

No Daguerreotype for the Young Queen Victoria: A Case of English Protocol or Perfidy?

R. Derek Wood On 4 October 1839, a letter¹ was dispatched from the British Embassy in Paris to the Foreign Office in London:

Paris, Oct 4, 1839

[To] *Honble W. Fox Strangways*

Sir,

Mr Daguerre has requested me to ascertain whether Her Majesty would receive a copy of his recent inventions. Would you have the goodness to inform me whether the peculiarity of the case would authorize any exception to the general rule of refusing presents. I have the honor to be Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant

Henry Lytton Bulwer



Figure 1

Henry Lytton Bulwer, lithograph ca. 1840.
Austrian National Library, Vienna.

Henry Lytton Bulwer² (fig. 1) (not to be confused with his younger brother, the novelist Edward Bulwer Lytton) had only been at the British Embassy in Paris as Secretary since the middle of July.³ He took over officially as Chargé d’Affaires on 19 August 1839⁴ to serve until the Ambassador, Lord Granville,⁵ returned from a visit to England at the end of October.⁶

Regarding Bulwer’s letter, received in London on 7 October, Lord Palmerston,⁷ the Foreign Secretary, made the following note on 12 October:⁸

[Concerning letter from]

Mr Bulwer Oct 4/39. Mr Bulwer to endeavour to ascertain more precisely what it is which

Mr Daguerre wishes to present to The Queen.

P [Palmerston] 12/10-39

Accordingly, the following letter dated 15 October was sent to France⁹

Foreign Office

October 15, 1839

[To] *Henry Lytton Bulwer Esq*

Sir, With reference to your letter to Mr Fox Strangways of the 4th instant; stating that M. Daguerre had requested you to ascertain whether Her Majesty would receive a copy of his recent Inventions, I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to request that you will endeavour to ascertain more precisely what it is which M. Daguerre wishes to present to Her Majesty.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant

J Backhouse

1. [Document 1] Letter dated 4 October 1839 from H. L. Bulwer, Chargé d’Affaires at the British Embassy in Paris, to W. Fox-Strangways, Under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, London. National Archives (Kew): Foreign Office General Correspondence: France: FO 27/587. Also the Embassy’s draft copy of this letter is filed in the Paris Embassy Archives Book, FO 146/214. The letter, received in London 7 October, is marked by Strangways “R Oct 7. Answered Oct 15/39. WFS”

2. Muriel E. Chamberlain, ‘Bulwer, (William) Henry Lytton Earle, Baron Dalling and Bulwer (1801–1872), diplomatist, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* [Oxford DNB], OUP, 2004; Online edition, www.oxforddnb.com/view/

article/3935.

3. See letters of 1839 Bulwer to Granville in Granville Papers at the National Archives (Kew): PRO30/29/[piece No.] 14/10, letters 30-31 (dated 27 June and n.d.). Also Palmerston to Granville in Granville Papers, PRO30/29/[piece No.] 14/6, letter 48 (dated 26 June).

4. Monday 19 August (the day of Francois Arago’s lecture about Daguerre’s process!) was the day Bulwer presented his official credentials to the King of France and when Granville was to leave Paris: see ‘British Embassy in Paris, Dispatches Home’, FO 147/18 and FO 146/213, dated August 16, and FO 146/214, 1, dated 23 August.

