

A BRIEF HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

part 1:

where did
photography come
from?



photography -

photography - light

photography - light +

photography - light + writing

photography - light + writing

“drawing with light”

photography - light + writing

“drawing with light”

camera -

photography - light + writing

“drawing with light”

camera - room, or chamber - an
enclosed space

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camera - room, or chamber - an
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camera obscura -

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camera - room, or chamber - an enclosed space

camera obscura - an enclosed space that is dark

aperture -

photography - light + writing

“drawing with light”

camera - room, or chamber - an enclosed space

camera obscura - an enclosed space that is dark

aperture - hole or opening

墨翟

(China, c. 470 - c. 391 BCE)

Mo Di, or “Mozi”

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earliest known mention of basic
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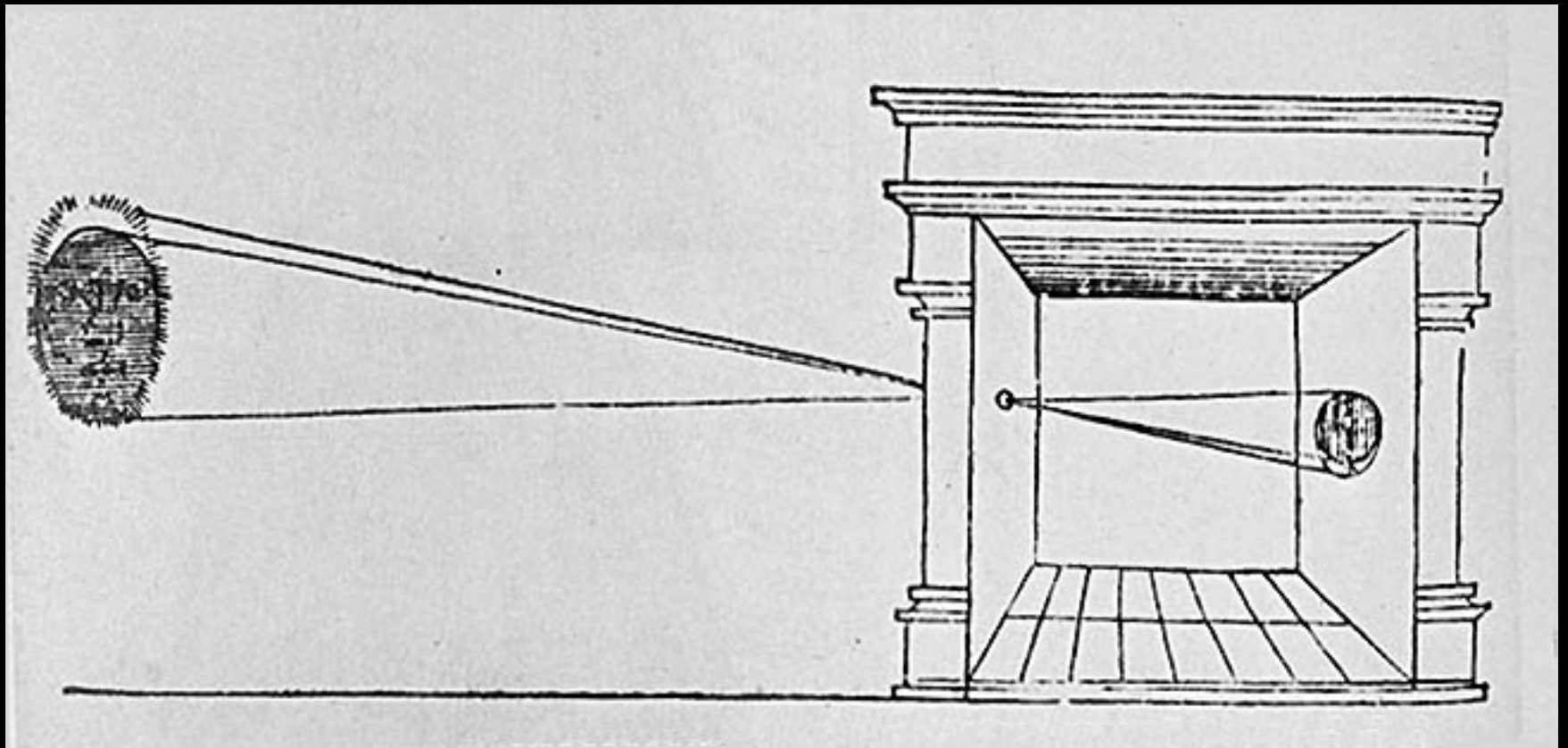
earliest known mention of basic
photography concepts:

Mozi discovered that while in a darkened room, a tiny opening in one wall projected an upside-down image of the scene outside onto the opposite wall. He referred to this as “locked treasure room.”

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Mo Di, or “Mozi”



Aristotle

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a solar eclipse is when the moon passes between the Sun and the Earth - so that from the Earth, the moon looks like it's “covering up” the sun

