

APCS



NEWS

The Newsletter of the Australia Photographic Collectors Society Inc.

Issue 75

November 2017

Incorporation Registration No. A0016888V

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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 – Sunday 19th November Members-only Market and Social day

The next event is on Sunday next 19th November at the AMRA Hall – 92 Wills street Glen Iris. This has been a very popular event for the last couple of years and seems to be a permanent fixture. The idea is to have a market for members where they can sell and buy their better items in the safety of the AMRA hall in a more relaxed atmosphere that includes a light lunch.

- The market event starts at 10am and becomes a luncheon event at about 12.30. It will finish when it finishes! That is up to you – stay on and chat as long as you like.
- Members wishing to have a table (or rather about half a table) should send an email asking for space to president@apcsociety.com.au before Wednesday 15th. Others just attending should also send an email so that we can arrange the right amount of food etc.
- This market is different from the Box Hill market in that those attending as buyers are members of the society looking for collectables – and not members of the public who are looking for all things photographic. If you bring along current trade items, then you will probably be taking them home with you too.
- As this is a normal meeting event there is no charge, but members wishing to contribute to the food costs may, of course, do so.

And just a reminder that you might resist the temptation to bring along bulky and lesser items – save them for Box Hill where we have a lot more space.

ATTENTION EVERYONE

This is probably the longest newsletter in modern times – 6 pages – but contains important sections on changes in the way that your Society will assist in your hobby – particularly on how you as members will be able to buy and sell items at the auctions, markets and a new process for classified advertisements in 2018.

**PLEASE READ THE DETAILS
THEY ALL AFFECT YOU AND THE WAY
THAT THE SOCIETY IS CHANGING.**

The APCS in 2017

The Society was successfully active in 2017 – all the usual events plus the addition of the pre-Market dinner. Importantly for the APCS, the progressive loss of members since the turn of the Century has been halted and we have gained and regained about 100 members in the last couple of years – including about 20 from the Photographic Protection Society in Adelaide this year.

All the markets and auctions were well attended and the society is very much living up to its generic title of “collectors”.

Many thanks are due to those who worked hard behind the scenes to bring the events to you – including committee and non-committee members. The level of enthusiasm indicates well for the future.

This is at least notionally the last newsletter for 2017 (plenty of time to read the details) and the next one is scheduled to be just before the February meeting. Seasons' Greetings to you all and may you have lots of happy collecting in 2018.

Event Program for 2018

The program of events for 2018 is still being developed. The plan is to observe the schedule for the last few years, increasing the social side of the events, and being innovative where it is called for. We note that many of our members are not in Melbourne and its environs, and local events will be added as interest grows. The following schedule is expected:

- 18 February: Meeting and presentation – AMRA Hall – Details when finalised – see the next newsletter.
- 11 March: Public Market – Box Hill Town Hall (note date – 2nd Sunday in month)
- 15 April: Members-only auction – AMRA Hall – note that this auction is already “full”.
- 6 May: Public Market – Adelaide (All details to be confirmed)
- 20 May: Members-only market – AMRA Hall
- 17 June: AGM and social meeting – AMRA Hall
- 15 July: Members-only auction – AMRA Hall
- 19 August: Event to be determined.
- 16 September: Public Market – Box Hill Town Hall
- 21 October: Members-only auction – AMRA Hall
- 18 November: Members-only market and social event – AMRA Hall

Report by Auction Manager: Members-only Auction on 15th October and future auctions

Thanks to everyone who helped with the auction, with over 400 lots it was one of our largest auctions for years. Thanks to auctioneer Max Amos's efforts (and the hard work of a few committee members) all ran smoothly through the day, and the auction was over by mid – afternoon.

Many members commented on how great it was to have photographs of most of the lots available on line to look at. It is something that although very time consuming is something as auction manager I feel is essential, as it allows members to get a more precise feel for the cosmetic condition of an item.

Previously the auction organisers have relied on the member own descriptions of the items submitted, including their mechanical operation and cosmetic condition.

From now onwards, all items will be described in a uniform way to provide identification and condition covering faults. Of particular importance in auctions of the type of items that the APCS promotes, these are generally old, used items and are rarely perfect. Indeed, an old camera still in its original packing and unopened is unlikely to be

working as a new unit. We are aware that buyers have different concerns but the following should satisfy most members.