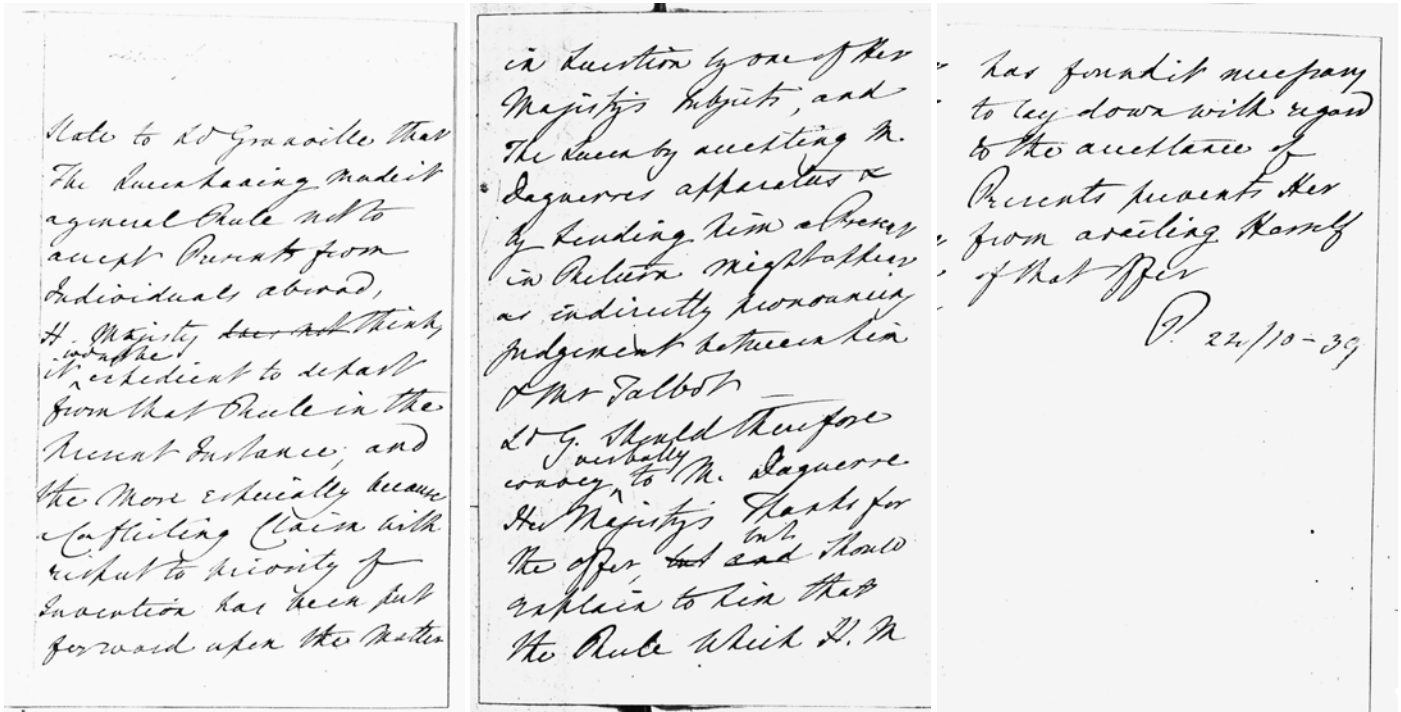


Figure 2(a-c)

Draft of letter dated 24 October 1839 by Lord Palmerston of reply to be made to the British Embassy in Paris. Foreign Office General Correspondence, France, in National Archives, Kew (UK). Crown Copyright records in the National Archives, transcribed by permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office.

On 22 October, Lord Palmerston made another note:¹⁰

Remind Mr Bulwer that what he / said Mr D / offered was "a Copy of his Invention" & though we knew that Mr. Daguerre had invented a Method of fixing the Impressions made by the Solar Rays, yet the words "copy of his Invention" conveyed no intelligible meaning.