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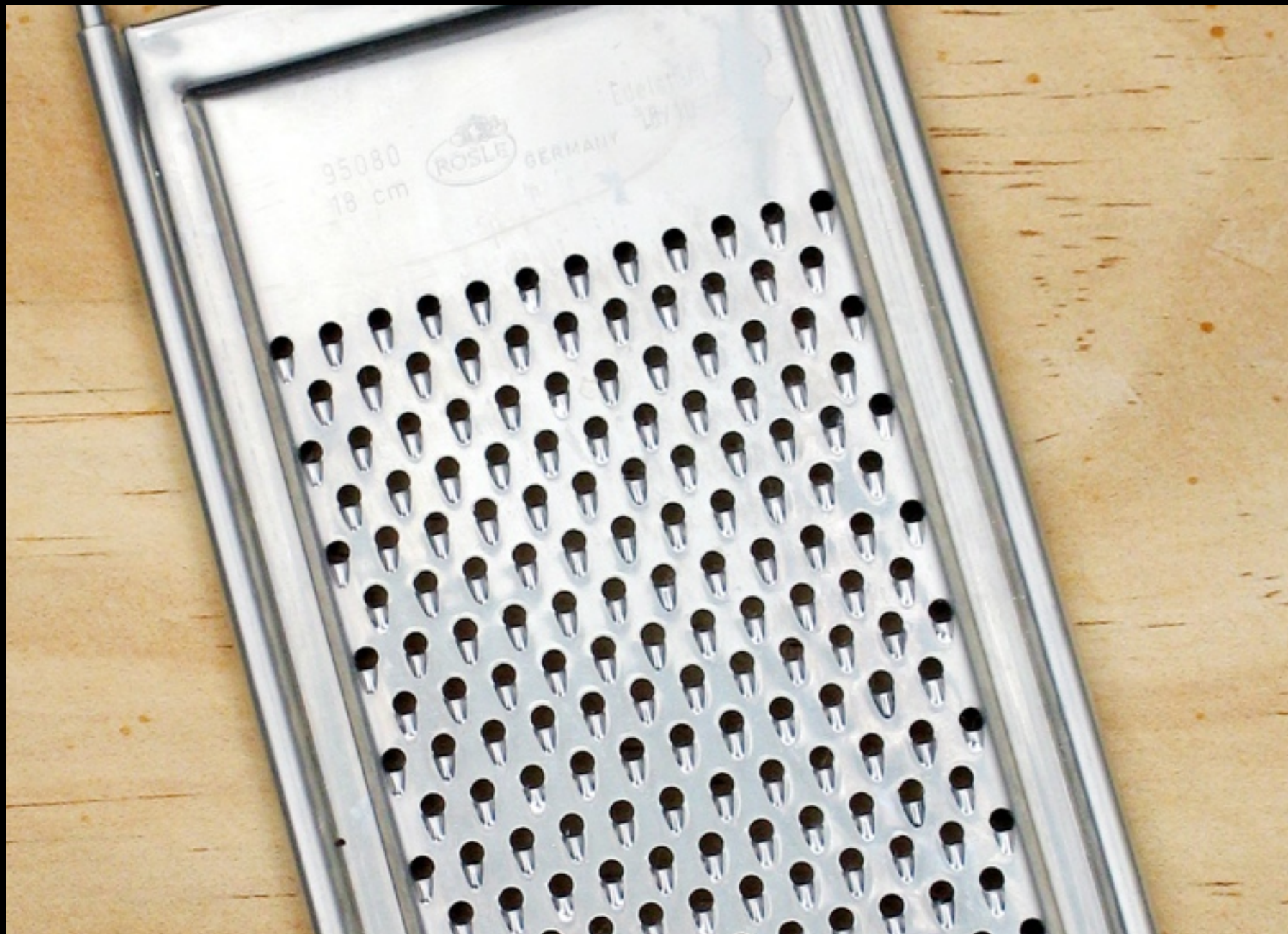
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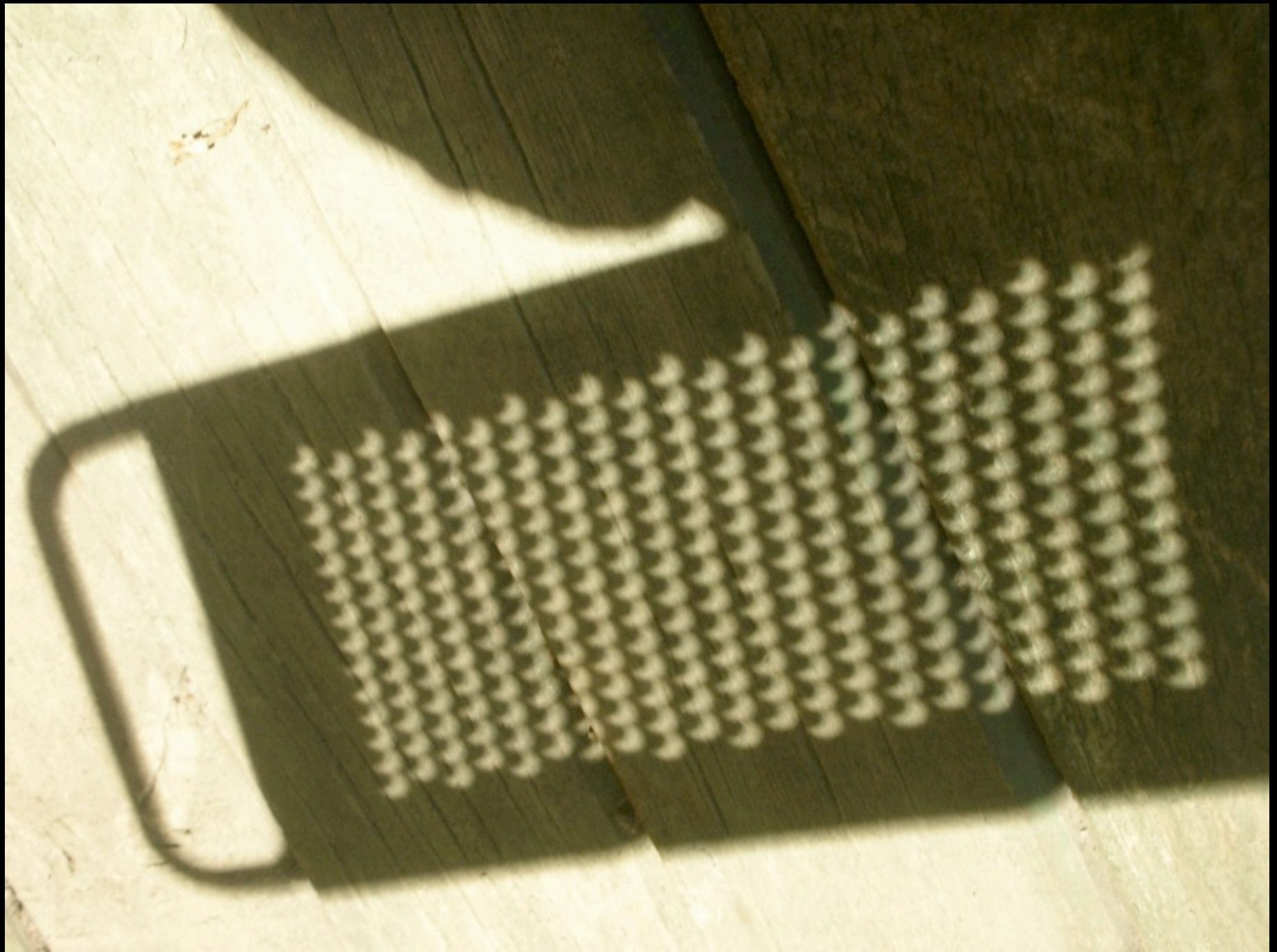
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just like how during a solar eclipse, even circular holes will project eclipse-shaped light







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Abu Ali al-Hasan Ibn al-Haitham

“Alhazen”

(Iraq, 965 - c. 1040 CE)

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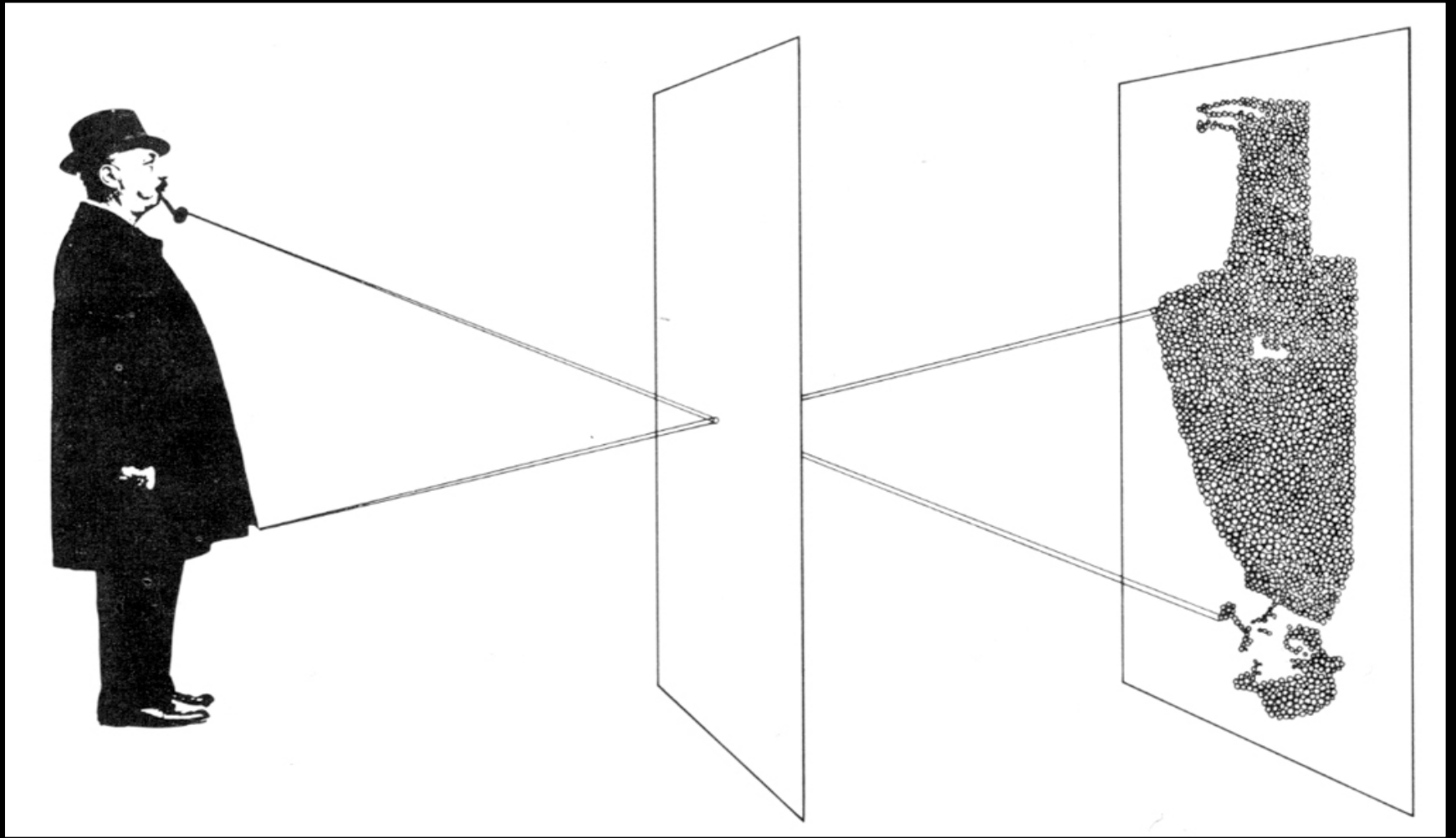
which is why projected images are
upside down

