



Winterthur/University of Delaware  
Program in Art Conservation  
Conservation Report



**Accession #:** 2001.0017.0005

**Object:** [Portrait of Robert G. Ingersoll]

**Object Date:** 1890 - 1900

**Artist/Author:** Unknown

**Materials:** Silver printing-out print (POP) photograph 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 photo block documentation project and aimed to add to the curatorial and conservation body of knowledge.

**Examined by:** Joanna Hurd, WUDPAC 2020

**Report Date:** January 17, 2018

**Dimensions:** Image: 5" x 3.4" (12.7 x 8.7 cm)

Mount: 6.3" x 3.8" (16.2 x 9.9 cm)

## **DESCRIPTION**

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The photograph is a portrait of Robert G. Ingersoll mounted on a cabinet card. The recto of a card has "Robert G. Ingersoll" printed in green in the center of the bottom edge with "Newsboy 373 New York" in larger green print underneath. The verso of the card is faced with an advertisement for Red Indian Cut Plug Tobacco printed on lightweight paper.

## **CONDITION**

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The photograph is in poor condition overall with significant water damage to the top third. The water damage has resulted in severe cockling of the paper support as well as dark purple staining, possibly from mold, and swaths of losses in the gelatin layer. Additional losses in the gelatin layer are located along the right and bottom edge and are accompanied by swelling of the paper support. A 3 ¼" crack in the binder layer extends from the center of the top edge to the figure's collar and has darkened with purple staining. Scratches and abrasion have led to loss in the gelatin layer in the face of the figure and along the bottom and left edges exposing the baryta layer. Purple staining as well as additional surface dirt and stains are featured throughout the image. Slight silver mirroring is visible along the left, right, and bottom edges.

The cabinet card is also in poor condition with the facing papers delaminating from the core. Purple tidelines are found along the top and right edges of the recto as well as across the verso. The recto of the card is soiled and discolored, especially along the outline of the photograph. Black specks are visible throughout and may also be attributed to mold.

The recto and verso surfaces of the photograph, as well as the mounting materials, were gently dry cleaned with cosmetic sponges to reduce loose soiling.