

Clericus, "M. Daguerre's Discovery," 21 February 1839

(keywords: Louis J. M. Daguerre, Clericus, lucigraph, lucigraphs, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography)

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M. DAGUERRE'S DISCOVERY.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir.—Reading in a newspaper last week that a German had found out M. Daguerre's secret, I was so impressed with that testimony to the possibility of *seizing a shadow*, that I thought over all the little I knew of light, colours, and chymistry; the next day, the 15th inst., I took a piece of writing paper, hastily prepared by myself, placed it behind the lens of a camera obscura made on the spur of the moment, and obtained a satisfactory result, for the trees in front of my house were produced, but not the parts agitated by the wind. Since that, I have obtained, progressively improving, several landscapes, which may be called most appositely "lucigraphs." I mention this my humble effort as corroborative of the reality or feasibility of M. Daguerre's beautiful discovery; and I can readily conceive that in a very short time the traveller's portmanteau will not be complete without the very portable means of procuring a lucigraph at pleasure.

I remain your obedient servant,

Welney, Wisbeach, Feb. 18.

CLERICUS.

[End of text.]

EDITOR'S NOTES:

The author of this text, writing under the pseudonym "Clericus," is unknown. The author's coined-term "lucigraph" is derived the Latin terms "lucis" (light) and "graph" (drawing).

This text was noted (under the header "Varieties") in the *Literary Gazette*:
"Lucigraphs.—A correspondent of 'The Times' proposes to call the representation of images, obtained by Mr. Talbot, M. Daguerre, and others, Lucigraphs."¹

1. *Literary Gazette: A Weekly Journal of Literature, Science, and the Fine Arts* (London) No. 1153 (23 February 1839): 125.

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