

snapshots



September 2015

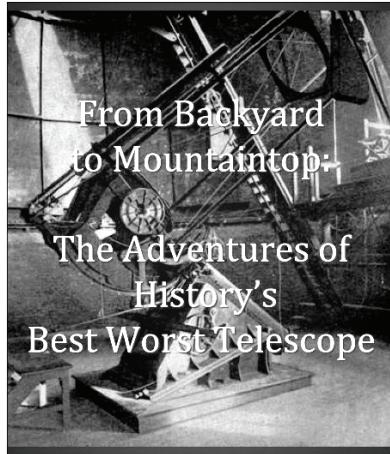
**Alan Hirshfeld Discusses
History's Best Worst Telescope
Sunday, September 20, 2015, 1:30 P.M.
NOTE LATER DATE—3rd Sunday
Woman's Club Workshop
Newton Highlands MA**



Photo by Sasha Helper

Yorkshire estate and ultimately to a mountaintop observatory in California. This little-known telescope, built in 1879 and still operational, revolutionized celestial photography and proved to 19th-century astronomers that the future of cosmic discovery lay in the camera, not the human eye."

Hirshfeld is Professor of Physics at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and an Associate of the Harvard College Observatory. He is the author of *Parallax: The Race to Measure the Cosmos*, *The Electric Life of Michael Faraday*, *Eureka Man: The Life and Legacy of Archimedes*, and most recently, *Starlight Detectives: How Astronomers, Inventors, and Eccentrics Discovered the Modern Universe*. He is a regular book reviewer for the *Wall Street Journal* and writes and lectures about science history and discovery.



It's not just photography that has been revolutionized by digital technology; publishing has also changed dramatically with desktop publishing, PDF files and digital printing. PHSNE's *snap shots* has been available as a PDF publication, after print distribution, since the PHSNE website was expanded in 2008. Now *snap shots* is available online at about the same time Northeast members receive their printed copies. And the monthly email newsletter, edited by David De-Jean, has been published since March 2010.

Starting with the 2014 issue, *The Journal* is available online as a PDF or printed publication. Bringing *The Journal* to the online world was a major effort championed by Whitey Morange when he became PHSNE President and as a member of the Journal Committee.

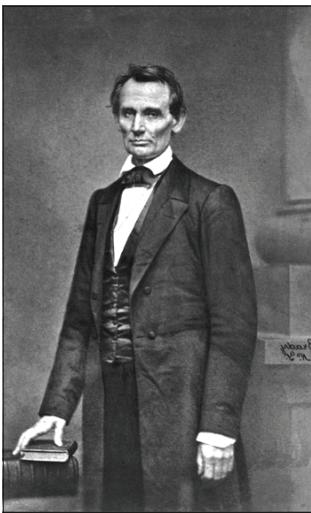
To obtain extra printed copies or a PDF file of the 2014 *Journal*, please go to phsne.org/journal/online. This will redirect you to the PHSNE page at Mag-Cloud's site. The 2014 issue is currently priced at \$5 for a PDF file of the issue or \$14.80 (plus shipping) for both a printed copy and a PDF file.

Complementary PDF issues of *snap shots* since September 2008 are available at phsne.org/archive/Publications/SnapShots. If you wish to be notified when new issues become available as PDF files, or if you do not receive the monthly email newsletter and wish to do so, sign up at phsne.org/email-subscribe. The subscription link will redirect you to Constant Contact where you can sign up. Constant Contact distributes emails for PHSNE and every email includes a link to unsubscribe.

~Joe Walters, Membership Chair



Yale Acquires Major Collection of Images



Mathew Brady's first photograph of Lincoln, February 27, 1860
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library,
Meserve-Kunhardt Collection
Yale News press release

In the fall of 2015, Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library and the University Art Gallery will take possession of a remarkable collection. According to Yale President Peter Salovey, the recent acquisition of the Meserve-Kunhardt Collection "has secured [Yale's] place as the premier institution for the study of American photography from the Civil War to the Gilded Age."

Among other treasures, the collection boasts a particularly extensive trove of images of Abraham Lincoln. Mathew Brady, Alexander Gardner, and other noted nineteenth century photographers are represented. There are over 70,000 items in all, almost 60,000 photographic prints with the rest being books, maps, and the like. Researchers will have access to portions of the collections in 2016.

