

Hammonton: *150 Years of Industry*

Vintage Cameras

Photography captured many iconic scenes of American life including the Gold Rush, the explosive growth of San Francisco, the construction of the transcontinental railroads, the plantations of the antebellum South, and the bloody battlefields of the Civil War. In this exhibition, a variety of antique cameras used to capture the history of Hammonton are on view courtesy of local photographer Jack Mazzeo. Born into the business, he owns and manages the oldest continuously operating photography studio in the state of New Jersey, Mazzeo Studio, established in 1946 by his father John W. Mazzeo. He has the honor of being one of the few with the title of Master of Photography in this part of the country.

No. 3A Special Kodak Model A:

Manufactured by the Eastman Kodak Company from 1910 to 1914, it was designed to include the efficiencies and the conveniences of a pocket Kodak. It has an aluminum body covered in “Persian Morocco” leather, black leather bellows, nickel fittings and a dull black enameled shutter. It is equipped with a Zeiss astigmatic lens, compound shutter with finger and cable release and 1/200th of a second speed.

Mamiya C220

The Mamiya C220 was released in 1968 as a part of the Mamiya C series of interchangeable lens medium format TLR cameras. It supports an interchangeable finder viewing system allowing options such as a chimney style magnifier, eye level prism and the traditional waist level finder. The lens focus scales are on the left side of the bellows. Shutter release has been changed to a plastic type trigger.

Argus C3

Introduced in 1939, about 2 million were sold, making it one of the most popular cameras in history. Due to its shape, size, and weight, it is commonly referred to as “The Brick” by photographers. It retailed at \$35, which is comparable to \$595 in current dollars. Outliving many American competitors, it was not able to compete with the Japanese single lens reflex cameras which entered the market in 1960s.



Eastman Kodak Company Advertisement, [n.d.]
Courtesy of Jack Mazzeo

Keystone K 27 Capri 8mm

The Keystone Camera Company was an American manufacturer notable for their movie cameras, 126 and 110 cameras with built-in electronic flash. One popular version of their movie camera line was the Capri 27. It had 3 lenses and 9 settings for cloudy to sunny day conditions. It was a light, easy to use movie camera and it is considered a rare collectible today.

Polaroid Land Camera Model 95A

Introduced in 1954 it was named after the inventor and Polaroid founder Edwin Land. It was the first practical instant film camera. The Model 95A features a bulb 130mm f/8.8 lens mated to a rotary shutter capable of speeds ranging from 1/12 to 1/100. In order to set exposure, the metal gear on the corner of the lens board can be rotated to select one of eight numbered presets.

Kodak View Camera No 2-D

A view camera manufactured by the Eastman Kodak Co in Rochester, NY, it was available in five sizes. The large design measures 5 x 7 in., 6 ½ x 8 ½, 8 x 10, 7 x 11, and 11 x 14. The military version was the Ground Camera type C-1. Kodak produced these cameras from 1921 to 1950.

Burke & James View Camera

Burke & James Inc. of Chicago was a camera manufacturer and importer of cameras and lenses. The company was established in 1897 by founders Henry Bourke and David James. Products were sold through a store front as well as through mail order. They designed and manufactured view cameras, fingerprint cameras, portrait cameras, cine cameras, graphic arts equipment, lenses, and darkroom sinks.

Tower Rangefinder

Richard W. Sears founded his company in 1886. In 1893, Alvah C. Roebuck became a partner in the company which then was renamed Sears, Roebuck & Co. Sears had a house brand for cameras. The Tower cameras were OEM products, made by different renowned camera makers of several countries.

Sylvania Superflash Flashbulb

The Sylvania Superflash Flashbulb No. 3 was the most powerful flashbulb made. Flashbulbs were invented in 1928 by Philips Glolamp Works in Holland. The first American-made flashbulb, in 1930, was the size of a household lightbulb, with the same screw-type base, but was filled with sheets of magnesium foil. By the 1980s, the popularity and low price of the electronic flash made it unprofitable to produce flashbulbs.

Acknowledgements:

This exhibition came to be through a collaboration between Noyes Museum staff and the citizens of Hammonton along with nine area artists and Stockton faculty and staff including Tom Kinsella, Professor and Director of the South Jersey Culture & History Center (SJCHC,) Paul Schopp, Associate Director of the SJCHC and Ginna Petrillo of Kramer Hall. Stockton University student interns also contributed research providing insights into the history and industries of Hammonton. Thanks go out to the Donio family, Antiques Marketplace, The Hammonton Gazette and Jack Mazzeo Studio.



*This exhibition was made possible
in part through the generous support of
the AtlantiCare Healing Arts Program.*



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Jersey
Culture &
History
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Funding for the Noyes Museum of Art is provided in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation; and the Mr. & Mrs. Fred Winslow Noyes Foundation