



THE NEWSLETTER

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All tables at the Box Hill public market on Sunday 16th September are full

This is always a popular event and follows the traditions of recent years. Although all tables are booked out there is always a chance that a cancellation will allow a late booking – register your interest in being on the waiting list by sending an email to Leigh – market@apcsociety.com.au This market is open to members of the public who could be looking for virtually anything. There have been some exceptional finds at the markets and stories abound. Leigh Harris is managing this event and we all owe him and Katherine many thanks for their efforts. The public will have access from 9am and there is an entry fee of \$5.

While we are on the subject of the markets, the APCS could do with some help in managing future markets – continuing the traditions and maybe bringing in some innovations. If you are interested in helping, speak with any of the committee.

The Members-only Auction on 21st October CHANGE OF DETAILS – BACK TO NORMAL

In the August newsletter changes were outlined for future auctions to cope with a significantly increased number of items. A couple of things have conspired to delay the effect of the higher loads and the auction on 21st October will have viewing and auctions times that are unchanged from the recent few years – ie inspections from 2-4pm on Saturday 20th and from 10am on Sunday 21st with the auction starting at NOON.

Changed auction times etc will occur in 2019, and there will be some other changes in how the APCS runs the auctions – mostly to cope with the increased load.

To assist in keeping things under control, some restrictions are now going to be applied to low value items, and as a general rule, such items will be grouped together, and to assist in the management of the auction we are now discouraging larger items. Should you have items that are large, consider establishing an acceptable price and advertising them in the classified listings in the Newsletter.

Submission of items for October 2018 is now closed. A detailed catalogue of the items that will be on offer will be available on-line as will photos of the items. The details will all be in the Newsletter for October.

An outstanding item will be a Newman and Guardia Long Focus Reflex that will be pictured in the next issue of Back Focus – this particular camera is fitted with an excellent Beck lens which is a 5-element development of the Zeiss Protar.

A few of the other gems that will be on offer are shown here:

A German Huttig Detective Camera from about 1880 – this one seems to be a very early version with no inbuilt viewfinder.



A JP Shew "XIT" strut from 1898. This one is fitted with a Dallmeyer 5-element lens on a B&L shutter that is clearly a Shew modification. Some research has identified the lens in the stock books from Dallmeyer and supports the manufacture date. The camera comes with eight original dark slides.

A Kodak Medalist – type 1. Many consider this to be the best of American cameras. As usual this one is a bit tight but it is all there.



A Jules Richard Verascope Stereo camera from about 1908. This one comes in its original leather case and is with TWO plate holders and includes some glass plates.

Membership renewals

Thankyou to the members who have already renewed their membership for 2018-2019. They became due at the end of May and the fee of \$30 can be paid by a direct deposit into the APCS 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 to the Treasurer
P.O.Box126, KANGAROO GROUND, VIC 3097

If any of your details have changed please let us know. Download the membership form from the website <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/membership.html> and include it with your cheque, or email the changes to the Treasurer or to web@apcsociety.com.au

You can check your membership current status from the cover sheet to any issue of Back Focus – the status is included automatically from the database as the cover sheets are compiled – another wonder of modern computing!

Email addresses

There are still a few members who have not provided an email address – which is the method by which we send newsletters and reminders to members directly. All Newsletters etc are also available from the APCS Website – but remember to refresh the page to ensure that you have the latest version. Important announcements and late-breaking news items are also available from the FaceBook page.

If you hear of members that are not getting the newsletter, please let them know about the alternative access, and maybe let us know at web@apcsociety.com.au and we will follow it up.

Auction results

The results of the auctions now include a brief description of each item. The April results are at: <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/auctions/April2018results.pdf> and the July results are at: <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/auctions/July2018results.pdf>

The APCS Program for 2019

It is that time of the year when we start programming for the following year. A few changes will follow from what the APCS is and how it develops with time but the committee would also like to know what you as members want the APCS to do for you.

We are aware that some things have changed quite a bit. There are some obvious matters – what people collect, the changes to photographic technology, and at present the fact that the whole matter of photographic collecting and information has become global through the internet.

This is an aging society and we seem to have reduced our willingness to meet socially... We used to have a dinner the evening before each market day but attempts to re-establish that in the last year have not been well attended.

But one of the major changes has been a significant reduction in the presentation by members of their interests at the monthly meetings which are not auctions or markets. Certainly there has been an increase in those buying and selling activities that have replaced the presentation meetings, but it has been a struggle to find subjects for presentations and members to prepare them.

For 2019 we would like to have maybe three presentation meetings – in February, May and August,

but we note that there is a second event in May under current planning – the Adelaide market on the first Sunday of May each year.

Such presentations can take all forms, displays of particular collections, discussions on techniques, theoretical matters, maybe the restoration of a particular item or type of item. Of course there is no reason why some presentations can't be repeats – especially if the original presentation was years ago or maybe a lot more material has been added in recent times. There is also no reason why a subject could not (or maybe should not) be dealt with over a couple of meetings, dealing with different aspects of a subject.

