

snap shots

Volume 12 Number 10

June 2007

Spring Break-Away: On the Road to New Hampshire

On Sunday, June 3, PHSNE's annual field trip visits the NH Institute of Art

Two landmarks of New Hampshire photography are the destinations for the annual PHSNE Field Trip on Sunday June 3. At noon we'll visit the New Hampshire Institute of Art in Manchester, NH, where Gary Samson, Chair of the Photography Department (and PHSNE member), will conduct a tour of the institute's Fuller Hall photographic facilities. Mid-afternoon we'll proceed to the suburban Manchester home of PHSNE director Marti Jones for small-group tours of the Jones Collection and a catered dinner *al fresco* (weather permitting) on the grounds.

Activities at the NHIA will include a demonstration of the wet-plate process by faculty member Beverly Conway



Beverly Conway

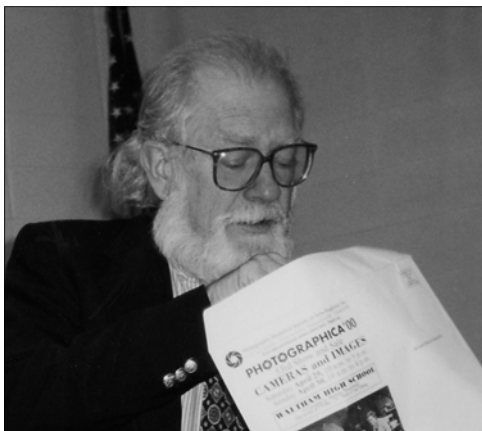
"Shelly," a portrait by Beverly Conway, shows the tonal effects typical of the wet-plate colloidon process. Conway, a member of the NHIA photography faculty, will demonstrate wetplate photography during PHSNE's visit.

and a visit to the newly established special collections photography library. The NHIA offers a BFA program in photography that includes studies in Nineteenth Century processes, traditional black-and-white photography and state-of-the-art digital imaging.

The photography library houses the John Teti Collection of 2,000 books and magazines valued at \$1.5 million. The Teti collection includes a complete set of 50 issues of *Camera Work*, the magazine edited by Alfred

Stieglitz. The copies in the Teti collection were the private collection of Edward Steichen who was a member of the Photo-Secession group organized by Stieglitz.

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Ed Shaw — the Cecil B. DeMille of direct mail.

Ed Shaw — Retiring, But Not Shy

Ed Shaw has retired — again. As much practice as he's had, you'd think he'd be better at it. Or run out of things to retire from. Most recently he has retired as treasurer of PHSNE and manager of the organization's Photographica shows, both jobs he's held since the early 1990s.

Along the way he has also retired from a faculty appointment at the Boston University School of Medi-

cine and careers running the neurology service and physicians' residency training programs at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Jamaica Plain.

Before that there was the public-education and program-development work for non-profit groups in health and mental health — epilepsy, mental retardation. And before that there

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Exhibitions and Shows in the New England Area

“Vernacular photographs” is a term that can describe snapshots, photo-booth strips, double exposures, or blurred subjects. What makes these images art is not the photographs themselves, but the eye of the beholder, as the meaning of each of these images depends on whatever the viewer brings to the picture. *Accidental Mysteries*, a show of vernacular photography at the **Peabody Essex Museum**, June 23 through Jan. 27, 2008, presents images from the collection of John and Teenuh Foster — family portraits, travel albums, holiday photos, and more. For a tutorial, you can see vernacular photographs collected on the Fosters' Accidental Mysteries Web site, www.accidentalmysteries.com. (PEM, East India Square, Salem, MA, 78-745-9500, www.pem.org).

Most museum shows of photography are devoted to images. **George Eastman House** in Rochester, NY is offering something different: a show of photographic equipment. Eastman House has opened its storerooms for *Machines of Memory: Cameras from the Technology Collection*. This exhibit, which runs through the end of 2009, puts on display treasured objects, cameras, and photographicica that range from the camera obscura to digital imaging, and of course a selection of Kodak firsts — the first



Collection of John and Teenuh Foster

This snapshot of children from the “Accidental Mysteries” exhibition is made into something more by the accidental inclusion of another subject climbing out of a window. It creates an incongruous break in the picture’s narrative tells that must be filled in by the

Kodak, the first folding pocket camera, the first auto exposure camera and, of course, the Brownie. If you like Show and Tell at PHSNE’s meetings, you should love *Machines of Memory*. (GEH, 900 East Ave., Rochester, NY, 585-271-3361, www.eastmanhouse.org).

