Historic Camera
Collector Club Newsletter
© HistoricCamera.com Volume 10 No. 4, Apr 2012

W.W. Rouch & Co.

In 1852 the firm of Burfield and Rouch was established by Henry Burfield and William White Rouch for the purpose of supplying instruments for chemistry and the optical trade. Prior to this partnership, Burfield and his predecessors had an established business as a practicing chemist since 1831. The new business of Burfield and Rouch moved into Burfield's established business located at 180 Strand, (corner of Norfolk Street) London, W.C.

Turn of the century advertisements state that W.W. Rouch & Co. was originally established in 1854. This may indicate the introduction of photographic camera equipment by the Burfield & Rouch firm, because 1852 advertisements only indicate photo chemicals were being sold.

On the 24th of January 1856, a formal partnership deed was executed between Burfield and Rouch. Burfield with this deed bestowed one-half of the good-will and stock of the business to Rouch, except the building lease, which was to remain Burfields, however the business would pay the rent. The agreement stipulated that they two would become partners for fourteen years.

In 1858 Rouch patents and introduces a registered portable tent that could be carried in a box.

In early 1859 The firm introduces a new tent design and new folding camera. This design uses the camera as a base to insert rods that holds a light proof covering for field work. The weight of the covering and rods is an extra 5 lbs.

On December 29th, 1859 the Burfield and Rouch partnership was officially dissolved. The reasons are unknown.

In 1862, the two partners enter into a law suit over the house lease of the building. Rouch argues that when the partnership was formed with a one-half split, that the building was to be included. Burfield argues that it was not included since it was his prior the formation of the partnership some 24 years. Rouch wins and the case ruling is used in subsequent partnership disputes.

In 1863 Rouch Changed the name of the business to W.W. Rouch & Co.

In 1888 Samuel W. Rouch, believed to be Williams' brother, patents the very successful Eureka camera.

In 1894 the business moved to 161 Strand, London WC.

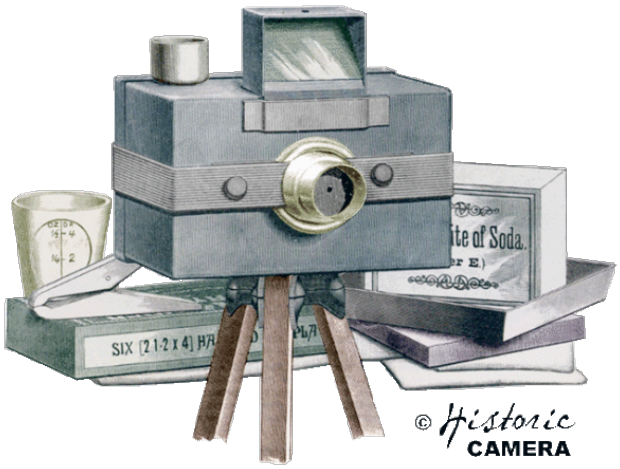
In 1898 W.A. Rouch son of William W. Rouch takes

over the business after Samuel W. Rouch's death.

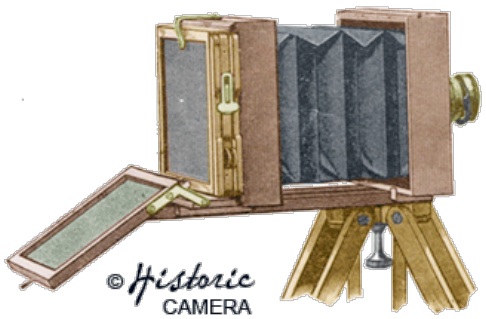
Ref:
1852, Aide-mel▲moire to the military sciences, p122
1858, A dictionary of photography, by T. Sutton
1862, Reports of cases in Chancery page 241-242
1898 Process Engravers Photogram, page 237

Perry Mason & Co.

The Perry Mason & Company Photographic Supply house operated in Boston, Massachusetts in circa 1890. The firm offered several cameras that are quite rare today. They advertised in their magazine the Youths Companion. We now have listed on our website in one place, what we believe is a complete reference listing of the cameras Perry Mason & company manufactured and sold.



