

Short Subjects

Daguerreotypes at Harvard



Daguerreotype of actor Edwin Forrest in the role of King Lear. Attributed to Mathew Brady. Harvard Theatre Collection

Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre introduced the daguerreotype in 1839. It was the first publicly announced photographic process. They are produced by treating a silver-coated copper plate with light-sensitive chemicals, exposing the plate in a camera, and developing it with mercury vapor.

Harvard University has collected daguerreotypes for over 150 years, and this digital collection offers access to some of the collection. The collection has representative works from pioneering daguerreotypists Mathew Brady, Albert Sands Southworth and Josiah Johnson Hawes among others.

Visitors can look at class photos of Harvard students, along with portraits of Henry James, Jenny Lind, and James McNeill Whistler. Portraits can be found in the "Portrait Sitters" area, but you can also browse by artist or search by name or subject.

Visit the Daguerreotypes [web site](#) for links to a complete directory of photographs at Harvard and a detailed research guide.

Bela Lugosi's *Dracula* Cape Up for Auction



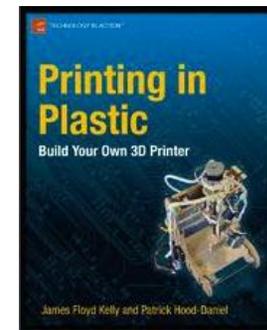
The cape Bela Lugosi wore as Count Dracula in 1931 movie *Dracula* is set to be auctioned off. The cape will be one of 17 Lugosi lots consigned by the horror icon's son, Bela Lugosi, Jr., available at the [Profiles in History](#) sale in December.

Lugosi gave the cape to his wife Lillian before his death in 1956 and told her to keep it for their son. Upon Lugosi's death, the family decided that he should be buried in his *Dracula* costume, but given the actor's wish that his son should have the cape, the family dressed the body in a lightweight version of the cape he used when making personal appearances.

Lillian Lugosi left the cape to her son upon her death in 1981.

The item is expected to fetch up to \$2 million when it goes under the hammer during the sale, Dec. 15 to Dec. 17 in Los Angeles, California.

A Book on Printing in Plastic



If you build costumes that require complex shapes, *Printing in Plastic: Build Your Own 3D Printer* is your gateway to the world of personal fabrication. The "printer" that is described in the book is a personal fabricator that can create small parts and other objects from drops of molten plastic.

You design a part using a modeling tool such as Google SketchUp. Then the Fabricator head sweeps back and forth and upwards, depositing plastic in layers. You can build anything from small parts for a futuristic spacesuit to a Steampunk disintegrator, to replica jewelry findings for a Victorian costume. Once you have one, you keep finding new projects where you can use your printer.

Printing in Plastic is aimed at creative people comfortable with using power tools such as a table saw, circular saw, and drill press. Authors James Kelly and Patrick Hood-Daniel help you build a personal fabrication machine based upon a set of blueprints downloaded from their [web site](#).

The book provides example projects to get you started on designing and fabricating your own parts that would make excellent parent/child, or small group projects. Included are step-by-step instructions for assembling your 3D printer, the ins and outs of design software, and how to design and produce three-dimensional plastic parts.

Printing in Plastic (ISBN 978-1430234432) was published in paperback in June 2011 by Apress, with a suggested retail price of \$US 39.99. It is also available as an eBook for \$27.99. It would make a great present for that do-it-yourselfer.

Whatzis?

A puzzling photo of a costuming related object. Can you guess what it is?

From time to time, VC will present an unusual photo of a costuming, sewing, or prop-making related object. Can you guess what it is? Find the answer in the next issue.



Do you have an unusual photo? Send it, together with a description of what it is, to vc@siwcostumers.org

Parting Shot

A photo that's too good not to use.

Sometimes, a story has a great leftover photo that deserves to be used, but there's no room or it's slightly off-topic and doesn't fit in. The article "Gorjira, King of the Monsters" is a case in point.

In working with author Jim Shepard to find and select photos to accompany his article, the editor ran across a number of "behind the scenes" photos with Gojira actor Haruo Nakajima wearing the suit in a number of unusual situations. Some of them were between scenes, with the director or members of the production crew, and some were at media events. Many of them were amusing in their way, but one stood out above all the others.

Unfortunately, the article was already chock full of photos, and it just didn't fit in the space or with the story. We're not sure why this photo was taken, but here it is,

Gojira, "King of the Monsters" in a role we'll bet that you'll never see him play on the screen, no matter how many sequels they make!

