



Winterthur/University of Delaware
Program in Art Conservation
Conservation Report



Accession #: 2001.0017.0020

Object: [Portrait of an unidentified woman]

Object Date: 1880-1900

Artist/Author: Proctor and Finley, 409 N. Gay St, Baltimore, Maryland

Materials: Albumen on a secondary support card (differs from database)

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: Lindsey Zachman, WUDPAC 2020

Report Date: January 8, 2018

DESCRIPTION

This is a rectangular shaped albumen cabinet card, depicting a woman standing in a photography studio with furniture props.

CONDITION

The silver image is faded overall and is in poor condition. Due to the fading, much of the detail in the highlights is lost. The photograph has also discolored overall to a yellow cast. The photograph and secondary support card mount have a fine layer of soiling built up on all surfaces. Along the left edge, midway from top to bottom, the gelatin binder appears to have been lifted and folded over. Purple and brown staining can be seen throughout, possibly indicative of mold and moisture damage. Small dark spots are scattered across the top third of the photograph, particularly concentrated on the woman's shoulders, face, and the background immediately around her upper body. These spots can be seen along the right edge of the photo, as well as the bottom right corner. There is minor cracking and abrasion to the binder layer throughout. There are also light-colored spots that are particularly visible in the woman's skirt. The top left corner of the photo has a small dog-ear crease, still folded inward. The top right corner appears to have likewise been creased, but the corner has been lost. The bottom right corner has been creased but currently lies flat. The photograph has almost fully separated from the card mount, and has curled likely as a result of the ambient humidity (and as a consequence of no longer being adhered to the card). The supporting card has been abraded and is delaminating into multiple layers.

On the verso, the purple and brown staining is also visible, as are additional bends/creases. The name of the photographer and the location of the studio is stamped on the central verso and the ink appears to be in stable condition.



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Accession #: 2001.0017.0031

Object: [Photograph of an unidentified woman and an unidentified child on a porch]

Object Date: 1915-1925

Artist/Author: Unknown

Materials: 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: Lindsey Zachman, WUDPAC 2020

Report Date: January 8, 2018

DESCRIPTION

This is a rectangular shaped silver gelatin developing-out-print photograph, depicting a seated woman with a teddy bear in her lap and a small child standing next to her.

CONDITION

The silver image is in poor condition overall. The photograph has discolored overall to a yellow cast, with much of the detail in the highlights lost. The filamentary silver image deterioration is faded overall and in localized concentrated spots. The photograph has a fine layer of soiling built up on both sides. Staining has occurred in small spots scattered throughout in varying tones of brown, and varying in size from small spots to those large enough to cause tidelines. One of the darker stains can be seen as a series of spots lower on the apron. There are also several small accretions in the upper portion of the photograph. The image and gelatin binder layer have been lost in a few small spots within the image, notably next to the woman's right shoulder and in the center of the concrete. Along the edge of the photograph and with raking light, silver mirroring can be seen in the dense image areas. The binder has cracked and flaked along the edges of the photograph. The photograph has been abraded in numerous locations. Many creases are present throughout the photograph, particularly along the bottom and left edge, as well as the corners. These creases have also resulted in tears, losses, and small folded areas along the left edge. Large sections of the bottom two corners have been lost, torn on an angle.

On the verso, the surface soiling can also be seen overall. The staining can be seen throughout and the same creases can be seen along the edges that are visible from the front.



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Accession #: 2001.0017.0034

Object: [Portrait of an unidentified adult woman]

Object Date: 1900-1920

Artist/Author: Unknown

Materials: 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: Lindsey Zachman, WUDPAC 2020

Report Date: January 8, 2018

DESCRIPTION

This is a silver gelatin developing-out-print photograph, depicting a portrait of a woman gazing directly at the camera.

CONDITION

The silver image and mount are in very poor condition overall. The image has faded and discolored overall to a yellow cast. There is extensive purple and brown staining across the majority of the sitter that is likely the result of moisture and mold damage. The staining obscures the right side of the sitter's face, her shoulders, and part of the left side of her body. It also continues across the entire bottom of the photograph. The image and binder are especially damaged in those areas exposed to moisture. There are small losses throughout. The top right corner of the photograph has been bent and abraded, resulting in image and binder loss. Small abrasions can be seen along the edge of the photograph. The bottom right corner has been creased with a small amount of loss. The paper mount (to which the photograph is only attached at the top and left side) is in very poor, unstable condition. It is likewise stained and is fragmentary, with large amounts of losses along all edges. The losses are so great from the backing paper that it is difficult to determine the original edge of the paper and how far it extended.

The verso shows purple tide lines and other faint staining. Visible from the back, the mounting paper appears to have been creased across the entire width at several different angles.



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Accession #: 2001.0017.0053

Object: [Tintype portrait of a woman]

Object Date: 1880-1890

Artist/Author: Unknown

Materials: Tintype

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: Lindsey Zachman, WUDPAC 2020

Report Date: January 8, 2018

DESCRIPTION

This is a tintype photograph, depicting a woman standing in what appears to be in a photography studio.

CONDITION

The silver image is in poor condition overall. The image has faded slightly and discolored slightly overall to a yellow color. The collodion binder and varnish layers have fine cracks throughout, likely due in part to the plate flexing. The image and binder layer are lifting, flaking, and lost in small locations across the entire image. The largest of these losses can be seen to the right of the woman's skirt, but smaller losses are seen within the skirt and top, along the bottom of the plate, and scattered across the background of the image. Within some of these losses, rust has formed. This can be seen particularly along the bottom edge and within the woman's shirt. Around some of the losses, when examined with raking light, there appears silvery-looking rings that may actually be the varnish layer lifting and separating from the image surface. This is particularly noticeable around the losses toward the bottom of the plate. Silver oxidation is visible along the top and left edge. The additional details added in by hand appear to be stable. There is blind cleavage and a lifting image/binder that passes diagonally from left to right, top to bottom, that intersects with the right cheek of the woman, and passes underneath her added necklace. These details are at risk of loss should that degradation continue and lead to flaking. There is also discoloration in the background above the woman's head. The iron japanned plate exhibits planar distortion, and losses on the corners and edge, likely due to corrosion.

On the verso, corrosion of the metal plate is very evident, with numerous patches of red-orange rust present. There are very small fragments of paper along the upper portion of the back, possibly from a paper seal, or previous mount, although their extreme fragmentary nature leaves them a mystery.