



# news

PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORICAL  
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25-8



#### Editor

Patrick Gunn

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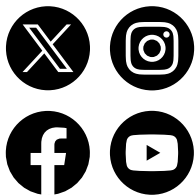
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Views expressed in  
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Society of Canada,  
since 1974

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Pacific Mills Ltd. picnic, Belcarra Park, BC, 1953. City of Vancouver Archives; AM1545-S3 CVA 586-14211. Photographer Don Coltman

## August 2025

Better late than never, as August is generally our downtime, but a lot is happening starting September.

Both our Fall Sale and Fall Auction are coming up, see our events on page 9.

Celio, our Program Coordinator has recently uploaded additional past online presentations and talks to the [PHSC YouTube page](#) as well.

Have any great photographica finds this summer? Want to tell the world about it? Then please join us on Wed., September 17 at 8pm for our first PHSC

Program of the 2025-2026 season. To sign up to present, please email [program@phsc.ca](mailto:program@phsc.ca). Members and free mailing list address receive the meeting link a few days in advance.

Let us know what's on your mind, equipment or treasures that you've found, we'd love to share.

Happy shooting, discovering, sharing, and collecting.

# Archives

## Photos

**Archival image** Photo from page 2

**Don Colman** (1898-1963) was born in England and arrived in Canada in 1904 with his mother Ada, father Alfred Birbek and brother Rex.

In 1940 he and his wife Marie built on his photography hobby and started making and selling postcards using the darkroom set up in their basement. Colman joined Steffens-Colmer Studio as manager in 1941, then in 1944 he purchased the business, including the negatives and equipment and operated under the company name Steffens-Colmer Ltd. until 1951. In 1945 Colman started a firm called Western Photo Electric Supplies which became Photolec and he created a line of equipment named Unicolt. He also invented a new design for a tripod and tripod head. In 1949 he and Wally Hamilton formed a company (purchased from Lew Perry) called Trans-Canada Films. The company was responsible for the film "Silver Harvest" (1951).

From 1951 to 1954 he continued to operate the business under Don Colman Photographic Company (Don Colman photos). In 1955 he closed the business and sold his photograph collection to Donn Williams. Williams Bros. Photographers Ltd. utilized these photographic records as stock photographs to complement their own photographic records.

In September 1959 Colman moved to Toronto to become the Eastern Manager of Taylor, Pearson and Carson Ltd.'s photo division. He passed away in Toronto in 1963.

# Resources

## Graflex newsletter

In a recent email Ken Metcalf, editor of the *Graflex Journal*, tells us that the latest 2025 issue is now available.

Back issues (both the older *Graflex Historic Quarterly* and the newer *Graflex Journal Quarterly*) are available up to 2022 at [graflex.org](http://graflex.org).

And Mike Otto of [Pacific Rim Camera](http://Pacific Rim Camera) has a whack of Graflex catalogues, etc. and the [journals including this latest issue](#) (GJ 2025).

There are some technical issues regarding more recent issues on the Graflex website at the moment, but the missing journals are all on Mike's website. Enjoy.



ISSUE 2025



FEATURED

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1898-1905 FOLMER & SCHWING REVERSIBLE BACK GRAPHIC

By Thomas Evans

The Folmer & Schwing Manufacturing Company of New York City produced the Reversible Back Graphic camera from at least 1898 to 1905. The camera design was of the long-focus type, having in addition to a front that folded down to form a bed, a back that also folded down, providing a triple-extension focusing bed. To facilitate inserting and removing film and plate holders without the back standard being extended, this type of camera usually had side and top doors to provide access. This design gave the photographer a view camera that could handle wide-angle, normal, and very long focus lenses with relative ease, and still fold up into a compact, self-contained box.

The Folmer & Schwing catalog of 1898 described the camera: "The Reversible Back Graphic is designed to meet all the requirements for both professional and amateur work, possessing all of the good points of a first class View and Hand Camera, with practically the compactness of the latter."

