

The PHSC E-MAIL

Volume 4-5, Supplement to Photographic Canadiana, September 2004
The Photographic Historical Society of Canada

Program for Wednesday, September 15th

The NFB film release *MY FATHER'S CAMERA* is to be the subject of our September 15th meeting. In May, director Karen Shopsowitz accepted the prestigious Peabody Award in New York, at a luncheon hosted by Walter Cronkite, for her film.

The film evolves around Israel Shopsowitz's lifelong passion for amateur filmmaking which started in the 1930s. His curiosity of the world around him - and his fond gaze on the Shopsowitz clan - are at the heart of his daughter's film, which skillfully weaves his cinematic legacy into an entertaining history of the home movie. Equipped with her dad's old Super 8 and a sharp eye for a great clip, Karen traces the genre's history from the first home-movie boom in the 1920s through to the amateur explosion of the 1930s and 1940s and beyond. Throughout that era the movie camera became the unofficial documentor of family life. Basements and attics across the continent contain countless reels of the stuff - flickering images of baptisms and bar mitzvahs, weddings and graduations, dazed toddlers by the Christmas tree and bored teenagers on cross-country road trips.

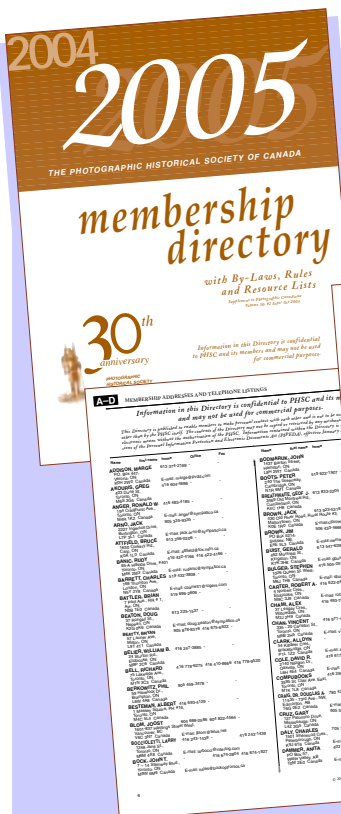
Karen Shopsowitz also directed and edited *My Grandparents Had a Hotel*, which won a Gemini for Best Music. Home movies and their unique place in our popular culture are the theme of our evening's entertainment featuring the film *My Father's Camera*.

THE NEW 2004 - 2005 DIRECTORY IS OUT

The new PHSC Membership Directory has been completed and is on its way to registered members. The 24 pages list membership addresses and telephone numbers and in a separate section their interests and enumeration data. Being a special project to mark the Society's 30th Anniversary, the book has been

enlarged to incorporate historical data and photographs, and making it an information source with PHSC By-Laws, Awards & Grants data, as well as Auction and Fair information. Werner Drechsel, Membership Secretary, introduces the Directory outlining its many sections and purposes.

Robert Carter, PHSC Web Master, discusses the "Evolution of PHSC Communications."



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

Programming Schedule:

September 15th, 2004

"My Father's Camera," an NFB film which recently won the prestigious Peabody Award in New York is to be our study theme for the evening.

October 17th, 2004, Sunday

The PHSC Annual Fall Fair opens 10am to 3pm at the Soccer Center, 7601 Martin Grove Rd., Woodbridge, Lots of fresh goodies, new finds.

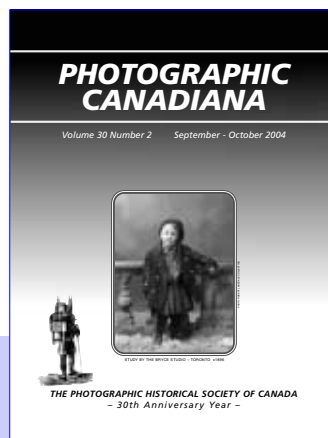
October 24th, 2004, Sunday

A SPECIAL PHSC AUCTION will be held at the Canadian Legion Hall, 1395 Lakeshore Blvd., West. Viewing at 11AM, bidding - noon.

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

PHOTOGRAPHIC CANADIANA is on its way.....



