

# History of photography (part 1): age of portraits

CS 178, Spring 2012

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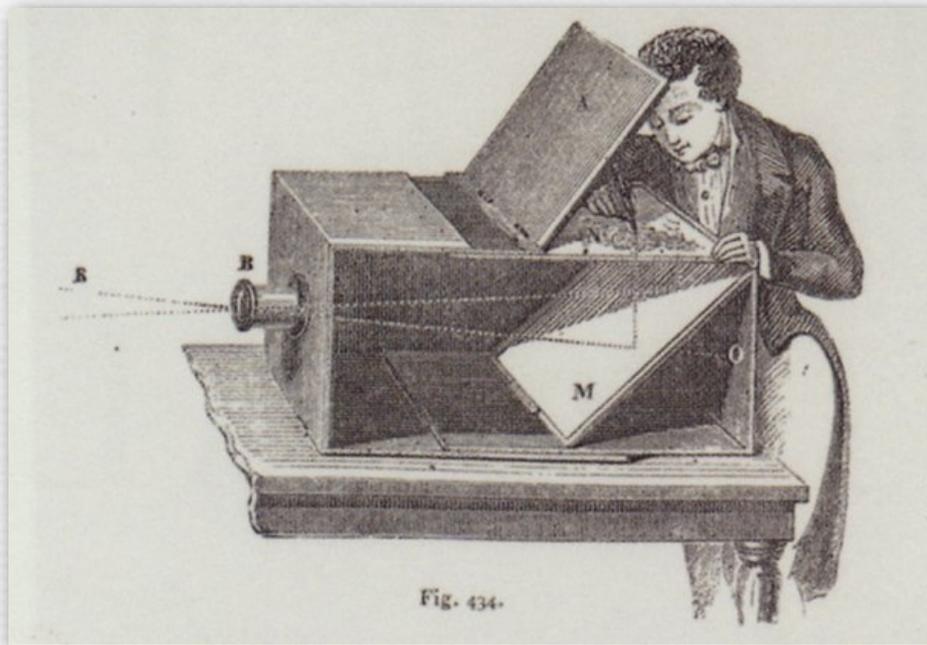
# Outline

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

# The *camera obscura*

(Gregory)



(Gustavson)



Vermeer, *The Music Lesson* (c. 1665)

# The *camera obscura*

(Gregory)



Philip Steadman's model (1995)



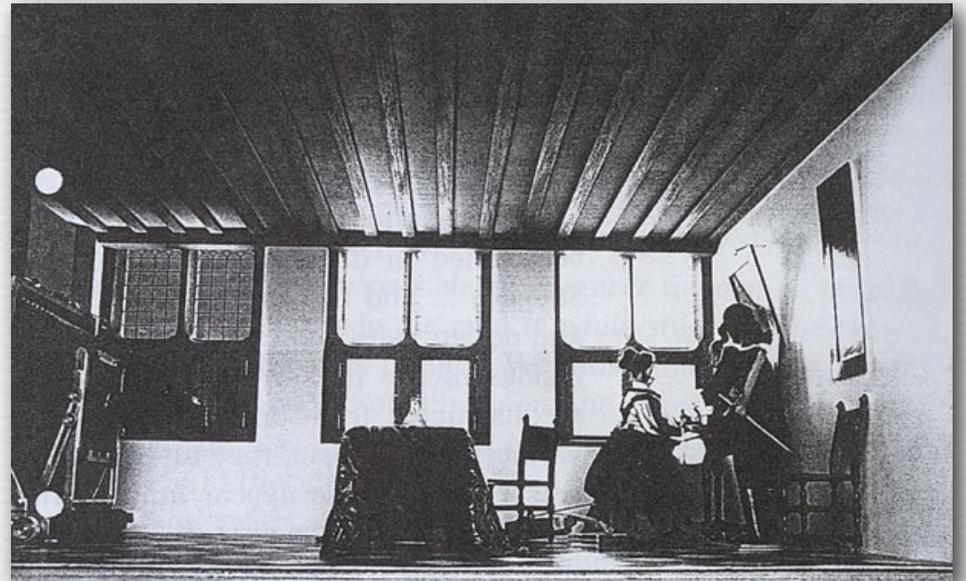
Vermeer, *The Music Lesson* (c. 1665)

