



# NEWSLETTER

MEETINGS: AMRA Hall, 92 Wills St, Glen Iris, VIC  
Melways 59 H7 ABN 55 567 464 974

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## APCS NEWSLETTER No.111 – March 2021

### The next APCS event is the members-only market on 21<sup>st</sup> March from 2pm at the AMRA Hall – 92 Wills St., Glen Iris

Provided that COVID infections do not take another turn for the worse in Melbourne we will be meeting face to face on the 21<sup>st</sup> March – but note the time – 2pm – and COVIDsafe rules will apply – whatever is permissible on the day.

We expect that there will be a limit of 56 people in the AMRA Hall, and we will be providing cleaning items and gloves for those attending – all part of a COVIDsafe plan that has been developed following the Victorian DHHS template. A few other details will be evident on the day. We will be providing refreshments, but again there are a few minor detail changes from what has been done in freer times.

PLEASE send an email to [president@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:president@apcsociety.com.au) if you wish to attend as a buyer and if you wish to have a table. Remember that the buyers will be other APCS members and are probably not interested in other than quality items. Registration will help us organise the room and have sufficient refreshments etc for you.

As far as possible this will be a “normal” members-only event at the AMRA Hall – but it will follow the rules and procedures for a group of people in an enclosed space. Should a member of the committee ask you to do something, please comply – they will have name tags... We don't want the APCS to hit the news headlines as a COVID centre.

### Report on the February ZOOM meeting

We ran a ZOOM meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February along the same processes that we used in 2020 but this time it did not work out so well. While the first session ran its fully 40 minutes, some members forgot to allow for daylight savings and others could not log in for some reason. Then for the second session, the meeting was started but in spite of later reports that members had tried to log in, they were not visible in the “waiting room”. The reasons for those issues are not resolved but possible causes are network congestion, changes in processes for cascaded meetings and of course operator error.

Clearly, if we are going to need ZOOM in the future, we will need to resolve a few issues....

### APCS event planning for 2021

The schedule for the first half of 2021 includes some significant changes and under the stress of COVID, further changes are possible... Late changes will be notified on the APCS webpages – make sure you “refresh” the page...

### April 18 – Noon – Members-only auction AMRA Hall – SPECIAL CONDITIONS

The members-only auction on 18<sup>th</sup> April will be a bit different in several respects. It will be conducted under Victorian DHHS COVIDsafe conditions which will make it impractical for the items to be laid out on tables. However you will have the opportunity to look at photographs of every item on-line very soon. See <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/auctions/April2021catalogue.pdf> to download the catalogue – links to the individual photographs are active on-line links from the catalogue.

As each item is offered it will be carried around the room allowing a level of observation (you will be in a large circle around the room – COVID spacing). The items are mostly from estates –collections of largely Kodak, Exakta and Voigtlander items from the period 1930 to the end of the film era and includes mostly micro-variants of many relatively common cameras. Many of the items on offer are considered to be scarce if not rare. Outstanding items include – a very nice Mamiya 645 group, a 50mm shift lens for the 645, an uncommon Reid III body (quality English copy of a Leica), and a 55mm f1.2 lens for the Nikon F family. There is also a Durst Laborator 138S enlarger with most of the necessary support equipment which will need to be picked up from Blackburn. While a lot of this auction is probably working, a considerable proportion of it has been in storage for many years and bidders should assume that “100% working” is not going to be the case. For various COVIDsafe reasons, pre-inspection will not be possible for this auction.

As usual absentee bidding and phone bidding will be possible – see the catalogue for details.

### May – Adelaide market – Hungarian Club Norwood – Postponed

The previously scheduled Adelaide market (May) has been postponed to the second half of the 2021 year by which time COVID inoculations should be fairly universal in Australia. More details when a new date is finalised.

### May 16 – 2pm Presentation and Social meeting AMRA Hall

We hope to be able to have a normal presentation meeting in May – details later.

### June 20 – Members-only Market AMRA Hall

The members-only markets are popular events – and we will be holding another one in June – more details later, but we expect that it will run as outlined for the March meeting...

## July 18 – 2pm Annual General Meeting AMRA Hall

Our AGM is for the purpose of receiving reports, electing a committee for the next year and dealing with specific items of business to be determined. A contingency plan for this meeting is to conduct it via ZOOM software on-line.

