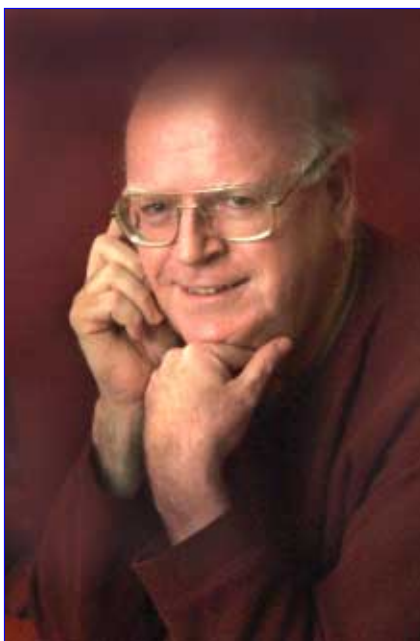


The PHSC E-MAIL

Volume 4-10, Supplement to *Photographic Canadiana*, February 2005
The Photographic Historical Society of Canada

Wednesday, February 16th Meeting...

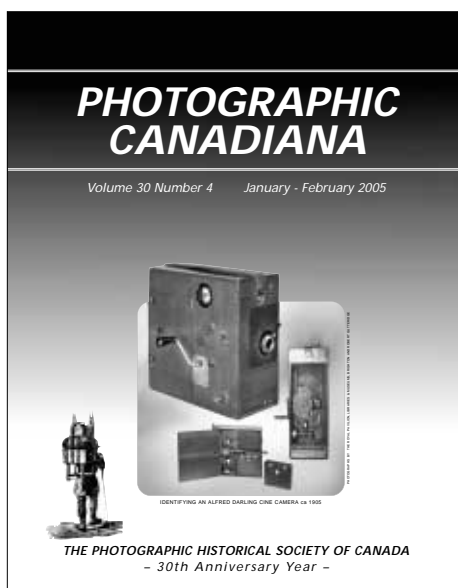
Member Robert W. Gutteridge received a PHSC Research Grant last year to undertake research on the Holland Brothers of Ottawa, who contributed much to the early history of the motion picture industry in Ontario. Bob applied the grant towards travel expenses for a trip to Boston, Massachusetts where he was granted special permission to access papers at the Baker Library of the Harvard Business School. Bob discovered that the documents related to the business dealing of Andrew and George Holland negotiating Edison's 'peep-show' Kinetoscope and Vitascope apparatus. Mr. Gutteridge is ready with a report of his journey's tribulations as well as his successes at the Cambridge campus, much of which will become part of a new book in progress.



ROBERT W. GUTTERIDGE

FEBRUARY IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

The PHSC membership renewal notice for 2005-2006 was distributed with the Jan/Feb PC journal. Pay your annual dues immediately to assist the volunteer officers. If you have lost your renewal form then download a copy from the PHSC webpage at <http://www.phsc.ca/Renewal.pdf>



A FREE SAMPLE COPY

To those who have been reading the PHSC E-Mail newsletter and have been tempted by descriptions of our elaborately produced *Photographic Canadiana*, we now offer to send you a recent sample copy – but for a limited time only.

We are sure that you will be favorably impressed by the variety and indepth research that goes into each article along with the layouts of photographs. Surely you will be impressed to join our Society and receive the five issues published each year along with other benefits.

Send an e-mail message to phsc@phsc.ca requesting your copy. Please include your postal address.



Location/Date/Times PHSC Monthly Meetings

are held on the third Wednesday from September to June in the Burgundy Room, Memorial Hall in the basement 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, 244 Markland Dr., Toronto, ON, M9C 1R7, Phone (416) 622-9494.

Programming Schedule:

February 16th, 2005

-Robert Gutteridge reports on his PHSC Research Grant re: The Holland Brothers of Ottawa.

March 16th, 2005

-Mary Ledwell from the Archives of Ontario will reveal the scope of their photographic holdings.

April 3, 2005 (Sunday)

-The Annual PHSC Auction will once again be held at the Canadian Legion Hall, 1395 Lakeshore Blvd. West with viewing at 11:30 AM.