- Description of the item in a way that includes technical details, especially when variants are known. Common abbreviations and conventions will be used.
- Basic operation. Does the shutter fire (yes/no), does the camera wind on, does the light-meter respond? (But not matters of accuracy.)
- Do the shutter speeds appear accurate when fired? (Some issues like blind tensions are beyond simple observations.)
- Lens optics – any signs visually of scratches/haze/fungus? (But not matters like the quality of the coating methods or element alignment.)
- Cosmetic condition – any dents, bad marks etc?
- Any other observations? (Particularly those relative to the average condition that a similar item in a collection might be.)

We have received quite a bit of feedback from members saying they appreciate that we have made these comments in the catalogue. The descriptions are not a “camera technicians” testing report of an items operation, nor do we run a test film. (Note that there are some auction houses that insist on doing a full service before the auction – when that happens you pay for that. Many buyers DON'T want such repair work anyway.)

We are simply reporting our observations based on 30 seconds handling of an item so that members can make reasonable decisions on each lot they bid on, and hopefully the vendors will receive a better price because their items are described correctly. We may miss things, and this can't be helped. As inspecting individuals we are usually not the experts that you are as buyers of your favourite genre.

Unfortunately, some members forget that all the club officials including the auction manager are unpaid. We do it because we want to “do our bit” for the club. The last auction took close to 200 hours to put together – involving the auction manager, catalogue distribution, the accounting system and general setting up. We simply don't have the time to look at each item in minute detail. If you are the vendor and you want the item described in great detail you need to point out anything noteworthy – good or bad on the auction submission form – and for the future, including photos of details that you want to highlight.

Speaking of submitting lots to the auction we are having to introduce a new system due to the number of items and vendors contacting the club with lots for sale. Rather than accepting lots for an auction 2 month before the auction we are now taking lots pretty much as soon as the previous auction has finished.

The next auction is in April 2018. At the current point in time we ARE NOT accepting any more lots for this auction. We already have close to 400 lots for April. If the situation changes and space become available, we will let you know in early 2018.

Due to the large number of lots we are now dealing with we are also having to impose some new rules on members.

NO items can have ANY KIND of numbering on them. If you give us a lot which has a number on it from a previous auction, or has a sticker with some sort of code you use to catalogue your auction the ITEM WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU. It takes too much time to remove stickers etc from items!

ALL items in a box must include a copy of the auction submission sheet. Priority will be given to members who type their lists out on a computer rather than hand writing them.

This is happening for 2 reasons.

Firstly, once a list is filled in via a computer it can be emailed to the auction manager, who can then copy and paste the list into the catalogue, saving hours of typing. Secondly, simply put... some peoples' hand writing is terrible, is very hard to read, and takes lots of time to decipher.

Also, when filling in a list please DO NOT GUESS what an item is. IF YOU DON'T KNOW put "Kodak Folding Camera", or Brass lens, rather than writing down whatever you see written somewhere on the item. I would have had 40 items incorrectly described on the lists submitted for the last auction catalogue, which doubled my workload while I worked out which Kodak folder someone meant.

IF IN DOUBT OPEN THE BACK DOOR! The model name is often written on the inside of the back door!

Once you have a list of items, please contact me via email – a.korlaki@optusnet.com.au and I will add you to the next available auction catalogue. I will then email you back your list with lot numbers for each item, and will ask you to put the lot numbers on the outside of each box. If you can number each item even better 😊

Thank you all for your understanding. As a club we are trying to make the auction a better experience for all members, and the more help members can give us the easier it becomes for us to do it...

(Presidential note: Spare a thought for the auction manager, the disturbance to 'normal' home life and the space that is taken up to produce photographs, store the items etc. It would be ideal if we had permanent space to manage the auctions – that is simply not the case – the cost of such an approach is considered to be more than you as sellers and buyers would accept. The total fee for the auctions is 12.5% against the seller for APCS auctions. Compare that with larger auction houses which have more typically 3 times that margin – and there is a substantial buyers' premium as well.)

The New Classified Advertisements

With the great increase in numbers of items of all things photographic being offered for auction, the Society is looking to new ways of bringing them to your attention and facilitating the process.

The APCS does not have the means or resources to present more markets and auctions, and there are technical and probably legal restrictions on just how much support we can provide. Starting with this issue of the newsletter, we are including a section of classified advertising. We are still "feeling our way" but for the time being the following are the rules for how this will work.

