

THE BELLOWS

25 GREAT YEAR

October 16, 2003

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XXV, No. 2

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, October 16th..7:00 p.m. Till 10:00 p.m. (doors open about 6:15 p.m)
WHY	This is our first October meeting is some years. It replaces our Fall Interclub Gathering. A 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> Bring a favorite photographica item from your collection to share.

MEETING TIME CHANGED:

At our September meeting the members present voted overwhelmingly to begin our meetings at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m. So, don't be late..don't hesitate..Do the PSPCS at 7:00 p.m.

IT IS SHOW COMMITTEE TIME AGAIN:

Yes, already it is time to sign up to participate on our 24th Show Committee. The first meeting will be in mid November with 4 more meetings in 2004. Join the "old hands" and you will have an enjoyable time being involved in your clubs main activity of the year. The work is easy, the rewards are many and you will have that happy contented feeling of knowing you are one of the "chosen ones". Gene Raddatz and Darrel Womack have already signed up...join them.

CASCADE PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY BEGINS FADING AWAY:

The P.S.P.C.S. Members attending our September meeting were surprised and saddened to hear that the Cascade Photographic Historical Society finds itself with a membership too low for the Society to continue with out major changes. Beginning in January 2004 their highly regarded monthly Panorama will cease publication. Dues will no longer be collected and interested members will get-together for informal meetings and activities through-out the year.

For P.S.P.C.S. Members this is like watching an old friend die. CPHS was founded in 1974..five years before our club..and they have been our close friends, fellow collectors and even PSPCS members from the very beginning. We wish CPHS well in their new status and bemoan the loss of their Panorama which provided our Newsletter with so many interesting articles. (The editor fervently hopes he can convince member Mike Kessler to continue writing his column for The Bellows!! Mike please take note. Ed) Is this going to be the fate of our Club? Only time will tell. We look forward to seeing CPHS members at the Northwest Shows and invite them to any of our meeting they would care to attend..

THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY QUESTION: Answer at end of Newsletter

With thanks to the Arizona Photographic Collectors:

What 1960 camera was the 1st commercially produced for underwater photography without external housing?

The September 18th meeting of the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society came to order at 7:30 p.m. There were 40 members and guests in attendance. The minutes of the June meeting were approved as read. Treasurer, Shirley, reported that our CD would roll over on 9-25. She said the Club was still in the black as we begin our 25th Great year.

Shirley also reported that Ed Ullrich was in the hospital in very serious condition. A get-well card was passed around for signatures.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

One of the members reported that he had checked..as requested..with the Burien Elks and found that we could rent a 63 by 67 foot area for \$300.00. There is plenty of parking. If held on a Saturday, there could be lunches available upstairs. There is a downstairs entrance into the meeting room. The Club will visit this information again in 2004 if we decide to again hold a October Gathering. Bill Adams announced that his planned October program will be presented at our November meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was discussion concerning the announcement that that CPHS had decided to no longer charge dues and will not publish their Panorama Newsletter after December 2003. Announcements of upcoming Shows were made. A motion was made, seconded and passed that future Club meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM AND SHOW & TELL:

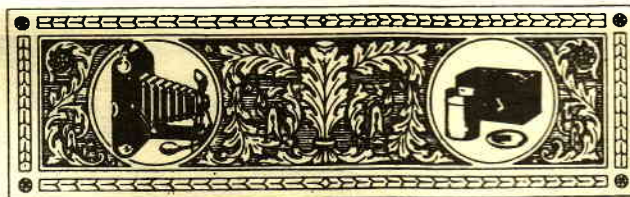
Bill Kimber passed around a sheet of the new photo stamps that are now available. (Masters of American Photography) Ten members had interesting Show & Tell stories about their summer finds. Well done everyone! Ed.

AUCTION AND DOOR PRIZE:

Six items were presented for auction. Three sold for a total of \$121.00 for their owners. The other three may be seen on E-bay in the near future.

Charter member, Dick Weber, won the door prize.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. for more nummie munching and sales table discussions.