April 20th, 2005

-The Annual General Meeting offers reports by incumbent officers while the 2005-2007 Executive will be introduced. Gerry Loban will speak on the "Evolution of Portraiture."

May 29th, 2005, (Sunday)

-The PHSC Spring Fair is at the Soccer Centre in Woodbridge, ON.

**FOR PROGRAM UPDATES
CHECK www.phsc.ca**

Toronto Notes

Reported by Robert Carter and Ed Warner

The tale of the restoration of a delapidated old bellows camera to its rightful glory, was revealed during a special presentation at our January meeting by Vice-Pres Ed Warner. We asked Ed to give us the background details.

"Last year Bob Gutteridge visited my home and was looking through my

camera collection when he commented: 'You know, I really collect only movie cameras, but I have an old view camera that I would love to display; but it needs a lot of repairs. I bought it in 1986 at the Clarke Estate sale (Scarborough). Written on the box was "Mr. James" and I assume it might be the noted William James.'

"I suggested Bob let me take a look at the camera and subsequently I took on the job of restoration. It seems to be English made - a brass-and-wood bellows field camera, but it has no nameplate or label to identify it; the size is full-plate. It looked like it had been run over by a truck as the rear frame was badly damaged which (before Bob got it) someone had tried to repair, but

in their efforts created a bigger mess. The white glue-like substance could not be removed and, considering the extent of the damage to the frame, I opted to make a new one. Mahogany was chosen with a dark reddish stain applied to match the rest of the wood. The bellows was still nicely intact, needing cleaning only in order to make it useable. All of the brass hardware was present, requiring only polishing and some minor repairs or replacing an odd screw. Two knobs were missing but were replaced from my parts stock.

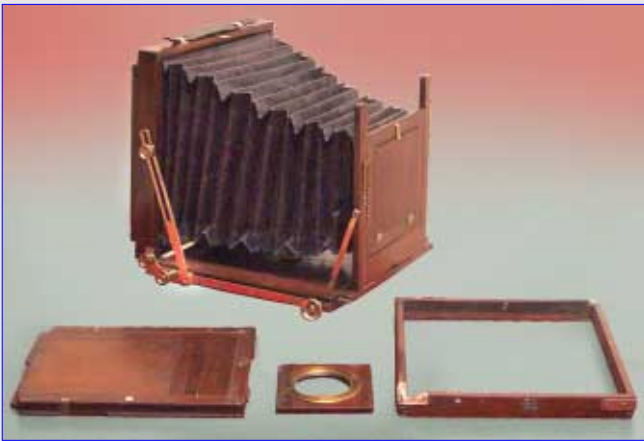
"Along with the new rear frame some minor repairs were required to replace a patched piece on the front standard and on the inside frame that holds the 'back.' Inside parts were painted flat black while all other woodwork, old and new, received several coats of a 'hand-rubbed' varnish. The final touch was to make a new lens board of mahogany to match the old one. Since the original lens has long since departed we hope PHSC members will be on the lookout for a suitable Darlot/Voigtlander replacement with waterhouse stops. I'll be ready to mount it on the new lens board."

Polished and resplendent in its new glory, the camera was presented to Bob Gutteridge at the meeting along with a few instructions to guide him on how to work it.

Entertainment for the evening was the film: *Moving Picture*, the last movie by Canadian director Colin Low of the NFB. I found it to be a strange film combining the autobiography of a filmmaker and the parallels between the production of weapons of war and violent media images.

Moving Picture was shot on 35mm stock using micro close-ups interspersed with short clips. Low introduces the origin of engraving then ties it to war through the practice of engraving ornamentation on suits of armour. Etching then led to book illustrations which allowed the mass dissemination of information including how to make gunpowder and weapons. The film notes that Champlain brought guns to the new world and used them against the Iroquois. Guns and horses - also introduced by the Europeans - transformed Indian life. Illustrations on Indian garments show this integration of European ways.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT LANSDALE



The finished camera with wooden holder (6.5 x 8.5 in), old lens board and the broken rear frame that was replaced.



Ed Warner demonstrates working parts and repairs of English view camera which he restored and presented to Robert Gutteridge during the January meeting in Toronto. All exterior parts and surfaces were refurbished after repairs were completed. It was nice to see Pim Schryer (center-right with beard) and his father Franz Schryer return for a short visit. Pim printed our *Photographic Canadiana* for years and now is preparing to tour the world for some time to come.

