

The PHSC E-MAIL

Volume 2-7, Supplement to Photographic Canadiana, December 2002
The Photographic Historical Society of Canada

December 18th Meeting... you're invited to attend!

Show & Tell Nite is our annual event when members parade forth with curious, rare and resurrected photographica from their collections. There are always interesting stories connected to each item. So bring along one of your favorites and add to the evening's entertainment.



The evening includes the Christmas Gift Exchange so bring along a small wrapped gift, valued at less than \$15 which should be photographic and hopefully historical in nature. ONLY THOSE DONATING A GIFT MAY PARTICIPATE IN THIS CHRISTMAS EXCHANGE.

BEST WISHES for a MERRY CHRISTMAS

Location/Date/Times PHSC Monthly Meetings

are held on the third Wednesday from September to June in the Burgundy Room of the North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street, 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 Gerald Loban, 64 Fonthill Blvd., Unionville, Ont., L3R 1V7, (905) 477-3382.

Programming Schedule:

December 18th, 2002

-One of our favorite programs is the *SHOW & TELL NITE* combined with the Christmas Gift Exchange

January 15th, 2003

-Program to be announced.

February 19th, 2003

-Program to be announced.

March 16th, 2003 (Sunday)

-Annual PHSC Auction at the Cdn Legion Hall, 1395 Lakeshore Blvd. Registration 9am, viewing 10am and bidding starting at 1pm.

April 16th, 2003

-Annual General Meeting with announcement of new officers. Program TBA.

May 11th, 2003 (Sunday)

-Annual Spring Fair at The Coffee Time Soccer Centre, 7601 Martin Grove Rd. Woodbridge. Opens 10am.

FOR THE LATEST PROGRAM UPDATES
CHECK THE PHSC WEB SITE AT

<http://www.phsc.ca>

TO CONTACT THE PHSC VIA E-MAIL

phsc@phsc.ca

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OF THIS E-MAIL**

**FOR OTHERS TO READ OR
E-MAIL IT TO A FRIEND**

MAIL BOX MYSTERY!

By Bill Kantymir

Marg Lansdale's Book "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Darkroom" came to mind when I had my own life experience of "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The P.E.I. Ferry."

During our travels in Nova Scotia this summer, my wife and I took some extra time for sightseeing while on our way to catch the ferry to Prince Edward Island. Some strange force compelled me to take an obscure secondary road to experience the off-highway scenery. We were tootling along when suddenly we "flew by" what appeared to be one of those large studio cameras on a tripod, right there beside the roadway. I could not believe my eyes to see such a thing way out in the country side. A screech of applied brakes and backing up for a second look, soon revealed, of all things, a well constructed all-metal MAIL BOX! It was built in the form of a studio camera even with a machined brass lens. The mystery was compounded with the lack of any name on it. Curiosity got the best of me so I proceeded several hundred feet up the winding driveway to a grand stone house and other buildings. There the mystery was solved when I noticed a sign over one of the buildings reading "Sherman Hines Gallery."

I had, by that strange inner force, stumbled on the studio and home of one of Canada's icons of photography. Unfortunately for us, Sherman was away conducting a "shoot" with some photographers in Liverpool, Nova Scotia. Time did not allow me to await his return but there is always next year. If you would like to see it for yourself I can supply directions.

Its amazing where curiosity can lead you.



PHOTOS BY BILL AND HENNY KANTYMR

FUN AT THE FAIR

by Everett Roseborough

Packing up after the *Barrie Car Fair*, son Jim noticed a waste bin on the grounds, atop of which was a camera. Immediately he thought of me although, given the circumstances, I can't imagine why. Nevertheless, the object duly was deposited with me.

It consisted of a black leatherette case, encrusted in grime, which concealed the fact that aluminum paint had been spattered liberally and the catch was missing. Being open, the interior was equally filthy. It contained a *Brownie*, handleless with the top stove in, the camera cover peeling. I must confess to never before handling a more abject specimen. A damp cloth restored the 120 information and the manufacturer.

In a flash of brilliance I decided to take it to the recent Fall Fair and clumsily lettered the sign which read:

Own Something Unique!
Positively the Worst Camera
at the Fair
\$0.30
case included

The price was what I believed, no one in their right mind, would pay for it.

Much of my pleasure at the Fair was from watching the expressions as attendees wordlessly expressed disgust or indifference.

