Cased Images in 19th Century Photography

Bring up to 5 cased images to the meeting

Dennis Waters will share his knowledge about the identification, preservation, and appreciation of daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, and tintypes at a PHSNE program rescheduled for March 6th at the Americal Center in Wakefield, MA. New Englander Waters, a collector and dealer for more than a quarter of a century, invites members to bring a few of their favorite cased images to the PHSNE meeting for display and discussion.

Since retiring from professional photography in 1966, Waters has focused on finedags.com, an important source of information about 19th century photographs and a “must-visit” site for serious collectors. With a partner, Waters published The Daguerreian Forum from 1992—1999, a high quality and informative catalogue for sales of daguerreotypes; however he ceased publication in 1999 to concentrate fully on his website.

Waters describes pricing for daguerreotypes as based principally on the quality, content, and condition of the plate with additional factors being the size of the piece, tinting, maker, subject, and historical importance. He notes that the market for fine daguerreotypes has risen steadily during the past five years.

Members Share Favorite Items - More Show and Tells

Allan Holmy had a nice display of early Nikon cameras with high quality optics

Paul Nisula discussed his collection of Graflex cameras

This Voigtlander stereo camera was once owned by the late Paul Wing, PHSNE member and author of books on stereo photography. Ralph used this camera for several years, taking stereo photographs all over the world.

Ralph Johnson displays a Voigtlander stereo camera
Notable Leica Collection

If you live in or visit the Bay Area, stop in at Keeble & Shuchat located in Palo Alto, CA. In addition to the many old cameras and accessories on display in the store, this unique camera shop houses an extensive collection of Leicas and related items in a separate area upstairs.

Owner Terry Shuchat has what may be the largest Leica collection that can be viewed by the public outside of the company’s headquarters in Germany. It includes screw-mount bodies, M-series and SLR cameras, a stereo Leica, cameras used by the Germans in World War II, a gold plated M402 with reptile-skin leather, one of less than 1000 Leica 250’s (aka the “Reporter”), as well as thousands of Leica lenses and accessories. Also on display are a number of Leica look-alikes, two of which were featured in an article in the January issue of snapshot.

I learned about this fascinating collection while researching Leicas on the web, coming across a July, 1992 Shutterbug article by Tom Halfhill (An Amazing Leica Collection). When visiting San Francisco, I took a train ride to Palo Alto, stopping two blocks from Keeble & Shuchat.

While Leica cameras and equipment can be purchased in the commercial part of the store, the items in the Leica collection are not for sale. Shuchat turns down offers from many would-be purchasers in order to keep the collection intact.

There is no charge to view the display and appointments are not necessary. Keeble and Shuchat is located is 290 South California Ave., Palo Alto, CA. For hours of operation and other information visit kspphoto.com.
PHSNE Charter member Thom Hindle is on a mission: to preserve the work of photographers who used glass plates. He has traced the families of more than thirty New England photographers and assembled a collection of over 100,000 glass plate negatives, most from the early 1900’s, along with cameras, notebooks, and images of the photographers themselves.

Contemporary prints made from these antique negatives, some individually hand colored and some sepia toned, are for sale at his gallery in Dover, NH. The collection includes historic negatives, some by unknown photographers, depicting a considerable range of locations.

Hindle used to print the glass plate negatives on an old restored Elwood enlarger. While he still has the ability to use a wet darkroom, he now does most of his printing using a high end scanner and new archival ink technology.

Glass plates are difficult to work with. They are brittle and coated with collodion. Wet plates, in particular, are very susceptible to deterioration as they age unless stored properly. Hindle strives to preserve the glass plates in an archival state.

In an e-mail to the snap shots editor, Hindle wrote, “I can remember the early days at some camera shows (1970s) when fellow collectors heard that I was collecting glass plate negatives...the question was always WHY...? No one was interested in those old negatives. Daguerreotypes were the hot image collectible. Collectors today better appreciate glass negatives for the historical stories they tell...but as you know... daguerreotypes are still the preferred collectible.”

Hindle’s interest in preserving glass plate negatives began when he was given some from an attic in Dover, NH. He said, “I didn’t know what I was going to do with them, but I didn’t want to see them destroyed.” His collection has been featured in magazine articles and on TV programs.

Negatives from Hindle’s collection were used in 1994 when Sutton published The Old Photographs Series: DOVER a Century of Change, the first in a series of local history books known today as Images of America, now published by Arcadia. The original book helped to establish the format still being used by Arcadia, and after several reprints, it is still on the shelves in local book stores.

Another book containing stereo views of Dover, along with photos of stereo viewers and cameras in Hindle’s collection, was published recently. His work documents the changes in the city of Dover during the last 100 years, continuing through current times.

The collection continues to grow. A fairly recent acquisition was over 1500 8x10 glass plate negatives that had been in a Maine attic for years. Hindle also has an extensive collection of photo figurines from the late 1960s on.

For additional information, see Hindle’s blog at thomphoto.wordpress.com.
**Area Exhibits:**

**Jude Peterson Photography Collection**

An exhibition of ninety-six prints, selected from three hundred photographs bequeathed to the Fitchburg Art Museum, honors Jude Peterson (1966-2009), a New England collector and supporter of the Museum. Three facets of Peterson’s collection are represented: Landscapes and Abstracts, Street Photography, and photographs of Ireland from the 1970’s and 80’s. Chester Michalik (Smith College Art Department emeritus), noted New England photography expert and friend of Jude Peterson, will lecture on the collection on Sunday, March 13th, 1:00 P.M.


**Still and Not So Still Life**

You are invited to view an exhibit of new works by PHSNE member Olivia Parker on display at the Robert Klein Gallery through March 5th. The gallery is located at 38 Newbury St., Boston (for gallery information visit robertkleingallery.com). To see a varied and dramatic set of images, see oliviaparker.com.

**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:**

*April 3* - Jesseca Ferguson, art cyanotype
*April 30-May 1* - Photographica 75, camera and image trade show

**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.