issue *PHOTOED* magazine in a special theme of 3-D with most images reproduced in the anaglyph format. Not to be confused with a misprinting of the colour plates, the off-centered red and green plates allows one see the images as 3-D by viewing with supplied cardboard glasses which have red and green filters to view through.



PHSC members have two articles in the issue: *The Art of Collecting* by Lorne Shields telling of his bicycle photography collection while Robert Wilson has concentrated on the history in *Stereo Images*.

Other stories include: *Magic and Murder at the Candy Factory* by Christopher Schneberger; *Terry Wilson's Phantographs* by Cece M. Scott; *Perspective on 3-D Composition* by Felix Russo and six others. The articles include both technical information as well as picture displays.

For subscriptions write to: 2100 Bloor St. West., suite 6218, Toronto, M6S 5A5.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On behalf of the PHSC Executive we would like to welcome the following new members. This is an update since March 26, 2011.

- #1394 – John Meadows, Toronto
- #1395 – Paul Markle, Toronto
- #1396 – Carol Hopp, Toronto
- #1397 – Kahlia Scott, Ottawa
- #1398 – Daniella McAllister, Ottawa
- #1399 – Bruce Cole, Thornhill
- #1400 – Jack Lough, Kitchener
- #1401 – David Devos, Cambridge
- #1402 – Bob Chambers, Burlington
- #1403 – Matthew Isenberg, Hadlyme, CT USA
- #1404 – Frank Mehlenbacher, Pittsford, NY USA
- #1405 – Rudy Michael, Toronto
- #1406 – Jerry Stevens, Toronto

In addition we also have complimentary memberships for our visiting guest speakers:

- #C-64 – Heather Morton, Toronto
- #C-65 – Amanda Rataj, Toronto
- #C-66 – Andrew Stawicki, Mississauga
- #C-67 – Shannon Perry, Almonte, Ontario.

Every year we lose a few of the old members for one reason or the other. We are sad to have them go after so many memorable years. But we continue to attract new member, not at the rate we would hope for as we are slowly reducing total yearly membership.

The Executive admonish me for making the PHSC E-Mail newsletter too good (which is FREE) and it makes it hard to sell the Journal/membership at \$35.00. Maybe I will have to reduce the E-Mail content to just a meeting notice, as it was originally intended. But then you will not hear about the other great events that we put on.

Why not buy yourself a special Christmas gift in the form of the membership in the PHSC. Its easy - just use PAYPAL on our web site.

From Our Correspondent in England

We often promote the PHSC by displaying our travelling booth at the Wootton show in Toronto or at the Sol Hadeff show in Montreal. But we have a new distance mark for the publicity committee in that we were represented at a show in England. Collectors viewed our wares and were particularly interested in joining the free newsletter and were very impressed with our journal. President Clint Hryhorijiw was our promoter and here is his description of the event:

"While visiting in-laws in Oxfordshire in England at the end of November, I had the opportunity to escape to one of Britain's largest camera fairs. The event was held in Wolverhampton, a mere 90-minute car-ride from Oxford.

"The venue for the event was the Dunstall Park Racecourse, which is fast becoming known as a location for other collectors' events, such as jewelry, pottery and antiques. Used during the season as a main event area for horse races, the facility has features that are a dream for dealers and attendees alike: plenty of free parking, no stairs and a very short walk from the loading area to the show itself.

"The very affable show organizers Russell Friend and Paul Wrede have been in charge for about three years, but the show itself has a considerably longer history, and is well-established on the UK camera fair circuit. Both Russell and Paul are dealers with decades of experience buying and selling photo gear.

"According to Russell, just under 100 tables were sold and attendance was between 350 and 400 people. I found the attendees to be extremely knowledgeable photo-enthusiasts, although, as with many fairs of this nature, I noted an aging demographic.

