

# The PHSC E-MAIL

Volume 4-9, Supplement to *Photographic Canadiana*, January 2005  
The Photographic Historical Society of Canada

## Wednesday, January 19th Meeting...

We are going to be treated to a special movie for this coming January meeting. The 47 minute *Moving Pictures* invites us to survey the 50 year career of Colin Low who directed over 200 films during his lifetime. This is one of several N.F.B. films that features the history of photography and of those who were leaders in the field. The meeting will be at our usual location in the Burgundy Room, Memorial Hall in the basement of the North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street. There is a subway stop just outside the door to the library, so it is quite convenient... Bring a friend!

## CARLTON WATKINS STEREO CARD FOR \$5,165.00



When Cindy Motzenbecker spotted this Carlton Watkins stereo card selling on eBay for a final \$5,165.00 all she could comment was: "How would you tell your spouse you spent that much on one photo?"

The seller described the scarce item as a "View by Watkins of himself, on the left and an assistant sitting outside his photo/dark-tent. View is titled (handwritten in manuscript across front mount) "Shunshine" and "925." On the end of the mount is the signature "Watkins" and "Spring Valley W.W."

Peter Palmquist previously wrote: "The Spring Valley Water Works lies south of San Francisco and consists of a man made lake (water reservoir) used to hold water supplies for San Francisco. It is still in use today. The image shows the reservoir in, or at the end of construction, and before it has been filled with water. Watkins is thought to have made a series of stereographs and mammoth-size images of this site in 1862. Other stereographic examples from this series are known. However, none of the mammoth images have come to my attention. At least one other stereograph of Watkins' dark-tent is known. There is also a view showing CEW's mammoth camera tripod. There is evidence of equipment association with mammoth negative production in this image. Note that this is the only view of Watkins' dark-tent in which the interior may be seen..."

## JANUARY IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

PHSC members will receive their membership renewal for 2005-2006 with the next PC journal. Please pay immediately to assist the volunteer officers.



## 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:

### January 19th, 2005

-It is to be MOVIE NITE for January

### February 16th, 2005

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

### March, 2005

-Final date will be announced later for the Annual PHSC Auction

### March 16th, 2005

-Mary Ledwell in charge of the Photographic Holdings of the Ontario Archives will reveal the scope of their collection.

### 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."

FOR THE LATEST PROGRAM UPDATES  
CHECK THE PHSC WEB SITE AT  
<http://www.phsc.ca>

# Toronto Notes

Reported by Robert Carter

Ed Warner and team swung into action for our December, 2004 meeting to sell the remaining memorabilia from the estate of the late Larry Boccioletti. The team sold everything including the (kitchen) sink in a fast paced session featuring a wide range of darkroom, movie and low end camera gear. The heavy objects –two enlargers, the sink, a huge print dryer, and a vacuum easel/horizontal copy camera stand (actually a modified cine titling gizmo), were shown by photo only. Buyers picked up these special purchases at a later date.

This page by Robert Lansdale is augmented by detailed coverage of the materials sold on our PHSC web site at <http://www.phsc.ca/silent-sequel.html>. You'll see a few of the 100+ shots I took during the auction action. I ran down both sets of NiMH batteries and was forced over to some backup alkaline batteries.

The evening actually started off in a Christmas gift-giving draw as members exchanged wrapped gifts to mark the spirit of the season.

I was attracted to an ancient paper cutter equipped with a circular cutting blade as it reminded me of an earlier experience with one. The orange knob and heavy-wire blade guard were an eye-catching part of this rare antique darkroom accessory. In the 1960s I worked in a Bell Canada training centre in Montreal. A polite caution was added to our much smaller guillotine by one of the staff: "Please do not litter the floor with your fingers." A timely warning indeed when using these devices.



The last batches of Boccioletti photographica line the tables and stage as members placed their bids to win something extra for their Christmas tree.



KELLNER & PYNER –PRIZE TRIPOD



XMAS GIFT EXCHANGE BY DRAW



HAPPY HANS SAVORS HIS LOOT



HELPER MIKE DISPLAYS TRIPOD



MANUEL NUNES BID FOR FLASH



KANTYMR SURVEYS MORE GEAR



Auctioneer Ed Warner headed up the team to disperse the collection to bidding members.



Robert Wilson and Clint Hryhorijiw handled paperwork and collected funds after auction.



Tiit Kodar recorded the auction event as part of the PHSC's 30th Anniversary history.



