

# The PHSC E-MAIL

Volume 3-11, Supplement to Photographic Canadiana, March 2004  
The Photographic Historical Society of Canada

## Program for Wednesday, March 17th



Peter Little of Kodak Canada is to be our featured speaker this coming March 17th bringing his insights on digital imaging. Peter's career has spanned over thirty years at Kodak Canada Inc. Having started as a sales representative for Photofinishing markets in the early 1970s; he subsequently held positions in Advertising, sponsorship, and regional sales management. For most of the last 15 years he has been the Director of Marketing for Consumer Products. This role included involvement with Kodak digital products and services by the late 1990s.

As an avid amateur photographer, Peter has switched his snap shooting entirely to digital. Utilizing simple software programs and all methods of printing, he has a good working knowledge of most aspects of "amateur digital imaging" and enjoys sharing

Peter Little of Kodak Canada Inc. will speak to us on digital imaging from the perspective of an amateur photographer.

tips and pictures with friends, family and more recently to a broader groups of digital newbies through a simple seminar format.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2004** is the PHSC Annual Auction so bring along all your extra gear, books and photographica to have it sold to the highest bidder. Remember to bring along lots of money too as you're sure to see bargains that you can't resist. Its at the Cdn. Legion Hall, Lakeshore Blvd. W.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES... FINAL REMINDER!

All members please pay your annual dues right away. Our membership year ends as of April 30th and if you haven't renewed by then, all benefits will cease including mailings of our journal *Photographic Canadiana*. It is particularly important to complete all data in the renewal form so that our Membership Directory for 2004/5 can be updated and made as accurate as possible. You have the option to NOT BE INCLUDED in the listings if you so wish.

If you are not a member, now is the time to join and share your interests with a group of fellow collectors. Need an application or renewal form? Then go to [www.phsc.ca/Renewal.pdf](http://www.phsc.ca/Renewal.pdf)

## 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 Clint Hryhorijiw, 68 Waterford Dr., Toronto, ON, M9R 2N6, Phone (416) 240-1927.

### Programming Schedule:

#### March 14th, 2004, Sunday

-The PHSC Annual Auction at the Cdn. Legion Hall, 1395 Lakeshore Blvd. West. Registration 10:00 am, viewing 11:30 am, bidding at 12 noon.

#### March 17th, 2004

-Peter Little of Kodak Canada Inc. will speak to us on digital imaging from the perspective of an amateur.

#### April 18th, 2004, Sunday

-A SPECIAL Auction of the Sinclair Collection and donated photographic equipment at the Cdn. Legion Hall, 1395 Lakeshore Blvd. West. Viewing 11:30 am, bidding at 12 noon. Watch for special flyers.

#### April 21st, 2004,

-The speaker is to be announced. This is the Annual General Meeting at which Directors will give their reports and receive suggestions from the members.

#### May 30th, 2004

-Mark your calendars for the PHSC Spring Fair at the Coffee Time Soccer Centre in Woodbridge, Ont.

Offer your program ideas to  
Clint Hryhorijiw

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](mailto:phsc@phsc.ca)

# Sunday, March 14th is the Annual PHSC Auction



## SCENES OF ACTION and PEOPLE at THE 2003 AUCTION

You're sure to see bargains again at this year's PHSC Auction Sale so drop around at 11:30 AM for the preview - Sale begins sharp at noon.

The Photographic Historical Society of Canada



Since 1974

Vendor's Listings  
10:00 am – 11:30 am

Viewing  
11:30 am – 12:00 pm

Bidding Starts  
Noon sharp!

# ANNUAL AUCTION

Sunday  
March 14, 2004

Bidding Starts at 12:00 pm

Public Welcome to Buy or Sell  
for details call 416 243-1439

Everything photographic  
Collectible and usable cameras  
& accessories,  
darkroom equipment,  
images, books, etc.

Canadian Legion Branch 344  
Queen's Own Rifles  
1395 Lakeshore Bl West (East of Boulevard Club)  
Free Parking East of Legion Hall  
Admission \$3.00

Cash only—no cheques or credit cards!



FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION SEE OUR WEB SITE AT [WWW.PHSC.CA](http://WWW.PHSC.CA)



# OUR FEBRUARY MEETING... by Robert Carter

Proudly our Program Chairman Clint Hryhorijiw proved his metal for the February meeting when he suddenly found he did not have a speaker as arranged. From nothing, he was able to quickly scramble a meeting together by turning to the available members who had equipment and photo memorabilia on hand (and on wrist as it turned out). And what a program it proved to be. It will probably go down in memory as the famous *IMPROV Show & Tell of 2004*. Now you wonder why program chairmen turn grey!

A more complete report of the meeting with additional illustrations is available on our web site at [www.phsc.ca](http://www.phsc.ca) – as are all program reports.

Larry Boccioletti [1 & 1B] was first to parade his wares with a brand new acquisition, a c1940 tintype camera of the kind seen at carnivals, beaches and in downtown tourist areas. The rugged looking mechanism was housed in a plywood body that looked like a home-made replacement for the original. The camera includes a built-in heavy knife for cutting off the exposed plates from the roll of Japanned and sensitized tin-plate. The second item he presented was a 50+ year old Deardorff camera made in Chicago. This Standard 8 x 10 model was considered the Cadillac of the view cameras with its high quality construction, finish and features.

George Dunbar [2] happened to have with him a magazine - *Your Family History* with a lavishly illustrated article on dating family photos in the late 1800s. He also pulled out of his pocket a new Sony Cybershot camera – a 2 megapixel wonder which can record from 245 to over 1,300 pictures on a card the size of a postage stamp.

Ron Anger [3] just happened to have on his wrist his newest digital camera spotted at a contents sale in a box of watches - a Casio wrist watch/camera taking pix through the side of the case. It can store 100 images and download them via an infrared device similar to that in a Palm Pilot.

Shelton Chen [4] presented an extremely rare Nikon S with a fascinating story (next page).

Mo Patz [5] is selling some items from her late husband's collection and is down to a few personal favorites. Amongst her presentation was

George Henry Field, a ship's doctor on an Orient line running between North America and various ports in China and Japan. Field was an amateur photographer and one album contained his ship-board photos of the sailors at work and play.



an unusual Simmon Omega super press camera (rebadged Koni-Omega 200) with 3 flash heads.

Les Jones [6] displayed a collection from antique shops he visited while on a leisurely drive to Ottawa. He found a daguerreotype for \$12; also managed to find a rare glass stereo shot of Niagara Falls by Babbitt.

Clint Hryhorijiw [7] wrapped-up with three unusual albums of Asian images (mostly Japanese) from the late 1800s from the family of

# FINDING A NIKON DUMMY is like finding a needle in a haystack!



by Shelton Chen

Most have seen me at PHSC meetings and fairs and are aware of the collectible cameras that I buy and sell. This story is about how I obtained an extremely rare Nikon Rangefinder S display dummy.

One evening in January I was searching eBay for cameras but I wasn't expecting to find anything. The search proved my feelings were right so I turned to watch TV for the evening. Suddenly my computer beeped to indicate I had received a new e-mail. My eBay Search is set to alert me when new postings for Nikon Rangefinder items show up. Past experience has shown that they are usually overpriced and not worth looking at. But this time I decided to check it out as the TV was boring.

The header read "Nikon S 5cm f1.4 display." It didn't ring any major bells but logging onto the site I read:

**You are bidding on a special very limited production Nikon S rangefinder camera with Nikkor 5cm f1.4 Lens. This camera and lens were factory made for high end camera stores in the 1950s in order to be able to display the Nikon S model rangefinder camera. This is strictly a collection item not for use (no shutter). Nikon Factory Display Only model.**

There was a "BUY IT NOW" label for \$395 US which I thought was a bit high, but thinking I might salvage spare parts to upgrade other cameras, I took the chance and bought it.