## Plans for the second half of 2021

It is premature to be specific about the remainder of 2021. We are likely to be reacting to the Winter season of the COVID virus. We will also learn from the experience of the events in the first half of the year.

## On-line event – The films of Hubert Wilkins

An Adelaide Fringe program from last week, this event is available on-line this week as a subscription event. But note that viewing is arranged by session and cannot be viewed at random times. The South Australian, Sir George Hubert Wilkins was one of the greatest Polar explorers. He was also a world-class photographer. For the first time, his photos and films have been brought together in a new documentary by Peter Maddern. From under the North Pole ice and deep among the front lines of the Western Front in the Great War, from sailing high above the earth in the Graf Zeppelin to riding the roiling seas on Shackleton's quest, Wilkins kept his cameras going. His photographic record of the 30 years from 1910 to the Second World War is like no other. See <https://adelaidefringe.com.au/fringetix/the-eye-of-wilkins-af2021> for details.



## Communication with members

Thanks to the many who have sent us updated information, our database is now much more accurate. Many of those changes were due to transfer to the NBN etc – please keep us informed. Send us an email to [web@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:web@apcsociety.com.au) and we will ensure that the database is updated.

Whether we like it or not, communications is changing – maybe too rapidly for some – and the internet with its email services etc has all but replaced the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century norms of the postal service. A key feature of the internet is that it is close to free and instantaneous whereas the postal service is now costly and commonly delayed by many days rendering notification of late changes to meeting plans for example to be useless.

## The Internet – a Photographic Resource

Have you had a look at the on-line digitisation of the Journal of the Royal Photographic Society? See <https://rps.org/> ... That is the portal to a huge database that includes the 165 years of their journal as well as other photographic resources. The journal alone is some 30,000 pages and you can read each issue as a book or you can use their query system to search for specific subjects.

That is only an example of what is out there on the internet, and one of the things that has happened as a

result (maybe) of COVID is that organisations are making more and more material available on-line.

As collectors we were quite used to consulting McKeown as a means for camera identification and valuation but that is largely out of date now and the American resource “Collectiblend” which you can access at <https://collectiblend.com/Cameras/> has become the almost universal on-line replacement. Just be aware that the prices are in US\$ and there are examples of price manipulation as updates are provided by viewers. Some of the identifications are also a bit suspect. A feature of their pricing is that historical prices are adjusted for inflation and the current value of the US\$.

## Sony announces the Alpha 1 – Update

The APCS newsletter for last month covered the very new release of the Sony Alpha 1 – a high performance camera full of superlatives. But since then, there has been a mixture of reviews ranging from praise for the new model – essentially repeating the marketing material from Sony, to some reserved comments pointing out that the differences between this new model and previous A7Mk111, A7Mk IV and the A9 may not be enough to justify “getting another body” or the price that you will have to pay for the Alpha 1.



No-one is suggesting that there are any problems with this body – in fact early reports of overheating after 30 minutes of video seem to have been unjustified – but the performance improvements over the recent Sony full frame cameras may not have been all that significant in practical terms. The “official” price of just over A\$10,000 has already been under-cut and if you shop around you can find a proper Australian delivery for around A\$9,700.

So yours’ truly decided to do some testing and accepted some of the photos taken in various reviews with the Alpha 1 as benchmarks – noting that most were using the new G-series Sony lenses, and compared those images with those from an A7RMkII and an A7SMkII – fitted with a Zeiss 55mm f1.8 Sonnar which is probably the best native Sony E-mount lens around (and a few longer lenses of various kinds). The results echoed some review sentiments that the performance gap between the latest and what was around a couple of years ago is not particularly significant – with one notable exception... The performance of the Alpha 1 with fast moving objects seems to be uniformly outstanding and you would have to be fairly lucky to get comparable images from the older slower cameras. But a conclusion is that for most photography, the extreme performance of the Alpha 1 is not needed and previous releases are more than adequate – especially if you are a photographer that does not do much video work.

## Back Focus

Back Focus can’t exist without good articles. We are a collecting society... Write up your speciality and share your enthusiasm – you never can tell what might be hiding out there – it might bring you that elusive model or example that you have been chasing for years.

We are short on articles for Back Focus and the committee has decided to defer the production of the

next issue until June when we can also include the APCS annual report.

The APCS does pay for full articles at a rate of \$30 a page, but the rate is currently being reconsidered by the committee in light of the new printing standards and the fact that the rate has not been revised for many years. There is also a thought that a higher rate might attract better articles.

