

snapshots

Volume 13 Number 3

November 2007

Portraits Of Chinese People, 1924

For the November meeting, a first-person tale of a marvelous photographic odyssey

In 1923, Harold Bucklin, a sociology professor at Brown University, took his family on a remarkable year-long journey from Providence, Rhode Island, to Shanghai, China, where he produced an exquisite body of work of large-format photographs of Pre-Revolutionary China using a Graflex camera.

For PHSNE's next program on Sunday, Nov. 4, some 84 years later, Donald Bucklin will retell the story and show some of his father's remarkable photographs.

The Bucklins — Harold, Hazel, and their two-year-old son Donald — made a remarkable journey. The left Providence in August of 1924 and traveled by train to Seattle, and by ship to Japan, where they arrived just after an

Images Courtesy Donald Bucklin



Two children carry a goose in a photograph by Harold Bucklin, left. Above, Don Bucklin demonstrates how to take a vertical picture with a 10-pound roll-film Graflex, the same model his father used.

earthquake and typhoon devastated Yokohama, and on to China. From Shanghai, they traveled to other cities where the senior Bucklin lectured — and photographed until returning home in June, 1924.

Don Bucklin and his wife Hope catalogued and cross-referenced some 1,000 negatives

and related papers, including Hazel Bucklin's extensive diaries of her trip, and created a Web site, www.bucklinchinaarchive.com, to showcase them.

What's to Discuss? Find Out Online on the PHSNE Forum



PHSNE has been online for years with its own Web site, maintained by Ralph Johnston. And now it has another Internet-based communications tool for members to use, thanks to Joe Walters, who has created the PHSNE Forum at www.phsne.net.

The PHSNE Forum offers a place to ask, and answer, questions on collecting cameras and images, notify other members of events of interest, and post and discuss news of the photographic world.

While anyone can read the forum, you must register to post messages and images. If you have problems you can email Joe at phsne-forum-admin-jbw@phsne.net. "And if you have suggestions, please let me know," he says. "We want to make this a n active, useful resource for PHSNE members."

Shows and Exhibitions Around New England

Two current museum exhibits are building the photographic reputation of an already well-known New England artist. Arthur Wesley Dow (1857–1922). Dow is well known for his paintings, prints of the landscape around his home town of Ipswich, MA, influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement and Japanese prints.

Two albums of Dow's less well known work as a photographer are currently on exhibit in Boston-area museums. The Museum of Fine Arts is showing images from a newly-acquired album of 264 cyanotypes through February 17, 2008. The Addison Gallery at Phillips Academy, Andover, MA, is displaying a recently discovered 1899 album of forty-one cyanotypes through January 6, 2008.

The cyanotype process, with its distinctive indigo prints, was invented in the 1840s. It was used by Anna Atkins to produce the first book illustrated with photographs, and continued in use well into the 20th century to produce commercial blueprints.

Mars Stereo Images in Providence — Photography has an important place in science as well as in art -- a fact that the current exhibit at the Museum of Natural History and Planetarium on Providence, RI, brings home. The show, "A New Perspective on Mars: Detailed Views of Mars in 3-D," presents room-sized stereo images of the surface of Mars, revealed in great detail and three dimensions. The images are from the High Resolution Stereo Camera (HRSC) on the European Space Agency's Mars Express

PHSNE Membership

New members — Andrew Seminerio, Melrose, MA; Helen Rollins Lord, York Harbor, ME, interests include black-and-white, 2 1/4 cameras.

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.

Current members can read their renewal date from the mailing label on snap shots. For example, "2007.12" means your membership expires in December of 2007.

Send payments, changes of address and other contact information, to: Adrian Levesque, 4 Sugar Hill Drive, Nashua, NH 03063, or e-mail ALevesque@aol.com.

snap shots, edited by David DeJean, is published by the Photographic Historical Society of New England, Inc., P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465-0189. Send news briefs to ddejean@dejean.com.



Courtesy Museum of Fine Arts Boston

"White clapboard house and Dory." cyanotype by Arthur Wesley Dow.

Mission. The exhibit runs through November 12, 2007 at the Museum in Roger Williams Park, Providence. See the Web site, <http://providenceri.com/museum>, for details and directions.

Spiratone Founder Fred Spira Dies

S. Franklin Spira, long-time PHSNE member, photographic historian and collector and founder of Spiratone, died Sept. 14 after a long illness.

