

## PHSNE Meeting Previews Upcoming Exhibition on 19th Century Portrait Photography Sunday, September 8, 2019, 1:30 P.M.; Woman's Club Workshop, 72 Columbus St., Newton



Carrie Cushman and Wellesley Students

PHSNE member Carrie Cushman, Curatorial Fellow in Photography at the Davis Museum, Wellesley College, will speak at the September meeting about an upcoming exhibition on 19th-

of the Davis collection in the 1980s. On the one hand, the collection represents typical photographs made by Japanese photographers for export: images of samurai, Buddhist pilgrims, and Japanese beauties that display traditional material culture. However, Knox's selection of more unusual prints, such as a rare portrait of the Meiji Empress, also reflect her own agenda as a female professor working at an all-women's college in the late -19th century.

century potrait photography.

*Making, Not Taking: Portrait Photography in the 19th Century* will recreate a portrait studio amidst selections from the museum's extensive collection of daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, *cartes de visite*, cabinet cards, and tintypes. The emphasis in the exhibition title on *making* points to the materiality, the craft, and the event of photography in its earliest iterations.

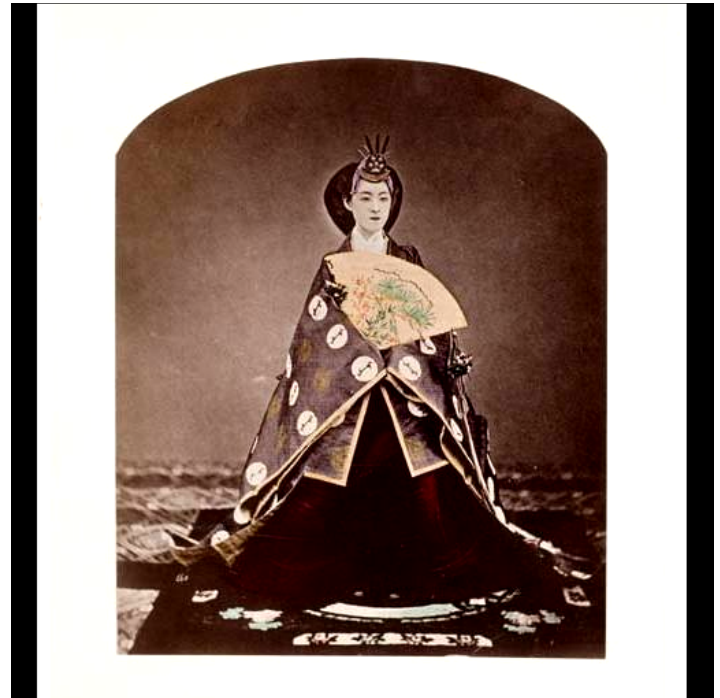


Unknown, Samurai, 1865-75

Cushman will give a sneak peak of one section of the exhibition that includes portrait photographs of "occupational types" made for western tourists in Japan, Egypt, and Mexico. She will focus on the portraits from Japan, which come

from a large collection of Meiji-era photography purchased by Mary Alice Knox, a Professor of History at Wellesley College who traveled to East Asia in 1886 expressly to gather materials from which to teach.

These large, hand-colored albumen prints were used by Professor Knox in the classroom and became a part