During the 1890s and early years of the 1900s, the compactness of the camera would have appealed to traveling photographers, especially to members of camera clubs, who would often travel from their cities out into the countryside by train or bicycle for a weekend day of photography.

The catalog continues: "In the Reversible Back Graphic we have embodied all of the following advantages, viz: Double center swinging back; rising and sliding front; removable lens board; reversible back; rack and pinion focusing device; view finder and tripod plate."

The view camera movements would be considered as moderate by today's standard, but they are there, handy, solid, and easy to use.

"The Reversible Back Graphics are far superior to the ordinary View Camera for long focus or Tele-Photo Lens Work, as it has a much longer length of bellows when extended and is much more compact when closed up; yet having space for three extra double Plate Holders, lens and shutter."

The design of tele-photo lenses in the 1890s and early 1900s was different than what we are used to today. In 1891, Thomas A. Dallmeyer developed a tele-photo lens that combined an ordinary taking lens on the front of a variable-length tube, and a negative, magnifying lens on the back. This design is similar to that used in telescopes. The photographer could set up the tele-photo with different focal lengths of negative component, and with different lengths of the tube, to achieve different magnifications of the image. In theory, there is no limit to the magnification one could produce, but in practical terms, this was limited to about 10 or 20 times magnification. The chief limit was in the rapid loss in the strength of the light reaching the emulsion, but also important, it is very difficult to correct the optical aberrations of the lens for variable focal lengths, and the increase in magnification also increased the visible optical distortions. Large magnification of the image required a long bellows extension. The extra-long bellows extension also made it possible to make 1:1, macro photographs with ordinary lenses.



Rapid Rectilinear lens in F&S Graphic shutter.

The F&S Reversible Back Graphic cameras were normally sold with a Rapid Rectilinear lens, in a Folmer & Schwing Graphic Shutter. Both the lens and shutter were made for F&S by the Bausch & Lomb Optical Co. The lens components of the normal Rectilinear could be swapped out with the components of a wide angle lens, both using the same shutter. To use the wide-angle lens, the front bed could be dropped out of the way. Also offered were several faster or better-corrected lenses, including the Bausch & Lomb Zeiss Convertible lens, Series VIIa (early Protar VIIa), the Voigtlaender Collinear Lens,



# FALL CAMERA FAIR

Sunday, October 19, 2025

**TRIDENT HALL**

145 Evans Avenue, Toronto

Noon to 4:30 pm

**Admission \$10 / Students \$7**

**FREE PARKING!**

**TTC via the South 110 Islington Bus**

Lunch available at Trident Hall's Uno Bistro

Mark Singer - Chairman - [fair@phsc.ca](mailto:fair@phsc.ca) Details at [www.phsc.ca](http://www.phsc.ca)

