



Winterthur/University of Delaware
Program in Art Conservation
Conservation Report



Accession #: 2001.0017.0033

Object: [Portrait of an Unidentified Woman Wearing a Pleated, Basque Waistline Dress]

Object Date: 1894-1901

Artist/Creator: Dora Russell (Mrs. William G. Russell), 109 W. Lexington, Baltimore, MD)

Materials: Silver gelatin POP or DOP photographic print

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: 9.8 x 6.8 cm (3.87 x 2.68 in)

Mount: 15.2 x 11.1 cm (6 x 4.37 in)

Description: Heavily faded and mold damaged rectangular shaped photographic print of a standing woman.

Condition Overview: The photograph is in poor condition. While it is structurally sound (no complete losses) and stable to transportation and routine handling, it has sustained severe mold damage (present primarily in the upper half of the print) which has significantly stained the gelatin layer and weakened the paper fibers. The print has a small tear along the top border and an area of loss to both the image and gelatin layer near the upper left-hand corner of the print, both of which correspond to areas of heaviest mold accretion. The silver in the print has also yellowed and faded significantly with concentrated areas of discoloration present in scattered locations on the printed image. Finally, there are a few concentrated areas of damage to the image and gelatin binder (that are not in areas of high mold damage) – one on the woman’s chin and a few in the background area above her head.

The mount is also in poor condition – the mold damage has advanced to the degree of having blackened accretions along the top and left-hand borders. Tears are present in two locations on the right border. The first, located in the upper right-hand corner, has both shelves in tact and is not readily noticeable. The second, located at the midsection, is readily noticeable due to the bottom half being folded back on itself. Additionally, the mount has areas of partial loss localized in the upper right-hand corner where it seems the top layer of the paper has delaminated. The reverse side shows signs of staining from previous water damage.

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