

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY

JULY, 1963—Vol. 4, No. 4.

Editor: E. K. JONES

11th Floor, Hollard Place
71 Fox Street
Johannesburg

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P.O. Box 8620

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Johannesburg

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Subscription: R3.00 p.a.

CONTENTS:

What's New 15

CONTESTS

Miss Photography 1963 18

Picture of the Month 47

19,000 Cameras Clicked 26

PHOTOFEATURE:

Flights of Fancy 22

BEGINNER'S CORNER

Make Your Own Enlarge-
ments 25

P.S.S.A. NEWS ... 21 55

PERSONALITY

Karsh of Ottawa 30

IN THE DARKROOM

More About that Slide
Show 35

CINE

Amateur Films 39

Don't Bore Your Friends—
Edit Your Films 41

TED REPLIES

All about Enlargers 44

Artist's Tip 45

Kodak Anniversaries 51

Iford Exhibition 53

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY BECOMES OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF P.S.S.A.

"A MARRIAGE HAS BEEN ARRANGED," and it is with proud pleasure we announce that the Photographic Society of Southern Africa—P.S.S.A., has appointed "Amateur Photography" its official Journal and that space each month will be devoted to the activities covering this vast network of Photographic Clubs in the Republic and Rhodesia. Referring to this in his Presidential message to members, Dr. J. K. du Toit, says: "We, the directors of P.S.S.A., are convinced that it will be to the general benefit of all members." May we carry this statement further by saying that the step which has been agreed upon will be to the equal advantage of our readers, who are now brought into closer touch through these columns, with the aims and aspirations of this energetic group of advanced camera enthusiasts.

"Amateur Photography," in spreading the "Welcome Mat" to the host of new readers in P.S.S.A., hopes that they will read not only those reports of direct concern, but will turn back the pages and share with the Beginner, the pleasure and instruction, provided by illustration and written word, which are to be found between its colourful covers.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC CONGRESS to be held in August with its venue in Johannesburg, holds promise of a fitting climax to a year of great photographic activity. We wish P.S.S.A. every success for their painstaking organisation.

OUR SPOTLIGHT COMES TO BEAR on the S.A. International Salon, the twenty-seventh to be held in Johannesburg; as a box-office attraction, however, it does seem to be losing something in public appeal with the passing years. It was a disappointment to discover, for example, that this major Salon no longer makes a tour of the provinces as was the established practice in the past. South Africa is still a small country, and if we be allowed to make an observation, it does seem that far too many Salons of Photography are held for its size. There is an over-enthusiasm of partisan clubs which could slowly strangle the goose that laid the golden egg—the S.A. International. It is not suggested that the monochrome worker in this country is disinterested, but it was depressing to see the absence of robust competition with exhibitors from abroad. There was little merit in the acceptances from our own kith and kin, and a lack of the traditional style one would expect to find after more than a generation of progress.

UNDOUBTEDLY, THE BETTER DRAWING CARD was the Colour Slide section of the Salon which played to packed houses, although the presentation was not without its minor irritations. Pictures of Salon calibre, whether projected or pinned to a screen, are still pictures and should be presented without the dressing of "taped" commentaries; the people who show a lively interest in these important exhibitions resent being robbed of their one privilege, which is to express opinion. The audience reaction was as to a sound film,

and if there was temptation to admire a particular slide, the mechanics of this audio-visual entertainment ruled out the possibility. The repetitive comments on the selected slides lacked construction and needed relief in change of voice. A different approach in ideas on composition and colour and better control of background music is required if sound and such delightful pictures are to be welded together.

Let it be said to the credit of both exhibitions that the slick, businesslike presentation of monochrome and colour was admirable. There was an infectious appreciation of the high level of artistic photography on display and if the purpose was to stimulate an interest in the hobby of photography at high level, here was success in good measure.

OUR MAILBAG BECOMES HEAVIER BY THE DAY with letters from our readers asking for the "know-how" of their picture problems, which we have always dealt with in the past by post. Our next issue, therefore, will feature a "Readers' Blues and Views" column which is to be your platform if you are in need of our help. If there are troubles in the darkroom or you want to know how to take racing cars or pose a model, this forum will help you. We also want to know your honest views on "Amateur Photography"; does it really help you as a newcomer to the hobby of photography? Tell us about the features you like and those you don't, is there some angle on the practical or artistic side of photography which we have overlooked. All we need is your full name and address for publication.

