



Historic Camera Newsletter

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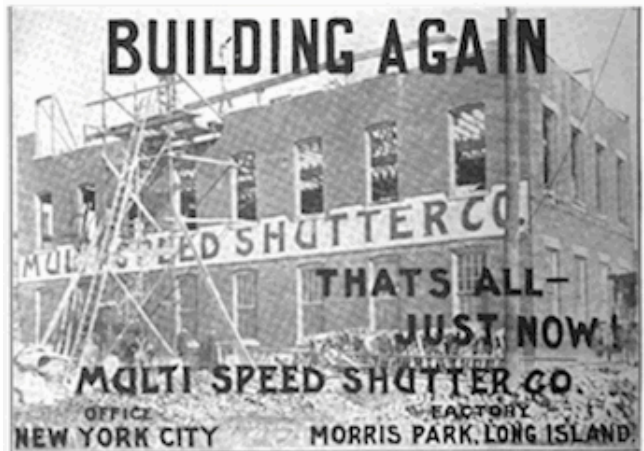
Multi-Speed Shutter Co.

The Multi-Speed Shutter Company was established in the circa 1908 by Gustav Dietz and located at Morris Park (Curtis Ave and Garden), Long Island. The firm initially designed and patented shutter mechanisms with amazing speeds of up to 1/2000 of a second, bettering focal plane shutters. The main product was the High Speed followed by the Junior shutter, later professional shutter models and variations were available. In 1912 the company entered into the camera manufacturing business and enlarged their factory at Morris Park and relocated their New York office. The New York office relocated several times during the companies existence.



The Multi-Speed Shutter Company began manufacturing the simplex camera, and then the Precision camera. Both cameras provided cutting edge technology. In 1914 The Multi-Speed Shutter Co. merged with several other interests to form the Simplex Photo Products company. The company emerged with 40 distinct products and chose to name all their

products under the trade name of "Simplex". The company continued into the 1920s..



The Machine Shop

Percy Lund

Born in 1864 (or 1863, according to some sources) in Bradford, England, Percy Lund was the second child of Joseph and Maria Terry Lund. His father was a prosperous bookseller and publisher, and along with his brother Charles published the Lund's Directory of Bradford in 1856. Lund enjoyed a privileged childhood, blessed with the finest education and his family's business and political contacts. His interest in photography began with his involvement in the Leeds Naturalist Club. In February 1882, the members who were amateur photographers signed a resolution to restart the Leeds Photographic Society. The following year, 20-year-old Percy Lund and two other young photography enthusiasts Henry Snowden Ward and H. J. Riley began publishing *The Practical Naturalist*. However, by the end of the year, they ceased publication due to the heavy workload. However, in January 1884, Mr. Lund opened his own business - Percy Lund & Co. - and began publishing and editing *The Naturalist World* and *Scientific Record*, which lasted for four years. By his 21st birthday, the budding entrepreneur had also purchased *The Ilkley Free Press* newspaper. His old friend Henry Snowden Ward joined his company shortly thereafter, and the duo would collaborate on several photographic publishing projects over the next decade. After his father's sudden death in December 1886, Mr. Lund sold the newspaper and moved his company to St. Johns Street in Bradford.

With locations in Bradford and London, Percy Lund and Company became powerful publishers of books and periodicals (including *The Junior Photographer* and *The Practical Photographer* magazines), and began manufacturing photographic equipment, including the St. John's Camera and retouching knives. He also published *The Photographer's World*, the only monthly trade journal for professional photographers, and

promoted the ambitious project by sending more than 5,000 free copies to photographers and photographic suppliers worldwide. Mr. Lund was a master marketer, promoting his business at every opportunity, which included strategic book advertising and organizing photographic competitions. In 1892, Mr. Lund married Annie Field, daughter of Bradford Master Printer Martin Field. In 1896, he entered into a limited partnership with Edward Walter Humphries, and the business was renamed Percy Lund, Humphries & Co. Ltd. The photographic materials department was sold to Richard James Appleton. Along with overseeing his thriving business, Mr. Lund also edited *Naturalists' World* and *The Practical Photographer* (under the pseudonym Matthew Surface).



