

# The PHSC E-MAIL

Volume 4-1, Supplement to Photographic Canadiana, May 2004  
The Photographic Historical Society of Canada

## CHANGE OF LOCATION

### SPECIAL MEETING at The Ryerson Gallery

80 Spadina Avenue, suite 305, Toronto (north of King St. on west side)  
7:00 PM to 9:30 PM – artist's comments at 8.00 PM

### Wednesday, May 19th Meeting

Our President Mike Robinson will host a special unveiling of an exhibition of over 50 of his modern Daguerreotypes at the Ryerson Gallery in Toronto. This is Mike's first solo show *History in the Making: Contemporary Daguerreotypes*. Note that this is a different location than usual – 80 Spadina Ave., suite 305.

Mike has gained a well earned international reputation for his skills and artfulness in making modern daguerreotype images and is called upon regularly to give lectures, demonstrations and workshops in the United States and Canada. His high standing in early photographic processes sees him as a teacher at Ryerson University.

Be sure to visit the Ryerson Gallery by **Saturday, May 15th** to witness the exhibit: *Securing the Shadow: 19th Century Daguerreian Treasures* consisting of selected images from the Howard and Carole Tanenbaum Collection. Mr. Tanenbaum is one



MIKE ROBINSON



of our own PHSC members who specializes in antique images. The two exhibitions, together, offer a rare opportunity for Toronto area residents to gain insights to the art produced by this unique photo process.

The exhibitions have been organized by students in the "Curation and Preservation" course at the School of Image Arts, Ryerson University, under the direction of Susanne Jeffery. Gallery hours are: Wed. to Sat. 12:00-5:00 PM.

#### LATEST NEWS

**WARNING – LAST CHANCE:** to be in the PHSC Directory. **Renew** membership now, **Update** the data for correct listings or **JOIN** right away. We will publish this summer.



#### 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:

##### May 19th, 2004

—CHANGE OF LOCATION—

-Mike Robinson previews his solo exhibition of modern daguerreotypes at the Ryerson Gallery, 80 Spadina Ave., Suite 305, 7:00pm.

##### May 30th, 2004

-Mark your calendars for the annual PHSC Spring Fair at The Soccer Centre, 7601 Martin Grove Rd., in Woodbridge, Ont. 10 AM til 3 PM

##### June 16th, 2004

-Program to be announced

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)**

## OUR APRIL MEETING *by Robert Carter*

Seven years ago, Jorge DaSilva joined Henry's in Toronto where he currently is the Dean of their School of Imaging. Jorge based his talk on his half-day seminar called the "Digital SLR & Scanning Primer."

When deciding what camera or scanner you wish to purchase, understanding the claims made by digital camera manufacturers can be a dizzying experience. Jorge put us through a fast-paced lecture, hitting the broader issues in selecting digital cameras, including the buzz-words and their significance.

**Engines.** Consider the digital camera as a tool with two 'engines' – a camera engine, with the traditional controls for exposure/focus/focal length, and a digital image processing engine consisting of the image sensor /CPU /software /memory /display. Briefly, the sensor replaces the film, the CPU & software translate the signals from the sensor and control the camera functions, the memory stores the images captured by the sensor, and the display is a viewing screen. Instant feedback is a big factor in the popularity of digital technology.

Jorge compared consumer-level 'point & shoot' cameras to more expensive digital SLR (DSLR) cameras. Both categories have reached a point where the resolution (around 6 megapixels) exceeds the needs of most users. Emphasis is now usability and image quality.

**Noise & Dynamic Range.** The better image quality of the DSLRs stems partly from the use of physically larger sensors. These result in a wider dynamic range with better shadow and highlight detail combined with less noise.

**Dust.** The consumer cameras with a permanently mounted lens are sealed from dust. The DSLRs offer interchangeable lens – and direct access to the sensor by dust.

**Sensors** consist of an array of light sensitive cells. Most DSLRs use CCD or CMOS sensors that are like the autochrome plates of a century ago with a tiny colour filter over each cell (pixel). Fuji uses hexagonal cells instead of the traditional rectangular pixels allowing a 50% greater effective resolution.



Jorge DaSilva of Henry's

Another unusual sensor is the Foveon CMOS which is like the modern day tri-pack colour film. The Foveon sensor has three separate layers, each one sensitive to a different colour of light (RGB). To date, the Foveon has been adopted only by Sigma, a relatively minor player in the DSLR market.

**File Format.** Traditionally, digital cameras and scanners store images in JPEG or TIFF files. The JPEG, with lossy compression (some information is considered redundant and discarded during the compression process), creates a smaller file while the TIFF, with lossless compression, creates larger files but doesn't lose image detail or create artifacts (noise). Both formats create 8 bit

colour images – sufficient for human vision. The low end consumer cameras offer only JPEG files.