P [Palmerston] 22/10-39

[in another hand] Done Oct. 25/39

Two days later (when Granville was back in Paris) he drafted the following document (fig. 2):¹¹

[In pencil '[concerning] Letter from Mr Bulwer 4 Octr']

State to Ld Granville that The Queen having made it a general Rule not to accept Presents from Individuals abroad, H Majesty ~~does not~~ thinks it /would not be / expedient to depart from that Rule in the present instance; and the more especially because a conflicting claim with respect to priority of invention has been put forward upon the matter in question by one of Her Majesty's subjects, and The Queen by accepting M. Daguerre s [no apostrophe] apparatus & by sending him a present in return might appear as indirectly pronouncing judgement between him & Mr Talbot — Ld G should therefore convey /verbally/ to M. Daguerre ['verbally' obviously added later in a slightly paler ink] Her Majesty's thanks for the offer, ~~but and~~ but should explain to him that the Rule which HM has found it necessary to lay down with regard to the acceptance of Presents prevents Her from availing Herself of that offer

P [Palmerston] 24/10-39

5. Muriel E. Chamberlain, 'Gower, Granville George Leveson-, second Earl Granville (1815-1891)', *Oxford DNB*, 2004; online edition, www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/16543.

6. Granville returned to Paris 23 October, see FO 146/214, 326.

7. David Steele, 'Temple, Henry John, third Viscount Palmerston (1784-1865)', *Oxford DNB*, 2004; Online edition, www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/27112.

8. [Document 2] Note by Lord Palmerston (Principal Secretary of State) dated 12 October 1839 in Foreign Office General Correspondence, France: FO 27/587.9. [Document 3] Letter dated 15 October 1839 from John Backhouse, Under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office in London, to H.L.

Bulwer, Chargé d'Affaires at the British Embassy in Paris. National Archives (Kew): Archives of the British Embassy in Paris (FO 146): FO 146/210. Also the Foreign Office draft copy of this letter is filed in Foreign Office General Correspondence: FO 27/577.

10. [Document 4] Note by Lord Palmerston dated 22 October 1839 in Foreign Office General Correspondence, France: FO 27/587.

11. [Document 5] Draft dated 24 October 1839 by Lord Palmerston of reply to be made to the British Embassy in Paris: Foreign Office General Correspondence, France: FO 27/587.

The Queen having made it a general rule not to accept Presents from Individuals abroad, Her Majesty thinks it would not be expedient to depart from that Rule in the present instance; and the more especially because a conflicting claim with respect to priority of Invention, has been put forward upon the matter in question by one of Her Majesty's Subjects, and The Queen by accepting Monsr. Daguerre's apparatus, and by sending him a Present in return, might appear as indirectly pronouncing judgement between him and Mr. Talbot.

Viscount Palmerston therefore desires that

Figure 3
Draft copy of letter dated 25 October 1839 from John Backhouse, Under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, London, to Lord Granville, British Ambassador at Paris, in Foreign Office records at the National Archives, Kew (UK). Crown Copyright records transcribed by permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office.

The actual reply (fig. 3) sent by J. Backhouse to Paris was dated the next day of 25 October:¹²

Foreign Office October 25, 1839
[To] His Excellency The Earl Granville GCB
My Lord

With reference to the letter from Mr. Bulwer to Mr. Fox Strangways of the 4th inst; stating that monsieur Daguerre had desired Mr Bulwer to ascertain whether Her Majesty would receive a copy of his recent Inventions; and to the letter which by Ld Palmerston's order, I wrote to Mr Bulwer on the 15th instant; asking to be informed more precisely what it was which Monsr. Daguerre wished to present to the Queen; I am now directed by Viscount Palmerston to state to your Excellency that The Queen having made it a general rule not to accept Presents from Individuals abroad, Her Majesty thinks it would not be expedient to depart from that Rule in the present instance; and the more especially because a conflicting claim with respect to priority of Invention has been put forward upon the matter in question by one of Her Majesty's subjects, and The Queen, by accepting M. Daguerre's apparatus, and by sending him a Present in return, might appear as indirectly pronouncing judgement between him and Mr. Talbot. Viscount Palmerston therefore desires that Your Excellency should convey verbally to Monsr. Daguerre Her Majesty's Thanks for the offer; but should explain to him at the same time, that the Rule which Her Majesty has found it necessary to lay down with regard to the acceptance of Presents, prevents Her Majesty from availing Herself of that offer.

