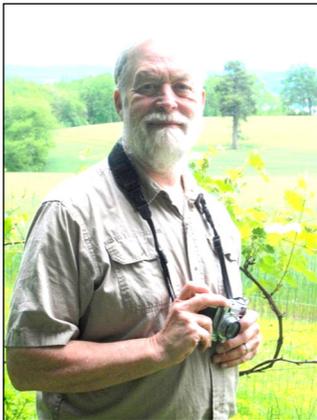




**Wes Loder Shares Expertise on Tenax at PHSNE Meeting
 Sunday, February 5, 2023, 7:30 P.M., via Zoom
 Zoom link will be sent to members in February**



The November 2022 issue of *snap shots* featured the WW II era Tenax II camera. It prompted a letter by Wes Loder, author of *The Tenax II: Zeiss Ikon's Precision, Fast-action Camera: A Pictorial Compendium and Gallery of Work* (Hemlock Lodge Press, 2017). His letter, printed in the January *snap shots*, added interesting background information

and led to a request that he speak at an upcoming PHSNE meeting. We are pleased to announce that Loder will present a program about the Tenax at the February 5th PHSNE meeting concentrating on the history and use of the Tenax II, Zeiss Ikon's only interchangeable-lens, square-format 35mm camera.



Today a rare collectable, the Tenax II was the first 35mm camera specifically designed for fast-action, candid photography. Loder will discuss the camera, lenses, accessories and potential use today. He will explain why this camera is important to the history of 35mm photography, and how its features pioneered many of the operating features we take for granted in miniature cameras today.

After concentrating on Nikons, Loder branched out in 2013 and purchased his first Zeiss Tenax II only to fall in love with the 24 X 24 format. He now owns a

comprehensive collection of Tenax. More recently, he began collecting, using and researching other German rangefinder cameras from the 1950s, including the Agfa's Ambi-Silette, the Akarette/Akarelle series and the Leidolf Lordomats.

Loder is a retired academic librarian, long time photographer, and photographic historian. He started with Nikons in 1968. After he purchased a beat-up Nikon S2 to use while cave exploring, he got interested in the older rangefinder Nikons. By the time he left the Air Force in 1971, he owned six Nikons and a number of lenses 21 to 400mm, both for rangefinder and reflex, and had plans to become a full-time photographer and teacher.

While in graduate school, first at Rochester Institute of Technology, then at the University of Oregon, Loder researched the history of Nikon. But with little money and a growing family, he found less and less time to pursue his photographic interests. He became a librarian and ended up at Penn State for over 26 years.

With more leisure time in 2003, he started using the web to research Nikon's history again and discovered a lot of false information which he felt needed correcting. That research led to his first book, *The Nikon Camera in America, 1946-1953* (McFarlane Press, 2008). [Still in print and still a standard.]



In addition to his books, Loder has published a wide range of articles in the Nikon Historical Society's journal and in Zeiss Historica's journal. He continues to post articles on his blog <http://wesloderandnikon.blogspot.com/>. His writing website is <https://wesloderwriter.cc/>, and he may be reached via email at: MWL2@psu.edu.

No Sale: White Elephant?



It's difficult to store an old horse-drawn photo studio in your living room. Perhaps, that's why an unusual auction item didn't sell.

In the spring, there were numerous reports of such a studio, in rundown condition, that was to be auctioned by the British firm

Charterhouse in August and expected to fetch about 8,000 to 12,000 pounds. Numerous attempts to track down the final sale price were unsuccessful. Finally, locating the results of the auction, it was apparent that it didn't sell.

The traveling studio had been used by photographer John Pouncy and his son Walter at Wareham, a seaside town in Dorset, England. Pouncy's clients included Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria.

A google search for "horse-drawn studio" yields numerous articles and photos. A related video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qX8nHuxHmts>.

PHSNE Membership

New members are invited to join for half the rates for the first year. Regular PHSNE membership (U.S. and Canada) is \$30 for students, \$50 for individuals and institutions, and \$55 for a family; foreign membership is \$60. 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 PHSNE Membership Chair, 47 Calvary St., Waltham MA 02453, 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.

Historical New England Collection Has Over Half Million Images

Dedicated to preserving the past to "engage and inform present and future generations," Historic New England prides itself on being the "oldest and largest regional heritage organization in the nation" (<https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/photography/>).

Its vast photographic collection consists of "daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, cartes de visite, stereo views, and tintypes that depict "innumerable facets of life in the region, from urban scenes to rural landscapes to life at sea, and from family gatherings to life in the work place." You can search the collection online.



Curtis, Harriot Sumner (Appleton), 1841-1923 (Photographer)

Photography is just one of many sections of their holdings. They also boast art, furniture, books and periodicals, clothing and accessories, furniture, textiles, jewelry, and more. They use their very considerable resources to provide youth programs for school and summer camps, offer digital tours of historic sites across New England, and hold exhibitions at various sites in the region. Additional information is available on the website.

More Websites of Interest

For a visit to the California Museum of Photography, UCR ARTS, featuring a collection of 10,000 cameras, visit <http://ucr.emuseum.com/objects/viewcollections/Cameras>.

