



THE NEWSLETTER

MEETINGS: AMRA Hall, 92 Wills St, Glen Iris, VIC
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APCS NEWSLETTER No.85 – November 2018

The next event is the Members-only Market and social day on 18th November at the AMRA Hall from 10am

In what is becoming a tradition, the November meeting of the APCS will be a Members-only Market at the AMRA Hall. The idea is that we bring items along that are among the better collectables, knowing that only members will be there to buy them – chat and generally have a pleasant day. The event starts at 10am and light refreshments will be provided – enough to be considered a light lunch.

There is no cost for this event – just turn up and if you have items for sale, plan on being able to occupy about half a normal market table. However to help with the catering would you please send an email to president@apcsociety.com.au indicating your intention to attend and if you plan to bring items for sale.

A brief report on the October auction

As forecast, the October auction attracted a lot of interest as there were many high quality items that have not been commonly seen for many years. About 280 items were up for grabs and the total transacted was about twice the normal for a members-only auction.

The focus seems to have been on the more valuable and rarer items and a consequence was that many of the lesser items were overlooked and resulted in members getting some real bargains.

To remind members of what was on offer the full catalogue is still available on-line at: <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/auctions/October2018catalogue.pdf> and you can also see the auction results in the new precis version at: <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/auctions/October2018results.pdf>

There were a few important items that were passed in – these are marked “PI” in the results sheet. If you are interested in any of them with the idea of making an offer, please send an email to president@apcsociety.com.au and we will arrange for negotiations.

A few messages did come from the auction – quality items are still of interest to collectors and will achieve good prices. A few items exceeded the reserve and expected values by a significant margin, and possibly set some records in our environment. However it was also evident that poor attempts to make repairs to items and otherwise restore them are not likely to be worth the effort. Eventual owners want to make judgements from what is there and not have to see through attempts to disguise shortfalls. It is also evident that there is continuing interest in lenses in various categories – rare

types, cosmetically attractive items, and sometimes just general interest as lenses seem to be categories for new collections.

There were many items that were considered so frail that their owners requested that general access to inspect and touch them should be restricted. We addressed that by including detailed photographs on line and descriptions in the catalogue, and ensuring that “administered inspection” could occur with a no-touch policy, and pointing out that shutters in century-old cameras were likely to be far from perfect or even not working. This was the first time that such restrictions were so widely in place – applying to about 100 items – and the merit of such restriction was generally accepted. An important outcome was that it was these items that achieved the better auction prices.

Future auctions

In the August newsletter changes were outlined for future auctions to cope with a significantly increased number of items. Changed auction times etc are to be expected in 2019, and there will be some other changes in how the APCS runs them. Keep an eye out for changes in the way that items are submitted for sale – we are trying to come up with a long term solution and 2019 may be a year in transition.

To assist in keeping things under control, some restrictions are now going to be applied to low value items, and as a general rule, such items will be grouped together, and to assist in the management of the auction we are now discouraging physically larger items. Should you have items that are large, consider establishing an acceptable price and advertising them in the classified listings in the Newsletter.

Membership renewals

Thankyou to the members who have already renewed their membership for 2018-2019. They became due at the end of May and the fee of \$30 can be paid by a direct deposit into the APCS bank account:

Account name: Australian Photographic Collectors' Society. BSB: 083166 – Account: 515315423 and be certain to put your name or membership number in the reference field. Or send a cheque to the Treasurer P.O.Box126, KANGAROO GROUND, VIC 3097

If any of your details have changed please let us know. Download the membership form from the website <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/membership.html> and include it with your cheque, or email the changes to the Treasurer or to web@apcsociety.com.au. You can check your membership current status from the cover sheet to any issue of Back Focus.

Email addresses

There are still a few members who have not provided an email address – which is the method by which we send newsletters and reminders to members directly. Further, we are discovering that a few members are not clearing their mailboxes and messages are being returned with a “mailbox full” notification. We do our best to notify such members by phone but these are also going unanswered most of the time. Maybe keep this in mind and ensure that we can let you know what is going on. All Newsletters etc are also available from the APCS Website – but remember to refresh the page to ensure that you have the latest version. Key announcements and late-breaking news items are also available from the FaceBook page. If you hear of members that are not getting the newsletter, please let them know about the alternative access, and maybe let us know at web@apcsociety.com.au and we will follow it up.