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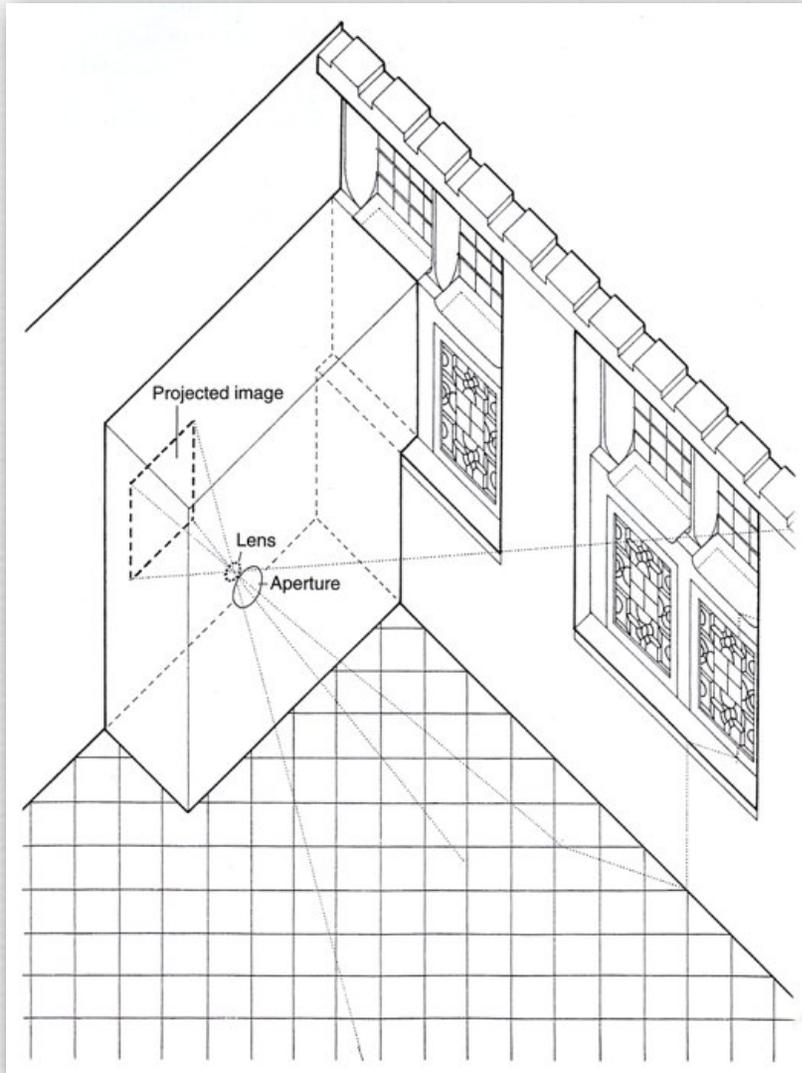
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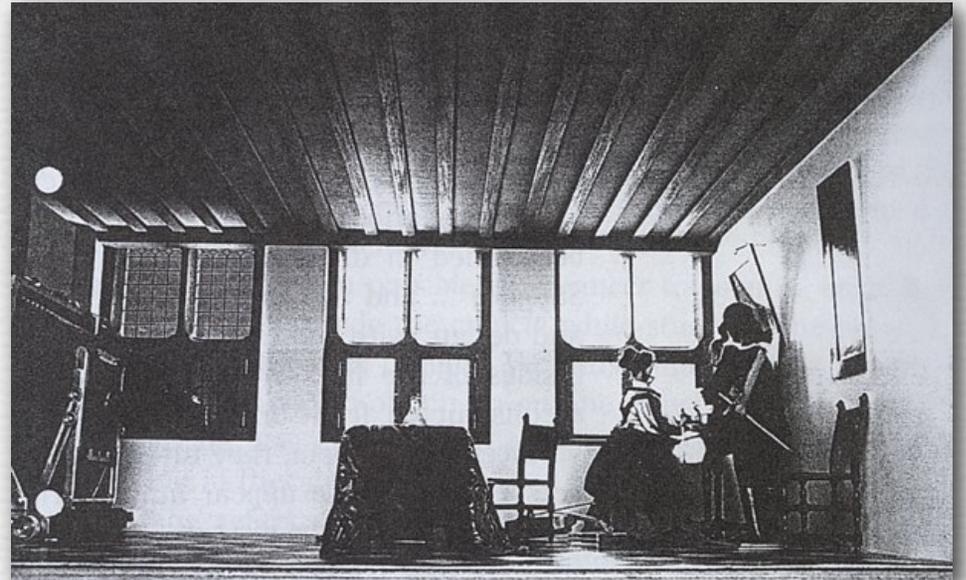
Philip Steadman's model (1995)



