

snap shots

Volume 19 Number 10

June 2014

It Was a Very Good Year



Suzanne Rey
Editing Photos



PHSNE Member
Ruth Thomasian,
Archivist



Sally Matson evoked
Margaret Bourke-White



Arno Rafael Minkkinen
Holding My Ground

PHSNE members who attended meetings during the 2013-2014 season enjoyed presentations on a wide range of topics by engaging speakers with high levels of expertise in their respective areas.

~Minkkinen photo by Whitey Morange; others by Jay Goldman

Coming Attractions

Taking advantage of an opportunity for a special tour, the June meeting was rescheduled for May 18th. You will receive this issue just before the trip, so join us if you can. Details are in the May issue of *snap shots* and at phsne.org.

With that trip, the season comes to an end. The next PHSNE meetings will be in the fall, beginning Sunday, September 7th, featuring a lineup of high-interest presentations by dynamic speakers.

The September program features Maureen Taylor, an internationally recognized expert on photograph identification and genealogy. Learn how she solves mysteries behind family photos.

PHSNE member Peter Vanderwarker is the scheduled speaker for November. His expertise is in the field of architectural photography.

At a date to be determined, Karen Rosenthal will speak about the late American photographer Vivian Maier at the October meeting. Most of Maier's more than 100,000 images were scenes from her hometown of Chicago.

So Long for the Summer

No meetings are scheduled during the busy summer vacation months, and *snap shots* does not publish a July or August issue. Look for the September issue (mailed in mid-August) featuring information about the September meeting as well as articles of interest to PHSNE members.

As we close another year, we thank the many volunteers who ensure that PHSNE remains active as a vibrant non-profit organization serving collectors as well as anyone interested in the history of photography. Kudos to the Board and its officers, to those who support and run *Photographica* and the auctions, to warehouse workers who prepare for the auctions year-round, to those who contribute to edit, proofread, and mail *snapshots* and the *Journal*, to members who plan meetings and arrange speakers, and all others who volunteer in one capacity or another. We couldn't do it without you.

Photographica 81 Revisited

PHSNE's counterparts to the north, the Photographic Historical Society of Canada, sent a copy of their May-June journal, *Photographic Canadiana* which included a very complimentary reference to our own *Photographica*. A group that traveled to Wakefield reported that the show "filled the spacious armory hall with a variety of goods fresh (to our eyes). Best of all, you got to converse with many old timers who have a wealth of experience and knowledge."



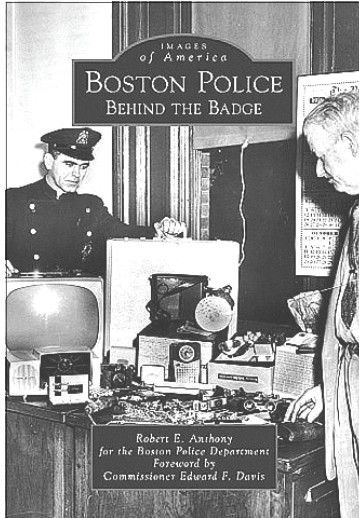
Canadian guests Clint Hryhorijiw, Doug Napier, Sol Hadeff, and Bob Landsdale with PHSNE member and Photographica show manager John Dockery (second to left).

Photographs Enhance History of Boston Police Department

A recent addition to the long list of photographic books with a New England focus is *Boston Police: Behind the Badge.* Created in 1838, the Boston Police Department is the nation's oldest police department. The book contains photos of various units including harbor patrol, mounted police, K-9, homicide, and motorcycle.

The author, Robert E. Anthony, is a 27 year veteran of the Boston Police Department and its first official chronologist. Anthony is also a U.S. Army veteran and former member of the U.S. Secret Service.

The soft cover 128 page book contains 200 black and white images. Boston Police Commissioner Edward F. Davis wrote the foreword. Additional information can be found at arcadiapublishing.com/9780738598048/Boston-Police-Behind-the-Badge.



Iconic Photo Re-classified

Our mental images of historical events are often shaped by iconic photos – as, for example, the famous photo of the naked girl fleeing in flames during the Viet Nam War or the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima. One such image is the widely distributed photo that purportedly was taken during the Bataan Death March.

In 2009, one of the survivors of that horrific march, John E. Love, joined other survivors to set the record straight. The photo was taken not during the march, but during a burial detail at the prisoner-of-war camp where the survivors were being held. Love had participated in the mass burials, carrying, according to his estimates, more than 1,000 bodies to their final resting place.

The photo was initially released by the Associated Press. After receiving the information from the group of survivors, they launched an investigation and subsequently revised the caption in 2010, sixty-five years after the image was first published.

The correction was important to Love. According to an article in the *Boston Globe* (March 24, 2014) announcing Love's death, upon receiving the news he had said, "Son of a gun. Isn't that great. It brings tears to my eyes. It really does."



May, 1942; Wikimedia.org

PHS Holds Fall Event

Plan ahead to attend *PhotoHistory XXVI*, run by the Photographic Historical Society of Rochester, NY, on October 10-12, 2014. PHS holds a symposium every three years, and it is a major event for collectors and photo historians. The society was founded in 1966 and held its first symposium in 1970. Mid-October is peak season for fall foliage, a great time to drive to Rochester.

PHSNE Membership

New members are invited to join for half the rates for the first year. Regular 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).

snap shots, edited by Beverly Regelman, is published monthly, September through June, 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.