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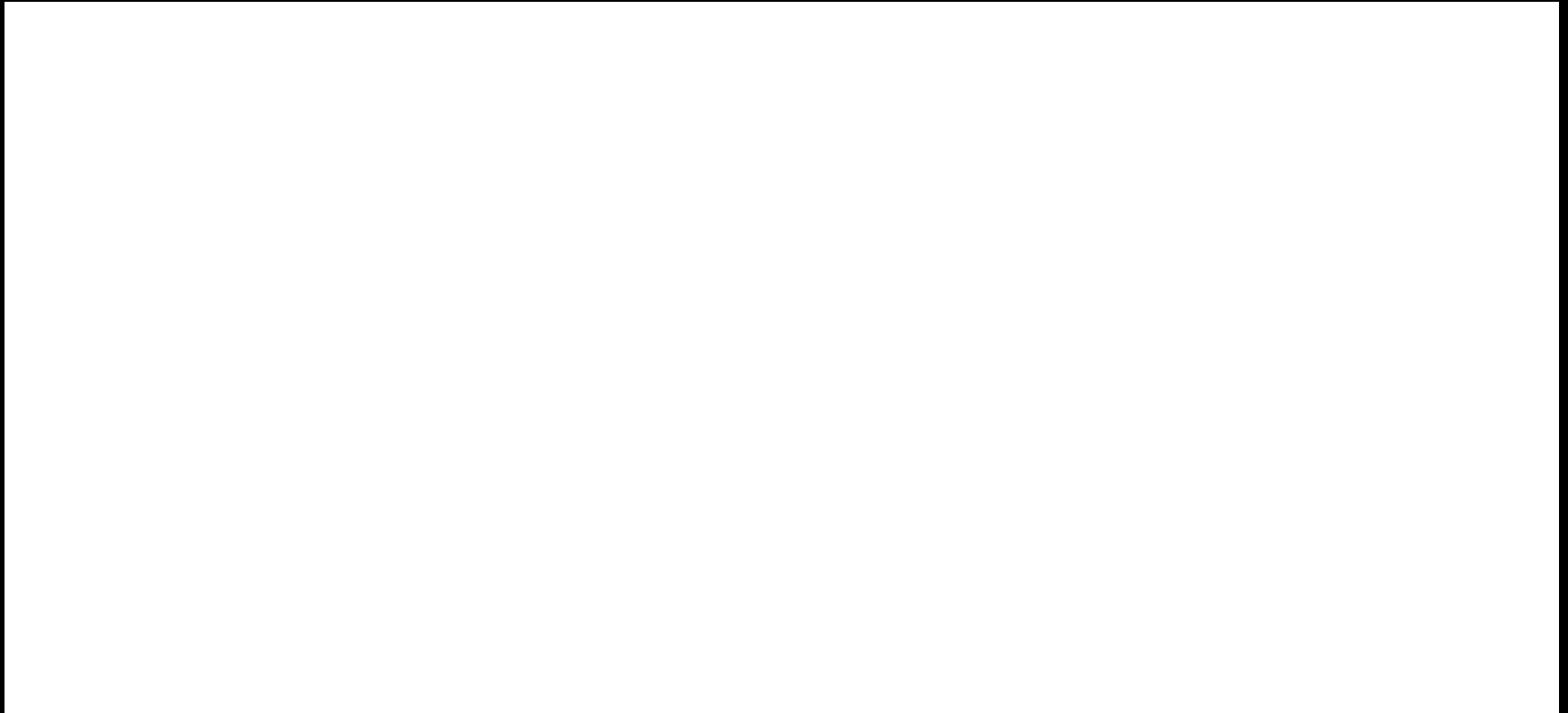


interestingly, Alhazen was also the first to realize the modern understanding of vision:

light (for example, from the sun) reflects off of things, our eyes interpret that reflected light, and that's how we are able to see them

