

Historic Camera

Newsletter

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Sanders & Crowhurst

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71, Shaftesbury Avenue,

-LONDON, W.-

The firm of Sanders or Crowhurst was established in 1900 as opticians and photographic dealers at 71 Shaftesbury Avenue, London. The firm was an agent for Watson & Sons instruments. H. A. Sanders was an employee of Watson & sons for the previous 19 years working all aspects of the business with the latest being in the optical and lantern slide business. Mr. H. Crowhurst also worked for many years with Watson & Sons and prior to the business start, he worked with a spectacle makers company and was considered an expert on corrective materials for defective sight.

Sanders was an ethusist of nature photography and so the firm made a specialty camera specifically

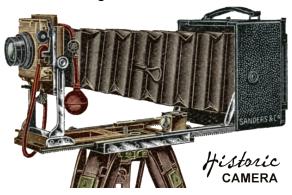


deisgned for nature photography called the Birland camera. It proved to be a success.

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In 1907 Sanders made an expedition to the actual Birdland with his photographer friend Oliver G. Pike F.R.P.S. and returned with a cinematograph of the wildlife. It was well received by the photographic community. In December of 1907 H. Armytage Sanders was elected as a Fellow to the Royal Photographic Great Britain. Society of

In October 1908 the partnership between Harry Arthur Crowhurst and Harold Armytage Sanders was reported in the London Gazette to be dissolved. Sanders continued the business under the new name of Sanders & Co. at the 71 Shaftsbury Avenue, London, W. location and Crowhurst at the 55 Western Road, Hove, Brighton location.



In 1910 Sanders & Co. was purchased over by J.A. Sinclair. In 1915 H. Armytage Sanders F.R.P.S. was located at 26, Charing Cross Road, W.C. where He continued to take naturalist photographs.

H. Armytage Sanders died 4 September 1940 at the age of 73 in Hampstead, London, England and H.A. Crowhurst died 8 December 1943 at the age of 75 in Southampton, Hampshire, England.

BACO Accessories Co.

The BACO Accessories Co. was incorporated in state the of California on January 9. 1947. The company was located at 5338 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, California. The Company was a manufacturer and dealer an assortment of



cameras and camera accessories like cases, tripods, viewers and film development equipment. A few of their accessory products included the BACO extension tubes for close up work, a delayed action timer for shutters called the BACO Time-D-Lay adjustable from 1/2 second to a minute, BACO deluxe camera cases, and Baco sheet film holders. BACO cameras are listed on the HC site.





George Barker

George Barker was born in 1844 in London. Ontario, Canada. At the early age of 13, he began working for James Egan, one of Ontario's earliest photographers. Five years later, the ambitious 18-year-old opened his own studio. However, business fell short of expectations, and so the restless young man began searching for opportunities elsewhere. On a trip to Niagara Falls, New York, he became acquainted with fellow а photographer from his hometown. A decade earlier, Platt D. Babbitt had relocated to Point View, which as the name implies, provided him with a perfect vantage point of both falls. He hired Mr. Barker as an apprentice in July 1863.

By 1865, Mr. Barker felt accomplished enough to once again open his own studio. Within the next few years, he established himself as one of the industry's foremost large photographers. majestic format His stereographs of Niagara Falls transformed the popular landmark into a visual icon. Mr. Barker also captured images of the Falls as they became increasingly victimized by environmental neglect and commercial exploitation. For his efforts, he received 11 U.S. and foreign first prize awards, which he proudly advertised on the reverse sides of his cabinet card-size stereo views in six languages. A fire on February 7, 1870 destroyed Mr. Barker's business, but his catalogue of more than 800 stereo negatives miraculously recovered. was

Mr. Barker's views of Niagara Falls were featured in several landscape compilations, including American Scenery - Niagara Falls and Stereoscopic Gems of American Scenery, and his heliotypes illustrated James T. Gardner's 1880 Special Report of the New York State Survey of the Preservation of the Scenery of Niagara Falls, and Fourth Annual Report of the Triangulation of the State. He also became a recognized authority on stereo photography, as he proved in an issue of The British Journal of Photography, in which he declared. "There is no comparison between the refracting and reflecting stereoscopes." According to Mr. Barker. there were advantages and disadvantages to each, and should be chosen according to photographic intent, e.g., desired size of photograph, type beina used, and mounting of lenses preferences.

