



Northallerton Camera Club

What is that Alphabet Soup after his/her name

The lecturer or judge comes to the club and the chairman in introducing him reels off a load of letters after his name. To the regular it is all clear, but to many it means very little. Remember though, he or she probably started out just like yourself and worked hard to get those letters. So why can't you? Well you haven't got much chance if you don't know what they mean.

There are two types of awards. The first are those granted for achievement in photography, which generally you have to apply for. The second type of award is granted for services to photography probably over many years. These latter cannot (and must not) be applied for and are generally done by confidential recommendations.

There are a number of organisations who grant awards or distinctions and they tend to be national or international organisations. The information has therefore been set out below, organisation by organisation for the most common, **RPS, PAGB, FIAP, PSA and GPU**. Please remember these are brief notes; refer to the relevant web site for full information and guidance.

ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY - RPS

Web site:- www.rps.org

The RPS grants distinctions for three levels of achievement. You have to be an RPS member to hold any of these distinctions and you can only use them as long as you are a member of the RPS.

LRPS - Licentiate of the RPS

The first level, Licentiateship is open to all members of The Royal Photographic Society. Non-members of The Society may also apply but if they are successful, the Distinction will not be approved until they have become Members. The Licentiateship is awarded either for competence in practical photography, or by passing of an appropriate examination in photography recognised by The Society. Normally you will be required to submit 10 prints, or 10 slides or 10 images on CD-rom as evidence for your application in still photography. In AV you will be required submit one or more sequences lasting not less than 10 minutes.

ARPS - Associate of the RPS

Members and non-members may apply for Associateship, a more specialised Distinction. It is for a high degree of proficiency and a high technical and visual competence in particular categories. The Award will not be approved until membership is taken up. You have to submit 15 prints, Slides, images on CD-rom; or a 15 mins sequence in AV.

FRPS - Fellow of the RPS

Fellowship is the highest Distinction of The Royal Photographic Society and recognises original work and outstanding ability in a specialist field.

It is open to Associates of The Society and Fellows of the BIPP, but photographers with an established reputation may apply direct, based on their CV, references, publications and exhibitions, even if they are non-members of The Society. They still need to join to hold the distinction once awarded.

In most categories you will be required to submit either 20 prints or transparencies, or 20 minutes of Audio Visual sequence, or 20 minutes of film or video.

Hon.FRPS - Honorary Fellow of the RPS

For exceptional service this is principle award of several, made annually, which may not be applied for.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE OF GREAT BRITAIN - PAGB

Web Site:- www.thepagb.org.uk

PAGB Offers both Service and Merit awards, the former may not be applied for, but the latter must be.

APAGB - Award of PAGB

This is granted to members of affiliated Federations and their clubs for prolonged outstanding service to photography. Generally at least 10 years Federation service is a minimum or at least 25 years or more at Club level is required.

Hon.PAGB - Honorary Member of PAGB

This is generally awarded for prolonged outstanding service to the PAGB usually for outstanding work as a member of its Executive.

CPAGB - Credit PAGB

The first of three awards for photographic merit; it is offered for what is generally interpreted as 'good class' photography. Such photographs would be of a standard whereby they might be expected to represent the club at inter-club and Federation events at least. You must have been an active member of an affiliated club for at least 2 years out the last 10 and must submit 10 photographs to an adjudication panels which normally convenes twice a year. You must achieve a set number of points from your images from the 6 adjudicators.

DPAGB - Distinction PAGB

This is the next one up the rung. It may be interpreted as requiring 15 photographs which are of open exhibition standard and again you have to achieve a set number of points from the panel of 6 adjudicators. You do not need to hold CPAGB to apply for this award but you must have been an active member of an affiliated club for at least 3 years from the last 10.

MPAGB - Master PAGB

This is the highest award for photographic merit granted by PAGB and requires the highest standard of amateur photography with each of 20 photographs likely to achieve consistent success at International Exhibition level and also likely to win at least an occasional award. Requires at least 5 years from the last 10 as an active member of an affiliated club and cannot be applied for until 11 months has elapsed from achieving DPAGB.

