Photography and Psychiatry

In the Nineteenth Century
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Cover Photograph

Female Patient, Surrey County Asylum, Twickenham, England
Photograph by Dr. Hugh Welch Diamond, ca. 1852
Albumen print ca. 5x4 in.
Vignetted oval mounded on album page
Introduction

Western thought, from the earliest speculation about the relationship between the mind and body, has shown continuing interest in the question of how individual physical appearance might relate to underlying mental condition. From Aristotle and Galen through the twentieth century, philosophical, artistic, and scientific efforts have been made to gain insight into character or mental condition through interpretation of physical characteristics.

A primary purpose of this exhibit is to present an example of one instance of this ongoing concern, that of the effort within nineteenth century medicine to use photography to relate physiognomy and brain condition to aspects of mental dysfunction.

Along with documenting several aspects of the clinical use of photography, the exhibit also illustrates the broader use of photography to document facilities, staff, and treatment programs, and to promote the medical claim to jurisdiction over cases of mental disfunction.
The Collection

1. Books
2. Photographs
3. Other

1. Books

A. Background: The Physiognomic and Phrenological Context.

1601 (della) Porta, Giambattista. *De humana physiognomonia libri IV.* Ursel: 12mo, vellum, 534 pp., index, illustrations. (First edition, 1586).

This Renaissance treatise is one of the early classics on human and animal physiognomy. The ideas expressed here were picked up in the late eighteenth century by J. C. Lavater and provided a basis for nineteenth century psychiatric hopes that physiognomy would be of significant help in understanding mental illness. This edition is profusely illustrated with comparisons of human and animal expressions. The enthusiasm that such works lent to physiognomic investigations accounts in large part for the speed with which psychiatry later developed photography as a diagnostic tool.

It is interesting to note that one of the earliest references to the camera can be found in della Porta's 1553 work *Natural Magic,* where he mentions the camera obscura as an aid to the draftsman. (Green-Lewis)


Translation by Thomas Holcroft of Lavater's *Physiognomische Fragmente zur Beförderung der Menschenkenntnis und Menschenliebe, 1774-1778.* 8vo, 5 vols, 3/4 leather with marbled endpapers and boards. 418 engravings and a translation of Lavater's *One Hundred Physiognomical Rules.*

Johann Lavater was a Zurich clergyman, poet, and key figure in the modern attempt to base traditional physiognomic perspectives on scientific principles. This is Lavater's major work and a seminal text for Franz Gall's later development of phrenology.

This text proved to be seminal in the 19th century development of what Lavater called "the semiotics of illness," and what psychiatry pursued under the headings of phrenology and physiognomy. (Gilman) (Burns)


12mo, 275+ pp., 3/4 leather with marbled boards.

This English abridgement of Holcroft's translation (above) contains eight plates with forty-eight head and shoulder drawings illustrating Lavater's ideas on character analysis.

This work presents a detailed study of the relationship of emotion and character to facial expression. Using his own sketches of the mad done at Bedlam, Bell attempts to abstract a prevailing character and physiognomy of mad. In his sketches and comments Bell attempts to illustrate his view that the mad are in essence human beings who have been reduced to an animal like simplicity and lack of intentionality. To him, their faces express no thought, however perverted; he sees there mere vacancy of mind; a being without reason. (Gilman)


It would be an interesting speculation to determine how far the best proportions of the head are to be considered as external indications of the excellence of the intellectual faculties... We sometimes meet with the best possible formed heads associated with a very contracted discernment, or even with absolute insanity, while singular varieties of conformation are united to every attribute of talent and genius. It would, therefore, be no less curious, than conducive to the progress of science, to establish some facts as results of new and accurate researches; to examine the varieties of conformation of the head that are indifferent or equally favourable to the free exercise of the functions of the understanding; to mark particularly the deformities of the cranium, that are co-existent with manifest lesions of those functions; and lastly, to ascertain the species of mental derangement depending upon the want of symmetry of the cranium, or upon the smallness of its dimensions, in comparison with those of the whole body.


This is the major psychiatric work of the founder of the French school of psychiatry. It first appeared in 1801, and in 1809 was reissued in this expanded edition, which contains the addition of two physiognomic illustrations.

