

snap



shots

Volume 21 Number 2

October 2015

**PHOTOGRAPHICA 84, Saturday October 17th, 9:00A.M.—4:00 P.M.
and Sunday October 18th, 9:00A.M.—3:00 P.M. Auction Saturday, 4:30 P.M.
Americal Center, 467 Main Street, Wakefield MA**

The 84th iteration of *Photographica* takes place on Saturday October, 17 and Sunday, October 18, 2015. The shows are the most visible public event that PHSNE has each year, and I get positive feedback from attendees and dealers.



Fed 1, Fed 2, Zorki

At the last show, we had the best turnout of PHSNE members we have had in years! I challenge the member-

ship to beat the spring show number in October. Bring at least one other person who has never been to *Photographica* or hasn't been there in awhile. Some members can't drive; consider calling them to offer a ride. Bring a grandchild who has shown an interest in your collection. Or simply start a conversation with a person on a subway with an analog camera, "Did you know that there is?"

Many students are interested in analog photography but unaware of the show or unable to get there. Those who come stay for hours.

It's the people who make this show special. Attendees talk to dealers, sometimes at length, about the equipment for sale, how to use it, and about photography in general. I overheard one conversation this spring between an 85+ year old dealer and a 20 year old photography student, and I was hard pressed to determine which one was more excited about what they were discussing!

The Saturday afternoon camera auction will include wooden cameras from the early 1900's; early collectible 35mm cameras including some by Canon,

Leica, and Nikon; and high-end professional cameras such as Bronicas. The list of items will be posted to



Cycle Wizard Plate Camera

the PHSNE website in early October, giving you plenty of time to do your research prior to the auction.

PHSNE will once again be catering the auction. The cameras pictured here will all be included; viewing begins at 2:30 P.M.

Construction near the Americal Center is now complete, and there is a new side parking lot with 33 spaces that access the basement and the elevator.

Please go to the web-page for more information before you contact me for the show or Lew Regelman for the auction. The two sites are phsne.org/shows and phsne.org/auctioninfo. Contact Lew directly if you have questions about the auction at auction@phsne.org. You can contact me at John_dockery@hotmail.com, photographica@phsne.org, or 781-592-2553. As always, we are looking for volunteers.

~John Dockery, Photographica Show Manager

~Photos by Lew Regelman



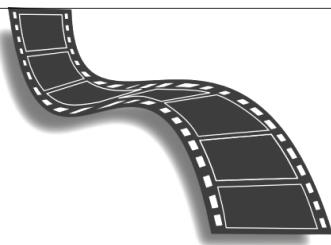
Canon 4SB, 1952



Bronica S Kit

Note to out of town show dealers—The show weekend is also the weekend for the Head of the Charles Regatta. This is a world class crew and rowing event, and hotel spaces will be both expensive and hard to come by. If you are coming to Wakefield, please make your hotel reservations ASAP. If the local familiar places are booked, please try hotels and motels in Burlington, Bedford, Woburn, and Saugus in Massachusetts. In the past, some people have gone to Salem NH to find affordable lodging.

Film Photographers Take Another Hit



Diehard film photographers received yet another blow recently, two in fact: loss of while-you-wait processing and non-return of negatives.

One-hour processing of film is rapidly becoming a

thing of the past. There are fewer than 200 on-premises developing sites today, compared to more than 7,500 about 20 years ago. Many large chain stores that once processed film on the premises now send it to the few labs that are still offering that service. Walgreens has some locations that still process on site, but not many and probably not for long. CVS is sending its unprocessed film to Greenwood SC, and it takes about a week for the customer to receive the prints or CD. And when they do, the negatives are *not* part of the package.

Retailers who do not return negatives include CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart. The list keeps growing. After scanning and digitizing the film, the labs toss the negatives. For many consumers, the print or CD is all they want, but it's a loss for the serious photographer who wants to keep control of the negatives.

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).

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Big Apple Exhibition

The New York Public Library is hosting *Public Eye: 175 Years of Sharing Photography*, its “first-ever retrospective survey of photography.” According to the press release, the exhibit explores the various platforms and networks for sharing photographs as well as recent concerns about privacy.

In a CBS News review (May 21, 2015), Jason Kashdan dubbed the exhibit “From sepia to ‘selfies’: 175 years of photography.” He notes that curator Stephen C. Pinson said the goal “is to look at the history of photography through the contemporary lens of social media.” Kashdan’s full posting can be found at cbsnews.com/news/new-york-public-library-public-eye-175-years-of-sharing-photography-exhibition.

The exhibit’s three themes are Photo Sharing—various methods of sharing images across the years; Crowdsourcing—traditional and digital photos of the public; and Street View—Google photos as well as old western land surveys.

All photographs on display are from the library’s collections. The exhibit runs through January 3, 2016. Additional information, including notice of free daily tours, can be found at nypl.org/events/exhibitions/public-eye.



cartes de visite, tinyurl.com/n9ormmmz



More auction items –
See page 1 for details
about the auction



Above—Nicca 3S body;
Right—Rolleicord;
Below—3 Leica lenses



Making the Impossible Possible— Hold Onto Those Old Polaroids!

