

# snap shots

Volume 30 Number 4

December 2024

## It's HOLIDAY PARTY TIME!

Featuring Annual Show and Tell—there's still time to sign up for a spot  
Sunday, December 8, 2024, 7:30 P.M. EST  
Preceded by a brief Annual Meeting



*Sabine Ocker with her handmade  
album New England Ferns  
cynotype sun prints*

It's time to celebrate the 2024 holidays with a Show and Tell meeting on Zoom! This is the fourth year PHSNE is celebrating the season with an online Show and Tell. Last year's celebration was a special presentation to recognize the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of PHSNE.

There may still be a few spots left when you receive this issue of *snap shots*. There are 10 spots total, 5-6 minutes each. Your fellow collectors would love to see your cameras and images, and hear your stories about what makes photography meaningful to you.

To sign up, follow these three easy steps:

1. Go to our invitation page on SignUp: <https://signup.com/go/mKbWLGB>.
2. Enter your email address: (You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp).
3. Choose your spots - SignUp will send you an automated confirmation and reminders.

Please include your name, your topic, and email address. The Zoom link will be emailed to members in December.

Note: SignUp does not share your email address with anyone. Contact Program Coordinator Dana Gee at [programs@phsne.org](mailto:programs@phsne.org) if you prefer not to use your email address, and she will sign you up manually. You can also contact Dana if all spots are taken, and she can arrange to have you share at a future meeting.

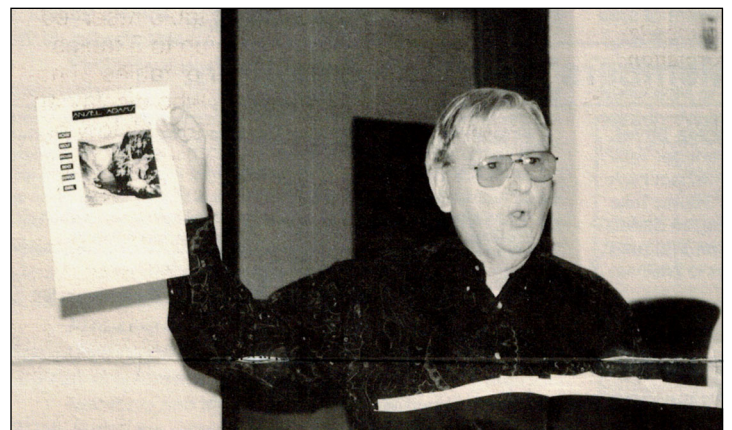
The Annual Meeting will take place at the beginning of the Zoom presentation.

*Photos from  
Journal archives*

*PHSNE's (then) President  
Ruth Tomasian  
displayed Project  
SAVE's beautiful calendar*



*PHSNE's (then) webmaster  
Ralph Johnson delights the  
audience (and himself) with  
his Show and Tell*



*John Kinville eagerly encouraged PHSNE members to look up the  
Ansel Adams website at his Show and Tell*

## Polaroid Fans Take Note

The Baker Library at Harvard Business School (HBS) is hosting *From Concept to Product: Meroë Morse and Polaroid's Culture of Art and Innovation, 1945–1969*. The photographs, part of the library's extensive Polaroid collection, recognize the contributions of Morse to the field of instant photography.



“Morse, an art history graduate of Smith College with no background in science or business, became the manager of black-and-white photographic research, director of special photographic research, a trusted advisor to Land, and liaison to Ansel Adams, a Polaroid consultant who tested the company's prototype cameras and films” (<https://tinyurl.com/3b2utbjz>).

The press release includes a brief video summary of the exhibit which can also be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=by5G7eSscok>. A free pdf of the 44 page catalog is available at <https://tinyurl.com/yckh8x4t>.

The exhibit is on display in the North Lobby of Baker Library, Bloomberg Center, on the HBS campus in Boston through April 18, 2025. For more information and to see visiting hours, please visit <https://www.library.hbs.edu/special-collections-and-archives/exhibits/polaroid-from-concept-to-product>.

## 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.

Send payments, changes of address, and other contact information, to PHSNE Membership Chair, 47 Calvary St., Waltham MA 02453, email [membership-chair@phsne.org](mailto: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, 47 Calvary St., Waltham MA 02453. Volumes 11-29 are available at <https://snapshots.phsne.org>. The current volume is only available to members.