As his photographic studio business declined, Mr. Lund focused primarily upon book publishing and editing, most notably the *Popular Photographic Series* and Lund's *Library of Photography*. He became a member of the Royal Photographic Society, was named President of the Bradford Photographic Society in 1899, and also served as President of the Yorkshire

Photographic Union from 1899 until 1903. He also became a vocal critic of political squabbling among professional photographers, which he believed compromised pictorial creativity. Mr. Lund expanded his business interests internationally, with agents in Philadelphia, Australia, and India. He became a popular lecturer on photography, magic lantern slides, and other non-photography topics including outdoor sports, Christian mysticism, and vegetarianism. His health began to deteriorate, and on February 26, 1943, 79-year-old Percy Lund died at his home in Bradford.

Ref:
2014 Appleton & Co. (URL: <https://sites.google.com/site/leedsandbradfordstudios/home/appleton-co>).

1897 The British Journal of Photography, Vol. XLIV (London: Henry Greenwood & Co.), p. 106.

1900 The Junior Photographer, Vol. VI (London: Percy Lund, Humphries & Co., Ltd.), p. 109.

2014 Percy Lund (URL: <https://sites.google.com/site/leedsandbradfordstudios/home/percy-lund>).

2014 PhotoLondon (URL: <http://www.photolondon.org.uk>).

S. L. Stein

Simon L. Stein was born on August 12, 1854 in Marienbad, Germany (at the time part of Bohemia, which is now Czechoslovakia). He lost both parents at an early age, and by the age of 12, he immigrated to the United States and settled in Chicago. As a teenager, he apprenticed for photographer A. J. Lawson, and by the time he relocated to Milwaukee, Mr. Stein was already an accomplished portrait photographer. He began as a retoucher for Hugo von Broich, and in 1879 purchased the Broich & Cramer Studio at the corner of North Third and West State Streets. From the beginning, he established himself as an uncompromising classical portraitist whose works were characterized by their

elegant simplicity and evocative uses of lighting.



With his studio an immediate critical and financial success, Mr. Stein turned his attentions to his personal life and married Bertha Gutterman, with whom he would have four children - daughter Martha and sons Julian, Clarence, and Sidney. By the end of the nineteenth century, Mr. Stein was poised to open a lavish studio at the corner of Milwaukee and Wisconsin Streets, the likes of which most Americans had never seen. The 1897 issue of Wilson's Photographic Magazine proclaimed, "It may be fairly said that the new studio recently opened in Milwaukee by our good friend Mr. S. L. Stein surpasses in completeness and beauty any establishment of its kind in this country. We doubt, indeed, whether its equal can be named among the many famous studios of Europe." Its imposing five-story structure included a massive and fully outfitted photographic studio, which included photographs, portraits, drawings, sculpture, frames, glass and dry plates, negatives, and card mounts. The massive inventory also included non-photographic items such as

furniture, electrical appliances, telephones, and office equipment.



Although Mr. Stein proved himself to be an astute businessman and respected civic leader, his first love remained photography. In 1900, he served as President of the Photographic Association of America, which held its annual convention in Milwaukee. His exhibited portraits received 20 prestigious medals including the Paris Exposition Universelle, the World's Columbian International Exposition, the Pan-Pacific International Exposition, and the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. His professional reputation as one of America's foremost portrait photographers was equalled only by such contemporaries as Julius Strauss, Frank Scott Clark, and Pirie MacDonald. Mr. Stein also experimented with various color-plate processes, and successfully printed photographs directly onto metal plates. In 1913, Mr. Stein wanted to celebrate the legacy of his adopted state by proposing to donate 500 portraits of its most prominent

residents to the Wisconsin Historical Society. By 1920, he had completed 322 portraits when he suffered a debilitating stroke. His son Julian, by now a prominent photographer in his own right, returned to Milwaukee to oversee his father's studio operations. Although he seemed to be recovering, 67-year-old S. L. Stein succumbed to a massive stroke on March 4, 1922. It seemed appropriate to all who knew him that the portrait master died at his studio, doing what he loved most. Julian Stein continued operating his father's portrait studio until his death in 1937.

