

snap shots

Volume 16 Number 6

February 2011

Members' Auction— February 6, 2011, 1:30 PM Americal Center, Wakefield, MA *New twist: long-distance bids invited*



*Alpa 6b-1959-63 (#39601-42600).
Manufactured by Pignons, Switzerland.
Macro Kern Switar f1.8/50mm (focus to 8").*

For the first time, PHSNE members who are unable to attend the auction will have an opportunity to bid on a few select items. Submit a bid on any of the cameras pictured in this

article by sending an e-mail to auction@phsne.org. This bid will be held in confidence. If it is the high bid, the camera will be mailed to you, and you will be required to pay postage costs in addition to the bid price.

Details about the bidding process appear on the web site phsne.org. For additional information about the cameras, e-mail auction@phsne.org. Because mailing to other



Nikon F2S Photomic, 1975

countries may involve import duties, this offer is limited to addresses in the United States.

Members can enter at 11:00 to bring in sale items, limited to 6 lots, and to preview auction items. Volunteers are needed from 10:00 on (e-mail auction@phsne.org). Check website for update in the event of snow.



Original Polaroid SX-70, case

Members Share Favorite Items

Members were invited to bring interesting items from their photographic collections to the December PHSNE meeting. The display included a wet plate camera, early Nikon and Graflex cameras, and a large format camera that produces high quality negatives capable of making very large prints.

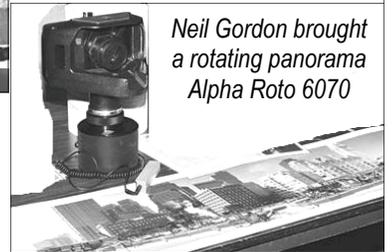


*Armando Vergara with
44 x 120" print produced by
6x17 view camera made in China*



*Douglas Heath, Wakefield,
uses 10x12" wooden view
Vageeswari camera made in
New Delhi; he coats his own
glass plates.*

While not truly photographic, members also enjoyed viewing images formed by an assortment of kaleidoscopes.



*Neil Gordon brought
a rotating panorama
Alpha Roto 6070*



*Dave Wilson built this
stereo camera from
two Nikon 2000's*

Approximately 30 members attended; most brought something to share. Each had up to ten minutes to talk about their prize possessions, and there was time for question-and-answer sessions. Holiday refreshments rounded out the afternoon and gave members a chance to take another look at the display items and talk about them.

~photos by Paul Nisula and Joe Walters

Follow-up on Photo Bugs

The January issue of *snap shots* included a picture of several small objects, each clearly labeled “photo bug.” We asked readers for help identifying these strange looking “critters.”

A detailed description came from James Stewart who wrote, “This type of item (only larger) used to be in wide use on shipboard (shaped like a whale) and in drafting rooms. The “finger” was placed on the corner of a rolled up document, and four were needed to hold it flat for work or inspection. In photography they were used in air-drying fiber prints so they wouldn’t do their usual “pretzel trick” as they dried.” Charter member Thom Hindle, John Ganson, and Andy Heatlie also noted that they were



weights used to hold down the corners of a photo or document to be copied. Henry Weisenberger added that the metal tips are designed to leave the least possible shadow which can easily be retouched out of the copied photo.

Dick Koolish compared the photo bugs to spline weights used in boat

building. A brief Internet search for spline weights turned up similar looking but heavier devices with the same metal extensions, sold as equipment for holding down drawings and templates in the boat building process.

Hindle, who owns and still uses his set of photo bugs, believes they were manufactured in the 1940’s; Heatlie and Weisenberger also own sets that they still use.

PHSNE Membership

PHSNE membership is \$15 for students, \$35 for individuals, \$40 for a family, and \$45 for foreign membership. Join or renew online at phsne.org/paypal or send a check in U.S. dollars, drawn on a U.S. bank or dollar denominated international money order.

