





## Managing a legacy photo archive









#### Issues to consider

- Number of images
- Content and age of image
- Availability of similar images
- Quality of image
- Cost of physical storage and potential for deterioration
- Cost of digitising
- Sharing

### Images in physical form

- Old family photographs usually no negatives, may be in poor condition, sometimes poorly composed or hard to see – where applicable scan, particularly to use with family history programmes.
- Slides not as many as with digital archive, hard to organise and view selectively, projection equipment needed

#### What did I inherit?



From period c1958 -2005:

19 slide carriers10 magazines per carrierUp to 50 slides per magazine

Total: Approx 9500 slides

Plus slides in small (one film roll) boxes from earlier years. **About 11,000 in total**234 images per year



#### Initial reactions

- Throw it out! (the photographer didn't get round to it, why should I?)
- Give it away. (to whom? school, college, photo archive – someone still has to sort it out)
- Pay to have the whole lot digitised (expensive and still left with a lot of digital photos to manage.)
- View all images and see what's worth keeping.

#### Methodology and criteria

- Set up projector and keep it set up
- Be ruthless ie don't linger over photos
- If you are lingering, mark it as a keeper
- Keep pictures of friends and family (more likely to want a copy than a picture of the Taj Mahal.)
- Junk most photos of famous places unless from an unusual perspective

## The other side of the picture





#### To help you stay sane ....

- Don't involve anyone else in the selection
- Try to go through a fixed number of magazines each day (one is better than none)
- See if photographer kept records of places visited or photos taken (more likely if a member of a camera club or similar)
- Cross reference with any material, photos you might have

### List of holiday trips with dates

1973 Aug Merzig, Hungary

1974 Dec Hungary 1975 Jun Hungary

1976 summer Hungary, Balaton

1976 Summer France (camping)

1977 Hungary

1978 Apr France

1978 Aug New York

1979 Easter France

1979 Aug Portugal

1980 Faster France 1995 October New England, Toronto

1996 Easter Paris

1996 summer Hungary

1996 Nov Salt Lake City

1997 Easter Iceland 1997 May/Aug Hungary

1997 July Paris (seminar)

1997 Nov Spain

1998 June Hungary

LA (seminar) + Pine Grove/Oregon 1998 July

SLC 1998 October

1999 August NY (seminar)

1999 Novemb Carolina, Georgia, Florida er

SLC (seminar) 2000 July

2000 October SLC Family Tree Magazine

Namibia/South Africa 2001 Mar/Apr

Oct/Nov Barcelona

2002 May

SLC October 2002 Spain RPS Sierras Granada

2003 July Washington (Seminar)

2003 Sep/Oct Spain RPS Barcelona Compradon

Austria 2004 April

2004 July Austria

2004 Oct lazz cruise Caribbean

2005 May Cadiz 2005 August Austria

2005 Sep Jazz cruise Alaska (Joe May Ecuador)

(Joe April Maldives)

Joe March Jordan

Joe Oct Egypt

Joe Oct/Nov India, Rajastan

Joe May, Lundy Island

Joe July Transylvania

Joe May Ecuador/Galapagos

Joe Nov Thailand/Laos/Cambodia

## The Photographer's Notes

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# The two I kept





#### Digitising – just under £200

- Ended up with 460 slides (about 4%)
- Used company called Film Scan
- 35mm slide transfer service

Standard scan size: Standard processing

464 @£0.38 £176.32

- Secure Backup £4.99
- Additional Media £5.00
- **8GB USB Drive** £10.99

### Sharing and using images

- High resolution images on USB transferred to hard drive for possible editing and improving later
- Online link to Dropbox, thumbnails and lower res images to share with friends and family through link
- As I had grouped images, produced a list to orientate friends and family

| Folder | Contents            | No of images | Folder | Contents           | No of images |
|--------|---------------------|--------------|--------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1      | Hungary             | 11           | 27     | California/Nevada  | 6            |
| 2      | Hungary             | 11           | 28     | Arizona            | 11           |
| 3      | Hungary             | 11           | 29     | Monument Valley    | 7            |
| 4      | Hungary             | 11           | 30     | California         | 9            |
| 5      | Hungary             | 11           | 31     | California/Oregon  | 11           |
| 6      | Hungary             | 11           | 32     | California/Oregon  | 6            |
| 7      | Hungary             | 11           | 33     | Southern States    | 7            |
| 8      | LRPS Portfolio      | 10           | 34     | New York/Catskills | 11           |
| 9      | People              | 11           | 35     | Maldives           | 5            |
| 10     | People              | 11           | 36     | Jordan             | 11           |
| 11     | Plants/places       | 11           | 37     | Jordan             | 7            |
| 12     | People              | 10           | 38     | Namibia            | 11           |
| 13     | Portugal            | 9            | 39     | Namibia            | 11           |
| 14     | Hungary             | 8            | 40     | South Africa       | 4            |
| 15     | Sheffield           | 11           | 41     | India              | 11           |
| 16     | Sheffield           | 6            | 42     | India              | 11           |
| 17     | Hong Kong/Bali      | 11           | 43     | India              | 3            |
| 18     | New England/Toronto | 11           | 44     | Thailand/Cambodia  | 3            |
| 19     | New England/Toronto | 11           | 45     | Russia             | 11           |
| 20     | Ecuador/Galapagos   | 11           | 46     | Russia             | 2            |
| 21     | Ecuador/Galapagos   | 8            | 47     | Egypt              | 6            |
| 22     | Ecuador/Galapagos   | 10           | 48     | Spain              | 9            |
| 23     | Kenya               | 11           | 49     | France             | 11           |
| 24     | Kenya               | 10           | 50     | Crete              | 7            |
| 25     | Seychelles          | 5            | 51     | UK                 | 6            |
| 26     | Iceland             | 10           | 52     | Caribbean cruise   | 5            |



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So what can you do with slides you decide not to keep?

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1 Throw them away
OR
2
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#### Digital Camera

Digital archive – from c.2005 until 2018

20,700 files in 314 folders
Includes Raw/JPEG
Includes edited versions of images

1600 images per year





Reminder – film camera archive had about 234 kept images per year



Joe Sipos LRPS (1937-2018)