

Photo ~ Nostalgia

January 1974

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ENGLAND

NO. 7

New Officers, Board Elected

Following the slate proposed by the nominating committee, the first elected officers of the Photographic Historical Society of New England were voted into office at the January meeting.

John S. Craig, of Simsbury, Conn., was elected President; Matthew Isenberg, of Hadlyme, Conn., Vice-President; Richard Sanford, of Buzzard's Bay, Mass., Secretary; and Bryon Owens, of Carver, Mass., Treasurer. Elected to the Executive Board were Larry Rochette, Richard Bolt, Robert Pratt, Paul Wing, and Richard Russack. The new officers and board members will serve an interim term until June; Society by-laws, now under final legal review before adoption, will provide for annual elections at that time.

Landmark Cameras

Instant Museum

Matt Isenberg, named Program Chairman for PHSNE at the December meeting, took the initiative at the January meeting to spark lively interest in his presentation of twenty (count 'em, 20) "Landmark Cameras from 1840 to 1950."

Even those of us who have seen the "Century of Cameras" exhibit at the International Museum of Photography (George Eastman House) in Rochester could not fail to be impressed with the array of rare photographic treasures that Matt transferred from his living room to the meeting.

Besides, the camera exhibit at the Eastman House is under glass, and can't be fondled.

Providing excellent historical background material, Matt showed a variety of exciting cameras, including the Voigtlander daguerreotype camera copy, a Lewis bellows daguerreotype camera; Ermanox; Ur-Leica; Sigreist; Kodak Super-620; Tourist Multiple Camera and projector; the only existant Monocular Duplex Reflex camera (America's first reflex hand camera); the original Patent Model Schmidt Detective Camera (and, of course, a later production model); and a host of other apparatus.

Military Mystique

With the possibility of taking away some of the "mystique" that seems to surround the collecting of military images today, Society member Henry (Dan) Deeks will talk on this type of image collecting at the February meeting.

Maintaining a fine military collection of his own, Dan will use a large variety of military images to establish their relationship to history and to other images.

Anyone interested in gaining an insight and understanding of the collecting of military images is urged to attend this meeting. A large display is expected to be available for viewing.

Robert Pratt, volunteer editor of the Society newsletter for the past several issues, has resigned his post.

A new Editor for PHOTO-NOSTALGIA is expected to be appointed prior to the meeting February 3.

Anyone interested in working on the newsletter should contact John Craig or any member of the Board.

John Craig, a member of most of the photographic collecting societies around the country, is active in both buying and selling photographica. He was recently appointed Editor of the quarterly Journal of the Photographic Historical Society of America, Inc.

John and his wife, Valerie, who serves as Vice-President and Secretary of PHSA, have been building a collection of daguerreotypes for the past four years, specializing in images identified by photographer, documented scenics, and occupationals. They have also established an excellent private reference library in the history of photography.

The new Society Vice-President, Matt Isenberg, also serves as Program Chairman. He is a reformed Leica collector, now concentrating on building a representative historical collection of photographic equipment. His wife, Sharon, is a member of the Board of Directors of PHSA, and is building a collection of Union daguerreotype cases, and hopes to write a book on them.

Dick Sanford adds the duties of Society Secretary to his present position as Society Historian. One of the founders of PHSNE, Dick has been an active collector in eastern Massachusetts for about eight years. His collection numbers more than 400 items, with his specialty being large view cameras and early Kodak items.

He said one of his favorite items is an 8x10" wet plate studio camera made by Scovill.

Bryon Owens, also one of the founders of PHSNE, is an avid student of Plymouth, Mass., history, as well as a confirmed camera collector.

His photographic collecting spans about four years, and he is now specializing in pre-1900 box cameras. He says he has about 60 cameras in this category, his favorite being a rare Antique Oak 4x5" wooden box camera by Scovill Mfg. Co.

Bryon also assists the Society as assistant Program Chairman.

NEXT MEETING: February 3, 1974, 1 p.m., at the Old Edgell Library, Framingham Centre, Mass.

PROGRAM: Dan Deeks will talk on Military Image Collecting.

