

**John F. Goddard, "Valuable Improvement in Daguerreotype," 12 December 1840**

(keywords: John F. Goddard, bromine of iodine, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography.)

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**FINE ARTS.**

**VALUABLE IMPROVEMENT IN DAGUERREOTYPE.**

*To the Editor of the Literary Gazette.*

SIR,—Having been engaged for some time past in investigating the different means of preparing the plates for the action of light in photographic delineations of daguerreotype, in the hopes of being able to render them more sensitive, the result of my experiments has been the valuable discovery, that when the bromide of iodine is used instead of the simple iodine, this very desirable object is attained in a most extraordinary degree. So delicately sensitive are the plates, when properly prepared, that the faintest lights act upon them; even on the dull, cloudy days of November, with a London atmosphere, if not too foggy, and there is sufficient light to produce a picture, it will, by a few minutes' exposure, be delineated. I have not had an opportunity of experimenting with bright solar light since I made the discovery; but from the experience I have had in the old process during the last summer, I have no doubt that with a clear summer sun in London the effects will be almost instantaneous. With the light of the ordinary gas a picture of a plaster bust may be obtained in three or four minutes.

I remain, Sir, yours, &c.

JOHN F. GODDARD.

Late Lecturer on Optics, &c. &c., at the Royal Adelaide Gallery.

**[End of text.]**

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**EDITOR'S NOTES:**

This text is referenced as the first published account of the use of bromine in photography. See Jabez Hughes, "The Discoverer of the Use of Bromine in Photography: a few facts and an Appeal," *British Journal of Photography* (London) (15 December 1863): 487–88.<sup>1</sup> Claudet also declares priority to Goddard in Antoine Claudet, "Question of Priority respecting the Discovery of the Accelerating Process in the Daguerreotype Operation," *London, Edinburgh, and Dublin Philosophical Magazine and Journal of Science* (London) 32:214 (March 1848): 215–16.<sup>2</sup>

See also J. F. Goddard, "Application of the Daguerreotype to the Taking of Likenesses from the Life," *Chemist; or, Reporter of Chemical Discoveries and Improvements* (London) 2:17 (May 1841): 142–43.<sup>2</sup>

1. [http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8630001\\_HUGHES\\_BRIT\\_JOURN\\_PHOTOG\\_1863-12-15.pdf](http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8630001_HUGHES_BRIT_JOURN_PHOTOG_1863-12-15.pdf)

2. [http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8480001\\_CLAUDET\\_LONDON\\_EDIN\\_JOURN\\_1848-03.pdf](http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8480001_CLAUDET_LONDON_EDIN_JOURN_1848-03.pdf)
3. [http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8410001\\_GODDARD\\_CHEMIST\\_1841-05.pdf](http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8410001_GODDARD_CHEMIST_1841-05.pdf)

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