The Art Union Journal 1846 Volume 8

In 1846 William Henry Fox Talbot provided probably over 6000 original Talbotype images to the Art Union journal in a promotional effort which today is largely overlooked. The images were provided to popularise his photographic method and the publication was the first journal in the world to include photographs. Due largely to the haste of production, today, the images are often badly faded and this has contributed to the poor reputation of the feat. I think however, that these unique images from the birth of photography deserve to be better understood.

# The Project

Some years ago when I first came across one of these images it set me wondering about all the rest that might still be in existence…. This project is aimed at answering some of these questions both for my own satisfaction, and to provide a better understanding of Talbots work for others who may also be interested in the future.

Where are these images now?, how many have survived and what was the lasting legacy of the stunt? These are some of questions that will be explored by the 1846 Art Union project. Although I’m just a private researcher with an interest in the history of photography, I’m pleased to have received encouragement to undertake this project by more recognised authorities. I’m hopeful that the current keepers of the volumes will also have an interest in supporting the project. You can find out about me and another of my photo history projects at [www.onahillroad.com](http://www.onahillroad.com)

## Your Help is appreciated.

If you are the keeper of one or more copies of Volume 8 of the Art Union Journal or have a photograph that has been removed from a copy, your help would really be appreciated with this project. As a first step I am trying to locate and document as many copies as I can. For each copy I would like to ascertain some basic details about it. Some of these details will always be kept private (see request form), some may later be published a part of the reference information about volumes that have survived. It would be great if you could provide as much of the detail requested below as possible and please do attach a digital photograph (recommended) or a scan (if you are happy with this process) of your image. Please note these details will be collated on a computer database.

### Your Volume Reference

For each copy that I identify I will be allocating a unique copy reference number, I will send this to you and I would be pleased if the reference could be kept associated with the copy as I hope it may benefit future researchers and avoid double counting.

### Your Feed back

If you would like to receive feedback on the project (not more than twice per year) please do indicate that you would be happy to receive email updates.

### Where to send your details

Please send your submission to updates@1846ArtUnion.org

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**Thank You for your help with the 1846 Art Union Photographs Project**

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