

The PHSC E-MAIL

Volume 5-1, Supplement to Photographic Canadiana, May 2005
The Photographic Historical Society of Canada

Wednesday, May 18th Meeting...

DAGS TO DIGITALS

The May meeting features a video interview by Michael Reichmann of Luminous Landscape with Mike Robinson of the Century Darkroom in Toronto. Mike will show the preparation of the silver-clad plate and its sensitizing, then the actual shooting of a portrait and its subsequent processing. Mike is the leading modern-day daguerreotypist in Canada.

That presentation will be followed by an interview with Kevin Raber on the Phase One digital back for medium size film cameras. Two interviews covering the earliest and latest processes in photography.

Visit Luminous Landscape at <http://www.luminous-landscape.com/>. The web site is well worth the visit for its educational content.



Mike Robinson will be featured in a DVD presentation illustrating the various aspects of the Daguerreotype process.



Mike Robinson emulates the part of William Notman during a re-enactment for a historical TV document. He is seen here in his daylight studio during a recent video shoot.

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 Felix Russo, 33 Indian Rd. Cres., Toronto, ON, M6P 2E9, Phone (416) 6532-7780.

Programming Schedule:

May 18th, 2005

-Our May program will consist of a DVD presentation on the Daguerreotype process featuring our own Mike Robinson, Century Darkroom.

May 29th, 2005, (Sunday)

-The PHSC Spring Fair is on at the Soccer Centre in Woodbridge, ON., 7601 Martin Grove Road, 1/4 mile south of Highway #7, on the east side of Martin Grove (N-W Toronto). Plenty of free parking, 140 tables, snack bar, public welcome. 10 AM to 3 PM, \$7.00 entry fee or \$5.00 with a coupon.

June 15th, 2005

-Professor James Jensen of Chicago will speak on "Of One Cloth: The Business, Science and Art of Photography" which examines how the nineteenth century photographer responded to these day-to-day challenges.

We take our summer break during July and August then commence fall programming on September 21.

Ideas for monthly programs are welcome. Suggest speakers, topics or even locations to tour. Information to Felix Russo.

FOR PROGRAM UPDATES
www.phsc.ca

our E-mail address is
phsc@phsc.ca

Robert A. Carter – Webmaster

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR PHSC MEMBERSHIP?

A last reminder to pay your dues for the coming year, will be sent to members with the new issue of the PC Journal – after that no more issues. Check the mailing address on the cover sheet accompanying the journal. If it is highlighted in yellow then your cheque has not arrived.

Toronto Notes

Report by Robert Carter

For our April meeting, speaker Gerry Loban led us through the evolution of portraiture. Once photography had arrived, the door was opened for the masses to have their



turning out the small portraits of the day. But the first studios predated electricity and gas light, resorting to natural day light to expose their very slow and cantankerous media. Many of the early portraits were bland full body recordings – getting a successful exposure was preferential over an artistic composition. Long exposures of 10 to 30 seconds required the use of painful head stands and other support apparatus - often producing a staring stern look to the sitter.

Gerry travelled through a number of well known portrait photographers of the late 1800s and early 1900s pointing out the signature characteristics of their images and techniques. These ranged from the wet-plate artistry of Matthew Brady to the 1900s dry-plate 'photography-as-art' style popularized in *Camera Work* or to Hollywood style portraits of the 1920s glamorously illustrating leading actors in elaborate lighting for adoring fans. The procession of portraits was interspersed by illustrations of studio layouts and typical portrait cameras.

likenesses immortalized. Gerry has a long term love affair with the world of portraiture, owning his own studio during the 1960s and the 1970s.

Many early portrait photographers made a comfortable living

Gerry used his 1960s studio experience as an example of the portrait business half a century ago. The core of his business was the

head and shoulder portrait with traditional lighting and backdrops. Special deals and novel advertisements attracted new customers.

The American bicentennial in 1976 sparked the nostalgia for portraits in the style of a century earlier and studios sprung up specializing in such portraits. Gerry offered a service at the annual Markham Fair using sepia-toned Polaroids and slip-on period clothing.

Today, the small store-front studio has mostly disappeared, being taken over by mass marketing businesses like Wal-Mart and Sears using *camera operators* instead of trained photographers.

