

History of photography (part 1): age of portraits

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Outline

- ◆ invention of photography
- ◆ daguerreotypes and the age of portraits
- ◆ more in later lectures...

Nicéphore Niépce (1765-1833)

- ◆ first photographic image



View from the window at Le Gras, 1826



- bitumen on pewter plate
- 8-hour exposure

Louis Daguerre (1787-1851)

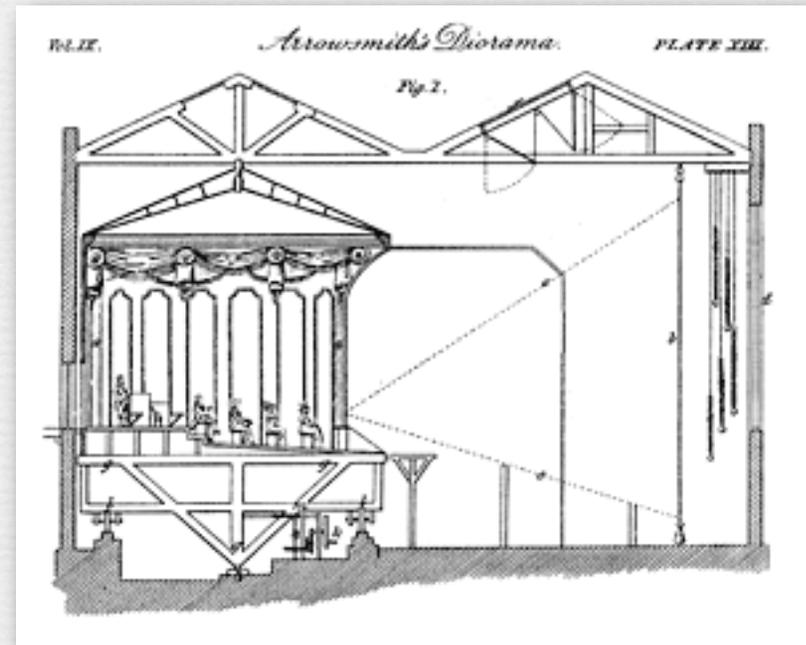
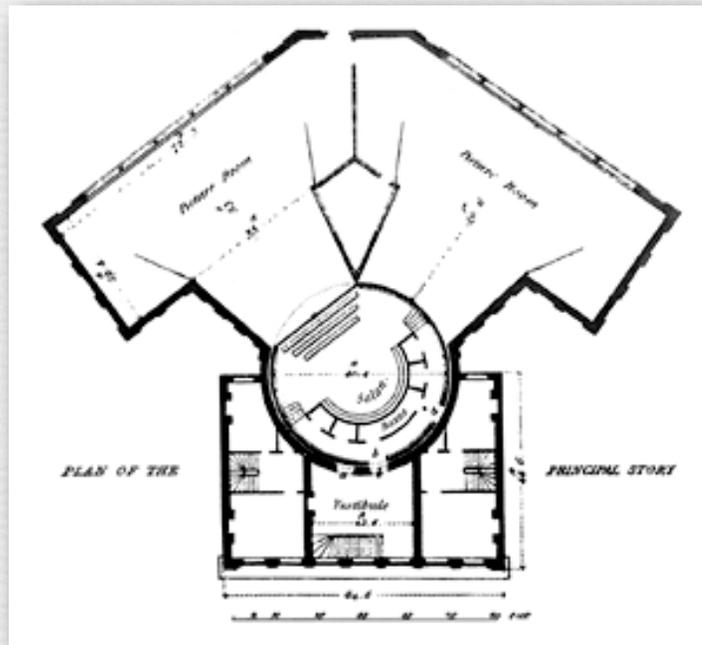
◆ painter



The Effect of Fog and Snow Seen through
a Ruined Gothic Colonnade, 1826

Louis Daguerre (1787-1851)

- ◆ inventor of the diorama



Diorama in Regent's Park, London, 1823

Louis Daguerre (1787-1851)



modern diorama at the
American Museum of Natural History

Louis Daguerre (1787-1851)



◆ the daguerreotype



(Newhall)

Still life, 1837

- silver halide on polished metal
- no negative, so cannot reproduce
- tone reversal unless lit carefully

Louis Daguerre (1787-1851)



◆ the daguerreotype



(Newhall)

