

“Letter from Madame Daguerre,” 9 October 1851

(keywords: Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre, Madame Daguerre, F. Daguerre, Charles R. Meade, Henry W. M. Meade, Meade Brothers, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography)

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Letter from Madame Daguerre.

The following interesting note was written by the widow of the celebrated Daguerre to Messrs. Meade & Co., of this city;—

MESSIEURS:—I will not longer delay expressing how deeply affected I was by your kind and sympathizing letter you wrote me, on the mournful bereavement I have experienced by the death of M. Daguerre, my husband. Indeed, if anything could console me, and lessen my regret, it would be the marks of sympathy that have been shown me, not only in France, but in every country where M. Daguerre’s name, talents, and discoveries are known. It is a painful, but a soothing pleasure to his widow, to know that the Daguerrean artists in America have shown their respect for his memory, in wearing crape for him during several days; and I beg you to express my sincere thanks to all those who have thus acted, particularly to the Society of Artists at New York, as I have myself done here to the Society des Beaux-Arts, of which M. Daguerre was a member, and who intend, as probably you already know, opening a subscription among the artists and persons who are employed in the Daguerreotype, for the erection of a monument to M. Daguerre’s memory, in the cemetery of Petit Bry-sur-Marne, where my husband resided, and where he breathed his last, the 10th of July, 1851.

I should have desired to offer you an autograph of M. Daguerre, be he scarcely wrote by himself, and I can only forward as autograph his simple signature on printed pieces. I will send you one if you wish it unless I should find a more interesting writing. I do not possess the lithograph you mention, and it would indeed be a great treasure to me to have one, and for which kind attention allow me at once to express my most grateful thanks. I remain, sirs, yours very truly,

F. DAGUERRE.

BRY-SUR-MARNE, 16th of Sept., 1851

[End of text.]

EDITOR’S NOTES:

Notice of the New York daguerreotypists wearing crepe on the left arm appears in two texts: “Respect for Daguerre,” *New-York Daily Tribune* 11:3214 (6 August 1851): 4;¹ “At a Large and Enthusiastic Meeting,” *New-York Daily Tribune* 11:3217 (9 August 1851): n.p. (first page of issue).²

Madam Daguerre's letter also appears in *Photographic Art-Journal* (New York) 2:5 (November 1851): 318. In the latter, the initial for Madam Daguerre is provided as "D.", and the date is erroneously stated as "16th Oct."

1. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8510032_RESPECT_NYDTRIB_1851-09-06.pdf
2. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8510034_MOURNING_NYD-TRIB_1851-08-09.pdf

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