The cameras include the rare Argus Repeating Camera, the Companion No. 1, the Companion No. 2, a Gem Portrait Camera, Harvard Portrait Camera (early version < 1890), Harvard Portrait Camera (late version - 1892) and the inexpensive Phoenix Camera.



Certo Camera Werk

We have completed camera datasheet information pages for the Certo Camera werk company.

Candid Camera Corporation of America

The short lived Candid Camera Corporation of America was established in May 1938 and then sold in 1949. We have completed camera datasheet information pages for the company, along with a short history of the company. The full story can be read on the historic Camera website.

Featured Biography

Robert Hunt

Born in September of 1807 in Devonport, England, Robert Hunt was the son of a naval officer. After spending his boyhood in Cornwall, he was placed into an apprenticeship with a Paddington surgeon at the age of twelve. He then went to work for a Scottish physician named Smith, and spent the next few years working as a pharmacist.

After reading about the discoveries of Louis-Jacques-Mande Daguerre, Mr. Hunt became a photography enthusiast, and developed an actinograph that measured the amount of light available for film exposures. He collaborated with John Thomas Towson on a paper entitled 'On the Proper Focus for the Daguerreotype', which was published in the November 1839 issue of Philosophical Magazine. The two colleagues also conducted experiments with a reflecting camera and developed an extremely sensitive type of photographic paper.

In 1841, Robert Hunt's seminal text "A Manual of Photography" was published, and is believed to be the first such English work on the medium. This was followed up with Researches on Light in 1844. Mr. Hunt's love of natural prose is celebrated in the volumes Romances and Drolls of Devon and Cornwall, The Poetry of Science, and Panthea, or Spirit of Nature. He also published the scholarly text, Elementary Physics, in 1851. Mr. Hunt's background in chemistry inspired him to conduct experiments that laid the scientific groundwork for modern-day photochemistry.
.
Mr. Hunt was named Secretary of the Polytechnic Society at Falmouth, and soon established himself as the public face of the English mining industry. He became so well known, Sir Henry De la Beche, author of the Geological Survey, appointed Mr. Hunt Keeper of Mining Records at the Museum of Practical Geology. a position he held from 1845 until 1883. In addition to these duties, he was the editor of Mineral Statistics of the United Kingdom, which was published annually. During this time, Mr. Hunt was also a physics lecturer and professor of mechanical engineering at London's Royal School of Mines, and became one of the founding members of the Photographic Society of London.

In 1884, Mr. Hunt published an extensive text on the British mining industry, and for his public service, the Health Exhibition presented him with the Diploma of Honor. The Government School of Mines also named him its first Professor of Mechanical Science. After years of exhaustive public service, Robert Hunt died on October 17, 1887 at the age of eighty. The Redruth Mining School established a mineralogical museum to honor Mr. Hunt, but it closed in 1950, and the minerals are now housed in

the Camborne School of Mines. Amazingly, A Manual of Photography is still in print, more than a century-and-a-half after it was first published.

Ref:
1814 Transactions of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall, Volume XI (Penzance: Royal Geological Society of Cornwall), pp. 69-72.
1887 The Academy and Literature, Vol. XXXII (London: Alexander and Sheppard), pp. 272-273.
1909 Dictionary of National Biography, Vol. XIX (New York: The Macmillan Company), p. 1062.

Frank M. Sutcliffe

Born in England (Headingly, Leeds) on October 6, 1853 to Thomas and Sarah Button Sutcliffe, Francis Meadow Sutcliffe obviously inherited his artistic talents. His father was an acclaimed watercolorist and etcher, and his grandfather was a successful painter. He spent his early years in the carefree Whitby countryside, which is what inspired his lifelong love of photography. In a later editorial, he revealed his childhood desire to make snapshots of the natural beauty that surrounded him. However, Thomas Sutcliffe did not share his son's passion for what he considered an inferior art form. The senior Sutcliffe believed photography was an attempt to replace painting, and that because it took only a matter of seconds to snap a photograph whereas it took years to compose a masterpiece, it was a "lazy man's" art of choice. However, it was the immediacy of photography that appealed to the junior Sutcliffe.