I have the honor to be, My Lord,
Your Excellency's Most obedient humble servant
J Backhouse

Foreign Office diplomacy

The Foreign Office¹³ in 1839 was in Downing Street, off Whitehall, London, now widely familiar due to No. 10 being the office and residence of the British Prime Minister. It is probably better to call it the Old Foreign Office, for it was demolished in 1861. Yet "it" is also a misnomer, for the old Foreign Office consisted of four connected houses each with a separate entrance, "dingy and shabby to a degree, made up of dark offices and labyrinthine passages – four houses, at least, tumbled into one, with floors at uneven

12. [Document 6] Letter dated 25 October 1839 from John Backhouse, Under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, London, to Lord Granville, British Ambassador at Paris. Public Record Office, London: Archives of the British Embassy in Paris (FO 146): FO 146/210. As well as the letter actually sent, the Foreign Office draft copy is filed in Foreign Office General Correspondence: FO 27/577.

13. For informative writings on the FO at this period, see Ray Jones, *The Nineteenth Century Foreign Office: an Administrative History*, London School of Economics Monograph, Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 1971, 11-21 and end notes on pp.189-91; 'Report from the Select Committee on Diplomatic Service', in: *United Kingdom Parliamentary Papers*, 1861, Vol. 6 (Reports, Vol. 2), Cmmd 459. Includes Edward Hammond's evidence given over four days in April 1861 see pp. 1-76 in which he gives a detail account of the office routine of dealing with



Figure 4
Henry John Temple, 3rd Viscount Palmerston (1784-1865), lithograph by C Wildt from portrait by Conrad L'Allemand. UK National Art Collection 2010 (GAC 2683), licensed under the Open Government Licence (www.gac.culture.gov.uk/work.aspx?obj=28664).

levels and wearying corkscrew stairs that men cursed as they climbed – a thorough picture of disorder, penury, and meanness. Yet which of the two was the great Foreign Office ...”.

Writing in 1872/73, the diplomat author of that remark was from his own experience making a contrast between the buildings – the ramshackle old Foreign Office and the new monumental replacement nearby – and the work done inside them. His opinion of a successful office, certainly coloured by nostalgic imperialist fervour, was for the old Foreign Office under the “presiding genius” Palmerston.¹⁴

Palmerston (fig. 4) indeed is widely considered a workaholic; he did not delegate. He made the political decisions and policy. He had two permanent Under-Secretaries of State. They were administrative positions, definitely of considerable status and influence, but they were not decision makers, especially not under the iron command of Palmerston. The reason for two Under-Secretaries was because the work of the Foreign Office had previously been divided into two divisions (north and south countries); but, by recent change, in 1839 the two Under-Secretaries (John Backhouse¹⁵ and William Fox Strangways) shared the work of dealing with

despatches from everywhere. Palmerston remarked to Granville in letter dated 22 November 1839 that “Backhouse & Strangways are very much like the two figures in the Weather House & rusticate & labour alternatively, so that if the office were left vacant for a short time it would only be as if one of the two were in the country recuperating from his fatigues”.¹⁶

Palmerston was not a favourite of the young Victoria (fig. 5), although he did express some admiration for her to Lord Granville on one occasion.¹⁷ Lord Granville fitted in more, and visited her while back in England. Palmerston indeed was at Windsor Castle most days. Comments are made about Palmerston by the Queen in her journal during October 1839; there are a couple, for example, where she notes that he was looking ill – but no record has been found in Victoria’s diary of him consulting her about accepting Daguerre’s gift.¹⁸

H. L. Bulwer benefited in his career by being held in high regard by Palmerston, and Bulwer returned that respect by later writing a two volume *Life of Henry John Temple, Viscount Palmerston*.¹⁹ That biography of Palmerston’s early career up to 1841 might have been a perfect source of

dispatches and the role of the Under-Secretaries; E. Jones-Parry, ‘Under-Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs 1782-1855’, *English Historical Review*, Vol. XLIX (1934), 308-320.

