

snap shots

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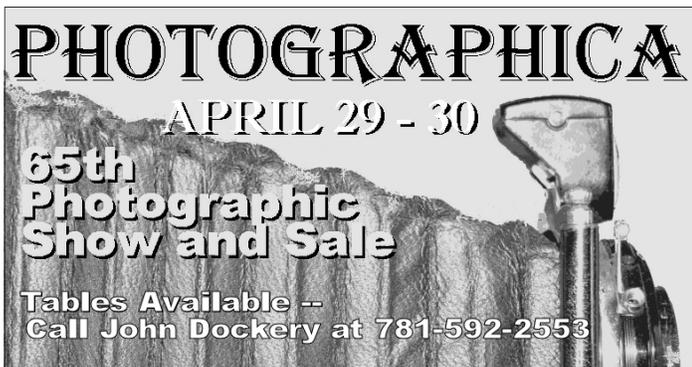
Photographica 65: PHSNE's Show and Sale

Photographica, PHSNE's semi-annual combination of county fair, treasure hunt, art gallery, and family reunion, returns for its 65th run on April 29 and 30, with a new show manager and a new sense of connection to its community. "I don't think photography has seen more inter-

est in the last 30 years," said John Dockery, the new manager of Photographica. "The Digital Age is getting people reinterested in photography — in images and alternative processes like cyanotypes."

Early indications point to another successful show, said Dockery. "Foot traffic improved last fall, and I'm looking for it to be even better this spring. People are calling for tables and it looks like a sell-out."

There is still space available, he says. If you'd like a table at Photographica call John Dockery at 781-592-2553.



Photographica 65: Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, 47 Nichols Street in Watertown, MA, Saturday, April 29, 9 to 5 and Sunday, April 30, 9 to 4.

A Slide Show That's Historical in More Ways Than One

'Natick Historical Slide Show' is PHSNE program April 2 at 1:30 at Waltham High School

The title of the PHSNE program for April, "Natick Historical Slide Show," is not quite as straightforward as it might seem. It is indeed a show of images of historic Natick, MA, from the late 1800s and early 1900s.

But it is historic in another sense, as well. The program, prepared and presented by Richard Potter, includes 184 slides from a survey of Natick's historic photography prepared by Potter's great-grandfather, Horace H. Potter, on 3" X 4" glass slides. The images were photographed by Horace Potter and others.

The show combines two of Potter's interests -- Natick (He was born there and for 47 years worked at Natick Federal Savings Bank, retiring in 1998 as president and chairman) and photography. Potter made photography his hobby during his junior high school years. These days he spends a great amount of time on his computer making



"113 Main St.. 1874, After Fire Looking South" is one of the historic photographs of Natick Richard Potter (right) presents at PHSNE's April meeting.



DVDs from family photos and videos. Potter will present "Natick Historical Slide Show" on DVD and discuss the methods and tools he used to transfer the images from glass slides to a DVD with audio.

Photographic Exhibitions and Shows in the New England Area

By James B. Hill

The **Portland Museum of Art** (7 Congress Street, Portland, ME, telephone 207-775-6148, on the Web at www.portlandmuseum.org) presents "In Our Time: The World as Seen by Magnum Photographers". The exhibit, opening **April 6, 2006**, features one hundred black-and-white images from the famous photographers of Magnum, often

described as "the world's most prestigious photograph agency". When the Magnum Agency was founded in 1947 by Henri Cartier-Bresson, Robert Capa, David "Chim" Seymour, George Rodger, William Vandivert, Rita Vandivert, Werner Bischof, and Maria Eisner, it was radically different from other photographic agencies of the time. Magnum was created as a cooperative venture where the photographers retained copyright to their im-



"Pasadena," by Elliott Erwitt, is one of the works by photographers for the famous picture agency Magnum included in the show now at the Portland Museum of Art.

Membership News

New members — Donald Duffy, Springfield, IL, interests include old cameras and negatives; Bill Kraus, Newtown, PA, Japanese and Russian rangefinder cameras; Sammy Wang, Columbia, MD, photo history. For contact information e-mail ALevesque@aol.com with "PHSNE" in the subject line.

