

President's Message

Michael Oesch



PHOTO BY ROBERT LANSDALE

I am pleased to welcome you to the 25th Anniversary Special Edition of *Photographic Canadiana*. Commencing last Fall, our editor has been busy lining up contributors, then throughout the Summer, typing, proofing and snapping away to assemble the most comprehensive, informative and largest issue of the journal to date. We at the PHSC take pride in the quality of research and the journalism that the many writers have contributed, not only for this issue but since Volume 1 #1, released in 1975.

The work of our editors over the years has been exemplary – Terry Wedge (1975–1977) who was at the helm upon our inception. He passed the torch on to John Addison (1977–1981), Patrick Agnew (1981–1985), William Belier (1985–1986) and Douglas Gilbertson (1986–1987) until Everett Roseborough (1987–1997) began his ten year tenure of work which has been continued by our current editor-in-chief Robert Lansdale (1997–present).

Not to be forgotten is the part that the Schryer family has played since their name was included on the masthead in July 1980. The father and son combination of Frans and Pim has been a blessing to the PHSC giving their personal attention to the printing of the journal. This continues today by Pim under The Rewco Printing Group.

The countless hours that these men have volunteered and, in a number of cases *continue to give*, is very much appre-

ciated. The articles and photographs meticulously assembled, have entertained and educated our members – but at the same time have become a valuable archive of information preserving photographic historical records for future generations. Gentlemen, our kudos to you all!

You may not realize that there are many other elements that make up the success of the PHSC. Every third Wednesday of the month from September through June we have presented, over these past 25 years, a myriad of knowledgeable speakers covering a wide variety of photo historical topics. Both our Spring and Fall Fairs are the largest in Canada offering extraordinary opportunities to buy, sell and trade to an ever interested public. These Fairs subsidize our publication and finance the special projects such as the Research and Publication Grants that are available to members and students.

To all of you whose interests in photographic history have established, nurtured and continue to support the aims of the *Photographic Historical Society of Canada*, I heartily congratulate and thank you for the support that has brought us through 25 years in our journey of preservation.

Michael Oesch
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THE PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

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The PHSC was founded in Toronto in 1974 for people interested in photographic history. It was incorporated as a non-profit organization in Canada four years later. All activities are undertaken by unpaid volunteers.

We help camera and image collectors and those interested in the diverse aspects of photographic history, sharing in their enthusiasm and knowledge.

We promote public interest in photographic history through talks, awards, publications, fairs and auctions.

The majority of our 300 or so members are camera or image collectors, photographic researchers & writers, and professional photographers in Canada. Included are many libraries, archives, museums and other photographic societies.

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25 Years of memories...

1974 – 1999

Talk with any of the founding officers and members of the PHSC and they will tell you that the past twenty-five years have slipped by too fast; but that quarter century has left a trail of valuable memories as the Society has moved from project to project, from success to success.

It all started in the summer of 1974 when John Linsky, while strolling on Eglinton Ave. West, spotted a collection of old cameras displayed in the window of the Canadian School of Photography. Intrigued, he introduced himself to the proprietor, Larry Boccioletti and found they had a mutual interest in collecting photographic memorabilia and saw the need for a collectors society in Toronto. Weeks later, John brought fellow collector, Morris Fischtein, into the circle who offered to support the idea of forming a club.

As Larry recalls the events, "I had the experience of forming the *Photographic Historical Society of New York* in 1969 so could see the real benefits of pulling together a group of like-interested camera collectors here in Canada. As fate would have it, my school of photography "went down the tube" so I had a lot of free time on my hands. In discussions with Morris we laid down the basic plan of attack; Morris was too busy to offer time for the project but agreed to bank roll the initial expenses with a cheque for \$100 – a tidy sum which I certainly wasn't capable of covering in my circumstances. I set to work each day, phoning people I thought might be interested in such a club, asking if they knew any others with similar interests. Pretty soon there was a list of some 150 names from which were selected 100 to receive a letter explaining our aims and inviting them to a meeting at the Constellation Hotel in Rexdale (northwest Toronto). Newspaper ads also promoted the founding meeting of October 23rd, 1974".