Our latest issue of *Photographic Canadiana*, Volume 30 #2 has been completed and is in the mail to members. It is a particularly interesting 20 pages of articles as Bill Belier relates the story of a tiny **SIDA** camera with ties to the Holocaust of World War II. Thomas Ritchie of Ottawa has contributed a biographical sketch of Toronto photographer **J. Fraser Bryce** who created elegant portraits for his high-society clientele, then dwindled away and spent his remaining years in a Dundas institution. Eaton S. Lothrop Jr. has assembled a fine study on **Street Photographers' Cameras**, a topic we rarely read about. Other columns come from as far away as Bièvres, France by Cindy Motzenbecker of Michigan and from Lauzan, France by Bob White, a native of Welwyn Garden City, England. The issue is well worth the PHSC membership fee of \$24.00. If you aren't a member then join today and get the back issues for our 30th Anniversary.

Treasure From My Collection...

THE UNTOLD STORY BEHIND... THE 1936 SIDA CAMERA



Original 1936 SIDA was last released in 1936. It was a tiny, pocket-sized camera, only 1.5" high and 1.25" wide. It was made by the SIDA company, which was founded by a group of Jewish refugees who had fled the Holocaust. The camera was designed to be as small and discreet as possible, so that it could be used by people in hiding. It was a remarkable achievement for its time, and it played a significant role in the lives of many people during the Holocaust.



The original SIDA camera is shown in this comparison with a US dime for scale.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CANADIANA, SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2004

J. Fraser Bryce, The Carbon Studio, and The Carbon Process of Printing Photographs

by Thomas Ritchie, Ottawa

In the decade before and after the First World War, J. Fraser Bryce was a leading Toronto photographer. He lived during an era of innovation and advancement in photography which affected all aspects of the photographer's work, especially in the methods of printing photographs. The Carbon process of printing appeared to Bryce and became a symbol by which he identified his studio. His career was one of remarkable accomplishment and provides a measure of the photographic development of his time.

The name J. Fraser Bryce is familiar to many in the photographic community. He was a prominent figure in the Toronto photographic scene, known for his elegant portraits and his innovative carbon printing process. Bryce's work was characterized by a high level of technical skill and a keen eye for detail. His portraits of the wealthy elite of Toronto were highly sought after, and his carbon prints were considered some of the finest of the era.

Bryce's career was not without challenges. He faced financial difficulties and personal struggles, but he persevered and continued to produce some of his most famous work. His legacy is preserved in the archives of the J. Fraser Bryce Studio, which serves as a testament to his contributions to the art of photography.



J. Fraser Bryce, circa 1910.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CANADIANA, SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2004

Street Photographers' Cameras

by Eaton S. Lothrop, Jr.

The term "street photographer" covers a variety of approaches to the same activity... that of taking photographs of people in the street, as opposed to in the studio. The approaches to this are highly varied, and the term "street photographer" is used to describe a wide range of photographers who work in this field.



A variety of street photography cameras.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CANADIANA, SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2004

LAURO (LARRY) BOCCIOLETTI

JUNE 3, 1927 – JULY 20, 2004

We regret to report that Larry Boccioletti, one of the original founders of the PHSC, passed away on July 20th. Larry nurtured the Society throughout the past 30 years serving as President for two terms, Fall Fair initiator and its Chairman, Auctioneer, and speaker – he will be sadly missed. Despite his deteriorating health he was continuing the tasks as Fall Fair Chairman.



LARRY BOCCIOLETTI

Larry was a prized photographer, a barber shop singer, a master scuba diver, a journalist, a bowler and above all – a friend to many. He approached life with great gusto and took pride in a job well done, no matter how great or how small.

Larry commenced his photographic career in Welland, Ontario, taught at the New York Institute of Photography and also at Centennial College in Toronto; he worked as staff photographer for DeHavilland Aircraft before his retirement.

FROM THE WEB

Major changes are being effected within the photo industry due to the fast growing acceptance of digital technology. Two former industry giants are dying.

The British arm of Ilford is near bankruptcy. Half the staff (330) at Mobberley, have lost their jobs. The company was founded in 1879 by Alfred Harman making gelatin dry plates in the basement of his house in Ilford, Essex. Ilford's Swiss operation, makers of digital inkjet products, is not affected.

Giant Agfa-Gevaert corporation divests its Consumer Imaging business to senior management under the new name AgfaPhoto which will serve markets worldwide.

Japan's Nikon Corp. will boost production capacity for its hot-selling digital SLR camera while eyeing an exit from film compact cameras. Nikon's D70 faces off against Canon's EOS Digital Rebel (the first to break the \$1000 US price level in the prosumer category). Nikon will ramp production of D70s to 90,000 units/year.

