



The Photogram

Newsletter of the Michigan Photographic Historical Society

Volume 33 No. 1

A Michigan Non-Profit Corporation

July 2005

ISSN 1082-6874

MIPHS ANNUAL DINNER AND LECTURE BY ROB COX

Cynthia Motzenbecker, President

The MiPHS annual dinner was quite the success this year. With 55 members and their friends attending, it was biggest turnout we've ever had. Was it the draw of Rob Cox, a respected author and Head of Special Collections at the W. E. B. Dubois Library at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, or the venue of the Birmingham Athletic Club, courtesy of Tom and Carol Halsted and their membership there? In addition to a great program, maybe folks just wanted to meet old friends and make new ones after such an unrelenting winter.

Rob's talk on "Spirit Photography & the Spirit of Photography in Victorian America," started out on a new tack. As he stated, he wasn't there to prove or disprove whether these were "real" supernatural occurrences, as is generally done. Instead, Rob spoke about the emotional state of the period that gave rise to the evolution of spiritualism. So rather than emphasizing the fakery of spiritualism, and by extension the fakery of spirit photography, he emphasized those individuals who sincerely had believed it to be real. He commented that the daguerreotype process seemed to prove the existence of spiritualism, because it produced a life-like image from reflected light on an otherwise unmarked mirrored surface. Later the spiritual phenomena revealed in photography clearly became set-up genre pieces, for example, a ghostly figure dressed in a sheet appearing to an unsuspecting sitter. Rob kept us entranced throughout his presentation. Afterwards, there was a lively discussion with the audience. To read more about this fascinating subject, check out Rob's book, *Body and Soul: A Sympathetic History of American Spiritualism*, published by the University of Virginia Press (2003).

Before and after the talk we held a silent auction, primarily a donation of images from MiPHS member George O'Neal, which brought in around \$500 to benefit MiPHS. Thanks to EVERYONE, donors, buyers and attendees! Bill Becker put up some display images of his that were used in a spirit photography exhibition in Sweden. While Rob Cox was speaking, the club staff was sizing them up on the sly; they just couldn't get over the "ectoplasm." Everyone seemed to enjoy the party and we may just do it again there next year.

Thanks again to everyone who made this possible! May you all find the perfect item for your collection . . . and above all be safe.



Left to right: Nancy Sojka, Carol Halsted, Rob Cox, Dave Tinder and Bill Becker.

THE PHOTOGRAM is the official bulletin of the Michigan Photographic Historical Society (MiPHS). It is published five times a year. The contents are copyrighted the year of publication.
Copyright © 2005 MiPHS

THE PHOTOGRAM welcomes contributions to its pages from both MiPHS members and non-members. To submit an article, review, occasional photo ad (MiPHS members only) or informational item for publication, write to:

Janice Schimmelman, Editor
The Photogram
Department of Art and Art History
Oakland University
Rochester, MI 48309-4401
e-mail: schimmel@oakland.edu

Please include your e-mail address with all correspondence. Authors and advertisers are responsible for the accuracy of their contributions to *The Photogram*. The views of the authors do not necessarily reflect those of the Society.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

June 1 (July-Summer issue)
August 1 (September-October issue)
October 1 (November-December issue)
January 1 (February-March issue)
March 1 (April-May issue)

The MICHIGAN PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY is an organization dedicated to advancing an understanding and appreciation of the history of photography through membership meetings, special events and publications, and through shared endeavors with other organizations and the general public. The MiPHS is a 501c3 non-profit corporation chartered by the State of Michigan.

The MiPHS welcomes new members. Dues are \$20 per year (January 1- December 31), \$10 for students with valid ID. For information and application forms, call 248.549.6026, visit us online at www.miphs.org or write to:

MiPHS
P.O. Box 2278
Birmingham, MI 48012-2278

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Cynthia Motzenbecker—President
Andee Seeger—President Emeritus
Carl Meyering—Vice President - Special Events
Cynthia R. Miller—Secretary
Leonard Walle—Treasurer
Doug Aikenhead—Member-at-Large
Thomas Halsted—Member-at-Large
Mark O'Brien—Member-at-Large
Janice Schimmelman—Editor, *The Photogram*

WWW.MIPHS.ORG/John White—Webmaster

MIPHS EVENTS & PHOTO NOTES

OCTOBER 23, SUNDAY—34th ANNUAL MiPHS PHOTOGRAPHIC TRADE SHOW. Novi Community Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road (½ mile west of Novi Road), Novi, MI, 10:00AM-4:00PM. That's over 50 tables filled with cameras, photo equipment, ephemera and images! MiPHS would also like to invite you to put together an educational image, camera or photo ephemera display at this year's trade show. Those members whose proposals are accepted will receive two complimentary tickets to the annual dinner and lecture in 2006. You would be responsible for bringing showcases and all materials related to the displays. Although some security is provided at the trade show for displays, MiPHS is not responsible for any losses. For information, call Cindy Motzenbecker at 248.549.6026.

