



# F o c a l P o i n t

February 2010



Photo by Arthur Ransom

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Brenda Tharp Seminar Sponsors



# F o c a l P o i n t

## FROM YOUR EDITOR:

Snow, Snow, and more Snow!! As photographers we can revel in the photo ops presented by all this snow. IF, of course, winter scenes are your thing. If not, and you're the stay-in-doors type, here is the February issue of the *Focal Point* for your warm reading pleasure.

You will find some great shots from Arthur's DC Metro outing with the club accompanied by his really wonderful narrative. As always Gordon introduces us to more photographic history and Mike reveals some sponsors for the upcoming Brenda Tharp Seminar. And more to go with your hot chocolate. Enjoy!

Thanks to Arthur Ransom, Gordon Risk, Rebecca Rothey and Mike Wah for their contributions this month.

## BCC Gets Out



Rebecca Rothey took this photo of one of the Baltimore Camera Club members ....  
...but we can't reveal Jeff's name



# F o c a l P o i n t

## Anonymous Lives

### Anonymous Lives

I lived and worked in London for two years, and used the subway (the "underground") every day, along with thousands of other, "anonymous" commuters. It never ceased to amaze me that despite the crowds that dashed to and from the stations during rush hour, the only sounds you could hear were the coming and going of the trains, the indecipherable operator announcements and the air conditioning system. Except for the sound of rushing footsteps you rarely heard the people. There was no talking. There was no laughing. Standing on the platform in between trains you could hear the rustling of newspapers as people satisfied their addiction to news of others much worse off than themselves.

By Arthur Ransom





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## Anonymous Lives (cont.)

Crowded together on the escalators, in the tunnels, on the platforms and on the trains there was very little personal space. What space existed was highly prized. After a while at certain times of the day I began to recognize familiar faces, standing in precisely the same spot they had stood the previous day, and the day before that, etc. The veil of anonymity was slowly being lifted and it was unsettling. When I realized that I too was slowly taking up residence in my own favorite spots and was therefore also in danger of losing my anonymity I decided that it was time to leave London.





# F o c a l P o i n t

## Anonymous Lives (cont.)



Although London is now a distant memory the old feelings come flooding back whenever I travel the subway systems in DC and New York for my work. The feelings and the memory inspired me to create images that not only told the story of my daily commute on the subway, but also captured the anonymity of people. Being there, and yet not being there.

All Photos by Arthur Ransom

[www.aransomephoto.com](http://www.aransomephoto.com)



# F o c a l P o i n t

## Collector's Corner

**Universal Camera Corp**  
New York City, NY

by Gordon Risk

**The** Universal Camera Corp. was incorporated in 1933 by a former loan company executive and a taxicab insurance agent who believed that Americans needed a photographic line affordable to all. They boasted of manufacturing "more cameras per year than any other company in the world". That may have been true; the Univex Model A, at \$.39, sold over 3 million in 3 years. Low cost six-exposure roll film, packaged in Belgium, sold for \$.10 in the US. Twenty-two million rolls were sold by 1938. Special Univex films proved to be one of the major factors responsible for the company's collapse twenty years later. They declared bankruptcy in 1952.



Universal Camera Corp page from McKeown's Camera Guide.





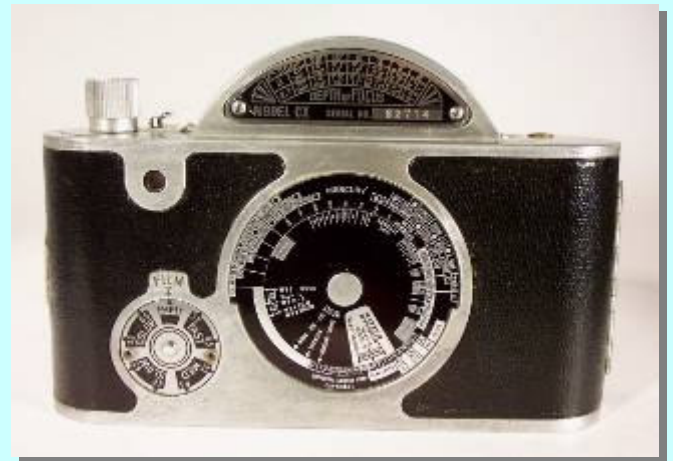
# F o c a l P o i n t

## Collector's Corner (cont.)

Universal became involved in home movies in 1936 and introduced the the model A-8 camera for just under \$10.00 using single 8 film. Many camera types were introduced up through WWII and after, including the Mercury II Half Frame Camera (shown here) which took 65 exposures in standard 35mm film. What is particulrly interesting is its rotating focal plane shutter or rotary shutter, a concept that came from their movie camera experience. This necessitated crowning the camera body with an arch-shaped channel to contain the large revolving shutter blades.



Univex Model A



Another Universal product was the Roamer Folding Camera (show in catalogue picture) which took 8 exposures on 620 film, to give a 2 ¼ x 3 ¼ negative. Their die cast alumimun bodies are what attracted me to use them to build my panoramic camera.



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## Collector's Corner (cont.)

Using two Roamer bodies, cut in half to make a longer film base for a 2 ¼" x 5" negative, a wide angle lens covers this negative format.







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## Brenda Tharp Seminar

The following companies will be providing door prizes and give-aways at the Brenda Tharp Seminar on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Mike Wah if you have questions.

<b>Graphics Authority</b>	Design collection software	<a href="mailto:jasonm@graphicauthority.com">jasonm@graphicauthority.com</a>
<b>Lensbaby</b>	Coupon for a composer	<a href="mailto:jessica@lensbaby.com">jessica@lensbaby.com</a>
<b>M-Rock Camera Bags</b>	Various size camera bags	<a href="mailto:mrock@m-rock.com">mrock@m-rock.com</a>
<b>Service photo</b>	Gift certificates \$25ea	<a href="mailto:burke@servicephoto.com">burke@servicephoto.com</a>
<b>Penn camera</b>	Gift certificates	Marie Joabar <a href="mailto:pennttraining@penncamera.com">pennttraining@penncamera.com</a>
<b>Betterphoto</b>	Internet membership & misc items	<a href="mailto:celia@betterphoto.com">celia@betterphoto.com</a>
<b>HDRsoft</b>	License for a copy of the Photomatix	<a href="http://www.hdrsoft.com/">http://www.hdrsoft.com/</a>
<b>Hoodman</b>	Various items	<a href="mailto:bob@hoodmanusa.com">bob@hoodmanusa.com</a>

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# F o c a l P o i n t

## Final Shot



*My Street*

*by*

*Annette Conniff*