



The Photographic Society

OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, LIMITED

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can linger for days. But the warning to mix the caravan shots judiciously should be adhered to strictly. Transparencies abounding with caravans have a monotony calculated to send even the most indulgent viewers to sleep. There is a sufficiency of scenery around and about to ensure that the finest landscapes are introduced as variations on a theme. The camera will enable you to recall one of the grandest forms of holiday, and—who knows may even produce a plethora of salon masterpieces.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ALTHOUGH this page is reserved for the affairs of the Photographic Society of Southern Africa, nothing will give us greater pleasure than to know that it is being read by all the readers or subscribers of "Amateur Photography." On this occasion it is actually to the non-members of P.S.S.A. that this message is directed.

As a subscriber to, or regular buyer of "Amateur Photography," you are paying 25c per copy, or R3.00 per annum. The rapidly expanding circulation of "Amateur Photography" proves that you, the reader, must be getting your money's worth, otherwise the magazine could not have flourished as it so obviously has. Do you realise, however, that by joining P.S.S.A., at R3.15 per annum, you not only will continue to receive your regular copy of "Amateur Photography," but will also share in all the benefits of P.S.S.A. membership, and that at a mere 15c per annum extra. What are these benefits?

In the first place, and this is very important, it creates a feeling of comradeship, a feeling that you belong, that you form part of our national photographic fraternity.

Secondly, it entitles you to make free use of P.S.S.A. services, e.g. print and slide criticism by experts, or obtaining free advice on any aspect of photography generally.

As a member you can also attend regional rallies and outings, and more important still, attend the Annual Congresses which are held in various centres, where extremely attractive and enjoyable programmes are organised for all concerned.

Your local photographic Club, if it is an organisational member of P.S.S.A., can also avail itself, at a small cost, of such services as tape recorded slide lectures, films from the Motion Picture Division's film library, and several travelling print portfolios.

Details of these services will be published in coming months.

Finally, through P.S.S.A. membership you can aspire to Photographic honours such as the Society's Associateship, thereby making a personal contribution to the advancement of photography in South Africa.

Is this worth the extra 15c? The answer, I think, is "YES."

J. K. DU TOIT,

President.

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P.S.S.A. CONGRESS

In the July "Amateur Photography" you will have seen an application form to attend this year's P.S.S.A. Congress. There is still time to apply—but don't leave it any longer. The Congress is open to all photographers, not only members of P.S.S.A. Full details were given in last month's "Amateur Photography", but the highlights are repeated again below.

For further information write to P.S.S.A. Congress, Box 9502, Johannesburg.

Friday, August 30th:

Film show—"My Favourite Film," by many of our leading amateur cinematographers.

Saturday, August 31st:

- Official opening.
- Colour Print Forum.
- Visit to professional film studio.
- Cocktail party.
- Slide series on "Experiences in the Antarctic."

Sunday, September 1st:

- Early morning outing.
- Mine Native tribal dances (special facilities for photographers—no public present).
- Protea Salon in Pretoria.
- Wine and cheese party.

Monday, September 2nd (public holiday):

- Planetarium—special show and lecture for photographers.
- P.S.S.A. Annual General Meeting.

CAN YOU AFFORD TO MISS IT ?

PHOTOGRAPHIC MASTERPIECES FOR YOUR CLUB MEETINGS

SALONS and photographic exhibitions are commonplace in the large cities and towns, and a visit to such a salon can have a marked effect on the amateur photographer. On the positive side, the works of the renowned photographers usually encourage the amateur to strive for perfection in technique, composition, etc., so that one day he, too, may enjoy seeing his photographs gracing salon walls. But what of the photographers living in the country? Time, and possibly money, prevent them from making long trips to the salon centres.

The Print Portfolio Division of P.S.S.A. endeavours to bring the photographs of outstanding photographers to all clubs by means of a print portfolio service.

At present three portfolios are being circulated. Many clubs have already enjoyed the photographs of Mr. Pat Culverwell, A.P.S. (S.A.) of Ladysmith. This portfolio consists of twenty prints 16" x 20" mounted, of portraits in low and high key, seascapes, landscapes, and child studies. All prints are of a very high standard, with an unusual sparkling approach to

photography. The excellence of these prints gained for Mr. Culverwell, the honour of an A.P.S. (S.A.) award.

The second portfolio comprises 12 character studies by none other than Mr. Rhodes Tremeer, F.R.P.S., A.P.S. (S.A.) of Alice, Cape Province. Recently, "Amateur Photography" published an article about Mr. Tremeer's photography, and clubs now have a chance of studying some of his prints by obtaining this portfolio from P.S.S.A.

The third portfolio is an outstanding collection of 21 prints by Mr. Shirley M. Hall, F.R.P.S., F.P.S.A., of California, U.S.A. Mr. Hall is a well-known international exhibitor, and has Five Stars to his credit. This collection comprises landscapes, portraits, figure studies, nudes, seascapes, etc., all 16" x 20" mounted.

A handling charge of 75 cents is made for each portfolio, and this P.S.S.A. service is available to all clubs who are Organisational Members of P.S.S.A. Details of this P.S.S.A. service can be obtained from Mr. R. G. Matthews, Chairman, Portfolio Division of P.S.S.A., P.O. Box 11, Roodepoort, Transvaal.

TABLE TOP PHOTOGRAPHY (continued)

now, which will make excellent subjects for glass top photography.

Winning glass top photographs are those which, firstly, attract attention either by their colour and simplicity, or their originality and then to tell a story. The motif can be a tip-of-the-tongue quotation, fairy tale or fable, or topical laugh at life. We are always amused at glass elephants which are scared of toy mice, and trim teenage dolls whose legs get entwined by Pluto's lead.

Minicam Technique: 35mm cameras are ideal for photographing scale model sets; because of their short focal length lenses, they provide a greater depth of field than do long lenses. Shallow depth of field is an unsurmountable problem which arises when the camera is brought close to the subject. Thus, if a 50mm focal length lens is focused on a model 3 feet away, the greatest depth of field obtainable will only be 18 inches. (For the record: the smaller the f. stop, and the shorter the focal length, the greater is the depth of field.)

In order to obtain the most authentic view of the model, the lens should be about 2¼ inches above the level of the stage floor. That would be the eye level of a person at 1/30th scale.

Focusing should be carried out with care, on a previously determined point on the model. When choosing this point it should be remembered that the zone of focus is about *twice* the distance behind the point focused on, as it is in front. Having focused the camera, the lens should be stopped down to the minimum aperture—probably f16, to ensure the maximum depth of field.

Try Table Tops, and you won't ever again say, "There is nothing to photograph; I don't know what to take." And you will have pictures that no one else has ever taken.