

“John Fitzgibbon, of St. Louis,” 5 September 1857

(keywords: John H. Fitzgibbon, “Justice,” history of the daguerreotype, history of photography.)

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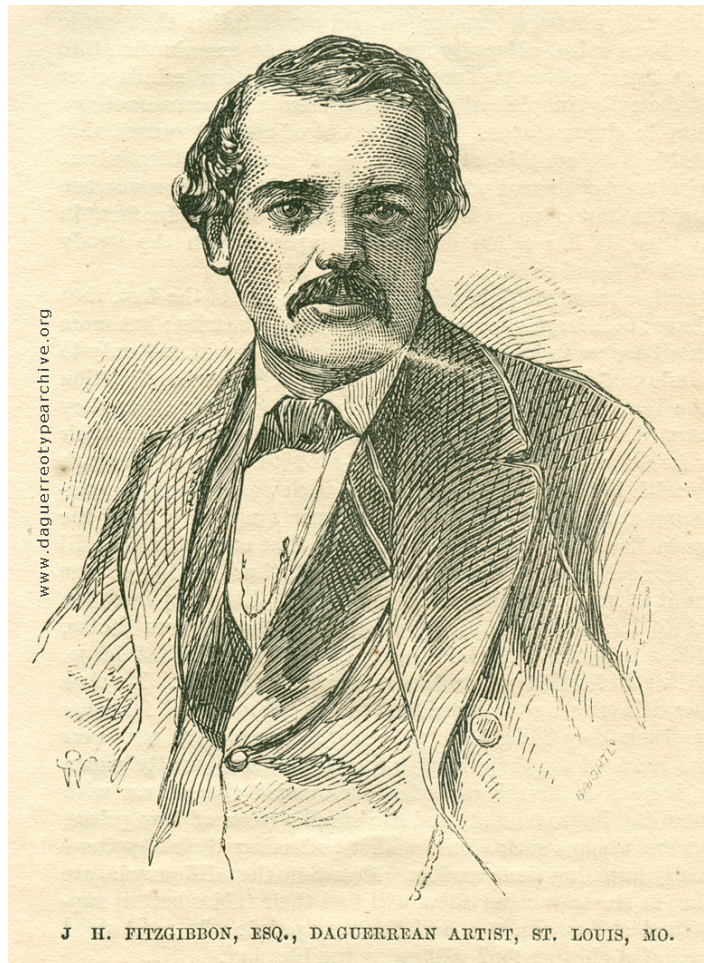
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Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper (New York) 4:92 (5 September 1857): 213.

J. H. FITZGIBBON, OF ST. LOUIS.

MR. FITZGIBBON is universally known in this country and in Europe as one of the oldest and most successful operators in the Daguerrean and Photographic art, having first commenced its pursuit in its infancy. Having decided to pursue it as a business, he settled in St. Louis and established his gallery, which has been from its commencement one of the interesting places of resort not only of that growing city, but also for the people of the Great West. He has from time to time introduced many useful improvements, and by his pen contributed largely to the journals devoted to the photographic art. From innate modesty he adopted the signature of “Justice.” We recollect reading his criticism on the daguerreotypes at the Crystal Palace, which at that time created considerable excitement among the artists. He has also written some excellent sketches under the titles of “Life in a Daguerrean Gallery,” “The Arkansas Traveller,” “Daguerreotyping in the Backwoods,” “The Elevation and Degradation of the Arts,” and many articles, some intended for amusement, and some of a useful character. His collection of colored photographs, many of them of large size and very valuable, one of which is of G. V. Brooke, the actor, as Richard the III., on a canvas over six feet high, the cost of getting up of which was seven hundred dollars. His collection of celebrated persons is unequalled; few men who have figured in public life for the last fifteen years are unrepresented. To the city of St. Louis Fitzgibbon’s fine art galleries are reckoned among the permanent institutions of the city, and strangers from abroad consider it a matter of duty to pay them a visit, for the purpose of examining the varied treasures which are exhibited on the walls. Our paper has from time to time been enriched with many views of cities, landscapes and portraits, the result of his labor.



[caption:] J. H. FITZGIBBON, ESQ., DAGUERREAN ARTIST, ST. LOUIS, MO.

[End of text.]

The graphic is also available in JPG format:

http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/graphics/P8570002_FITZGIBBON_BIO_LESLIES_1857-09-05.html

EDITOR'S NOTES:

An additional profile of Fitzgibbon and his gallery is in "Fitzgibbon's Gallery," in J. N. Taylor and M. O. Crooks, *Sketch Book of Saint Louis*. (St. Louis: George Knapp & Co., 1858): 311–14.¹

See also J. H. Fitzgibbon, "Daguerreotyping," *Western Journal, of Agriculture, Manufactures, Mechanic Arts, Internal Improvements, Commerce, and General Literature* (St. Louis) 6:3 (June 1851): 200–203;² John H. Fitzgibbon, "Daguerreotypeing Simplified," *Western Journal, of Agriculture, Manufactures, Mechanic Arts, Internal Improvements, Commerce, and General Literature* (St. Louis) 6:6 (September 1851): 380–385.³

A three-stanza memorial poem for Fitzgibbon is in Richard Smith Elliott, *Notes Taken in Sixty Years* (St. Louis: R. P. Studley & Co., 1883): 204.⁴

William Quesenbury describes his visit to the Fitzgibbon gallery in "Trip to St. Louis," *South-West Independent* (Fayetteville, AK) 2:46 3 August 1855.

Additional information regarding Fitzgibbon is found in Bonnie Wright, "'This Perpetual Shadow-Taking': The Lively Art of John Fitzgibbon," *Missouri Historical Review* 76:1 (October 1981): 22–30. See also Delores A. Kilgo, "Fitzgibbon, John (1817–1882)," Lawrence O. Christensen, edit. *Dictionary of Missouri Biography* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1999): 301–2.

1. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/B8580003_SKETCH-BOOK_FITZGIBBON_1858.pdf
2. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8510017_FITZ_DAG-TYPING_1851-06.pdf
3. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8510018_FITZ_DAG-SIMPLIFIED_1851-09.pdf
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