Robert Carter (new 1st Vice-President) reporting on the PHSC web site is looking for younger members to assist in its servicing and building. He recommends the task be two spheres of responsibility: editorial preparation and the technical web site updating. Since he started the web site with no previous experience, Bob feels he can train anyone who is conversant with a computer.



ROBERT CARTER



Executive officers witness the handing over of the gavel during the Annual General Meeting which confirmed new officers for 2005–2007. Left to right: Werner Dechsel, Treasurer; Robert Carter, 1st Vice President and Web Master; Mike Robinson, Past President; Ed Warner, President; John Linsky, retiring Treasurer and Clint Hryhorijiw, 2nd Vice President and Spring Fair Chairman. In addition, James Marr, Membership Secretary; Felix Russo, Programme; Tiit Kõdar, Secretary; and Mark Singer, Curator.



Anthony Fernandes joins the ranks of honoured PHSC members being listed in the Gallery of Honour as this year's recipient for his dedicated services over many years assisting to run our projects. Tony receives his award from new President Ed Warner.

FROM THE NET

The Swann Galleries Spring auction, scheduled for May 26, 2005, will be a two-session sale. The morning session devoted to *Photographic Literature* starts at 10:30AM while the afternoon session of *Important 19th & 20th Century Photographs* starts at 2:30PM. Included in this section will be Mathew Brady's rosewood walking stick with a carved ivory handle depicting an image of a camera and Brady's name in gold letters. Swann's catalogues are accessible online; log on to www.swanngalleries.com and click on "Photographs" to view the fully illustrated catalogues.

Nikon has confirmed that the D70S, which succeeds its top-selling D70, will be on sale later this month while the D50, an entry-level camera, will be on the market in June. The D70S offers improvements such as a two inch (rather than 1.8 inch) monitor and a shutter speeds of 30 to 1/8000 seconds. Also improved is the camera's autofocus performance to include focus tracking and increased focus precision. The peripheral illumination from the camera's built-in Speedlight flash has been extended from 20mm to 18mm. The D70S shares many of the features of its predecessor including a 6.1 million pixel DX-format sensor and Nikon F lens mount design, offering compatibility with AF Nikkor as well as the DX Nikkor lenses. The new camera also offers a start-up time of 0.2 seconds and is capable of shooting three frames per second for a continuous burst of 144 images.

The D50 is a lower cost model, but offers the same resolution as the D70S, as well as a two inch screen and a 0.2 second start-up. In addition, it shares the five-area autofocus system found in the D70 and D70S as well as the 3D Colour Matrix Metering facility found in the latter. It also boasts a light sensitivity range of ISO 200 to 1600 and is compatible with both the AF and DX range of Nikkor lenses.

Nikon continues the rapid expansion of its digital SLR and lens range

with the introduction of two new zooms. The AF-S DX Zoom-Nikkor



55-200mm f/4-5.6G ED is a lightweight (255g) telephoto zoom, said to be ideally suited to the D50. Delivering an equivalent 82.5-300mm range in 35mm format, it features Nikon's newly developed compact Silent Wave Motor (as does the 18-55mm lens). Two ED glass elements allow high resolution and contrast while minimizing chromatic aberration and other forms of distortion. The AF-S DX Zoom-Nikkor 18-55mm, also aimed at D50 users, weighs just 210g and features one ED glass element and one hybrid aspherical lens element. Neither lens is suitable for use with 35mm cameras.

Eastman Kodak Co. continues to leapfrog other companies in the global digital-camera derby as it narrows the gap on Japanese front-runners Sony Corp. and Canon Inc.

The picture-taking pioneer, which surged into first place in U.S. digital camera shipments in 2004, became the first American company to break into the top three worldwide with an overall 50.5 percent jump in shipments last year. Latest figures show that Eastman Kodak Co. shipped more digital cameras in the United States in 2004 than any of its Japanese rivals, and retained its edge in the first quarter of this year by shipping 900,000 point-and-shoot digital cameras to domestic retailers.

Canon Inc. has strengthened its second-place ranking with 850,000 shipments, up 72 percent from a year ago. Sony Corp., the perennial front-runner, dropped down to third

spot with 800,000 shipments. Olympus Corp. held onto fourth place.

