Robert Taft photography research notes

Section 45, Pages 1321 - 1350

These research notes document the research Robert Taft undertook in writing his works on the history of American photography. This series complements the series of Taft's photography correspondence included on Kansas Memory as unit 221204.

Creator: Taft, Robert, 1894-1955

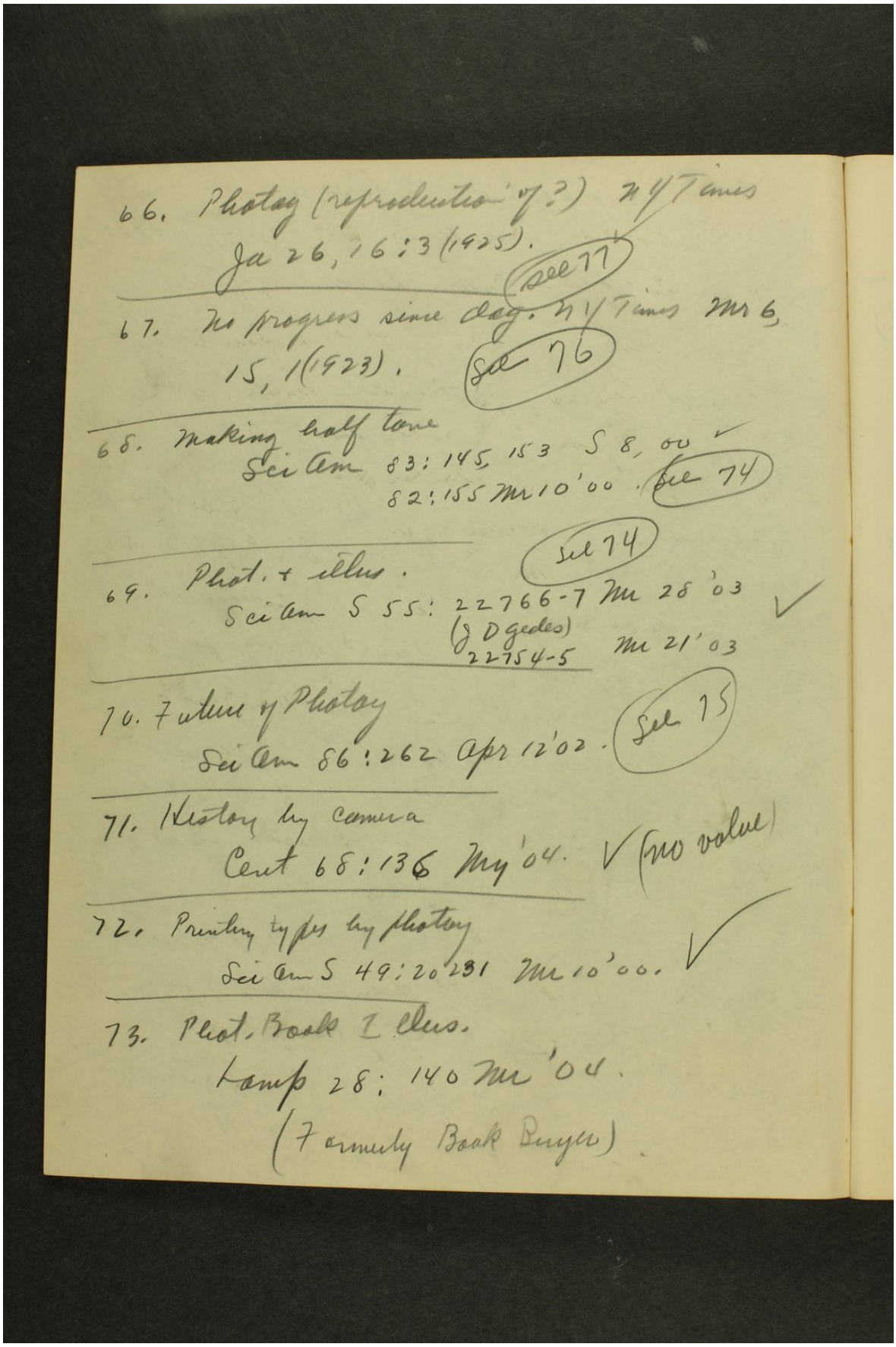
Date: 1920s - 1950s

Callnumber: Robert Taft Coll. #172, Boxes 14-17

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 228066

Item Identifier: 228066

www.kansasmemory.org/item/228066



66. Photog (reproduction of?) N Y Times Ja 26, 16:3 (1925). see 77

67. No progress since dag. N Y Times Mr 6, 15, 1 (1923). see 76

68. making half tone Sci Am 83: 145, 153 S 8, 00 ✓ 82: 155 Mr 10 '00. see 74

69. Phot. + illus. Sci Am S 55: 22766-7 Mr 28 '03 (J D Geddes) 22754-5 Mr 21 '03 see 74 ✓

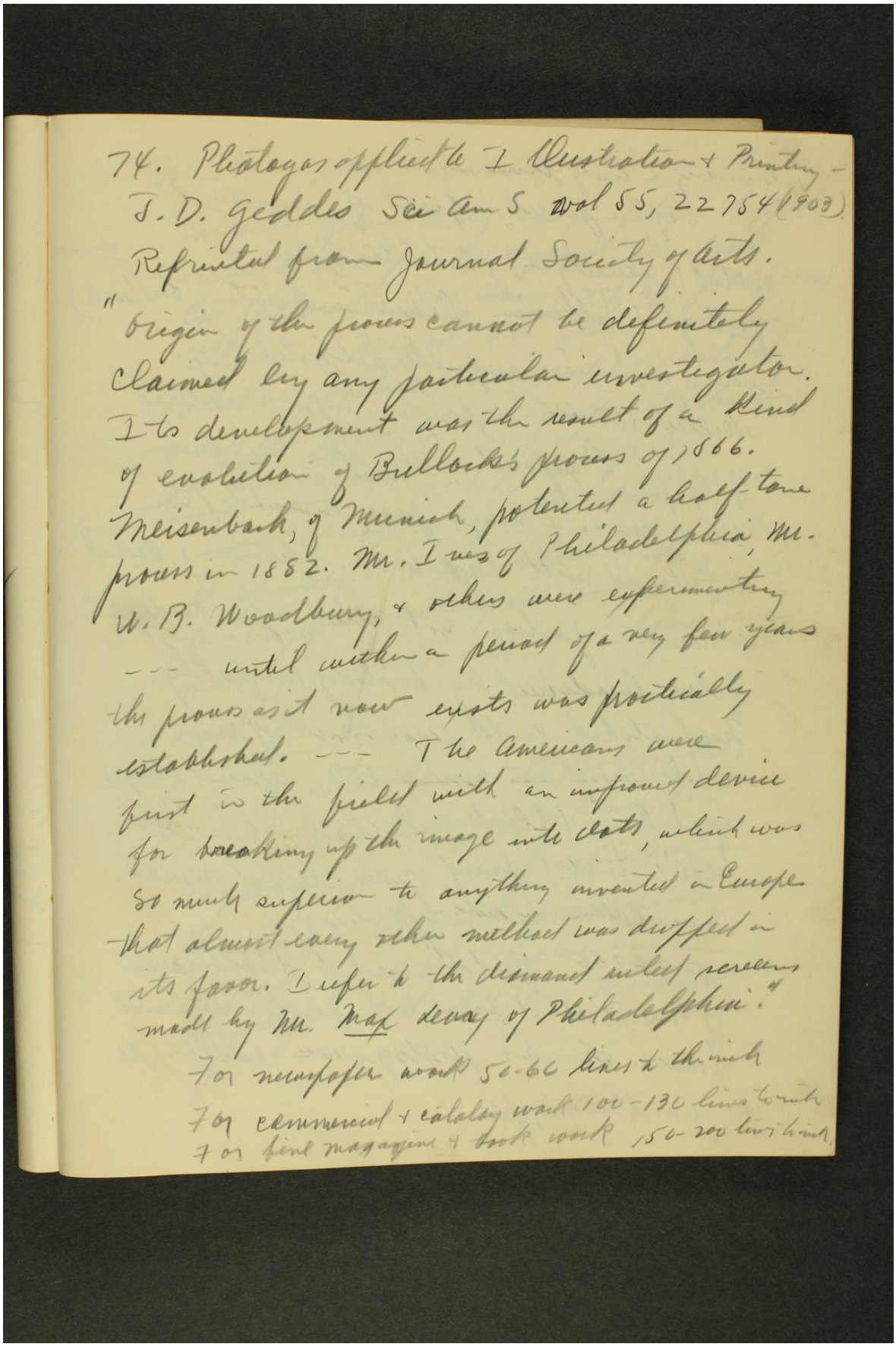
70. Future of Photog Sci Am 86: 262 Apr 12 '02. see 75

71. History by camera Cent 68: 136 My '04. ✓ (no value)

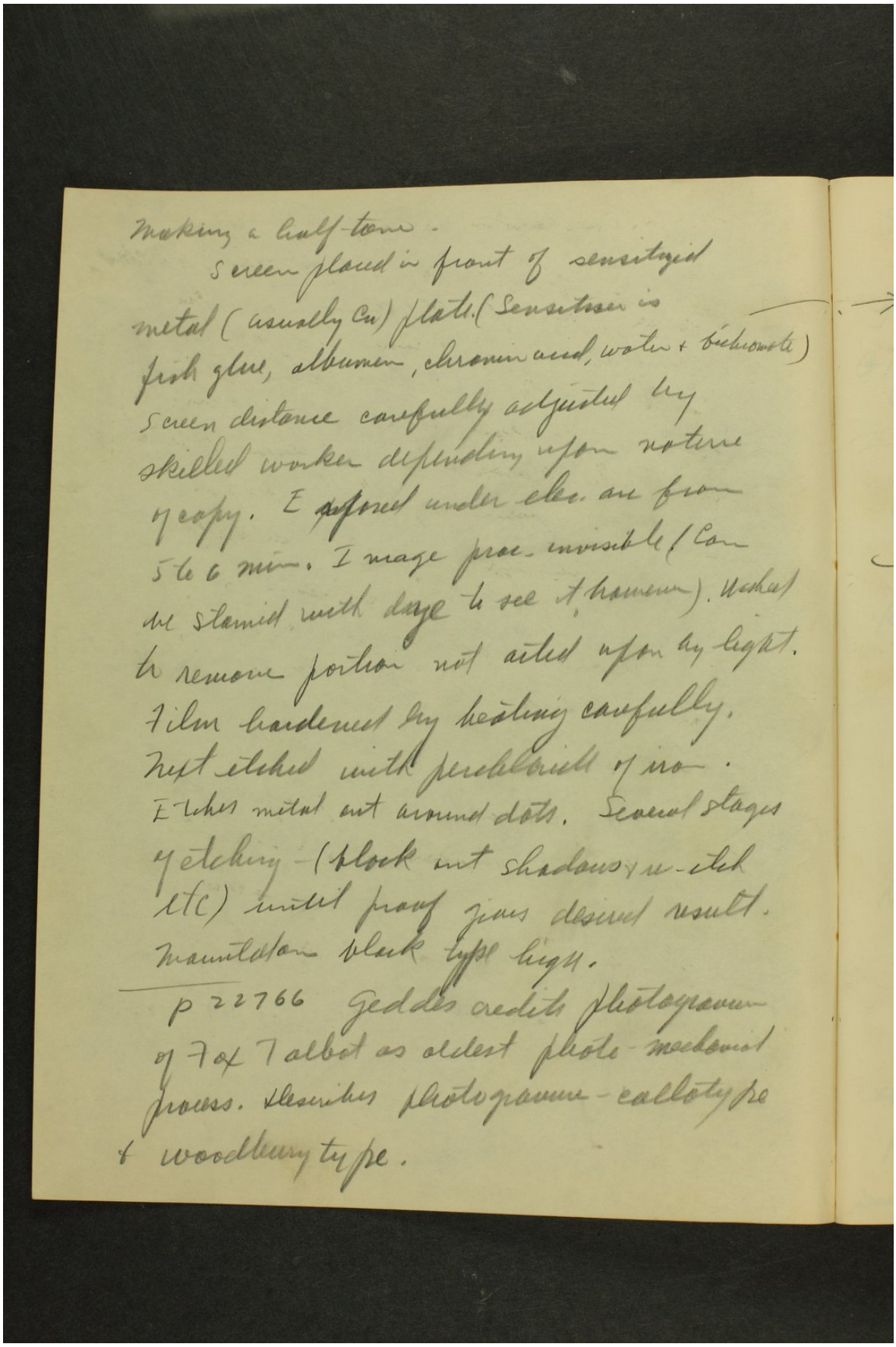
72. Printing types by photog Sci Am S 49: 20231 Mr 10 '00. ✓

73. Phot. Book Illus. Lamp 28: 140 Mr '04. (Formerly Book Buyer)

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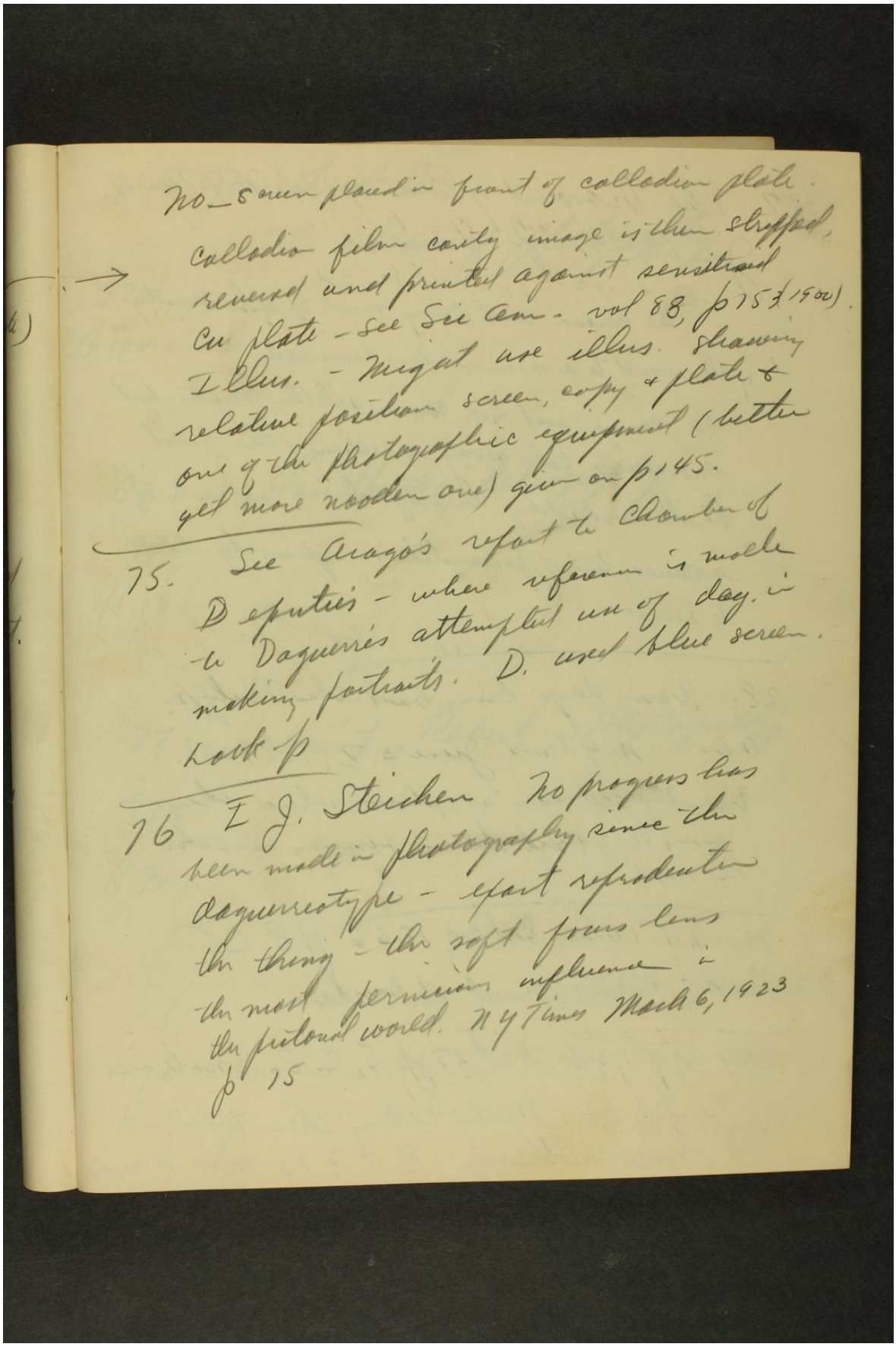


74. Photogravure applied to Illustration + Printing -
J. D. Geddes Sci Am S vol 55, 22754 (1903).
Reprinted from Journal Society of Arts.
"Origin of the process cannot be definitely
claimed by any particular investigator.
Its development was the result of a kind
of evolution of Bullock's process of 1866.
Meisenbach, of Munich, patented a half-tone
process in 1882. Mr. Ives of Philadelphia, Mr.
W. B. Woodbury, & others were experimenting
— until within a period of a very few years
the process as it now exists was practically
established. — The Americans were
first in the field with an improved device
for breaking up the image into dots, which was
so much superior to anything invented in Europe
that almost every other method was dropped in
its favor. I refer to the diamond mesh screens
made by Mr. Max Levy of Philadelphia."
For newspaper work 50-60 lines to the inch
For commercial + catalog work 100-130 lines to inch
For fine magazine + book work 150-200 lines to inch.



making a half-tone.
Screen placed in front of sensitized metal (usually Cu) plate. (Sensitizer is fish glue, albumen, chromic acid, water + bichromate) Screen distance carefully adjusted by skilled worker depending upon nature of copy. Exposed under elec. arc from 5 to 6 min. Image practically invisible (Can be stained with dye to see it, however). Washed to remove portion not acted upon by light. Film hardened by heating carefully. Next etched with perchloride of iron. Etches metal out around dots. Several stages of etching - (block out shadows + re-etch etc) until proof gives desired result. Mounted on block type high.