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

TWO NORTHWEST SHOWS COMING UP:

And speaking of shows: Remember the two Fall Shows in the Northwest are coming up on the first weekend of November.

The first is the Portland Show on Saturday, November 1st put on by the Portland Photographers' Forum teaming with the Mt. Hood Community College Photography Dept. It will be at the Jackson Armory, 6255 N.E. Cornfoot Road, Portland, Oregon. (from the north take Hwy. 205..turn west on Columbia Blvd. to Alderwood Road..turn right to N.E. Cornfoot and left to Show) Doors open for vendors at 6:15 a.m...Early admission (\$15.00) come in at 7:30 a.m.with General Admission (\$4.50) in from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For table and general info. call Neil Poulsen at 503-359-7812 or e-mail at: neil.fg@att.net

Then the next day on Sunday, November 2d Siggie is putting on The Vancouver B.C. Camera Show & Swap Meet at the Cameron Centre, 9523 Cameron at Longheed Mail, Burnaby B.C. (from Hwy. 1 use the Carboo exit, then Lougheed Hwy. east to Bell Avenue) All 180 tables are \$30 each. The Show runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (\$4) Early bird at 9 a.m. (\$15). For complete Show info. call Siggi Rohde at 604 941-0300.

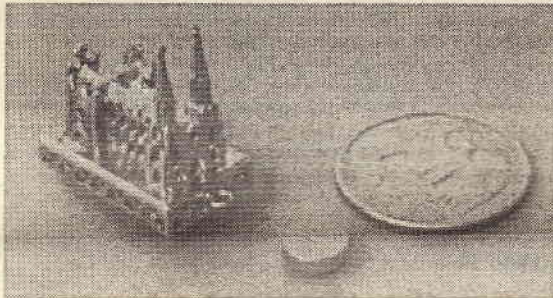
There is also a rumor that there is going to be a small camera show in Victoria B.C. on Sunday, October 26th. If you would like a pleasant get-away weekend, with a small show as a bonus, give member Mike Symons a call (604) 383-6456 and see if the rumor is true.

The following is from the September 2003 Cascade Panorama and used with thanks. Ed.

A Stanhope with a Battery

by Bobbi London

Stanhope collectors are always seeking items unlike any they have seen in other collections. I was intrigued this July when an antique dealer told me he had a stanhope that lit up. Actually, I was dubious, having never heard of such an article. I was truly impressed with the 14K gold cathedral charm he finally located.



Cathedral charm, battery and U.S. quarter.
Ralph London photo

At the base of the charm is a covered compartment which holds a small battery, 5/16in in diameter and 1/8in high. When the cover is pressed, the battery contacts an extremely tiny light in the center of the cathedral, located behind the image of the stanhope. It illuminates the interior of the cathedral as well as providing additional light for viewing the photographic image.

The charm is large, 1-1/8in tall, 1in long, and 1/2in wide, larger than any church charm I've seen. The stanhope image is the Lord's Prayer, common in churches. This cathedral charm was one of a number that came off a bracelet with battery-lit charms. None of the others had a stanhope. There was no identifiable company or maker, and I would be happy to learn more about their manufacture. Are there other similar stanhopes out there, waiting to be found?



1885 Wood engraving of woman photographer by Thos. H. McCollin.
From the American Journal of Photography and Photographers' Price Current Vol. VI. NO. 10.

Collecting Photo Albums

by Mike Kessler

On September 20, PhotoHistory XII, the triennial conference of photo historians, will be held at the George Eastman House in Rochester, New York. At that conference, I will present an illustrated lecture entitled "The Art of the Album." Here is a condensation of that presentation.

Other than the size of their windows — evidence of their use for cartes de visite, cabinet cards or any of the countless other nineteenth century photo sizes — photo albums have very little to do with photography. Their closest kin in the pantheon of collectibles would be that of elaborately bound books. No copy of *Canterbury Tales* was ever bound in as elaborate a manner as even the least expensive, turn-of-the-century celluloid photo album, while some extreme examples would be more at home among the crown jewels in the Tower of London than on a coffee table.