We may have a visit from members of the Boston Photography Survey, and rumor has it Michel Auer may be back in town for a visit.

Address all Society correspondence to P.O.Box 93, Simsbury, Conn. 06070

A NEW YEAR

Under the terms of our By-Laws, which should be ready for adoption at our February meeting, my term as President may only last four months. Where our Society can go in that time is more your responsibility than mine.

We have had a strong beginning--no other photographic historical society in the country, after eight months, can boast of such a large membership, nor of such a fine newsletter. Four of our members, Larry Rochette, Bryon Owens, Dick Sanford, and Dick Bolt, were solely responsible for getting this group organized and off the ground. We had all talked about it for more than two years--but they went out and did it. And I think it has been their initiative that has sparked the interest in the Society and helped it progress as much as it has in the past eight months.

I think we count more constantly active members in our group than almost anywhere else, with more members willing to contribute their time, energy and knowledge to the benefit of us all. It is my job, and that of the Executive Board, to continue to generate this interest and make you feel we have a Society worth participating in.

It will take the co-operation of all our members, through active participation in the meetings, articles for Photo-Nostalgia, in shows and presentations, to keep our Society growing. But is also through this co-operative effort that PHSNE can become one of the strongest, most viable photographic historical societies in the country.

We can count among our active members one of the world's leading camera collectors; two of the country's leading stereo collectors; and among the collections of our members we have one of the best Union case collections; one of the finest daguerreotype collections; and one of the best private photographic research libraries. Many of our members are active in other photographic collecting groups, and in the national organization.

I want our Society to grow--I want us to participate actively in the Photographic Historical Society of America, and such projects locally as the Boston Photography Survey. I want us to have representation in the major photographic research projects that are and will be undertaken. I want us to become more actively engaged in collecting, compiling and then disseminating all the information we can on the history of photography, and to work even harder at preserving and documenting all that we can of our photographic heritage.

We are still in the early years of a field that will continue to grow--and we are right in the middle of where it all began in America--New England.

We can make it all enjoyable--and worthwhile.

---John Craig

THINGS YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT PHOTO HISTORY BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK.....

---The term "Photographica" was coined by a New Jersey collector and dealer in American graphics in a Popular Photography article in May, 1967.

---All cameras sold by the Boston Camera Co. were made either by Blair Camera Co. or the American Camera Co.

---Until just about 1890, all roll holders in Blair and Scovill cameras were manufactured by Kodak.

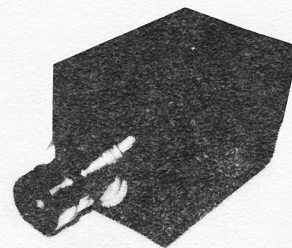
---The first "salesman's sample" of the 4x5-inch Folding Kamaret was ripped off on the 2 p.m. train from Boston February 6th, 1893. Ain't nothin' sacred?

good for parts!?

When someone describes a camera to you as being "good for parts," there is almost always an instant dread of what complete disaster is about to appear.

For one of our far-away members, though, "good-for-parts" was a dream come true, as the antique dealer he was visiting walked through the door with a classic American style, chamfered-front quarter-plate daguerreotype camera. And it was complete with lens and the small ivory knobs.

For Alan Lutz, of Erie, Pa., it was worth all the years he has put in following up "found camera" rumors all over western Pennsylvania. It is Alan's first daguerreotype camera--he missed getting one some time ago through a mistake when he was out antiquing with a fellow collector.



BULLETIN: As we go to press, we learn more of the luck of the Lutz: first, additional goodies for the camera--a wooden posing stand and head clamp, and a rare gilding stand.

The camera lens bears the initials "H.M.," and Alan has learned the camera was used by a William Lloyd in Pittsburgh, Pa.

But the story is not over. The camera was missing a small strip of rosewood veneer on one side. And some nice woman just gave Alan a piece of wood from an old piano. Yep, rosewood veneer, c. 1835, and the grain matches exactly.

PHSNE member Earl Powell, who volunteered to have our proposed By-Laws reviewed by legal counsel, reports the work is done, and he will have the attorney at the February meeting to discuss the By-Laws.

