

Club History – What was happening during the founding year?

1892



Founded in 1892, the club emerged at a time of change and confidence in London. The city was expanding rapidly, with places like Tower Bridge under construction and new transport links reshaping daily life. Photography itself was becoming more accessible, placing the club at the heart of a new visual age.

Innovations in photography in 1892

Jules Carpentier (who built the Cinematographe for the Lumieres) designs the Photo-Jumelle twin lens reflex camera. It is a precision camera with fixed focus lenses, built to exacting specs. It is loosely shaped like a pair of binoculars with one lens used for focusing or viewing the other for taking the exposure. It has a tolerance of 1/100mm (a degree of precision unheard of in the camera industry of the day). This is the first-hand camera made for artists who want more creative control over their pictures (the consumer box camera allowed almost none). Photographers are now free to take 'action shots' previously impossible with view cameras. This camera is widely imitated and becomes a classic camera type.

The Rochester Camera Manufacturing Company launch the 1892 FOLDING ROCHESTER plate camera

1892 notable events

- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle publishes The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes.
- Lady Windermere's Fan by Oscar Wilde premieres at St James, London.
- Woolwich Polytechnic is founded.
- Statue of Anteros (no, not Eros) erected in London's Piccadilly Circus. This is the world's first statue to be cast in aluminium.
- The first escalator is patented by inventor Jesse W. Reno, Coney Island, New York City.
- Dr Washington Sheffield invents the toothpaste tube.
- Thomas Edison receives a patent for a two-way telegraph.
- Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker ballet is premiered at in St Petersburg, Russia.
- Rudolf Diesel applies for a patent on his compression ignition engine (the Diesel engine).
- The Liverpool Football Club is founded.
- A tortoise called Timothy is brought to the estate of Powderham Castle in England, where she lives until her death in 2004.
- Viruses are discovered by the Russian-Ukrainian biologist Dimitri Ivanovski.
- Thomas Ahearn is the first person to prepare a meal on an electric stove.
- Construction of Trans-Siberian Railway begins.
- The light dimmer was invented in 1892 by Granville Woods of New York, USA.
- The bottle cap is patented in by William Painter of Baltimore, USA.
- Phileas Fogg completes his around the world trip - according to Jules Verne!

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1892 notable births

- J. R. R. Tolkien, professor and author of The Lord of the Rings is born (d. 1973)
- Sir Robert Alexander Watson-Watt, British (Scottish) inventor of radar (d.1973)
- Margaret Rutherford, English actress (d. 1972)
- Victoria Mary Sackville-West, English writer, and gardener (d. 1962)
- Haile Selassie I, Ethiopian emperor (d. 1975)
- Oliver Hardy, Movie Actor (d.1957)
- Charles Atlas, Italian-American strongman and sideshow performer (d. 1972)

1892 notable deaths

- Alfred, Lord Tennyson, British poet (b. 1809)
- Louis Vuitton, world-renowned French fashion designer (b. 1821)
- Walt Whitman, American poet (b. 1819)