In later years, Mr. Barker's name was associated with stereo views of various attractions throughout Florida, Colorado, and California. However, some historians maintain these were not original tintypes, but were purchased either pirated or bv the photographer. George Barker died at Niagara Falls, New York on November 27, 1894, an apropos setting for a man described in various obituaries as "the eminent photographer of Niagara Falls." Shortly thereafter, the Underwood & Underwood stereoscopic firm obtained his impressive collection of negatives.

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1998 Niagara Falls (Vol. II) by Daniel M. Dumych (Charleston, SC:
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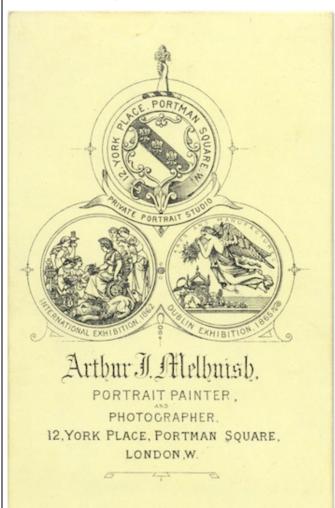
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Herbst & Firl

The firm of Herbst & Firl was established in Goerlitz, Germany in 1878. Mr. Ernst Herbst & Mr. Heinrich Firl produced high quality cameras and products. In 1899 Ernemann took over the firm and continued it as a department until 1919. During this time the Herbst & Firl department of Ernemann produced the globus camera series. See the Historic Camera site for more info.



A. J. Melhuish



Arthur James Melhuish was born to Samuel and Charlotte Castle Melhuish in London in 1829. His father died in 1843, and three years later his mother married Blackheath sketch artist John Buchanan Smith, which may have inspired his artistic inclinations. After a failed attempt as a pawnbroker, Mr. Melhuish turned his attentions to photographic experimentation. In 1853, he married Caroline Powell, with whom he would have four daughters and three sons. Mr. Melhuish supported his growing family as a portrait painter, photographer, and photographic equipment designer. With collaborator Joseph Spencer, he designed and patented the first roll film holder that utilized sensitized paper, which was introduced to the Royal Photographic Society (RPS) in 1856, and received considerable attention when Frank Haes used it for his photographs of the London Zoo. That same year, Mr. Melhuish became a member of the RPS, and by 1857 opened his first studio in Blackheath. While operating his solo photography business, Mr. Melhuish formed several other buusiness that included partnerships ventures in publishing and color photography.

In 1859, Mr. Melhuish received two patents for his metal camera designs. The metal body was initially constructed in brass and later aluminum, with the camera top, bottom, and sides soldered together. The slides were fitted into the sides of the camera body, which allowed for image adjustment. The operator could manipulate the metal sliding bar to capture stereoscopic views at a 200-degree Although greeted angle. initially with considerable skepticism by purists who would not use anything but their tried-and-true wooden cameras, the advantages of metal became obvious. cameras quickly А mahogany camera weighed 18 lbs. whereas a brass camera weighed 12 lbs., and an aluminum camera weighed a mere 3 lbs. The lightweight metal camera was a practical choice for the traveling photographer, and its durability allowed it to withstand dramatic climate and temperature changes. Because metal reflects the heat of the sun, metal cameras were particularly useful in hot climates because its wet plates can be preserved for up to ten minutes in a metal slide, as opposed to one minute in its wooden counterpart. Furthermore, with its tight fit and metal slide shutter drawing downwards, the protects the plate from metal camera excessive light penetration.

