



THE LITTLE MAN

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
PHOTOGRAPHIC MINIATURE POSTAL PORTFOLIOS
PHOTOGRAPHIC POSTAL PORTFOLIOS

*All contributions should be forwarded to The Editor,
88, Elfindale Road, Herne Hill, London, S.E.24. Bri. 3545.*

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WINTER, 1943-44.

THE LITTLE MAN SPEAKS.

Club members, and in particular, Circle Secretaries, must bear it in mind that I am here to speak on their behalf, both to their own Circle members and to the Club as a whole. Many have responded to my request for Circle News and I hope that members will find this issue of their Mag. contains much to interest them.

The Clubs continue to make exceptional progress, it will be seen from the contents of this issue that since our Summer issue two more Circles have been added to the large print portfolios of the P.P.P., while almost all the P.M.P.P. small print portfolios are now up to full strength. That such expansion should be possible under the prevailing conditions is most astounding, and promises well for the post-war prospects of both Clubs. The Council know that the only obstacle to even more astonishing progress, even today, is the problem of finding suitable Secretaries to lead new portfolios.

During the period when both the Royal and the Salon shows were open in London many impromptu gatherings of club members took place at these Exhibitions. Wandering around the somewhat crowded halls I could not but wonder how many members, visual strangers to each other, might have been, all unknowingly, jostling each other. Indeed, it was really surprising to see how few members wore the Club Badge in their buttonholes, or brooches upon their dresses. Maybe it has been so long since the necessity or benefits of wearing the badge that members generally have forgotten its very existence, or have lost their silver "Little Man". On such visits members would be well advised to wear their badge and also to watch for any other visitor who might be adorned with the club's emblem.

To every member I send sincere Christmas Greetings and all Good Wishes for 1944.

Your Obedient Servant,

THE LITTLE MAN.

LECTURETTE LIBRARY.

The following list of lecturettes are available to all Circle Secretaries for Portfolio circulation.

Variation on a theme. *By J. J. Brady.*

Bromesko Test Strips. *By G. M. Ollerenshaw, A.R.P.S.*

A Day in Shropshire with Rollicord. *By J. B. Lanman.*

Criticism and Pictorial Composition. *Anon.*

Portraiture (Album of Prints). *By C. Taylor.*

Scales (Exercise in technique). *By G. H. Greet.*

P.M.P.P. Print Collection No. 1. Approx. 60 prints mounted
7ins. x 5ins.

P.M.P.P. Print Collection No. 2. Approx. 50 prints mounted
7ins. x 5ins.

P.M.P.P. Print Collection No. 3. Approx. 23 prints mounted
7ins. x 5ins.

Twelve Prints with Folio Crits. *By S. H. Burch.*

Second Twelve Prints with Folio Crits. *By S. H. Burch.*

Circle 5 P.M.P.P. Print Collection No. 1. 26 Prints with Crits.

Portfolio of Stereographic Prints (with Stereo). *By G. E. W.
Herbert, F.R.P.S.*

Reproductions of the 100 Print Salon of the Pictorialists of
Bombay, with Commentary by R. C. Leighton
Herdson, A.R.P.S.

Madras Amateur Photographic Societies Illustrated Catalogue
with Commentary by G. C. Weston, Hon.F.R.P.S.

Captain Jack's Letters (Illustrated). *Capt. J. Cotterell, R.E.*
(See article in this issue.)

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CAPTAIN JACK'S LETTERS.

Almost all our old friends who have had to leave the portfolios for active service manage to keep in touch with their Circle Secretary. The letters received are real treasures and are highly valued by the Secretary and the portfolios in which they are circulated. The Secretaries, burdened as they are, gladly continue to reply to these letters and maintain contact with these honoured friends, while the "Little Man", now charged with an even greater purpose and duty, helps to show these serving members that those who are left behind are holding the club together and so preparing for the day when they can return to enjoy their hobby in free and peaceful leisure.

Now Captain Jack was a member of Circle Six, P.M.P.P., until he was sent overseas to West Africa. Like so many of the others he was determined to hold on to the friends he had made in the Circle. He was fortunately able to take his camera with him. He wrote of the natives of the area in which he was quartered, he wrote on many things, the scenery, the homes,

the native trades, and he illustrated each letter with contact prints of fine quality and deep interest, The prints were made under great difficulties, being printed by the light of a hurricane lamp, and processed in almost scalding water, frequently containing more flies and insects than grains of chemical. But Captain Jack overcame these trials and his interesting letters are now available for use as lecturottes. Those Secretaries who would like to borrow these Illustrated Letters should apply to The Librarian, S. H. Burch, 12, Lambert Road, North Finchley, London, N.12.

