

## **“Cheap Daguerreotypes,” 18 April 1851**

(keywords: fifty-cent daguerreotypes, Levi L. Hill, 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 N8510039**

---

Published in:

*Brooklyn Daily Eagle* 10:92 (18 April 1851): n.p. (third page of issue).

CHEAP DAGUERREOTYPES.—There seems to be a very spirited competition, just now, in the Daguerrean business, and “fifty cent miniatures” can now be procured at a half dozen “galleries” about town. We took a look at some specimens of these cheap productions, a day or two since; and were quite surprised at the handsome manner in which they were executed, on (apparently) fine quality plates. We presume, however, that this extraordinary cheapening of the Daguerrean prices is induced by the anticipated revolution which the introduction of the process discovered by the Rev. Mr. Hill, of taking photographic pictures with all the colors, must surely produce. The art Daguerrean will then become obsolete. Well, hurrah for the age of progress!

**[End of text.]**

---

#### **EDITOR’S NOTES:**

The fifty-cent daguerreotype was the offering of the “cheap” operators. This reduction of price (and cheapening of the product) was decried by many gallery owners who felt that the art had been degraded. See “By the Editor” [Henry Hunt Snelling], “The Daguerrean Art; its Present State and Future Prospects,” *Photographic Art-Journal* (New York) 2: 2 (August 1851): 99–101<sup>1</sup>; “Daguerrean Convention,” *Photographic Art-Journal* (New York) 2:2 (August 1851): 122–23.

See also an advertisement by one of the “fifty cent” operators, J. W. Thompson, “A Short Tale is Soon Told,” *New-York Daily Tribune* 11:3245 (11 September 1851): 2.<sup>2</sup>

1. [http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8510006\\_SNELLING\\_PHOTO-ART-JOURN\\_1850-08.pdf](http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8510006_SNELLING_PHOTO-ART-JOURN_1850-08.pdf)

2. [http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/advert/N8510037\\_THOMPSON-AD\\_NYD-TRIB\\_1851-09-11.pdf](http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/advert/N8510037_THOMPSON-AD_NYD-TRIB_1851-09-11.pdf)

#### **EWER ARCHIVE N8510039**

URL: [http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8510039\\_CHEAP\\_BROOK-EAGLE\\_1851-04-18.pdf](http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8510039_CHEAP_BROOK-EAGLE_1851-04-18.pdf)

Document author: Gary W. Ewer

Creation date: 2010-12-06 / Last revision: 2010-12-06

Citation information: *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* 10:92 (18 April 1851): n.p. (third page of issue).

Prepared from: *Brooklyn Daily Eagle Online* (<http://eagle.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/>).

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.

© 2010, Gary W. Ewer. <http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>

---