When the camera arrived I did not know what to make of it. Was it a genuine Nikon S or an elaborate hoax? I wondered why there was no shutter or

even a rangefinder. I finally noticed the engraving on the bottom that said "Display Model." I grabbed for my reference book by friend Robert Rotoloni



Nikon S Rangefinder display model with 5cm f1.4



Nikon interior lacks shutter & details



Base is marked "DISPLAY MODEL"

entitled *Nikon Rangefinder Cameras* and found the section on *Display Dummy Nikons*. There's lots on the Nikon S2 but very little on the S model.

It reads:

**Nikon Kogaku has supplied display, or 'Dummy' cameras to dealers for many years. The earliest known example is a Nikon S camera No. 6108988 with a chrome 1.4 Nikkor No. 337311 which is also a dummy. At this time it is the only example of a Dummy Nikon S seen by the author but more may be found.**

Picking up my new purchase I checked and found, lo and behold, it is the exact Nikon S that Robert described in the book – all the numbers match. I sent off a query and pictures to Robert and eagerly awaited his reply. His answer confirmed that it was the same camera that he had written about so many years ago. What a great memory he has because he

even recalled that the inside serial number was milled out and the rewind knob was missing. It all matched exactly. Standard parts were used off the assembly line but shortcuts were taken like screw heads being glued on and plain glass added as long as it was cosmetically accurate.

I asked Robert how much he thought it was worth. With his dry humour he replied "about \$50!" Since then Christie's has shown interest in selling it for me. As of now we know that there probably were three of these cameras made. As for the true value of the camera that has yet to be determined. Should I keep it or should I sell it?

Additional information from the Robert Rotoloni book:

**This casting was taken through all production steps... No shutter curtains are present nor any rangefinder parts. Only a plain front glass is used on the windows and eyepiece and the rangefinder cam is also missing. The focussing wheel does not move but it is not coupled to the mount although this mount also moves, as on standard cameras. The wind and rewind levers also work but they are not connected to anything. The shutter release button and synchro dial are frozen but the A-R collar does rotate. The slow speed dial will rotate but the high speed dial is frozen in place, therefore many externals do operate while others do not. The camera back is removed in exactly the same way and has a functional back lock. However, in most cases there is no pressure plate on the back... The body covering appears identical except in one case where it has a more coarse and cheaper feel to it. All of the above make the Dummy S appear to be a production camera until closely inspected, and one can see that, as a display item it appears to be quite real. The lens supplied with the camera was always the 5cm f1.4 Nikkor which also possessed regular production serial numbers. The lens has a front glass that appears real but no other elements are present. The diaphragm ring is frozen and no blades are used in these lenses.**

## REFERENCE:

Nikon Rangefinder Cameras -Robert Rotoloni, Hove Foto Books, Hove UK, 1983.  
Web site for the Nikon Historical Society:  
<http://www.nikonhs.org/>



## Coming Events

**January 24 to April 25, 2004,** Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, 1 Rideau Canal, Ottawa. Check [www.cmcp.gallery.ca](http://www.cmcp.gallery.ca). A survey exhibition by Nell Tenhaaf – **FIT/UNFIT** with multi-media to engage the viewer. An exceptional slide installation by Christine Davis – *Tlön or How I held in my hands a vast methodical fragment of an unknown planet's entire history*.

**March 6 to June 20, 2004,** The Market Gallery, 95 Front St. East, Toronto is exhibiting *The Provincial Asylums in Toronto & Mimico – Reflections on Social and Architectural History* through photos and art.

**Sunday, March 14, 2004, The PHSC Annual Auction** at the Cdn. Legion Hall, 1395 Lakeshore Blvd. West. Registration 10:00 am, viewing 11:30 am, bidding at 12 noon.

**Sunday, March 21, 2004, The Toronto International Camera Show** is still located at the Thornhill Community Centre, 7755 Bayview Ave, at John St. 10 am to 3 pm. \$7.00 entry fee.

**Sunday, April 18, 2004, A Special Auction of the Sinclair Collection** and donated photographic equipment at the Canadian Legion Hall, 1395 Lakeshore Blvd. West. Viewing starts 11:30 am, bidding at 12 noon. No consignments.

