

# *The Photographic Historical Society*

Founded 1966 [www.tphs.org](http://www.tphs.org)

May 2014

Meet at 7:30 p.m. the third Thursday at Barnes & Noble Booksellers,  
Pittsford Plaza, 3349 Monroe Ave. in Rochester NY.

## **The Skylight Photo Studio Tour of the Finger Lakes**

On May 15 Nicholas M. Graver will present “The Skylight Photo Studio Tour of the Finger Lakes,” highlights of 30 years’ touring the beautiful Finger Lakes region. See 8 former Skylight Studios, famous photographers’ homes, and the sites of historic images, landmark books, inventors, and historic architecture along the way. A full-day field trip (11 hours and 180 miles of driving) is now a slide lecture. Enjoy photographic history as it unfolded all around our region.

June 19 (note, the change in speakers):

Tom Hope, photographer extraordinaire, will tell us more about his life in photography, telling of his role as executive producer for the 1949 Lone Ranger show. For 32 years he produced "The Hope Report," with market research in the audiovisual world for schools and companies.

Summer: picnic to be announced.

September 18:

“The Rochester Connection to Space Photography and Imaging” will be given by Jeff Wynn. He is a Rochester Institute of Technology graduate with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. His over 37- year career at

Eastman Kodak included many engineering positions involved in the design and development of sophisticated camera imaging systems for space-based photography, including Lunar Orbiter and the recently declassified reconnaissance satellite programs. His engineering management positions included program manager for the Chandra X-Ray Telescope and general manager of the Image Acquisition Systems business unit. For the past decade he has been working as an engineering and program development consultant with ITT Exelis.

October 10-12, 2014

**PhotoHistory XVI:** an international symposium at George Eastman House and trade show at the DoubleTree. Network with fellow historians and collectors from around the world. Attendees generally come from 7 foreign countries and 22 states. See [www.tphs.org](http://www.tphs.org).

Our new Program Chairman, Martin Scott, and his committee, is evaluating the response to the Call for Papers, and will announce results soon.



PHXVI Planning Committee: Front Row from left: Jack Bloemendaal and Martin Scott  
Back row: Tim Fuss, Marian Early, Sharon Bloemendaal and Mike Champlin Not shown: Eugene Kowaluk.

Nov. 20: Rolf Fricke will tell about the disposition of his fabulous Leica Collection (898 items), which was acquired by the new Leica Museum in Wetzlar, Germany. He and his family will be present at the May 22 opening. He purchased his first Leica (a 3c) on Feb. 21, 1949 in Rio de Janeiro, where he was born.

Jan. 15: (tentative) Sharon Bloemendaal will introduce the non-profit Camera Heritage Museum in Staunton, Va., founded in 2011. On display are about 2,500 cameras. ([www.cameraheritagemuseum.com](http://www.cameraheritagemuseum.com))

## PASSAGES

**Phil Condax:** a former TPHS member (1934-April 21, 2014) died in Rochester NY. He was the son of Louis Condax (1897-1961), who invented the dye transfer color process, which was commercialized by Eastman Kodak in 1945. Phil was Curator of Technology at George Eastman House from 1971-1994, and was influential in acquiring the Siple collection at the American Museum of Photography in Philadelphia. He curated the GEH exhibit on the Spira collection exhibit in 1980 and the joint JCII-GEH exhibit on the evolution of the Japanese Camera. Phil conceived the idea and planned the Edgerton Flash Photography exhibit, and since he was a college roommate with Doc Edgerton's son Bob, and had known Doc for decades, he was able to get Doc's full cooperation as well as funding from the Edgerton Foundation. In pursuit of accuracy of information in the exhibit Philip lost his position at Eastman House.

For more information see the obituary written by Dr. Michael Pritchard of London, who noted that Phil "developed and curated the photographic collection of the Museum of Imagery Technology operated by Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. He co-authored *The Photographic Flash: A Concise Illustrated History* with Pierre Bron (of Bron Electronik AGP) in 1998."

Some of his photos are displayed at Artisan Works in Rochester NY, including a childhood photo.

[www.mpritchard.com](http://www.mpritchard.com)

[www.britishphotohistory.ning.com](http://www.britishphotohistory.ning.com)

**Robert F. Phillips** (1916-April 24, 2014), a graduate of the Mechanics Institute (RIT), started his career at Kodak in 1939 by working on the Kodachrome slide display "The Cavalcade of Color" for the World's Fair. This display would be remembered by Kodak ad executives and be the seed of the Colorama display in 1950. Bob designed and photographed many of the Coloramas in the 1950's and 60's, but none were as popular as his image of the Radio City Rockettes. From Norm Kerr's notes on the History of the Colorama:

**Colorama 143**  
**Bob Phillips**

**Radio City Music Hall's Rockettes**  
**9/29 - 10/10/58**

3 tons of electronic flash were installed in early morning hours as the dancers slept in the theater dormitory. Bob was fully prepared to stop the Rockettes famous synchronous action but Music Hall management felt he was unlikely to get a flawless image. Though not detectable to live audiences, all 36 dancers' legs seldom kicked up at exactly the same instant. Management didn't want lots of photos taken to get one that might be perfect-it would exhaust the dancers' energy needed for their daily, rigorous, 3-and-4 performance schedule; they got posed in a static straight line instead. But Bob's sparkling sharp photo was so appealing, it was also chosen for a Radio City record album cover.

