

snap shots

Volume 15 Number 6

February 2010

MEMBERS' AUCTION, FEBRUARY 7, 2010 Americal Center, Wakefield, MA, 1:00 P.M. (note earlier start time)

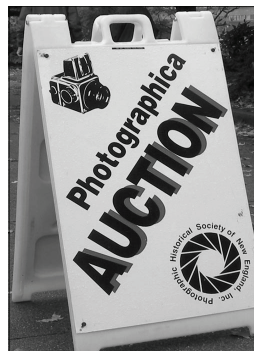


Alpa 6 B—to be sold at auction

It's auction time again. Add that special piece to your collection, buy accessories to upgrade your camera, pick up a "treasure" from the dollar table, sell on consignment the items

you no longer need, donate pieces that are taking up unwanted space on your shelves, or just enjoy browsing through the tables. Buyer and Seller premiums apply; the fee is ~~20%~~^{*} of the sale price, and these proceeds offset auction costs and support PHSNE's activities.

Buying vintage cameras at the Members' Auction is an ideal way to start or build a collection. Cameras have been checked by several PHSNE members to identify which are in working condition and which are just collectibles. Unlike Internet sales, you have an opportunity to see and hold items before you bid on them.



Furthermore, at online auctions you may be bidding against hundreds of others, whereas at a small auction there may only be a few people interested in the same item. There are excellent values to be found at the PHSNE sale.

Viewing of dollar table items begins at 11:00 A.M. and auction items at noon. Consignment cameras will be accepted un-



Auction record keepers Cheryl, Ernie Stonebrecker



Sinar, 4x5 studio camera

til 12:30 P.M. Members can bring up to 6 items or 6 lots, or any combination. The auction starts promptly at 1:00 P.M. PHSNE items alternate in groups with consignment items. A variety of collectible cameras and images are for sale as well as photographic equipment, accessories, books about photography, and other items of interest to collectors (see PHSNE website for list of items).

Even if you're not in the market to buy or sell, come to the auction and bring a friend. It's always interesting to watch the bidding, and the auctioneers always provide a healthy dose of humor.

Some items don't sell, and we ask you not to bring those for consignment. Heading the list are most projectors (excluding rare collectibles and pre-1930's antiques) and darkroom equipment. We cannot accept any darkroom chemicals.



Dollar table



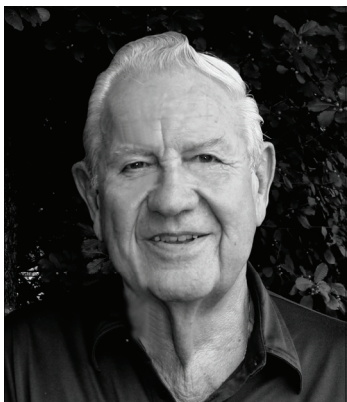
Truck loaded and ready to go

In the event of bad weather, the snow date for the auction is February 14th. Check phsne.org if there is a question about the weather. For additional information about the auction, go to phsne.org or phsne.org/forum.

Thanks to the members who volunteered to help, making this event possible.

*Errata: The sellers premium is 15% and buyers premium is 10%.

In Memoriam: **Peter Bass, retired Polaroid specialist**



Regretfully we report the sudden and untimely death of Peter Bass, a Lexington, MA resident, photographer, and Polaroid retiree, on December 9, 2009. The news arrived just after the January issue of *snap shots* was sent to press.

Peter was the featured speaker at a recent PHSNE meeting (September 13, 2009). He brought many samples of the large format photographs made with the 20 x 24" Polaroid camera he helped develop. A print was given to all PHSNE members in attendance, a souvenir that was much appreciated by the collectors of photographica.

After joining the Polaroid Corporation, Peter left for military service during the Korean War. He later rejoined Polaroid, working in the Quality Control Department, then moved on to become a technical specialist.

Peter's work brought him in contact with many famous photographers including Ansel Adams and Yosef Karsh, and he helped photograph many important international figures and political leaders. Using the 40 x 80 room-size camera and a modified 20 x 24, he photographed art works for the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

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. An application is available at phsne.org/membership.

Members should check the expiration date on the *snap shots* mailing label before sending renewals.

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

snap shots, edited by Beverly Regelman, is published by the Photographic Historical Society of New England, Inc., P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465-0189. **Articles and exhibition notices and book reviews are always welcome.** Send to snapshots@phsne.org.

Attention New England Students:

PHSNE will award a \$1000 cash grant to a New England student working in traditional photo processes, camera modification, or photo history. The contest is open to part or full time students enrolled in a New England high school, art school, technical school, college, or university who are exploring the visual media in any of the following ways:

- modifying an out-of-production still or movie camera of any size or type that is more than 50 years old (pre-1960) to produce images using currently available materials in either film or digital formats
- writing an article of at least 1,000 words about photographic images, processes, history, or analysis of a photographer's work. The topic should relate to New England photography and be based on primary source material
- creating new images by modifying traditional images and transforming them using photochemical processes, digital technology, or multimedia techniques

Topic proposals must be submitted in writing by May 1, 2010. Mail a brief one-page description of the project to PHSNE Contest Committee, Photographic Historical Society of New England, P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465. Topics will be approved or declined by June 1st with notification to be made by mail. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your project description. After topic is approved, completed entries must be submitted by December 31, 2010 to the address above. For complete details, go to phsne.org.

