The Life of Eadweard Muybridge

"GRANDFATHER OF MOTION PICTURES"

There have been many men concerned with the wonderful art of motion pictures. One of the earliest pioneers to produce a form of pictures in motion was Eadweard Muybridge whose vivid life story is portrayed on these pages.

Born at Kingston-on-Thames, England, April 9, 1830, Eadweard Muybridge finished his common school education then emigrated to America.

What do you intend on doing in America, Master Muybridge?

I hope to make a name for myself in the land of opportunity, sir.

Working in a mercantile establishment in the beginning, he soon became interested in photography. Later, Eadweard Muybridge was engaged in photographic work for the United States government.

This U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey is interesting work!

Yes—combining photography with surveying will enable the United States to accurately plot its Pacific Coast!
IN MAY, 1872, AT GOVERNOR LELAND STANFORD'S STOCK FARM IN PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA...

I WANT YOU TO PROVE, BY PHOTOGRAPHY IF YOU CAN, THAT A RUNNING HORSE, AT SOME POINT IN HIS STRIDE, HAS ALL HIS HOVES CLEARLY OFF THE GROUND!

I'LL DO MY BEST, SIR!

AS THE STRING IS BROKEN BY CONTACT WITH THE GALLOPING HORSE, IT WILL OPERATE THE SHUTTER OF THE CAMERA!

A CLEVER IDEA!

WONDERFUL! THE HORSE IS TAKING HIS OWN PICTURE!

MUDBRIDGE HAD THE HORSE RIDDEN OVER THE COURSE A NUMBER OF TIMES UNTIL HE HAD SUFFICIENT PICTURES. HIS FIRST RESULTS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL.

BUT HIS SECOND ATTEMPT —

THESE PICTURES ARE EXCELLENT!

YES, GOVERNOR, THEY PROVE THAT A HORSE DOES HAVE ALL HIS FEET ENTIRELY OFF THE GROUND AT TIMES.

THIS TYPE OF WORK INTERESTS ME DEEPLY! I INTEND TO FOLLOW UP PHOTOGRAPHING 'ANIMAL LOCOMOTION'.

I WILL FINANCE YOU IN YOUR EXPERIMENTS!
Edward Muybridge had a white background erected alongside the horseracing course and opposite it, set up 12 cameras in a line arranging them to take three different points of view. Each camera had its string (which was attached to its shutter) set at right angles across the track, arranged to trip each shutter as the horse hit the strings. Also photographed on this racing course were athletes, as well as oxen, dogs and birds!

In 1879, Muybridge developed an apparatus which he called the zoopraxiscope.

By placing this glass disk on the shaft connected to this projection lantern, I ought to have some interesting results.

Revolving the disk rapidly, Muybridge projects the enlarged images of horses on the screen, giving the impression of the original motion! Amazing! Pictures actually in motion! Wonderful!

Someday people will be made to laugh and cry at what they will see on a screen in moving pictures!
In 1881 and 1882, Muybridge lectured on the subject of "Animal Motion" in both London and Paris.

Returning to the U.S. in 1883, he continued his lectures. Then in 1884, he began a series of new experiments in Philadelphia for the University of Pennsylvania. This timing mechanism and the electromagnetic latch to release the camera shutters are developing nicely!

Yes, your progress is excellent!

Two years later—

There they are, professor, over 100,000 photographic plates on "Animal Locomotion!"

A wonderful piece of work, sir!

Muybridge returned to his birthplace in England to live but came back to the U.S. in 1893 for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

Ladies and gentlemen, I will now show you moving pictures in animal motion.

His pioneering work in motion photography was commemorated by an inscribed tablet bearing his portrait which was placed in the public library at Upton-on-Thames, England, July 4, 1931.

Cadyweard Muybridge, a great pioneer of motion pictures!

It was Cadyweard Muybridge's pioneer work with the zoopraxiscope that led Thomas A. Edison to develop the kinetoscope, the fore runner of today's complex motion picture cameras and projectors.

Indeed, Cadyweard Muybridge can well be honored with the title, "Grandfather of Pictures in Motion!"

The End.