# A NEW CAMERA MODEL FROM CUBA

by Robert Lansdale

Here is a new camera model you might consider adding to your equipment bag. Its a lightweight Coca-Cola camera purchased by Ian Ransberry of St. Catharines, Ontario during a visit to Cuba. There are other branded products – you just have to name the drink. Ian also has a Cuban CRISTAL camera. A home industry was developed by local citi-

zens to create toys and mementos for the tourist trade. Making use of throw-away aluminum cans (beer and soft drinks), the artisans have fashioned the decorative metal into cars, aeroplanes, helicopters, motor cycles and buses. They surely have a genius for crafting reclaimed parts into new creations.

This particular Coca-Cola camera is about the size and shape of a consumer digital camera, but I can't find any pixel ratings for it though. It is not just a static model as when the shutter release is activated on the back of the camera, the front

lens cover pops open to release a scary face bouncing out on a spring. Two lugs accommodate a camera strap to wear the camera about your neck.

Now you might consider this a bit whimsical, but there is seriousness in the crafting of these toy objects, even with a dedicated web site at [www.tesscar-aluminum-craft.com/](http://www.tesscar-aluminum-craft.com/) where you can survey some 50 models and buy the plans to make them yourself. In this day and age, maybe it is good advice to have a secondary career simmering in the background.

Another of Ian's discoveries during his tour of Havana was a street photographer still working the tourists gathered at the Capitol building which looks like a cookie-cutter model of the U.S. White House. The equipment used, is a home-made box with an old folding camera adapted to the front. A black cloth sleeve at the rear, allows the photographer to insert his hand to load the camera and process the exposed "paper-plate" instantly. Photographic paper is used for film which dries quickly and is then copied on a flip-up copy-board in front of the lens to produce positive prints within minutes. This photographer wasn't too friendly unless you became a client with money. This type of photo-

graphic industry has flourished for over a century with equipment being adapted

to the times and the materials that are available. Cameras, like a business, are passed down from generation to generation. In some locales photographers are a little more creative and attract customers by using a docile donkey which has been ridiculously painted as a zebra.



Cuban tourist cameras manufactured from reclaimed aluminum drink-cans sport the names and designs of the original containers. Activating the shutter pops the front open with a surprising face on a coil spring.



The street-photographer is still popular in Cuba servicing the tourists with instant pictures that are processed within the home-made camera box. An old folder camera is adapted to the front. Eaton Lothrop Jr. gave a full write-up of *Street Photographer's Cameras* in our Photographic Canadiana, Sept/Oct 2004.



## 4



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

Page and Bryan Ginns announce 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](http://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.

There is a fine selection of quality Daguerreotypes including: a rare French Stereo Daguerreotype of a nude; a scarce whole plate portrait of a husband and wife and fine portraits by Mayall, Beard, Claudet, Brady and others. A good range is offered of Ambrotypes, Autochromes, cabinet cards, cartes de visite and a large selection of stereo views. Collectable cameras feature a sliding-box stereo wet-plate camera, a tintype button camera, an Erac pistol camera, a Silver Jubilee and other Kodak Cameras. Stereoscopes, optical toys and pre-cinema items, a selection of early peep show views, books, advertising and ephemera complete the sale.

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

## STEREO CARDS BY LARTIGUE

Those interested in stereo and especially those looking for photographs by Jacques Henri Lartigue will want to visit the web site at [www.designforlife.com](http://www.designforlife.com). His work has been widely reproduced as single images. Few people realize that his most famous pictures were originally shot as stereo pairs but can still be seen in all their 3D depth. From some 5000 images preserved in the archives of the Donation Lartigue in Paris, Design for Life has reproduced a set of 100 best stereo images with accompanying booklet and stereo viewer so you can revisit the times of the *belle époque*.

## Mystery One-Shot Camera

Joel Snyder at [jsnyder@uchicago.edu](mailto:jsnyder@uchicago.edu) hopes someone can identify the one-shot camera illustrated below. It has a single mirror and two focal planes rather than the usual two mirrors and three focal planes. In this case the rear holder would use a bi-pack (two-plates face-to-face) with each sensitive to a different portion of the spectrum. It is possibly an early Curtis camera used for portraiture.

PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED BY JOEL SNYDER



## SEARCHING THE WEB FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC LIBRARIES

The British Library has completed the cataloguing of its photographically illustrated books, 1839–1914. Such may not provide photographic history but may offer guidance in the quest for examples of early photography. The welcome page is at: <http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/photographyinbooks/welcome.htm>.

Also, Photographic Libraries ([www.photographiclibraries.com](http://www.photographiclibraries.com)) is an online library of web sites related to all aspects of photography, graphics, and design. Each link takes the viewer to more links and higher levels of specificity. The archive collections link has an interesting list of museums and government agencies, and a variety of photographers.

The Getty Research Institute web site is very comprehensive, easy to navigate and fast loading. There are several main parts of which the Photo Study Collection Data Base provides descriptions of the collection in the library catalogue along with two million black-and-white images, some rare and unique.

