

# snapshots



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## *Point Click Shoot: Snapshots Celebrating Life*

### **PHSNE Travels to Fitchburg Museum November 1st**



Stephen Jareckie

The Fitchburg Art Museum exhibit, *Point Click Shoot*, features over 200 images selected by jurors from over 600 submissions. The primary intent of most snapshots is some form of personal use: a picture of a person, pet, or gathering—also vacations, graduations, and weddings. Snapshots are souvenirs of places we have been and the times of our lives.

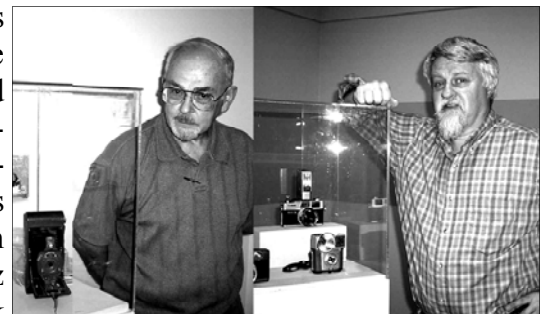
Generally snapshots are most significant to the photographer, subject, family, and friends. Unless we know something about the people or places in them, they may have little meaning. But some snapshots stand on their own without our knowledge of the subject. Those selected for this exhibit stand out for differing reasons: perhaps the subject is universally recognizable, or it resonates in some way with the viewer's personal experience, or perhaps the composition itself is of interest.

Of the visual arts, photography has been the most tightly tied to technology. Snapshots simply would not exist without easy to use hand cameras. Accompanying the exhibition is a fascinating display of over 40 amateur cameras loaned by several PHSNE members. Beginning with the original Kodak to a Barbie digital point n' shoot, it contains some of the more significant and interesting cameras used by casual photographers.

The November 1st PHSNE meeting will be held at the Fitchburg Art Museum. The meeting will start at the usual time of 1:30pm; however, the museum opens at noon, and the permanent collection is well worth the visit. The quality and scope of the museum's holdings amaze first time visitors.

The program for the meeting consists of three tours led by PHSNE members. Museum curator Stephen Jareckie will discuss the art of the snapshot, the sig-

nificance of the images in the context of aesthetics and artistic trends. Bud Midgely will conduct a guided tour of the cameras that made the images possible. Camera enthusiasts will enjoy seeing many of the classics and some unexpected technological treasures as well. John Wojtowicz will speak on an overlooked area



Bud Midgely and John Wojtowicz set up camera display

of photo history, instructional sources for camera users. Casual photographers got their start from the educational materials provided by Kodak and other manufacturers. There was also a great variety of hobbyist books, and after the 1920's, an ever widening choice in photography magazines. It was from these sources that casual photographers found their visual role models and their initial education in photography.

It has often seemed that those interested in photography and its history have divided into two camps, one primarily interested in the cameras, and the other in the images. This exhibit, which runs through January 3rd, 2010, reminds us that what is really the most important is what might be in the mind of the photographer and viewer. Admission to the museum will be free for PHSNE members. Bring your issue of Snapshots as proof of membership. If you forget it, we can check your driver's license against the membership list.

- John Wojtowicz

**See p. 4 for directions to Fitchburg Art Museum.**

## Update: Photographica 72

Saturday, Oct. 24 - 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Sunday, Oct. 25 - 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Americal Civic Center, 467 Main St., Wakefield, MA

Buying and Selling Cameras of Every Size  
Vintage Photos, Tintypes, Stereo Cards  
Educational Exhibits and Seminars

The rapidly approaching Photographica Show is shaping up to be one of the most successful shows we've had in recent years with considerable interest from both the public and dealers. By design, the show is being held a few weeks later this fall because the Photo History Show in Rochester will take place the weekend before. That show will draw photo historians and camera collectors from all over the world to the northeastern United States. Many will likely stay on to catch both events.

Based on a dealer questionnaire from the last show, we are reaching out to the antiques community and to the student population in the Boston area. October ads appeared in two regional antiques publications and Marti Jones may have interested the Chronicle television crew to come in and check the show out.

