### Exhibition of daguerreotypes at the Chamber of Deputies, 20 July 1839

(keywords: Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre, Chamber of Deputies, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography.)

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*Mirror of Literature, Amusement, and Instruction* (London) No. 959 (20 July 1839): 48. The notice appears under the header "The Gatherer."

A few days since M. Daguerre exhibited, in one of the rooms attached to the Chamber of Deputies, several specimens of the products of the Daguerréotype. Among them were views of three streets of the capital, the interior of M. Daguerre's atelier, and a group of busts in the collection of the Louvre. The deputies who examined them, and who continued to crowd the room throughout the day, were particularly struck with the marvellous minuteness of detail which these views, and especially those of the streets, exhibited. In one, representing the Pont Marie, all the minutest indentations and divisions of the ground or the building, the goods lying on the wharf, even the small stones under the water at the edge of the stream, and the different degrees of transparency given to the water, were all shown with the most incredible accuracy. The use of a magnifying glass revealed an affinity of other details quite undistinguishable by the naked eye, and more particularly in the foliage of trees. The antique busts are said to have been rendered by this method with very great beauty of effect. The chemical substance upon which the light acts, according to M. Daguerre's method, is laid upon sheets of copper, which, for the drawing, exhibited on Saturday, were about nine or ten inches by six or seven inches. The expense of such plates M. Daguerre estimates at about 3fr. 50c. each, but he expects that considerable reductions may be ultimately made in their cost, and that the improvement of his method will render it applicable to other substances not metallic.— Galignani.

## [End of text.]

# **EDITOR'S NOTES:**

See also a brief text in *Times* (London) No. 17,091 (11 July 1839): 4.1

The historian R. Derek Wood states that "Although the President of the Chambre des Députés had expected final discussion on awarding a pension to Daguerre would take place on Saturday 6 July, there was in fact a slight delay. The proposed display of Daguerreotypes took place on the following Sunday and Monday." (7 July and 8 July 1839.)

The vote occurred on Tuesday, 9 July 1839. Wood further states "during the counting Arago appeared in the hall where daguerreotypes were displayed and spoke briefly about the technique, apparatus and cost involved to a crowd who assembled there." (Source: *Journal des Débats* [10 July 1839]: 3.)

This text also appears in other publications. See "Daguerre's Photography," *Mechanics' Magazine: Museum, Register, Journal, and Gazette* (London) No. 833 (27 July 1839): 320; *Journal of the Franklin Institute* (Philadelphia) 24:4 (October 1839):286–86.

- 1. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8390008\_DEPUTIES\_TIMES\_1839-07-11.pdf
- R. Derek Wood, "A State Pension for L. J. M. Daguerre for the Secret of his Daguerreotype Technique," *Annals of Science* 54:5 (September 1997): 489–506. The text is also available on Wood's web site:

http://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20100311230213/http://www.midley.co.uk/

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