



Secrets of the Dark Chamber: The Art of the American Daguerreotype

Merry A. Foresta, John Wood

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Secrets of the Dark Chamber: The Art of the American Daguerreotype

324 pp. Original red cloth, gilt titles, photographic image mounted on front board. Contains 152 plates of hand-tinted daguerreotypes (many never before published) currently on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Art. They include portraits, landscapes, and scenes of daily life produced in America from 1839 until the Civil War. Foresta, Smithsonian curator and organizer of the exhibition, discusses the immense popularity of the medium in America, while Wood assesses America's literary response to the invention. Selections from newspapers, magazines, and diaries provide firsthand accounts from artistic, scientific, and philosophical perspectives. The importance of daguerreotypes during the westward expansion and California Gold Rush is especially noteworthy. - Library Journal
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