The image information from the sensor is recorded in a unique format in the camera BEFORE it is converted to a JPEG or TIFF file. This RAW format varies by manufacturer.

The information has no preprocessing of any sort applied to it in the camera. The RAW files can be read and modified only by high end programs such as Photoshop. RAW format can be read but not saved by image software and is considered the same as a film negative – not easily manipulated for unlawful purposes.

**DSLR Cameras.** A comparison of current DSLR cameras shows the efforts of manufacturers to differentiate their products by lens design, sensor size and type, operation speed, ergonomics, body construction, colour space, light sensitivity, etc. The examples shown by Jorge had sensors ranging from 4 to 6 megapixels in resolution.

**Film and Print Scanners.** Jorge wrapped up with a brief discussion of scanners - high end flat bed and the specialized negative scanners. He gave the impression that flat-bed vs. negative scanner was much like the Consumer camera vs. DSLR comparison where the dynamic range, low image noise levels, and operational speed favoured the negative scanner over the flat-bed transparency scanner.



Audience members posed questions to Jorge on cameras at end of the meeting.

PHOTOS BY ROBERT LANSDALE



# PHSC Special Auction Distributes Collectibles

## Kicking off our 30th Anniversary Celebrations

Some 225 lots of photographica from the estates of several past members were disbursed back to the collecting world during our Special Auction Sale. This event helps mark our 30th Anniversary since the Society's founding in 1974. There were bargains galore to those who recognized the prizes within the offerings.



PHOTOS BY ROBERT LANSDALE



The Auction crew who volunteered their services are commended for running a very smooth show. Work entailed sorting and identifying all items well before reaching the auction floor as well as the visible labour during the afternoon of bidding and banter. Happy faces of the winning bidders reflected their satisfaction with items. The photo at left with auctioneer Larry Boccioletti calling for bids represented the quality and variety of cine equipment offered.

### PHOTOGRAPHIC CANADIANA IS IN THE MAIL

PHSC members can look forward to receiving their next issue of *Photographic Canadiana* Vol 30-1 in the next few days. The 20 pages feature: The restoration of The Eastman View Camera No 1; the finding of a Halldorson Portable Flash-powder unit; Pinhole Day results and a Second Look at Tank processors.

### CALL FOR CONTRIBUTORS

*Encyclopedia of 19th-Century Photography* is to be published by Routledge, an imprint of Taylor & Francis, London, and the editors are seeking contributing authors from a variety of academic backgrounds, including fine arts, social history, and history of technology. The 3-volume reference will bring together information on the art and science of photog-

raphy up to 1900. The encyclopedia presents 650 main entries of 1,000-5,000 words on individuals, equipment and techniques, artistic movements and criticism, development of the commerce of photography, types of photography, and surveys on development of photography. For guidelines see: <http://www.routledge-ny.com/ncphotog/> or email to Sally Barhydt, *Routledge Ref: 19cphotog@taylorandfrancis.com*.

# A SECOND LOOK

by Robert Lansdale

The articles in *Photographic Canadiana* Vol. 29 No. 2 and No. 3 on the developing tank, which included the fact that the daylight processing tank was invented by Canadian Arthur McCurdy in Baddeck, Nova Scotia, sparked considerable inter-

est based on correspondence and extra information. We've added to the story in our May/June issue which is in the mail to members.

Lindsay Lambert of Ottawa sent copies of the Ensign Catalogue No. 9 for the United Photographic Stores Ltd. (Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver). Listed is the Standa roll film daylight developing tank (four sizes) which matches to British patent #11,162 of May 1908. The patent was issued to J.W. Meek and D.B. Thomas.

Lambert has one of these small neat tanks that require less developer than other standard tanks. The roll of film is placed into a spool box which is then slid onto a hinged door with an opening to the interior of the tank.

A plastic apron, edge-trimmed with a rubber strip, is fed into a slot in the casing-wall until it reaches the spool-box aperture. There, apron and film leader are attached to a spindle in

the center of the tank. Closing and locking the covers, knurled knobs on the side are wound to pull film and apron (together) into the central chamber. When complete, the spool box is removed, replaced by a sliding cover and the casing containing the film is immersed in a tank of developer.

It is interesting that the Standa uses a plastic apron with raised sides just like the Kodak processor. A specification included in their patent refers to Patent No. 5504 of 1893 in which a film coating machine outputs coated film to a canvas band so that when rolled, did not stick together. Such "previous art" may have broken the Kodak hold.



Eastman Kodak carried the developing tank frenzy to another level when they brought out the VELOX Developing Machine for prints in late 1904. Kodak felt it was "...a natural result of the success of the Kodak Developing Machine." By winding a crank, the print was pulled into the processor by rollers, passed through the developer then exited for fixing. It was only illustrated for one year in the Eastman Kodak catalogue, so it couldn't have sold well. Any sample would be a rarity.