***Snap shots* wants to hear from you!**

PHSNE members enjoy reading about other PHSNE members—and their collections. Please consider sharing a story about the most unusual item in your collection, an interesting acquisition (where/how did you stumble on that fantastic find?), photographic awards, exhibitions of your work, or other items of interest. Several members have shared overviews of their entire collections (see article on Steve's collection on page 3). Collectors may remain anonymous if they prefer.

Your article can be as brief as a paragraph or as long as it takes to tell your story, and must be accompanied by one or more photos. You can submit an outline, and the editor will write copy for you. We reserve the right to select articles of greatest interest to photographic collectors and to publish and edit copy based on space available. Send articles or outlines and photos to snapshots@phsne.org.

Collector Restores and Displays Wooden Cameras



Krugener Cinquantés Plaques or Simplex Folien detective camera, circa 1892. A wishful competitor of The Kodak, it used a magazine of gelatin dry film pasted on paper. Anything but simple, it had Rube Goldberg complexity and was a commercial disaster.



The massive Ernemann 6 x 9 Ermanox with huge 12.5 cm. f.1.8 Ernestar (nearly 4 pounds!) Salomans' was half the weight).

Boats and cameras may seem a strange mix, but one collector's interest in restoring wooden cameras was "driven primarily by modest boat-building skills and the sensual pleasures of the sight and touch of wood and brass." These pleasures are evident in the many classic wood and brass cameras on display in his home. When necessary, he is able to research and duplicate wooden camera parts.

"Steve" writes "I'm not sure I can define my collecting motivation, but I've always been fascinated with both history and mechanical devices. Accordingly, the mechanical (and optical) evolution visible in the development of cameras certainly is a large part of my interest.

An eighteenth century camera obscura and the original Sony Mavica (similar to the one used in Tiananmen Square) form the 'bookends' of my collection. Hence, one is able to embrace a large swath of history with a camera collection."

Though he spends most of the year on the west coast, Steve maintains his membership in PHSNE and plans his travels east to attend both the fall and spring PHSNE shows.



A lovely pigskin covered Frena, designed by Joseph Clarke and made by Beck in 1892. This was the first "automatic" camera to use packs of celluloid cut film ("like a pack of cards") for up to 40 exposures.



A gaggle of mostly stereo cameras.

Current Area Exhibits:

Harry Callahan: American Photographer **Boston Museum of Fine Arts - Herb Ritts Gallery**

Harry Callahan was one of the most innovative photographers working in mid-twentieth century America. Images of his wife, Eleanor; passers-by on the street; cityscapes; landscapes; close-ups from nature; multiple exposures; and darkroom abstractions reveal the elegantly spare formalism and lyricism of his style. Callahan's wide-ranging and experimental approach to photography influenced a generation of American photographers, including students at Chicago's Institute of Design where he taught from 1945-61, and at the Rhode Island School of Design where he taught in the 1960s and 1970s. *Harry Callahan: American Photographer* features black-and-white and color photographs that survey major aspects of his remarkable career.

The exhibit runs through Sunday, July 3, 2010. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 465 Huntington Ave. mfa.org.

- *The Boston Globe*

The Best Laid Plans

You're taking a gamble any time you schedule a New England event in the winter—and occasionally in spring and fall as well. As the snowfall accumulated over the New Year's weekend, with predictions showing more on the way, the Board concluded that the only safe course was to cancel the January 4th PHSNE meeting. The three-member presentation will be rescheduled for some future meeting. We hope nobody was inconvenienced by the change.

When the weather is questionable, anyone who expects to attend the meeting should check for updates on the PHSNE website *phsne.org*. If you are still in doubt about the status of a meeting, phone or e-mail any Board member. Contact information is contained in your PHSNE Membership Directory. We will also try to get cancellation notices on WBZ radio and television but cannot be certain these announcements will be made in a timely manner.



Storm Watch, Saturday night, Jan. 3

If weather conditions force cancellation of the Members' Auction, the snow date will be Sunday, February 14th — weather permitting.

PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month, September to June, at 1:30 p.m. at the Americal Center, Wakefield, MA, preceded by a mini trade fair at 12:30 and an open meeting of the PHSNE Board at 11:00 a.m.

March 7 - John Briggs, history of astrophotography. Meeting to be held at the Dexter School in Brookline.

April 11—Three Member Presentations

April 17, 18 —Photographica 73

May 2—monthly meeting

June 6—monthly meeting

Directions to Americal Center, Wakefield, MA

I-95 to exit 39, North Ave. toward Reading/Wakefield. Turn right at North Ave; then turn left at Main St. Destination is on the left: 467 Main St., Wakefield, MA 01880.

Parking available next door at the school, behind the building, and on Main St.

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/archive*.

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Photographic Historical Society of New England
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Americal Center, Wakefield, MA, 1:00 P.M.
(Note earlier start time)
Viewing time: from 11:00 A.M.



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