**There will be a significant camera auction on Saturday, October 24th at the Americal Center at 6:00 P.M. following the close of that day's show.**

There's still time to sign up if you can help in any way. If you're planning to attend, please consider donating an hour or two of your time. For more information about Photographica, call John Dockery at 781-592-2553; for auction information e-mail Lew Regelman at [auction.phsne.org](mailto:auction.phsne.org).

- John Dockery

### PHSNE Membership

PHSNE membership is \$15 for students, \$35 for individuals, \$40 for a family, and \$45 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, "Dec 2010" means your membership expires in December of 2010. Please check your label before sending in your dues.

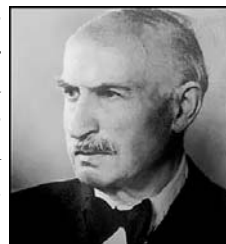
Send payments, changes of address, and other contact information, to Joe Walters Jr, PHSNE Membership Chair, P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465 (phone: 617-694-5594; email: [membership@phsne.org](mailto:membership@phsne.org), or use the Web form at [phsne.org/contacts](http://phsne.org/contacts)).

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## Leica Freedom Train

### An interesting piece of photographic history

E. Leitz Inc., designer and manufacturer of Germany's most famous photographic product, saved its Jews. And Ernst Leitz II, the steely eyed Protestant patriarch who headed the firm acted in such a way as to earn the title, "the photography industry's Schindler."



Ernst Leitz II

Leitz Inc., founded in 1869, had a tradition of enlightened behavior. Pensions, sick leave, health insurance - all were instituted early on at Leitz, which depended for its work force upon skilled employees - many of whom were Jewish.

As soon as Adolf Hitler was named chancellor of Germany in 1933, Ernst Leitz II began receiving frantic calls from Jewish associates, asking for his help in getting them and their families out of the country. Leitz quietly established what has become known among historians of the Holocaust as "The Leica Freedom Train," a covert means of allowing Jews to leave Germany in the guise of Leitz employees being assigned overseas.

Employees, retailers, family members, even friends of family members were "assigned" to Leitz sales offices in France, Britain, Hong Kong and the United States. Before long, German "employees" were making their way to the Manhattan office of Leitz Inc., where executives quickly found them jobs in the photographic industry. The refugees were paid a stipend until they could find work. Out



Luftwaffe Leica III C, 1933—1939

of this migration came designers, repair technicians, salespeople, marketers and writers for the photographic press.

The "Leica Freedom Train" was at its height in 1938 and early 1939, delivering groups of

refugees to New York every few weeks. With the invasion of Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, Germany closed its borders. By that time, hundreds of Jews had escaped.

How did Ernst Leitz II and his staff get away with it? Leitz was an internationally recognized brand that reflected credit on the newly resurgent Reich. The company produced range-finders and other optical systems for the German military. Also, the Nazi government desperately needed hard currency from abroad, and Leitz's single biggest market for optical goods was the United States.

According to the late Norman Lipton, a freelance writer and editor, the Leitz family wanted no publicity for its heroic efforts. Only after the last member of the Leitz family was dead did the "Leica Freedom Train" finally come to light.

- Photo and text excerpted from an article by George Gilbert

## Collection Features Novelty, Toy and Other Unusual Cameras



Hopalong Cassidy camera and flash by Galter

In the spring of 1979 I was in the last semester of my senior year in college. My photography teacher brought in a sample of a daguerreotype and a tintype. I thought how interesting it would be to have an old camera surrounded by some old photos on a table. That's when "it" started.

"It" was when I decided to start buying old cameras. In the early 80's I met a fellow collector at a flea market and he told me about PHSNE. I started attending the trade shows and soon after joined the organization.

It wasn't long before I had to "focus" on what I wanted to collect, so I decided on the colored cameras (not just Kodak), also toy and novelty cameras, some subminiatures and hit types, commemoratives like scouting and World's Fair and other unusual cameras. I am very pleased with the collection I have built up, and thirty years later, I am still in search of cameras to add to my collection. I now have over 800 cameras on display.



1939 New York World's Fair Kodak Bullet and Baby Brownie

I have also been pleased to serve as President of PHSNE for the past two years and to serve on the Board of Directors prior to that. Collecting cameras has introduced me to some of the best friends I could ever meet. I thank you all for what you have taught me over the years and hope that I can pass "it" along to my daughter in hopes that she will continue with the collection.