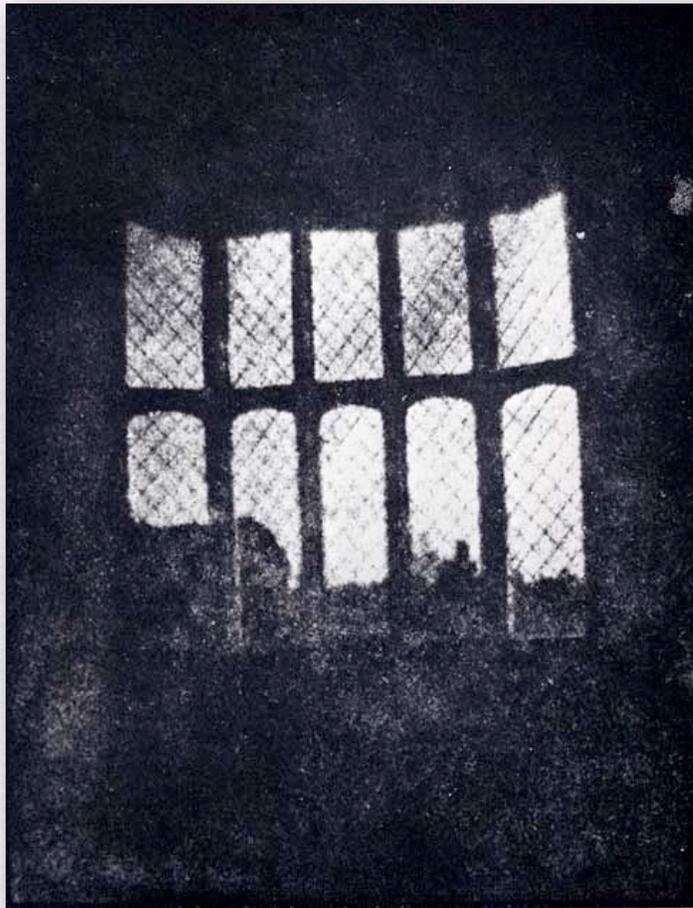
Still life, 1837

- silver halide on polished metal
- no negative, so cannot reproduce
- tone reversal unless lit carefully

William Talbot (1800-1877)



◆ the calotype



Latticed window at Lacock Abbey, 1835

- paper impregnated with silver chloride
- fading arrested with hyposulfite of soda (“hypo”)
- negative, so allows any number of positive prints
- name “photography” suggested by F. W. Herschel

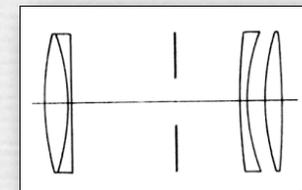
The daguerreotype portrait



making a daguerreotype, 1843

(Rosenblum)

- sitter's head stabilized with a metal brace
- hands clenched to avoid movement
- Petzval's lens (1840) reduced exposure time 20×



- exposure still long, typically 5-8 seconds

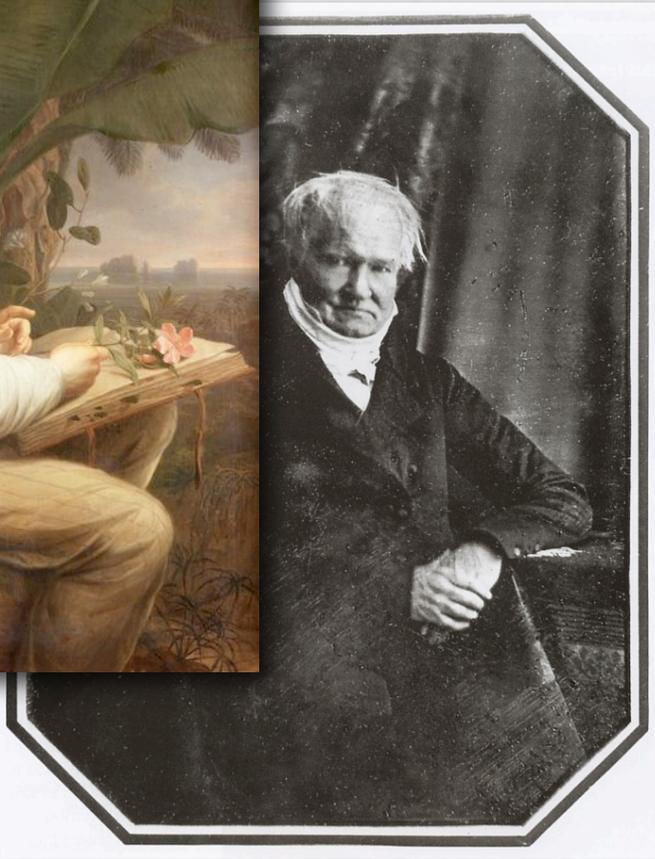
The daguerreotype portrait



(Rosenblum)

Gustav Oehme, Three Young Girls, c. 1845

Pop quiz - who are these people?



