The 2014 Daguerreian Society Symposium will be held in Austin, Texas on September 26-29. An initial agenda for the Symposium is available, and more detail will be made available on the web site as additional plans are confirmed. The Texas State Library and Archives will provide the venue for our reception on Friday.

THE DAGUERREIAN SOCIETY

The Society was created by collectors inspired by the magic of the daguerreotype and the early history of photography to the period just after the Civil War. This association has a rich 25-year history of research and scholarship regarding the social and cultural influence of photography during the Daguerreian era. Initially founded as a collector's organization, the Daguerreian Society has evolved to a coalition of interest parties that includes libraries, museums, historical associations and academic researchers.

While strongly influenced by the Daguerreotype, the Society strives to addresses the full range of early photographic processes. To help align the interests of our members, the Society has formally expanded its mission to reflect its focus on the evolution and impact of photography during the entire Daguerreian era. The art, science, and social and cultural impact of photography in the mid-19th century has been of primary interest to the Society and as a result, collectors and institutions have studied the relevant processes and formats that evolved during the Daguerreian Era.

In addition to the daguerreotype (for which the Society was originally named) are the interconnected impacts of invention and development of photography processes including calotypes and early paper processes, cyanotypes, ambrotypes, tintypes, cartes-de-visites, stereographs, early cabinet cards, and the myriad of experimental techniques that developed during this time. In addition to studying the daguerreotype and impact of early photographic processes, the Society addresses issues ranging from research regarding individual images and collections, to understanding the technical and creative processes, and conservation of historic images in terms of care, treatment, storage and exhibition. Society members include contemporary Daguerreian creators as well as collectors and academics studying the aesthetic, social and cultural impacts of early photography.

The Society hosts an annual symposium with presentations on emerging research and photographic history in addition to its trade show and tours of collections. Publications include a Quarterly and Annual, typically including over 300 pages of original articles by researchers, collectors and institutions.

Responses to a recent call for papers included broad communities of scholars in American studies, photographic and art history, conservation and related topics. In addition the recent call has begun efforts to provide peer review for publications of the Society, increasing its potential impact in academic and museum communities.

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