The buying and selling part of the APCS is expected to be similar to previous years, the Box Hill markets in March and September, members-only auctions in April, July and October, and depending on what presentations are on offer, a members-only market in November. Those auctions may be a bit different (see the item on the October auction above) in order to accommodate the high volume of items that are currently being submitted. Those auctions do take a lot of preparation and physical space to do that work. The auctions are fast becoming rather too large for the APCS to prepare as a voluntary organisation, and we are looking for ways to make it all easier.

If you are happy with the above outline then you need do nothing other than attend. But if you would like to see change, innovation or deletion of some functions then now it the time to let the committee know. Contact the President: president@apcsociety.com.au and if you want to be part of implementing change then maybe become a member of the committee, or at least roll your sleeves up and be part of a work group that makes it all happen.

Forthcoming events of interest

The following events in Adelaide have come to our attention. These are not APCS events but will be relevant to Adelaide members.

September 14 – November 30 - STARSTRUCK Australian Movie Portraits at Samstag Museum of Art, 55 North Terrace, Adelaide (University of SA complex), originating from the Australian Portrait Gallery and the National Film and Sound Archive.

24 September onwards - Vintage films, including Starstruck, My Brilliant Career, The Year My Voice Broke, Sons of Matthew and The Cheaters (1931) will be shown by NFSA at adjoining Mercury Cinema (13 Morphett St) on various dates.

October 7 - ADELAIDE CAMERA EXPO within Adelaide Central Market, Grote St, Adelaide. Luke Bulley (Photoco) 0422 681 681. Cameras old and new, cine gear welcome. Table of vintage film books.

October 5 to 15 - ADELAIDE FILM FESTIVAL will include Sunday Too Far Away (1975), Look Both Ways (2005), Samson and Delilah (2009).

November 26 - Centenary screening of first (private) show of the 1918 Adelaide production **The Sentimental Bloke**. Piano accompaniment recorded in 1961 by National Library of Adelaide's music legend, Tom King, who had played for the film in 1919.

Classified Advertisements

You can place classified advertisements in these pages. Send an email to adverts@apcsociety.com.au including 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. At present there is no charge for this service. For the time being keep the text down to under 50 words per item. Advertisements will be published once – or twice if space permits.

Photokina 2018

This event is being held in Germany from the 26th to 29th of this month and the web is alive with rumours on what will be displayed and announced. For those who are in the market for some new toys there is plenty to look forward to. A few items caught the eye of this observer:

Right up near the top is a new generation of smartphone cameras using new techniques to create images with resolutions up to 64 MP – yes you read correctly – 64 MP... This is a real game changer as very few conventional cameras are capable of that. But before we get too excited, there may be a way to go before these new “computational cameras” hit the right spot for photographers – the reviews of the process are far from glowing. But a few other presentations are going to be noticed (although many have been well and truly leaked already):

Canon introduced a long overdue series of mirrorless cameras a while ago – called the EOS-M that use EF-M series lenses – and yes, there is an EF- EF-M adapter. It is rumoured that a full-frame version will be announced at Photokina. Nikon are also rumoured to be doing much the same. Maybe not a surprise is that the Sony A7s MkIII will be featured with improved leading edge features. Add Fuji and Panasonic to the full-frame list.

It may well be that new technology is the buzzword – although announcements about Nikon’s Phase Fresnel lenses will need to be considered carefully – as Fresnel lenses have been known for a long time. This observer was playing with Fresnel Zone lenses achieving actual images with no refractive elements nearly 60 years ago. Nevertheless some more Nikon PF lenses are expected. At least for the time being these are best as fixed aperture lenses – they are light and compact but have to be used differently from conventional lenses – unless mirror lenses are your thing...

Some themes are thought to be evident this year:

- All cameras on offer can now produce images at professional quality levels – or more likely – the difference between the best and the worst won’t be large.
- Mirrorless cameras are here to stay – It is now nearly a decade since the Sony NEX series launched and the world has followed.
- Improvements in imaging software is now available right in the camera resulting in significant improvements.
- Camera software improvements will allow high speed exposures, fast autofocus, and other features that can logically be brought to you using software
- High quality (4k) video seems to be standard now – and in nearly all cameras. A new 8k camera is rumoured.
- There will be emphasis on producing hard copy prints – a resurgence in Polaroid-like imaging as well as new printers.
- Expect some focus on the aspect ratio of images – and some new offerings using the classical square image.
- Rumours of many new lenses are around from pretty much all lens producers.

Photographic valuations?

Finding valuations on photographic items has always been a problem and in almost all cases, opinions have a lot to do with it. Various price guides have emerged over the years and we have got used to relying on McKeown’s etc. A relatively newcomer to the internet world is Collectible <http://collectible.com/Cameras/>. It does not cover everything but does provide the sources for some pricing that can be useful including the year that the example prices were achieved. As with all estimates, they can be affected by many parameters – condition – ownership history and country of sale being key to understanding some of the extremes in values quoted.

Sometimes our own auctions are good indicators – at least when things are being traded locally – see the auction results for some ideas and maybe just compare those numbers with what is published elsewhere.