

## COVID-19 (aka coronavirus) Causes Cancellation of *Photographica*

The photo below shows a portion of page 1 from the April issue that was not to be. The cover page offered details about *Photographica* 89 and contained photos of a few of the cameras that were to be sold at the PHSNE auction following the show.

As you are probably aware, if you have seen any of the emails or online announcements, we were forced to cancel the April 18<sup>th</sup> show when Newton North High School banned all outside guests due to the coronavirus crisis. If they had not canceled the venue, we probably would have made the same decision to protect the health of our members, dealers, and guests. Hundreds of people attend *Photographica*, and all the experts are advising us to avoid large public gatherings.

A decision will be made soon as to whether and/or when the show can be rescheduled. It's impossible to make that determination until we have a better sense of the direction this pandemic is taking.

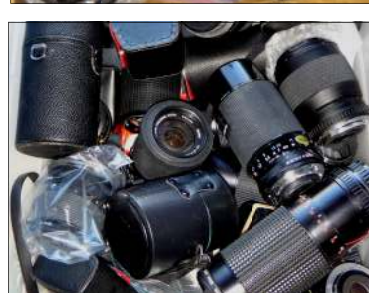
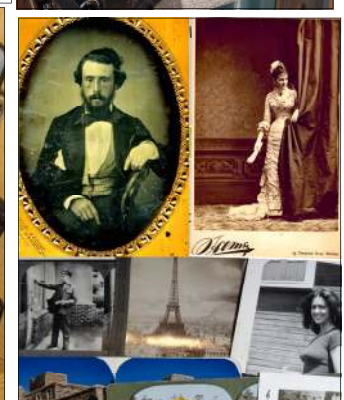
We have also learned that the Davis Museum at Wellesley College has had to close their photo exhibits to the public and also cancel the field trip that was to be the May PHSNE meeting. It is hoped that members will be able to see the excellent exhibit at a future date.

## PHSNE UPDATE

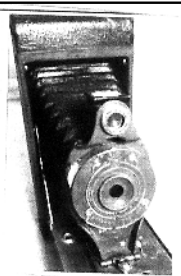
As of this writing, *Photographica* is canceled on April 18<sup>th</sup>, and the field trip to the Davis Museum at Wellesley is canceled on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will have time to assess the situation regarding the meeting that is scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> and will notify members in a timely manner. Look for further updates in emails and on the PHSNE website.

## Donations Keep Coming In


The warehouse crew is processing large volumes of donated and consignment items that keep pouring in for the next auction, whenever it takes place.



*Photographica* 89, Saturday, April 18, 2020  
Largest Selection of Cameras, Images, Photographic Ephemera  
in New England  
PHSNE Auction to Follow  
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Newton North High School  
457 Walnut St., Newtonville MA 02460  
General Admission: \$5.00; Seniors \$4.00  
Free for Members, Students, Photography Teachers,  
and Active Duty Military  
Early Bird: 7:00 A.M. (\$20)  
Dollar Table Opens 11:00 A.M.  
[www.phsne.org](http://www.phsne.org)



Auction to Follow, 4:00 P.M.  
Auctioneer Marti Jones  
Preview Auction Items Online  
A Week Before the Auction  
[phsne.org/auction](http://phsne.org/auction)  
Cameras Pictured on This Page  
Will Be Sold at the Auction



## Who is William Friese-Greene? (1855-1921)

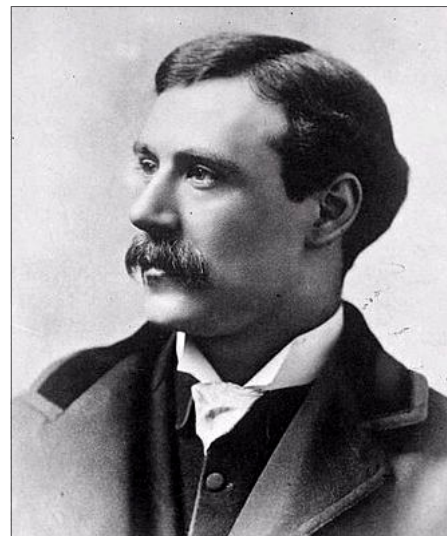
In the December 2019 *snap shots*, a photographic “whodunit” examined conflicting information about who should be credited with the invention of the motion picture camera. The debate focused on the claim of Leon Bouly vs. the Lumiere brothers; the name of Louis LePrince was mentioned in passing.