PHSNE Membership

New members are invited to join for half the rates for the first year. Regular PHSNE membership (U.S. and Canada) is \$20 for students, \$40 for individuals and institutions, and \$45 for a family; foreign membership is \$50. 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).

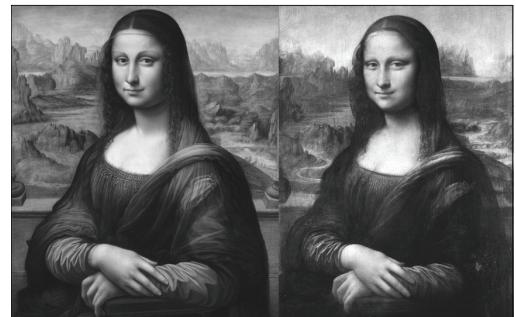
snap shots, edited by Beverly Regelman, is published monthly, September through June, by the Photographic Historical Society of New England, Inc., P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465-0189. It is available at phsne.org/snapshots within a few days of mailing. Articles and exhibition/book reviews are 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, in print or electronically, as long as the author and source are credited and a complimentary copy of the publication is sent to the PHSNE mailbox.

3D or Not 3D, That is the Question

There is a fascinating story in *ScienceNews.org* that may be of considerable interest to members who are practicing 3-D photography or collecting stereo items. The full posting by Erika Engelhaupt can be found at [sciencenews.org/blog/gory-details/leonardo-da-vinci-may-have-invented-3-d-image-'mona-lisa'?](http://sciencenews.org/blog/gory-details/leonardo-da-vinci-may-have-invented-3-d-image-'mona-lisa')

Engelhaupt notes that da Vinci "took a special interest in finding ways to realistically render three-dimensional forms on a flat canvas. And now, a pair of researchers say that in the early 1500s he might have created the world's first 3-D image. Even more surprising: It's the *Mona Lisa*."

The two halves of the stereo image would be the *Mona Lisa* hanging in the Louvre and the copy hanging in Mardi's Prado Museum, generally assumed



Prado copy at left; Louvre painting at right.
Using a Holmes viewer, these may appear as 3D.
Science News, Erika Engelhaupt blog
April 30, 2015

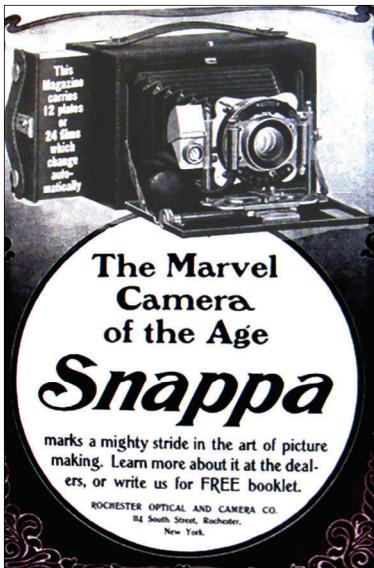
to be painted by a student at the same time, a common practice in those days. "The distance between the two perspectives is very close to the distance between a person's eyes, creating a stereoscopic 3-D effect when the two are combined."

Further research will be done on the paintings to test the theory. In the meantime, casual research was conducted by three PHSNE members, who are also members of Stereo New England, and all three came to the same conclusion: while it comes close, the two images do not form a true stereo image.

ICP Moves to the Bowery

The International Center of Photography is in the process of moving to the Bowery, after closing the doors at its midtown Manhattan location. The New York Times reported that the ICP "is trying to redefine itself in an image-saturated digital era and attract a new generation of benefactors. . . Widely regarded as one of the most innovative and experimental institutions for photography in the world, the center has struggled at times to attract visitors and financial support proportionate to its critical standing" (9/25/2014). Visit icp.org for additional information.

Cute Camera, Short Life—the Snappa



tings.

The magazine of the Snappa was ahead of its time. It carried 12 plates or 24 sheet films which required only seconds to change. It is impossible to create a double exposure.

