



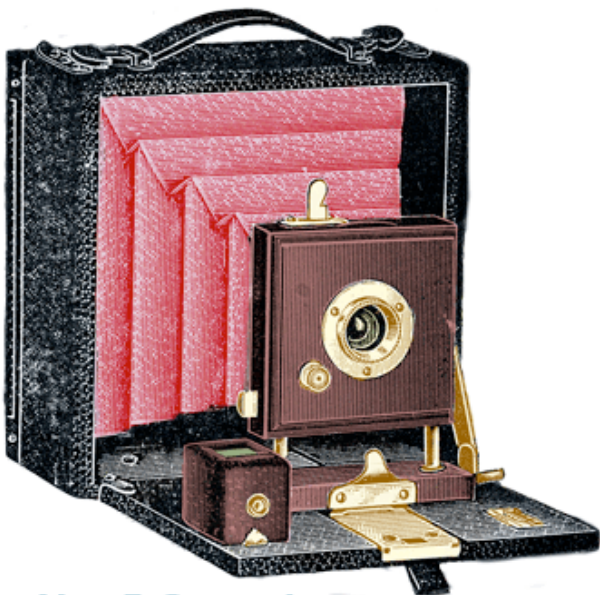
Historic Camera Collector Club Newsletter

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Volume 10 No. 3, Mar 2012

Wilken- Welsh Camera Co.

One of the little known camera companies was the Wilken-Welsh. Historic Camera was fortunate to find an original trade catalog to help shed new light on this little known manufacturer. The Wilkin-Welsh Camera Company was established on February 27, 1900 by Terrence D. Wilkin and his son Edward P. of Syracuse, along with Charles F. Welsh of Buffalo New York, at 305 N. State Street, Syracuse, New York with \$10,000 in capital.



No. 5 Onondaga

In 1901 the firm was recorded as being located at 305 N. State Street and employing 29 employees, which included 7 children under the age of 18. This was the first and most likely the only year, that they made a catalog of equipment.

The firm made a small line of quality cameras. Two folding cameras were named after the county in which they resided, No. 5 and No. 6 Onondaga and the four box cameras after the city Syracuse, No.s 0, 1, 2 4. Don't know what happened to No. 3? They also advertised the [Niagara Jr.](#) camera. Indicating that they either purchased the Niagara Camera Company or that Charles Welsh was previously associated with it and brought with him rights to manufacture the successful Buffalo, N.Y. camera.

The company either failed to have significant market penetration to compete with the other already established Rochester companies or it ran into other unforeseen circumstances, but it is believed that the company was dissolved in 1902. Due to this companies short existence, the Wilkin-Welsh camera's are scarce along with details about the company.

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR LIST OF WILKIN-WELSH CAMERAS

Ref:
1901 Annual Report of the factory inspector state of new york, p. 589
1900 Vol 24 April: The St. Louis and Canadian photographer, page 169
2008 antiquewoodcameras.com by Rob Niederman, page wwelsh.html
1901 Sun Pictures, Wilkin-Welsh Camera Co. Catalog

Voigtlander & Sohn Co.

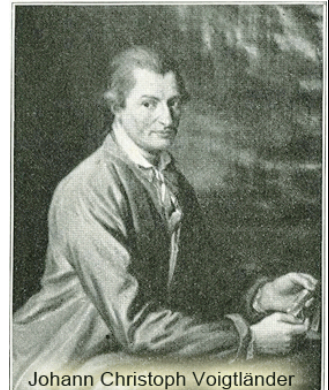
The Voigtlander & Sons Company was founded in 1756 by Johann Christoph Voigtlander. It was established as a fine mechanical and optical workshop, located in Vienna, Austria., selling spectacles, reading glasses, simple microscopes and telescopes. His three sons, Wilhelm, Siegmund and Johann Fredrick joined to assist in the business over time. Johann Christoph Voigtlander was born in 1735 and died in 1797.

Johann Fredrick, Johann Christoph's youngest son, carried on his business after his death beginning in 1797. In 1811 Johann Fredrick after studying optics in England, constructed the first Galilean binocular telescope and patented it in 1815. He also introduced opera glasses and Wollaston's meniscus spectacles into Germany and Austria. He successfully introduced and sold a variety of optical lens, spectacle glasses and opera glasses during his tenure. Johann Fredrick Voigtlander was born in 1779, retired in 1837 and died in 1859.

