

History of photography (part 1): age of portraits

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Marc Levoy
Computer Science Department
Stanford University

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)

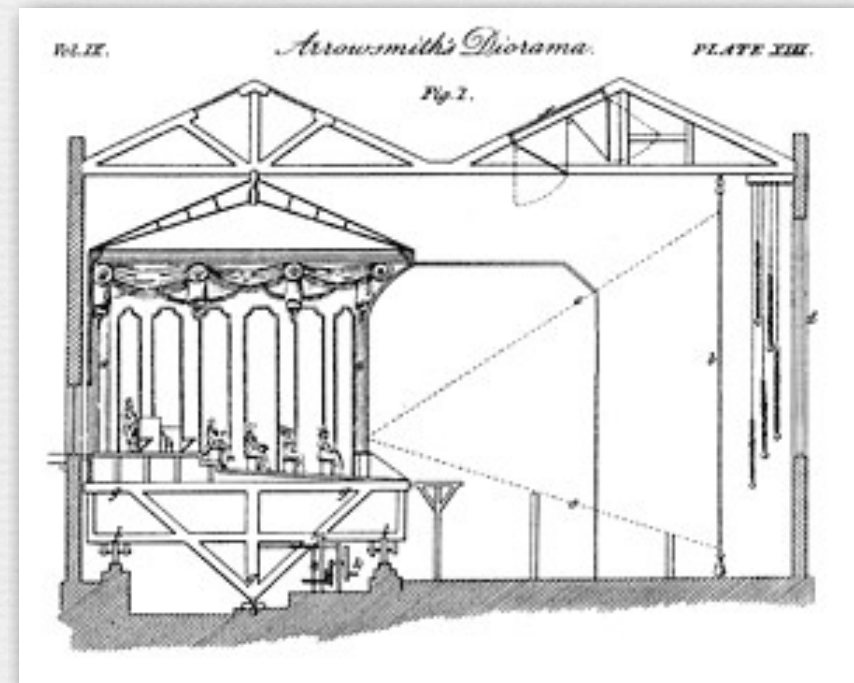
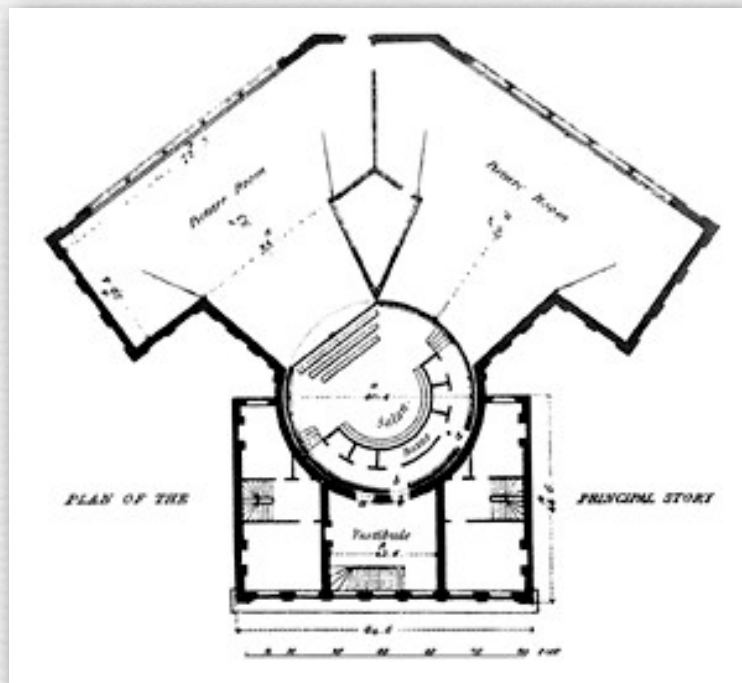
◆ painter



