



Historic Camera Newsletter

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Panon Camera Shoko Co.



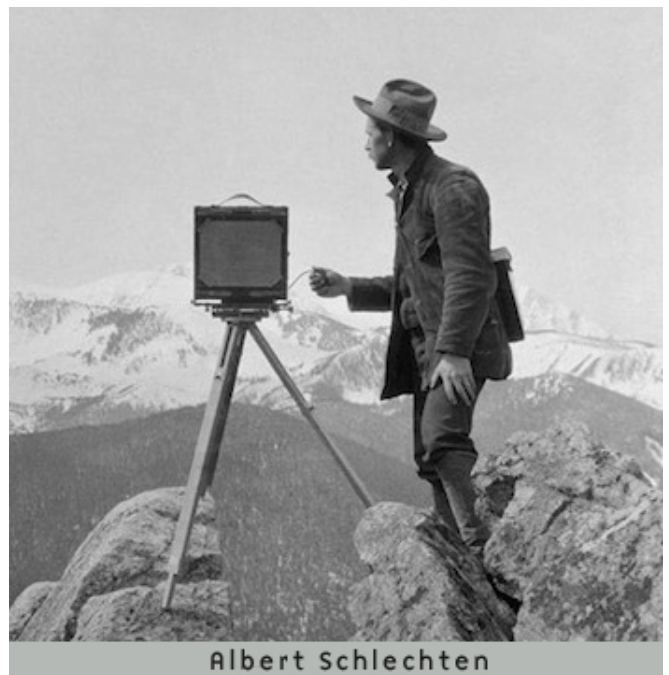
The Panon Camera Shoko Company of Japan was founded by Nakayama Shozo in 1952 who began making the Panon wide angle camera for 120 roll film. In 1958 the company introduced the Widelux which used 35mm film. At this time the production of the Panon Wide angle camera stopped. Several models were introduced for the Widelux camera.

Coincident with the production end of the Panon Wide angle camera, a company called the Panox Company Limited began selling the Panon camera design labeled "Panox". The Panox Co. also marketed a panoramic camera called the Panopic with little success. It is uncertain of the relationship of the Panon and Panox companies.

In 1987 the Panon Camera company re-introduced a camera for 120 roll film, the Widelux 1500, however a fire ended its production around 1995. By 2005 the company ceased all operations.

Albert Schlechten

Albert Schlechten was the first child born to cabinetmaker Christian Schlechten and his wife Marguerite in Berne, Switzerland on January 14, 1876. After completion of his public school education in 1892, he left Switzerland for the United States. Settling first in Steedman, Missouri, he worked initially as a farmhand before being introduced to photography, which he studied at a Centralia, Missouri studio. Eight years' later, Mr. Schlechten's younger brother Alfred joined him in the United States, and the brothers moved to Bozeman, Montana, where they promptly purchased the Grant and Tippet studio, which they operated as "Schlechten Brothers."



Albert Schlechten

It was the breathtaking landscapes of Montana that quickly captured the elder Schlechten brother's attention and imagination. With his ever-present 11x14" large-format field camera, he photographed the surrounding farms, mountains, rivers and streams, and also made an impressive series of photographs in Yellowstone National Park. His landscapes were prominently featured on postcards popular with both Montana locals and tourists. Mr. Schlechten received several lucrative commissions to photograph Gallatin County, which enabled him to construct a spacious new studio that expanded to include offices and apartments in what became known as "Schlechten Block" situated at 12 South Black Avenue. By 1910, the brothers decided to end their partnership and focus on their own separate photographic pursuits. Two years later, Mr. Schlechten married Danish-born Karen Schmidt, and together they had two children, Albert Wilbur born in 1915 and Betty Marguerite born in 1918. In 1922, Mr. Schlechten decided he wanted to try his own hand at farming, and so he sold his successful studio to fellow landscape photographer Bertil Linfield. He purchased several Bozeman wheat farms along with the 350-acre ranch in Helena he called home for many years. Unfortunately, his farming endeavors dried up during the drought-like conditions of the late 1920s, and he sold his properties at a loss. He returned to photography with a new studio, known as Central Studio, located in Anaconda, Montana, which he operated until his retirement in 1946.

