



Historic Camera

Newsletter

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Thomas M. V. Doughty

Thomas M. V. Doughty was born on July 1 1824 in Union Vale, New York. In his early 20s he was living and supporting himself as an artist, along with his brother and fellow artist John H. Doughty. Thomas received daguerreotype



instruction in New York City with Connecticut native Seth Catlin Landon, one of the earliest commercial photographers in the United States. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Doughty relocated to Lakeville, Connecticut, where he owned and operated a daguerreian wagon for a time. He married Elizabeth Sheldon, who worked alongside her husband as his assistant. Together, they had a son, John Gilbert, and daughters Carrie, Alice, Sophia, and Emily.

By the mid-1850s, Mr. Doughty moved his family and his business to Winsted, Connecticut, where he purchased Mr. Landon's Sunshine Gallery in February 1856. Within two years, he received a lucrative commission from Williams College in Massachusetts to produce 8,000 photographs of staff and students. During the height of the Civil War, Mr. Doughty opened a studio with his brother-in-law, King T. Sheldon. Specializing in cartes-des-visite, Mr. Doughty photographed several members of the 7th Connecticut infantry, including Lt. Robert Dempsey, who was killed in the Battle of

Olustee in 1864. Always willing to share his knowledge with aspiring photographers, Mr. Doughty was a frequent contributor to The British Journal of Photography. In 1880, he described his painstaking process for cleaning glass negatives, which included carefully filling the edges so they would not cut, soaking them in diluted sulfuric acid for at least 12 hours before thoroughly washing and drying. For glass negatives, Mr. Doughty employed his wife's suggestion of polishing them with woolen cloths to prevent rusting. He mixed his own collodion, maintaining doing so achieved superior results to the solutions he purchased. His plain paper prints were always finished in either India ink or water colors, and albumen prints were retouched with an India ink mixture to match the color of the prints.



Mr. Doughty continued working after the death of his wife in 1882. Upon retirement, he moved to the Litchfield County town of Salisbury to be closer to his children and their families. Thomas M. V. Doughty died in 1911 and was buried alongside his wife in Winsted's Forest View Cemetery. His son John G. Doughty became a respected aerial photographer, and the CDVs and photographs of father and son have become prized collectables.

The Plainotype Co.

THE PLATINOTYPE COMPANY

29 Southampton Row, W.C.

In 1879 The Plainotype company was established to exploit the photographic process invention of Mr. William Willis' patents of 1873 and 1878. The first commercial Plainotype papers were offered for sale in 1880. Mr. Willis won a gold medal for process at the Invention's exhibition of 1885. The company went to great lengths to keep the secret for making plainotype photographic paper, always keeping it contained within in the company. In 1911 the Plainotype Company marketed fifteen types of Plainotype papers, while Eastman Kodak marketed eleven. A factory was established at 66 Beckenham Road, Penge, and the Company's sales office at 29 Southampton Row, High Holborn, London. Then in approximately 1901 it transferred to 22 Bloomsbury Street. The Plainotype paper became very popular and it was advertised that Captain Abney, G. Davison, F. Hollyer, R. Keene and many other Scientific and Artistic photographers were users of the Plainotype paper.

The Improved Key Camera was manufactured in circa 1893. Described as the "Simplest and Best Hand Camera Made". It was capable of capturing quarter-plate sized exposures on glass plates. The box camera measured 8 x 4 3/4 x 4 inches. The Improved Key Camera was priced at £7 7s.

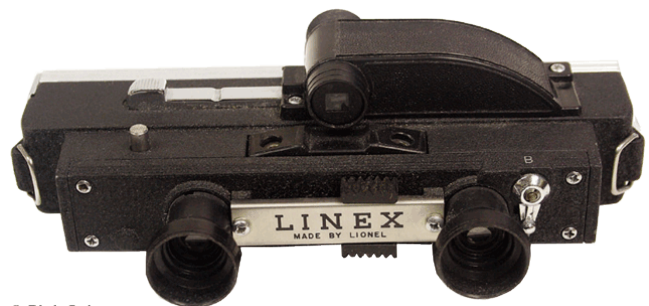


© Eric Evans

Photo Courtesy of Eric Evans

Linex Stereo Camera

Linex corp., a division of the Lionel Manufacturing Company of New York from 1954 to approximately 1956, manufactured the Linex Stereo camera. 85,000 units were made. This is the same company that is famous for their toy trains. The camera was made mainly of cast metal with a bakelite view finder and rubber eye lens hoods. Making it a heavy camera for its subminiature size. It is capable of taking eight 16 x 20 mm stereo pair exposures on Lionel cartridge roll film. It was fitted with a pair of fixed focus lens with two aperture settings f6 and f8.3 and a single speed 1/25th of a second guillotine shutter. The complete outfit including stereo viewer, film and a carry case sold for \$44.50.