Unfortunately, this was a Colorama photo that would soon compete with another panorama of the same subject. LIFE'S special year-end entertainment issue featured a double-page photo of the Rockettes by Yale Joel from high in the stage rafters. While his photo didn't show action either, the dancers were rendered as repetitive, paper doll cut-outs, casting rhythmic shadows in varied reds and yellows, spread full across the stage by the theater's many color-gelled spotlights. These dramatic shadows visually conveyed a more dynamic dancing precision."

## **April Meeting Review**

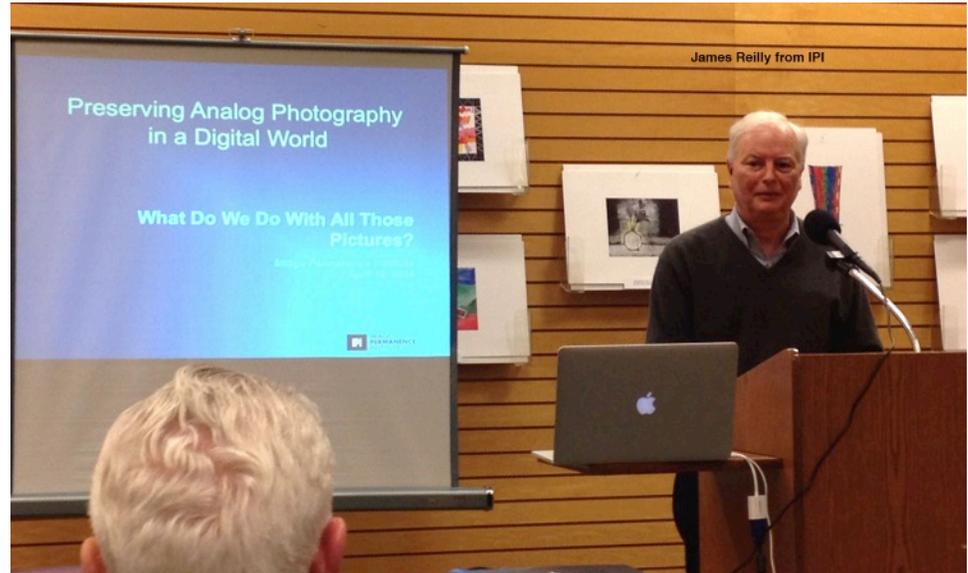
James Reilly, head and founder of the Image Permanence Institute (IPI) at Rochester Institute of Technology, spoke in April on "How to Preserve Analog Photography in a Digital Age."

IPI's 17 staff members oversee 100,000 photos and have helped archives, libraries and museums since 1985. They are interested in the preservation of cultural property, helping institutions preserve images in any art form.

James has spent 36 years at RIT, and commended Andy Davidhazy for his influence on photography students.

IPI is recognized as world leaders in the development and display of sustainable

practices for the preservation of images and cultural property.



IPI has a 1.9 million budget, 10 % subsidized by RIT, 45% grants and 45% earned by consulting, hardware and software.

The organization spends much on HVAC, to preserve its collection. Among its clients are the Library of Congress, National Archive and Records Administration, National Park Service, NY Public Library, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and California State Parks. --more than 800 institutions, including the British Library, National Museum of Denmark, Amsterdam National Library and Albania Film Archive.

He was concerned about hardware and software obsolescence, which needs constant refreshing.

He addressed the storage issues, showing compact rolling shelves, and one with a forklift in Ft. Mead, MD. The National Archive has 25 m photos.

Preserving digital images is more expensive than analog.

Glass itself is deteriorating!

Why do black and white photos fade? Is it the poor fixing and washing or the reactivity of silver? It is mainly image oxidation, and needs to be chemically treated. Sulfiding protection for silver images is a smelly process. Acetate and nitrate film need cold storage to prevent further deterioration.

For family photos he recommended making several optical DVD disc copies and sending them to relatives. "Redundancy ensures survival," he noted, (and gold DVDs are better).



## April Show and Tell:

Jeff Schwartz shared his photos of Asia.

Sharon Bloemendaal brought Jack, who is recovering from a broken hip.

Vice president Mike Champlin filled in as acting president.

Nick Graver brought in an x-ray of Marilyn's knee and a photo of the inside of his eye. He also displayed 3 daguerreotypes of Leacock Abbey made by Mike Robinson, a stereo view of the Philadelphia Mint and Panorama travel photos taken with an original Kodak, c. 1888-1889.

## UPCOMING PHOTOGRAPHIC SHOWS AND EVENTS:

May 25: Photographic Fair, Soccer Centre, 7601 Martin Grover Rd., Woodbridge.  
Photographic Historical Society of Canada. [phsc.org](http://phsc.org)

Sept. 25-29: Daguerreian Society Symposium, Austin, TX. [daguerre.org](http://daguerre.org)

**Oct. 10-12: PhotoHistory XVI in Rochester NY. Friday Reception, Saturday Symposium; Sunday Trade Show. [tphs.org](http://tphs.org)**

Oct. 18-19 Photographica 82, Show, American Center, 467 Main St., 9 a.m. Wakefield MA 01880. Photographic Historical Society of New England. [Phsne.org](http://Phsne.org).

Oct. 19 Photographica Show & Sale Sun, 10-3. Royal Oak Elks Lodge, Royal Oak MI \$6.  
[Miphs.org](http://Miphs.org) 248.549.6026