



ABERDEEN CAMERA CLUB

THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

J. B. THOMSON

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A HISTORY OF THE ABERDEEN CAMERA CLUB
FOUNDED IN 1889 AS THE ABERDEEN PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION.

CHAPTER ONE.

EARLY DAYS

In the late 1880's Alexander McKilligan, then employed by the Aberdeen Evening Gazette, was becoming increasingly interested in his pastime of photography. He had recently purchased second hand, a Lancaster $\frac{1}{4}$ plate camera, and, as he later relates, he struggled and muddled during this period with the aid of a sketchy manual which he found of limited help, there not being in those days, the array of photographic books which now line the booksellers shelves, or the plethora of camera magazines found on newsagents racks.

In 1889 one of his colleagues, William Alexander of "Johnny Gibb" fame, persuaded him to put a letter in the Evening Gazette suggesting the formation of an amateur photographic association. Mr. McKilligan also called on James Clark the chemist in St. Nicholas Street, where he purchased his chemicals and the Britannia Marion plates which he at that time favoured. Mr. Clark proposed calling a meeting of any interested by advertisement. At this juncture, Mr. Lindsay jun., Market Street, and Mr. George Brodie of Kittybrewster Loco. Works were also approached. Mr. McKilligan relates that as the result of the advertisement a well attended meeting (unfortunately he does not indicate the number) was held in the Cafe Buildings, Shiprow, and the Society was formed.

The first Minute book which exists is dated from 12th October, 1890 and refers to the Society, but by the 26th of that same month the reference is to the Association and thereafter in the minutes of all meetings etc. and in all press cuttings reference is made to the Aberdeen Photographic Association. Two press cuttings dated 1890 refer to the Aberdeenshire Photographic Society's first Exhibition after just a little more than a year in existence. It is unfortunate that no Minute book or records remain from the first eleven years, and whether or not any such were ever kept remains a matter for conjecture.

No list of founder members exists, but in the press report of the 1890 Exhibition the following Aberdeen award winners are mentioned:- Linton M. Gibb, E. T. Smith, J. Anderson, W. Ramsay, J. Milne, W. A. Hawes, E. L. Brown and W. T. Moffat. It may be presumed that along with Messrs. McKilligan, Clark, Lindsay and Brodie, all those named above were founder members. According to a later 1918 press cutting, a Mr. Borthwick was also in at the birth.

The first meetings of the Association were held in the Cafe Buildings in the Shiprow, but by the time of the 1890 Exhibition a move to more spacious premises at 35A, Union Street had taken place. These premises were equipped with a darkroom, but for a while due to lack of funds, no darkroom equipment. Alexander McKilligan relates, not without some humour, how funds were raised by conning the Aberdeen public into attending a lantern slide show in 1893, billed as relating to the Oberamergau Passion Play; but as all photography taken at the play was then copyright, the slides shown by Mr. Lamond Howie, described as an expert photographer, merely portrayed the countryside in the Oberamergau area. In spite of the deception, those who attended were well pleased. It is interesting to note that the show was "boomed" by the use of sandwich board men and announcements from pulpits at Sunday services. The Association's funds benefitted to the tune of £20, a considerable amount in those days.

Another public lecture this time in 1896 in the Music Hall was delivered under the Association's auspices. The subject was Scottish Mountain Scenery and on this occasion the show was energetically "boomed" by both Association and the Cairngorm Club, then as now only slightly our senior.

The general activities appear to have followed a pattern not dis-similar to todays with practical evenings, competitions, lantern slide lectures and outings.

CHAPTER TWO

A NEW CENTURY

The period between 1900 and 1906 appears to have been somewhat hectic, not so much photographically but in flitting from clubroom to clubroom. By 1901 the Association had moved to 43 Rosemount Viaduct, but in May 1902 they moved to 10 Belmont Street, followed by a further move in May 1904 to 54 St. Nicholas Street, before eventually coming to rest in 154 Union Street, where the Association and Club were to remain until 1983.

