



**With Hopes of Meeting In Person Soon
PHSNE Offers Holiday Greetings
To Members and Their Families
With Wishes For
A Safe and Healthy New Year**

Members Share Treasures at December PHSNE Meeting

PHSNE invites you to an online Show and Tell to take place on Sunday, December 6th at 7:30 P.M. We invite members across the U.S. and worldwide to share one of the treasures in their collections. To participate, please prepare a brief (5-6 minute) presentation. You can feature a camera, images, a project—anything of interest to PHSNE members. Sign up at <https://signup.com/go/dmDkdpz>. The Zoom meeting link will be sent to members before the meeting.

Silver Lining to Zoom Meetings

Adapting to a Zoom format allows members far from New England to enjoy PHSNE's monthly programs. Close to 50 people from as far away as the west coast heard Steve Dunwell's excellent presentation on November 1st, and feedback was positive. We urge you to click on to these monthly events.

COVID Spoils Holiday and Other Plans

PHSNE regrets that there can be no holiday party this year, and no Members' Auction. Many donations are arriving every month, and the warehouse is quite full. We hope we will be able to have a well-attended and highly successful Members' Auction next year.

A larger auction traditionally is scheduled to follow *Photographica shows*. We will follow ever-changing guidelines, but it is highly unlikely that the annual show can safely take place this year.

Merci, Gracias, Danke, Thank You

For donations

Donations of cameras and other photographic items are pouring into the warehouse in large numbers from members and families who are downsizing or clearing out personal collections. We appreciate the gifts and remind members that PHSNE is ready to help with the disposition of collections.

Cameras or lenses which are vintage, folding, art deco, "box" style, etc. are welcome. PHSNE is trying to find new homes for equipment that could be put to use by our membership, educational institutions, and friends to create lasting images. Keep it out of a landfill and find new uses. We cannot accept tripods, screens, or projectors.

Items also may be consigned to PHSNE in which case the proceeds will be divided. For collectibles, PHSNE will put the items on Ebay for a small fee. On request, PHSNE will provide a letter acknowledging the donation for tax purposes.

For volunteering

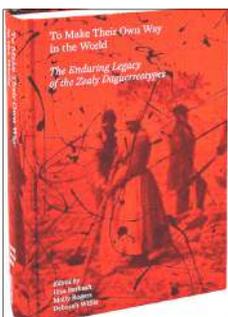
PHSNE relies on its Board and volunteers to create and edit publications, provide membership



services, repair and prepare cameras for auction, outreach to schools, and more. Kudos to the following:

- Board: President Joel Moses, Vice-President John Felix, Secretary Larry Woods, Treasurer Greg Crisci; Members At Large: John Dockery, Ron Polito, Lew Regelman, Paul Roberts, Henry Weisenburger
- *Journal* Committee: John Felix, Ryck Lent, Ron Polito, Joe Walters
- Membership Chair: Joe Walters
- Program Chair: Dana Gee
- School Outreach: Holly Worthington
- *snap shots* Proofreaders: Ron Polito, Joe Walters
- Warehouse Crew: Allan Goodrich, Dick Koolish, Joel Moses, Lew Regelman, Joe Walters
- Website—new site design/development: Ryck Lent
- Website—standby site: Joe Walters

To Make Their Own Way in the World: The Enduring Legacy of the Zealy Daguerreotypes



A book recently published by Harvard University's Peabody Museum is a timely addition to the current discussions about racial justice. *To Make Their Own Way in the World: The Enduring Legacy of the Zealy Daguerreotypes* features fifteen daguerreotypes of enslaved men and women.

In an article in *Aperture*, as well as in the preface of the book, the museum's Director of Archaeology and Ethnology Jane Pickering wrote, "Museums and archives today are in the throes of profound change as they grapple with the fraught legacies of colonialism, imperialism, and slavery—all of which played fundamental roles in building cultural institutions of the Western world. Exploring and acknowledging the complex histories of their institutions, scholars and museum professionals are scrutinizing with new eyes the objects, documents, and photographs housed and curated in these collections" (<https://aperture.org/featured/zealy-daguerreotypes-a-note-from-the-peabody-museums-director/?p=85557/>).