One possible reason that this camera never was a commercial success is that it coincided with the introduction of a series of roll film cameras in 1902 and 1903 using NC (Noncurling) film. Roll film

cameras offered by Eastman Kodak Co. were less expensive and easier to load, use, and process; there were 22 listed in the 1902 Kodak catalogue.

Few Snappas were sold during its one year run, which is why so few collectors have come across it. It is a rare find and a highly collectible camera.



Magazine and sheet film holders

~Story and photos by Lew Regelman

Produced in 1902 by the Rochester Optical and Camera Co., the Snappa is a very unusual folding-bed view camera with an integral magazine back. Not only is it a beauty to look at, with its red bellows and nickel and brass fillings, but it also has a Plantograph lens made by Bausch & Lomb and an auto shutter with a variety of set-

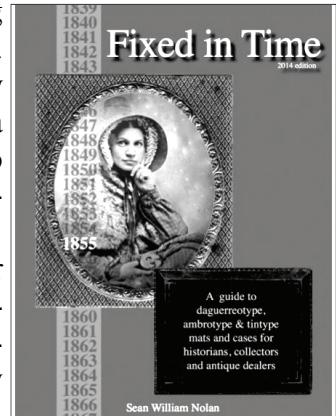
Free Resource Can Help Date Images

Sean Nolan has written and self-published *Fixed in Time*, a free book on dating 19th century daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, and cased tintypes. It contains numerous illustrations of mats and cases, identified by the specific years during which they were used. Nolan notes that "many styles were used for only a brief time, allowing you to date some early photographs to within a year."

He calls the book "a labor of love . . . bringing together my interests in photography, history, and my skills as a programmer. . .

The book is the fruit of extensive research, having located over 2,100 objectively dated photographs from 1840 to 1865."

Nolan plans to update the book and invites contributions to the next edition from anyone who has objectively dated cased photographs. You can contact him at sean4233nolan@comcast.net and/or pick up a PDF of the guide at facebook.com/fixed.in.time.book.



Digital Silver Imaging Offers B & W Processing

Digital Silver Imaging of Belmont MA is now processing black and white film in-house. They offer one-shot chemistry in their Jobo processor: Ilford films developed in Ilford DD-X Developer and Kodak films in Xtol Developer. Custom developers are available upon request.

Details and pricing information are available at digitalsilverimaging.com.

Board Approves New Membership Fees

Due to increased program and postal costs, the PHSNE Board of Directors raised dues for all categories of 2015-2016 memberships by \$5. Dues are now \$20 for students, \$40 for individuals and institutions, \$45 for families, and \$50 for international memberships. We continue to offer half-priced dues for the first year of a new membership, and dues for a Canadian mailing address are the same as US memberships. PHSNE dues last increased for the 2010 membership year.

~Joe Walters, Membership Chair

Remembering Gunter Mueller (1940-2015)



tinyurl.com/pspkaf6

After the June issue of *snap shots* went to print, we learned of the passing of long-time PHSNE member Gunter Mueller on May 23, 2015. He is survived by his wife Linda (Martel) and children Diane and William.

Gunter was a frequent dealer of images at PHSNE's *Photographica* shows. He was an avid nature photographer as well as a preservationist and archivist of daguerreotypes and ambrotypes. Besides his membership in PHSNE, Gunter also belonged to the Daguerrian Society and the Worcester Artist Group.

Be on the Lookout . . .

LensProToGo, located in Concord MA, was the victim of a break-in and robbery in June. The company had a complete inventory of what was stolen, including serial numbers. If you come across any particularly good deals without knowing the provenance, please check the list of serial numbers at lensprotogo.com/serial-numbers-of-stolen-gear-from-half-million-dollar-rental-heist. Report any information about the stolen items to meg@lensprotogo.com.

The total value of the stolen items was close to \$600,000. Fortunately, it represented only a portion of the company's large inventory, and they were able to fill customer orders with little difficulty.

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:

October 17, 18—*Photographica 84*

November 1—Philip Storey on Lewis Blend, Russian immigrant photographer

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 (#72) 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:

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 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.

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Alan Hirshfeld, "History's Best Worst Telescope"
Woman's Club Workshop
Next Meeting: Sunday, September 20, 2015, 1:30 P.M.
Photographic Historical Society of New England