"Tables are a very reasonable 35 pounds (about \$56) per 6-foot table, and admission at 10am

costs 3 pounds with a 7 pound early-bird fee at 8:30am. Although the majority of people came through between 10am and noon, there was still a respectable crowd at the 2pm closing looking for last-minute bargains.

"What I was happiest to see was what typically displayed on the dealers' tables: very, very few Rochester Kodaks here, but many Zeiss Ikon items and lots and lots of budget-priced, but extremely interesting European cameras that we just



Typical table – old and new and modern.

don't see in North America. Also in attendance were numerous dealers specializing in modern digital cameras. These I found to be significantly more expensive than those in North America, due to nasty import fees. A few dealers displayed antique images, and one dealer was selling nothing but darkroom equipment. From him I purchased a US-made Pfeiffer bulk film roller for a friend back home.

"What caught my eye? A Purma-Plus complete with case, cap and metal hood – a neat square-format camera, since the shutter speed changes from slow to medium to fast as you tilt the camera from left to right. Also a nice early Paris-made Miom with a

Boyer lens. Made out of bakelite in the 1930s, this camera shows no chips or cracks. And finally a shiny Bencini Comet II, with a retractable lens. All for less than 5 pounds apiece!

"The fair is scheduled for five Sundays in 2012: February 5th,



The Dunstall Park Racecourse is ideal for dealers.



Promoters Paul Wrede and Russell Friend



An overall view of the floor

April 22nd, June 24th, October 7th and December 9th. An easy two-and-a-half hour drive from London, Wolverhampton, typical of Britain, is well-served by train and bus service. For details on the fair, check www.wolverhamptoncamerafair.co.uk"

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CLINT HRYHORJIW

Identifying a Monroe Box Camera

by Ralph London

The problem: In July 2010, I won a lot from the Eaton Lothrop Auction Part I which consisted of a Falcon Kodak and two unidentified cameras. One unidentified camera I knew to be a Blair Baby Hawk-Eye, the only reason I bid on the lot.



Monroe box (left), shown sitting on its side, and Vest Pocket Monroe No. 1.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RALPH LONDON

The other unidentified camera uses glass plates and is 3-1/4in wide, 2-1/2 high and 4-1/4 deep. The thin, brass double plateholder, which came with the camera, makes an image of 2 x 2-3/8in. The holder has the patent date May 18, 1897 stamped on each side. Each of the two control levers on the top front moves only sideways. The lever near the side edge sets the shutter, once in each direction. The lever in the center is the shutter release, and it also can choose, in a nonobvious way, instant and time exposure. The reflex finder is off-center, which means the sector shutter blocks the finder as a picture is taken. An instant exposure blocks the finder very briefly. A time exposure blocks it until the exposure is over, indicating to you the lens is still open. Except for the patent date, I have found no text or markings.

Soon, I decided the camera was probably a Monroe box camera, based mostly on the well fitting plateholder (including the patent date), which seems to be identical to plateholders found with various Monroe strut cameras. The two control levers also reminded me of those on some Monroes. The semicircular notch on the edge of the back seemed to be the same as the notch on a Vest Pocket Monroe. I had sold all of my Monroe cameras so I could not directly compare. Beyond ads for their strut and folding bed cameras, I had not seen a Monroe catalog or other relevant literature. I could find no mention of a Monroe box camera. I knew the only Monroe Camera Company catalog at the George Eastman House is dated 1899 but lists no box cameras. Otherwise, I knew of no one who has seen a Monroe catalog or knew of a Monroe box camera.