Members should check the expiration date on the *snap shots* mailing label before sending in 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 (Call: 617-826-9294; email: membership-chair@phsne.org; or use the Web form at phsne.org/contacts).

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View These Dags

A daguerreotype of a young boy, in a case that included a lock of hair and a note, may help experts identify a union soldier killed in the battle of Dinwiddie, VA., 1865. It was one of about 700 daguerreotypes donated to the Library of Congress in 2010 by Tom Liljenquist who has been collecting civil war photographs with his sons for many years.



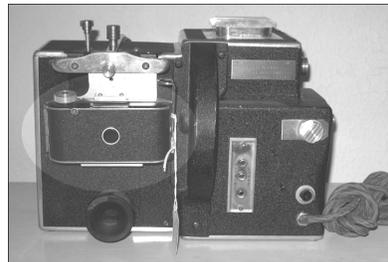
Unidentified African American soldier in Union uniform with wife and two daughters [between 1863 and 1865] loc.gov/rr/print/caption/captionliljenquist.

Included in the donation are rare photographs of African American soldiers in uniform, some with their families.

The Library of Congress will display the collection as part of the Civil War sesquicentennial in April. An excellent sampling of daguerreotypes can be viewed at negroartist.com/dags%20library%20of%20congress/index. New images are added weekly.

More about Gustav Bucky

Joe Marlin sent an interesting addendum to the December 2010 *snap shots* article on early autoexposure patents featuring the Gustav Bucky/ Albert Einstein patent.



Dr. Bucky also invented the Coreco Bucky clinical camera in the late 1940’s. The name represents the first two letters of *Consolidated Research Corporation*.

The part that holds the film is the back half of a Kodak Flash Bantam, so this camera uses 828 film.

Gustave Peter Bucky (1880-1963) was a radiologist, physicist, scientist, inventor, and author of textbooks.

In 1953, there was an extensive patent infringement court case involving the Coreco camera. During the testimony it was indicated that about 600 to 700 of these had been sold by then. It is not known if more were sold later.

The camera is rare: Joe Marlin found one for sale on Amazon at \$2200.

~Photos courtesy of Joe Marlin



Closeup focusing frames

Remembering Alan Kattelle, 1919—2010



Alan with his motion picture camera collection

Alan Kattelle, a charter member, honorary life member, and past president of PHSNE, passed away on December 8, 2010 at the age of 91. He is remembered fondly by many friends in PHSNE and the

broader world of photography.

The motion to nominate Alan as an honorary life member of PHSNE read as follows:

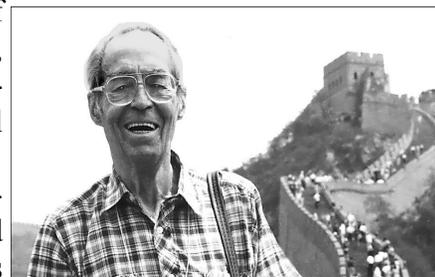
“Whereas Alan D. Kattelle, Charter member of the Photographic Historical Society of New England, has distinguished himself as a meritorious contributor to the Society and to the greater photographic history community the Photographic Historical Society of New England Board of Directors is proud to name him an Honorary Life Member of the Society.

Alan’s accomplishments include:

- ◆ Serving the Society as President (1982-84) and as Treasurer (1979-82)
- ◆ Authoring *Home Movies: A History of the American Industry, 1897 – 1979*, the definitive small gauge amateur motion picture film history book
- ◆ Co-founding, in 1988, the Movie Machine Society (devoted to collecting, displaying and preserving movie machinery, and the sharing of information).
- ◆ Numerous articles in journals including the *PHSNE Journal*, the *Journal of Film and Video*, and *Film History*
- ◆ Receiving the Silver Light Award from the Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA)
- ◆ Numerous presentations to groups including PHSNE, AMIA, and The Photographic Historical Society’s PhotoHistory Symposia
- ◆ Contributing to the history of photography through the AMIA’s *Alan Kattelle Oral History*; available at the AMIA, George Eastman House, and Northeast Historic Film. This history captures Alan’s thoughts about his collection of equipment, his

knowledge of amateur film, and his experience with small gauge formats

- ◆ Hosting individuals and groups at his home to view his extensive collection and subsequently donating this to Northeast Historic Film.”