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ASSOCIATION NEWS.

In our last issue we published the preliminary figures of the Postal Clubs Exhibition held in conjunction with the Central Association at the Royal during May. Then we informed you that 190 entries were received. Seventy-seven of these were selected by the Judge, F. J. Mortimer, C.B.E., Hon.F.R.P.S., to provide the First Show representing the Postal Clubs.

Club figures were : P.M.P.P., 35 ; Gloucester P.C., 18 ; P.P.P., 17 ; Half Plate P.C., 6 ; Unknown Clubs (entered by postal club workers who did not state their club title), 2. The premier print " Memorial, Vimy Ridge " was by A. Royden Willetts, A.R.P.S., of the P.M.P.P. Hon. Mentions were to P.M.P.P. 5, Gloucester, P.P.P. and Half Plate two each.

The Postal Club members certainly put up a good show and it is expected that an even stronger entry will support the 1944 show now being organised.

The 1944 Exhibition is to be on a pre-war basis, for not only will there be the Exhibition, but run in conjunction with it, and utilising the same prints, will be an Inter-Club Competition for the Switch Shield. Thus the event goes back to pre-war standard and should excite keen interest in all the affiliated clubs. Postal Clubs will compete in this event with the ordinary clubs affiliated to the Royal and associated together in the Central Association. The Regulations which are being drafted by the Exhibition Committee will be circulated at an early date to all Club and Circle Secretaries. It is anticipated that the Closing Date for entries will be, as in previous years, the First of April. Keep this date in mind and get busy preparing your Entries.

The Wastell Trophy Competition will again be held this year together with the above Exhibition and as last year, the subject will be a London Print. The details of this competition will be circulated with the Exhibition Notices.

The Association has also set up a new Committee under

the Chairmanship of R. C. Leighton Herdson, A.R.P.S., for the purpose of gaining closer co-operation between the Home and Overseas Clubs and Postal Clubs. The new Committee, to be known as "The Committee for Overseas Clubs", will, amongst other things, deal with the exchange of work between overseas and home clubs, arrange competitions for lectures and portfolios, promote exhibitions and co-operate with the overseas clubs in every way possible. All overseas clubs that become affiliated to the Royal also become members of the Central Association, the new Committee is therefore well placed to effect a closer liaison between these Clubs and to foster good fellowship between all photographers. Suggestions from our Readers at home and overseas would be welcomed, and should be addressed to The Committee for Overseas Clubs, c/o Royal Photographic Society, 16, Prince's Gate, London, S.W.7.

The Central Association Board of Judges (Pictorial) : Messrs. H. Abbott, S. Bridgen, W. G. Briggs, P. W. Harris, R. C. L. Herdson, J. C. Holloway, W. R. Kay, R. H. Lawton, F. J. Mortimer, H. A. Murch, H. B. T. Stanton, S. Weller, G. C. Weston, Miss Dora Head. (Scientific and Technical) : Dr. H. Baines, Messrs. A. C. Banfield, C. C. Chandless, Oliver G. Pike, E. A. Robins, F. J. Tritton, T. J. Ward.

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New Postal Societies Affiliated. Manchester A.P.S. Postal Club. Secretary : G. Lightowler, 3, The Cove, Greysands Road, Hale, Cheshire.

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Inter-Club Competition. In view of the fact that the Exhibition Committee have announced its intention to renew the Switch Shield Inter-Club Competition with the 1944 Exhibition it has been decided that the proposed competition between our sister clubs, the P.M.P.P. and the P.P.P. should be abandoned as the object of the competition will be achieved from the 1944 Exhibition results.

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The Central Association are to set up a Permanent Collection of prints built up by inviting workers of outstanding merit to donate one of their works to the Collection. The standard of this collection will be maintained at the highest possible level and only workers who have been associated with the C.A. will be invited to co-operate. It is proposed that twenty invitations be sent out to recognised masters of photography in order to form the nucleus of the collection. The creating of the Collection was left by the Executive Committee of the C.A. in the hands of Mr. R. C. Leighton Herdson. The Chairman, Mr. F. J. Mortimer, offered Mr. Herdson his valued support.

