

STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS:

The Key Photochemical Experiments and Observations Conducted Prior to 1826



**CONSERVATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND
PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTIONS FOR
COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL, SOUTHERN AND
EASTERN EUROPE**

DUSAN STULIK



The Getty Conservation Institute

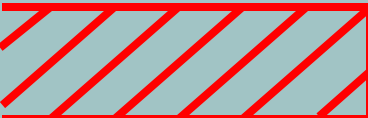
©2009 J. Paul Getty Trust



ANCIENT TIMES – 100 BC

	ANCIENT KNOWLEDGE	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> 400 300 200 100 BC </div>
<p>LIGHT AND OPTICS</p>	<p>Light produces shadows</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; background-color: yellow; text-align: center;"> <p>~ 2500 BC glass made in Middle East</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; background-color: yellow; text-align: center;"> <p>Mo Tsu (470-391 BC) light travels in straight line</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; background-color: yellow; text-align: center;"> <p>~ 100 BC clear glass produced in Rome</p> </div> </div>
<p>SILVER AND GOLD</p>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="display: flex; gap: 20px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; background-color: yellow;">Ag</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; background-color: yellow;">Au</div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 20px; border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; background-color: yellow;">Fe</div> </div>	
<p>IRON</p>	<p>Elements known to ancients</p>	
<p>PLATINUM</p>		<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 10px; background-color: yellow; text-align: center;"> <p>Tyrien purple used to color textiles</p> </div>
<p>OTHER LIGHT SENSITIVE SYSTEMS</p>	<p>Skin and plants change color when exposed to light</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 10px; background-color: yellow; text-align: center;"> <p>Aristotle (384-322 BC) publishes "On Colors"</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 10px; background-color: yellow; text-align: center;"> <p>Vitruvius publishes "De Architectura"</p> </div> </div>

100 – 1000 AD



100 AD 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000

LIGHT
AND
OPTICS

~125 Heron: the law of reflection

~150 Ptolemy: the law of refraction

SILVER
AND
GOLD

Pliny (23-79 AD)
light sensitivity of
silver compounds
????

Geber (~721-803 AD)
prepares
silver nitrate

IRON

PLATINUM

OTHER LIGHT
SENSITIVE
SYSTEMS

Pliny (23-79 AD)
color changes
in emeralds
bleaching of wax

1000 – 1600 AD



1200

1300

1400

1500

1600

LIGHT
AND
OPTICS

1276: Roger Bacon (1214-1294)
experimentation with lenses

Da Vinci
“Codex atlanticus”

1553 della Porta C.O.

1420 de Fontana C.O.

1583 Barbaro lens
For C.O.

SILVER
AND
GOLD

Albertus Magnus (~1200-1280)
discoloration of skin
by silver nitrate

Basilus Valentinus
precipitation
of silver chloride
????

1556 Fabritius
silver chloride
“luna cornea”

IRON

PLATINUM

OTHER LIGHT
SENSITIVE
SYSTEMS

Cennino Cennini
publishes
“Liberi dell’Arte”

1600 – 1700 AD



1600

1650

1700

LIGHT
AND
OPTICS

1604 Kepler explains
the optics of the eye

1671 Kircher
describes
laterna magica

1684 Zahn develops
focusing and
portable C.O.

SILVER
AND
GOLD

1614 Scala describes
darkening of silver
nitrate powder when
exposed to light

1663 Boyle describes
darkening of silver
chloride (air effect)

1694 Homberg
uses light and
silver nitrate to
blacken
bone objects

IRON

PLATINUM

OTHER LIGHT
SENSITIVE
SYSTEMS

1677 Hachenburg
describes change
of color in oil paintings
when exposed to light

1700 – 1750 AD



1700

1710

1720

1730

1740

1750

LIGHT
AND
OPTICS

1730 Hall invents
the achromatic lens

SILVER
AND
GOLD

1737 Hellot experiments
with sympathetic inks

IRON

1704 Diesbach discovers
the Prussian blue pigment

1725 Bestuscheff describes the light
sensitivity of iron compounds

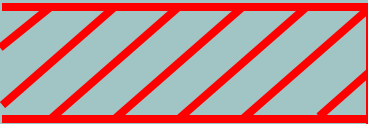
PLATINUM

1735 Ulloa
discovers platinum

OTHER LIGHT
SENSITIVE
SYSTEMS

1737 Dufay describes
the effect of light on
some dyes and pigments

1750 – 1800 AD



1760

1770

1780

1790

1800

LIGHT
AND
OPTICS

1759 Dolland
produces
achromatic lens

1769 Brander
develops a
telescopic C.O.

SILVER
AND
GOLD

1771 Charles
produces
photogenic
silhouettes
????

1776 Bergman
light sensitivity
of silver and
Hg salts

1792 Vasalli
exposes silver
chloride to candle
and moonlight

1777 Scheele discovers dissolution
of silver chloride in ammonia

IRON

1783 Scapoli studies the
light-induced production
of Prussian blue

PLATINUM

1782 Hagermann
studies gum
guaiacum

1789 Klaproth
discovers
uranium

OTHER LIGHT
SENSITIVE
SYSTEMS

1782 Senebier
studies light
sensitivity of
natural resins

1797 Vanquelin
discovers
chromium

1800 – 1826 AD

	1800	1810	1820	1826
LIGHT AND OPTICS	<p>1800 Herschel discovers IR</p> <p>1801 Ritter discovers UV</p>	<p>1802 Young interference of light</p>	<p>1812 Wollaston invents meniscus lens</p>	<p>1814 Fraunhofer calculates corrected lenses</p> <p>1818 Landriani develops a self-recording photometer</p>
SILVER AND GOLD	<p>1800 Buchaholz sensitivity of silver carbonate</p> <p>1802 Wedgwood unfixed photogenic drawings, first attempts to produce images using C.O.</p>	<p>1810 Seebach spectral sensitivity of silver chloride</p>	<p>1810 Grotthuns Sensitivity of silver sulfocyanide</p> <p>1814 Guy-Lussac sensitivity of silver iodide</p>	<p>1819 Herschel discovers dissolution of silver chloride in hypo</p> <p>1826 Boland sensitivity of silver bromide</p>
IRON	<p>1803 Wollaston discovers palladium</p>			
PLATINUM	<p>1804 Gahlen studies light sensitivity of U, Cu, Pb</p>			
OTHER LIGHT SENSITIVE SYSTEMS	<p>1803 sensitivity of realgal</p> <p>1803 Boullay studies light-induced decomposition of mercury dichloride</p>		<p>1811 Wollaston studies sensitivity of a paper coated with solution of gum guiacum</p>	<p>1826 Doebereiner studies light-induced reduction of platinum compounds</p>