

snap shots

Volume 17 Number 6

February 2012

Members' Auction, February 5th — Americal Center, Wakefield, MA
Dollar table/book sales start 11:00 A.M.; auction at 1:30 P.M.



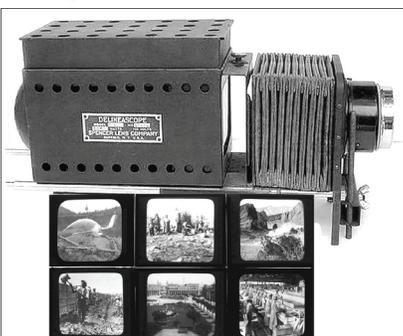
Kodak display items

When February rolls around, it's time for the Members' Auction. A small but dedicated group of PHSNE volunteers has been working all year, combing through boxes at the warehouse, selecting

items of interest to PHSNE members, and seeing to it that they are "auction ready."

Treasures to be auctioned off this year include usable 120 film cameras, good quality 35mm cameras, display items from Eastman Kodak, historic publications, movie cameras, and more. The auction offers opportunities for you to add to your collection at bargain prices.

In addition to the PHSNE offerings, members are encouraged to bring up to six lots of items for sale to the Americal Center on the day of the auction. Members' consignments will be accepted from 11:00 A.M. until 12:30 P.M., an hour before the auction begins. A fee of 20% of the sale price will be assessed to support PHSNE. Past auctions have shown that there is no market for large slide or movie projectors, so we ask that you do not bring such items unless you are donating them for the dollar table. PHSNE and mem-



*Delineascope projector and slides
 Spencer Lens Co.*



ber items will alternate at the sale. Marti Jones, auctioneer for the past few years, will once again assume that role. Volunteers are needed to prepare and set up for the event, starting at 10:00 A.M., and to help clear the room afterwards. We also need runners, record keepers, and cashiers to assist during the auction. If you can help, please contact auction@phsne.org.

Additional information is available at phsne.org. If the weather should be an issue, notice of changes or postponement will be posted at that Website.

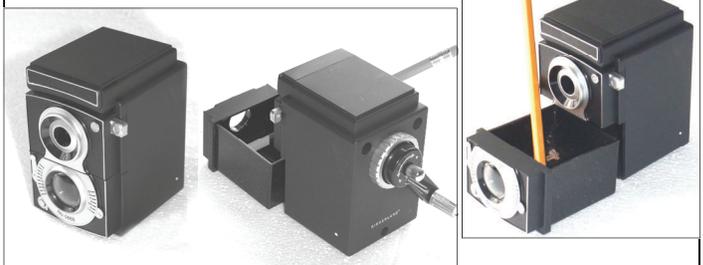


Konica TC-X



Kodak 16 mm film camera

Point Well Taken



This pencil sharpener, made by Kikkerland, was a gift to PHSNE member Allan Goodrich from friends at the John F. Kennedy Library.

Is it Real? Or Is It . . . Photoshopped?

Many people assume that manipulating images is a modern phenomenon, associated with the digital age and Photoshop. Photo buffs, however, are aware that images have been manipulated since the earliest days of photography. Daguerreotypes were hand colored and paper negatives retouched, sometimes to open the eyes of post mortem subjects.

More significant manipulation dates from the 1850s. A classic photo of Abraham Lincoln actually depicts his head on the body of Senator John Calhoun. Almost a century later, a horse handler was removed from a photo to



Above: Kliment Voroshilov, Vyacheslav Molotov, Stalin, and Nikolai Yezhov at the shore of the Moskwa-Wolga Channel

Below: After Yezhov was tried and executed, he vanished from the photo
~Wikipedia



make Mussolini appear more heroic. These and others, including the *National Geographic* cover below, can be seen on ethicsinediting.wordpress.com.

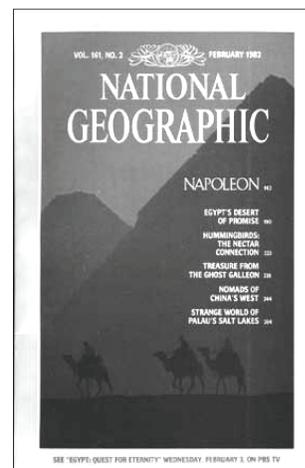
Historically, such manipulation was the exception, rather than the rule, and it was relatively easy to see how negatives were altered.

Today, it is far more difficult to discern if and how images were “enhanced.” Anybody with a digital camera and a computer can do it. It is easy to shave off a few pounds from a woman’s hips, add hair to a balding man, and even transplant body parts. Many an “ex” is routinely excised from family photos, and people who were not able to attend an event are miraculously present.

In our digital age, new technology is emerging that will detect what type of camera took a photo and when, and even how, the image has been altered. This information will help determine the accuracy of news stories and will be of particular interest to governments and the military for security purposes. Clues include lighting and shadow inconsistencies and digital “fingerprints.”

One company in the forefront of this technology is Fourandsix Technologies. According to its website (Fourandsix.com), the company “is dedicated to the nascent field of image forensics—the analysis of digital images to determine their origin, editing history, and authenticity, or to reveal latent details that might be hard to discover with the naked eye. Our mission is to provide the tools that allow our customers to find the truth contained within every image.”

The well known adage claims that, “a picture is worth a thousand words.” That holds less sway nowadays as people are rightly suspicious that what they see in a photograph may have been created on a computer. Perhaps advanced technology will restore confidence that some photographs actually depict an accurate view of what the camera lens recorded.