Mr. Melhuish's years of experimentation also provided him with insights into the importance of silver in processing. He once explained that washing off silver chloride from plates enabled the photographer to protect them from the "abominable yellow" discoloration that tainted many outdoor photographs, and

that adding silver to the toning bath prevented further darkening after light exposure. Mr. Melhuish was an active member of the Amateur Photographic Association for more than two decades, and his respected professional status enabled him to frequently interact with the British royal family, who were photography aficionados. longtime and exchange ideas with noted chemists and scientists. In 1873, Mr. Melhuish was named official royal photographer of the Shah of Persia during his tour of London. His studio moved to various locations over the years, and was renamed Melhuish and Gale in 1894 to reflect his final partnership with fellow James Gale. A frequent photographer contributor to several industry publications, Mr. Melhuish also co-founded, with Alfred Wilcox, England the Church of Pulpit and Ecclesiastical Review, and served as a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and as an Honorary Fellow of Royal Meteorological Society. A. J. Melhuish died in London on November 1, 1895.

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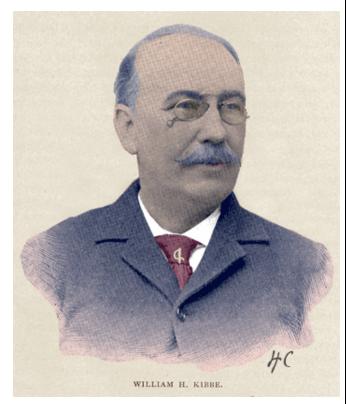
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W. H. Kibbe



William H. Kibbe was born in the city of Johnstown, Fulton County, New York in 1846. Johnstown is the place he called "home" all of his life. During his school years at Johnstown Academy, he displayed impressive talents for pen and pencil sketching, much to the dismay of his rigid professors. After leaving school, Mr. Kibbe allowed his artistic inclinations direct his career search. When working briefly as a paint-shop decorator proved to be less than satisfying, he found work at the prestigious studio of renowned engraver Vistus Balch. During this time, he assisted in steel engravings produced from the drawings of Felix Octavius Carr Darley, famous for his illustrations of Charles Dickens' novels. During this association, Mr. Kibbe became acquainted with Napoleon Sarony's portraits, which led to another career change. He became James F. Ryder's photographic apprentice, and over the next year, he learned every intricate aspect of the

profession from background painting to portrait posing.

In 1871. Mr. Kibbe opened his own photographic studio, and his vears of experience cemented his for reputation superior portrait craftmanship. Located at 123 West Main Street. on the



third floor of a structure known as 'the Kibbe building', the guarters reflected the master photographer - aesthetically appealing and accommodating. The paintings that adorned the studio walls attested to his talents in oils and watercolors. A truly family enterprise, Mr. Kibbe was often joined in the studio by his wife, who assisted with retouching and printing, and his young son Arthur Fonclair Kibbe, also got into the act, serving as a model for the popular "Our Picture" section of an issue of The Photographic Journal of America. A fire in 1881 destroyed the building, but Mr. Kibbe immediately rebuilt on the site and remained at the same location for the rest of his life. He was a frequent contributor to several industry publications including The Philadelphia Photographer. Photographic Journal of America, Photographic Mosaics, and Wilson's Photographic Magazine. Always eager to share his wealth of knowledge with other photography enthusiasts, Mr. Kibbe advocated using Newton's acetate lead bath for albumen prints for its economy of time and water. He also believed that this method of washing enabled his prints to last longer when exposed to direct sunlight than when washed by conventional means.

In addition to an esteemed professional reputation that was shared by colleagues on both sides of the Atlantic, Mr. Kibbe was also

active in Johnstown civic and social affairs. He became one of the town's best known and most beloved citizens. Working until the very end, William H. Kibbe died in Johnstown on March 9, 1910.





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