



The Journal of Diving History



Second Quarter 2015 • Volume 23 • Number 83



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THE JOURNAL OF DIVING HISTORY

Second Quarter 2015 • Volume 23 • Number 83

ISSN 1094-4516

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By Ed LaRochelle

As one of the pioneering American recreational sports diving equipment manufacturers, DACOR is a familiar name to the generation of divers who entered the sport during the *Sea Hunt* years. Founded by Sam Davison Jr. in Illinois in 1954, DACOR produced a series of two hose regulators that are now collector's items. In this article Ed LaRochelle records the various models of DACOR two hose regulators along with his research into their serial numbers and number manufactured.



15 The Mississippi River Find Part II

By Don Creekmore

In the prior issue Don Creekmore told of his adventures in locating the retired inventory of a family owned commercial diving and salvage company located near the Great Lakes. Many years ago this Depression-era family had maintained and stored all their diving equipment ready for use on the next job, but that "next job" never came, and everything remained in storage. Finally, in 2014, the last living member of the family, who had started diving in the late 1940's, decided to sell all of the company's diving equipment. In Part II of *The Mississippi River Find*, Don details the major items of diving equipment that he found in the family's storage units.



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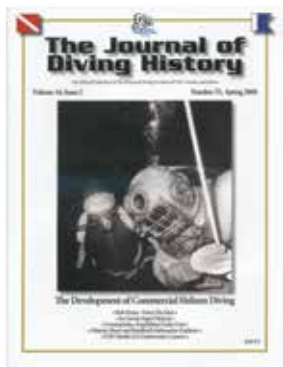
The cover photo is the DACOR model R-1 first generation series 2500 regulator. The photograph is courtesy of Ed LaRochelle, whose article on DACOR two hose regulators is our cover story in this issue.





Daron Says Goodbye and Bonnie Says Hello

As the *Journal of Diving History* moves through its 23rd year of consecutive publication we say a sad farewell to our Managing Editor and graphics guru, Daron Jones, who has accepted a full-time position at the *Houston Chronicle*. (Who are able to pay their staff a lot more money than the HDS can!)



Lee Selisky and I recruited Daron at the 2008 Underwater Intervention conference in New Orleans. At the time Daron was working for Doyle Publishing who produced the ADCI's *Underwater* magazine, and during the preceding years had become a good friend to the HDS.

About that time ADCI had decided to change publishers, so Daron became available, and working with him, we quickly converted the primarily black and white *Historical Diver Magazine*, to the full-color *Journal of Diving History*.

The first issue of the *Journal* was published in Spring 2008, issue 55, and the HDS received immediate praise for the new standards from several sponsors and members. We are now at issue 83, Spring 2015, and the *Journal* management team has managed to maintain the standards established by Daron in that first issue. All at HDS and the *Journal* wish our great friend and supporter Daron, every success at his new position.

The search for Daron's replacement has caused a delay in the compiling and publishing of this issue, but to modify the title of a Beatles song, "Daron Says Goodbye and Bonnie Says Hello."

Our new Managing Editor and graphics guru is Bonnie Toth, who will be familiar to members as the recipient of the 2013 HDS E. R. Cross Award, and recognizable among industry professionals as the past Chair and current President of the Women Divers Hall of Fame (WDHOF). Bonnie and her company have a career stretching back over three decades, working in graphic design, brand imaging and promotion for industry companies like ScubaPro, Seaquest, AquaLung, Moby's, Parkway, and Atomic Aquatics. Her lengthy volunteer service to the industry has helped HDS fellow non-profits the Academy of Underwater Arts & Sciences and WDHOF.

With Bonnie now at the helm we are pleased to present our usual blend of subjects on diving history, which continues our coverage of 2015 as the Year of the Military Diver. This includes an article from our friend Captain Bobbie Scholley USN (Ret) who reports on a belated recognition for six divers who were prisoners of Hezbollah in the 1980's. Bobbie will be familiar to US Navy diving historians as the leader of the USN team that raised the turret of the *USS Monitor* in 2002 and we are pleased to include her contribution in this issue.

History continues to be made!

—Leslie Leaney, Executive Editor

The Journal of Diving History
(Formerly Historical Diver Magazine,
founded by Leslie Leaney in 1993)
ISSN 1094-4516

The Official Publication of:
The Historical Diving Society U.S.A.
The Historical Diving Society Canada

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THE JOURNAL OF DIVING HISTORY

(ISSN 1094-4516) is published four times a year by the Historical Diving Society, a Non-Profit Corporation, PO BOX 2837, Santa Maria, CA 93457, USA. ©2015 Historical Diving Society. All Rights Reserved. Tel. 805-934-1660 ext. 3, Fax 805-934-3855.

The *Journal of Diving History* is compiled by Ed LaRochelle, Leslie Leaney, Sid Macken, and Nyle Monday. The content is affected by various elements. The Society only guarantees that each issue will contain no fewer than 24 pages.