14. Sir Horace Rumbold, *Recollections of a Diplomatist*, Vol. 1 (Downing Street, New and Old), London: Edward Arnold 1902 [2 vols.], 109-110, 112.

15. R. A. Jones, ‘Backhouse, John (1784-1845)’, *Oxford DNB*, 2004; online edition, www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/50517.

16. Granville Papers: National Archives, Kew, PRO30/29/ [Piece No.]14/6, letter 67.

17. Granville Papers: PRO 30/29/14/6, letter 38 [dated 10 May 1839].

18. Queen Victoria’s daily journal 7 August 1839-31 October 1839 (Lord Esher’s typescript at Royal Archives): now online at www.queenvictoriasjournals.org.

19. Henry Lytton Bulwer, *The Life of Henry John Temple, Viscount Palmerston*, London: Richard Bentley 1870, vol. 2, book [chapter] XIII, 289-388 deals with the period May 1839-1841 with the last section [384-388] being thoughts on Palmerston’s character, especially on attitudes towards France.



Figure 5
Queen Victoria, lithograph by Franz Hanfstaengl from portrait by Sir Edwin Henry Landseer RA(1839), Munich 1840. Austrian National Library, Vienna.

Victoria reached the age of 20 in 1839, and in her daily journal wrote the following entries about sitting at Windsor being painted by Edwin Landseer:
 28 August 1839 "Sat to Landseer for a sketch; my Cousins and Daisy were in the room. Lunched with them and then sat again to Landseer."
 Thursday 29 August 1839 [Morning] "Sat to Landseer." ... [Afternoon]"I then went and sat for some little time to Landseer, who has made in three days the likest little sketch in oils of me, that ever was done; en profile, the back seen, in my morning dress, without my tippet, and with my blue ribbon."
 (www.queenvictoriasjournals.org).
 The original Oil Painting is in the Royal Collection at Windsor.

information on this episode of Daguerre's proposed gift to Queen Victoria, especially as it is often as much about Bulwer himself as Palmerston, but yet again nothing was recorded.

Palmerston's decision of 22 October not to depart from a general rule that the Queen not accept "presents from Individuals abroad" would be a natural one for him, but the second consideration (which one indeed was the major factor?) on "a conflicting claim with respect to priority of invention" [a phrase redolent with the aura of W.H.F. Talbot] to avoid the appearance of "indirectly pronouncing judgement between him [Daguerre] & Mr Talbot", is away from Palmerston's usual range of interests. Although, it might be thought, perhaps he would himself have already investigated news reports about Daguerre, possibly spurred by his notorious anti-French attitudes (or at least, notorious within France).

Palmerston's second phrase regarding Talbot and priority of invention does have rather the characteristics of being one produced for him by what would now be called a Special Advisor. Here the first document quoted above is amazingly relevant. When Henry Lytton Bulwer in Paris penned

his letter of 4 October to the Foreign Office, to an Under-Secretary, in particular William Fox Strangways,²⁰ could he have been aware that Fox Strangways was the beloved uncle of W. Henry Fox Talbot?

Bulwer himself had asked the crucial question of "whether the peculiarity of the case would authorize any exception to the general rule of refusing presents" in his letter of 4 October on which Palmerston (or even the Queen?) agreed was the first reason to say not authorized. As to the second objection sent back by Palmerston, on 'Priority of Invention' and the British Talbot, then is it conceivable that Strangways (with his close tie to Talbot) would not be significantly involved? As an alternative, if we wanted to provide material for the fantasies of conspiracy theorists, they could be pointed in the direction of one of the least noticed members of staff of the Foreign office at that time: the Foreign Office office-messenger was a certain James Talbot!²¹

Regrettably no surviving correspondence between Strangways and Talbot, or any documents other than that of the Foreign Office records at the National Archives reported here, have been found relating to this matter of a proposed gift to Queen Victoria from Daguerre.