Camera Obscura Captivates Canadian in Cuban Capital

by Les Jones

Conjectures on CUBA are likely to conjure up images of cigars, Castro, cane and communism. Now a CAMERA OBSCURA completes the alliteration. The last issue of Photographic Canadiana covered the street cameras outside the Capitol building and “canned” cameras found in Havana. The camera obscura (Latin meaning darkened chamber) adds another dimension in full colour, providing the visitor with a moving aerial picture of Havana.

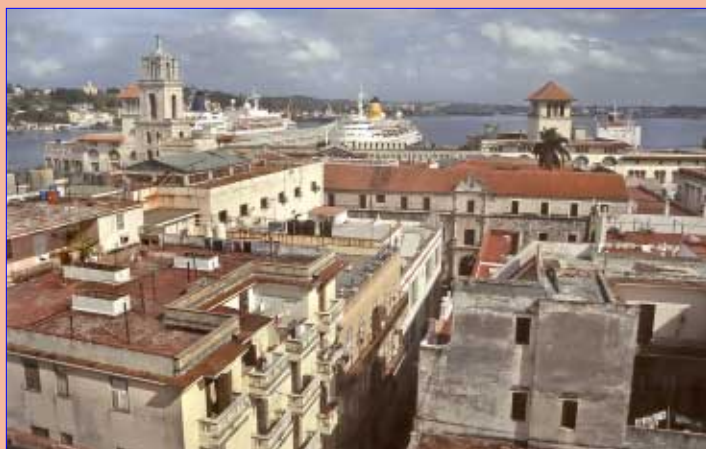


In 2002, Havana joined the expanding list of locations across the world featuring a camera obscura as a tourist attraction. It's been installed on the roof of an attractive five storey colonial building, built in 1909 as a bank. You'll find it on the north-east corner of the Plaza Vieja, one of the many spacious squares now being restored to their former glory.

Much used by astronomers and artists in the past, a camera obscura is, essentially, a lens mounted vertically in an otherwise blacked out wall. This will project an image of the view outside onto an upright screen in a darkened room (as in Sherman Hines Photography Museum in Liverpool, Nova Scotia). However, this simple type of camera obscura will give only a fixed view. When the



Many tourists ride by elevator to the flat roof and observe the scenery without realizing that the camera obscura is available in the block building at the left built as an addition in 1933. Lens “chimney and mirror” stand atop this observation structure.



A view of old Havana, the harbour and passenger ships/ferries.



Looking into the plaza showing decorative architecture & facades.

...the camera obscura is part of a tourism initiative to generate dollars...

lens is placed horizontally in the roof with an angled mirror placed above, it is then possible to rotate the optics and look around at the outside world.

Thirty-five metres up, it offers interesting views of the square, Havana Bay and the old town. The 10-15 minute "tours" identify all the primary landmarks, provide a good historical background to the city and include a few amusing anecdotes. You can look up the main street, Obispo, to the Capitolio, a scaled down version of the Capitol in Washington, admire the ostentatious Bacardi building, the gold dome of the former telephone company building, the many church spires and the narrow, ever active streets of the residential district.

The guides are multi-lingual with a good command of English. Our guide, Sifredo Primelles, a former English teacher was particularly informative. He told the story of a



A caged staircase on the outside of the Edificio Gomez Vila is used for private access only.



young Cuban child who was asked to position his hand over the reflected panorama so that the image of the Cuban flag rested in his palm. Told to squeeze tight to ensure that the flag stayed safe, apparently he still had his fist firmly clenched as he left the building 20 minutes later! The equipment is state-of-the-art: Donated by the people of the City of Cadiz (Spain relinquished control of Cuba in the late 19th century) it features optics designed and supplied by the now seriously ill, David Sinden of Sinden Optical, Newcastle on Tyne, England. The approximately five-foot dish, upon which the image is cast, smoothly moves up and down almost instantly to the touch, benefiting from counterbalanced weights and a mechanical chain and pulley system.