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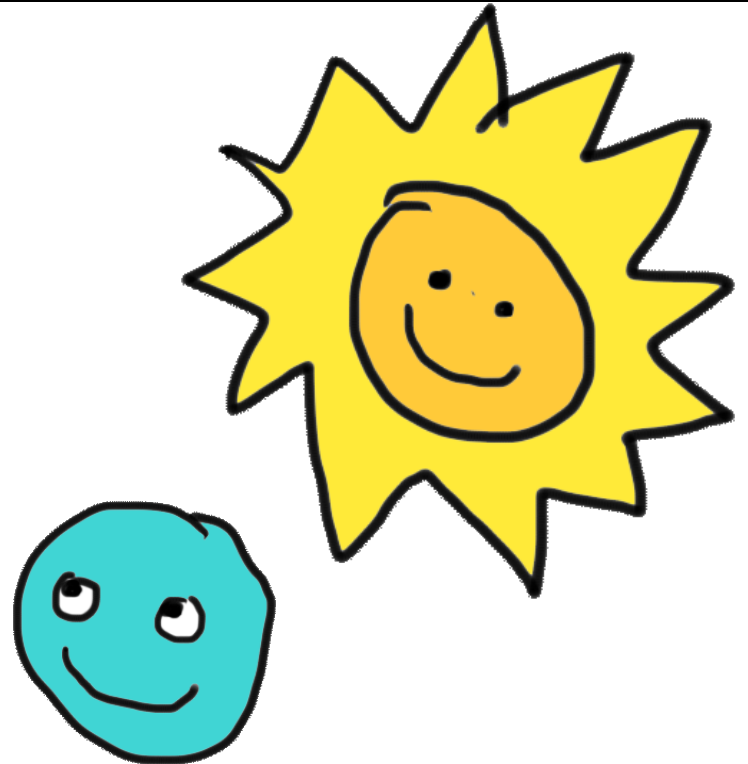
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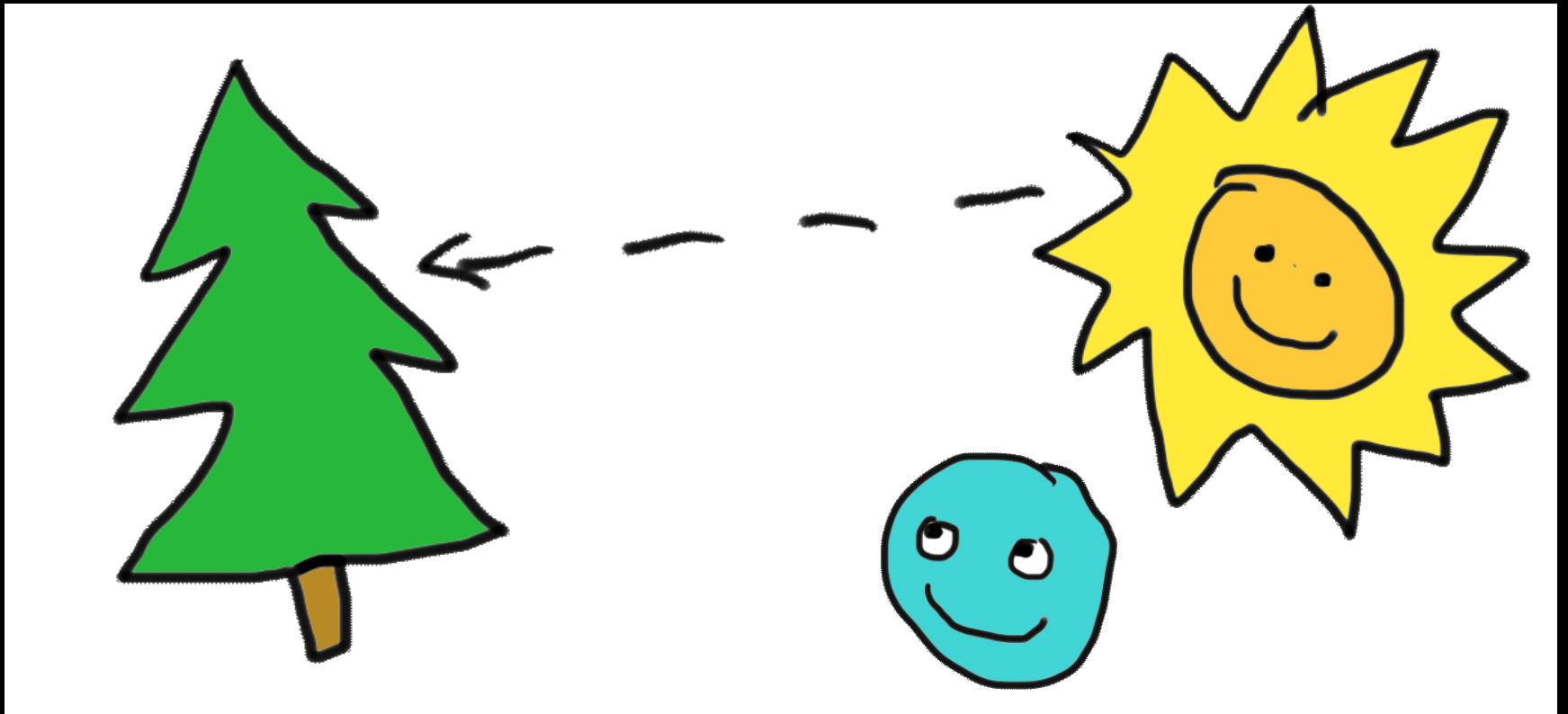
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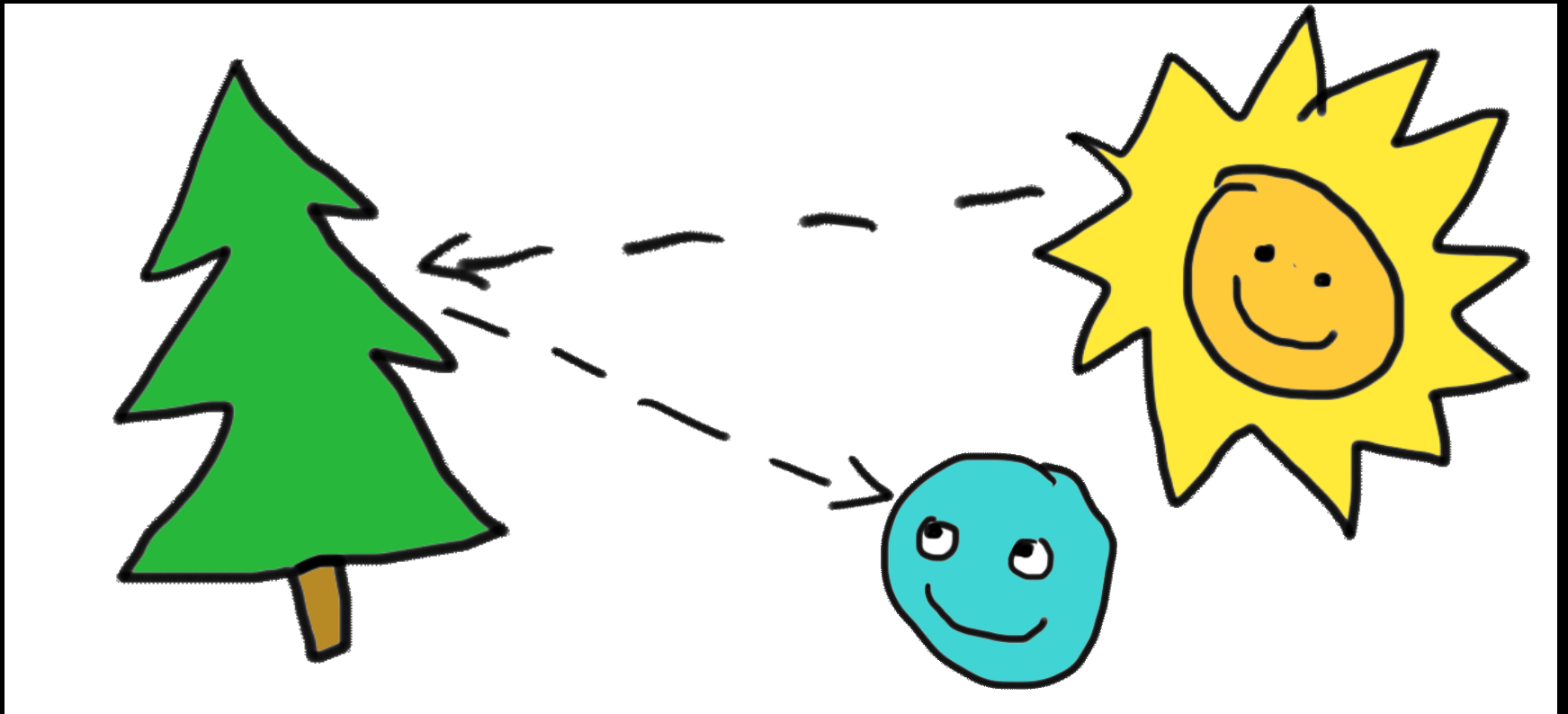
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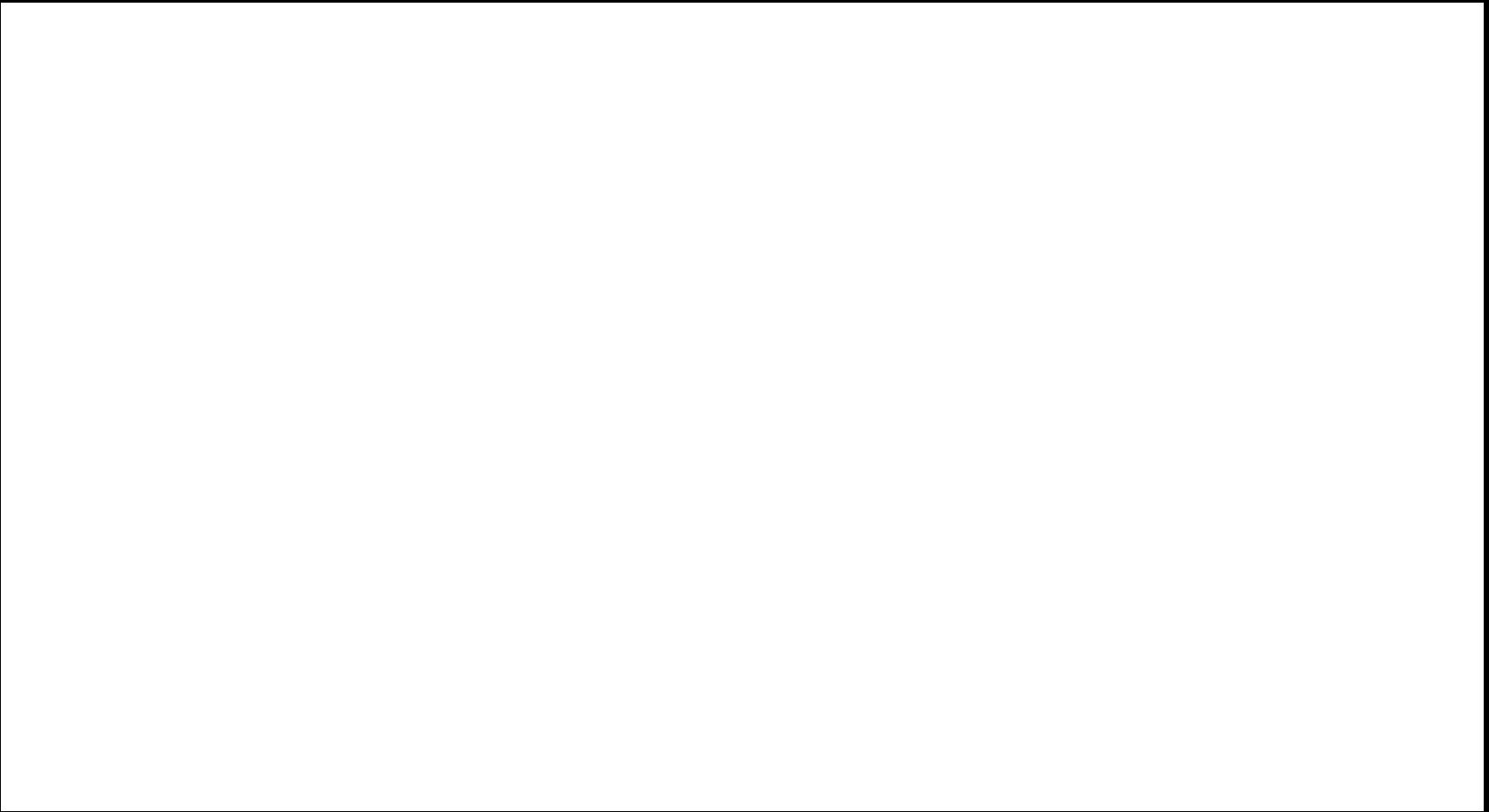
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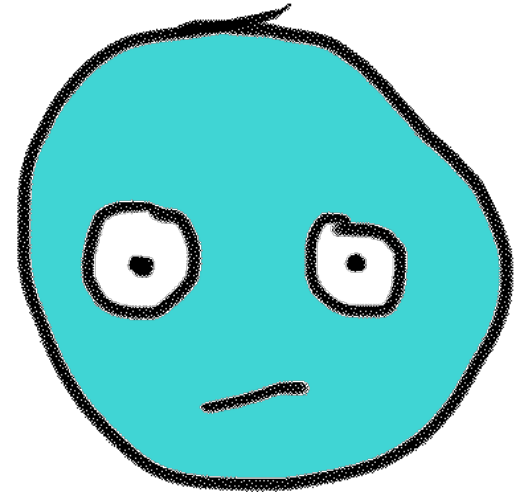
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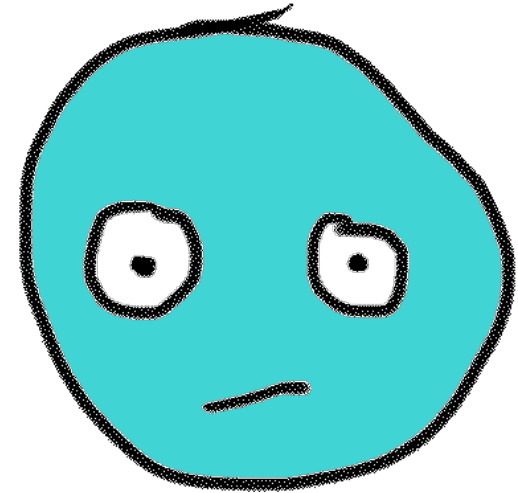
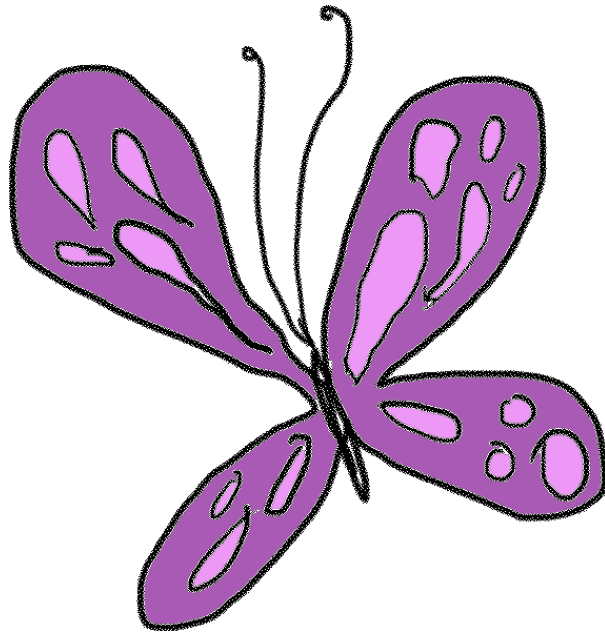