The early years of the century were fraught then as in recent times by the lack of sufficient members; the normal attendance on club nights in those days appears to have been around the 20 mark. There were no lady members permitted in those early days, but nevertheless there appears to have been quite a lot of social activities, and I can certainly do no better than quote Alexander McKilligan's reminiscences of these. "The social side was abundantly cultivated, and I remember how at one period there was a tug-of-war between those who favoured dinners and toast drinking, and those who more unselfishly pressed for "At Homes" to which the members' friends could be invited. The At Home party were the reformers and I am glad to say that ultimately, though not without friction, they prevailed. It is fair to say, however, that there were occasional At Homes even before the Dinner system came to an end. The Association's entertainments were generally successful, but I note that on a "Sunbeam Dance" - a mist in my memory - there was a considerable deficiency, half of which viz:- £1-18-10 the Association had to pay." The annual At Home evenings held in Kennaway's Rooms providing a mixture of entertainers, photographic shows, tea and conversation appear to have had resounding support. The 1902 At Home attracted over 120 people while for the 1904 function 151 tickets at one shilling each were sold. These entertainments, however, despite their popularity do not appear to have been organised to raise funds, the profit for the 1904 evening being merely 8/9. The clubrooms do not seem to have been a strictly male preserve as in a press cutting dated 1904, describing an evening entitled "With my Camera in Asia Minor" it states that the subject drew a large attendance, and a number of ladies were present.

Great stock seems to have been placed on the "Lanternist" in those early days, indeed the syllabuses of the time actually designate two lanternists

who were elected at the A.G.Ms. Nowadays the Slide Secretary would qualify for the title I suppose, but I imagine that the modern projector is slightly less temperamental than the earlier variety.

Like most other things in those days the events during the summer were on a much more formal basis and in 1906 a syllabus of "Summer Excursions" was printed advising of train times etc. and where the excursion was less distant, where and when cyclists should meet. The outings must have been quite popular as they were arranged on a fortnightly basis from May through to September. Perhaps the committee of that time was more adept at selecting fine weather.

It is surprising that except for the very early exhibition held in 1890, no record of any other exhibition exists until one held in the Studio at 154 Union Street during March 1907 when 140 prints attracted some 300-400 viewers. Thereafter exhibitions were held in the Studio in 1909 and 1910, but in 1911 a much more ambitious venture resulted in an exhibition by the Association in the Aberdeen Art Gallery during February. The Scottish Salon of Photography was held in the Aberdeen Arg Gallery in 1908 and 1914, but it appears that the Association had little part in the organisation.

During the years up until the beginning of the First World War many of the club evenings dealt with the many experimental developing, printing and toning processes which were at that time being tried and it is interesting to note that in 1910 colour printing by the carbon process was demonstrated, while on 4th March, 1913 colour slides by the Paget Prize Plate Co. were shown. The then President, Mr. A. J. Wood commented at the time "If the process proves as simple as the lecture would have us believe - the day of the black and white slide will soon be ended."

On 26th June, 1914 it was decided that lady members be admitted to membership of the Association, and on that evening the Misses Cranna, Ross, Rose, Robertson and Leith were elected. On 13th October of that year Miss Chrissie Munro was one of three ladies admitted to membership. She continued as a member and honorary member until her death 58 years

later in 1972 and to date she is our longest serving member. She was an able landscape photographer, but her main love was child portraiture. She also served for many years as office bearer and committee member.

Whether it was the effects of having lady members, or that of the recent Entente Cordiale, the "At Home" met its demise and gave way to the "Cafe Chantant."

It appears that the Association was little affected by the 1914 - 18 war, the meetings continuing throughout this period, although it is apparent that the lectures were more often than not by members, and some blanks were filled with sparsely attended whist drives. Just occasionally an item in the Minutes reminds of the conflict, such as a donation of 10/- from one Private Campbell, a former member, and the admission to membership in 1917 of Sergeants Wilding and Mitchell from King Street Barracks.

the 28th January 1919 saw the first "Ladies Night" with Miss Cranra taking the Chair. The evening was completely organised and devoted to work by the distaff side of the Association. During that period immediately following the war a considerable number of ladies were admitted to membership and at the A.G.M. held on 26th February, 1920, no fewer than eight of the eighteen office bearers elected were ladies.

CHAPTER THREE

BETWEEN THE WARS

During the early twenties activities appear to have continued along the usual pattern, but one presentation in the Aberdeen Art Gallery jointly organised by the Association and the Gallery Committee, and entitled "Bonnie Scotland" drew an audience of over 500, with several hundred others failing to gain admission due to lack of room. whether such enthusiasm was incited by the title (somewhat doubtful); the quality of the lecturer, one Dr. William Inglis Clark of Mid Lothian; or the fact that admission was free; remains uncertain. However, the Association was to cash in on the then current passion for "Bonnie Scotland" by repeating the lecture in the Y.M.C.A. Hall and netting a profit of some £14.00.