- The idea is to bring sellers and buyers together in a safe and secure way – avoiding identifying sellers and their detailed locations in the notices.
- A principle is that the prices on items are well established and don't need to be tested by an auction process. Sellers should determine what price they will accept and not make this a "fishing expedition". This is not an on-line auction although we don't rule that out in the future.
- You will note that each advertisement has a code that is unique to each item or lot. A member wishing to buy an item can send an email to adverts@apcsociety.com.au and the responses will be sent IN ORDER OF RECEIPT to the seller, along with the identity of the buyer limited to a phone number or email address.
- The rest of the transaction will be between the buyer and seller, including inspections, postage etc, and the APCS will not be involved further, especially in matters of dispute resolution. The APCS is NOT acting as agent for the advertisers.
- This month's list is a trial and starting in 2018 there may be changes to how we provide this service, more rules to observe, some small fee for service, and specifically rules on repeat insertions.
- The Newsletter is sent to all members with email addresses but is also available on the website. THIS TRIAL IS INCLUDED IN THE WEBSITE VERSION AND CAN BE SEEN BY THE PUBLIC. That may change depending on member reaction and wishes.
- The Committee is planning to make a charge for this service at a level that is maybe half the charge for auctioned items with a minimum fee. Just how that will work will be announced next year – assuming of course that the idea continues.

The Committee would appreciate comments about this new idea. With modern computer processing etc, this is fairly easy to implement and if we get the process right then it may grow into a significant method of transacting collectables. Importantly for the APCS, it is hoped that it will reduce the workload associated with the auctions.

Items of Interest

David Donaldson – one of the APCS committee members – will be presenting to the 18th International Convention of the Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada – 20th to 22nd April in Victoria BC, Canada on the Salvation Army multi-media work as recorded in the 1977 film “Reg Perry Remembers”.

For people who like to keep up with the latest, you might have a look at the website <http://www.cameraegg.org/camera-rumors/> which contains a huge list of tantalizing snippets about new and rumored cameras, lenses and gadgets – particularly those concerning high-end digital items. A quick read through the latest items includes enhanced features on a lot of cameras, a great many new lenses with outstanding parameters. A standout rumour – rather more “fact” now – the mainstream camera manufacturers Canon and Nikon are going full frame Mirrorless in 2018 following on from the success at Sony, and to make them more usable there is a big range of new lenses to think about. However the prices on these items have become rather higher now that the new genres have become the natural selection by a very large proportion of the photographic world. But it does follow that there will be a lot of second hand cameras on the market – with very much lower prices – items that were the absolute best only a few months ago.

New Leica Thambar lens Just announced is a new production of one of the most collectable of all Leitz lenses – the 90mm f2.2 Thambar soft focus lens. This lens is a classic in its own right = a lens designed to be soft rather than a “soft modification” of an existing lens design. Manufactured in M Mount in this new variant, the lens produces the



same “glow” of the original 1935 design, and like that lens is supplied with a special “soft spot” filter for portraiture.

<http://us.leica-camera.com/Photography/Leica-M/M-Lenses/Thambar-M-90-f-2.2>

Hand built like the original lens, this is sure to become a collector’s item.

Not one, but two new 35mm film SLR’s have been announced! First came the REFLEX, announced around 2 weeks ago on Kickstarter. A 35mm mechanical SLR with inbuilt electronic flash and LED light, 1-1/4000th shutter, TTL Light meter with average and spot metering. And interchangeable film magazines.



However, it’s most interesting feature is the i-plate, an interchangeable lens mount. Yes – the camera can be fitted with a choice of universal M42 mount, Nikon F, Olympus OM, Canon FD and Pentax PK lens mounts. (Note that these are lenses with their own aperture controls)



The project is already funded with 25 days to go. We can only hope that unlike some other Kickstarter projects this one comes to fruition, and this very interesting camera begins production in 2018.

https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/reflexcamera/reflex-bringing-back-the-analogue-slr-camera?ref=nav_search

Having just about recovered from the shock of a new 35mm film SLR comes the announcement of a second 35mm SLR, this one to be made in the Ukraine by a German company with a very familiar name – Ihagee.

The new Ihagee Elbaflex will have a fully mechanical shutter, flash sync speed of 1/60, eye-level SLR pentaprism viewfinder, weigh 690g and have a manual shutter dial with 1/2, 1/4, 1/8/, 1/15, 1/30, 1/60, 1/125, 1/250, 1/500 and B. And of course, the Ihagee Elbaflex will have a Nikon F mount.

Full details will be announced in a couple of days – more information on their website - <http://i-hagee.com>

Instant film backs for medium format 120 SLR's are back! In a strange twist of timing not 1, but 2 film backs have also just been announced for medium format cameras.