But these figures only reflect the American market. The global rankings have always been far tighter than the U.S. rankings, where a few years ago Sony had a 30 percent market share while everyone else was at least 10 points behind.

The consumer point-and-shoot digital camera market has already entered a mature phase in Japan and it's only a matter of time before that happens in America. Christopher Chute, a photography industry analyst commented, "As the market shrinks, it's going to be much tougher to compete and we'll probably see a sharper decline in pricing. But that plays into Kodak's strategy which is to offer value rather than a glitzy premium."

World-wide Sony, the Tokyo-based electronics and entertainment giant, shipped 12.3 million point-and-shoot digital cameras, up 40 percent from 8.8 million in 2003, but its slice of the global market fell to 17.2 percent from 18.4 percent. Canon was second with a 15.7 percent share, down from 16.2 percent. When high-end single-lens-reflex cameras are added, however, Canon leads the digital camera market with 12.6 million shipments, or 17.1 percent, ahead of Sony with 16.7 percent and Kodak with 11.8 percent.

Leica is having to bite the bullet as the Board of Management of Leica Camera AG, Solms, will propose to shareholders measures that would restore the capital base of the Company. Each three no-par-value shares are to be combined into one no-par-value share. Simultaneously, the capital reserve amounting to EURO 4.2 million will be released. Both measures will be implemented in order to offset depreciation and other losses totalling EURO 14.2 million. Ralf Coenen, Chairman of the Board of Management of Leica Camera AG, Solms, resigned and was replaced by Dr. Josef Spichtig as interim Chairman. Spichtig has a scientific and a managerial education and is of Swiss nationality.

CANADA'S LARGEST PHOTOGRAPHICA FAIR IS READY TO OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2005



The Annual PHSC Spring Fair opens up its doors at 10:00 AM on Sunday morning, May 29th.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
presents

CANADA'S LARGEST
PHOTOGRAPHICA
FAIR - SINCE
1974

THE BIG ONE!

SUNDAY
May 29, 2005
10 am to 3 pm

Free appraisals with admission!
Bring your treasures from the attic or closet.

BUY SELL TRADE BROWSE

Antique, Collectible & User
Cameras, Lenses, Darkroom Equipment
Digital Cameras, Motion Picture, Video,
Books, Images, Optical Instruments, etc.

The Soccer Centre

7601 Martin Grove Rd, Toronto (Woodbridge) Ont.
¼ mile south of Highway 7 on the east side

Public Welcome — 140 Tables of Goodies — Free Parking — Wheelchair Access — Snack Bar

For information contact:
MARK SINGER, FAIR CHAIRMAN

47 Stornoway Ct., Thornhill, Ontario L3T 3X8
Phone 905-762-9031, E-mail string@outis-net.com

Admission \$7.00 with coupon \$5.00

Location is The Soccer Centre in Woodbridge, north-west of Toronto just south of highway 7 at 7601 Martin Grove Road. Appropriately dubbed THE BIG ONE it has over 100 tables of photographic goodies where you are sure to find that special item you've been looking for. It's where all the collectors and photo enthusiasts meet, so stop by to seek, sort, sell and buy or just to chat. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Anyone wearing a PHSC Security Cap can direct you to a knowledgeable expert.