Identifying a Monroe Box Camera

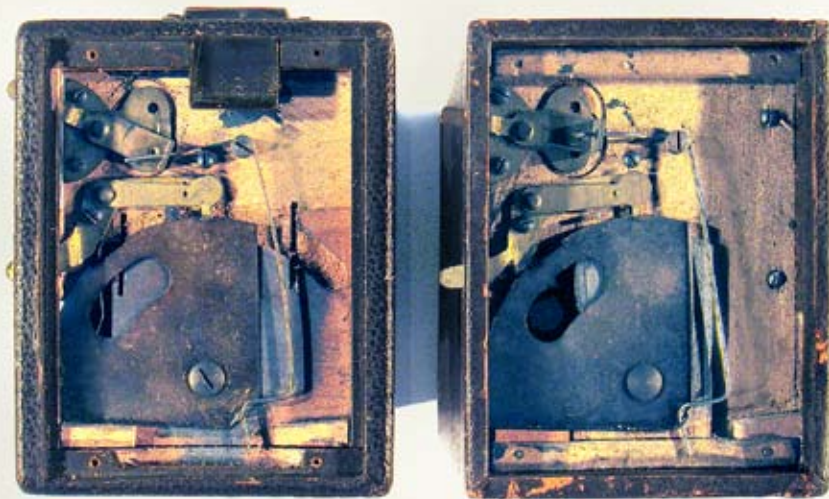
Here's where matters stood until October 2011. Several of the collectors I asked agreed that it might be a box Monroe but no one was certain. No reference material had surfaced and there was no positive identification. No other possibilities have been suggested. I believed that unfamiliarity by knowledgeable people was probably useful information. "Keep me posted," wrote one responder.

The solution: The camera is indeed a Monroe box camera, and I am unaware of another sample of a Monroe box camera. In October 2011, my wife Bobbi and I took it to Rochester, New York when we went to PhotoHistory XV so we could show it to Todd Gustavson, Curator of Technology at George Eastman House. He had checked the 1899 Monroe catalog for me and also had written, "Keep me posted."

Based mostly on the camera's size, Todd decided to retrieve a Vest Pocket Monroe No. 1, the smallest of the Monroe strut cameras. We first noted that the coverings of the two cameras are very similar, as are the semicircular notches on one edge of each back. When the strut camera is fully opened, we discovered its three dimensions are just about equal to those of the box camera.

After removing the front panels of each camera (four screws for the Vest Pocket, four nails for the box), we were amazed and delighted to see essentially identical shutters. All three of us immediately decided it was a Monroe box camera.

With the identification made, Todd then conjectured that Monroe wanted to make a box camera, also for plates, but cheaper than the strut camera. By making it the same size, they could use both the same lens that is on the strut camera and its same plateholder.



Essentially identical shutters of Vest Pocket (left) and box cameras.

The shutter construction centers the shutter release on a side of both the Vest Pocket and the box. For the box the reflex finder is on the same side as the release, pushing the finder seemingly unavoidably off-center and behind the shutter. The resulting blocking of the finder during exposure is then either an advantage or a problem. For the Vest Pocket the finder is placed on a different side with no blocking.

Personal note: Now that I know the camera's identity, I also want to believe that Eaton Lothrop must have known what it was. If he was aware that he accidentally left a puzzle for its subsequent owner, he almost certainly would have felt it would be easy to solve because he had taught us all so much. And it would have been easy, except that it unexpectedly took so long to get the two necessary Monroes in the same room. 🐞

Coming Events

WINTER CAMERAMA

Camera Show
Sunday, January 29, 2012
10.00 AM – 3.00 PM

TORONTO DON VALLEY HOTEL

(Eglinton and Don Valley Pkwy.)
1250 Eglinton Ave. East, Toronto
entrance off Wynford Ave.

Everything photographic
For table call: 905-550-7477 or e-mail:
gvperry@gmail.com

FREE PARKING IN HOTEL
UNDERGROUND LOT

Admission \$7.00

Want Ads...

