

Corona shuts down LH activities (p. 4f)

Usually, we meet twice a year – at least. 2020 has changed everything. Covid-19 forced us to cancel our spring as well as autumn meeting and the planned trip to Luxemburg. We all deeply regret that, and with major concern we look at 2021. Nobody can say if we can meet in Wetzlar and if, how any members will

attend probably with masks. But there is a silver lining: a vaccine will be available soon. So, hope persists, and we search for other ways to stay in contact, probably online, meanwhile. We still cannot wait to see all members in person again.

About the “Barnack Sketches” - Part 2 (p. 6f)

In this article we see a sketch for a pivoting viewfinder mask for the LEICA IC. First a clamp-on mask for 135mm was used, then the

pivoting version and from 1931 on with the “0” adjustment the mask was omitted completely. (cf. VIDOM 116, p 16ff.)

Cameras as fashion accessories? (p. 8f)

In 1956 already a magazine elaborated on the topic of cameras as a fashion trend. An observation that has been fuelled, especially in the last years. “Hipsters” sometimes seem to use vintage cameras as part of their outfit rather than for taking photos. Some even carry around a shiny chrome camera and use photo apps in their mobiles to make photos they take look old. Some companies have

jumped that bandwagon and marketed retro looking camera (see p. 9), which is nice, because it combines the convenience of digital photography with beautiful design. Fortunately, there are some people who still use those classic cameras what they were made for: taking real photos. One of the reasons why Leica Historica is such a pleasant place to be.

The LEITZ Epis 100cm 1:4.8 re-used (p. 10f)

Sometime extraordinary items can be found at the LH auctions. Our member Norbert Oertel bought this episcopes lens some years ago. But instead of tinkering an adapter to use it on a

camera, he found a circular glass plate and re-used the Epis as a table stand – probably the only LEITZ side table in existence. And the idea to adapt this lens is not entirely discarded.

Extension bellows with XBEET (p. 12f)

As a complement to Dr Bawendis article in VIDOM 73, it is presented that there also was a variation of the “Balgengerät I” with a dovetail coupling. It was used for ophthalmologic examinations. Interesting is the fact that the tripod mount can be found

on the lens standard, instead of the camera standard, using an angle piece to connect the mount plate in order to avoid focus issues due to the counteractive effects when moving the lens.

Peculiarities of early LEITZ reproduction support arms (p. 14ff)

Apart from rare LEICA cameras or LEITZ lenses there is a variety of interesting collectibles in the accessories department. Many of those were simply thrown away. Focussing devices are an example: OORES, PLOOT, OOZAB in the 1930s or ancillary lenses with printed tables, miniature plumb bobs (FLOTH), angle finders

(WINTU) with holding caps (WICAP, WZCOO) or ground glass units (VEHIG) even earlier. For each of those devices there was a special reproduction support, which were needed because of the focus distance of shorter than a meter. The last one of those support arms was produced in 1982. Repro arms for the

LEICA models A and B were FILUM and FEARM (from 1929) with common features and a similar usage. The images show how those arms had to be used. In 1933 complementary items were introduced: the FOSAR to be able to use the support arms with the VEHIG

The Fritz Vith LEICA handbook (p. 26ff)

This book is a must-have in every LEICA collection, as are many of the books of those times. There were several editions of the Vith handbook (cf. VIDOM 106). Some more were

SOOIC variations (p. 30ff)

These photos, sent to us by our member Dr Ulrich Möller, show four different variations of the early collapsible Summicron 1:2/5cm. Lens #0.000.024 sports a front element with a different curvature and description ring. "F.M." probably means "Fertigungsmuster" (production sample). According to the documentation in June 1954 three specimens were produced with a different internal element distance.

LEICA M2 SP-5 (p.32f)

Dr Möller also presents an unusual version of a black LEICA M2, deriving from a series between 1.031.801 and 1.032.000 (1961). Above the type designation and serial number, we find an engraved "SP 5". And

The lightweight Hektor 1:4.5/13,5cm (p. 34ff)

The Hektor 4.5/135 HEFAR was built as a brass version still in 1946. In October 1947, a lighter aluminium version was developed with a typical vulcanite trim. From serial 644.001 to 645.000 it is the new version, as is the 1948 series from 655.001-657.000. There is a

Another 180mm R-lens with sliding focus (p. 38ff)

Probably a further evolution of the Telyt-R 4/180 presented in VIDOM 119, we see an Elmar-R 4/180 with sliding focus. It's a two cam version, perhaps for the LEICAflex SL, and it sports a sliding hood. It also has a little

device, the VEZUK for ancillary lenses for the Summar 5cm and two distance rings for the Elmar 5cm (VMCOO) and the Hektor 5cm (VORGI) in combination with the FLOTH. (*To be continued in VIDOM 121*).

found by Claus Walter recently, e.g. an edition de luxe in leather binding or one with a special dedication. Those specimens obtain high prices. The images show different facsimiles.

