

# snapshots

YOU PRESS THE BUTTON  
WE DO THE REST

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## *The Great American Thirty-Five Exhibition: Harder Than It Looks*

The preparations for PHSNE's December program, The Great American Thirty-Five Exhibition, have had an unexpected side-effect: they've reminded many photographers how easy they've got it with modern SLR and digital equipment.



The program will be a projected show of 35mm slides that must be shot with American-made 35mm cameras. The equipment being used includes grand old names like Argus, Spartus, Kodak Pony, Falcon, even Ciro 35 and Bolsey B.

Grand they may be, 35mm they definitely are, but they lack almost every modern feature. Shooting pictures for the show has reminded many PHSNE members of how hard it used to be to get good pictures — or how porous their memories have become.

They've been quoting the "Sunny 16" rule to each other: "Expose at f/16 and a shutter speed of 1 over

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If you think the photo above is hard to look at, imagine how Lew Regelman feels. It's a double exposure, one of several he made while relearning how to use the separate film advance and shutter cocking actions on his Kodak Pony IV.



## **Photographica 66 Brings Out a Crowd Despite the Weather**

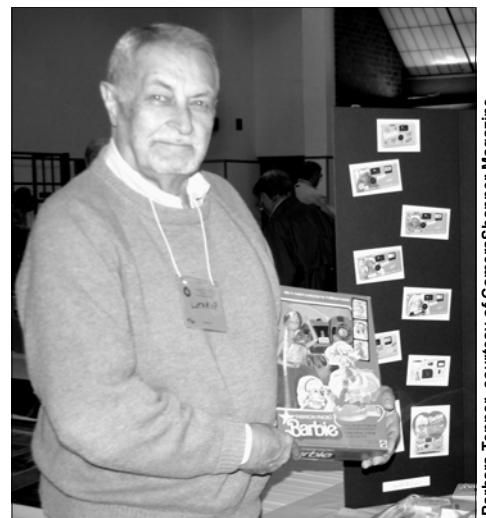


Photo by Jay Goldsmith

James McKeown, PHSNE Life Member and editor of the Bible of photographic collecting, *McKeown's Price Guide to Antique & Classic Cameras*, set up a portable studio at Photographica to photograph rare items for the next edition of his book.

Photographica 66 was a success that defied October rains and limited parking. John Dockery, PHSNE's dedicated show manager, was extremely pleased: "Attendance was strong. We had 800 people — 500 of them came out in a virtual hurricane the first day." He was particularly pleased by the numbers of young people in the crowd. "We sent out a mailing to photography teachers that really brought out the students. The dealers did very well and we came out of this show with an increase in reservations for tables for the next show."

The dates for Photographica 67 next April are in flux because of a possible change of venue for the show. Dockery is investigating new quarters that could provide lower costs, more space — and, perhaps most importantly, more parking, he said.



Barbara Tepper, courtesy of CameraShopper Magazine

Eaton Lothrop, PHSNE Life Member, long-time Photographica dealer, and writer on cameras and collectables, set up a display of camera-related Barbie Doll items at Photographica 66.

## Exhibitions and Shows In the New England Area

By James B. Hill

Some of the most famous documentary photography ever done of some of the most famous objects in the world will be on view at New York's **Metropolitan Museum of Art** when it presents *Discovering Tutankhamun: The Photographs of Harry Burton* from December 19 to April 29, 2007. Burton, a renowned archaeological photographer, was a staff member of the Metropolitan Museum Egyptian Expedition when in 1922 he was "lent" to Howard Carter, the discoverer of Tutankhamun's tomb. This exhibition of his photographs celebrates one of the most memorable episodes in the history of archaeology.

In the decade it took to clear the tomb, Burton made more than 1,400 large-format black and white images. They are splendid black-and-white photographs that capture thousands of beautifully made and decorated objects. (1000 5th Avenue at 82nd Street, New York, NY, 10028, telephone 212-535-7710, on the Web at [www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org).)

Harvard's **Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology** presents *Michael Rockefeller: New Guinea 1961*. This first solo show of the photographs that the late Michael Rockefeller made while he was a member of the Peabody Museum's New Guinea Expedition (1961-1963) will be on view through February 2007. The black-and-white photographs were chosen from about 3,500 images Rockefeller made documenting the day-to-day life of the Dani people of the Baliem Valley high in the mountains of New Guinea (today Irian Jaya, Indonesia).

Although some of the photographs on display were published in the volume about the expedition (*Gardens of War*, Random House, 1968), most have never before been published or publicly displayed. (11 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA, 617-496-1027, on the Web at [www.peabody.harvard.edu](http://www.peabody.harvard.edu).)

