Photographica 75,
Americal Center, Wakefield, MA,
Saturday, April 30th & Sunday, May 1st

Join us to celebrate the 75th Photographica show. Enjoy the festive atmosphere, have a piece of birthday cake, savor one of “mom” Dockery’s meatball sandwiches, and add a treasure to your collection.

The Dollar Table continues to be a attendee favorite. If you have some suitable photographic material (and who doesn't!) to add to the Dollar Table, please bring it to the show and contribute what you're not using. Photographica continues to be one of the best places to buy, sell, and trade photographic equipment. Don't walk into the hall empty handed and whatever you do, don't leave the hall empty handed!

In honor of this being our 75th show, PHSNE is offering free admission to all students with a current school ID.

As always, we're looking for a few more people for the Photographica crew. If you'd like to be part of the best photographica show in New England, or to reserve a table, please phone me at 781-592-2553 or send an email to john_dockery@hotmail.com.

~John Dockery, Photographica Show Manager
~Photos by Dick Koolish

Send Us Your Favorite Photographica Stories and Photos

We would like to publish stories and photographs connected with any of the 75 Photographica events. Did you find a treasure that you’ve been seeking for years? Did a special purchase launch a new hobby or area of collecting? Did you connect with a long lost friend or start a lifetime friendship with another collector? If you have something to share, please send a brief note to snapshots@phsne.org.
The Art of Polaroid

In the history of American photography, Edwin Land's invention of Polaroid film in 1947 stands out as a profound influence on the work of many great photographers. As Polaroid technology evolved and was refined from the 50's to the end of the 20th century, culminating in the astounding 20x24 inch format film camera (only 6 were built) - artists, many painters among them, were pushing the film to its limits.

Now there's an opportunity to see the work of some of these photographers in one show. Their images range from the look of classical painting to the stunningly abstract; from pure documentary to the surreal.

Featured artists include Marie Cosindas, Alma Davenport, Elsa Dorfman, Olivia Parker, Rosamond Purcell, John Reuter, Jane Tuckerman, and many others. Photographs of Julia Child, Tennessee Williams, Paul Newman and Robert Redford, and Edwin Land mingle with Jim Stone’s evocative documentary shots of American folklore and Paul Caponigro’s famous nature photos from the 1960’s.

The ART of POLAROID runs through September 20th. Gallery 4 is located at 3848 Main Road, Tiverton 4 Corners, RI. Visit gallery4tiverton.com.

PHSNE Membership

PHSNE membership is $15 for students, $35 for individuals and institutions, $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@phsne.org; or use the Web form at phsne.org/contacts).

History Drawn with Light:

Early Photographs from the Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society

Through June 2011

In 1840, almost as soon as photography arrived in America, the MHS began to collect images of notable figures, artifacts, and landscapes recorded with "the pencil of nature." Examples of these early photographs will be on display until June 3rd in the Society's exhibition, History Drawn with Light.

View one of Boston's oldest photographs, the Old Feather Store by Francis Calley Gray, together with portraits and views by early daguerreotype artists such as the notable Albert S. Southworth and Josiah J. Hawes, and the later work of professional and amateur photographers who documented 19th-century American history as it unfolded.

Reviewing the exhibit for The Boston Globe, Mark Feeney wrote that, “Photography uniquely stood at the intersection of art (which it created), history (which it recorded), and technology (which it utilized). All three aspects of the medium are on display in History Drawn With Light.”

About seventy photographs and stereo images are on display. The exhibition is free and open to the public, Monday through Saturday, 1 PM to 4 PM. The Massachusetts Historical Society is located at 1154 Boylston St., Boston. Visit masshist.org for more information.

PHSNE Donates to Air Force Museum

A book containing original photographs of the 509th Bomb Group, taken in 1949 and 1950 by Lt. Col. Clifford B. Goodie, was donated to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. After his death in 2010, his widow donated some of his photographic materials to PHSNE, and the Board looked to find an appropriate home for this historically important book.
New Technology For Old Images

Sometimes a good way to best pursue a hobby of antique cameras, images, and processes is to use the best of new technology. PHSNE board member George Champine did that recently using an online publishing service.

One of George’s hobbies is learning about the history of Fairmont, his home town in southern Minnesota. He learned that the local historical society had a wonderful collection of photographs, postcards, and images related to the town’s history, but they were not very accessible and little information about the images was available.

George was aware of a form of internet publishing that could greatly improve the accessibility of this wonderful collection of images. From the collection’s 16,000 images, he selected the best 400; however, even this was too large for a single book, so the project was expanded into two volumes. Many books of pictures have very brief captions, but George wanted to include extensive text to provide the historical context and importance of these images.

He has spent the last few months writing the two books, including very detailed captions replete with historical information and description.

The benefit of internet publishing, according to George, is that anyone can become a publisher with minimal up-front payment. The author uploads a PDF file of the book cover and the PDF of the interior pages to the internet publisher. Ten days later the printed books arrive. The cost for a 168-page book is about $5 to $10 depending on the number ordered.

The website for the internet printer George used is diggypod.com. Their price estimator is relatively accurate, and he has found them to be quite responsive to questions. Their business model is to sell dozens of copies per order, usually to the author.

Another popular internet publisher is Lulu at: lulu.com. They are bigger and better known, but they have a very different business plan involving more upfront development costs. George notes that “Many PHSNE members and other collectors have wonderful collections of images, cameras, and other ephemera. Because publishing is now so easy, this is a great opportunity to organize, share, and communicate these collections in books to a very broad audience in a highly useful manner.”

What is Pinhole Day?
Just a few days left to take part

Anyone, anywhere in the world, who makes a pinhole photograph on the last Sunday in April, can scan and upload it to a website where it will become part of an on-line gallery celebrating Worldwide Pinhole Photography Day. An annual event, the next pinhole day is April 24, 2011.

There are workshops and activities scheduled in venues around the world. Unfortunately, none are in New England; the closest are Pinhole for Everyone, Southold, NY, April 24th, and Worldwide Pinhole Photography Day Workshop, Queensbury, NY, May 1st. For other locations and for more information, visit the website pinholeday.org.

NOTE: Worldwide Pinhole Photography Day is always the last Sunday in April. In 2011, Worldwide Pinhole Photography Day is April 24. Since this is also Easter Sunday, for 2011, they will accept pinhole photographs taken between April 23 and May 1.
Great Web Site for Collectors

Check out a new web site camera-wiki.org for a fascinating tour of photographic history. Camera-wiki is organizing a free encyclopedia of still cameras and photography. Ross Orr, one of the site’s organizers, invites “anyone with a deep knowledge of camera history or particular camera brands to get involved.”

Orr acknowledges that the new site is very much a work in progress, which is why he invites anyone with relevant expertise to help improve it. “If you see an area where you might be able to add information, please create a login and help us out.” He acknowledges that “the wiki markup is a bit user-hostile if you’ve never encountered it before; but there are folks around who can help out with that (and there are tool buttons above every edit window which save you from having to memorize the syntax).”

~Photos from the Naylor Collection

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:
June 5 — field trip, Lowell, MA tour. Meet at the National Park Visitor’s center at 10:30 AM

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.