

snapshots

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Digital Photography: A Technology In Its Infancy

For the March meeting, a brief history of the future of photography: electronic imaging

For PHSNE's meeting on March 4, member Myron Allan Seiden will trace the early development of digital imaging, with a special emphasis on how it has impacted the professional photography market.

Seiden's review of the technology begins with its early use in television, which started in experimentation

with capturing still images from TV feeds, as well as excursions down blind alleys like the use of instant photography and fax scanners to transmit images for newspapers and TV news programs.

Kodak had a major impact on professional digital imaging equipment -- what we now call "digital SLRs" -- according to Seiden, and it helped make both Nikon and Canon major players in this market. He'll illustrate the devel-



Myron Seiden and some of his professional digital equipment — a Nikon D2X digital SLR and bracket-mounted flash.



Photos by Daniel Seiden

An infant technology in the hands of an infant: the development of digital cameras is Myron Seiden's subject for the PHSNE meeting on Sunday, March 4, at 1:30 at Waltham High School.

opment of these cameras with Nikon-based Kodak products from his own collection, as well as the Nikon products that developed from this technology partnership.

The technologies that go into digital photography are many and varied, and Seiden will discuss the development of image sensors and displays, and the cost implications of the choices the major manufacturers have made.

And he'll tackle one of the major mysteries of digital photography -- the meaning of "megapixel." Most competitive markets have a benchmark number that defines the products to customers, like the horsepower race in the automotive industry. Image resolution, he says, is the number most often quoted in the digital camera industry, and he'll attempt to demystify the importance of this often misused number.

PHOTOGRAPHICA IS COMING!

67th Photographic Show and Sale — April 14 and 15

NEW LOCATION — AMERICAL CIVIC CENTER

467 Main Street, Wakefield, MA

TABLES ARE STILL AVAILABLE.

Call John Dockery at 781-592-2553

Exhibitions and Shows in the New England Area

The Industrial Revolution and the invention of modern photographic processes coincided in the 19th Century to fuel a public fascination with lost civilizations. *In Search of Lost Time: Ruins in Photography* at the **Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute** through May 13 presents historic European photographs of ruins by Félix Teynard, Francis Frith, Auguste Salzmann, Robert Macpherson, and James Anderson. Subjects range from Egyptian monuments to Whitby Abbey in England. (Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, 225 South Street, Williamstown, MA, 413-458-2303, www.clarkart.edu.)

Two exhibitions of interest close very soon. The **Addi-**

son Gallery is showing *The Wheeler Survey: Nineteenth Century Photographs* by Timothy O'Sullivan and William Bell through March 8. The 50 images on exhibit come from expeditions sponsored by the U.S. Army in the American Southwest from 1871 to 1873. (Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA, 978-749-4015, www.addisongallery.org.)

The Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University presents *Made in Poland: Contemporary Pinhole Photography*, co-curated by PHSNE member Jesseca Ferguson, through March 4. The show celebrates the deceptive simplicity of pinhole photography. (AIB, 617-585-6676, <http://www.lesley.edu/aib/events/events.html>.)

Saul Kaminsky Dies: Expert on Russian and Ukraine Cameras and Lenses

Saul Stuart Kaminsky died Jan. 10 in Greenwich, CT. He was an expert on Russian and Ukrainian cameras and equipment, and a familiar figure at PHSNE's Photographica shows for more than two decades.

Kaminsky operated the Lens Exchange and more recently Kiev USA, a business repairing and selling antique and modern cameras and lenses that developed a specialty in Russian and Ukrainian photo equipment. He had an extensive collection of Russian and Ukrainian collectible cameras and lenses. Kaminsky "loved cameras and photo equipment all his life," said his widow, Laure, who frequently traveled with him to Photographica.