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



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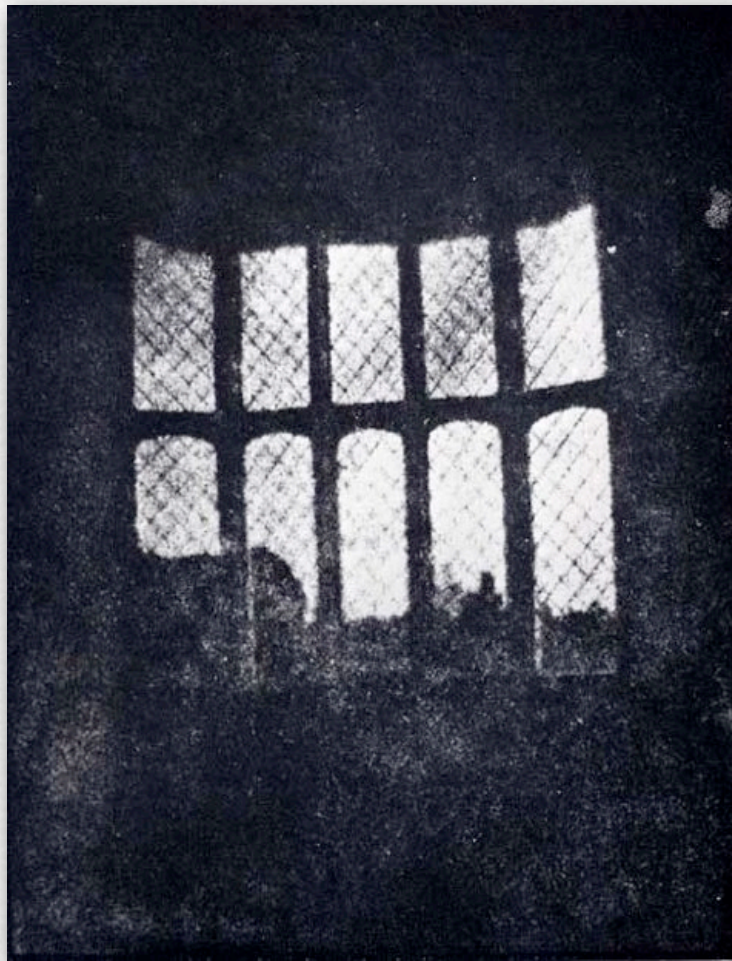
Still life, 1837

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

William Talbot (1800-1877)



◆ the calotype



- 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

Latticed window at Lacock Abbey, 1835

The daguerreotype portrait

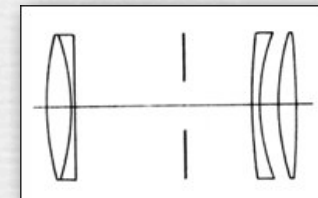


making a daguerreotype, 1843

The formula I gave in class for computing the F-number of pre-Petzval lenses was wrong. I stated that Petzval lenses were $f/3.7$. I also said that Petzval's 20x is about 4 doublings of light, hence about 4 f/stops. These facts are correct. Starting from this number, the correct formula for the pre-Petzval lenses is $3.7 \times \sqrt{20} = f/16.5$.

(Ros)

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



- exposure still long, typically 5-8 seconds

The daguerreotype portrait



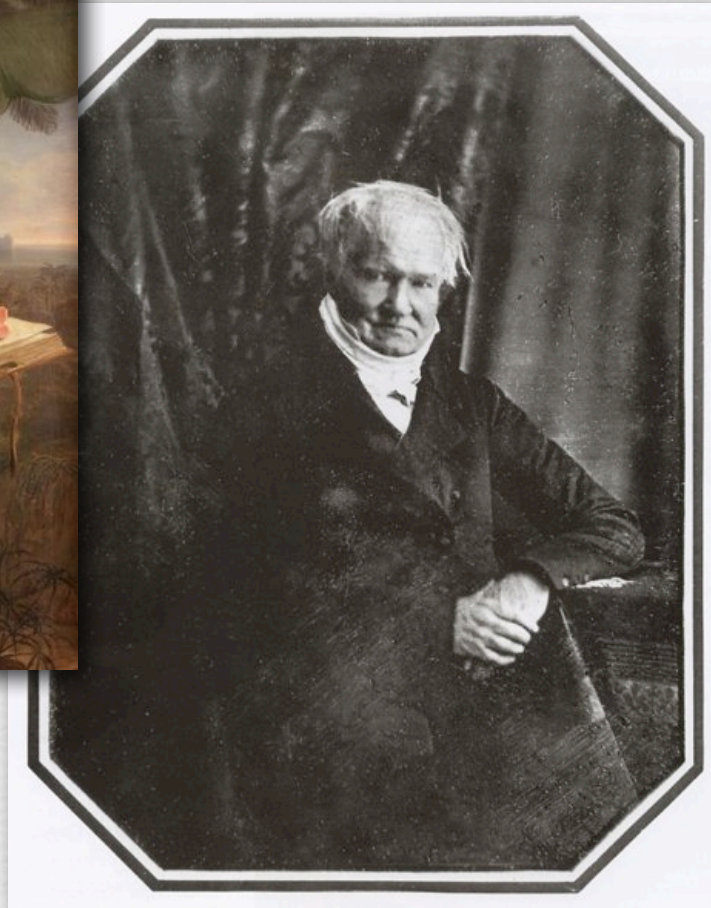
(Rosenblum)

