



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## National Photographic Society Records

NMAH.AC.0681

Alison Oswald

2003

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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## Collection Overview

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|--------------------|--|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives Center, National Museum of American History   |
| <b>Title:</b>      | National Photographic Society Records  |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1942-1986  |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | NMAH.AC.0681   |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Revenue Camera Club (Creator)<br>Schroeder, Barbara (Donor)<br>National Photographic Society (Creator) |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 3.5 Cubic feet (10 boxes)  |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .  |
| <b>Summary:</b>    | Collection documents the National Photographic Society, an amateur camera club in Washington, D.C.     |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Ms. Barbara Schroeder, February 12, 1999.

### Ownership and Custodial History

The donor, Barbara Schroeder, a past secretary of the club, acquired the organization's papers after it was dissolved.

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Alison Oswald, 2003.

### Preferred Citation

National Photographic Society Records, 1942-1986, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

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## Biographical / Historical

The Revenue Camera Club was organized in Washington, D.C. on March 14, 1938. It changed its name to The National Photographic Society (NPS) on April 1, 1943. It became affiliated with the Greater Washington Council of Camera Clubs and the Photographic Society of America. The NPS was incorporated in 1944 with

a constitution and by-laws as a "non-profit organization under the provisions of Chapter 5 of the Code of the District of Columbia for the promotion of art and science of photography in all its various branches, through individual memberships, associated camera clubs and other photographic organizations, research and the dissemination of photographic knowledge and the promotion of photographic salons and exhibitions." The management of the society was vested in a board of trustees that was made up of nine members. The club held meetings in each other's homes, church basements or at the Mt. Pleasant or Georgia Avenue libraries where they showed member's prints and eventually held meetings at the Arts Club of Washington. The club dissolved in 1986.

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## Scope and Contents

The Executive Records, 1944-1978, consist of copies and drafts of the constitution, by-laws, correspondence, and the Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes. The Treasurer Records, 1956-1973, include bank account information that deals with authorization to open an organizational bank account, correspondence about monies collected and expenses incurred and the treasurer's annual reports that document receipts, disbursements, and special activities. The Membership Records, 1945-1984, contain directories (with mailing addresses and telephone numbers), officer information detailing which members served as trustees and/or on what committee. The club had several committees—slide, projector, portrait, special activities, publicity, finance, reception, dinner, membership, salon, audit, print, nominating, program, library and by-laws. The membership applications were maintained on 3" x 5 and 5" x 8" index cards. The annual awards information contains certificates awarded to Barbara Schroeder for a variety of honors, but the majority of documentation deals primarily with annual awards given for color slides. The Henry B. Shaw Memorial Trophy was a specific award and honor that was presented to the NPS member who made the greatest contribution to the well being of NPS. The award was named for Henry B. Shaw, former president of NPS.

The club published a monthly bulletin titled *The Finder*, 1942-1986, which was distributed to club members and photographic dealers. *The Finder* was a one-page newsletter from 1942 to April 1945, but in May of 1945 enlarged to four pages, in some instances with inserts. The Photographs and Negatives, 1959-1960, provide documentation of the club's annual banquet and presentation of awards in 1959 and a holiday outing to Petersburg, West Virginia. The photographs and negatives are approximately 4" x 5". The Salons, 1944-1959, includes schedules and other printed materials about salons that club members participated in or attended in the Washington, D.C. area. Camera Clubs, 1949-1967, documents the Greater Washington Council of Camera Clubs, an organization with which NPS was affiliated, and the Metropolitan Camera Club Council, Inc. of New York, New York. The newspaper clippings, 1948-1955, contain information on two columns, "Camera Angles," a weekly written by Alexander J. Wedderburn, Curator of Photography at the Smithsonian Institution and the "Monthly Print Clinic" featuring a photograph with narrative description.

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## Scope and Contents

Includes documents concerning the National Photographic Society's affiliations with the Greater Washington Council of Camera Clubs and the Photographic Society of America.

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## Arrangement

The collection is divided into six series

Series 1: Executive Records

Series 2: Treasurer Records

Series 3: Membership Records

- Series 4: The Finder Newsletter
  - Series 5: Photographs and Negatives
  - Series 6: Salons
  - Series 7: Camera Clubs
  - Series 8: Newspaper Clippings
- 

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

- Camera clubs -- 1940-1990 -- Washington (D.C.)
- Clubs -- Photography -- 1940-1990 -- Washington (D.C.)
- Exhibitions -- 1940-1990 -- Washington (D.C.)

### Types of Materials:

- Clippings -- 1940-1990 -- Washington (D.C.)
- Correspondence -- 1940-2000
- Minutes
- Newsletters -- 20th century
- Photographs -- Black-and-white negatives -- Acetate film -- 1900-2000

### Names:

- Greater Washington Council of Camera Clubs
- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Photographic History
- Photographic Society of America

### Preferred Titles:

- The Finder (newsletter)*

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Executive Records, 1944-1978

#### Subseries 1.1: Historical Background

*Box 1, Folder 1*

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#### Subseries 1.2: By-laws, undated

*Box 1, Folder 2*

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#### Subseries 1.3: Constitution, 1944-1978

*Box 1, Folder 3*

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#### Subseries 1.4: Correspondence, 1947-1976

*Box 1, Folder 4*

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#### Subseries 1.5: Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1944-1967

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 1 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1944 |
|-----------------|--|

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 2 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1945 |
|-----------------|--|

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1946 |
|-----------------|--|

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1947 |
|-----------------|--|

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1948 |
|-----------------|--|

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 6 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1949 |
|-----------------|--|

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 7 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1950 |
|-----------------|--|

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 8 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1951 |
|-----------------|--|

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 9 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1952 |
|-----------------|--|

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1953 |
|------------------|--|