Ref:

1922 Abel's Photographic Weekly, Vol. XXIX (Lorain, OH: Abel Publishing Company), p. 256.

1922 Bulletin of Photography, Vol. XXX (Philadelphia: Frank V. Chambers), p. 315.

1922 Photo-Era Magazine, Vol. XLVIII (Wolfeboro, NH: A. H. Beardsley), p. 287.

1905 The Professional and Amateur Photographer, Vol. X (Buffalo: Professional Photographer Publishing Company), p. 430.

1897 Wilson's Photographic Magazine, Vol. XXXIV (New York: Edward L. Wilson), pp. 161-166.

1999 Wisconsin Historical Society (URL:

<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/whi/feature/stein>).

Vokar Corporation



The Vokar Corporation was originally founded as the Electronics Products Manufacturing Corporation located at 208 W. Washington St., Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1939. The company was purchased by Charles Vershoor, the ousted president of the Argus camera company and the small company produced the Vokar camera with the designs of Richard H. Bills. The company changed its name in 1943 to the Vokar Corporation and in 1945 relocated to 7300 Huron River Drive,

Dexter, Michigan. Camera production was discontinued in 1947.



VOKAR I

Fritz Luckhardt

Fritz Luckhardt was born in Kassel, Germany on March 17, 1843. The scion of a soap manufacturing family, the senior Luckhardt had carved his own professional niche as a publisher and book dealer. His son was expected to join the family soap-making business and was educated at the Kassel Academy of Art and later studied chemistry at the Kasseler Polytechnikum. After graduation, he received further scientific instruction at Hanover, and then began working at a perfumery in Paris. However, while in Paris, Mr. Luckhardt's career path would take a fateful turn when he met Rene Prudent Patrice Dagron, a local photographer who in 1859 received the first patent for microfilm. Mr. Dagron hired the young photography enthusiast to work for his manufacturing company, which Mr. Luckhardt would fondly recall as the most valuable technical training he would ever receive. After living and working in Paris for a few years, he decided to move to London, where he worked in the laboratory of J. R. Johnson, with whom he collaborated on a rotating panoramic camera.

In 1865, Mr. Luckhardt would settle permanently in Vienna where he worked as a translator for publisher and photo dealer

Oskar Kramer. Through his employment with Mr. Kramer, he met Belgian chemist and photographic historian Desire Charles Emanuel van Monckhoven, who encouraged him to purchase the studio of local photographer Emil Rabending in 1867. Mr. Luckhardt quickly established himself as the premier society photographer in Vienna, with the full support of his wife Franziska, known affectionately as "Fanny." He became Secretary of the Photographic Society of Vienna in 1871, a post he retained until 1887. Mr. Luckhardt's specialty was his sensitive portraits of beautiful women (predominantly actresses).



FRITZ LUCKHARDT.

His exclusive elite services were highly sought and admittedly discriminating. There was a sign in Mr. Luckhardt's reception area that read, "Under no circumstances whatever can portraits of little children be taken!" As the genial master photographer explained, "You see, I am not a baby's photographer. It

requires a good deal of natural tact to deal with children, and I frankly confess I have not the proper attributes." Mr. Luckhardt was also uncompromisingly frank in his appraisals of his female sitters. For the woman whose unrealistic expectations of perfection fell far short in previous portrait sittings, he would say, "I will do what I can, madam, of course; but it seems to me, if all these gentlemen have tried their best and failed, that the fault is not theirs, but your own." Mr. Luckhardt was a painstaking craftsman who was not satisfied until he had achieved the desired lighting for his subject. He would place the chair approximately 6' from the light side of his studio, then moving the camera or the sitter as needed, adding, "It is so much easier to move the camera than the sitter." For the appropriate shadowing, he would manipulate a 5' screen fitted with both light and dark fabric.