Pinel is widely regarded as the founding father of modern psychiatry. During the period of the French Revolution he was director of both the Bicêtre and Salpêtrière hospitals in Paris. He was known both for his humanitarian concern for the insane and for his methodology, which stressed close attention to the details of each case. Pinel's approach to mental derangement is traditionally grouped with that of Samuel Tuke in England and Vincenzo Chiarugi in Italy. Collectively they are known as the founders of "moral treatment" for the mentally ill. This approach stressed psychological treatment and held an optimistic view of the possibilities for recovery.

Of particular significance for this collection is Pinel's role in the introduction of physiognomic perspectives into the field of psychiatric research and care.

1827 Cruikshank, George. *Phrenological Illustrations, or An Artist's view of the Craniological System of Doctors Gall and Spurzheim.*
London: Cruikshank, Terrance, Pentonville. [First edition, 1826].
Blue wrappers, 10"x13", 10 pp.
6 plates designed and etched by George Cruikshank, accompanied by Cruikshank's detailed commentary.
These satiric etchings depict various phrenological characteristics as visualized by George Cruikshank, one of England's most popular humorists and illustrators of the early nineteenth century.

1829  Morison, Alexander.  *Outlines of Mental Diseases: Sketches of the Physiognomy of Mental Diseases.*
Plates only, pp. 131-162.
Rebound in half calf and marble boards.
17 engravings of mental patients along with case classifications.
Third edition.

Dr. Alexander Morison was President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Edinburgh, and is credited with delivering the first British lectures on psychiatry in 1823. These lectures were first published as *Outlines of Lectures on Mental Diseases* in 1825. In 1826 a second edition was published which added thirteen plates of patients along with explanatory case descriptions. This third edition of 1829 added four more plates. This volume contains only the plates and case notes.

In his opening remarks to this volume, Dr. Morison distinguishes his work from that of those who follow in the physiognomic tradition of Dr. Gall. While Gall's followers stress the relationship of mental disorder to the fixed features of the head and face, Morison tells us that he looks to Esquirol and focuses his line of inquiry on the relevance of expression, or "moveable physiognomy," to mental disease.

The sharpness of detail in these plates bears witness to early 19th century advances in lithographic technique as well as to the continuing psychiatric interest in the "science" of physiognomy.

Morison and others believed that the repetition of ideas and emotions culminate in particular muscular expressions in the face. Physiognomic study of expressions thus helps us distinguish among various mental illnesses and give warnings of the approach of particular diseases.

His 1838 text, *The Physiognomy of Mental Diseases,* which incorporated portraiture, narrative and case history, stands a model text of the day.

(Green-Lewis)

1835  Dean, Amos.  *Lectures on Phrenology.*
These lectures were intended to popularize the phrenological works of George Combe and Johann Spurzheim. They are here published along with a fold-out phrenological chart opposite the title page.

Original cloth-covered boards.
Third American edition.

Johann Spurzheim was co-author with Franz Gall of the basic text of phrenology, *Anatomie et physiologie du système nerveux général, et cerveau en particulier.* It was published between 1810 and 1819 in four volumes and an atlas.

The work considered here was first published in London in 1817 and contains two engraved plates illustrating various abnormal skulls and facial expressions.

Most contemporary psychiatrists, or "alienists" as they were more frequently known, were curious about any possible relationship between skull structure and mental illness. Phrenologists, convinced of a specific relationship here, emphasized the development of local areas of the brain as the foundation for particular personal characteristics. In general, phrenologists came to associate exterior size and shape of the skull with the development of particular controlling areas of the brain.

The work presented here, along with the works of Gall and Lavater, helped form the mixture of physiognomy and
phrenology that pervaded psychiatry during the first half of the nineteenth century and provided an impetus to the development of psychiatric photography.

1845 Esquirol, E. *Mental Maladies: A Treatise on Insanity.*
Translated by E. K. Hunt.
8vo, 496 pp., ads. Full contemporary leather binding.
First American edition.

Esquirol was Pinel's star pupil and heir at the Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris. This work, originally published in 1838 as *Des malades mentales,* is one of the first modern textbooks of psychiatry. It is included here for its discussion of the relationship between physical appearance and mental condition.

1852 Fowler, O. S. & L. N. *The Illustrated Self-Instructor in Phrenology and Physiology, with One Hundred Engravings, and a Phrenological Chart of Character.*
N.Y.: Fowler and Wells.
Original wrappers, 134 pp., ads.

Orsen and Lorenzo Fowler, mid-century physicians in New York City, became leading proponents and popularizers of phrenology. This is one of many such books and articles they published on the subject.

