

NEWSLETTER

Agfa's Last Hurrah!

This is the last chance to get the Agfa products that you know and love!

It is with a sad and heavy heart that I inform you of the demise of **AgfaPhoto GmbH**. Yes, unfortunately the rumors you heard are true. **AgfaPhoto GmbH** for all intents and purposes is dead. That's right, after almost a century and a half in the photo industry they have called it quits. "Despite (the) successful efforts of the Board of Directors and the solicitor to quickly stabilize and continue **AgfaPhoto GmbH** after filing for insolvency, the negotiations with investors about a continuation of the whole company failed in October 2005. As a result, productions at the sites in Munich and Leverkusen were discontinued in the course of November 2005, after sections in Peiting and Vaihingen/Enz had just been taken over by investors". So, even after a valiant attempt by the employees and investors to save the company, the global push to a bright and shiny digital future has proven too much and no amount of restructuring could save them.

We at Beau Photo have secured what could prove to be, one of our very last shipments of **Agfa** film, paper and chemistry. We have looked at our sales of these products for the year and have purchased (of what little was available) what we believe were the most popular items. Going into this we discovered that many items are no longer available and many others are in very short supply. There have been some price increases as well but I am pleased to announce that they have been kept to a minimum. You will not see any price gouging from us at Beau Photo. It has been reported to us that some people are selling **Agfa** Products on ebay at 2 to 3 times the price!

As a service to our customers we are pre-selling the items we are going to receive. We have been told that our shipment is due to arrive around the middle of March. So if there is some **Agfa** film, chemistry or paper that you love and can't bare to live without you better reserve it so you will be able to shoot, process, print and cherish it a bit longer.

To reserve your much loved **Agfa** products please contact Ken or Crystal via phone, fax or email. info@beauphoto.com



Did you know?

Looking at the high-tech products and solutions delivered by Agfa today, it is hard to believe that it all began way back in the 19th century. But it did. In 1867, a color dye factory was established at the Rummelsburger See near Berlin. In 1873, it was registered as the 'Aktien-Gesellschaft für Anilin-Fabrikation', AGFA.1894:



The birth of 'L. Gevaert & Cie'

In 1890, the 22-year-old Lieven Gevaert established his own workshop in Antwerp (Belgium), which was mainly used for manufacturing calcium paper for photography. Barely four years later, the businessman Armand Seghers helped to establish the limited stock company 'L. Gevaert & Cie'. The starting capital amounted to just 20,000 Belgian francs (500 euros).

Ken

Product Sales / Purchasing



RENAISSANCE THE BOOK

Soho Styler Version 2.0.03

For all of you wedding photographers out there who have purchased the Renaissance album design software, Soho Styler Version 2.0.03 is now available. To download this new version visit www.thebookalbum.com, click on Soho Styler Support, then Download, and then select whether you would like the Mac or PC version.

It is important to note that version 2.0.03 is recommended for use with PC computers no more than two years old with 1GB of ram, or for Mac computers running on OS 10.4 or newer. If your computer runs on an older operating system, Soho Styler Version 1.2.02 is still available to download.

Highlights of the new software include:

- Approximately 500 more templates! All of the newly designed templates are dynamic.
- Save customized or custom made templates for future use.
- The ability to add drop shadows, colour gradation, borders, or solid and hollow shapes to any photograph.
- The newly designed interface adjusts to any screen setting automatically without creating distortion.
- Viewable work area has increased by 25%.
- Grid for precise positioning and resizing of images.
- Added shapes, text and photos can now be repositioned to a specific location with precision, using numeric input.
- Shapes and photographs can now be locked into position while you perform other types of work.

I am sure that these new software features will enhance your album designs for the up and coming wedding season.

Deborah

Renaissance Album Sales

FUJI FILM SALE!

We have just received a large order of discontinued **Fuji** negative film! The same film can now actually be purchased under the names Pro 160S and Pro 800Z. Come in and buy these films under their old name before they are all gone!

NPS 160 120 Pro Pack	Reg. \$34.08	Sale \$23.01
NPS 160 220 PRO PACK	Reg. \$71.66	Sale \$45.91
NPZ 800 135-36	Reg. 10.96	Sale \$7.30

We're expecting! our line of **Oriental** RC paper! Previously available only in the glossy finish but now we're pleased to announce the imminent arrival of Pearl finish in 8x10, 25 and 50 sheet packs.

Crystal

Film Department

News from “da back”

As most of you have probably already heard, PMA started last week. It is always an interesting time because with every new product, comes the price drop of the old product. And for some, this is a great opportunity to buy-in affordably. So with that in mind, here are just a few awesome deals.

Canon 20D	\$1399.99
Lexar 512 mb 80x	\$ 66.99
Lexar 1gb 80x CF	\$ 99.99
Lexar 1gb 133x CF	\$ 127.50
Lexar 2gb 133x CF	\$ 179.99
Lexar 2gb 133x SD	\$ 179.99



Chris

Pro Sales

LIGHTS CAMERAS AND MORE LIGHTS!

The rental department at Beau has just added some **Profoto** Pro7a packs and Pro 7 heads to the rental lineup. They are 2400ws AC powered packs which are solid and reliable and live up to the **Profoto** name. Stop by and see the shiny new gear, and for those jobs where you need quality light, and a lot of it, call us, we can help you out.