Then it happened! Just before closing an elderly lady approached. "Would you really sell it for thirty cents?" she enquired.

"Gladly," I replied.

Opening her change purse, only a few coins spilled out, so a twenty dollar bill was proffered.

"I'm sorry I don't have the change," said she.

"How much do you have?" I asked.

"Sixteen cents," said she.

"I'll take it!" I snapped.

Throwing the strap over her shoulder, off she marched.

As I recalled McKeown's definition, I smiled. Someone with a sense of humor had made my day.

— ER

Toronto Notes...

by Robert Carter

For our November meeting Stephen Bulger immediately caught our attention with a small print showing buildings and a fence in the Gaspé. This postcard-size print carries an asking price of \$35,000 US! While explaining why this particular print has such a high value, Stephen introduced us to what formulates "value" in an image.

The 1937 Gaspé image by well known photographer Paul Strand was a gift to the current owner's family from Strand in 1950. Not only is it an interesting picture, but it is the only known contact print of this image (four enlargements do exist). It is in excellent condition with one tiny chip in the emulsion and a barely visible fingerprint. A second Strand contact print is valued at \$60,000. Although a few more copies of the print exist, the image is better known. These all raise its estimated value.

Stephen compared the Gaspé image to a second Strand contact print taken in Italy in 1955 and valued at a modest \$15,000. While only four contact prints and six enlargements exist, the image is less arresting and was shot more recently in 1955. Some of the prints are mirror image.

Five factors to consider in determining value of an image:

1. Reputation of the artist (Paul Strand is considered one of the top five or ten photographers world-wide).
2. Quality of the image (choice of subject, impact on the viewer, importance to artist's career).
3. Condition of the specific copy (physical condition, technical quality)
4. Uniqueness of the image (one copy, few copies, thousands - not all photographers are as meticulous as Paul Strand).
5. Provenance (tracing ownership from the artist to the current seller - previous ownership may increase value).

In 1975, a newsletter for the photograph collector compiled a Comparative Auction Index based on 25 images that regularly come to market (the index is subdivided into categories from Daguerreotypes to late 20th century images). A formula



STEPHEN BULGER & SLIDES

was created to give a value in 1975 equal to that of the Dow Jones Index (\$815). By 2001, the Dow had reached \$9,348 while the CAI escalated to \$18,000.

In the second half of his talk, Stephen compared traditional photographers with artists whose work includes photographs. He started with Cartier-Bresson and Robert Franck (Franck uses many disciplines to express his art). Cartier-Bresson still uses the same printer as he did 30 years ago. Each of his 11 x 14 inch prints (\$3,500 - \$5,500) is embossed and signed with an ink pen.

Cartier-Bresson made lovely, descriptive images while Franck's perspective was a very sarcastic view of the United States. Today, collectors place a higher value on Franck's more challenging, more contemporary images. In addition to content differences, Cartier-Bresson continues to print his famous images while Franck has moved to other processes and is reluctant to print his older work.

Stephen touched on artist Robert Rauschenberg who in the late '50s and early '60s took photographs of performance artists as a document of the events. His photographs subsequently moved from records of an art-form to collectibles. In today's litigious atmosphere it was interesting to see the montages from the '50s and '60s that Rauschenberg and others created borrowing photos taken by well known photographers. They would add paint, cut and paste, re-photograph etc. to create a new piece of art - no thought was given to asking permission to use the photos. They were simply considered stock components of the creative process.

Our sincere thanks to Stephen for his educational insights. He can be contacted at his Stephen Bulger Gallery, 700 Queen St West, Toronto or visit his web site at www.bulgergallery.com.



Members inspect valuable art collectors' photographs shown by speaker Stephen Bulger.

PHOTOS BY ROBERT LANSDALE

Coming Events

Until January 12th, 2003, The Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography 1 Rideau Canal, Ottawa. *Ken Lum Works with Photography* is an overview of work by artist, photographer, painter, sculptor Ken Lum of Vancouver. The exhibition includes images from earlier series: Portrait Logos; Youth Portraits; Attribute Portraits; and the recent Photo-mirrors.

March 16th, 2003 (Sunday), Annual PHSC Auction at the Cdn. Legion Hall, Branch 344, 1395 Lakeshore Blvd. West. Registration of goods at 10.30am, viewing 11.30am, bidding commences at 1pm.

