

François Gouraud, "Invitation to exhibition in Boston," 4 March 1840

(keywords: François Gouraud, François Fauvel-Gouraud, Francois Gouraud, Francis Fauvel-Gouraud, Lemuel Shaw, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Daniel Treadwell, Edward Everett, 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 S8400002

Manuscript letter:

Invitation by François Gouraud dated 4 March 1840.

(Original line breaks preserved.)

Dear Sir

You have perhaps already been informed, through the public press, of my arrival in Boston, and of the object of my visit

Having brought with me a choice collection of the most beautiful Specimens of my Daguerreotype drawings, I have thought it my duty, before exhibiting them to the public, to give some of the most eminent men and distinguished artists of this city, the first views of perhaps the most interesting object that has ever been offered to the examination of a man of taste, — and therefore if agreeable to you, I shall be happy to have the honor of receiving you, with any member of your family and the friends you may please to invite, on Friday, the 6th instant, between the hours of Eleven and Two, at Tremont House, in the Ladies' Drawing room.

Yours respectfully

Francois Gouraud, D. E. S.

(Pupil of Daguerre)

Boston March 4 1840

[End of text.]

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Four extant copies of this invitation are known to this editor: invitation received by Lemuel Shaw (Fine Arts Library of the Harvard College Library); Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (Houghton Library, Harvard); Daniel Treadwell (collection Mathew R. Isenburg); Edward Everett (Massachusetts Historical Society).

This invitation was mostly mechanically produced. Two of the extant copies have hand-written corrections to the date of the exhibition, writing over a date of "Saturday the 5th." The numeral "4" of the March "4" 1840 date is written by hand (and is omitted in the Longfellow copy.) The initials of Gouraud's name are printed, but the remainder of his first and last name, and "D. E. S." are hand-written. Lastly, the parenthesis around "Pupil of Daguerre" are handwritten. An image of the Edward Everett copy is provided in Chris

Steele and Ronald Polito, *A Directory of Massachusetts Photographers: 1839–1900* (Camden: Picton Press, 1993): 60b.

Gouraud issued a similar invitation when in New York (prior to his arrival in Boston.)¹

Additional information regarding Gouraud is found in Ron Polito, "The Emergence of Photography in Boston: 1840–1841" *The Journal: New England Journal of Photographic History* No. 164 (Spring 2005): 16–32. Polito's article is also reprinted in *Daguerreian Annual 2006* (Pittsburgh: The Daguerreian Society, 2007): 154–73.

1. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/S8390001_GOURAUD_NY_INVITE_1839-11-29.pdf

EWER ARCHIVE S8400002

URL: http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/S8400002_GOURAUD_BOSTON_INVITE_1840-03-04.pdf

Document author: Gary W. Ewer

Creation date: 2008-10-29 / Last revision: 2012-05-11

Citation information: *manuscript invitation by François Gouraud dated 4 March 1840.*

Prepared from: photocopies of manuscript letter in collections noted in text.

Original spelling/punctuation/grammar generally maintained without correction. Any in-text corrections are bracketed.

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.

© 2008, Gary W. Ewer. <http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>