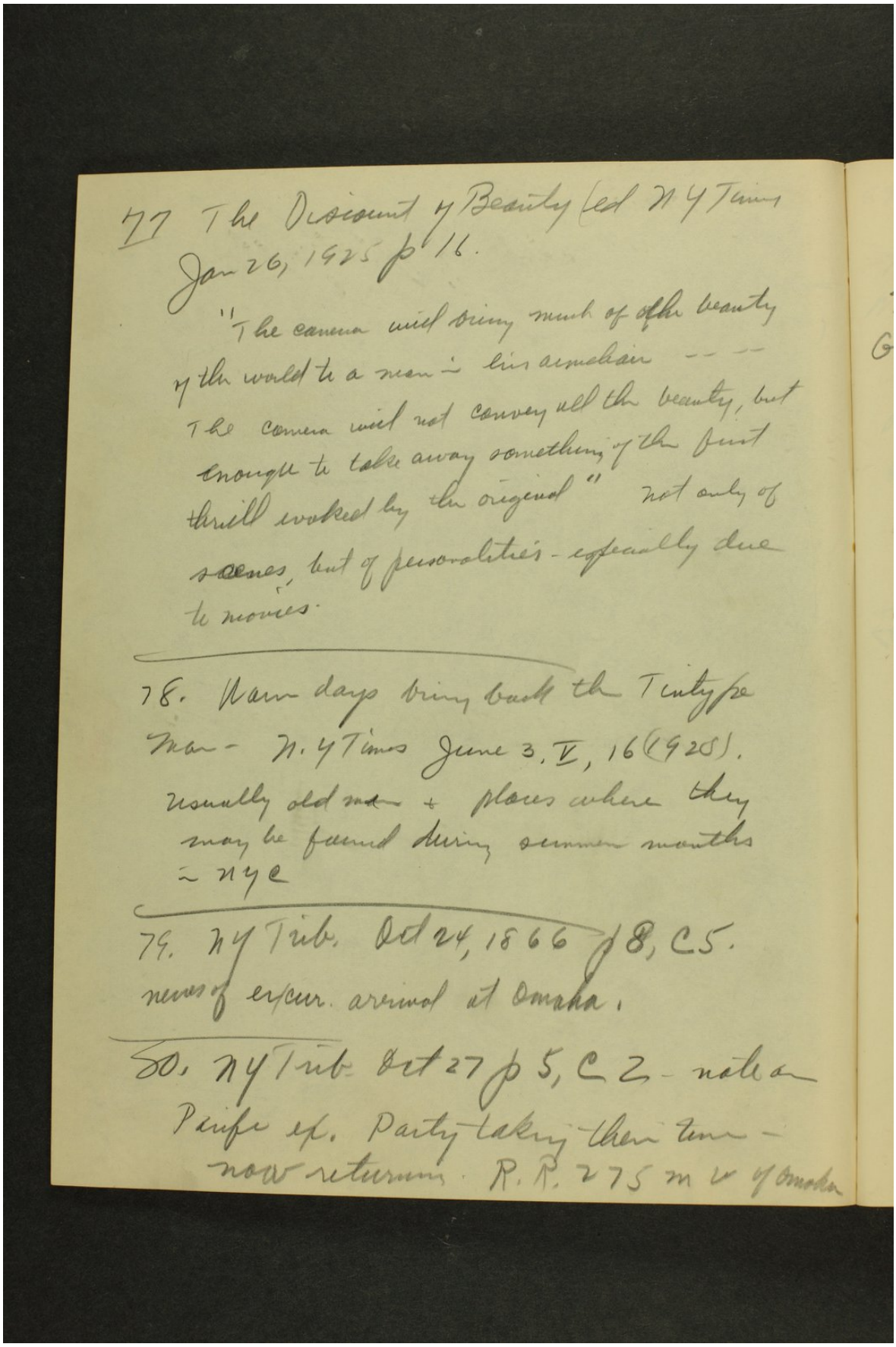
P 22766 Geddes credits photogravure of Fox Talbot as oldest photo-mechanical process. Describes photogravure - collotype & woodburytype.



No screen placed in front of collodion plate. Collodion film cavity image is then stripped, reversed and printed against sensitized Cu plate - see Sci Am - vol 88, p 153 (1902). Illus. - Might use illus. showing relative position screen, copy & plate & one of the photographic equipment (better get more wooden one) given on p 145.

75. See Arago's report to Chamber of Deputies - where reference is made to Daguerre's attempted use of day. in making portraits. D. used blue screen. Look up

76 E. J. Steichen No progress has been made in photography since the daguerreotype - except reproduction the thing - the soft focus lens the most pernicious influence in the pictorial world. N.Y. Times March 6, 1923 p 15



77 The Discount of Beauty Ed N.Y. Times Jan 26, 1925 p 16.

"The camera will bring much of the beauty of the world to a man in his armchair -- The camera will not convey all the beauty, but enough to take away something of the first thrill evoked by the original" not only of scenes, but of personalities - especially due to movies.

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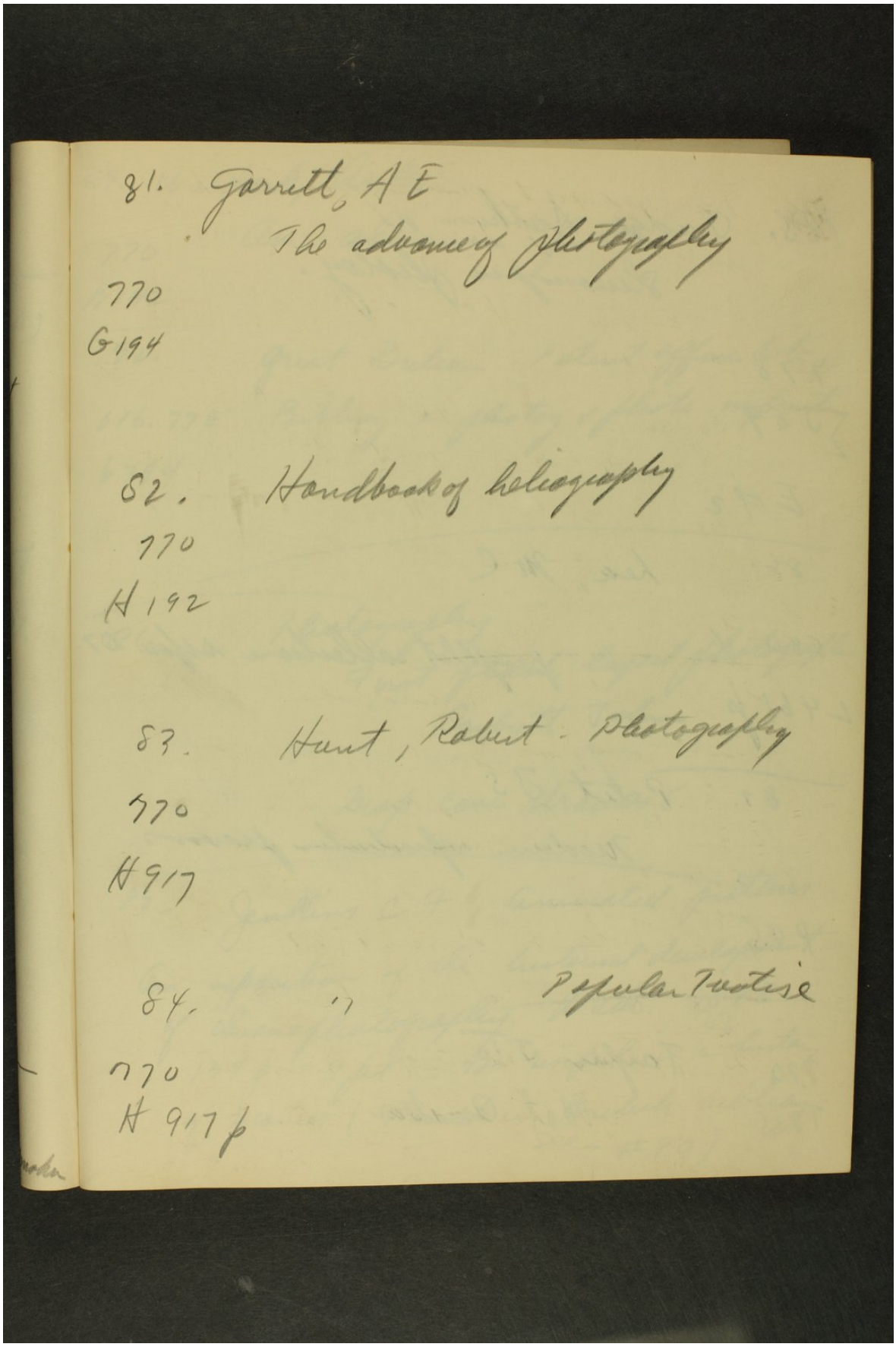
78. Warm days bring back the Tulip season - N.Y. Times June 3, V, 16 (1928). Usually old men + places where they may be found during summer months in N.Y.C.

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79. N.Y. Trib. Oct 24, 1866 p 8, C5. news of expedition arrival at Omaha.

80. N.Y. Trib Oct 27 p 5, C 2 - notice Pacific ry. Party taking their time - now returning. R.R. 275 m w of Omaha

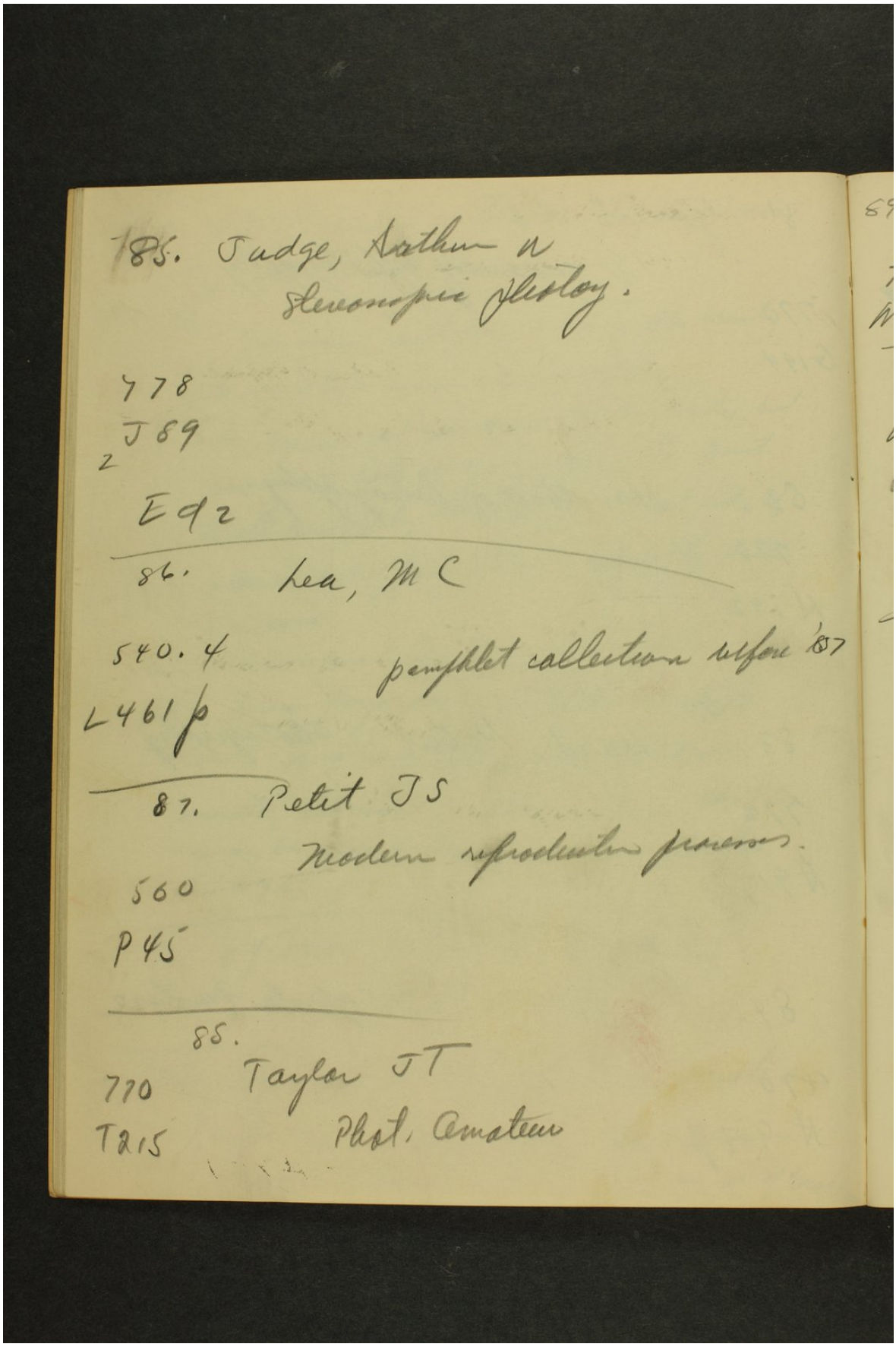
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81. Garrett, A E
The advance of photography
770
G194