20. 'William Thomas Horner Fox-Strangways, 4th Earl of Ilchester (1795-1865)', [edit. G. E. Cokayne], *The complete peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain, and the United Kingdom*, vol. 4, Peerages G-K [1892], 313. There is no definitive form for his surname. Simply Strangways or alternatively [more meaningful] Fox-Strangways. He was a much younger half-brother of W. H. Fox Talbot's mother.

21. *The British Imperial Calendar for the year 1839*, 153.

What might have taken place in Paris after the British Embassy received Palmerston's instructions to "convey verbally" to Daguerre the reasons that "prevents Her Majesty from availing Herself" of his offer: a search of present archives of documents and correspondence of the Foreign office at the National Archives, of Lord Palmerston,²² of Lord Granville,²³ and Henry Lytton Bulwer,²⁴ has found nothing. Of course, time to do this has not been unlimited, and some of the archived papers, such as those of Palmerston and Granville, are extensive. When a report to a Parliamentary Select Committee on the Diplomatic Service was made in 1861 by Edward Hammond, then permanent Under-Secretary who had been at the Foreign Office since 1854, the Embassy in Paris was discussed. Not surprisingly, nothing relevant to our present concern. But it could be of some passing interest that it seems the staff at the Embassy in Paris did not "go so much in Society ... even though they generally spoke excellent French and was probably due to the late hours followed at that Embassy 12-7 pm so conflicting with common dinner times in Paris of 7 pm".²⁵

The British Embassy, it would seem, would have been different in such ways to other embassies. For we can glimpse a different aspect of diplomatic life in Paris in 1839 from a diary kept by Comte Rodolphe Apponyi, attaché at the Austrian Embassy. During the first months of 1839, the situation in Paris was one of crisis – both in politics (with many weeks of failure to form a new government) and on the streets. Comte Apponyi, long resident in Paris, writing on 25 March 1839, was very uneasy: "il serait possible que, malgré tous ces efforts, nous ayons quelques petits massacres dans les rues". Armed riots did indeed break out on Sunday 12 May, resulting in many deaths. By 23 May Apponyi was writing of "horribles massacres" which seem to have the greatest significance for him in the way they were able to add a frisson to "Tout ce monde, pimpant et parfumé", the diplomatic world of unabated dinners, balls and fetes of "Paris et les Parisiens resteront toujours les mêmes, avides de plaisirs", and enjoyed a great dinner given by him on 30 May, which was attended by members of the new government.²⁶ It sounds a little different to how the staff of the British Embassy did not get out much.

But it is not only in respect to social life in Paris that the British Embassy can be contrasted with the Austrian and other Embassies. For some royalty and heads of state of other countries in Europe were pleased to accept Daguerreotype images from Daguerre,²⁷ and other Ambassadors in Paris were eager to expedite this. King Frederick III of Prussia, King Ludwig of Bavaria, Leopold of Belgium, Nicolas I of Russia, and Emperor Ferdinand of Austria are

22. The extensive 'Palmerston (Broadlands) Papers' □ MS52 at the Hartley Library of the University of Southampton, UK – has not been fully searched, but in reply to an enquiry by letter in 1993 the then Deputy Archivist Ms Karen Robson kindly searched for any relevant correspondence between Queen Victoria and Palmerston in October 1839 finding only one dated 7 Oct 1839 but discussing only general matters. (Karen Robson to R. D. Wood, Letter 30 April 1993).

23. Granville papers at the UK's National Archives: PR030.

24. 'The Diplomatic Papers of Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer' at the Norfolk Record Office, UK. None of the letters to him in 1839 amongst those preserved in

BUL/19/1-108 and BUL/20/1-24 concern Daguerre. The catalogue of the collection is now online at <http://nrocat.norfolk.gov.uk/Dserve/Dserve.exe>.

25. Edward Hammond 1861 [reference 13], 74-76. In that 1861 Report, France is considered further on 185-195, 218-234, 359-61.