## SNAP PHOTO COMPETITION

The AIDS Committee of Toronto presents the Fourth Annual SNAP photo competition which closes on January 31, 2005. Visit their web site for category details and registration rules: [www.snap-toronto.com](http://www.snap-toronto.com)

This is a small fund raising event which, over the years, has raised some \$90,000 for ACT.

## Photo Seminar & Camera Show

The International Photography Hall of Fame & Museum will host a combined seminar and camera show on Saturday, January 29th, 2005 in Oklahoma City, OK with speakers covering Visual Digital Literacy, Wildlife Photography, Architectural Photography, Passion for People and Panoramic Photography. The equipment sale will continue all day. Check out [www.iphf.org](http://www.iphf.org)

## Yes! the Digital PINHOLE Camera

The message is intriguing from Shenzhen D-Vitec Ind. Ltd. in P.R. China suggesting they make hundreds of CCD cameras, especially Pin Hole cameras. Check out [www.dvitec.com](http://www.dvitec.com) or [www.dtc.com.cn](http://www.dtc.com.cn)

## Coming Events

### January 8 to February 19, 2005.

The Stephen Bulger Gallery, 1026 Queen St. West, Toronto will host **BIBLIOTHECA** its annual thematic group exhibition to explore the relations between photography, books and reading, featuring Canadian and international artists. Candida Höfer, Abelardo Morell, Victor Schrager and Sanaz Mazinani have combined talents to create this show.

**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. For the exact show location you can check the map at <http://www.wchpa.com/Camera%20Show%20Location.htm> For any further information please contact Tom Parkinson WCPHA Secretary at [tompark@telus.net](mailto:tompark@telus.net)

**Sunday, May 29th, 2005.** Looking ahead to Spring you can mark your calendar for the above date for the PHSC Annual Spring Fair. It will 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](mailto:string@outer-net.com)

**October 20 to 22, 2006.** We are looking well into the future as the dates for PHOTOHISTORY XIII have been proclaimed. Held every three years this best-of-best seminars will run Friday to Sunday, Oct. 20 to 22 2006 with lectures at the George Eastman House in Rochester plus a Trade Show and social activities in the selected hotel. Information will be posted on the web site – [tphs.org](http://tphs.org) – of the sponsoring The Photographic Historical Society (Rochester)

### FALL & WINTER LECTURES

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

## CONFERENCE IN SWANSEA South Wales

**August 9-12, 2005** will see a major photoconference in Swansea, South Wales according to Richard Morris covering some of the leading photo pioneers who either lived in South Wales or worked there. Included will be Talbot, Llewelyn, Calvert Jones, Claudet, Delamotte, Fenton, Gulch. A visit to Penrice Castle is planned as are appropriate exhibitions. Contact [morris1856@aol.com](mailto:morris1856@aol.com) for further details and participation.

### Image Explorations EAST

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, Ont. from Sunday Aug. 21 to Thursday Aug. 25 2005. Studio Management, Signature Portraits, Photoshop – Essentials to Advanced, Children's Portraiture, Commercial Photography, Digital Production Workflow, Weddings, Thinking Outside the Box. Visit web site <http://imageexplorations.com> for agenda of each instructor's course. These campus workshops are proving successful as 50% of last year's students have signed up again.

### POSITION AVAILABLE

Humber College, Photo Section, will open a position and are looking for a professional commercial/ portrait /industrial photographer with a degree or diploma in a related field with a minimum of 15 years professional experience, preferably with successful studio ownership and business experience. Other qualifications that would be an asset would include: current with new imaging technologies; business experience; qualified reputation in the photographic industry; demonstrated teaching ability and understanding of the learning process; excellent organizational, interpersonal, team work communications and marketing skills. Send resume to Neil Fox, Professor, Humber Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning, 205 Humber College Blvd., Toronto, Ontario, M9W 5L7.

## 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 for Research

Frances Robb seeks information to confirm visit of Daguerreian artist Chauncey Barnes to Kingston and Toronto (areas) in the early 1840s. Barnes had a long history in Mobile, Alabama and was originally from Rochester, N.Y. Send information to [FRobbDRobb@aol.com](mailto:FRobbDRobb@aol.com)

### 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](mailto: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

Paul Rollinson is searching for photographic images and post cards by J.W. Bald (c1905) of Midland, Ontario to compile the history of this turn-of-the-century photographer. Emphasis is on biographical information, citations and images. Telephone (705) 538-2281 or email [hoostrahdohp@hotmail.com](mailto:hoostrahdohp@hotmail.com)

### 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](mailto:lorne-shields@rogers.com)