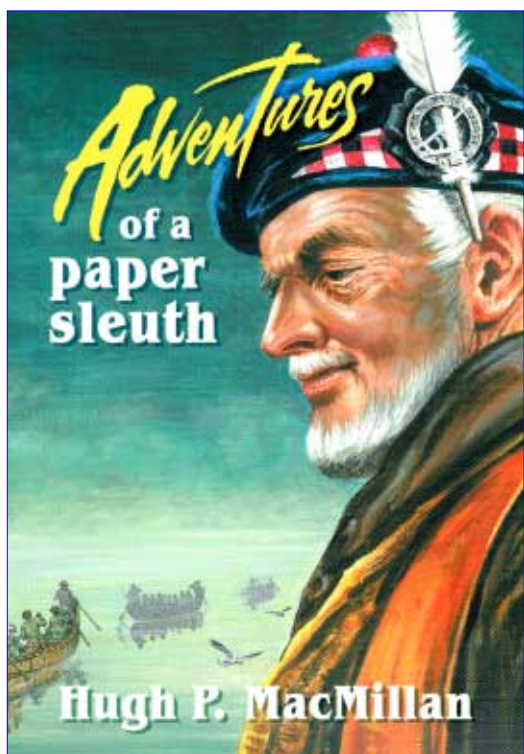


A book review

Adventures of a Paper Sleuth

by Hugh P. MacMillan

Published by Penumra Press, P.O. Box 940, Manotick, ON, K4M 1A8,
6 X 9 inches, 344 pages 40 black & white archival photos, published December 2004,
ISBN #1894131622, Hardcover, First Edition, \$35.00



ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF PENUMBRA PRESS

Hugh P. MacMillan recounts the stories behind the acquisition of a few of the treasures while working as a roving archivist from 1964-1989 for the Archives of Ontario. For over 25 years, Hugh roamed the highways, searching the attics and basements of Ontario to seek out the often forgotten, usually unappreciated treasures of our documentary heritage. Combining the skills of a great detective with patience and tenacity, he rescued many fragile records that illuminate our past. His passion for history has been infectious, enlisting the help of many in the cause, and triumphing over bureaucracy and indifference. His exploits are the stuff of legend. Hugh has an incredible reserve of stories that makes history come alive. A few examples include: finding the papers of Sir John Graves Simcoe, first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada

(Ontario), found with a farmer from New Zealand; coming upon a station wagon full of the papers of Colonel R.R. McLennan, CPR contractor, world champion hammer thrower, and Glengarry Militia leader; turning up the bugle from Canada's first warship, *The Rainbow*, locating an unwanted ciné film collection, now known to be the largest cache of 28mm film ever found in North America; acquiring some 3,000



glass "plates and slides" of the Bartle Brothers who roamed Glengarry County with their itinerant photo saloon c.1895-1905. Glen Phillips in his *Ontario Photographers List, Vol. II*, shows Bartle Brothers in Dixon, Ontario for 1906, only.

Hugh Pearson MacMillan was born in Fitzroy Harbour, near Arnprior in the Ottawa Valley. His ancestors came to Canada from Scotland in 1793. By age 39, Hugh had been a soldier, a farmer, a sailor, an insurance agent, a journalist, and a public relations manager for both a circus company and for a hypnotist. In the late 1950s, Hugh began to pursue his long-time interest in local and family history, involving himself

in the founding of the Glengarry Historical Society, the Dunvegan Pioneer Museum, and the NorWester and Loyalist Museum at Williamstown. Hugh talked his way into an appointment as a roving archivist for the Ontario Archives. Recalls Hugh: "I was given the lowly classification of a grade three clerk, but bestowed with the grand title of *Archives Liaison Officer*. This didn't really impress anyone, but the title sounded good, and I seized the opportunity to begin travelling around the province, honing my investigative skills."

All Canadians are in debt for Dr. MacMillan's initiative in 1967 to retrace voyageur canoe routes and to re-enact fur trade history.

Hugh made a massive contribution to this country and its heritage which will be valued and appreciated so long as people continue to investigate the history of this great nation.

This book allows us to share a few of Hugh's remarkable experiences, his triumphs and his disappointments.

Bartle Brothers travelling saloon c.1895-1905 was mounted on a sleigh during winter. Below, a poster announces their arrival.



PHOTO COURTESY OF M. LINDSAY LAMBERT

Coming Events

May 14, 2005, Saturday. A Daguerreotype Workshop will be conducted by Mike Robinson at his Century Darkroom gallery and darkroom in Toronto for a limited number of students. The fee of \$350 covers material costs to produce your own dag image. Phone (416) 469-8128.

The Bookstore Cafe & Antiques

has oodles of antiques and collectibles. Open Friday-Sunday. Take exit 593 north off Highway 401 (west of Kingston) for 7km. Telephone Les Jones at (613) 378-1102.

