



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.97 – February 2020

The next APCS event is a Special “Show & Tell” Meeting: Sunday 16th February at 2pm

This meeting is to be a “Show and Tell” of rare or particularly interesting cameras. We have at least half a dozen items to show you and their owners will speak for a few minutes about them, their features and how they got them. At least one camera/lens combination is possibly not documented anywhere, a couple are rare classics, and a couple are just – well – interesting.

If you have a rare camera that you would like to show off, there are still time to include it. Bring them along but please also send an email to the President president@apcsociety.com.au with a short note about the item so that we can write it up.

The items will all be photographed and included in an article in the next issue of Back Focus so that the wider membership can also enjoy your specials.

APCS Program for 2020

The program for APCS 2020 events has now been determined and can be viewed on the calendar page of the website:

- 16 February: Meeting and special “Show and Tell” (see above)
- 15 March: Public Photographic Market - Box Hill Town Hall
- 19 April: Members-only auction
- 3 May: Public Photographic Market – ADELAIDE
- 17 May: Members-only market and social event
- 21 June: Annual General Meeting and social event
- 19 July: Members-only auction
- 16 August: Members-only market and social event
- 20 September: Public Market - Box Hill Town Hall
- 18 October: Members-only auction
- 15 November: Members-only market and social event

All events are at the AMRA Hall unless otherwise listed. See announcements closer to the date for starting times etc.

WARNING – Fake collectible (and even common) cameras and lenses

Some photographic items are valuable, so it is maybe not surprising that copies, fakes, non-genuine, or whatever you want to call them are around. This is not a new phenomenon and has been an issue since the beginning of photography. Sometimes those items are functionally equivalent but more often they are fraudulent attempts to get your money – or the money of another user maybe a century or more ago.

Such deceptions are not rare – they are in fact extremely common and it seems becoming more so. An

indication of the scale of this problem is that several brass lenses submitted for the April auction have proved to be fake – each was on the evidence of serial numbers etc made before 1875 but were in fact made years later and in one case in the 20th Century.

Sometimes the evidence is easy to detect – incorrect name spelling, wrong serial number ranges, poor quality when compared with genuine items, but sometimes expertise is needed to detect them. Some of the examples are very well known – “Russian ‘gold’ Leicas” for example. However some of the forgery goes back 150 years and we are now detecting a lot of brass lenses which are clearly fraudulent, sometimes out-numbering the genuine articles.

Collectors of English lenses from the early 1950s will be aware that exceptionally high prices are being paid for them – maybe not surprising that these are now turning up “new but aged”.

The APCS is dealing with more estates these days and as we go through the older items we are seeing a lot of lenses that are supposed to be by Voigtländer, and Dallmeyer in particular that are not what we would like them to be. There are even observations in the British Photographic Annual around 1880 warning of the number of forgeries that were on sale in the UK at that time.

A new manifestation is that the current producers like Canon and Nikon are discovering new lenses returned under warranty which were definite fakes, and the industry is apparently justified in warning that many of these are getting into circulation from on-line sales. They can be detected by inspection, often as a result of minor slip-ups during design and manufacture. For example, do a Google search for “Canon lens fakes” (without the quotes) and you will find several guides to identification.

However, the APCS is a volunteer organisation and those producing auction catalogues etc are on the lookout for problem items. But the principle of Caveat Emptor – let the buyer beware – applies.

SPECIAL NOTE: As a result of the number of non-genuine photographic items that are coming onto the market and the evidence from the last few markets and auctions, the APCS has adopted a policy with regard to such items submitted for auction. Where such an item is identified as non-genuine or is suspected to be non-genuine, the vendor will be contacted and advised that an appropriate note will be included in the catalogue description. If the vendor does not accept that action the item will be removed from sale. Please note that such action will be taken by the APCS only where there is strong or definitive evidence.

Members-only Auction submissions

Items are now being accepted for the APCS members-only auction in April – see the “Auction” and “Calendar” pages on the APCS website and if necessary for further details send an email to: auctions@apcsociety.com.au

The April auction promises to be an interesting day with a quantity of brass lenses on offer including uncommon examples by Ross and Voigtlander, a couple of lenses – including a large casket set – by Emil Busch, and a few French lenses probably from the wet plate era. Some have faults but are uncommon and would be good items to complete display cameras.