CLUB SNAPSHOTS.

"What a pleasure to see the **LITTLE MAN** again! It was grand news to hear that the Club retains its quality and popularity during these difficult times. We all owe our thanks to the energetic and loyal officers."—CPL. TOM BARTROP, R.A.M.C.

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Inter-Circle Competition. It is proposed to hold an Inter-Circle competition. Each Circle Secretary is asked to co-operate in this venture. The Rules are few and simple. Here they are and these apply to both P.M.P.P. and P.P.P. Circles :

- Rule 1.* Each Circle Secretary shall submit ten prints by at least six different workers.
- Rule 2.* The ten prints shall be sent to the Hon. General Secretary of the Club who shall submit them to a panel of Judges set up by the Central Association.
- Rule 3.* Circle Secretaries will either make their own selection from circle entries, or set up any other means agreeable to their circle. The 10 prints must reach the Hon. General Secretary by first post on January 31st, 1944. Entries will be returned in time for the members to re-enter them for the Exhibition.
- Rule 4.* The entries must be similar in size to work entered for the portfolio.
- Rule 5.* Members who belong to P.M.P.P. and P.P.P. circles can compete in both clubs.

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P.M.P.P. Circle One has recently had a change of Secretary, Mr. H. G. Robson having handed over the leadership of the original founder Circle of P.M.P.P. to Mr. J. W. Mattinson.

H. G. Robson has always been a very popular member of the club and one of its keenest workers. As a Circle Secretary he always had the full and enthusiastic support of his circle, and none therein but will deeply regret that he has found it necessary to relinquish his position. H.G.R. was one of the original members of this Founder Circle, having joined it in September, 1931. He has been its Secretary for a number of years, and in pre-war days, accompanied by J.W.M., he would make the long trip to London to join in the Annual Meetings.

H.G.R. never missed an opportunity to help the Club, frequently he organised the club meetings and annual outings for the N.E. and N.W. of England and South Scotland members of both P.M.P.P. and P.P.P., and these were always red letter events for the Northern members. The club will certainly feel the loss of so competent and enthusiastic a Secretary, we can only hope that the time may soon come when he can rejoin his old circle. Meanwhile, our best thanks to J.W.M.

for his timely help in keeping the Circle One Portfolios in circulation. May he find the same full measure of support from the circle as it so wholeheartedly accorded H.G.R.

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Circle Two P.M.P.P. is now at its maximum of thirty members and the standard of their work has been a very high one. Circle Two has maintained a strong folio in spite of the handicap of having three changes of Secretaries since the re-issue of the folios. "Taffy" Evans, A.R.P.S., had to resign the lead owing to pressure of work. S.C. Clement, A.R.P.S., then took over the circle till a bout of ill-health forced him to hand the leadership to Iestyn J. Rees, A.R.P.S. The C.2 crowd produce particularly useful notebooks and frequent lecturette efforts. An innovation is that lecturettes are duplicated by the Circle Secretary so that each member may have a copy. Notable lecturettes have been Clement's Clemochrome, and Elliott's Photographic Definition. These are two very valuable efforts. Some of these lecturettes should surely find their way into the library. What about it, Circle Two? Members are now preparing their contributions to a new documentary, "The Man and His Work". This is fuller than the usual "Rogues Gallery" with biographies, opinions, prints and so on.

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Circle Five, P.M.P.P., has been experiencing a falling-off in individual efforts, particularly in regard to submitting the monthly entries. I met Syd Burch, the circle five secretary, at the R.P.S. Exhibition. He told me then he was loath to apply the rules of the club in view of the difficulties some of the members were experiencing. There are of course times when an individual member does find it impossible to contribute an entry. At the same time there are circles wherein every member is on war work or in the services and these circles have consistent 80% entries. There is no excuse therefore why half the members of a circle should all fail to supply a print.

It is just as easy while one is in the dark room to make three or more prints and send them to the Circle Secretary. In this way a reserve can easily be maintained. There is strong feeling in some quarters that where a member fails to submit an entry his name should be left off the Rota for that round, then should he fail to qualify for three rounds he should automatically be considered as having resigned.

There is much that can be said in favour of such a rule. If the Club is to retain its fine reputation, then it is sure and certain it must be composed of active circles, no circle can afford to carry any "dead weight".