After Thomas Sutcliffe's death in December 1871, his son began photographing locals near his Whitby home. From 1872 until 1873, he worked for Francis Frith's prosperous studio photographing the many castles and churches of Yorkshire. Mr. Frith mentored his young protÃ©ge, teaching him how to use tracing paper masks to heighten the tone of his prints. He also instructed Mr. Sutcliffe to omit people from landscape views because they tend to distract viewers from their focal point. Upon seeing Mr. Sutcliffe's "Sunset After Rain" photograph taken above Rievaulx Abbey, renowned art critic John Ruskin invited the fledgling photographer to his country home, which resulted in a series of beautiful pastoral photographs.

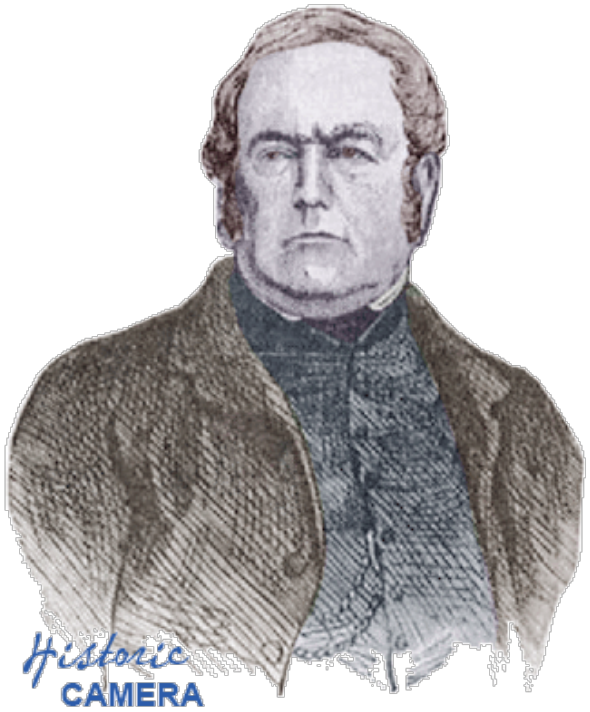
On January 1, 1875, Frank Sutcliffe married Eliza Weatherill Duck, with whom he would have four children. Settling his family in Sleights, he attempted unsuccessfully to open a fashion portrait studio in the elite district Tunbridge Wells (Kent). When that failed, Mr. Sutcliffe returned to his beloved working-class Whitby to set up shop. Mr. Sutcliffe carved his photographic niche into this rural fishing village. His extraordinary photographs of ordinary fishermen won him considerable critical recognition. In 1886, he took his most famous â€“ or perhaps infamous â€“ photograph, "Water Rats." The image of naked children innocently playing

in a fishing boat caused an uproar that resulted in the photographer's own excommunication from his church. However, Mr. Sutcliffe refused to compromise his artistic integrity to appease his religious detractors. "Water Rats" is a charming photograph completely devoid of eroticism, and was awarded a medal at London's Photographic Society Show in 1886.

Capitalizing upon his newfound fame, Mr. Sutcliffe's photographs were presented in a one-man show at the prestigious London Camera Club in 1888, and four years' later he became a member of the Linked Ring, which reflected his desire to promote photography as an art form. He also enjoyed a long career as a contributor to popular photographic journals including Photography, Amateur Photographer, The Practical Photographer, The Photogram, and Camera Notes. In addition, he penned the "Photography Notes" column for the Yorkshire Weekly Post for twenty-two years. Mr. Sutcliffe won an impressive 62 awards for his photography, and after selling his studio in 1922, he became curator of a museum in Whitby, a position he maintained until March of 1941. Frank Meadow Sutcliffe died on May 31, 1941 at his Sleights home, and was buried in Aislaby churchyard, which is located just north of the Whitby he loved to photograph.

