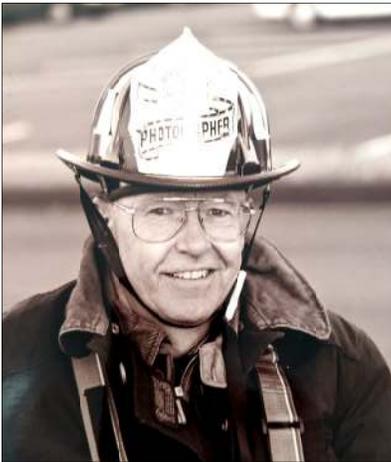




From My Archives: Regional Fire Ground Photography From the 1970s and 1980s
PHSNE Program Features Award Winning Photographer Robert Currier
Sunday, January 3, 2021, 7:30 P.M. via Zoom
Link to Zoom meeting will be emailed to members in December



Robert M. Currier has been taking photographs for over five decades. Subjects of interest are landscapes, portraiture, and mill buildings, but he is best known for his fire ground photography (taken in an active fire scene in which

emergency services are operating). He has been featured twice in the nationally circulated *Black and White Magazine* and was awarded Gold Recognition for photojournalism and two Honorable Mentions in the categories of objects and portrait.

In the August 2017 issue of *Black and White Magazine*, Currier received a Merit Award and a two-page spread of his fire ground photography. His work was also featured in a regional juried show of photojournalists at the Fairfield Museum and History



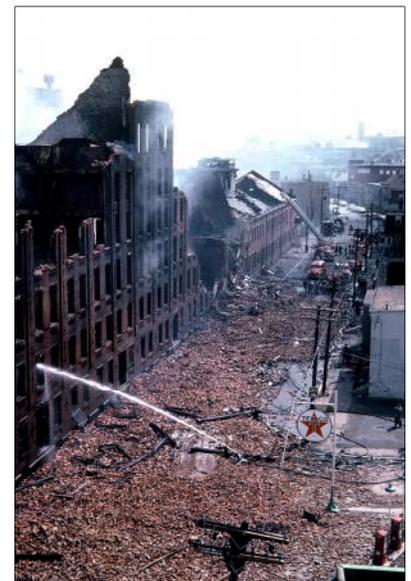
Irish/Israeli Embassies on Newbury Street, Boston, Mass. 1972

Center in Fairfield Connecticut. He has won several awards at the Newburyport Art Association where he served on the organization's board for 20 years.



Plante Shoe Factory Fire, Jamaica Plain, Mass. 1973

Currier's fire ground photography is highly prized by firefighter's and firehouses throughout New England. His ability to bring a highly trained eye to action scenes results in compelling images of firefighter's doing what they do best. Many of the images are "eerily beautiful" and the background of how he arrived on the scene is always an adventure story.



J.P. Squire Meat Packing Plant, Cambridge, Mass. 1963

“One Instant” Gives New Life to Polaroid 100 Cameras

The October 2015 *snap shots* featured an article about the Impossible Project created to develop instant film to be used in pack Polaroids. Fujifilm, which had manufactured the film after Polaroid discontinued it, ended its production of instant packfilm in 2016. The format is back now, with the launching



One Instant Packfilm, type 100 P7 Color
30+ euros

of One Instant, making those old cameras using Polaroid or Fuji 100 peel-apart film useful once again. The film is expensive, but worth it if you are a fan of the Polaroid cameras.

Florian Kaps, previously associated with the Impossible Project, founded Supersense to preserve the future of the medium. “With united forces and outside the box thinking, we managed to develop a completely new approach . . . inspired by Edwin H. Land's quote ‘Any problem

can be solved using the materials in the room.’ We are proud to introduce you to ONE INSTANT— not a classic packfilm, not even daring to compete with the classic film legends of packfilm history, but a next generation instant film, based on a new, radical concept, designed to be used in ALL these thousands of legendary classic type 100 packfilm cameras out there” (<https://supersense.com/oneinstant/>).

The film, paper, and pods are provided by 20x24 Studio and cut by AGFA; all other parts are manufactured and assembled manually in the company's Vienna facility. “Not including many of the preparatory and finishing steps, it takes one individual approximately 10 minutes to produce a single ONE INSTANT cartridge.” On the website, Kaps describes the complicated steps in preparing the processing insert and the positive sub-assembly. Development time is three minutes.

The website boasts, “Forget everything you know about or expect from traditional peel-apart instant packfilm, be amazed by the comeback of the legendary P7 material, delight yourself with a pristine selection of instant film lover rewards, call us crazy, call us expensive, fall in love with us, hate us, allow us to take your all analog breath away. The future of packfilm has only just begun.”



Photo by Cromwell Schubarth
Taken with One Instant film

Celebrated as a “quick bit of good news,” the company announced in late October 2020 that they are caught up on orders and One Instant orders can now ship immediately. Supersense has been raising funds to support continued production. They launched a kickstarter fund and, for a while, sold T shirts with a One Instant message.

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>).

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Conversation Corner:

Midland Wearable Action Camera

A PHSNE member recently tried to get more information about the Midland, a small, lightweight, unusual camera in his collection. It was not listed in McKeown's (1997-98), and there was no entry for it in camera-wiki.

Links to ads indicated that the camera was "not available." He would be interested in hearing from a PHSNE member who has used it. Please contact snapshots@phsne.org if you can add to the conversation.

