

Edward Weston, “Daguerreotypes,” October 1926

(keywords: Edward Weston, Los Daguerreotipos, 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

<http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>

EWER ARCHIVE M9260001

Published in:

Peter C. Bunnell, edit., *Edward Weston on Photography* (Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith Books, 1983): 44. Bunnell cites a source text, “Los Daguerreotipos,” *Forma* 1:1 (October 1926): 7.

DAGUERREOTYPES

They are documents, “family memories”, nothing more. They were made in the days before “artistic photographs,” and “light effects,” and theatrical “posing.” The photographers of daguerreotypes had not yet been classified “artists” sporting the classic floating tie and the rumpled and dirty hair. Fortunately the complicated work of silvering the sheets kept him busy. He was an artisan who dedicated himself to his work with simplicity and without ambiguities, without finding himself inhibited by the ambitions of his art. Because the technique of retouching was unknown, there was no way to make concessions to human vanity—the daguerreotypes were not lies. Although rigid, those photographs of our ancestors have a rigid dignity. Since the exposures lasted for minutes, they did not allow for calculated poses. In this manner we have inherited today the first epoch of photography, the most genuine, the most honest expression. An image chemically pure, strong and honest, and at the same time refined: the daguerreotype.

[End of text.]

EDITOR’S NOTES:

This editor would welcome information regarding the original publication.

The editor will state that a casual glance through any nearly any book written on the subject of the daguerreotype will disprove Weston’s limited view regarding “ambitions of . . . art” and the daguerreotype.

EWER ARCHIVE M9260001

URL: http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/M9260001_WESTON_DAGS_1926-10.pdf

Document author: Gary W. Ewer

Creation date: 2008-10-30 / Last revision: 2010-04-28

Citation information: Peter C. Bunnell, edit., *Edward Weston on Photography* (Salt Lake City:

Peregrine Smith Books, 1983): 44

Prepared from: title noted above

Original spelling/punctuation/grammar generally maintained without correction. Any in-text corrections are bracketed.

The *source text* is Public Domain and may be freely quoted. As noted below, this document is copyright.

If citing directly from this document, please reference the Ewer Archive number and provide the following citation credit:

Gary W. Ewer, ed., *The Daguerreotype: an Archive of Source Texts, Graphics, and Ephemera*,
<http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>

THE NECESSARY DISCLAIMERS:

The document creator has made every effort to insure the accuracy of the transcription. However, the information provided in this document is provided without warranty, either express or implied. The document creator will not be liable for any damages caused or alleged to be caused directly, indirectly, incidentally, or consequentially by the information provided by this text.

The document creator assumes no responsibility for accuracy of fact; the text is prepared "as found." Factual inaccuracies of the original text are generally **not** noted by the document creator. If this text is used in academic papers, accuracy should be confirmed by consulting original sources.

The document creator also assumes no responsibility regarding the correctness, suitability, or safety of any chemical or photographic processes that may be described by this text. Many of the chemicals used in early photographic processes are extremely toxic and should not be handled without a *thorough* knowledge of safe use.

The opinions expressed in this text are solely those of the original author and are not necessarily those of the Archive editor. Some texts may contain derogatory words. Any such word is certainly one that would not be used today. The words remain in the transcription, however, to maintain truthfulness to the original text.

© 2008, Gary W. Ewer. <http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>
