

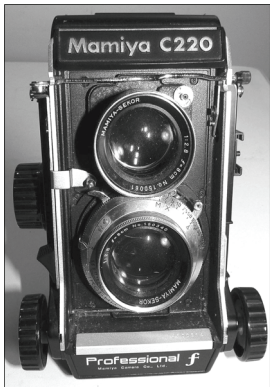
snap shots

Volume 20 Number 5

January 2015

Buy, Sell, or Just Enjoy Viewing the Collectibles PHSNE Members' Auction, Sunday, January 4, 2015, 1:30 P.M. Woman's Club Workshop, 72 Columbus St., Newton Highlands MA

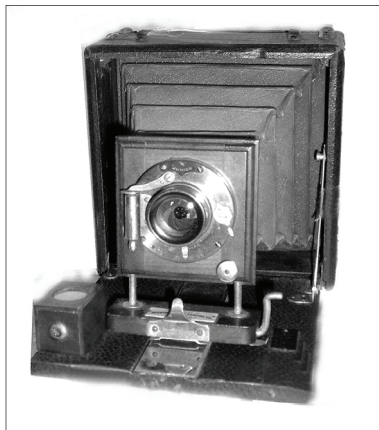
January's PHSNE meeting is devoted to the Members' Auction, a great opportunity to add to your collection or downsize it. And if you're not in the market to buy or sell, you can enjoy looking at the interesting items up for sale or listening to perennial auctioneer—and sometime comedienne—Marti Jones who, once again, will lead the proceedings.



This auction contains several unusual and/or high end items not ordinarily found at a members' auction. It provides an excellent opportunity to build

the quality of your collection.

The items photographed here will be available at the auction, along with many others. Members are invited to bring up to six items for sale—cameras, images, ephemera. Please indicate whether cameras are in working order or just suitable for display.



Cycle Poco #4, Rochester Camera Co.



CORNU Stereo 127 Rollfilm Camera Back

Darkroom equipment generally does not sell and, with few exceptions, is only appropriate for the *Photographica* dollar table (please hold and bring to

the spring show). The same is true for motion picture equipment, especially bulky modern projectors.

Items may be brought in from 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. and viewed from 12:30 to 1:30. A list of auction items in PHSNE's possession will be posted on the PHSNE website by De-



Cycle Wizard, Manhattan Optical Co.



Exakta Varex VX

ember 19th. We never know how many additional items will come in from members on the day of the sale.

Over the years, we learned (the hard way) to plan for severe winter weather. If there is any concern about driving conditions, up-

date notices will be posted at phsne.org (snow date Sunday, January 11th).

~PHSNE photos

We Need You!

The auction can't run itself. We need people to:

- Transport cameras from the warehouse and back to the warehouse, if necessary
- Set up cameras for the sale
- Deliver cameras to the high bidders—runners
- Calculate amounts owed and serve as cashiers

Email auction coordinator Lew Regelman at auction@phsne.org if you have questions or wish to help with the auction.

**Maine Museums to Collaborate on
The Maine Photo Project in 2015**



Kosti Ruohomaa, *Trawler*, 1957
"Quincy" at the Grand Banks
Courtesy of Maine State Museum

"Kicking off in January and continuing throughout 2015, *The Maine Photo Project* is a statewide collaboration that will be a year-long celebration of photography in Maine. Twenty-six participating museums, galleries, historical societies, and other non-profit cultural organizations will offer public exhibitions, a major publication, and a variety of programs exploring the state's role as a

magnet for photographers .

Exhibition topics will include the international community of photographers active in the state today; iconic modernist photographers (Berenice Abbott, Kosti Ruohomaa, Todd Webb, and others) who are closely associated with Maine; and rare historical images from photography's earliest days. The Maine Photo Project will also embrace new media, pushing the boundaries of what is traditionally perceived as a 'photograph'."

The full press release is at mainephotoproject.org .