© Rick Soloway

Photo Courtesy of Rick Soloway

Marion Post Wolcott



Marion Post was born to Walter and Marion Hoyt Post in Montclair, New Jersey, on June 7, 1910. Her father was a prominent family physician, and she and older sister Helen were educated in the finest private schools. She studied modern dance with Ruth St. Denis at New York City's New School for Social Research and with Doris Humphrey at New York University. After an elementary education internship at Vassar College, Miss Post saw the ravages of the Great Depression firsthand while teaching at a boarding school in a small Massachusetts town populated mostly by struggling millworkers. The socioeconomic inequality she witnessed left a profound impression. On a two-year sojourn in Europe, she attended the University of Vienna to study child psychology. There, she met photographer Trude Fleischmann, with whom Helen was studying. Ms. Fleischmann lent the younger Post sibling a camera and encouraged her to apply her natural artistic talents to photography.

Upon her return to the United States, she began teaching at Hessian Hills School in Croton-on-Hudson, New York while also working as a freelance photographer. She took portraits of the directors and actors of New York City's Group Theatre, and also served as the lone female photographer for

Philadelphia's Evening Bulletin. The Rolleiflex camera soon became her favorite for its small, compact size and its twin lens reflex. Her interest in documenting social problems led her to the Farm Security Administration in July 1938, where she joined an impressive photographic staff that included Walker Evans and Dorothea Lange. For the next three years, she traveled across America, critically examining the rural landscape through the lens of her Rolleiflex. She later observed, "I think landscape can tell a great deal about living conditions as well as the people and the clothes they wear, and the diapers on the line, or whatever other evidence there is around. I think the landscape and the beauty of it or the vastness of it can tell a great deal about the country and the people." Through her involvement with the FSA, she met Department of Agriculture administrator Lee Wolcott, whom she married on June 6, 1941. In the fall of that year, she embarked upon her final FSA photo assignment, which took her to the Great Plains, where she produced her most most moving images.



Mrs. Wolcott retired shortly thereafter to raise a family of four children. She died on November 24, 1990 at the age of 80, but her photographic record of the Great Depression and its aftermath live on in several permanent collections that include New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art and International Center of Photography, Rochester's George Eastman House, Chicago's Art Institute,

Houston's Museum of Fine Arts, and Ottawa's National Gallery of Canada.

Ref:

2012 Children on Porch, Leaning on Railing. Pursglove, West Virginia. September 1938 (URL: <http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/dustbowl/photos>).

2004 Encyclopedia of the Great Plains (Lincoln, NE: Center for Great Plains Studies), p. 132.

2015 Marion Post Wolcott with Rolleiflex and Speed Graphic in Hand in Montgomery County, Maryland (URL: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/fsa2000010646/PP>).

2013 North American Women Artists of the Twentieth Century: A Biographical Dictionary (New York: Routledge), p. 585.

2015 Oral History Interview with Marion Post Wolcott, 1965 January 18 (URL: <http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-marion-post-wolcott-12262>).

2011 Southscapes: Geographies of Race, Region, and Literature by Thadious M. Davis (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press), p. 24.

1939 Photo, Library of Congress Prints and Photograph Division, Washington D

Klein (Italy)



Klein was a camera maker in Rome that was in business from 1951 until approximately 1958.

The firm made a single 35mm camera model which evolved into three variations. In approximately 1953-1954 the firm introduced the second version and then the third version. By 1957 no mention of Klein is found and manufacturing was reportedly being conducted by Optical Mechanics of Rome, likely a new name of the Klein Company.



© Wish-4-Leica

Photo Courtesy of Wytze van Kammen

Mefag Camera Co.



The Gothenburg Camera Factory (Kamerafabrik) located in Gothenburg, Sweden initially manufactured a box camera called the "Mefag" in the mid 1940s. Then reportedly, in approximately 1946 the company was sold to the Sedish Industrial Camera Company or "Svensk Kameraindustri" who produced the Handy Box around 1947 and 1948.



Photos Courtesy of Soders Fotoservice and Daniel Wirgård



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