12mo, engravings, ads, 500+ pp.
Original cloth-covered boards, with blind and gold stamps.

These explanatory and popular journals contain over three hundred and fifty engravings illustrating the heads and figures of important individuals. The accompanying text presents detailed phrenological and physiognomic analyses.

1879 Willis, A. E. *Illustrated Physiognomy.*

This work offers many illustrations of facial features with accompanying physiognomic and phrenological analyses.
B. Photographically Related Texts.

1846 (Farnham, E. W., ed.) *Rationale of Crime, and its Appropriate Treatment; Being a Treatise on Criminal Jurisprudence Considered in Relation to Cerebral Organization*, by M. B. Sampson.
New York: D. Appleton & Co. 12mo, original green cloth with blind and gold stamps. xxi, 177 pp., ads.

Elza Farnham was an American phrenologist and Matron of the Mount Pleasant State Prison at Ossing (Sing-Sing), New York. This edition of Sampson's work adds an introduction and nineteen engravings to the second London edition.

Farnham and other liberal phrenologists of the mid-century period looked upon criminality itself as insanity and thus the criminal was automatically viewed as insane. Her effort was to point out that through phrenological therapy the relative development of mental faculties could be altered and character reconstructed.

Here, in the appendix, Farnham presents interpretations of nineteen engravings based on daguerreotypes taken by Mathew Brady. Eleven of these are of male and female convicts at New York's Blackwell Island Prison, and eight are of minor male inmates of the Long Island Farm School.

This work is the first book with illustrations based on Mathew Brady photographs, and the first known use in a psychiatric text of engravings based on photographs.

The work was poorly received upon publication; its phrenological bias was felt to undermine a sense of moral choice or responsibility. In the wake of this controversy, Farnham resigned her post. Subsequently the work has been hailed as insightful and ahead of its time and was reprinted in 1973 as part of the Patterson Smith series on criminology.

(Burns)(Gilman).

Philadelphia: Published by Order of the Board of Managers.
8vo, 3 vols; original green cloth-covered boards with blind and gold stamping.

In 1840 Dr Kirkbride became the first resident hospital psychiatrist in America through his appointment as Physician-in-Chief at the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane. He was America's first full-time psychiatrist and in 1844 became one of the thirteen founders of the Association of Medical Superintendents of the American Institutions for the Insane, a group which later became the American Psychiatric Association. (Burns)

These reports describe the earliest and most extensive use of photography in American psychiatric practice. Here, Superintendent Kirkbride discusses the development of therapeutically structured evening programs organized around the presentation of photographic slide materials. (There is some question as to whether this began in 1849 or 1851, but in either case, the use of photographic materials by Dr. Kirkbride is the first documented use of photography in psychiatric treatment). In addition Dr. Kirkbride points out that by 1880, the hospital had amassed a collection of over three thousand photographs that were in use for therapeutic purposes.

(Layne)
Philadelphia: Blanchard and Lea.
8vo, original green cloth covered boards.
First American edition; preceded by the English edition of the same year.
This major nineteenth century psychiatric text contains a frontispiece with seven lithographic reproductions of photographs taken of patients in the Devon County Lunatic Asylum. Each photograph is accompanied with a diagnosis of the particular patient. The text soon came to replace J.C. Prichard's 1835 *Treatise on Insanity* as the standard English work on psychological medicine. (Hunter & Macalpine)

1858 Kerlin, Isaac Newton.  *The Mind Unveiled; or a Brief History of Twenty-Two Imbecile Children.*
12mo, original red cloth-covered boards with gold stamping, xii, 147 pp.
Illustrated with five photographs (salt-prints) by Frederick Gutekunst.
Inscribed by the author on the fly-leaf.
These photographs of retarded children are believed to be the first American photographs of mental patients to be published in book form. The work was published to help raise funds for the Pennsylvania Training School for Feeble Minded Children in Germantown, Pennsylvania. The pictures reveal the use of occupational therapy as an aspect of the "moral treatment" of the day. At present this book is also thought to be the first medically related book with photographs. Typically, books of this period used lithographic reproductions of photographs rather than photographic prints. It was only later, in the 1870s, that the development of the Woodburytype process made possible commercial reproduction of photographs in books. (Barth)

(Washington): Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, # 173.
4to, original wrappers. 75pp. 16 plates. 9 photolithographs.
This publication offers examples of early photographic studies of the brain. Here both human and animal brain tissue have been photographed and published through the use of sixteen photolithographs by L. H. Bradford.
During the second half of the nineteenth century psychiatry by enlarge followed the lead of Wilhelm Griesinger and turned to the clinical study of brain tissue. Here, John Dean offers some early examples of photographic studies of both human and animal brain tissue.
This study predates Luys' *Iconographie photographique des centres nerveux* by ten years. At this earlier date it was necessary to reproduce photographic negatives through photolithography. Original photographic prints were, however, available for distribution at the time of publication. (Norman, *Med. & Surg. Misc., list #2*).

