

# snap



# shots

Volume 24 Number 8

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## ***Photographica 88* and PHSNE AUCTION, SATURDAY, April 6, 2019** **American Legion Nonantum Post 440** **295 California St., Newton MA**

Once a year New England devotees of analog photography and the photographic image gather to browse, buy, sell, trade, and socialize. From high end cameras to camera parts on the dollar table, and images and accessories—it's all here at *Photographica* and at the PHSNE auction that takes place shortly after the show closes.

Free parking is available at the American Legion Post lot, across the street, and in neighborhood side streets. PHSNE offers free ice-cream and cake around 1:00 P.M. and free pizza while you're waiting for the auction to begin.

Plan to attend this major photographic event.



**Show Hours: 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

**John Dockery—Show Manager**

**Admission: Adults \$6, Seniors \$4, PHSNE members, students and active military free**

**Early Bird Admission: \$20 at 7:00 A.M.**

**The popular Dollar Table opens at 11:00 A.M.**

**Auction to follow: 5:00 P.M.**

**Marti Jones—Auctioneer**

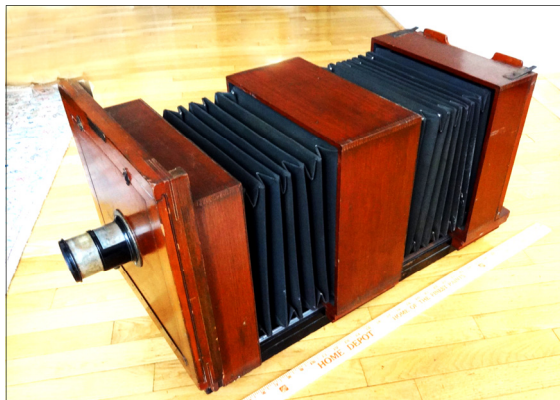
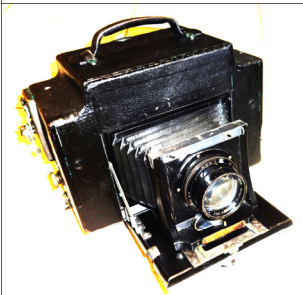
**Auction preview: 4:00—5:00 P.M.**

**Auction items may be previewed online at <http://pshsne.org/activities/photographica> about a week before the show**

**Cameras shown will be sold at the auction**



Above: Mamiya RB 67  
Below: Canon T50



Above left: Century View Camera, c.1900; Right: The Kodak Camera, 1888-1889, original model

## *From Today Painting Is Dead: Early Photography in Britain and France*

Marie-Alexandre Alophe, Untitled, 1849



Paul Delaroche, a noted French painter, declared on seeing his first photograph in 1840 that painting would become obsolete.

“At the time of photography’s invention, painting was . . . the primary medium for recording images. The art establishment had rigid guidelines

for style and an official hierarchy of subject matter: First came history paintings, which sought to impart moral messages. Portraiture was next. Then came scenes of daily life, or genre paintings. Landscape and still life ranked lower still” (<https://www.barnesfoundation.org/whats-on/early-photography>).

The exhibit at the Barnes in Philadelphia is organized according to those categories. *From Today Painting Is Dead: Early Photography in Britain and France*, consists of 250 images dating from the 1840s to the 1880s. The exhibit runs through May 12th.

### 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 [www.phsne.org/join](http://www.phsne.org/join) or [www.phsne.org/renew](http://www.phsne.org/renew), or send a check in U.S. dollars, drawn on a U.S. bank or dollar denominated international money order. Please 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 Web form at [phsne.org](http://phsne.org)).

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## Saving Analog Cameras

Camera Rescue, a Finnish organization founded in 2018, has already saved nearly 46,000 analog cameras and aims to reach 100,000 by 2020. They test and repair cameras, then sell them at <https://kameratori.fi/en/>. A ten minute video from *Camera-ville* is available online in which Juho Leppanen discusses Camera Rescue’s mission and the challenges it faces—including, but not limited to, a scarcity of technicians (<https://cameraville.co/blog/camera-rescue-interview-how-to-save-100000-film-cameras>).