82. Handbook of heliography
770
H192

83. Hunt, Robert - Photography
770
H917

84. " Popular Treatise
770
H917p



85. Judge, Arthur N
Stereoscopic Photography.

778
J89
2
Ed2

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86. Lea, M C

540.4
L461p
pamphlet collection before '87

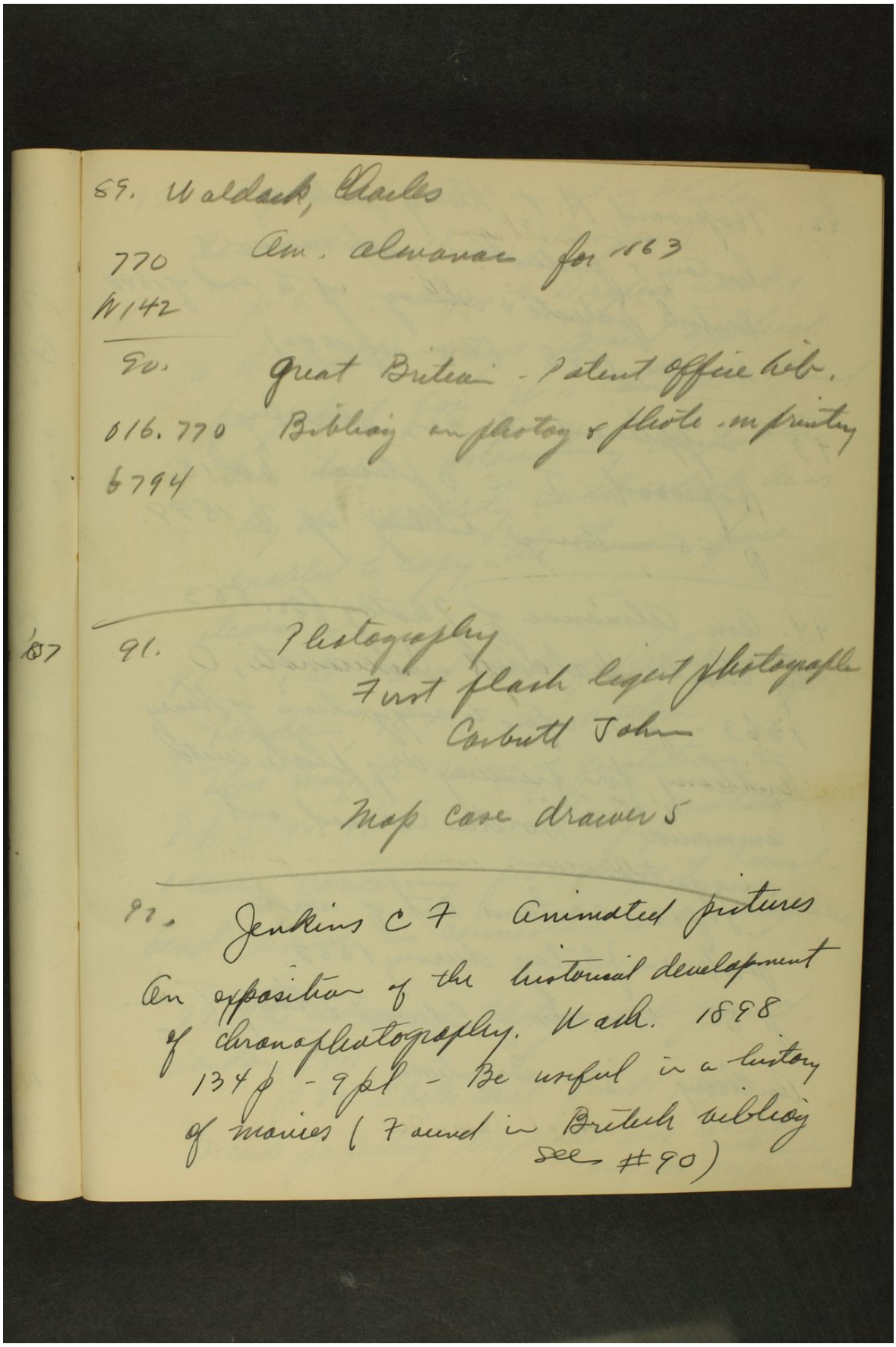
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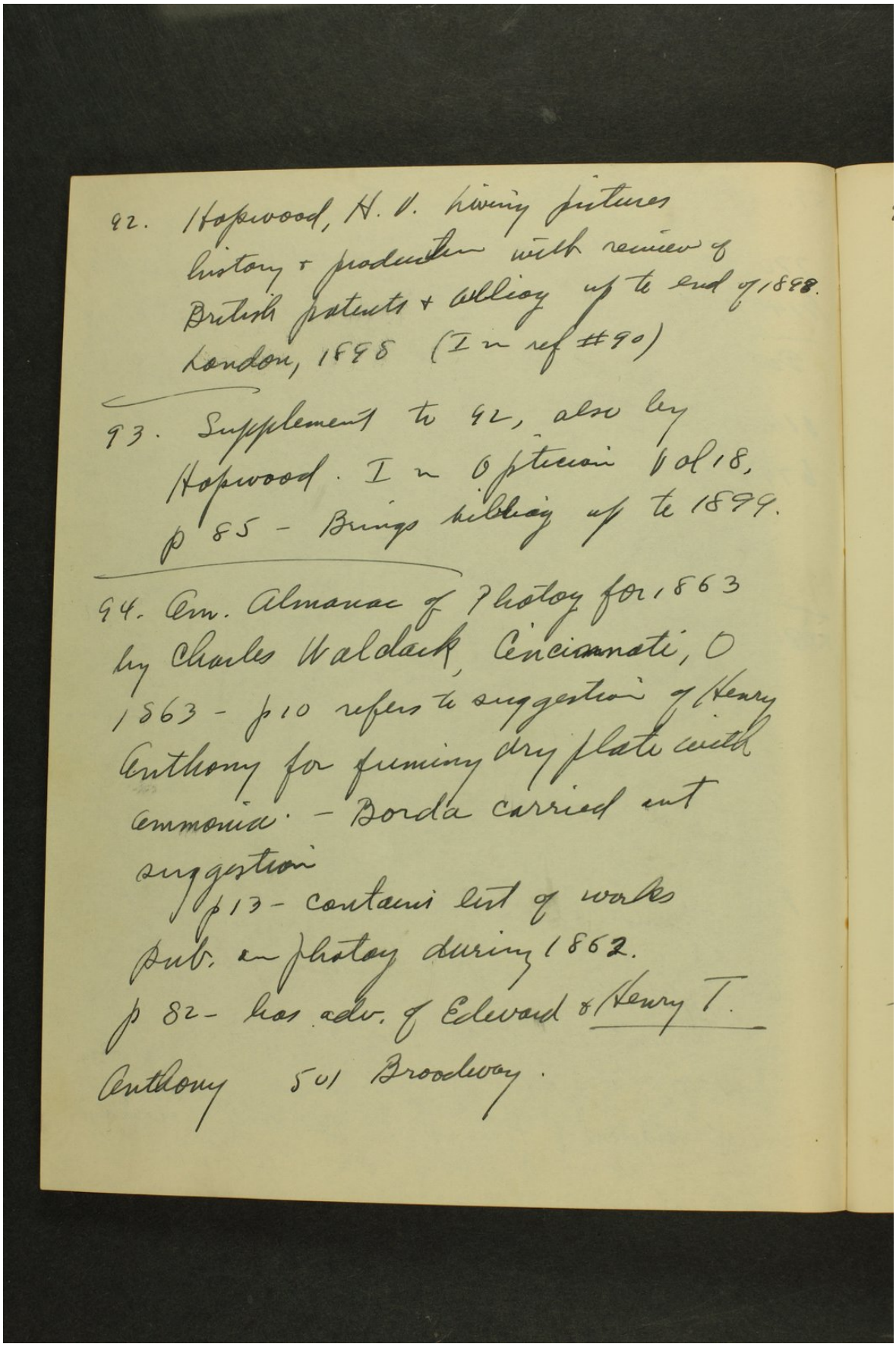
87. Petit JS
Modern reproductive processes.

560
P45

88.
770
T215
Taylor JT
Phot. Amateur

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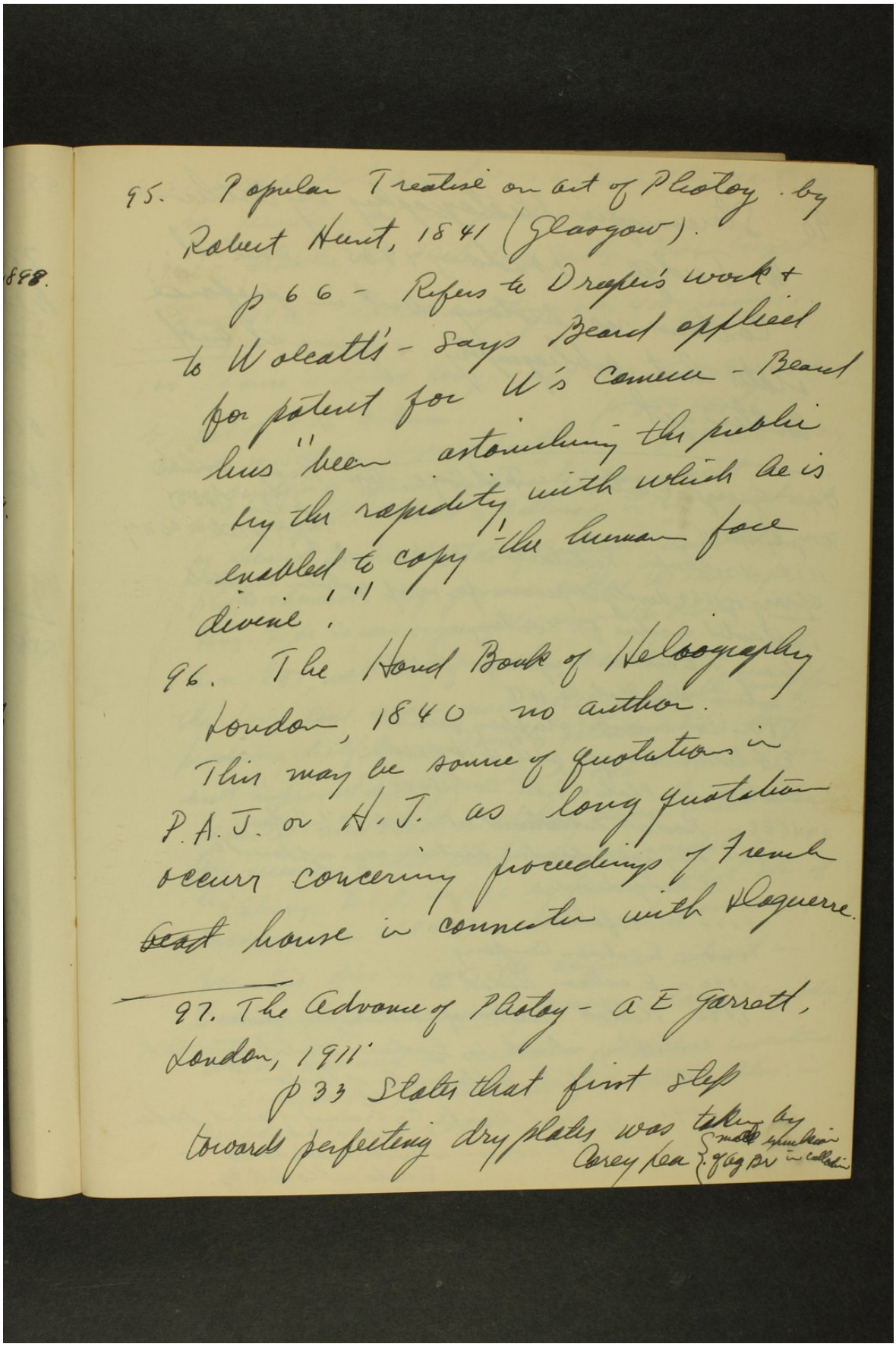




92. Hopwood, H. V. living pictures history + production with review of British patents + allied up to end of 1898. London, 1898 (I in ref #90)

93. Supplement to 92, also by Hopwood. I in Optician Vol 18, p 85 - Brings bibliog up to 1899.

94. Am. Almanac of Photog for 1863 by Charles Waldack, Cincinnati, O 1863 - p 10 refers to suggestion of Henry Anthony for fuming dry plate with ammonia. - Borda carried out suggestion
p 13 - contains list of works pub. on photog during 1862.
p 82 - has adv. of Edward & Henry T. Anthony 501 Broadway.



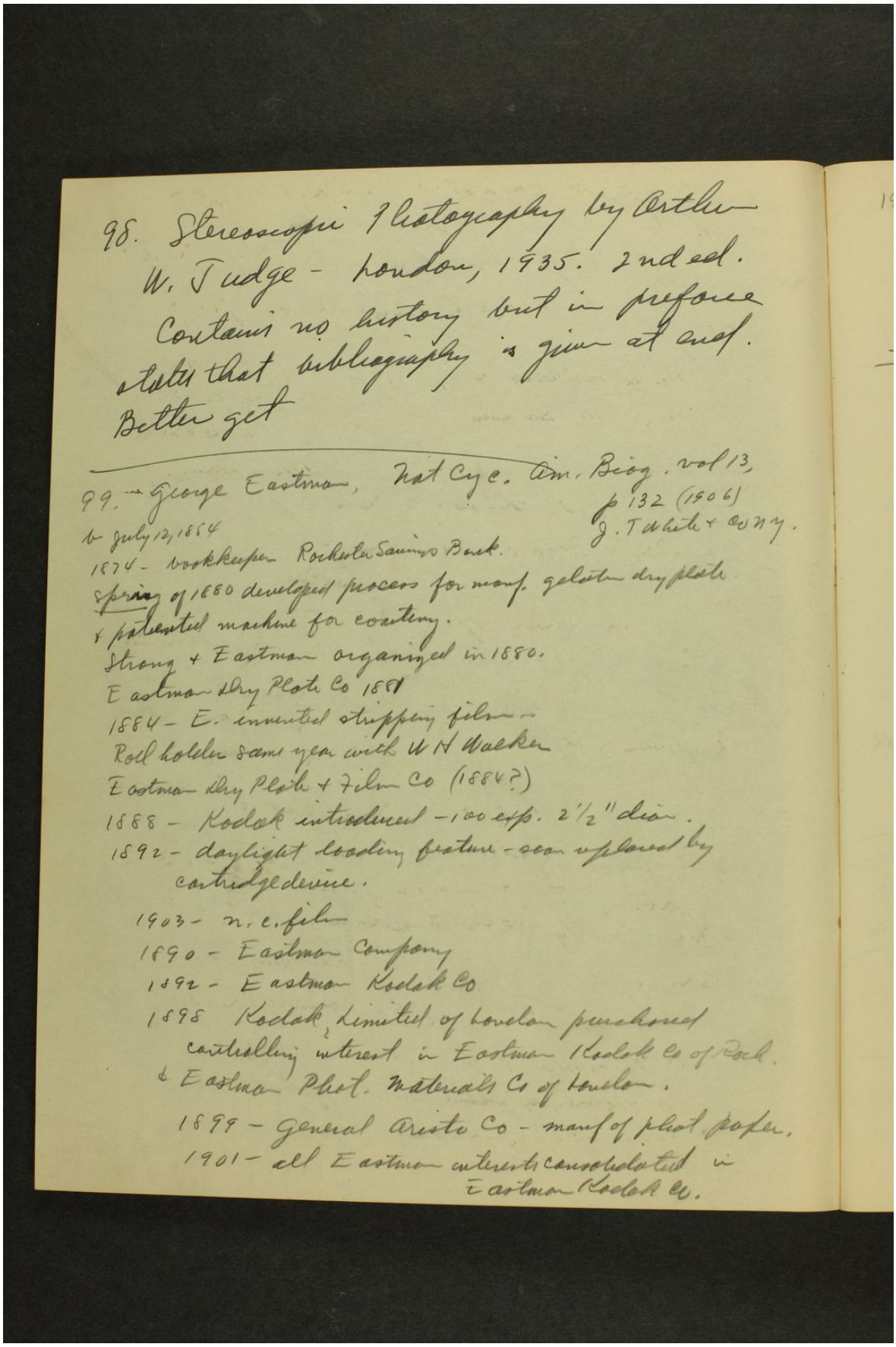
888.

95. Popular Treatise on art of Photog. by Robert Hunt, 1841 (Glasgow).
p 66 - Refers to Dreper's work + to Wolcott's - says Beard applied for patent for W's camera - Beard has "been astonishing the public by the rapidity with which he is enabled to copy the human face divine".

96. The Hand Book of Heliography London, 1840 no author.
This may be source of quotation in P.A.J. or H.J. as long quotation occurs concerning proceedings of French ~~Seat~~ house in connection with Daguerre.

