

P. S. S. A. NEWS & VIEWS

Colour Slide Evaluation Competition, for Beginners

Our Portrait Colour Slide Competition opens this month, and closes on March 31st.

This is short time for a competition, but there is a good reason for this limit. If the competition went on very long, Photo Teachers Roel Roelofson and Robbie Robertson might be swamped with entries, and this would defeat the aims of this competition. Our P.S.S.A. 'teachers' want to have time to study every slide entered, in two respects. First, to decide whether or not it should be considered for an award, and secondly (and this is the real aim of this competition), to pick out the good and bad points in the slides, and write these points down for the author's benefit, when his slides are returned.



By so doing, they hope to teach portraiture to beginners so that they can take pleasing portrait colour slides of their family and friends.

Experts are excluded from this competition. Fellows, Associates and photographers with more than ten salon acceptances to their credit are barred. Fellow Roel Roelofson and Associate Robbie Robertson are bent on trying to help learner photographers.

The rules of this competition are simple. No more than four slides may be entered by any person. Entry fee is 10 cents per slide, to cover return postage. Write your name on the frame of each slide entered. Enclose with the slides the following information: Your name; postal address; title or short description of each slide. Post your entries to: Roel Roelofson, F.P.S.(S.A.), P.O. Box 43, Isando, Transvaal. All entries will be returned by the end of May.

P.S.: You don't need to be a member of P.S.S.A. to enter this competition, or even a member of a P.S.S.A. associated camera club. We know that in good time you will join us!

Congress 1970 in the Cape

"Photograph the Cape in its Spring Sunday Best — at P.S.S.A. Congress."

How does that slogan sound? Square! I admit, but nevertheless it's unusual. How often do you hear a slogan which does not exaggerate? And it's no exaggeration that the Cape wild flowers at Kirstenbosch *will* be at their best, and the oaks lining the approach to Groot Constantia *will* be decorated with their freshest green leaves in early October—timed to coincide with P.S.S.A. Congress '70.

The exact dates of Congress have not as yet been decided on, but be sure that Congress Organiser Dr. Robin Sandell will take advantage of the Cape Peninsular's most photogenic season which is considered to be late September and early October.

Next month's 'News and Views' will announce the dates, in plenty of time to book your hotel or caravan park accommodation.

Wisdom in Camera Clubs' Magazines

There's nonsense written in Camera Clubs' magazines, at times, but most times there's a lot of sense.

Brian Lunt, Chairman of C.S.I.R. Camera Club, wrote the following in a recent issue of his club's magazine "Klik":

"We all recognize a good photograph when we see one—a really good one, but have you tried to define just what it is that makes a successful picture? There is no simple recipe. However, here is something to think about.

"Firstly, let me say that I am thinking of club photography mainly and the sort of picture that gets accepted for photographic salons. One must consider what the purpose of

The "teachers" for our Beginners' slide-evaluation competition, with Portraiture the theme, are Messrs. Roel Roelofson, F.P.S. (S.A.), one of whose own pictures this is, and Robbie Robertson, A.P.S. (S.A.), a sample of whose work is on the next page. These pictures, they believe, are examples of good portraiture and will serve as a guide to P.S.S.A. beginners.

this sort of photography is and under what circumstances the picture is viewed:

"Very simply, the photograph is intended to please the viewer (generally, though not always) and is mostly seen only once, for a relatively short time. This means that, to be successful the picture must have impact to get the attention of the viewer, and the subject matter must be interesting enough to hold his attention. I believe that these two ingredients—impact and subject matter—are far more important in getting a reaction from the viewer than any other aspect. If, in addition, the picture is well composed and free from serious technical faults, then it is a good photograph.

If a picture has sufficient appeal and interest to make the viewer remember it, and be keen to see it again, then you have a winner."

This month's CHERRY ON TOP, capping Brian Lunt's ideas of successful photographs, was written by Eric Harper of Pretoria Photographic Society (and a P.S.S.A. Regional Representative) in his club's magazine "Flash":

"You, as a photographer, have the gift of infinite description. How eloquent you are is of your own making."

The A.C.C. Show—11th and 13th February

The "Films of the Year Exhibition" is the Johannesburg Amateur Cine Club's annual presentation of its award winning films, and will be screened at the Great Hall of the Witwatersrand University on the above dates. The two



premier award films this year are Chris Papadopoulos's "Glacier" and Frank Weber's "Speaking of Birds".

The showing will include the A.C.C.'s 16 mm film "Tribute to Steam", relating to the special all steam run of the Blue Train, and also "The Cuckoo's Nest". The latter is the film of a human story written around the life of some of the boys of St. George's Home, with Father Clayton as narrator.

Tickets at 50 cents each are obtainable from main photographic dealers in Johannesburg and from Show Service, or direct from The Hon. Secretary, Amateur Cine Club, P.O. Box 11180, Johannesburg.