Spring Break-Away: PHSNE’s Annual Field Trip Goes to New Hampshire

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While Marti Jones is not known to be a member of any historically important movement in photography (other than PHSNE, of course), her collection of early box cameras, folders, and photographica is rated well worth a visit. (You can see a preview at her Web site, www.martijones.com.)

Food and Transportation Arrangements

Lew Regelman is compiling the headcount for the dinner, which will be provided by PHSNE, and coordinating carpooling arrangements. If you plan to attend but did not sign up at the May meeting please call Lew at 781-642-7867 or email him at regelzoo@mail.com.

If you can take passengers or want to share a ride, let Lew know that, as well. Carpools will leave from the parking lot at Waltham High School about 11 a.m. for the one-hour drive to Manchester. (Cars that aren't making

the trip may be parked in the south-east corner of the school lot, away from the entry.)

PHSNE suggests that passengers contribute \$5 to help defray the driver's expenses.

The New Hampshire Institute of Art's Fuller Hall is located at 156 Hanover St. in Manchester. If you are driving from the Boston area, take I-93 north to Exit 8 (Bridge St.). From there:

- Turn right onto Bridge St. and travel about 1.6 miles west to Union St.
- Turn left onto Union St. and travel five blocks south to Hanover St.
- At the stoplight turn right onto Hanover St.
- Take first right onto Pine St., and then immediately turn left into the parking lot for Fuller Hall.

If the parking lot is full, there are metered spaces on the street. Manchester parking meters are free on Sundays. Directions from NHIA to Marti Jones' house will be provided at Fuller Hall. (If you get lost, her cellphone is 603-860-7411.)

Nibbles will be provided to stave off starvation at the NHIA, and PHSNE will provide a catered picnic supper at Marti's house.

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Ed Shaw — Still Retiring

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were a few careers in film production — TV commercials, documentaries, television work when TV news still meant film, not videotape. He went to work for Channel 4 nights while he was in college. Before that there was his war service. He will not confirm that it was the Civil War, but he won't deny it, either.

Ed joined PHSNE in 1989 and was first elected treasurer in 1992. In the years since he has helped build the society's income, mostly from the Photographica shows, into an endowment that, he says, means the preservation of the organization.

As similar groups flounder (the disbanding of New York's American Photographic Historical Society is one example, and more recently the financial crisis of the Daguerreian Society is another) PHSNE can depend on an income cushion that allows it to keep dues low and maintain an organization that includes all kinds of collectors.

"This kind of organization should be fun," he says. "We should be able to welcome everybody to an organization that emphasizes the common bonds of collecting, whether it's Brownies or the highest-end Leicas ever made."

"David Berenson gets credit," says Ed, "because when he was treasurer he created the foundation of what we have. And PHSNE member George Gero got involved in managing it, and has continued to do so without payment. We've been very fortunate to have people who cared so much about the organization take that kind of interest."

In addition to serving as treasurer, Ed managed the Photographica shows that have been a major source of income and new members for PHSNE beginning with Photographica 39 (and earned him a reputation as the Cecil B. DeMille of direct mail promotion, for all the scraps of paper that fall out of a PHSNE mailing).

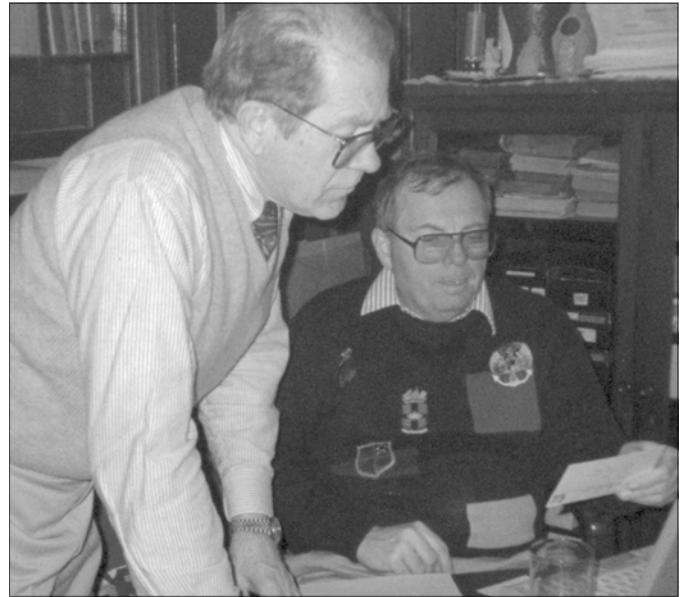
Last year he turned over the show manager's job to John Dockery and the treasurer's role to Adrian Levesque. He continues to serve on the board of directors

PHSNE Membership

PHSNE membership is \$30 for an individual, \$36 for a family, and \$40 for foreign membership. Please send checks in U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank or dollar-denominated international money orders for dues payments.

