



Contact Daguerreobase

If you are interested in cooperating with Daguerreobase or want further information, please contact us:

e-mail: info@daguerreobase.org

www.daguerreobase.org

Daguerreobase

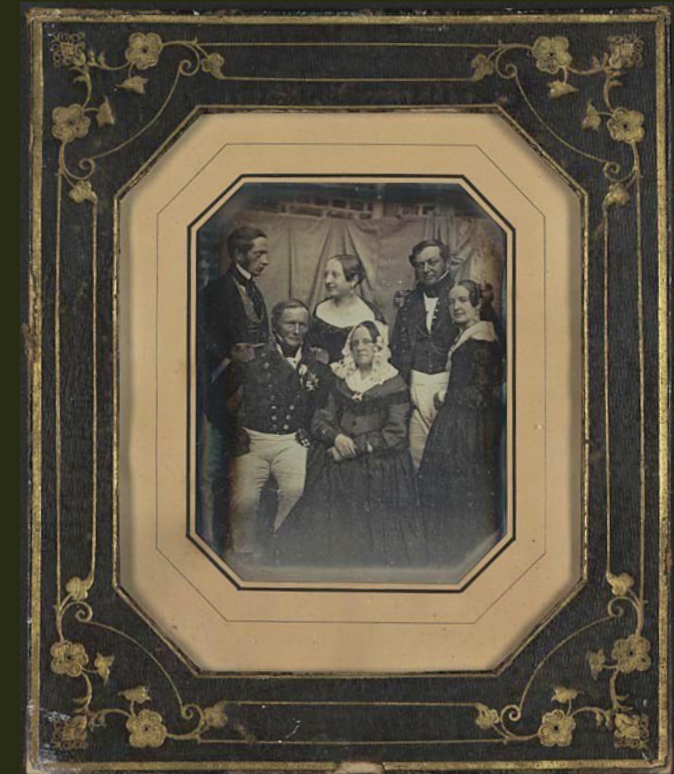
Sharing Europe's Earliest Photographs



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What is a daguerreotype?

The daguerreotype was the first commercially successful photographic process (1839–1860s) in the history of photography. Named after the inventor, Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre, each daguerreotype is a unique image on a silvered copper plate. In contrast to photographic paper, a daguerreotype is not flexible and is rather heavy.

The daguerreotype is accurate, detailed and sharp. It has a mirror-like surface and is very fragile. Since the metal plate is extremely vulnerable, most daguerreotypes are presented in a special housing. Different types of housings existed: a package, a folding case, jewelry ...

Numerous portrait studios opened their doors from the 1840s onward. Daguerreotypes were very expensive, so only the wealthy could afford to have their portrait taken. Even though the portrait was the most popular subject, the daguerreotype was used to record many other images such as topographic and documentary subjects, antiquities, still lifes, natural phenomena and remarkable events.

European daguerreotypes are scarce. They are scattered in institutional and private collections all over the world. Many aspects of the daguerreotype still need to be discovered. They can help us to understand the impact of photography on Europe's social and cultural history.

Visit Daguerreobase

Daguerreobase is a public platform of archives, libraries, museums and private contributors from across Europe. We assemble and preserve information on daguerreotypes.

Daguerreobase aims to bring together digital images and descriptions of more than 25 000 European historical daguerreotypes and related literature.

Daguerreobase is a unique research tool for daguerreotypes, not only for scientists, but also for collectors, photographers and the general public.

On the new website daguerreobase.org:

- you will see amazing historical pictures made by the first photographers in Europe
- you find quality images of daguerreotypes in a common database
- you can browse through daguerreotypes of landscapes, portraits, still lifes, antiquities and remarkable events from the 19th century
- you may learn how to recognise these unique objects and how to share them with a general public

The content will also become available through Europeana.eu, the portal and digital library for European Cultural Heritage of the European Union. In 2014 Daguerreobase and Europeana will celebrate the 175th birthday of photography with a Virtual Exhibition of European daguerreotypes on their website.



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Who are we?

Currently 18 partners from 13 different European countries are working together: institutions, private-collectors and photograph conservators.

Coordinator:

BELGIUM – FotoMuseum Provincie Antwerpen, FoMu

Partners:

AUSTRIA – Institut für Papierrestaurierung Schloß Schönbrunn, IPR

BELGIUM – eDAVID

CZECH REPUBLIC – Národní technické muzeum

DENMARK – The Royal Library, The National Library and Copenhagen University Library

FINLAND – The Finnish Museum of Photography, FMP

FRANCE – Atelier de Restauration et de Conservation des Photographies de la Ville de Paris, ARCP

GERMANY – Museum Ludwig / Stadt Köln

GERMANY – Technische Sammlungen Dresden, Dresden

ITALY – SMP Di Sandra Maria Petrillo

LUXEMBOURG – Ministère de la Culture

NORWAY – Nasjonalbiblioteket

NORWAY – Universitetet i Bergen

SPAIN – Universitat Politècnica de Valencia

THE NETHERLANDS – Stichting Nederlands Fotomuseum

THE NETHERLANDS – Picturae bv

THE NETHERLANDS – Ortelee Marinus Jan / Daguerreotypist, MOCED

UNITED KINGDOM – Museum Conservation Services Ltd

1 (cover) Carl Ferdinand Stelzner, Ladegården, Christiania, 1843–1846, owner: Nasjonalbiblioteket / National Library of Norway

2 André F.J. Dupont, Portrait Jozefina Nelsen, ca. 1853–1865 © Letterenhuis Antwerpen

3 Italian daguerreotypist, Frits, the indian elephant in the hunting villa of Stupinigi, Turin, 1850 © Archivio Storico della Città di Torino

4 Anonymous, Young girl with a cookie jar, c. 1855–1865 © Collection FoMu

5 Anonymous, European man in oriental garment (whole plate), c.1845 © Collection FoMu

JOIN US!

Daguerreobase is still looking for undiscovered daguerreotypes. We invite you to share your treasures in a secure digital environment. Everyone can benefit from this cooperation:

- museums and private-collectors can show their daguerreotype collection to a wider public
- you can search with a multilingual tool through Europe's finest daguerreotypes
- the main body of still extant European daguerreotypes will be assembled in one user-friendly database
- you can exchange information and raise your level of knowledge

Daguerreobase is a knowledge base for everyone interested in Europe's diverse cultural heritage.



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