Articles and exhibition/book reviews are always welcome. Send to [snapshots@phsne.org](mailto: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.

## Bibliographies by William S. Johnson

William S. Johnson has produced a detailed annotated biography and an annotated bibliography, both of interest to collectors.

Compiled in 2004 and expanded in 2024, *Albert Sands Southworth and Josiah Johnson Hawes Annotated Biography* is drawn from Johnson's extensive database which covers the years 1839 to 1869 and a less complete database that covers 1870 to 1879. Johnson intends to conduct an online search that extends to 1902 when the last partner died.



Ralph Waldo Emerson  
Southworth and Hawes  
Zeno Fotografie

The photographic firm Southworth and Hawes operated in Boston from 1843 to about 1863 (end date varies depending on source). It was known for whole-plate portrait daguerreotypes that attracted wealthy patrons.

The annotated chronological bibliography provides an extensive record of instances when Albert Sands Southworth and Josiah Johnson Hawes were mentioned in print, references that include books, journals, and other materials that published engraved or lithographed prints drawn from their daguerreotypes. The bibliography follows references published after their deaths to trace their evolving reputations. Additional information about the bibliography can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/2356ahcw>.

Also published by Johnson in 2024 was *The Myth of Mathew Brady* described as an annotated bibliography of the literature about Mathew B. Brady with some additional citations for Alexander Gardner (and a little bit about the Civil War). Read further at <https://vintagephotosjohnson.com/2024/10/11/the-myth-of-mathew-brady/>.

Brady claimed to have learned the daguerreotype process from Samuel Morse, though Johnson questions this claim. There was later speculation that he may have learned the process directly from Daguerre. He was a successful businessman who ran multiple galleries in the 1850s in New York and Washington, D.C. Brady was also given credit for a number of award-winning daguerreotypes taken by his employees.



## Hasselblad Superwide

The Hasselblad Superwide met the “professional need for an extreme-wide-angle flat-field” camera (*Collecting and Using Classic Cameras*, Ivor Matanle, 1986). The non-reflex camera boasted an interchangeable lens, a ASynchro Compur shutter, and a viewfinder that fit into an accessory shoe at the top. Few were manufactured, but the “camera was very successful, largely because of the outstanding performance of the Biogen lens.”

Specifically, the write-up states, “The remarkable performance of the 38mm f/4.5 Biogon, which provides a distortion-free 90-degree image that is bitingly sharp even in the corners, making the Superwide or SWC an extremely effective tool for industrial, architectural and press photographers needing to produce top-quality images that do not look like ‘wide-angle’ pictures.” The camera was produced from 1954 to 1959.

Two reviewers had praise for the Hasselblad SWC (super wide camera). Matt Osborne noted that the camera is “small, compact, and lightweight” and adds, “The spirit level built into the SWC finder is a very nice touch as you can see if an image horizon is level without taking your eye from the finder. Well done Hasselblad” (<https://mrleica.com/hasselblad-swc-review/>). On the negative side, he notes that the viewfinder is distorted which may lead the photographer to think that the image will be distorted as well.

Richard Forrester also reviewed the SWC in 2018 (updated 2021). He called the camera “mysterious, and a camera I had never heard of before”. He became a fan after seeing examples of what the camera could achieve. After initially finding the camera intimidating, he came to appreciate the “highly intuitive” and “simple and ingenious design” (<https://emulsive.org/reviews/camera-reviews/the-hasselblad-903-swc-camera-review-by-richard-forrester>).

The online article covers several topics: the type of photography the SWC is suited for, setting up the camera, the lens, and focus. About the lens, Forrester commented “This camera is all about the insanely sharp [ZEISS BIOGON CF 38mm f/4.5 lens](#), which is permanently attached to the camera’s body.”

Writing about the difference between the SW and SWA (Super Wide Angle), Dan Cuny noted, “The main changes in the later Hasselblad Super Wide camera was an additional metal cylinder to the lens design. The lens barrel, which had a cut out in the barrel for the shutter control, also connected the lens’s front to the rear. Another change was the focusing helicoid went from turning approximately 180 degrees in the Supreme Wide Angle. It’s just under



Hasselblad SWC M

360 degrees on the Super Wide versions” (<https://www.35mmc.com/23/10/2020/hasselblad-super-wide-early-version-review/>). Cuny writes “Using the Hasselblad Super Wide is relatively easy and straightforward. When using the Hasselblad cameras, you always need to remove the dark slide from the back to fire the camera. There is no light meter built into this camera, or many of the Hasselblad camera unless you purchase a different finder. An external light meter is needed to get proper exposure.”

