

David C. Porter

# SNAPSHOTS

2021

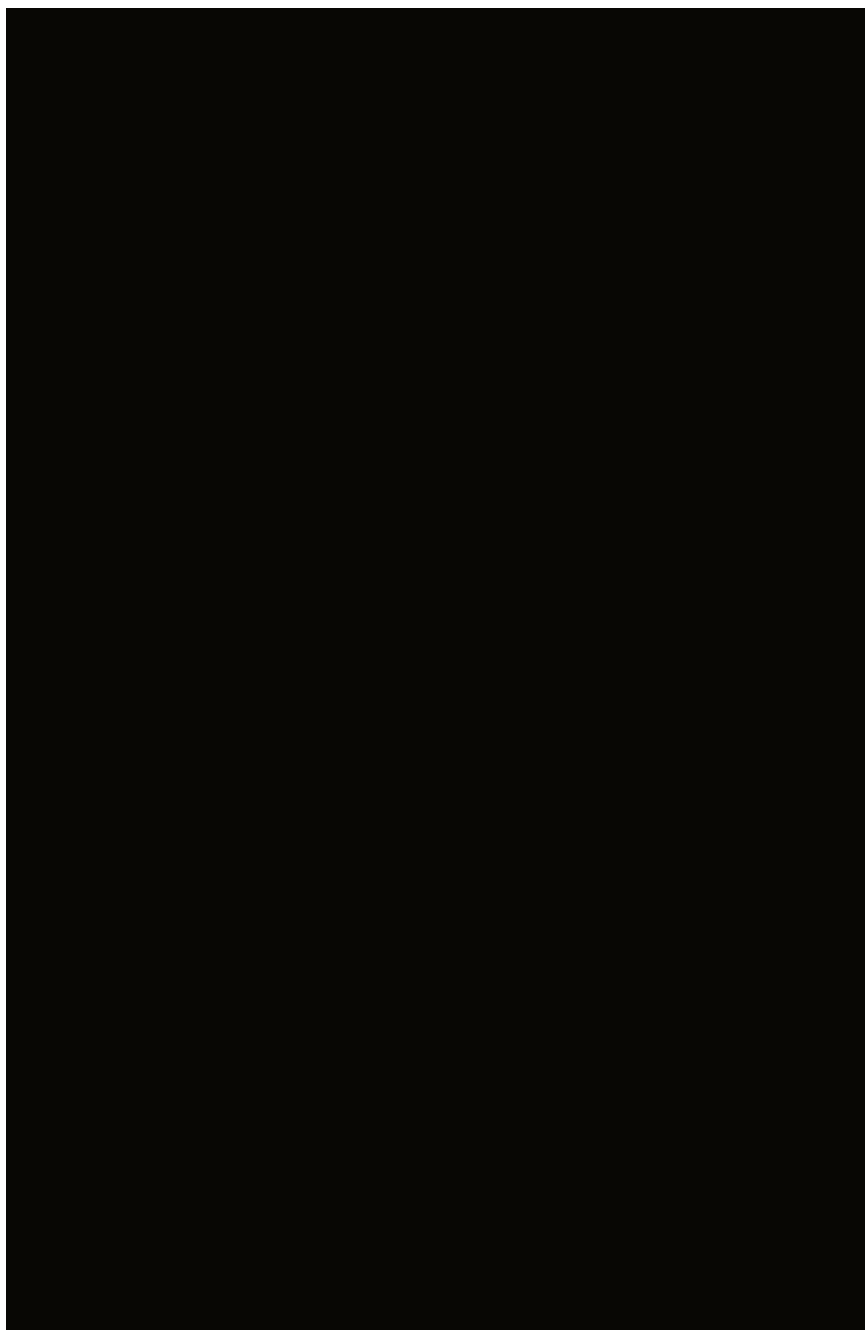
# FOREWORD

This is a compilation of images taken from from eBay listings – more specifically, from what are called “Vintage Photo Lots” or, less eloquently, “Snapshot Lots”. These are listings of groups of photographs which are sold together, usually for very little money, maybe \$10 or \$25 a batch. Sometimes these photos have some sort of thematic or meta-thematic relation to each other (i.e. pictures of men, or women, or trains; pictures from the same decade, or taken with the same type of film), but often there’s no real connective tissue whatsoever; they are simply images which the seller possesses, offered as-is to anyone who cares to pay. A typical listing might read something like “VINTAGE PHOTOS LOT of 100 Random B&W and Sepia Snapshots Old Photos” or “Original Vintage Photo Lot of 14 1970s 80s Senior Citizens Old People Snapshot” – a grammar whose strange mixture of glossolalic adjectival overload and programmatic non-specificity will be familiar to anyone who’s ever browsed an auction site. In this grammar there is a certain tension, as its impersonality belies the irreducibly personal nature of what is being sold. It attempts to strip out all the baggage of personal contact which these photos silently attest to, leaving only