Current members can read their renewal date from the mailing label on snap shots. For example, "2007.12" means your membership expires in December of 2007.

Send payments, changes of address and other contact information, to: Adrian Levesque, 4 Sugar Hill Drive, Nashua, NH 03063, or e-mail ALevesque@aol.com.



Henry Karish

Ed Shaw (before the beard) and Adrian Levesque, the dynamic duo of PHSNE's finances, ponder a dues notice in 1995.

as chairman of the finance committee.

And he's still looking to the future — and more fun. "I'd like to see the organization be around in 50 years to be deeply involved in the preservation of photo history. That's where the fun of the future will be."

A Thank You from PHSNE

As assistant program chairman and then president of PHSNE I have had a pretty easy time. We have a good place to meet and a reputation that attracts speakers and programs.

Neither would have been attainable without effective management and solid finances. While the success of our group is the result of the efforts of many, Ed Shaw's unstinting efforts over the years as Photographica show manager and treasurer stand out.

In an era when the Internet and eBay have caused a significant decline in local shows, Photographica continues to thrive. Many photographic societies have shut down in recent years, victims of aging membership and a lack of resources to attract new members. Yet PHSNE remains strong. I guess there are enough of us around who believe that virtual communities can never replace the real thing.

Keeping the real thing going is the fruit of a lot of plain old hard work, the sort that no one person can keep up forever, much as they would like to. In the past year Ed has passed his show and treasury duties on to other board members, and we will continue to thrive. From the whole PHSNE family I wish a hearty thank you, Ed, for all you have done.

John Wojtowicz, President

Join the Digital Revolution — Present A Powerpoint Show-and-Tell in September

If you've always wanted to push the limits of a PHSNE meeting's show-and-tell with a digital slide show, you'll get your chance at the September 9 meeting.

Ralph Johnson will be setting up a digital projector for Phil Story's program on tintypes, and invites anyone who would like to use the opportunity to do a PowerPoint presentation or similar digital slide show to contact him at 617-527-7562.

The Journal Wants YOU!

The co-editors of PHSNE's *New England Journal of Photographic History*, Adrian Levesque and Ruth Thomasian, welcome inquires about writing and submitting articles for publication.

Please be in touch with Adrian or Ruth about article ideas. Ruth Thomasian, phone 617-923-4542 or 4563, e-mail archives@projectsave.org; Adrian Levesque, phone 603-889-4056, e-mail alevesque@aol.com. Please put "PHSNE Journal" in the subject line of your e-mail.

PHSNE Is going To China

PHSNE Is returning to China this summer with a 15-day tour from June 20 to July 3, 2007. The trip includes air travel from New York City, visits to Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, Suzhou, and Chongching, and a Yangtze River cruise through the Three Gorges locks.

For more information, contact Ed Shaw at 617-965-0807, or email ebshaw@bu.edu.

Upcoming PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month September to June at 1:30 p.m. at Waltham High School, preceded by a mini trade fair at 12:30 and an open meeting of the PHSNE board at 11:00 a.m.

Sept. 9 — Phil Story on "Tintypes"

Oct. 5-6-7 — Photographica 68 replaces the Sunday meeting

Nov. 2 — Don Buckland on "China, 1924"

Directions

Waltham High School is at 617 Lexington St., Waltham, MA. The high school is at the top of the hill, behind other school buildings.

From I-95 (Route 128) Northbound: Take Exit 27 and follow Totten Pond Rd. 1.2 miles east until it dead-ends into Lexington St. Turn left and go .5 miles north. Turn right into the school complex.

From I-95 (Route 128) Southbound: Take Exit 28, Trapelo Rd., east 1.3 miles to Lexington St. Turn right and go south .8 miles to school complex on the left.

From Boston/Cambridge: Take Rte. 2 west to Exit 54B, then Lexington St. south 1.7 miles to school complex on the left.

From Lincoln and West: Take Route 2 east to Exit 53, Concord Ave. Go east 1 mile, then right onto Lexington St. and 1.3 miles south to school complex on the left.

PHSNE Online

PHSNE is online at www.phsne.org. PHSNE member Ralph Johnston is the Web master.

Address Service Requested
FIRST CLASS MAIL

Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Meeting: Sunday, June 3
Field Trip to New Hampshire Art Institute



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PHSNE
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West Newton, MA 02465-0189