Leppanen states, without explanation, "If we want new cameras, we need a new mechanical shutter," and he also pointed toward aging scanning technology that must be updated. . . . The analog photography industry also requires new automated film development machines and an overall low barrier, in terms of difficulty and cost, for new photographers to get started. If we want new people to come to film, we need to make the first roll very easy, and to make the first roll easy, it needs to be cheap.” (<https://www.dpreview.com/news/9008988907/camera-rescue-aims-to-save-100-000-analog-cameras-for-future-generations>).

Rescuing cameras and finding new homes for them is similarly part of PHSNE’s mission, which it accomplishes on a much smaller scale. A wide variety of analog cameras will be available to dealers, collectors, and photographers who love film at *Photographica* and the subsequent auction.

### Conversation Corner:

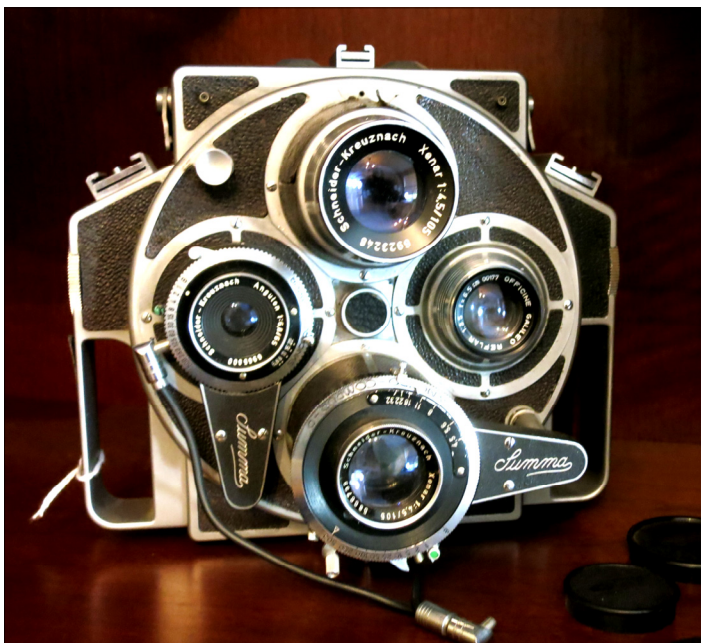
#### Seeking Materials for Studio Recreation

The Davis Museum at Wellesley College seeks antique camera equipment for an exhibition entitled *Making, Not Taking: Portrait Photography in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*. The Davis will recreate a nineteenth-century portrait studio using selections from its extensive collection of daguerreotypes, cartes de visite, cabinet cards, and tintypes.

They seek loans of large-format view cameras, tripods, plates, polishing equipment or brushes, plate holders, water basins, gilding/varnishing lamp and stand, printing frame, and the headrest or head clamp used for posing sitters. Loans will encompass the exhibition term, from approximately January through June of 2020, and the owner will be acknowledged in exhibition literature. If you have materials that you would be willing to lend, or know of a source, please contact curator Carrie Cushman ([ccushman@wellesley.edu](mailto:ccushman@wellesley.edu); 781-283-2070).

## Very Rare Press Camera is “Summa-thing” Special: Only 100—150 Manufactured

According to camera-wiki, “The Summa Report is a rare and unusual press camera, made in about 1954 by Tiranti of Rome. It is one of only three cameras for which Tiranti is known” ([http://camera-wiki.org/wiki/Summa\\_Report](http://camera-wiki.org/wiki/Summa_Report)); however, it is the only camera of the three for which information is available.



Photos by Steve Shohet



Camera-wiki reports that probably only 100 were made (numbered 101 to 200), though Pinterest and Collectiblend put the figure at approximately 150. The camera shown here, from the Photographica Collection of PHSNE members Steve and Gerrie Shohet, is number 171. Steve describes the camera as having a “curious two lens two finder rotating lens board.”

Digitalrev lists the Summa Report as #9 of the 10 weirdest cameras in history: “This press camera was provided to reporters around 1954 by Tiranti of Rome. The device features many components dedicated to one individual action; i.e. viewing, focusing, and taking the photograph...it’s all rather confusing to be honest. Probably the reason why this camera is a one of a kind mess” (<https://www.digitalrev.com/>

[article/these-are-the-10-weirdest-cameras-in-history](https://www.digitalrev.com/article/these-are-the-10-weirdest-cameras-in-history)).