basic, abstract information: dates, colorations, types of subjects. In the pictures of photographs which accompany these breathless strings, we see the same process trying to happen, with varying degrees of success: neutral backdrops, indifferent arrangements, anonymous viewpoints – sometimes we can catch glimpses of the seller’s home around the edges, but this is



the general pattern. These images, then, capture the transformation of a photograph from a memory, something important to someone, somewhere, for reasons ultimately only accessible to them, back into a simple commodity, with no particular value beyond that inscribed by the figure attached to it. These are simple, artless commercial images, but for there is a sad poetry in their nature. Each one gives us a glimpse of lives, of histories different from our own, histories which for one reason or another have been given up by their caretakers.

The 245 images assembled here is a fraction of a fraction of the potential pool; they were compiled over the course of a few hours on May 29th, 2021, exclusively from active listings. When looking at them, remember that every day more are being uploaded, all alike in their irreducible difference.





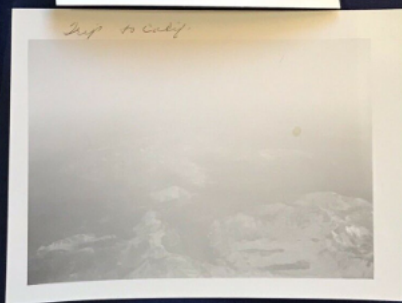
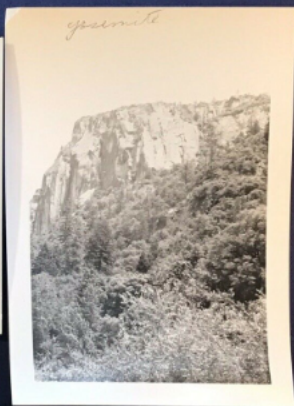
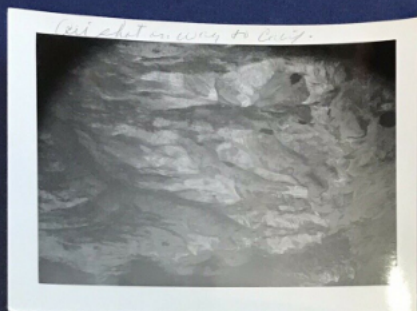