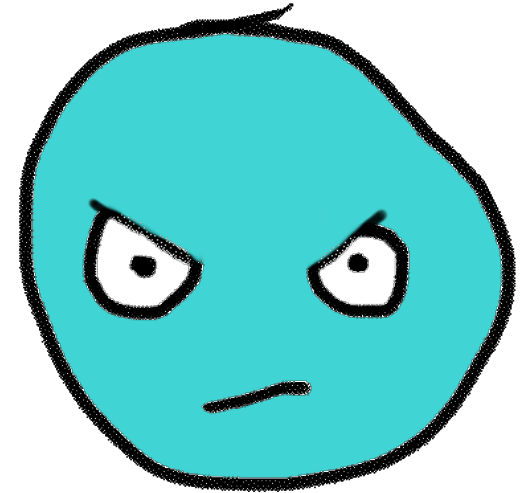
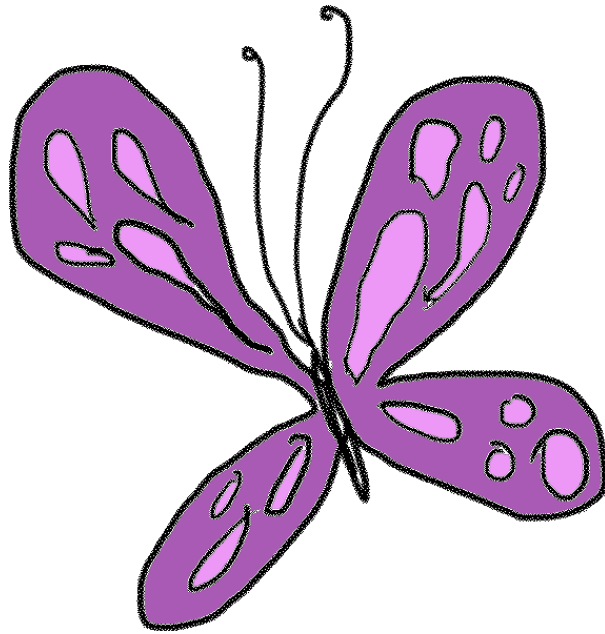
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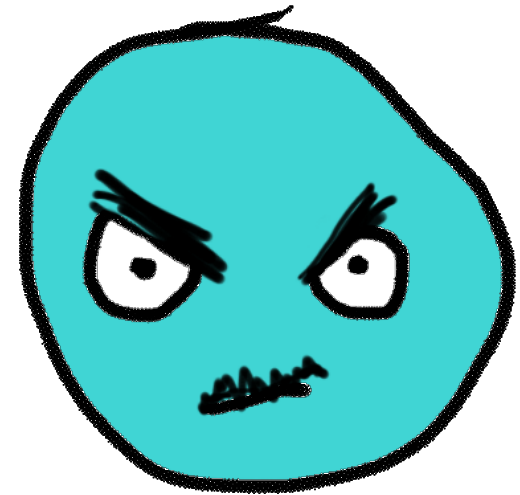
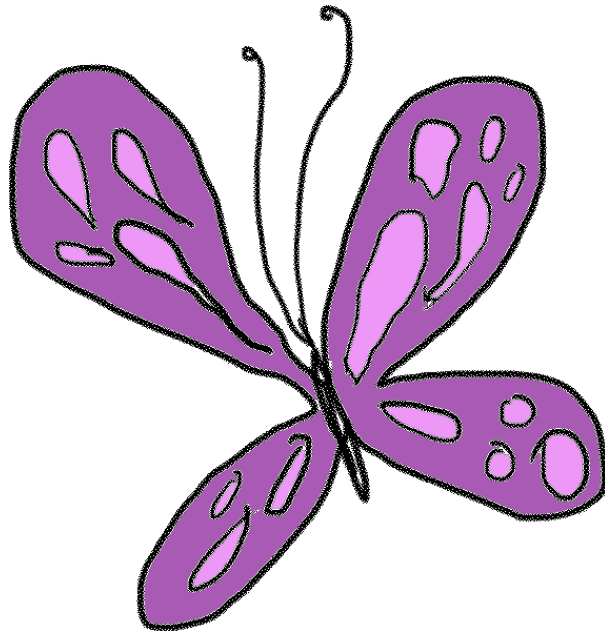
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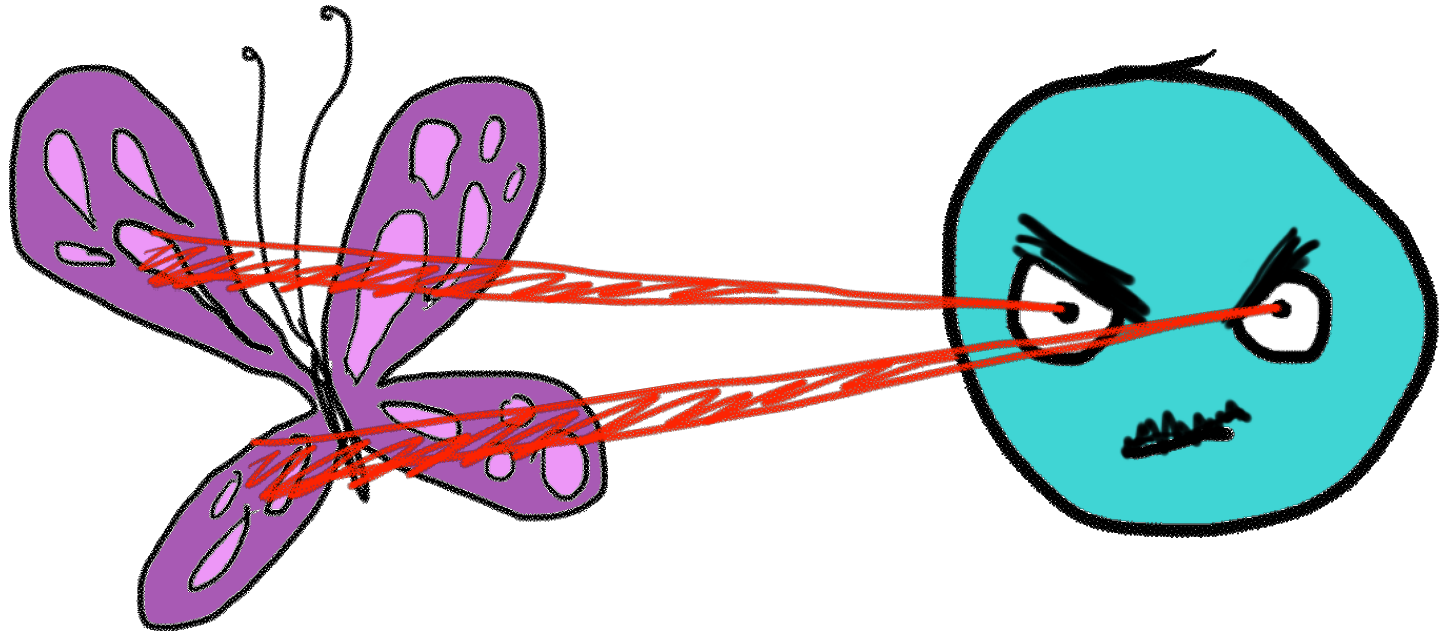
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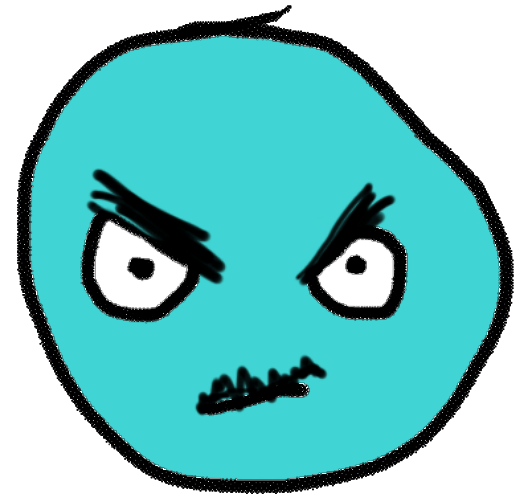
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came up with the name "camera obscura" and also was the first to invent one that was portable and could be taken from place to place

