

Photographica Digest

Western Photographic Historical Society
www.wphsociety.org

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K-W Patent Etui

by Ron Kuykendall

Kamera-Workstaten Gunthe & Thorsch,
Dresden was formed about 1920.



Their first product, the Patent Etui (1921) was resounding success. Made in several sizes, its design was unique and technically advanced. It had a leather covered formed aluminum body about $\frac{3}{4}$ in thick, folding with the lens assembly that slid on two side rails rather than one central rail. This allows the lens assembly to be partially housed in the formed lens bed. The camera closed to less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. In a world of wooden cameras the Etui was a marvel, a true coat pocket camera. With a ground glass back, it used glass plates, later cut film and film pack holders and, lastly, roll film backs such as Rada. All were more bulky than the camera itself. K-W used dimensions for their backs in between those of Reitschel/Agfa, Zeiss and later Kodak/Voigtlander, so it is difficult to find after market backs that fit. K-W did provide glass and cut film backs.

The lens unit pulls out to a stop, where focus is set according to a footage scale, although some cheaper versions had front element focus and no scale assembly. There is a release on the footage scale that allows the lens unit to extend almost to double extension length. There is a wire frame viewing device and a waist level viewer. The shutter could have been a Compur dial set, rim set; Rapid, Pronto; Ibsor or Vario. The lenses covered almost all then available in Dresden - Polynar, Trioplan, Radionar, Unofocal, Helioplan, Isconar, Elmar, Tessar, Xenar - allowing the camera to be offered at a wide range of prices, usually in 6.5x9 or 9x12 formats. I don't believe I have seen another camera with both such a technically advanced design and a design to meet practically all price ranges in one package.

My Etui is fitted with Compur dial set and Schneider Xenar, 105mm and f4.5. All settings are visible from the top - a necessity for close up photography. In use, it is slow - use the focusing back, and set the shutter to M. When you have the image you want, switch the shutter to Z and set for proper exposure, magnification and light, then insert the film carrier and remove the dark slide. If nothing has changed, release the shutter, insert the dark slide, remove the back and start all over for the next image. The Etui gives you a lot of time to think about making mistakes. The Xenar is easy and predictable to work with and the images are superior. All 28.5mm lens accessories work well with the camera. The 6.5x9 version folds up to fit in a coat pocket

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President's Message *Gary Fielding*

Just a few days have past since our board meeting and I would like to rehash a few items that were covered:

1. Martin Kebschull and Mark Sawyer are looking into other directions the club may take in ways of serving the photograph community of Tucson. **2.** Due to the economic conditions we are all living under, the board has decided to suspend scholarships to colleges and universities this year and the scholarships to part time students at Pima Community College. We will continue to offer scholarships to full time students at Pima Community College and the annual high school awards program. We are hoping to reinstate our full scholarship program next year should our economic situation improve. **3.** Our newspaper editor and web master will be resigning as of March 2012. We are looking for someone to fill Frank's shoes and we will be also looking for someone to take on the job as Show Chairman for the Fall Camera Show.

As you can see, lots of changes are in store for the club and I am looking forward to our members stepping up to make this transition a smooth one.

Given the current email security climate and to assist with the amount of time it take to and status the inbox(s), please adhere to the following guidelines:

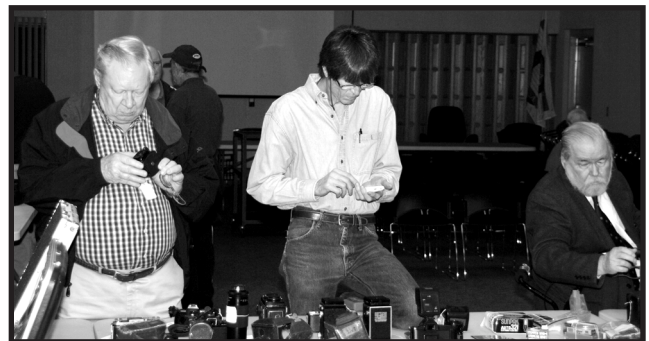
1. All e-mail communications between club members should have in the subject line starting with WPHS and then add the subject matter. **2.** All e-mails should have the name of the individual who is sending it. **3.** If a phone number is sent, please spell out at least some of the characters.

Rationale: There a number of individuals that attempt to trick us into responding to phony emails, in order to gain access to email address books (and worse). To be safe, it is prudent to not open email from unknown sources. Many people with legitimate club business, send

emails with addresses that are indecipherable as to who is sending. It is dangerous to open such emails unless you to know the individual. Hackers have gotten so sophisticated, they will try to 'social engineer' us. They will capture an email addresses, and send an email crafted to look similar in hopes of getting us to respond so they can capture yet more addresses and possibly gain access to your computer itself. If a title is mentioned, that we know is incorrect to the person sending, prudence dictates we do not respond to avoid a possible social engineer attempt. Phone numbers, especially cell phone numbers can be snagged and all sorts of damage can ensue to your phone (especially if its a smartphone) and it contents. For instance, I know of a person that listed a car part on craigs list and wound up getting hundreds of texts on his phone. The most dangerous is when the phone nos. are part of a subject line, as this is the quickest/easiest to scan.

