

# snap shots

Volume 11 Number 7

March, 2006

## COMMON CAMERAS, UNCOMMON FEATURES

*Your first impression of an ordinary-looking camera may be wrong, says Paul Nisula*

What's so unusual about the 1896 Pocket Kodak box camera, the Ansco Keywind folder, the Filmo or Irwin movie cameras? For the March 5 program at Waltham High School, Paul Nisula becomes an international man of mystery, delving into secrets under the covers of a couple of dozen perfectly ordinary cameras.

For all of his secrets, Nisula is a familiar figure at PHSNE meetings. He almost always sets out a table of items for sale during the before-meeting bourse. He joined PHSNE in the early '80s and has served on the board and as secretary of the society.

"I started actively collecting cameras in the late '70s," he says, "after seeing some of the cameras belonging to my good friend Al Holmy. I've enjoyed helping on the dollar table at the auction and assisting in organizing field



David DeJean

trips and finding places to eat on these excursions." Nisula has written several dozen articles on cameras and collecting that have been published in CameraShopper.

trips and finding places to eat on these excursions."

Nisula has written several dozen articles on cameras and collecting that have been published in CameraShopper.

## Photographica 65: The Show Must Go On, April 29-30

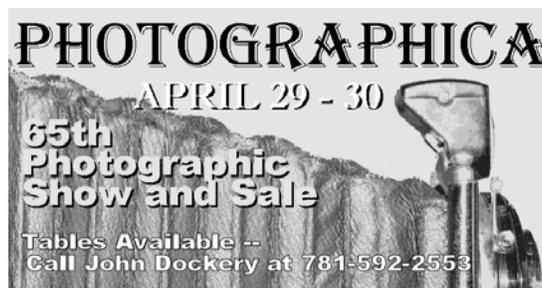
There's something new about Photographica 65: it's got a new boss. Ed Shaw is passing the reins to John Dockery as show manager. Dockery, who's been a PHSNE member for eight years and a Photographica regular and Lynn Camera Club member for even longer, says he looks forward to continuing a fine tradition.

The show is changing as the market moves from film to digital. "It's going from hardware to 'software' — more images and more education, more photographic history," he says. "But

Photographica is doing well. Attendance is steady. There used to be 50 or 60 of these shows and there are six or so left. Photographica is a survivor."

"John's absolutely the right guy to run the show," says Ed Shaw. "It's going to be a very different show, we've got a tough few years ahead of us, and we've got to get people involved. John is the guy to do that."

Shaw, who recently had hip-replacement surgery says he'll still be around, but "it's time for the young people to get involved."



# Photographic Exhibitions and Shows in the New England Area

By Jim Hill

The Boston University Art Gallery presents "*A Photographic Portrait of Boston, 1840-1865*," on display from February 10 through April 2, 2006. This exhibit, curated by Anna Kamplain, looks at "...early photography in Boston as both a social practice and a technological innovation," and focuses on photographs made by Boston photographers of Bostonians. The exhibit features over one hundred images – studio portraits, street views, Civil War images – and includes daguerreotypes, salt prints, albumen prints, cartes-de-visite, and stereographs as well as photographic ephemera: ads for photography studios, trade cards, and magazines containing illustrations after photographs. The works are drawn primarily from four major Boston photograph archives; the Boston Athenaeum, the Boston Public Library, Historic New England, and the Massachusetts Historical Society. (855 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215, telephone 617-353-3329, [www.bu.edu/art](http://www.bu.edu/art).)

The Harvard Museum of Natural History hosts the traveling exhibition "*Robert Turner: Rare Places in a Rare Light*" through March 26, 2006. The exhibit features the large-format, richly detailed images of distinguished landscape photographer Robert Turner.

Turner will present one-hour gallery talks at the Harvard Museum of Natural History on **Friday, March 24, at 3:00 p.m.** and **Saturday, March 25, at 9:30 a.m.**, in which he will discuss his approach to landscape photography and the critical need to learn about and conserve our nation's wild places. The talks are free with Museum admission, but registration is required: call 617-496-6972 or email [hmnh-lectures@oeb.harvard.edu](mailto:hmnh-lectures@oeb.harvard.edu). (26 Oxford Street, Cambridge MA, 02138, telephone 617-495-3045, [www.hmnh.harvard.edu](http://www.hmnh.harvard.edu).)

The Fitchburg Art Museum's exhibition, "The Civil War Remembered: Photographs and Artifacts," continues through April 2, 2006. The show, curated by Stephen Jarecki, a PHSNE member and the speaker at PHSNE's November meeting, includes rare photographs of battle scenes, warships, and portraits of men in the field -- from foot soldiers to generals. Photographs will focus on the application in war of new technologies, such as the telegraph, railroads, new weapons, and, of course, the camera, for recording the nation's first modern war.

"Symposium: Picturing the Civil War," **Sunday, March 19, 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Curator Stephen Jarecki will lecture on the decisive battles of the War and the contributions of regiments from Central Massachusetts. His talk will feature rarely-exhibited photographs taken in the field. PHSNE member John Wojtowicz will present an illustrated lecture: "The Civil War in Stereo Photographs." Registration by March 15 is required —



"The Civil War Remembered, Photographs and Artifacts" at the Fitchburg Art Museum includes this 1866 Alexander Gardner image, "The Art of War."

members, \$25, others \$30, lunch included. Call 978-345-4207 x303 for information.) ([www.fitchburgartmuseum.org](http://www.fitchburgartmuseum.org).)

