



Historic Camera Collector Club Newsletter

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Essay: Collecting Historic Cameras and Photos

Collectors start this obsession from many beginnings. From the child who was handed grandma's old keepsake to those who always bought the latest technology and realized while cleaning out the garage that a prominent collection was found. A few would later become the sophisticated recluse who research the history behind the artifact and spends thousands at shows and on-line. Well, at least that is my story. We collectors have our reasons for collecting. Most find it interesting, fun and some find it quite profitable. In this article I would like to discuss some of those reasons to collect cameras and photos and how to increase the value of your collection.

One of the universal reasons folks collect things is the fun and excitement of the treasure hunt. More so than some other areas of collecting, cameras and photography are so large in diversity, you never know what you will find. To look for Edward Anthony cameras, photos and ephemera can be challenging and costly. The Internet has opened a new opportunity by allowing a worldwide search for your missing camera model. Ebay is a double-edged sword with access to all of unseen items but with prices swinging wildly from garage sale to out of this

world. Not to mention that you may end up with junk because the photo did not tell the whole story. There are many other sites popping up which is really making the internet access interesting from on line auction like stereographica to classified ads for club members at classic camera sites. It is a very good trend and one that will provide many opportunities if you embrace this new tool. Besides it's a treat to come home from work to find a package in you mailbox containing that extra ordinary photo or camera.

Another dimension is the clean up, preservation or restoration. Homegrown techniques have sprung up everywhere and restorers can take pride in a job well done, or not? Different areas of collecting have different positions on what restoration means, but most believe that you perform restoration to retain or increase the collectibles value. Many believe that an antique should retain all of its characteristics even if that leaves it in non-functioning, unsightly condition. Newer items that are refurbished for use should also consider the collectable value and not change the items basic characteristics to achieve full functionality. Current museum thinking seems to be shifting towards an untouched condition. Why just tune into the road show and you will hear the same thing over and over, if you didn't refinish this collectable it would be worth ten times more. Ouch.

However, I believe some things can be done to enhance the visual and or functional condition without degrading from its value. I think the real trick in refurbishing an antique is to know what can and cannot be performed without removing the inherent characteristics that make your antique unique and vintage, like its patina that tells you how old it is. You don't want to change the original look or aged look in any way, but to enhance it or bring it back to a previous state, I believe is acceptable. The Historic Camera rule of thumb is that "There is a point where the degraded condition of an antique will reduce its value to the point where a refurbished camera will be valued more." So, in the end its for you to decide. But I would hope that we are the caretakers of our history, and eventually, like it or not, the antique will be pass on to the next generation.

Then there is the research. Learning about your new found item is a treasure hunt in it self and can be quite interesting and rewarding. The local library or your personal book self is a good place to start. McKeowns price guide is the collectors' bible providing a amount of basic information including dates and models. I find old journals, catalogues and periodicals to be an invaluable resource. But again the Internet is making life easy. Finding info sometimes can be just a Google away to learn about periods of camera production, photographer's business locations to compare your back label with the photographers location and dates of operation. A good reference for early American daguerreotypes is Craig's daguerreian registry on the Internet. There are other clues such as the pose and style of dress can also provide info as to the photos date. Historic camera.com has a growing history library on manufacturing companies, photographers and much more.

Lastly there is the display, pride of ownership and resale. Seasoned collectors have staked out a room in the house to place an extra

deep, lighted bookcase with glass doors. An enclosed bookcase dramatically reduces the dust build up. There are also a lot of opportunities for making your own web site or posting to a message board or photo gallery, like at Historic Camera.

So, here is where I get on my soapbox about collectors getting involved with their local clubs and on-line in the worldwide community. The only way to increase the value of your collection is to advertise the historical importance of it. That way everyone wins, because not only do you preserve your collectable and document the relevance of it for future generations, but you now have an investment that is growing with time and the release of new information to support it. So, support you local club, the Internet chat rooms, the on-line photo galleries and organizations willing to post your articles about your historic camera and always share the knowledge.

By T. Kowach

HC Msg Board Hot Topics

Film producer looking for a period camera (circa 1860's) to rent for several hours in Connecticut an upcoming shoot and the owner may get a cameo in the film. Nice Opportunity. If any one helps we would love to hear and write about the experience.

What the Heck is it? A collector has posted quite a few pictures of what he thinks is a projector apparatus. He needs more info. Please take a look and see if you can help.

Web Site Update

We are currently running both databases and everything is stable. The Librarium data is now available from the History Librarium's launch page.

Tracy, one of our official history researchers has submitted several biographies this month, including [Robert Cornelius](#), [Hippolyte Bayard](#), [Eugene Atget](#), and [Gabriel Harrison](#).

A [Voigtländer](#) reference section is in work.