97. The Advance of Photog - A E Garrett, London, 1911.
p 33 States that first step towards perfecting dry plates was taken by Carey Lea {Smith Hunkin & Taylor in Collodion

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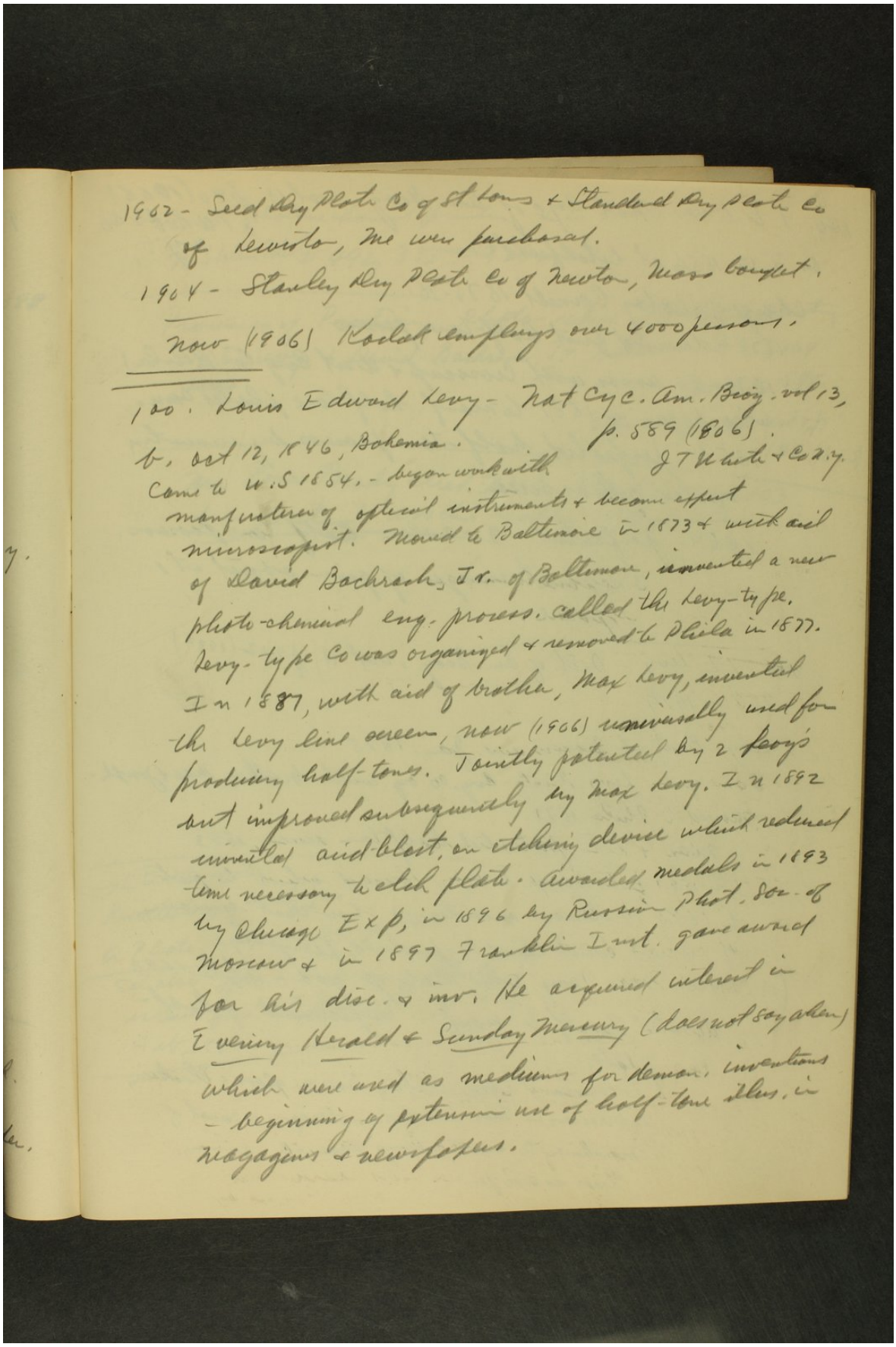
98. Stereoscopic Photography by Arthur W. Judge - London, 1935. 2nd ed. Contains no history but in preface states that bibliography is given at end. Better get

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99. George Eastman, Nat Cyc. Am. Biog. vol 13, p 132 (1906) J. T White & Co NY.

b July 12, 1854
1874 - bookkeeper Rochester Savings Bank.
Spring of 1880 developed process for manf. gelatin dry plate & patented machine for coating.
Strong & Eastman organized in 1880.
Eastman Dry Plate Co 1881
1884 - E. invented stripping film -
Roll holder same year with W H Walker
Eastman Dry Plate & Film Co (1884?)
1888 - Kodak introduced - 100 exp. 2½" dia.
1892 - daylight loading feature - soon replaced by cartridge device.
1903 - n. c. film
1890 - Eastman Company
1892 - Eastman Kodak Co
1898 Kodak, Limited of London purchased controlling interest in Eastman Kodak Co of Rochester & Eastman Phot. Materials Co of London.
1899 - General Aristo Co - manf of phot paper.
1901 - all Eastman interests consolidated in Eastman Kodak Co.

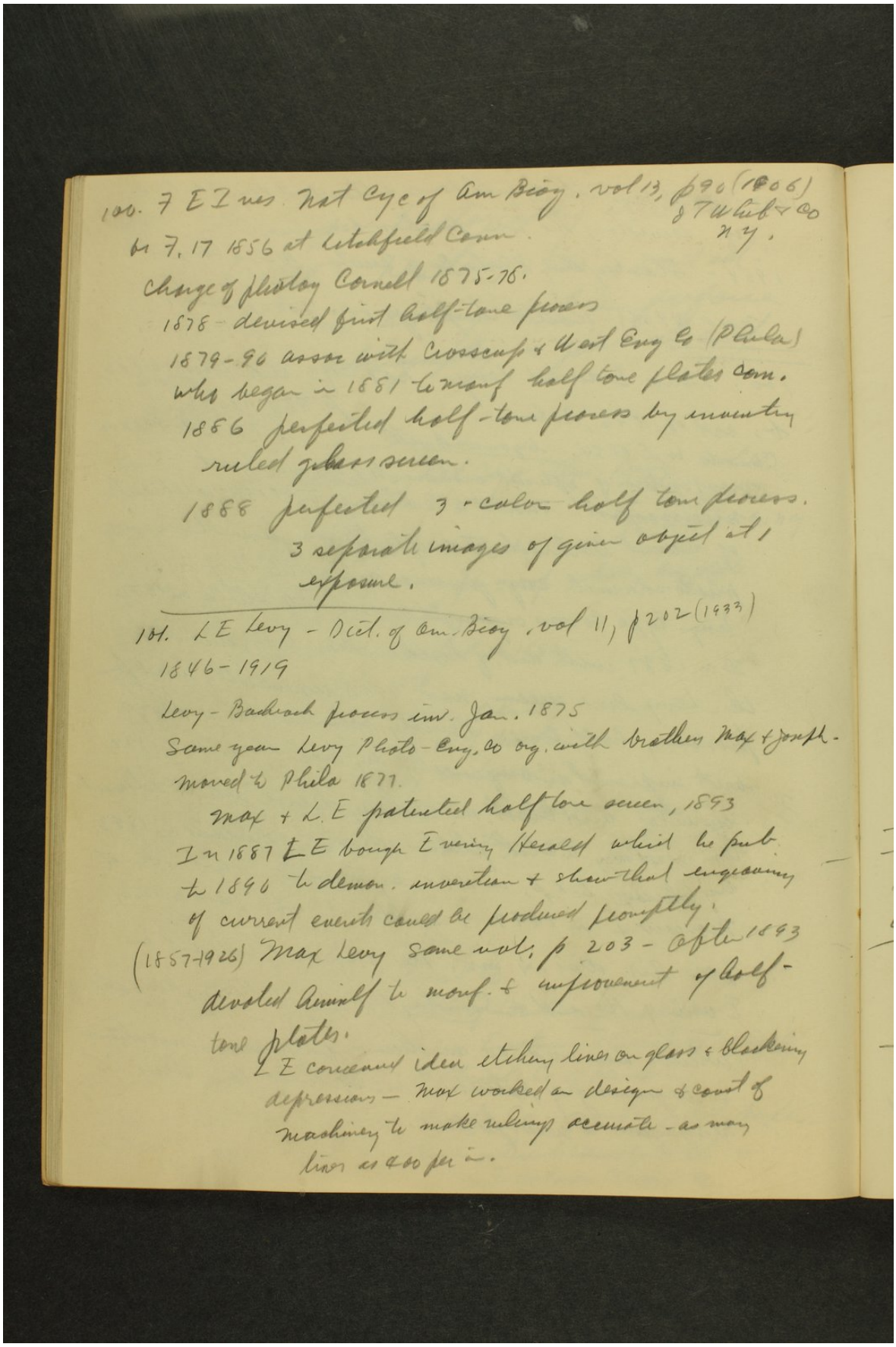
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1902 - Seed Dry Plate Co of St Louis + Standard Dry Plate Co of Lewiston, Me were purchased.
1904 - Stanley Dry Plate Co of Newton, Mass bought.
Now (1906) Kodak employs over 4000 persons.

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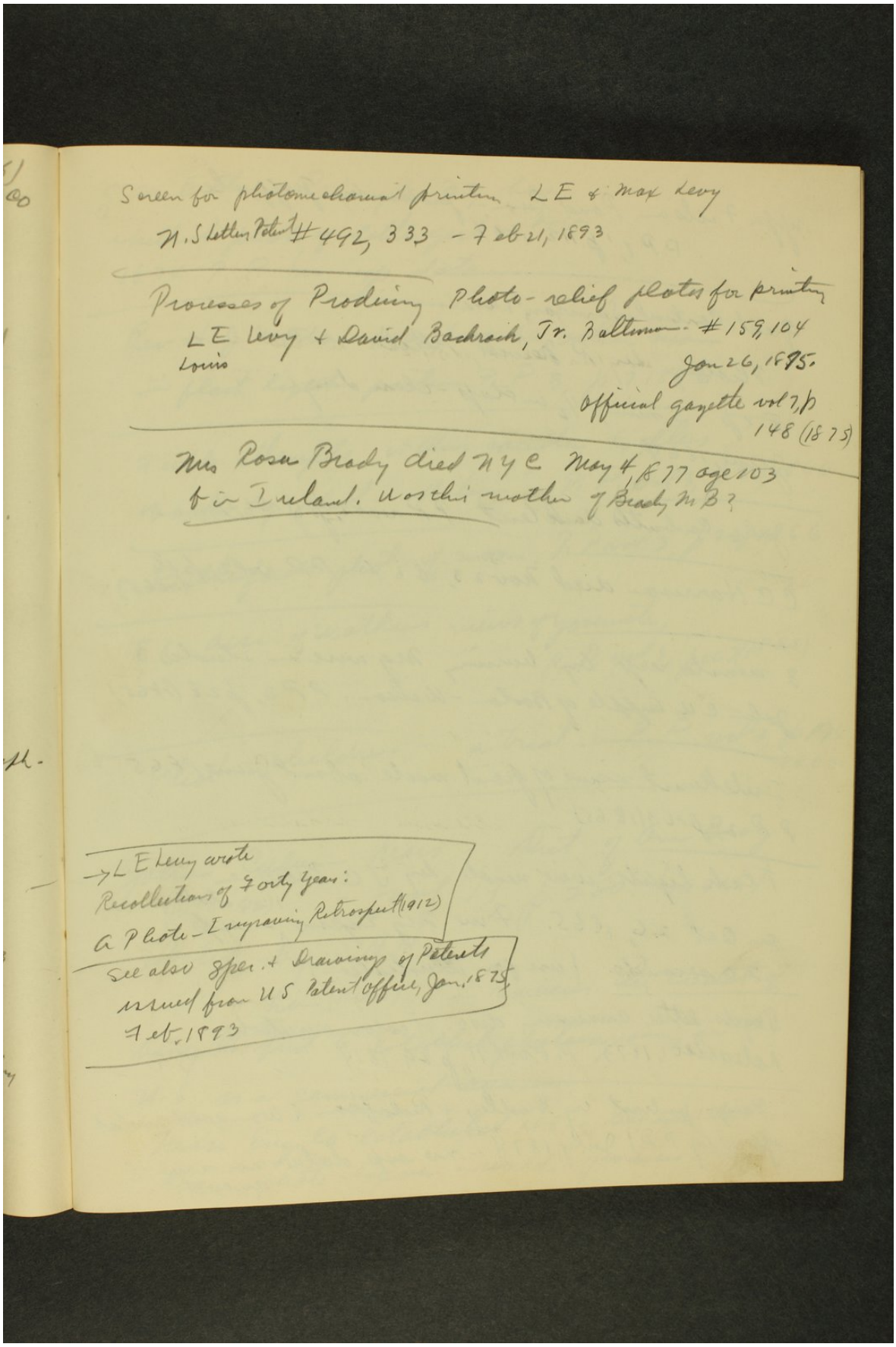
100. Louis Edward Levy - Nat Cyc. Am. Biog. vol 13, p. 589 (1906).
b. Oct 12, 1846, Bohemia.
Came to U.S 1854. - began work with J T H Artist + Co N.Y.
manufacturer of optical instruments + became expert microscopist. Moved to Baltimore in 1873 + with aid of David Bachrach, Jr. of Baltimore, invented a new photo-chemical eng. process. called the Levy-type. Levy-type Co was organized + removed to Phila in 1877. In 1887, with aid of brother, Max Levy, invented the Levy line screen, now (1906) universally used for producing half-tones. Jointly patented by 2 boys but improved subsequently by Max Levy. In 1892 invented air-blast, or etching device which reduced time necessary to etch plate. Awarded medals in 1893 by Chicago Exp, in 1896 by Russian Phot. Soc. of Moscow + in 1897 Franklin Inst. gave award for his disc. + inv. He acquired interest in Evening Herald + Sunday Mercury (does not say when) which were used as mediums for demon. inventions - beginning of extensive use of half-tone illus. in magazines + newspapers.



100. 7 E I nes. Nat Cyc of Am Biog. vol 13, p 90 (1906) J T White & Co N Y.
b 7.17 1856 at Litchfield Conn.
Chmge of photog Cornell 1875-76.
1878 - devised first half-tone process
1879-90 assoc with Crosscup & Wart Eng Co (Phila)
who began in 1881 to manf half tone plates com.
1886 perfected half-tone process by inventing
ruled glass screen.
1888 perfected 3-color half tone process.
3 separate images of given object at 1
exposure.

101. L E Levy - Dict. of Am. Biog. vol 11, p 202 (1933)
1846-1919
Levy - Badlach process inv. Jan. 1875
Same year Levy Photo-Eng. Co org. with brother Max & Joseph -
moved to Phila 1877.
Max + L.E patented half tone screen, 1893
In 1887 L E bought Evening Herald which he pub.
to 1890 to demon. invention + show that engraving
of current events could be produced promptly.
(1857-1926) Max Levy same vol. p 203 - after 1893
devoted himself to manf. & improvement of half-
tone plates.
L E conceived idea etching lines on glass & blackening
depressions — Max worked on design & const of
machinery to make rulings accurate - as many
lines as 400 per in.

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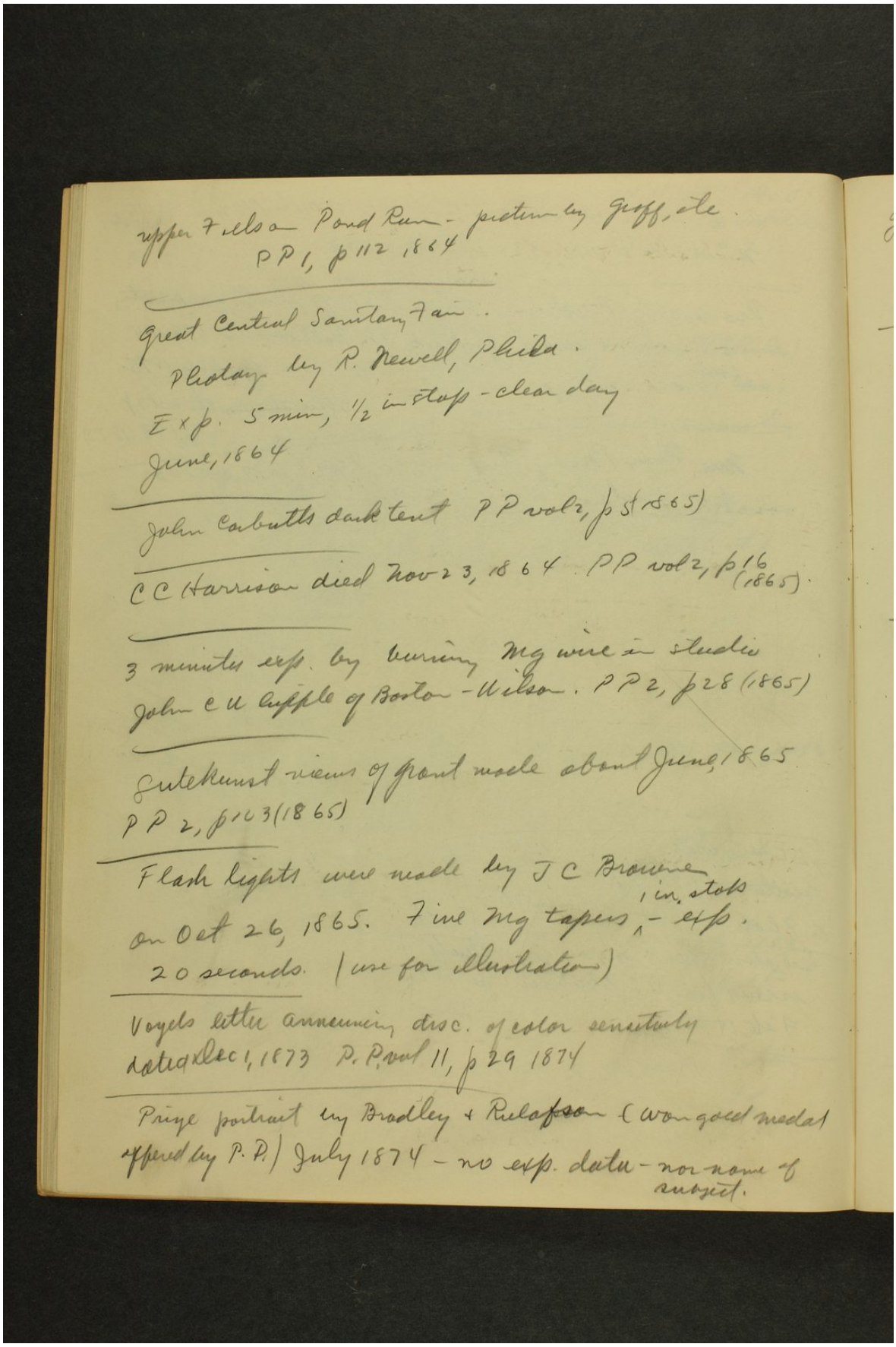
Screen for photomechanical printing L E & Max Levy
U.S. Letters Patent #492,333 - Feb 21, 1893

Processes of Producing Photo-relief plates for printing
L E Levy + David Bachrach, Jr. Baltimore - #159,104
Louis
Jan 26, 1875.
Official gazette vol 7, p 148 (1875)

Mrs Rosa Brady died N Y C May 4, 1877 age 103
b in Ireland. Was she mother of Brady M B?