**Presented by the Photographic Historical Society of Canada**

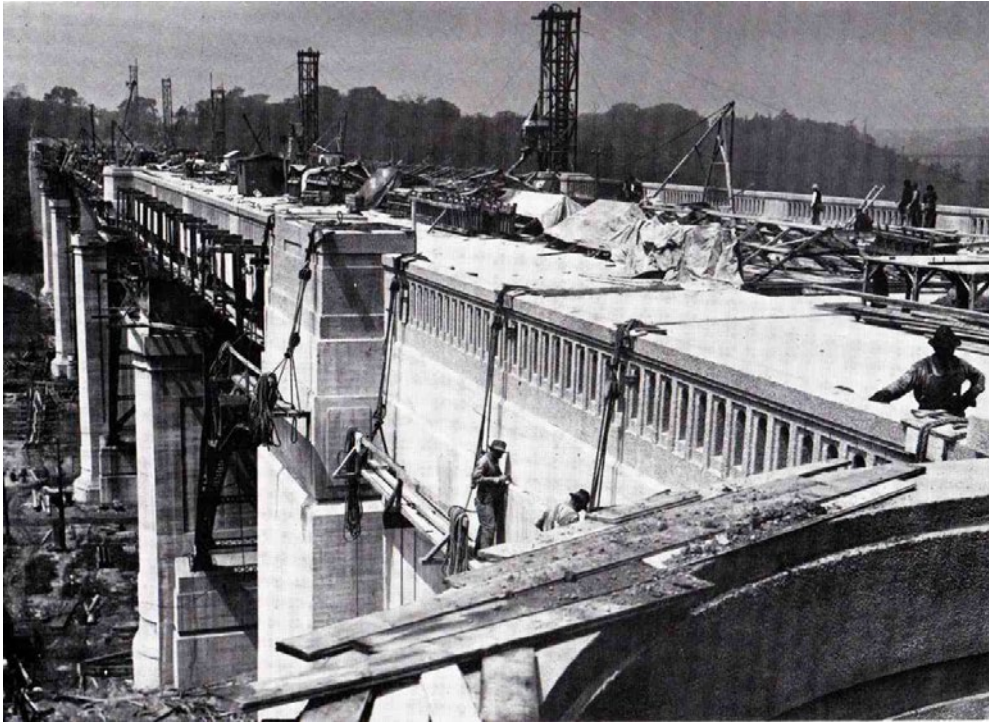




# From our web blog

[Mr Goss, You make great pictures ...](#)

**Robert Carter**



Building the Bloor St Viaduct – looking west in 1917

Toronto. .... with a nod to Christie's tag line for the idea.

If you have ever crossed the Don Valley on Bloor or Danforth, you used the Bloor Viaduct shown here at left (July 18, 1917) while it was under construction. Forward thinking city officials added a passageway below the road level for future use as a subway (in use today). The photograph in 1917 was taken by city employee Arthur Goss on that sunny summer's day.

Arthur Goss was the first city photographer, hired well over a century ago to record the works of various city departments. Surprisingly, Mr Goss was not just a recorder, but a true photographer. He was City Photographer from 1911 to 1940 (when he died).

His works are held in the City Archives (once the Records & Archives Division of the City Clerk's Department at City Hall).

In early 1980, the City of Toronto Archives exhibited an overview of his work in the Market Gallery. The event included an illustrated brochure with a foreword by his friend, artist A J Casson of the 'Group of Seven'. The two met at the Arts and Letters club (downtown on Elm street these days).

Those readers who collect photo memorabilia should visit our 2025 events. While we can't say you will find a Goss photo (many are available at the city archives ...), you are sure to find items that complement your collection. Our coming event is the fabulous fall fair to be held October 19th this year.

# Collecting

## John Saddy stereoview auctions in-depth



### A longtime fixture in the field

For collectors of stereoviews and early photography, [John Saddy Auctions](#) has quietly become one of the most enduring fixtures in the field. I recently chatted with John about the auction, and background from when he began.

Based in London, Ontario, Canada, John Saddy has been running online auctions focused on 19th and early 20th-century stereoscopic photography for more than three decades, and has been in the business even longer than that.

### The name behind the business

What many collectors may not know is that the official business name is actually Jefferson Stereoptics, a name that, as John freely admits, came from a moment of inspiration in 1981 as a fan of *The Jeffersons* sitcom.

"Somehow I thought 'Jefferson' went well with 'Stereoptics,' so that's where it came from," he says.

These days, however, he tends to use Saddy Stereoview Consignment Auctions for better visibility in search results. A practical choice, like much of the operation.

### From mail order to online

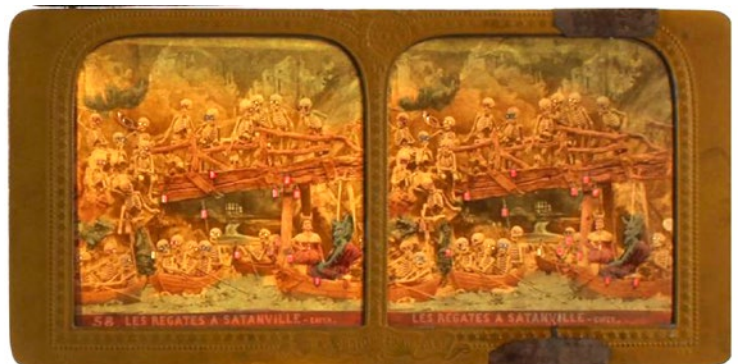
Back when the business began, it ran on printed set-price lists and mail-in orders, the kind collectors would eagerly watch their mailbox for. The consignment auction format came along in the early 1990s and has been running ever since.