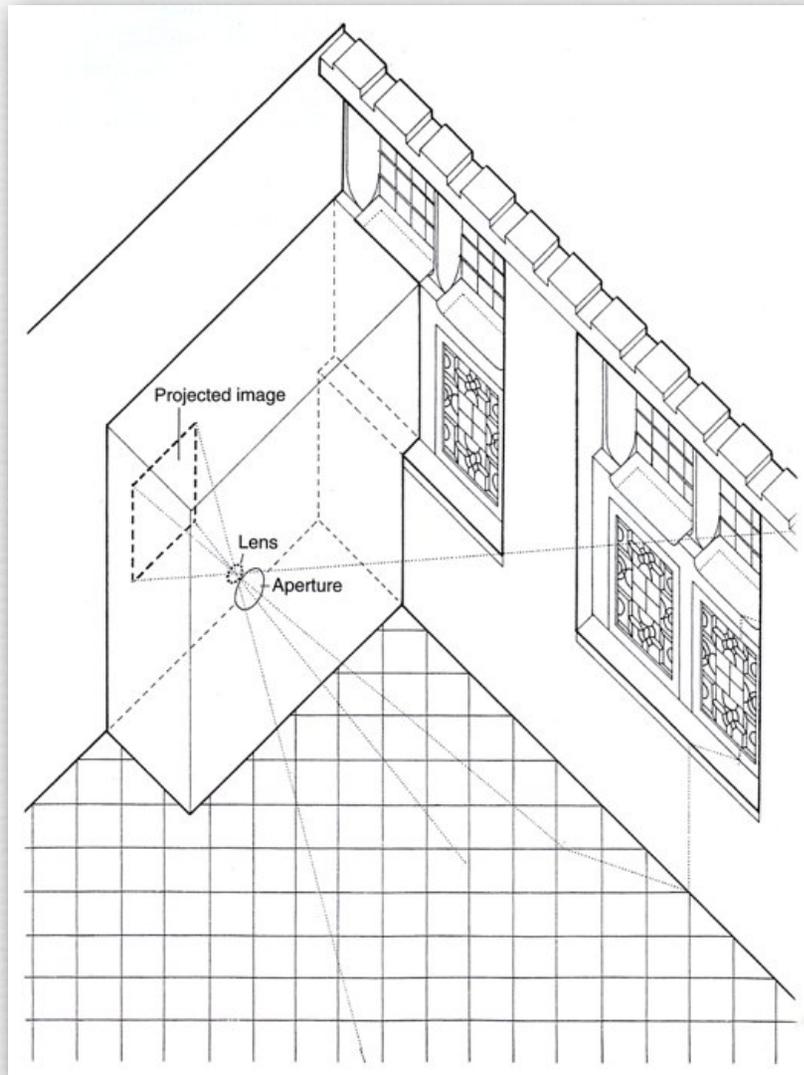
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Philip Steadman's model (1995)



Vermeer, *The Music Lesson* (c. 1665)