Soon after the war, estimates were considered for improvements to the Studio totalling some £70. Whether or not these were carried out in whole or in part I cannot find recorded but from my own recollections (of a much later date, I hasten to add) I think most had been attended to. One piece of equipment which is still with us from that time is the lectern on which the booking diary is placed. At the meeting of 18th January, 1921, Mr. John Reid was thanked for his gift of a pedestal/reading desk.

The Secretary's report for the year ending February 1921 is the first typed entry in the Minutes of the Association. It is interesting in that it intimates a total membership of 85, thirty nine of whom were ladies. Oh, that we had a similar ratio today. The typewriting exercise is not repeated for many a year, perhaps it was frowned upon at the time; but included in that same report are the names and addresses of all members and it is interesting to note that only three of the 39 female members were married ladies, two of whose husbands were also members. By the following year membership had reached the 100 mark with 48 ladies and 52 gents. A press cutting dated 10th October 1922 indicates that membership for the new season had reached 110 members, and reluctantly a waiting list had to be adopted.

Unfortunately the Minute Book of the Association for the years 1923-31 is missing, but luckily a scrapbook of press cuttings exists relating to some of the activities during 1925-29 but in particular to the Scottish Salon of 1926 organised by the Association and held in the Aberdeen Art Gallery from 20th February to 6th March of that year. Among the press cuttings are some showing photographs by Association members which were accepted for the Salon, and include work by A. J. Wood (Pres.), Miss Hilda Bailey (Sec.), and Miss Richards, Miss Sherret and Linton M. Gibb. The scrapbook also contains other paraphernalia of the Salon, the Reception invitation, the press advertisements, poster design, printed notepaper, complimentary slip, the acceptance label and finally the programme for the closing concert. Other cuttings in the scrapbook are mainly about the annual exhibitions held in the Studio, or about acceptances of members work at other National or International exhibitions.

In January, 1929, the Association suffered a sad loss with the unexpected death of Mr. A. J. Wood F.R.P.S. Mr. Wood had given sterling service to the Association, first being appointed President in 1908 and thereafter serving in that capacity in three lengthy stints totalling 16 years. At the time of his death Mr. Wood was President of the Scottish Photographic Federation and had recently received his Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society. The scrapbook contains the S.P.F. bulletin with obituary notice and appreciations.

By 1931 the membership had dropped to 71 with 28 ladies and 43 gentlemen. Whether the fall in membership was in anyway due to the world recession at the time, or merely due to that unknown and puzzling factor which causes such fluctuations from time to time, remains a mystery. One innovation of this period was the holding of an exhibition in the Studio in conjunction with a series of lectures by prominent members. The opportunity was taken to sell prints and also toffee. Whether or not it was a reflection on the quality of the commodities, at the end of the day the toffee netted more than the prints. The following year a similar exhibition and lecture series took place but the report on this venture does not mention toffee.

In 1933 the Scottish Salon was again held in the Aberdeen Art Gallery but this time it was organised by a committee drawn jointly from the Association and the Aberdeen Photo Art Club. On this occasion there is not the same amount of extraneous material available as remains from the 1926 Salon, but a full account is given in the Minutes of the Association dated 25th April, 1933.

Around this time the Education Authority started their evening classes in photography, and from these came a steady trickle of new members, a feature which, I think, has continued ever since.

In 1937 it was resolved to organise an Exhibition of International Photographic Art, and a favourable approach was made to the Art Gallery Committee, who agreed to make three galleries available during February 1938. The Secretary at the time, Miss Hilda Bailey, was appointed joint organising secretary along with Mr. N. McKenzie. The Exhibition went ahead, apparently quite successfully, but perhaps it proved somewhat ambitious as it had required a massive amount of preparation and organisation, and before the business was finally wound up both secretaries tendered their resignations, not only from the Exhibition Committee, but also from the Association. Miss Bailey then went on to become a founder member of the Bon-Accord Camera Club.

CHAPTER FOUR

WAR AND PEACE

At the start of the Second World War the committee were faced with a dilemma. The Studio at 154 Union Street had a massive glass roof on one side, and the prospect of efficiently blacking-out seemed daunting, causing suggestions to be made for Saturday afternoon meetings. However, by November 1939 the black-out work had been satisfactorily achieved and thanks were given to the three members who undertook the work. Tuesday evening meetings then resumed.