Hasselblad is based in Goteborg, Sweden.. Founded by Fritz Victor Hasselblad in 1841 as a marketing company, the photographic division broke off as its own company when photographic products appeared in 1887 and became a separate company in 1908. *Camera-wiki* provides more information about the history of the company along with a full list of products and models manufactured over the years (<http://camera-wiki.org/wiki/Hasselblad>), and *Wikipedia* offers a very extensive history of the company (<https://tinyurl.com/55udzwbk>).

A full century after the photographic division separated from the home company, the Hasselblad factory in Goteborg became a true camera manufacturing plant. NASA has taken Hasselblads into earth orbit and to the moon, and they have been used in drones.

## Check out *phsneusa*

The Donations Committee has been carefully processing the photographic equipment donated by friends and members of PHSNE. We are also continuing the sorting and grading of the photographic items consigned to us by Henry Weisenburger's estate.



The majority of the donated items are organized for sale at *Photographica 92* taking place in April 2025. Other items, especially darkroom equipment, are stored for donations to schools and other nonprofit organizations. Items for eBay sales are listed on the eBay auction site (<https://charity.ebay.com/charity/i/Photographic-Historical-Society-of-New-England,-Inc./347360>).

PHSNE has many Large Format Modern and Wooden Cameras with recent and antique lenses. All are awaiting inspection and categorization. Help is needed at our Waltham, MA warehouse to prepare these lovely items for their new owners. Are you ready to volunteer?

## Author Requests Help

Enis Hambucken is working on a book consisting of series of letters from a WWII GI to his family in the U.S. He wishes to include photographs of objects described in the letters. One such letter dated December 1944 includes: "...Can you send me several rolls of 120 film – say ten, if possible? One of the boys has an excellent German Voigtlander camera, the one who took the picture I sent you recently, and he needs film..." In a subsequent letter, the GI specifies that he would prefer black and white film as color film would be too expensive.

Hambucken is looking for an opportunity to photograph a WWII Voigtlander 120 camera (a high-end model may be best), and some period-appropriate rolls of 120 black and white films that could have been purchased in the US. If anyone can help, please email [dhambucken@comcast.net](mailto:dhambucken@comcast.net) to contact Hambucken directly.

## PHSNE Meetings

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

### Upcoming meetings:

**January 5**—Crista Dix, Executive Director, Griffin Museum

**February 2**—Barbara Bosworth and Emily Sheffer

### 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 Volume 11 (Sept 2005) to Volume 29 (June 2024).

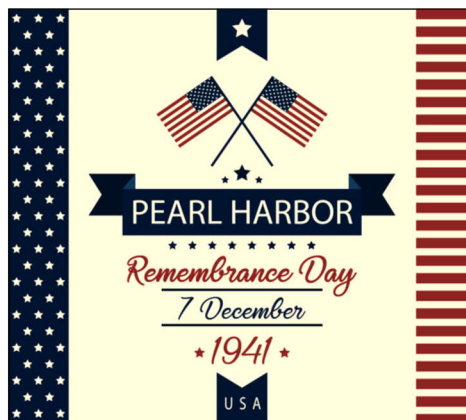
Stay connected to PHSNE via our emails and show announcements. Sign up at <https://phsne.org/emails>.

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

## Color Film Footage of Pearl Harbor

Sgt. Harold Oberg was stationed at Hickam Army Airfield in Hawaii when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The couple had recently purchased a Revere 88 Double 8 mm camera to shoot color home movies.

When the attack began, Harold rushed to the base, and Eda reached for the camera. The film she shot can be viewed on Youtube at <https://youtu.be/1b6auSQPvGs>. The video includes footage taken before, during, and after the attack. The video also contains background information about the circumstances that brought them to be in that place at that moment.



Later in the day, Harold got the camera and took footage of damage to the Swenson B17C Flying Fortress which landed at Hickam after being damaged in the attack. The crew survived. Details about the plane, its mission, and the wreckage can be found at <https://pacificwrecks.com/aircraft/b-17/40-2074.html>.