The National Heritage Museum presents "*Picturing What Matters: An Offering of Photographs from George Eastman House Collection*," through May 21, 2006. The 126 photographs in this show were selected by the Eastman House staff, who looked at the treasures in their collection with new perspectives after the events of September 11. The resulting exhibition is designed to not only commemorate the tragedies of September 11, 2001, but also to evoke meaning from our common visual history. The works include Joe Rosenthal's *Old Glory Goes Up on Mt. Suribachi*, Dorothea Lange's *Migrant Mother* and Ansel Adams's *Clearing Winter Storm, Yosemite, California*, and photographs by Robert Frank, Lewis Hine, Walker Evans, William Henry Jackson, and Danny Lyon. (National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Rd. Lexington, MA 02421, 781-861-6559, <http://www.monh.org>.)

## Membership News

PHSNE's Membership Directory is one of the benefits of membership, and work on the 2006 Membership Directory has begun. To make sure you receive your copy please check to see that you have paid your 2006 dues. PHSNE membership is \$30 for an individual, \$36 for a family, and \$40 for foreign members. Send dues payments to Adrian Levesque, 4 Sugar Hill Drive, Nashua, NH 03063.

To make the directory as accurate as possible, if your address or other status information has changed, please send corrections to the address above or e-mail [ALevesque@aol.com](mailto:ALevesque@aol.com) with "PHSNE" in the subject line.

*snap shots*, edited by David DeJean, is published by the Photographic Historical Society of New England, Inc., P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465-0189. Send news briefs to [ddejean@dejean.com](mailto:ddejean@dejean.com).



Above: the pre-auction inspection. Right: Karen Krause and Joe Lippincott ponder their next purchase.



## If This Is February, It Must Be the Members' Auction

As usual, the auction had everything — big cameras and small, treasures and junk, lots of laughs and some buyer's remorse, and an incredible panoply of photographic history.



Photos by David DeJean



Above: auctioneers Marti Jones and Larry Rochette were back again. Below: Marti and her daughter Bethany took home the biggest sale of the day, an 11x14 studio camera.



## The Year It All Changed: Big Yellow Crosses the Digital Divide

Historians of photography will look back from the future and argue over the precise moment when electronic imaging replaced photochemical processes — when digital cameras and printers replaced silver halide films and papers.

The answer may be 2005. It's not exact, but an average: Kodak stopped making slide projectors in October 2004. It discontinued Super8 Kodachrome in May 2005. It announced in June 2005 that it would stop manufacturing black-and-white printing paper in 2006. But the most important detail may be this quote from the company's announcement of its financial results for the last quarter of the year:

"For all of 2005, digital sales represented 54% of total revenue, marking the first time in the company's history that digital revenue exceeded traditional."

The successes the financial report focus on tell the tale: the fourth quarter of 2005 saw a 65% increase in sales of home printing products (Kodak EasyShare Printer Docks)



The top of Kodak's digital camera line, the EasyShare One, makes a wireless connection to the Internet to email photos without a computer — but it includes a throwback to the company's Auto-graphic folding cameras of a century ago: a stylus to write captions on the camera's back.

and inkjet media; a 41% increase in consumer digital capture (that's corporatese for "digital cameras") sales, including the Kodak Easyshare digital cameras; and a 23% increase in the sales of Kodak Picture Maker kiosks (the print-it-yourself stations you see in drugstores) and related media.

For camera collectors 20 years from now this raises interesting possibilities, like a complete collection of the coffin-sized Picture Maker kiosks (the current model is the G4.)

### Naylor Collection For Sale

Jack Naylor, PHSNE life member and longtime board secretary, has published a large-format 34-page catalog titled *The Naylor Collection: The Complete History of Photography* to promote the sale of his extensive collection of photographica. The asking price is \$20 million. In 1994, Naylor sold some 9,000 items to the Japanese government. That collection became the Naylor Museum of Photographic History in Yokohama, Japan.

The sale of the collection has already aroused considerable media interest. On October 7, 2005, *The Wall Street Journal* ran a feature story titled "A Family Album of Photo History," on the 86-year-old Naylor, who has spent 55 years buying photography memorabilia, including 1,031 daguerreotypes ("better than the Library of Congress's collection of 725," says *The Journal*).

In November Naylor's voice was heard on NPR's Weekend Edition describing his collection. This January he appeared on Boston's Channel 5 evening news magazine *Chronicle*, and the Discovery Channel is reportedly planning a visit to the Naylor Collection.

### Attention Journal Contributors

As PHSNE's Publication Committee prepares its second *Journal* under the editorship of Adrian Levesque and Ruth Thomasian, it is drafting a document, *Writer Guidelines and Editorial Policy*. To request a copy of the *Guidelines* or to discuss a possible article, please contact Ruth Thomasian at 617-923-4563 or -4542, email her at [archives@projectsave.org](mailto:archives@projectsave.org), or mail a request to PHSNE, P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465-0189.

### PHSNE Meetings

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

**April 2** — "Historical Photographs of Natick," presented by Richard Potter.

**May 7** — Annual field trip: a visit to the Alan Kattelle moviemaking collection. Details to be announced.

#### Directions

Waltham High School is at 617 Lexington St. in 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 Road 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 Road, east 1.3 mi. to Lexington St. Turn right and go south .8 mi. to school complex.

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

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

### PHSNE Online

PHSNE is online at [www.phsne.org](http://www.phsne.org). PHSNE member Ralph Johnston is the Web master.

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
Address Service  
Requested

Next PHSNE Meeting: Sunday, March 5, 2006  
"Common Cameras, Uncommon Features"  
by Paul Nisula

PHSNE  
P.O. Box 650189  
West Newton, MA 02465-0189



snap  
shots