

“Taking Daguerreotypes,” (Henry W. Bradley, San Francisco) 23 July 1850

(keywords: Henry William Bradley, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography)

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TAKING DAGUERREOTYPES.—Some “artist,” desirous of procuring a stock of daguerreotypes by a more rapid process than the ordinary one, adopted a new expedient on Saturday night. The operation, as described to us, was simple and effective. Mr. Bradley, who has an establishment in Montgomery street, over the Pacific Baths, had hanging in front of the entrance to his place six large frames, each containing half a dozen portraits, taken by himself. Some modern artist “froze” to them and took them to his own studio. Their intrinsic value was about \$400—their loss to Mr. Bradley irreparable, as many were portraits of friends far away.

[End of text.]

EDITOR’S NOTES:

While any gallery sign is obscured by other signs, Bradley’s gallery above the Pacific Baths can be seen in a Frederick Coombs half-plate daguerreotype view of Montgomery street. Attic skylights are visible in the view. The daguerreotype is reproduced in Drew Heath Johnson and Marcia Eymann, *Silver and Gold: Cased Images of the California Gold Rush* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press for the Oakland Museum of California, 1998): 46.

See also an editorial puff for Bradley, “Daguerreotypes,” *Daily Alta California* (San Francisco) 1:172 (19 July 1850): n.p. (second page of issue).¹

Additional information regarding Bradley is found in Peter E. Palmquist and Thomas R. Kailbourn, *Pioneer Photographers of the Far West: A Biographical Dictionary, 1840–1865* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000): 115–18.

1. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8500008_BRADLEY_DAC_1850-07-19.pdf

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