May 27-29, 2005. The Ohio Camera Collectors Society stages its **43rd Annual International Collectors Show** – a combined auction, show and sale. Friday, May 27, opening speaker Michael Levy at 7:30 PM. Show & sale starts 10 AM Saturday with photo auction at 5 PM. Show & sale continues Sunday. Holiday Inn Columbus East I-70, 4560 Hilton Corp. Dr., Columbus, Ohio. Tel: (740) 393-1314.

May 28 & 29, 2005. The Annual Book Sale hosted by The Ontario Historical Society will be held at the John McKenzie House, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale (2 blocks north of North York Centre). 10 AM to 4 PM. Great bargains in books, easy street parking.

Camera & Optical Instrument Flea Market

Sunday, May 29, 2005 in Victoria, B.C. The first Annual Camera & Optical Instrument Flea Market will be held in the Market Square, Lower Courtyard, 560 Johnson St. 10 AM to 3 PM. Buy and sell. Cameras, ciné, digital, telescopes, microscopes. For table reservation call Andrew Plank: 382-6838.

PHSC Annual Spring Fair

Sunday, May 29th, 2005. The PHSC Annual Spring Fair will be held again at the spacious Soccer Centre, 7601 Martingrove Rd., Woodbridge, Ont. (south of highway 7). Doors opens to the public at 10 AM and close at 3 PM. If you wish to reserve one or more of the 140 tables call Chairman Mark Singer at (905) 762-9031 or email him at string@outer-net.com

NSA STEREO CONVENTION July 13 to 18, 2005

The National Stereoscopic Assoc. will hold its convention this year in Irving, Texas from July 13th to 18th. Early hotel reservations a must at (972) 929-4500. Check website for events: <http://2005.nsa3d.org/>

The Daguerreian Symposium October 27 – 30, 2005

Here is an opportunity for more PHSC members to gain insights to the daguerreotype as Rochester, N.Y. and the George Eastman House play host to the Annual Daguerreian Symposium. Evening reception, bountiful Trade Show, international speakers, auctions and banquet all add up to a top-notch event. The GEH will mount a special exhibit of Southworth & Hawes images. Acknowledged as the leading masters of the daguerreotype, this exhibit will be the finest gathering of S&H images ever assembled – don't miss it. Check their web site: <http://www.daguerre.org/gallindex.php>

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.

For Sale

New Schneider Super Angulon f8 90mm wide angle lens covering 4x5 for \$550. Contact Fred at (705) 437-4395.

Research Data Request

Need info on photographer Don La'Ray, early 1900s. Credited on "Maid of the Mist" photo at Niagara. Contact Bob at northd2@cwnet.com

Wanted

Ken Metcalfe seeks a reasonably priced copy of History of Photographic Lenses by Rudolph Kingslake. Contact him at: MET-CALF537@aol.com

For Sale

Camera equipment and complete darkroom are offered for sale by Suzanne & George at info@wdmemories.com or tel: (416) 986-5372. Hasselblad system, Contax ST 35mm, Brauncolor strobe system and stands, Beseler 23C enlarger, lenses, trays, etc.

Buying or Consignment



Vintage cameras wanted by experienced Ebay seller. Professionally presented with pictures and description, ensuring real market value. Reserve or non-reserve auction styles. Low commission & listing fees. Contact Douglas at (905) 994-0515 or douglas@dugwerks.com

Wanted

Need F.E.D. and Zorki 35mm type cameras, NO Zenits! Also other Russian 35mm and 120 cameras for school project. Contact: Ed James, P.O. Box 69, Elkhorn, MB, R0M 0N0, Telephone (204) 845-2630.

Wanted & For Sale

Rollei 2 1/4 slide projector and dissolve unit wanted. A Gossen Sixtron 2 Electronic Flashmeter is for sale. Contact Steve at (905) 278-8872.

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



For Sale

Leica M users should visit the web site of Tom Abrahamsson at <http://www.rapidwinder.com> to review his *Rapidwinder* and *Rapidgrip* for Leica M cameras.

Selling on eBay

James Marr in Hamilton is getting results for members by selling internationally their vintage or contemporary photographica. A professional eBay seller (jay3jay3), he accepts equipment on consignment and avoids the pitfalls. Contact: 905 529-0582, email: jmarr2@cogeco.ca.