Spiratone, the New York retail and mail-order house, put items like fisheye and mirror telephoto lenses, stabilization processors, and teletenders in the gadget bags and darkrooms of generations of photographers.

Spira came to the United States as a teenager with his parents from Austria as refugees in 1940. With his father he started a small photo lab in their Manhattan apartment. After World War II the business grew, with a retail store and mail-order business built on Spira's flair for product development and multi-page ads in photo magazines.

Spira was an avid collector, and in 2001 his collection became the basis of *The History of Photography as Seen*

Through the Spira Collection, begun by Fred and completed by his son Jonathan and Eaton Lothrop Jr.

ACCESSORIES FOR THE MERCURY II

Leather tripod with padlock	\$7.75
Eveready Leather Carrying Case	7.50
Flash Attachment	7.50
Box of 50 jiffy masks (incl. postage)65
Each filter (yellow, orange, green, red, blue)	1.25
Range Finder	8.75

**The Finest
MERCURY II
DEVELOPING
ENLARGING**

"Mercury Enlarger" Fine Grain Developing and 2 1/4" x 4 1/2" glossy enlargements, 22 exp. rolls \$1.21. 63 exp. rolls \$2.58. "Mercury Enlarger" Fine Grain Developing and 2 1/4" x 4 1/2" double-weight velvet enlargements, 22 exp. rolls \$1.58. 63 exp. rolls \$3.08. Fresh film (reels): 22 exp. 25c. 63 exp. 30c. Complete price list with valuable De's Don's and other FREE.

Filterkit, consisting of lens shade and four color filters, Special	3.50
Lens shade	2.00
Local Exposure Meter	2.10
Kineax Slide Viewer	2.00

Ask for complete, illustrated catalog.

**SPIRATONE FINE GRAIN LABS, DEPT. M
49 W. 27th St. New York 1, N. Y.**

Courtesy JDM von Weinberg

An early Spiratone ad, published in *Minicam Photography* in 1947.

Photographica 68

PHSNE's 68th show and sale on Oct. 6 and 7 was a sell-out, with every table taken. If there was trend, said show manager John Dockery, it was sales of twin-lens cameras to a college-age crowd.

Member participation produced an auction, managed by Lew Regelman, on Oct. 5, and a new program addition to Photographica, Discovery Tables, with contributions from Dockery, Regelman, Marti and Bethany Jones, Gunter Mueller, and John Wojtowicz, and a well-received presentation by Boston-based photographer Ulrike Welsch.

Photographica 69: May 3 and 4, at the Americal Civic Center in Wakefield. Mark your calendar and plan to do a Discovery Table.



David DeJean

Table talk: Joe Lippincott talks a deal with buyers while behind him Karen Krause talks to Tibor Herdan. At upper left Allan Holmy mans his table, and Phoebe Sexton helps out with customers at Joe and Karen's tables.

A Postcard from the Past: Photo Mail-Order, Circa 1879

Most photographers have bought cameras and equipment via mail-order, but few of them are probably aware of how venerable the practice is.

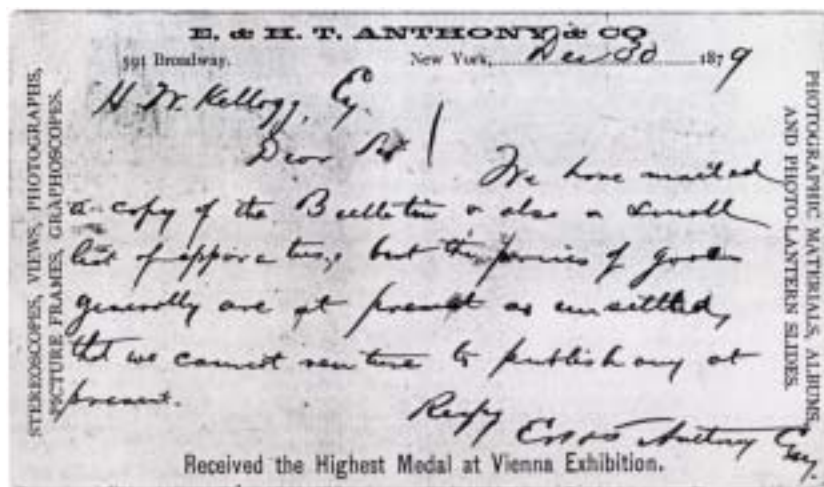
The postcard at right is a piece of photographic history preserved in the collection of Gardner Sherman, PHSNE Life Member and longtime postcard dealer.

