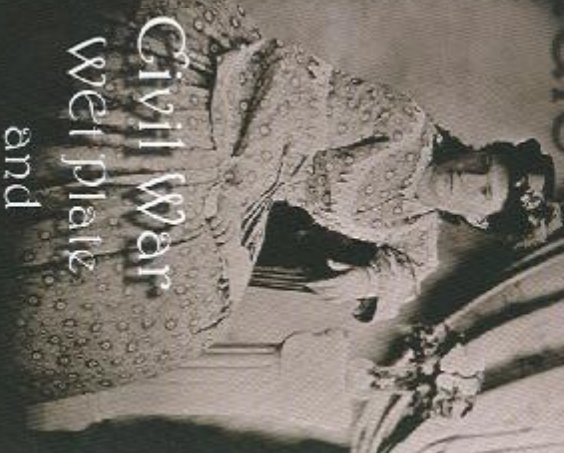


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A Brief History of Wet Plate/ Collodion Photography



Wet Plate print by Hilbert
de Mathijs Grodij

In 1847 Louis Niépce discovered Collodion, a clear flexible film originally used for dressing wounds. Photographers had been looking for a way to hold light sensitive materials on glass plates, and Collodion was the answer.

Collodion/Wet Plate Photography, as we have come to know it today, was invented in 1851 by a gentleman by the name of Frederick S. Archer. This process was invented to allow images to be made on glass and multiple copies could be made from the same plate. In 1856 the Tin Type process was added, allowing Collodion images to be made on thin sheets of metal.

The unique thing about this process is that the Plate must remain wet prior to being sensitized and exposed. If the plate dries out before the photographer has time to develop the image the plate will no longer be light sensitive and will be completely useless. Hence the name "Wet Plate" process.

Our Photographers must have a working knowledge in Chemistry as well as an "artistic eye" and, Patience is a virtue to be truly cherished in the photographer's studio.



Wet plate, sheet of emulsion
of a plate photographer
Fred Cahn

Being one of the only "Wet Plate/Collodion Photography Studios" still operating around the world today, we pride ourselves with the quality of our work and our wide variety of clients.

Here in our studio, we are able to offer our clients High Quality Digital Photos and Prints as well as a Full service Wet Plate/Collodion/Tin Type/Ambro Type Studio, providing a wide variety of Photographic Prints in a full spectrum of sizes with total framing service in a wide range of frames styles as well.

HOW A WET PLATE IMAGE IS CREATED

- First a Collodion Solution is "flowed onto the Plate", thus creating the film on the surface of the Tin Or Glass.
- Next, the Plate is Sensitized in a solution of Silver Nitrate in the Dark Room for approx. 3 Min.
- The sensitized plate is then removed from the Silver Bath, placed in the Plate Holder and inserted into the Camera.
- The Exposure is made for anywhere from 10 to 20 seconds or more depending on prevailing conditions in the studio.
- The Plate is returned to the Dark Room for developing where it is then removed from the Plate Holder and placed into a bath of developing solution.
- The Plate is then fixed in plain water which prevents overdevelopment of the image on the plate.
- The developed Plate is then placed into a solution which neutralizes the Silver on the plate that did not react to the light during the exposure. This is called "Fixing The Image".
- The Plate is now dried in a Hot Box after which a coat of Lavender Oil Varnish is flowed onto the plate to seal the emulsion to the Plate.
- Finally, the plate is placed back into the Hot Box for the drying of the Varnish which takes about an hour.

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WET PLATE PRICES

1/6 PLATE	\$49.95
1/4 PLATE	\$64.95
5x7 PLATE	\$84.95

DIGITAL PACKAGE

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*PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE
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