London: John Murray. 8vo, original green cloth, vi, 374 pp, ads.
Darwin was drawn into the late nineteenth century psychiatric debate over the existence of specific physical
features that indicate mental illness. In this work Darwin argues for a continuum of expression and gesture that includes both the sane and the insane as well as other species.

This work is the seminal work on the universality of human and animal expression, and is the first important study of expression to use photographs and interpretative engravings based on photographs. It is also one of the earliest books to be illustrated with heliotype photographic plates, of which there are here seven by Rejlander.


This work is one of the first psychiatric texts to make extensive diagnostic use of photographs of mentally disturbed patients. It contains thirty-three Woodburytype photographs of patients in the Strassburg Asylum. Upon publication it was viewed as offering a breakthrough in the treatment of the mentally ill. (Gilman)


Dominating 19th century psychiatric photography in France was the work of the leading French neurologist Jean-Martin Charcot and his thirty-three year career at the Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris. Charcot, spearheading positivistic medicine in neurology and psychiatry, placed great emphasis on the relationship between physical appearance and underlying conditions of the brain. This photographic study of his work at the Salpêtrière documents what Charcot described as stages of "hystero-épilepsie."

In all, this work contains one hundred and twenty photographs of eight women diagnosed as hysterical. It is arguably the most important photographically illustrated psychiatric text of the 19th century. (Micale)


From the mid-century work of William Griesinger, 19th century psychiatric research and speculation stressed organic brain damage as the basis for mental pathology. Here, Benedikt presents the results of his work studying the brains of adjudicated criminals. Characteristic of Benedict's work is investigation of "normal and deviant" cerebral structure as it might relate to behavior. In this he follows a tradition of craniology that was established by Blumenbach and Gall, and was shared by more contemporary investigators such as Leuret, Virchow, Bischoff, and Lombroso.

First and only edition.
48 heliotype prints from photographic negatives.

As late nineteenth century psychiatric investigation increasingly looked to pathological brain conditions for an understanding of mental disease, accurate physiological knowledge of the brain came to be of more and more importance. Dr. Dalton was the first American physician to specialize exclusively in physiology and served as professor of physiology at the College of Physicians & Surgeons in New York City. In this three volume work Dalton offers what is arguably the finest American neurological atlas of the nineteenth century. The heliotype plates, presenting life-sized views of the brain, were made from photographic negatives. Each print is accompanied with an explanatory drawing by Dr. Richard Lennox. Greater detail on the photographic process is given by Dr. Dalton in his preface and introduction.

8vo, 3/4 leather with black marbled boards. 429 pp.

This work, dedicated to Charcot, contains one hundred twenty illustrations, many of which were based on photographs taken as part of Charcot's investigations into hysteria.

8vo, 1/2 leather with decorated boards. 636 pp.
12 photographic plates.

Charles Fére was a student of Charcot. This work, containing eleven tipped-in photographic studies of epileptics and one lithographically reproduced plate of brain tissue. The text was based on Fére's work as physician to the Bicêtre Hospital in Paris.

8vo, 3/4 black backing with decorated boards. 287 pp.

These clinical lectures on hypnotism contain eleven photographic plates with multiple images of individuals under hypnotism, along with two plates of brain studies. The photography illustrates different stages of hypnotism and the text relates normal hypnotic responses to pathological conditions.

First edition. 8vo, original green cloth binding. 1,477 pp.
2 photographic plates: 13 individual photographs and one photolithograph of patients.
7 photographic reproductions of brain tissue.

This late nineteenth century dictionary of psychiatric knowledge came to replace Bucknill and Tuke's 1858
Manual of Psychological Medicine as the authoritative English work on insanity. Photographs of patients from various asylums are discussed in terms of the clinical observations that may be drawn from their facial expressions. In particular, asymmetry of expression is discussed as to whether or not it is a helpful guide in diagnosing mental disease.