When digital technology caused the Cambridge-based Polaroid Corporation to cease manufacturing operations in 2008, few people expected to see Polaroid cameras in use. Many, including some collectors, trashed the cameras, believing them to be worthless. However, a European company called The Impossible Project soon began manufacturing instant film that can be used in pack Polaroids. Its manufacturing is based in Enschede, Netherlands, while the research operation is in Monheim, Germany. The company also makes a device that produces instant prints from smart phones.

The Impossible Project is now working to produce a one-step camera that functions like the pack film Polaroids, though it will have a very different appearance. The chief technology officer is Steve Herchen, a chemist who worked at Polaroid and is still enthused about the technology of creating instant prints. Henschel was quoted in a *Boston Globe* article as saying, “It’s almost like a living thing. You watch the picture as it evolves,

as it comes to life. It’s radically different from digital” (Bella English, *Boston Globe*, August 24, 2015).

Until the new camera is market-ready, Henschel says the company has “pickers who go to yard sales and flea markets and we buy

[Polaroids] and refurbish them and sell them with warranties. They look and perform just like they’re new.”

English also quotes Peter Southwick who directs the photojournalism program at Boston University, “The entire world takes more than 1 trillion pictures a year . . . I think the challenge for this era is, do any of them have any lasting value? . . . [The Impossible Project] might be tapping into the idea that you would value a photo enough to want it in some form other than existing on the cloud.”

Prices of the refurbished Polaroid cameras range from a little over \$100 to nearly \$500, and about 30,000 were sold last year on the company’s website the-impossible-project.com.



Polaroid ProPack Camera

Rheingold Historical Collection Offers Online Resource

Only a small portion of the 70,000 images of the Rheingold Historical Photograph Collection (RHPC) have been converted to digital formats for online display; nevertheless, the extensive categorized list may be helpful to anyone creating a catalog for other historical collections. Their searchable database organizes the images by categories, with 25 headings and 2400 subdivisions.

Most images in the collection are cardboard backed. The RHPC website explains that this “reflects the technology of the period. The picture as produced was on a very thin piece of photo paper, too thin to stand by itself.” The images are from the Civil War era to around 1920.



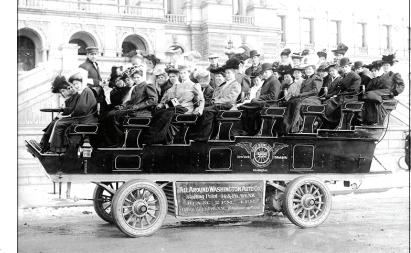
Tavern

Rheingold Historical Photo Collection

This is not a collection of images by famous photographers; in fact, in most instances the photographer is unknown. Many of the photos were taken by itinerant photographers at a time when few people owned cameras, often with the camera simply placed without any posing or arrangement. Ironically, this style of photo (“genre” or “vernacular”) is popular today. The website claims they suggest “that accidentally the photographer took a picture which would be praised if done by a known photographer . . . an ‘accidental Atget’.”

The collection also contains many pictures of groups. Visit any tourist attraction today, and the first thing they do is take a photo which they attempt to sell when you exit. It was not much different then; photos of large groups were taken with the intent to sell the photo to members of the group.

The website offers comprehensive explanations about the collection’s purpose, methodology, and storage. The photos can be downloaded and used as long as the source is credited. For further information, visit rheingoldhistoricalphotocollection.org.



Washington Tourists

Rheingold Historical Photo Collection

Enjoy PHSNE member Paul Rheingold’s article *The Saturday Night Club* in the 2014 Journal, with accompanying photographs from his collection

Archive Enterprise Hits a Wall



graphic archives but lack the resources to convert them to digital formats. His business model was to purchase the archives and digitize them for free, then sell the originals. His purchases included the archives of the *Chicago Sun Times*, *The Denver Post*, *St. Petersburg Times*, *Miami Herald*, *Boston Herald*, and *Minneapolis Star Tribune*.

At one time Rogers Photo Archive, based in Little Rock Arkansas, had possession of about 35 million images and copyrights to about 25 million. According to Rogers, the images sold online were bringing in well over \$100,000 per week, though some sources question that.

Recently the lucrative business hit major legal snags. The company was sued by Alden Global Capital which claimed that Rogers did not obtain proper written agreements for some archives he bought that were part of its holdings. There was a bank fraud case and a default judgment. The company's many legal difficulties are described in detail in a posting by Brian Lambert (June 17, 2015) that can be found at minnpost.com/media/2015/06/more-trouble-john-rogers-man-who-bought-photo-archives-pioneer-press-and-star-tribune.

John Rogers had a great idea. Newspapers tend to have extensive photo-

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:

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

Driving directions to Americat 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.

Free 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 MBTA buses #136 and #137 stop in front of the building. Details are available at mbta.com. Use weekend schedule

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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Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Event: *Photographica 84*, October 17-18, 2015
American Center, Wakefield MA
Next Meeting: November 1, 2015

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