

City Gallery -Carte de Visite Matrix

| Date: | 1858 | 1859 | 1860 | 1861 | 1862 | 1863 | 1864 | 1865 | 1866 | 1867 | 1868 | 1869 | 1870 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------------------|------|------|------|
| Card Stock | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White Bristol board | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Layared paste board | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Cardboard / Press board | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stock Thickness | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| .010"(.254mm) - .020"(.508mm) | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| > .020"(.508mm), Yellow or white card | | | | | | | | | | | | X | X |
| Square Corners | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Decorate Features On Front of Card | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plain - no border (White Bristol board) | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Plain - no border (Grey Or Tan Bristol board) | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| 1 or 2 line border, colors (gilt, red, blue, green, purple, magenta, black) | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | Diminished usage | | | |
| Oval frame (1 or more lines, heavy and thin) | | | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | |
| Oval frame (Decorative motif, colors: brown, green, grey, blue) | | | | | | | | | | X | X | | |
| Oval frame, (with Tassels) | | | | | | | X | X | X | X | X | | |
| Ornate rectangular frame | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Backmarks & Imprints | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Small pasted labels | X | X | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Simple typeset imprint (small print) | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Single line. | | | X | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| Inprint of two or three lines without wording "Negatives" or "Duplicates" | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| Inprint of two or three lines with wording "Negatives" or "Duplicates" | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| IMPRINT OF TWO OR THREE | | | | | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |

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|---|---|---|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---|---|
| LINES WITH VIGNETTE (EAGLE, SHIELD, LIBERTY, ETC) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| IMPRINT WITH CURVED LINES | | | | | | X | X | X | | | | | |
| NAME VIGNETTED | | | | | X | X | X | X | | | | | |
| NAME RUBBER STAMPED | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| ORNATE VIGNETTE | | | | | | | X | X | X | X | | | |
| "CAMERA AND CHERUBS" | | | | | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| ORNATE GROUNDWORK WITH BILATERAL OVOID AREA FOR IMPRINT | | | | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| LARGER TYPESET (3 OR MORE LINES) | | | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | |
| REVENUE STAMP BOX | | | | | | | X | X | X | | | | |
| LENGTH-WISE NAME | | | | | | | | | | | X | X | X |
| REVENUE STAMP | | | | | | | X | X | X | | | | |
| PRINT MEDIUM | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SALTED PAPER (NO GLOSS/MATTE FINISH) | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | |
| ALBUMEN PAPER (MOST CDV'S) | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| CARBON PRINTS (RELIEF EFFECT) | | | | RARE | RARE | RARE | RARE | RARE | RARE | RARE | RARE | X | X |
| IMAGE "ENAMENLED" OR COATED WITHE CLEAR VARNISH | | | | RARE | RARE | RARE | RARE | RARE | RARE | RARE | X | X | X |
| IMAGE OR POSE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| VIGNETTED HEAD IMAGE<3/4" X 3/4" (19.5mm X 19.5mm) | | | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | | |
| VIGNETTED HEAD IMAGE BETWEEN 3/4" - 1 1/4" TO 1"-1 | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | |

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|---|--|--|---|-------------|-------------|---|---|---|---|-------------|-------------|---|---|
| 1/2" (19.5mm-31.7mm TO 25.4mm-38.7mm) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| VIGNETTED HEAD IMAGE>1 1/4 X 1 1/2" (31.7mm X 38.7mm) | | | | | | | | | X | X | X | X | X |
| SEATED OR 3/4 OR FULL LENGTH POSE (PLAIN BACKGROUND) | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | |
| SEATED OR 3/4 OR FULL LENGTH POSE (DRAPE/SIMPLE FURNITURE) | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | <i>RARE</i> | <i>RARE</i> | | |
| SEATED OR 3/4 OR FULL LENGTH POSE (VASES,BOOKS, FURNITURE, URNS) | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| STANDING POSE (PLAIN BACKGROUND) | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| STANDING POSE (DRAPE AND/OR COLUMN IN BACKGROUND) | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | |
| STANDING POSE (ACCESORIES, BALUSTRADES, STEPS IN BACKGROUND) | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| STANDING POSE (PAINTED SCENE BACKDROP) | | | | <i>RARE</i> | <i>RARE</i> | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| TINTING ON IMAGE | | | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | | |
| TINTYPE CARTES | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| "WING" OPEN WINDOW WITH EMBOSSSED BORDER | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| PAPER FOLDER | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |

Using the Table. Early cartes de visite (before 1860) are very rare. It's unlikely to find one in the family photographs. During the American Civil War (highlighted in red) the carte de visite experienced its greatest popularity. The carte de visite was commercially viable from 1860 to 1868, when the cabinet card started gaining popularity. By 1885, the cabinet card had overtaken the carte de visite. Cartes de visite become harder to date by card styles after 1885 because as interest in the format declined there was little

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incentive to change the card style. No single feature (card stock, imprint, type of portrait) will produce a date certain but taken together a reliable date is produced. Of course, dating the mount does not always date the image, but it is usually near to the image date.

Adapted from original matrix (used by permission of the author, ©1996 Bill Christen) by Bill & Glenna Jo Christen, email to gwjchris@rust.net is welcome. The data behind this chart comes from William C. Darrah's *Cartes de Visite in Nineteenth-Century Photography* Gettysburg, Pennsylvania for which he examined some forty-thousand specimens.