"I was quite delighted", recalls Larry, "when seventeen people showed up, including three women. The founding meeting of the PHSC of New York only had 17 people to kick off its success, so I felt it was a good omen. Discussions were lively and constructive and we came to a consensus of what was needed. A collection was taken to defray the costs of the room at which John Linsky volunteered to take on the responsibility of holding follow-up meetings at his home. I then journeyed to Arkansas which became an extended visit of two years but sporadically was able to return and participate in some activities".

John Linsky remembers, "With Larry's departure I was propelled into the position of moving the society forward. At the initial meetings we agreed that we needed to organize. Some volunteers came forward and this group met in my home – Terry Wedge, Harold McNutt, Morris Fischtein and myself. We started out to create a National society with local chapters. We actually had two executive committees, one for the National and one for the Toronto Chapter which conducted monthly programme

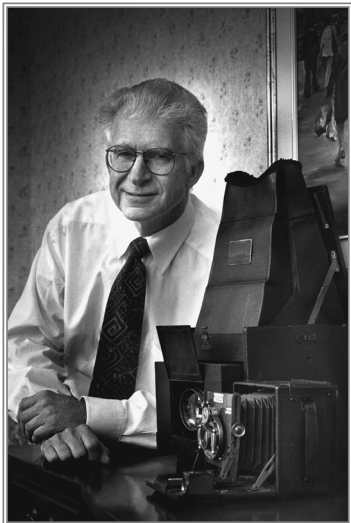


PHOTO BY ROBERT LANGDALE

John Linsky
Founding President of the PHSC

meetings. Several years later we merged the two groups. Meeting locations varied initially with a number of movies bolstering our speaker programs. In half a year we started a monthly newsletter – *Photographic Canadiana* which was widely circulated to promote membership. We arranged for a display of collectables at the C.N.E. to carry our message. We made a presentation to the Tariff Revisions board, initiated the Incorporation of the Society which required drafting bylaws and constitution, and laid plans for a "Swap-Meet" which became our first Canadian Photographica Fair at the (old) North York Memorial Hall on June 7th 1975. More volunteers joined in, including Gene Wasylciw, Jack Addison, John Alldredge, George Barton, Marjorie Addison, Robert Dynes, Ron Anger, Laura Jones and others. By March '75 we had attained 53 members, January '76 saw the total at 115. To encourage growth, dues were set at \$10 for the National and Toronto society or \$5 for the

National only. Not all projects proved a success as a planned trip to George Eastman House, Rochester, N.Y. brought little response, a hoped-for photographic museum proved not to be feasible and additional Chapters did not materialize”.

“Looking through old photographs of PHSC events it is interesting to note how dark everyone’s hair was in those early days. The youthful faces in my photo collection might explain our aggressiveness and daring to try anything. Profit for the 2nd Annual Fair of May 15, 1976 came to \$91.01 and we were on a path for future stability”.

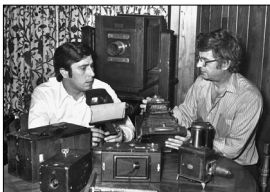
“It would be impossible to note all the dedicated workers who have poured hours of work into mounting projects and administering the society. Much of our vitality in recent years can be attributed to the fresh ideas and energy of younger members. While membership has been steady in the 225 – 300 range, many members joined back in the 1970s and 1980s. As our average age increases, we need to focus more on attracting youthful members. We have accumulated a good financial buffer through profits from our Fairs and Auctions only because we had many volunteers. These events provide the funds necessary for our publications, meetings, Awards program, Website and other activities. Inevitably we must pass everything into the care of keen and younger capable hands”.

Comments founding President John Linsky, “The end of our 25 years is the beginning of our next 25 years. I am pleased with all we have accomplished and hope the Society will flourish in the next quarter century. My thanks to all the members who volunteered and contributed to one of the finest photographic historical societies in the world.”

“For the future”, says Larry Boccioletti, “ultimately flash bulbs will become as scarce and cherished as daguerreotypes. Digital photography will have replaced image creation as we know it today, but I am sure that the love for cameras of polished brass and varnished wood, or chrome and black-leather will be just as fervent. May our efforts initiated in 1974 bring happy benefits for the decades to come”.