The lowest serials of the Summicron lenses start with 920.001 (1953). The range between 618.001 to 630.000 usually are Summitars. So, it seems that a Summitar has been repaired and renamed "Summicron" while keeping the original serial. #1.173.057 shows an early serial specimen with the typical amber shimmer which is due to the thoriumoxide used in the glass. The last lens is a dummy without any serial number.

attached to the bottom of the shutter crate we see a sticker "K kältef -40" probably meaning "cold resistant to -40° C". Any further information to this camera is greatly appreciated.

special variation between 699.001-701.000. The lower parts of these black lacquered HEFARs are covered in sharkskin vulcanite (as shown in the images). The silver chrome-coloured ones belong to the serial range 715.001 – 718.000.

rocker where the version presented in VIDOM 119 has a recess. This rocker locks and releases the focus mechanism and controls fine adjustment.

The LEITZ Summar 1:0.85/7,5cm (p. 42ff)

LEICA has always been known for very fast lenses such as the Noctilux. This article presents a lens with extraordinary speed: the LEITZ Summar 1:0.85/7,5cm. Although not constructed for LEICA cameras, it still is a taking lens, originally for x-ray photography. It is a remarkable eight element in six groups design (cf. image 6) with an entrance pupil of almost 90mm. During WW II some specimens were tested in night fighter planes in a device named "Spanner" for infrared recordings. Other lenses were adjusted to the *Askania* cinematic cameras. The last piece was delivered in 1952. Facsimile 2 shows

handwritten notes about this lens. It is explained that due to flange distance and body size it cannot be used on a LEICA camera of that time.

There are only very few remarks about this lens in early publications. What we do find is a combination of appreciation of the engineering and a dismissal of photographic use. The three shown variations present an overview of the whole development of the Summar 7,5cm.

Today, using this lens on a modern L-mount camera would absolutely be imaginable and highly interesting.

ELROO, LYMOO, XBFOO (p. 52ff)

We find a reference to an f/4.5 3,5cm fix focus lens in a 1935 edition of "Die LEICA", the snapshot lens ELROO, mainly for the LEICA Standard. Catalogue codes LYMOO and XBFOO were used for this camera with the ELROO. Several of those combinations were listed in catalogues as "not available", although it was

depicted. It seems that the marketing department simply forgot to change the images in the brochures. These items never reached serial production. Not only in brochures in English but also in German editions we find similar supplement papers.

Hekor 12cm - Update (p. 56ff)

Dr Bawendi has reported about the Hektor 2.5/12,5cm and its predecessor 1.5/12cm extensively in VIDOM 95. Meanwhile Lars Netopil has found a rare brochure by LEITZ that was exclusively used for camera shops: "Technical Information" (1952). It is organized

in some kind of ring binder. In the second edition the Hektor 12cm is called a small sample series only intended for testing by photographers with special relations to LEITZ. The facsimiles show this leaflet publication.

The diving bell for the LEICA 250 with MOOEV (p. 62ff)

The comprehensive archive of our honorary president Georg Mann holds many highly interesting documents and drawings, one of those is shown here: a drawing for a diving bell that fits the LEICA 250 with electric motordrive. This motor drive (MOOEV) is one of the rarest items in the world of the LEICA

accessories. Probably fewer than 100 specimens were produced (cf. VIDOM 84). They were used by both the German air force and navy of that time. None of the Navy's MOOEVs has surfaced again yet (pun intended).

"Slideamonds" (p. 68ff)

"Is there anything more boring than slide projectors?", one might ask. Since the rise of digital photography those devices have become more and more useless. Have they really? No, since in every projector there is a

discovery to make. One of the reasons why slide projectors carry some bad vibes are the slide presentation evenings at home – a symbol not only for a petty bourgeoisie but even for parochialism. Although the slide

projectors have had a significant financial meaning for LEITZ/LEICA, they have never really been of special interest for many. Even such an amazing work like the monograph “Frühe Kleinbildprojektoren” (Early Small Format Projectors) by von Einem and Müller did not trigger considerable demand. So, is the slide projector just another dinosaur such as the VHS recorder or the 8-track tape? Or can we find something really useful in them? We must not forget that LEITZ has always put as much enthusiasm into their projector construction as into cameras and lenses. But an “away with them” surely is a mistake, since they accommodate some real “slideamonds”: the projection lenses. Fans of vintage lenses have re-discovered lenses such as the Hektor 2.5/10cm and have adapted them to modern mirrorless digital cameras (like the SL). With a little manual skill and some hardware store items those old projection lenses are turned into focusable photographic lenses. Some of those models are easy to adapt others a lot more difficult due to their shorter focus length and flange distance.

Most typical are triplet constructions with a lens speed of f/2.5 or f/2.8. Some of those lenses were produced by Schneider Kreuznach, Rodenstock or Docter-Optic in Wetzlar who were specialized in projection lenses. A lot of those have always been considered excellent, e.g. the Colorplan 2.5/90 developed in the 1950s and succeeded only by the 1990s Super-Colorplan 90, one of the most expensive projections lenses today. The photos here show that these lenses can be real diamonds, at least some with a classic cut, with a special rendering and bokeh that can enhance everyday photos considerably, despite the flare and corner loss they inherit. They can produce swirly bokeh as well as subject separation or backgrounds that are only known from paintings. Sometimes the results are downright bizarre. “You need to be a tad crazy to use them”, so they say. They might be right, but you never know what you get from such a projector lens. And that’s the point. *(Note by the editor: From personal experience I can totally agree. It is extremely interesting to adapt unusual lenses – and highly rewarding.)*

The upcoming **LEICA Historica Spring Meeting 2021** will – until further notice –

take place on **24 and 25 April**, in Wetzlar.

You are warmly welcome!

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