# Nicéphore Niépce (1765-1833)

- ◆ first photographic image



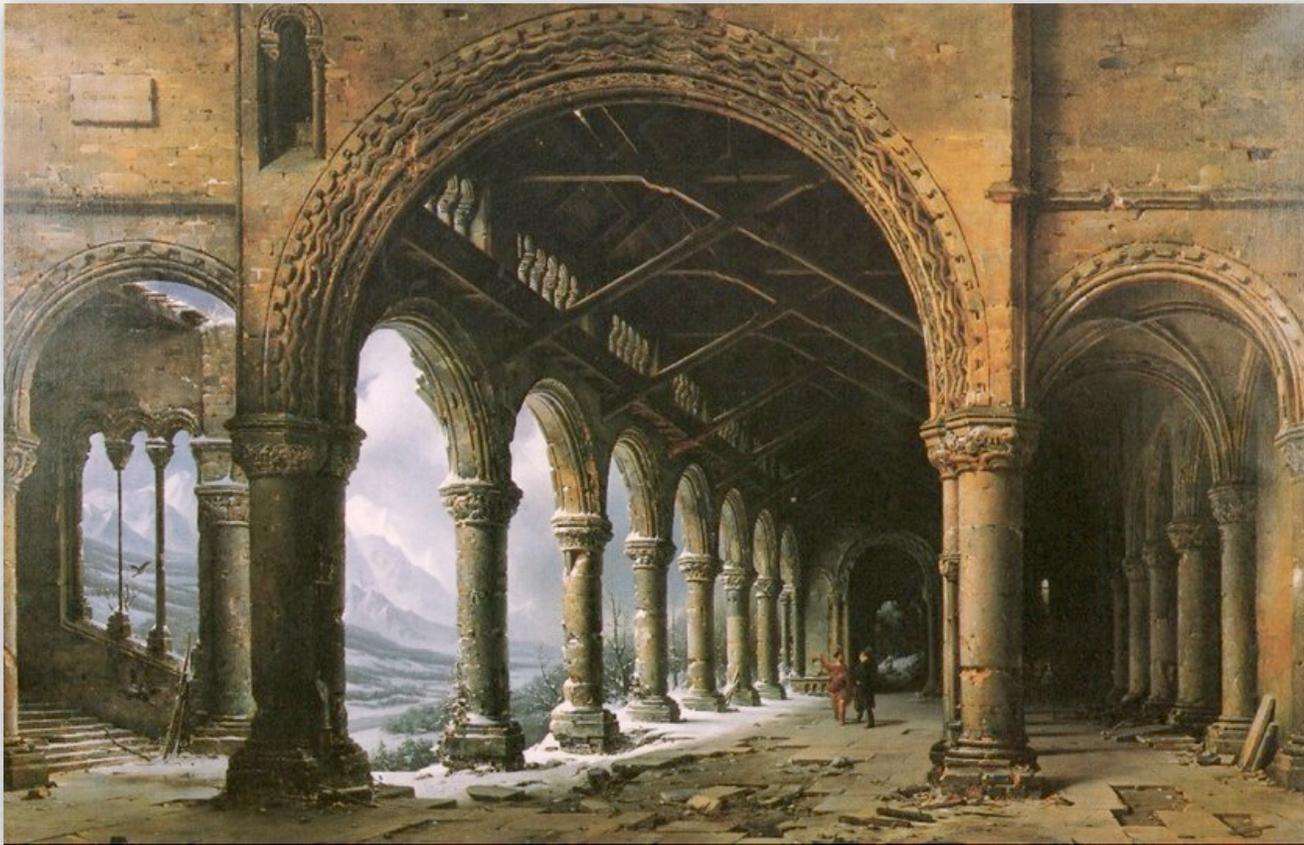
View from the window at Le Gras, 1826



- bitumen on pewter plate
- 8-hour exposure

# Louis Daguerre (1787-1851)

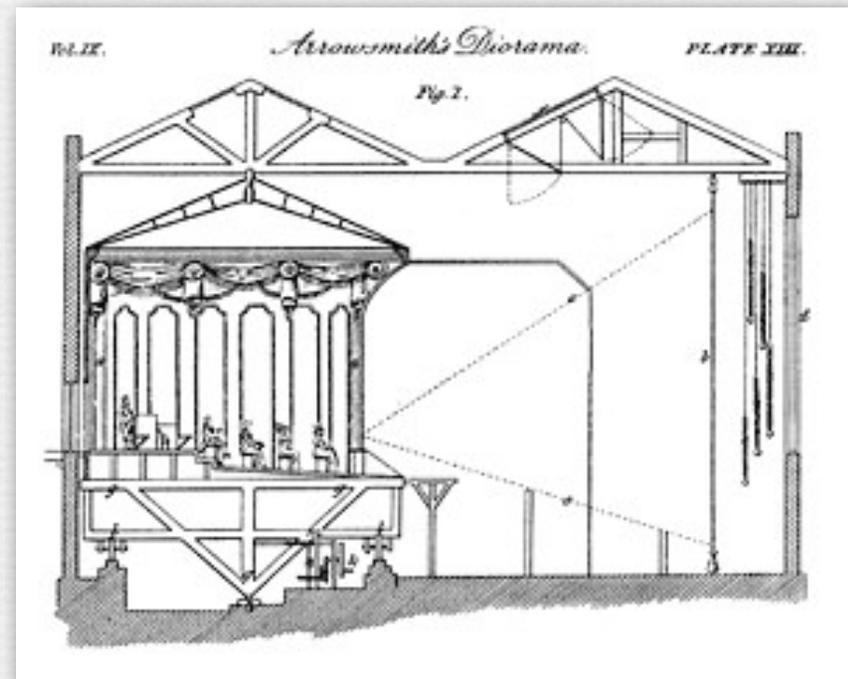
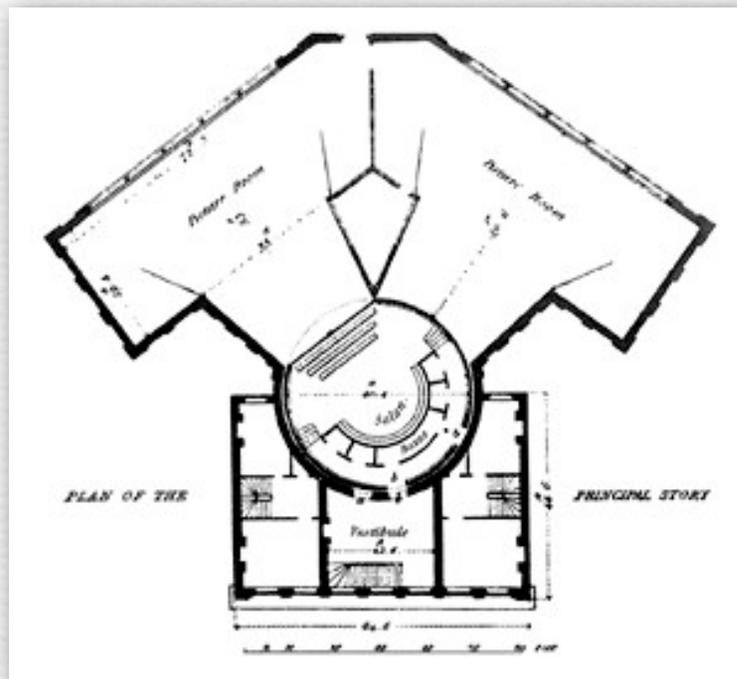
◆ painter



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)

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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)