Uchida Kuichi, Empress Haruko, 1872

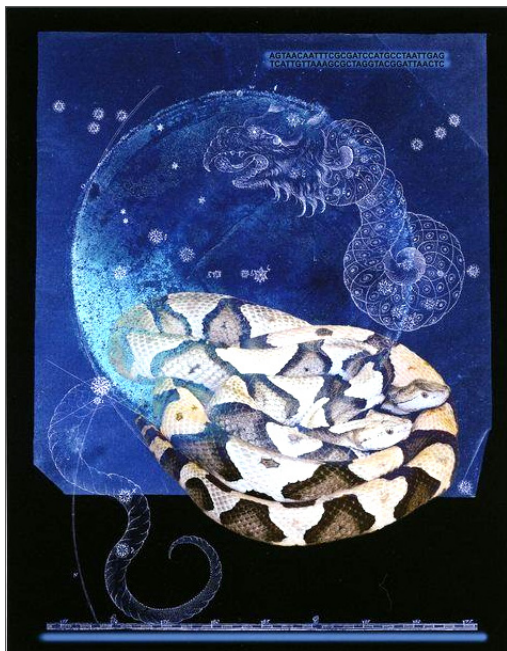
Cushman, the exhibit's curator, joined the Davis Museum in the fall of 2018 after completing her Ph.D. in the History of Art at Columbia University. She specializes in the history of Japanese photography and wrote her dissertation on Miyamoto Ryuji, the "ruins photographer" of Japan. At the Davis, She has focused on building the photography collection from East Asia and has previously mounted an exhibition on the social documentary photography of Milton Rogovin.

*Making, Not Taking* will open at the Davis on February 13, 2020 and run through June 7, 2020.

## PEM Hosts Two Major Photographic Exhibits

New England photo enthusiasts should plan a trip to the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem MA to view two major photographic exhibits.

### *Orders of Imagination: The Photographs of Olivia Parker*



“For more than 40 years, Olivia Parker has explored the relationships between vision, knowledge and the natural world. From deceptively simple still lifes that transform the commonplace to her most re-

cent work exploring memory loss, this is the first exhibition to present a comprehensive overview of Parker’s extensive career. *Order of Imagination: The Photographs of Olivia Parker* features more than 100 intricately composed works that reflect the artist’s wide creative range and unflagging curiosity.”

The exhibit runs through November 11, 2019. For more information, visit <https://www.pem.org/exhibitions/order-of-imagination-the-photographs-of-olivia-parker>.  
~PEM Press release

### *A Lasting Memento: John Thomson’s Photographs Along the River Min*



“Voyage into 19th-century China through one of PEM’s photographic treasures, John Thomson’s album *Foochow and the River Min*. This intimate exhibition features 80 striking landscapes, city views and portrait studies that

Thomson captured as he traveled in the southeastern Fujian province. Photographs by contemporary artist Luo Dan, who was inspired by Thomson to undertake a similar journey in southwestern China, complement the presentation.”

Visit <https://www.pem.org/exhibitions/a-lasting-memento-john-thomsons-photographs-along-the-river-min> for further information. The exhibit ends May 17, 2020.  
~PEM Press release

### 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/application](http://phsne.org/application)).

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### Call for Meeting Proposals

PHSNE expresses its sincere appreciation to Jay Goldman who has secured speakers and arranged for interesting programs over the past few years. Jay has stepped down, and Dana Gee is taking on that responsibility. If you are able to share your expertise in some aspect of photo history, have an unusual camera to feature, or can suggest an interesting source or topic, please contact her at [dana.h.gee@gmail.com](mailto:dana.h.gee@gmail.com).



## The Pearlette: A Jewel of a Camera



The Pearlette, was manufactured in Japan by Konishiroku (later Konica) from 1925 to the mid 1940s. Initially about 3000 were produced annually which makes it the first mass-produced Japanese camera. It is a copy of a copy – modeled closely after the Piccolette (Contessa-Nettel) which, in turn, resembled Kodak's Vest Pocket.

