

The Origin of Photography: Great Britain

March 5 [Tue.] – May 6, 2019 [Mon./public holiday]



Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, which fills the role of Japan's main photographic culture center, holds an exhibition every spring focusing on early photography and this year, 2019, it is proud to present 'The Origin of Photography: Great Britain'.

Research into methods of photography began in the latter part of the 18th century, and with the announcement of the invention of the first photographic technology in 1839, the curtain was raised on photographic culture. In Great Britain, research developed by the members of the Victorian aristocracy was to have a broad influence on culture. This exhibition will present numerous works previously unseen in Japan, in order to show the varied developments in photographic culture that took place in Great Britain but which remain largely unknown in Japan. In addition, it will also allow visitors a rare view of Great Britain during the 19th century, captured in photographs of the time.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to come and see the broad range of Great Britain's photographic culture and history that served as an inspiration to Japanese photographers during the latter half of the 19th century.

Outline of the Exhibition

Explore the roots of photography with Japan's first exhibition of early British photographs.

Section One — The Inventors

When the scientist and mathematician, William Henry Fox TALBOT [1800–1877], traveled with his wife, Constance, in 1833, he experienced the difficulties of using a Camera Lucida [an optical device used as a drawing aid] when trying to draw landscapes while simultaneously becoming captivated by the beauty of the optical image. He felt a desire to fix this image directly onto paper and resolved to invent a method of doing so. In 1835, he succeeded in capturing the world's first negative photographic image. Later, he invented the 'calotype' [also known as the 'talbotype' or 'sun picture'], which was a method of producing a negative image in the camera that could then be used to make positive prints and was therefore the forerunner of the main photographic technique to be used for the next 150 years.

The astronomer and mathematician, John HERSCHEL [1792–1871], invented the blueprint [cyanotype] in 1842. This is a photographic technique that utilizes the reaction of trivalent ferric iron to sunlight and is characterized by its beautiful blue color. It was HERSCHEL who first coined the terms 'photography', 'negative' and 'positive' that remain in use today.

Frederick Scott ARCHER [1813–1857] announced the invention of the collodion wet-plate process in the journal *The Chemist* in 1851. This process consisted of applying an emulsion to a glass plate then exposing and developing it before it dried, and over the next 30 years it became the most widely used photographic technique, being widely adopted in both the West and Japan.



1 - 1

1 - 1 John HERSCHEL, *A cave in the cliff on the beach, Dawlish, Devon*, 1816. Camera Lucida drawing, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum



1 - 2



1 - 3

1 - 2/3 William Henry Fox TALBOT, *Portrait of TALBOT's second daughter, Rosamond TALBOT*, 1844. Salted paper print/Paper negative, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

1 - 4 Antoine François Jean CLAUDET, *Daguerreotype portrait of William Henry Fox TALBOT*, c. 1841-1845.

Daguerreotype, British Library © British Library Board



1 - 4

One of the driving forces behind the invention of various photographic processes in Great Britain was the economic development that took place during the Victorian era [1837–1901] as a result of the Industrial Revolution. Photographic technology was born when the British Empire was at its peak and it was employed to record its Imperial achievements.

Furthermore, the Great Exhibition was held in 1851, followed by the International Exhibition in 1862, with the latter event featuring a section devoted to photography that attracted large numbers of people who came to see the photographs on display.



2-1



2-2

2-1 Victor Albert PROUT, *The Interior of the Abbey of Westminster / 'The Choir, looking East'*, before 1860. Albumen print, Historic England Archive
By permission of Historic England Archive

2-2 Lady Clementina HAWARDEN, *Clementina MAUDE*, 1863. Albumen print, National Science and Media Museum
© National Science & Media Museum / Science & Society Picture Library

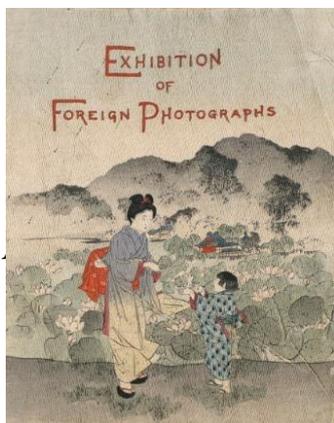
Section Three — From Great Britain to the World

By the 1850s, British photographers had extended their activities to the outside world, two of the driving forces behind this being ‘diplomacy’ and ‘Orientalism’.

From 1853 to 1856, the Crimean Peninsula was ravaged by war and photography was used for the first time to produce an official record of a conflict. Roger FENTON [1819–1869] was famous for his photograph of a desolate valley littered with cannonballs but containing no people. Alexander GARDNER [1821–1882] was a Scottish photographer who produced a photobook recording the American Civil War for sale to the general public. Francis FRITH [1822–1898] used a large-format camera [16” x 20”] to photograph the scenery and people of the Middle East and Egypt, catering to the British appetite for Orientalism.