TWO INTERNATIONAL SALONS

* The International Salon of Contemporary Photography, 1963, will be in the nature of an experiment. The Salon will be hung outdoors (under protection) in Joubert Park, Johannesburg, during the first week of October, 1963.

Judges are Sam Haskins, a leading fashion photographer in South Africa, Sidney Goldblatt, a world-famous contemporary artist, and Gordon Maddox, one of Johannesburg's leading professional photographers.

Up to four prints may be entered for the salon at a fee of R0.75 (or 7/6 or \$1). Closing date is 15th September, 1963.

Inquiries to: Mr. Colin Marik, Salon Secretary, P.O. Box 6613, Johannesburg, South Africa.

* The Sixteenth Witwatersrand International Salon of Photography and the 2nd Witwatersrand International Nature Salon will be exhibited at the Public Library, Johannesburg, from 9th to 21st September, with a showing of slides at the Technical College Hall from 23rd to 28th September, 1963.

Entries in monochrome, and colour prints, colour slides, nature prints and slides are invited at an entrance fee of 75 cents; closing date 17th August, 1963.

Inquiries to Mr. Steve Scholly, P.O. Box 2285, Johannesburg.

NEXT MONTH

With the August issue of "Amateur Photography" we commence a new series of articles for Beginners by Richard (Dickie) Byrde.

The series will begin with an article on "What Camera Shall I Choose?" and subsequently will deal with shutter speeds and light values, outdoor lighting, how light meters work, tele and wide-angle lenses, how to take colour pictures, indoor portraits, flash photography and filter and lens hoods.

To prepare aspirant readers for "Picture of the Month" contests we shall in future feature an article related to the contest. In August the article entitled "When the Focus is on Still Life" relates to the contest on "Still Life" which closes 31st August.

Another rich addition to next issue is Colin Frames' dissertation "Of Cameras and Caravans." This well-known exhibitor in photographic salons is also a prominent member of the Caravan Club. He has combined his experiences of caravans and cameras to give readers some pithy advice on vacationing with one hand on the steering wheel and the other on the shutter release.

The Personality Portrait of Karsh, of Ottawa, on page 30, was taken by Peter G. Higgins, A.R.P.S., of Johannesburg.

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The Photographic Society of Southern Africa

ANNUAL CONGRESS to be held
30th AUG. to 2nd SEPT., 1963

All Photographers Invited

THE week-end beginning Friday evening, August 30th, through to Monday, September 2nd, 1963, is a holiday week-end. There is nothing unusual about that, but what is unusual and will interest photographers throughout the country, is the fact that the Annual Congress of P.S.S.A. will be held in Johannesburg that week-end.

This is the first Annual Congress of the Society to be held in Johannesburg, and the organising committee has drawn up a programme which it believes provides entertainment and interest close to the hearts of all sections of photographers. Accordingly we invite all photographers to attend the whole three-day Congress or any part of it, with the exception of the Annual General Meeting, which is open only to P.S.S.A. members and delegates of P.S.S.A. Member Clubs.

The Congress opens on Friday, August 30th, with a screening of films invited from the foremost cine workers in the land, and organised by the very-much-alive Motion Picture Division of P.S.S.A.

The feast continues on Saturday, August 31st, with a discussion of Colour Printing by well known photographic personalities—a facet of photography gaining much impetus among amateurs in the present day. This is followed by a visit to the most modern and up-to-date film studios in Southern Africa—Killarney Studios, where Congress members will be able to observe various aspects and workings of a modern film studio down to the mechanism of the cameras used.

In the evening, to whet appetites for travel to distant and exciting places, Dr. Plotkin will present a slide lecture on his "Experiences in the Antarctic." This is not just a travelogue but a lecture of great

interest to photographers—including many beautiful slides.

On Sunday morning, September 1st, you will be able to practice your photographic art at an especially arranged Mine Tribal Dance open only to members of Congress. Photographers will have complete freedom of movement around the dancers and the arena.

On Sunday afternoon and evening you will be able to view the prints and slides accepted in the Protea International Salon, in Pretoria. This is a "must" for all who aspire to greater heights in their hobby or who wish to compare standards; besides it is good entertainment value. A social interlude is provided by a Wine and Cheese party sandwiched between the Salon prints and Slides.

