

Center for Creative Photography

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Finding aid for the
William Henry Fox Talbot collection, circa 1841 and 1854
AG 13

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Creator

William Henry Fox Talbot, 1800-1877

Abstract

This collection consists of three printed documents, two dated 1841 and one 1854, relating to the Calotype (or Talbotype) process invented by William H.F. Talbot (1800-1877), photographer, inventor, and literary historian.

Quantity/ Extent

.25 linear feet

Language of Materials

English

Biographical/ Historical Note

William Henry Fox Talbot was a British inventor and a pioneer of photography. He was the inventor of Calotype process, the precursor to most photographic processes of the 19th and 20th centuries. He was also a noted photographer who made major contributions to the development of photography as an artistic medium. His work in the 1840s on photo-mechanical reproduction led to the creation of the photoglyphic engraving process, the precursor to photogravure. Talbot is also remembered as the holder of a patent which, some say, affected the early development of commercial photography in Britain.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of two folders of printed material. The first folder contains material relating to the Calotype and the Talbotype. The second folder contains affidavits made by Sir Brewster and Sir J. Herschel concerning the Calotype Process.

Arrangement

Chronological then alphabetical by title

Names and Subject Terms

Talbot, William Henry Fox, 1800-1877 <https://lcn.loc.gov/n79138724>

Brewster, David Sir <https://lcn.loc.gov/n84239125>

Henderson, James <https://lccn.loc.gov/no2013046514>

Herschel, John Frederick William <https://lccn.loc.gov/n50036903>

Calotype—History

Talbotype-History

Restrictions

Conditions Governing Access

These documents are in the public domain.

Access to this collection requires an appointment with the Volkerding Study Center.

Conditions Governing Use

It is the responsibility of the user to obtain permission from the copyright owner (which could be the institution, the creator of the record, the author or his/her transferees, heirs, legates or literary executors) prior to any copyright-protected uses of the collection.

The user agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Arizona Board of Regents, the University of Arizona, Center of Creative Photography, including its officers, employees, and agents, from and against all claims made relating to copyright or other intellectual property infringement.

Provenance

The two documents by Talbot from 1841 in this collection were gifts to the Center from Frank and Patty Kolodny in 1976; the affidavits from 1854 were purchased in the Swann Galleries Sale No. 1218 in 1981.

Preferred Citation

William Henry Fox Talbot collection, circa 1841 and 1854. AG13. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Processing Information

The collection was processed in the fall of 1984 by Roger Myers. Finding aid was updated by Susan Mergenthal in 2016 and again by Phoenix Smithey in 2017.

Container List

Series 1: Printed Material, circa 1841 and 1854

Box	Folder	
1	1	The Process of Calotype Photogenic Drawing, Communicated to the Royal Society, June 10, 1841, by H. F. Talbot, Esq. (4pp.) Printed by J. L. Cox & Sons, 75, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's-Inn Fields.
	2	The Process of Talbotype (formerly called Calotype) Photogenic Drawing, Communicated to the Royal Society, June 10 th , 1841, by H. F. Talbot, Esq. (4 pp.) Printed by J. & H. Cox, Brothers, 74 & 75, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's-Inn Fields.
	3	Affidavits made by Sir D. Brewster and Sir J. Herschel respecting the Calotype Photographic Process invented by H. F. Talbot, Esq. In Chancery, Between William Henry Fox Talbot, Plaintiff, and James Henderson, Defendant. (8 pp.) Printed by Cox (Bros.) and Wyman, Great Queen Street.