Shortly after the American East India Squadron, under Commodore Matthew PERRY [1794–1858], came

to Japan to demand the opening its ports to commerce, Britain also signed a treaty with Japan, enabling British photographers to visit the country. In this way, photographic culture also spread throughout Japan and in 1893 the 'Exhibition of Foreign Photographs' was held, introducing over 300 photographs from abroad for the first time and among these were many taken in Great Britain.



3-1



3-2

3-1 William Kinninmond BURTON, 'Exhibition of Foreign Photographs / A Catalogue of the Exhibition of the Photographic Society of Japan', 1893. Book, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum.

3-2 Henry Peach ROBINSON, *Carolling*, 1887. Gelatin silver print P.O.P., printed later, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

Associated Events

'The Origin of Photography: Great Britain' Lecture Series

Lectures on early British photography to be given in Japanese by researchers.

Venue: 1st Floor Studio, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum. Seating for each session: 50

■ March 7 [Thu.] 18:00 – 19:30

Speaker: Sebastian DOBSON [Photograph Researcher]

■ March 9 [Sat.] 14:00 – 15:30* in English with consecutive Japanese interpretation

Speaker: Dr. Luke GARTLAN [Senior Lecturer, St. Andrews University]

■ March 15 [Fri.] 18:00 – 19:30

Speaker: TORIUMI Saki [Full-time Lecturer, Art Department, Nihon University College of Art]

■ March 23 [Sat.] 14:00 – 15:30

Speaker: Dr. UCHIBAYASHI Shun [Special Researcher, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo]

■ March 29 [Fri.] 18:00 – 19:30

Speaker: Prof. TAKAHASHI Norihide [Professor, Art Department, Nihon University College of Art]

* Numbered tickets will be distributed at the 1F Information Desk from 10:00 on the day. Please enter in order of the ticket

number, seating unrestricted

Alternative Process Workshop: Calotype Negative Preparation Demonstration

■ March 30 [Sat.] 15:00 – 17:30

Venue: 1st Floor Studio, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum.

Participants: 50 [first-come basis]. Entry: free.

A demonstration allowing participants to watch the process of producing a calotype negative [paper-based negative]. This offers the ideal opportunity to learn the technique of producing the world's first negative/positive photograph process.

* After the presentation is complete, applications can be made for a 'Calotype Production Workshop' that will be held on April 6 [Sat.] and 7 [Sun.] For further details please refer to the museum's website [www.topmuseum.jp] [participation charge payable, open only to those who attended the initial demonstration].

Gallery Tours in English

■ March. 8 [Fri] 18:00—19:00 / March. 10 [Sun] 14:00—15:00

As a special service for this exhibition, there will be two guided tours of the gallery conducted in English. The lecturer is Sebastian DOBSON, a researcher in photographic history, who will provide an explanation in English while guiding visitors through the exhibition for about an hour. Free with purchase of regular exhibition admission. Participants should gather at the entrance to the 3rd floor gallery with an entrance ticket stamped for that day.

Gallery Talk by Exhibition Curator [in Japanese]

■ March 15 [Fri.], April 5 [Fri.],

■ April 19 [Fri.], April 29 [Mon./holiday]

■ May 3 [Fri./holiday], May 4 [Sat./holiday], May 5 [Sun./holiday]

The curator in charge of the exhibition will give an explanation of the exhibits between 14:00 and 15:00 on the dates listed below. Participants should gather at the entrance to the 3rd floor gallery with an entrance ticket stamped for that day.

Lecture

A lecture by the leading expert on early British photography, Professor Larry Schaaf.

* with simultaneous interpretation.

Speaker: Prof. Larry J. SCHAAF [Director of the William Henry Fox Talbot Catalogue Raisonné]

* Details of the schedule will be announced on our website as soon as they are decided.

British Art Exhibition Discount

Entry to this exhibition will include a discount for the 'Parabola of Pre-Raphaelitism' [Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, March 14–June 9] and vice versa for the duration of both exhibitions. Refer to the website for further details.

Outline of Exhibition

Organized by: Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo Shimbun

Supported by: Friends of the Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

With the Cooperation of: All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd.

Venue: Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, 3rd Floor Gallery

Yebisu Garden Place, 1-13-3 Mita, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153-0062, Japan

Tel: +81-3-3280-0099 URL: www.topmuseum.jp

Open Hours: 10:00–18:00 [Thur. & Fri. open until 20:00] *Final admission 30 minutes before closing.

Museum Closed: Every Monday [the museum is open Mondays for public holidays but will close on the following working day]

Admission Fee:

Adults ¥900 [720], Students ¥800 [640], Junior and Senior High School Students/People aged 65 or over ¥700 [560]

*Free admission for grade school children or younger, junior high school students living or attending schools in the Tokyo metropolitan area, those with handicapped person's passbook together with their carers and every 3rd Monday of the month, people aged 65 and over.

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For Press

If you have any press enquiries about this Exhibition, please contact our Department of Public Relations. High-resolution images for publication are also available by e-mail.

press-info@topmuseum.jp