



THE BELLOWS

23 GREAT YEAR

February 21, 2002

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XXIII, NO. 5

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208 S. 223rd St. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5...go to first stop light west of Pacific Hwy. South...Turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday, February 21st..7:30 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. (doors open about 6:30 p.m.)
WHY	Short business meeting..auction (one item lot per member please)..door prize..Show & Tell..Member's trade and sell tables (free to members, please cover during business meeting.) <u>Program:</u> Noted photographer <u>Darrel Womack</u> will talk about digital cameras and their uses... Whats good..whats bad.

TIME TO FISH OR CUT BAIT:

Thats right! Its last call for your \$10.00 Club dues for 2002. If you received this Bellows with an unhappy face sticker by your address it means you have not paid your dues for our 23rd great year. If Shirley does not receive your payment this will be your last copy of The Bellows. We have enjoyed having you be part of P.S.P.C.S. and hope you will continue. But, if you must leave us: Hail and Fairwell and may life be good.

All dues should be paid to: Treasurer Shirley Sparrow..either at the meeting..or send check to: Shirley Sparrow..300 Pease Road..Cle Elum, WA 98922.

PORTLAND SHOWS NEWS UPDATE:

Last month The Bellows announced that, as in past years, there would be two Camera Shows in the Portland area during March. The first was the 2nd Annual Portland Metro..(Almost) Spring Camera Swap Meet put on by Dwight Bash. It WILL be held at the Washington County Fairplex on Saturday, March 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This year there WILL be a Friday night dealer set-up from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Contact Dwight (503) 380-3375 for information. Email: Deebash@aol.com This has been a good Show in past years and is well worth attending.

Now for the BAD news. Member, Ralph London..from Portland and editor of the Cascade Panorama..discovered that the Collectors Market (old Pay-n-Pack) seems to be closed down; and he found, upon further investigation, that The Portland Photographers Forum had thus decided NOT to hold their previously announced Show there on March 16th. The word is that it is canceled for this year. Our thanks to Ralph for giving us the information because we have heard nothing from the P.P. Forum. Lets hope they will choose to return in the future.

THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY QUESTION:

Answer at end of Newsletter

With thanks to the Arizona Photographic Collectors:

What 1933 SLR box camera using 120 roll film had a focusing lens, 3 speed shutter and aperture to f6.3?

****BACKSIDE INFORMATION****

The January 17th meeting of the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society came to order at 7:30 p.m. There were 40 members and 2 guests in attendance. Secretary Shirely reported that no minutes of the December Christmas party meeting had been taken. Treasurer Shirlev announced our current Club balance and then gave the year end treasures report for the Club and our Show. Shirley keeps these two accounts separately so we can see, to the penny, how our funds are gathered and spent. Shirley invited any interested Club member(s) to go over the club books with her if they had any questions. (Even in this time of Enron a "rush to judgement" did not occur, Ed) At Shirley's suggestion a motion was passed to put \$20,000 into a Club CD.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was considerable discussion concerning the perceived quality of some of the Christmas gifts received at our Christmas party gift exchange. After much pro and con the President ended discussion and tabled the matter to be brought up at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS:

The show committee reported that they are considering moving our April meeting to the fourth Thursday of the month; and bringing in a special speaker in conjunction with our "Show Weekend Experience". Our meeting Hall is available on the 25th and Show Chairman Bill Kimber said he hoped an announcement could be made--and a vote taken on moving the Club's April meeting date-- by the February Club meeting. Bill reported that the Show is coming together well and that this year, in order to insure a large gathering area, the Hospitality room would be located in the Holiday Inn Express Hotel which is across the parking lot from the Best Western where it has been held in past years.

SHOW & TELL..AUCTION..DOOR PRIZES:

Six members had interesting items to show that they had aquired over the Christmas Season.

Nine items were presented for auction. One received no opening bid. The other eight items sold for a total of \$236.00 with some spirited bidding taking place.

Merle Carey and Joe Story won door prizes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. for more selling and cookie munching.

From The Chicago Photographic Collectors Society:

DID YOU KNOW?: On that camera from East Germany, **VEB** means "Volkseigenen Betrieb", or "People's-Owned Enterprise", a designation used for the nationalized industries in the days of the Deutsches Demokratisches Republik.



THE BELLOWS Newsletter is published 10 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for **The Bellows** should be sent to Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (253) 564-4046, billkimber@webtv.net

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is: <http://www.geocities.com/pspcs/index.html>

Dues are \$10.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922 (509) 674-1916, ssparrow@eburg.com P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our last Saturday in April yearly show.

PRESIDENT: DARREL WOMACK (206) 244-6831 darrelcam@jps.net

ARIZONA PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTORS SHOW:

The 34th Semi-Annual Photographic Show will be held in Tucson on Saturday, March 30th from 8:30 a.m. (early-in) to 3:00 p.m. General public is \$5.00. Six foot tables are \$35.00..half tables are \$20.00. For all information contact Show Chairman Paul Garrett (520) 299-9117.

AND SPEAKING OF SHOWS:

Your show committee is working hard to again provide P.S.P.C.S. with the best one day Show in the United States. If you have not ordered your tables now is the time to do so. Also, please take some of the Show flyers from the Club meeting and begin spreading them around at camera stores ect. to help us get the word out.

If you are going to be selling at the Show, or would like to show off a portion of your collection, why not use the form you found enclosed with your Bellows and sign up for one of our twenty FREE display tables. Doing these displays is great fun. And, having people coming by your display making admiring comments does wonders for your state of mind. Remember, each person displaying will receive \$25.00 to help defray any costs they might incur.