The "Camara Oscura" serves

perhaps 300 visitors a day but features no other displays and lacks any written information or illustrations. However, it must be one of the better entertainment bargains in the

world with admission at one peso (\$1.20 Can) for tourists and 4 cents for citizens. You can also buy a ham and cheese sandwich and a pop for another peso to enjoy lunch with a view.

It's not that well publicized and even the entrance way signage is only in Spanish and fails to provide any description of a camera obscura or its delights. Apparently, many tourists have paid their admission fee, enjoyed the sight-seeing from the roof and left satisfied without realizing that there was more to the attraction than a view of Havana!

The Camera Obscura is not the only reason to visit Havana. It is a magnificent city, once on a par with London, Paris or Buenos Aires. It is 10 years into a renovation programme to restore it to the ranks of

the world's great cities (once they deal with the pollution from the 1950s vehicles that rumble throughout the streets). Tree-lined avenues, flanked by gracious mansions, charming parks and floodlit squares, attractive restaurants, stunning hotels – all comprise the modern Havana, 46 years into the Revolution.

If you visit, bring your own film; it's hard to find and expensive. There's not much for the photographic collector. The odd camera, photos of Fidel, some cdv's and cabinet cards from the 1890s when a profusion of photographers, centred mainly on a couple of blocks of O'Reilly Street, catered to affluent locals and the passing cruise trade.

By contrast, the country itself and much of the population are reeling financially. Castro has been making changes to stimulate the economy and mute the dissatisfaction. Freedom of religion was once again allowed in the 1990s, farmers can sell their produce privately (once government quotas are reached), and capitalism is allowed (with heavy taxes) in the form of private restaurants and guest houses.

Tourism is aggressively pursued much to the displeasure of locals who struggle to make a living on \$15 per month, and resent seeing foreigners given priority for food and supplies such as eggs and bread that are rarely available for locals.

The restoration of Havana is to generate more dollars from tourism; the mainstay of the economy and the camera obscura is part of this tourism initiative. It seems like Cuba is beginning to see the light!

Officially open every day of the year from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (but unfortunately closed on Christmas Day for this tourist) it is dismantled during hurricane season. Admission is one peso.

For more information on camera obscuras throughout the world check out: <http://www.brightbytes.com> (USA based) or <http://www.foredown.virtuallmuseum.info> (for the UK based web site).

And if you prefer a novel with an account of a portable camera obscura, read the New York Times best seller *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier. It is described as '... a richly imagined portrait of the young woman who inspired one of Vermeer's most celebrated paintings.'

Coming Events

January 8 to February 19, 2005.

The Stephen Bulger Gallery, 1026 Queen St. West, Toronto hosts its annual thematic group exhibition **BIBLIOTHECA** to explore photography, books and reading, featuring Canadian and international artists.

February 14th, 2005. An auction catalogue of 100 Fine Photographs is on line at www.swann Galleries.com. Public viewing in NY is Feb 9 to 14.

Sunday, February 20th, 2005. The Toronto Postcard Fair will be held at Humber College campus in the gym, Entrance D. The show runs 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Entrance fee \$5.00.

Sunday, March 13th, 2005. The Toronto International Camera Show at the Thornhill Community Centre, 7755 Bayview Ave., Thornhill, Ont. 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Entry \$7.00.

Sunday, April 3rd, 2005. The Annual PHSC Auction will be held once again at the Canadian Legion Branch 344, Queen's Own Rifles, 1395 Lakeshore Blvd. West (just east of the Boulevard Club). Admission is \$3.00. Vendors Listings commences 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM, viewing 11:30 AM to 12:00 NOON, Bidding commences at noon sharp.

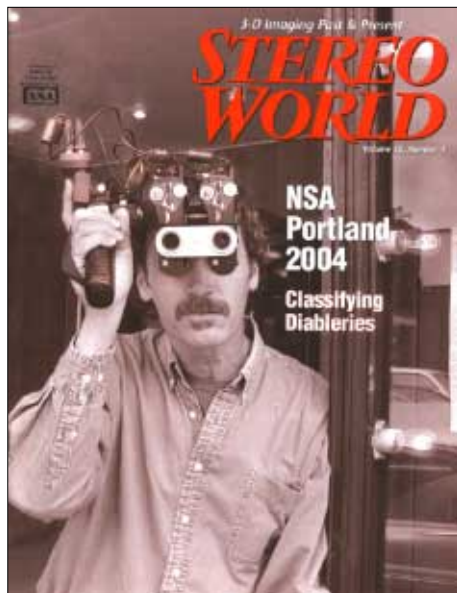
Saturday, April 9th, 2005. The Michigan PHS holds its Annual Dinner & Lecture, 6 pm at the Birmingham Athletic Club, 4023 West Maple Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI. Reservations required.