Public Markets – Box Hill & Adelaide

Two public photographic markets are happening soon: On 15 March the APCS hosts the Box Hill market in the Box Hill Town Hall, and on 3 May we host the Adelaide market in the Hungarian Club, Norwood. See the web pages for details.

Magazine exchanges

The APCS has magazine exchange relationships with other societies of like nature and in the past, copies were usually located in the APCS library. Modern trends towards having such items on-line (and permission from the original societies) allows us to make those copies directly available to you from our website.

Recent copies of “Snap Shots” from the Photographic Historical Society of New England (including the new issue 2 for 2020) can be found at:

www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2019-10_snap-shots_web.pdf

www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2019-11_snap-shots_web.pdf

www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2019-12_snap-shots_web.pdf

www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-01_snap-shots_web.pdf

www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-02_snap-shots_web.pdf

No Back Focus? – Membership lapsed?

Did you get a copy of Back Focus #114 in December? If not, it is probable that you did not renew your membership last year (we continue to send newsletters for a year after members become unfinancial).

Thankyou if you have already renewed for 2019-20, but about 20% of members have not renewed this year. And it is only a couple of months off that we will be prompting you for renewals for 2020-2021. The annual fee remains at \$30 for the moment and 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.

With the massive increases in the cost of production of Back Focus and its postage, and the potential option for electronic delivery, there may need to be a review of the membership costs – they have been unchanged for over 10 years. That will be an important issue for the next committee which will be elected in June.

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

Wanted: Items for Back Focus

The Society magazine Back Focus is in need of new items to publish covering a wide range of subjects. In the past items have included stories about the acquisition of collectible cameras and equipment, reviews of references and books on photography and collecting, stories of photographic interest, and technical articles about photography in general.

The readership of Back Focus is you, the members of the APCS, and items should also be at a level that is attractive to members of the public who are potential members.

Back Focus is not seen as an academic environment so articles do not need to comply with academic writing standards. However, historical research, technical articles relevant to collectable equipment, complex stories of the restoration of old shutters etc are certainly welcome.

From the last edition, Back Focus is being published using a professional desktop publishing system, but submissions can be in any format from hand written up. However please don't lock the format as that can cause problems when converting to the DTP environment. Associated artwork and photographs can also be in any format but should be at a resolution that is high quality when rendered to 300dpi colour. Captions should be included in the text with reference to art files if they are not embedded.

There is no restriction on the length of articles, but it may be necessary to spread very long articles over more than a single issue of Back Focus.

Articles may be sent to the APCS via email to backfocus@apcsociety.com.au and if you have concerns about the acceptability of items then you might send an email with an outline in the first instance before committing to further effort. Fees can be paid for published articles. Where material has been published previously and/or is subject to copyright, then such details should be provided as a matter of urgency. Material will not be published in Back Focus if a previous copyright applies and the APCS publishes material on the understanding that it is free of Copyright restrictions.

Committee and operational vacancies

We need to find new people to take over some of the management roles in the APCS.

- The executive position of Secretary of the Society. This is a legislated position and includes the role of secretary to the committee.
- Positions in the general committee.
- Management of the public markets in Melbourne and Adelaide – the procedures are well established but are open to review and modification.

Unlike many other societies, the APCS is not under any financial stress and has good reserves. But it is a time of change and good management is essential to a quality future. This is an opportunity for members interested in the future of the APCS to be part of its management. We have an AGM in June and now would be a good time to get involved – and be ready for the challenges of the following year. Have a word with any

of the current committee or indeed chat among yourselves, and let the acting Secretary know – secretary@apcsociety.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 – your decision. At present there is no charge for this service. For the time being keep the text down to under 50 words per item.

Wanted

Large vintage Movie camera wanted for use as a prop. Must have large film can similar to that pictured. Auricon, Mitchell or similar. The bigger the better! Working order not important. Lens not essential. Correct tripod/stand would be great too. Can buy or trade. John Corneille. 0418 313181