PHSNE membership is \$30 for an individual, \$36 for a family, and \$40 for foreign members. Please send checks or money orders drawn in U.S. funds for dues payments. Communicate all changes of address and other status information, to: Adrian Levesque, 4 Sugar Hill Drive, Nashua, NH 03063, or e-mail ALevesque@aol.com.

PHSNE is on the go again with another Ed-venture: Alaska! For information, call Ed Shaw, 617-965-0807.

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ages, rather than selling rights to the magazines that bought the images. This allowed a "freedom from assignment" that would enable Magnum photographers to follow their eyes and their hearts to wherever they were drawn, and would bring some of the most honored names in photography to Magnum, including Eve Arnold, Marc Riboud, Dennis Stock, Cornell Capa, Elliott Erwitt, Inge Morath,

Susan Meiselas, Bruce Davidson, and others. The show, organized by the George Eastman House, will be on exhibit in Portland through **June 4, 2006**.

"*Tempo, Tempo! The Bauhaus Photomontages of Marianne Brandt*" will be on display at Harvard's **Busch-Reisinger Museum** (32 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA, telephone 617-495-9400, www.artmuseums.harvard.edu) from **March 11 through May 21, 2006**. Brandt, who is best known as a pioneering designer in metal for the Bauhaus, worked in the medium of photomontage in the 1920s and '30s. She joined photographs, newspaper and magazine clippings, glass, metal, and other objects to create art that comments on gender roles, changing political and social values, and popular culture of the time.

Martin May, Photographica Dealer, Dies

Dr. Martin K. May, a PHSNE member and dealer in photographica who was a regular presence at PHSNE's Photographica events, died March 4 in New Jersey. He was 68.

May practiced dentistry for more than 40 years in Westmont, NJ, and served as captain in the Army. A memorial service was held March 8.

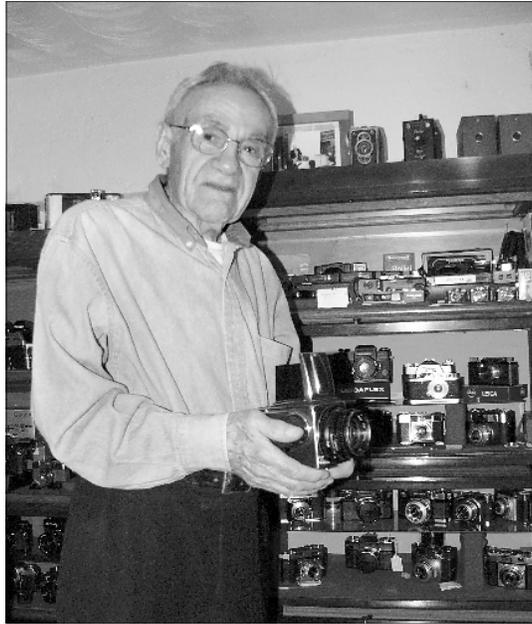
"Marty May was just a great guy who specialized in a wide variety of daguerreotypes at our Photographica shows," said former Show Manager Ed Shaw. "We have missed him at recent shows due to his illness. He knew the subject of dags and shared his knowledge with show attendees whether you bought from him or not. We are pleased that his table partner Craig Pflug will carry on his tradition."

What Got You Started, Vincent Tassinari? **I Received a New SLR As a Retirement Gift**

When Vincent Tassinari retired at 65 from Stone & Webster, the global construction firm, the company gave him a Canon AT-1. That gift launched not a retirement but two additional careers as a camera collector and dealer. Twenty-six years later Tassinari, now 91 and PHSNE's oldest member, is still a regular at Photographica's dealer tables.

Tassinari says he got started as a dealer when he saw other PHSNE members selling cameras at the pre-meeting sales tables. "I figured if those guys could do it, so could I — I thought it might pay for my collecting. For years I took three tables at Photographica. This time I'm cutting back to one."