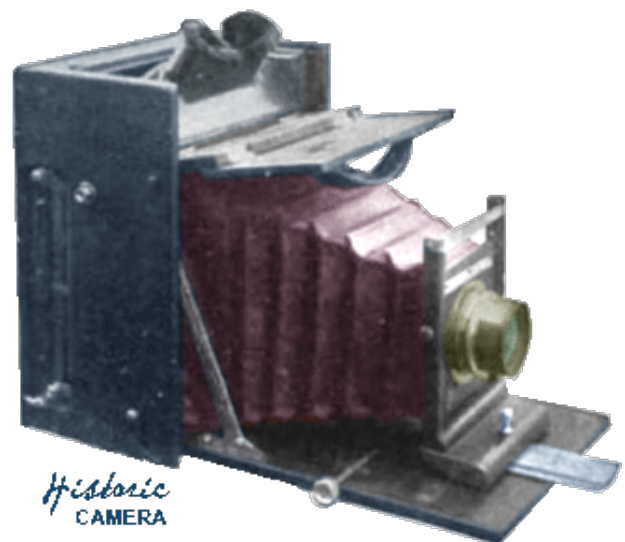
By 1870, Mr. Luckhardt had achieved unparalleled success as a portraitist, which was duly recognized with the imperial title of "K.K. Photographer." He also received an honorary professorship from the Duke of Saxe-Meiningen. Despite his busy schedule, he maintained active membership in various photographic societies in Berlin and Frankfurt as well as in the Viennese Camera Club. Fifty-one-year-old Fritz Luckhardt died of heart disease on November 29, 1894. His widow Fanny continued to operate the studio for several years after his death. In 1900, French photographer Felix Nadar proclaimed that Fritz Luckhardt was and would forever be, "The master of the masters."

Ref:
2007 Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Photography, Vol. I (New York: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group LLC), p. 875.

1882 The Photographic Studios of Europe (London: Piper & Carter), pp. 237-241.

1895 Wilson's Photographic Magazine, Vol. XXXII (New York: Edward L. Wilson), pp. 113-115.

Hales Focal Plane Camera



The Hales Focal Plane Camera was manufactured by the Hale Camera Company (Incorporated) of Ridgewood, New Jersey from 1905 to approximately 1918. The camera was invented by Henry W. Hales and manufactured under American and foreign patents. The company was incorporated in 1905 with H. W. Hales as the president, Mr. Peter O. Terbeun of scientific circles Vice President, and the well know amateur photographer Mr. W.D. Rosencrantz as the secretary and treasurer.

The Hales Focal Plane Camera was unique design which eliminated the ground glass, mirror and finder, but provides a full size image ,right side up ,prior to the moment of exposure. Focusing was accomplished through the use of a white opaque curtain which occupied the plane of the sensitive plate and was part of the focal plane curtain shutter. The fast focal plane shutter, capable of providing speeds from 1/10 to 1/1500th of a second. Features included a rack and pinion movement and an automatically extended hood when the top is opened. Another novel feature was the ability to hold the camera over your head and capture an image with the camera inverted so as to raise it above crowds for a clear view as shown in the figure below. The camera was made in four sizes including, a 4 x 5, 5 x 7, 6 1/2 x 8 1/2 and 8 x 10.

Additional Web Site Updates

The following new camera listings can be seen on our Historic Camera Site.

HURLBUT MFG. CO.,
BELVIDERE, ILL.,
U. S. A.

(BTW, I love this companies name!)



Send Comments & Suggestions to
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