



# Historic Camera Club Newsletter

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Volume 10 No. 10, Oct 2012

## Skyview Camera Co.



By Dan Hausman

In 1934 Derwin W. Worster applied for and received Patent No 92-882 for "A new, original and ornamental design for an Aerial Camera". Sometime shortly after that he established The Skyview Camera Company. Previous to establishing Skyview, he was employed as a salesman at Fowler & Slater, a Cleveland, Ohio Photographic Supply Company. Earlier records show his occupation as "Photo developer".

The camera was available in two sizes, Model D, 3 1/4 X 4 1/4, Model K 2 1/4 X 3 1/4 as well as 4x5 and 2 1/4 X 3 1/4 enlargers. Recommended lenses included a 150mm Zeiss Tessar, Goerz Dogmar and Wollensak Aerialstigmat. Focusing was lockable at infinity for Aerial use, but could be adjusted to as close as 6 1/2 feet. There was no rangefinder. Shutter speeds ranged from 1 second to 1/200, T and B.

Both the camera and enlarger feature a die cast aluminum alloy body finished in

"crystalline finish" paint. Model D Camera weight is listed as 5lb 9oz. Original 1938 selling price for the Model D was between \$195.00 and \$245.00 (with case, tripod adapter and film pack back), equaling about \$3751.19 in today's dollars. Rarely offered on the used market, McKeown's 2006 edition lists the value as \$120-180.00.

July 31, 1934.

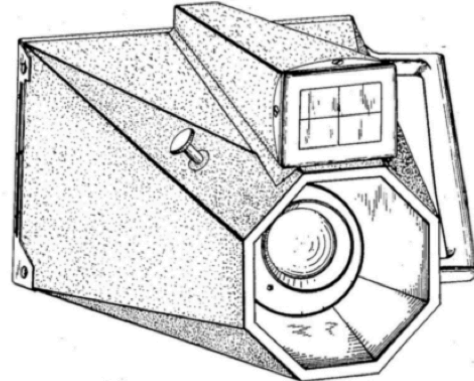
D. W. WORSTER

Des. 92,882

AERIAL CAMERA

Filed April 14, 1934

*Fig. 1.*



According to the company brochure, the camera was designed by an experienced pilot as well as photographer. Derwin Worster was an avid aviator and went on to help establish the Air Traffic Control System for the US. Contemporary postcards sponsored by Skyview show a plane at the Cleveland Airport with the company name painted on the side. Another postcard aerial view of the National Air Races is credited to "The Skyview Camera Company". At various times the address of the company is listed as being in North Olmsted, Derwin's residence and the Cleveland Municipal

Airport. One of Derwin's daughters recalls helping to manufacture the enlargers in the family barn.

Brochures tout the potential income for Pilot Photographers supplying Aerial views to business, government and the general public. Claims are made in sales literature that cameras are in use by "Several branches of government". The Company Motto is "In the Sky, On land, On Sea" The Enlargers were advertised in the classified section of "Popular Science".

The company fades from view sometime in the late 1940's, Derwin Worster died in 1979.



Research on the company continues, if you have any information Please contact Dan Hausman care of [The Ohio Camera Collector's Society](#).

## Aleksander Ginsberg

By Krzysztof Slowinski

Polish optical industry pioneer Aleksander Ginsberg was born in 1871 in Sosnowiec. Having graduated from secondary school in Piotrkow Trybunalski he studied physics and math in Paris (École Polytechnique) and then in Berlin-Charlottenburg (Technische Hochschule) where he received an engineering degree.



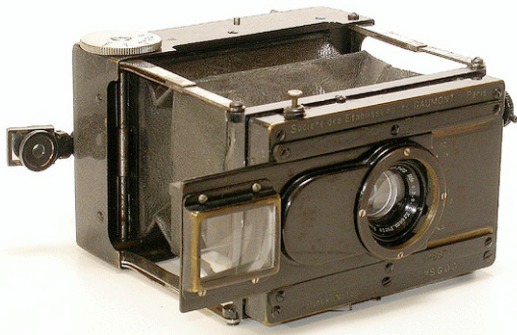
His interests in optics showed in his early days of education when he made himself a special camera, entirely of his design and then made cameras for his secondary school teachers to enable him to photograph items of the teacher's numismatic collection.