To some of these folks it is a game, to others it is a bit more sinister. We have not had a breakin so far (that we know of), but the more email we have to process, the higher the risk. Some of us are processing 100's of emails a week. We are not really a big target, but you never know. It is not unheard of for these hacker/spammers to put together enough to cause serious damage to bank accounts, and reputations. The risk is not just to the WPHS accounts directly, but to each and every one of us.

We are putting together an up to-date membership E-mail list so that we can keep the members abreast of changes and/or news bulletins that may come up between the publishing of the newsletter. You can either send me your E-mail address and phone number at gmf-az34@gmail.com or mail it in to our WPHS p.o box 14616, Tucson, AZ 85732-4616 or give to us at our club meeting. I appreciate your attention to this matter



WPHS Meeting January 6th

The Corner *Martin Kebschull*

This is about another shop up in Portland Oregon, called Blue Moon Camera and Machine. I spent ½ a day tracking them down one fine summer weekday in 2010 and was glad I did.

It is a shop on the far north side of town in the St Johns part of Cathedral Park, which is one of the many neighborhood centers that Portland is so famous for. The shop was well laid out with a nice selection of used photography equipment. I remember being struck that the clientele ranged from high school age to young professionals. The staff was quite busy when I came in, in fact I had to wait about 30 min. Not that it mattered to



me, as it gave me time to browse. There was a lot to browse, from subminiature to large format cameras and lenses, as well as printing equipment and supplies. When it was my turn, I was treated with respect and patience by the salesman. They were honest about the shape of everything I looked at, even pointing out flaws I hadn't noticed.

I looked at quite a few cameras and lenses and settled on an 80-200 Nikon f2.8 a/f lens. I had been shopping for one for quite some time and was pleasantly surprised to find a very nice one at a very reasonable price.

On their website they state that they print 'optically' i.e., with enlargers and chemicals in trays. I remember seeing their stunning prints but I did not realize they did that type

of printing. They also do prints by mail and will develop any type of spool film. I assume (unconfirmed) that they do not develop sheet film.

They stock an amazing variety of film types, from 8x10 sheet to 8mm Minox cassettes and 8 and 16mm movie film! They also service film cameras.

You might have noticed the "and Machine" in their title. Their web says that they also sell/service typewriters and similar types of old machines. Their prices seem unbelievably reasonable (\$50 for adjustment and lube)!! Their web site cautions that shipping up there could easily cost twice the cost of the repair (if not more).

I saw many highly positive reviews on their web site. To those I add my recommendation to visit this store when up in the Portland area.

Blue Moon Camera and Machine
8417 North Lombard Street
Portland, Oregon 97203
Tel:503.978.0333
Web:www.bluemooncamera.com.

K-W Patent Etui *(continued from P1)*

Ron Kuykendall

This same outside-the-box-thinking is evident in K-W's later products - the Reflex Box 6x9, the Pilot folding twin bellows TLR, the Pilot SLR series, and lastly, applying the concepts to 35mm, the Pratiflex SLR. Gunthe and Thorsch escaped Nazis rampage against the Jews about 1939. K-W continued during the war and formed the core of VEB Pentacon during the Russification of East Germany. There are some reports the camera was copied in Japan as the Prince Peerless.



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PO Box 14616 - Tucson, Arizona 85732-4616

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WPHS Spring Camera Show and Sale: March 11th at Hotel Tucson City Center Inn Suites

Upcoming Events and Exhibits

February 2 Bucky Miller and Sallie Scheufler, WPHS scholarship winners from ASU will review their photographic work and talk about their interest in photography.

March 1 Arlene Islas, WPHS scholarship winner from Pima Community College will review her photographic work and talk about her interest in photography

March 11 Spring 2012 Camera Show and Sale at Hotel Tucson City Center Inn Suites

April 5 Ed Jackson and Mark Sawyer will make presentations on some of their vintage cameras.

We've seen interesting and unique work from past winners; I'm sure the February and March presentations will be equally exciting. We look forward to their presentations and meeting the young photographers of the future.

We'd like to hear from you. Please contact Ed Jackson at 733-1441.

Monthly Meetings

Next WPHS Meeting February 2nd.

Join us one the first Thursday of every month at the Pima County Medical Society Building located at 5199 E. Farness Drive, Tucson. Take Grant to Rosemont (turn South), then turn East on Farness Drive to 5199 on the left.

Consignment and member camera sales, show and tell and a brief lecture are featured every month

Meetings run from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Dues Notice:

*If your newsletter address has 3 asterisks (***) after your zip code, you will lose your subscription to the WPHS Newsletter. Send your \$20 due to assure continuing your subscription and membership*