



The History of BCG

“The Argus Slide Projector Raffle”

By 1958 colour slides and hence colour slide projectors had become an integral part of the photographic experience. The crisp bright colours of a slide projected on a big screen was quite an alluring visual for BCG members and visitors. BCG meetings at that time alternated between a Colour Meeting Evening and a Monochrome Meeting Evening. The BCG colour competition was exclusively for colour slides with the monthly winner being referred to as the “Transparency of the Month”.

Hannes Import Export was better known as Hanimex. By 1958 Hanimex was a major player in the importing and distribution of photographic equipment in Australia. This included slide projectors. Hanimex had always generously sponsored the amateur camera clubs. The Hanimex Trophy, for example, was a regular feature at annual competitions. In early 1958, and with great fanfare, Hanimex announced the introduction of Australia’s first fully automatic slide projector – the Argus 300. Publicity included full page advertisements in the Australian Women’s Weekly. Hanimex, with extreme generosity, kindly donated to BCG an Argus Slide Projector in May 1958. The BCG minutes reveal that the projector was in hand by the 28th May 1958. BCG’s initial intention was to raise funds by selling the projector. However, the selling option was rescinded at the BCG Executive Meeting on the 21st July 1958. At this same meeting, it was proposed by Junior Vice President Bill Smit and seconded by Don McInnes that *“the Argus Slide Projector be raffled, and that Hanimex Pty Ltd receive maximum publicity and also that permission for this raffle be requested from the Attorney General’s Department.”* The proposal was accepted. The raffle permission was duly received.

Somewhat ironically, the drawing of the raffle winner was held on the BCG Monochrome Evening of the 27th October 1958. Mr. Clayton, the Brisbane Hanimex Manager presented the winner. Mrs. Clayton drew the winning ticket. The winner was S. Harpin. A 2nd prize of a light meter was presented to Miss McKeon and a 3rd prize of a slide box was presented to J. Bowman. The records show that the net proceeds from the raffle of the Argus Slide Projector was £47/11/2. As a reference to value, the average male weekly wage in 1958 was £18. The raffle was a huge boost to BCG’s funds.

Since then, slides and slide projectors have largely become part of photographic history. Hanimex was acquired by Fuji Photo in 2004 and the use of the Hanimex name was discontinued.

HANIMEX introduce
Australia's first fully
automatic projector —

argus
300
HAN-O-MATIC DELUXE

other available magazines. (And ONLY the Argus
magazine takes "mixed" mounts
—metal, plastic or cardboard!)
It's another big saving when
you buy the Argus 300
Han-O-Matic De Luxe at only

43 gns.
including one
magazine

HANIMEX ... has a gift for making people happy!

Page 30

Part of a full page advertisement from the Australian Women's Weekly 9th April 1958. The Argus 300 Slide Projector retailed for 43 Guineas. BCG History Snippets readers may need to Google pre decimal Australian currency terms. Our youngest readers may also need to Google slides and slide projectors.