→ L E Levy wrote
Recollections of Forty Years:
a Photo-Engraving Retrospect (1912)
See also Spec. + Drawings of Patents
issued from U S Patent Office, Jan. 1875
Feb. 1893

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upper Nelson Pond Run - picture by Goff, ale.
PP 1, p 112, 1864

Great Central Sanitary Fair.
Photog by R. Newell, Phila.
Exp. 5 min, ½ in stop - clear day
June, 1864

John Carbutts dark tent PP vol 2, p 5 (1865)

CC Harrison died Nov 23, 1864. PP vol 2, p 16 (1865).

3 minutes exp. by burning Mg wire in studio
John C H Cripple of Boston - Wilson. PP 2, p 28 (1865)

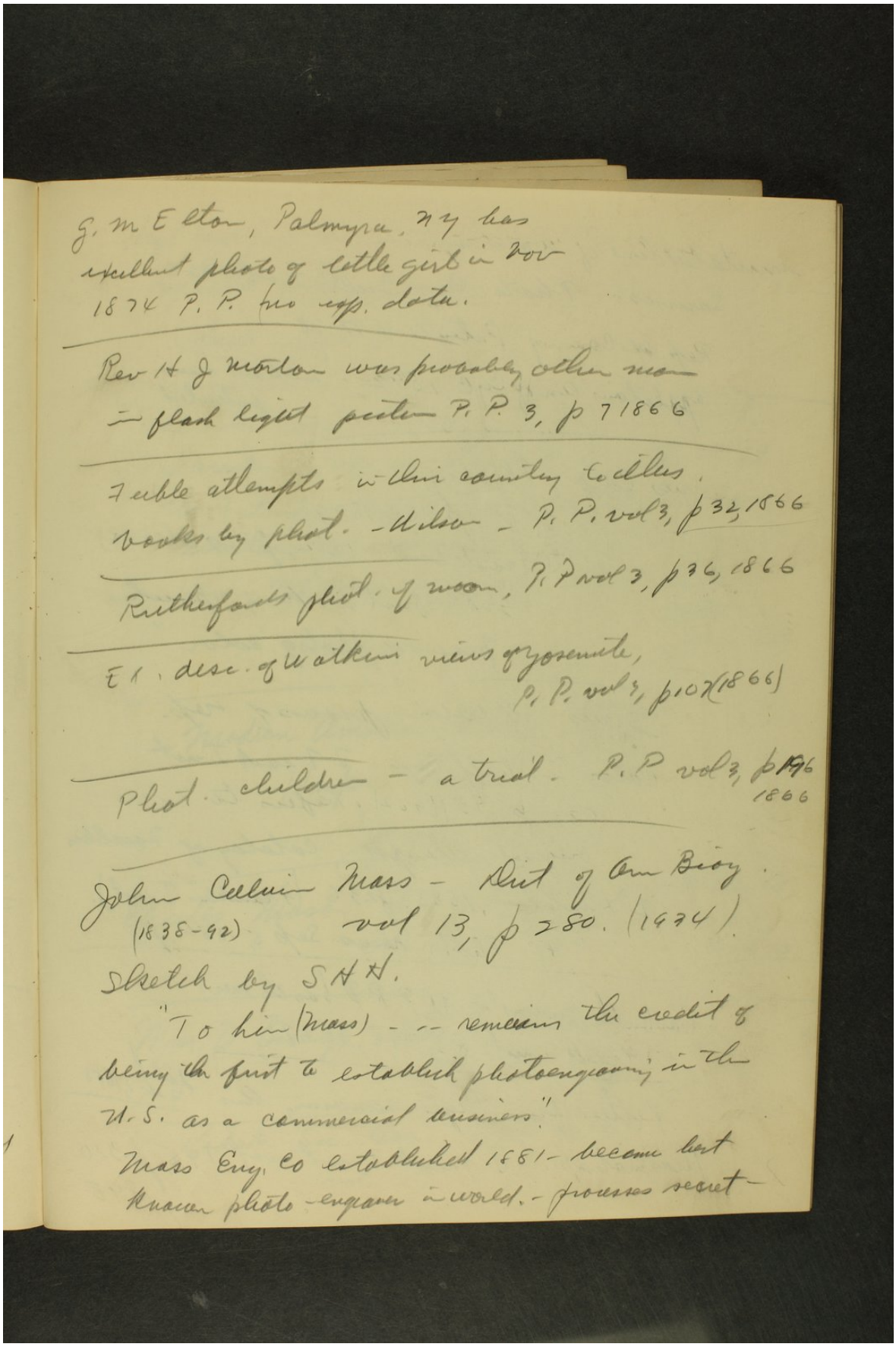
Gutekunst views of grant made about June, 1865
PP 2, p 103 (1865)

Flash lights were made by J C Browne
on Oct 26, 1865. Fine Mg tapers, 1 in. stops
20 seconds. (use for illustration)

Voyels letter announcing discovery of color sensitively
dated Dec 1, 1873 P. P. vol 11, p 29 1874

Prize portrait by Bradley + Rulofson (won gold medal
offered by P. P.) July 1874 - no exp. data - nor name of subject.

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G. M. Elton, Palmyra, N.Y. has excellent photo of little girl in Nov 1874 P. P. two copy. dates.

Rev H. J. Morton was probably other man in flash light picture P. P. 3, p 71866

Feeble attempts in this country to dilute. books by phot. - Wilson - P. P. vol 3, p 32, 1866

Rutherfords phot. of moon, P. P vol 3, p 36, 1866

E. I. desc. of Watkins views of yosemite, P. P. vol 3, p 107 (1866)

Phot. children - a trial. P. P vol 3, p 196 1866

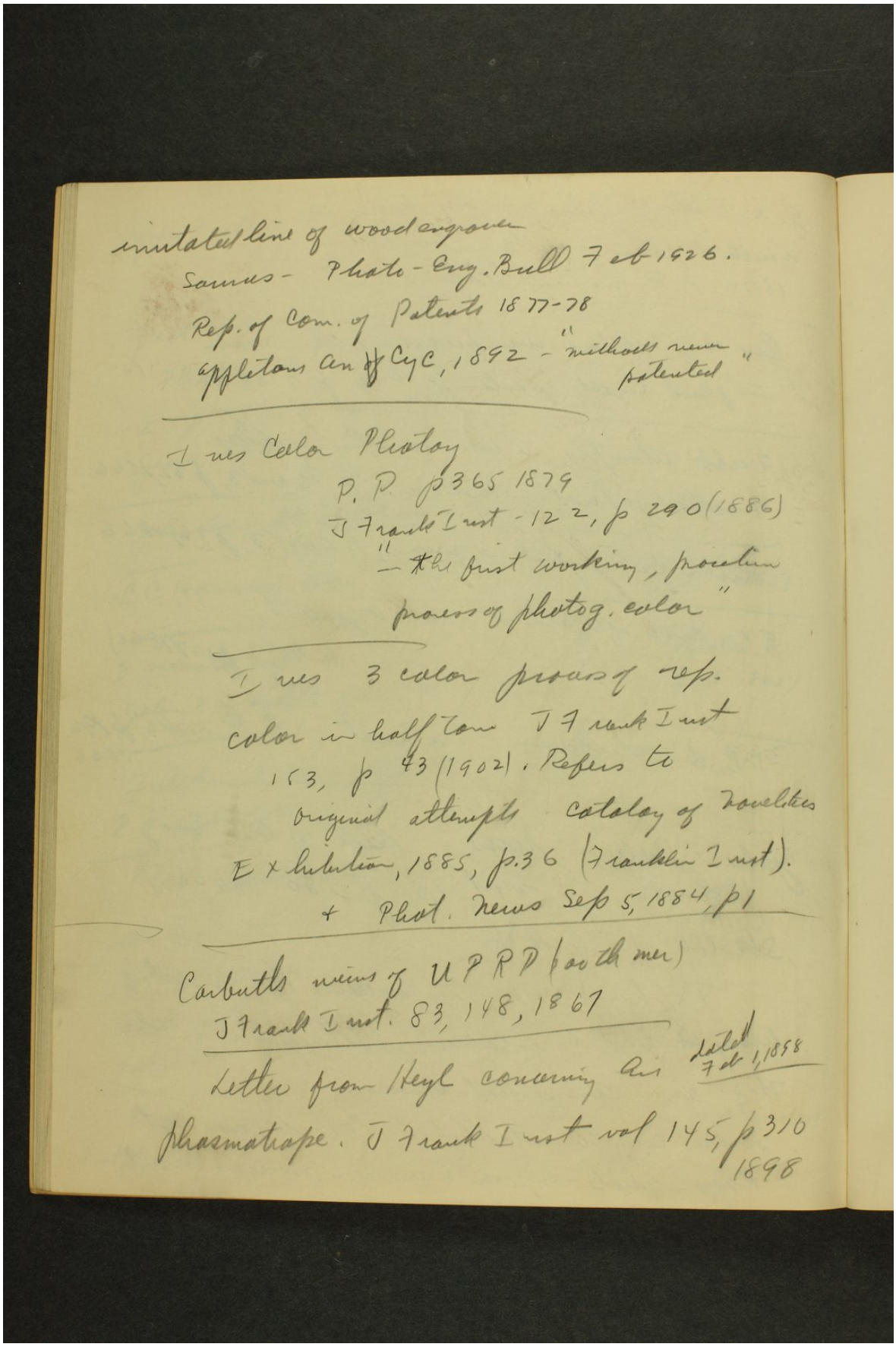
John Calvin Mass - Dict of Am Biog. (1838-92) vol 13, p 280. (1934).

Sketch by S H H.

"To him (Mass) - - remains the credit of being the first to establish photoengraving in the U. S. as a commercial business."

Mass Eng. Co established 1881 - became best known photo-engrave in world. - process secret -

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imitates line of wood engrave
Samuels - Photo-Eng. Bull Feb 1926.
Rep. of Com. of Patents 1877-78
Appletons An of Cyc, 1892 - "methods never patented"

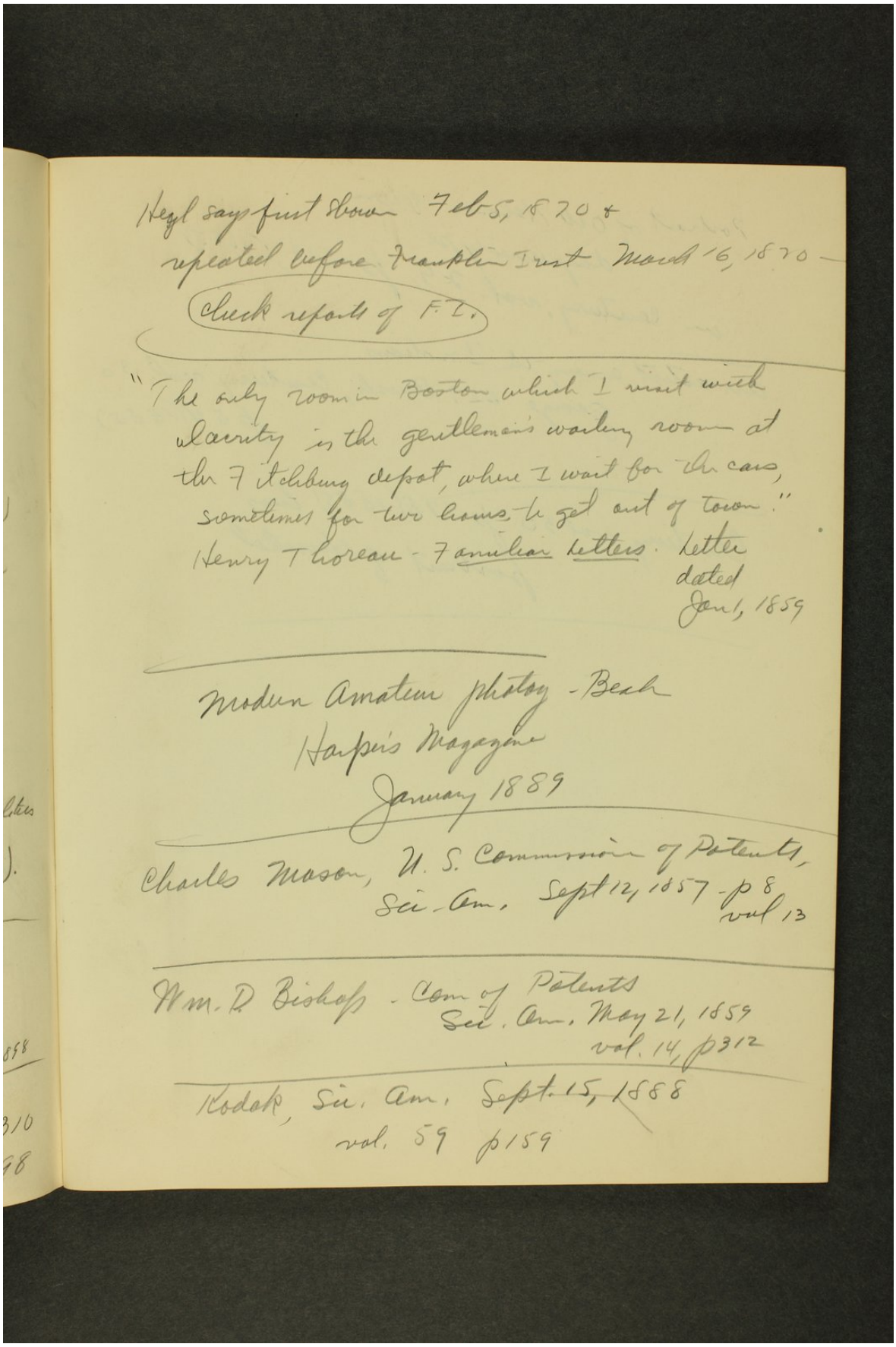
Ives Color Photog
P. P. p365 1879
J Frank Inst - 122, p 290 (1886)
" - the first working, practical process of photog. color"

Ives 3 color process of rep. color in half tone J Frank Inst 153, p 43 (1902). Refers to original attempts Catalog of novelties Exhibition, 1885, p.36 (Franklin Inst).
+ Phot. News Sep 5, 1884, p1

Carbutts views of U P R D (south mer)
J Frank Inst. 83, 148, 1867

Letter from Keyl concerning Air Dated Feb 1, 1858
Phasmatrope. J Frank Inst vol 145, p 310 1898

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Heyl says first shown Feb 5, 1870 &
repeated before Franklin Inst March 16, 1870 —
check reports of F.I.