Dave Tinder's recent article "All This on the Back of a Carte de Visite," which appeared in *The Photogram* 32, no. 4 (February-March 2005), was republished in the April 2005 online newsletter *PHSC E-Mail: Supplement to Photographic Canadiana* at www.phsc.ca, and in the May-June 2005 issue of *Photographic Canadiana*, the journal of the Photographic Historical Society of Canada.

Bill Rauhauser's photographs have been published in the book series *everywhere Godfrey* 1, no. 4 (Ann Arbor/Chicago: Press Lorentz, 2004) which pairs an emerging artist with a well-established one.

NEXT IN THE PHOTOGRAM

EXPLORING CENTURY CAMERAS & CATALOGS
Ralph London

MAIN STREET LOOKING EAST:
LOUIS PESHA & THE "REAL PHOTO" POSTCARD
Doug Aikenhead

"Nor can I think of a worthier aim, during the summer vacations of professional men, than to return to their native places, and gather up the memorials of past days, and in the lives, customs, and familiar events of the past and passing generations, furnish materials for history. Why should not all the old mansions and farm-houses be secured by daguerreotype, before they crumble?" Henry Ward Beecher, "New England Graveyards," *New York Independent* 30 (August 1853); reprinted in *Star Papers; or, Experiences of Art and Nature* (New York: J. C. Derby, 1855), 122.

WANTED: MiPHS member George O'Neal would like to obtain some prints and/or negatives of photos taken with Kodak Autographic cameras in which the photographer used the autographic feature to title or otherwise annotate the photo. Any negative size or subject is OK. Contact him at goneal@umich.edu.

Recent MiPHS bylaw changes to elect Board members for two-year terms and to have up to five members at large have been approved.

PAUSING TO REMEMBER: JAMES C. HAYES, 1923-2005

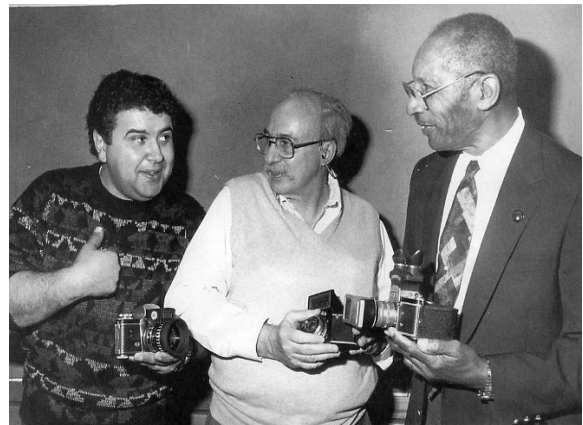
Andee Seeger

Jim Hayes, “Mr. Exakta,” died February 10, 2005, after a succession of strokes, pneumonia, surgery, pneumonia again, and the general rigors of a long, active, productive life.

Born and raised in Ripley, Tennessee, Jim (seen on the far right with two fellow collectors) was a genius at anything mechanical. During his service in the U. S. Army in Europe in WWII, he fell in love with the intricate and exquisite workings of miniature cameras, which were still new in the world. He especially liked the manufacturer Exakta, which pioneered many of the features we take for granted. Other brands may claim to be first at various developments of the 1920s and 1930s, but Exakta, though less well known, beat them to it. Jim made a life-long study of that camera’s history, built an outstanding collection, and became an expert known world-wide among camera buffs.

Jim settled in Detroit, took extensive post-high school college studies, and ultimately retired as senior supervisor of mechanical maintenance for the city’s vehicle management division. He joined MiPHS following a camera show, and became a board member and vice president. He gave two programs for us and presented a paper at a PhotoHistory conference at George Eastman House in Rochester, NY, on—what else?—Exakta. Later he withdrew from our board to devote more time to the Tuskegee Airmen, becoming

president of the Detroit chapter and giving talks, especially to students, on the important history of that organization and the opportunities in aviation for people of color. Jim was a licensed commercial pilot with instrument and flight instructor rating for single and multi-engine airplanes. For a time he owned his own FAA approved flight school. He was active in the NAACP, his church and his golf game. His amazing credits go on and on.



Our deepest condolences go to his wife Ruth and their family. Jim was an enthusiastic and valued member of MiPHS. We miss him.