Camera-wiki notes the unusual structure of the camera. “Essentially, it comprises two connected view cameras, one above the other; the upper camera is used purely for focusing, while the lower one takes the photograph; a twin-lens camera, but not reflex. The camera is equipped with both standard and wide-angle lenses, permanently mounted on a rotating lens-turret on the front, allowing the desired lens to be selected by rotating it into position, as on many cine cameras. Thus (to serve both the 'viewing' and 'taking' cameras) there are two *pairs* of lenses, standard and wide-angle.”

The Summa offers three view-finding options: a focusing screen with magnifying loupe, a folding frame finder, and a hood containing an eyepiece that folds down to form direct eye-level view-finding. Convenient for righties or lefties, there are handles on both sides of the camera, each with a thumb-wheel for focusing and shutter release button. Flashbulbs can be attached to one or both shoes, enabling the user to better control exposures with single or double flash. The camera produces 2 1/4 x 3 1/4 inch images on plates, film packs or 120 roll film.

Under the listing Tiranti (Cesare Tiranti, Rome), McKeown’s offers this description of the Summa: “Unusual press camera with two pairs of lenses mounted on a turret. . . The impressive cast aluminum body took 6x9cm plates, packs, or roll-film” (*McKeown’s Price Guide to Antique & Class Cameras, 1997/1998; 10th Edition*).

McKeown’s repeats the assertion that only 100 were manufactured and adds information about the “normal” lens pairs that were associated with the Summa. In agreement with Camera-wiki and McKeown’s, Antiq Photo also supports the assertion that only 100 of the Summa Report cameras were manufactured (<https://www.antiq-photo.com/en/collections/museum/cameras/medium-format-cameras/cesare-tirantis-summa-report-only-100-made/>).

If any reader has information about the other two models manufactured by Tiranti, or photographs of either of them, please send the information to [snapshots@phsne.org](mailto:snapshots@phsne.org).

## Wooden Field Cameras of the United States: 1870's-1930's

Collectors interested in wooden field cameras (and related images and advertisements) will enjoy a visit to a website that provides high quality images and very deep coverage (<http://www.piercevaubel.com/cam/index.htm>). Easy navigation lets you browse by manufacturer or catalog.

Variations that appear in subsequent models of a camera are photographed and documented. Manufacture dates are given, though the site notes exact dates are sometimes difficult to pin down and those listed may be inaccurate. Recognizing that different lenses and shutters may be attached to the same camera, the site offers separate indexes.

The Pierce Vaubel website is looking to buy original canvas or wooden cases from the 1890s, also cameras that are shown on the site as engravings but not photographed.



Bay State Camera Co. View (c. 1890)

### 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:

**May 5**—Jason Lane, dry plates

**June 2**—Stephen Jarecki, Fitchburg Art Museum photography program

**Driving directions to American Legion Post:** Please visit [phsne.org/shows](http://phsne.org/shows) for assistance with driving directions..

### Public transportation:

The American Legion Post 440, on the Newton side of the Charles River, is about half a mile from the Watertown Square bus terminals. Both Bus #59 from Needham and Bus #71, a trackless trolley from Harvard Square, stop directly in the Square. Bus #57 from Kenmore Square and #504 an express bus from downtown Boston stop in the nearby Watertown Bus Yard, which is on the Newton side of the river. Visit [mbta.com](http://mbta.com) to check routes and weekend schedules.

### 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>.

## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

<https://www.boredpanda.com/first-color-photos-vintage-old-autochrome-lumiere-auguste-louis/> - 116 stunning early color photos plus interesting information on early color photography

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2019/02/moon-photographs-from-1960s-were-developed-in-space-heres-how/> - url describes the site

<https://www.pointoptics.com/best-digital-camera-binoculars/> - recommends the 10 best binocular cameras

<https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2012/04/historic-photos-from-the-nyc-municipal-archives/100286/> - more than 870,000 of over 2.2 million historic photos in their archives