The committee report from 1939-40 regretted the recent death of Linton M. Gibb and tribute was paid to him as Founder and Honorary Life Member, who since the beginnings of the Association had brought honour through the excellence of his photography. Fortunately Mr. Gibb left his photographic equipment and many of his lantern plates to the Association and these excellent examples of that era of pictorialism are held in the Club's archives.

During the war there appears to have been little activity, and no doubt the shortages of all types of photographic material and equipment contributed in no small measure to this, allied of course to the shortage of members serving in H.M. Forces or on home based war duties. The risk of enemy action was also ever present, a contingency not experienced during the First World War, when, despite the carnage in France, little seems to have disturbed the normal proceedings.

Much thanks is due to the small band of members who "soldiered on" through those difficult times and ensured the continuing existence of the Association. An interesting note appears in the Minutes during 1942, intimating the landlord's agreement to reduce the rental of the premises from £25 to £10 per annum for the duration of the war.

One of the happiest committee meetings must have taken place on 28th September, 1945, when it was resolved to have a re-opening meeting in October and that a modest display of prints be hung on the Studio walls. It appears that at this time meetings were held on a fortnightly basis during the winter months. One reason may have been that the syllabus could not be as well organised as it had been previously, or indeed in recent times, as it appears that a number of 11th hour arrangements were necessary. It was of course still well nigh impossible to obtain photographic materials and at the committee meeting of 18th February 1947 it was agreed to cancel the exhibition which was to be held the following month, because of this difficulty.

The last link with the very beginning of the Association was broken on 29th November, 1946 with the death of Alexander McKilligan at the age of 91 years, some 57 years after he had walked into Mr. Clark's shop suggesting the formation of the Association. During his long life Mr McKilligan had the satisfaction of seeing his brainchild not only thrive but survive two world wars; and the reaching of the centenary was probably never imagined on that fateful day. I think that he would be pleased with the health of the Club and the enthusiasm of today's members in endeavouring to improve their photography to the same purpose as he, in 1889.

By the end of the decade it is apparent that supplies of materials and equipment must have been becoming more plentiful as the annual exhibition of member's work had been resumed and equipment was being purchased. the new innovation at this time was the introduction of 35 mm. colour film and the 1950 exhibition of member's work included a panel of 35 mm. colour transparencies as well as the 3¼" lantern plates.

This year also saw a showing of the Royal Photographic Society Exhibition for the first time in Scotland in the Aberdeen Art Gallery. The venture was organised jointly by the Association and the Bon-Accord Camera Club, and proved to be somewhat daunting, as all the prints, some 300 of them, had to be framed and shown behind glass. The Exhibition which was opened by Lord Glentannar warranted a Civic Opening and Luncheon on Saturday 3rd November, preceded the previous evening by a Reception at the Gallery for members of both clubs. An attendance of over 10,000 during the fortnight that the Exhibition was displayed in the Gallery, adequately justified all the hard work, and brought no little kudos to both organising committees.

During the early 1950's 35 mm. photography really became popular with quite sophisticated cameras available at affordable prices, and advances being made in colour film and colour processes. The most popular films of the time were probably Kodakchrome I, Ilford Colour Film D (transparencies), both trade processed, and Ferranniacolour, which was home processed by easily obtainable kits of chemicals. These advances caused the committee to introduce the colour slide competition in September 1954. From its outset this competition proved most popular attracting many entries in all section, and continuing to do so for many years before slightly waning in the fact of the introduction of reasonably

convenient colour printing.

Another popular activity of that era was the evening of night photography, usually just prior to Christmas when the festive shop windows and the street decorations were the subjects usually sought after. Groups of members parading Union Street setting up tripods etc. were no doubt a source of curiosity and amusement to passers-by and to the cinema queues which at that time lined the pavements.

CHAPTER FIVE

FROM ASSOCIATION TO CLUB

The Annual General Meeting held on 20th March, 1962, which I had the privilege of chairing, was somewhat momentous, in that there was a proposal on the agenda made by Mr. John McDonald, then Vice President, to alter the name of the Association. As I recall, the discussion of this matter was full and lengthy. It was considered that the name Aberdeen Photographic Association was somewhat daunting and did not encourage beginners to photography to become members. The trouble was deciding on a new name, but eventually Mr. A. Patterson's suggestion of "The Aberdeen Camera Club" was found to be acceptable. As I had just been re-elected President, I had the honour of being the last holder of that office in the Aberdeen Photographic Association and the first in The Aberdeen Camera Club. The change of name appeared to be justified when membership increased over the following two or three years.