This encyclopedia of insanity remained the standard English text on the subject into the twentieth century.

12mo, original brown cloth binding, xxvi, 313 pp.

This work is profusely illustrated with photographs of female criminals. The purpose of this inclusion was to present visual evidence of criminals as "delinquent types." In Lombroso's system, criminals, lunatics and "primitive races" were separate branches of a decadent evolutionary stem.

Lombroso was a professor of psychiatry at the University of Pavia, from 1862 to 1867. His major work was *L'Uomo delinquente* (The Criminal Man), published in 1876. The work here, *The Female offender*, is a translation of part of his later work, *La Donna delinquente*.

Lombroso was preceded by Morel and Prichard in selecting a focus on "biological degeneracy" as an explanation for antisocial behavior. In his study of crime, Lombroso rejected the conventional emphasis on legalistic concerns and focused a scientific study of individual criminals. His view was that the criminal represents a special type individual, standing half way between the insane and the primitive. The immediate result of this emphasis was to encourage a more sympathetic treatment of criminals based on the specifics of inherited individual predispositions.

1895 Morton, Th. & F. Woodbury. *The History of the Pennsylvania Hospital, 1751-1895.*
Philadelphia: Contributors to the Pennsylvania Hospital.
Large 8vo, vii, 575 pp. Original blue and burgundy decorated cloth boards.

Profusely illustrated with photographs.

The Pennsylvania Hospital was the first major hospital in colonial America. A primary purpose of its founding was to provide a facility for the treatment of the indigent sick and "persons distempered in Mind and deprived of their rational Faculties."

This work contains over a hundred photographic illustrations of documents, hospital buildings, doctors, staff and treatment facilities.

Of particular interest is a photograph of the original basement cells, constructed in 1756, for housing the "lunatiks."

8vo, 212 pp., original red cloth binding.
24 Illustrations; photographs or drawings based on photographs illustrating various aspects of hysteria, hypnotism, and faith cures.

The five chapters presented here were originally published as individual papers in separate journals. The photographs used are drawn from those taken under the direction of Charcot and Luys.

1898 Chapin, John B. *A Compendium of Insanity.*
Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 12 mo, original red cloth binding.
234 pp. + 44 advts., with 6 photographic plates.
First edition.

The six photographic plates contain fifteen patients and their diagnoses plus one composite photograph of eight patients diagnosed as in the second stage of general paresis. The idea behind the use of composite portraiture was to abstract a general physiognomy of mental illness from individual variations. William Noyes made this composite portraiture in 1888, following the earlier composite work of Francis Galton in the field of eugenics. Other photographs illustrate individual patients diagnosed variously as imbecile, idiot, melancholic, manic, delusional, or paranoid. [Gilman]

Dr. John Chapin was Physician-in-Chief of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, and earlier had been Physician-Superintendent of the Willard State Hospital of New York.

New York: M. F. Mansfield and Company.
8vo, original blue cloth, xviii, (1), 451 pp.
First American edition.
Frontispiece portrait and 13 multiple-image photographic plates of men and women diagnosed as insane.

Winslow was an English psychiatrist of the turn of the century. This work is dedicated to the Italian psychiatrist Cesare Lombroso and is written to address the issue of the general increase in incidents of insanity. Overall, Winslow finds a gradual degeneration of the human race which can only be partially modified, in individual cases, through early recognition and preventative care.

The photographs included here were taken in various asylums on the continent. They present patients as representatives of assigned categories of insanity. In his diagnoses, Forbes placed significant emphasis on physiognomic appearance along with appropriateness of behavior.

Leipzig: Verlag Von Johann Ambrosius Barth.
9 Photographs of Patients.
19 Photographs of the Central Nervous System.
Sixth Edition; the 1879 first edition was titled *Compendium der Psychiatrie.*

This edition of Kraepelin's classic work contains his first mention of manic-depressive psychoses as one of two major disease groupings. The photographs of patients was an afterthought. As was customary towards the end of the century, photographs of patients were usually illustrative rather than diagnostic. In this instance they were added to the 1896 fifth edition at the publisher's insistence.

1902 Seiffert, W. *Atlas und Grundriss der Allgemeinen Diagnostik und Therapie der Nervenkrankheiten.*
Small 8vo, green cloth, illustrations, vi, 479 pp., ads.