(also, he was the first to guess that it was the BRAIN that "flipped" our vision right-side up - rather than lenses/ mirrors that are used in a camera or camera obscura)





this is "Kepler" (a crater on the moon) which was named after him

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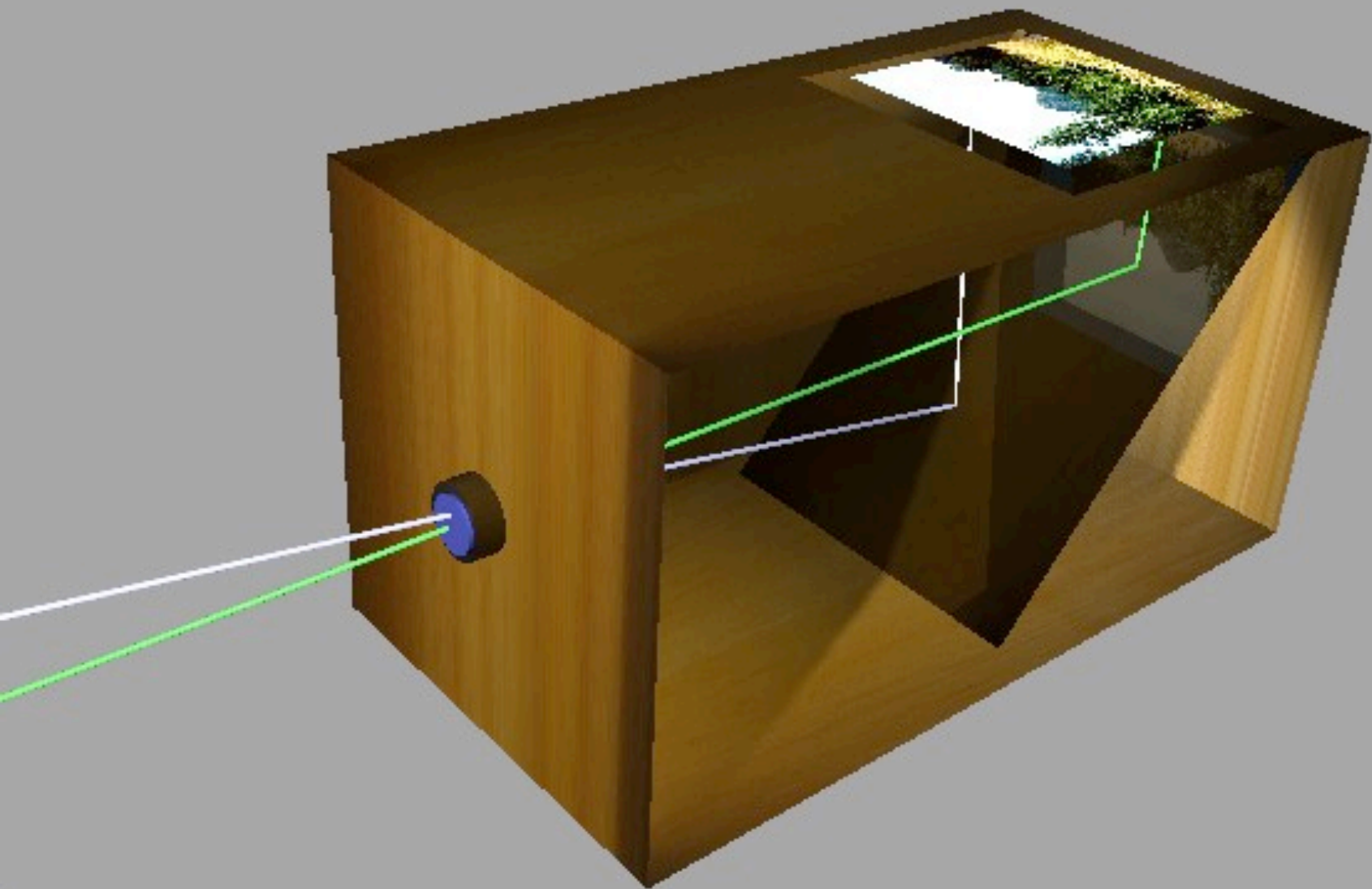
(Italy, 1514 - 1570)

