

## **British Ferrotypes**

### **Presentation by Gary Saretzky**

Ferrotypes, known popularly as tintypes, were introduced in the United States in the 1850s and they soon began to be made in Great Britain. However, the format caught on in the U.S., it did not become popular in Britain, and by the early 1870s, had practically disappeared there. In 1872, the prominent Brooklyn ferrotypist, Thomas M. Estabrooke, moved to London and established a tintype gallery as an agent of the Phoenix Plate Company, which manufactured the metal plates used for the process. Although it took some years, by 1880, the “American” style of photograph had begun to become popular and chain studios opened to meet the growing craze for the “American Gem,” a small tintype mounted behind highly decorated cards with an opening for the image. The designs were much more elaborate than the typical American ferrotype cards of the same period. In this presentation, examples of the British styles of cards will be presented from the speaker’s collection that includes a selection that he acquired from the estate of Eaton Lothrop, Jr., a well known author on the history of photography.

### **Bio**

Gary D. Saretzky, archivist, educator, and photographer, worked as an archivist for more than fifty years at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Educational Testing Service, and the Monmouth County Archives. Saretzky taught the history of photography at Mercer County Community College, 1977–2012, and served as coordinator of the Public History Internship Program for the Rutgers University History Department, 1994–2016. He has published more than 100 articles and reviews on the history of photography, photographic conservation, and other topics. His website, [saretzky.com](http://saretzky.com), provides extensive information on the history of photography, with an emphasis on 19th century New Jersey photographers.