Sent on Dec. 30, 1879, to H. M. Kellogg in East Shelbourne, Mass., it reads: "Dear Sir: We have mailed a copy of the Bulletin & also a small list of apparatus, but the prices of goods generally are at present so unsettled that we cannot venture to publish any at present. Regds, E. & H. T. Anthony Cmpy."

E. & H. T. Anthony & Co. may have been having trouble setting prices during post-Civil War recession of the 1870s, but it had a long history even before that, and successfully weathered the economic storms to endure — at least in name — down to the present day.

Edward Anthony studied daguerreotype technology with Samuel F. B. Morse (the inventor of the telegraph was also a pioneer daguerreotypist). Anthony opened a studio in New York in 1841 and started a company to sell supplies. In 1852 his brother Henry became a partner.

The company prospered. It continued to sell apparatus, was a major publisher of photographic prints and stereoviews and seller of stereoscopes. In the 1880s and '90s Anthony manufactured and sold large numbers of "field" or portable view cameras and box, or "detective" cameras, competing with Blair, Folmer & Schwing, Scovill, and Eastman. In 1901 Anthony merged with Scovill, and by the 1920s the company, known as Ansco, was No. 2 to Kodak in the U.S. market. Ansco in turn merged with the



Gardner Sherman Collection

German company Agfa in 1928, the assets were seized during World War II and sold to eventually become GAF. More recently the Ansco trademarks were sold to a Hong Kong-based company, so the names of Anthony and Scovill, a daguerreotypist and a view-camera maker, are still in use in the digital age.



Internet links to more about E. & H. T. Anthony:

- Company history and cameras: <http://www.pacificrimcamera.com/pp/anthony/anthony.htm>
- Stereoviews: <http://memory.loc.gov>: search for "E. & H. T. Anthony"
- Field cameras: <http://www.fiberq.com/cam/anth.htm>
- Ads for detective cameras: <http://www.boxcameras.com>

Photography Sales and Shows

Photographica is the best show and sale around, but it isn't the only one. Here are some other events in the New England area:

- C.A.M.E.R.A. Bi-annual Show and Sale — Sunday, Nov. 4, Clarion Inn, 3 Watervliet Ave., Albany, NY, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., \$5. (Early entry, 8 a.m., \$20.)
- The Rangefinder Flea Market — Sunday, Nov. 4, Holiday Inn Pointe-Claire, 6700 Trans-Canada Hwy., Quebec (Montreal area), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., \$6. For more information email sol@therangefinder.com. Web site: www.montrealcamerashow.com.
- Wayne Camera Shows — Sundays, Nov. 11 and Dec. 9, Fireman's Hall, 97 Parish Dr., Wayne, NJ, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., \$5. (Early entry, 7a.m., \$35.) Web site: www.showsandexpos.com

Write for PHSNE's Journal

The editors of PHSNE's New England Journal of Photographic History, Ruth Thomasian (words) and Adrian Levesque (photographs) are looking for articles, and you could be a published author. Please be in touch with the editors of the Journal about contributing articles that reveal your special interests, knowledge, and expertise in photo history, whether it be very serious, full of fun, or somewhere in between. Contact Ruth Thomasian (617-923-4542 or 4563, or e-mail archives@projectsave.org) or Adrian Levesque (603-889-4056, e-mail alevesque@aol.com). When emailing, please put "PHSNE Journal" in the subject line.

PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month September to June 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.

Dec. 2 — Three Member Shows

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 Rd. 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 Rd., east 1.3 miles to Lexington St. Turn right and go south .8 miles to school complex on the left.

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

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

PHSNE Online

PHSNE's Web site is online at www.phsne.org. Ralph Johnston is the Webmaster.

Join the PHSNE Forum online discussion: sign up and log in at www.phsne.net/forum, moderated by Joe Walters.

Address Service
Requested
FIRST CLASS MAIL

Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Meeting: Sunday, November 4
"Portraits of Chinese People 1924"

West Newton, MA 02465-0189
P.O. Box 650189
PHSNE



snap
shots