



**Winterthur/University of Delaware
Program in Art Conservation
Conservation Report**



Accession #: 2001.0017.0003

Object: [Portrait of an unidentified man]

Object Date: 1880-1890

Artist/Author: Parlor Gallery, 525 S. Ninth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Materials: Albumen photographic cabinet card

Owner: University of Delaware Museums: "The Baltimore Collection"

Permanent Location: UD Museums Collections

Reason for Treatment or Examination: Examined as part of the photograph block documentation project and aimed to add to the curatorial and conservation body of knowledge

Examined by: Julianna Ly, WUDPAC 2020

Report Date: January 7, 2018

DESCRIPTION

This is an albumen photographic full-length portrait cabinet card of a standing black man leaning against a column studio prop.

CONDITION

The image measures 10 cm wide by 14.8 cm in length on a mount measuring 10.8 cm wide by 16.4 cm in length.

The albumen image is in overall poor, unstable condition. It appears to have significantly discolored due to its overall yellow cast. The surface exhibits a thick layer of grime throughout and the albumen image is delaminating from the cabinet card support due to its previous contact with moisture. The grime appears to be most concentrated to the bottom left corner and along the left edge. There are areas of small black accretions along the edges where the photograph meets the mount that could be associated with mold damage. There is a small area of mold that appears purple in appearance along the right edge of the photograph, approximately 6 cm up from the bottom right edge. There are two areas of loss in the top-most paper layer of the mount that appears to have resulted from insect grazing. Two deposits of frass are visible below in corresponding areas on the second top most paper layer of the mount. There is a dark accretion 4.3 cm in from the bottom left corner and 1 cm up into the bottom of the image. There are two stains located in the top right corner. All of the edges appear to be worn and creased.

The verso exhibits extreme mold damage that is both disfiguring and visually distracting. There is a concentrated area of what appears to be inactive black mold in the left/center of the verso. The back of the mount appears to have been once against an envelope that has chemically offset the outline of the envelope fold onto the back. The entire verso has a pink/purple cast that could have occurred from dye bleed when in contact with the envelope as a result of moisture exposure. The surface has significant grime and staining and has "6546" written in what appears to be graphite on the bottom left corner of the verso. The top left corner appears to have been creased and the bottom right corner exhibits a small loss most likely from handling and use.