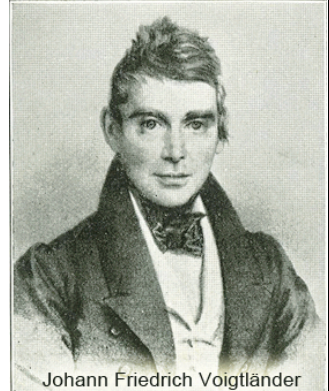
Peter Wilhelm Fredrick continued the Voigtlander legacy as the third generation, beginning his leadership at the age of 25. He studied Fraunhofers methods of making homogeneous glass and designed a spectrometer to document all the available optical glass manufactured. He was then able to apply various optics to the needs of scientific instruments with great success. Most significantly, Peter Wilhelm Fredrick requested professor Petzval to calculate a doublet objective, in which the professor succeeded, and Voigtlander succeeded in the difficult manufacturing. In 1839 Johann Fredrick introduced the Petzval portrait lens to the public which enabled portraiture by reducing exposure time required to 1 to 2 minutes. To take advantage of the fast f3.7

Petzval double objective lens, he designed the Voigtlander all metal camera, which was the first to incorporate rack and pinion focusing. This lens design was such a great improvement that it influenced optics, forming a new class of scientific instruments. In 1849 the company was moved to Braunschweig and the Vienna factory was closed in 1866. Also in 1866 Peter Wilhelm Fredrick was ennobled by the King of Austria allowing him to add the von to his last name. Voigtländer, was born in 1812 in Vienna, retired in 1876 and died in 1878.

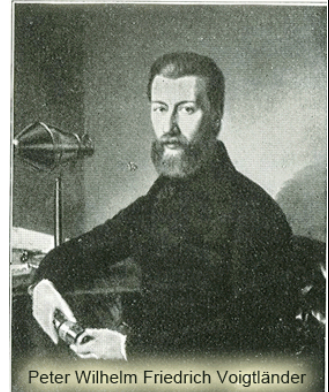
Friedrich Ritter von Voigtlander carried the company into the 20th century after his fathers retirement by constructing the first Euryscope lens in 1877. The Euryscope gave a large flat field of view with much more light than previously obtainable. In 1883 the long focus portrait lens were replaced by Symmetrical portrait Euryscopes. In 1886 The glass technical laboratory of Professor Abe and Dr. Schott in Jena brought out several



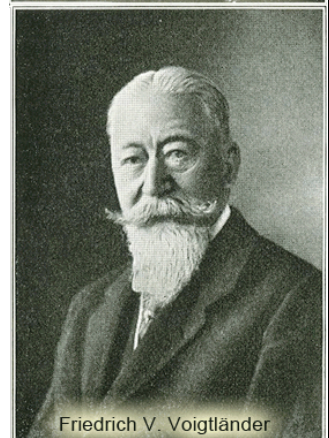
Johann Christoph Voigtländer



Johann Friedrich Voigtländer



Peter Wilhelm Friedrich Voigtländer



Friedrich V. Voigtländer

improvements and Voigtlander was able to leverage these benefits for their Wide angle Euryscopes and single landscape lens. By 1888 Voigtlander had improved all symmetrical lens by substituting two crown glasses in place of the two flint glasses. In 1898 Friedrich Ritter von Voigtlander became chairman of the board and assigned his five daughters as owners.

The Collinear lenses were introduced in 1893, the Heliar in 1900 and the Dynar in 1904.

In 1923 Voigtlander sold the stock majority to the Schering AG in Berlin.

In 1925 Schering Ltd. sold its interests to the Carl-Zeiss-Foundation

In 1965 Voigtlander becomes part of the Zeiss Ikon AG



VOIGTLANDER WORKS (1896)

Ref:

- 1896 The Photogram p.111
- 1898 Short History of the Voigtlander Company Camera Catalog
- 1900 Voigtlander catalogue, p1-4
- 1929 Voigtlander Catalogue, p274
- 1989 A history of the photographic lens, R. Kingslake

Website Update

Our shortest month of February has been one of the more productive ones. We cataloged seven new biographies and three company histories, along with quite a few camera datasheets. Which comprise several different camera manufacturer lines. The new Bio's that are not in this newsletter can be read by clicking on the names as listed below:

- [Andre-Adolphe-Eugene Disderi](#)
- [Walter B. Woodbury](#)
- [Sir David Brewster](#)
- [Sir Humphry Davy](#)

The [Club page](#) has been updated to reflect our new website design which reinforces our purpose to organize, post and share photographic information with the world. This includes an important new [Frequently asked Questions](#) page ([FAQ](#)) for members. The hope is that it helps to relate how the website is set up to make it easy to use the site, find information, join, participate and share.

Conversion of home pages is in progress and as expected is a slow and steady pace. We have 40 of our over 300 members transitioned over from the old member interface. We are also sending out membership certificates at the time of conversion. You can upgrade yourself by creating a new home page in our new members area and deleting the old one.

