

APCS



NEWS

The Newsletter of the Australia Photographic Collectors Society Inc.

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Meetings & Auctions are held at the

Australian Model Railway Hall

92 Wills Street

Glen Iris

Melways Ref 59 H7

Next event – 17th September – Box Hill Market

The next main event is the Box Hill market next Sunday – 17th September 9am to 1pm – admission \$5.00. All tables have been committed so there will probably be more items there than usual.

Pre Market Dinner – 16th September 6.00pm Box Hill RSL

Returning to a once popular event, a pre-market dinner has been arranged for the night before the market at the Box Hill RSL, 18 Nelson Rd Box Hill for a dozen people at 6.00 pm on Saturday September 16th. The reservation is in the name of Young-APCS (member). Car parking is available in the adjacent RSL car park.

15th October – Members-only Auction

Such has been the interest in the next auction that we have had to stop receiving further entries for October. Please hold them over for a future auction.

The October auction will feature about 450 lots and some of them are particularly interesting. For various reasons the catalogue will not be sent out with the next issue of Back Focus but will be available from the Auction tab on the APCS webpage when it is complete – hopefully in the next week or so. The catalogue will contain more detail than usual and there will be accompanying photographs that can be downloaded as well – details of that will be included with the catalogue.

Viewing will be from 2pm to 4pm on Saturday 14th October and from 10am on the Sunday. The auction will start promptly at noon.

Obituary – Dr Peter Smith - member

Last newsletter we observed the passing of long-time member Peter Smith. As well as being a keen photographic equipment collector he was a much respected member of the staff at the University of Tasmania. The following record is taken from the UniTas Alumni newsletter.



Dr Smith will be remembered for his extraordinary contributions and dedication to the University's discipline of chemistry as a teacher, researcher and administrator. His career in Chemistry included periods

as Demonstrator/Senior Demonstrator (1952-1955), Lecturer (1961-1965), Senior Lecturer (1966-1970), and finally Reader (1971-1989). He formally retired in 1989, and is one of only seven academics to have served the school for more than thirty years.

Dr Smith provided guidance and mentorship to generations of Science and Engineering students, both inside and beyond the classroom, becoming affectionately known as the 'students' friend'.

"He always endeavoured to foster a close rapport with us, memorising and knowing each student by name. He knew where we came from, about our families and individual journeys, and always had our academic best interests at heart," said Associate Professor Ashley Townsend, a former pupil of Dr Smith. "Dr Smith gave so much to us – he fed us tea and biscuits late into the evenings as we studied in the Chemistry Library, he organised many excursions to Tasmanian chemical industries, he helped us find vacation employment, and was always haranguing us to work and study harder."

“He was so generous to us with his time and resources, and he genuinely cared for us and for our wellbeing. That is, I believe, why he was held in such high esteem by so many.”

(Your President was also a student under Peter in 1961-62 concurs. Peter had a sense of humour – a student had been pipetting some Potassium Ferricyanide in the Chem lab and made the mistake of getting some in his mouth. Upon being asked if “he was going to die” Peter (knowing that it was pretty safe and very different from “cyanide”) responded “let’s wait for 5 minutes to find out!”)

Dr Smith’s contributions to the University extended beyond the bounds of Chemistry, he actively supported the graduate community and was a major contributor to alumni matters, serving as a Foundation Governor of the University Foundation Board.

For many years Dr Smith had been a loyal supporter of the Tasmanian Cricket Club and took a keen interest in the sporting careers of his students. He donated a perpetual trophy to be awarded to the winner of the TUCC’s third grade batting average. When appeals were made to raise funds to build a pavilion adjacent to the cricket oval, Dr Smith again supported the team.

For thirty years Dr Smith was an official Fellow of Jane Franklin Hall, a residential College of the University of Tasmania, including a period as Chair of the Jane Council.

Dr Smith’s legacy will endure as his namesake scholarships continue to support students undertaking studies in the sciences. Established in 2002, his donations have endowed the Dr Peter Smith Scholarships in Physical Sciences, which assist up to four talented students every year to pursue their passion for science.

In 2005 Dr Smith was awarded a University of Tasmania Distinguished Alumni Award, in 2011 he received an Honorary Degree (DSc) from the University coinciding with 50 years of Chemistry at the Sandy Bay campus, and in 2012 he was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) “for services to science education and philanthropy”.

The University and Foundation, along with countless students, staff and alumni, will continue to remember Dr Smith’s generosity and spirit. He will always remain a valued member of the University of Tasmania family.

Back Focus

The September issue of Back Focus should be in the post to members by the end of the month. Note that there is likely to be an update to this newsletter printed on the back of the cover sheet – mostly concerned with details on the October auction.

A surprise find

Your president wandered into a Melbourne antique collectables shop a few days ago. It



contained a cabinet with the usual collection of box cameras and mostly uninteresting items, but a small pretty box caught

his eye. On the top was a gilded inscription saying “Busch’s Unicum – Aplanasatz – Mod.B”. In it was a shutter instantly recognisable as a Bausch and Lomb shutter and a total of 6 lens elements – and even the lens cap. The marked price was very reasonable even though nothing moved much on the shutter.

Back in the office a search of the internet did not come up with much but a bit further reading showed that this was a German unit and that the maker “Emil Busch” had nothing to do with the “Bausch” of B&L. The idea of this little set was that there were 3 matched pairs of lenses in a Rapid Rectilinear format with focal lengths of about 10” 12” and 15” as well as individually and in combinations according to one record which could be put on any camera from that era needing a 9 by 12cm or thereabouts coverage. The sets date from about 1898. It has a conventional iris marked with the numbers 1-12 and the relative f-numbers needed some calculation or a chart which was probably included at some time. The B&L Unicum shutter is marked from 1 second to 1/100 and T & B, but was not working at all.

However the blades seemed intact and maybe it was only the pneumatic governor that was stuck.



Easily removed (a single screw) and soaked in a solvent overnight – it was still stuck. But holding the two ends in a couple of 3-jaw chucks, a tiny bit of

pressure loosened it without damage and allowed the two halves to be separated, cleaned and the whole reassembled – whereupon it all worked – although the slow speeds were a little slow – but smooth – it will stay that way – a nice find.