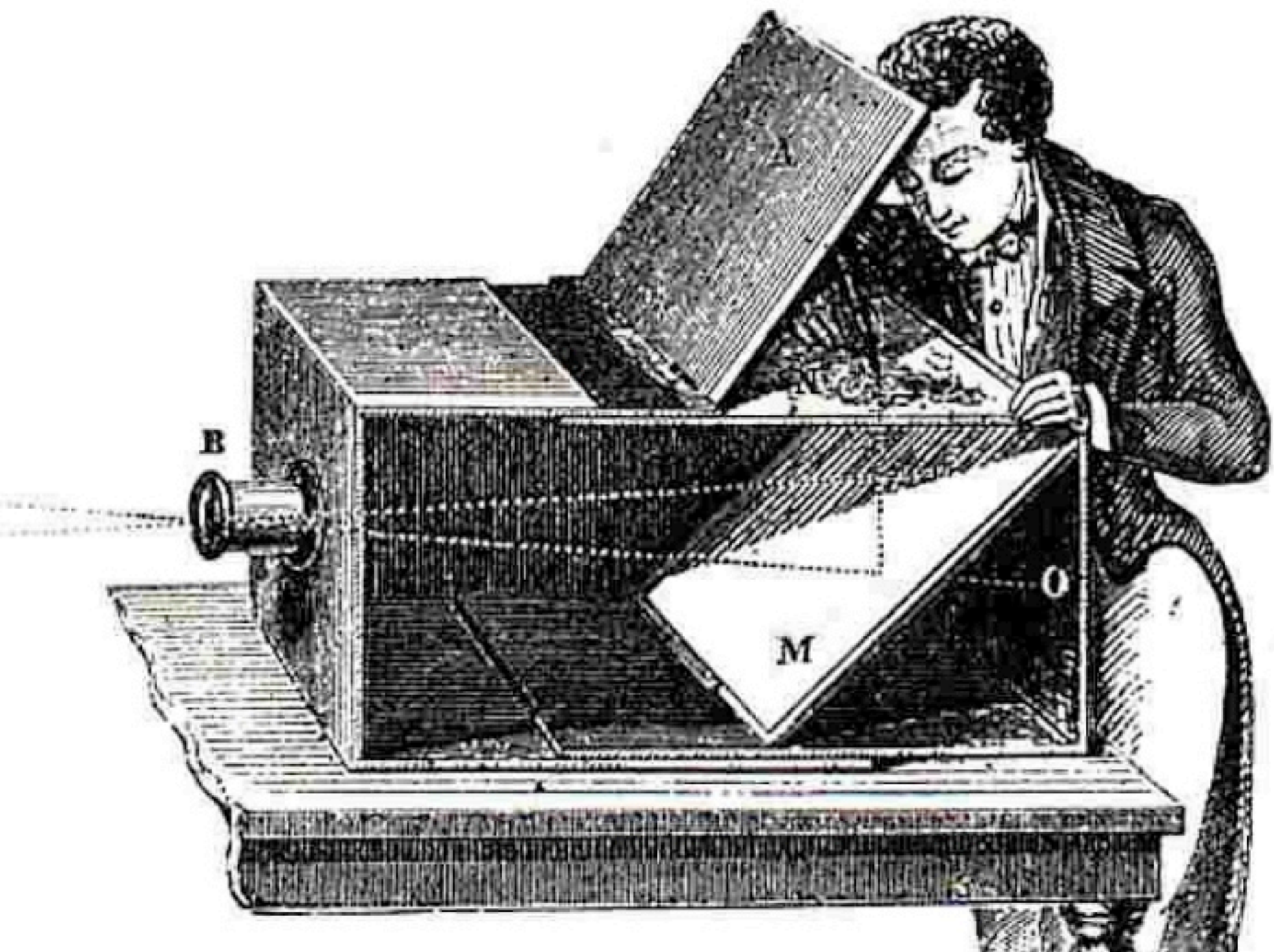
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“Close all the shutters and doors until no light enters the camera obscura except through the lens, and opposite hold a piece of paper which can move forward and backward until the scene appears in sharpest detail. There on the paper you will see the whole view as it really is, with its distances, its colours and shadows and motion, the clouds, the water twinkling, the birds flying. By holding the paper steady you can trace the whole perspective with a pen, shade it and delicately colour it from nature.”





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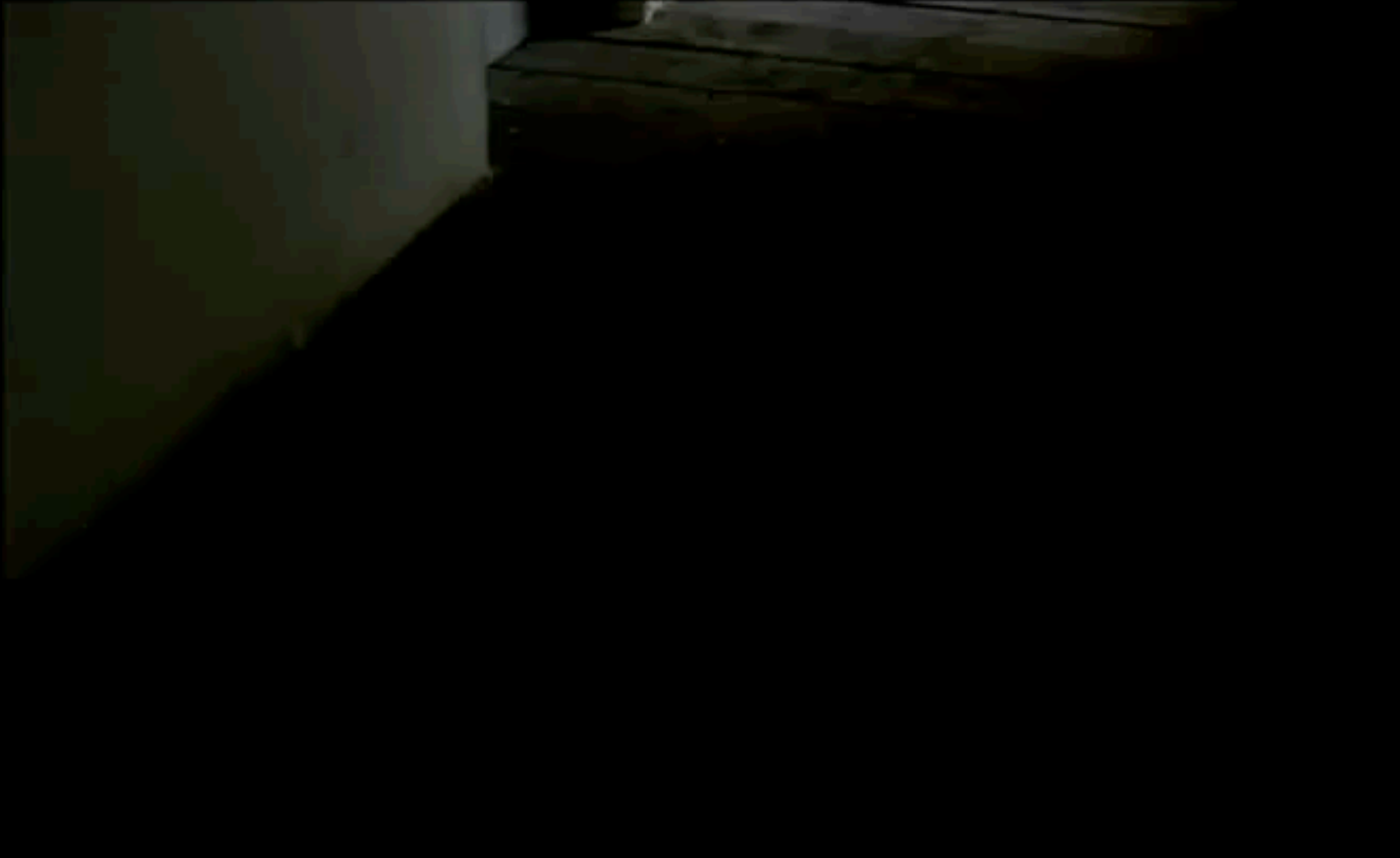
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wrote that the camera obscura made it “possible for anyone ignorant in the art of painting to draw with a pencil or pen the image of any object whatsoever”.

