

Collection #
P 0279
BV 3699

**INDIANAPOLIS CAMERA CLUB
COLLECTION, 1944, 1946, 1947**

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Processed by

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 box of OVB photographs
1 bound volume scrapbook

COLLECTION DATES: 1944, 1946, 1947

PROVENANCE: Unknown; Donald Ovid Butler Jameson, 1947; Indianapolis Camera Club, 1948

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: *Indianapolis International Salon of Photography, 1944: hung in the galleries of the John Herron Art Museum: August 27-September 24.* Pamphlet Collection, TR646.I62 I55 1944

ACCESSION NUMBER: 0000.0859, 1947.0237, 1948.0706

NOTES: This is an artificial collection.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The founders of the Indianapolis Camera Club met in late 1927 to organize a group of amateurs and professionals to share their appreciation, skills, and experiences. The purpose of the Club was “to encourage excellence, a greater appreciation and enjoyment of photography through a variety of activities,” including guest speakers, photo critiques, print exhibitions, and field trips in and around central Indiana. Members would meet twice a month and could use whatever equipment they wished. The Club’s first location was in the Denison Hotel, at the southeast corner of Ohio and Pennsylvania streets.

In the early 1930s the H. Lieber & Company of Indianapolis donated the third floor of its Emporium to the growing organization. This initiated a series of annual salons, starting in May 1934 at the John Herron Art Museum. Despite the war in Europe and the Pacific the Club continued with its shows and in 1943 began planning an international exhibition for the late summer of 1944. This became the crowning experience for the Club. Despite wartime priorities and shortages, the competition brought responses from more than 400 contributors who submitted over 1500 prints for the event. Of this number, 365 were accepted for the exhibition. Photographic artists from England, Canada, Mexico, India, South Africa, and the U.S.A. proffered their works. The three judges from the U.S. hailed from Connersville, IN (Rowena Fruth), Philadelphia, PA (Robert A. Barrows), and from Grosse Point, MI (C.B. Phelps, Jr.). The public viewed the prints at the Herron Museum without charge.

The Club hoped to make the Salon an annual event, but local papers give no indication that such materialized. In 1945 it reinstated regular exhibitions and by 1947, planned an exhibition for the L.S. Ayres Tea Room where it displayed 55 of the 130 prints submitted by Indiana amateur photographers. In the late 1950s with a membership of some 90 members the Club was reportedly “one of the most lively organizations of its kind in the country.” The Club continues to meet regularly and is now situated in the Indiana Interchurch Center, at the intersection of 42nd St. and Michigan Road.

The question has arisen whether the current Indianapolis Camera Club is and has been the one and only club by that name. The answer: No. The December 9, 1887, issue of the *Photographic Times and American Photographer* (Vol. 17) noted that the Indianapolis Camera Club was organized on November 25 of that year with 23 active members. Carl Lieber, son of Herman Lieber of Indianapolis, was elected vice president. No record of its activities or duration of this first of two clubs with the same name was found. Moreover, the present Indianapolis Camera Club did not consciously build on that earlier foundation.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

Indianapolis News September 18, 1944, and *Indianapolis Star* September 3, 1944 (and *Star Magazine*, November 23, 1958), multiple issues

Photographic Times and American Photographer, xvii (1887).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is comprised of one box of OVB size photographs and one scrapbook arranged into two series

Series 1 contains 11 black and white photographs by 7 different photographers who exhibited with the Club for the years 1946 and 47.

Series 2 is comprised of a scrapbook for the 1944 International Salon of Photography held at the John Herron Art Museum. The donor of the scrapbook was Donald Ovid Butler Jameson (1891–1967) nephew of Newton Booth Tarkington, beloved and well-known Indiana novelist, and the great grandson of Ovid Butler, founder of Butler University. He was the chairman of the 1944 International Salon of Photography in Indianapolis.

