

## Celebrating 75 Years of PSA

Dedicated to the memory of longtime  
PSA Historian, Tony Patti, Hon PSA, FPSA

### History of the PSA Print Collection

Sharp Todd, APSA, PPSA



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APSA, PPSA

Early in 1945, a Charter was established for the *Society's Permanent Print Collection* and the responsibility for the collection was given to a committee consisting of five trustees. The regulations governing the collection were published in the *Journal* and an invitation was extended to the membership to submit prints for consideration. By November 1945, approximately 100 prints had been received from 30 members. The original Permanent Print Collection Committee (PPCC) during the November 1945, PSA meeting in Rochester, New York, reviewed the prints and it was agreed that the prints represented a fine beginning.

Through the years, most of the Divisions of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) have established collections to represent the division's best work. In 1986, through a change in PSA's bylaws, the Permanent Collection Committee (PCC) was established to consolidate these efforts. At that time, the Divisions represented by the PCC were the Pictorial Print Division, the Color Slide Division (now the Color Projected Imaging Division), the Nature Division, and the

Photojournalism Division. Due to their special nature, the Permanent Collections of the Stereo Division and the Video and Motion Picture Division were handled within the Divisions themselves. All the prints under the responsibility of the PCC were stored at PSA Headquarters. The Director of the respective Division stored all slides.

Because of the efforts of the PCC over the years, in 1986 there were approximately 2,000 prints in the Permanent Print Collection. The Committee continued soliciting works from the most prolific exhibitors, and because of the generosity of the members and member's families and friends, the Print Collection expanded to include over 5,000 images. Over the years, there were many contributions to the Collection from very noted photographers or their families. Some of the prints are from notables, such as: (PSA members in bold) **Yousuf Karsh, FPSA, Edward Weston, Ansel Adams, FPSA, Arthur Rothstein,**

*Mt Williamson from  
Manzanar, California ©  
Ansel Adams*



Ansel Adams Mt. Williamson from Manzanar, CA



Joseph Rosenthal Flag Raising At Iwo Jima

Flag Raising at Iwo Jima © Joseph Rosenthal  
From the PSA Print Collection

**Aubrey Bodine, APSA, Leonard Misonne, William Mortensen, and Ortiz-Echague.** The Collection has many photographic techniques, such as: bromoil, paper negative, Fresson, calotype, multi-toning, metal-chrome, and montage, with outstanding examples represented. A few more well known PSA print makers whose works are in the Collection are **Dan Heidel, FPSA; Wellington Lee, Hon. PSA, FPSA; Joe Timmer, APSA; James Turnbull, Hon. PSA, FPSA; Adolf Fassbender, FPSA; and Heinz Otto, FPSA.**

The Print Collection was used to put together photography exhibits over the years. These exhibits have been shown at some of the PSA Conferences, and in some cases, special exhibits were put together for Art Museums. In June of 1989, a special exhibit was selected, titled *Remarkable Images*, and it was hung in the Masur Museum in Monroe, Louisiana, drawing rave comments from the patrons. The next stop for the *Remarkable Images* exhibit was in The International Photography Hall of Fame at the Kirkpatrick Center in Oklahoma City during September and October of that year.

A few years ago, the solicitation for more prints

from PSA print makers was stopped because of lack of proper storage space and funds for proper maintenance and the cost of insuring a deteriorating Collection. In 2004, the BOD decided to sell some of the more valuable items before they deteriorated any further, so that they could be made available for the public to enjoy. Prior to any being sold, **Ralph Venk, Hon. PSA, FPSA, and Georgia Venk, FPSA,** spent many hours taking digital pictures of the prints, which resulted in a group of CD's. These CD's are currently being used to create 35-minute ProShow Gold® slide shows of 300 images each. The DVD's are being created so that PSA members, member clubs, councils, and chapters can enjoy the Collection. There currently are six different DVD's representing 1,500 of the images. Over the next few years, the plan is to have most of the more than 5,000 prints included on ProShow Gold slide show DVD's. The DVD's are at Headquarters, maintained by the Services Vice President, and can be checked out through the Operations Staff at Headquarters.

The PSA BOD is currently working on the problems of taking proper care of the deteriorating Print Collection. ■

## Historical Vignette: *A Chronological Listing of PSA History*

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|-------------|--|------|---|
| 1919        | <i>Formation of the Associated Camera Clubs of America the forerunner to the Photographic Society of America (PSA).</i>  | 1943 | The first Chapters were organized. The Camera Club Division was formed.   |
| 1933        | <i>Plans were formulated for the establishment of PSA.</i>   | 1944 | Formation of the Photojournalism Division.                                |
| <b>1934</b> | <b>The birth of PSA</b><br>April: The first Bulletin was published.<br>The first PSA Convention was held in Pittsburgh.  | 1945 | The Charter for the Society's Permanent Print Collection was established. |
| 1935        | March: the First <i>PSA Journal</i> was published.<br>The By-laws were finalized.  | 1946 | Formation of the Motion Picture Division.                                 |
| 1937        | PSA was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in Illinois.<br>The first annual 100 Print Travel Salon was held: the precursor to today's PSA Exhibition. | 1948 | Dr. C.E.K. Mees received the first Progress Medal Award.                  |
| 1938        | The first special interest division was formed: The Techniques Division.<br>Formation of the Historical Division.  | 1949 | PSA Headquarters was established in Philadelphia.                         |
| 1939        | Formation of the Pictorial Division later called the Pictorial Print Division.   | 1952 | Formation of the Stereo Division.   |
| 1940        | The first Honors were granted at the Cleveland Convention.<br>Formation of the Nature Division.  | 1969 | Formation of the Photo Travel Division.                                   |
| 1941        | Formation of the Color Division: later called the Color Slide Division and then the Color Projected Image Division.  | 1973 | Conference attendance was at an all time high of 2003, in San Francisco.  |
|             |  | 1976 | PSA Membership was at an all time high of 18, 962.                        |
|             |  | 1988 | PSA Headquarters was moved to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.                    |
|             |  | 1996 | The first Distinctions were granted at the Conference in Tucson, Arizona. |
|             |  | 1997 | Formation of the Electronic Imaging Division.                             |
|             |  | 1998 | The first PSA Youth Showcase was held.                                    |

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