

snap shots

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February 2008

Going Once... The February Members Auction is your chance to buy and sell

PHSNE's next meeting on February 3 will be devoted to the annual Members Auction, and the event promises to be a good one, according to auction manager Lew Regelman.

In addition to consignments from members, the auction will offer cameras and accessories from two estate collections — and the ever-popular book sale and dollar table.

If you have items to auction, no advance notice is required. Just bring items for the auction with you to the meeting. Note that the schedule for the auction differs from the regular meeting agenda. Doors will open at Waltham High School at 11 a.m. for consigning items and previewing the auction lots. The meeting will begin half an hour early, at 1 p.m., to allow sufficient time for the sale.

The complete rules for the auction are posted on the PHSNE Web site (go to <http://www.phsne.org/auctions>). Some of the most important points:

- Anyone, whether a member of PHSNE or not, may register to bid at the auction.
- Anyone may consign a maximum of six items or box lots to be sold at the auction. Sellers may specify a reserve for each lot, below which amount the item or lot will not be sold. (PHSNE reserves the right not to accept lots from any prospective sellers.)
- Auction lots may be previewed before the start of the meeting, beginning at 11 a.m. Previewing ends at the



Photo by David DeJean

Bagged and tagged: Items from last year's Members Auction included these 35mm cameras and accessories. Do you recognize any?

posted time for the start of the auction, 1 p.m..

- All sales are final, and all items are sold "as is," with all faults, and neither the auctioneer, the Society, nor the seller makes any warranties or representations of any kind or nature with respect to the property, its value, or the correctness of any description of the item.
- The buyer pays a 10 percent buyer's premium, which will be added to the hammer price of each item. A 15 percent seller's premium will be deducted from the selling price. These two premiums constitute PHSNE's commission.
- All purchases must be paid for in full and removed on the day of the sale. Payment will be accepted in cash, or personal check with ID at the discretion of PHSNE. Credit cards are NOT accepted.



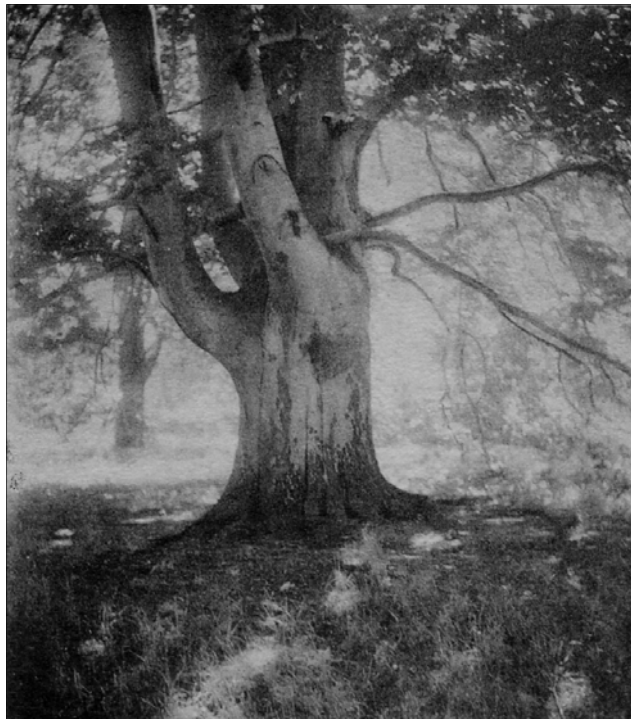
“From Photographs Made By The Maynards, Waban, Mass.”

That credit line, or a variation, appears on the backs of literally hundreds of postcards — black-and-white views of New England historic homes, college campuses, and museums — published during the 1920s and ‘30s. The Maynards were a brother and sister, Florence and Karl Maynard, who lived in the village of Waban, a neighborhood within Newton, MA.

Florence was one of the earliest women photographers and following her move to Boston from Philadelphia before World War I she founded the Photographers Guild of the prestigious Boston Arts and Crafts Society. With her brother Karl she established a studio, the Maynard Workshop, in Waban and the pair taught photography, sold prints, and photographed New England landmarks in work that appeared in books and newspapers as well as postcards.

PHSNE member and postcard enthusiast David DeJean will draw on his collection of Maynard Workshop cards to introduce the Maynards and their photographic art in a talk at the Newton History Museum on Wednesday, February 27, at 7 p.m.

Newton History Museum



“Beech Tree, Longwood Mall (Girth 10 ft. 6 in.)” is an image published as a postcard by Waban, MA, photographers Florence and Karl Maynard, who called their studio the Maynard Workshop.

Correction

The obituary for Thurman “Jack” Naylor in the January issue of *snap shots* incorrectly located the Photographic Resource Center at Boston College. The Center, which Jack helped establish, is affiliated with Boston University.

PHSNE Membership

PHSNE membership is \$15 for students, \$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. Please check your membership label before sending in your dues.

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.

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Exhibitions and Shows in The New England Area

In 1905, William Howard Taft, then Secretary of War under President Theodore Roosevelt, embarked on a diplomatic mission to Japan and the Philippines. His entourage included seven Senators, 23 Congressmen, Roosevelt’s daughter, Alice, and several of Taft’s friends from Cincinnati, Ohio, including a young businessman, Harry Fowler Woods. Woods was an amateur photographer who took hundreds of photographs using what was then the latest photographic technology — early Eastman Kodak handheld cameras.

Woods’ photographs of the group’s travels in Japan, the Philippines, and China, captured a lively, casual record of the group’s activities. He placed them, carefully captioned, into several albums, and they were more or less forgotten for a century in a family camp in the Adirondacks.

