

snap shots

Volume 14 Number 6

February 2009

Get Ready to Buy and Sell

*Build your collection at the February Members' Auction
Sunday, February 1, 2009 at Waltham High School*

Dollar tables/book sales begin 11:00AM.; auction starts 1:00PM



Once again it's time for the Photographic Historical Society of New England (PHSNE) to hold its annual Members' Auction. The snow date for the February 1st sale is one week later (Sunday, February 8). In case of inclement weather, please check www.phsne.org.

The auction crew has been organizing sale items, checking and tagging over seventy-five items for sale. This



Photo by Joe Walters

Dan Jones and Ralph Johnston prepare sale items.

year we have a good selection of print items organized in groups as to type, size, framed, and unframed.

We have set up the auction so that PHSNE items alternate in groups with member and consignment items. Please note that

in the past we have not been able to sell any large movie or slide projectors, and it is a waste of time to bring these into the sale.

Selling things with a high reserve usually results in no sale, so be reasonable. Don't set a minimum price if you really want to clear out a particular item from your collection.

Because of buyers' and sellers' premiums, we have made several thousand dollars for the club treasury from the Members' Auction. This has helped keep dues constant. Interest in the auction has gone down over the past few years. If there is insufficient activity, we may hold only one auction a year in the fall. A decision will be made based on the success of the upcoming auction.

The auction will feature a large variety of used and usable collectible cameras, images, photography related items, photographic equipment, and books on photography. Items come from estate sales, donations, and consignments by PHSNE members. Bidding will begin at 1:00 P.M. Consignments will be accepted from the public

from 11:00 a.m. until half hour before the auction begins. The fee is 20% of the sale price to support PHSNE. The auction provides the least expensive way possible to add to your collection. Don't miss this opportunity.

There will be boxes and boxes of dollar table items and filters of various sizes that can be used with digital or film cameras. Plan to get to the auction early, as close to 11:00 A.M. as possible. Remember, we also need member help to set up the sale, starting at 10:00 A.M, and during the sale we need runners to deliver items to successful bidders, record keepers, cashiers, and auctioneers. *Please volunteer.*

More information about the auction can be found at www.phsne.org or www.phsne.org/forum. To volunteer, contact the auction manager, Lew Regelman, at photohistorylr@gmail.com or 781-642-7867.



Framed reproduction print of Annie Oakley post cards

Web sites of interest

From time to time we come across web sites that are of interest to photographica collectors. *Snap shots* will pass these along in our newsletter and asks members who find interesting sites to let us know about them.

The excerpt printed below is from one such website worth visiting.

The Kodak Duo-620 Story from www.Kodak.3106.net

The compact Kodak Duo-620 folder was made from 1933 to 1940 by the Kodak AG/Nagel-Werk in Stuttgart. The "Duo" tag does not refer to dual format capability but to its half-frame format. The "620" part of its title comes from 620 reel film used. There were just three main models of this camera, but thanks to various lens and shutter combinations some 25 variants exist.

The best-known [Nagel camera] is the Kodak Retina range of 35mm compact cameras introduced in 1934,



Kodak 620 Duo Series II

which many believe to have been Dr. Nagel's first new design under Kodak's control. However the Duo-620 was definitely the first, beating it by a full year.

Early in 1933, the first Duo-620 appeared, referred to by the collecting fraternity as either the Series I or Art-Deco model. The art-deco title

is from the attractive black stripe design of the top cover and base plate, with the odd few metal bits like film-wind key and folding struts nickel-plated. It cost \$52.50 in the USA [which translates into US \$749 in 2006 values]. Series I models were made until June 1937, when they were replaced by the Series II (Series 2).

In July 1937 the Series I "art-deco" was replaced by the Series II Non-RF model. I can point out some obvious changes from the earlier model, such as the black art-deco top cover now in a more mundane but harder-wearing satin chrome finish. In fact, ALL the plated bits are now satin-chromed rather than nickel-plated. The art-deco striped base plate is now leatherette-covered. Apart from these cosmetic changes, the camera is now slightly taller to allow for a remote shutter release on the top-cover, and it also has a proper film wind knob rather than a fiddly key. There's also an accessory shoe to take the Kodak Accessory Rangefinder. Lens options were still f3.5 or f4.5 Kodak Anastigmat or Schneider Xenar depending where on the planet you lived. The f3.5 KA version cost \$57.50 in the USA, which equates to \$793 [in 2006].

Undoubtedly the most hi-tech model is the Duo-620 Series II CRF. Unfortunately it was introduced in what must be the worst example of bad timing ever, i.e. September 1939. This is a far more sophisticated camera than the preceding models, not just because of the CRF but for other nice features like an automatic film counter.

It appears that only some 2,000 of these were made from September 1939 to mid-1940 and most or all went to the USA. All seem to have f3.5 helical focus Kodak Anastigmat lenses and Compur-Rapid shutters with linear focussing scales. The USA price was a whopping \$85, equating to \$1214 [in]2006. Despite the relatively unknown Duo-620 being made only from 1933 to 1940, Kodak AG managed to sell 81,000 according to Brian Coe's Kodak Bible of which 2,000 were the last CRF model.

When WW2 ended in 1945 and camera production restarted, the decision was made (apparently from Eastman Kodak HQ in Rochester) to concentrate on the 35mm Retina and Retinette models. So that was the end of the Duo-620.

-Excerpt from article by Peter Naylor, Perth Australia, taken from Michael Koning's Kodak Classic website www.Kodak.3106.net

Another web site to check out www.iphotocentral.com

This website has month-by-month listing of photographic exhibits and shows all around the country. In addition, it covers a number of interesting topics for collectors, for example insurance of photographic art, determining vintage age of a photograph, ins and outs of photography appraisal, list of books on collecting photographica, and a number of book reviews.

