

Advertisement for Victor Bishop, 7 August 1851

(keywords: Victor Bishop, 23 Maiden-lane, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography)

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New-York Daily Tribune 11:3215 (7 August 1851): 2

DAGUERREOTYPE.—Great Improve-
ments have recently been made in the fabrication of
electro-plated plates. We earnestly request all Daguerrean
Artists, especially those who have previously used plates
manufactured under this process, to examine and try the
SCALE PLATES. They are sold with the special guar-
antee that they will give full satisfaction, being perfect in
every respect. VICTOR BISHOP, 23 Maiden-lane

[End of text.]

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Daguerreotype plates marks, similar to silver "hallmarks," were used to distinguish various attributes of the plate: the maker, the amount of silver clad to the underlying copper, or the the case of the scale (a pair of scales), indicates silver deposited on copper by means of electro-plating.

For examples of "hallmarks" (or die stamps) on daguerreotype plates, see Floyd and Marian Rinhart, *The American Daguerreotype* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1981): 423–35. The mark for the "scale-plate" is shown as example nine.

For a discussion of electroplating, see M. Susan Barger and William B. White, *The Daguerreotype: Nineteenth-century Technology and Modern Science* (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1991): 49–51.

By at least 1840 (and likely concurrent with his activities as daguerreotype materials dealer/importer), Victor Bishop was a dealer in precious stones. He is said to be the first in the US to import precious stones. Bishop remained on Maiden lane for many years and was active in the jewelry business well into the 1890s.¹

1. Bishop is listed as "Importer, 44 Maiden lane" in *Public Documents Printed by Order of the Senate of the United States* vol. 3; document 112 (Washington: Printed by Blair and Rives, 1841): 2. Bishop's status as "first" importer is mentioned in "The Death of Charles Constant Cottier," *Jewelers' Circular and Horological Review* (New York) 29:16 (14 November 1894): 20. Bishop's longevity in the business is reflected in "No. 6769. Reply of Victor Bishop & Co., of New York City, importers of diamonds and precious stones," in *Bulletin No. 55, Part III. Committee on Finance. United States Senate. Replies to Tariff Inquiries* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1895): 75 (Schedule N—Continued. Sundries. Number 6697 to 6813). Also of interest is a 9 July 1846 letter from Bishop to John C. Calhoun transcribed in John Caldwell, Robert Lee Meriwether, et al, *The Papers of John C. Calhoun* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1959): 280–284. In 1867, Bishop, along with Tiffany and other fellow jewelers, became the target of a scam. See "Career of a Confidence Operator in Boston and New-York," *New-York Tribune* 27:8264 (4 October 1867): 2.

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