

**John S. Bartlett, "Daguerreotype," (regarding Gouraud's private exhibition)  
7 December 1839**

(keywords: Dr. John S. Bartlett, Albion, François Gouraud, François Fauvel-Gouraud, Francis Fauvel-Gouraud, 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 N8390010

---

Published in:

*Albion: or British, Colonial, and Foreign Weekly Gazette* (New York) 1:49 (7 December 1839): 391.

*Daguerreotype*.—This remarkable process has largely engaged public attention both in Europe and America; attempts have been made to improve upon it, to vary from it, and to impose new names upon the original principle. M. Daguerre has consequently had much trouble in vindicating his claim to originality, as well as in protesting against innovations tending to deteriorate the value and utility of his process. To this end a friend of his, *M. Gouraud*, has arrived in this country and is about to exhibit numerous specimens of the Daguerreotype in proof of both its excellence and beauty. We have been favored with a private examination of these specimens and are free to confess that they exceed anything of which we had any conception.

The nature of the process has been freely described over and over again; but, in the manipulation, it is evident that intimate acquaintance with the chemical preparations, as well as great care and attention, are necessary; and hence it is that the effects produced by M. Daguerre are far superior to those of others. The pictures are, in the strictest sense, nature itself in little. The degree of light and shade on the plate are as nicely adjusted as that of the subject itself from whence it is derived. The figures and prominent parts stand out in round and accurate relief, softened with the utmost delicacy, and in the smoothness as well as quality of shade they are beyond all imitation. Of course the pictures are the *reverse* of the originals, and this only is the point of difference; for so minutely correct is the reflection of the solar light, that objects altogether imperceptible to the eye, are reflected on the picture and discoverable by the help of a magnifier.

We know not whether M. Gouraud intends to lecture on this interesting subject, but we find him both ready and clear in his explanations to inquirers. It will doubtless result in great advantages to the arts, although, so new is the subject, it would be premature yet to point out its peculiar adaptations. In the meanwhile we most strongly commend this exhibition to the attention of the curious.

**[End of text.]**

---

**EDITOR'S NOTES:**

Dr. John S. Bartlett (1790–1863) was the founder and editor of the *Albion*. The following information regarding Bartlett and this publication is provided in Frederic Hudson, *Journalism in the United States: From 1690 to 1872* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1873): 313:

The *New York Albion*, an organ of English opinion, was established on the 22d of June, 1822. Its originator was Dr. John S. Bartlett. Daniel

Fanshaw was the printer. It acquired an influential position, and was a useful paper to the British population of the United States. Peter Simple, Midshipman Easy, Japhet in Search of his Father, were first introduced to the American public through the columns of the *Albion*. This was a time when these novels, republished by the Harpers and others, were considered too expensive for general circulation. After Dr. Bartlett had successfully managed the *Albion* for many years, he sold the establishment to William Young on the 6th of May, 1848. It then passed into the hands of W. H. Morrell, and was afterwards sold to Kinahan Cornwallis. It is now published by Piercy Wilson.

Another individual who wrote regarding this private exhibition was diarist Philip Hone.<sup>1</sup>

To date, one extant invitation issued by François Gouraud (for the New York exhibition) has been located. The invitation received by William Sidney Mount is held at the New-York Historical Society.<sup>2</sup>

Gouraud did indeed lecture and present practical demonstrations. See an advertisement by Gouraud in the 8 February 1840 issue of this same publication.<sup>3</sup>

1. [http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/M8390001\\_HONE\\_DIARY\\_1839-12-04.pdf](http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/M8390001_HONE_DIARY_1839-12-04.pdf)

2. [http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/S8390001\\_GOURAUD\\_NY\\_INVITE\\_1839-11-29.pdf](http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/S8390001_GOURAUD_NY_INVITE_1839-11-29.pdf)

3. [http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8400001\\_GOURAUD\\_ADVERT\\_ALBION\\_1840-02-08.pdf](http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8400001_GOURAUD_ADVERT_ALBION_1840-02-08.pdf)

#### **EWER ARCHIVE N8390010**

URL: [http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8390010\\_GOURAUD\\_ALBION\\_1839-12-07.pdf](http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8390010_GOURAUD_ALBION_1839-12-07.pdf)

Document author: Gary W. Ewer

Creation date: 2008-10-16 / Last revision: 2009-05-26

Citation information: *Albion* 1:49 (7 December 1839): 391.

Prepared from: original volume in the collection of Gary W. Ewer.

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>

---