P.S.S.A.'s Rep. Attends Unica-Europe

The 28th Annual Congress and 31st Inter-Nation Amateur Film Contest of the Union Internationale Du Cinema D'Amateur—better known as "UNICA"—was held in Luxembourg during September. Under the direction of Mr. Jean Biver and his committee, the organisation was superb. The Congress and Contest were held in the new Theatre of Luxembourg, a civic theatre that is truly magnificent in every respect. For the meetings of Congress, which is the General Assembly of delegates of member nations, and the business side of the annual gathering of cine amateurs from many countries, there was simultaneous translation in four languages, not only for the official delegates at the conference table but also for three hundred others. This Congress drew about 275 amateurs from over thirty countries and, as usual, screening of the contest films was open to the general public.

From the General Assembly there were a number of important matters that interest us here. The main one is the complete alteration of the rules of the film contest. Previously, nations have been classified or placed in accordance with the merits of the films submitted. It has been decided to stop this entirely and awards will be given to films and not to nations. Firstly, there will be a UNICA Gold Medal for Distinction, without limit to the number. The next award will be the UNICA Diploma for Exceptional Achievement. This will be followed by special prizes awarded for separate aspects of film construction such as the story, editing, photography and sound effects. Finally, all authors of films screened will receive a special UNICA Medal to indicate that these films represented the country entering them.

The next important step in the contest is the complete change of judging system. Instead of twenty or more amateur judges from the competing countries, there will be a small panel consisting of seven people, four amateurs and three professionals. Member countries may submit names of amateur judges from which the UNICA Committee will select four amateurs, and the Committee itself will select three professionals.

All categories of films have been abolished. More important also is the fact that the old "virginity" of film clause has been abolished. This is something that our own delegates have debated for several years. Consequently we may now enter films even if they have been in another international contest (except naturally a previous UNICA). Commencing from 1970, each member nation may enter as many films as it wishes, of any category, up to a total of 90 minutes screening time, including a five minute pause between films. There is no restriction on subject matter at all. Not allowed, however, will be films showing credits for previous awards or mentioning material or apparatus used. 8mm, Super 8 and 16 mm films are acceptable. This gives us a broad scope for selection in future, but naturally the films will have to be of a very high standard indeed. There is no reason why a film with a commentary should not be sent, except that

Here is a charming portrait by Mr. R. W. (Robbie) Robertson, A.P.S. (S.A.), who, with Roel Roelofson, F.P.S. (S.A.), will be performing a most valuable service for P.S.S.A. in helping members to improve their portrait work.

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naturally such a film should be able to carry its story and not rely on the commentary. These new Contest Rules come into force from the 1970 Congress at Sousse, Tunis, and will remain unaltered for a period of three years.

General discussion at the Assembly showed that there is a tremendous interest amongst overseas federations of cine clubs in training younger people to make films. Obviously clubs are including special training periods in their programmes. While we have known about this from films sent into our own International, there is no doubt that interest in this training is growing. Motion pictures are considered of greater cultural importance, and so the education of people from about 15 years upwards is now receiving great attention. There is also a considerable increase in club members in one country paying a special visit to a club in another country and, again, this happens with younger people, as well. Travel bursaries, travel grants and special arrangements for accommodation are organised. This may seem a difficulty for us but it is not all that impossible and is certainly something that we could start within our own land.

We had been anticipating the issue of the new UNICA Magazine *Zoom* but unfortunately the first issue ran into problems. One issue came out in German but the publishers encountered financial difficulties when trying to print it in three other languages. The task of translation alone is considerable. In spite of the initial set-back the Editor, Mr. Horst Burkle, is most confident that he can overcome these many difficulties and have this magazine available for distribution to all clubs.

A new innovation at Congress was a discussion on a few of the better films from the previous year, led by a panel and with audience participation. A delegate from each country whose film had been selected summed up each discussion and also provided comments from the author of the film. This group forum was extremely interesting and the famous film from Finland, "House Of Winds", produced great interest and useful information.

The highlight of the Assembly from the viewpoint of South Africa was the presentation to the Secretary General, Dr. Jules de Wandeleer, of Honorary Life Membership of the Photographic Society of Southern Africa. This award had been approved by our Board because of the very keen interest taken by Dr. de Wandeleer in our own amateur cine affairs and his great assistance and support, particularly in visiting us in 1968 to attend our International Festival and to talk with us about our organisation, as well as his immense work on an international basis. The fact that I was able to make this award at Congress on behalf of P.S.S.A., created a most favourable impression, and it was loudly acclaimed.

The 1970 Congress and Contest will be at Sousse, Tunis, from 28th August to 7th September, with a most interesting and varied programme. Apart from the screening of the films there will be many social events and excursions. We have the assurance of the Federation of Cine Amateurs of Tunis, as well as from the Under-Secretary of State from that country (who attended at Luxembourg), that our delegates will receive visas. At present we have made hotel reservations for six people who will be going. A twin-bed room with bath and half board at a first class hotel is 12 to 14 dollars US per day, while a single room with bath, half board, is 9 to 10 dollars US per day.

Now is the time for you to consider whether you would like your films to be selected to represent your country at this next UNICA film contest. If you want your films to be viewed for selection write to the Chairman, Motion Picture Division, P.S.S.A., and give us the details. Our final selection must be made early and we would prefer to have details from you by the end of April.

Charles Knowles, A.P.S.(S.A.).