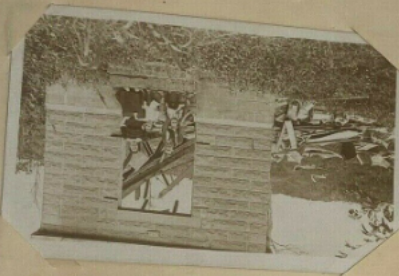


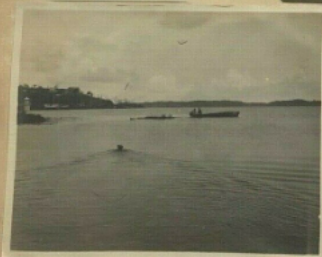






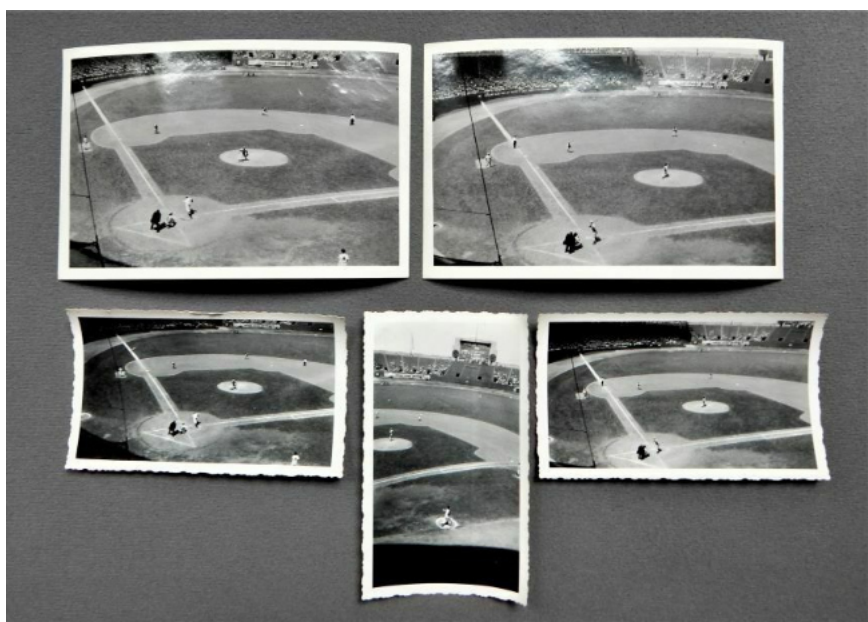










































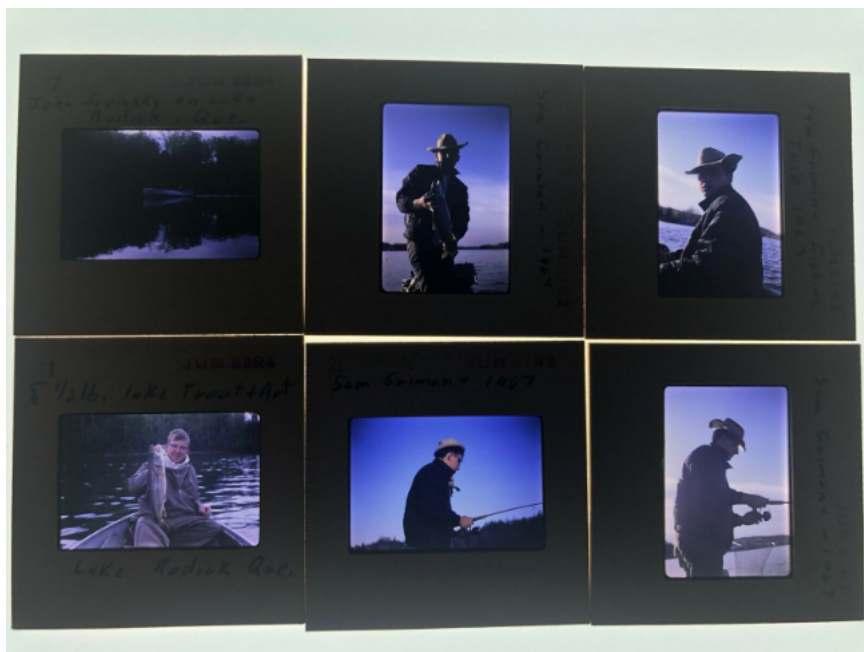


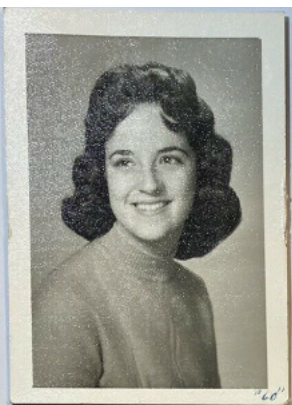




























PAUL WITH SCHOOL DEER



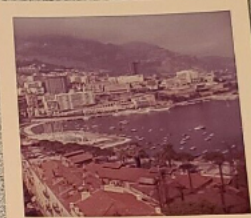
AT OVERCAST 50° FOL



MONTE-CARLO AT MONACO



MONTE PANORAMA



PANORAMA OF MONACO



AT MONACO - WITH NIECE'S CAR

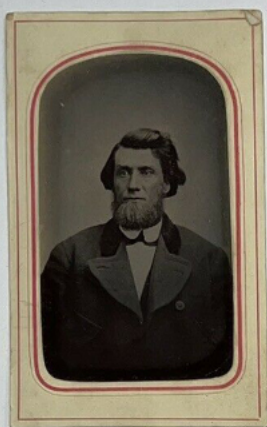


PALACE AT MONACO







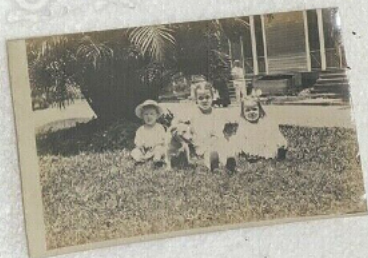
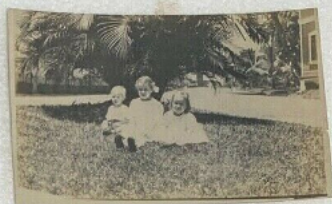












































