



Winterthur/University of Delaware
Program in Art Conservation
Conservation Report



Accession #: 2001.0017.0019

Object: [Portrait of a seated woman with two children]

Object Date: 1890-1900

Artist/Author: B.W. Stein Studio, 1827 7th Street N.W., Washington, D.C.

Materials: Cabinet card, silver gelatin developing-out print (DOP)

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

Permanent Location: UD Museums Collections

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

Examined by: Melissa King, WUDPAC 2020

Report Date: January 11, 2018

DESCRIPTION

This image is 13.7 cm x 8.7 cm and the mount is 16.1 cm x 10.4 cm. The image is a portrait of a seated woman with a baby on her lap and a young boy in a sailor's outfit standing to the woman's right with his hand resting on the arm of the chair. The mount has an embossed scrollwork design along the front border and has the photography studio's name and address stamped on the verso, "B.W. Stein Studio, 1827 7th Street N.W., Washington D.C."

CONDITION

The photograph and mount are in poor condition. There is an overall accumulation of surface dirt that makes it difficult to see the image. The silver image has a brownish-yellow tonality which is possibly the result of poor processing or silver oxidation and the formation of collodion silver particles. The photograph also has evidence of mold damage that has a light reddish-brown appearance localized on the photograph. Darker mold spots are also apparent on the recto of the primary support particularly along the bottom. There are dark brown splatters on the surface of the image of an unknown substance. Fingerprints are evident along the edges of the photograph that may have left behind an oily residue that attracted dirt to the surface. Along the edges of the photograph and in one spot on the proper right the sitter's skirt there are some losses to the gelatin exposing the white baryta layer below.

The cardboard mount has a warm brown-yellow tonality which could be the result of some yellowing. It is evident that the cardboard is delaminating particularly along the edges and corners. The bottom left corner of the mount has been bent causing cracking on the recto and loss of some of the layers of the cardboard on the verso. The verso has some losses to the facing paper close to the bottom and along the top and side edges. There is some surface abrasion on the embossed scrollwork revealing a lighter color of the fibers below. There are some splatter marks that appear consistent to those found on the recto and some white colored surface accretion that has a chalk-like consistency on the bottom left side.

TREATMENT

The photograph and mount were dry cleaned with cosmetic sponges and eraser sponged. A 25:75 solution of deionized water and ethanol on a cotton swab were used to reduce surface dirt on the surface. Water color paints were used with a 50:50 deionized water and ethanol diluent to in paint in areas that were isolated with a 2% solution of methyl cellulose. Minor consolidation was done along the corners of the mount board with 5% methyl cellulose.