

# snap shots

Volume 14 Number 10

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## Tour the Peabody Essex Museum with PHSNE Field trip scheduled for June 7th, 12:30 P.M.

The PHSNE June field trip will be to the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. Now entering its third century, the museum originally devoted to the China Trade is home to an extensive variety of art.

The photography collection includes thousands of vintage images representing most formats and processes. The current exhibition is *Surfland: Photographs by Joni Sternbach*. Using 19th century photographic techniques to create tintypes, she created a remarkable set of im-

ages of modern day surfers. Also included in the exhibition is a selection of PEM tintypes dating from the 1860's through the 1890's that includes Civil War soldiers and Wampanoag Indians. PHSNE will be given a guided tour of the Sternbach exhibition and the PEM galleries.



Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

Joni Sternbach tintype,

Dating from 1803 and including thousands of prints and artifacts from the seventeenth to twentieth centuries, the Maritime art collection is second to none. New England is represented by extensive holdings in furniture, costume, and decorative arts. The galleries hold the largest Asian export Art collection in the world, making it the most comprehensive resource of the last five centuries of trade. A unique feature of the PEM is the Herwitz Gallery, the first American museum gallery devoted to contemporary Indian art.

Photographs are also on display as part of *Mah-jong*, an exhibit consisting of over 100 works of art from the Uli Sigg Collection, one of the world's

most significant and comprehensive collections of contemporary Chinese art. In addition to the photographs, the exhibit presents paintings, drawings, and videos. It offers a view of China's evolving art scene over the last 40 years.

In order to get a group rate, we must all enter the museum together. **Please meet in the PEM lobby at 12:30 sharp for admission to the museum and tour.** As the PEM does not offer group tours of the 200 year old Chinese Yin Yu Tang house on Sunday afternoons, this is not included. If you want to take an individual tour, you can do it on your own if there is space available at a cost of \$10.00 for that special exhibit.

PEM is the oldest continuously operating museum in the country. "The institution's \$194 million transformation resulted in the creation of a new and major museum, serving people in Greater Boston, New England, the nation, and the world. At its opening in June 2003, its facilities ranked among the twenty-five largest art museums in the nation."



PEM photo

PEM's new wing,, designed by Moshe Safdie

Directions to the museum and parking information can be found on page 4 or on the PEM web site at [pem.org/visit/hours.php#directions](http://pem.org/visit/hours.php#directions).

## Photographica 71 Successful

Neither the warmest weekend in New England in the past eight months nor having a carnival in the large parking lot next door interfered with Photographica #71. Over 475 people attended the show. If two dealers had not cancelled at the last minute, the show would have been a sellout.



Closing the deal

And the items the dealers brought to the show! One dealer brought five Blair cameras from his personal collection for a Discovery Table exhibit. Another brought in a Speed Graphic with a fish-eye lens mounted on it. There were a lot of new faces on the floor as well as several new dealers. Attendees commented on both the quantity and the quality of the items at the tables. This particular show featured a lot of large format equipment.

*Photographica* continues to be both worthwhile and profitable for PHSNE. This event would not be possible if not for a small dedicated group of volunteers. I thank them for all their efforts. Our next show will be on October 24 and October 25, 2009. Please consider helping us out for a few hours in October.

- John Dockery, Show Manager

### 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 2009" means your membership expires in December of 2009. 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](http://www.phsne.org/contacts)).

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## Photographica: A Dealer's Perspective

I never know what to expect when we schedule a show weekend. Show #71 was no exception. Tables were nearly sold out. We had a great crowd come through the door on Saturday and the room was filled until about 2:30 or 3:00 p.m. There were many new faces, and many people bought items. I thought to myself, "what recession?"

I figured Sunday would be a slow day. Much to my amazement, and with another beautiful day weather-wise, we again had a great

crowd early Sunday. I spoke with other dealers who also stated that they had good sales.

The volunteers were super and the show went off without a hitch. Thanks to John Dockery for his planning of the show and let's all work towards making *Photographica 72* in October as successful.

- Marti Jones



Setting up the show

## Polaroid Sale Controversial

Polaroid Corp. was sold in Bankruptcy Court in April, 2009 to liquidators Hilco Consumer Capital of Toronto and Gordon Brothers Brands of Boston for \$85.9 million in cash and equity. Although this was not the high bid, the *Boston Globe* reported that "Judge Gregory Kishel said it was the best choice." Polaroid filed for bankruptcy in December, 2008, after Tom Petters, who bought Polaroid for \$426 million in 2005, was charged with running a \$3.5 billion Ponzi scheme. He has denied the charges.

The losing bidder, Patriarch Partners LLC, filed an appeal which may delay the sale. According to the *Globe*, Patriarch "says its offer should have been approved because it plans to continue innovation at the company, while the liquidators will close the headquarters and focus only on licensing the brand name.

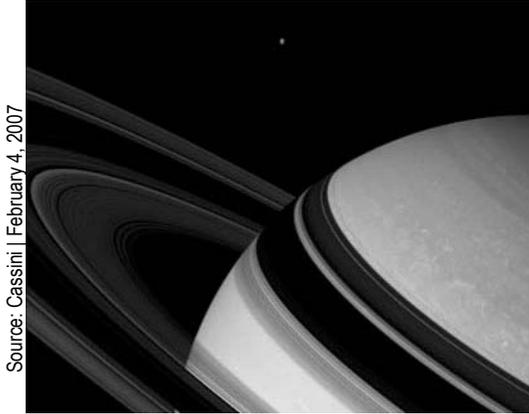
Watch for headlines to follow the status of this former photographic giant.