French Made Kodaks

At the end of WWII France blocked imports using severe protectionist laws and Kodak disappeared from the French market briefly. To solve this problem, Eastman tapped his European subsidiary Kodak-Pathe SA in France, which began to import parts from the USA to France and assembled cameras

in France as a means to bypass the French protection laws. Kodak developed and manufactured a wide range of folding bed cameras specific to the French market. Some models are very similar to models that were made at Rochester (cameras are renamed and show minor modifications). Some others are very specific to the French market and do not exist elsewhere. These cameras used 620 roll films to produce 6x9 cm negatives. Most of them were fitted with a light grey viewer protected housing made of a special plastic named "Tenite" and were made with various lenses, from simple meniscus to nice Angenieux lenses, and shutters. We are updating our Kodak section to include French made cameras, thanks to Daniel C, who is providing photos and information on these uniquely manufactured camera.

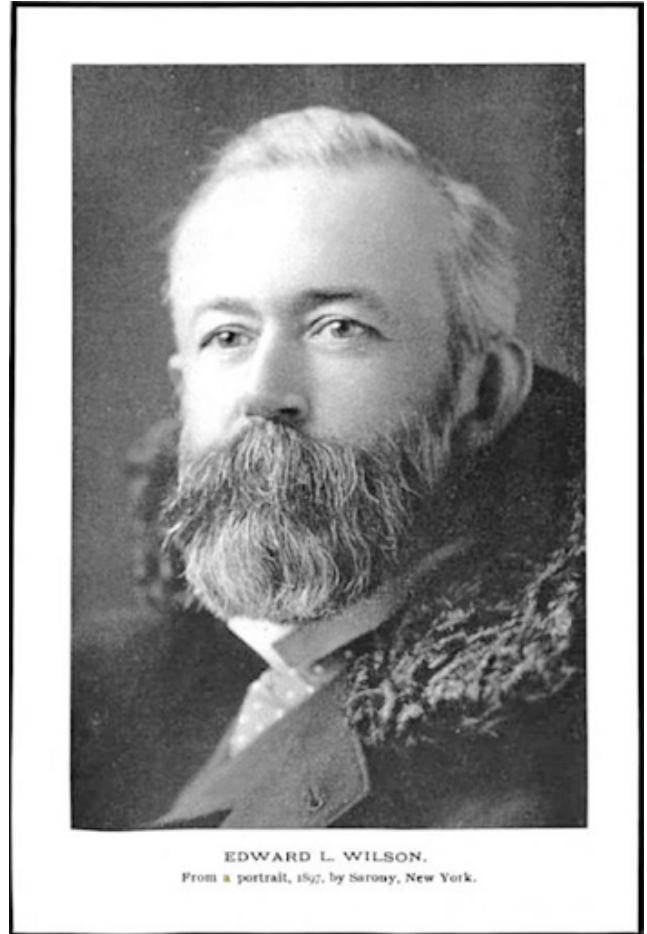
HC at Flickr

Our Flickr extension for Photo sharing is picking up and we now have quite a few great cameras being showcased on Flickr. Flickr is a nice set up for meeting and sharing photos on the web. This interface is also allowing us to find and improve our data sheets with real camera images, either on the main page or with our new member reference info interface. We hope to see a good sharing and exchange. Flickr sign up is separate, so join in the fun.

Featured Biography Edward L. Wilson

Photographer Edward Livingston Wilson was born in 1838 in Flemington, New Jersey to Hart and Amelia Wilson. Coming from a prominent local family, Mr. Wilson's foray into photography began when he met veteran Philadelphia portraitist Frederick

Gutekunst in the early 1860s. Lacking little in the way of professional capital, Mr. Wilson nevertheless was able to publish 'The Philadelphia Photographer' with the assistance of M.F. Benerman in January of 1864. This was the first photographic journal in the United States and immediately met with critical and popular success.



By the mid-nineteenth century, the photographic industry was extremely elitist and rife with abuses and discriminatory practices. For example, new photographic processes were restrictive because most featured 'right to use' clauses that limited many photographers from using these applications. As a result, their businesses could not compete effectively with those few companies that were allowed to apply the latest technologies. Edward L. Wilson decried these unethical business practices. In 1865, Mr. Wilson organized a strong and

ultimately successful opposition that against prejudicial bromide patents. Three years' later, the brutal photographic stamp tax was eliminated, largely due to the photographer-turned-publisher's exhaustive efforts. Also in 1868, Mr. Wilson became one of the founders of the National Photographic Association, which later became the Photographers' Association of America.

