

"Vance's California Views," November 1851

(keywords: Robert H. Vance, lost daguerreotypes, three hundred daguerreotypes, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography.)

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Notices of New Books.

VANCE'S CALIFORNIA VIEWS.

This grand exhibition attracted considerable attention through the month; the fidelity and beauty of these pictures created no inconsiderable surprise; they present us with stereotyped views from nature, all defects as well as all perfections. Mr. Vance's artistic abilities, aided by his perseverance and energy, have achieved a great work in thus copying scenes which must interest all classes, and we trust that his great efforts will be appreciated by all lovers of art.

[End of selected text. All content related to photography herein provided.]

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Other reviews of Vance's exhibition of California daguerreotypes are: "Mr. Vance's California Views," *Photographic Art-Journal* (New York) 2:4 (October 1851): 252-3;¹ *Literary World* (New York) 9:246 (18 October 1851): 311;² "Daguerreotype Panoramic Views in California," *Daguerreian Journal* (New York) 2:12 (1 November 1851): 371.³

This notice curiously appears under the header, "Notices of New Books" although no mention is made of the exhibition (pamphlet) catalogue: Robert H. Vance, *Catalogue of Daguerreotype Panoramic Views in California* (New York: Baker, Goodwin & Company, 1851). The catalogue includes 131 entries; many entries are for multiple-plate views.⁴

The exhibition was not well publicized. This author is aware of very limited runs of advertisements appearing in two newspapers: the *New-York Tribune*, and the *New-York Times*.⁵

Additional information regarding Vance and his collection of California daguerreotypes is found in Delores Kilgo, "Vance's Views in St. Louis: An Update," *Daguerreian Annual 1994* (Pittsburgh: The Daguerreian Society, 1994): 210-2; Peter Palmquist, "The Sad but True Story of a Daguerreian Holy Grail," in Drew Heath Johnson and Marcia Eymann, ed., *Silver & Gold: Cased Images of the California Gold Rush* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1998): 43-73; Peter E. Palmquist and Thomas R. Kailbourn, *Pioneer Photographers of the Far West: a Biographical Dictionary, 1840-1865* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000): 559-566.

1. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8510002_VANCE_PHOTO_ARTJOURN_1851-10.pdf

2. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8510003_VANCE_LIT_WORLD_1851-10-18.pdf

3. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8510001_VANCE_DAG_JOURN_1851-11-01.pdf
4. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/F8510001_VANCE_CATALOGUE_DAG_VIEWS_1851.pdf
5. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8510001_VANCE_NY_TIMES_1851-10-07.pdf

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