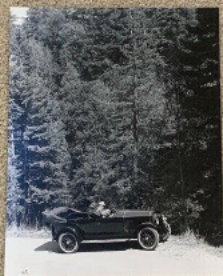




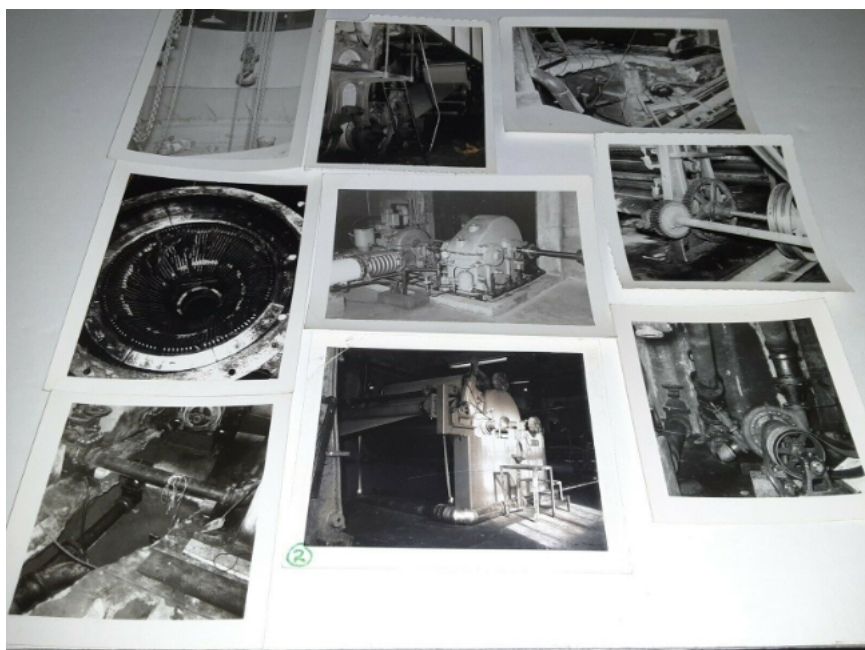
























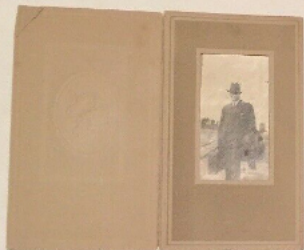






























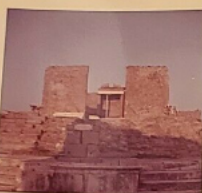
THE GATE TO THE SEA



EL THERRAS HARBOR, SYRIA



EL AKKO, ON STREETS OF AKKON



TEMPLE OF ZEUS - JOPPE



BUILT BY TURKS IN BEIRUT



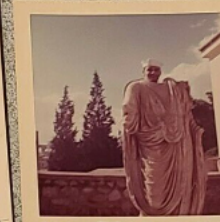
TOWN TOWN BEIRUT, LEBANON



ONE OF SEVEN WATCH TOWERS



A SMALL COMMUNITY JUST OUTSIDE OF ATHENS



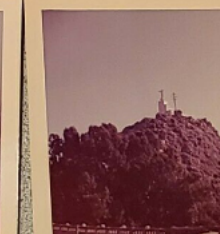
SCHMITZ CLOTHING AROUND



LOOKING INTO A COURTYARD



ACROPOLIS, ATHENS

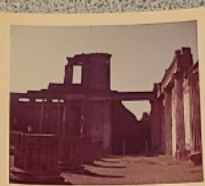


HOSPITAL - RESTAURANT BEIRUT, LEBANON





ROME, SPORTS ARENA



THE THEATER



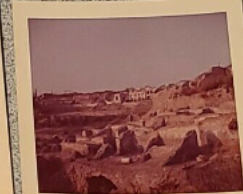
THE THEATER



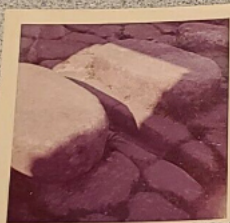
SCHOOL FOR GLADIATORS



THE FORUM



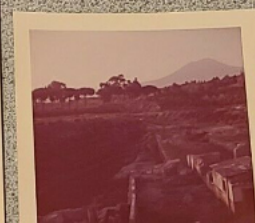