A new feature of the APCS is that the whole archive of Back Focus and the predecessor newsletters is now available to members on-line. You can get access by going to:

[http://www.apcsociety.com.au/BF\\_ARCHIVE.html](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/BF_ARCHIVE.html)

## Membership renewals

Membership renewals for 2020-2021 are now overdue, and thank you to the members who have already renewed their membership for the next year.

Subscriptions for 2021-2022 will be coming due at the end of May – not too early to get those in... The annual fee of remains at \$30 and can be paid by a direct deposit into the bank account:

Account name: Australian Photographic Collectors' Society. BSB: 083166 – Account: 515315423 and be certain to put your name or membership number in the reference field.

Or you can send a cheque (made out to the Australian Photographic Collectors' Society) to the Treasurer P.O.Box126, KANGAROO GROUND, VIC 3097

Any changes to your details can be sent to us by downloading the membership form from the website <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/membership.html> and including it with your cheque, or by emailing the changes to the Treasurer or to [web@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:web@apcsociety.com.au)

## Magazine exchanges

The APCS has magazine exchange relationships with other societies of like nature and in the past, copies were usually located in the APCS library, but now we have introduced an on-line Library which you can see at [www.apcsociety.com.au/Library.html](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/Library.html). From that page members will be able to see:

- "Snap Shots" from the Photographic Historical Society of New England
- News and "Photographic CANADIANA" from the Photographic Historical Society of Canada
- "Photogram" from the Michigan Photographic Historical Society

Of course, we have permission from those societies to share their publications – just as they can share what we publish as well. The links have been checked and are virus free.

## Classified Advertisements

With the social effects of COVID forcing us to cancel and modify markets and auctions for a while, this column is available to you to publicise what you wish to buy and sell.

To place an ad, send an email including all the details to [adverts@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:adverts@apcsociety.com.au) with a JPG photo if you wish. Rather than include your name and contact details we can add an enquiry code and pass information on to you – then you can deal directly with the responders. Please

try to keep the text down to under 50 words per item. At present there is no charge for placing an ad but it is now requested that for successful sales you remit a fee of 3% of the sale value, with the fee capped at \$15 for items sold for \$500 and above. This is an honour system and you may electronically transfer such fees in the same way as for membership fees – just mark the reference with your membership number and the word "Sale".

## Wanted

Member Sandy Barrie is looking for Kodak Sepia Toner and Selenium Toner. If you can help send him an email at [apbarrie52@dodo.com.au](mailto:apbarrie52@dodo.com.au)

## Wanted – 11"x14" items

My lockdown project is to go LARGE and I have just bought an 11X14 camera. I need film holders (even Fidelity "medical" ones), lenses, film (expired or good), a contact frame or anything else specific to 11X14.



Just email what you might have to John Corneille [hifexchange@hotmail.com](mailto:hifexchange@hotmail.com) Fair prices paid - I'm not looking for cheap.

## For Interest

The Save Old Slides project... Small collections of old slides and negatives copied for free... See: [www.lenslook.net](http://www.lenslook.net) for details.

## For Sale

Copies of the British Journal Photographic Almanac (BJPA) 1940, 1947 & 1948 in poor condition (\$6 each), and 1951, 1954, 1955, & 1958 in fair or better condition (\$10 each) plus postage. Phone Rod on 0408173662 or email [rod-reynolds@outlook.com](mailto:rod-reynolds@outlook.com) All these are the Yellow cover version.

## For Sale

Member David Donaldson has for sale Australian photography DVDs new in wrap:

- GIRL IN A MIRROR (Carol Jerrems)
- WILDNESS (Truchanas, Dombrovskis)
- PHOTOGRAPHERS OF AUSTRALIA (Sievers, Dupain, Moore)

Each \$20 in plain envelope, \$30 padded. Details on request. Phone David on (08) 8267 5069.

## Wanted

Photos by Australian & overseas candid street photographers from the 1920s to 1950s, for an ongoing research project. Also photos taken at attractions such as Luna Park, St. Kilda and photo booth images singly or in strips.

I am also seeking information and insights into street and attraction photography practice and the photographers and firms (e.g. Leicagraph) active in those areas. Contact: Marcel Safier, Brisbane [msafier@ozemail.com.au](mailto:msafier@ozemail.com.au); 0411 238612

