

The Photogram

Newsletter of the Michigan Photographic Historical Society

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N. R. Skipper, Jr., Editor

March 1973

President's Column:

Plans are underway for a "major" Trade Fair this summer; invitations to exhibitors and guests for this event will be extended to collectors throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. Efforts are being made to secure guest lecturers from historical and educational institutions in Michigan; and to provide something of interest and possibly a local tour for spouses and youngsters whose interest in photographica may wane.

At our next regular meeting, March 24, the featured stereo slide presentation will be followed by informal exhibits of selected equipment, images and literature, with opportunity for your personal inspection and discussion with the owners. Here's a chance to get to know some of your fellow members and to see some interesting items.

Don't forget our annual membership meeting coming up in June. We hope to hold this in an outdoor location to encourage use of that "old box" you've been restoring all winter. Some major items to be covered at the business meeting in June will be election of new officers for 1973-74; selection of a MPHS "Trademark;" vote on a permanent name for our newsletter; and a survey to determine everyone's main interests in antique photography--pre-1900, post-1900, images, literature, history or methods and techniques. Please put on your thinking caps and come prepared to enjoy yourself and add your comments, ideas and viewpoints. All are welcome.

The OCCS trade fairs in Columbus, Ohio (next one is May 26-28) have always been fully booked with over 40 exhibitors and

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MARCH MEETING:

Stereo Slide Show

by Paul Wing, Jr.

A stereoscopic slide show entitled "Stereo Photography 1850-1910" will be the feature event of our March meeting. The show, consisting of over two hundred slides with related script, was prepared by Paul Wing, Jr. of Hingham, Mass. and was originally shown at the International Convention of the Photographic Society of America in Toronto in September 1971. Each slide is a copy on Kodachrome of an original stereo card, so the sharpness and tone (or hand tinted colors) of the original are faithfully reproduced.

Paul Wing is a truly dedicated stereographer; in fact, he says he has "never made a flat picture," except for use as one of a stereo pair. Paul is a two-star exhibitor in the Stereo Division of PSA and in 1971, won the highest award in stereo, the Charles A. Kinsley Memorial Trophy, for the Best Three Accepted Entries in the PSA Stereo International Exhibition. Paul, who makes, or modifies for his needs, much of the stereo equipment he uses, is now shooting close-ups of birds in stereo for another slide show.

*** NEXT MEETING ***

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1973, 7:00 P.M.
Dearborn Youth Center, Michigan Ave.
and Greenfield, Dearborn. Rooms L
and M. Plenty of free parking.

Cover design and headlines by
John Naslanic

From the Editor's Desk:

This year may be the turning point for the Photographic Historical Society of America, which now has a name but is yet to be organized. The delegates to PHSA have been debating for nearly a year, but the only results to date have been the establishment of the principles of individual memberships while retaining a strong role for the societies, selection of a name and a statement of general goals. Drafts of proposed organizational documents by several authors (including your Editor) have been prepared and will be discussed at OCCS in May.

The central question, as I see it, will be whether an individual will be counted for national purposes several times over, once for each society he belongs to (even if he joined only to "subscribe" to their newsletters); or whether "cross memberships" will be somehow disregarded for voting purposes, and each person allowed only one vote on national matters, no matter how many clubs he can afford to join.

Many compromises are going to be necessary to get PHSA underway, but I can brook no compromise with the principle of "one man, one vote." Until this concept is accepted by all, I believe PHSA will remain a dream--and a debating society. N.R.S.

Collectors' Calendar

SECOND QUARTER 1973

April 14-15: Antique Camera and Photo Show, Midwest Photographic Historical Society, P.O.Box 882, Columbia, MO 65201.

April: (date to be announced) "Mini" Trade Fair, Chicago Photographic Collectors Society, 275 Laurel Ave., Highland, IL 60035.

May 26, 27 & 28: Trade Fair & Seminar, Ohio Camera Collectors Society, P.O.Box 4614, Columbus, OH 43212. During this event, there will be a meeting of the delegates to the Photographic Historical Society of America.

June: (date to be announced) Annual Meeting and Photographic Outing, MPHS.

Spend your money wisely. V.L.S.

Trade Fairs We've Visited

As the "season" for photographic collectors' trade fairs fast approaches, we thought it might be interesting to review what our "special correspondents" had to say about two of the trade fairs held late in 1972. Dates of events already announced for 1973 can be found in Collectors' Calendar. Better plan now to attend some of these, but don't forget our own MPHS trade fair now being planned for the summer.

Columbia, Mo., November 11-12: A unique setting, the Downtowner Motel "annex" is an adjacent, unused, but still lovely, stone church. Its outstanding stained glass windows were a bonus!

