

**"A Daguerreotypy," (Mathew J. Steffens) November 1895**

(keywords: Mathew J. Steffens, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography.)

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**THE DAGUERRETYPE: AN ARCHIVE OF SOURCE TEXTS, GRAPHICS, AND EPHEMERA**

*The research archive of Gary W. Ewer regarding the history of the daguerreotype*

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## **A DAGUERREOTYPY.**

CHICAGO has a photographer who don't stop short of anything but a brick wall when he has an idea to work out. His name is M. J. Steffens, and he has one of the finest and most complete photographic studios in the world. Everything in it, from cellar to garret, is the best that money could buy.

A couple of years ago Mr. Steffens conceived the idea that if the old daguerreotype could be revived and properly produced, it could be sold to certain people at a good price. The more he thought about it, the more he wanted to try it. He started out on a hunt for plates and material. The plates were what bothered him; but after a long hunt through New York and New England, he had a collection of the clean little silver plates to the number of about twenty-two thousand. He also gathered up a lot of the old-fashioned mats and preservers, and some of the finer quality of cases. On his return home, thoroughly satisfied with the success of his trip, he began laying plans for a special studio to make the "new" pictures in. Well, if some of the old-timers of forty years ago could step in and take a look through Mr. Steffens' daguerreotype studio and see the modern appliances he has for making the pictures, they would wish they were back in the business. The studio is entirely detached from his photographic branch, being built upon the roof, with a little skylight, just the thing for bust portraits. The darkroom is complete, though very compact. The buffing machine, a good-sized wheel operated by electric motor, and working table, with vises and hand buffers, are all there and in apple-pie order. Mr. Steffens is just starting to make the pictures, has made quite a number of splendid specimens, and expects to do a good trade in the line this season.

"PROFESSIONAL POINTER"

**[End of text.]**

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### **EDITOR'S NOTES:**

Mathew J. Steffens is discussed in Grant B. Romer, "The Daguerreotype in America and England after 1860." *History of Photography* 1:1 (July 1977): 201-212.

A daguerreotype by Steffens is viewable on the "Collectors' Gallery" page of the web site, *Contemporary Daguerreotypes*.<sup>1</sup>

1. [http://www.cdags.org/?page\\_id=1933](http://www.cdags.org/?page_id=1933)

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