

“M. Daguerre,” October 1858

(keywords: Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre, Charles R. Meade, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography.)

THE DAGUERRETYPE: AN ARCHIVE OF SOURCE TEXTS, GRAPHICS, AND EPHEMERA

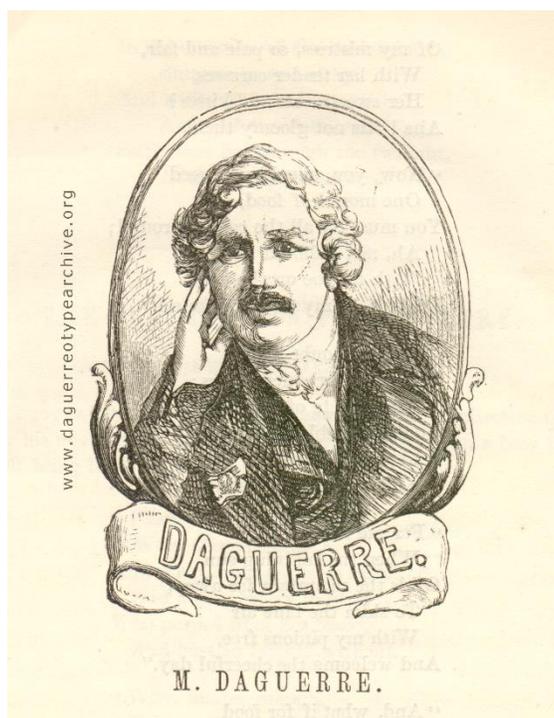
The research archive of Gary W. Ewer regarding the history of the daguerreotype

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EWER ARCHIVE P8580003

Published in:

Student and Schoolmate and Forrester's Boys & Girls Magazine (Boston) 6:6 (October 1858): 196.



M. DAGUERRE.

A FEW years ago a poor man could not place on the table of his parlor the portraits of “father, mother, and all the children,” for even a tolerable likeness cost ten dollars, and better ones all the way up to fifty, and even a hundred dollars. The art of daguerreotyping has been a blessing to those in humble life, as well as to the rich; for it certainly is a blessing for a fond mother to retain the portrait of the loved and lost child, after its little form is laid away in the cold earth; for her to look upon the features of her sailor-boy son when he is far away upon the ocean; for the young man and the young woman to be able to see the faces of father and mother when they are no more with them.

Poor as well as rich, therefore, have abundant cause to be grateful for the invention of M. Daguerre whose portrait is presented above.

A Camera obscura is an instrument by which the image of an object, much reduced in size, may be thrown upon a plane surface. The daguerreotype art consists in retaining this image or picture on the surface by chemical means. It was a very beautiful and a very important invention, and the French government gave M. Daguerre a pension, as a reward for his discover.

[End of text.]

The graphic is also available in JPG format:

http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/graphics/P8580003_DAGUERRE_STUDENT_1858-10.php

NOTES:

The wood engraving illustration is from a daguerreotype portrait by Charles R. Meade. Another version of the wood engraving, with credit to Meade, appears in *Illustrated Family Christian Almanac for The United States, for... 1853* (New York: The American Tract Society, 1853) pg. 17.¹

A similarly posed daguerreotype portrait of Daguerre is in the collection of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.²

1. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8530005_DAGUERRE_FAM-XIAN-ALMANAC_1853.pdf

2. <http://historywired.si.edu/object.cfm?ID=458>

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Graphic details:

wood engraving: 7.0 x 5.1 cm

sheet: 22.0 x 14.0 cm

A high-resolution TIF-format file may be available. Contact the Archive for details.

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