**The Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art** presents *Urban America, 1930-70* from December 1, 2006 through February 25, 2007. The period from the Depression to the end of the 1960s marked a period of tremendous growth and transformation for American cities. This collection of prints, drawings, and photographs from the permanent collection of the Rhode Island School of Design's Museum of Art, by artists including Gordon

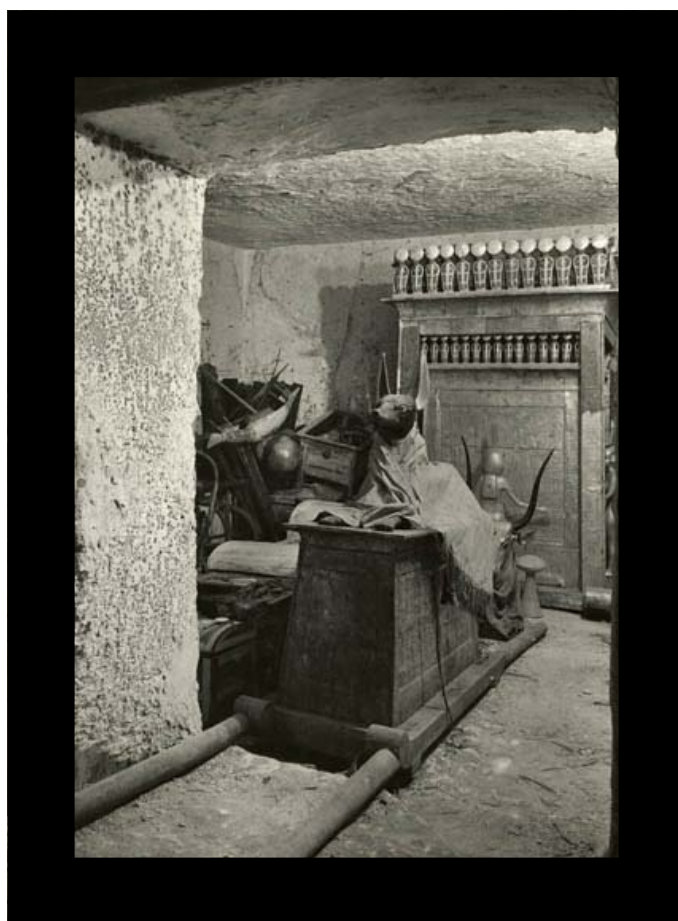


Photo by Harry Burton © MMA

Harry Burton's photograph of the treasury room in Tutankhamun's tomb provides both a documentary record and an artistic experience.

Parks, Jacob Lawrence, Reginald Marsh, and Roy De Carava offers a compelling portrait of this changing urban scene. (224 Benefit St, Providence Rhode Island, 02903, 401-454-6500, on the Web at [www.risd.edu/museum.cfm](http://www.risd.edu/museum.cfm).)

### PHSNE Member Arvin B. Congleton Dies

Arvin Congleton of Chester, NH, died Oct. 26 at age 67. He was a regular volunteer for PHSNE's Photographica shows and the annual Members Auction. In addition to his photographic interests Congleton was a ham radio operator and collector of antique radio equipment, a member of the New England Antique Radio Club and the New Hampshire Astronomical Society. An electrical engineer, he had worked for many years at Raytheon on projects that included the guidance system for the Patriot missile.

### Member Jim Lanzoni Dies in Accident

Long-time member Jim Lanzoni, who was a faithful volunteer at Photographica shows, died on October 3 after a tragic fall. He leaves his brother Elton, also a PHSNE member, and nieces and nephews.

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# Salesman's Case Reveals a Glimpse into Photographic History

By Warren Patrick

Not long ago I was fortunate enough to acquire a beautifully made wooden 19-century portrait salesman's case. The piece, which measures about 12 inches by 14 when closed, cleverly combines both sample display and briefcase, and recalls an era when sales agents knocked on doors to display samples and sell everything from books to furniture to kitchen ranges.

The case provided an agent of the Elmira Portrait Company of Elmira, NY, everything he needed to sell orders for portraits.

Closed and held by its two handles, the case looks like a slim wooden box. It opens like a book to reveal framed and matted sample portraits of a bearded man and a young girl, nicely hand-colored.

