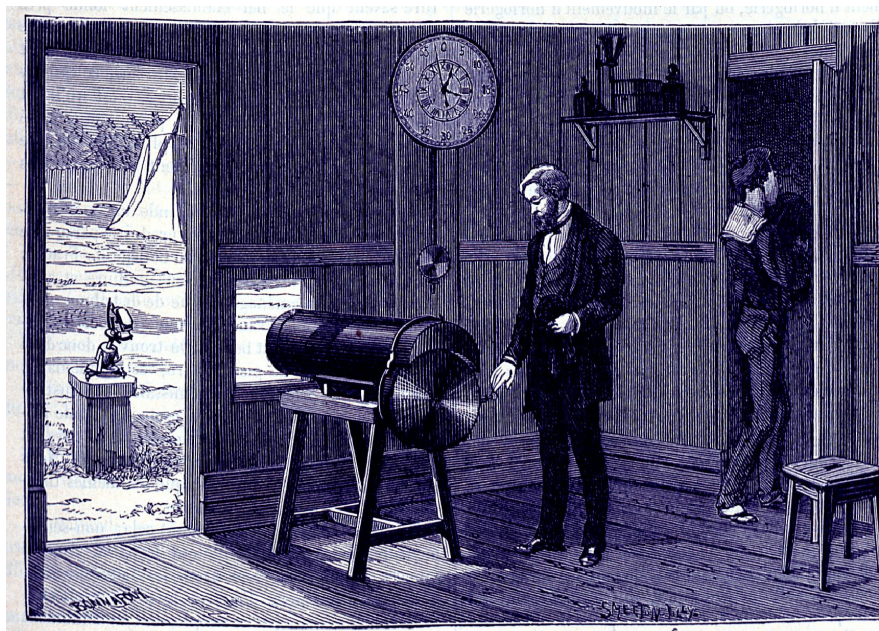


AHS London Lecture Thursday 17 January 2019

Geoff Belknap, **Capturing Time: Photography and the Measurement of Time in the Nineteenth Century**



Photographic revolver of M. Janssen in use during the Venus transit of 1874.

Photography has always been tied to time. The development of photographic processes has, to a large degree, been focused on increasing the speed of photochemical sensitivity – in other words, decreasing the amount of time needed to produce a photograph. Roland Barthes has famously said called the camera a ‘clock for seeing’. Because of their mechanical and chemical origins, photographs capture, measure and represent time in ways that are unique to the medium – making photographs intrinsically bound to the measurement and perception of time.

This paper will explore the relationship between photography and time from three different perspectives: the decreasing time of photographic process; the use of photographs to measure time in scientific experiments; and the relation of time and space in two temporal mediums – the photograph and the newspaper. As this paper will show, clocks, cameras and the photographic plate were tied together and helped shape how Victorian audiences came to understand themselves and the world around them.

Geoff Belknap is Head Curator at the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford. He is a historian of photography, Victorian science, visual culture and periodical history. This talk is based on research from his book *From a Photograph: Authenticity, Science and the Periodical Press, 1870-1890*, published by Bloomsbury in 2016.

TICKETS

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