Two of the Giza pyramids were moved closer together to fit the cover (February, 1982). Following the controversy, the magazine acknowledged its “mistake” and pledged not to manipulate photos in the future.

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.

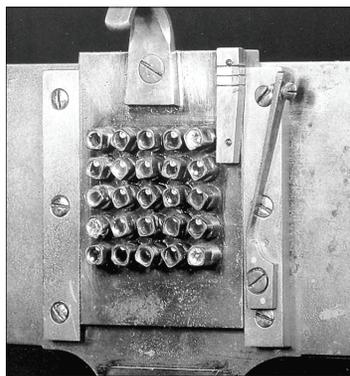
Members should check the expiration date on the *snap shots* mailing label before sending in dues.

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).

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/book reviews are always welcome. Send to snapshots@phsne.org. Authors retain copyright to their original articles; however upon written application to the *snap shots* editor, PHSNE may grant non-profit societies with similar aims and interests a one-time right to reproduce a *snap shots* article as long as the author and source are credited and a complimentary copy of the publication is sent to the PHSNE mailbox.

Stanhopes: the Jewels of Photography

Writing about his extensive collection of Stanhopes about 40 years ago, Jack Naylor referred to them as “jewels of photography.” They held tiny micro-photographs, about a millimeter wide, which served a number of purposes: tourist souvenirs when placed in a novelty viewing device; spy work when carrying secret messages; and decorative adornment for a wide range of objects including cigarette lighters, letter openers, religious objects, and jewelry. Many were nudges discreetly kept from the casual viewer.



Stanhope Lens Assembly
Naylor Collection

Microphotographs were first created by John Benjamin Dancer and described in the *Encyclopedia Britannica* as early as 1857. Dancer first made a negative, illuminated it, and reduced it to microscopic size. He then projected it onto an exceptionally fine grain photosensitive



Naylor Collection

layer that produced almost no light scatter.

Dating from the 1860's, devices to hold the micro-



Photo by Clive Russ

photographs were invented by Charles, third Earl of Stanhope. Among his many inventions was a circular glass rod with one flat and one convex end. A transparent object placed on the flat end and viewed through the convex end would be magnified to many times its size.

Additional information and more images are available at stanhopes.info.



Photo by Clive Russ

Century Studio Camera : “not a coffee table book”

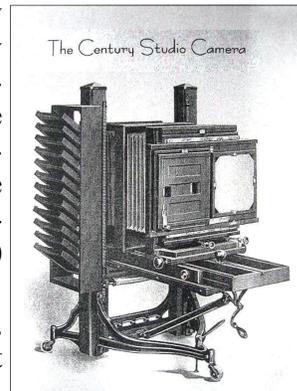
The Century Studio Camera, a limited edition book, created, printed, and marketed by its author, Jay Allen, is actually two books in one: a book about the Century Studio Camera and a lens book containing information about numerous studio camera lenses.

Allen purchased a Century Studio Camera in the early 1980s and restored it to operational condition. Finding little information about it, he researched the camera and the large lenses specifically designed and built for it over a 20 year period.

The Century Studio Camera, according to Allen, took most of the formal professional portraits in America between 1910 and 1960. He states, “No Rolleiflex, Hasselblad, RB 67, Nikon or Leica can match its record of continuous service.” He notes that “Today, these large cameras are most often used as display pieces; yet they still can create a finer portrait than almost any of today’s contemporary cameras.”

The 141 page book includes 93 illustration and lists all known models of the camera. It lists numerous camera backs and shutters and has a large lens section that covers portrait and soft-focus lenses.

Formerly National Marketing Manager for Xerox’s 350 Color Slide System, Allen served as program chairman and president of the Rochester, N.Y. Photographic Historical Society and president of the Rochester Camera Club. For further information about the book, contact the author at jay10allen@msn.com.



The Century Studio Camera

Silver Gelatin Prints Still Available

In the December issue, we reported that the Library of Congress was going digital. Previously, they made prints from negatives, many of them historic, on silver based photo paper using the same processes as the originals; this service is being discontinued.

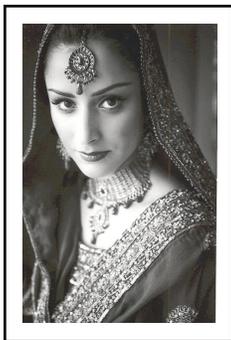


Photo by Michael Greenberg

Courtesy of Digital Silver Imaging

Quite by accident, I recently stumbled upon Digital Silver Imaging, a lab in the Boston area that specializes in producing silver prints using traditional methods: the same chemicals and washes and with archival mountings where needed (see digitalsilverimaging.com). That set me to digging further, and I found several other area labs capable of doing similar work: Panopticon Gallery (panopticonimaging.com) and Color Services lab (colorservicesllc.com).

This is significant because prints produced by newer techniques may fade faster than prints made the “old fashioned” way. Dye sublimation prints, which have a fairly long life, are available, but few labs use that process. In general, silver image prints will produce neutral tones without a color variance that sometimes occurs when color dyes are used to produce a black and white image.

~Lew Regelman

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 4—19th Century Stereophotography, G. Mutter and B. Fishman

April 1—Modernist Photography at Currier Museum, Manchester, NH

April 14, 15—Photographica

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 5, 2012
Members' Auction, Americal Center, Wakefield, MA
Dollar Table 11:00 A.M., Auction 1:30 P.M.

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