Early paper negatives in the Rijksmuseum and other collections in the Netherlands

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Résumé

Since 1996 the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam has acquired by donation and acquisition a small, but interesting group of French paper negatives, by Charles Nègre, Louis Robert and Félix Teynard. The absolute masterpiece in the Rijksmuseum Photography Collection is Gustave Le Gray’s Panorama of Baalbek (1859) with an unknown provenance. Late in his career this artist appeared to still be working on paper negatives. The panorama shows an interesting experiment: it is made of two paper negatives neatly pasted together. The lecture also gives attention to interesting paper negatives in the Asser-albums which turned out to be the earliest photographs of Amsterdam (1845). Did the Frenchman Marie Eugene Bour from Besançon, the owner of a chemical dye-factory in Amsterdam, have a hand in them? The lecture also shows paper negatives from the collection of the University of Leiden.

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