(Rosenblum)

- naturalist and explorer of Central and South America
- father of modern meteorology
- magnetic declination, igneous origin of rocks, etc.

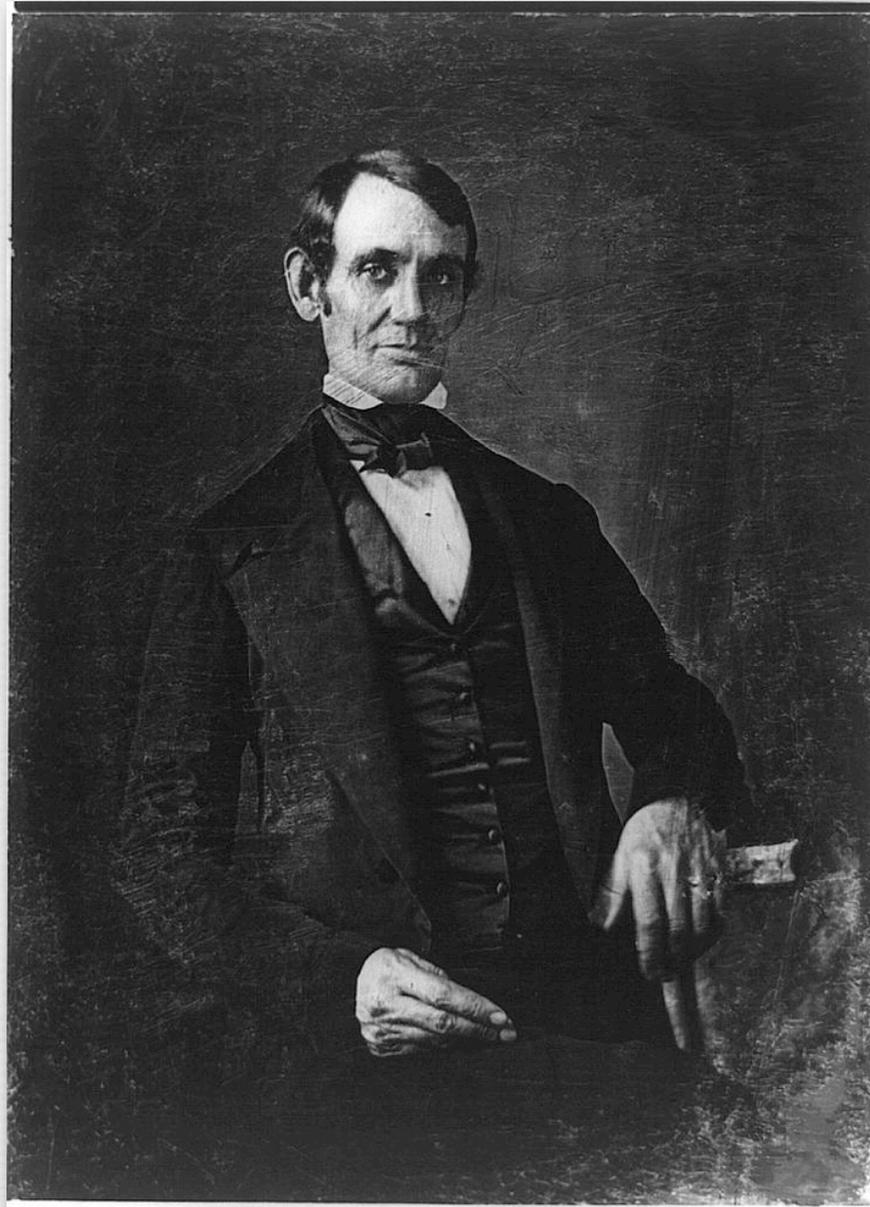
Alexander von Humboldt, 1847

(photograph by Hermann Blow)

