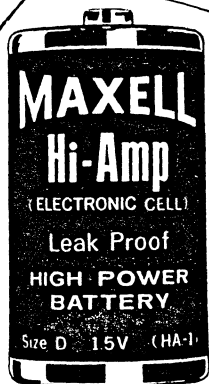


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Collated by Syd Karnovsky

CONGRESS, '70

WHEN one attends P.S.S.A. Congress each year it is natural to compare one with another and especially this year's with the last.

P.S.S.A.'s earliest days, under the dynamic guidance of Dr. A. D. (Kin) Bensusan saw some great congresses (Pretoria, Durban, Cape Town, Victoria Falls etc.). Then for some reason, there was a fall off, and the numbers attending from "out of town" became negligible.

At Johannesburg in 1964, 70-80 people attended most lectures and outings, but only a handful travelled to the congress from a distance of more than 35 miles.

Then came the congress at Kruger National Park — here everyone was from out of town and some 70 delegates and wives attended.

This, I feel was the turning point and was followed by congresses at Durban, Bethlehem, Germiston, Port Elizabeth and now, in 1970, Cape Town again. In each of these venues, the number of visitors has increased, and this year, over 70 delegates and wives travelled extremely long distances from all parts of South Africa to Cape Town. It was disappointing not to see any of our old friends from Rhodesia, Zambia or South West Africa, but we hope to see them in Durban in 1971. It's not quite so far.

Why do people attend congresses? Mainly, I think, to meet people of similar interests with whom they can chat and help one another. Certainly all the people to whom I spoke in Cape Town said that this was the part they enjoy most. Those who attended their first congress in Cape Town said that they enjoyed meeting other photographers who had previously only been names to them, and they will always attend congresses, if humanly possible, in future so as to renew the friendships they have made.

Congress committees always try to put on a show better than the last. And they always appear to succeed — not perhaps because it is better, but because we always have such a jolly good time.

This congress in Cape Town was certainly great! Over 80 people registered for the whole four days, and every evening was a sell-out with up to 250 people in the hall.

The venue often decides the style of congress. At Kruger National Park each day was "free time" and lectures, film shows and other activities were organised for the evenings at Johannesburg (not renowned for its scenic beauty) all days and evenings were organised into lectures, visits to film studios etc.

In Cape Town, the days were organised into visits to historical places in the Mother City, and visits to view the beauty of the fairest Cape. We had some excellent lectures too, to give us a completely balanced diet (or perhaps we should say surfeit).

Every evening was fully occupied with film shows, slide shows, slide series and an excellent display of prints by successful associates and fellows was well displayed in the hall at all times.

It was a great congress, and we were all most grateful to Robin Sandell and his team for going to so much trouble to make our stay a most memorable one. There was only one hitch. We've been living it up for almost 24 hours a day for the best part of five days — now we need a restful holiday.

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Your new president for the ensuing year is Pieter du Toit. Vice-presidents are Robin Sandell and Len Abelheim.

AROUND THE CLUBS

In Durban, the editor of PAN was complaining about the difficulties of sorting out the slide entries for their recent salon, many having arrived in torn parcels, cracked, dirty, etc. Camera Club of Johannesburg, which has had experience in running salons for many years is now able to offer a light boxwood container similar to those used in America for mailing slides to anywhere in the world safely and in a form acceptable to the postal authorities. Anyone interested in acquiring these excellent aids to exhibiting should contact the secretary, Camera Club of Johannesburg, P.O. Box 2285, Johannesburg.

From "The Reflex" I note that J.P.S. Council has approved the establishment of advanced goals in Beret, and these will be known as Bronze, Silver and Gold Beret bars to the Beret. This has been introduced so as to give members who are already of Beret status a further means of "fulfilling their creative urge for photographic expression" as the editor put it.

In Bloemfontein, members of Bloemfontein C.C. seem to have done some hard thinking lately on improving co-ordination of clubs in the O.F.S. Here is the report of the recent inter club get-together at Bethlehem and their thoughts on greater Provincial co-ordination.

An outcome of the congress was the formation of a council to assist in the organisation and running of the inter-club meetings.

The Council consists of one member from each of the three districts — Goldfields, Eastern Free State, and Central and Southern Free State. The fourth member will be representative from the next host club.

The establishment of this council as a co-ordinating committee is probably a very good thing for the Free State Clubs, and one wonders whether the idea should not be extended and a properly constituted governing body, consisting of representatives from all clubs in the Free State be formed.

This governing body could undertake the establishment of new clubs, come to the assistance of clubs in difficulties, the co-ordinating of Salons and Exhibitions, perhaps even the appointment of a panel of Competent judges, and most important of all, to represent the Free State Clubs as a whole P.S.S.A.

Although the province's interests are being ably looked after by Mr. Jim Barnett of Welkom, he would surely welcome a stronger base from which to operate and an official standing as representative of all local clubs. Delegates to the P.S.S.A. Congress in Cape Town were disturbed by certain "Happenings" and felt frustrated by the fact that control of P.S.S.A. seems to be vested in clubs in and around Johannesburg. Perhaps the formation of a provincial Council will be the first step towards making P.S.S.A. a truly national body, governed by representatives from all clubs, appointed on a regional basis.

The Controlling bodies of almost every other organisation in South Africa is so constituted so why not P.S.S.A.?

Let the Free State take the lead in this matter. Why not instruct our representative at the forthcoming Inter-club-Committee Meeting to propose the formation of a properly constituted regional council. Surely we can only gain by the formatin of such a body.

The Amateur Cine Club has reached the quarter century mark,



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and to celebrate this milestone, its committee has arranged a Silver Jubilee show in February. Details are as follows:—

The 25th annual "Films of the Year Exhibition" by the Amateur Ciné Club, Johannesburg, will take place in the Great Hall, University of the Witwatersrand on Wednesday, February 10 and Friday, February 12.

This year's showing will reflect again the very high standard achieved by the A.C.C. members and other participants in the club's annual competitions. Included in the programmes will be outstanding films by Will Alexander, Basil Smith, Don Briscoe, Wim Spronk and other well known South African ciné workers.

Tickets at 50 cents each will be available from the main photographic dealers. Experience over the years points to the advisability of obtaining tickets well before the time. Orders for tickets may also be posted to the Hon. Gen. Secretary, Amateur Ciné Club, P.O. Box 11180, Johannesburg.

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