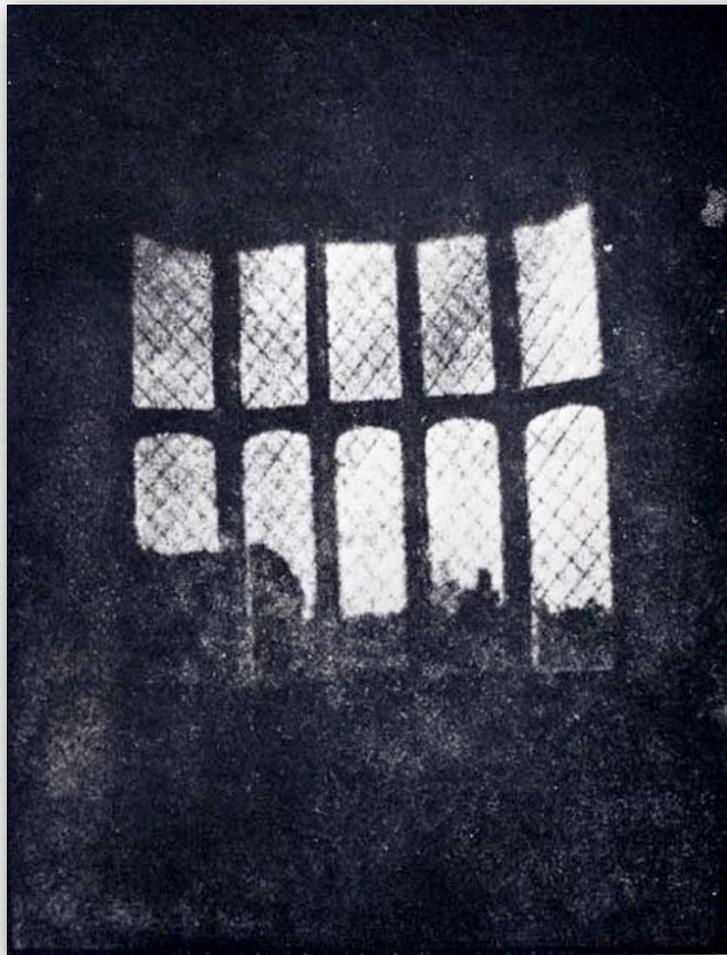
Still life, 1837

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

# William Talbot (1800-1877)



## ◆ the calotype



- 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

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(Rosenblum)

- sitter's head stabilized with a metal brace
- hands clenched to avoid movement

making a daguerreotype, 1843

# The daguerreotype camera

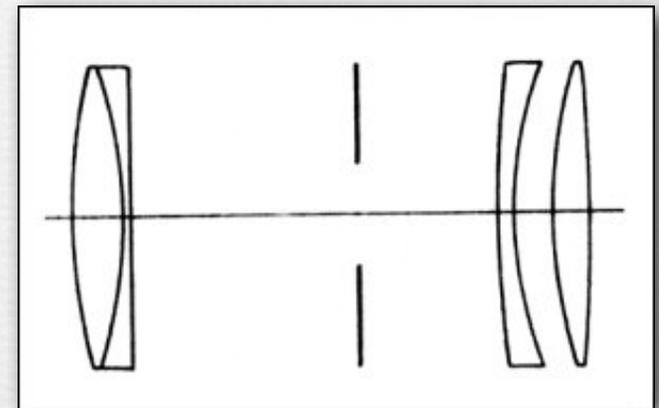
f/15

(Gustavson)



Giroux camera, 1839

manual shutter



Petzval's lens, 1840

- f/3.7 instead of f/16.7
- reduced exposure time 20×
- exposure still 5-8 seconds

# The daguerreotype portrait

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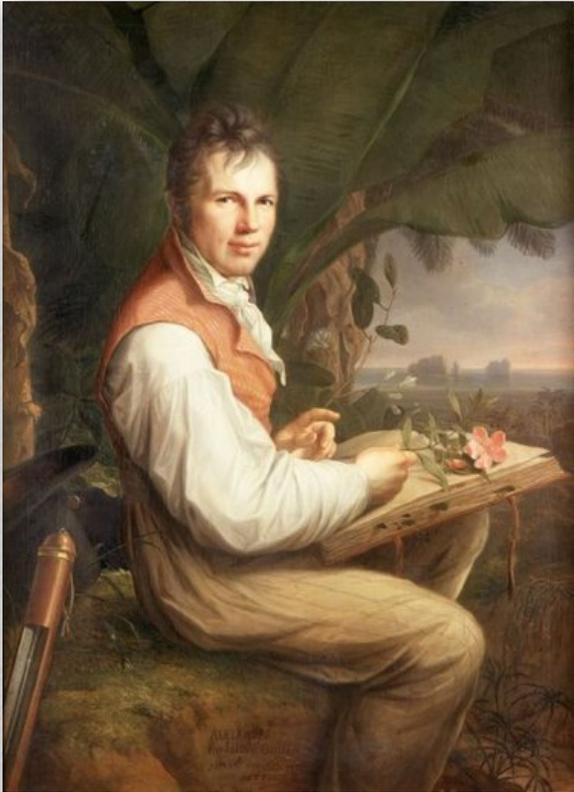