Eighty-five-year-old Albert Schlechten died in Mesa, Arizona on August 25, 1962. However, the photographic studio he first opened with his brother Alfred continued under the leadership of Alfred's son Alfred "Chris" Schlechten until his death in 1979. The following year, the Museum of the Rockies Photo Archive purchased the massive three-generation family photographic archive of more than 10,000 images, including more than 175 of Albert Schlechten's original 11x14

stereographic negatives that were taken between 1905 and 1925.



Ref:
 2015 1900's Photo of Mountain Climbers / Schlechten (URL: <http://www.rubylane.com/item/61838-153293x20RL-3386/1900x27s-Photo-Mountain-Climbers-Schlechten>).

2009 Bozeman and the Gallatin Valley by Tom Mulvaney (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing), p. 8.

1921 Montana: Its Story and Biography edited by Tom Stout (Chicago: The American Historical Society), p. 308.

1999 Montana Century: 100 Years in Pictures and Words by Michael P. Malone (Helena, MT: Falcon Publishing, Inc.), p. 98.

2014 Museum Albert Schlechten with Camera, Spanish Peaks, Montana (URL: http://www.morphotoarchive.org/subject_jpeg_rec.php?objno=x80.6.395).

1992 The Persistence of Ethnicity: Dutch Calvinist Pioneers in Amsterdam, Montana by Rob Kroes (Urbana: Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois), p. 68.

2014 The Schlechten Collection (URL: <http://muse.museum.montana.edu/photoarc/info/schlechten-info.html>).

Vena Company

The Vena company was established in early 1940 but did not start producing cameras until circa 1947-48.



The company's official name was "Optische en Fotografische Apparatenfabrik" an Optical and Photographic manufacturer. It was located in Vena N.V., Amsterdam, Netherlands. The company produced cameras for only a very short time and was dissolved in 1951.



Mini Graph Camera



The minnigraph camera was manufactured by Levy-Roth of Berlin, Germany in circa 1915. Reportedly it was the first European camera to take 18x24 mm (half-frame) exposures on special 35mm film cassettes. The camera is constructed of metal, covered in leather and shaped similar to a movie camera. I was fitted with either a 54 mm f3.5 Minnigraph anastigmat or an f3 Pentagraph lens and a simple instantaneous shutter. It featured a folding wire frame focusing viewer.

Harry Pottenger

Harry Robbins Pottenger was born in Fairfield, Ohio in 1874. The youngest of three sons born to Samuel and Mary Robbins McGriff Pottenger, he relocated to Wichita at age 13. He apparently learned photography at an early age, and before the age of 20, had opened his own studio at 106 E. Douglas.

Several years later, he moved his operations to 122 N. Market St. During the late 1890s, he formed a partnership with British-born painter and cartoonist John Noble, Jr. Mr. Pottenger would take photographs, from which Mr. Noble would paint pastels. One of the most famous (or infamous) collaborations was the "Cleopatra at the Bath" painting, which had been targeted by the stone-throwing radical temperance activist Carrie (or Carry) Nation in her attack upon the Carey Hotel Saloon on December 27, 1900.



HARRY POTTENGER

Mr. Pottenger married Agnes Davidson, the daughter of a prosperous Wichita lumber business owner, in 1905, and together they had a son, John Davidson Pottenger. During the early twentieth century, photography was still thought of as more of an art or entertainment from than as a profitable business. Mr. Pottenger sought to change that notion. He contended that photographers could achieve higher profits by focusing on quality rather than quantity. He argued consumers would rather pay more for superior photographs than less for mass-

produced works of inferior quality. Mr. Pottenger personally oversaw every aspect of his business from sittings to finishing, and always used Artura prints for his portraits. An Artura print emulsion masterfully preserved the quality of the negative, thereby uncompromisingly representing the photographer's vision.



