

snap



shots

Volume 21 Number 7

March 2016

Kathryn Myatt Carey Presents
A Glimpse from the Dawn of Photography:
A close look at early Daguerreotype *Pont Neuf*
Sunday, March 6, 2016, 1:30 P.M.
Woman's Club Workshop, Newton MA

Kathryn Myatt Carey's Presentation at the March 6th PHSNE meeting will focus on the history, scientific analysis, and stabilization of *Pont Neuf*, a dated 1839 French daguerreotype belonging to the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.

Few daguerreotypes survive from 1839, the year in which the process was officially announced by Daguerre. As such, all early daguerreotypes are important objects for historians, researchers and conservators. This talk presents the overall scientific analysis of this rare daguerreotype and its fascinating journey to the collection of the Peabody Essex Museum in 1848.

Carey is the conservator of works of art on paper and Asian Art at the Peabody Essex Museum. Prior to her arrival there in 2003, she has held positions in the conservation departments of the Museum of Fine Arts, The Gardner Museum, The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities and the Fogg Art Museum.



Pont Neuf, Daguerreotype, 1839; pem.org

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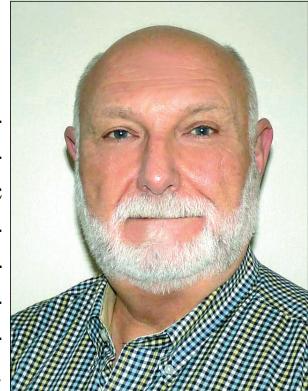
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From the President

Dear members,

We are an educational society with an international membership that values historic images, the marvelous equipment that made them, the numerous photographic processes, and the people who created these images and tools.



We also realize that photo history is being made today and what makes us look so closely at the images of the present, as well as those of the past, is the passion and talent of the people who chose this medium to record their lives and times.

Whether your passion is for images or for cameras, we encourage you to bring that enthusiasm to our society. We invite you to help us in learning, teaching, sharing and promoting a better understanding and appreciation of the art and history of photography and the monumental role it played, and continues to play, in recording the history, development and attributes of cultures worldwide and their historic milestones.

Your continued membership and interest in the history and preservation of our photographic heritage is very important to the future of our society. I welcome your questions, concerns and ideas. Write to president@phsne.org.

Sincerely,

Walter

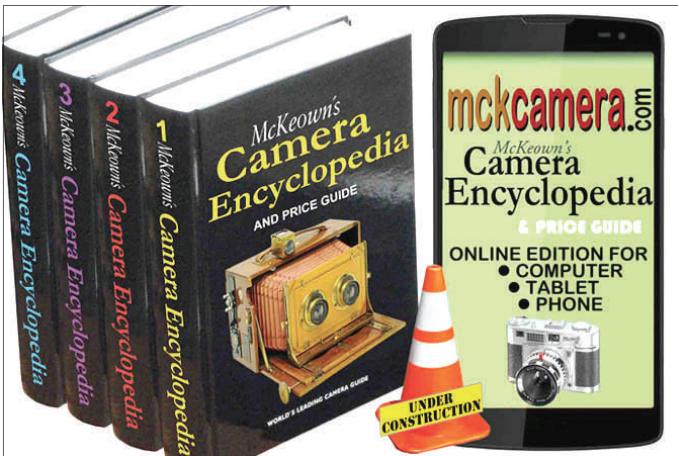
Walter Friesendorf
 President, PHSNE

SAVE THE DATE

New Schedule, Venue for *Photographica*

Photographica 85 will be a one-day show that takes place on Saturday, April 2, 2016. There will be an auction following the show, as usual. The new venue is the American Legion Post 440, 295 California Street, Newton, MA. Detailed information will be provided in the April issue of *snap shots*. There will be no Sunday meeting in April.