(Rosenblum)

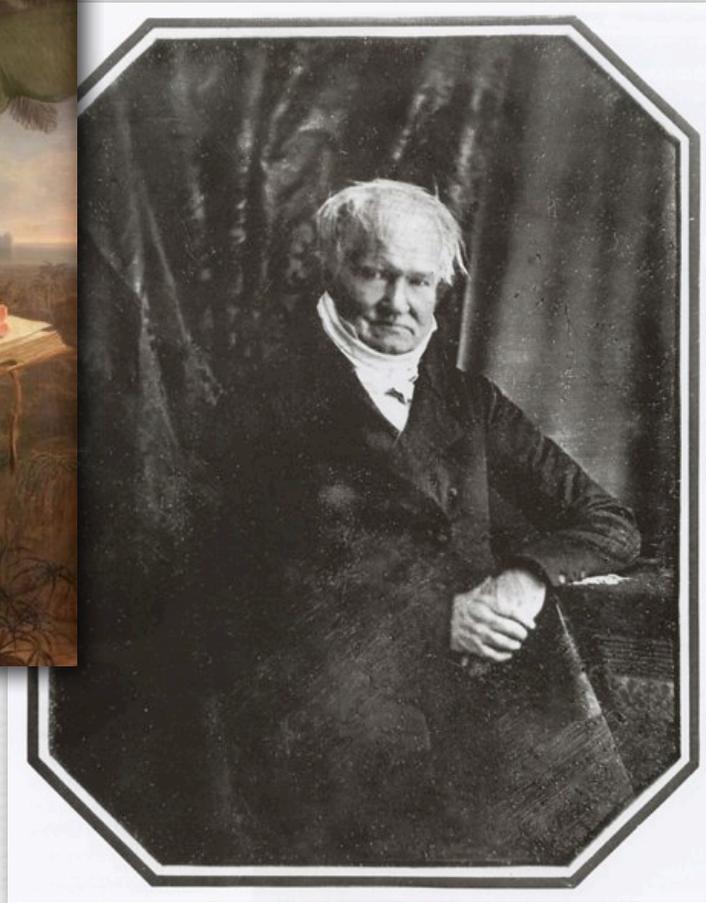
Gustav Oehme, Three Young Girls, c. 1845

# Pop quiz - who are these people?

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painting of Humboldt  
by Friedrich Weitsch  
(1806)



Alexander von Humboldt, 1847

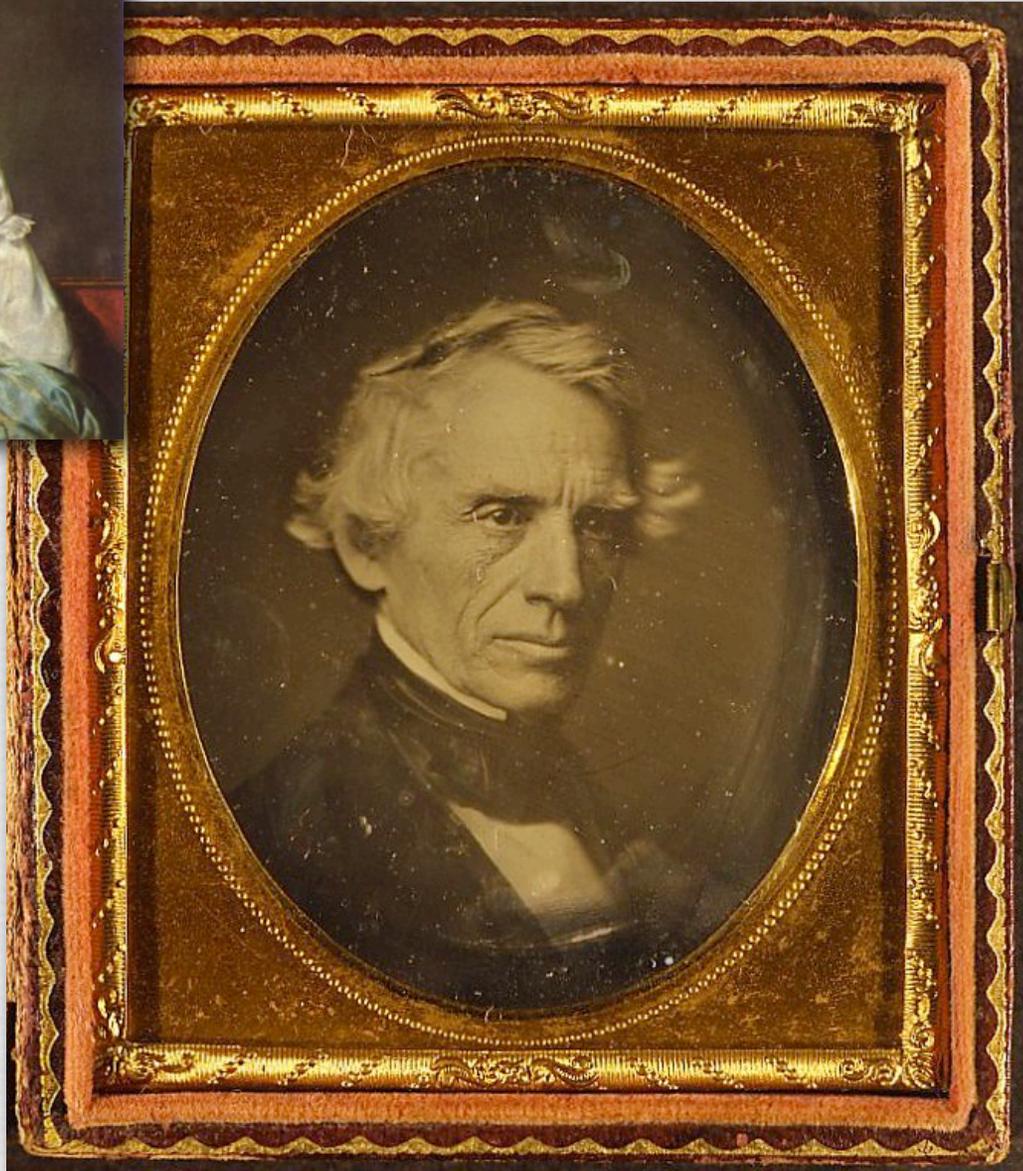
(photograph by Hermann Blow)