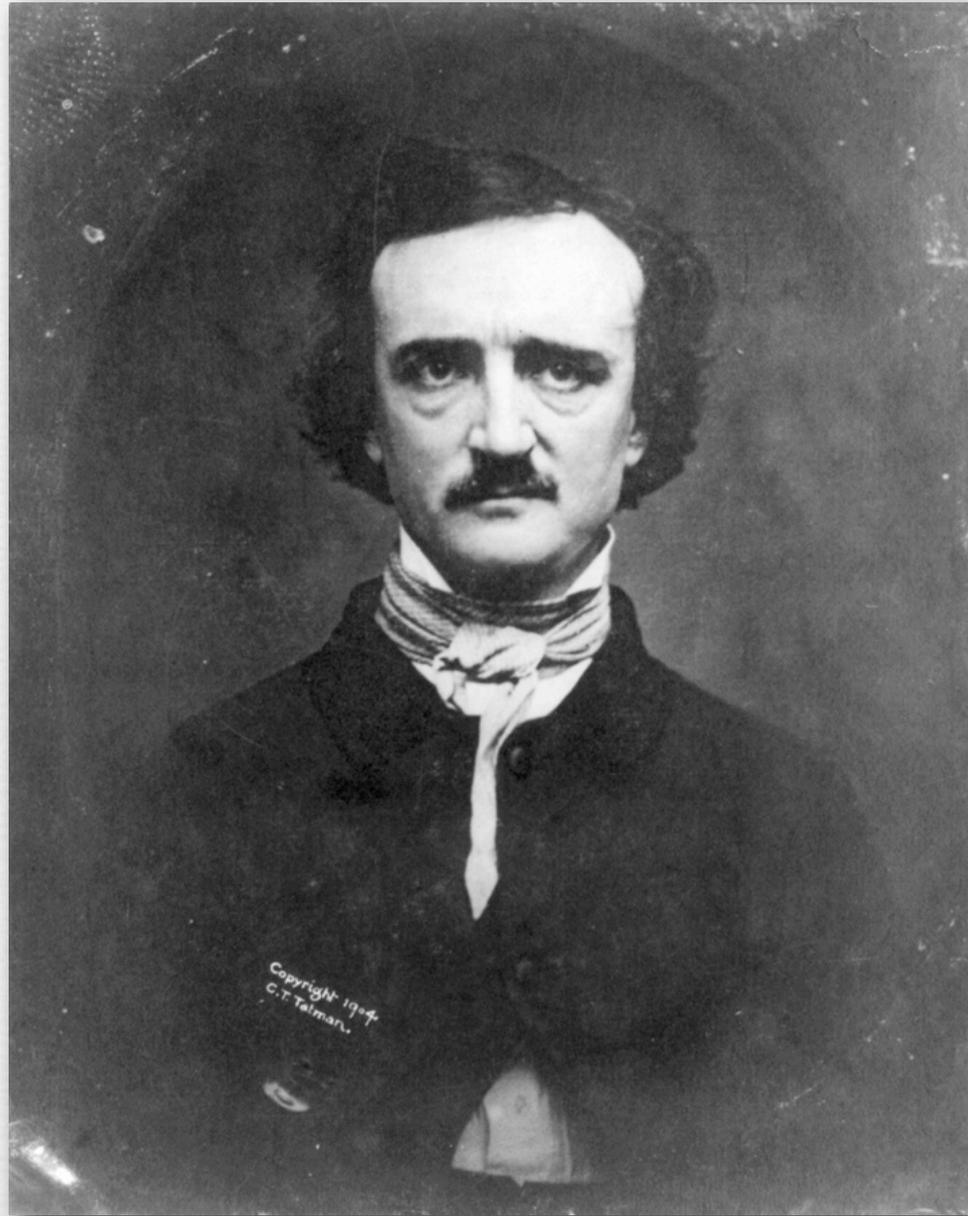


- inventor of the telegraph (and Morse code)
- painter

Samuel Morse, ca. 1845



Abraham Lincoln, c. 1846
(photograph by Nicholas Shepherd)



Edgar Allen Poe, 1848
(photograph by W.S. Hartshorn)



(Rosenblum)

- mathematician and author of children's books (Alice in Wonderland)

- albumen print (from here on)

Lewis Carroll, 1863

(photograph by Oscar Rejlander)



(Rosenblum)

- most famous actress of the 19th century (“divine Sarah”)

Sarah Bernhardt, 1865

(photograph by Gaspard Tournachon)

(Rosenblum)



- mother of the author Virginia Woolf

Julia Jackson, 1867

(photograph by Julia Margaret Cameron)

Slide credits

- ✦ Newhall, B., *The History of Photography*, Little, Brown & Co., 1982.
- ✦ Rosenblum, N., *A World History of Photography* (4th ed.), Abbeville Press, 2007.
- ✦ <http://wikipedia.org>