Finally, on Monday morning, September 2nd, the Planetarium folk are laying on a special programme of photographic interest, including demonstrations and talks, for Congress Members only.

All this is yours, plus the company of fellow photographers, if you register as a Congress Member. The cost, inclusive of all events, luncheons, teas, suppers, etc. (as per programme), will not exceed R9.00 and may well be a great deal less.

To help us with the catering and to ensure that you are well wined and dined, please return the P.S.S.A. Congress 1963, P.O. Box 9502, Johannesburg, not later than July 31st, the reply Form you will find in this issue of "Amateur Photography." (Don't forget to fill in the form and sign it!)

In addition, to assist those who live in distant places, we will try to arrange accommodation either at an hotel or at the home of a local P.S.S.A. member, if you wish.

Should anyone require to be met at Jan Smuts Airport, Johannesburg Station, or on the outskirts of the city, we will arrange it upon request—just notify P.S.S.A. Congress, P.O. Box 9502, Johannesburg.

Once again we invite you to join us from August 30th to September 2nd for a unique photographic long week-end; we know you will enjoy it.

(See Page 55 for programme)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT P.S.S.A.

FOR P.S.S.A. 1963 has been a year of challenge, simply because the question of "to be" or "not to be" became a vital one. It is not necessary to go into the details that lead up to the present, status quo. Let it be clearly stated, however, that the present Board of Directors has accepted the challenge, and has unanimously decided that P.S.S.A. will continue to be.

Simple, however, as it may sound, the decision was one of grave responsibility, necessitating unavoidable changes in policy where P.S.S.A. can discharge its obligations to its members. It is with pleasure that I announce the first of these changes, namely that your Board has come to an agreement with the publishers of "Amateur Photography," whereby "Amateur Photography" will now become the official journal of P.S.S.A. All members of P.S.S.A. will, therefore, in future, as part of their privileges receive "Amateur Photography," in which sufficient space for P.S.S.A. editorial and official announcements has been allocated.

We, the directors of P.S.S.A., are convinced this is a step forward in the right direction and that it will be to the general benefit of P.S.S.A. and of all our members.

The next issue of "Amateur Photography" will contain a full list of the many and varied services which P.S.S.A. offers to its organisational and individual members.

J. K. DU TOIT,
President, P.S.S.A.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Members are advised that, subject to the audit of the Society's Accounts being completed, the Annual General Meeting will be held on 2nd September, 1963, and that, in terms of Article 29 of the Society's Articles of Association, nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President and Directors must reach the Honorary Secretary 42 days before that date.

The retiring Director, Dr. J. K. du Toit (President), Messrs. D. G. Beadle and H. Geldard (Vice-Presidents), A. L. Bevis, S. W. R. D'Elboux, Dr. F. W. Hanford, Messrs. F. C. Harris, B. N. Penny, and L. A. Peyton, are all eligible for re-election.

Nominations, duly signed by the proposer and candidate, must reach the Hon. Secretary, P.O. Box 2007, Johannesburg, on or before 21st July, 1963.

By order of the Board,

BRANNIE N. PENNY,
Hon. Secretary.

PROGRAMME FOR 1963 P.S.S.A. CONGRESS

Friday, August 30th

8.00 p.m.—M.P.D. Film Show.

Saturday, August 31st

9.00 a.m.—Registration.

10.30 a.m.—Opening by Mayor of Johannesburg. Report to Congress by President of P.S.S.A.

11.30 a.m.—Colour Print Forum.

1.00 p.m.—Lunch.

2.30 p.m.—Visit to Killarney Film Studio.

6.30 p.m.—Cocktails. Buffet Supper.

8.15 p.m.—Lecture by Dr. Plotkin on Experiences in the Antarctic, supported by Colour Slides.

Sunday, September 1st

7.45 a.m.—Early morning photographic outing.

10.00 a.m.—Visit to Native Mine Dance.

1.00 p.m.—Lunch.

3.00 p.m.—Visit to Protea Salon, Pretoria.

6.30 p.m.—Wine and Cheese Party.

8.00 p.m.—Protea Salon (Colour Slides).

Monday, September 2nd

10.30 a.m.—Talk and Demonstrations at the Planetarium.

1.00 p.m.—Lunch.

2.00 p.m.—P.S.S.A. Annual General Meeting.

Teas will be served at appropriate times.