

snap shots

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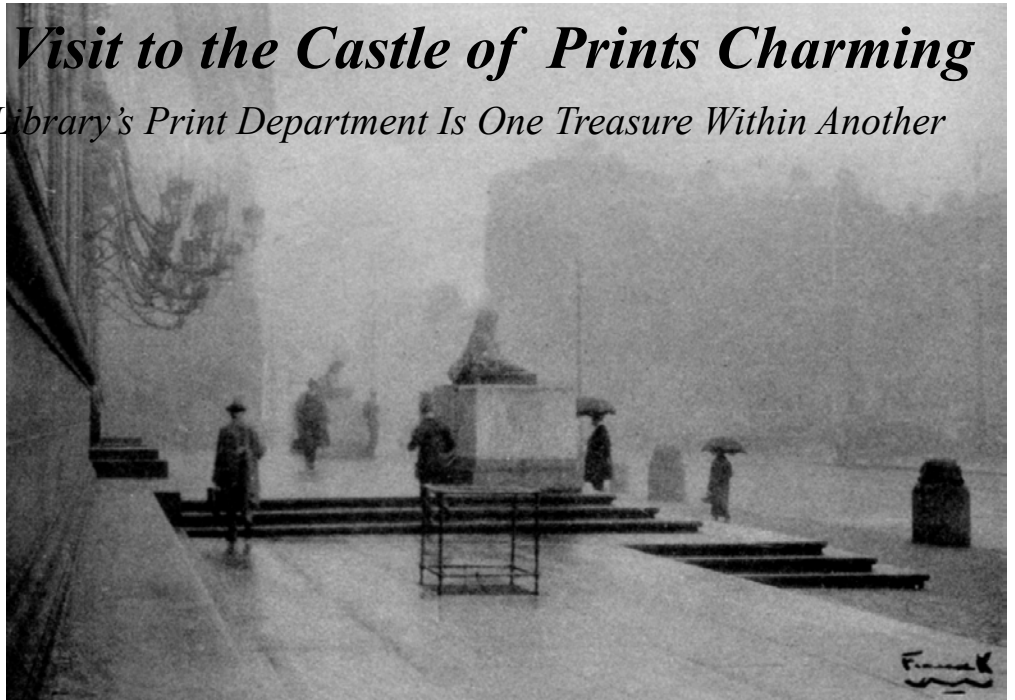
For March, a Visit to the Castle of Prints Charming

The Boston Public Library's Print Department Is One Treasure Within Another

There's a lot more than books in the library, as PHSNE will discover when it visits the Boston Public Library for its meeting on Sunday, March 2, at 1:45.

The group will assemble in the lobby of the McKim Building facing Copley Square with two activities on the agenda: a tour of the architectural treasure that is the McKim Building, with its restored John Singer Sargeant murals, and a visit to one of the library's jewels, its Print Department, and its collection of historic and contemporary photography.

Aaron Schmidt, who works with the collection, says he is planning to bring out rarities from several holdings, including its Boston pictorial archive, the largest public collection of early images of Boston, photographs of the American west by Timothy O'Sullivan, A. J. Russell, and Carleton Watkins, and press photography from The Boston Herald Traveler and Leslie Jones, a Herald Traveler



The steps of the Boston Public Library's McKim Building in the 1920s. This photograph by Florence and Karl Maynard was issued as a postcard. An original print is included in the library's print collection.

The Maynard Workshop

staff photographer for four decades, whose collection of 40,000 negatives documents historic events and everyday happenings in Boston from 1917 to 1956.

The library's Print Department was established in 1941 with the gift of the Albert Wiggin collection of fine-art prints. Photography was consciously excluded from the

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Jack Naylor's Collection Goes to Viennese Auction House

The Naylor Collection has been sold to an Austrian auction house, WestLicht, of Vienna. The collection, which had been reduced by a large auction in New York last October, was removed from Jack's house in Chestnut Hill, MA, and shipped to Austria under the supervision of Martin Reinhart of the WestLicht staff.

After the New York sale, Jack had anticipated that the remainder of the collection would be dispersed in a series of Internet-based auctions. But following his death on Nov. 22, WestLicht made a successful offer for the entire collection.

The sale price was not disclosed, and WestLicht has so

far made no public announcement of its acquisition or its plans for the collection.

In the course of the removal, Jack's widow, Enid Starr, and WestLicht's Reinhart helped PHSNE recover organization records and research materials from Jack's files, including boxes of photographs of society events, Photographica shows, members and meetings. WestLicht donated a large amount of material, including some significant items from Jack's collection, to PHSNE.

WestLicht became a major player in the international market for photographica last year when it claimed two

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PHSNE Spins Up Its Web With Presentations, snap shots

PHSNE has established an online archive of *snap shots* and monthly meeting presentations.

The first meeting presentation to be available online is the January 3rd 2008 presentation by George Champine: "Photography That's Cosmic: Harvard's DASCH Project." Video excerpts and photographs from the February Members Auction are also available online. Joe Walters,

Shows and Exhibitions Around New England

"*A Daring Experiment: Harvard and Business Education for Women, 1937-1970*" is the second in a series of exhibitions marking the centennial of the Harvard Business School.

The exhibit uses a wide array of material drawn from the archives of Radcliffe College and the Harvard Business School — historic documents, photographs, publications and oral-history materials — to trace business education for women at Harvard from the 1937 certificate program in personnel administration at Radcliffe College to the integration of women into the full two-year MBA program at Harvard Business School.

The exhibit opened January 25 in the North Lobby of the Business School's Baker Library/Bloomberg Center and will run through May 16. An online version is available at <http://www.library.hbs.edu/hc/daring> (Harvard Business School, Western Ave. at Batten Way, Boston, MA, 617-495-6000, www.hbs.edu.)