Most sizes of early photographs originated from the logical partitioning of the silversmith's standard 6-1/2 by 8-1/2 inch silver plate, originally chosen in the 1840s as a source for daguerreotypes. Later on however, when the carte de visite craze of the 1860s had run its course, the larger cabinet photograph and even larger sizes like the Paris Panel were created by photo album manufacturers, eager to open new markets for their wares.

Arising simultaneously with the invention of the four-lens camera and the millions of cartes de visite (a narrow version of the "quarter plate") that followed, most early photo albums were made from leather applied to thin wood or cardboard. Soon these leather albums became more heavily constructed and elaborately embossed, often gilded in floral and geometric designs and studded with porcelain buttons to protect their ornate surfaces.

As the popularity of collecting images of family and friends spread higher up the ladder of class and affluence, one could, for a price, have albums made from a wide variety of materials including ivory, rare woods, mother-of-pearl, silver and gold and embellished with just about any gemstone you could think of. During the Civil War, exceptionally fine velvets were used in conjunction with such classic book crafts as gold leaf embossing and fore edge carving and painting, creating some of the most stunning photo albums to be found.

It was during this early period that music box albums first appeared. Small Swiss cylinder mechanisms were placed in a compartment at the back of the album, tinkling out their melodies when switched on by opening the album cover. In the 1880s these were joined by disc players with changeable tunes.

Common photo albums in the cabinet card period (1878-1910) were often produced in combinations of gaudy, patterned velvet and the era's new "wonder material," Celluloid. Invented as a substitute for ivory billiard balls, this early plastic was quickly found to be the ideal material for forming into the wild and colorful shapes dictated by the taste of the period. As in the cdv albums of two decades earlier, these as well could be had in all manner of exotic and expensive constructions.

The easiest, and in many ways the most satisfying, type of photo album to collect is Celluloid. Beautiful examples are continuously being offered on eBay, though near perfect examples are scarce and usually command prices of \$100 to \$400. On the other hand, think of Celluloid albums as being literally printed on a press. The variety is infinite but their rarity and value will never approach that of "hard" albums — my own term for albums other than those made in quantity from leather, cloth, velvet or Celluloid. What's left are the largely hand made albums which we (my wife Gladys is also a passionate collector) especially try to acquire. Crafted from onyx, brass, glass, ivory, shell, carved wood, etc., the best of these can deplete your collecting budget by several thousands of dollars.

As with any collectible, condition is paramount. Not only should the covers be as perfect as possible but the pages inside as well. A few minor tears are usually acceptable and can be carefully repaired, but missing segments and stained or written on pages definitely reduce an album's desirability. Conversely, if the covers are sufficiently spectacular, the inside pages can even be absent. I once paid a steep price for a fabulous set of Onyx and Pietra Dura album covers where the pages had been discarded and the covers turned into a Victorian blotter (It's a future restoration project). Although I appreciate an album filled with beautiful examples of the photographer's art, my particular goal is find albums that have never been used. These I cherish and keep pristine. However, albums which have been used but may be partially or inappropriately filled, usually end up as repositories for our collection of cdv's and cabinet cards of children with toys, animals, and of course my favorite, people posed with examples of stereoscopes and cameras found in other segments of our collection. Our photo albums relate handsomely to our overall collection of photographica, but they, more than most, stand out as elegant pieces of sculpture, reflecting the society in which and for which they were created.

Should you now try your hand at collecting photo albums? In my opinion: Definitely *not!* This article was written for educational purposes only and is in no way intended as a stimulus for anyone wanting to start their own collection. Competition is tough enough as it is, and I don't need any more bidders to do battle against on the Internet auctions. Trust me. You will receive far more satisfaction with a thoroughly researched and lavishly displayed collection of that staple of early Americana: *barbed wire!!!*



Answer: The Calypso camera made by Spirotechnique of France. Jacques Cousteau evidently tested this camera because it was named for his salvage ship. There

were two different models made. The first had a speed of 30-1000 and the second 15-500. Nikon purchased the camera design and thus began their underwater line they named Nikonos. The Calypso models range in price from \$400-600.



Photo from McKeown's