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Platinum Process for Photographic Prints

A nearly forgotten photographic process which produces platinum prints with a most attractive appearance and a permanency which far exceeds those produced by more conventional processes is recalled in a recent article by G. L. Wakefield (*Amat. Photogr.*, 1976, **154**, (25), 67–69). Processes employing platinum group metals have been known for over a hundred years and as early as 1873 William Willis was granted a patent for "Improvements in Photo-chemical Printing" where he employed salts of platinum and iridium. In more recent times commercial availability of the sensitised materials has

been progressively reduced and at the same time the development of newer techniques has displaced the necessary processing data from many of the photographic textbooks.

Prints of considerable age produced by one or other of these platinum processes can still be seen in many of the larger collections of photographic prints where their intrinsic beauty can be admired and the technical skills of the photographer appreciated. Although unlikely to have much influence on the present photographic situation the techniques still appear to offer considerable potential to the creative enthusiast.