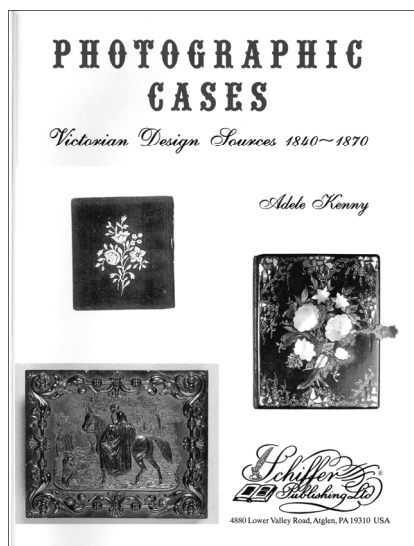
PHSNE Membership

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).

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**Book Review: A Case for *Photographic Cases*
Bonus: This Book Could Be Yours!**



Photographic Cases, Victorian Design Sources 1840-1870, by Adele Kenny (Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 2001) was a gift to PHSNE from the estate of Jack Naylor. This beautifully illustrated reference volume highlights the cases produced to display early photographs, da-

guerreotypes, ambrotypes, stereographs, tintypes, paper photos, and *cartes de visite*.

Three types of photographic cases emerged: wood frame with embossed paper, cloth or leather covers; thermoplastic cases—also called union and composition; and innovative novelty cases. Production slowed considerably with the introduction of the *carte de visite* and the photo albums designed to hold them. The albums, which could hold an entire family's images, eventually replaced the individual cases.



American quarter-plate daguerreotype, Bijou case back
FlickrviaFlickr2commons

Some cases were so ornate that they are considered works of art in their own right, even without an image. The 176 page book contains over 550 full color illustrations and extensive background information.

Prices are sometimes quoted for various types of images, cases, and supplies necessary to replicate some of the cases.

PHSNE members are eligible to enter a drawing that will take place at the January auction. The lucky winner will receive *Photographic Cases*. To submit your name, email auction@phsne.org and mention the book. If the winner is not present, the book will be mailed anywhere in the U.S. The winner's name will be announced in the next issue of *snap shots*.

Grandpa, What's a Flash Bulb?

The latest section of my collection owes its existence to my granddaughter who received a digital camera for her 8th birthday and quickly developed into an avid young photographer.



While checking out her grandpa's collection, she wanted to take a picture of it. I said, "Turn on your flash," to which she responded, "Grandpa, what's a flash." This led to a discussion about flash bulbs and what they were. She was incredulous that there was an actual bulb that you could only use once and then had to toss it out.

From that moment on, I realized that nobody in the next generation or so would know what a flashbulb was or what it looked like. At that point, I started to collect various bulbs and did some research into early flash devices..

According to *The History of Photography* (Johann Willsberger, 1977), the first controllable light source was invented in 1865. Dubbed "artificial sun," it used explosive powders—mostly magnesium but also potassium chlorate and sulphantimonide. In 1925, Dr. Paul Vierkotter invented a flash bulb filled with magnesium foil, improved on in 1935 with a bulb filled with crumpled foil sheets. Bulbs of all sizes and socket types were continuously developed after that.

My flashbulb display keeps expanding as I find new information and acquire "new" old bulbs.