Eastman Kodak Co. is gaining on front-runner Sony Corp. in the U.S. digital camera market ahead of Canon and Nikon. It was expected the Japanese would eat Kodak's lunch but Big Yellow may yet become #1 of film-less cameras. Kodak is about to acquire the image sensor business of National Semiconductor, makers of professional CMOS sensors. Kodak currently makes many of the professional CCD sensors found in use today.

OUR JUNE MEETING by Robert Carter

We meet truly impressive personalities during our PHSC monthly meetings. George Gilbert is one of those "great icons" who spent 30 years writing over 400 articles for the popular photographic press. He had articles in so many magazines he resorted to a number of pen names to prevent upsetting editors and losing out on assignments.

For our June meeting, George set the stage by giving an overview of his career and his experiences during World War II. A commercial photo apprentice when the U.S. joined the allies, his college aptitude for mathematics and his experience in photography resulted in assignment to train military staff on aerial mapping. At the time, a German patent outlined a faster way to calculate heights by using aerial photography and mathematics. The urgency was for topographical maps of Pacific war zones.

George was re-assigned to an ill-fated venture where the team's ship was sunk. But his life was spared when he was diverted to a new task. A team was to be dropped onto Omaha Beach the day before the famous D-Day assault to take measurements of the beach area. Here again he was saved from that suicide task when the project was shelved as attention shifted to the Manhattan project.

With his background outlined, George recited anecdotes to illustrate the impact of the Leica, first announced at the 1924 Leipzig Fair, in shifting emphasis from the large cameras of the 1930s to the era of the miniature camera.

The Leitz family who owned the famous optical firm were Protestants and belonged to one of the democratic political parties in Germany when the National Socialists gained control of the country and began their well documented punishment of their Jewish countrymen. With the increasing intrusion of the Nazi gov-

to use the Leica and understand equipment "lingo," then Leitz applied for an exit permit to send the new employee to America as a *Demonstrator* to assist in generating sales – extra foreign currency was much appreciated by the German government.

In America, the Leitz subsidiary found jobs and support for the arriving emigrants (some with little or no English skills). It was recounted that an editor of the Leica Magazine called every account in America to help place the new employees. It was also rumored that Leitz paid full salary for three months then half salary for the next three months. In all, it is estimated some 300 or more people benefited from the program.

Long after the war had ended, the story of the *Freedom Train* program was first proposed to Reader's Digest with its 12 million plus readers. Leitz directors refused permission to print anything as long as the people involved were still alive as they still were at risk of possible retaliation. By 1987, the last of the protagonists had died so George wrote a small half-page article published in various photographic chronicles. A decade later, the story was briefly covered in the book *Illustrated World Wide Who's Who of Jews in Photography*, reviewed in our PC journal in May 1997 and a story in our PC May 2002 issue. The quest of his continuing promotion has reached the attention of Hollywood so we may yet see another version of *Schindler's List* with a Leica twist.



George Gilbert of Riverdale N.Y.

ernment into business and social life, Leitz quietly began polling its staff about the effect of government policy on them and on the company's dealers, many of whom were also Jewish. Leitz initiated a practice of buying back stock from affected dealers, reselling it to any who emigrated to America. From there they began 'hiring' people associated with the firm who were at grave risk. The new employees were quickly trained



SHOWING THE FIRST PERSON PHOTOGRAPHED



OLD FRIENDS FROM NEW YORK DAYS MEET AGAIN



THANKED BY BOB WILSON

Coming Events

September 11 to October 30, 2004.

The Stephen Bulger Gallery, 1026 Queen St. W., Toronto features Phil Bergerson's *Shards of America* in conjunction with his book launching.

September 12th, 2004 (Sunday).

The Toronto International CAMERA SHOW will again open at the Thornhill Community Centre, 7755 Bayview Ave., Thornhill, 10am to 3 pm. South of #407 or #7 at John Street. 705-857-2659 or Email: sue-wooten@hotmail.com

October 9th, 2004 (Saturday).

See and hear renowned South Africa wildlife photographers Barry Wilkins and Jill Sneesby during their ONLY Canadian appearance. The London Camera Club will host an all-day seminar on "Wild Photography" at the London Convention Centre, 300 York St., London, ON. Fees are \$65 for pre-registry – includes seminar, lunch, refreshments and door prizes. Send registration c/o David Wellington, 54-135 Belmont Dr., London, ON., N6J 4J3. For info visit www.londoncameraclub.on.ca

October 17th, 2004 (Sunday).