The first announced is the Rezivot Instant Film Processor, which actually comprises of 2 back systems, one for Hasselblad cameras and takes Fuji Instax Square film, and one taking Fuji Instax Wide that can be adapted to many cameras including Mamiya RB & RZ.

While the Hasselblad backs mount directly to the cameras, you need to take the mounting plate of an existing Polaroid back and mount it to the Instax Wide Back Meaning It should be compatible with almost every camera system made that took Polaroid film backs.

More info at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/495636760/rezivot-instant-film-processor>

The other new back takes a slightly different approach. Rather than providing electronic film ejection it is fully mechanical, with the film ejected using a crank – much as you did when using a Kodak Handle Instant camera.



An elegant solution, and to me the perfect back to use with a classic fully mechanical Hasselblad camera.

https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/alexdobbie/hasselblad-square-instant-film-back?ref=nav_search

Ever wanted to own a space Hasselblad?

It's not unusual when someone becomes obsessed with something, such as space exploration. They build models with intricate details to put on the shelf – the next best thing to having the “real thing”.



While people have made “reproduction” cameras in the past, I don't know of anyone who has gone to the efforts Cole Rise has gone to. Not only has he produced a perfect reproduction of a Space Hasselblad, to do so he became a Hasselblad technician in the process!

The cameras are 100% faithful to the originals, right down to Cole having tracked down the exact same Velcro (number of loops per mm/size of loop) used in the originals! (Interestingly this is not “space” Velcro, which is still used exclusively by NASA and is unavailable for purchase – and Cole tried!). Made in 2 versions – chrome and black the cameras are available for \$4800. Not cheap, but a fraction of what the real ones would sell for. <https://spacecamera.co>

(If you have not already observed – new camera prices for premium units have all moved into this price bracket. Photography at the quality end has always been expensive....)

Wanted

Quarter plate viewing screen and hood back, one with the cloth hood sides. Also, a couple or more of GRAFLEX SLR type back quarter plate double darks, and/or a Grafmatic "34" to suit GRAFLEX back in quarter plate size. John Fleming 03 9877-7754 or oldercarrepairs@bigpond.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS
The following page contains the classified advertisements for November 2017.

APCS Advertisements – For Sale – Wanted – Services – Notices

NEWSLETTER No.75 The following advertisements have been placed for the interest of members. Readers responding to them should send an email to adverts@apcsociety.com.au with the member's contact details including the REFERENCE shown with each item. Such responses will be passed on to the person concerned in the order that is received, and the dealing that follows will be entirely between the advertiser and the responder. The APCS will not be part of whatever transaction follows. It is requested that the advertiser should make a donation to the APCS of 5% of the value of the transaction. In the interests of security, personal information will not be included in the advertisements below unless specifically requested.

Pentax Spotmatic SP with 50mm f1.4 Super Takumar with lens cap, with ER case. In good working condition but note that the shutter is not accurate at 1/1,000 sec.
Location: Melbourne. Asking price \$120
Reference: NL75-51-01



Lens: Super Takumar 135mm f3.5 with original case, lens cap and dedicated hood, and with special long snoot front for the Spotmatic ER case.
Location: Melbourne. Asking price \$75
Reference NL75-51-02



The second version of the Kodak Retina Type 118 with a Compur Rapid shutter – well worn but all in working condition. With a tatty leather ERC, original box with “Compur Rapid” sticker, instruction book and focussing table pamphlet. The original box has been repaired but is complete. This is the premium version on this model and has a bit of art deco work on the shutter front.
Location: Melbourne. Asking price \$250
Reference NL75-5003



Japanese (Panagor) bellows – slide copying unit with reversing ring etc for Pentax screw mount – not automatic.
Location: Melbourne. Asking price \$30
Reference: NL75-51-04



Johnson 'WELLCOME' Photographic Year Book 1949. 90mm x 140mm. This is a photographic diary intended as a record of photographs taken. A couple of the pages have been used. The book includes the optional “Exposure Calculator” which was available as a separate item.
Location: Melbourne. Asking Price \$50
Reference: NL75-51-05



WANTED (PURCHASE) for a Sydney museum display on police techniques. A Kodak, Thornton Pickard or similar 5x7 or halfplate STEREO plate camera from about 1920 – similar to the illustration. It needs to be cosmetically in a reasonable condition. It does not need to be exactly as shown or have a polished finish. It needs to have a pair of lenses. Funds are available for purchase.
Reference: NL75-52-01