26. All quotes from *Vingt-cinq ans à Paris 1826-1850: Journal du Comte Rodolphe Apponyi*, 4 vols, Paris: Librairie Plon 1913-26, Tome III, 1835-1843 (1914), 372-374.

27. Helmut and Alison Gernsheim, *L. J. M. Daguerre. The History of the Diorama and the Daguerreotype*, London: Secker & Warburg 1956, 105, 186 (republished in 1968 in soft-bound; New York: Dover Publications, 108, 192-3).

known to have received Daguerreotypes from Daguerre. The data on those gifts is scattered, and here only Austria will again be briefly outlined to show a contrast with what happened regarding Queen Victoria.

Shortly after the first announcements about a discovery by Daguerre appeared in the press, the Austrian Chancellor Metternich, on noticing it “so excites the public interest”, wrote on 7 February 1839 to Comte Apponyi at the Embassy in Paris to “bring it to your Excellency’s attention with the request that his Excellency send me, as quickly as possible, all authentic details he is able to procure.” Daguerre himself was approached (although nothing is known as to the steps taken in this); but, because negotiations with his own government had hardly begun, Daguerre could not reveal details of his process. However, he did promise he would send a daguerreotype to the Austrian Emperor and another to Metternich □ this was done in August. On 2 September, Emperor Ferdinand wrote the following instruction to his Lord Chamberlain: “Through my Embassy at Paris, M. Daguerre has sent a specimen picture of his invention (...), for which I grant him an artist’s medal, 18 ducats in weight, and an initialled snuffbox valued at 1,200 florins. You are ordered to expedite both to my House, Court and State Chancellor, Prince Metternich, that he may present them to M. Daguerre.” These medals required the artist’s name on them, but as the Chancellor’s office did not know Daguerre’s full Christian names, the task of engraving was left for the Austrian Embassy in Paris to arrange. The Daguerreotype for the Emperor was a view of the Seine with Notre Dame in the foreground, and the image for Metternich was of plaster casts in Daguerre’s studio. Both Daguerreotypes have been lost.²⁸

The pleasure of making a gift

The Foreign Office documents presented in this article show that Daguerre considered the Queen of England in no way different from other royalty and heads of state in Europe. It was the British response that was different. It is tempting to finish here with a discussion on ‘Was British Diplomacy right or wrong?’, but instead it is more relevant to look at the situation with regard to historiography.

We now have knowledge, previously unknown, that Louis Daguerre tried to present a Daguerreotype to the Queen of England. It is worth looking briefly at a contrasting situation in writings on the history of photography concerning a known, or supposedly known, relationship between England and Daguerre.

Recently a discussion titled *What’s wrong with Daguerre?*, presented by Hans Rooseboom, Curator of Photography at the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, concluded that Daguerre “the

28. The author has not himself been able to research primary source material in Austria; this section is based on the reliable published work of both Joseph Maria Eder and Anna Auer: J. M. Eder, *History of Photography*, 3rd ed. (1905) translated into English by Edward Epstein (1945), New York:

Dover Publications 1978, 246-248 (chapter xxviii); Anna Auer, ‘Andreas Ritter von Ettinghausen (1796-1878). Der Mann, der die Daguerreotypie nach Österreich brachte’, *Rückblende: 150 Jahre Photographie in Österreich*, exh. cat., Technisches Museum Vienna 1989, 22-43 (see pp. 38-39 and endnotes 22-24 on p.42).