The early efforts turned into professional interests and helped him to obtain his apprenticeship in renowned optical manufacturers including the Carl Zeiss factory in Jena and then in E. Krauss's optical workshop in Paris, where he gained remarkable experience and received position as a chief design engineer.

He settled in Warsaw (under Russian occupation at that time) and in 1899 founded an optical workshop there called Fabryka Instrumentow Optycznych FOS, later renamed to FOS Towarzystwo Firmowo-Komandytowe Ginsberg & Ska. The enterprise was realized upon venture capital collected in several preceding years. FOS (sometimes spelled as PHOS) produced quite a wide variety of optical instruments of own designs like field-glasses, binoculars, telescopes, optical sights and rangefinders for artillery, measuring devices for geodesy and others. Later also lenses for various cameras of manufacturers like the company Hütrig & Sohn in Dresden (Germany) for the camera Ideal, for Comptoir Général de Photographie (later [1899] renamed to L.[Léon] Gaumont & Cie) in Paris (France), for Dr. Rudolf Krügenera, Photochemisches Laboratorium und Fabrik photographischer Apparate in Frankfurt-Bockenheim (Germany) for the camera Minimum, and eventually for cameras of Ginsberg original designs. The products gained international recognition and excellent opinion for their high quality, and were sold across Europe. Among the awards received by Ginsberg's company were the following: A merit diploma at Exhibition in Krakow (1900), Golden medals at Pan-Slavic Photographic Exhibition in Wieliczka (1901), Golden medal at Exhibition in Warszawa (1901),

Golden medals at exhibitions in Petersburg and Witebsk (Russia, 1902). The factory employed 30 workers in 1903, and the employment used to systematically increase to reach the rate of about 150 workers in 1911.

In 1903 Gaumont Comptoir Général de Photographie from Paris ordered several hundred lenses to be mounted in its folding plate camera 6,5 x 9 cm Block Notes, that was then one of best-selling cameras of that type. Since 1903 camera lenses were the company's main products. A year later FOS started marketing cameras of own design and make. The most popular FOS lens was aplanat having angle of view 70° manufactured in two versions - with focal length 160 mm (for 9 x 12 cm. negatives), and 240 mm for 13 x 18 cm. negatives. However, the company's leading product was planistigmat 1:6,6 based on well-known Goerz's double symmetric anastigmat DAGOR (1:6,8) but with a little greater diaphragm opening.



Cameras manufactured by FOS included folding camera for film 9 x 12 cm. with shutter speeds 1/2 sec. to 1/1000 sec., with optical finder and FOS lenses. The cameras were of rather of typical structure - bodies of wood and leather bellows extensions. Most metal parts were of brass.

In 1904 FOS launched a stereoscopic camera STEROTRES. The camera had three lenses - one viewing lens and two taking ones, shutter blind with changeable

slit enabling 36 different exposure settings. The camera used glass plates.

Ginsberg himself was also active in photographic movement as lecturer in Polskie Towarzystwo Milosnikow Fotografii in Warsaw, where he used to give expert's advices on various photographic problems. His articles were published in photographic journals like Wiadomosci Fotograficzne, Fotograf Warszawski, Kalendarz Fotograficzny Warszawski.

In 1915 all the factory's machinery and production equipment was seized and evacuated to Petersburg by withdrawing Russian army. It should be stressed that the production facilities were unique not only in Polish lands but also in Russia. They never returned but some twenty persons of the qualified staff did when Poland regained independence, and in 1919 they formed an optical factory Fabryka Aparatów Optycznych i Precyzyjnych H. Kolberg i S-ka which expanded to form in 1930 a joint-stock company Polskie Zakłady Optyczne, thus giving birth to the optical industry in Poland.

Aleksander Ginsberg died untimely in 1911 in Warszawa.