Now the family albums have been turned into public history. A traveling exhibition, “Looking East: William Howard Taft and the 1905 Mission to Asia,” will be on view at the Nippon Club in New York City, but only until Feb. 8 (a free catalog is available). The images can also be seen on the Web, on a Web site created by one of Woods’ granddaughters, at www.ohiohistory.org/tafttrip. (The Nippon Club, 145 W. 57th St., New York, 212-246-8001.)

Answer: It's a Premo Film Holder, But Who Was Norman Carkhuff?

Sometimes you ask a small question and you get an answer larger than you expected. Such was the case with the "What Is It?" photo on Page 1 of *snap shots* for December. It showed a sheet metal framework rounded at the top, and was stamped on the side, "Manufactured by Eastman Kodak Co., successor to Rochester Optical Co., Rochester, N.Y. U.S.A., Patented Nov. 3, 1903."

What it was was no secret. Half a dozen PHSNE members quickly and accurately identified it as an early sheet film holder for a processing tank. Gardner Sherman takes the prize for answering the question first in a telephone call. John Craig and Joe Marlin also sent emails. Eaton Lothrop, Ruud Hoff, and Dennis di Cicco went even further to offer supporting research and photos.

The Premo Film Pack Tank

Eaton identified it as the core of a Premo Film Pack Tank. The Premo tank came in two sizes, wrote Eaton: "The No. 1 tank was for 3-1/4x4-1/4 inch film packs, the size of the original film packs introduced in 1903 with Premo box and folding cameras that took only the packs. (Later on, film pack adapters were introduced that permitted the use of film packs in regular plate cameras.) The core shown in *snap shots* goes with the No. 2 tank, which was for 3-1/4x5-1/2 inch film packs — often referred to as the 3A or 'postcard' size."

Ruud described how the film sheets were curled to load into the chambers of the holder. He didn't have an example of a Premo film pack in his collection, but sent photos of later Kodak film packs and a film pack adapter for a Graphic sheet film camera.

Dennis dug into the records of the U.S. Patent Office and came up with the original patent application for the device, and the name of its inventor.

The patent for the film holder didn't belong to Kodak or Rochester Optical Co. Dennis discovered. Patent number 902,940 was awarded to Norman W. Carkhuff.

"It's clearly designed to hold folded sheets of film for developing in cylindrical tanks," writes Dennis. "In addition



Photo by Eaton Lothrop

A complete Premo No. 1 Film Pack Tank — film holder, tank, lid and lifting hook. The film holder is made from sheet metal to hold 12 sheets of 3-1/4x4-1/4 inch film for processing in the tank.

to the initial patent, the device is referenced in a number of later patents, many of which relate to film developing."

Because it's an older patent, it exists online only as images, and thus isn't searchable with some of the typical tools, which made Dennis' work even harder: "Little did I know in advance that about half of the patents awarded during the 20th century seem to have been granted on that date! And I looked at a lot of 'em during a few lunch hours before I found the likely one."

Who Was Norman W. Carkhuff?

But answering one question raised another. Who was Norman W. Carkhuff? Some research on the Internet opened an intriguing window. In 1903, when the patent was granted, Carkhuff was the director of the Photographic Laboratory of the U.S. Geologic Survey. He led a small lab team, advised the Survey's field staff, and worked in the field himself (his photographs of geologic stratification of the Grand Canyon turn up in Google's Book Search).

Carkhuff probably offered a preview of his invention to the annual meeting of the Geologic Society of America on Jan. 2, 1903, when, following the noon recess, he "gave a demonstration of the process and instrument for 'daylight development' of kodak films."

Carkhuff was obviously a dedicated photographic tinkerer, but he also appreciated photography as an artform: A member of the Capitol Camera Club, he helped Alfred Stieglitz arrange an important early Photo Secessionist show at Washington's Corcoran Gallery.

— David DeJean



Photo by Ruud Hoff

A film pack like the one at right held sheet film interleaved with paper leaders that pulled exposed sheets around to the back after exposure.

For March, PHSNE Visits the BPL

The March 2 program will move PHSNE from its usual spot in Waltham to the Boston Public Library. Tours of the library and behind-the-scenes visits to the Print Department's photographic archive are on the agenda.

Final arrangements are still being made, so check next month's *snap shots* for more details on parking and assembling inside the Library, which is on Copley Place in downtown Boston. But make a note now to be there — instead of in Waltham — on March 2.

Be Part of Photographica 69

There are many ways to be part of Photographica 69, May 3 and 4 at the Wakefield Civic Center, and it's not too soon to be thinking about the role you want to play — display your interests on a Discovery Tables or in a presentation, take your own vendor table, or be one of the Most Valuable People who are so necessary to making Photographica run smoothly. Contact show manager John Dockery at 781-592-2553 for more information.

The Journal Wants YOU!

The co-editors of PHSNE's *New England Journal of Photographic History*, Adrian Levesque and Ruth Thomasian, welcome inquires about writing and submitting articles for publication.

Please be in touch with Adrian or Ruth about article ideas. Ruth Thomasian, phone 617-923-4542 or 4563, e-mail archives@projectsave.org; Adrian Levesque, phone 603-889-4056, e-mail alevesque@aol.com. Please put "PHSNE Journal" in the subject line of your e-mail.

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.

Future meetings:

Mar. 2 — Boston Public Library

Apr. 6 — Gunter Mueller on Collecting Images

May 4 — Photographica 69, Wakefield, MA

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, moderated by Joe Walters. Sign up and log in at www.phsne.net/forum.

Address Service
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Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Meeting: Sunday, February 3
"The Annual Members Auction"

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