The pamphlet in folder 8 of the scrapbook is water damaged and the pages are stuck together. An undamaged copy of this publication is in the IHS Printed Collections. *Indianapolis International Salon of Photography, 1944: hung in the galleries of the John Herron Art Museum: August 27-September 24*. Pamphlet Collection, TR646.I62 I55 1944. Researchers may view the pamphlet by request in the library.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Photographs, 1946, 1947

CONTENTS

Photographer: James N. Genders

Title: “Rarin’ to Go”

Description: [Monon Engine 81 on tracks at Indianapolis Union Station]
[label on verso] “Accepted for Exhibition New Albany-Monon Centennial [sic] 1847–1947 Photographic Salon, July 27–30, 1947, New Albany, Indiana”

Photographer: James N. Genders

Title: Typical Hoosierdom

Description: [Friendship, Indiana, town view with “Friendship” sign in foreground]
[label on verso] “Accepted for Exhibition New Albany-Monon Centennial [sic] 1847–1947 Photographic Salon, July 27–30, 1947, New Albany, Indiana”

Photographer: H. Albert Helms

Title: “Brick Kiln, Martinsville”

Description: [Kiln structure in Martinsville, Indiana]

Photographer: Donald Jameson

Title: The Heart of Indianapolis [ca. 1946]

Description: [Elevated view of Market Street and Soldiers and Sailors Monument from the State House]
[written on verso] “Donald Jameson, 219 E. Ohio St., Indianapolis, Indiana, member P.S.A., No. 3...”

Photographer: Anthony P. Lawrence

Title: “Nelson House, 1850”

Description: [Front elevation of house]
[written on verso] “House built by Jerry Beckner, 1850. Located on road 52, 2 miles west of Arlington. Contains 3-story circular staircase, formerly had a lookout on top.”

CONTAINER

OVB Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

OVB Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 2

OVB Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 3

OVB Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 4

OVB Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 5

Photographer: A.P. Lawrence
Title: "The Old Bridge"
Description: [Covered bridge]
[written on verso] "Rush City – Little Blue River near
Arlington"

OVB Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 6

Photographer: Clyde V. Montgomery
Title: "Brown County"
Description: [Rural scene with dilapidated old house]
[written on verso] "Clyde V. Montgomery, 1620 N.
Meridian"

OVB Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 7

Photographer: R.H. Pelham
Title: "Hartford City"
Description: [Aerial view of Hartford City, Indiana]

OVB Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 8

Photographer: R. H. Pelham
Title: "Cub's Eye View"
Description: [Aerial view Muncie, Indiana Airport]
[label on verso] "Muncie Camera Club, 223 E.
Jackson St., Muncie, Indiana. Exhibit date: 7/8/40"
[Description of camera, lens, and photographic
settings and process used]

OVB Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 9

Photographer: R.H. Pelham
Title: "Spring Rain- Midnite"
Description: [Rainy night street scene of English
Hotel and donut shop on Circle]

OVB Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 10

Photographer: Elmer J. Spieker
Title: "Twilight"
Description: [Looking down a country road toward a
covered bridge.]
[written on verso] "Mud Creek bridge, Marion, Ind."

OVB Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 11

Series 2: International Salon of Photography Scrapbook, 1944

CONTENTS

[Cover page]
"Presented to the Indianapolis Camera Club by
Donald Jameson—1944"

CONTAINER

BV 3699:
Folder 1

Newspaper clippings about the Indianapolis International Salon of Photography at the John Herron Art Museum sponsored by the Indianapolis Camera Club, 1944 [13 pages]	BV 3699: Folder 2
Letter to Donald [Jameson] from Rowena, n.d. "Register of people who attended the judging of prints in The Lincoln Room, Lincoln Hotel. 1 st Indianapolis International Salon, 1944.–Aug. 20, '44" [notebook]	BV 3699: Folder 3
Letters pertaining to photographs submitted for the salon. Letter, dated August 30, 1944, from "The Camera" magazine. [submittal of photographs for publication.]	BV 3699: Folder 4
List of cash receipts and disbursements [Indianapolis International Salon, n.d.]	BV 3699: Folder 5
"Prints from the Indianapolis International Salon" <i>The Camera</i> , December 1944, pp. 71–75	BV 3699: Folder 6
"Prints from the Indianapolis International Salon of Photography," <i>The Journal of the Photographic Society of America</i> , Vol. 10, No. 10, December 1944, pp. 739–742	BV 3699: Folder 7
Indianapolis International Salon of Photography, 1944: hung in the galleries of the John Herron Art Museum: August 27-September 24. [catalog] [water damage]	BV 3699: Folder 8