- story and photos by Marti Jones

## Second "Time" Around

On a recent visit to the DeCordova Museum, I came across several very unusual clocks made from antique cameras and stereo viewers for sale at the Museum store.

The cameras were created by Debra Dressler of "Stroke of Art" of Minnesota. If you'd like to add one of these utilitarian antiques to your collection, contact David Duddy, Director of Retail Operations at DeCordova to find out if they are still available at the Museum Store (dduddy@decordova.org; 781-259-8692). Prices range from \$150 to \$290 for the pieces in stock.



Purists may argue that creating the clocks alters a genuine antique. I would suggest instead that hundreds of thousands of these cameras were manufactured and recycling them in this highly original manner gives new life to something that would otherwise sit in a box on a shelf, or possibly end in a landfill.

- story and photos by Lew Regelman



## A Golden Surprise

If you visit the charming town of Golden, Colorado, you may be surprised to chance upon the Bradford Washburn American Mountaineering Museum. The main exhibit contains a large scale model of Mount Everest, which he climbed and photographed several times, once with his wife Barbara who was the first woman to reach the summit. Many of his aerial photographs of various mountain ranges throughout Alaska and around the world are displayed. All were printed by the Panopticon Gallery in Waltham, MA. A number of Brad Washburn's personal items are also on display. PHSNE sent the museum one of his aerial camera cassettes which he refers to in a film shown there.

## Area Exhibits

### Brett Weston: Out of the Shadow

Over 100 striking black and white prints hand-crafted by visionary photographer Brett Weston are on display at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, NH from October 10th through January 3rd, 2010. It is the first major exhibition of his work in three decades. The photographs date from 1920 through the 1980s.

Born in 1911, Weston was the son of photographer Edward Weston. He was apprenticed to his father at the age of fourteen, working in a studio in Mexico. "Under the astonished eye of his father," according to Cole Weston's biography, he "began his legendary technical precision, bold design and extreme abstractions of form." Van Deren Coke, late curator of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, called Weston "the child genius of American photography."

In the 1950s he began to focus on very high contrast close-ups. Though he took a multitude of photographs, he put few on exhibit during his lifetime, concentrating instead on the artistry of his work. Brett Weston died in 1993.

His photographs were published in *Voyage of the Eye* (1992), and *Dune* (2003) contains sand dune photographs by both Brett and Edward Weston. Over 200 of his photos are housed at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, NH. Check web site currier.org for further information.

### PHSNE Meetings

Except for November when PHSNE will meet at the Fitchburg Art museum, 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.

**December 6**—Pre-Civil War Photography of Children, Lauren Hewes

**January 3**—Three member presentations: stereo, film-strips, lantern slides

### Directions to Fitchburg Art Museum:

From the east: Rt. 2 west to exit 31B (Rt. 12 North). Take Rt. 12 north approx. 4 mi. Turn right after Central Shopping Plaza. Turn left on Main St. and continue almost to the end. Turn right on Merriam Pkwy. Museum is at the end, on the right, through stone courtyard wall.

From the south: Mass. Turnpike to Exit 10 (Auburn). Follow 290 (Worcester) to 190 North. Exit at Rt. 2 West. After 1/4 mi., take exit 31B and follow above directions.

From the west: Rt. 2 east to exit 25 (rte. 2A/Fitchburg-Princeton). Follow 2A east approx. 4 mi. and then follow green signs to Fitchburg Art Museum. Signs take you to Main St. where you make a left onto westbound side of Main St. Turn right onto Merriam Parkway and follow above directions.

### PHSNE Online

PHSNE's Web site is online at phsne.org. George Champine is the Webmaster.

Join the PHSNE Forum online discussion: sign up and log in at phsne.org/forum, moderated by Joe Walters. For an archive of back issues of *snap shots* and meeting presentations, visit phsne.org/archives.

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**Ballot Enclosed for Officers and Board Election**

**Photographic Historical Society of New England  
Next Meeting: Sunday, November 1  
Fitchburg Art Museum, 1:30 P.M.**



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