NEW BOOK OF NOTE:

THE HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY--As Seen through the Spira Collection sounds like a book well worth considering. Rated the "Best Photo Book of 2001" by the New York Times it came out in November of 2001. It's information, and wonderful pictures, are drawn from the twenty thousand item photographic collection of Mr. Spira whoes collection featured some quite rare equipment not found in other American museums. Authors are: S.F. Spira, Eaton S. Lothrop, Jr. and Jonathan Spira. This 1.17 X 12.31 X 9.85 inch 232 page hardback book features some of the nicest pictures of rare and interesting cameras ever published. It can be purchased from Amazon.com for about \$50.00 which is well below it's list price of \$75.00. With luck there should be a copy of the book at our February meeting for you to peruse.

The following is reprinted from the Cascade Photographic Historical Society's Cascade Panorama January 2001..and is used with much thanks. Ed.

The Price of Knowledge

by Mike Kestrel

There I was, like many of you, poking through mountains of eBay dreck, desperate to find some minuscule, misplaced morsel of photographica, when the Angels sang! Over the top alliteration aside, I had exhausted my extensive list of "catch" words like "camera" and "Stanhope" and was idly experimenting with offbeat possibilities, when I picked up on a non-photographic combination of words that nevertheless intrigued me (think I'm going to tell you? Fuggedaboutit!). There, completely misdescribed, was a classic American, chamfered box daguerreotype camera. First bid: \$9.99, no reserve.

"Gladys, come here *quick!*" Neither of us could believe it, but there it was. Not only was it in great shape but very complete with a brass lens cap, ground glass frame and a plate holder. To top it off,

the ground glass frame and plate holder were polished wood with ivory knobs, something I'd never seen before.

Should I bid? Should I wait and see if anyone else finds it so far from its rightful category? I went to bed with mixed and delicious emotions. The next morning I bounced out of bed, switched on my computer and hit the bookmark. The words slapped me in the face: "Bidding is closed for this item."

Frustrated, I realized what must have happened. I sent an email to the owner of the camera, saying in effect that I assumed that someone had pointed out to him that what he had was not a _____ but a rare, early American camera. Would he care to put a price on it at this point? Would he consider an offer or was he going to relist it properly? An hour later he replied, "What would you offer?"

What a position to be in — and I had been there many times before. Whatever I offered he would figure it was worth more, and, using my offer as a guide, he would then offer it to someone else. I sent back a lengthy reply explaining this and proposing some possible ways to get around it. I never received any response. For the next three days I tried unsuccessfully to contact him. Finally I realized that it was out of my hands. He either sold it or maybe he decided to just hang onto it and pass it down to his kids. Now I know that you're thinking, as Thomas Magnum used to say. You're wondering why I didn't pick up the phone and call the guy. I had his name and the city he lived in so it shouldn't have been too difficult to do. My answer is, I don't have an answer. I guess I just preferred to do it all on the computer if I did it at all. Sigh!

Several days later I had pretty much put it behind me, and I was doing the same kind of searching through those offbeat categories when *there it was again!* This time it was perfectly described — the guy had done his homework — and, at a couple of thousand dollars, it had yet to reach its minimum bid. Why didn't it show up under "daguerreotype" or "daguerreian" camera? The guy had accidentally omitted the second "e," once more disguising it from many hungry collectors.

Here I must tell you that I already have a very fine example of this particular camera. I really didn't need another one, especially as I realized that this time it was probably going to sell for something close to its true value. I did however have a plan in mind. A collector friend of mine had repeatedly asked me to find him a chamfered box daguerreian camera. I quickly worked out a deal. To whatever I had to pay for the camera, my friend would add a nice finder's fee. Great!

Here's where my clever strategy came into play. Like many of you, I had lost a number of items by having my generous bid topped at the last moment. This time I was going to be the "smart" one. I was going to bid at the very last conceivable fraction of a second or thereabouts. But how much should I bid? The price had risen to \$12,500.00 and had remained there for several days. I knew my friend would pay a little bit more, but I wanted to ensure that no one outbid me on this one. I decided to bid \$15,000.00. Then I decided that, just for "insurance" I would up that to \$15,500.00. No one was going to get this baby but *me!*

My heart was literally in my throat as I sweated out the last minutes and seconds of the auction. One minute! Forty five seconds! Thirty seconds! Twenty seconds! My shaking finger was barely able to depress the mouse clicker ... *click! done!*

A sign came on the screen saying: "You have just made a bid over \$15,000.00. Please enter the following credit card information." If curses really come true, every executive at eBay is now suffering from a terminal illness complicated with boils and a nasty genital itch.

You might think that my suffering was now over, but you'd be wrong. A few days later I was deleting old messages from my mail box when I noticed a strange little symbol next to my only reply from the owner of the camera. It looked like a little spool of thread with the thread pointing downward. I had seen these before but never thought much about them. Absentmindedly I clicked on it, and all the messages from the camera's owner that I never received, suddenly appeared. *Merd!!!*

Knowledge always comes at a price. I could have bought the camera at a reasonable price before its owner decided to put it up once more for auction because he couldn't get me to answer his email. I don't know if there's a moral to this story, but if there is, it's probably that some things just weren't meant to be. On the other hand, maybe it's "never give up." You wouldn't believe what I'm following now, and I'll get it too, that is if no one else thinks to look under _____.



Answer: The **KW Reflex Box** by Kamera-Werkstätten Guthe & Torsch, Dresden, Germany in 1933. This crank wind 6X9cm image camera came with a KW Anastigmat f6.3 X



105mm or a Steinheil f4.5X105mm lens. A folding top hood is similar to the Graflex cameras. *McKeown's* currently rate it at \$120-180, down considerably from their last edition. This might indicate that it is not highly desirable for the export collector market. See it at the meeting February 7, 2002.

Photo from *McKeown's*