PHSNE Membership

PHSNE membership is \$15 for students, \$30 for individuals, \$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, "Dec 2008" means your membership expires in December of 2008. Please check your label before sending in your dues.

Send payments, changes of address, and other contact information, to Joe Walters Jr., PHSNE Membership Chair, P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465 (phone: 617-694-5594; email: membership@phsne.org, or use the Web form at www.phsne.org/contacts).

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Web Site Gets New Look

The PHSNE web site has been a valuable source of current information for PHSNE members and friends for many years, thanks to the hard work of Ralph Johnston and Joe Walters. Now techniques and technology have moved forward, and the PHSNE web site is moving also. We have engaged a professional web site designer to provide greater ease of use. The redesigned site will provide greater unity of information items and expanded content to enhance its value to PHSNE members and friends, especially the ones who are not local.

Categories of information include the following:

- *The Forum*, with discussions of important topics in photographica collecting and events
- *Photo Gallery* of interesting and important photographica objects
- *Snap shots* archive
- Information about *The Journal*
- Last meeting photos and videos
- Last Photographica Show photos and videos
- Next meeting program description
- Next Photographica Show information
- Dealer information
- Map to meeting location (Waltham High School)
- Map to Photographica Show at Americal Center in Wakefield
- Photos of Board of Directors with offices held
- Integrated calendar of all events
- Contact information

We are presently completing the structure of the new web site and are populating it with a comprehensive set of information items. Stay tuned for additional information.

- George Champine

Collectable Art

Much to my surprise I found these three cameras in the deYoung Museum shop in San Francisco. All three are analog film cameras. Two use 35 mm film, and the panoramic camera uses 120 film.



3 Lomography cameras, from left to right: Flisheye 2, \$70., SuperSampler, sequential time pictures, \$50; Horizon Panorama, \$350.

-Lew Regelman

PhotoHistory XIV

The Photographic Historical Society of Rochester, New York invites you to attend the 14th Triennial Symposium on the history of photography in Rochester, New York, October 16th to 18th, 2009.

Held every three years since 1970, this event attracts photo historians, collectors, photo experts, and dealers from around the world. It includes tours of the stately George Eastman House, both mansion and gardens, and the International Museum of Photography and Film.

The Symposium on Saturday is at the George Eastman House, and the Saturday banquet, with keynote speaker, and Sunday trade show are at the Double Tree Hotel. Special interest groups often meet during the symposium.

For further information, go to www.TPHS.org or contact Jack Bloemendaal at jbloem@Rochester.rr.com.

A Message from the President

At this time of year some of us envy our members who live in the warmer climates! Regardless of the weather, your PHSNE Board is hard at work year round.



Plans are underway for another Photographica Show, April 25-26 at the Americal Center in Wakefield. We are one of the strongest surviving shows, and let's all do what we can to keep it that way. Kudos to John Dockery for all he does to make this happen.

John Wojtowicz has quite an agenda planned through next spring for PHSNE meetings. They are open to any PHSNE member free of charge. Meetings begin at 1:30 and usually end by 3:30. Bring a friend! If you are interested in making a presentation or suggesting a program, please contact John.

Adrian Levesque and Ruth Thomasian are working to publish another issue of *The Journal*. They are always seeking articles of interest written by members or ideas for articles. Please contact either one if you have anything to contribute.

All of us who serve on the Board are VOLUNTEERS. Some individuals are retired, some work full time. I can assure you that I appreciate all that you do. We are always looking for others interested in serving on the Board of Directors or volunteering in any way you can. Most importantly, keep up the great job that you are doing.

I hope to see more members at future PHSNE events. You can contact me by email at marti0727@comcast.net or by calling me at 603-860-7411. Thank you for your continued support and interest in PHSNE.

- Marti Jones

Exhibits of Interest

George Eastman House, Rochester, N.Y.

TruthBeauty: Pictorialism and the Photograph as Art, 1845-1945, February 7—April 26, 2009

Pictorialism was simultaneously a movement, a philosophy, an aesthetic, and a style, resulting in some of the most spectacular photographs in the history of the medium. This exhibition shows the rise of Pictorialism in the late 19th century from a desire to elevate photography to an art form equal to painting, drawing, and watercolor, and extends the historical period generally associated with it by including its influential precursors, its persistent practitioners, and its seminal effect on photographic Modernism.

With 130 masterworks from such well-known photographers as Alvin Langdon Coburn, Edward Steichen, Alfred Stieglitz, Robert Demachy, Frederick Evans, and F. Holland Day, this remarkable exhibition will illustrate the Pictorialism movement's progression from its early influences to its lasting impact on photography and art.

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Accommodating Nature: The Photographs of Frank Gohlke, now through March 3, 2009

This exhibit consists of 85 photographs by American landscape photographer Frank Gohlke (1942—), both black and white and color prints. He “deftly captures the tension between humanity and the natural world, exploring how people adapt to the forces of nature both great and small.”

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.

Mar. 1 — Pete Bass on Polaroid large-format

Apr. 5 — Field trip to Planetarium; Ed Jameson

May 3 — Stephen Jarecki on Military Photography

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's Web site is online at www.phsne.org. George Champine is the Webmaster.

Join the PHSNE Forum online discussion: sign up and log in at www.phsne.net/forum, moderated by Joe Walters. For an archive of back issues of *snap shots* and meeting presentations, visit www.phsne.org/pubs.

Address Service Requested
FIRST CLASS MAIL



PHSNE
P.O. Box 650189
West Newton, MA 02465-0189
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Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Meeting: Sunday, February 1st
Waltham High School, 1:30 P.M.
Set-up 10:00 A.M.

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