Contains over two hundred reproductions of black & white as well as color photographs illustrating various forms of nervous disease.
Wm. Stanley Ray, State Printer of Pennsylvania.
8vo, original red cloth binding.
Color map of hospital districts, 392 pp.
Photographs.
This collection of reports on State hospitals in Pennsylvania contains approximately fifty late-19th century photographs of treatment facilities for the insane. The photographic interest here is centered on the facilities; individuals appear only incidentally.

Presented here are reports of case work at the Bicêtre Hospital during the year 1902. It contains over forty photographs of patients and brain tissue.

Small 8vo, red cloth boards, 626 pp.
Second edition.
This work contains approximately one hundred and fifty photographs of individuals studied as types of social and hereditary degeneration. Correlations between physical appearances and pathological conditions are sought throughout the text.

1905 Sachs, B. *A Treatise on the Nervous Diseases of Children for Physicians and Students.*
New York: William Wood and Co. 8vo, green cloth-covered boards.
137 illustrations, 557 pp.
Concerning mental derangement, Dr. Sachs, "Alienist and Neurologist" to Bellevue Hospital, presents in this work chapters on epilepsy, hysteria, insanity, idiocy and imbecility. Of particular interest for this exhibit are two photographic illustrations of hydrocephalic and congenital idiocy. Overall, Dr. Sachs focuses on the role of impaired development in the formation of mental illness.

1910 Barr, Martin W. *Mental Defectives: Their History, Treatment and Training.*
8vo, original red cloth binding. 53 full-page photographic plates containing approximately 100 separate images of "backward children."
Dr. Barr was Chief Physician to the Pennsylvania Training School for Feeble-Minded Children, located in
Elwyn, Pennsylvania. This text offers extensive discussion and photographic documentation of "mental defectives" as understood in the medical classification of the late nineteenth century.

Dr. Barr focuses on clarification of realistic possibilities in treating and caring for the "mentally defective."

In his 1904 forward Barr wrote as follows:

In endeavoring to emphasize the utter hopelessness of cure, and also the needless waste of energy in attempting to teach as idiot, I have sought to make clear the possibilities that may be attained in the training of the imbecile, the urgent need of preventing the backward child from degenerating into imbecility, and of safeguarding the absolutely irresponsible ammoral (sic) imbecile from crime and its penalty.

These photographs present formally posed children, singly or in groups, against a blank background. The children appear carefully dressed as if to emphasize the care and training they had received at the school.

First edition, 8vo, original brown cloth, viii, 250 pp.

Profusely illustrated with photographs and color lates of patients diagnosed as manic depressive, paranoid, hysterical, mentally defective, alcoholic, etc. It is interesting to note that warning is given not to rely overly on physiognomic impressions but to use these impressions as one part of an overall diagnostic approach.
2. Photographs.

1852 ca.  Photograph of a Female Patient, by Hugh W. Diamond.
Springfield Hospital [Surrey County Asylum], Twinkingham, England.
Albumen print, 5 1/16 x 3 7/8 in.  (Cover photo).
Vignette oval mounted on an album page.
In 1848 Dr. Hugh Diamond succeeded Dr. Alexander Morison as superintendent of the female department at the Surrey County Asylum. Dr. Morison had already established the practice of making drawings of his patients to illustrate his texts (see above, 1829). Diamond continued this practice of observing and recording the appearances of patients, but through the use of the newly developed process of photography. In this Dr. Diamond is generally regarded as the originator of psychiatric photography. His work of the early 1850s was enthusiastically received by his contemporaries in both England and France. Leading colleagues such as Dr. John Conolly found great hope for future psychiatric diagnosis through the use of photography.
This print is one of many taken by Diamond while he was superintendent at the Surrey County Asylum. It is one of eighteen such photographs that was sold at auction in 1984 by Sotheby's London. (Burns) (Kraus)

1860s  Texas Lunatic Asylum, Austin, Texas.
5 photographic prints of patients, buildings and grounds of the Texas Lunatic Asylum.
These photocopied prints are accompanied by three articles from Austin newspapers dated 1857 and 1871. All items were acquired from the collection of the Austin Historical Society, Austin, Texas.

1885 ca.  Photography and Care of the "Feeble-Minded."
Thirteen mounted albumen photographs of wards of the Elm Hill Private School for Feeble-Minded Youths, Barre, Massachusetts.
The Elm Street School was the first private school for the mentally handicapped in the United States. The individual portraits displayed here are accompanied by stereoviews, cartes-de-visite, cabinet card and other "boudoir sized" photographs showing the institution and the surrounding town of Barre.

