



Happy Holidays and a Safe, Healthy, and Happy New Year

PHSNE Virtual Holiday Party Sunday, December 5th, 2021

Show and Tell and Annual Meeting

Once again PHSNE is holding the annual holiday meeting online. The Annual Meeting, including announcement of new Board officers and members, will begin at 2:00 P.M., and the Show and Tell will start at 2:30. The Zoom link will be emailed to members shortly before the event.

Members are encouraged to share a special camera, image, or any photographic item at the virtual Show and Tell. Go to phsne.org to sign up for one of the available spots. If you are not presenting an item, join the fun to see what treasures your fellow members are displaying.

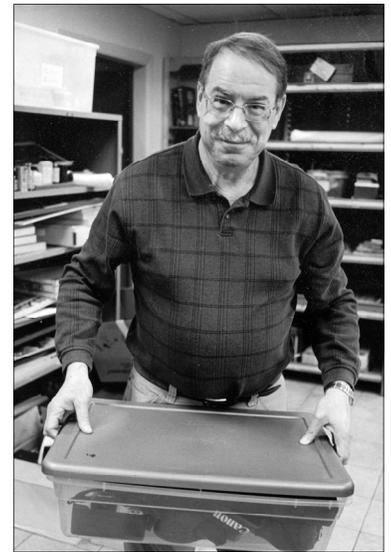
Message From the President

In 2022, a new president will assume the leadership role in my stead, and I will become immediate past president to assist. The past four years have been truly exciting for me as I learn more about the photographic arts.

With the New Year comes new opportunities for PHSNE to get classic camera equipment and images into the hands of the membership and photo enthusiasts around the country and beyond. As a result of the pandemic, such opportunities declined somewhat, but other possibilities emerged. With my sales hat firmly in place, PHSNE has expanded online relationships with vintage camera users around the world, finding new homes for photographic memorabilia across the globe via the internet.

Some equipment that comes into the warehouse through donations also goes out as donations to classroom teachers and users around New England and to multiple users around the USA and in foreign countries. The number of repeat clients is exciting and rewarding.

My thanks go out to the PHSNE members who have supported activities at the warehouse by keeping it (somewhat!) organized, and uncovering a host of treasures to be put to use by photography aficionados. In the process, lasting friendships have developed and evolved. I am eagerly looking forward to continuing the work with all of you! Thank you for the support that has been provided!



Have you voted yet? Candidate bios and ballots for PHSNE Board and officers were mailed in October with the November issue of *snap shots*. Ballots are to be mailed to PHSNE and must be received by November 30th.



~Joel Moses, President

Associated Press Celebrates 175 Years With 8 Photo Blog Postings

To commemorate its 175th anniversary in May, 2021, the Associated Press created *AP at 175*, an eight part series consisting of important and iconic photographs it has published over the years. Installments were released from February, 2021 through October. All eight installments can be accessed at



Nelson Mandela and wife Winnie, walking hand in hand, raise clenched fists upon his release from Victor Verster prison, Cape Town, Sunday, February 11, 1990. The African National Congress leader had served over 27 years in detention. (AP Photo)

at <https://apimagesblog.com/ap-at-175>.

The eight segments, in order, are *A Photographic History; Evolution 1861 – 1900; A New Century, 1901-25; Modernity, 1926-45; Expansion, 1946-60; One World, 1961-75; Speed, 1976-2000; and Transformation, 2001*.

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 <https://phsne.org/join> or <https://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; or use the Web form at <https://phsne.org/application>).

snap shots, edited by Beverly Regelman, is published monthly, September through June, by the Photographic Historical Society of New England, Inc., 47 Calvary St., Waltham MA 02453. It is available at <https://snapshots.phsne.org> within a few days of mailing. Articles and exhibition/book reviews are always welcome. Send to snapshots@phsne.org. Authors retain copyright to their original articles; however upon written application to the *snap shots* editor, PHSNE may grant non-profit societies with similar aims and interests a one-time right to reproduce a *snap shots* article as long as the author and source are credited and a complimentary copy of the publication is sent to PHSNE.