PHSNE Membership

PHSNE membership is \$15 for students, \$30 for individuals, \$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 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 ALevesque2@comcast.net. Be sure to include the word "PHSNE" in the subject line.

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who built and maintains the archives, said, "We will add monthly meeting presentations, with the permission of the presenter, when the original presentation was made with digital media suitable for posting on the Web." To see the presentations and newsletters go to www.phsne.net/pubs and follow the navigation prompts in the left-hand menu bar.

The online issues of *snap shots* cover June 2006 to present. Earlier issues will be added to the site as files or scans become available.

When practical, the material is being posted in a format suitable for both Windows and Mac users. PC and Mac systems will usually have viewers for the files on the site. If not, the site provides links to free software to view the media on the site.

"As with the PHSNE Forum, we hope these new archives will be useful to members not in the Boston area, providing a means of benefiting from meetings and more sense of participation with the local members," Joe said. "And they will be useful to local members who miss a meeting or want to go back and review a presentation."

Ginns' Stereographica Online Auction Of Images and Hardware Closes March 1

Bryan Ginns' current online Stereographica Auction closes Saturday, March 1, at 3 p.m. The catalog, on Ginns' Web site, <http://www.stereographica.com>, covers 300 lots of antique images and hardware.

The sale features real-time on-line bidding, however you must pre-register on the Web site in order to bid. (If you have previously registered it is not necessary to re-register — your bidder number and password combination will be the same.)

A Visit to the Castle Of Prints Charming, The Boston Public Library's Print Dept.

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collection — it lacked respect as a serious art form. That changed in the 1960s, when the curator added photography to the department's collection mission. A search of the library's resources revealed that the institution already had substantial holdings of images, and in the years since, gifts have increased it substantially — particularly the 104 file cabinets that contain the photo morgue files of The Boston Herald Traveler.

The photographic collection has been estimated at a million or more images, said Schmidt, but recent reassessment of the Herald-Traveler archive indicates it alone could be as large as 1.4 million photographs.

One Last Show-and-Tell From Jack Naylor Shows . . . Jack Naylor

When the WestLicht Auction gave PHSNE access to the research materials and papers in Jack Naylor’s collections, we found many documents, publications, and photographs that went back years to PHSNE’s beginnings — and even further.

One of the most interesting was probably the least impressive: a 2 1/2 by 3 1/2 piece of shiny, chocolate-brown cardboard, a street photographer’s “tintype,” with a split and flaking image on it (at right below).

A digital scan and considerable graphics work revealed the image at right, five men in service station uniforms from more than 60 years ago, with the one on the far right wearing Jack’s unmistakable grin.

Jack had inked their names into the reversed image — they’re hard to read, but might be Blair, Crane, Cronigan, and Osborne. Along with the tintype there was a packet of tiny drugstore prints of Atlantic stations in the Baltimore, MD, area, one of them dated 1941.

Jack’s career as a grease monkey is undocumented, but there’s more to know about the image. I sent the before and after to Eaton Lothrop, who spoke to PHSNE last year about street photographers and their cameras. He replied:

“The cards used in street cameras were generally of two types. One was a light-colored one which produced a direct positive result.



This card is what was called a ‘black back’ card, essentially the non-metal equivalent of a tintype, produced by underexposing a negative image that when viewed against the black background appeared positive.



“Many — if not most, — of the more popular commercially-made street cameras used this 2-1/2x3-1/2 inch size of card. One of the principal brands of black back cards was the ‘Straco,’ manufactured by the Straight Dry Plate Co., Inc., Jamestown, NY. Undoubtedly the most common camera — in numbers produced — was the Mandel-ette Camera, made for many years by the Chicago Ferrottype Co. It was a simple and cheap camera.”

— David DeJean

Viennese Auction House Acquires Remainder of Jack Naylor’s Collection



WestLicht Photographica Auction

The highest-priced 35mm camera ever sold, this Leica O-series is a preproduction model dating to 1923. It’s No. 7 of only 21 produced.

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record sales. On May 26, 2007, it auctioned the earliest commercially produced daguerreotype camera for 576,600 euros, about \$775,661, the highest price ever paid for a camera. On Nov. 7 it sold an O-Series Leica, No. 107, for 336,000 euros or about \$493,500, the most ever paid for a 35mm camera.

WestLicht Photographica Auction is part of a complex of ventures operated by Peter Coeln that include the Vienna branch of the Leica Gallery, a gallery that exhibits the work of photographers and houses a collection of historical cameras and equipment, and a library and photographic archive.

Plan Now For PhotoHistory XIV In Rochester in October of 2009

Every three years, the Photographic Historical Society in Rochester, NY, sponsors a Symposium on the History of Photography. If all goes as planned the next one will be held in October, 2009. The schedule for the event spans a weekend, with registration Friday night, a day of programs at George Eastman House on Saturday, and a trade show on Sunday. Speakers at the 2006 Symposium included Jim McKeown, Eaton Lothrop, Gordon Brown, Michael Pritchard and Grant Romer.

PHSNE is considering sponsoring a bus to the fourteenth PhotoHistory event next year, depending on interest and cost. If you think you might be interested in attending PhotoHistory XIV, email Marti Jones at marti0727@comcast.net or let her know of your interest at an upcoming meeting.

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.

April 6 — Gunter Mueller on collecting images

May 3-4 — Photographica 69 (no meeting)

June 1 — Annual Field Trip: JFK Library

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. For an archive of back issues of *snap shots* and meeting presentations, visit www.phsne.net/pubs.



PHSNE
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Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Meeting: Sunday, March 2:
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