## ***Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes*** **Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition**

### **Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes**

“During the last few decades, interplanetary probes such as Magellan, Voyager 1 and 2, and the Viking Landers have sent us astounding images from the depths of space. Journalist, filmmaker, and artist Michael Benson carefully reviews these images and then digitally enhances the original raw data from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and other archives.”

Featuring 35 large-scale framed prints 3 to 5 feet



Source: Cassini | February 4, 2007

Saturn's rings glow in the scattered light that filters through them. Its moon Dione, orbiting approximately 234,000 miles away, is 700 miles in diameter.

### **SAVE THE DATES**

Colin Ford, CBE, eminent British scholar, photo historian and curator, will be returning to Boston June 4th through June 11th to give a series of lectures co-sponsored by the Victorian Society, New England Chapter, Longfellow National Historic Site, Cambridge, and Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House, Concord. He has published about a dozen books on the history of photography. To obtain a schedule of events, contact the event coordinator at [khilliard@rcn.com](mailto:khilliard@rcn.com) or 617-277-9375.

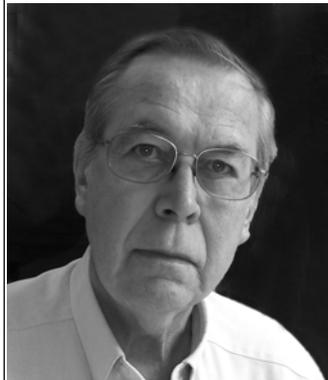
Considered by the *London Times* the doyen of British historians of photography, Colin Ford was Keeper of Film and Photography at the National Portrait Gallery in London (1972–82) before becoming the founding Head of Britain's National Museum of Photography, Film & Television, Bradford. After he had directed it for ten years, he became Director of the ten National Museums & Galleries of Wales (1993–98). He is Chairman of the Kraszna-Krausz Foundation and of Partnership Events & Entertainment Ltd.

in width containing 59 individual photographs, all digitally processed by the artist, the exhibition is at the Worcester Art Museum through May 24<sup>th</sup>. It will travel to Duluth Art Institute in Minnesota this summer and to Lynchburg College in Virginia and the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History in the fall. Members all over the country will have an opportunity to enjoy this program. For details, go the Smithsonian Institution Exhibition Traveling Service site [sites.si.edu/exhibitions/exhibits/beyond/main.htm](http://sites.si.edu/exhibitions/exhibits/beyond/main.htm).

### **Allan Goodrich Receives Lifetime Achievement Award**

The National Archives and Records Administration conferred a Lifetime Achievement Award on PHSNE member and Board Secretary Allan Goodrich. After announcing his retirement from the Kennedy Library this year, Chief Archivist Goodrich is being cited “for 40 years of exemplary service overseeing the Kennedy Library Archives and providing access to these materials to the public.”

Recommended by Tom Putnam, Kennedy Library Director, and nominated by Sharon Fawcett, Assistant Archivist for Presidential Libraries, the nomination form notes that “Allan's career has



spanned all major milestones.” He organized the Library's off-site audio-visual collection, helped design the Library's building, “advocated for unprecedented state of the art facilities, . . . and spearheaded a groundbreaking digitization effort allowing worldwide access to our most prized collections via the internet.”

Working with I.M. Pei to design the archival storage facilities and research rooms, Goodrich advocated for and supervised the “design and construction of the world's first cold storage vault to run at zero degrees and 30% humidity.”

PHSNE congratulates Allan Goodrich for this well deserved honor.

## PHSNE Establishes Members' Pages Wiki

PHSNE has established a Members' Pages wiki at [phsne.org/members](http://phsne.org/members) allowing members to present web pages about their specific interests and directly contribute to PHSNE's mission to "promote the knowledge of photographic history." We will accept pages on a wide range of topics and are especially looking for early history of PHSNE.

Wiki is Hawaiian for quick or fast. On the web, wikis are content management systems for web pages allowing users to contribute their own web pages without special tools or extensive web technical knowledge. The PHSNE wiki site provides a web page editor that runs in the user's browser, thus avoiding the need to download, install, or pay for special web page development tools.

The first three Members' Pages have been established. Ron Polito's page presents his database of Boston Photographers cited in 19th century American photographic journals, George Champine's covers his start in collecting, and Ralph Johnson's links to PHSNE China trip images and his pages on stereo cameras. View these pages at [phsne.org/members](http://phsne.org/members), then click on link Members' Pages in sidebar menu.

Due to limited resources to support this activity, members must apply to establish personal pages. Requests will be reviewed by the Board and Site Administrator Joe Walters will help early participants with their first pages. Go to [www.phsne.org/members/info](http://www.phsne.org/members/info) to learn how to start your own page.

## PHSNE Meetings

**September 13** — large format Polaroid

**October 4** — Patricia Fanning program on photographer F. Holland Day

**November 1**— Fitchburg Art Museum, snapshots and the cameras that made them

**December 6**—Lauren Hewes, Hewes early child portraiture

**Directions to PEM**, 137 Essex St. in historic Salem, Massachusetts. For recorded directions, call 978-745-9500, ext. 3145 or refer to web site [pem.org](http://pem.org).

Take Route 128 North. NOTE: I-95 and Route 128 North share the same loop around Boston. When they divide, stay on Route 128 North, to Exit 25A. Take 114 East into Salem, following signs for the Peabody Essex Museum and Rte. 114. Approximately one mile after entering Salem, you will cross an overpass. Take the exit on your right on to Route 107/Bridge St. Go straight through the light and take your second right, onto St Peter St. Go left at the stop sign and right onto New Liberty St. The museum is straight ahead and a parking garage is on your right (fees are very reasonable).

## PHSNE Online

PHSNE's Web site is online at [www.phsne.org](http://www.phsne.org). George Champine is the Webmaster.

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

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Next Meeting: June 7, 2009  
Peabody Essex Museum

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