PHSNE Membership

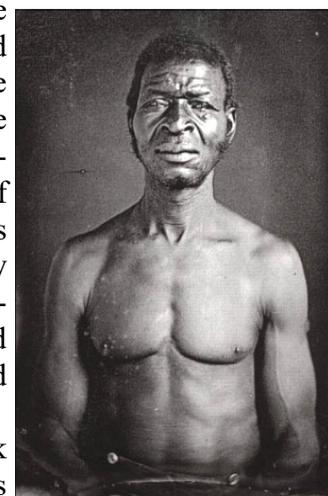
New members are invited to join for half the rates for the first year. Regular PHSNE membership (U.S. and Canada) is \$20 for students, \$40 for individuals and institutions, and \$45 for a family; foreign membership is \$50. Join or renew online at <https://phsne.org/join> or <https://phsne.org/renew>, 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; or use the Web form at <https://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 <https://snapshots.phsne.org> within a few days of mailing. Articles and exhibition/book reviews are always welcome. Send to 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.

Pickering notes that, "The daguerreotypes that are the focus of this volume are among those materials: vivid and visceral records of our country's original sin of slavery." They were acquired by Harvard in 1850, brought there by Louis Agassiz, a professor of geology and zoology who founded the Museum of Comparative Zoology. They were intended to support his theory, already discounted by contemporary scientists (including Darwin), that the races evolved from separate beings and that Blacks were inferior to whites.

Set aside and forgotten for over a hundred years, the daguerreotypes were rediscovered in 1976, and "the photographs have been prominent in the awareness of Black Americans, of descendants of slavery, and of scholars and artists ever since. They are evidence of pain, coercion, exploitation, and tragedy—and Harvard played a role in that."



Jack, 1850, Joseph T. Zealy
Wikimedia Commons
<https://tinyurl.com/y4ypwcth>

Publication of the book fits nicely into Harvard's university-wide initiative launched in 2019 examining its role in the Legacy of Slavery. Harvard President Lawrence Bacow noted the importance of understanding how traditions and culture at Harvard "are shaped by our past and by our surroundings—from the ways the university benefitted from the Atlantic slave trade to the debates and advocacy for abolition on campus." He expressed his hope that "the work of this new initiative will help the university gain important insights about our past and the enduring legacy of slavery— while also providing an ongoing platform for our conversations about our present and our future as a university community committed to having our minds opened and improved by learning."

Online Focus 45 from George Eastman House

Visit <https://www.eastman.org/focus-45> for details about the webinar *Not Just Cameras* and other online events offered by GEH.

Photake Doubles the Pleasure, Doubles the Fun Wrigley Gum Premium Enhances Collection



The Photake camera was manufactured in the 1890's by the Chicago Camera Company. It was a seamless cylindrical camera, taking 5 photos on 2 x 2" glass

plates. The camera top rotated to advance the plates into position. The camera came with an achromatic f14/120mm lens and a guillotine shutter. The Photake, which originally sold for \$2.50, came packed in a wooden box with a small piece of ruby paper; also included was a candle and instructions on how to hold same over the ruby paper to make a safe light. Most versions had a waist level view finder, although a French version had a flip up eye level finder. Today the camera is often found missing the viewfinder.

Recently I obtained a model that was never supplied with the riveted holder for a viewfinder. Upon further research, I found it to be a rare version offered as a premium by the Wrigley Gum Company. William Wrigley, Jr., the company founder, is quoted as saying, "Everyone likes something extra, for nothing." Wrigley was a pioneer in offering premiums. He originally sold soap and gave away baking power. Later, knowing that photography was be-



Rosenthal's camera atop book about the Wrigley Gum Company

coming increasingly popular, his chewing gum company gave away Photake cameras. Accompanying the camera were "6 dry plates, 12 sheets of sensitized paper, developing and fixing chemicals, ruby paper and candle, and a book of instruction."

WRIGLEY'S CAMERA OFFER.

THE PHOTAKE CAMERA is made of seamless brass, with a handsome oxidized finish. It has no complex mechanism to lose or get out of order, yet is complete and will take any kind of a picture, snap shot, flash light, or time exposure. It has a high-grade lens, simplest and most durable shutter, and a long focus. Pictures taken with it are positively free from distortion. Instead of kinky films it uses regular glass plates which makes the developing and finishing of pictures easy. It takes a picture of a size worth preserving and negatives are so sharp that they can be enlarged to any size if desired. Every camera is thoroughly tested and guaranteed. With it is sent an outfit consisting of six dry plates, 12 sheets of sensitized paper, developing and fixing chemicals, ruby light and a book of instructions.