The main social activity at this time was the Happy New Year Party held in the Studio on the first Tuesday evening of the year. The lady members decorated the Studio, provided a buffet and organised games and merry pranks, in which some of the rather more serious and unlikely members were persuaded to participate and in some cases really letting their hair down and doing their party piece. The other social event, which was really a photographic one, was the summer bus outing when members brought wives, children and friends, and although some camera work was achieved, most of the activity centred around the back of the bus, where Mr. Bill Topp, then Secretary and later President, maintained a continual "brew-up" on the stove. However, one note in the Minutes dated 1964 regrets the cancellation of the outing because of the typhoid outbreak.

In 1963 the Club received a collection of early photographs bequeathed by the local artist John M. Aitken R.S.A. These comprised several assorted collodion wet plates and ambrotypes, a few tintypes, and the gem of the collection, some twenty-five Daguerreotypes. These were received in a somewhat deplorable condition stuffed into a wooden soap box. However, after much cleaning and a certain amount of repair work to the cases the Club can now boast a fairly tidy collection. This bequest appeared to stir an interest in the history of photography, and whether it was purely coincidental, or because many early doyens were hanging up their tripods, the Club received donations of some beautiful old cameras and equipment.

These, along with some old fossils found lurking in clubroom cupboards and crannies, formed the beginnings of the envied archive collection, since enhanced with many more donations, which the Club now proudly possesses. During the late 1960's Mr. David Barker was busy compiling the collection of lantern plates made by early members of the Association and he and Mr. Douglas Mitchell twice presented these old slides, attiring themselves in psuedo Victorian garb for the occasions.

Throughout the 1960's and into the mid 1970's Mr. John McDonald, who received his Associateship of the Royal Photographic Society for portraiture in 1965, organised a very successful and popular portrait group. During this period the overall standard of portrait photography within the Club probably reached a high point not previously attained or subsequently achieved.

During the early 1970's the Club appears to have ticked over quietly, but about mid-way through the decade, happily some young and active photographers became members and injected a new enthusiasm into the activities. About this time Messrs. Reid and Pearson vacated their department store at the foot of Schoolhill, and for the two or three years before its final demolition the Club made use of the amply vacant window space with displays of prints and posters etc. advertising the activities of the Club. This venture was most successful and brought many new members. Another successful venture of those times was the "200 Club" which raised considerable sums of money. This new found wealth was in the main wisely spent. A new projector system was purchased with facilities for audio recording and the synchronisation of the sound with a slide change dissolve unit. A studio flash system was also added to the Club's stock. One great improvement to the Studio at this time was the construction of a ceiling below the ties of the roof trusses and the incorporation of a new lighting system. A trusty band of members were instrumental in carrying through the bulk of this work. This improvement gave much added warmth on winter evenings, and on quite a few occasions when meetings were well attended the door had to be left open to assist ventilation.

CHAPTER SIX

RECENT TIMES

The oil boom not only had a marked effect on the City of Aberdeen, but also made a considerable mark on the membership, in that we welcomed into our midst many new members from the North American continent. In line with their reputation, they were wholehearted in their enthusiasm and a number of them served the Club admirably as office bearers, until the price of oil slumped in the mid 1980's, when, unfortunately we lost the camaraderie and services of these valuable friends due to their being transferred to other postings.

A less happy effect of the oil boom was the rise in property values in Aberdeen and especially in Union Street, causing the landlord to raise the rent considerably. It became increasingly evident that the proprietors, Messrs. Allied Bakeries who had taken over from Messrs. Mitchell & Muill some years before, were keen to have the Club out of 154 Union Street, and their opportunity came in 1982 when dry rot was discovered in the lower floors of the building. Under the terms of the lease the Club was liable to pay a porportion of the cost of the remedial work estimated at £80,000. This would have been in the region of some £5,000 which together with the annual rental and the increased rating assessment, was well beyond the means of our independent Club. The offer was made by the proprietors to waive our contribution if the Club vacated the premises. At an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 12th January, 1983, it was decided that there was no choice other than to accept the proprietor's terms and vacate the premises by 2nd February, 1983. It was also agreed to accept an offer by the Bon-Accord Camera Club to permit us to hire their clubroom on Tuesday evenings as a temporary expedient. So, after over seventy six years at 154 Union Street the Club was in the position of having no home.