~Story and Photo by Lew Regelman

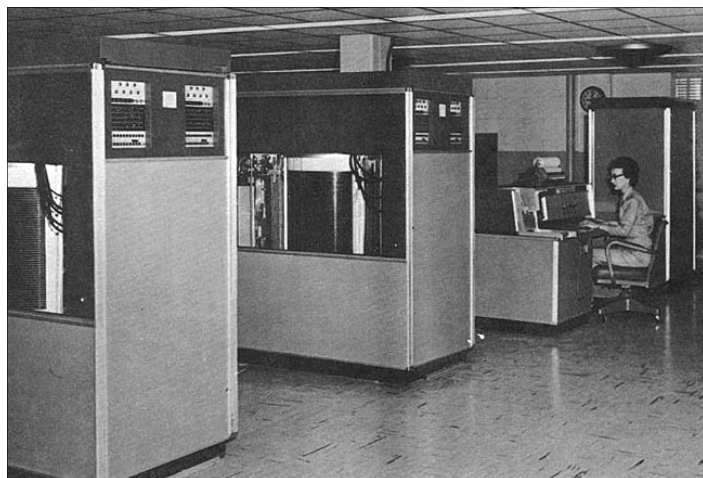
Photography in the Raw

According to Wikipedia, "A camera raw image file contains minimally processed data from the image sensor of either a digital camera, image scanner, or motion picture film scanner. Raw files are named so because they are not yet processed and therefore are not ready to be printed or edited with a bitmap graphics editor."

The Wikipedia article goes on to say, "Raw image files are sometimes called digital negatives, as they fulfill the same role as negatives in film photography: that is, the negative is not directly usable as an image, but has all of the information needed to create an image. Like a photographic negative, a raw digital image may have a wider dynamic range or color gamut than the eventual final image format, and it preserves most of the information of the captured image."

Digital photographers looking for the very highest quality prints may shoot in raw. The storage capacity needed to save these images on a computer is enormous, but possible with modern technology. On the other hand, a recent blog posting, accompanied by a photo of the IBM Model 350 disk storage unit which weighed more than a ton, pointed out that "It Would Take 21 of These IBM Hard Drives from 1956 to Hold a Single D800 RAW File (petapixel.com/2014/10/29/take-21-ibm-harddrives-1956-hold-single-d800-raw-file, DL Cade, October 29, 2014). The capacity of the IBM Model 350 was 3.75 Megabytes by current standards.

Photographers who shoot raw images find that they need backup image storage systems with multi-terabyte capacity (A terabyte is a trillion bytes).



IBM 305 at U.S. Army Red River Arsenal with two IBM 350 disk drives in the foreground, Wikipedia photo

Photographic Bonanza Uncovered at Conde Nast Building in NYC



Self Portrait with Studio Camera
Edward Steichen, 1917
Wikimedia photo

“You never know what’s going to happen in New York. Last week, photographic gold was struck in Times Square in the deep cavernous archives inside the Conde Nast building. Two thousand prints shot by Edward Steichen, one of 20th Century’s most influential photographers, were found after lying hidden for over eighty years. The story behind them, and of Steichen’s rise to photographic fame and acclaim, are almost too unbelievable to be true” (David Geffin, November 25, 2014).

In his blog, Geffin explained that Todd Brandow, a persistent photography curator, chased a rumor about hidden archives at the Conde Nast building in New York. Though initially told that everything had been sold, the archivist was eventually able to produce boxes containing about 2,000 Steichen prints that had never been published.

Geffin’s blog continues with the fascinating story of how Steichen launched his career and achieved fame. It can be accessed at bitly.com/15tO4xz+. Visit the site and read the full account.

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:

February 8—Karin Rosenthal on Vivian Maier
March 1—Gordon Brown, 50+ Things Photoshop Learned from the Darkroom

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, right onto Lincoln St, and 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 (#72).

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:

MBTA, Newton Highland Station on the Green Line (Riverside Branch). Exit via Walnut Street exit. Go down Lincoln St (directly across Walnut) and turn right on to Columbus St.

PHSNE Online

PHSNE’s Web site is online at phsne.org. See [facebook.com/phsne](https://www.facebook.com/phsne) and the president’s blog at phsne.org/presidentsblog for items of PHSNE interest. Comments are welcome, so join the discussion of photo history. Visit phsne.org/archive for PHSNE history and *snapshots* issues. Scheduling changes due to weather conditions or other factors will be posted on this website.

Requested
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Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Meeting: Sunday, January 4, 2015, 1:30 P.M.
Members’ Auction
Woman’s Club Workshop, Newton Highlands, MA



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