

June 16, 2005

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XXVI. No. 10

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, June 16th..7:30 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. (doors open about 6:00 p.m.)
WHY	A short business meeting..auction (one item lot per member please)..door prize..Show & Tell..Members's trade and sell tables (free to members, please cover during business meeing) <u>Program:</u> Bring your favorite FILM camera. The one you used before digital to shoot your vacation pictures and or your serious photographes of people and nature.

THE 26th YEAR OF P.S.P.C.S...A LOOK BACK & A LOOK FORWARD:

Here we are at the end of our 26th Club year. Gary just had his June garage camera sale and now we have almost three months of summer time "treasurer hunting" before our next meeting on September 16th..the start of our 27th great Club year. Ah, the joy of all those summer garage and estate sales, those vacation trips that just happen to go past several antique malls and or stores that call out, like the mythical sirens of old, "come, come to my treasurer laden shores. See what treasures await within." Yes, summer is truly a magical time for us "Treasure Hunters."

Looking back at our 26th great year P.S.P.C.S. seemed to do ok. We had good attendance at our meetings. Our Christmas party/meeting and gift exchange was much fun. Bill Kimber lost much of his collection to a fire but thus had the years best Show & Tell. Our April Show was smaller than we had expected but still left us with money and energy enough to continue it for at least one more year. We did lose several valued Club members, including Ed Fry, and it is always a sad time when members pass. This does remind us that our membership is growing older with not too many younger members joining up. It does seem that unless interest in collectiing photographica filters down to our children and grandchildren we will be faced with an ever smaller group. For whatever reasons interests among younger people do not seem to include the collecting of photographica.

It may well be that this lack of interest among younger people goes a long way toward explaining the drop off of interest in Camera Shows in general and our Show in particular. Of course selling on the internet has been a big contributor to our Shows' decline. Even so we are told that we are still the best Show going in the West and one of the best remaining Clubs and Shows in the Country.

Of course the advent of digital equipment has had a major affect. Three to four years ago there were still discussions about how much difference digital might make in the photographic industry. Not any longer. The battle between film and digital is over. Just like the battle between roll film and glass plates at the turn of the 20th Century when roll film took over; digital has taken over from roll film. Oh, sure, film, both still and movie, will still be available and used by some professionals and skilled amatures but the overwhelming number of pictures that are taken in the future will be digital pictures. The cost of shooting, developing and editing movie film is so high today that to do so may well mean that you have a serious "Cecil B. DeMille complex."

****BACKSIDE INFORMATION****

The May meeting of the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society came to order at 6:59 p.m. There were 38 members and guests in attendance. The minutes of the April meeting were approved as read. Treasurer reported the Club was still in the black even after losing about one thousand dollars putting on our 25th Camera Show & Sale.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Show Committee Chairman, Bill Kimber, began the Committees' final 2005 report with a heart felt thank you to all the Show Committee members who did an excellent job again this year. We sold 164 tables but gave refunds for five tables to sellers who were unable to attend the Show. The Fair rebated \$191.00 of our rental payment. The Committee, with the consent of the membership, has decided to put the Show on in 2006. We will have to see how it goes in 2006 before the Club decides on any future Shows. Bill said he was going to recommend to the 2006 committee that we end the Show at 4 p.m.--thus opening the gate to seller's cars at 2 p.m.--and reduce the money spent on newspaper ads by \$1,000.

Other suggestions by the members included: Holding a photographic seminar or two in the space left on the floor...trying to sell only 8" foot tables, (the problem may be the Fair not having enough 8" tables for us to rent)...Combining our Show with another group such as an antique group like Magic Lantern, watches, postcards etc...having a one dollar off coupon in our newspaper and Little Nickel ads and encouraging camera manufacturers, etc. to attend our Show.

NEW BUSINESS:

Next meeting on June 16th...Sigge will have another Show in Vancouver B.C. in October.

SHOW & TELL & PROGRAM:

Seven members had items for Show & Tell. Gary Sivertsen had a most interesting report about his trip to China where he found several photographic items. He will put on a slide show of his trip in the Fall.

AUCTION..DOOR PRIZE:

Six items were sold netting their old owners a total of \$77.00.
The door prize was won by Mr. John Sparrow.
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. for more buying, selling and nummie munching.

THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY QUESTION:

Answer at end of Newsletter

With thanks to the Western Photographic Historical Society:

What Polish designer and artisan made a 35mm miniature version of a view camera in the 1990's?



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 www.pspcs.org

Dues are \$20.00 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 4th Saturday in April yearly show.

PRESIDENT: DARREL WOMACK (206) 244-6831 DARRELCAM@COMCAST.NET



What does that mean for photographica collectors? Well, it means two main things. One, there will be a lot of useable film cameras on the market at lower and lower prices. This is good if you are a collector of such items. If, however, you have been buying user equipment, and then selling it in order to finance your collecting of other photographic items, you are finding a very reduced market. Even good 35mm users and medium format cameras are getting very hard to sell at reasonable prices..no one wants to use them. And, don't even think about buying darkroom equipment for resale. That market has, to coin a phrase, gone to hell in a hand basket.

So, what can we look toward as our 27th great year gets under way on September 16th? Will our membership grow or fall? Only time will tell. This may be the year we see the end of our annual Show as we now know it. Suggestions, for after this next Show, have ranged all the way from looking for another venue to joining forces with another collector group to do a dual interest Show. And, of course, the Club could just decide to not do anymore Shows after 2006. Again, only time and members' interest and commitment will give us answers. We already know we need to invite digital sellers and buyers to our Show and we must reduce our costs even further. But even these measures may not be enough.

