

**“The Fair at Castle Garden,” 7 October 1851**

(keywords: Jesse Whitehurst, Marcus A. Root, Samuel Root, Charles C. Harrison, 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 N8510002**

---

Published in:

*New-York Daily Times* 1:17 (7 October 1851): n.p. (second page of issue.)

### **The Fair at Castle Garden**

Yesterday’s glorious sun and bracing air, brought out hundreds to view the Exhibition at Castle Garden.

The Garden is rapidly filling with goods, and the Machinery is nearly ready to be put in operation. The accessions which are daily made to the number of entries, are, we are glad to see, of a substantial character; and the determination to exclude such articles as are of little moment, is faithfully carried out. As a natural consequence, the Fair loses a portion of its attraction for certain classes of the community who may doat on bed-quilts and embroidery; but the earnest man will find a satisfaction which he has not hitherto experienced in viewing the improvements of the year in the Mechanic and Useful Arts.

We notice a marked improvement this year, in the Daguerreotype art. The improvement is not only in the execution, but in the location of the pictures. Formerly, the specimens have been comparatively small, and badly placed; their effect was therefore lost, or, at best, greatly diminished. This year the Managers of the Fair have assigned the portraits to more suitable positions, and the excellence of the workmanship may be fully realized. The finish of the Daguerreotypes in general, seems to be better than ever, and there is nothing to complain of, as regards numbers. Among the specimens exhibited, those of Whitehurst are quite unrivalled for beauty of execution and delicacy of finish. The portraits of several distinguished personages are included in the number. Mr. Whitehurst merits the celebrity he has obtained; his gallery in Broadway is one of seven in different cities which are conducted with industry and success.

**[End of text.]**

---

**EDITOR’S NOTES:**

This event at Castle Garden was the 24th Annual Fair of the American Institute of the City of New-York, an association “devoted to the interests of agriculture, commerce, manufactures, and the arts.” Historical records of the Institute are now held by the New-York Historical Society.<sup>1</sup>

Gold medals were awarded to the firm of Marcus A. & Samuel Root, 363 Broadway, “for best daguerreotypes” and to Charles C. Harrison, 85 Duane, “for best daguerreotype cameras.”<sup>2</sup> (The mid-19th century American trade use of the word “camera” sometimes meant only the camera *lens*. This is true regarding Harrison.)

A list of individuals awarded premiums under the category “daguerreotypes” is in *Transactions of the American Institute of the City of New-York for 1851* (Albany: Charles Van Benthuisen, 1852): 618-19. The category for daguerreotypes appears under the header, “Manufacturing and Mechanical Department.” Whitehurst appears in the list although with an erroneous spelling of his name:

J. H. Whitehouse, 349 Broadway, for third best daguerreotypes. Diploma.

1. [http://dlib.nyu.edu/findingaids/html/nyhs/americaninst2\\_content.html#d4e536](http://dlib.nyu.edu/findingaids/html/nyhs/americaninst2_content.html#d4e536)
2. *Transactions of the American Institute of the City of New-York for the Year 1851* (Albany: Charles Van Benthuisen, 1852): 618-19.

#### **EWER ARCHIVE N8510002**

URL: [http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8510002\\_AMER-INST-FAIR\\_NYT\\_1851-10-07.pdf](http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8510002_AMER-INST-FAIR_NYT_1851-10-07.pdf)

Document author: Gary W. Ewer

Creation date: 2009-08-05 / Last revision (proofread): 2011-06-15

Citation information: *New-York Daily Times* 1:17 (7 October 1851): n.p. (second page of issue.)

Prepared from: photocopy from microfilm. Also available online from *The Historical New York Times* (ProQuest. Generally available through local libraries.)

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.

© 2009, Gary W. Ewer. <http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>

---