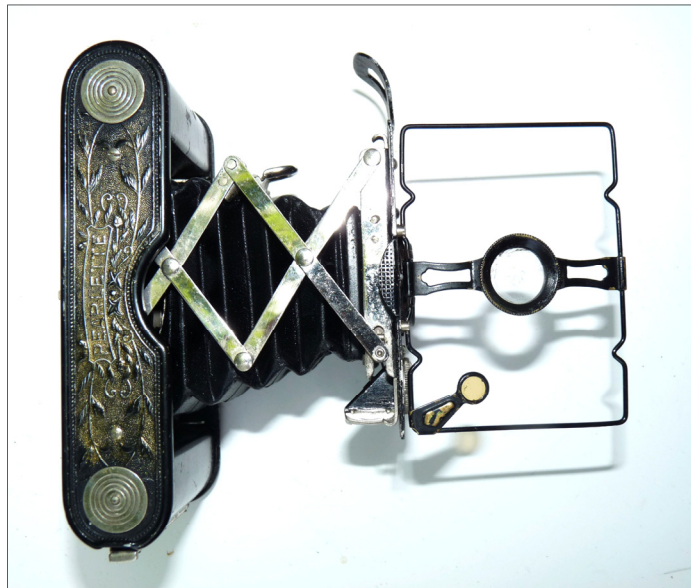
floral pattern that disappeared in later models. The camera has a fixed focus lens with shutter speeds of 1/25, 1/50, and 1/100. It uses 127 film and produces negatives 1.5 to 2.5 inches.



Modifications were continuously made over the life of the Pearlette. For the 1931 model, *camera-*

"The front standard is mounted on a pair of scissor struts and extends to the bottom, acting as a standing leg. There is a round cut-off on each side of the body to pull out the front standard easily. A pivoting brilliant finder is mounted on one corner of the front plate" (<http://camera-wiki.org/wiki/Pearlette>).

Pictured on this page is a 1931 Pearlette, a particular favorite in the collection of a PHSNE member due to its unusual features. Two adaptations facilitate taking vertical or horizontal pictures: the viewfinder is hidden and protected by the front lens mount and rotates 90 degrees, and a tripod can be attached in two places, one for horizontal and one for vertical pictures. The wire frame has an auxiliary lens in the middle and another at the viewfinder site that magnifies the image in front of the camera and allows for a close-up. The name is impressed on the side in relief with a



*wiki* noted that "the front markings reverted to a silver instead of a gold color, and the front logo was slightly modified. It is also said that various parts were made of light alloy instead of brass, to make the camera lighter." A Luxury Pearlette was available for a limited time with higher quality lens and shutter. Subsequent models were introduced in 1937 and 1940. Production of Pearlette cameras ended during WWII.



## A Farewell to NESOP



The following excerpts are from a press release PHSNE received from the New England School of Photography (NESOP) in Waltham Ma. PHSNE is saddened by the loss of this valuable New England institution.

“It is with a heavy heart that we are writing to inform you that in the Spring of 2020, NESOP will graduate our final Professional Photography Program class and close our doors. This decision has not been an easy one. We are an institution with a history reaching back over 50 years and with thousands of alumni succeeding in this industry and finding personal fulfillment, purpose and happiness through the medium of photography. The great pride we feel knowing that we've played even a small part in the lives of so many unique and talented individuals who continue to shape the way we see and who produce the images that inform us, inspire us and connect us with one another cannot be overstated.

NESOP will continue to offer its avocational workshops through March 2020 (summer, fall and winter sessions). If taking a class with us has been on your to-do list, you'll still have the opportunity, and we encourage you to do so. Our workshop community remains a vibrant force within our school, and we plan to serve that community through our closing date.”

### 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:**  
**October 6—TBD**

### 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>

## Websites of Interest

[https://theonlinephotographer.typepad.com/the\\_online\\_photographer/2019/06/ten-great-photographs-no-10.html](https://theonlinephotographer.typepad.com/the_online_photographer/2019/06/ten-great-photographs-no-10.html)—The Online Photographer site ran a series of essays on 10 iconic photographs. The countdown started with No 10. The reader could “bing” through all ten images and the essays.

<https://learning.culturalheritage.org/material-immaterial>—A Collaborative Workshop in Photograph Conservation, September 23 - 25, 2019, Yale University, New Haven, CT.

<https://lhsa.org/2018/09/rare-earth-glass-leica-lenses-a-quick-and-quirky-overview/>—Yes, they were (and still are!) literally radioactive, but they incorporated elements made of thorium and lanthanum glass because of their unique optical properties

<https://shop.lomography.com/en/films/lomography-film/lomography-film-potsdam-kino-35mm-5pack?country=us>—source of B & W 35mm film.