"The only room in Boston which I visit with alacrity is the gentlemen's waiting room at the Fitchburg depot, where I wait for the cars, sometimes for two hours to get out of town."
Henry Thoreau - 7 similar letters. Letter dated Jan 1, 1859

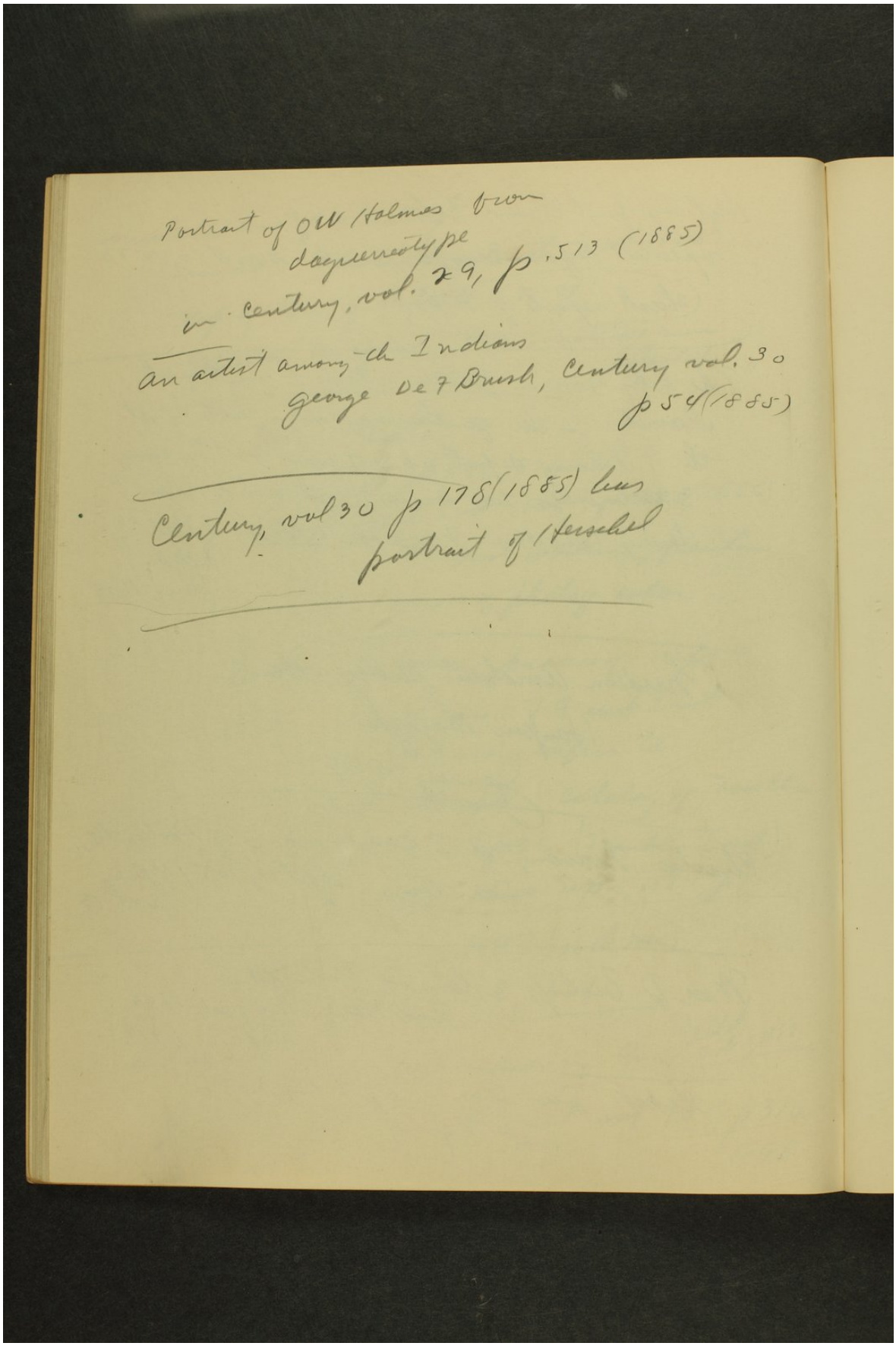
Modern Amateur photog - Beach
Harper's Magazine
January 1889

Charles Mason, U. S. Commission of Patents,
Sci. Am. Sept 12, 1857 - p 8
vol 13

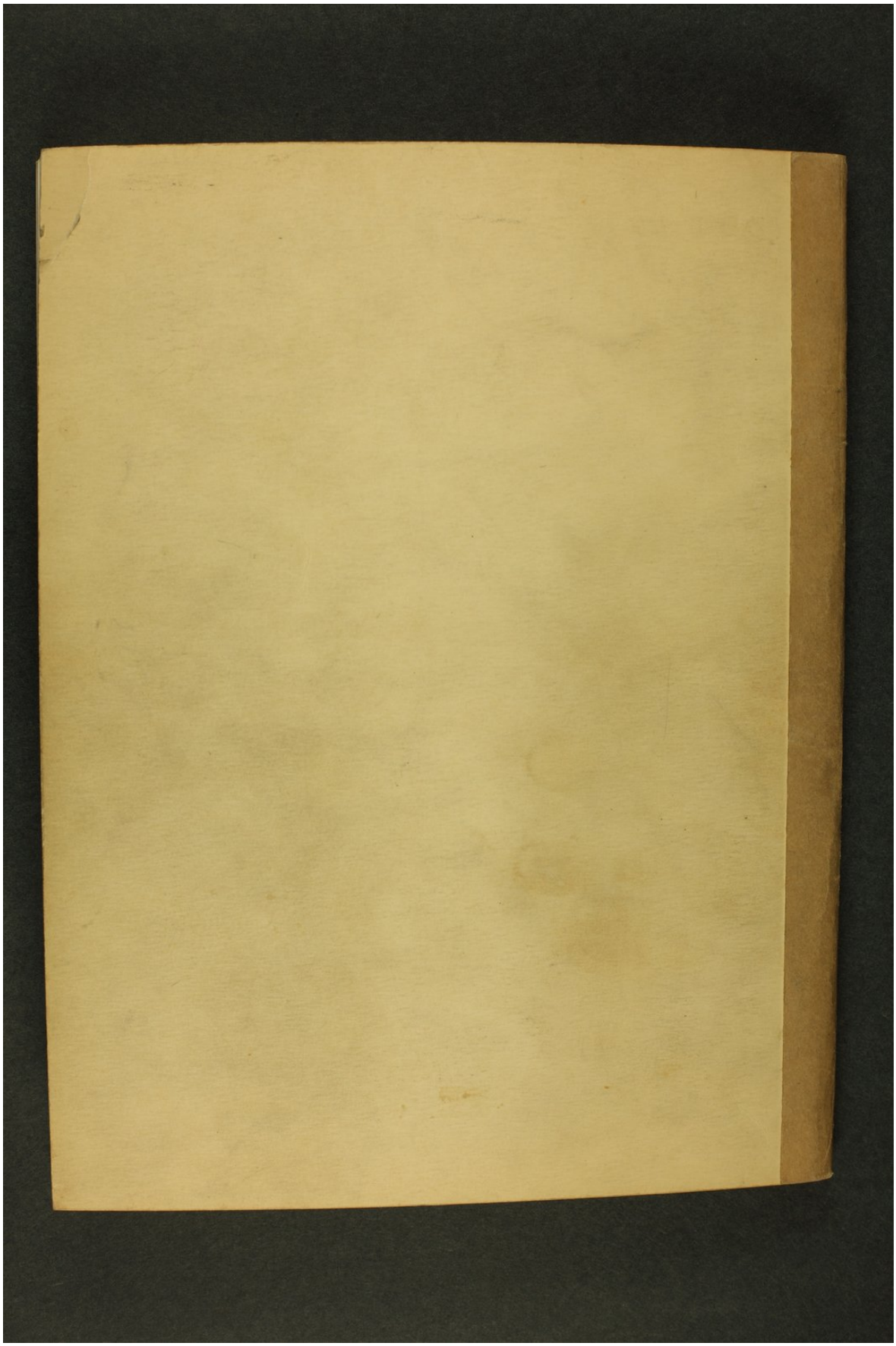
Wm. D Bishop - Com of Patents
Sci. Am. May 21, 1859
vol. 14, p312

Kodak, Sci. Am. Sept. 15, 1888
vol. 59 p159

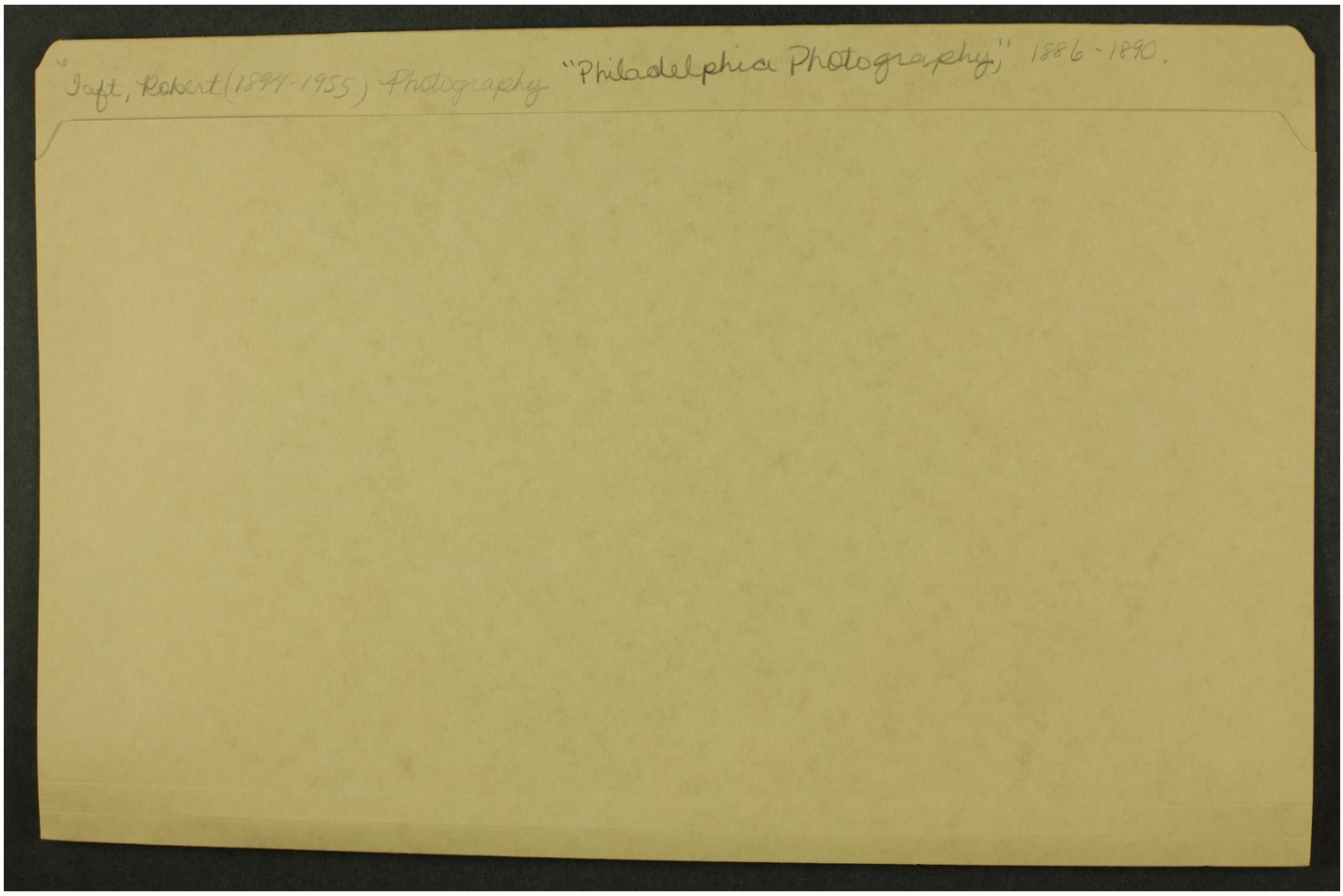
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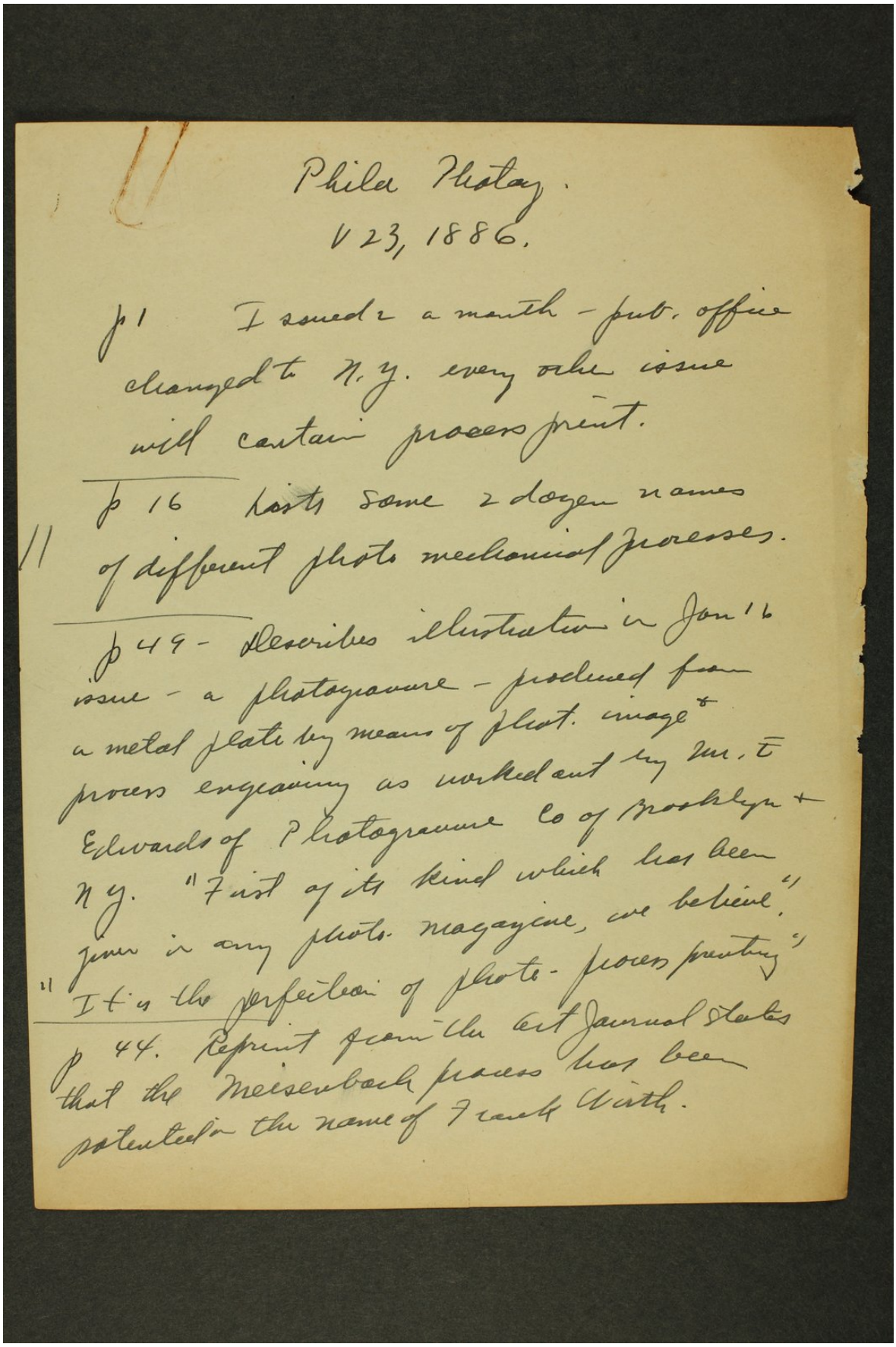


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Phila Photog.
V 23, 1886.