FREE!
with 8 boxes, or 160 Five-Cent Packages of WRIGLEY'S CHEWING GUMS. \$8.00 worth of Gum and the Camera for

\$ 5.50

MANUFACTURED BY
WM. WRIGLEY JR. & CO.,
CHICAGO AND PHILADELPHIA.

While the Photake in my collection lacks the provision for a finder, there were models with both waist and eye level finders, but they were not models included in the Wrigley offer. Further research was completed through the Duke University Digital Repository, See <http://camera-wiki.org/wiki/Photake>.

~Story and photos by PHSNE member Bill Rosenthal

More Photake Facts

The camera is rare and valuable: Multi-thousand dollar sales are shown at high-end auction companies and on ebay. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/y6hv7t2s> for more information about this unusual camera.

Three Photographic Shows at Andover

Recently reopened, following COVID guidelines, Phillips Andover Academy in Andover MA is featuring three concurrent photographic exhibits.

Robert Frank: The Americans is on display at the Addison Gallery until April 11, 2021. Reviewing the three exhibits, *Boston Globe* reporter Mark Feeny characterized all as excellent and noted with regard to *Frank* that “one of them offers a very rare exhibition pleasure: It’s a revelation about a revelation” (<https://tinyurl.com/y4qof8qy>).



Robert Frank, 4th of July, Jay NY
1955-56, reprinted 1981

Referring to the book *The Americans*, published over sixty years ago, Feeny wrote “so much surrounding the book and the response to it verges on photographic legend. How Frank, who died last year, at 94, spent most of two years traveling more than 10,000 miles, made more than 27,000 exposures — and then chose just 83 for publication.” Feeny notes that the book survived early criticism before it

“fired the imaginations of photographers,” and noted that it “remains enormously influential.”

The rave review goes on to say, “Seeing the photographs together on a wall makes you appreciate, as the cumulative effect in a book can’t, just what an achievement *The Americans* is. Not achievement in the sense of influence or milestone — though it’s certainly those things. A visitor is likely to know that already; or, if not, the wall text points it out . . . No, it’s achievement as sheer artistry: As fine as all the images are, there are more than a dozen photographic greatest hits among them, instantly recognizable to anyone with much familiarity with the medium — and no less instantly indelible to anyone seeing them for the first time.”

Running through February 21, 2021, *An Incomplete History of Photography: 1860s to 1960s* is a relatively small exhibit in the museum’s Learning Center. It consists of just 30 images, but many are iconic images by the most famous photographers including Alfred Stieglitz, Robert Capa, Diane Arbus, and Lewis Hines. Classes meet in the Learning Cen-

PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month, September to June. Meetings are being held online during the COVID restrictions.

Upcoming meetings:

January 3—Robert Currier, Boston Fires

February 7—Nicole Bromberg, East Becoming West

Connect to PHSNE Online and by email:

PHSNE’s Web site is online at <https://phsne.org>. See <https://www.facebook.com/PHSNE/> for items of PHSNE interest. Comments are welcome, so join the discussion of photo history. Visit <https://snapshots.phsne.org> for *snap shots* issues since 2005. 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 <https://phsne.org/emails>.

ter which limits access to the exhibit. Call ahead for a schedule to avoid disappointment.



Robert Capa, Death of a Loyalist Militiaman,
Cordoba, Front, Spain, 1936

Roy DeCarava, on display in the Exhibition Hall through January 3, 2021, is smaller still, consisting of only 14 images, but “they’re so abundant in variation

and texture that that in no way feels like a limitation.” According to Feeny, “DeCarava is that rare photographer for whom darkness matters nearly as much as light. The gradations of tone he achieves are a marvel.”

There is no charge for admission to the museum; however advance tickets are required to limit capacity during the pandemic.



Roy DeCarava, El Station, man's back,
1949, reprinted 1981

Visit the museum’s website at <https://addison.andover.edu/Pages/default.aspx>.