Sarah Moore Grimke, Margaret Jones Burleigh, and Abby Kimber

Two Cased Half-Plate Tin Type Portraits of Philadelphia Abolitionist and Women's Rights Advocates Sarah More Grimke, Margaret Jones Burleigh, and Abby Kimber

[Philadelphia?]: [circa 1860]

Two half-plate tin types of Female Abolitionist and Women's Rights activists from Philadelphia. One is a group portrait, with Margaret Jones Burleigh seated on the left, Sarah Moore Grimke seated on the right, and Abby Kimber standing between them. Mounted in one-half of a leather case, tarnish on the matt, but the image is just about fine. The second is a seated portrait of Abby Kimber holding a small photo album with metal clasp on her lap in one hand, and with the other arm rested on a table. Her cheeks have been slightly tinted in the image. Mounted in one-half of a leather case, slight tarnish on the matt, but the image is fine.

Abby Kimber taught at her father’s Kimberton School in Chester County, outside of Philadelphia, which advocated the absence of authority. She was a very active abolitionist, and was, among other positions, the President of the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society, on which she served with Lucretia Mott. She was a delegate to the London World Anti-Slavery Convention in London in 1840, which, according to an essay by Kathryn Kish Sklar in *The Abolitionist Sisterhood: Women’s Political Culture in Antebellum America* “occup[ied] an important place in the history of American women because it was there that Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton first met and conceived the need for a separate women’s rights movement... There Stanton was transformed by her contact with Mott and other American women delegates to the convention. In her memoirs Stanton lovingly named them: Emily Winslow, Abby Southwick, Elizabeth Neall, Mary Grew, Abby Kimber, Sarah Grew, and Lucretia Mott.”

Margaret Jones Burleigh According to Gay Gibson Cina in *Performing Anti-Slavery: Activist Women on Antebellum Stages* Burleigh was unusual at the time for maintaining a (reasonably) open sex relationship with Mary Grew (who was herself the President of the Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association), who she notes (in quoting a contemporary historian) “devoted to Grew with that affection passing the love of men which many of these anti-slavery women manifest toward one another.”

Sarah Moore Grimke was an important abolitionist, but more importantly a towering figure in women’s rights. Born in South Carolina but opposed to slavery, she eventually moved to Philadelphia with her sister Angelina, after they had both become Quakers. The sisters were leading abolitionists and teachers, founding a school at the Raritan Bay Union, a utopian colony in New Jersey, where they taught the children of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. More particularly, Sarah became a leading advocate of women’s rights, she was invited but could not attend the Seneca Fall’s Convention. Here 1838 *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes, and the Condition of Women* later formed some of the arguments that fueled the writings and teachings of Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Lucy Stone.

Our research indicates that seem to be previously unknown images. Unlike daguerreotypes where each image is unique, tin types were reproducible. However, the fact that these are previously unknown, and relatively large format images, would tend to suggest that they are likely unique. [BTC#398375]