



# The Silver Canvas: Daguerreotype Masterpieces from the J. Paul Getty Museum

*Bates Lowry, Isabel Lowry*

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In the Getty Museum's collection are nearly two thousand daguerreotypes, including such notable examples as John Plumbe's *The United States Capitol*, one of the earliest known photographs of the building; an 1849 image of Edgar Allan Poe; and the documentation of the first public demonstration of ether for surgery. This beautiful book's drologue, based on document and letters, traces Daguerre's search for a way to produce a permanent and exact image of the natural world through a camera lens. A series of six essays discloses the tremendous impact of the daguerreotype on the worlds of science and art, and includes discussion of individual daguerreotypes that amplify the essay's theme.

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