His interest in Russian photo equipment began at a time years ago when many Russian immigrants were coming to the United States with little more than the clothes on their backs. Often, said Mrs. Kaminsky, they brought a camera

because they couldn't take money out of the country. Saul Kaminsky, who had family roots in Eastern Europe, bought some of these cameras, at first to do a good deed,

but he soon became fascinated with the equipment and the businesses that produced it. He traveled frequently to Russia and the Ukraine and its capital, Kiev, where he built relationships with factories that had formerly produced optical and electronic equipment for the Soviet military.

Kaminsky was a well-known figure in the dealer community,

doing as many as 30 shows a year, although in recent years he had reduced his activities to half a dozen shows a year, always including the two PHSNE Photographica events, said Mrs. Kaminsky. "He liked the people at PHSNE and the dealers."



Photo courtesy Andrée Kaminsky

Saul Kaminsky

Brad Washburn Dies at 96

Brad Washburn, explorer, mountain-climber, cartographer, photographer, and founding director of the Boston Museum of Science, died Jan. 10. He was an Honorary Life Member of PHSNE, along with his wife Barbara.

Washburn was as honored for his skills as a mapmaker as he was famous for his aerial photography that combined technical excellence with an obvious devotion to the mountains he loved.

Membership News

New member — Gary Morrison, Waltham Camera Exchange, Waltham, MA. Interests include new and used cameras, both digital and film.

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.

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PHSNE's Auction: Photographic Collectors Get the Goods

PHSNE's annual auction brought out the collectors and the collectables for the February meeting



Photos by David DeJean



Above: A winning bidder peeks into his purchase.

Left: Bagged and tagged, items await inspection by prospective bidders.

Above: The biggest sale of the day, an 11x14 studio camera on tripod went for \$600 under the watchful eyes of PHSNE volunteers John Dockery, Marti Jones, Larry Rochette, and Allan Goodrich. Behind the table are Sherryl and Ernie Stonebraker. Out of the picture on the left is Bethany Jones, who also helped with the auction.



Above: Patricia Zacks and Cindy Berry check over items during the viewing period before the auction.



Left: Happy winners show off their newly acquired treasures. In front is Gary Morrison of Waltham Camera Exchange.

PHSNE Journal Notes

From the Co-Editors of *The Journal*:

Your editors appreciate all the kind compliments members have been sending since receiving the 2006 *Journal*. It's great hearing from you, and we invite you to participate in the next issue, the 2007 *Journal*. If you would like to review books, or write a by-lined article about members and their collections, or have other ideas for *The Journal*, give us a call or email (when emailing, please put "PHSNE *Journal*" in the subject line).

We beg your indulgence in helping us make a few corrections. The errata sheet enclosed with this issue of snap shots is for you to cut and paste into your *Journal*. The errors and corrections are listed below.

- Inside front cover, PHSNE Board of Directors: Ed Shaw's name was inadvertently left out of the "Members-at-Large" list. Late in 2006 Ed resigned as Treasurer, having grown PHSNE's assets for 15 years into a sizable, stable endowment fund. His name should appear after Lew Regelman's. Our apologies to Ed for this omission. He continues to be an active board member.
- PHSNE's Second Ten Years, page 5, chart of PHSNE Board of Directors: The underlined headings Secretary and Treasurer need to be switched with each other. Those named under "Secretary" actually served as Treasurer and vice-versa. Thanks to Paul Nisula for pointing this out.

-- Journal Co-Editors Adrian Levesque (603-889-4056, ALevesque@aol.com) and Ruth Thomasian (617-923-4542, archives@projectsave.org)

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 an open meeting of the PHSNE board at 11:00 a.m.

April 1 — "Early Color Photography Processes," George Ehrenfried.

May 6 — "Street Portrait Photography," Eaton Lothrop.

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 on left.

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. PHSNE member Ralph Johnston is the Web master.

FIRST CLASS MAIL
Address Service
Requested

Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Meeting: Sunday, April 1,
'Early Color Processes'



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PHSNE
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