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presents

THE SUBMARINE LENS

The Barcelona Underwater Camera Exhibition

By Franz Rothbrust



(Above) At the Barcelona Maritime Museum, a diver re-enacts Boutan's first attempts at underwater photography

(Below) Louis Boutan diorama



Introduction

This column has tried to put the history of underwater photography in its proper place amongst the history of other diving related technologies. The importance of underwater photography as an art, science and profession is becoming apparent to many diving historians. Nothing points this out better than two events which have occurred in Europe over the past three years. In 2012, the first International Meeting on Vintage Underwater Cameras took place in Tossa del Mar, Spain. This past year, a second meeting dedicated to the history of underwater photography took place in Barcelona. Instrumental in organizing both events were Dr. Andrés Clarós, an avid underwater camera collector from Barcelona; Spanish diver, photographer, and author Enrique Dauner; and Franz Rothbrust, President of the Historical Diving Society Germany. These two events have brought the history of underwater cameras and photography from near obscurity and placed it on an international stage. The following article and photographs from the 2014 meeting are provided by Franz. My congratulations go to these gentlemen, and everyone else involved in these meetings. – Sid Macken

Dr. Andrés Clarós, from Barcelona Spain, along with Enrique Dauner and the curators of the Barcelona Maritime Museum spent two years preparing for a unique exhibit of the history of underwater photography. The Aquazoo Löbbecke Museum, Dusseldorf Germany, loaned cameras from Hans Hass and Kurt Schaefer for the exhibit. In the world of underwater photography, this is an extraordinary event. The exhibit is divided into six sections, beginning with the early experiments of French scientist Louis Boutan in the 19th century and ending in modern times. Not only are underwater cameras from different eras displayed, but the efforts of the early pioneers are graphically presented in various dioramas.

The cameras on display fill eighty showcases, and include nearly two hundred underwater photo and video cameras. A large number of these cameras and housings come from the collections of Dr. Clarós and Enrique Dauner. Still others were provided on loan from the "Musée International de la Plongée Frédéric Dumas (Sanary, France) and the Museu de l'Anxova i de la Sal (Girona, Spain).



A stunning array of underwater cameras on display.



The entrance to the display area was graced with this very impressive photo of Hans Hass

Many unique pieces of historic underwater photo equipment were on display.

- Replicas of two underwater cameras by Louis Boutan
- The Rolleimarin prototype "PR 230"
- The Rolleimarin Stereo camera housing
- Diving equipment from the Catalan diving pioneer Edward Admetila, used for his 1957 world record dive during which he reached a depth of 100 meters (330 feet).
- The cameras of Christian Petron with which he filmed "The Big Blue" (1988) and "Titanic" (1997).
- A copy of the July, 1927 issue of *National Geographic* magazine which contained the first underwater color photographs taken by William Longley and Charles Martin.

Under the name "Underwater Cameras: The Challenge of Photographing Underwater," the exhibition opened at the Barcelona Maritime Museum in October, 2014, and remained on display until April 2015. In addition to the exhibition, there was an extensive program of workshops and lectures.

On Friday, November 21st, 2014, the II International Meeting on Vintage Underwater Cameras was held at the Barcelona Maritime Museum, which included a series of lectures by noted experts on the subject of underwater



photography. Patrick McCoolle traveled from Ireland to present a lecture about the Siemens motion picture cameras and housings used by Hans Hass. The text of his lecture will be published in an upcoming issue of *TAUCHHISTORIE*, the publication of the Historical Diving Society, Germany. John Wild, from England, spoke on the restoration of a stereo Rolleimarin housing for the "Double Rolleiflex" camera. Wulf Koehler spoke about his collaboration with Rollei and the design of its underwater housing. Franz Rothbrust presented three lectures on the Rolleimarin housing.

The highlight of the Friday conference was an appearance by Dr. Kurt Schaefer. Dr. Schaefer spoke about the construction of his first underwater housing. That exciting story can be read in *TAUCHHISTORIE*. Dr. Schaefer is a true pioneer of underwater photography and he had built the first amphibious cameras in 1943. Early on, he built cameras for underwater macro photography and much more, and was very influential in Hans Hass's design of the Rolleimarin housing.

Additional information can be found at:

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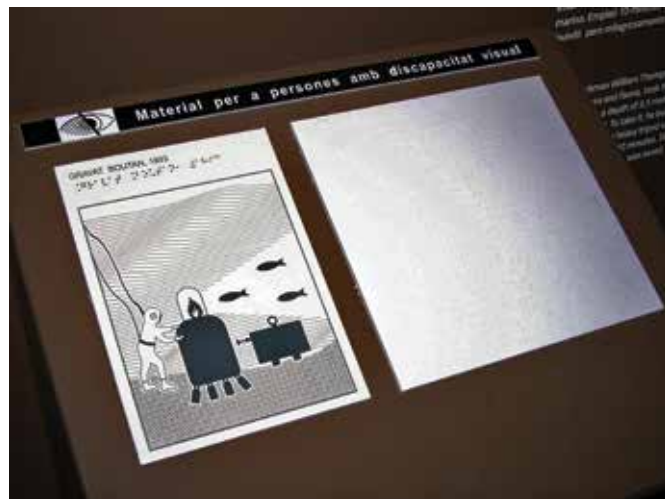


Presenters at the conference (L-R) Wolf Koehler, Dr. Andrés Clarós, John Wild, Dr. Christian Lebaron

Photos courtesy of Franz Rothbrust



These swim fins were made for Lotte Hass by Dr. Kurt Schaefer



Displays included accommodation for sight impaired visitors. Shown here is a display in braille.



Dr. Kurt Schaefer built housings for Hans Hass's early expeditions. He is shown here with his pre-Calypso-era amphibious underwater movie camera.



French underwater filmmaker, Christian Petron views the displays