PHSNE Remembers David DeJean

PHSNE regrets to announce the passing of life member Dave DeJean, editor of *snap shots* from 2005 to 2008, on October 10, 2021. He joined PHSNE in 2002.

DeJean received a B.A. in Journalism from Indiana University and went on to a long and distinguished career in journalism. He worked at the *Louisville Courier Journal and Times* for almost 15 years, rising from copy editor to the *Scene* magazine to editorial staff. In 1977 he was awarded a prestigious nine-month Neiman fellowship at Harvard University. With wife Sally, DeJean co-wrote a book about the Lotus Notes groupware program, *Lotus Notes at Work*.

DeJean worked as writer and editor for several high-tech companies and computer publications including *PC Computing*, *PC Magazine*, and *PC Week*. His resume included manager and consultant for online information projects; new technology ventures and system development projects; and website developer and manager for a networking products start-up company.

His career path eventually brought him to Massachusetts. There he joined and became active in PHSNE. His main photographic interests, as listed in the *PHSNE Directory*, included stereography and View Masters. DeJean wrote at least two articles for the *Journal: The Creation of the Polaroid Big Shot* (2016) and *Kattelle Collection Going to Northeast Historic Film* (2006). Items from his collection were featured in the 40th Anniversary issue section *Collector's Showcas*.

In 2009 DeJean and Sally set off for a small village in South Africa, serving in the Peace Corps for more than two years. Upon his return, DeJean created an online newsletter for PHSNE which he published in 2013 to 2014.



Peace Corps, South Africa

The Ur Leica

The Ur Leica, generally referred to as the original Leica, should actually be called Ur Leitz since the Leica name wasn't in use until 1925. The word Ur has German roots; English and German dictionaries define Ur as primeval, primitive, original, earliest. It is considered to be "a mechanical masterpiece that is relatively light and small. The camera's shoulder barely exceeds the height of a credit card. It is also a compact camera in the sense that it has an integrated lens, the retractable Mikro-Summar 42mm f/4.5. In the production Leica I, this lens was replaced by the optically superior Elmax 50mm f/3.5, which had been specifically designed for the camera" (<https://www.apotelyt.com/camera-review/leitz-ur-leica>).

At the Ernst Leitz Optische Werke (Optical Works) in Wetzlar, Germany, master technician Oskar Barnack "had the groundbreaking idea of doubling



Reproduction of the Leica Prototype, 1913
wikipedia.org

the width of then common 18 x 24 mm cinema film and have it run horizontally in the Ur-Leica, rather than vertically as in cinema cameras of the time." While the prototype was initially used for film projectors, he saw its potential as a "self-standing stills camera." Besides generating images that were less grainy than those from glass plates, the camera used motion picture film that was far less expensive than the plates. "Better quality at lower costs from a more compact imaging tool was a sure recipe for commercial success. The latter came after the end of World War I, when Leitz started to sell the Leica I, which was based on the Ur-Leica."

Many features of Barnack's camera were used in future Leicas. "These include the horizontally travelling 35mm film that can accommodate 36 exposures in one loading, an accessory-shoe on top of the camera to attach, for example, a framing viewfinder, and a large shutter release button surrounded by a knob that serves simultaneously to advance the film and to cock the shutter."



Ur Leica (original Leica), from 1914
wikipedia.org

31 pre-production 0-Series Leicas, which closely resemble the Ur-Leica. Twelve of these have been preserved. One such 0-Series camera was sold at a photographica auction in March 2018 for \$2.97 million, making it the most expensive camera ever sold."

Beginning in 1970, Leica produced many replicas of the Ur-Leica, some working models, others purely for display. "These replicas bear the inscription 'Nachbildung der Ur-Leica' on the top plate. Working models nowadays trade for about \$3,000-\$4,000, while dummies [sic] can be found for a fourth of that price."