(Rosenblum)

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

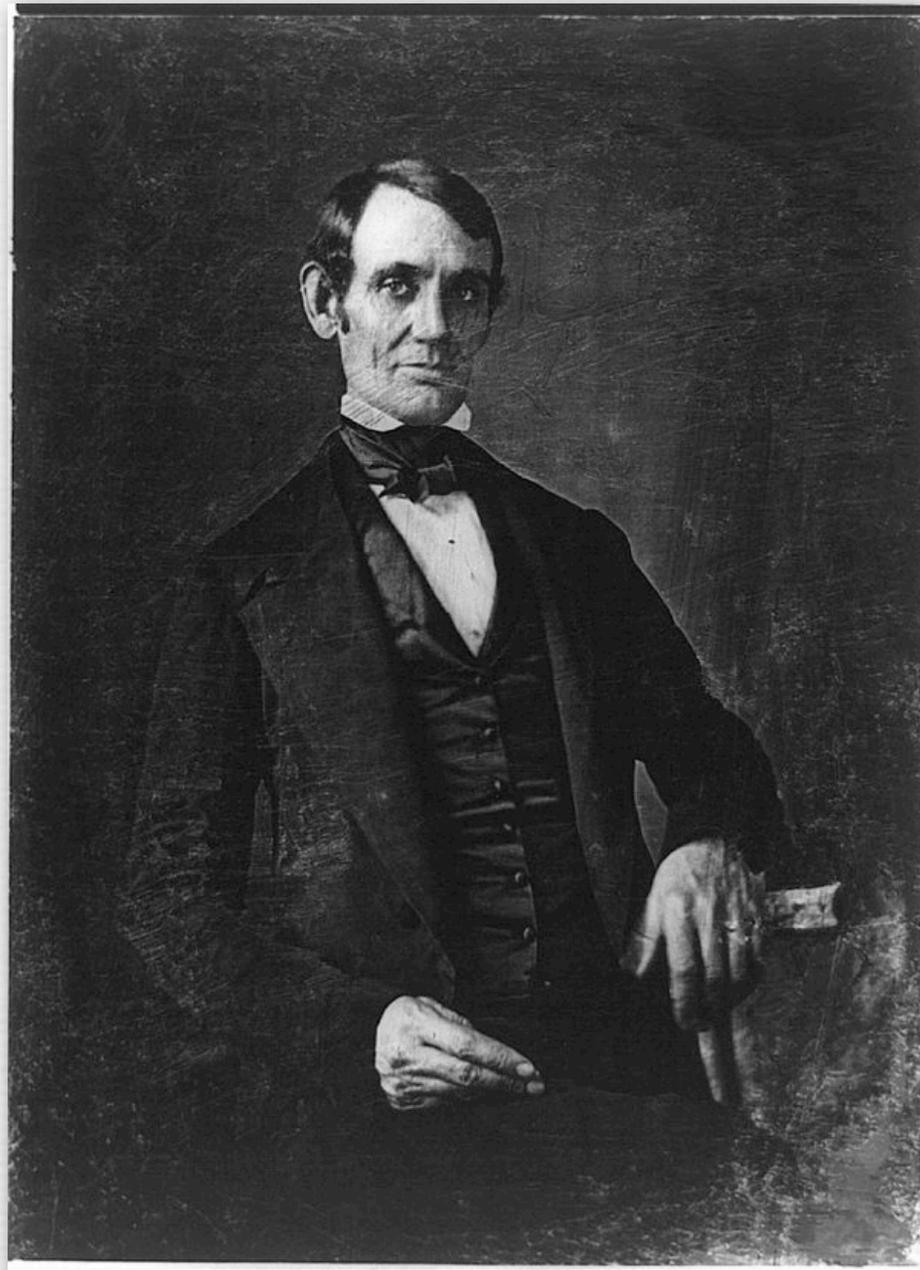


painting by Morse  
of Mrs. Bacot  
(1830)



