History of photography (part 1):
age of portraits

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Outline

✦ invention of photography
✦ daguerreotypes and the age of portraits
✦ more in later lectures...
The *camera obscura*
The camera obscura

Philip Steadman’s model (1995)  
Vermeer, The Music Lesson (c. 1665)
The *camera obscura*

Philip Steadman’s model (1995)
The *camera obscura*
The *camera obscura*

Philip Steadman's model (1995)

Vermeer, *The Music Lesson* (c. 1665)
Nicéphore Niépce (1765-1833)

- first photographic image

View from the window at Le Gras, 1826

- bitumen on pewter plate
- 8-hour exposure
Louis Daguerre  (1787-1851)

- painter

The Effect of Fog and Snow Seen through a Ruined Gothic Colonnade, 1826
Louis Daguerre (1787-1851)

- inventor of the diorama

Diorama in Regent’s Park, London, 1823
Louis Daguerre  (1787-1851)

modern diorama at the American Museum of Natural History
Louis Daguerre (1787-1851)

✦ the daguerreotype

- silver halide on polished metal
- no negative, so cannot reproduce
- tone reversal unless lit carefully

Still life, 1837

(Neihall)
Louis Daguerre (1787-1851)

- the daguerreotype

Still life, 1837

- silver halide on polished metal
- no negative, so cannot reproduce
- tone reversal unless lit carefully

(Newhall)
William Talbot (1800-1877)

- the calotype

Latticed window at Lacock Abbey, 1835

- paper impregnated with silver chloride
- fading arrested with hyposulfite of soda ("hypo")
- negative, so allows any number of positive prints
- name "photography" suggested by F. W. Herschel
The daguerreotype portrait

making a daguerreotype, 1843

(Rosenblum)

- sitter’s head stabilized with a metal brace
- hands clenched to avoid movement
The daguerreotype camera

Giroux camera, 1839

- f/15
- manual shutter

Petzval’s lens, 1840

- f/3.7 instead of f/16.7
- reduced exposure time 20×
- exposure still 5-8 seconds

(Gustavson)
The daguerreotype portrait

Gustav Oehme, Three Young Girls, c. 1845

(Rosenblum)
Pop quiz - who are these people?

Alexander von Humboldt, 1847
(photograph by Hermann Blow)

- naturalist and explorer of Central and South America
- father of modern meteorology
- magnetic declination, igneous origin of rocks, etc.

painting of Humboldt by Friedrich Weitsch (1806)

(Rosenblum)
Samuel Morse, ca. 1845

• inventor of telegraph (and Morse code)
• painter

painting by Morse of Mrs. Bacot (1830)

Samuel Morse, ca. 1845
Abraham Lincoln, c. 1846
(photograph by Nicholas Shepherd)
Edgar Allen Poe, 1848
(photograph by W.S. Hartshorn)
Lewis Caroll, 1863
(photograph by Oscar Rejlander)

- mathematician and author of children’s books (Alice in Wonderland)
- albumen paper print made from wet-plate collodion negative (from here on)

photograph by Lewis Caroll of Alice Lidell (1858)
Sarah Bernhardt, 1865
(photograph by Gaspard Tournachon)

- most famous actress of the 19th century ("divine Sarah")

Sarah Bernhardt, 1865
(photograph by Gaspard Tournachon)
Julia Jackson, 1867
(photograph by Julia Margaret Cameron)

• mother of
author Virginia Woolf
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