Historic auction results

The results of the auctions now include a brief description of each item. The April 2018 results are at: <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/auctions/April2018results.pdf> the July 2018 results are at: <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/auctions/July2018results.pdf> and as noted above the October 2018 results are at: <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/auctions/October2018results.pdf>

The APCS Program for 2019

The APCS program for 2019 is now essentially final and you can see the details on the APCS website. They are subject to changes so keep an eye on the website, the newsletters and FaceBook.

The first event for 2019 will be a presentation by your President on 17th February at the AMRA Hall. The subject is “Lenses and their names” which will address what the various lens types are and what manufacturers have called them over the years. You might expect a few surprises as some new information about some of those classical lenses has emerged recently. You can also expect that Rod will have a few examples to show you – including a few oddities that you are unlikely to have seen elsewhere.

We note that there has been a significant reduction in the presentations by members of their interests at the monthly meetings which are not auctions or markets, and it has been a struggle to find subjects for presentations and members to prepare them.

For 2019 we would like to have a couple more presentation meetings – in May and August. Such presentations can take all forms, displays of particular collections, discussions on techniques, theoretical matters, maybe the restoration of a particular item or type of item. Presentations can be repeats – especially if the original presentation was years ago or maybe a lot more material has been added in recent times. There is also no reason why a subject could not (or maybe should not) be dealt with over a couple of meetings, dealing with different aspects of a subject.

If you would like to change in what the APCS does, contact the President: president@apcsociety.com.au and if you want to be part of implementing change then maybe become a member of the committee, or at least roll your sleeves up and be part of a work group that makes it all happen.

Forthcoming events of interest

An event of relevance to Adelaide members: **26th November – Centenary screening** of first (private) show of the 1918 Adelaide production **The Sentimental Bloke**. Piano accompaniment recorded in 1961 by Adelaide's music legend, Tom King, who had played for the film in 1919. The screening will be in the Hetzel room of the South Australian State Library – a free event but seats are limited to 120 – watch for announcements from the State Library, or email David on filmart@dodo.com.au

A very odd collaboration

One of the rumours that was getting around just before Photokina 2018 was an alignment between the Russian manufacturer Zenit and a “respected Western company”. It is more than a rumour, and the Western company is Leica.

Logically it would have been a Zenit body with a Leica lens – exploiting, maybe, the best of both makers. But it turned out to be the total reverse of such an alignment. The body is designed by Zenit in Russia but will be assembled by Leica in Wetzlar Germany, incorporating the M-system and the Leica full-frame 24MP sensor with a coupled rangefinder – but not the Leica one – it is Zenit internally, and apparently uses Zenit software – but no autofocus. The lens is also made by Zenit with nothing to do with Leica maker at all, a 35mm f1, but yes it is a Leica-M bayonet and is called the Zenitar-M.

Mooted for commercial release currently in Europe, and in January in Russia, there will be only 500 made (450 chrome and 50 black) and you will need A\$8,625 plus GST to own one based on European pricing. According to reviewers who have seen it, the whole idea is totally mad – but it is certainly going to be a collectible!



Don't expect anything extraordinary in other features of the camera – it is fairly ordinary by today's standards and for all intents and purposes looks like the spec of a Leica M (Typ 240) from 6 years ago – with a Russian name and a Russian lens! But is this a flash in the pan? Apparently not as an interview with a Zenit rep shows that next year there will be a 50mm f1 and a 21mm f2.8 to go with it and just after that there will be Zenit bodies for Canon and Nikon lenses!

Is this collaboration any good? The promoters don't realise it but there is enough evidence on the web to show that the combination is pretty ordinary, at least as far as the 35mm lens performance is concerned – sharp in the middle but the corners leave a lot to be desired.

Classified Advertisements

You can place classified advertisements in these pages. Send an email to adverts@apcsociety.com.au including a JPG photo if you wish. Rather than include your name and contact details we can add an enquiry code and pass information on to you – then you can deal directly with the responders. At present there is no charge for this service. For the timebeing keep the text down to under 50 words per item. Advertisements will be published once – or twice if space permits.