For Sale

Commercial studio equipment: Linhof Studiomatic tripod- extra attachments (precision made), 4'x4' Profoto soft-box on Manfrotto dolly stand & boom, 2 Manfrotto kits for no-seam wall mounting - 4 poles, 500W spot light on boom, 500W spotlight, 2 Olesen New Reel studio floods, one heavy duty collapsible stand for flood, Linhof field tripod, Contact: R. Lansdale, 416 621-8788 or bob.lansdale@1staccess.ca

For Sale

Stock reduction. Stereo Views (5,000) sold in bundles of 50 by topic. Old Postcards (20,000), Sold by Box Lots only. Many Topics. Postcards approx 700 per Box. Derek Dalton, 705 792-0672. Email Derek@DaltonsCollectables.com

Yours For The Asking

Alan Heginbottom is downsizing and has collection of *Photographic Canadiana* that he wants rid of. He has Vol. 7 to 15 most complete; Vol. 15 (3 issues); Vol. 17 to 32 complete; Vol. 33-34 incomplete; Vol. 35 complete and Vol. 36 #1. Yours for the mailing costs. Contact Alan at heginbottom@bell.net

Wanted

Looking for a 20"x24" four-blade centering easel. Contact 519-695-5663 or larrytowel@yahoo.com

Wanted

Cash paid for collections, liquidations and estates containing cameras, lenses, photographs, documents, books, negatives etc. Call Tom for evaluation 416-888-5828.

Selling Out

I am selling all my collections. I offer the following: Lantern slides (1500+); Postcards (about 4000 for \$1400); Viewmaster reels (about 1500 for \$440); Glass negatives (c1900, New England) mainly 6x8 - Buildings, Bridges etc; Cabinet Cards; CDVs; Daguerreotypes; Tintypes. Special offer: STEREOVIEW CABINET, 3 piece KEYSTONE oak cabinet containing World Tour - #600 series. 572 stereoviews and 596 matching lantern slides each with info on card. Viewer & Booklet. \$2400. Contact: lesjones@ca.inter.net or Telephone 416 691-1555

Wanted

Well-heeled private collector will pay CASH for your photographic collections and estates. Nothing too big or too small. Contact John Kantymir at 905-371-0111 or Niagaracc@gmail.com.

Buying or Consignment

Vintage cameras wanted by experienced eBay seller. Professionally presented with pictures and description. Contact at 905-994-0515 or douglas@dugwerks.com

Wanted

Bicycle & Motorcycle photography - all related items. Contact Lorne Shields, P.O. Box 87588, 300 John St. P.O., Thornhill, ON., L3T 7R3, lorne-shields@rogers.com.

Wanted

Ed James of Elkhorn, Manitoba needs assistance in acquiring glassine 35mm negative pages (no plastic please). He still processes and uses B&W film. Contact: Ed James, P.O. Box 69, Elkhorn, Manitoba, R0M 0N0, Tel: 204-845-2630.

Web Information Available

Michael Pritchard calls attention to his web site on British Photographic History with news, links and data at <http://britishphotohistory.ning.com/>. There is an interesting story about an early British Columbian photographer Major-General Richard Clement Moody. Also visit www.earlyphotography.co.uk/ for great photos and previously unpublished information on British camera manufacturers and their products 1850 to 1950.

Information Wanted



Arni Brownstone, Assistant Curator in the Anthropology Department at the Royal Ontario Museum hopes that a member might be able to give more information about the photographer of this picture. "Marked 'Montgomery' in the lower right hand. I would say the subject is Stoney Indians in the early 1900s." Contact Arni: 416 586-5853.

For Sale

A Survey of Zeiss Microscopes 1846 - 1945; 8-1/2 x 10-7/8", 318 pgs well illustrated. *An Introduction to The Binoculars of Carl Zeiss Jena 1893-1945; 6 x 9"*, 250 pgs. Period advertising. Enquire Petra Kellers at Camerabooks in Oregon <http://www.camerabooks.com/>.

For Sale

CD ROM of *Biographical Index of Daguerreotypists in Canada 1839-1871* by Graham Garrett is available for research. Great source for earliest photo process in Canada. Available through *Archived Books* at www.archivedbooks.ca/acdb-canada.html