Mr. Wilson was involved in every aspect of the photography business. In addition to being an accomplished photographer, author, and editor, his business Wilson, Hood & Co. was a respected photographic supplier. His annual compilation series, Photographic Mosaics, featured the latest innovations and important events that shaped nineteenth-century photography. Active in civic affairs, Mr. Wilson was named as a delegate to represent Philadelphia at the Vienna Exposition of 1873. His mission was to generate European interest in the 1876 Centennial Exposition, which was being held in Philadelphia. Due to Mr. Wilson's involvement, a separate photographic exhibit was featured in its own building at the Centennial Exposition, for which he also served as official photographer.

Throughout the latter portion of the nineteenth century, Mr. Wilson traveled widely, and his lectures on the Orient were extremely popular with American audiences. He also wrote several textbooks on photography during this period, most notably Quarter Century in Photography and Cyclopaedic Photography. In 1885, the name of the Philadelphia Photographer was changed to Wilson's Photographic Magazine. Edward L. Wilson was 65 when he died in Vineland, New Jersey on June 26, 1903. He was a keen student and gifted teacher of photography, and served as the genre's most eloquent national and international spokesman.

Ref:
1893 The Photographic Journal of America, Vol. XXX (New York: Edward L. Wilson), pp. 552-557.
1903 The Photographic Times-Bulletin, Vol. XXXV (New York: The Photographic Times-Bulletin Publishing Association), p. 407.
1903 Wilson's Photographic Magazine, Vol. XL (New York: Edward L. Wilson), pp. 289-293.

Washington I. Adams



W. IRVING ADAMS.

The owner of the successful Scovill & Adams photographic manufacturing company was born on March 25, 1832 in New York City, and is a direct descendant of Presidents John and John Quincy Adams. Little is known about his childhood or his family life except that he married the former Marion L. Briggs, and together they had a son they named Washington Irving Lincoln Adams who would later follow in his father's footsteps. The senior Adams became an accomplished daguerreotypist and applied

his skill to secure a sales position at Scovill Manufacturing Company in 1858, when he was 26. Through hard work and dogged determination, Mr. Adams became successful Scovill agent and later named company director. Well respected by his peers for his knowledge of photographic equipment, Mr. Adams was named President of S. Peck & Company, a New Haven-based manufacturer of photographic implements that was under the Scovill corporate umbrella.

Washington Irving Adams was responsible for organizing the American Optical Company in hopes of providing photographers with the finest quality lenses and camera equipment. Mr. Adams strongly believed that superior photographs could only be produced by the best available equipment. He was the founder of the company's publication Photographic Times, which became required reading for industry insiders. Mr. Adams' professional stature continued to grow when he became the Centennial Photographic Company's First Vice-President in 1876. During this period, he also served as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Photographic Association of America.

Scovill Manufacturing launched its own photographic division in 1889 under the name of Scovill & Adams, with Mr. Adams serving as both President and Treasurer. Because of his expert leadership, Scovill & Adams became one of the most prosperous and influential global photographic equipment enterprises. Because of Scovill & Adams' meteoric corporate rise, a rivalry developed with E. & H.T. Anthony & Company, which at the time was the largest photographic supplier in the United States. Mr. Adams understood the power of advertising, and both Photographic Times and the Philadelphia Photographer were peppered with Scovill & Adams' impressive array of tripods, lanterns, developers, trays, and rollers. Mr. Adams' tenacity was

credited with Scovill becoming the lone distributor of Carbutt dry plates, which further fueled its competition with the Anthony Company.

After an attack of apoplexy (cerebral hemorrhage) in 1895, Mr. Adams' partially recovered, but health was significantly compromised. Washington Irving Adams passed away quietly in Montclair, NJ on January 2, 1896. His son Washington Irving Lincoln Adams remained active in the photographic industry as editor of Scovill's Photographic Times. The Amateur Photographer authored important textbooks including Photographing in Old England, In Nature's Image, Sunlight and Shadow, Woodland and Meadow, among others. He died in 1946. The immeasurable contributions of this father-and-son team are reflected in their innovative business practices and in their efforts to educate others about photography and the artistic importance of utilizing the highest quality equipment.

Ref:
1893 Anthony's Photographic Bulletin, Vol. XXIV (New York: E. & H. T. Anthony & Co.), p. 288.
1896 Anthony's Photographic Bulletin, Vol. XXVII (New York: E. & H. T. Anthony & Co.), p. 64.
2008 Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Photography, Vol. I (New York: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group LLC), p. 1259.
1896 The Photogram, Vol. III (London: Dawbarn & Ward, Ltd.), p. 96.
1896 Wilson's Photographic Magazine, Vol. XXXIII (New York: Edward L. Wilson), pp. 63-72.

Send Comments & Questions to
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