Sunday, April 10th, 2005. The Western Canada Photographic Historical Association's (WCPHA) will hold its **Spring Camera Show & Swap Meet** on Sunday April the 10th at Cameron Recreation Centre in Burnaby, BC. Check the map at <http://www.wchpa.com/Camera%20Show%20Location.htm> Further information contact Tom Parkinson, WCPHA at tompark@telus.net

Sunday, May 29th, 2005. Mark your calendar for the PHSC Annual Spring Fair to be held again at The Soccer Centre on Martingrove Road in Woodbridge, Ontario. To pre-register a table call Chairman Mark Singer on his CELL: (416) 879-7168 or email string@outer-net.com

Sunday, October 23rd, 2005. 34th MiPHS Photo Trade Show, Novi Community Center, 45175 W. Ten mile Rd. Novi, MI., 10 am to 4 pm.

October 20 to 22, 2006. Note the year 2006 and reserve the dates for attending the PHOTOHISTORY XIII held every third year at GEH in Rochester. Information will be posted on host web site www.tphs.org



Steve Horan of Toronto (3D Pics) made the front cover of STEREO WORLD with his borg-like stereo equipment. Steve combined a pair of Nikon Coolpix 4500 cameras which, with their split-bodied design, allows him to position the optical viewfinder below the lenses in this configuration.

Ginns Photographica Sale, Closes Sat, March 5th, 2005

Page and Bryan Ginns offer their 11th annual Absentee Bid Sale, featuring 450 lots of antique and collectable Cameras, Stereoscopes, Magic Lanterns, Lantern Slides, Optical Toys, Daguerreotypes, Ambrotypes, Tintypes and related material. The entire catalog is online at www.stereographica.com and will feature Real Time Live Bidding. Bids can also be accepted by mail, fax and telephone. Sale closes at 3:00pm on Saturday, March 5th 2005.

An illustrated catalog at \$20.00 is available from: Bryan & Page Ginns, 2109 – County Route 21, Valatie, NY 12184, www.stereographica.com, Telephone: 518 392-5805, Fax: 518 392-7925, E-mail: the3dman@aol.com

FALL & WINTER LECTURES

The Toronto Camera Club continues its Winter lecture series– Feb 24th to April 7th, 2005. Meetings begin at 8:00PM on Thursdays, each costing \$10. Contact: Toronto Camera Club, 587 Mount Pleasant Rd., Toronto. (416) 480-0720 for a brochure or see www.torontocameraclub.com

Image Explorations EAST Aug. 21 to Aug. 25 2005

Looking for photographic training at a professional level, then consider the intensive 5-day hands-on workshops to be held at Brock University in St. Catharines from Sun. Aug. 21 to Thurs. Aug. 25, 2005. Visit web site <http://imageexplorations.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.

Selling on eBay

Got vintage or contemporary photographica to sell? PHSC member James Marr in Hamilton says he can get the best retail price by selling internationally for you. A professional eBay seller (jay3jay3), he will accept equipment on consignment and avoid pitfalls. Contact: 905 529-0582, email: jmarr2@cogeco.ca.

For Sale

If you're a Leica M user then visit the website of Tom Abrahamsson at <http://www.rapidwinder.com> for a review of his *Rapidwinder* and *Rapidgrip* for Leica M cameras, and his *Softrelease*. When Tom's Leicavit MP's bit the dust and were impossible to repair, he created his own with improved design and fitting all M models. Good illustrations.

Wanted

Bicycle & Motorcycle photography, medals, ephemera, stereoptics, catalogues –all related items. Contact Lorne Shields, P.O. Box 87588, 300 John St. Post Office, Thornhill, ON., L3T 7R3 at (905) 886-6911, or e-mail at lorne-shields@rogers.com