The Smithsonian Institution has a model which it identifies as a working camera (<https://tinyurl.com/p8x6jxk3>),

though some Leica enthusiasts disagree, claiming that none of the museum or auction Ur cameras are functional.

Many replicas have been modified to keep up with technological advances. PHSNE member Mark Kronquist writes, "Say you purchased a Leica in 1925, in 1932, rather than buy a new Leica, you could pay Leica to add a rangefinder. In 1952 you wanted to use a flash. You could pay Leica to add a flash to your camera you first purchased in 1925." The variety of replicas reflect these changes.



Oskar Barnack, Wetzlar Eisenmarkt, 1913
wikipedia.org

Devour the Land at Harvard Art Museum

Harvard Art Museum is featuring an exhibit of photographs by 60 artists that “explore the impacts of military activity on the American landscape—and the ways in which photography supports activism in response to these effects” (<https://harvardartmuseums.org/exhibitions/5877/devour-the-land-war-and-american-landscape-photography-since-1970>).

The word “military” is interpreted broadly. In addition to actual military activity, including the Civil War, the images look at land management, human rights and government rights technology, racism, inequality, climate change, immigration, and incarceration.

The exhibit’s title, *Devour the Land*, is attributed to Union General William Tecumseh Sherman. “*Devour the Land* shines a light on the unexpected and often hidden consequences of militarism on habitats and well-being in the United States. Featuring approximately 160 photographs across 6 thematic groupings, the exhibition reveals the nationwide footprint of the U.S. military, the wide network



harvardartmuseum.org

of industries that support and supply its work, and the impacts of—and responses to—this activity.”

Boston Globe arts reviewer Mark Feeney noted that the

exhibit “is an ambitious and bewildering show The ambition is impressive and intentional. Presumably, the bewilderment the show produces is neither” (<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/09/30/arts/out-focus-devour-land-harvard-art-museums-looks-military-impact-american-soil-through-blurred-lens/>). He notes that the exhibit includes much ephemera: “letters, drawings, artists’ books, even a piece of shrapnel. That’s an extensive exhibition. It’s even more extensive conceptually.”

The exhibit runs through January 16, 2022. Advance reservations are required to visit the museum.

PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month, September to June. Meetings are being held online during the COVID restrictions.

Upcoming meetings:

January 9—Lev Sakin, LOMO

February 6—Terri Cappucci, 19th century glass plate negatives from Massachusetts

Connect to PHSNE Online and by email:

PHSNE’s Web site is online at <https://phsne.org>. See <https://www.facebook.com/PHSNE/> for items of PHSNE interest. Comments are welcome, so join the discussion of photo history. Visit <https://snapshots.phsne.org> for *snap shots* issues since 2005.

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

For information on all available PHSNE publications, see <https://www.magcloud.com/>.

Met Selling Photos and Prints

To alleviate shortfalls caused by the pandemic, the Metropolitan Museum of New York is deaccessioning \$1 million worth of photos and prints. The treasures include works by Roy Lichtenstein and Robert Frank. The 219 prints and photos to be sold, all duplicates from the Met’s collection, will be offered by Christie’s in three separate sales.

The Met is able to raise revenue in this way because of a “rare two year window,” through April, 2022, during which the Association of Art Museum Directors has permitted members to sell art in order to cover pandemic-related losses (<https://tinyurl.com/22juh28s>).

Dating Daguerreotypes

Fixed in Time, a guide to dating daguerreotypes, ambrotypes and tintypes by their mats and cases, for historians, genealogists, collectors and antique dealers, is available in book form or as a free downloadable pdf file at <https://fixedintimebook.blogspot.com> (Note the Photomatic dating guide near the end of the web page). This version contains corrections made to the 2017 third edition in January, 2021.

1,000 mats and cases, dating from 1840-1865, are illustrated, based on over 4,000 objectively dated early photographs.

