



# 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.130 – November 2022

### The next event is a social ZOOM get-together on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm

This will be an on-line chat session using ZOOM software and the technical details are:

Time: Nov 20, 2022 02:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney. (1:30pm Adelaide and 11.00am Perth)

Join Zoom Meeting – go to:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85252139420?pwd=S0FTNXVpZlUvSEJjN2tOV1dDUmJOQT09>

Meeting ID: 852 5213 9420

Passcode: 690923

Enter that weblink into your favourite web browser or just double click on it from the electronic copy of this newsletter at the scheduled time to chat on whatever you wish. You will need to have a microphone attached to your computer for the rest of the members to hear you and a webcam for them to see you.

This is an opportunity for remote members to discuss what they would like the APCS to do in the future, how we can support our interests, and indeed any changes in the nature of services that we provide.

### Christmas – New Year break

As usual the APCS will go into a short break for Christmas and the New Year and the following event will be a presentation meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February. There will be a printed newsletter sent to all members in January that will include the full program for 2023.

### Back Focus

For the last couple of issues of Back Focus there has been a “theme article” like “My favourite camera”. For the next issue we would like to hear stories about unusual acquisitions – they don’t have to be unusual cameras but the story about finding them should be more entertaining than just “finding it in a shop”.

Please consider writing a full article for Back Focus – a wide range of subjects can be included. This is also a way of making a bit of money from your hobby – we pay \$50 per page for articles if you ask for it. Submissions should be provided electronically and illustrations should be in colour if appropriate and at a high enough resolution that supports 300dpi when printed.

### Collecting Stories

There is a good chance that every collector has a yarn about finding a particular object – camera – accessory - image. OK – we might guess that sometimes those stories are a “bit tall” or even total fiction, and can be too good to be true. However some

must be true and such a one comes from member Andrew Fildes – about a “\$5 Leica”.

Well, Matt had a pretty rough trot in life – He’s a disability pensioner thanks to a bad birth, diabetes, some mental issues. He won’t mind me mentioning all that as he’s at peace with his problems. So now he supplements his meagre pension by digging around the markets looking for anything good that he can resell to the antique traders who have stalls around my shop. I met him for the first time a couple of months before this all happened when he wandered in with a couple of junk cameras – “Are these worth anything to you, mate?”

Not really, although one had a clean lens so I was able to give him something. Then he asked. “What should I be looking for? What are the good brands.”

It’d take a week to answer that. Any good SLR that’s working, but he doesn’t have the skills to check them. I was rather busy at the time so I’m afraid I fobbed him off with, “Leica – they’re always worth something even in poor condition.” I had to spell it for him.

So time slips by and then he shows up in the shop one Sunday with a battered leather case in his hand. He’d been rummaging in a box of ‘stuff’ in a market somewhere and opened the case and it said Leica on it. He remembered that I’d said that they could be valuable so he bought it.

So you’re thinking a battered, scruffy and broken Leica III with a ruined Elmar perhaps? I was, I admit. But no. He had a 1959 M3 single stroke in really quite good cosmetic condition, looking clean with no dings or scratches or missing vulcanite. The shutter was dragging and the finder a bit hazy so it needed a service. All the clockwork whirred appropriately although a bit harsh and needing a lube. Further it looked very swish as it was wearing a 35mm f2.8 Summaron-M with spectacle - with the glass a bit grubby despite the cap but it cleaned up well enough. And a working MC meter. So with a little care, he’d found a very decent camera indeed. I relaxed, happy for him and we sat down to agree a price; a fair one given the need for service and my profit margin of course.

And then I asked the big question. “What did you pay for it?”

I knew it would not have been much – he doesn’t have much.

“Oh,” he grinned through missing front teeth. “Eight dollars.”

I made little choking noises. “Really?!”

“Yeah. Found it in the junk box, waved it at the guy and asked how much for it. That’s what he said.”

“Strewth. Perhaps he thought it was just an empty case?! So then you got out of there fairly quickly before he realised?”

“Something like that.”

He looked at the cash spread out on the table in front of him. “This’ll come in really handy,” he said.

I’m sure it will, I thought to myself. Just don’t waste it as you’ll not get another strike like that again.

So there you go. Eight dollars is about \$5 American at the moment so this really is the legendary \$5 Leica. It lives and breathes. It really happened, right here in Melbourne. Spring 2022. But not to me directly, dammit. Because for once it happened to someone who really does need the luck. Sometimes fortune favours the deserving.



*Matt with the \$8 Leica M3 with the 35mm Summicron-M – a real “\$5 Leica story”.*

## APCS Auctions in 2023

New auction management will happen in 2023 with your items for auction to be assembled, catalogued etc at the home of member Paul Ewins. The auctions themselves will be still at the AMRA Hall, but there could be some minor changes to the way that we will do things. More about this closer to the auction dates in 2023.

## The APCS Photographic Competition deferred....

The APCS launched an open photographic competition earlier this year (full details were in the last issue of Back Focus). There was to be a significant reception to announce the winners etc at Magnet Galleries in November.

Regrettably there were no entries in any division at the closing date, and any extension of that was not possible in the timetable leading up to the scheduled November reception.

The APCS regrets that as a consequence, the competition for 2022 has had to be deferred to a date to be determined.

Has the popularity of photographic competitions waned? It is understood that similar recent competitions

around the world have run into similar losses of popularity, and organisers everywhere are trying to understand why that is so. A few theories have emerged – but at the moment the future of such competitions does not look very promising.

## Classified Advertisements

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

Old photographs - cartes de visite, cabinet photos, tintypes and photo postcards from all Australian states and New Zealand. Also intact 19th century family albums with photo contents. I am avid collector and I have conducted decades of research into 19th and early 20th century Australian and New Zealand photographers. Contact: Marcel Safier, Brisbane, [msafier@ozemail.com.au](mailto:msafier@ozemail.com.au); 0411 238 612

## Wanted

Copies of Leica News and Technique British from January 1933, LEICA TORPEDO Finders, and copies of the Morgan & Lester Leica Manuals with publication dates of December 1936, May 1942 & 1943, January and October 1944, July 1962 and 1963 and December 1973. Phone Steve on (03)94292152

## Wanted

Committee Member Andrew Korlaki is looking for a Polaroid 110 or 120 for a camera building project. Andrew is also looking for an AGFA PARAT Half Frame camera. Call him on 0400081738 or best to email [andrew.korlaki@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.korlaki@gmail.com)

## For Sale

PHOTOGRAPHERS OF AUSTRALIA Dupain, Sievers and Moore covered In Film Australia production (1992) Narrated by Ruth Cracknell: DVD 43min new \$20.

Also, various surveys of Australian film history. Prices include postage. David Donaldson Ph 08 8267 5069 [filmart@dodo.com.au](mailto:filmart@dodo.com.au)

## Wanted

Information on Leica cameras. I am researching the history of the Leica camera in Australia and am particularly interested in any information on the importation, distribution arrangements, sales, and use and users of Leica cameras during the period 1925 to 1960. Brochures, manuals, sales records and early photos (1925-1930, is there a first Leica photo in Australia?) taken with a Leica are especially wanted. Contact Bryan Kalms [leicahistory@icloud.com](mailto:leicahistory@icloud.com).