

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE OF GREAT BRITAIN



A B R I E F H I S T O R Y

by

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Member of The International Federation of Photographic Art

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A BRIEF HISTORY

Although the Photographic Alliance as we know it was founded in 1930 if one looks back into the history of the organisation you find that it can be traced back as far as 1882 - indeed this predates the founding of any of the Federations within the Photographic Alliance by some 7 years

How one may ask did this come about - In 1892 The Royal Photographic Society founded The Affiliation of Photographic Societies with The Royal Photographic Society

A brief look at the objects of the Affiliation shows that its aims were very similar to those of The Photographic Alliance - a hand book was published known as 'The Photographic Red Book' which was sent to all Affiliated clubs and contained details of the Affiliated Clubs - Lectures - Judges and Competitions

In the late 1890's the clubs in the Affiliation found the organisation getting a little unwieldy for The Royal Photographic Society to manage and so decided that some decentralisation would be an advantage

The movement started in the north with the first Federation being the Yorkshire Photographic Union founded in 1899 (see appendix 1 for details of the foundation of all Federations)

For many years a conference of Federation Secretaries was held and in 1925 Mr H Storey (YPU) put forward the idea of an Inter-Federation Board This idea was adopted at a meeting held in Edinburgh in June 1926 when the Conference of Federation Secretaries was strengthened in representation and extended in scope and was called The Council of British Photographic Federations

In the meantime in January 1926 Mr J S Lancaster (MCPF) in writing to the Secretary of The Royal Photographic Society expressed the option that there should be an association of the Federations with The Royal Photographic Society under a title which would not interfere with the identity of any of them

In February 1928 a conference was held in London between the Federations - The Royal Photographic Society and the Affiliation when it was resolved that steps be taken to further and facilitate co-operation between the three bodies. At this meeting it was proposed that a committee be formed to formulate a report as a basis for discussion.

The report under the title of the authors names 'Keighley-Renwick-Scott' was issued in November 1928. The scheme in brief provides for the amalgamation of the Federations and the Affiliation and the alliance with The Royal Photographic Society without interfering with the internal administration of the individual Federations or the Societies. This report was approved by the Council of The British Photographic Federations in February 1929, after having been approved by the Council of The Royal Photographic Society and the Executive Committee of the Affiliation. Two meetings were held in November 1929 and January 1930 when the Constitution and Bye-laws for The Photographic Alliance were adopted.

The five English Federations - The Yorkshire Photographic Union - The Northern Counties Photographic Federation - The Lancashire & Cheshire Photographic Union - The Midland Counties Photographic Federation - The East Anglian Federation of Photographic Societies with The Royal Photographic Society became the founder-members of The Photographic Alliance. The other founder-member being the Central Association of Photographic Societies which was formed to look after the Societies in the former Affiliation scheme which were outside the areas of the existing Federations.

The Scottish Photographic Federation who had been prominent in the preparation of the ground for the founding of The Photographic Alliance found that when the question was put before its Annual General Meeting in early 1930 it was not able to see its way to join The Photographic Alliance from the beginning but did so subsequently when the Federation was reformed in 1946.

The first General Meeting and the first meeting of the Executive Committee of The Photographic Alliance was held in Leicester on 24th May 1930.

Untill 1948 'The Photographic Red Book' and 'The Scottish Federation Blue Book' continued to be published From 1948 these were incorporated into 'The Photographic Alliance Annual' which subsequently became 'The Photographic Alliance Handbook'

Over the years The Photographic Alliance has grown to 14 member Federations with the addition of The Western Counties Photographic Federation - The Welsh Photographic Federation - The North & East Midland Photographic Federation - The Northern Ireland Photographic Association - The North Wales Photographic Association - The Southern Photographic Federation - The Chilterns Association of Camera Clubs

In 1978 Membership of FIAP - The Federation of International Photographic Art - was secured

In 1984 a new Constitution and Bye-Laws were aproved and Photographic Alliance Patronage for British Exhibitions & Events was introduced also in 1984 The Photographic Alliance Meritorious Service Award (APAGB) was established to recognise outstanding service to photographers belonging to the member Societies of The Photographic Alliance

Amongst the many services now offered are - Recorded Lectures - Leaflets giving advice on all facets of organisation - Public Liability Insurance - All Risk Insurance for both member Societies and members - a NEWSLETTER is published twice yearly

Inter-Federation Competitions are staged for both Prints and Slides with Trophies being awarded for Colour Prints Monochrome Prints and Colour Slides to the highest marked Federation also an annual Colour Slide Club Championship is held and a by-annual Audio-Visual Championship (staged jointly with The Royal Photographic Society) takes place Full support is also given to all FIAP Competitions

APENDIX 1 - MEMBER FEDERATIONS OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE
Complete with date of founding and date of joining The
Photographic Alliance (if known)

THE YORKSHIRE PHOTOGRAPHIC UNION
Founded 1899 - Founder-member PAGB

THE NORTHERN COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION
Founded 1901 - Founder-member PAGB

THE SCOTTISH PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION
Founded 1903 Reformed 1944 - Jointed PAGB 1946

THE LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE PHOTOGRAPHIC UNION
Founded 1905 - Founder-member PAGB

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION
Founded 1907 - Founder-member PAGB

THE EAST ANGLIAN FEDERATION OF PHOTOGRAPIC SOCIETIES
Founded 1910 - Founder-member PAGB

THE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETIES
Founded 1930 - Founder-member PAGB

THE WESTERN COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION
Founded 1932 - Joined PAGB 1933

THE NORTH & EAST MIDLANDS PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION
Founded 1950 - Joined PAGB 1955

THE WELSH PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION
Founded 1951 - Joined PAGB 1951

THE NORTHERN IRELAND PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION
Founded 1967 - Joined PAGB 1967

THE NORTH WALES PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION
Founded 1980 - Joined PAGB 1982

THE SOUTHERN PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION
Founded 1963 - Joined PAGB 1985

THE CHILTERN ASSOCIATION OF CAMERA CLUBS
Founded 1965 - Joined PAGB 1986