

“The Daguerreotype,” (microscopic) 20 December 1843

(keywords: “Mr. Osborn of South Boston, a practical chemist,” history of the daguerreotype, history of photography.)

THE DAGUERREOTYPE: AN ARCHIVE OF SOURCE TEXTS, GRAPHICS, AND EPHEMERA

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THE DAGUERREOTYPE is daily developing new beauties, and is applied to various new and unexpected objects; immense improvements are also made in taking likenesses with this machine, which is superseding all other modes. The Boston Transcript says:—“Mr. Osborn of South Boston, a practical chemist, called upon us on Saturday last, and, modestly requesting to make us a present, placed in our hands a neat morocco miniature case, upon opening which, there laid spread out before us the Transcript for Dec. 19—the outside towards us, and the whole array of advertisements looking “as neat and cunning as possible.” *The Daguerreotype* had done the deed, and our bantling diurnal was reduced from the reputed “seven by nine” to the actual *inch by inch and a half!* The heading, capital letters, and pictorial figures were clear to the naked eye, and by the aid of a twelve power microscope the canny letter press may be read with ease. Altogether, it is the most beautiful specimen of the art that we have ever seen—wholly free from the slightest blur even upon the smallest letter.

[End of text.]

EDITOR’S NOTES:

The individual mentioned as making this miniscule, microscopic daguerreotype, “Mr. Osborn of South Boston, a practical chemist,” does not appear to correspond with any entry in John Craig’s, *Craig’s Daguerreian Registry*.

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