Other possibilities exist. “The Lumière Brothers were not the only ones to claim the title of the first cinematographers. The scientific chronophotography devices developed by Eadweard Muybridge, Étienne-Jules Marey and Ottomar Anschütz in the 1880s were able to produce moving photographs, and William Friese-Greene’s ‘machine camera’, patented in 1889, did so on a strip of film. Thomas Edison’s Kinetoscope (developed by William Kennedy Dickson), premiered publicly in 1894” (<https://tinyurl.com/nk96t86>).

Friese-Greene was a “prolific English inventor and professional photographer. He is principally known as a pioneer in the field of motion pictures, creating a series of cameras in the period 1888–1891 with which he shot moving pictures in London. He went on to patent an early two-colour filming process in 1905. His inventions in the field of printing – includ-

ing photo-typesetting and a method of printing without ink – brought him wealth, as did his chain of photographic studios. However, he spent everything he earned on inventing, going bankrupt three times and being jailed once, before dying in poverty” ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Friese-Greene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Friese-Greene)).

Friese-Greene experimented with magic lanterns, paper roll film, and celluloid. In 1889 he was granted a patent for a movie camera “capable of taking up to ten photographs per second using paper and celluloid film.” In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, he experimented with color motion pictures, and he patented a two-color system for moving pictures, which he called Biocolour.



William Friese-Greene, Wikipedia.org

Some of Friese-Greene’s financial difficulties arose from patent disputes over the Biocolour process and the timing of WW I which interrupted experimentation on color movies.

His name is interesting. Born William Edward Green, he took on his wife’s maiden name (Helene Friese), unusual even today but a rare move in his time. No explanation could be found for the addition of the “e” to Green.

An unauthentic and unsuccessful biographical film, *Friese-Greene, Close-Up of an Inventor* was remade as an even more unauthentic biopic *The Magic Box* in 1951. Despite these attempts to bring his career to the attention of the public, he remains relatively unknown.

After his death, his son, Claude Friese-Greene, continued work on the system which he now called the Friese-Greene Natural Colour Process. The process was used for several documentary films and eventually highlighted in a BBC series *The Lost World of Friese-Greene*.

### PHSNE Membership

*New members are invited to join for half the rates for the first year.* Regular PHSNE membership (U.S. and Canada) is \$20 for students, \$40 for individuals and institutions, and \$45 for a family; foreign membership is \$50. Join or renew online at [www.phsne.org/join](http://www.phsne.org/join) or [www.phsne.org/renew](http://www.phsne.org/renew), or send a check in U.S. dollars, drawn on a U.S. bank or dollar denominated international money order. Please check the expiration date on the *snap shots* mailing label before sending in dues.

Send payments, changes of address, and other contact information, to Joe Walters Jr, PHSNE Membership Chair, 47 Calvary St., Waltham MA 02453. (Call: 617-826-9294; email: [membership-chair@phsne.org](mailto:membership-chair@phsne.org); or use the Web form at [phsne.org/application](http://phsne.org/application)).

*snap shots*, edited by Beverly Regelman, is published monthly, September through June, by the Photographic Historical Society of New England, Inc., 47 Calvary St., Waltham MA 02453. It is available at <http://phsne.org/member-services/archives/> within a few days of mailing. Articles and exhibition/book reviews are always welcome. Send to [snapshots@phsne.org](mailto:snapshots@phsne.org). Authors retain copyright to their original articles; however upon written application to the *snap shots* editor, PHSNE may grant non-profit societies with similar aims and interests a one-time right to reproduce a *snap shots* article as long as the author and source are credited and a complimentary copy of the publication is sent to PHSNE.



## Sony Mavica Line

“Mavica (*Magnetic Video Camera*) was a brand of Sony cameras which used removable disks as the main recording medium. In August 1981, Sony unveiled a prototype of the Sony Mavica as the world's first electronic still camera” ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sony\\_Mavica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sony_Mavica)).

The early models weren't digital, but relied on an analog video signal produced by the sensor, and the pictures were shown on a television screen. They are considered forerunners of digital photography because the Mavica name was also used for a series of digital cameras.

In 1996, Sony introduced the Mavica FD5 and FD7 simultaneously. “These two were the first truly digital models in the Mavica series from Sony, as the earlier Mavicas were still-video cameras recording analog scan lines onto 2" Video Floppies. The FD designation referred to the use of 3.5" computer floppy disks for storage, which continued through to the 2002 Mavica FD100 and FD200” ([http://camera-wiki.org/wiki/Sony\\_Mavica\\_FD7](http://camera-wiki.org/wiki/Sony_Mavica_FD7)).



Sony MVC-FD81

mostly a curiosity today” ([http://camera-wiki.org/wiki/Sony\\_Mavica\\_FD91](http://camera-wiki.org/wiki/Sony_Mavica_FD91)).