A trip back to the 1970's

FOUNDERS
MORRIS FISCHTEIN
AND LARRY
BOCCIOLETTI
PREPARE
PUBLICITY IN 1974



FIRST PHOTO SALE JUNE 7, 1975 IN NORTH YORK (OLD) MEMORIAL HALL – LINSKY, FISCHTEIN, MCNUTT AND WEDGE IN STEREO CARD MARJORIE ADDISON TENDS TABLE AT RIGHT

PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK GRABER



BOOTH DISPLAYS OF 1975 SAW JOE MILNER (wearing top) NEIL FOX (with stereo viewer) JOHN LINSKY (at right)



PC JOURNALS OF '76, '81 & '86



1976 MEETINGS AT RUTHERFORD'S LAIRD DR. AND WILD LEITZ CANADA, RICHARD HUYDA – SPEAKER

CONT'D
NEXT
PAGE

Remembering the '80s and '90s

PHOTOS FROM PHSC ARCHIVES

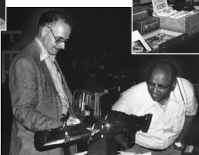


▲ PICNIC WENTWORTH HERITAGE, JUNE 1982

▼ MINI - FAIR JANUARY 1983



▲ June 14 & 15, 1980 2-DAY SALE AT PARK PLAZA: M. TANNER (far left) M. GILBERT (left), JACOBSON (center), BOB CARTER (far right) ADMIRING GUN CAMERA



▼ LAST MEETING HELD AT NORTH YORK (OLD) MEMORIAL HALL (KANE FUNERAL HOME) BEFORE MOVING IN SPRING 1986 TO N.Y. LIBRARY



FOCUS '82, AUTOMOTIVE BLDG. EXHIBITION PLACE

April 21 to 25, 1982

▼ ROBERT WILSON



▲ L. BOCCIOLETTI

JOHN MILES AND

▼ DYM SCHRYVER



▲ JOHN ADDISON (l) AUCTIONS EQUIPT

M. SINGER & D. DOUGLAS

April 1986

▼ AUCTION ACTION - MARCH 4, 1991



▼ PHSC EXECUTIVE FOR 1979 PICTURED BY PROF. WAYNE SPOULE



▼ SCHULFER, SAMUELS, AND SCHRYVER, October 89



▼ BOB CARTER COMPUTES AUCTION SALES - 1989



▲ PHSC TENTH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM AT YORK UNIVERSITY May 25 & 26, 1984 AUDITORIUM & SPEAKER PANEL



▲ RON ANGER AND BILL BELIER, JULIE BOCCIOLETTI AND ANTHONY HONEYWOOD CHECK PRINT SHOW JOHN ADDISON AND LARRY BOCCIOLETTI DURING 10TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

▼ PHSC TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY DINNER October 22, 1994



▼ HUNT, LIPKOWITZ, PERRY, March 1994

▲ FORFAR & MORRISON Jan. 1991



November 1989
MR. JOHNSON AND
HIS SCREW DRIVER

▼ FOCUS '82, EXHIBITION PLACE 1982



◀ JOHN AND MARJORIE ADDISON April 1981



▼ SCARBOROUGH TOWN CENTRE, 1979



▲ GRIMSBY HERITAGE: 1987 WM & MO PATZ, S. WHITE



▼ SPRING FAIR - HOLIDAY INN, May 1, 1988



▼ SPRING SALE - LEASIDE MEMORIAL GARDENS - May 14 1989



▼ ANNUAL AUCTION - WALLACE AVE. PHOTO STUDIOS, MAY 2 1993



▼ JOHN BARRAS WALKER WITH BILL MAIR, ED WARNER, Dec 1992



▼ SAM SCHLIFER, XMAS 1995



▼ HAROLD MUNNITT, PINA VINCI, RON ANGER



▼ AUCTION, ADVICE BILL KANTYVMR MAY '94



▼ MARG LANSDALE, KOTIESEN, KOPASZ Dec 1992



▲ RUSS FORFAR & ALLDYN CLARK

▼ PROGRAMS - SHARON RYAN-GROOT 1996



◀ RON WALKER &
E. ROSEBOROUGH
February 1989