---W.H.Lewis, of daguerreotype apparatus making fame, also held the patents for the Anthony Satchel Detective Camera and the Anthony Novelette view camera.

---Ever see a "Kolumbus Kodak"? Specially-designed series made in 1893 for the Columbian Exposition.

---Ever hear of the Corona Camera Co?

---The Goodwin Film and Camera Co. was formed in 1901, by officers of the Anthony Co (then Scovill & Adams), and Mr. Barker of Barker shutter fame.

PHSA Official; to co-host May show

The Photographic Historical Society of America, Inc., has been officially incorporated, and will co-host the first national photographic collectors show over Memorial Day weekend in Columbus, Ohio.

Letters from PHSA, directed to all local photographic historical societies encouraging their affiliation with the national, will be forthcoming soon. In addition, a letter will be sent to each member of a local society encouraging him to join PHSA through his local group, and spelling out the benefits of membership. Among these benefits are lower national dues than by joining as an individual; subscription to the PHSA quarterly journal; the functional use of a national code of standards and ethics in the interchange of photographica; and participation in more extensive educational and historical exhibits and awards as PHSA co-hosted shows.

stteerreeo

A nationwide organization of stereo collectors is being organized by PHSNE member Richard Russack of Mansfield, Mass.

Rick, who presently has the names of more than 500 persons around the country interested in early stereo photography, said he has received enthusiastic response from his first inquiries about a collecting group.

He said the amazing thing is that more than 50% of the stereo collectors he has contacted do not belong to any existing photographic historical society.

The NATIONAL STEREO ASSOCIATION, as the group will be called, will collect \$10.00 annual dues from its members.

There will be a bi-monthly newsletter, containing articles, research information, and swap and trade columns. Rick said a membership mailing will be made near the end of January, with the first newsletter slated for the end of March.

Anyone interested in joining this new group should contact Rick at 475 Chauncey St., Mansfield, Mass. 02048.

Rochette Honored

Larry Rochette, one of the founders of PHSNE, and chairman of the temporary Executive Board during the Society's first eight months, was elected to honorary membership at the January meeting.

On a motion from the floor, which was seconded and unanimously voted, Larry was honored for his hard work and efforts in helping the Society become a reality.

centennial where?!

At the 1876 Centennial in Philadelphia, the "First Premium for Artistic Excellence in Art Photography" was awarded to one C.D. Mosher, who later announced himself as the "National Historical Photographer to Posterity," and who devised a most interesting plan: selecting Chicago as the seat of the next Centennial, he proceeded to make a series of portraits of prominent men and women, and marked the pictures on the back as follows: --"By Special Request this photograph was taken by Mr. Mosher for the historical collection of Memorial Portraits of

Officers of the PHSA include: Eaton S. Lothrop Jr., President; Donald P. Blake, Senior Vice-President; Nathan R. Skipper Jr., Vice President and Counsel; Valerie P. Craig, Vice President and Secretary; Dr. Robert Bingham, Vice President and Treasurer; and Marvin Kreisman, Vice President and Public Relations.

The quarterly Journal of PHSA, scheduled for publication in April, is edited by John S. Craig of Simsbury, Conn.

All correspondence regarding the national organization should be addressed to P.O. Box 41, Simsbury, Conn. 06070.

The first PHSA co-hosted collectors trade fair will be a three-day even over Memorial Day weekend, sponsored by the Ohio Camera Collectors Society, in Columbus, Ohio. This will also be the occasion for the first meeting of the Board of Directors of PHSA since its incorporation as a non-profit organization in November, 1973.

BPS:historic

Representatives of the BOSTON PHOTOGRAPHY SURVEY, an informal group of photographic historians and collectors, most of whom are associated with Boston museums and/or universities, have been invited to attend the February 3 meeting of PHSNE.

William Johnson, an instructor in the history of photography at Harvard University, and co-ordinator for the SURVEY newsletter, said the purpose of the group at present is to survey the extant collections, both public and private, of early photographic prints, and to gather information about them.

The second purpose of the group, Johnson said, is to become involved with the history of the photographic medium; he added that the people involved with the SURVEY are not specifically interested in the techniques of photography, but rather the history.