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1954 |
|------------------|--|

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 12 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1955 |
|------------------|--|

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 2, Folder 13 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1956          |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1957          |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes excerpts, 1957 |
| Box 2, Folder 16 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1958          |
| Box 2, Folder 17 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1959          |
| Box 2, Folder 18 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1960          |
| Box 2, Folder 19 | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1961          |
| Box 3, Folder 1  | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1962          |
| Box 3, Folder 2  | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1963          |
| Box 3, Folder 3  | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1964          |
| Box 3, Folder 4  | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1965          |
| Box 3, Folder 5  | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1966          |
| Box 3, Folder 6  | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1967          |
| Box 3, Folder 7  | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1968          |
| Box 3, Folder 8  | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1969          |
| Box 3, Folder 9  | Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, 1971          |

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## Series 2: Treasurer Records, 1956-1973

Box 1, Folder 5      Bank Accounts, 1956-1963

Box 1, Folder 6-8      Treasurer Reports, 1962-1973

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## Series 3: Membership Records, 1945-1984

|                       |                                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 9       | Membership Directories, 1947-1982    |
| Box 1, Folder 10      | Officers, 1945-1973                  |
| Box 3, Folder Unknown | Membership Applications, 1960s-1970s |
| Box 4, Folder Unknown | Membership Applications, 1960s-1970s |
| Box 1, Folder 11      | Annual Banquet, 1961-1966            |
| Box 1, Folder 12      | Annual Awards, 1953-1969             |
| Box 1, Folder 13      | Shaw Memorial Trophy, 1979-1984      |
| Box 1, Folder 14      | Programs, 1949-1966                  |

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## Series 4: The Finder Newsletter, 1942-1986

### Subseries 4.1: Correspondence, 1962-1963

*Box 6, Folder 1*

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### Subseries 4.2: The Finder, 1942-1986

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Box 6, Folder 2  | The Finder, 1942 |
| Box 6, Folder 3  | The Finder, 1943 |
| Box 6, Folder 4  | The Finder, 1944 |
| Box 6, Folder 5  | The Finder, 1945 |
| Box 6, Folder 6  | The Finder, 1946 |
| Box 6, Folder 7  | The Finder, 1946 |
| Box 6, Folder 8  | The Finder, 1948 |
| Box 6, Folder 9  | The Finder, 1949 |
| Box 6, Folder 10 | The Finder, 1950 |
| Box 6, Folder 11 | The Finder, 1951 |
| Box 6, Folder 12 | The Finder, 1952 |
| Box 6, Folder 13 | The Finder, 1953 |
| Box 6, Folder 14 | The Finder, 1954 |
| Box 7, Folder 1  | The Finder, 1955 |
| Box 7, Folder 2  | The Finder, 1956 |
| Box 7, Folder 3  | The Finder, 1957 |
| Box 7, Folder 4  | The Finder, 1958 |
| Box 7, Folder 5  | The Finder, 1959 |
| Box 7, Folder 6  | The Finder, 1960 |
| Box 7, Folder 7  | The Finder, 1961 |

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Box 7, Folder 8  | The Finder, 1962 |
| Box 7, Folder 9  | The Finder, 1963 |
| Box 7, Folder 10 | The Finder, 1964 |
| Box 7, Folder 11 | The Finder, 1965 |
| Box 7, Folder 12 | The Finder, 1966 |
| Box 7, Folder 13 | The Finder, 1967 |
| Box 7, Folder 14 | The Finder, 1968 |
| Box 7, Folder 15 | The Finder, 1969 |
| Box 7, Folder 16 | The Finder, 1970 |
| Box 7, Folder 17 | The Finder, 1971 |
| Box 7, Folder 18 | The Finder, 1972 |
| Box 7, Folder 19 | The Finder, 1973 |
| Box 8, Folder 1  | The Finder, 1974 |
| Box 8, Folder 2  | The Finder, 1975 |
| Box 8, Folder 3  | The Finder, 1976 |
| Box 8, Folder 4  | The Finder, 1977 |
| Box 8, Folder 5  | The Finder, 1978 |
| Box 8, Folder 6  | The Finder, 1979 |
| Box 8, Folder 7  | The Finder, 1980 |
| Box 8, Folder 8  | The Finder, 1981 |
| Box 8, Folder 9  | The Finder, 1982 |
| Box 8, Folder 10 | The Finder, 1983 |
| Box 8, Folder 11 | The Finder, 1984 |
| Box 8, Folder 12 | The Finder, 1985 |

Box 8, Folder 13

The Finder, 1986

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## Series 5: Photographs and Negatives, 1959-1960

Box 9, Folder 1      Annual Banquet Negatives, 1959

Box 9, Folder 2      Photographs of holiday to Petersburg West Virginia, 1960

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## Series 6: Salons, 1944-1959

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Box 9, Folder 3 | Schedules, 1951-1959                            |
| Box 9, Folder 4 | International Salons, 1949-1950                 |
| Box 9, Folder 5 | National Photographic Society Salons, 1944-1959 |
| Box 9, Folder 6 | Voice of America/Iranian Salon, 1957            |

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## Series 7: Camera Clubs, 1949-1967

### Subseries 7.1: Greater Washington Council of Camera Clubs, 1949-1967

|                 |                           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Box 9, Folder 7 | Constitution, undated     |
| Box 9, Folder 8 | History, 1949-1950        |
| Box 9, Folder 9 | Correspondence, 1957-1967 |

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### Subseries 7.2: Metropolitan Camera Club Council Inc., 1949-1951

*Box 9, Folder 10*

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## Series 8: Newspaper Clippings, 1948-1955

Box 10, Folder 1      Camera Angles (column), 1948-1955

Box 10, Folder 2      Monthly Print Clinic (column), 1951-1952

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