Wedding season is soon upon us, it is a time when lenses and now digital cameras are very busy on the weekends. Be sure to book ahead so you have the equipment you need. Please note however that cancellations, especially last minute, are subject to a cancellation charge. We want to be sure that everyone has a fair opportunity to book equipment, so make sure you need it before you book it. Have a great spring!

Kathy

Rentals

PMA DIGITAL NEWS

PMA announcements this year see numerous new product introductions, but from the standpoint of new professional digital cameras, the news is sparse. The only new camera in this category that is worth noting is the Canon EOS-30D, the successor to the extremely successful EOS-20D. Certainly more evolutionary than revolutionary, the 30D is nevertheless a significant upgrade when one stops to examine all of its new functionality.

To get the obvious question out of the way first, no it does not have any more megapixels. It is still basically an 8 Mp camera but Canon has made some changes to the camera's internals – simplified circuitry, extra shielding and so on, so it is possible there might be some slight gains in image quality in low light or high ISO conditions. That said, even the EOS-20D still holds it own beautifully when compared to other cameras in the sub-\$3000 D-SLR price range so don't let the EOS-30D's lack of more megapixels put you off!

Now for the enhancements: a big, beautiful 2.5" wide viewing angle LCD, built-in spot-metering, 1/3 stop adjustable ISO (visible in the viewfinder during adjustment), larger RAW buffer (11 shots, up from 6 on the 20D), tweaked AF algorithms, improved "joystick" focus point selector, RGB histograms and focus point overlay in playback, slightly shorter mirror blackout and even faster startup, and auto-rotate for verticals now has separate settings for rotate on computer and rotate in-camera. In addition, the 30D's long exposure noise reduction doesn't make you wait for a second, equal length dark frame so you can continue shooting immediately after your exposure – this bit of "magic" has been a great feature of Canon's higher end 1-series digital SLRs for some time now. Oh yes, and the all important dedicated "Direct Print" button... err, huh??? Still, there are many more valuable enhancements, so you can see that in the end, this is a really nice upgrade to the 20D and many requests and complaints from photographers have been addressed. For a more detailed look at this new model from Canon, please see Rob Galbraith's excellent and detailed EOS-30D preview at www.robgalbraith.com. Now if only Canon would let us remap the Direct-Print button to a mirror-lockup button... now that would be awfully darn nice! Expect the EOS-30D to start shipping in mid March – pricing in Canada has yet to be determined.

In other news, Canon has also announced a sweet new EF-S 17-55mm f/2.8 IS zoom for their 1.6x cameras (Digital Rebel/Rebel XT, EOS-20D/30D) which is relatively small and light and promises "L-grade" optical performance. Note the IS in the name – this beauty is also image stabilized... yeah! Finally, a slew of new P&S digital cameras as well as a super-premium new 85mm f/1.2L II prime, round out Canon's camera related announcements. Canon has also introduced a bunch of new high-end photographic printers, but information on these is still sparse. See our next newsletter for more info on these.

For Nikon, all we have are several new P&S digital cameras and the only professional product of note, is their new AF-S VR Micro-Nikkor 105mm f/2.8G ED lens – whew, now that's a name! Now that promises to be one fabulous new macro lens! Again, note the VR designation... vibration reduction in a macro lens – (again) yeah! No digital SLR announcements, however Nikon's excellent new D200 is still a benchmark camera and so popular that we can't keep it in stock!

In other news, Epson has announced a couple of new "high-end" flatbed scanners, the Epson V700 Photo and the Epson V750-M Pro, which both offer up to an amazing 6400 dpi and utilize a dual-lens system for high-resolution film scanning. Normally, I would be very skeptical of the benefits of offering 6400dpi on a sub-\$1000 flatbed scanner (!), however this dual lens design does sound somewhat interesting. In addition, the Pro version offers special high-grade anti-reflection coatings on all of its optics and, surprisingly, an option for wet-mounting of film as well! We expect to have more info on these products at a later date also.

Finally a last few items of note: Pentax was showing their 18 Mp medium format digital SLR behind glass. If this comes to fruition, then finally owners of the excellent Pentax 645AF will have a digital body to use with all of their excellent Pentax glass. Apple demonstrated Aperture v1.1 and based on some of the preliminary information, primarily again from Rob Galbraith, this looks to be a massive improvement! I will eagerly be giving a full report once v1.1 becomes available in March. Let's hope it will perform as well as initial reports suggest...

Mike Mander

Calendar

On going

The Annex

The "Altered Image" March 3rd to March 24th.

"3 In One" Photographs and photo based works by John-Ward Leighton. Opening night March. 24th 7:00 to 11:00 pm.

Show runs from March 24th to March 31. 305-1067 Granville Street

Contact info: theannex@telus.net

Up and coming

PPABC

Apple, GretagMacbeth, Hasselblad, HP, and the PPABC Lower Mainland.....

Present the *Science of Printing*.

An event highlighting the latest in technology geared to the professional photographer.

You will see the complete digital workflow from image capture, reviewing the image on screen to printing.

You won't want to miss this one!

When: Monday, March 6th 11:30 -5:30

Where: At the Days Inn, Surrey

Please contact Brian Bury at

brianburyphoto@shaw.ca

or see the PPABC web site calendar .

www.ppabc.com . Tickets are available at Beau Photo supplies right now .

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