

I have decided to occasionally replace "Fran's Helpful Hints" with some history of past photographers who made an impact on photography or became famous as a result of their skill with a camera.



My first choice is photographer **Hedda Morrison** 1908-1991 whom I knew and truly admired. Hedda was born in Germany and after studying photography in Innsbruck, she chose to record German traditional rural culture. She became concerned with the rise of Nazism and departed, in 1933, for China where she had successfully applied for a job.

Hedda joined a small group of "expat" photographers who had been lured to China to "image" China for western audiences. Their photos captured an era which no longer exists, and is a record of China before the Peoples Republic was established. She managed Hartungs's photo shop in

Peking for five years and published two books of photos on China, featuring Chinese furniture, art and people.

Hedda married Alistair Morrison in 1946. They left Peking because of the political instability and went to Hong Kong for six months, then on to Sarawak where Alistair worked as a District Officer with the British Colonial Service. Hedda went with him on his official travels around the country. She enjoyed photographing traditional cultures undergoing change and development.

They lived there for twenty years and Hedda produced two books of photos of Sarawak. This earned her "The Star of Sarawak" the equivalent of an OBE.

Hedda and Alistair moved to Canberra in 1967.

Many of Hedda's images show disrupting elements from the present, such as the NAZI badge on the lapel of the old man at the Stuttgart folk festival, tram tracks in old Peking and the Indigenous Sarawak chief in western clothing with extended earlobes and earrings.

Hedda's work was a rich archive of visual material both artistic and documentary in its significance. Much of it is in a collection in the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney.



Photos Hedda Morrison, Text adapted from The Sydney Powerhouse Museum's brochure