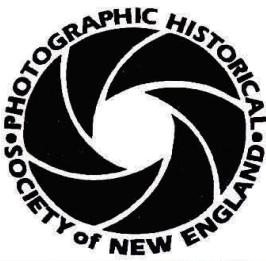


PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

snapshots

Volume 21 Number 4



December 2015

PHSNE Hosts Annual Holiday Party, Show and Tell, Annual Meeting

Sunday, December 6, 2015, 1:30 P.M.

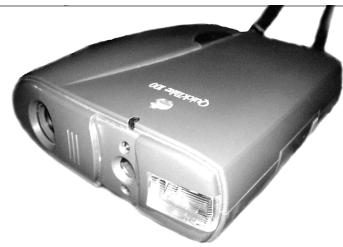
Woman's Club Workshop, 72 Columbus St., Newton MA

Join us on December 6th for an afternoon of cameras, conversation, and camaraderie. Starting with a catered lunch, the program will feature an extended show and tell and display. Share your treasures and enjoy the interesting items brought by others. A brief business meeting will take place for voting on the slate of Board members and officers.



Another successful Photographica show, October 17-18, 2015. Photos by Christopher Hubert

Add an APPLE to Your Collection?



You might want to keep your eye “peeled” for an Apple Quick Take 100. *Time* listed the Kodak-built model as the “first consumer digital camera” and included it as one of the “100 greatest and most

influential gadgets from 1923 to the present” (October 25, 2010). The camera dates to 1994.

Wikipedia contradicts the claim of “first,” noting that a Dycam Model 1 sold in the U.S. in 1990 and the Fuji DS-X sold in Japan in late 1989. The Apple Quick Take 100, however, was the greater commercial success. It had a “built-in flash, but no focus or zoom controls. Other than downloading the photos to a computer, there was no way to preview them on the camera, nor was there any way to delete individual photos.”

Kodak also built the Apple Quick Take 150 model, and the 200 was made by Fujifilm. The resolution capacity of the Quick Take cameras was 640 x 480 pixels, a paltry .3 megapixels by today’s standards.

Once recognized brand names entered the digital field, the Apple cameras could not compete. They were discontinued after Steve Jobs returned to Apple in 1997 and eliminated many non-computer related products. He brought cameras back to Apple via the Iphone and Ipad.

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 02465-0189. (Call: 617-826-9294; email: membership@phsne.org; or use the Web form at phsne.org/contacts).

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It's Truly a GEM!

GEORGE EASTMAN MUSEUM

For collectors and lovers of photography, the George Eastman House has always been a precious gem. As of October 6, 2015, the Historic National Monument is “officially a GEM” as its name changes from the George Eastman House (GEH) to the George Eastman Museum (GEM).

The museum’s new website eastman.org explains that the “new name reflects the scope of collections, exhibitions, and scholarship. . . The institution encompasses one of the world’s foremost museums of photography and cinema and the historic Rochester estate of entrepreneur and philanthropist George Eastman.”



The Mansion

In addition to contemporary and historic photography exhibits, this Rochester landmark museum hosts film screenings, maintains a publishing program, and participates in collaborative projects with other institutions. The research and teaching facility makes important contributions to film preservation and photographic conservation.

The museum’s three-part mission remains “leadership in the fields of photography and cinema;



The Archive Building

preservation and development of our collections, including the historic mansion and gardens; and service to our communities, in Rochester and beyond,” according to Bruce Barnes, the Ron and Donna Fielding Director. He adds, “Our new name better conveys our institution’s core identity as a dynamic museum with world-class collections in the fields of photography and cinema.”

~Photos courtesy of George Eastman Museum

I had a YEN for this camera!

You never know what will be offered at a PHSNE auction. The posted list for the October 17th auction included this unusual item: "Rare Japanese box camera, cardboard film holders, fragile, very early."

The camera is very small, measuring 3x2 5/8x1 7/8 inches. When bidding for this camera began, there was little interest, and I was able to purchase it for \$20.

As soon as I got home, I checked with McKeowns (2006) for information about my new Yen camera. The cameras were manufactured from the 1930s until after WWII. Occasionally, you find one marked "Made in Occupied Japan" as mine is.

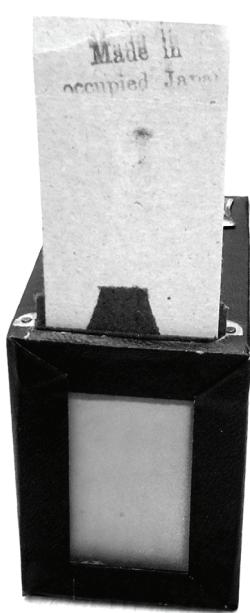
According to McKeown, the 1 x 1 5/8 inch negative "could be processed in daylight by dipping the entire paper holder into a red-colored developer and then a green-colored fixer."