Gustav Oehme, Three Young Girls, c. 1845

Pop quiz - who are these people?



painting of Humboldt
by Friedrich Weitsch
(1806)



Alexander von Humboldt, 1847

(photograph by Hermann Blow)

(Rosenblum)

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

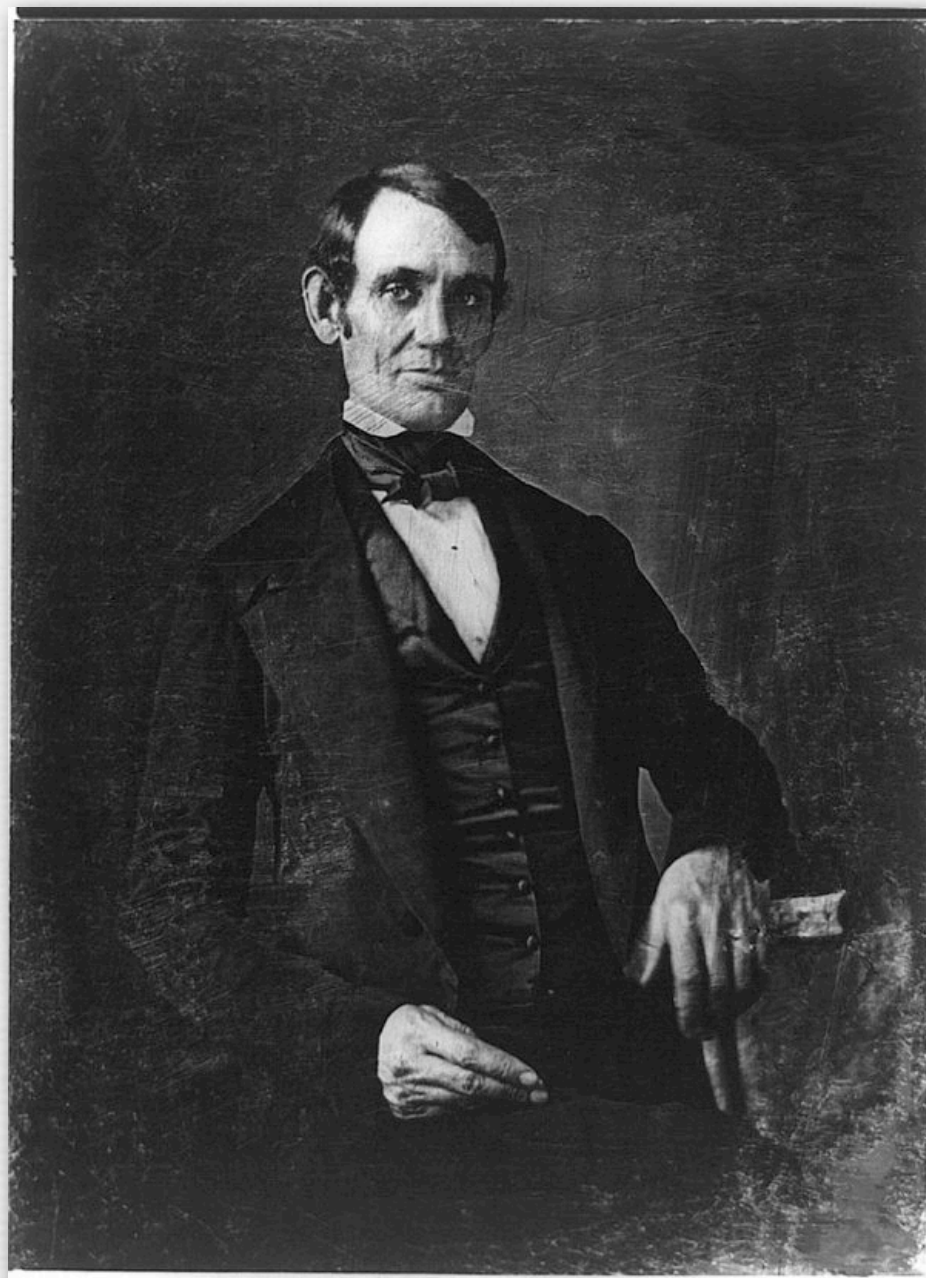


painting by Morse
of Mrs. Bacot
(1830)