Cast Your Vote



The new *McKeown's Camera Encyclopedia and Price Guide* is "under construction," to be released in 2016. The last version of this "go to" source for collectors, published by PHSNE member James McKeown, was issued in 2004. The upcoming thirteenth edition features about 5 times more information and almost 100,000 illustrations.

McKeown posted an online survey to determine the formats, languages, and price range of the guide that would best serve the collectors who use this valuable resource. Go to mckcamera.com to participate.

PHSNE Membership

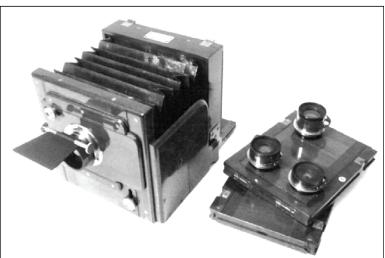
New members are invited to join for half the rates for the first year. Regular PHSNE membership (U.S. and Canada) is \$20 for students, \$40 for individuals and institutions, and \$45 for a family; foreign membership is \$50. Join or renew online at phsne.org/join or phsne.org/renew, or send a check 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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Ralph London's Hare Tailboard Camera

British camera maker George Hare invented and produced fine cameras and accessories, all of the very highest quality materials and construction. An example is my wood and brass Hare 4 x 5 Tailboard Camera that shows very precise alignment of the screws and a white inset nameplate lettered "G. Hare, Manufacturer, 26 Calthorpe St., London."



George Hare Tailboard Camera Outfit

This elegant, but undated, camera has one hinged side wing for support and a maroon bellows with square corners. Acquired at a 1996 camera show, it came with a flap shutter, two book style double plate holders, and four Ross London Symmetrical brass lenses with green leather caps: No. 2 (4 inch), No. 3 (5 inch) on camera,



Lens and Plate Holders

No. 4 (6 inch) and No. 6 (8 inch). A brown leather case with velvet lining and six compartments holds everything.

Hare joined the camera making firm of Thomas Ottewill in London, and after a year or two with Ottewill, started his own business as a camera maker about 1856. The company remained in business until 1911.

~Ralph London, PHSNE member, Portland Oregon
Reprinted with permission: The Photogram, Michigan Photographic Historical Society, Vol 38 No 2 (September-October 2010)

Image Memory

Using artificial intelligence software, MIT technology has developed a remarkably accurate way to determine how well different color images are remembered based on a "heat map"; warmer colors are remembered more readily than cooler ones. A full explanation and striking visual samples are available at tinyurl.com/za9wcxk.

Everything Old is New Again: Kodak Introduces Super 8

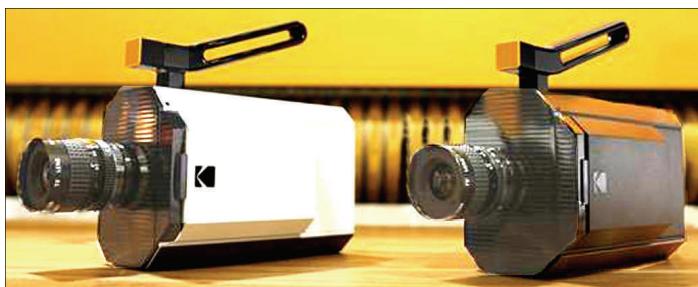


Photo from Kodak Press Release

“Kodak comes out with new Super 8 film camera” is a headline you might expect to be from 1965, the year that Super 8 was introduced; instead, the headline could have appeared in January, 2016. Kodak’s press release of January 5, 2016 stated, “On the heels of celebrating 50 years of manufacturing Super 8 film,



Super 8 Cartridge, Wikimedia
and others who appreciate the art and craft of filmmaking” (tinyurl.com/jdhtpuw).