The UCR ARTS (Zoom) photography conference can be viewed at <https://events.ucr.edu/event/camera-centered-histories-of-photography-conference>. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLT-BfZO5IDZYpOsRbPmdPwGNlK3ihzLN>

The Blair Combination Camera

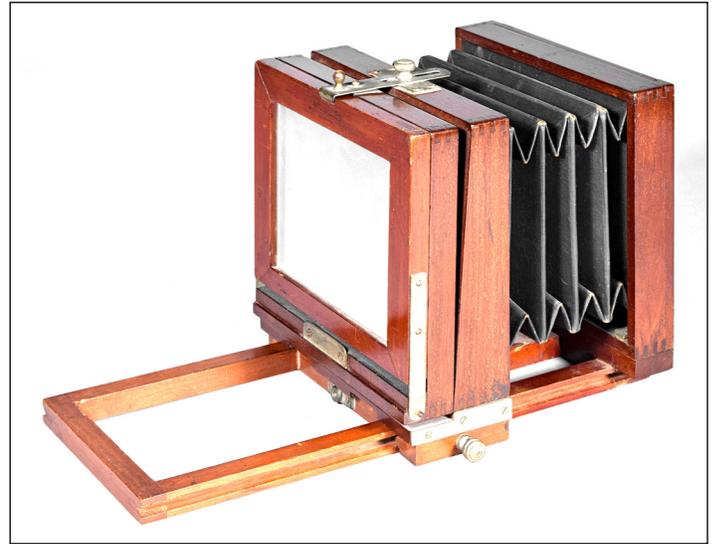
Combination cameras manufactured by the Blair Tourograph & Dry Plate Company in Boston from 1882 to 1894 “are traditional field designs offered with a unique [patented] accessory plate-holder extension mounted at the rear” (<https://www.collectorsweekly.com/stories/226546-blair-combination-camera-1882>).

In an 1882 pamphlet, the company claimed that with the extension, “the camera is made capable of carrying plates double the size of its original capacity without sacrificing any of the advantages.” In other words, the extension allows for use of 5 x 8 inch plates in a 4 x 5 inch format camera or 6 1/2 x 8 1/2 or 8 x 10 inch plates in a 5 x 8 inch format camera. Extensions were available for about a decade, but they are hard to find today.



Thomas Henry Blair founded his company shortly after George Eastman made significant improvements to the dry plate process., important to the success of the Blair line.

The 4 x 5 inch model with 5 x 8 inch extender sold for \$28 in 1882, over \$800 in 2021dollars. Protecting his market, Thomas Blair was careful to warn that this was for occasional use, not intended to substitute for the larger format cameras which his com-



pany continued to sell. In an attempt to expand the market for the field camera, he advertised that it was also suitable for interior and studio use.

Made of polished mahogany with a cherry base, the bellows camera has brass hardware (nickel-plated), and a metal cap that served as a shutter.

One of the two known surviving combination cameras is at the George Eastman Museum in Rochester. The high price and lack of cameras in the antiques market probably indicates that few were manufactured or sold.

More about Thomas Henry Blair

The history of the Blair Tourograph & Dry Plate Company is entangled with that of George Eastman and the Eastman Kodak Company. According to Wikipedia, Blair was the first competitor of Kodak’s celluloid film which came onto the market in 1891. “The stock had a frosted base to facilitate easier viewing by transmitted light” (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Film_stock).

At the same time, and for about 5 years, Blair’s stock was used at Thomas Edison’s laboratory for experiments with Kinetoscope. In 1893 patent lawsuits drove Blair to leave his American company and set up business in Britain. The new company provided the transparent film base required by the latest movie projectors; the American company had been unable to offer it. The company was soon bought by Eastman.

\$5. Leica—Best Deal Ever?

Browsing the Internet turned up several postings about \$5 Leicas. In 2017, a college student stumbled upon a valuable pristine Leica M2 at a thrift shop. Priced at \$5, the camera was worth \$800—900 at the time, with 50mm Elmar lens f2.8 lens attached that was worth about \$400—700. For more information, visit <https://petapixel.com/2017/05/15/thrift-store-miracle-college-student-finds-leica-m2-just-5/> or <https://www.photographytalk.com/college-student-miraculously-finds-5-leica-m2-at-a-thrift-store>.

A more recent posting in 2022 contained a very brief YouTube video about a Leica purchased for \$5 at an estate sale. The video can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/n79s5bzt>.

These deals would be hard to beat, but you may have a story about a special find, bargain or not, that would be of interest to your fellow PHSNE members. If so, please send it to snapshots@phsne.org with a photo or two attached as jpegs.

FSA Photographs Influence Career

NPR investigative reporter Joseph Shapiro credits photographs from the Farm Service Administration in the New Deal era with helping to shape his career. As a teenager, Shapiro was intrigued by the photographs documenting rural issues at the Library of Congress and returned to them repeatedly. An informative interview of Shapiro is available at <https://blogs.loc.gov/picturethis/2022/08/50-years-later-how-photographs-influenced-a-career/>.



PHSNE member Jeff Seidman snapped this photo on a recent visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The cameras at the entrance to the Photography Centre are a sample of the more than 6,000 cameras owned by the museum.

PHSNE Meetings

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

Upcoming meetings:

March 5—TBD

April 2—TBD

April 22—Saturday, *Photographica*

Visit phsne.org for updates

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 *Photographica* show announcements. Sign up at <https://phsne.org/emails>.

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

Reminder: Save the Date



Photographica, April 2022; photo by John Felix

PHSNE's *Photographica* show will be held on April 22, 2023 at Newton North High School in Newton MA. Last year's show featured over 100 tables, an auction, and over 400 attendees. Don't miss this opportunity to upgrade your collection, meet with fellow collectors and photo-historians, and just enjoy the day.

Last Chance to View Exhibits

There's a short window for New Englanders to catch two exhibits. The Portland Museum of Art hosts *Presence: The Photography Collection of Judy Glickman Lauder* through January 15th. The exhibit contains about 150 photographs, approximately a fifth of the collection promised to the museum. Seventy photographers, many well known, are represented. Visit www.portlandmuseum.org for more information.

Fazal Sheikh: Exposures is comprised of 150 images, a video, texts, and a Jeffrey Ralston Moore sound installation. The show runs through January 8, 2023 at the Yale University Art Gallery. For details, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3xay8ke9>.