**April 24, 2004, The MiPHS Annual Richard G. Burns Memorial Lecture, Dinner & Silent Auction.** Daguerreotype demonstration and lecture by PHSC's Mike Robinson – check details at [www.miphs.org](http://www.miphs.org)

**Friday, May 7, 2004.** Christie's Auction Gallery at South Kensington, London, has a Magic Lanterns, Optical Toys and Cameras auction. Previewing on days prior to auction. Combine with the PCCGB Fair below.

**ERRATUM: Sunday, May 9, 2004,** is the correct date to attend the **20th Annual Intern'l Collectors Fair** of The Photo Collectors' Club of GB, Royal Hort. Society's Lawrence Hall, Greycoat St., off Rochester Row, Westminster, London.

## AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 4th WORLDWIDE PINHOLE PHOTOGRAPHY DAY

Sunday, APRIL 25, 2004 has been designated Pinhole Photography Day and everyone taking a pinhole photo is invited to scan the image and upload it to the website at [www.pinhole.org](http://www.pinhole.org). Last year, 1082 participants from 42 countries contributed images to the 2003 Gallery. Over 70 events - workshops, exhibits, lectures, etc. were held throughout the world –all were coordinated by volunteers. If you would like to help further this effort, please contact [paolo@pinholeday.org](mailto:paolo@pinholeday.org). If you'd like to organize an event, such as a workshop, lecture or photo "shoot," add it to the events calendar at [www.pinhole.org/events](http://www.pinhole.org/events) or contact [events@pinholeday.org](mailto:events@pinholeday.org). Teachers please enter your class' participation with a virtual gallery exhibit at <http://www.pinhole.org/events/addevent.php>.

Already Stan White has organized his Koni Omega with a pinhole aperture. He is planning to take infrared photos on the big day and has worked out an exposure to bright sunlight of 5 minutes through an 88A filter on infrared film. He's got his fingers crossed that it WILL be a sunny day. We hope so too.

**REMEMBER! THAT'S SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2004**

**ERRATUM: June 1, 2004,** If visiting Europe then take in the famous **Bièvres Photo Fair** at Bièvres (near Paris, France). Check for details at [www.foirephoto-bievre.com/english.htm](http://www.foirephoto-bievre.com/english.htm)

## 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

Graflex Historic Quarterly is looking for Graflex users and collectors who are interested in subscribing to their newsletter. Send a self addressed envelope to receive a free sample. Write Ken Metcalf, 94 White Thorn Dr., Alexander, NC., 28701.

### Wanted

Advice from other members to master the Plaubel Makina Folding bellows 2x3 camera. Looking for 35mm roll film holder, 100mm f4.5 lens, lens caps, filters and accessories. Write to Tom Difiglio, 61 High St., Armonk, N.Y., 10504 or call (914) 273-8483.

### Wanted

Stan White is looking for poems that have been published with themes on old photographers or photography. Send Xerox copies to S. White, P.O. Box 833, 7 Scott Ave., St. George, Ont., N0E 1N0 or [stanon@sympati-co.ca](mailto:stanon@sympati-co.ca)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members into our midst. May they enjoy the sharing of mutual interests with their fellow collectors. Marie-Josée Poulin of Montreal, PQ; Mike H. Symons of Victoria, BC; and Norma Sanders of Toronto, ON. Hope to see you all at some of our events.

## THE NEXT PHOTOGRAPHIC CANADIANA IS ON ITS WAY

The March/April 2004 issue of *Photographic Canadiana* is almost in the mails. The 16 page issue will prove to be quite entertaining with stories about the Krügener Simplex twin lens reflex camera of 1889; the Great Toronto Fire of 1904 which marks its 100th anniversary on April 19th and of the Luck & Scandal in Niagara as it concerns a recently discovered daguerreotype portrait.

A survey of *Photographica World* readers indicates that the 1940-1960 period receives the greatest interest with 28%. Possibly that is due to collecting interests following more readily available cameras at reasonable prices. PW and our own PC journal would like to hear from those specializing in the post-war era to share some results of their research.