



Winterthur/University of Delaware
Program in Art Conservation
Conservation Report



Accession #: 2001.0017.0006

Object: [Portrait of an Unidentified Young Girl Wearing a Lace Collar]

Object Date: 1904-1911

Artist/Creator: Harry A. Plumley, Baltimore Photographic Company, 588 North Gay Street, Baltimore, Maryland)

Materials: Matte collodion photographic print toned with platinum

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 with aims to add to the curatorial and conservation body of knowledge

Examined by: Tracy Liu, WUDPAC 2020

Report Date: 17 January 2018

Size:

Image: 10 x 9.8 cm (3.93 x 3.87 in)

Mount: 16.7 x 10.9 cm (6.56 x 4.31 in)

Description: Matte collodion portrait of a young girl showing three-quarters view of the bust and mounted to typical dark mounting board.

Condition Overview: The photograph is generally in good condition – it is structurally sound (no complete losses or eminent risk of future loss) and is stable to transportation and routine handling. The surface has light grime and dirt accumulation. This aside, there are relatively few condition issues with the print, with the main concern centering on discoloration in the collodion binder, which manifests itself as light brown spots that are particularly noticeable in the dark tones. While there are no deep gauges or areas of complete loss, light scratches (readily noticeable under raking light) pervade the surface of the collodion layer.

The mount, composed of five layers (three of cardstock sandwiched between two grey-colored paper sheets) is in fairly good condition – it remains flat and scratch/abrasion free, save for a small 1.5 mm diameter spot of loss near the right border of the photographic image and a small loss to the gray-colored paper layer in the upper left-hand corner. Despite its pristine look, its layers are delaminating. The mount must be handled very carefully as the five layers readily separate from one another. The photographic image is also lifting from all four sides from the mount.

Treatment Summary: Surface grime and dirt was removed with light tamping using a cosmetic sponge until sponge surface ceased to pick up grime.