

Bert Crawshaw ARPS

Dufaycolor (1937) to Digital (2007)

70 years of amateur photography

1st May – 30th May 2008
Monday to Friday 9.30am – 4.30pm



The Royal Photographic Society's monthly exhibition at Fenton House in May represents 70 years of amateur photography by Bert Crawshaw ARPS.

The oldest photograph in the exhibition is a Dufaycolor, taken in 1937 when colour photography was in its infancy, which has recently been digitally copied. In 1940, armed with an Agfa Karat 35 mm camera, Bert captured a historical event whilst serving in the Royal Air Force at Hornchurch although private cameras were not permitted! The 34 contact prints taken during the period 1942 to 1945 aim to illustrate his view of many aspects of civilian and Service life in Egypt, Malta, Italy and Greece.

The subject matter of the photographs in the exhibition varies widely, with action shots such as Afore Ye Go; the beauty of Fantasy; The Red Arrows performing the miracle Synchro Pass; and nature in the raw: The West Coast Nature Reserve; Pincushion Protea (a somewhat calmer aspect of natural history); Arctic Dawn Polar Bears on ice frozen Hudson Bay; and the Leopard climbing a tree in Tanzania.

The skills of our master craftsmen of years ago, and today's generation, has always intrigued Bert: Tutankhamun's coffin; The Foxley-Norris Battle of Britain Memorial Wall. His people series includes H M The Queen; Olga and Natacha; The Masai Herdsboy; Ahamed, one of the guardians of Luxor Temple whom he met on several occasions; H R H Princess Margaret at The Octagon in Milsom Street, Bath April 1981.

"One of the privileges of being a member of The Royal Photographic Society", says Bert, "is that one may have the opportunity of taking photographs in places the others cannot reach".