March 23rd, 2003 (Sunday), Location for the Toronto International Camera Show is still at Thornhill Community Centre as renovations have been put off for a year. The show will be at 7755 Bayview Ave., Thornhill, Ont. 10am to 3pm. For information contact suewooten@hotmail.com or (705) 857-2659.

May 11th, 2003 (Sunday), Annual PHSC Spring Fair will be at The Coffee Time Soccer Centre, 7601 Martin Grove Rd. Woodbridge. Opens 10am. Treat your mother and family as it is Mothers Day too! For table registration contact Mark Singer, (905) 762-9031 or string@outer-net.com

Advertisements

Members are invited to submit one free advertisement to the classified section of each issue, limit 50 words, used at the editor's discretion.

Wanted

Rollfilm back for 120 film to fit a Kodak Recomar Model 18. Must be in working order and useable condition. Call Sarah at (416) 964-9671

Information Wanted

Need for research – data and photo samples (cdv's) by Alfred Boisseau of Montreal (1863–). Benjamin Baltzly took over his studio at 372 Notre Dame St. but was burned out in 1870. Photos of that location also desired. Wish to check continuance

FROM THE 'NET

Reports from the *British Journal of Photography* (<http://www.bjphoto.co.uk/>) bring forth the following:

Pretec, a California flash disk manufacturer, announced it will introduce CompactFlash cards holding up to 3GB of data –that's a major breakthrough in memory card capacity –three times the current maximum capacity. The company debuted a 1.5GB Type II

Also gaining attention is Delkin Devices with high speed memory cards, claiming they are the fastest on the market. Designed for use in high-end digital SLR cameras, the eFilm Pro CompactFlash cards will be available in capacities up to 640MB. The solid state devices are optimised for sustained high speed data transfer of up to 3.6MB/s in digital SLRs, using Delkin's technology.

Mamiya will offer two new ultra-wide-angle lenses next year. First previewed at Photokina, the lenses are designed for Mamiya's medium format film cameras, but are likely to be of equal interest to those shooting with a digital back.

of studio props/backgrounds into Baltzly photos. Information/xeroxes to Robert Wilson at (416) 928-0271 or rgwils@sympatico.ca

For Sale

Mamiya 645 AF body with AF 80mm F2.8 lens, 120/220 dual film back, mint condition, only 12 rolls used. Contact M. Robinson (519) 343-2201

Wanted

Need instruction manual or a photocopy for the Vivitar-Auto Thyristor Flash, model 5600. Info to Ed James, P.O. Box 69, Elkhorn, Manitoba, R0M 0N0 or phone (204) 845-2630.

Wanted for Research

Searching for photographs and films of Stanley Barracks at the Toronto CNE grounds. Particularly interested in images from the 1914-17 period showing activities within the fort garrison itself. Contact Ross Bobak at canadacampcom@yahoo.com

The first model, a 43mm f/4.5 aspheric lens made for the RZ67 II camera, provides an angle of view of 92°, and comes with a slip-on hood. Equivalent to a 25mm focal length when used with a 24x36mm sized CCD, the lens features an internal floating focusing system and minimum shooting distance of 28cm.

Hewlett-Packard launches its ground-breaking Scanjet 5500c which uses a bed of air to float photographs over the scan area, minimising the likelihood of scratches and marks by handling.

Canon launched four new digital cameras including the EOS-1D featuring a record resolution in its class of 11.1m effective pixels. The chip is the first-ever full-frame 35mm CMOS sensor. Kodak, too, claims its DCS Pro 14n has the first 35mm size CMOS sensor with 13.89 million pixels. The camera is capable of capturing two frames per second for a full burst of up to eight frames in full resolution mode. Doubling the camera's RAM buffer (from 256MB to 512MB) increases burst depth to 18 frames.

EVEREST CAMERA

George Dunbar caught errors in our report (News Sheet Vol 28-3) on the Retina camera that recorded the conquest of Mt. Everest in May of 1953. Ralph London of the *Cascade Panorama* provided information that it is a Retina 1 type 118 with a Carl Zeiss Jena Tessar 1:3.5 50mm lens in a Compur shutter, as confirmed by David L Jentz of the Historical Society for Retina Cameras.

Jentz interviewed Sir Edmund Hillary and learned that the camera was acquired from a "second hand store" in Auckland, New Zealand a few years before his expedition up Mount Everest. It also accompanied Sir Edmund to Antarctica and the South Pole.

Further details will be forthcoming in an article by Jentz to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Sir Edmund's expedition to the top of the world.