



Winterthur/University of Delaware
Program in Art Conservation
Conservation Report



Accession #: 2001.0017.0030

Object: [Portrait of an unidentified woman in a studio interior]

Object Date: 1910-1920

Artist/Author: Unknown

Materials: Photographic postcard, 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 9, 2018

DESCRIPTION

This is a 13.7 cm x 8.6 cm rectangular image of a woman in a dark colored dress with a sheer shawl standing next to a desk in a photograph studio. The reverse of the image has the text, "POST CARD" with a division line for the correspondence and address.

CONDITION

The photograph is in poor condition. It has surface dirt and staining overall including purple-colored mold damage. The mold damage is particularly evident along the edges of the recto and along the edges of the binder loss. The verso also exhibits a great amount of purple-colored mold damage, as well as many fly specks and some brown stains along the bottom edge of the postcard that has the appearance of oil stains. The silver image has greatly faded and has a yellow-brown tonality. Small light-colored spots where the silver image appears to be gone could be the result of mold or water damage. There are some losses to the binder layer particularly along the edges that expose the baryta layer below. These losses are also evident in highly localized areas on the sitter's face and hand possibly due to previous cleaning attempts that caused the gelatin to swell and pull off if the image was stacked in a wet environment. There is a dark-green colored accretion that has the appearance of paint near the sitter's proper left shoulder, and a black accretion is on the top right of the recto.