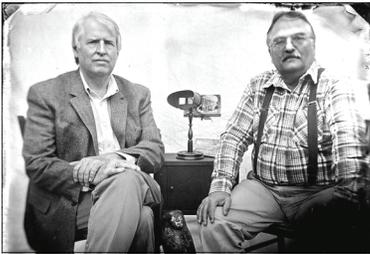


snap shots

Volume 17 Number 7

March 2012

Stereo Treasures from Photoarchive3D And a Trip up the Nile Sunday, March 4th, Americal Center, Wakefield, MA



*George Mutter and Bernard Fishman
in a modern ambrotype
taken by Mark Bingham*

At PHSNE's March meeting, Dr. George L. Mutter and Bernard Fishman will present stereoview highlights from the vaults of Photoarchive3D, an online archive of 25,000 stereophotographic images dating from 1855 through modern times. Freshly digitized, these images will be projected for viewing in 3 dimensions as originally intended.

The collection is particularly strong in early glass and tissue views. Subjects include the Middle East, Europe, and historic events. Mutter and Fishman claim that high resolution capture and bright digital projection have made it possible to preserve large numbers of rare images in a high quality, accessible central archive from which they can easily be annotated, studied, and projected.

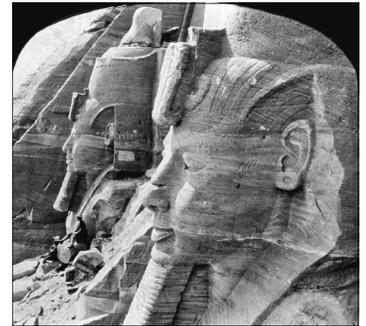
Their strategy is to match topical content with the interests of groups and organizations. In November, for example, they did a 19th century Ottoman empire program for the Boston Turkish Cultural Festival at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. It



*Photo tent In front of
Denderah Temple, c. 1856-60*

was the first time the MFA did a live 3D historical photography show.

In his overview, Mutter will show samples of Victorian era stereographic photography from all corners of the world. Following Mutter's presentation, Fishman will offer a travelogue-style Nile tour using wet plate collodion stereoview images on glass. These represent the highest artistic and technical achievements in 19th century stereophotography,



*Colossi of Ramses II
at Abu Simbel, c.1856-1860*

and the views of Egypt made in this format were considered wonders in their day. They reveal a country which seems wild and alien to us, filled with ancient monuments of great beauty and mystery.

These Egyptian sites have changed in the intervening 150 years—some have disappeared. This is a rare opportunity to see these sites as they were before extensive archaeology and modern tourism brought crowds and commercialism.

PHSNE member Dr. George L Mutter is an academic physician trained at Harvard and Columbia, and Bernard P. Fishman is a former Egyptologist, museum director and historian trained at Columbia and the University of Pennsylvania. They founded Photoarchive3D in 2009 (Photoarchive3D.org) after a chance meeting at a photo trade show.

~John Wojtowicz

~photos copyright Photoarchive3D



*Nile Boat at Philae
Frances Frith, c.1856-1860*

Eastman Kodak Files for Bankruptcy Company Founded in 1880, reorganizing under Chapter 11

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with our six ex-
posure film car-
tridges and is so
simple that it can
be easily

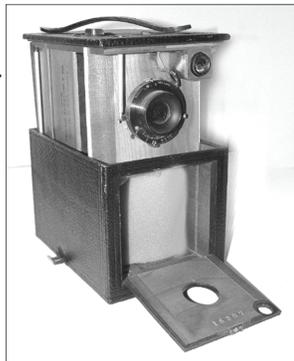
Operated by any
School Boy or Girl.

On January 19th the Eastman Kodak Company filed for bankruptcy. The news was disappointing but not unexpected. Having retired from Kodak in 1991, I've been watching the company shrink in size for the past 20 years. At one time, there were 127,000 employees worldwide with manufacturing plants in about half dozen countries. It

was a great company to work for.

When Kodak pioneered digital photography, they licensed the technology to other companies who quickly capitalized by manufacturing smaller, higher quality, less expensive digital cameras for the general public.

The extremely profitable film business disappeared in all of Kodak's divisions which included X-ray, Graphic Arts, Motion Pictures, Professional Photography, and Amateur Photography. As profits declined, the company's per-



Kodak No2
Bull's-Eye Special 1898

sonnel was reduced, resulting in increasing costs for pensions and medical benefits.

Kodak is not liquidating or going out of business. In filing for Chapter 11 reorganization, they hope to use court protection to become a stronger and more efficient company.

They will continue to operate during this reorganization phase. Their website (kodaktransforms.com) notes that they will "continue customer programs; provide employees with their usual wages and benefits; and honor all post-petition obligations to suppliers in the ordinary course."

On the bloomberg.com site, Dawn McCarty and Beth Jinks wrote, "The Rochester, New York-based company, which traces its roots to 1880, listed assets of \$5.1 billion and debt of \$6.8 billion . . . They were a company stuck in time." According to Shira Ovide's *Wall Street Journal* blog, "The effort to churn money from Kodak's patents will continue as Kodak operates under the protection of Chapter 11 bankruptcy."

Good luck to the newly emerging Eastman Kodak Company.

~Story and photos by Lew Regelman



Kodak premium—Toy truck

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).