A later Mavica series stored images on 8 cm compact discs. This included the Mavica MVC-CD200, 250, 300, 350, and the 400 which was the “first Mavica to use ‘Hologram AF’ laser-assisted low-light autofocus” ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sony\\_Mavica#Digital\\_Mavica\\_line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sony_Mavica#Digital_Mavica_line)). The Mavica line is no longer being produced.



Sony MVC-FD7

The higher-end FD7 used a sensor used a 640x480 pixel sensor and saved JPEGs image files. Images could be saved in pastel, sepia, and black-and-white.

The next series of Mavicas include the FD71, the mid-range FD81, and the top-of-the-line FD91. All cameras in this line stored images on standard floppy disks. The cameras accommodated much higher pixel resolutions, so fewer images could be stored on a disk. “With its ungainly body design and image quality lagging even its 1998 peers, the FD91 is



Above: Sony MVC-CD 200; Below: MVC-CD 500



### Griffin Museum Requests Donations

Several months ago Drew Epstein, President of the Board of the Griffin Museum, wrote to PHSNE requesting high quality images for a collector's exhibit scheduled to open April 2<sup>nd</sup>, but plans for *Private Collections* were disrupted by the coronavirus.

In an update, Epstein wrote, "I have worked very hard to organize a wonderful exhibit of photographs and things related to photography from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The exhibition is being postponed for a month and not cancelled. If all goes well, *Private Collections* will go on exhibit for five weeks starting on April 30 through June 7, 2020."

Epstein noted in his original request that he asked about 15 to 20 collectors to lend photographs to the Museum for the exhibition and "received very positive response from both collectors and other members of the photography community. The show will feature the best fine-art photography from selected, mostly Boston area collections."

Collectors are lending the Griffin a very diverse selection of photographs from a variety of collection interests. These include works by Steichen and August Sander, music photos, vernacular images, vintage photos of cigar store Indians, and folk-art portraits copied in the mid-1850's as daguerreotypes. It is amazing what kinds of photo related things people collect.

I am looking for people who collect dags, stereo images and old cameras. I just need a few things to round out the exhibit. My cell phone is always in my pocket: 617-272-5700."

### PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month, September to June, at 1:30 p.m. preceded by an open meeting of the PHSNE Board at 11:00 a.m.

#### Upcoming meetings:

**May 3**—Field trip canceled

**June 7**—TBD—possibly Stacy Waldman, House of Mirth Photos

We will post updates on the website and send information via email when we are able to determine whether we can hold a June meeting. In the meantime, please follow the guidelines issued by health authorities during the next few weeks or months and stay healthy. We will gather as soon as the current pandemic is under control.

#### Connect to PHSNE Online and by email:

PHSNE's Web site is online at <http://phsne.org>. See <https://www.facebook.com/PHSNE/> for items of PHSNE interest. Comments are welcome, so join the discussion of photo history. Visit <http://phsne.org/member-services/archives/> for PHSNE history and *snapshots* issues. Scheduling changes due to weather conditions or other factors will be posted on this website.

Stay connected to PHSNE via our emails: a *snap shots* e-copy, and *Photographa* show announcements. Sign up at <http://phsne.org/emails>.

### Websites of Interest

#### Film is Still Being Manufactured

<https://thedarkroom.com/film-index/> — San Clemente (CA)-based The Darkroom, a mail-order film processor recently acquired by Ilford, has published a list of all analog film stock generally available for still cameras in the US market. Divided into processing types, there are 18 C-41, 5 E-6 and 23 conventional b/w silver gelatin brands listed. All are in 35mm and, happily, many in 120, with a few also in 4x5 and 8x10. The PHSNE member who submitted this sites said, "I didn't see any APS, 110, Instamatic or 16mm cassette films mentioned, though they are probably still out there ... somewhere."

<https://filmphotographyproject.com/content/news/2019/10/ortho-plus-new-films-ilford/> — Ilford announces that "We are expanding the world's biggest selection of black & white films with the addition of ILFORD ORTHO PLUS in 135 and 120 formats. As the name suggests this is an orthochromatic black and white film (all other ILFORD and Kentmere films are panchromatic) rated at ISO 80 in natural light and ISO 40 in Tungsten." According to the Director of Marketing and Sales, "Our Ortho film was designed as a technical, high-resolution copy film for negatives and has been available in sheet format for some time. We know photographers want choice and love to try new films and so we have now coated our Ortho emulsion onto an acetate base for 35mm cassettes and 120 rolls."