Ref.:
1893 The Photographic Journal of America, Vol. XXX (New York: Edward L. Wilson), p. 298.
1902 The Photogram, Vol. IX (London: Dawbarn & Ward, Ltd.), pp. 107-108.
2008 Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Photography, Vol. I (New York: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group LLC), p. 1364.

Andrew Ross



Optician Andrew Ross was born in London in 1798, and attended Christ Church School until the age of 14. He then became an apprentice to an optician named Gilbert who specialized in making telescopes. The young apprentice soon became manager, but wanted to make microscopes and microscope objectives and so he left Gilbert to start his own company. He improved microscope objectives by correcting chromatic and spherical aberrations, the balance of which could be disturbed because of varying thicknesses over the covering glass. With the addition of a screw collar, Mr. Ross discovered he could alter the distance between the sets of achromatics that composed the objective. This remarkable improvement was met with immediate international acceptance.

Mr. Ross then began examining the published changes Joseph Petzval had suggested for photographic portrait lenses, and applied them in the construction of his

own compound lens in 1841. When painter Henry Collen sought a high-aperture portrait lens, he went to the Ross factory for assistance. Unfortunately, Mr. Ross was unsuccessful in his attempt, and thereafter elected to turn over the lensmaking part of his business to his son Thomas and his apprentice John Henry Dallmeyer. Mr. Dallmeyer would later become his employer's son-in-law with his marriage to Hannah Ross.

Although portrait lenses held an early professional fascination for Andrew Ross, his first loves were telescopes and microscopes respectively. During his lifetime, he was revered as the foremost authority on microscopes, and was a frequent contributor to the Society of Arts' scientific publications. He also penned the article "Microscope" that was featured in the Penny Cyclopedia. Despite his great intellect, Mr. Ross could write about microscopes in a concise manner that could be easily understood by the layperson.

Throughout his illustrious career, Andrew Ross received many awards including two Gold Isis Medals for his work on improving microscope achromatic object glasses and for the development of a polishing powder for optician use. He also received recognition for his barometer construction, and was awarded a jury-service medal in 1851 for his superior microscope construction and his equatorial telescope. Andrew Ross' sudden death on September 8, 1859 at the age of 61 came as a huge shock to the scientific world. After Mr. Rossâ€™ passing, there seemed to be some dispute among his two closest associates - his son and his son-in-law - as to who would succeed him. Although Thomas Ross managed the business, J. H. Dallmeyer regarded himself as Andrew Ross' rightful successor. Eventually, the two men went their separate ways, and Thomas Ross later developed the successful Doublets camera lenses that were based upon his father's earlier failed Collen lenses.

Ref:
1860 The Photographic Journal, Vol. VI (London: Taylor and Francis), p. 49.
1861 The New American Cyclopaedia: A Popular Dictionary of General Knowledge, Vol. XI (New York: D. Appleton and Company), p. 476.
1862 The British Journal of Photography,Vol. X (Liverpool: Henry Greenwood), p. 261.
1886 Anthonyâ€™s Photographic Bulletin, Vol. XVII (New York: E. & H. T. Anthony & Co.), p. 605.
1875 The British Journal of Photography, Vol. XXII (Liverpool: Henry Greenwood), pp. 150-151.
1989 A History of the Photographic Lens (San Diego: Academic Press), p. 271.

Jan Szczepanik

Our member Keaky has submitted a biography on Jan Szczepanik. Szczepanik was a versatile Polish inventor in the fields of weaving, film, television, color photography, wireless telegraphy, and some others. As early as 1899, he worked out a photographic color process which was later adopted as the Kodacolor method in 1928,

and in further years, by Agfa for manufacturing reversal photographic paper.