P.M.P.P. Circle Six. The December 1943 portfolio of this Circle will be No. 84, thus the circle completes its seventh year of active service. R. C. Leighton Herdson, A.R.P.S., has been its only secretary, and each and every month the "little box" has gone out from him to the enthusiastic members who look forward with keen interest to its arrival. The war has taken many members from C.6., but regularly these old friends write to their circle friends. Mr. W. Nicholson is the only member who shares with Leigh the pleasure of having remained with the circle from folio one. While Messrs. G. Farnsworth and Fred Pinney, both extremely enthusiastic workers in the folio, joined it on its second folio in November, 1935. A. Royden Willetts, A.R.P.S., became a member in folio nine, June, 1936, and Ernie Ralph added his name to the rota of folio twelve, September, 1936.

The circle has, throughout its seven years, been a very active and enthusiastic group of workers, it has enjoyed a very useful note book and its entries have always maintained a very good standard. All Club members will join with us in wishing this Circle HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS.

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Circle Nine, P.M.P.P., introduced a new voting system wherein every print can receive up to five points. With a membership of twenty the folio produces an average of nineteen entries. Its enthusiastic secretary, Mr. A. J. Roberts, makes a point of keeping in constant touch with the Hon. Members serving in the forces, and wherever possible these are given an opportunity to see a folio.

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Circle One, P.P.P., has progressed well under the kindly lead of Dai Owen, A.R.P.S. Dai has a happy way of getting the very best from each of his workers, and no circle secretary is held in higher esteem by his crew than is Dai. The circle has always enjoyed an enviable reputation for its good fellowship and high quality work. The note book is always an enjoyable and instructive document, and has been known to become extremely lively in debate on pet subjects. One or two old friends have, unfortunately, had to request Dai to omit their names from the Rota for a round or two, owing to extreme pressure of work, but the Circle waits to welcome these workers back again. Many Exhibition walls have been graced by the work of Circle One members.

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Circle Two, P.P.P. This circle, which had to be closed down in July, 1940, owing to resignations for war reasons, has been reformed with a full list of fifteen members. The first of the new series of portfolios commenced circulation early in October; at the time of writing this has not returned to the Secretary, so it is not at present possible to make any

S.S. 134 yrs @ 1 1/2
hired 100 yrs @ about 8.
Born 10 1/2 yrs
TSP 60 yrs

report upon progress. There is, however, every reason to believe that the circle will be lively and well up to the average standard of the others. More will be heard of C.2 in future issues of THE LITTLE MAN.

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Circle Three, P.P.P., is now under the Secretaryship of Mr. Ernie Ralph who took over this lively folio when Mr. George Farnsworth had to resign the lead. For *twelve months this Circle maintained a 100% entry.* Is this a *Record*?

The circle runs at full strength with lively note book and entries well up to average club standard. Landscape work predominates. Discussion in the Circle centres around the age-old argument of Purists *v.* Sinners. The Sinners, as usual, contending it is the final result and that alone that counts. We regret to say the circle has not yet reached a definite conclusion on this matter, so presumably the Sinners will joyfully continue their smüdgy sinning, and confound their Purists, who will continue to be pure, by successfully exhibiting the fruits of their sinful labours at both the Royal and the Salon.

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Dr. H. C. Simpson continues to skipper P.P.P. Circle Five. The circle runs very smoothly and happily under such able leadership. Although like all other portfolios some rounds are not so good as others, on the whole the circle certainly maintains a high standard of output. The note book is intimate and helpful and much appreciated by the crew. Dr. Simpson, by his own efforts, helps to spur the members to ever better products, and his loyal service to the Circle and the Club is deeply appreciated.

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P.P.P., Circle Six, is the latest addition to the Club strength, this is to be an Exhibition Workers Portfolio, within the P.P.P. The idea behind the new circle, which is restricted to twenty members, is that many photographers who exhibit their work would appreciate an exchange of views (both in the note book and pictures) with others of equal ability. The club has been fortunate in securing the services of S. Crowden Clement, A.R.P.S., as Secretary of this new portfolio. Clem himself is a worker of very good standing and has sound views on exhibition pictures, his lead will, we are sure, be much appreciated by those who are gathered together within this Circle. The membership is only open to those who hold A.R.P.S. or F.R.P.S. certificates, and applicants for membership must submit six examples of their work to a committee before they can be taken into membership. The new circle should therefore be able to fully justify its sub title of Exhibition Workers Portfolio. We wish the new venture every success.