

## Today's Presentation

**Program:** 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Photographic Techniques and Aesthetics

**Speaker:** David Beatty, MS, Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, Professional Photographer

**Attendance:** 93

**Guests:** Dan Stejskal, David Zauner. Phillip Coons, Jim Stohler, Ann Blunk, Vahid Aidun, Hyun Joon Kim

**Introduced by:** Teresa Trierweiler

**Scribe:** Jim Dashiell

**Editor:** Ed Nitka

The first photograph known was taken in 1826. The 19th century technique of creating a print was referred to as the great luminosity. Using a technique called camera obscura, (a takeoff on the ancient pinhole camera ), light projecting through a hole in a wall onto the opposite wall carried with it an image. This became a tool for artists to record images. The first photo taken in 1826 by Joseph Niepce took 8 hours to expose. This exposure was on a small piece of pewter covered by bitumen of Judea that became hardened by light.

In 1839 a Frenchman, Louis Daguerre, invented a method of using fumes of iodine to sensitize a metal plate; then developed the image using mercury vapor. That image was then fixed in sodium thiosulfate. In 1839 the first image of a person was developed. In 1840 the first self-portrait was done by Hippolyte Bayard. Also in 1840 portraits were introduced to the United States. Josiah Hates' portraits taken about 1850 were excellent. Daguerreotype images at times showed superior quality using silver plated copper. Mostly the early ones were of nudes, or architectural or occupational subjects.

The first photograph album was in 1843 by Anna Atkins, a botanist. Photograph albums preceded pictures in newspapers.



David Beatty