After establishing himself as one of the area's leading photographers, Mr. Pottenger shrewdly entered into a partnership with another successful Wichita photographer Fred H. Reed, who was operating his own successful studio along with a gallery he had purchased from William F. "Fred" Baldwin. The joint venture became known as the Reed-Pottenger studio. Mr. Pottenger was an active member of several photographic organizations, and served several elected posts including treasurer and secretary. In 1917, he was Secretary of the Missouri Valley Photographers' Association, and was always willing to share his knowledge with the next generation of regional photographers.

Perhaps due to health problems, Mr. Pottenger sold his studio to Fred H. Reed and O. R. Wertz in 1920, which was known thereafter as the Reed-Wertz studio. After a brief illness, 49-year-old Harry Pottenger died on November 6, 1923. Several of his prints have been digitally preserved by the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum.

Ref:
1920 Abel's Photographic Weekly, Vol. XXV (Cleveland, OH: Abel Publishing Company), p. 607.

1917 Bulletin of Photography, Vol. XX (Philadelphia: Frank V. Chambers), p. 439.

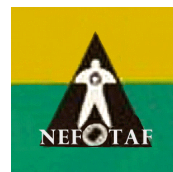
2014 John Noble: Wichita's Artist Abroad by Michael Carmody (URL: <http://f5paper.com/article/john-noble-wichitas-artist-abroad#sthash.ywBXtmBv.dpuf>).

1923 Obituary of Harry Pottenger (Wichita, KN: The Wichita Eagle), p. 3.

1900 The St. Louis and Canadian Photographer, Vol. XXIV (St. Louis, MO: Mrs. Fitzgibbon-Clark), p. 148.

1913 Studio Light: A Magazine of Information for the Profession (Rochester, NY: Eastman Kodak Company), pp. 20-22.

Nefotaf Company



The Nefotaf company was founded in Weert, Holland in 1948 by W. Vlijmen and PC Bertels. A few box camera models were produced in limited quantities. The company was in business to approximately the mid 1950s.



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The Glory box camera was manufactured by Nefotaf of Weert, Holland in circa 1949. The camera was constructed of metal covered in leatherette with a decorative round face plate circling the lens depicting the name of the camera. It was capable of capturing 6 x 9 cm exposures on roll film. the camera featured two prism finders, a fixed focus lens, an instantaneous shutter plus time and two apertures. The camera was in production less than a year before they changed the name to [Nefox](#) due to a request from the Dutch government.

Marcis-Boucher Co.

The Nil Melior Stereo camera was manufactured by the Macris-Boucher company located in Paris, France in circa 1914. This camera was capable of capturing 6 x 13 cm exposures on a 12 plate magazine cartridge. It was fitted with a short focus-wide angle Boyer Saphir or E. Krauss f4.5 65mm lenses mounted on a seven speed shutter adjustable in the front.



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**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**



From: *Historic*
CAMERA

I would like to thank everyone for their support this past year. This project continues to be fun and rewarding knowing that we are connecting collectors and users all over the world. I especially would like to thank Tracy for her excellent help on drafting our photographer biographies. Tracy's research and skill is well appreciated by many interested in historic photographers. I would also like to thank Wytze van Kammen for his generous donation of over 23 thousand photos that he has taken over the years of his cameras and equipment. Our database of information is greatly improved because of this. 2016 brings some exciting opportunities. As our overall camera information grows with camera values, ratings and overall worth, in addition to the new info we gather for reference. Thanks to my friends at Flickr who generously share high quality photos of cameras and equipment and to my friends at Facebook for some wonderful discussions. My Best wishes to you and yours for 2016.

Regards, Tom Kowach



Send Comments & Suggestions to
admin@historiccamera.com.

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