The cameras were produced under many brands including Baby Reflex, Camerett or Kamerette, Nymco, Super Camera—and Amco. For years I have had a cardboard Amco camera on display.

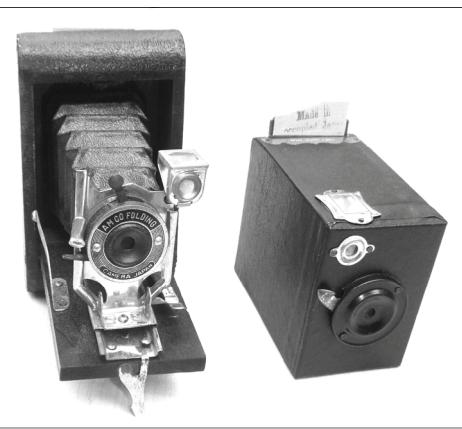
The Amco, a larger folding camera, has a setting for time and instant. My little Yen seems only to have a time (lens open) function, so it would have to be on a support to take a picture.

McKeown indicates that the box cameras sell for \$20 to \$30, and the folding models from \$55—\$85. I didn't get a bargain, but I'm happy to add this unusual camera to my collection.

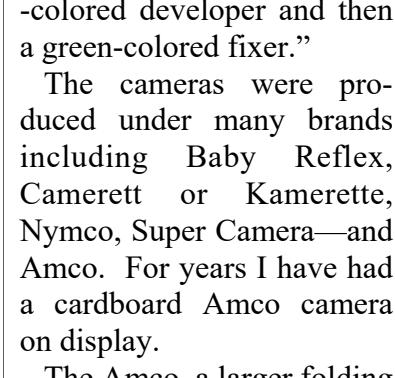
~Story and photos by Lew Regelman



Single sheet film holder on back of Yen



Two paper-covered thin wood cameras:
Amco at left, Yen at right



Single sheet film holder on back of Yen

Salt to Partner with MECA

The Salt Institute for Documentary Studies, located in Portland ME, trains its students to document lives through its four track program: writing, photography, radio, and multimedia. In its 43rd year, the financially strapped non-profit announced in June that it was closing its doors. Alumni from all parts of the country, together with the Maine arts community, rallied to its support.

The result is a collaboration with the Maine College of Art (MECA). In a letter to alumni and supporters, (see salt.edu/headlines/important-updates-salts-future), Salt describes their "in-depth discussions and a due diligence phase as we continue to negotiate opportunities for an exciting future for Salt in partnership with the Maine College of Art . . . to perpetuate Salt's mission and unique programming while at the same time securing its archives, and providing an academic partnership different from any other that Salt has had in its 42-year history."

Significant issues must still be resolved, especially in conjunction with finding suitable space, selling student housing to repay the foundation loan with which they purchased the building on Congress St., and finding a permanent place for the archives.

"What is most important to all of us is that we stay true to Salt's mission; that we retain the reputation of Salt's revered national brand; and, that we create the opportunity for Salt to continue to offer its distinctive pedagogy. At the same time Salt would remain open and nimble to new technologies and cutting edge industry trends; welcoming opportunities for increased community partnerships, collaborations and, most importantly, increased alumni engagement."

Nostalgic Find

PHSNE member Dick Koolish found this item recently in a California flea market. It will bring back memories for photographers who dried glossy pictures on ferro-type plates in their dark-rooms.



Worth a Trip to New York City



*In the Home of an Italian Ragpicker
Jersey Street*

the social welfare of New York's most vulnerable citizens. PHSNE provided a camera and a flash apparatus for the show and I was invited to the opening reception as a representative of the society.

Following its New York run, the show will travel to the Library of Congress and then to Denmark. The photos were printed just for this exhibit on modern printing-out-paper, a medium recreated for them by the George Eastman Museum to more accurately depict the look and feel of the 1890s, when the images were taken. There are also maps, woodcut prints from newspapers and books of the time, letters, journals and ephemera from Riis's life and many in his circle of friends, Roosevelt included. The show runs through March 20, 2016.

While in the city, I saw another impressive show, this one free and open to all, at New York Public Library's main branch. *Public Eye: 175 Years of Sharing Photography* was featured in the October issue of *snap shots* (p.2—show ends January 3rd, 2015).

If you can get to the Big Apple any time soon, I recommend both of these important exhibits. ~Whitey Morange

PHSNE Meetings

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

Upcoming meetings:

January 10—Members' Auction

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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Next Meeting: Woman's Club Workshop
Photographic Historical Society of New England