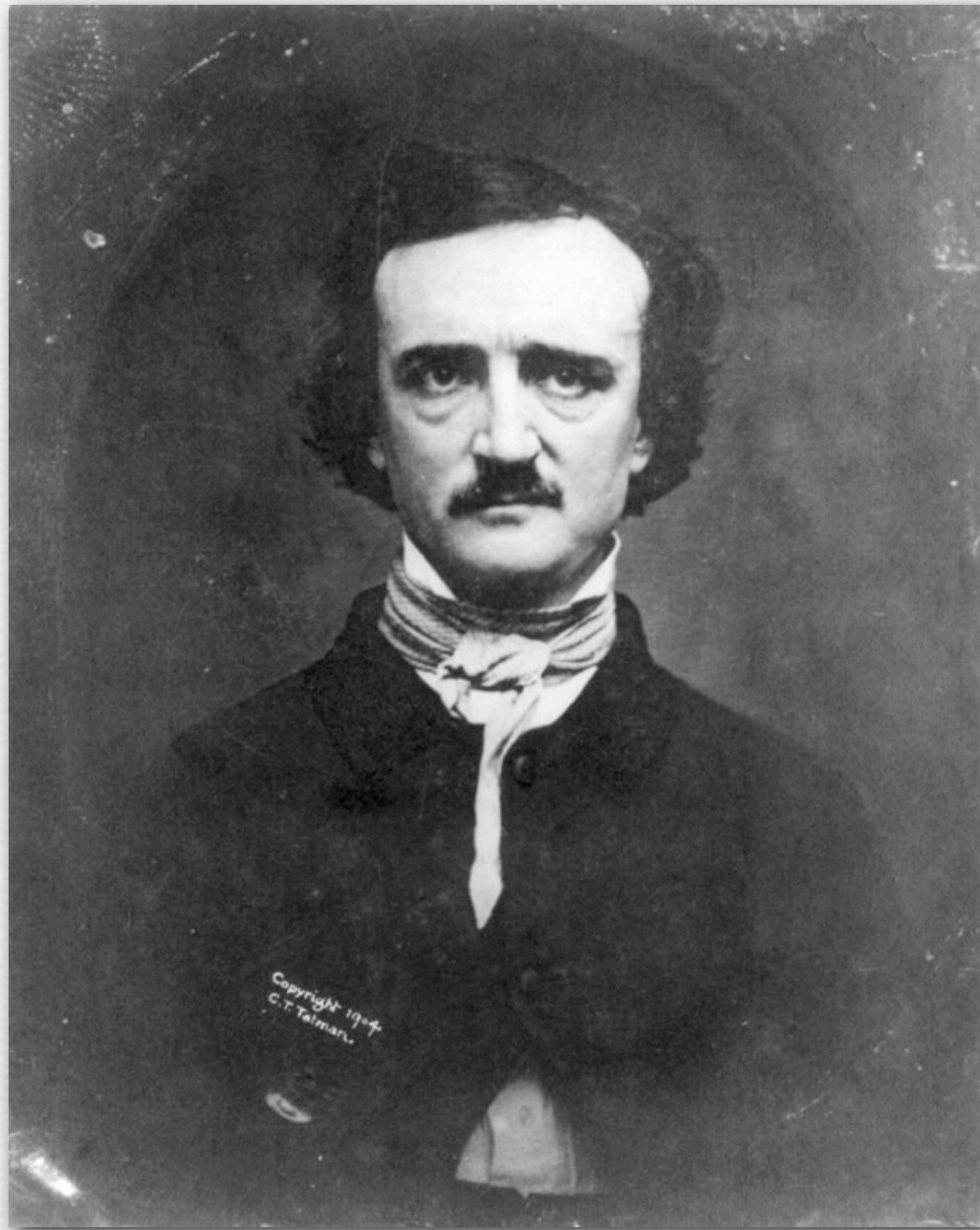


Samuel Morse, ca. 1845

- inventor of telegraph
(and Morse code)
- painter



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



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



photograph by
Lewis Carroll
of Alice Lidell
(1858)



Lewis Carroll, 1863
(photograph by Oscar Rejlander)

(Rosenblum)

- mathematician and author of children's books (Alice in Wonderland)
- albumen print (from here on)



(Rosenblum)

Sarah Bernhardt, 1865

(photograph by Gaspard Tournachon)

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



(Rosenblum)



Virginia Woolf

● mother of 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>