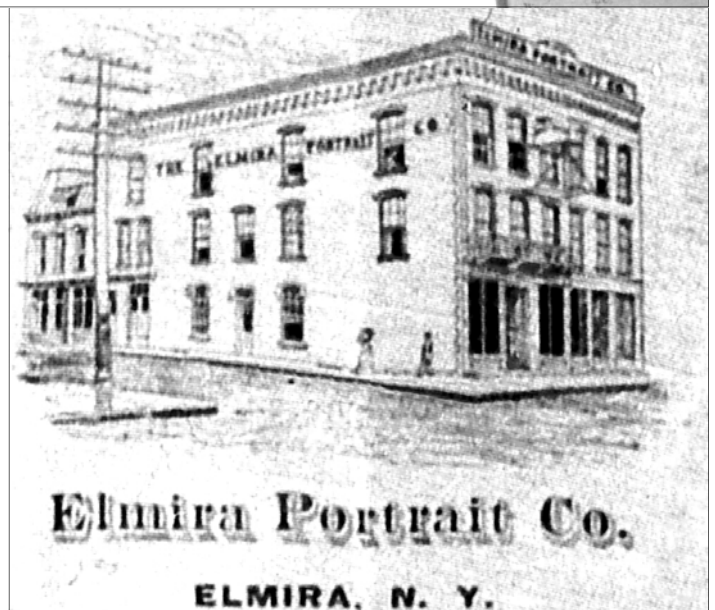
Hidden behind each portrait is a compartment, accessible by removing the frame's sliding back, that holds papers.

The Elmira Portrait Co. was located at 116 Baldwin Street, an address associated with Elmira photographers including Stamp and Tomlinson and more recently part of the city-owned Easttown Mall.

The kit came from an old homestead in Watertown, NY, which had been occupied by four generations of the same family. The seller thought that his great-grandfather, an Elmira Portrait Co. agent and a "fancy woodworker," might have made the kit for himself.

The contents have obviously been used, with many of the pieces covered with annotations and figures in keeping with Elmira Portrait Co.'s claim, "We take Tin Types, Ambrotypes, Daguerreotypes, and every other kind of pictures from a pin-head to life-size, and reduce or enlarge to any size required, and finish to the best style known to the art of Portrait Making."

The portrait salesman's kit opens to present two framed sample portraits (top photo). Behind the portraits hidden compartments held all the paperwork relating to the sale of portraits: price lists, order blanks, sample photos, return envelopes, and an instruction manual for the salesman — in all, about 40 items. Several interesting pieces are photographs of photographs — images made to demonstrate portraiture and frame styles (middle photo). The Elmira Portrait Company may have been the creation of an entrepreneurial photographer seeking wider markets: the offices at 116 Baldwin Street in Elmira, shown on the cover of the company's catalog, had been occupied by other photographers and studios (bottom image).



## *The Great American Thirty-Five Exhibition*

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the film's ASA in bright sunlight, and open up as it gets darker."

While 35mm cameras have looked pretty much the same since the first Leicas were introduced in 1925, a lot has changed since 35mm cameras were produced in the U.S. — autofocus, auto-exposure, lever film advance, double-exposure prevention — and PHSNE shooters are relearning tricks they haven't needed since they bought their first post-World War II German or Japanese camera.

Be a part of the show: bring five slides and the American-made 35mm camera you took them with to the December meeting for inclusion in the projected show.

## Membership News

New members — Paul Dumas, Effingham, NH; Andrew Held, Cambridge, MA, interests include all film formats; Harry Purkhiser, Hudson, NH, New England photo history; Tim G. Whelan, Rockport, ME.

Reactivated members — Pat Cassidy, Manchester, NH, B&W darkroom; Jay Goldman, Newton, MA, history, photo books, travel, and digital.

PHSNE membership is \$30 for an individual, \$36 for a family, and \$40 for foreign membership. Please send checks in U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank or dollar-denominated international money orders for dues payments. Communicate all changes of address and other contact information, to: Adrian Levesque, 4 Sugar Hill Drive, Nashua, NH 03063, or e-mail [ALevesque@aol.com](mailto:ALevesque@aol.com).

## PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at Waltham High School, preceded by a mini trade fair at 12:30 and a PHSNE board meeting at 11:00 a.m.

**January 7** — The annual "Three Short Programs by PHSNE Members."

**February 4** — The annual Members Auction. Review the rules at [www.phsne.org](http://www.phsne.org) and get your lots ready.

## Directions

Waltham High School is at 617 Lexington St., Waltham, MA. The high school is at the top of the hill, behind other school buildings.

**From I-95 (Route 128) Northbound:** Take Exit 27 and follow Totten Pond Road 1.2 miles east until it dead-ends into Lexington St. Turn left and go .5 miles north. Turn right into the school complex.

**From I-95 (Route 128) Southbound:** Take Exit 28, Trapelo Road, east 1.3 mi. to Lexington St. Turn right and go south .8 mi. to school complex.

**From Boston/Cambridge:** Take Rte. 2 west to Exit 54B, then Lexington St. south 1.7 mi. to school complex on left.

**From Lincoln and West:** Take Rte. 2 east to Exit 53, Concord Ave. Go east 1 mi., then right onto Lexington St. and 1.3 mi. south to school complex on left.

## PHSNE Online

PHSNE is online at [www.phsne.org](http://www.phsne.org). PHSNE member Ralph Johnston is the Web master.

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Photographic Historical Society of New England  
Next Meeting: Sunday, December 3, 2006  
'The Great American 35mm Shoot-Out'



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