#### Ref:

1903 Brewiarzyk fotograficzny by Wiktor Wolczynski, Nakladem Ksiegarni H. Altenberga, Lwow.

1982 Spojrzanie w przeszlosc polskiej fotografii (A Look Back to the Past of Polish Photography) by Ignacy Plazewski, PaÅ„stwowy Instytut Wydawniczy, Warszawa

1986 SÅ,ownik polskich pionierow techniki (Dictionary of Polish Pioneers of Technology) by Boleslaw Orłowski [editor], Wydawnictwo Slask, Katowice

1974 Historia fotografii warszawskiej (History of the Warsaw Photography) by WacÅ„aw Zdzarski, Panstwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Warszawa



## H. Baden Pritchard



PORTRAIT OF MR. H. BADEN PRITCHARD.

The son of prominent naturalist and optician Andrew Pritchard, Henry Baden Pritchard was born in the London district of Canonbury on November 30, 1841. He studied chemistry in Lausanne and Eisenach, and at the age of 20, he became employed by the War Department. He was the superintendent of its photography division, a position he held until his death. In 1873, he married Mary Evans and began raising a family.

As a photographer for the War Department, Mr. Pritchard faced considerable challenges. For example, his paper had to be sensitized overnight, and it took between four and five hours for his assistants to prepare approximately 60 sheets. Early the following morning, the prepared sheets were rolled in blotting paper to protect from the sunlight

while being transported to the next military installation. After being toned and retouched, the prints had to be washed, preferably for two to three hours, but when they were needed immediately, a quick rinsing had to suffice. The impressive prints Mr. Pritchard was able to produce, despite the difficult circumstances, were truly amazing, and were attributed in large part to his superior knowledge of chemistry.

Mr. Pritchard's prints won him the admiration of his contemporaries, and he became active in several organizations. He became a member of the Royal Photographic Society in 1868, elected to Council two years' later, and was named Honorary Secretary in 1872. Also in 1872, he was elected a Fellow of the Chemical Society. He was published extensively in the Society's journal, and in 1880 following the death of G. Wharton Simpson, Pritchard assumed the editorial reins of the *Photographic News*. During Mr. Pritchard's tenure, the journal's topics were expanded to include news and scientific reporting. A compilation volume on his original *Photographic News* texts were published in 1882 as *The Photographic Studios of Europe*.

The constantly busy Mr. Pritchard somehow found time to pen novels and write a play. In addition, he edited the *Year Book of Photography* from 1881 to 1884 and contributed to several scientific and technical journals. His latest was his accounts of the photographic aspects of a trip to Algeria which were published in the *photographic news* in February and March. Upon leaving the Royal Academy on a rainy spring day in 1884, Mr. Pritchard caught a cold that progressed rapidly to pneumonia. Much to the shock of his family, friends, and professional colleagues, 43-year-old Henry Baden Pritchard died at his home in Blackheath, Greenwich on May 11, 1884.

- Ref:  
 1868 Chemical News and Journal of Industrial Science, Vol. XVII (London: Henry Gillman, Boy Court, Ludgate Hill, E.C.), p. 300.
- 2008 Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Photography, Vol. I (New York: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group LLC), pp. 1175-1176.
- 1884 The Philadelphia Photographer (Philadelphia: Benerman & Wilson), p. 498.
- 1884 The Photographic Times, Vol. XIV (New York: Scovill Manufacturing Company), p. 285.
- 1884 The Year-Book of Photography and Photographic News Almanac for 1884 (London: T. Piper), p. xcvi.

## Photography in Philately

I would like to let everyone know about an esteemed members website, "Photography in Philately". The site show cases Krzysztof K. Slowinski unique collection of stamps, letters, covers and postcards. Krzysztof is the author of several articles found on our Historic Camera site, including a biography found in this newsletter. He has also authored several books. Please contact Krzysztof if you have any of these items to share. His site is found at <http://photography-in-philately.sensegreen-europe.com/index.php>

## C. Jabez Hughes

Acclaimed English photographer known as Cornelius Jabez Hughes was born "Cornelous Hughs" on July 20, 1819 to David and Elizabeth Hughs in the St. James district of Westminster. After initially studying phrenology, his career path forever shifted when he became the assistant of prominent London photographer John Jabez Edwin Mayall (1813-1901) at the Strand. He quickly became Mr. Mayall's chief daguerreotypist and later his secretary.