The "offering" of over 20 fine antique stereo cameras, viewers and accessories on display, was an eye-appealing theme for this show. Sixteen tables manned by some familiar faces, and a number of "new" items for sale by new friends from this area, made for an interesting event.

Revelations by Mike Kessler of Lakewood, California, of details about his famous "find" of White House and D. C. Daguerreotypes (eventually sold to the Library of Congress for \$12,000) added some needed spice to the Saturday evening banquet.

Dick Wolfe

Columbus, Ohio, October 6-8: The once-elegant ballroom of the vintage Southern Hotel was the gathering place for old-camera and image collectors for the seventh semi-annual trade fair, sponsored by the Ohio Camera Collectors' Society. The event attracted participants from Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, California, all the Great Lakes states, and possibly many others.

Well represented were MPHS members with exhibiting, trading and information exchanging activities. Images and cameras--classics, near classics and clunkers--ranging in size from a vintage lantern projector, (price \$175.00) whose lens elements alone weighed several pounds and many, many times the weight of a sub-miniature outfit we selected from one collector's "fifty-cents box", complete with a case and roll of film.

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Why I Collect . . .

by James F. Quinlan

There are many reasons: the aesthetic satisfaction of the stereoscopic illusion, the thrill of being transported through time and space, cultural enrichment, appreciation for the product of a near-archaic technology and a desire to acquire and preserve examples of it, a relaxing escape from the tensions of the working day, relatively low investment cost for most cards, and the excitement of the hunt for them -- all of these reasons and many more.

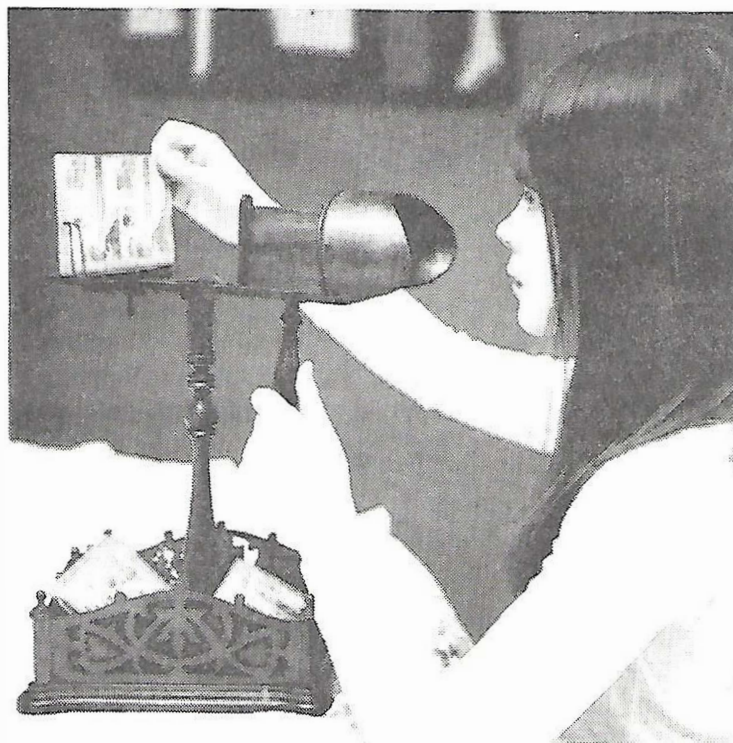
My chief photographic collecting interests are stereo views of caves and advertising cards in which the text on the back refers to the product or emporium depicted. More than a few people have asked me why I collect stereo views of so "odd" a subject as caves. I answer that I am a geologist professionally involved with the study of caves, sink-holes, ground water, and mineral deposits in limestone terrains. My interest in views is thus a natural one, at least to me, and it is another part of my personal collection of about 10,000 cave-related books, journals, pamphlets, and reprints from more than 60 countries -- much of which is used in my work. Most of my 1200+ cave views have been acquired in exchange from other collectors during the past 3 years but some were bought from dealers, collectors, and descendants of cave owners.

I also collect for iconographic reasons. Data on my own holdings and those of other private and institutional collections are being compiled for eventual publication in a check list of cave stereo views. I am also doing extensive newspaper, archive, copyright record, and genealogical research on the various photographers associated with Mammoth Cave, Ky., and I've discovered many interesting facts about these men and their associates. Perhaps one of the more significant is that although it is widely known that Charles Waldack of Cincinnati is credited with the first photographs of any cave with the aid of artificial light -- Mammoth Cave by magnesium light, in 1866 -- others (or another) had tried there before him, using both calcium light and magnesium light, but without success! I've also discovered that 10 of the stereo views

attributed to Waldack by the Library of Congress, including the one published on p.10 of the first issue of Graphic Antiquarian, were made instead by Mandeville Them of Louisville in 1876.