The PHSC Annual Fall Fair, THE BIG ONE with over 100 tables of photographic goodies will again be held at the Soccer Centre in Woodbridge, N-W of Toronto at #7 and 7601 Martin Grove Rd. It runs 10am to 3pm. For registration contact Mark Singer at 905-762-9031 or email to string@outer-net.com

October 24th, 2004 (Sunday).

The PHSC will be hosting a SPECIAL AUCTION at the Canadian Legion Hall, 1395 Lakeshore Blvd. West, in Toronto with previewing at 11:00am and bidding starting at noon. No assignments can be accepted.

October 24th, 2004 (Sunday).

The 33rd Annual MiPHS Photographica Trade Show will again be held at The Novi Community Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd. in Novi, Michigan (1/2 mile west of Novi Road). Besides equipment and general photographica they have a separate room for image collectors. See their web site at www.miphs.org/

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.

Information Wanted

Information needed for book about Chauncey Barnes who wrote in 1884 that he had been a Daguerreian artist in Toronto and Kingston about 1841-43. Would share info with anyone having data on him. Contact FRobbDRobb@aol.com

Wanted

A Magic Lantern slide carrier, consisting of a double sliding frame within a fixed one. The moving frame must have parallel slots at both sides to accept 3 1/4" square and 3 1/4" x 4" glass slides. It needs to be 4 1/2" from top to bottom and no more than 11/16" thick. Most grateful if someone can help. Contact Lindsay Lambert, 41 Bellwood Ave., Ottawa, ON, K1S 1S6, 613-730-7797.

Wanted

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

Wanted for Research

Photocopies of catalogues, instructions, brochures/pamphlets and ads for such "street"/postcard/tintype cameras and manufacturers as Daydark, Mandel & Mandellette /Chicago Ferrottype Co., Benson, Glossick, Keystone, Thompson, etc. Gladly pay for photocopying and postage. Contact: Eaton Lothrop, 269 Helme Ave., Miller Place, N.Y., 11764 or email esl1839@aol.com

Wanted

Surface & Symbol, Scarborough Arts Council's monthly arts newspaper, seeks B&W photo-essay submissions. This is an opportunity for photographers to have their work published. Send proposals to Andrea Raymond, editor at news@scarborougharts.com or tel: 416-698-7322. Need a series of photos (5-8) that tell a story, or selection of photos from a body of work. A few paragraphs of writing may explain the story. A short biography of the photographer is also required.

Wanted

Photographs by Norman Edson (1876-1968) who published and sold many photographs (often hand-painted) during his time in Canada (Sutton, Knowlton, Brome Lake, Boulton Pass). He moved to the U.S. Pacific Northwest (1904-06), returned to Canada until the 1920s then back to America. Contact Bill Taylor, 9715 Cherry St., Edmonds, WA, 98020-2337 or 425-771-7990.

ANTIQUE PHOTOGRAPHICA SALE

Bryan Ginns reminds us that their ongoing auction sale will close September 18th at 3:00PM. The sale features over 500 lots covering Daguerreotypes, Ambrotypes, CDVs, Cabinet cards, Autochromes and Magic Lantern slides. Visit their online catalogue at www.stereographica.com: Antique Photographica

ONLINE AUCTION OF LEICAS

Everard & Co of Savannah, GA is scheduling an online auction of hundreds of Leica cameras, both historic and contemporary models. This is an extremely large and single-owner collection which will be available from October 18th to November 8th. Contact: amanda@everardandcompany.com

CHRISTIE'S AUCTION, SEPT. 14

Christie's Auction House in London, UK are holding a camera and photographic equipment sale on September the 14th. Their ads feature a photo of a ladies handbag estimated to sell at £4,000 to 6,000. One of only five known examples it contains a hidden Vest Pocket Ensign camera. Send all your enquiries to Michael Pritchard at mpritchard@christies.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members: Compubooks of Toronto, Sarah Stacy of Ottawa, Peter van Overbeek of Wellesley, Heinz Greef of Burlington, Nancy Lemon of Springfield, Dirk Heinze of Toronto, Sanja Gregoric of Mississauga who are all from Ontario while Anita Dammer resides in Water Valley, Alberta and Lindsey Scurrah is in Comox, British Columbia. We hope you enjoy your membership with happy collecting for many years.