During the summer of 1983 Grampian Regional Council's Director of Education was approached regarding the availability of premises, which had lain vacant for some twenty years, on the second floor of Skene Square School Annexe. These rooms were viewed by the committee and interested members of the Club, and although in a deplorable state, it was thought that they could be made suitable, and negotiation of a 21 year lease was entered into and eventually agreed with Grampian Regional Council. It was now the turn of the willing band of members who donned their overalls

and within a remarkably short period of 3 to 4 weeks had the rooms cleaned up and redecorated ready for the start of the winter session in September 1983.

The loss of continuity of the Club's affairs during the fairly lengthy changeover period caused the membership to fall somewhat alarmingly, and this was not helped by the recession in the oil industry already mentioned. Further disruption to meetings ensued when Grampian Regional Council decided to rewire the building, and, no sooner was that work completed, than new windows were installed; so that, all in all, during the period from 1982 - 86 the Club experienced many setbacks. It is most rewarding therefore, to end on an optimistic note, for during the last two years membership has increased steadily and the activities of the Club are now being pursued with a renewed enthusiasm. One is tempted to ponder what the Club's activities may be when the Bicentenary is celebrated in 2089. Will all photography be advanced forms of hologram images, or will the video, perhaps, also in 3-dimensional form be the norm; or will the print and the slide which is still with us, albeit now mainly in colour, after the first 100 years, still be favoured. May the writer of "The Second Hundred years" find the Club still in good shape and may he or she find the above narrative both useful and interesting. Whatever the future holds in store, may I send good wishes over the years from present day members of The Aberdeen Camera Club, founded in 1889 as the Aberdeen Photographic Association.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In compiling this fairly brief history of the Aberdeen Photographic Association and The Aberdeen Camera Club I wish to acknowledge indebtedness to the reminiscences of Mr. Alexander McKilligan, written in 1927 in a school exercise book, and to the painstaking and accurate researches of Mr. David Barker, who, but for his untimely death in 1983, would undoubtedly have been a more worthy author of this history. Most of all I must recognise the contributions of all the Association and Club Presidents for their annual reports detailing the vicissitudes over the years, and the Secretaries, who throughout the century have meticulously recorded in the Minute Books, all business and events, sad and happy, serious and humorous.

J. R. Thomson

November, 1988.

SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST

EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTE BOOKS

- 19th Oct. 1900 It was agreed that on lantern nights no smoking would be indulged in until after the show.
- 19th April 1901 With regard to the Picnic, the Secretary was instructed to find out when the train left for Stonehaven and also to make arrangements for tea to be served at the Mill of Forest by a local caterer.
- 8th Nov. 1901 Supplementing Mr. Ford's exhibition was a selection of Japaneze slides kindly lent by Mr. J. Lizars. The beautiful colour effects on the slides created general admiration among those present.
.....Fujichrome perhaps?.....
- 13th Dec. 1901 Mr. Johnstone brought up the matter of the Social Evening. He mentioned that Mr. Kennaway could supply teas at 7d., 8d. or 9d. per head, and it was agreed to arrange the evening for 9th February, with the rate fixed for the 9d. one.
.....We've always been a quality Club.....
- 17th Jan. 1902 A new departure was intimated for Friday viz:- a Ping-pong tournament, with Mr. Watt undertaking to supply the weapons of offence.
- 26th Dec. 1902 The evening being an open night, it was devoted to Silhouette photography. Several members had their cameras and exposures by the aid of magnesium ribbon flashlight were made.
- 13th Nov. 1903 Tonight was the evening set for the first competition in the Syllabus, namely "Frints of Aberdeen Harbour"
.....and 86 years on.....

SNIPPELS FOR THE PAST

- 15th Dec. 1905 The President proposed that a collection be made and the proceeds given to the boy who lights the fire.
.....whatever happened to that boy?.....
- 1st Feb. 1907 The President intimated that the two backgrounds left in the Studio were the property of Mr. Price and anyone was at liberty to use them, but due care must be taken not to damage them.
- 9th Jan. 1917 The Federation Prize Slides were shown and the marks given by Mr. Crook were much criticised. Many members considered the judge's decisions most unfair and his demands altogether unreasonable.
.....the more things change etc.....
- 12th Dec. 1922 The lecturer at the meeting held on this date stated "My view of the future of pictorial colour photography is not optimistic."
.....perhaps he was right.....