NB:- The Adjudications take place in each Federation Area on a rotational basis, but you can enter for any panel in any part of the country. You are strongly advised to visit one of these adjudications before submitting any panel. Unlike RPS Distinctions, the photographs are assessed on an individual basis, mixed in with other applicants' photographs. The six adjudicators are drawn from the PAGB's list of accredited Judges which is to be found in the PAGB handbook, published biennially. The Awards officer for NCPF is Mrs Jane Black, from whom full information can be obtained

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FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE - FIAP

Web Site:- www.fiap.net

FIAP grants two types of Award, the first for Service to photography (which cannot be applied for) and the second for achievement in International Exhibitions and Salons sponsored by FIAP.

Service Distinctions:-

ESFIAP - Excellence in Service

This is awarded for substantial service to FIAP and photography at National and International level.

Hon.FIAP - Honorary FIAP Membership

This is an even higher award, usually given to holders of ESFIAP for prolonged service to FIAP.

International exhibition/salon achievement Distinctions:-

The details below are very brief and anyone considering such distinctions should seek full details on the FIAP pages of the PAGB web site at:- <http://www.thepagb.org.uk/fiap/fiap-distinctions/>

AFIAP - Artiste FIAP

The minimum requirements are that over a period of no less than 1 year the applicant has supported Exhibitions/Salons worldwide, and gained 40 acceptances from 15 different salons, in at least 8 countries. There is also an AV-AFIAP Distinction for AV exhibitors.

EFIAP - Excellence FIAP

An application for EFIAP cannot be made less than 1 year after receiving AFIAP. Including those from AFIAP, applicants must have gained at least 250 Acceptances from at 50 different photographs and have gained with at least two photos gaining an award, each in a different country. There is also an AV-EFIAP distinction for AV exhibitors.

EFIAP/b - Excellence FIAP Bronze Award

EFIAP/s - Excellence FIAP Silver Award

EFIAP/g - Excellence FIAP Gold Award

EFIAP/p - Excellence FIAP Platinum Award

These further awards are subject to a scale of achievement in International Salons and Exhibitions, each over a period on no less than 1 year. Applicants must holders of EFIAP and are required, to achieve a minimum of achievement on an accumulating scale:-
Bronze – 400 acceptances from 50 images & submit 4 photos awarded, in 4 different countries.
Silver – 300 acceptances from 100 images & submit 5 photos awarded, in 5 different countries.
Gold – 500 acceptances from from 150 images & submit 6 photos awarded, in 6 different countries.
Platinum - 700 acceptances from 250 images & submit 7 prints awarded, in 7 different countries.

EFIAP Diamond 1

EFIAP Diamond 2

EFIAP Diamond 3

These three new distinctions require, after achieving EFIAP Platinum, the applicants to gain Awards in international salons again on an accumulating scale.

Diamond 1 – 50 awards from at least 15 photos from at least 5 countries

Diamond 2 – 100 awards from at least 30 photos from at least 8 countries

Diamond 3 – 200 awards from at least 50 photos from at least 10 countries

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All AFIAP and EFIAP awards to any level can be gained by mix of media, ie prints or pdi etc;. although AFIAP and EFIAP do require a certain number of Prints acceptances as well as for PDI.

MFIAP - Master FIAP

Considered by many to be the highest award of its type from FIAP this can only be obtained in Prints or AV work and requires a presentation of the highest standard, which is themed and accompanied by a dissertation on the work.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA - PSA

Web site:- www.psa-photo.org

This is the one foreign national photographic organisation whose awards you are likely to come across in the UK. Northallerton CC has at least two members who are current members of PSA and there are several hundred country-wide.

They have award schemes in three categories, For Service to photography, for gaining success in Internationals Salons that PSA give recognition to (ie patronise), and for Photographic Achievement.

