

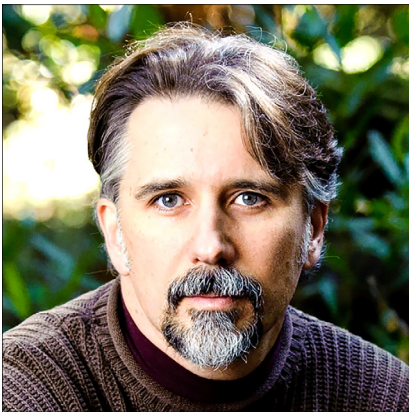


*Night Photography—From Daguerreotype to Digital*

**Lance Keimig Presents PHSNE Program**

**Sunday, January 6, 2019, 1:30 P.M.**

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



Night Photography has grown exponentially in popularity since the advent of digital photography. Recent advances in technology have made this once obscure genre of photography accessible to almost everyone. It wasn't always so,

but despite the limitations of early photographic processes, experiments in night photography date back to the Daguerreotype.

Lance Keimig has practiced night photography for more than 30 years, and has researched and studied its history for nearly as long. Most everyone is familiar with, or has at least seen night images by Alfred Stieglitz, Brassai, and O. Winston Link, but in this presentation, Keimig will show and discuss early examples of night photography, concentrating on a few

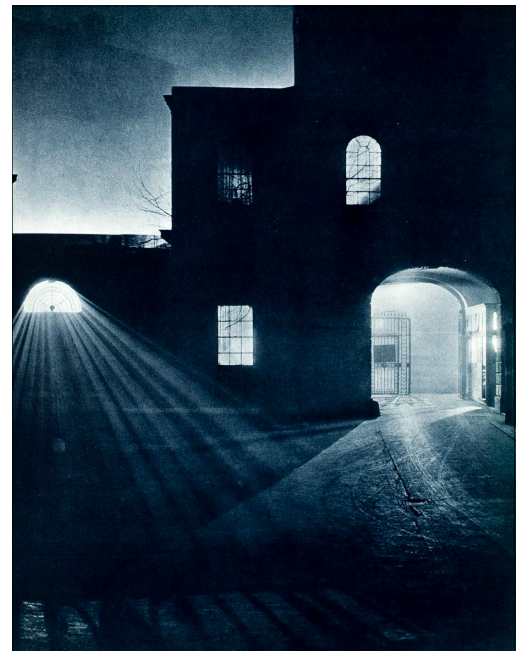


lesser known photographers who made significant contributions to the medium.

The Hinesburg, VT based photographer is best known for night photography made at the intersection of the natural and built environments. He is the author of two books, including *Night Photography-Finding Your Way In The Dark* which has been translated into 7 languages.

Keimig is a partner in National Parks at Night, an organization dedicated to promoting and preserving our national parks through photographic education.

He has taught night photography for the past twenty years at the New England School of Photography, The Photographic Resource Center at Boston University, The Houston Center for Photography, Maine



Media Workshops, the Rocky Mountain School of Photography, and Atlas Obscura. He also leads independent workshops across the country, and international photo tours around the world.

Visit [www.TheNightSkye.com](http://www.TheNightSkye.com), Keimig's website, and [www.NationalParksAtNight.com](http://www.NationalParksAtNight.com) for information about night photography workshops.

## Ansel Adams at the MFA



“Ansel Adams in Our Time at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, traces the iconic visual legacy of Ansel Adams (1902–1984) . . . from a symphonic view of snow-dusted

peaks in *The Tetons and Snake River, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming* (1942, shown above) to an aerial shot of a knotted roadway in *Freeway Interchange, Los Angeles* (1967). The exhibition looks both backward and forward in time: his black-and-white photographs are displayed alongside prints by several of the 19th-century government survey photographers who greatly influenced Adams, as well as work by contemporary artists whose modern-day concerns, centered on the environment, land rights, and the use and misuse of natural resources, point directly to Adams’ legacy” (<https://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/ansel-adams-in-our-time>). The exhibit runs through February 24th, 2019.

