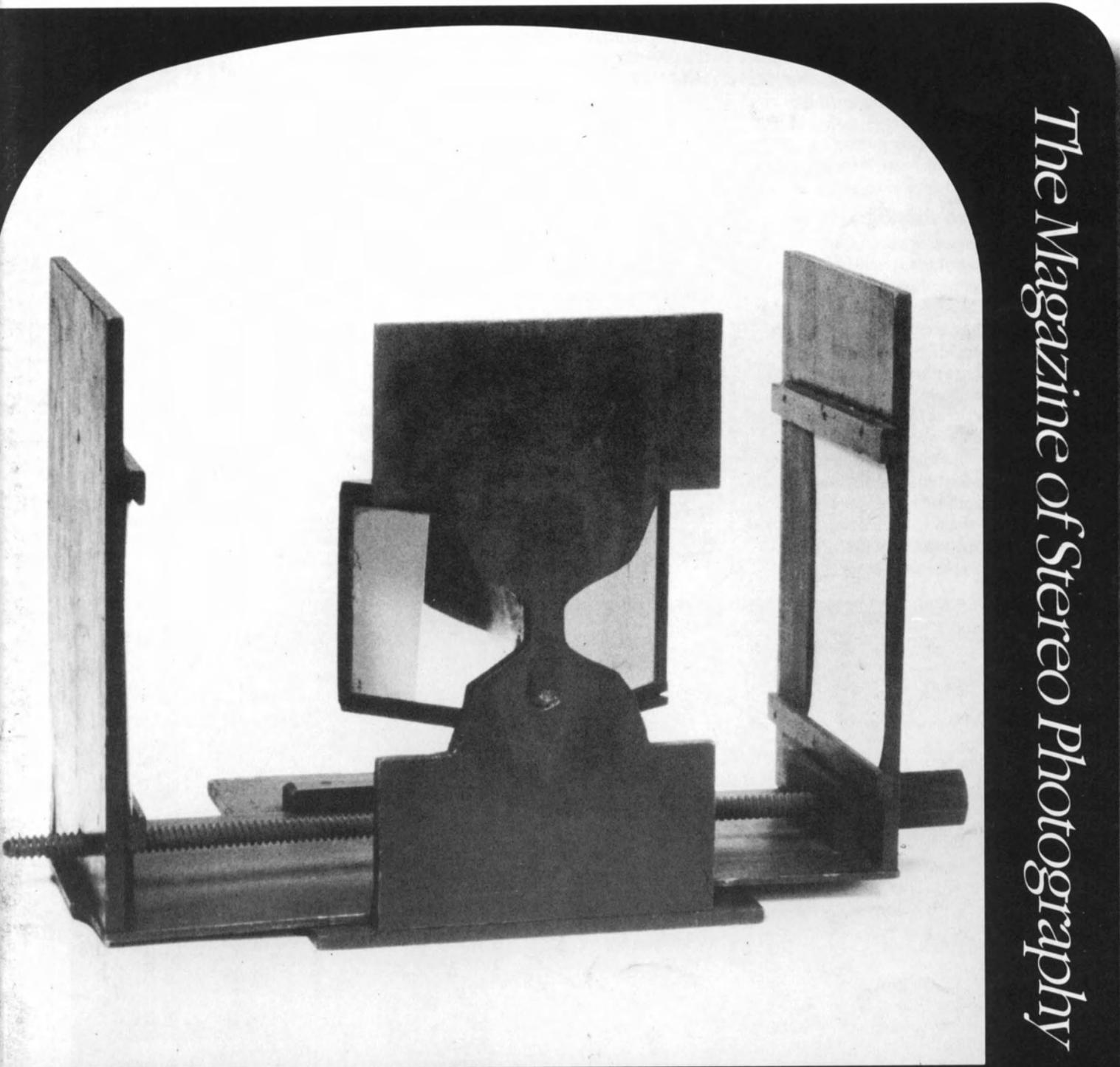


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NATIONAL  
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# STEREO WORLD



*The Magazine of Stereo Photography*

*150 Years of Stereo • Anschluss!*

# NEWS FROM THE STEREOSCOPIC SOCIETY, AMERICAN BRANCH

by Norman B. Patterson

# The Society

Several noteworthy trends suggest it might be timely to explain anew just what The Stereoscopic Society is and does. NSA membership has increased appreciably in the past several years and there seems to be growing indication that a higher percentage interested in contemporary stereo and its applications are included than was once the case. Still, inquiries regarding Society membership have remained fairly constant, reflecting perhaps that some review of basic information about the Society is in order.

## Stereo Photographers

The Stereoscopic Society is open to NSA members who are contemporary stereo photographers working in transparency or print formats. Our main activity lies in enjoying each others efforts by circulating our stereographs in folio boxes via UPS or the Postal Service. The membership at any time spans the range from novice to expert stereographers... some of our best view-makers today entered the Society asking the most basic questions. We do enjoy sharing each others' work and are continually seeking to improve our results through the ex-

change of comments and suggestions on each picture we circulate. Treasured bonuses are the lifelong friendships and comradery established with some of the most interesting people one could hope to know.

The making of stereographs is not new, of course. It began shortly after the invention of photography prior to 1840. The basic principles necessary to the making of a quality stereograph have not changed since that time, though discovering those principles did not always come easily. The main differences between then and now are in the techniques and technology available to help apply those principles in making contemporary stereo views. In the Stereoscopic Society we aid each other in understanding and applying the basic principles in an effort to make stereo views as good as they can be. Many oldtime commercially produced stereo views seem to have been made without benefit or regard for many of the niceties required in top grade stereography, indicating that a fuzzy knowledge of basic stereo principles was the rule among practitioners more often than it was the exception.

## The Society

The Stereoscopic Society has been in operation since its formation in England in 1893. It was created so that interested stereographers could improve and advance in their hobby through mutual aid and interchange of ideas. Its main format is and has been the circulation of members' views via postal folios. The American Branch was formed in 1919 and, through good and lean times, has survived until the present where we find it enjoying robust health. About ten years ago, the American Branch affiliated with the National Stereoscopic Association and since that time NSA membership has been a prerequisite in joining the Society. Some objection to this has been expressed by a very few potential members but the many benefits to the Society of the affiliation far outweigh any disadvantages. We feel that there is mutual benefit in our ties to NSA. We do maintain fraternal ties to the home branch in England and to the Australian and New Zealand branches of the Society, although they have been separate entities for quite a few years.

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