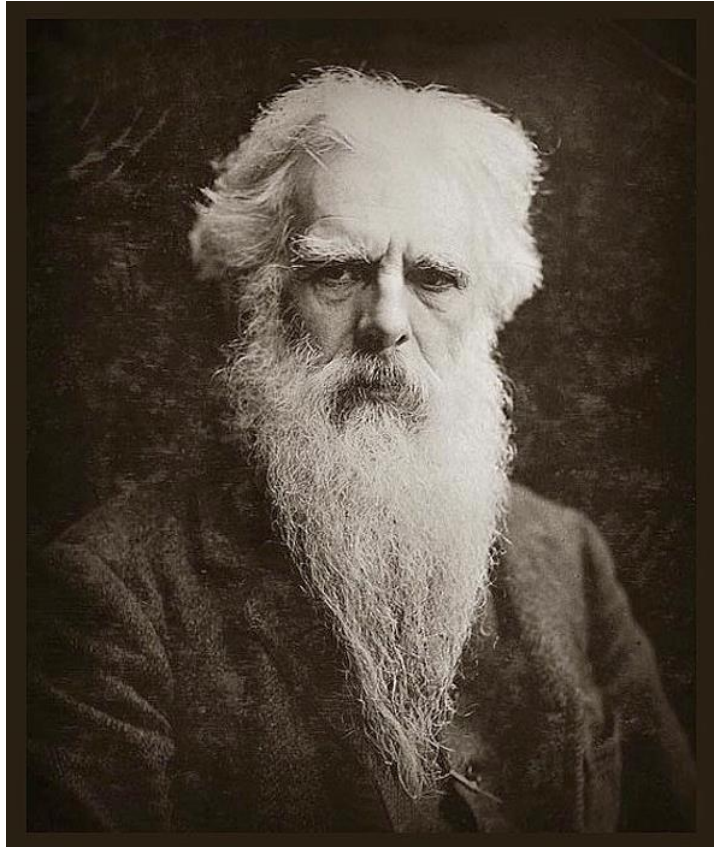


**#41 June 2019 Cameraderie**  
**Eadweard Muybridge (1830-1904)**



Let's go almost all the way back, to the birth of photography. While not the only early photographer, Eadweard Muybridge holds a special place in photographic history for his monumental images of the West, and his motion studies of humans and animals. He used multiple cameras activated by tiny trip-wire threads to capture thousands of studies of humans and animals in motion.

Here is the Wikipedia article on Muybridge:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eadweard\\_Muybridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eadweard_Muybridge)

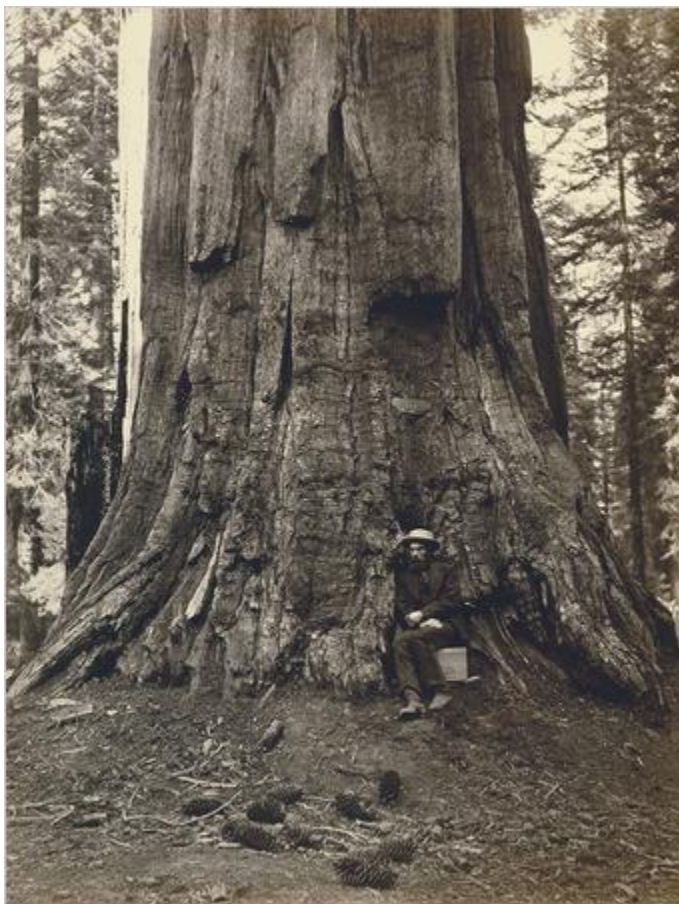
The famous "trotting horse" question, is answered in the Wikipedia article. Most observers of horse gaits at the time agreed that a horse at a gallop had all four feet off the ground at the same time, but they were mistaken in thinking it was as all four legs were outstretched. Muybridge's verified that all four feet were off the ground at the same time, but rather it was when they were gathered under the horse's body, switching from pulling with front legs to pushing with the rear legs. Muybridge's photos also surprisingly showed there was a moment in both the cantering and the trotting gait when all four feet were off the ground at the same time.