### 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 at [phsne.org/join/](http://phsne.org/join/), renew at [phsne.org/renew/](http://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, 47 Calvary St., Waltham MA 02453. (Call: 617-826-9294; email: [membership-chair@phsne.org](mailto:membership-chair@phsne.org); or use the online form at [phsne.org/application](http://phsne.org/application)).

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## Rare SORL 360 Lens Up For Auction

The website of New Hampshire based Space Optics Research Labs (SORL) boasts, “we are focused on producing optics to the highest levels of precision possible. After over a half-century in the optical industry, we remain the leader in producing high quality aspheric optical systems and instrumentation for a wide range of research and test applications (<http://surl.com/portal25/index.php>). SORL produces “a wide range of reflective components and accessories that provide precise solutions to the problems of optical testing in the airborne, space-based, and astronomical applications. Our goal is to develop the analytical tools required for tomorrow's optical research.”

An extremely rare lens made by SORL is listed for sale by SpaceExcess ([www.spaceexcess.com](http://www.spaceexcess.com)). Priced at \$75,000, it is described as “an extremely rare 360 degree scientific lens that is mounted to a Graflex 4 x 5 Press Camera.” It is “a fully functioning piece of historical hardware of the highest quality ever produced by one of the leading scientific manufacturing companies in the USA.”



The lens most likely dates to the 1960’s and was among the first 360 degree lenses ever produced. Its purpose is to obtain a 360 degree image from a high altitude. It weighs approximately 50 pounds, has a “critical focusing lens ring as well as a distance ring below the camera” and “is housed in a wooden crate.”

(Bill Cress, Founder of SpaceExcess, is a PHSNE member.)

### Can You Help Locate Photographs?

A piano technician and history researcher is looking for interior photographs and 1880s stereo views of the Chickering & Sons factory that was located at 791 Tremont St., Boston, currently the Piano Craft Guild. He hopes to “find the stereo views intact and owned by a private collector, museum, library, or institution. The original collector was Hallie C. Blake who was born in 1870 in Walpole MA, lived in Lexington MA beginning in 1920, and died in 1936. Please send leads to [snapshots@phsne.org](mailto:snapshots@phsne.org).

## Introducing the Short-Lived Vokar

A somewhat unusual looking camera to enter the camera scene in 1946 was the Vokar I, manufactured by the Vokar Corporation of Dexter, Michigan. The company was owned and operated by Charles Ver-shoor, one-time president of the Argus Camera Company. The Vokar, a solidly built, streamlined all metal bodied camera was ahead of its time in appearance. It was designed by Richard Bills before World War II, but due to the war, the company diverted its attention to the war effort by making bomb fuse components.



The first thing one notices, is the lack of knobs, dials, etc. on the top of the camera. The film wind and rewind knobs were designed as integral parts of the camera, and not the protruding appendages common to typical camera design of the time. This created a clean, unassuming modern look, quite different from other cameras. This made the Vokar stand out and become quite recognizable.

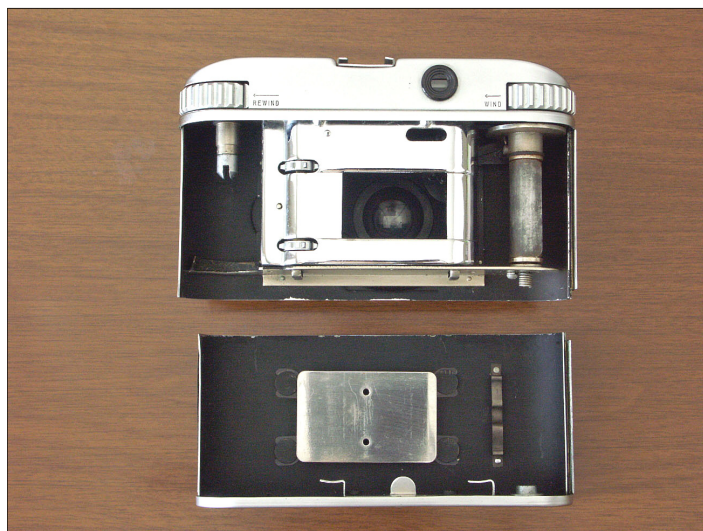
The Vokar I was first advertised in the January 1946 issue of *Popular Photography* without a price, then disappeared for nine months, and in October 1946, reappeared again in *Popular Photography* with an advertised price of \$76.70, suggesting that the long awaited camera was now available.