Tassinari's son, Mark, and daughter, Pat Smith, often help their father out at the tables. "I don't know anything



Vincent Tassinari cradles a Hasselblad.

about cameras," Smith says, "but I enjoy the people. And so does Dad. I don't think he'll ever quit."

"He says it's not the cameras, it's the quest," says Smith. "When he goes out to hit the yard sales he never knows what he's going to find, what it will be worth, what he'll sell it for. He's a numbers guy, and boy, does he know his numbers."

While it may not be about the cameras, Tassinari obviously has a love affair with fine equipment and his share of stories that underscore the inevitable conflict between being a dealer and being a collector.

In particular, there were a twin-lens Contaflex and a Contax 1-E with a rare lens that he found and later sold. "I have a few regrets," he says, "like selling cameras at the level of the Contaflex."

But at Photographica 65 in April you may be able to talk Vincent Tassinari into parting with one of his cameras . . . if you can meet his numbers. — *David DeJean*

What Got You Started, Warren Patrick? **I Didn't Know What It Was, But I Took It**

By Warren S. Patrick

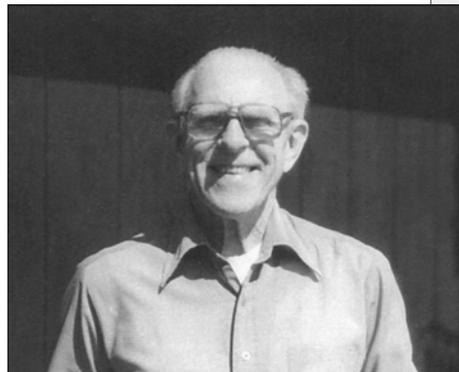
Perhaps what really started me as a collector, although I have always been somewhat of a shutterbug, was when a friend in town, knowing my interest in cameras, came to my door in 1968. He had been appointed executor of an estate and was cleaning out the house. He was holding an object like it was something was ready for the dump.

He'd found it in the attic and, since it looked like a camera, wondered if I would like it. It had been through a fire and was slightly charred.

Not knowing exactly what it was myself (remember, I was a real novice), I thanked him and took it.

However, I did have a copy of the first comprehensive book on camera collecting written by Harry Gross in 1965. Sometime later, I looked through the book and discovered that I had an early daguerreotype camera with original folding wooden stand and plates.

I subsequently put this camera into the first-ever all-photographic auction held at Parke-Bernet Galleries in New York in February 1970. It brought a price of \$2,600, the highest paid for such an item up to that time.



Warren Patrick and the camera that got him started, a half-plate daguerreotype camera on a wooden tripod.



I had the honor and pleasure of meeting Harry Gross at a later PHSNE sale, at which time I sold him a 35mm Pathé motion picture camera.

What got you started as a collector? Was it a special camera, a beautiful image, or an inspiring person? snap shots wants your story. Contact Editor David DeJean at 617-969-7054, or e-mail him: ddejean@dejean.com.

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. They have worked with the Publications Committee to produce a "Writer Guidelines and Editorial Policy" document that describes the range of materials they are looking for and the process of preparing submissions for publication. These guidelines are available upon request.

Keep in mind that Journal readers are interested in the historical context, relevance, or significance of your topic. Topics are virtually endless, but your article must go beyond show-and-tell description of equipment or images to provide research, analysis, and criticism that reveals your special knowledge of photographic history.

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 to insure that it is not blocked as junk.

A Party Invitation

Join in helping to get *snap shots* to your fellow members! Call Cindy Stebbins at 781-337-1263 and invite yourself to the monthly mailing party, where you can get to know your fellow members better and help to put *snap shots* in the mail!

FIRST CLASS MAIL
Address Service
Requested

Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Meeting: Sunday, April 2, 2006
Richard Potter: 'Historic Natick Slide Show'

PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month except July and August 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.

May 7 — Annual PHSNE Field Trip: A visit to the home and collection of Alan Kattelle.

June 4 — "Gershwin to Gillespie, Portraits in American Music," at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, MA.

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. PHSNE member Ralph Johnston is the Web master.

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