Help Wanted Newsletter & Librarium

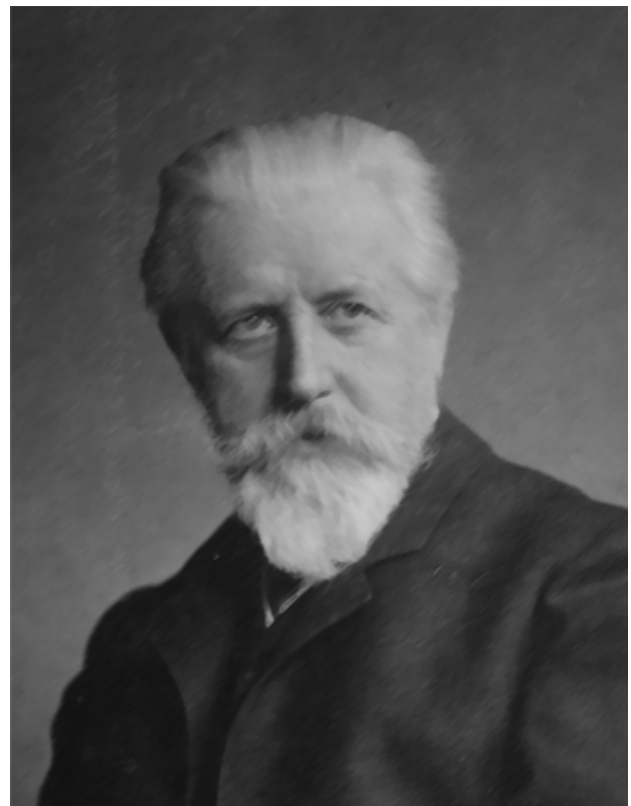
Please consider submitting an article to our newsletter. Either about a collecting topic of interest or about yourself or your hobby or website.

As always we are always open to receiving help in populating our History Librarium database with historical information on people, companies and special topics.

Featured Biography Ottomar Anschutz

Ottomar Anschutz was born on May 16, 1846 in the little town of Lissa (Leszno), in the Prussian province of Posen, Poland.

In 1882 Anschutz began experimenting with instantaneous photographs of animals in motion and machines to display moving pictures from a series of instantaneous photographs. To help in his endeavor he invented a focal-plane shutter camera for this class of work. The high speed camera was constructed by the Goerz optical company and became known as the [Goerz/Anschutz camera](#). The camera was capable of taking extremely rapid exposures from 1/1000th of a second, which enabled Anschutz to do educational work in motion. He would take photos of animals in motion at a Zoo in Poland.



In 1883 Ottomar Anschutz's begins his experiments with moving pictures.

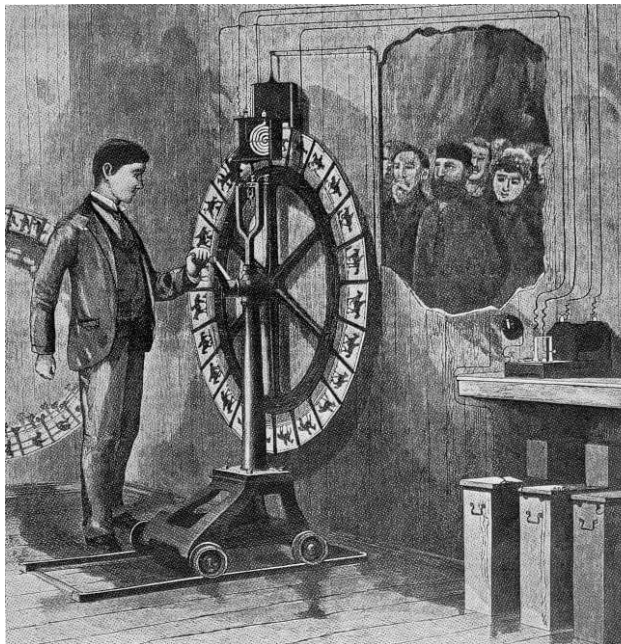
In 1884 he became famous through out the world for his still photographs of birds in flight.

In 1886 he began developing moving picture machines. The first was a wooden disk in which 12 direct positive plates were arranged on a wheel like seen at a circus. When the wheel spun the images viewed through the viewer would move. It was called an Electrotachyscope. [Click here for a You Tube video of the moving pictures.](#)

In 1888 Anschutz captured pictures of cannon balls in flight. He has established the fact that a projectile moving four hundred meters about 1,300 feet a second can be photographed and that the exposure of the plate was only about the ten thousandth part of a second

In 1892 He was the inventor also of a special form of cinematograph in which

full-size lantern plates were used called the Electrical Schnellseher. It was a coin operated viewing machine with images on celluloid arranged around a disc. This was one of the commercial operated movie machine available in German arcades.



By 1894 Anschutz improved his Electrotachyscope by creating a Projecting Electrotachyscope. The machine consisted of two large picture discs, each with twelve images. A plate image on each wheel was projected alternately and illuminated by a geissler tube, as the light source, when the image passed the viewing aperture. This machine projected life sized moving sequences of animals and human figures, very brief but of fine quality, onto large screens in Germany. this was the world's first publicly projected, naturally photographed motion pictures. Later models were coin operated. The machines were known as the Electrical Wonder, in Europe and America.

On May 30th 1907 Ottomar Anschutz died.

Ref:
1888 Anthony's photographic bulletin, Volume 19
1907 British journal of photography.



FIG. 2. STORK SHOWING BASTARD WING IN FLIGHT.



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