My collection has introduced me to some of the nicest people. I could not have been as successful as I have in building it if it were not for the generous advice and material aid of others; I acknowledge my debt to them.

Unusual Stereoscope Discovered But is it Rare?



by Nate Skipper

This viewer, found several months ago at a local antique show, had only this identification, "PATD MAR. 10.74." I checked The Official Gazette of the U.S. Patent Office for 1874 and found that there was indeed a patent issued on Mar. 10, 1874 to William M. Kent of Buffalo, New York for a Stereoscope-Stand. There was also a drawing showing a stereoscope and basket-type stand substantially like this one.

If you have one of these, or know of any in others' collections, I would like to hear about it.

Did you know that 1973 is the year of the Cent V.L.S.

Collector's Bookshelf

The Stereoscope, its History, Theory and Construction, by Sir David Brewster, facsimile edition by Morgan & Morgan, Inc., Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. 1972, 235 pp., illus., \$8.95.

First published in 1856, this classic is recommended reading for every stereographer and stereo collector.

Did You Know ...?

That *The Continental Magazine*, Winter 1973, published by Ford Motor Company, contains an article entitled "Collectors Turn to Photographs." The Parke-Bernet Auction in Spring of 1972 is mentioned as well as the Witkin Gallery in New York. The emphasis is on activity in New York, but the 831 Gallery in Birmingham is mentioned.

President's Column (continued)

well attended by Michiganders. If a sufficient number of MPHS members and friends would like to "leave the driving to BUS" (minimum 32 adults), arrangements will be made for transportation at slightly less than \$20.00 per adult, round trip (1/2 for youngsters 11 and under). Recommended departure from Detroit, 6:30 PM Friday, May 25th, and from Columbus, early afternoon Monday. About 3-3 1/2 hours one way with rest stop enroute; and ample room for 1 suitcase per person and a large carton or two of "goodies". If interested, drop a note to MPHS for my personal attention.

Membership blanks are enclosed, and the "line was held" on prices, so please forward you "renewal application" and check by return mail. Please note that you are entitled to another free 10 word ad if renewal is received before July 31. MPHS now has over 70 members and our Newsletter is exchanged with all other collectors' society's in the U.S., so your ad becomes more valuable all the time.

Item of Special Interest - Most of us have enjoyed wandering thru the antique shows being held at many large shopping center malls, such as Tel-Twelve, Livonia, and others on weekends; and if you have a few (or a lot) of photographic items you would like to sell or trade, please drop me a note and I will look into the possibility of having a MPHS table(s) at one of them. Sound interesting?

Dick Wolfe

TRADERS' COLUMN

WANTED: Stereo views, lantern slides, and cabinet photos of almost any caves and rocks at Mackinac, MI. Also stereo advertising cards in which the text on the back refers to the product or emporium depicted on the front. Will buy or can offer pre-1880 views of many diverse subjects as exchange. James Quinlan, 1275-904M Elgin, Burlington, Ontario, Canada.

WANTED: Military photographers' badges and other photographic novelties. Rick Skipper. (313) 851-3394.

ATTENTION: Subscriptions to Petersen's Photo Graphic Magazine at \$6.00 a year (compared to regular rate of \$9.00 a year) are available to MPHS members, but we must get a minimum of 7 subscriptions. Send your address and check to the Treasurer, if we don't get enough, it will be returned.

WANTED: Pre-war Rolleiflex cameras and acces.; recent 127 Rollei; catalogs or books on Rollei and picture books by Fritz Henle. Also American Annuals of Photography. Nate Skipper, 4782 Crestview Ct. Birmingham, MI, 48010.

WANTED: New Members for MPHS. Dues \$5 a year regular membership and \$3 a year for associates. All members welcomed at all meetings and events. Write to P.O. Box 191, Dearborn, MI, 48010.

Trade Fairs (continued)

It was as interesting to observe the experienced traders conducting their negotiations with finely-tuned purpose as it was pleasant to discover that these same individuals enjoyed exchanging a pleasantry or passing along a tip to a neophyte.

Over sixty people attended the Saturday night banquet followed by a well-illustrated presentation by Dr. Robert A. Helm detailing the generations of the famous Contax. This program was made all the more interesting by Gene Brown's beautiful display of these classic cameras. After a brief intermission a French-made documentary film of the life and work of L.J.M. Daguerre was shown by Walt Johnson. Later that evening there was discussion, led by Don Blake, regarding progress toward establishment of the national organization.

Gene and George O'Neal