Read the complete Boigraphy with supporting information on Szczepanik relationship with Mark Twain on our website by copying and pasting this link in your browser-http://www.historiccamera.com/cgi-bin/librarium2/pm.cgi?action=app_display&app=datasheet&app_id=1762

Website Update

March was a very productive month. We cataloged seventeen new biographies, six new company histories, and three manufacturer camera product lines data sheets. Links to all new content can accessed directly from our Librarium's photo history page. (http://www.historiccamera.com/photo_history.html) All content including the ones published in this newsletter are listed here:

New Biographies:

William and Frederick Langenheim

Aime Dupont

Claude Felix Abel Niepce de Saint Victor

Joseph (Josef) Petzval

Andrew Ross of Ross & Co.

Peter Neff

Edwin Herbert Land

Robert Hunt

William England

Alphonse Darlot

John Carbutt

Julia Margaret Cameron

Charles-Louis Chevalier

Frederic Eugene Ives

Jan Szczepanik by krzysztof

John Adams Whipple

Frank Meadow Sutcliffe

New Camera Company Histories:

Candid Camera Corporation of America

Argus Camera Company History

W.W. Rouch & Company

Boston Camera Company History

American Camera Manufacturing

Daydark Specialty Company

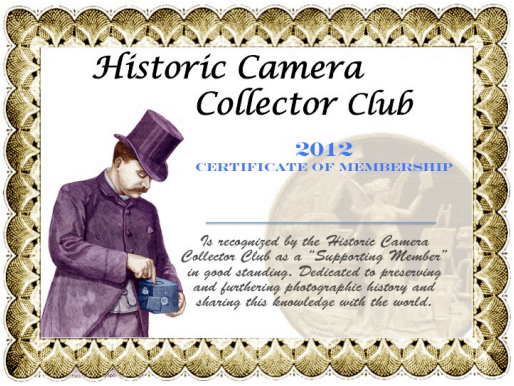
New Camera Product line Listings:

Boston Camera Co. Camera Listing

Certo Camera Werk Camera Listing

Perry Mason Camera Listing

Conversion of home pages is in progress and as expected is a slow and steady pace. We have 53 of our over 300 members transitioned over from the old member interface. You can upgrade yourself by creating a new home page in our new members area and deleting the old one. We also have new membership certificates available upon request.



Show Casing & Sharing Your Photos and Reference Information

We are slowly upgrading our camera datasheets with images from members and Flickr members. This is very time consuming. We have begun to select showcase images that provide a front angled view of the camera with good lighting, mainly from our friends at Flickr. To qualify to have your photo showcased on one of our datasheets, add it to our Historic Camera Flickr group or better yet each member may add their photos to our datasheets as a reference page. Just find your camera in our librarium and add by clicking on the "add Pict or PDF" under our Reference Info column located on each pages right side.

We are in search of instruction manuals, advertisements and all reference information for our history librarium.

Historic Camera Needs Your Help!

You can help the worlds Photographic Community by sharing information and images of companies, cameras, people, instructions and opinions. Our new Frequently asked Questions page (http://historiccamera.com/faq.html) linked at our club page provides step by step instructions on how to add information to the database via the "Add Pict or PDF" button. This feature adds link pages to the datasheet page that we call the reference page. Each datasheet page can have unlimited reference pages linked to it. It can feature anything relating like operator instructions, repair instructions, photos of your corresponding items, advertisements, trade catalog page exerts, member written articles, ebook extracts or full ebooks, etc. It will display on the top right hand side prominently so that visitors can access them easily. Attribution and links to your member's home page will allow fellow registered members to contact you. There is also a feature to add an external link in case you have your own website or want to link back to your Flickr page. We hope this becomes an important feature along with our high quality and Art inspired imagery, which sets HC apart from the highly financed wiki's of the world.

Kodaks Made in France Germany, and the UK

Thanks to member Daniel, we have embarked on documenting the unique Kodak cameras manufactured in France. Inspired by his initiative we are also trying to capture the unique cameras manufactured in the UK and Germany. Check our comprehensive Eastman Kodak listing for new entries as we build the unique cameras made by the most successful camera company in the world.

Send Comments & Questions to
admin@historiccamera.com.