

The first electronic Historical Group AGM July 2020

Dear Members of the Historical Group, welcome to this first e AGM.

Unfortunately due to the lockdown and spread of the Covid 19 virus our AGM which was to take place in London at the Philatelic Society House on the 28th of March had to be postponed, we are now going to hold our 2020 AGM electronically.

The 2020 AGM will be held online at 11-00 am on the 4th of July via a zoom link which will be emailed to you. Anyone wishing to take part must register on the RPS Historical Group website.

Items on the Agenda of the AGM will be briefly discussed, any questions arising from these will be taken at the end of each item.

Any proposers and seconders must come from the group.

You will be emailed with details of the agenda via the link www.rps.org/HistoricalAGM

Our Year from spring 2019 was looking good as we had a number of events organised. Our Treasurer Geoff Blackwell and I helped organise a visit to York with the York Philosophical Society and an evening talk on Hill and Adamson by Anne Lyden chief curator of photography at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

In September David Bruce organised a trip to France, first to Lyons to the Musee Lumiere, then to Chalon sur Soane where we went to the Musee Niepce and St Loup de Varennes where we visited the house of Nicephore Niepce for a guided tour by Pierre-Ives Mahe who is responsible for research on the house. He also explained the process which Niepce employed to make the first photograph. This was taken from a room in his house on a zinc plate in 1827. It was an eight hour exposure using bitumen of Judea as the light sensitive material.

In October we made a visit to the Shakespeare birthplace Trust to see photographs of Stratford upon Avon and also some of the archive photographs of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

November saw us at Sheffield Hallam University for the Annual research day hosted by the university and the RPS Historical group arranged by Geoff Blackwell. Roger Farnham arranged Watt talks which included one by Ben Russell from the Science museum on Watt's workshop. There was work from students and members of staff at the university, also talks from members of our group on Claudet and Niepce.

Also in November I asked Rob Crow to organise a visit to the National museum of Wales in Cardiff. He and their curator of photographs Bronwen Colquhoun organised a meeting with David Hurn of Magnum who was very generous with his time and showed us his personal collection of photographs gathered together from fellow members of Magnum. Work by Bill Brandt, Cartier Bresson, Don McMullin and Martin Parr and others. There were also two

other exhibitions to see at the Museum: the photographs of August Sander and Bernd and Hilla Becher.

I arranged our next event which was in February in Oxford at the Weston Library. This was the second Colin Ford Lecture given by Professor Larry Schaaf on his Fox Talbot Catalogue Raisonnee. It was a splendid talk and we were very pleased with the Bodleian to welcome him to Oxford. There is a podcast of his talk:

<http://media.podcasts.ox.ac.uk/bodlib/bodcast/2020-02-06-rps-shaaf-720p.mp4>

Thank goodness we managed to have the lecture before the lockdown. I should like to thank Richard Ovenden and all his staff at Oxford for all their help with this.

We had events arranged in Lacock and in Lancaster to see Ruskin Daguerrotypes and were hoping to see a Cecil Beaton exhibition, but sadly all these have had to be put on hold due to the Corona virus outbreak. Number 186 of the PhotoHistorian was published and sent out thanks to the printers, as RPS House was closed due to the virus. Our thanks go to Donald, Monica and Sue for all their efforts. The PhotoHistorian number 187 is due to be published soon.

I hope the direct link to our events on the RPS website will be helpful. Roger Farnham is working on a new Historical Group website which we hope will be easier to navigate and more informative.

We are also hoping to introduce a monthly series of e talks by curators, who will talk about some of their favourite photographs and answer your questions.

I hope to see members of our group in person soon, at the moment we just have to wait and see, but for now stay safe.

Best wishes,

Gilly Read FRPS.