

snap shots

Volume 19 Number 4

December 2013

PHSNE Festivities Feature Food, Fun, Fellowship Holiday Party December 1, 2013 at noon The Woman's Club Workshop 72 Columbus St., Newton Highlands MA

PHSNE President John Dockery invites you to attend the annual holiday celebration. This year's event includes the annual Members' Auction, traditionally held in February on Super Bowl Sunday. In recent years, we have had to postpone one Members' Auction and cancel another due to snowstorms. New England weather can be problematic in December as well, but overall weather conditions tend to be more



"Santa" Dockery



predictable—and relatively storm-free.

The Members' Auction has always been a fun event, generally focusing on less expensive items. Members should start to gather the items they wish to sell. Consignments are limited to six lots per consignee. Please do not bring darkroom or motion picture equipment unless it is a rare item.

Consignments can be brought in from

12:30 to 2:00 P.M., and items can be viewed from 2:30 to 3:00 P.M. Look for a list of PHSNE sale items on the website by November 21st. We do not expect to have a dollar table at this event. Lunch will be served from noon to 1:00 P.M.

Even if you're not buying or selling at the auction, come for the party. Get in the holiday mood with food, drinks, and a show and tell, and enjoy the camaraderie with fellow collectors and camera buffs.



You are invited to attend an open Board meeting from 10:30 to 11:30 A.M. The annual meeting and election of Board members and new officers will take place before lunch. If you can't get to the meeting, mail your ballots by November 30th. Ballots were included with the November issue.

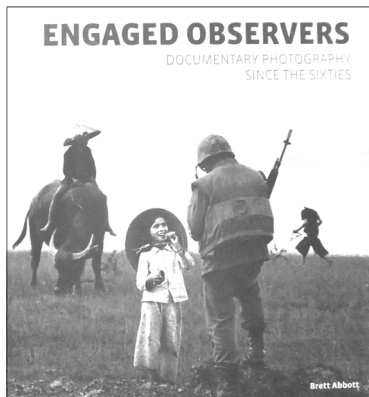
Contact the Auction Manager, Lew Regelman, at auction@phsne.org for information.

~Photos by Lew Regelman

Call for Volunteers

It takes many workers to run an auction, and the year-round warehouse volunteers can't do it alone. We need runners and cashiers and help with preparation and setup, record keeping, and cleanup. Please contact Lew Regelman at auction@phsne.org and indicate which task you can handle.

PHSNE Book Review: Getty Museum Documents Recent Photohistory



One PHSNE member reports that the first 31 pages of *Engaged Observers: Documentary Photography Since the Sixties* are worth the price of the book. Written by Brett Abbott, the introduction to this superb compilation published in 2010

by the J. Paul Getty Museum includes images taken in remote and often dangerous locations by famous photographers such as Robert Kappa, Walker Evans, W. Eugene Smith, and many more. The descriptions and quotes from the photographers themselves enhance your understanding of their work.

The publisher's notes on the back page describe the book as follows: "In the decades following World War II, an independently minded and critically engaged form of photography began to gather momentum. Situated between journalism and art, its practitioners created extended photographic essays to

delve deeply into humanistic topics and present distinct personal visions of the world."

The book contains full page examples of the finest works of the featured photographers: Leonard Freed, Philip Jones Griffiths, W. Eugene and Aileen M. Smith, Susan Meiselas, Mary Ellen Mark, Lauren Greenfield, Larry Towell, Sebastiao Salgado, and James Nachtwey.

See gettypublications.org for more information.

Newton MA: Cradle of Photography?

Working for Kodak, I was accustomed to living in an area rich in photographic history. It was a surprise, however, to learn that my move to the Boston area took me to another cradle of the American photographic industry, Newton MA.

Twin brothers Freelan and Francis Stanley, best known for the invention of the Stanley Steamer,



Stanley's other invention!

were major players in the early history of photography. Freelan invented a dry plate photographic process in 1883 and launched the Stanley Dry Plate Company, a successful photographic supply business in Newton that the brothers operated for more than 20 years.

In the late 1880's (date varies according to different sources), Freelan Stanley invented a car "for his amusement, something that turned into a "sideline to their successful photographic business" (automotivehalloffame.org/inductee/francis-stanley/170/). When the Stanley Steamer set a world's speed record, they decided to concentrate on their automobile business. They sold their dry plate process to George Eastman. In the first decade of the 1900's (1903 according to one source; 1905 cited by another).

It seems fitting that Newton is home to PHSNE—its official mailing address—and it is and has been home to a number of its members. After meeting in Waltham for a number of years and, more recently in Wakefield MA, PHSNE's December meeting is moving to Newton as we try out a new venue.