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intermission

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part 2:

how did we get images
to STAY?



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in 1802, Thomas Wedgwood & Humphry Davy were able to temporarily capture images - but they wouldn't stay

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- afterwards, “rinsed” the plate with oil of lavender & white petroleum

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EIGHT HOURS LATER...





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- this process shortened exposure time from over 8 hours down to 20 - 30 minutes

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- rinse with hot distilled water

10 - 15 minutes of exposure





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the fact that the process was free from copyright meant that it spread quickly, causing “Daguerreotypomania”



LA DAGUERREOTYPOMANIE

Paris, chez M. de la Harpe, Palais National, sous le Vestibule, par le Salon de Peinture.

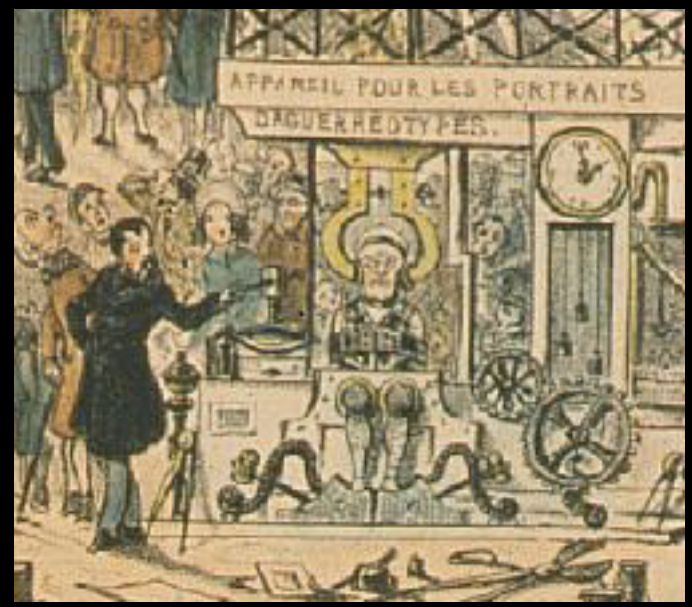
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Marrisset
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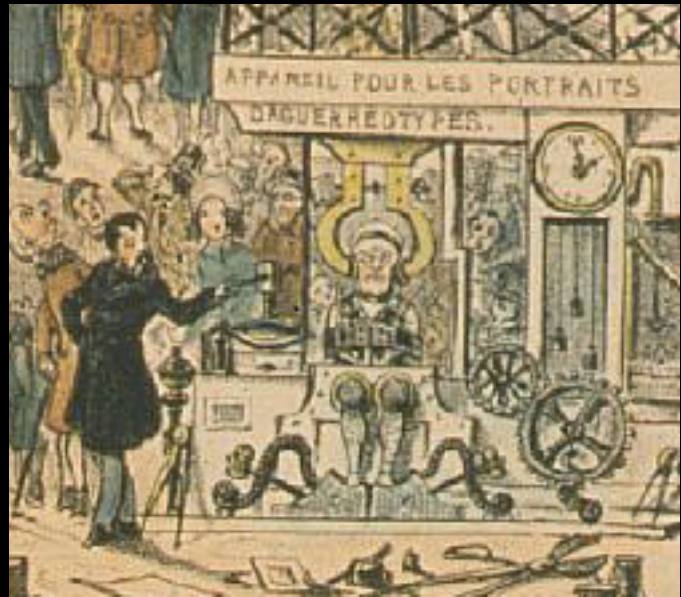


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The price of a daguerreotype, at the height of its popularity in the early 1850's, ranged from 25 cents for a sixteenth plate (of 1 5/8 inches by 1 3/8 inches) to 50 cents for a low-quality "picture factory" likeness to \$2 for a medium-sized portrait at Matthew Brady's Broadway studio.

1850	{	25¢	=	\$12.27	}	2014
		50¢	=	\$24.55		
		\$2.00				

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- no “negative” is produced - it’s is a direct positive - and therefore no way to make more than one

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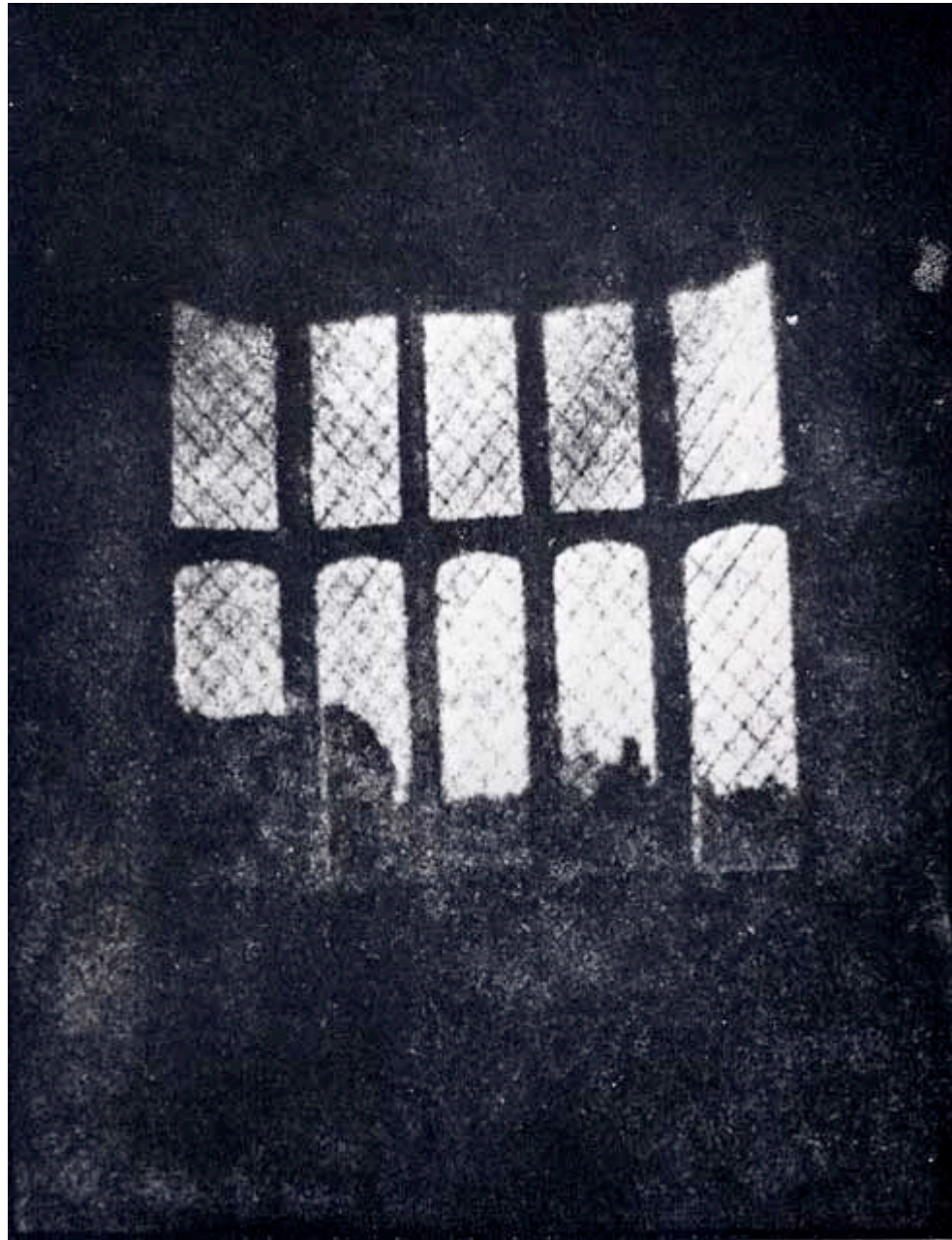
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- fixed in hyposulfite of soda





negative to positive



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