The model is straightforward: online catalogues posted twice a year, filled with images and brief but helpful descriptions along with his commentary, with online bidding via the website. The auctions draw a wide range of material, everything from well-known publishers like Keystone View, Kilbourn, and E. & H.T. Anthony, to obscure regional photographers, like Maynard (Victoria, BC), Climo (New Brunswick), and appeal to both serious collectors and those just beginning to explore the medium.

### A collector's perspective

John himself came to stereoviews through collecting Boer War scenes, which were among the first views he owned. Reading about the conflict helped bring the images to life, and that personal connection shaped his approach to the material.

He doesn't maintain a large personal collection today, "pathetic," he jokes, but says the joy comes from handling so many images as they pass through. "I have a 'revolving' collection made up of whatever consignments are on hand."



Les Diableries tissue stereoview, from auction 24-1

# Collecting

## John Saddy stereoview auctions in-depth

### The Treadwell Collection and a turning point

Over the years, that has meant some significant consignments. One of the most memorable was the Tex Treadwell Collection in 2004, a well-known name among collectors.

*"Tex visited dealers and auctioneers to decide where to place his collection," John recalls. "His widow told me later that he chose me because my collection was by a long shot the weakest, so he assumed I must be honest."*

That moment proved to be a turning point, a kind of unexpected endorsement that helped bring many future consignments his way.

### Decades of returning collectors

With a decades-long run behind him, John now counts many longtime customers among his consignors, a full-circle reminder of how long his auctions have been part of the collecting landscape. His approach is straightforward and consistent, which is part of what has kept collectors coming back year after year.

### Highlights for the upcoming 25-1 auction in September 2025

The upcoming auction due to released early September 2025, will be strong in boxed sets, has a Les Diableries tissue section, nudes & risque, along with one of the best stereoscope selections that he's ever had, and lots more.

### Browse and sign-up for John's auctions:

[www.saddyauctions.com](http://www.saddyauctions.com)

[john@saddyauctions.com](mailto:john@saddyauctions.com)

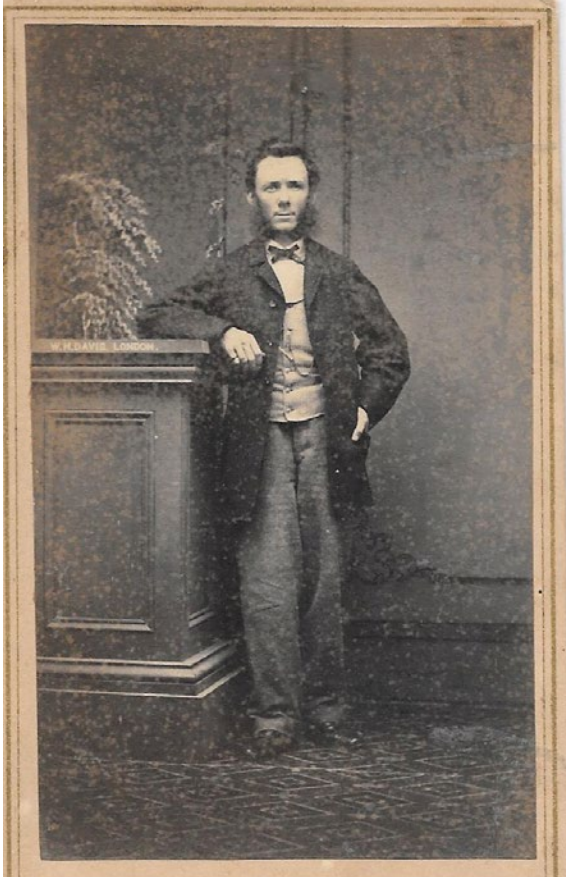


Stereo daguerreotype from auction 24-1, possibly by Claudet



# Photography

## Canadian CDV of the month



From the collection of Ray Ruddy. Mid 1860s CDV portrait of a confident-looking man in the studio of London, C.W. (Ontario) photographer **W.H. Davis**. Davis was only in business from 1864 to 1865, and as can be expected, images by him are exceptionally rare.