One Good Picture is Worth a Dozen Poor Ones

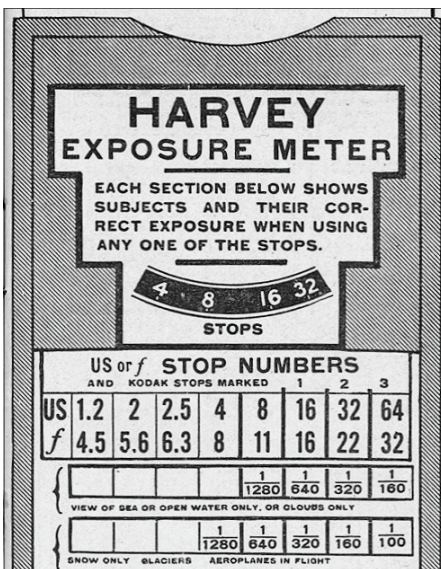
The Harvey Company had a good idea in 1916 about how to save film: use one of their new exposure meters and get a good picture the first time.

Recently, a 1916 advertisement surfaced at the PHSNE warehouse, giving workers a few good laughs.

The ad proudly proclaimed that “One Good Picture is Worth a Dozen Poor Ones,” and noted that the meter “Costs No More Than Two Spoiled Roll Films. No Factors to Be Remembered or Added.” The celluloid meters were advertised at \$1.25 each.

The guarantee stipulated that, “If the small arrow becomes broken, or the Meter splits, we will repair it without cost, on receipt of the Meter, provided you send 6 cents for return postage. If Slide ‘B’ sticks, pull it out of the Meter, lay it over the edge of a table and scrape—not cut—the edge with a sharp knife.”

The ad included the following dealer comments:



“I would use it for the fun of the thing even if it was not the best Meter I know, which it is” - A. W. Dimock

“On a trip across the United States, I used 13 dozen Plates, using the Meter on each exposure, and did not have a bad exposure in the whole 13 dozen. They were taken under all conditions of light.” - W. S. Richter

Finally, from J. H. Mosher - “My son-in-law declared the exposures were too long. He had only used it when taking one or two of his pictures. They were his two good ones.”

“The Meter that makes a Professional of an amateur” - Bass Camera Company.

“Any amateur who cannot take good pictures with that meter had better throw his camera away” - Arthur G. Eldridge, Professor of Physics, University of Illinois

Photo Eye: Avant-Garde Photography in Europe

The May issue of *snap shots* featured *Paris Night and Day: Photography Between the Wars*, an exhibit at Boston College that is the destination of a PHSNE field trip scheduled for May 18th (details at phsne.org). During the same time period, according to a Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) press release for its exhibit *Photo Eye: Avant-Garde Photography in Europe*, photographers in Europe “made some of the most memorable images in the medium’s history.” They were “influenced by Cubism, Constructivism, Dadaism, and Surrealism, and reflecting the effects that technology, urbanization, and cinema were having on their time.”



Untitled (*Solarized Nude, The Primacy of Matter Over Thought*)
Man Ray, 1932

The MFA press release notes that the show “charts this shift through the work of artists such as Constantin Brancusi, Ilse Bing, André Kertész, Man Ray, László Moholy-Nagy, and Josef Sudek. Their contributions and those of their peers were central to a transformation in photographic expression in the 20th century.”

The 53 images in the exhibition include a number of important new acquisitions. The show runs through July 6, 2014. For further information visit mfa.org/exhibitions/photo-eye.

In Memoriam: Philip L. Condax (1934-2014)

Philip Condax, former Curator of Technology at George Eastman House, died on April 21, 2014. His career highlights included *Selections from the Spira Collection*, the first GEH exhibit outside its own collection, and *The Evolution of the Japanese Camera*, shown in Rochester and Tokyo.

According to family friend Jonathan Spira, “Not only did he help popularize photography’s history but he helped lead the George Eastman House during a very tumultuous period.” His father, Louis Condax, was one of the developers of the dye transfer process.

For more information see britishphotohistory.ning.com/profiles/blogs/obituary-philip-l-condax.

Check Your Nikon Batteries



Battery recalls aren't everyday events and when they occur, they may not get much publicity. You may not be aware that a year ago there was a recall of Nikon's Model

EN-EL15 rechargeable lithium-ion battery pack.

Battery packs in the affected lot numbers can short-circuit, causing overheating and possible hazards. This battery pack is an accessory that comes with some model Nikon cameras: the digital SLR D800, D800E, D7000, and Nikon 1V1 with interchangeable lenses. The lot numbers in question are E and F only.

No injuries have resulted, but Nikon is taking no risk with consumer safety. If you have the Nikon EN-EL15 battery pack from Lot E or F, Nikon asks that you remove it immediately and fill out an online battery exchange form that can be found at their website along with other information including how to identify the lot number. Visit <http://www.nikonusa.com/en/Service-And-Support/Service-Advisories/h0ndzaip/EN-EL15-Rechargeable-Li-ion-Battery-Pack-Recall.html> or phone 1-800-645-6687 for additional information.

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:

No meeting in June. (May 18th trip replaces June meeting)

Next regularly scheduled meetings:

September 7—Maureen Taylor, Photography Detective

October 18, 19—*Photographica* 82, Americal Center, Wakefield (Note: No meeting scheduled for October 5)

November 2—Peter Vanderwarker, (PHSNE member) Architectual Photographer and expert on the History of Boston

PHSNE Online

PHSNE's Web site is online at phsne.org. See the president's blog at phsne.org/presidentsblog for items of PHSNE interest. Comments and contribution to *snap shots* and the *Journal* are especially welcome, so join the discussion of photo history. For an archive of back issues of *snap shots* and PHSNE history visit phsne.org/archive. Scheduling changes due to weather conditions or other factors will be posted on this website.

Address Service Requested
FIRST CLASS MAIL



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

PHSNE

phsne.org

snap
shots

Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Meeting: Sunday, September 7, 2014