

Exhibit to show women's progress

By Karina Yücel
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A new Penn State exhibit claims the American woman would not be where she is today without the help of the bicycle and the photograph.

Bridget A. and Heinz K. Henisch collected photos on the history of photography and also the photographic process for over 45 years, said Catherine Grigor, manager of public relations and marketing at the Penn State University Libraries.

Their New Woman show deals with American women who started to become more liberated during the 1890s. The exhibit will focus on fashion, bicycling and women, Grigor said.

The Henischs' shows include photography that deals with political propaganda, humor and changes in fashion, she said.

Sandra Stelts, curator of rare books and manuscripts at the Eberly Family Special Collections Library, said the duo has many other collections that deal with the social history of photography. The Henischs obtain the pictures from flea markets and antique stores, she said.

The collections highlight people in their everyday life, Stelts added.

"I think people will be interested in looking back at another decade," Stelts said. "At the time it was considered outrageous behavior for women to ride bicycles."

The so-called new woman was "interested in travel, goes out unescorted, is athletic and is curious of the world," said Miranda Hofelt, a Ph.D. candidate in the art history department at the University of Chicago and an adjunct lecturer at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Hofelt will speak about the exhibition at 4:30 p.m. Sept. 2, in the Foster Auditorium in the Paterno Library.

The "new woman" phenom-



Courtesy of Catherine Grigor

Penn State University Libraries will display an exhibit on women's progress, featuring books, photos and travel logs, starting Aug. 25.

non "occurred at the same time as the safety bicycle and the same time that the portable camera was invented," Hofelt said.

The three occurred at the "same moment and they drive each other," she added. "The bicycle is a symbol for women who leave the house and go on the road."

After the liberation of women, companies started gearing advertising toward them, Stelts said.

Looking through "periodicals of that time, you see page after page of advertisements geared toward women," Stelts said. "Unchaperoned women began doing more physical things."

In addition to physical activity, cameras also played a role in the liberation of women.

Early cameras operated on tripods.

Kodak made a portable camera that made it possible for people to become amateur photographers and take candid pictures, Stelts said. Kodak was the first company to make a portable camera, and it even made a pouch for the bike, so a camera could travel safely with a rider, she said.

George Eastman chose women for his demographic when he developed his version of the portable camera in 1888, Hofelt said.

His slogan was "you press the button, we do the rest," which

was appealing to women because it didn't sound like a machine, she said.

During this time, women also stopped looking to France or continental Europe for fashion trends, Grigor said. As women became more active, the "Gibson girl" was born. Gibson made fitted skirts that highlighted the hips and this began groundbreaking fashion trends in the United States, she added.

The exhibition will contain books, photos, travel logs and more — all depicting the new woman.

Hofelt said the exhibition was a good fit for Penn State because of the campus's everyday use of bicycles.

The exhibition showcases "the way in which photography and bicycling enabled women's lives to change," she said.

To e-mail reporter: kzy5015@psu.edu

If you go

What: Corsets and Cameras: Photography, Bicycling and the New Woman in the Turn-of-the-Century America

Where: Henisch Photo-History Collection Exhibit Room, 201A Pattee Library

When: Aug. 25 to Dec. 31

Details: Admission is free

Allen: New York City too pricey to shoot films

By The Associated Press

MADRID — Woody Allen says he began shooting movies in European cities because he couldn't afford to do it any more in New York.

However, the American film director told reporters Tuesday in the northern Spanish city of Oviedo that he finds Manhattan poses fewer limitations than European cities, where more tailoring of the story is required to fit the location.

Allen was in Spain to attend the premiere of his latest film, the romantic comedy "You Will Meet A Tall Dark Stranger," in nearby Aviles.

The film was shot in London and stars Naomi Watts, Josh Brolin and Antonio Banderas. At the news conference in Oviedo, Allen was joined by Lucy Punch and Gemma Jones, who also star in the film.

Allen has recently been in Paris shooting his next movie, "Midnight in Paris," which fea-

tures French first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy in a minor role.

Allen hit out at American cinema saying the majority of films over the past decade had been made just for money and lacked creative spirit. In comparison, he said European films were much more artistic.

Allen also praised Spanish actors saying they were now among the best, singling out Banderas in this film as well as Javier Bardem and Penelope Cruz, with whom he worked in his 2008 movie "Vicky Cristina Barcelona," set in Spain's second largest city.

"I'm lucky I got to work with the very best ones," said Allen, who said he could not afford to pay actors much but that they took part in his films because they liked to act.

On Monday, Allen, who is in Oviedo with his wife Soon-Yi Previn, took part in a promotional video for the Asturias region, known for its stunning mountains and coastal scenery.



Juan Avellaneda/Associated Press

Woody Allen attends the premiere of his new film alongside cast members.

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