The verso is blank on this CDV, but if you look closely at the top of the pillar, you can see his name.

**Join the Facebook Group**

[Ontario CDV's and Cabinet Cards](#)

### What is a CDV?

The carte de visite ('visiting card') was a format of small photograph which was patented in Paris by photographer André Adolphe Eugène Disdéri in 1854.

Each photograph was the size of a formal visiting card about 4½ x 2½ inches and were commonly traded among friends and visitors in the 1860s.

The popularity of the format and its rapid uptake worldwide were due to their relative cheapness, which made portrait photographs accessible to a broader demographic.



# PHSC Upcoming events

We're adding events throughout the year, and they'll also be shown on our website when confirmed.

■ **Sept. 17** | 8pm-10pm  
**PHSC Post-Summer Zoom & Tell**

Virtual meeting, link sent to members and free mailing list addresses in advance

■ **Oct. 15** | 8pm-10pm  
**Online meeting TBD**

Virtual meeting, link sent to members and free mailing list addresses in advance

■ **Oct. 19** | Sunday, 12pm-4:30pm  
**Fall Camera Fair**

Trident Hall, 145 Evans Ave,  
Etobicoke, Toronto  
Regular \$10/ Students \$7

■ **Nov. 9** | Sunday, time TBD  
**Fall Auction**

Royal Canadian Legion Hall,  
3850 Lake Shore W, Etobicoke,  
Toronto, next to the Long Branch  
GO station

Featuring in part, a large amount of photographic gear from the recently closed Sherman Hines Museum in Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

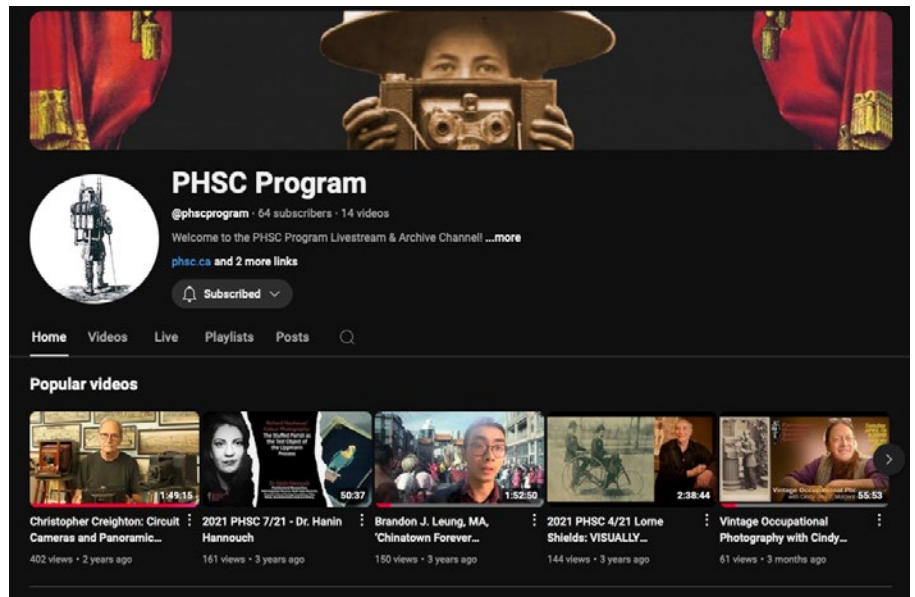
*\*Call for consignments, especially estates, contact Clint [info@phsc.ca](mailto:info@phsc.ca) or [1956canada@gmail.com](mailto:1956canada@gmail.com)*

