



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.113 – May 2021

The next APCS event is a “normal” meeting on Sunday 16th May at 2pm at the AMRA Hall – 92 Wills St., Glen Iris

We have a normal presentation meeting in May. This will be an illustrated talk on the use of heritage lenses on digital cameras and will include examples of some very special lenses needing significant modification to make them usable. There will be some new information relative to some of the latest cameras that have the ability to exploit the capabilities of some very high-performance military surveillance lenses, and a few surprises concerning the use of projector lenses as high-performance camera lenses. The presentation will include a demonstrated outline of how to test lenses.

If you have a particular heritage lens that you would like to put on a M-DSLR and don't know quite how to do it – bring it along and the collective knowledge should solve the problem for you.

It has been so long since we have had a normal meeting that a few reminders are appropriate... This is a social opportunity for members to get together and chat, check what is in the library, listen to and interact with a presentation and of course, don't forget the swap and sell table – it seems ages since we have had one of those!

Of course there are some COVIDSafe rules in place – they will be normal for quite a while yet.

APCS event planning for 2021

The schedule for 2021 includes new changes, and further changes are possible. See the APCS webpages for late changes – make sure you “refresh” the page.

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.

Event for Adelaide people

On Saturday 22nd May, the Friends of State Library will present “Modern Media of 1951 – your morning paper” <https://festival.history.sa.gov.au/events/modern-media-of-1951-your-morning-paper/>

This is a documentary of The Advertiser's super technology of 1951 filmed by John Campbell-Dobbie. A rare colour print uncovered recently in State Library private collection. Also to be shown – two short film reports directed by Edmee Campbell-Dobbie from the same period – classic BW from the film collection of APCS member David Donaldson.

Showing in digital at Hetzel Room of State Library under COVID conditions. Bookings via History Festival. Inquiries can also be made by sending an email to David at filmart@dodo.com.au

Event for Brisbane people

The Photographic Collectors Club of Queensland “Cameraholics” will be running the Brisbane camera fair on Sunday, 6 June 2021, from 10 AM to 2.30 PM, at the Global Learning Centre, 102 McDonald Road, Windsor, Brisbane, Queensland, adjacent to Albion Station on the Brisbane commuter rail system. Admission is \$5. There will be ATMs, food, and coffee on-site.

It will be held following COVID safe procedures, including limiting numbers inside the fair and registering attendance. Tables will be spread more than usual, but there will still be more than 40 tables of gear to browse.

More info and an image of a flyer is on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/cameraholicsfair/> and can also be accessed via the Cameraholics website, <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~msafier/cameraholics/>

Breaking News – APCS Auctions

Throughout the history of the APCS we have run auctions of photographic items for our members. As the years passed the nature of the offerings and the way that we ran the auctions has changed, and behind the scenes the workload has increased significantly. A major change in recent years has been more estates, and decisions by members to dispose of whole collections.

The APCS auctions have dealt with nearly 1,000 items per year up until COVID. There were no auctions in 2020, so the backlog of items should have been about 1,000 but is currently of the order of 4,000 lots if we accepted all estates on offer.

It is also emerging that some members have been holding back on disposal of collections awaiting a return to normality from COVID.

In spite of requests for secure and clean storage areas, and help in the preparation for the auctions, these resources have not been forthcoming. The committee has considered alternatives like utilising paid commercial solutions, but the associated business cases are not viable for the society. The result is that we are forced into new approaches to our auctions.

We are planning to have another “catch up” auction in August 2021, and in 2022, the traditional large auctions will be replaced by smaller auctions that will become part of the normal monthly meetings, and they will not include large estates and collections. Those smaller auctions will be run rather differently with limits on the maximum number of items from individual members for each auction. Large items like darkroom equipment and projectors will not be accepted and there will be a minimum expected value per item using resources like Collectiblend.com as a guide.

The detailed management of the new auctions will be announced closer to each auction – and as this is a new approach, there are bound to be changes.

Members will ask “what to do with the rest”? The Box Hill market will be back in operation shortly and should cater for most of those classifications. Similarly, we have our members-only markets for some of our better items – with the next one in June. The newsletter has a classified advertisements section. It is emerging that the demand for some items has evaporated, and there may be some hard decisions for some of us.

Report on the April Auction

The APCS auction in April was dominated by two main estates – a catchup from 2020. Even though there were “too many Voigtlander cameras”, there was still a good clearance of items and the auction performance in financial terms was better than usual. A summary is at: <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/auctions/April2021results.pdf>

The auction was run under COVIDsafe rules and members accepted that restrictions were necessary. A very welcome innovation was the availability of EFTPOS facilities for payments. This service does not come without a cost, and as part of the revision of the auction services by the APCS, the fee structure has been changed to a sellers’ fee of 15% - but retaining the principle of no buyers’ premium. This change will apply from the next auction in August 2021.

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\$.

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 its predecessors is now available to members on-line. You can get access by going to: http://www.apcsociety.com.au/BF_ARCHIVE.html

Membership renewals

Subscriptions for 2021-2022 will come due at the end of this month. Check the email sent to you that links to this edition of the newsletter – there will be a note there concerning your membership status – and in particular if a subscription for the next year is due. But please let us know if you believe your “status” is not correct – the message was produced automatically. The annual fee 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

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 . 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 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

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 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 for details.

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; 0411 238612



Free to a good home

A Meopta Opemus IIA Enlarger with a couple of Belar lenses and a few extras is in South Melbourne and is free to a good home. Phone Julian on 0408464471.