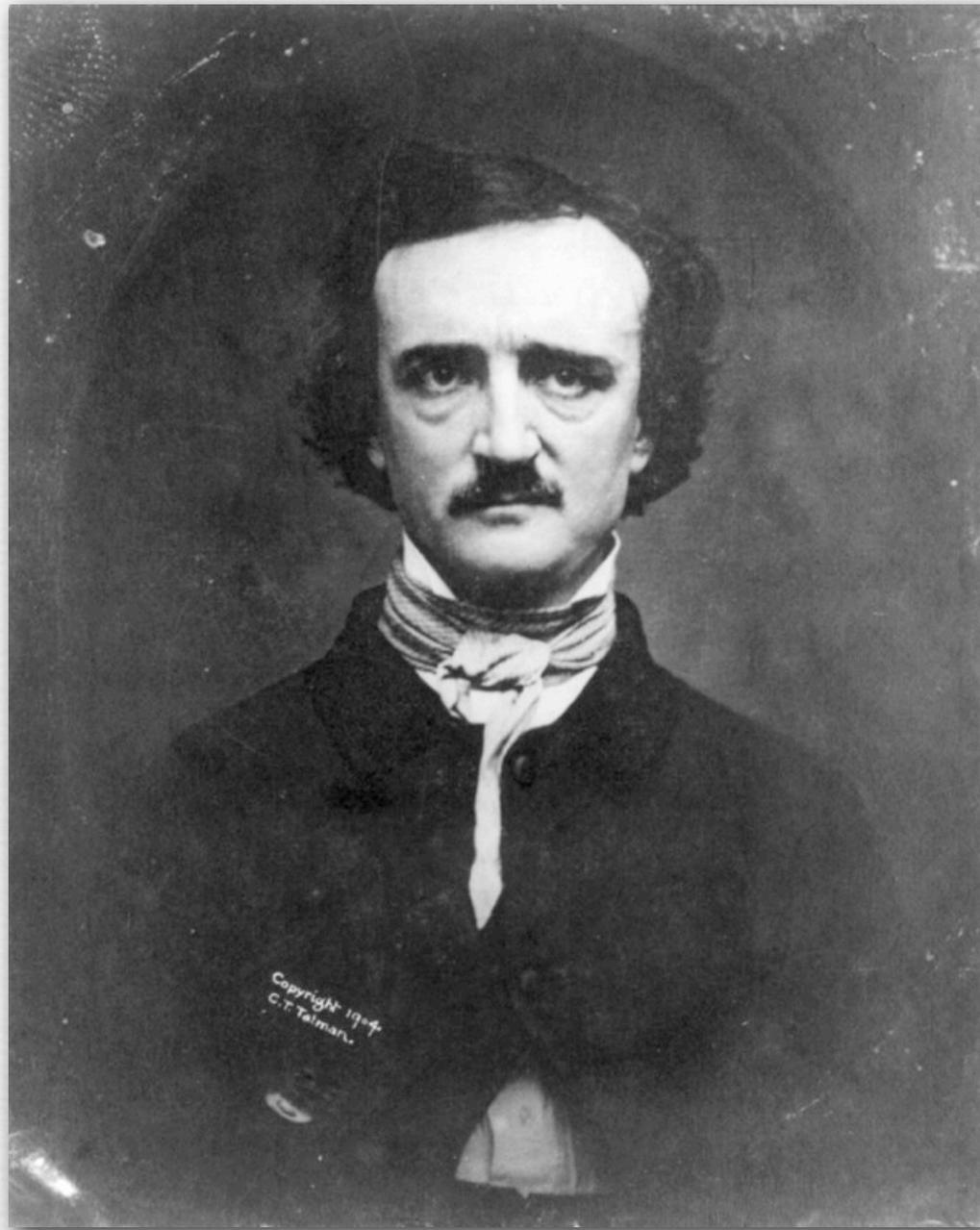
Samuel Morse, ca. 1845

- 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 paper print made from wet-plate collodion negative (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

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- ◆ Newhall, B., *The History of Photography*, Little, Brown & Co., 1982.
- ◆ Rosenblum, N., *A World History of Photography* (4th ed.), Abbeville Press, 2007.
- ◆ Gustavson, T., *Camera*, Sterling Publishing, 2009.
- ◆ Gregory, R., et al., *The Artful Eye*, Oxford University Press, 1995.
- ◆ <http://wikipedia.org>