■ **May 24, 2026**

Sunday, 12pm-4:30pm

**Spring Camera Fair**

Trident Hall, 145 Evans Ave,  
Toronto, Etobicoke  
Regular \$10/ Students \$7



## PHSC past programming events on YouTube

Missed past events, or wish to relieve the excitement of past programs? Celio, our program coordinator, is busy at work with our PHSC YouTube channel @phscprogram. We're continually uploading past programs, including symposia, guest lectures and Show & Tell events.

Check back often, as program archive continues to grow. Here are a few highlight programs for you to enjoy:

[Conversation with Rita Godlevskis Editor/Publisher PhotoEd Magazine](#)

[Paulette Michayluk on Inspiration](#)

[Client Hryhorijiw interview with Vincenzo Pietropaolo](#)

[Vintage Occupational Photography with Cindy 'MotZ' Motzenbecker >](#)

[Kjeld Duits: Empire of Color >](#)

[Christopher Creighton: Circuit Cameras and Panoramic Photography >](#)

[Technology, Expeditions & Empires: Three-Colour Photography around 1900 >](#)



# Community Upcoming events

Community listings are for reference and convenience only, as the PHSC does not have any control over the events listed, and are not affiliated.

Please visit the various event websites, as the PHSC isn't responsible for any errors, omissions, or cancellations with these listings.

■ Canada

■ International

■ **Sat. Sept. 20, 2025** | 10am-3pm

## **London Vintage Camera Show**

Westview Baptist Church  
1000 Wonderland Rd S.  
London, ON Admission \$5  
[londonvintagecamerashow.ca](http://londonvintagecamerashow.ca)

■ **Sept. 25-27, 2025**

## **Daguerreian Society 2025 Symposium & Photo Fair**

Hartford, CT USA  
[daguerreiansociety.org/  
event-6078338](http://daguerreiansociety.org/event-6078338)

■ **Sun. Sept. 28, 2025** | 10am-3pm

## **Camerama Camera Show**

Japanese Canadian Cultural  
Centre, Toronto, ON  
Regular \$10/ Students \$8  
[cameramashow.wordpress.com](http://cameramashow.wordpress.com)

■ **Sun. Oct. 5, 2025** | 10am

## **Michigan Photographic Historical Society Annual Photographica Show and Sale**

Royal Oak Elks Hall, 2401 E 4th  
Street, Royal Oak, MI USA  
[www.miphs.org](http://www.miphs.org)

■ **Sun. Oct. 5, 2025** | 9:30am-3pm

## **Vancouver Camera Show**

Nikkei National Museum & Cultural  
Centre, 6688 Southoaks Cres.,  
Burnaby, BC Admission \$5  
[vancouvercamerashow.com](http://vancouvercamerashow.com)

■ **Sun. June 7, 2026** | 10am-3pm

## **Camerama Camera Show**

Japanese Canadian Cultural  
Centre, Toronto, ON  
Regular \$10/ Students \$8  
[cameramashow.wordpress.com](http://cameramashow.wordpress.com)

# 2026

■ **Sun. March 1, 2026** | 10am-3pm

## **Camerama Camera Show**

Japanese Canadian Cultural Cen-  
tre, Toronto, ON  
Regular \$10/ Students \$8  
[cameramashow.wordpress.com](http://cameramashow.wordpress.com)

■ **Apr. 23-26, 2026**

## **Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada 2026 Convention**

Black Creek Village, Toronto, ON  
[www.magiclanternsociety.  
org/2026-convention-toronto](http://www.magiclanternsociety.org/2026-convention-toronto)

■ **August 2026**

## **3D-Con 2026 National Stereoscopic Association (NSA)**

52nd Annual Convention,  
Albuquerque, NM USA  
[3d-con.com](http://3d-con.com)