1841-1890s  The Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane.
Seven photocopy prints of Dr. Thomas Kirkbride and the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane taken throughout the second half of the nineteenth century.
Included is an photograph from Morton and Woodbury, The History of the Pennsylvania Hospital, showing the original basement cells where the "lunatics" were housed, from 1756 until 1841. After 1841, mental patients were transferred to the newly established Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, which was under the supervision of Dr. Kirkbride.
1885 ca. Asylum: Kalamazoo, Michigan.
Nine prints of late nineteenth century life at an unidentified Michigan asylum.
Taken as stereopticon slides by Schuyler Baldwin and W.S. White, and distributed as "Kalamazoo Views."
Acquired from the National Museum of American History, Medical Sciences Division of the Smithsonian Institution.
These photographs present views of the grounds, buildings, wards, staff and patients of the asylum. The style of photography and the customary institutional emphasis on how well-off the patients are make it frequently difficult to distinguish patient from physician.

1890s New York Hospital: Bloomingdale Asylum.
Seven photographs taken at Bloomingdale Asylum during the 1890s portraying patients, staff, doctors, facilities and therapeutic activities. Acquired from the Medical Archives of the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. Supplemented by annual reports for the years 1845, 1854, 1855, 1860.
The Bloomingdale Asylum for the Insane opened in 1821 to offer specialized psychiatric care that would ease the burden on the strained facilities of the New York Hospital. This new asylum, one of the earliest such institutions in America, was inspired by the Quaker Retreat near York, England. The York approach stressed compassionate care and disciplined therapy, and has come to be known as "moral treatment". The Bloomingdale program, drawn up by Thomas Eddy, a Quaker and a member of the Board of the New York Hospital, set out to do away with all vestiges of corporeal punishment, restraints and the kind of manipulation by fear that had been advocated by earlier authorities such as Cullen and Rush. Such programs, as developed here and in other asylums, provided the basis of the therapeutic optimism that pervaded early nineteenth century psychiatry.
(Deutsch)

1890s McLean Asylum, Somerville, Massachusetts.
Eight 8 x 10 in. photographs depicting the staff, patients, facilities and original quarters.
The McLean Asylum began in 1818 as part of the Massachusetts General Hospital. It was known as the "Insane Hospital" until 1821 when the hospital received a generous grant from the Boston businessman, John McLean, and the name was changed to the McLean Asylum. As with the Bloomingdale Asylum, McLean was committed to the new "moral therapy" of the day; no bloodletting, use of chains or other forms of brutalization was to be permitted. Efforts were made to model and encourage "normal" behavior; regular routines of work and recreation were followed as at the York Retreat and at the Bloomingdale Asylum. Writing of the program at McLean Asylum, Dr. Rufus Wyman, the first resident superintendent and the first doctor to direct an asylum in America, stated that "kindness and humanity have succeeded severity and cruelty." (Deutsch, 104)

Subsequent critics have not been so laudatory toward the practitioners of moral therapy; they frequently find beneath the gentle surface a tendency to violate the patient's personality. From the perspective of many contemporary critics, the moral therapist of the nineteenth century is seen as an agent of the establishment using his profession to inculcate conventional social values.
Various Photocopies from Texts in the Exhibition. Title pages and selected images and passages. [60-70 matted prints].

3. Other

1980 ca. Phrenological Bust, modelled by Robert Worthington. One of 1,000 pieces produced for The London Phrenological Company, Ltd. Coalport Bone China, 6 x 101/2 in.

This bust presents a phrenological chart of innate faculties of the brain. These faculties purportedly convey a range of development potential to each individual. It was the hope of nineteenth century phrenological reformers to help those with mental difficulties develop appropriate faculties to harmonize their lives.

Camera & Tripod:
Type of portraiture camera and support typically used for portraiture at the turn of the century.

Magic Lantern:
Style of slide projector used in the nineteenth century. First introduced into psychiatric practice by Dr. Kirkbride at the Pennsylvania Hospital in the early 1850s in the form of therapeutically organized presentations of photographic slide materials.
Selected Bibliography:

1. Semelaigne
2. Hirsch
3. Gilman
4. Garrison and Morton/McHenry
5. Burns
6. Hunter and MacAlpine
7. Choulant/Frank
8. Cushing
9. Cordasco
10. Courville