~Story and photo by Lew Regelman

PHSNE Membership

New members are invited to join for half the rates for the first year. 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/join or phsne.org/renew, 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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Past, Present, and Future PHSNE Presidents Pose for Picture

The photo below was taken at the recent *Photographica 80* on October 20th at the Americal Center in Wakefield MA. Five of the six are current or past presidents, and one is likely to take on that role in



2014. Combined, they have undoubtedly logged in about a million hours or more on behalf of PHSNE, helping the society remain a vibrant and active organization.

From left to right, the six are Whitey Morange, who is on the ballot for the presidency in 2014; Henry Weisenburger, Charter and honorary life member, president in 1978, 1989, 1990, 1994—1996; John Wojtowicz, president in 2006, 2007, 2010, and 2011; Marti Jones, president in 2008 and 2009; John Dockery, current president since January 2012; and Dan Jones, Honorary Life member, president in



in 1997 – 1999.

Also logging in countless hours on behalf of PHSNE are two past presidents who attended

Photographica the previous day: Lowell Bursch, president in 1988; and Honorary Life member Ruth Thomasian, president in 1992, 1993, 2002, 2003.

Dover Revisited

The last issue of *snap shots* (November, 2013) featured an article on the Dover 620, an unusual camera that showed up at the PHSNE warehouse. We received the following message in response.

“I read with interest in *snap shots* about the Dover Camera. Being a long time camera collector (and PHSNE charter member) living in Dover NH, I of course have collected everything and anything connected with the Dover Film Company, including the wooden sign off the building.



They also made movie film and distributed 16mm shorts like Tom Mix and Charlie Chaplin. I have a reel taken at the factory showing the exterior with their fleet of trucks, letterhead and invoices, photographs and negatives taken inside and I believe the only existing prototype of the Hollywood Press [Photographer Outfit] for kids. ... meant to compete with the Agfa Jr Press kit. The Dover Film kit never made the market.

As you can see in the attached photo they offered 35mm film as well as the medium format in several sizes. I have a couple of counter displays filled with boxes of their Dover Film.

The office was in Boston, but the factory was in the old Sawyer Woolen mill here in Dover. In the attached photo you can see the original boxes for the camera. They had a camera case and a removable flash reflector. You will notice in the photo the Hollywood Press kit camera (on the left) does not have the sliding filters on the front, standard with the regular camera. Not the prettiest camera ever made, but of course a favorite of mine.”



Thanks
Thom Hindle, Dover, N.H.

Contact Prints on Display at Panopticon

On First Contact is not a sci-fi themed exhibition, but rather an exhibition of film-based contact prints and contact sheets. Panopticon Gallery will be hosting this exhibition through January 14, 2014 which



Agnieszka Sosnowska,
Norwell, Massachusetts, 2003

will feature many local, national and international artists including Agnieszka Sosnowska, Keith Carter, Adam Katseff, Neal Rantoul, Stephen DiRado, Brian Kaplan, Frank

White, Samuel Quinn, Stephen Sheffield, Cheryle St. Onge, Frank Armstrong, Erik Schubert, Herb Greene, Stanley Forman, Douglas Prince, Elizabeth Ellenwood, Ivana George, Amber Wachtl, and Greg Norstrom.

The exhibition will give viewers the opportunity to see the exact, uncropped and unmanipulated view that the photographers saw when creating their images.

The Panopticon Gallery is located inside the Hotel Commonwealth, 502c Commonwealth Ave, Boston. Visit panopticongallery.com for more information.

~Jason Landry, Owner | Director, Panopticon Gallery

PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month, September to June, at 1:30 p.m. preceded by a mini trade fair at 12:30 and an open meeting of the PHSNE Board at 11:00 a.m.

Upcoming meetings:

January 5—To be announced

February 2—Margaret Burke White (aka Sally Matson)

Driving directions to Woman's Club Workshop:

From I-95/Rt-128 exit 20 take Rt-9 East toward Brookline/Boston. Turn left at Woodward St then right onto Lincoln St. Turn left onto Columbus St. WCW will be to your right. The WCW is about 1.4 miles inside 128.

Coming west on Rt-9 from Boston, turn right on Walnut St then left on to Lincoln St, then right onto Columbus St. The WCW will be to your right.

Limited time parking rules do not apply on Sundays. Park on Columbus or Lincoln. There is a public parking lot on the other side of Lincoln opposite the Church.

Public transportation:

Using the MBTA, get off at Newton Highland Station on the Green Line (Riverside Branch). Exit via the Walnut Street exit. Lincoln St will be directly across Walnut St. Go down Lincoln St and turn right on to Columbus St. The Woman's Club Workshop will be to your right just after the building on the corner.

PHSNE Online

PHSNE's Web site is online at phsne.org. 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. Scheduling changes due to weather conditions or other factors will be posted on this website.

Address Service
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Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Meeting: Sunday, December 1, 2013, noon
The Woman's Club Workshop
72 Columbus St., Newton Highlands MA



West Newton, MA 02465-0189
P.O. Box 650189

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