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In Memoriam: Harold Lewis

Harold Bernard Lewis, PHSNE Honorary Life Member, passed away December 7, 2011 at in Tucson, AZ at the age of 84. A PHSNE member since 1975, he was an active participant in the Show and Tell sessions at meetings. His area of expertise was panoramic photography, especially the Cirkut camera. Lewis was a member of the PHSNE Board of Directors from 1974 to 1986, Board President from 1979-1981, and co-editor of the *PHSNE Journal* for two years.

Lewis was a past president of the International Association of Panoramic Photographers.

Photocard Prompts Research Into Life of The Leather Man

An unusual cabinet card photograph surfaced at the PHSNE warehouse recently. The image was of a grisly looking man in clothing made of large leather pieces, in large leather boots, carrying a leather bag and a walking stick.



*The Leatherman
Moore Photo, Middletown, CT
c. 1880; PHSNE collection*

On back of the card is a newspaper clipping containing a lengthy poem written by L. Dibbly titled “The Old Leather Man.” The poem suggests that he loved a young woman but was driven from her by her family and circumstances. It piqued the curiosity of the warehouse volunteers.

There is much speculation, though few hard facts, about his life. Even his name has been disputed, and most historians agree that the name originally placed on his gravestone, one of several associated with him in his lifetime, is fictitious. Conflicting rumors abound about his national origin, circumstances, and the reason for his strange behavior.

What is known, and well documented, is that he repeatedly walked a 365 mile loop between Connecticut and upstate New York over a six year period, covering the route in just over a month. Researcher Dan Deluca, writing in *The Old Leather Man*, reports that he slept in caves and his speech consisted of “grunts and gestures.” Deluca and contributor Dione Longley derived much of their information from newspaper articles and photographs. The book includes maps and photographs of houses where he was known to stop.

His clothing, as his name suggests, was made of large pieces of leather laced together with thongs. The leather came from scraps that he found or were given to him. After his death, his suit was found to weigh over 60 pounds, and the shoes 10 pounds.

Though his ragged appearance frightened people initially, locals came to know him and anticipate his appearance. He would accept their offers of food, but not money.

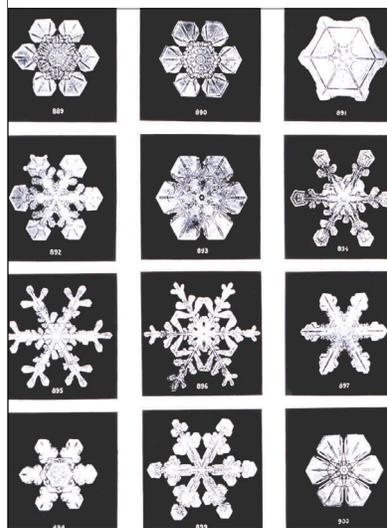
Controversy erupted in Connecticut last spring when historians announced plans to exhume his re-

mains for scientific analysis, promising to treat the body respectfully and to move him from a pauper’s grave to a more suitable spot. Despite objections, the plan was carried out. On May 26, 2011, Randall Beach reported in the *Litchfield County Times* that “The old Leatherman took his secrets to his grave for a second time.” Everything, including the wooden coffin, had disintegrated. They reburied the soil from the coffin.

Photographing Snowflakes

“Every snowflake,” according to Wilson A. Bentley (1865-1931), “has an infinite beauty which is enhanced by knowledge that the investigator will, in all probability, never find another exactly like it.” The Jericho Vermont farmer, author, and photographer explained how he photographed snowflakes in a 1922 article for *Popular Mechanics*.

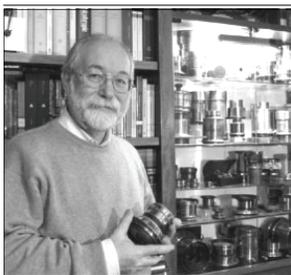
Using a microscope, altered to be turned at right angles to its base, he photographed indoors using daylight through a nearby window, capturing snow crystals on a black board and carefully placing them on microscope slides.



*Snow flakes by Wilson Bentley
Wikimedia Commons
Monthly Weather Review, 1902*

Bentley produced more than 5,000 images of crystals; some now belong to the Harvard Mineralogical Museum. He believed, and stated in an article he co-authored with Professor Henry Perkins of the University of Vermont, that each snowflake was unique. His articles and photographs were published in many prominent magazines including *National Geographic*, *Nature*, *Popular Science*, and *Scientific American*.

The Jericho Historical Society houses many of Bentley’s photographs. *Snowflake Bentley*, a children’s book, won the Caldecott Medal for best illustrated children’s book in 1999.



Corrado D'Agostini

New Book About Old Lenses

Photographic Lenses of the 1800's in France, an illustrated history by Corrado D'Agostini, describes the lenses produced by eight

French companies which influenced the course of photographic history in the 19th century. The lenses of smaller companies are also examined, as well as those used for creating life-sized portraits and special lenses that allowed for various focal lengths.

The 378 page book contains many color images (300 dpi) along with descriptions of both rare and common lenses. It is a resource for scholars and collectors.



Lens by Chevalier
Used by Niepce and Daguerre

The author is working on a second book examining the history of lenses in Germany and Austria, to be followed by one on lenses in England. Visit website oldphotographiclenses.com for more information and photographs.



Alphonse Darlot

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 1—*Modernist Photography*; meet 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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19th Century Stereography
Americal Center, 1:30 P.M.

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