

"The Daguerreotype," (Vance & Lerow) 6 February 1846

(keywords: Robert H. Vance, John A. Lerow, 91 Washington Street, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography)

THE DAGUERREOTYPE: AN ARCHIVE OF SOURCE TEXTS, GRAPHICS, AND EPHEMERA

The research archive of Gary W. Ewer regarding the history of the daguerreotype

<http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>

EWER ARCHIVE P8460004

Published in:

Christian Watchman (Boston) 27:6 (6 February 1846): 24.

For the Christian Watchman

THE DAGUERREOTYPE.—Since the discovery of this wonderful, and almost incomprehensible art, by Monsieur Daguerre, it has undergone many new and striking improvements.

In 1839, the specimens which were brought from France to this city, were principally copies of public buildings, views, landscapes, &c., in Paris; and although they excited the most intense curiosity in the public mind at that time, yet they were but faint impressions, hardly discernible, and in fact almost nothing, compared with those that are now taken in this country. It is truly a surprising and wonderful thing, that we can seat ourselves before the lens of a camera obscura, and by the action of light alone have an indelible impression of our own form and features stamped upon a silver plate so exact and so precise that it is impossible to mistake it. By the aid of chemical agents, consisting chiefly of iodine and bromine properly prepared, this wonderful thing is accomplished.

The preparation of the chemicals employed, requires the utmost care and attention, and unless the operator thoroughly understands this thing, he can obtain but a poor impression on the plate. Owing to this cause we see many pictures that have a deathlike appearance, are scummy, eyes imperfect, and are also very indistinct.

A poor daguerreotype is not worth looking at, but a good one is invaluable. We have seen none better than those executed by Messrs Vance & Lerow at their rooms, No. 91 Washington Street. For clearness, distinctness, and boldness of execution, they are unsurpassed, and they resemble the finest engravings.

Mr. Lerow has for a long time been an operator for Mr. Plumbe, in Washington city and Boston, where, by diligent attention to his profession, he has made many great improvements.

[End of text.]

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Robert H. Vance and John A. Lerow advertised as "Vance & Lerow" in this weekly publication from 9 January 1846 through 5 June 1846.¹ Lerow continues the advertisements as "Lerow & Company" (likely with his brother Jacob H. Lerow) from 12 June 1846 through 19 February 1847.

Additional information is found in Peter E. Palmquist, "Robert H. Vance: The Maine and Boston Years, (1852–c.1850)," *Daguerreian Annual* 1991 (Arcata: The Daguerreian

Society, 1991): 198–216. The article illustrates a daguerreian camera with lens barrel engraved “Vance & Lerow, 91 Washington St., Boston.”

1. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8460005_VANCE-LEROW-AD_XIAN-WATCH_1846-02-06.pdf

EWER ARCHIVE P8460004

URL: http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8460004_VANCE-LEROW_XIAN-WATCH_1846-02-06.pdf

Document author: Gary W. Ewer

Creation date: 2009-12-22 / Last revision (proofread/edit): 2010-06-09

Citation information: *Christian Watchman* (Boston) 27:6 (6 February 1846): 24.

Prepared from: imaged original text from *American Periodical Series Online* (ProQuest.) (Subscription required; available at many higher learning institutions.)

Original spelling/punctuation/grammar generally maintained without correction. Any in-text corrections are bracketed.

The source text is Public Domain and may be freely quoted. As noted below, this document is copyright.

If citing directly from this document, please reference the Ewer Archive number and provide the following citation credit:

Gary W. Ewer, ed., *The Daguerreotype: an Archive of Source Texts, Graphics, and Ephemera*,
<http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>

THE NECESSARY DISCLAIMERS:

The document creator has made every effort to insure the accuracy of the transcription. However, the information provided in this document is provided without warranty, either express or implied. The document creator will not be liable for any damages caused or alleged to be caused directly, indirectly, incidentally, or consequentially by the information provided by this text.

The document creator assumes no responsibility for accuracy of fact; the text is prepared “as found.” Factual inaccuracies of the original text are generally **not** noted by the document creator. If this text is used in academic papers, accuracy should be confirmed by consulting original sources.

The document creator also assumes no responsibility regarding the correctness, suitability, or safety of any chemical or photographic processes that may be described by this text. Many of the chemicals used in early photographic processes are extremely toxic and should not be handled without a **thorough** knowledge of safe use.

The opinions expressed in this text are solely those of the original author and are not necessarily those of the Archive editor. Some texts may contain derogatory words. Any such word is certainly one that would not be used today. The words remain in the transcription, however, to maintain truthfulness to the original text.

© 2009, Gary W. Ewer. <http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>