The one online resource that had any useful information about the Midland asked the provocative question, "What don't you want to shoot while careening down that mountain or jumping out of that plane?" (<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/755928-REG/>). It goes on to say, "the Midland XTC200VP3 720p HD XTC Wearable Action

Camera is a wallet-friendly way to capture every nano-second of the experience—and all in 720p HD! High definition footage makes for detailed images that look great on the big screen (AKA, your HDTV)."

Weighing less than three ounces, the camera comes with several mounts and a 140 degree wide-angle lens. These features allow you to "record from any angle imaginable, whether you're in flight, on a bike, driving a car. . . You get the picture."

The camera is capable of recording 13 minutes per gigabit in HD and 20 minutes per gigabit in standard def. "When you're done shooting, just pop those files onto your compatible PC or Mac and edit away with your favorite editing software—or simply upload to the 'net!'"



Werra Wears Well

When a PHSNE member pulled a camera off a display shelf, he was taken aback by the lack of identification. Turning it over repeatedly, there was no name immediately visible anywhere on the camera; the only identification was of the Zeiss lens.

Finally, he noticed the word Werra embossed on the back, barely visible against a body of the same color, and he was able to find the camera in *McKeown's*. Interestingly, the cameras photographed in *McKeown's* and most viewed online show the Werra name prominently on the front of the camera.

Most Werra cameras are 35mm rangefinders cameras manufactured by the Carl Zeiss Jena factory, a company known primarily for its lenses. However, the model shown does not have a rangefinder, marking it as an early model. The lens must be manually set for distance.

"The most unique feature of the Werra is the covered ring around the lens barrel. Twisting the ring cocks the shutter and advanced the film in one motion. In addition, the lens cap doubles as a shade" (<https://tinyurl.com/y6yjdxtk>). Markings and logos on various models differ because exports were caught in the conflict between divisions of the company in East and West Germany.

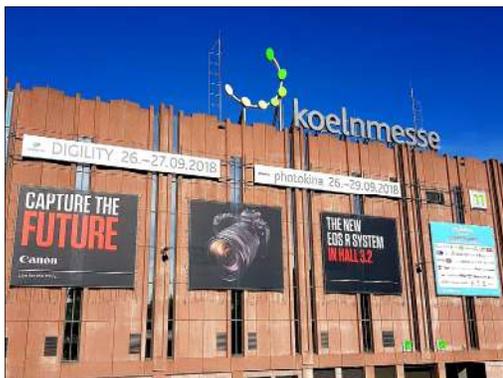
"The cameras offer a high degree of control with a minimum number of levers, knobs or rings. In their simplest incarnations, the Werras featured only a shutter release button on the top plate. With its streamlined styling, one could call the Werras a design camera. Nearly all other controls were incorporated into the lens barrel."

The olive green finish looks like leather but sounds like plastic. The removable lens protector, covered with the same finish, screws on to the front of the lens to become the sunshade.

Werra cameras manufactured for export had a "Q1" logo on the barrel or shutter speed dial for first quality. Models intended for domestic consumption lacked the logo. Since the model shown does not have such a logo, it was probably produced for sale in Germany.



Photokina: Another Casualty of the Times



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Photokina_2018_Messehalle.jpg

Photokina, the iconic international photographic trade show based in Cologne has been discontinued, at least for the immediate future. In its press re-

lease, parent company Koelemesse reported that, “Unfortunately, at present the framework conditions in the industry do not provide a viable basis for the leading international trade fair for photography, video and imaging” (<https://tinyurl.com/yxs5trfg>.

Coming after a 70 year run, it was a very difficult decision, but one that was in keeping with the current situation. The market was already in steep decline, even before the COVID epidemic took a further hit that resulted in “a decline in the 50 percent range.”

Acknowledging the current reality, the press release notes that, “While there are more photographs taken today than ever before, the integration of smartphone photography and videography, together with image-based communication, e.g. via social media, was not able to cushion the elimination of large segments of the classic market. As a result, the overall situation is not compatible with the quality standards of photokina as a globally renowned brand representing the highest quality and professionalism in the international imaging market.”

According to Wikipedia, photokina has taken place “biennially in September at the koelnmesse Trade Fair and Exhibition Centre in Deutz” (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photokina>). Attendance was robust: approximately 185,000 in 2012 and 2014, and 191,000 in 2016. The event was shortened in 2018 in anticipation of the a new annual cycle to begin in 2019. Then the coronavirus hit, and the outlook changed dramatically. Initially planning to delay the annual cycle until 2020, it was eventually evident that the event could not meet expectations and was suspended indefinitely.

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:

February 7—Nicole Bromberg, East Becoming West

March 7—Mary Panzer, Street Vendor Portraits

April 4—Robert Shanebrook, Making Kodak Film

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>.

Websites of Interest

<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/>—“This site



Fencing, Abbot Female Seminary

provides access to photographs, manuscripts, books, audio recordings, and other materials of historical interest that have been digitized and made available by

members of Digital Commonwealth, a statewide consortium of libraries, museums, archives, and historical societies from across Massachusetts.”

<https://www.eastman.org/highlights-and-shadows>—

Film about the manufacture of photographic products by Eastman Kodak Co, 1938; contains excellent montage sequences.

<http://www.photosynthesis.co.nz/nikon/serialno.html>—List of Nikon lenses; four serial numbers for each version: Start, Earliest, Latest, End.

<http://www.paulscameracollection.com/Default.aspx>—This website is dedicated to all the camera collectors around the world.