at the Great Wall, China

Alan was a founding member of the advisory board of Northeast Historic Film, established in 1997. Its website obituary noted that they will “miss his wise counsel, his encyclopedic knowledge and generous spirit.” It goes on to say that “Alan was at the 2006 NHF Summer Symposium, author of *Home Movies: A History of the American Industry 1897-1979*, which is the most comprehensive work on amateur film technology. An avid collector, he worked for decades building an extraordinary collection of amateur cameras, projectors, and equipment.”

Alan’s passions and talents were not limited to photography. He was an accomplished artist and sculptor. Living and boating on Lake Boon, he authored a history of the lake. He helped restore classic buildings in Hudson, MA and designed a fiberglass dormer on Main Street that can’t be distinguished from the originals that surround it.



Photo by John Monroe

Alan and Natalie Kattelle

Alan is survived by three children: Lawrence E. Kattelle of Gardner, MA; Candace K. Monroe of Los Angeles; and Prudence K. Burkhart of Darien, CT; also by six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Natalie Orne Kattelle, and daughter Ellen K. Montecalvo.

**Stieglitz, Steichen, Strand at the Met
Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC—through April 10**

This exhibition features three giants of photography—Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Steichen, and Paul Strand—whose works are among the museum’s greatest photographic treasures. The diverse and groundbreaking work of these artists will be revealed through approximately 115 photographs, drawn entirely from the collection.



Alfred Stieglitz. Georgia O’Keeffe, 1918. *The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Gift of Georgia O’Keeffe, through the generosity of The Georgia O’Keeffe Foundation and Jennifer and Joseph Duke, 1997 (1997.61.25)*

Alfred Stieglitz, a forceful and influential advocate for photography and modern art through his gallery "291" and his sumptuous journal *Camera Work*, laid the foundation of the Met’s collection. He donated twenty-two of his own works in 1928—the first photographs to be acquired by the Museum as works of art—and more than six hundred by other photographers in later decades. Featured in the exhibition will be portraits, city views, and cloud studies by Stieglitz, as well as numerous images from his composite portrait of Georgia O’Keeffe.

Stieglitz’s protégé and gallery collaborator Edward Steichen was the most talented exemplar of Photo-Secessionist ideas, purposely rivaling the scale, color, and individuality of painting. By contrast, the final issue of *Camera Work* (1917) was devoted to the young Paul Strand, whose photographs from 1915–1917 treated three principal themes—movement in the city, abstractions, and street portraits—and pioneered a shift from the soft-focus Pictorialist aesthetic to the straight approach and graphic power of an emerging modernism.

~from metmuseum.org

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, 467 Main St., Wakefield, MA, preceded by a mini trade fair at 12:30 and an open meeting of the PHSNE board at 11:00 a.m.

Upcoming meetings:

March 6—*Cased Images in 19th Century Photography*, Dennis Waters; rescheduled from November

April 3 – Jesseca Ferguson, art cyanotypes

Driving directions to Americal Center:

I-95 to exit 39, North Ave. toward Reading/Wakefield (right turn on North from the south; left turn from the North). Drive approximately 1.5 miles, 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.

Public transportation:

The Wakefield station of the Haverhill rail line is within 1/2 mile of the Center, and a bus line stops in front of the building. Details are available at mbta.com.

PHSNE Online

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

Join the PHSNE Forum online discussion moderated by Joe Walters; sign up and log in at phsne.org/forum. 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
Next Meeting: February 6, 2011, 1:30 P.M.
Members’ Auction, Americal Center, Wakefield, MA
CHECK WEBSITE FOR WEATHER UPDATES

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