JIM DONALDSON: WHEN TODAY BECOMES YESTERDAY

Cynthia Motzenbecker

Due to Michigan’s unpredictable weather in February, we had to reschedule Jim Donaldson’s talk to March. (Thank goodness it didn’t snow again!) A second mailing was hurriedly done which resulted in one of the best attended programs we’ve had in a long time. We had quite a few newer members that came also; we were sure glad to see you there. We even had a member come in from Washington D.C.! Jim’s subject was “When Today Becomes Yesterday: Au Sable and Oscoda Michigan Photographers and Their Early 20th-Century Postcard Views.”

Jim spoke about Albert John Bradshaw and his successor Fred Stevens, and their postcard photography business from 1905 to 1935. Jim had scads of interesting examples of their work to show us. Bradshaw had a habit of adding things to the negatives like boats, birds and even owls. At first glance you may not notice these pleasant manipulations, but once Jim started pointing them out, you wouldn’t be tricked again! So now when you attend a postcard show, and you

see an owl that just doesn’t seem right, see if the image is signed by Bradshaw! Thanks, Jim, we enjoyed your talk.



LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE AT WSU

Cynthia Motzenbecker

The Local History Conference was held again this April at Wayne State University. MiPHS is one of the sponsors of the conference and has a table there every year, just in case you'd like to volunteer to join us next year. Lunch is available both days and can be paid for on the registration form. All volunteers must also register for the conference. It's an interesting two-day affair, though Friday is the dominant event day as they have a lovely reception at the end of the day's talks. This year it was held at the Detroit Historical Museum.

On Friday our own Cynthia R. Miller from The Henry Ford in Dearborn, and Clayton Lewis from the Clements Library in Ann Arbor, spoke on their collections and how to utilize the resources at their respective institutions. Everyone left the room all pumped up about historical photography!

On Saturday, MiPHS members Bill Rauhauser and Marty Magid did a tag team talk on Boblo and their book on that topic. (It was nostalgic for me, having gone on a few midnight cruises myself with a large crowd from work.) In addition to the look back in time, Bill and Marty also spoke

about the current status of the two boats and the island itself. One of the boats is under restoration and is in need of funds. The other is under a tarp with nothing else going on except a lot of hope. In addition, there has been a claim from the First Nations who said they never gave up ownership of the island. The claim seems to be a gesture to the Canadian government and not a threat to the ongoing development on the island. Congratulations to all on a successful conference.



Clayton Lewis & Cynthia R. Miller

SO WHAT'S AHEAD IN THE PHOTOGRAM?

Jan Schimmelman, Editor

MiPHS has a great year planned for the next volume of *The Photogram*. We begin in September with articles by Doug Aikenhead on Pesha postcards and Ralph London on Century cameras. In November Marty Magid will honor WSU professor Katherine Chamberlain by an article on her life and work, and Carl Meyering will give us his thoughts on the new phenomenon of digital photography. Will it be historical? We enter 2006 with my article celebrating the 150th anniversary of the tintype, patented in the U.S. in February 1856. George Gamboa will join me with an article on Union cases. The April issue of *The Photogram* takes us on the "street" with an article by Eaton Lothrop on the "patched up street camera of O. Rodriguez." Bill Rauhauser, taking a different approach to the idea, will reveal his experiences as a street photographer. Thanks to all of our authors in 2004-2005 who helped to make *The Photogram* a great newsletter. Send me the address of a friend and I will send him or her a free copy of *The Photogram* along with an invitation to join MiPHS.

PHOTO-HISTORY CALENDAR

July 14-17: National Stereoscopic Association Convention, Irving (Dallas/Ft. Worth), TX, <http://2005.nsa3d.org>
 July 16: Wally Jung Postcard & Paper Show, Cobblestone Events Center, Mason, MI, postcardwally@msn.com
 August 21: Wally Jung Postcard & Paper Show, Genesis Dreamplex Hotel, Toledo, OH, postcardwally@msn.com
 August 28: Western Reserve Camera Collector's Society, Photographic Trade Show, Quality Inn-Richfield, OH, kg_cam@att.net
 September 11: Chicago Photographic Collectors Society, International Camera & Image Show, Marriott, Oak Brook, IL, www.chicagophotographic.org
 September 11: Wally Jung Postcard & Paper Show, Holiday Inn, Midland, MI, postcardwally@msn.com
 September 25: Cologne Photo Fair, Stadthalle, Cologne, Germany, www.koelnfoto.com
 October 2: Michigan Antiquarian Book & Paper Show, Lansing Center, Lansing, MI, www.curiousbooks.com
 October 15-16: Detroit Camera Show, Holiday Inn, Southfield, MI, www.photorama.com
 October 23: **MiPHS** - 34th Annual Photographica Trade Show, Novi Community Center, Novi, MI, 10:00-4:00PM.
 October 27-30: The Daguerreian Society Symposium, Rochester, NY, www.daguerre.org

