



THE NEWSLETTER

MEETINGS: AMRA Hall, 92 Wills St, Glen Iris, VIC
Melways 59 H7
ABN 55 567 464 974

PRESIDENT – Rod Reynolds 0408 173 662 president@apcsociety.com.au
SECRETARY – Stephen Chung 0425 793 193 secretary@apcsociety.com.au
TREASURER – John Young treasurer@apcsociety.com.au
NEWSLETTER – (Editor- Andrew Korlaki) andrew@korlaki.com

APCS NEWSLETTER No.84 – October 2018

The Members-only Auction on 21st October NOTE DETAILS FOR THIS AUCTION

The next Members-only auction on 21st October is the largest and probably most interesting APCS auction in a long time. The total suggested value of the 285 lots on offer is more than twice that of recent auctions. Viewing is from 2-4pm on Saturday 20th and from 10am on Sunday 21st with the auction starting at NOON.

Full details are in the catalogue as a PDF on-line at: <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/auctions/October2018catalogue.pdf> and photographs of most of the items can be found at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/63326812@N03/sets/72157671806689447>

Full paid-up members can register absentee bids and arrange phone bidding by sending an email to auctionbids@apcsociety.com.au by THURSDAY 18th next. We will call phone bidders a few lots ahead of the items concerned. This auction features many Wood and Brass cameras and quite a few rare items that don't turn up very often at all.

Quite a few items are considered to be frail and will be on display for viewing but members will not be permitted to handle them during the inspection periods for fear of damage by accident or mishandling. All the affected items are on the photograph pages with image resolution that allows close inspection, and the catalogue is specific on evident negative aspects of condition etc. Some of the shutters are clearly in a frail condition and unlikely to be able to be fired without damage. Eventual buyers will appreciate having no further deterioration when it comes to decisions on restoration etc. Members familiar with these very old devices will know that handling procedures are not always obvious and that it is very easy to damage even good examples.

There are a couple of Sanderson Tropical items amongst the Wood and Brass, and it is quite a while since we have seen such items – one, a quarterplate, comes with two lens boards and lenses for 125 & 168mm focal lengths. An outstanding non-camera item is a 19thC stereo viewer designed for both print and transparent images. The lot includes a cased group of glass positive transparencies among which is a historically important view of a photographic exhibition of about 1870-1880 – see the web photographs for an image of it – the plate itself has exceptional definition for the era.

An outstanding camera is the Newman and Guardia Long Focus Reflex featured in the current issue of Back Focus – this particular camera is fitted with an excellent Beck lens which is a 5-element development of what is generally thought to be the Zeiss Protar, and could easily be adapted without damage for use in one of the new Mirrorless digital cameras as a telephoto lens, at least in

a temporary arrangement allowing real use of this historic milestone English lens now thought to be one of the best lenses of that era. 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 another very advanced lens, a Dallmeyer 5-element lens on a B&L shutter that is clearly a Shew modification. Some research has found the lens in the stock books from Dallmeyer for 1898. 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.

Future auctions

In the August newsletter changes were outlined for future auctions to cope with a significantly increased number of items. Changed auction times etc are to be expected in 2019, and there will be some other changes in how the APCS runs them – 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 physically larger items. Should you have items that are large, consider establishing an acceptable price and advertising them in the classified listings in the Newsletter.

Vale – Emmanuel Diacos

Members and the wider photographic community will be saddened to hear of the sudden and unexpected death of APCS Member Emmanuel Diacos on 5th September.

He had been a member of the APCS for 23 years, and was well known through market activity everywhere.

The photograph reproduced here was taken at the Box Hill Market in March last year.

Our deepest condolences to Debbie and their extended family, and indeed all who are affected by his untimely departure.



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 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!

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 future auctions 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 is 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

An event of relevance to Adelaide members: **26th November – Centenary screening** of first (private) show of the 1918 Adelaide production **The Sentimental Bloke**. Piano accompaniment recorded in 1961 by Adelaide's music legend, Tom King, who had played for the film in 1919. The screening will be in the Hetzel room of the South Australian State Library – a free event but seats are limited to 120 – watch for announcements from the State Library, or email David on filmart@dodo.com.au

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.

ADOX B&W film announced

Member Geoff Harrison has drawn to our attention that ADOX has announced HR-50, a new monochrome film stock that will be available in 135, 120, and 4x5 formats at some time in the future, although a date for the release has not been announced.



According to ADOX, the HR-50 film stock is based on an emulsion commonly available for technical purposes. It features ultrafine grain and is super panchromatic, meaning it is sensitive to wavelengths wider than traditional panchromatic emulsions, and works well in infrared photography.

ADOX says HR-50 is particularly well-suited for street and landscape photography, but also works for portraits, although they do recommend using its own HR-50 developer. In the event you don't want to buy another developer to keep in the darkroom, ADOX says the gamma of HR-50 has been reduced so it becomes perfectly usable for pictorial photography in regular developers.

PHOTOKINA 2018

Photokina 2018 was held in September and turned out to be the forum for a lot more products than the industry had been guessing, and also had more announcements of items to be released later this year. The web is full of summaries and one of the more detailed (and exciting to read) sites can be found at <https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/features/photokina-2018>

There are major new cameras from all the main manufacturers and a few innovations that could well be popular with buyers with high financial resources. For the discerning prosumers there are some economy models at prices that should be very attractive.

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 Collectiblend <http://collectiblend.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 – increasingly important to know this today with recent prices varying so much. 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.

But maybe above all, rely on your judgement and what the item means to you – and buy within your means.