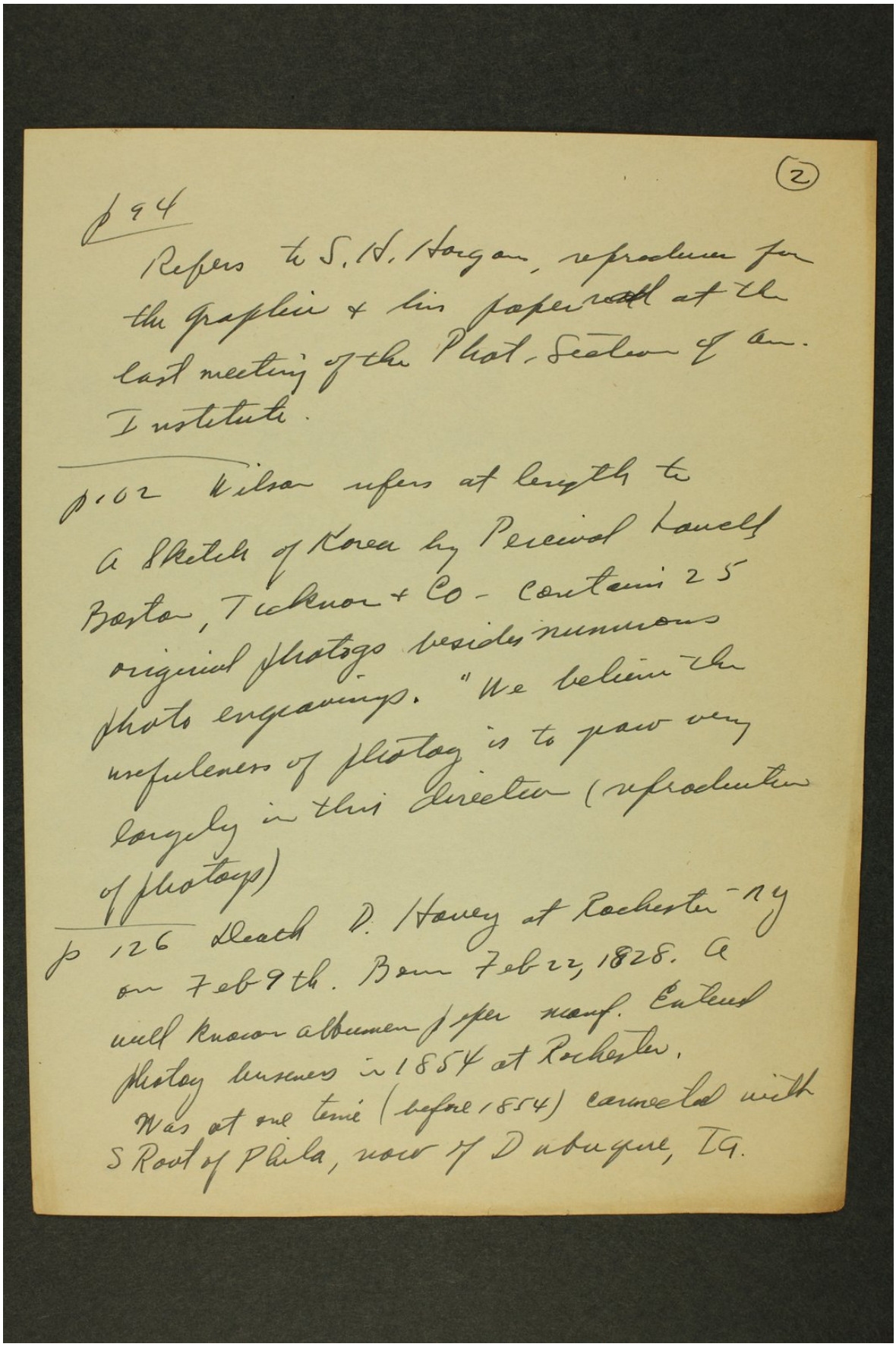
p1 I saw a month - pub. office changed to N.Y. every other issue will contain process print.

p 16 lists some 2 dozen names of different photo mechanical processes.

p 49 - describes illustration in Jan'l 6 issue - a photogravure - produced from a metal plate by means of phot. image + process engraving as worked out by Mr. E Edwards of Photogravure Co of Brooklyn + N.Y. "First of its kind which has been seen in any photo. magazine, we believe." It is the perfection of photo-process printing"

p 44. Report from the Int Journal States that the Meisenbach process has been patented in the name of Frank Wirth.

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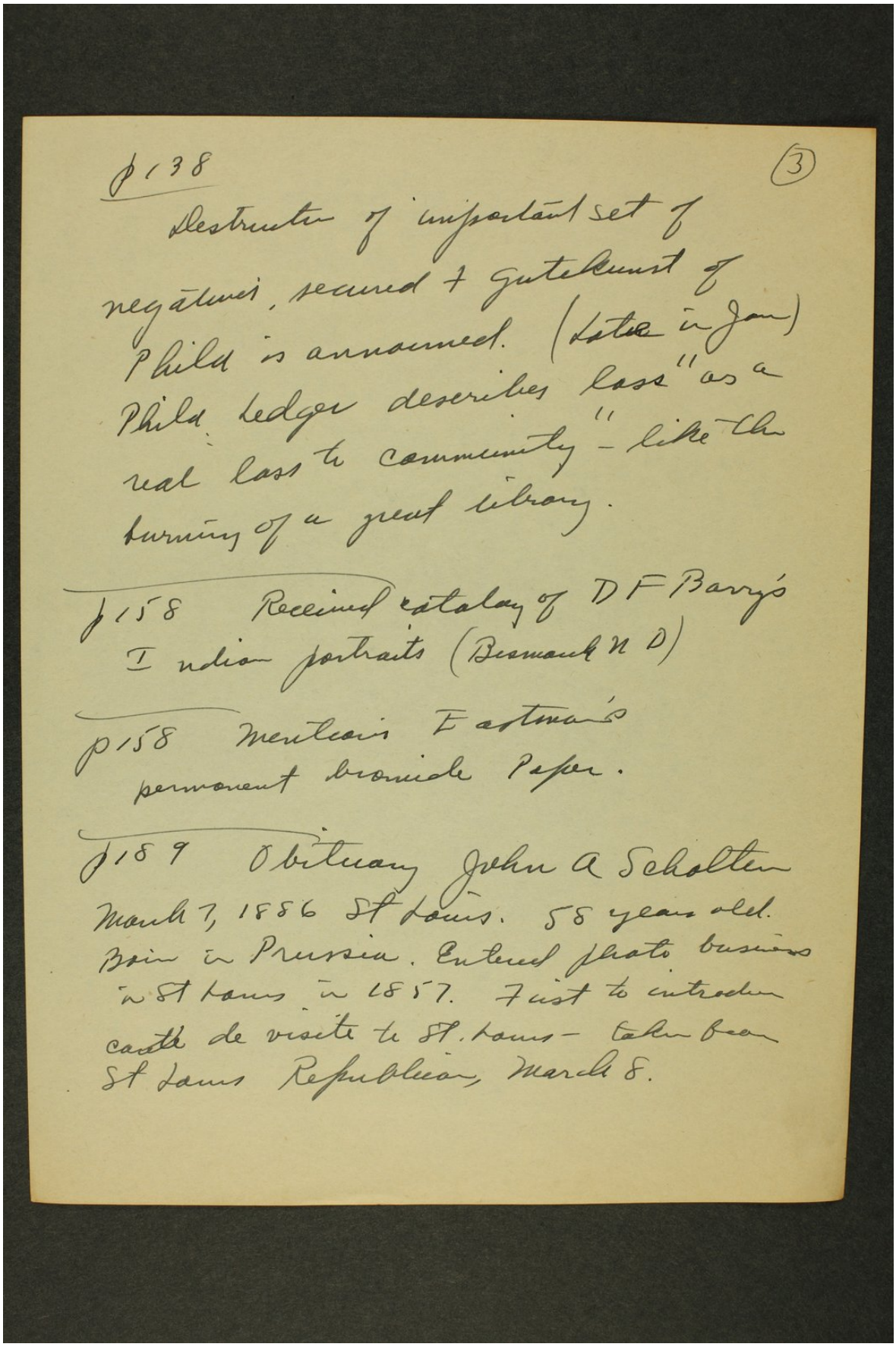
(2)

p 94

Refers to S. N. Horgan, reproduces for the graphic & his paper read at the last meeting of the Phot. Section of Am. Institute.

p. 102 Wilson refers at length to A Sketch of Korea by Percival Lowell Boston, Tickner + Co - contains 25 original photogs besides numerous photo engravings. "We believe the usefulness of photog is to grow very largely in this direction (reproduction of photogs)

p 126 Death D. Havey at Rochester NY on Feb 9th. Born Feb 22, 1828. A well known albumen paper manf. Entered photog business in 1854 at Rochester. Was at one time (before 1854) connected with S Root of Phila, now of Dubuque, IA.



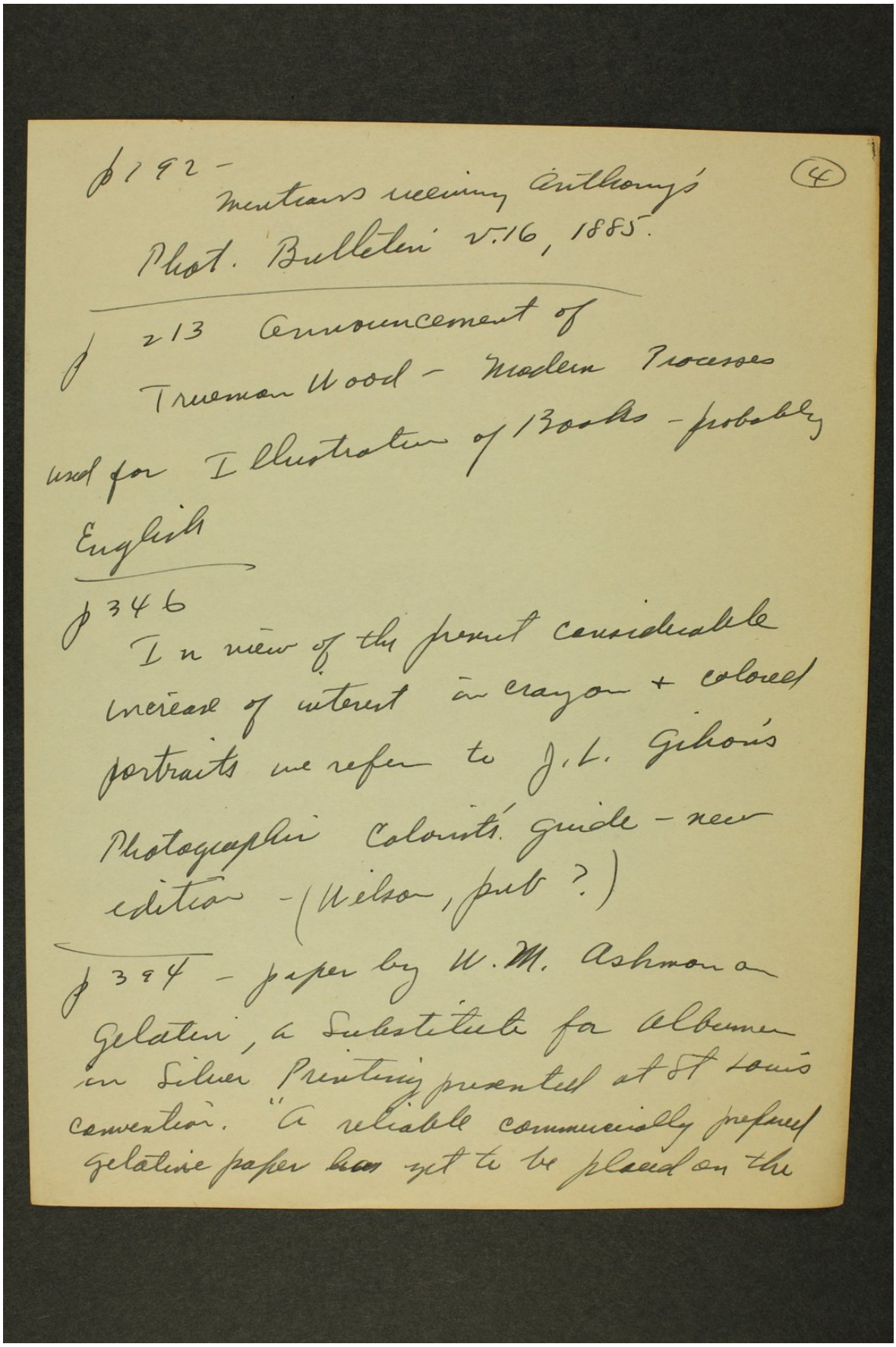
p 138 (3)

Destruction of important set of negatives, secured & gutelkunst of Phila is announced. (Later in Jour) Phila. ledger describes loss "as a real loss to community" - like the burning of a great library.

p 158 Received catalog of D F Barry's Indian portraits (Bismarck N D)

p 158 Mentions Eastman's permanent bromide Paper.

p 159 Obituary John A Scholten March 7, 1886 St Louis. 58 years old. Born in Prussia. Entered photo business in St Louis in 1857. First to introduce cards de visite to St. Louis - taken from St Louis Republican, March 8.



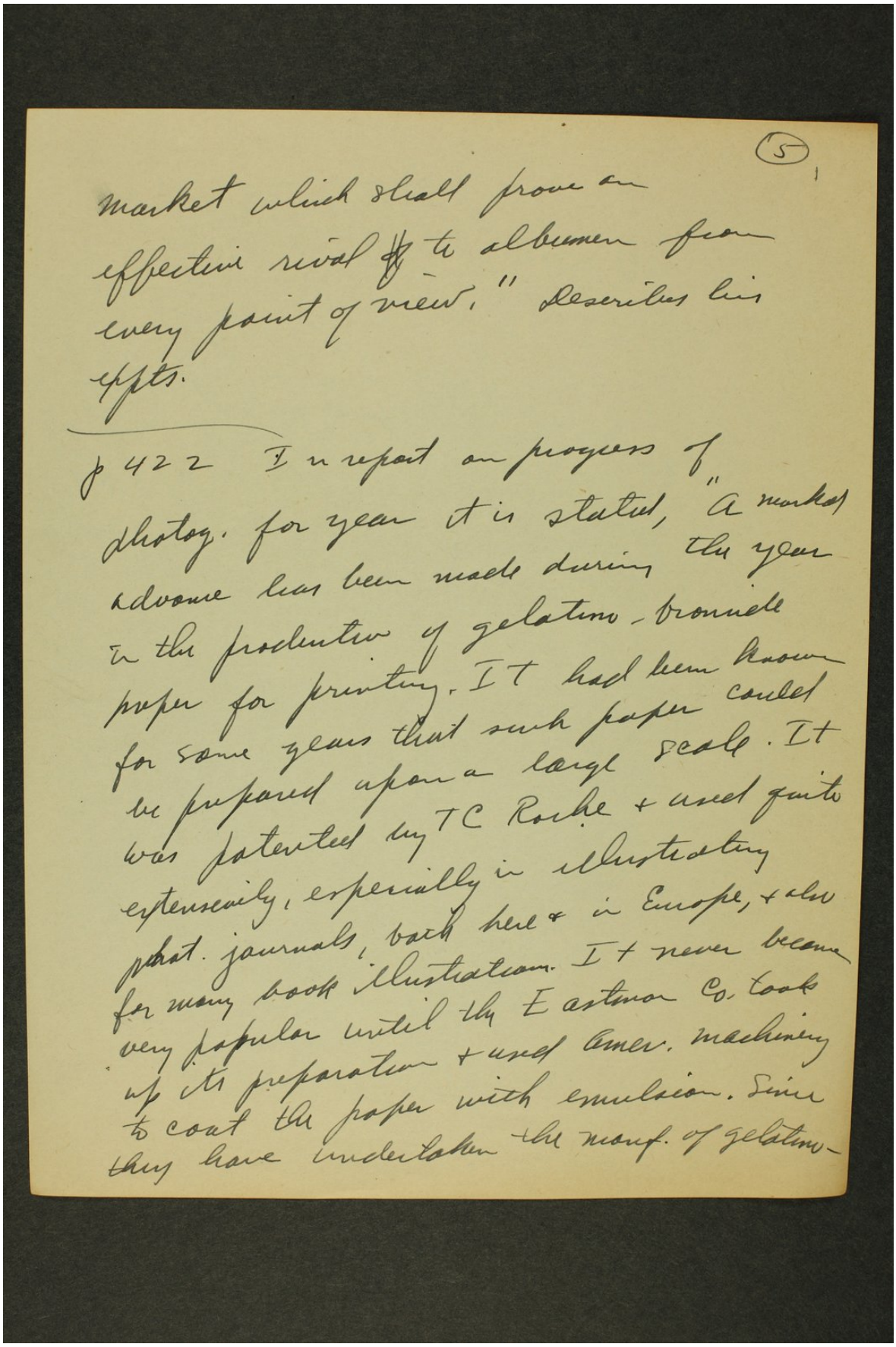
(4)

p 192 - mentions receiving Anthony's Phot. Bulletin v. 16, 1885.

p 213 announcement of Truman Wood - Modern Processes used for Illustration of Books - probably English

p 346 In view of the present considerable increase of interest in crayon + colored portraits we refer to J. L. Gihon's Photographic Colorists' guide - new edition - (Wilson, pub?)