G.P. Lowery of Cumbria, England sent interesting colour reproductions of developer packaging which we were able to construct into miniature boxes. The photo (at right) shows a Kodak Developer box and a Primus Tank Powder box (for Klimax and Carbine Tanks). They are 2 3/4" x 2" x 1 1/2". Each would contain six developer powder packets as seen in the second photograph.







**SUNDAY, MAY 30th, 2004**

**THE PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA**

**CANADA'S LARGEST  
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1974**

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10 am to 3 pm**

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**Admission \$7.00 with coupon \$5.00**

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Photographic Historical Society of Canada  
**PHOTOGRAPHICA FAIR**

**THE BIG ONE!**

Sunday, May 30, 2004  
10 am to 3 pm

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## Coming Events

**May 16th, 2004 (Sunday),** The Toronto Old Book & Paper Show will be held at the St. Lawrence Market, 92 Front St. East, (at Jarvis), Toronto. 10 AM to 5 PM. Over 40 Antiquarian book dealers.

**May 28th, 2004 (Friday),** The Ohio Camera Collectors Society stage three days of events starting with a Friday evening program with speaker James L. Lager –*Leica: Past, Present and Future*, then *A Show & Sale* on Saturday 10am to 4 pm and finishing up with a Photo Auction on Sunday, 10am to 3 pm. All events at Holiday Inn Columbus East I-70 at Hamilton Rd. Call for information (740) 393-1314 or [occs@earthlink.net](mailto:occs@earthlink.net)

**May 30th, 2004 (Sunday),** Annual PHSC Spring Fair will be at The Soccer Centre, 7601 Martin Grove Rd. Woodbridge. Opens 10am. For table registration contact Mark Singer, (905) 762-9031 or [string@outer-net.com](mailto:string@outer-net.com)

**June 1, 2004,** 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)

**October 3rd, 2004 (Sunday),** The annual PHSC Fall Fair will change its location as it moves closer to the city. Public transportation and ease of parking have been considered in selecting facilities. Wait for details.

**October 24th, 2004 (Sunday),** The 33rd Annual MiPHS Photographica Trade Show will again be held at Novi, Michigan. See their website at [www.miphs.org/](http://www.miphs.org/)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A few more collectors have joined our ranks since our last communications. We would sincerely welcome into our ranks the following new members: Joseph H. Smith, Bryan Beatty, Josh Morden, Horst Kammerer, Brad Kenny and Dr. Zissis Parras. May they all enjoy the sharing of mutual interests with their fellow collectors.

## GALLERY OF HONOUR AWARD FOR 2004



During our recent Annual General Meeting, Mr. Ed Warner was presented with the PHSC *Gallery of Honour Award* for his distinguished and continuing service to the Society. Ed is our First Vice President and has been heading up the annual and special auctions during the past few years. President Mike Robinson made the presentation. Look for a special article in the forthcoming *Photographic Canadiana* that reveals Ed's talents as a master craftsman in restoring cameras.

## 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 as above

Lorne Shields has a passion for Bicycle, Cycling and Motorcycle photos –any memorabilia from the 1860-1955 era. Contact: (905) 886-6911 or [vintage-antique@rogers.com](mailto:vintage-antique@rogers.com)

### Wanted

Michael Gilbert needs a 16.5 inch DAGOR lens for his 12 x 20 inch view (or banquet) camera. Actually, he wants it for panorama scenics in Hawaii. Spread the word if you know someone who might own one. Contact via e-mail at [michael@pcop.net](mailto:michael@pcop.net) or leave a message with Al at (416) 923-1995.

## IMAGE EXPLORATIONS - EAST 2004

Those seeking photographic training in depth from top professionals, can look to this five-day retreat at Brock University, St. Catharines, ON from Sunday August 22 to Thursday August 26, 2004. *Image Explorations-EAST* has lined up teachers with proven skills both as professional photographers and as educational leaders. Andre Amyot, Doug Box, Brian Lee, Jeff Lubin, Craig Minielly, Don MacGregor, Ken Sklute and Eddie Tapp constitute the roster of international instructors. Programs are a mixture of lectures, labs, marketing, hands-on demonstrations that cover Photoshop, Contemporary Weddings, Tricks of Digital Imaging, Children's and Signature Portraiture. Shared campus accomodation turns the open evenings into lab/gab sessions.

On campus accomodation for the four nights and meals is \$345.00 Cdn while the Course registration is \$625.00 Cdn for single instructor. Check details of the courses and registration at their web site: [www.imageexplorations.com](http://www.imageexplorations.com) or call (416) 410-8666.