Service Awards are granted to members of PSA who have given recognised levels of service to photography anywhere in the world. As with other service awards, they cannot be applied for.

APSA - Associate of PSA

This is granted to PSA members of 5 years standing or more for service to photography.

FPSA - Fellowship of PSA

This is granted to holders of the APSA award to PSA members of 5 years standing or more for service to photography, since the award of APSA.

Hon.PSA - Honorary Membership of PSA

Hon.FPSA - Honorary Fellowship of PSA

The last two are generally granted for very long periods of outstanding service to photography and PSA in particular.

PSA Star Rating Scheme recognises success in Exhibitions sponsored by them by the accumulation of specific numbers of Acceptances from specific numbers of different images. These are gained separately for a number of photographic disciplines, such as PDI, Prints, Nature, etc etc.

There are then higher scales called "Galaxy Ratings". PSA does not recognise Star Rating Awards as being eligible for placing after the recipient's name but does so for those below.

PPSA - Proficiency PSA

To apply for this award you need at least 288 Acceptances from one or more division.

EPSA - Excellence PSA

To apply for this award you need at least 700 Acceptances from one or more division.

MPSA - Master PSA

To apply for this distinction you need at least 1500 Acceptances from one or more division.

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GMPSA - Grand Master PSA

To apply for this award you need at least 3000 Acceptances from one or more division

GMPSA/b - GMPSA/s - GMPSA/g & GMPSA/p - Grand Master PSA/Bronze/Silver/Gold & Platinum Distinctions

To apply for these four additional distinctions you have received at least 5,000/7,000/9,000/11,000 Acceptances respectively from one or more divisions.

Portfolio Distinctions

These are gained by the submission of a body of photographic work, (rather like a hybrid of the requirements for an RPS Distinction of FIAP's MFIAP). There three of these Distinctions:-

BPSA - Bronze PSA

Requires 10 images or home processed prints

SPSA - Silver PSA

Requires 15 images or home processed prints - can be obtained w/o gaining BPSA.

GPSA - Gold PSA

Requires 20 images or home processed prints - applicant must hold SPSA to apply.

GLOBAL PHOTOGRAPHIC UNION - GPU

Web Site:- www.gpuphoto.com

This is an International Organisation and along with its other services grants "Crown" distinctions and "VIP" Distinctions in recognition of success in International Salons, whether under its Patronage or not. It also grants "Title" Distinctions for the submission of bodies of work, to recognise photographic ability.

Crown Distinctions

These are granted to GPU members on a rising scale, requiring points to be accumulated.

Accepted photo or portfolio (not GPU's patronage) = 1 pts.

Honourable Mention or Certificate (not GPU's patronage) = 2 pts.

Medal or Trophy (not GPU's patronage) = 4 pts.

These points are doubled where the acceptance or award is from a GPU Patronised Salon,; So:- Accepted image = 2 pts; HM/ Certificate = 4 pts; Medal/ Trophy = 8 pts.

GPU Crown 1 - 200 points

GPU Crown 2 - 600 points

GPU Crown 3 - 2500 points

GPU Crown 4 - 6000 points

GPU Crown 5 - 15000 points

VIP Distinctions (Very Important Photographs)

These are granted to GPU members for the accumulation of "top" awards. This includes "Best in Salon" 1st prizes (not Gold medals and the like). It also includes awards like 'BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year', 'Sony Awards'.

GPU VIP 1: 5 different top prize photos

GPU VIP 2: 10 different top prize photos

GPU VIP 3: 20 different top prize photos

GPU VIP 4: 30 different top prize photos

GPU VIP 5: 50 different top prize photos

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Title Distinctions

Gained by GPU Members by the submission of a portfolio of work drawn from a specified number from a total of ten subjects, including, Monochrome, Nature, Portrait, Travel etc.

GPU Aphrodite:

2 photos from 5 different categories (out of 10 categories)

GPU Hermes:

5 photos from 5 different categories (out of 10 categories)

GPU Zeus:

10 photos from 5 different categories (out of 10 categories)