



Winterthur/University of Delaware
Program in Art Conservation
Conservation Report



Accession #: 2001.0017.0040

Object: [Portrait of middle-aged man standing]

Object Date: 1880-1890

Artist/Author: Unknown

Materials: Albumen 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 and aimed to add to the curatorial and conservation body of knowledge

Examined by: Yang Xu, WUDPAC 2020

Report Date: January 10, 2018

DESCRIPTION

This photograph is a studio portrait depicts a middle-aged man standing with his left hand resting on wooden frame of a fence. The background is a painted backdrop with foliage. Such settings reflect an outdoor scene, which was rare in the studio portraits at that time, while it appears in several photos of this collection. This is a full-length portrait. In his right hand he holds, and slightly tips on angle, a bowler hat. He delicately crosses his left calf over his right. He wears a light-colored overcoat over his suit: a medium length jacket, vest, and trousers.

This photograph is an unmounted albumen print on woven paper. Taking the processing technique, the costume and other characteristics of the figure into consideration, it was probably printed in 1880-1890.

CONDITION

This photograph is in fair condition overall.

Since the photo is unmounted, for an albumen print, it has potential risk of structural damage. The thin paper is flat overall, with slight curl. There are two tears on the left and right edges, and a crease across the upper right corner. Mending and mounting were suggested for future conservation.

The photograph yellowed overall during these years. There is a clear boundary of color change lies in the lower quarter of the image. The upper part degraded much more than the lower quarter of the image, which indicates the upper part was exposed to the light more than the other part.

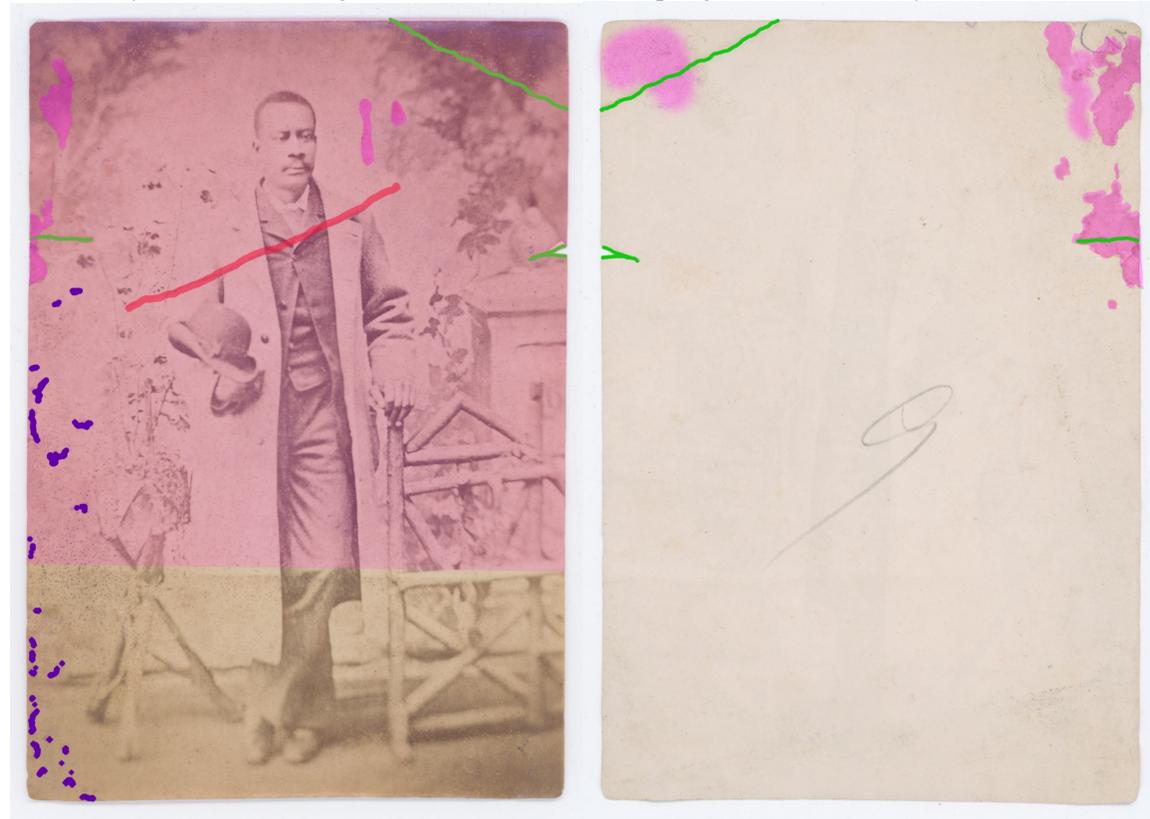
There are many inactive mold specks mainly located on the left lower part of the image. These black specks were embedded into the paper through examination under the microscope. They appears to be black accretions on the surface.

The mold damage also causes purplish staining on the left edge. There are red staining near the man's face, and staining of water tide lines on the upper left corner. On the verso, there are water tide lines on the upper right corner, pencil marks in the center and upper right edge. Greasy staining of fingerprint is on the upper left corner caused by handling.

There is a thin layer of grime on both surfaces of recto and verso, and dirt deposits on the tears' edge, abraded areas, and around the mold specks.

Abrasions mainly happened on the recto, leading to surface damage. The degraded binder material causes crackles, which can be seen through 50X magnification. There is a large scratch across the man's breast and shoulders, where the binder material lost and dirt deposits.

Surface dry and wet cleaning was done with cosmetic sponge and natural enzyme solution.



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| ■ Discoloration due to material off-set, uneven/localized discoloration and/or staining, acidic migration, and tide lines | ■ Mold/mold damage | ■ Discoloration due to material off-set, uneven/localized discoloration and/or staining, acidic migration, and tide lines | ■ Mold/mold damage |
| ■ Mechanical damage to primary or secondary support resulting in tears, folds, creases, and other planar distortions | ■ Damage to image, it's binder, and/or lacquer due to loss, abrasion, flaking, cracking, crazing, and planar distortion | ■ Mechanical damage to primary or secondary support resulting in tears, folds, creases, and other planar distortions | ■ Damage to image, it's binder, and/or lacquer due to loss, abrasion, flaking, cracking, crazing, and planar distortion |
| ■ Silver image deterioration such as localized fading, mirroring, and yellowing | ■ Tape or adhesive residue | ■ Silver image deterioration such as localized fading, mirroring, and yellowing | ■ Tape or adhesive residue |
| ■ Accretions and localized surface dirt | ■ Complete loss of primary and secondary supports, binder, and image | ■ Accretions and localized surface dirt | ■ Complete loss of primary and secondary supports, binder, and image |
| | ■ Iron corrosion | | ■ Iron corrosion |

The portrait of a middle-aged man, conditions summary diagram, recto and verso