To date, the group has issued two newsletters: the first, of 35 pages, and the second, of approximately 60 pages. Both detail existing collections of early photographic prints in some of the Boston museums and university libraries.

An attempt is being made by the President of PHSNE to obtain copies of both of these newsletters for the Society reference collection.

Mr. Johnson has been invited to attend the next meeting of PHSNE, to explain more fully the scope of the Survey, and to talk to Society members who might be interested in contributing or participating in the project.

SUN DRAWN MINIATURES



"We enjoyed seeing your work." That comment, for an exhibit of contemporary photography, is fine. But people who are used to visiting a photograph gallery and viewing contemporary prints found it difficult in New Haven to adjust their thinking to view historic, 130-year old daguerreotypes.

It was opening night January 15 at ARCHETYPE Gallery, 159 Orange St., New Haven, for what is probably the first 20th century showing of a major privately-owned collection of daguerreotypes. The 55 images on display, including portraits by well-known daguerreians, scenics, and occupational images, are part of the collection of PHSNE President John Craig and his wife Valerie.

For most of the people who visited the gallery opening night, it was a new experience to view the first permanent form of photography. They were all given pieces of black paper, to hold next to the images to cut down reflections. It was a night of peering closely at the images on the wall, and then long discussions on the process of the daguerreotype and photographic history.

Each of the 55 images has a photographic enlargement next to it, with a card giving information about the daguerreotype.

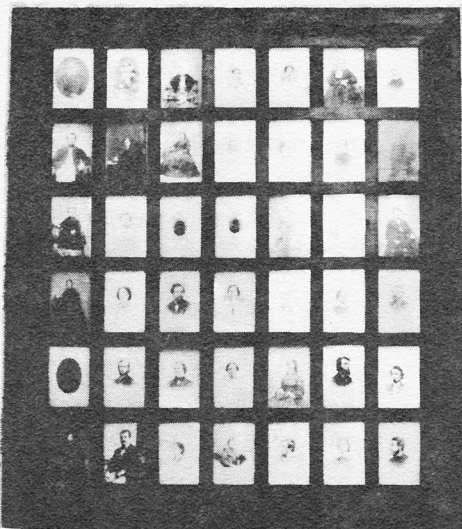
The Craigs gave a lecture at ARCHETYPE January 20 as part of the exhibit, including a simple method of restoring a daguerreotype. William Parker, photographic historian, will talk at the gallery February 3 at 2 p.m., also in conjunction with the exhibit.

The collection of daguerreotypes will be on display at ARCHETYPE through February. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Anyone wishing to view the exhibit should take the Trumbull Street exit off I-91 in New Haven, and turn left on Orange Street.



Edward and Joan Nowack, center, owners of Archetype Gallery, New Haven, use a piece of black paper to cut down the reflection on daguerreotypes on exhibit there through the end of February. Other visitors find viewing the early images requires a closer study than an exhibit of contemporary photographs.

PUSH-BUTTON CARTE DE VISITES???



This frame contains 42 carte de visites; each one is held in place by a small piece of glass with a spring-backed board. By releasing the spring, a single CDV can be removed from the frame. Part of the collection of PHSNE member Thom Hindle.

(Centennial cont'd)

prominent men and women, for the Second Centennial, 1976. When the collection is completed, they are to be classified and deeded, with memoris and valuable statistics, to Chicago and preserved with the city archives in a memorial safe in the great vaults of the Court House, where suitable space has been provided by the Council, and approved by Mayor Harrison January 21, 1880; and there will be a request in the deed to have the Mayor of Chicago, in 1976, confer with the Centennial Commissions to provide a place for these portraits and statistics in Memorial Hall, at the Second Centennial Anniversary of American Independence. "Tis then these portraits and histories will become a priceless treasure, and of great value to our descendents and to historians. The Sir Knights and all good and accepted Masons will be invited to conduct the services, with the highest honors and sacred rites of their Order, as their Brothers in Chicago in 1976 will be requested in the deed to unlock the safe and take charge of the sacred trust with appropriate ceremonies "In Memoriam" of the honoured dead."

--American Photography, Nov. 1938.