Visitors to the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas on January 6-9, 2016, where the camera was first displayed, were able to shoot and watch Super 8 movies. The camera combines analog and digital features; its modern components include an electronic viewfinder. It will only shoot a new version of Super 8 film but will be compatible with standard Su-

Kodak is launching an initiative aimed at putting Super 8 cameras into the hands of a new generation of filmmakers as well as meeting the needs of top direc-

tors, indie filmmakers

per 8 cartridges. After the film is shot, the cartridge is sent to a processing lab that will transfer the images to digital and return a disk or return the processed film that you can run in an existing super 8 movie projector. The price for the new camera has not yet been announced.

Hollywood is showing renewed interest in film, and the new camera has received support from many high-profile writers, directors, and producers. Many did their earliest experimentation on Super 8. Stephen Spielberg commented, “For me, 8mm was the beginning of everything. When I think of 8mm, I think of the movies.” JJ Abrams, writer and director of the recent *Star Wars* release, said “This camera appears to be the perfect bridge between the efficiency of the digital world and the warmth and quality of analog.”

Much thought went into the design of the camera. There is a retro look that connects to the original, but also a modern look and feel at the same time. “We are designing the Kodak Super 8 camera with robust materials and new ergonomic features to serve the needs of Super 8 fans, whether shooting action or static scenes,” said [designer Yves] Béhar.”

With the introduction of this camera, Kodak is demonstrating its commitment to keeping film alive for both amateurs and professionals.



Kodak Supermatic 200, 1977

Photography Helping to Preserve Culture and History

While ISIS and other extremist groups are trying to wipe out the relics from ancient civilizations, photography remains the last hope to preserve at least some aspect of these important antiquities. To this end, Oxford University, in collaboration with UNESCO, the government of the United Arab Emirates, and other educational institutions and partners, is creating a Million Image Database consisting of 3D images of endangered sites in the Middle East and North Africa.

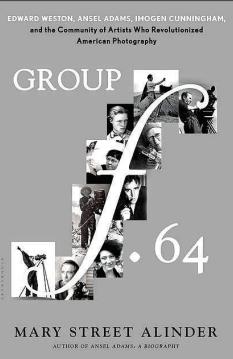
Thousands of sophisticated stereo cameras are being given to volunteers with access to these sites. The images can be used to make 3D scale models or full-size 3D reproductions for display purposes or for eventual replacement at the original sites. Full-scale replications will be created throughout 2016 and 2017.

Information is available at digitalarchaeology.org.uk/new-page. As noted on the website, “While there are those who seek to encourage us to forget the past – to forget the shared history that unites us – we are dedicated to ensuring that the visual reminders that keep that history alive remain a part of the human experience.”



*Temple of Baalshamin, Palmyra, Syria
Blown up by ISIS, 2015; Wikipedia*

Book Chronicles History of f.64



Mary Street Alinder, once an assistant to Ansel Adams, has written a history of f.64, a group that included some of the most famous and iconic photographers of the 20th century. The group's name derives from the aperture setting on large format cameras that produces the maximum depth of field.

Published in 2014, *Group f.64: Edward Weston, Ansel Adams, Imogen Cunningham, and the Community of Artists Who Revolutionized American Photography* describes the history of the group and includes highlights from the author's many encounters with its members and with Adams, her employer, in particular.

The group's origins trace back to a gathering in an Oakland, California studio in October 1932. Several in attendance were already well established, such as Edward Weston; others, including Ansel Adams, were not yet well-known. Women were equal members at a time when gender equality was not the norm.

When Alfred Steiglitz was displaying photographs alongside European paintings, equating the two, Group f.64 was defining photography as an art form in its own right. They favored a style of sharp, "pure" photography, with detail beyond that which could be painted, rather than the soft-focused "pictorial" style images popular at the time. Nonetheless, there was an overlap of philosophy since Steiglitz also favored sharp, detailed images.

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:

Saturday, April 2—Photographica 85.

Driving directions to Woman's Club Workshop, 72 Columbus Ave., Newton Highlands MA:

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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Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Meeting: Woman's Club Workshop, Newton MA
March 7, 2015, 1:30 P.M.
Katherine Carey, *Pont Neuf* Daguerreotype

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