Features include a Vokar 50mm f/2.8 coated anastigmat lens, leaf shutter with speeds of 1 second to 1/300 second plus T & B, and a coupled rangefinder incorporated in the viewfinder. The film winding knob served two purposes. It advanced the film, and also cocked the shutter, which prevented double exposures. Another unusual feature of the Vokar was

the chrome internal parts seen with the back cover removed.

The Vokar II made its appearance in 1948 with minimal mechanical differences, including a film winding knob that made a ratchet click when winding, compared to the noiseless winding knob of the Vokar I. Aesthetically, the only difference was the name “Vokar II” imprinted on the front, under the exposure counter dial.

The Vokar was a well made 35mm range finder camera, and at its peak, the company employed 200 people. Unfortunately, the innovative design of the Vokar cameras was not enough to save the company. Due to ineffective marketing, poor distribution, and a camera that wasn't overly popular with the public, the company faded from view and in 1950 ceased production. The remaining stock of cameras and equipment were scrapped and the buildings disposed of. The Vokar Corporation was another camera manufacturer that was forced to close their doors after a relatively short run.



~Article and photographs by PHSNE member Richard Berbiar

For additional background and history of the Vokar Company and camera, visit <http://camera-wiki.org/wiki/Vokar> or <http://collectiblend.com/Cameras/Vokar/Vokar-I.html>. Camera-Wiki notes that the Vokar A and B predated the Vokar I, having been produced from 1940—1946. There is little information about Vokar cameras, even in McKeowan's. The Vokar Company dissolved in 1964, but its involvement in photography had ended many years earlier.

## Great Kodak Give-away

In 1930, the Eastman Kodak Company launched an interesting program, providing up to 500,000 FREE cameras, each with a roll of Kodak film, to children who were born in 1918 and would therefore turn twelve that year. The promotion celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Company, and was intended to thank the parents and grandparents who had supported the company for 50 years. An ad proclaimed the promotion would “raise amateur photography, among the coming generation, to even greater heights than its present remarkable peak.”

It was a wise business strategy to put cameras in the hands of young users who would buy film and likely become photography enthusiasts in the future.



## PHSNE Meetings

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

### Upcoming meetings:

**February 3**—Dana Gee, Haverhill Library digital project

**March 3**—Alan Ward, architect, photographer

### Driving directions to Woman’s Club Workshop, 72 Columbus St., 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:

See <https://mbta.com/>

### Connect to PHSNE Online and by email:

PHSNE’s Web site is online at <http://phsne.org>. See <https://www.facebook.com/PHSNE/> for items of PHSNE interest. Comments are welcome, so join the discussion of photo history. Visit <http://phsne.org/member-services/archives/> for PHSNE history and *snapshots* issues. Scheduling changes due to weather conditions or other factors will be posted on this website.

Stay connected to PHSNE via our emails: a *snap shots* e-copy, and *Photographa* show announcements. Sign up at <http://phsne.org/emails>

## Interesting Websites

<https://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute/services/preventive-conservation/guidelines-collections/photographic-materials.html>—how to care for and preserve photographic images from negatives to prints

<https://www.popsci.com/inside-kodak-factory-photos>—follow-up to article in March 2017 issue about return of Ektachrome

<https://www.creativeboom.com/inspiration/vivian-maier-the-color-work-captures-the-street-life-of-chicago-and-new-york-over-four-decades/>—color images by Vivian Maier

<https://wycameras.com/blogs/news/35mm-slr-lens-mount-identification-guide-1?fbclid=IwAR3pihtfWqFMpgUxw8rJlSr7vOc7mqAfZsGTj38OkRH4FCqcPseZfeCuOvs>—35mm SLR lens mount identification guide