PART OF NEW EXCAVATIONS



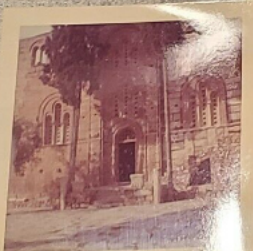
NOTICE STEPPING STONE CHAIRS



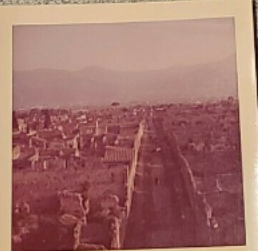
MAIN AMPITHEATER



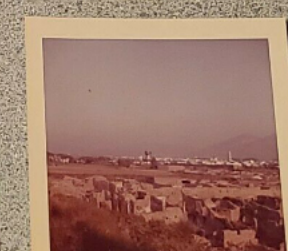
MORE EXCAVATIONS



BYZANTINE CHAPEL



TAKEN FROM A WATCH TOWER



PANORAMA



MAIN HARBOUR CHANNLES, TARRUS



THE BEACH AT VILLAFRANCA



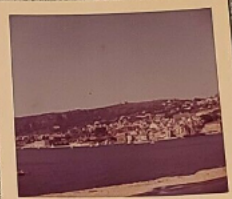
RUSSIAN SHIP



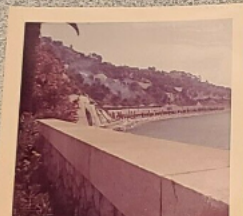
SAME RAILWAY STATION



RAILWAY STATION, VILLAFRANCA



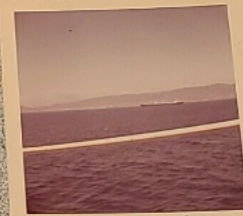
MORE VILLAFRANCA



RAILWAY AT VILLAFRANCA



TOP MASTS OF THE GALLEON



RUSSIAN SHIP



BEACH AT VILLAFRANCA



A GALLEON AT VILLAFRANCA



A LITTLE FRENCH CAFE



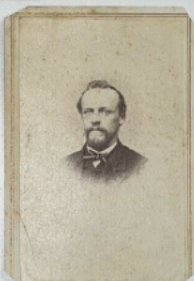




















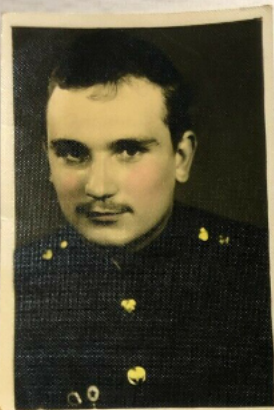


Фото *Р. С. С. С. С.*  
А. А. А. А. А.



LIFETIME



Season's Greetings  
The Nickersons