Here is a New York Times article on the Muybridge show at the Corcoran Gallery of Art here in Washington in 2010:  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/27/arts/design/27muybridge.html>

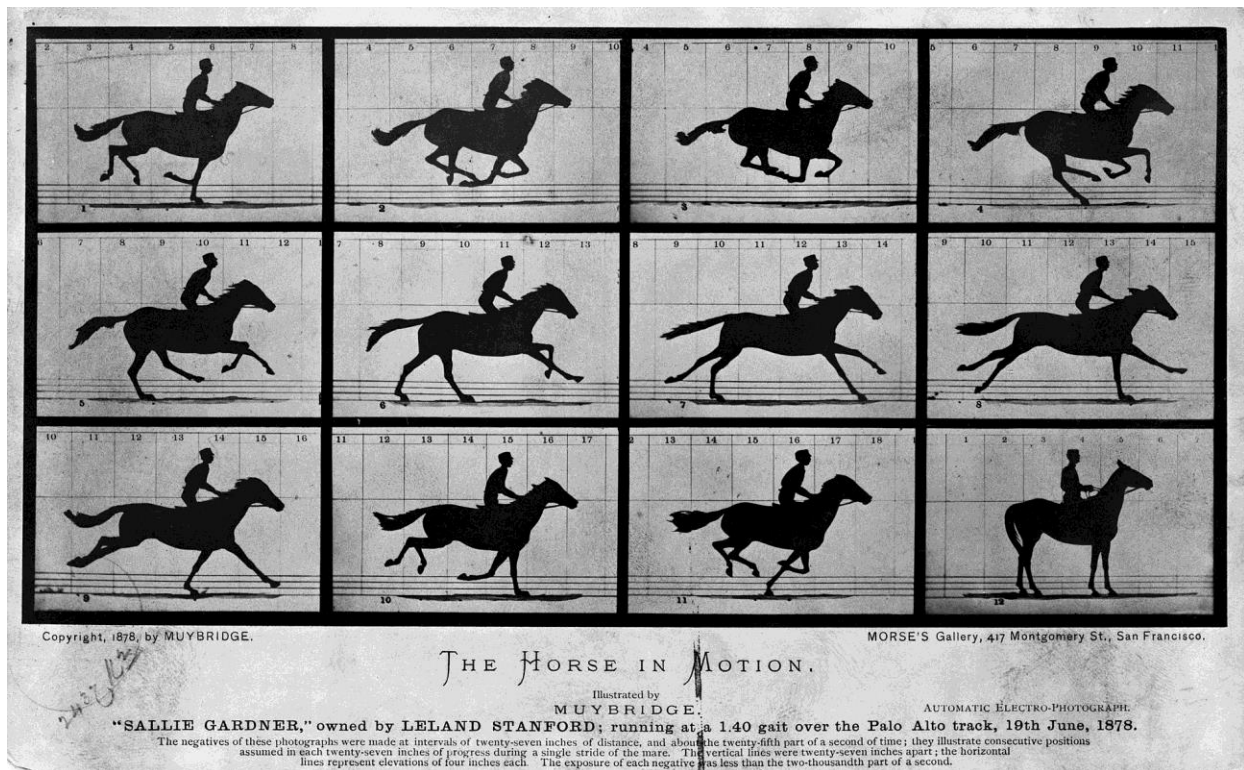
I attended this show in 2010, and learned from the show posters that the Corcoran collection of Muybridge's photographs had a strange and fortunate history. Muybridge asked the Corcoran to take his motion study images into their collection, but the Corcoran was not interested. Muybridge persisted, claiming (correctly, as it turned out) that they would be of great historical value, and that the Corcoran simply *must* preserve them in their collection. He would not let up, and eventually the Corcoran relented and accepted the collection. How fortunate for them, to become the holder of the greater part of Muybridge's heritage!

Here are some samples of Muybridge's work.

Eadweard Muybridge is captured in 1872 in the Grant Mariposa Grove at Yosemite



Here is Muybridge's horse in motion study that he prepared for public distribution.



Here are a couple of other samples of Muybridge's animal and human motion studies.