In 1847, Mr. Hughes relocated to Glasgow to open his own studio and promptly became a member of the Glasgow Photographic Society. After working as a

daguerreotypist in Scotland for eight years, he returned to London to buy his former mentor Mayall's photographic studio. Unfortunately, this venture was unsuccessful, and so in 1859, he opened a photographic supply warehouse, which also proved unsatisfactory. Changing careers yet again, Mr. Hughes decided to become a full-time photographer upon the death of Isle of Wight-based photographer W. G. Lacy. Mr. Hughes purchased his studio in the Arcade, which he immediately renovated.



## C. Jabez Hughes

Later, he built and transferred his central operations to the Regina Studio he built on Union Street in the Isle of Wight town of Ryde, situated in close proximity to the residence of Queen Victoria. As a result, he did a great deal of photographic work for the royal family. He also took a famous series of photographs of the aging former Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli at Her Majesty's behest. During this time, Mr. Hughes also developed a carbon process noteworthy for its virtual elimination of silver printing. Although his business was thriving, Mr.

Hughes suffered a huge personal loss when his only son and assistant Alfred Wright Hughes committed suicide on February 1, 1878. Following his son's death, Mr. Hughes immersed himself in work, and became associated with several organizations including the Photographic Society of London, the North London Photographic Association, the South London Photographic Society, the Photographic Club, the Solar Club, and the Ryde Literary Society.

Mr. Hughes also devoted considerable time to publishing articles on photography, and is perhaps best remembered today for his 1858 masterwork, *The Principles and Practice of Photography Familiarly Explained*. This how-to manual provided amateur photographers with expert advice that included doubling or tripling camera exposure when there is an easterly wind; avoiding the temptation to use wide-angle lenses when regular lenses will suffice; and never being satisfied with mediocre quality when better results can be achieved. In 1861, Mr. Hughes defined the three levels of photography as mechanical photography, art-photography, and high-art photography. Mechanical photography, he explained, is when an exact representation of objects is photographically reproduced. Art photography involves the artistic rearranging of objects for aesthetic purposes. High-art photography is, as its name implies, when the photographer is seeking a higher artistic purpose, perhaps for instructional purposes.

In later years, Mr. Hughes and his assistant Gustav Mullins became business partners and opened the Hughes & Mullins studio on 60 Union Street in 1883. Cornelius Jabez Hughes died at Ryde on August 11, 1884 at the age of 65. His burial was in the Abbey Park Cemetery in London. Hughes & Mullins remained in business until 1910.

Ref:

1884 *The Photographic times*: Volume 14 - Page

471

2010 *British Literature: A Historical Overview*, Vol. II (Buffalo, NY: Broadview Press), p. 70.

2008 *Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Photography*, Vol. I (New York: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group LLC), pp. 719-720.

2006 *Photography: A Cultural History* (London: Lawrence King Publishing Ltd.), p. 86.

## Website Update

Activities have been good again this month even with vacations and outside HC development projects. Membership is continuing at a steady pace and our Flickr photo sharing extension has now exceeded 1000 camera images. Wow.

A Facebook interface has been added to allow for comments on the bottom of all of our datasheet pages. This makes it easier to communicate with your friends and family on facebook. When Zuckerberg was questioned the other day about his plans into cellular phones to increase market share he indicated that there are 800 million users on Facebook, indicating market share is not really a concern. So we welcome the 800 million users and hope to spread the word about how photography rules.

We also made several improvements for old datasheets and have added several advertisements to associated information.

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If you have images, articles or scans of documents to share please contact [admin@historiccamera.com](mailto:admin@historiccamera.com)

For all the latest information please go to our [librarianium launch page](http://historiccamera.com/photo_history.html) [http://historiccamera.com/photo\\_history.html](http://historiccamera.com/photo_history.html)



Here is a listing of the additional content generated this past month, excluding the ones published in this newsletter:

## *New Camera Listings:*



**partial**

## *New Biographies:*



**Brassai ( Gyula Halasz )**



**Hercules Florence**



**Lewis Wickes Hine**



**Karl Blossfeldt**



**Margaret Bourke-White**



**Peter Henry Emerson**

Send Comments & Questions to  
[admin@historiccamera.com](mailto:admin@historiccamera.com).