Characterizing the photographic prints of Linnaeus Tripe

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Captain Linnaeus Tripe as a photographer for the British Government documented the landscape, archeological sites, monuments, buildings, and cultural artifacts of mid-19th Century India and Burma (now Myanmar). This talk will detail the visual, microscopic, and spectroscopic investigation of his transitional period prints, c. 1852–1862. These prints, studied in collaboration with the National Gallery of Art, exhibit properties between those of salted paper and albumen. Most of these prints exhibit a light sheen that results from Tripe’s use of a dilute albumen sensitizing solution. The preparation of simulacra allowed for research into the influence of the support paper, albumen concentration and float times on the final print appearance. Electron microscopy of these simulacra also reveal the behavior of albumen at the paper surface under such conditions.