



# Historic Camera Club Newsletter

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## Marlow Brothers Co.

In 1866, the merchant firm of E. Marlow was established for the purpose of supplying the trade with glass & lead. This service included photographic glass and materials necessary for the wet plate process. The firm founded by E. Marlow was located at 111 Constitution Hill, Birmingham. E. Marlow continued in this mixed line of business until 1883. Over these early years E. Marlow built up a strong export business to the United States.

In 1883 the business bought equipment from a prominent manufacturer in Birmingham



and began to manufacture cameras. In this period, Birmingham was known for having various independent camera parts makers that allowed firms like Lancaster & Sons to sell inexpensive cameras of high quality. Marlow Brothers joined in on the wholesale market, keeping the retail and wholesale business separate.

From 1883 to 1893 the newly formed

Marlow camera manufacturing business remained a wholesale business and not retail. No cameras were made with their name on it. In this time period it was recorded that the firm was located at 23 and 30 Constitution Hill, Birmingham.

In 1893 the business was handed over to the sons of E. Marlow and the firms name established to Marlow Brothers. The two sons were E. Marlow (Jr.) and T. Marlow. The brothers continued to grow the business.



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In 1898 The firm was joined by A.G. Webb, a brother in-law of Mr. Marlow.

In 1899 the firm decided to solely devote all resources to the photographic trade. At that time they were the only photographic dealer in Birmingham. They set up a wholesale department for their branded cameras.

In 1901 the firm moved operations to a two-story building located in Aston.



In 1902, the firm of Hurman Limited purchased the business of Marlow Brothers, Birmingham and continued to carry on business in Birmingham as well as in Newcastle on Tyne as heretofore.



A short listing of the Marlow Brothers Camera can be seen on our History Librarium Launch page at <http://historiccamera.com/cgi-bin/librarium/pm.cgi?action=display&login=mbno3> . Of note, is the interesting combination of the M & B letters as one symbol.

REF:

1892 Chemist & druggist, Volume 40  
1901, May The Photographic Dealer, p118  
1902 Practical Junior Photographer, p148

## HC Msg Board Topics

- A really nice example of the rare [Tom Thumb](#) camera sold at auction for \$4,870. Camera pics were contributed to our database for future reference.
- Collector looking for information on Daguerreotype marks. Not much info is available outside HCs database listing.

## Web Site Update

Due to all the spam control issues with sending email, we have selected iContact as our club to member mail service to deliver this and future newsletters. Sign up at [http://www.historiccamera.com/icontact\\_maillist.html](http://www.historiccamera.com/icontact_maillist.html)

Gen 3 website upgrade has made good progress this last quarter. We are converting our database to MySQL and upgrading our member home page software with the vendors latest version. This new version will provide new features including a personal gallery that you can upload your collections into to share. More to come.

## Librarium Help

Our virtual staff is expanding new positions have been posted on the website. Additionally we recently made a special offer to the photographic community for help in populating our History Librarium database with historical information on people, companies and special topics. Several articles have been received. We are paying \$10 per article accepted. Submissions can be made up until September 15 2011.

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*Submit your suggestions, show or event info, and comments to [admin@historiccamera.com](mailto:admin@historiccamera.com)*