inventor rarely receives recognition in publications that are biased towards his rivals.”²⁹ The present account of Daguerre being rejected by the British establishment in 1839 can have some relevance to that exploration of the way Daguerre so often seems to suffer denigration by a wide range of writers in the photo-historic community. Not so much for the nationalism apparent in what actually happened in 1839, but the way the provincial attitudes of photography writers lead to a restriction of their research to a standard range of subject matter. If there is an awareness that Daguerre had indeed presented daguerreotypes to various heads of state and royalty in Europe, then naturally a recurrence of the thought that a patent for the daguerreotype process had been taken out in Britain leads to an obvious assumption: that no research outside the usual sources is needed as Daguerre would not have included the Queen of Great Britain in his gift list. This type of unconscious lack of exploration in one area has wider consequences. For such an assumption that Daguerre would not have approached Queen Victoria in the same way as he did other royal families of Europe because of the patent for the Daguerreotype that was taken out in England “by Daguerre”, also entails lack of exploration of the situation relating to the patent. If one looks wider than the standard books found in photography libraries, evidence can be found that Daguerre indeed was not keen for such a patent to be obtained – instead it was his partner Isidore Niépce who pushed forward for that.

A patenting enthusiast, Jean Jobard of Brussels (he was editor of *Le Courrier Belge*), who was in Paris at the end of June and beginning of July 1839, gained an impression at the time that the daguerreotype process was only being purchased for the French. Daguerre indeed was very resistant to a suggestion by Jobard (apparently made at Isidore Niépce’s instigation) that foreign patents should be obtained: for “an extreme delicacy persuades him that this would deprive the French Government of the pleasure of making a gift of it to Europe”. Maybe Madame Daguerre was of a different mind (she was related to the daguerreotype camera maker), and “M. Niépce did not share Daguerre’s point of view at all: less of an artist than M. Daguerre and much more positive”.³⁰

For, unlike Daguerre, Isidore Niépce was certainly very keen to obtain a patent in England. He wrote later to Jobard, “I had despaired of persuading Daguerre to take the step in question; several days went by, when I committed myself to renew the attempt. I conducted him to the patent lawyer, to whom you had kindly recommended me, and it was decided there and then that he would write to London on the spot”. Niépce then added, “I have in the meanwhile seen M. Perpignan [the patent lawyer] again and I have been assured that the application for a patent covering England and her colonies was made on 15th July”.³¹

[sic] [Antoine Perpigna, patent lawyer]

29. Hans Rooseboom, *What’s wrong with Daguerre? Reconsidering old and new views on the invention of photography*, Amsterdam: Nescio, Nov 2010, 35pp [self-published monograph □ www.nescioprivatepress.blogspot.com].

30. *Le Courrier Belge* (Bruxelles), 13 July 1839, 2; 25 Sept 1839, 1; S. F. Joseph and T. Schwilden, ‘Sunrise over Brussels: The first year of photography in Belgium’, *History of Photography*, vol. 13 (1989), 355-368 [Jean Jobard’s conversations in Paris and letter from Niépce on p.358].

31. *Ibid* (reference 30).

PhotoResearcher

ESHPh European Society for the History of Photography



Looking at 175 Years of Photohistory

- 10 Wolfgang Kemp
Photography, a Home Birth
- 22 R. Derek Wood
**No Daguerreotype for the Young Queen Victoria:
A Case of English Protocol or Perfidy?**
- 30 Stephan Koja
**"The Invention was not Coincidental..."
Heinrich Schwarz and the "Art in the Early Days
of Photography 1840-1880" Exhibition in 1928**
- 48 Christoph Schaden
**"One no longer hears anything about him and
his fairytale." A Postscript to the Transatlantic
Reception of the Levi L. Hill Case**
- 58 Rolf H. Krauss
**Dabbing, wiping, scraping, "fummeln" – on
Photographic Retouching in the 19th Century**
- 66 Naomi Rosenblum in Conversation with Lena Fritsch
A Not-So-Simple World History of Photography
- 73 Claude W. Sui
**Alison Gernsheim
Pioneer of Photo History Rediscovered**
- 84 Christiane E. Fricke
**The Birth of a Questionable Market – Dealing in
Photography in the Nineteen-Seventies**
- 94 Rolf Sächse
Light on Light. Autobiographies by Photographers