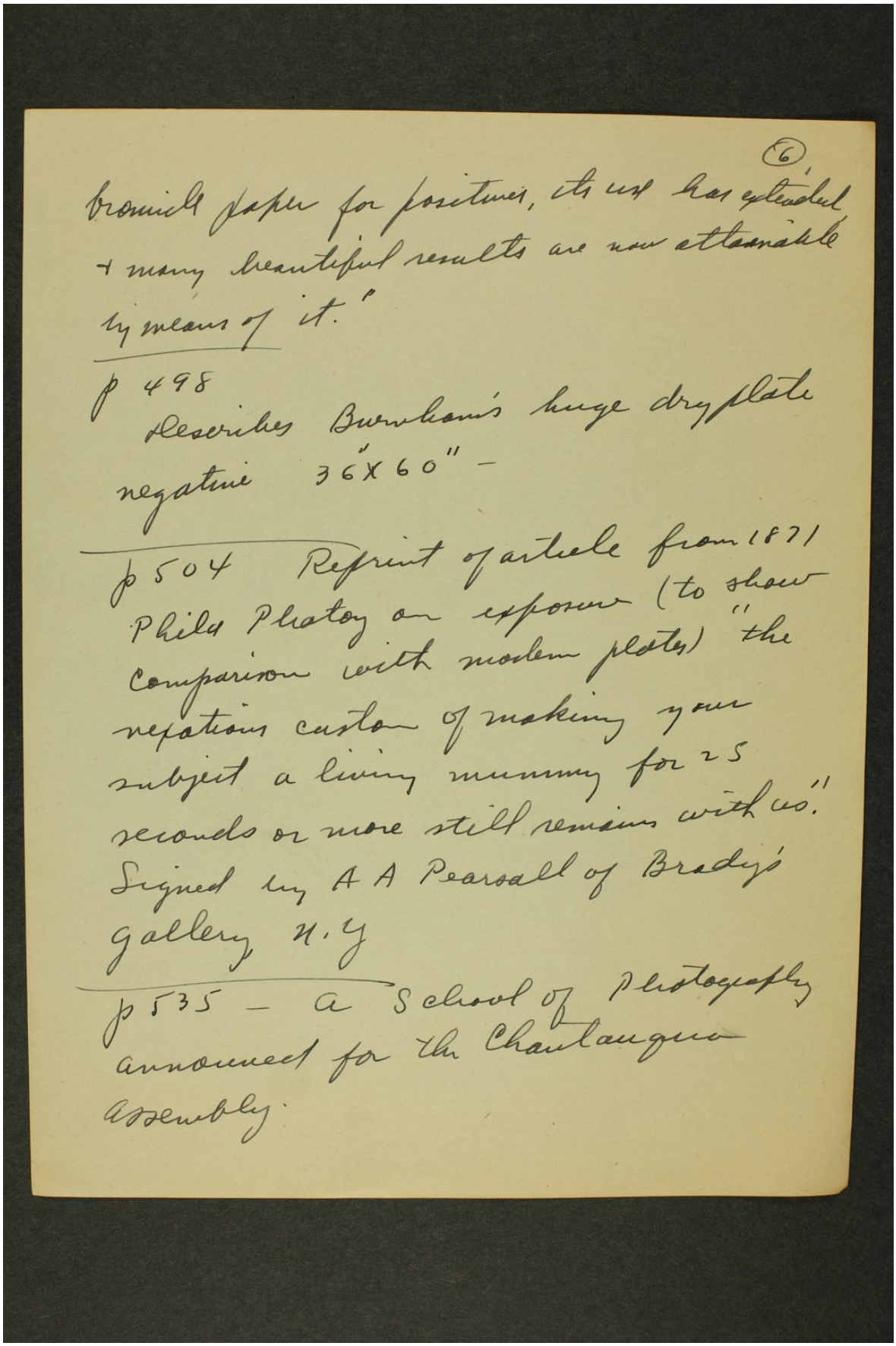
p 394 - paper by W. M. Ashman on Gelatin, a Substitute for Albumen in Silver Printing presented at St Louis convention. "A reliable commercially prepared gelatine paper has yet to be placed on the



(5)

market which shall prove an effective rival to albumen from every point of view." describes his opts.

p 422 In report on progress of photog. for year it is stated, "A marked advance has been made during the year in the production of gelatino-bromide paper for printing. It had been known for some years that such paper could be prepared upon a large scale. It was patented by TC Roche + used quite extensively, especially in illustrating phot. journals, both here + in Europe, + also for many book illustrations. It never became very popular until the Eastman Co. took up its preparation + used Amer. machinery to coat the paper with emulsion. Since they have undertaken the manf. of gelatino-



(6)

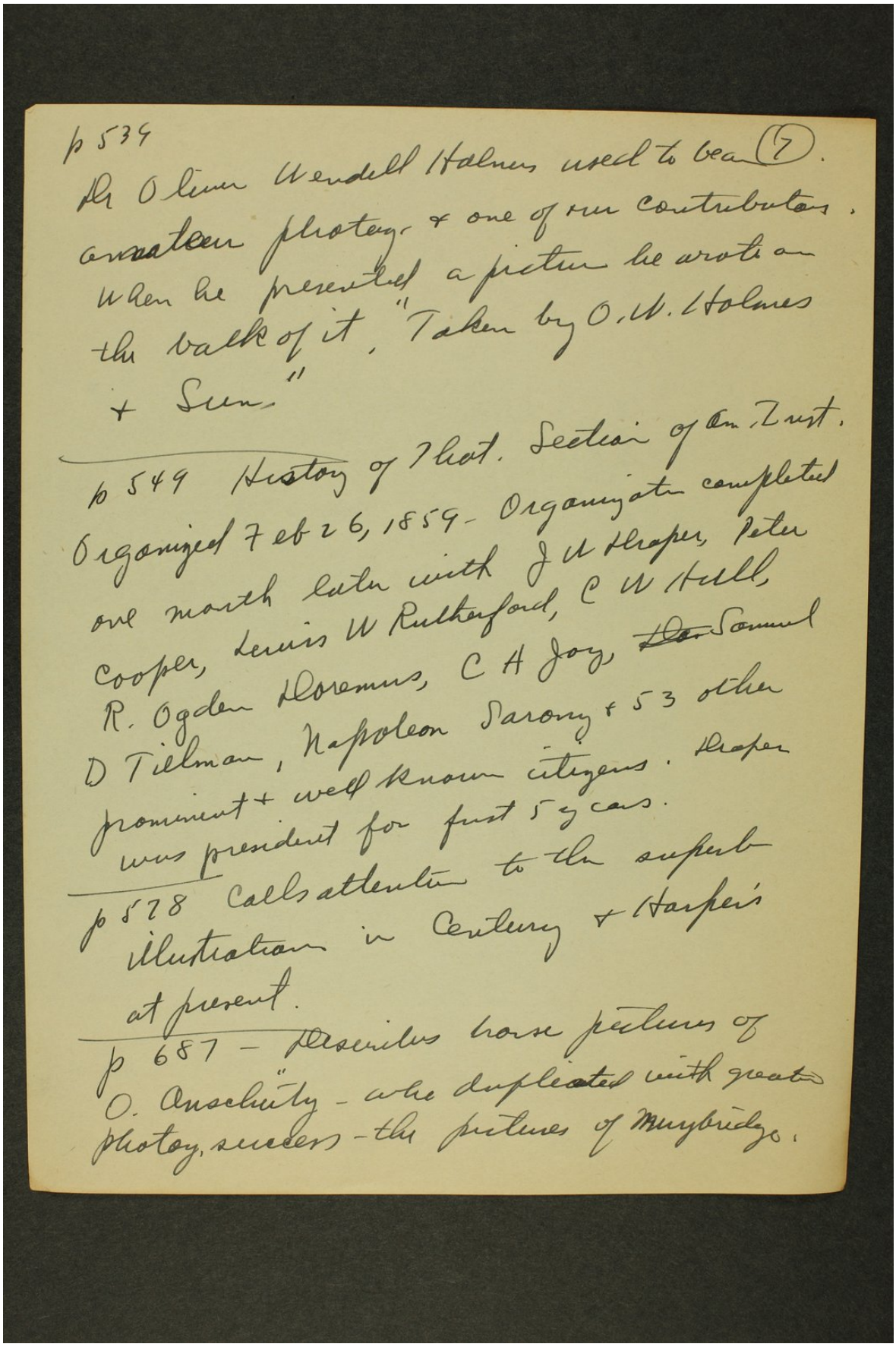
bromide paper for positives, its use has extended + many beautiful results are now attainable by means of it."

p 498
describes Burnham's huge dry plate negative 36"x60" –

p 504 Reprint of article from 1871 Phila Photog on exposure (to show comparison with modern plates) "the nefarious custom of making your subject a living mummy for 25 seconds or more still remains with us." Signed by A A Pearsall of Brady's gallery N.Y.

p 535 – a School of Photography announced for the Chautauqua assembly.

Robert Taft photography research notes

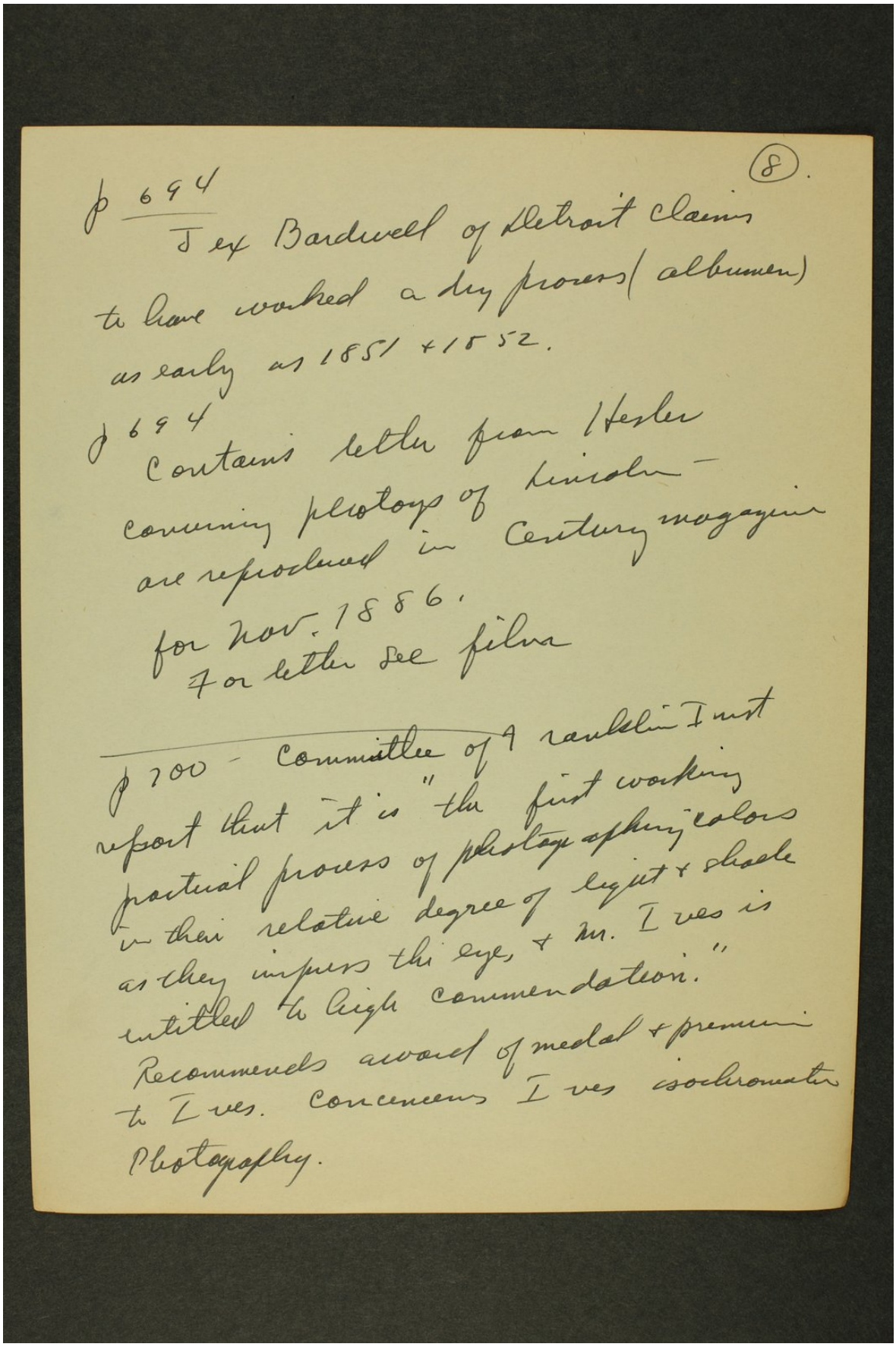


p 539
Dr Oliver Wendell Holmes used to be (7).
amateur photog. & one of our contributors.
When he presented a picture he wrote on
the back of it, "Taken by O. W. Holmes
& Sons."

p 549 History of Phot. Section of Am. Inst.
Organized Feb 26, 1859 - Organization completed
one month later with J. W. Draper, Peter
Cooper, Lewis M Rutherford, C W Hall,
R. Ogden Doremus, C A Joy, ~~Dan~~ Samuel
D Tilman, Napoleon Sarony & 53 other
prominent & well known citizens. Draper
was president for first 5 years.

p 578 Calls attention to the superb
illustrations in Century & Harper's
at present.

p 687 - describes loose pictures of
O. Anschütz - who duplicated with great
photog. success - the pictures of Muybridge.



(8).

p 694

J ex Bardwell of Detroit claims to have worked a dry process (albumen) as early as 1851 + 1852.

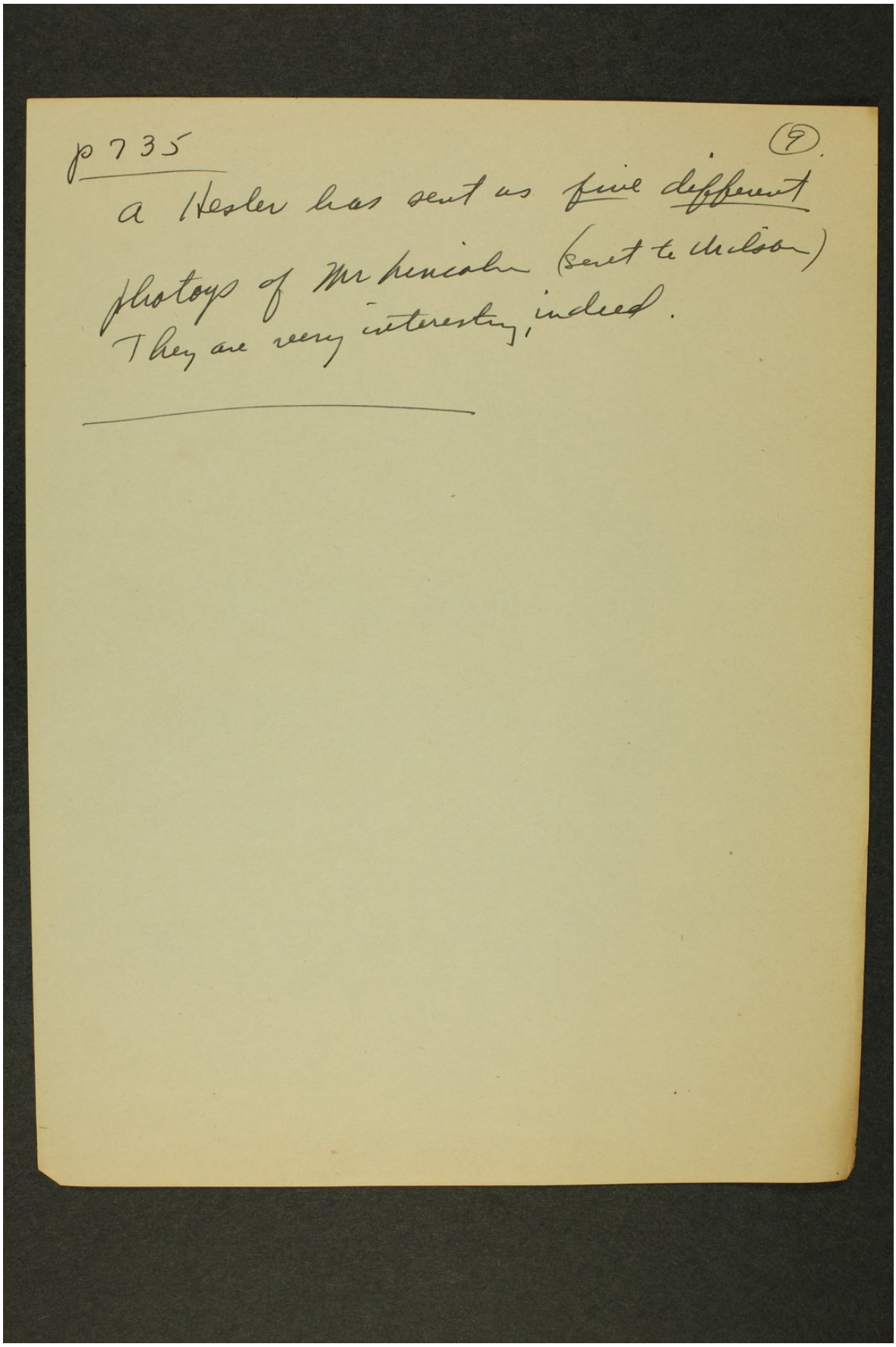
p 694

Contains letter from Hesler concerning photogs of Lincoln — are reproduced in Century magazine for Nov. 1886.

For letter see files

p 700 — Committee of Franklin Inst report that it is "the first working practical process of photographing colors in their relative degree of light + shade as they impress the eye, + Mr. Ives is entitled to high commendation."

Recommends award of medal + premium to Ives. Concerns Ives isochromatic Photography.



p 735 (9).

a Hesler has sent us five different photogs of Mr Lincoln (sent to Madison) They are very interesting, indeed.