For now, the most important thing is to have a fun, and hopefully productive, summer of collecting so you can all come back to our September 16th meeting ready for another fun filled year as members of P.S.P.C.S. Inc.

In April Shirley received the following request for information from Dr. Laurence Senelick from Tufts University. If you can be of assistance please contact him.

Dear Ms Sparrow:

In 1852, the London publishers Thomas Tallis & Sons began issuing an edition of Shakespeare, illustrated with engravings of actors in their famous roles. These portraits, mostly of the actors connected with Samuel Phelps' company at Sadlers Wells, were based largely on daguerreotypes. In 1858, an American publisher followed Tallis's example, with an edition of Shakespeare illustrated with engravings of New York and Philadelphia actors, also based on daguerreotypes.

As part of a broader study of nineteenth-century theatrical photography, I am trying to ascertain whether any of the original daguerreotypes still exist. The collectors Mander and Mitchenson surmised that those for the London edition did not, but no one has undertaken a survey of daguerreotypes of actors in costume. This is a preliminary attempt at such a thing.

Could you inquire of your membership whether any of them possesses or knows of any silverplates, daguerreotypes, ambrotypes or similar unique photographic portraits of performers (actors, opera singers, dancers, circus acts) actors *in costume*? Of course, the more copious the information the better, and a reproduction or citation of the existence of a reproduction would be best of all. At this stage of my study, however, any indication of the existence of such cased images will be much appreciated, and acknowledged in publication of my findings.

Department of Drama and Dance
Medford, Massachusetts 02155
(617) 628-5000 x2230

Yours truly,



Laurence Senelick (Dr.)

Satin Snow™ Ground Glass

by R. A. Suomala

Sooner or later the ground glass viewing/focusing screen in most view cameras will become cracked or broken. In the past it has been most difficult to find a reliable source of replacement screens. Fortunately we now have David Parker's **Ground Glass Specialties** to supply replacements at a reasonable cost.

David's Satin Snow™ ground glass is not just a replacement but a step up in ground glass technology. My own experience and tests published on David's web site indicate a full stop more brightness on the screen vs. conventional ground glass. It's a big help when focusing at the shooting aperture as advised by Ansel Adams and others. David is very particular about the quality of his product so there may be some delay in delivery but it is well worth the wait. His web site also has some other useful information.

Ground Glass Specialties, PO Box 10591
Kalispell, Mt 59904, 406-752-8677
<satinsnowglass.com>

Old Friend and P.S.P.C.S. member-- Dealer Tak Futawatari passed out the following announcement at our Show. His last.

"After 25 years in the United States and celebrating my 60th birthday last year, I have decided to return to Japan for my retirement. Being away for so long, it is like starting all over in a foreign country again, but I am slowly getting used to my new life in Japan and I've promised myself that I would relax and enjoy each and every day.

Now that things are calming down a little, I wanted to take a moment to thank you so very much for your support and friendship not only in business but personally as well during my stay in the United States. I count myself as very fortunate to have known you.

Wishing you and your family much happiness and good health.

Best regards, Tak Futawatari"

16mm Movie Film Stock:

Contributed by Robert Suomala

At the WPHS May 2005 meeting, someone was asking about the availability of 16mm movie film stock. Media Distributors <mediadistributors.com> with offices in NY, CA and WA lists 16mm and 35mm movie film stock from several manufacturers. B&H Photo Video in NY <bhphotovideo.com> lists 100 feet of Kodak Ektachrome #7250 VNX430 16mm color reversal film for \$30. This is available from B&H only on special order (i.e. might not be in stock but worth a try).

There seems to have been a quiet revival of Super-16mm and Super-8mm film making. The following is from <kodak.com/US/en/motion/16mm/>.

"Film is not dead. With the release of three new Kodak Vision2 16mm film stocks, there has been a surge in business for Super 16mm film production. According to Brian Spruill, vice president and general manager of worldwide sales, operations and marketing for Kodak's Entertainment Imaging division, Kodak's sales in this area are up 10% for the first half of 2004."

Here are a couple of other sources that show up on the Internet:

<bonofilm.com/stock.asp>

<gassers.com/Sales/16mmfilmstock.html>

<www.widescreen-centre.co.uk/cine.php>

<www.leescameras.demon.co.uk/

#Kodak16mmFilmStock>

<reelexchange.co.uk/filmstock.htm>

the last three are in the UK. They take their movie making quite seriously on the other side of the Atlantic.

R. A. Suomala

What Polish designer and artisan made a 35mm miniature version of a view camera in the 1990's? Answer: Marek Mazur, Gadansk, Poland, made miniature cameras and have been sold to collectors at various camera auctions in the European market. No two are alike and all are elaborately tooled and very small. The values are from \$400-\$1800.

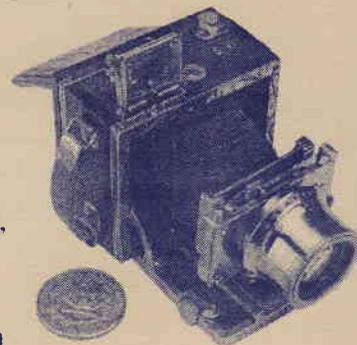


Photo from McKeown's