# Exchanges

## postings

**PHSC members can post for free once per issue.**

**Submit to**  
**news@phsc.ca**

- **Category**
- **45-ish max words**
- **Your contact (s)**

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CA\$35/yr with these benefits:

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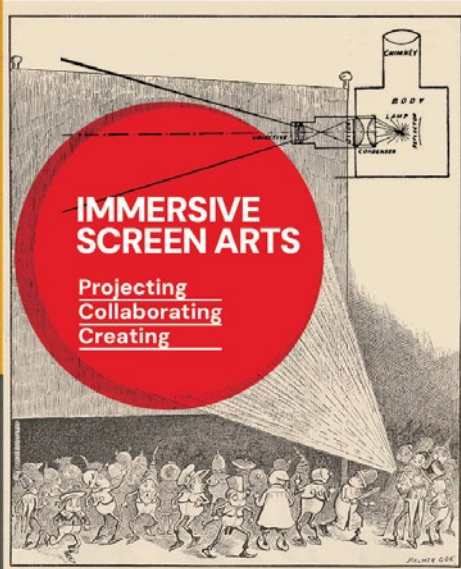
**MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY  
OF THE U.S. & CANADA**

**21st  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION**

**THE VILLAGE AT BLACK CREEK  
TORONTO, CANADA**

[magiclanternsociety.org](http://magiclanternsociety.org)  
[correspondencesecretary@magiclanternsociety.org](mailto:correspondencesecretary@magiclanternsociety.org)

**APRIL  
23-26  
2026**

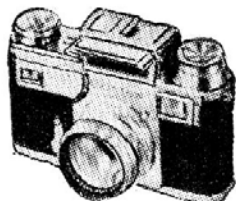


**21st International Convention Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada**

April 23-26, 2026, Toronto [www.magiclanternsociety.org/2026-convention-toronto/](http://www.magiclanternsociety.org/2026-convention-toronto/)

### Sam Carpick

Camera Repair



Mississauga, Ontario

(647) 675-7441

[samcarpick@gmail.com](mailto:samcarpick@gmail.com)

I can repair most cameras and lenses, but I specialize in:

- **Contax II & III**
- **Canon F series cameras**, FD prime lenses
- **Pentax M42 & K series cameras**, Takumar lenses
- **Praktica I - V**
- **Edixa Reflex**
- **Kodak Retina**
- **Compur shutters**, Copal shutters

Feel free to inquire about other cameras & lenses!

# Past newsletters

Cover images below are linked to the individual PDFs from phsc.ca

Sign-up to receive newsletters free : either our Google Form, or email your name & email address to: [info@phsc.ca](mailto:info@phsc.ca)



25-1 Jan 2025



25-2 Feb 2025



25-3 Mar 2025



25-4 Apr 2025



25-5 May 2025



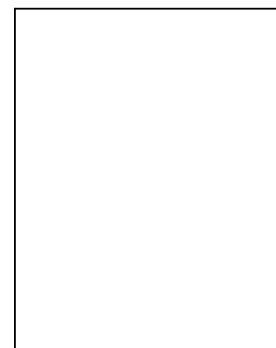
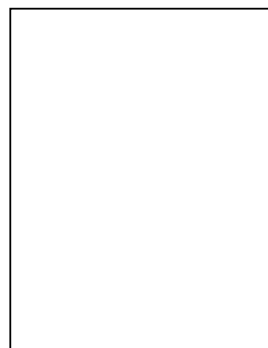
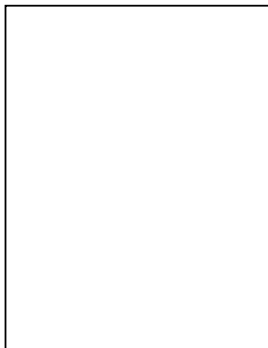
25-6 June 2025



25-7 July 2025



25-8 August 2025



The quarterly PHSC journal, *Photographica Canadiana* is available with paid memberships.





**PHOTOGRAPHIC  
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SOCIETY OF  
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# MEMBERSHIP FORM

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