



Winterthur/University of Delaware
Program in Art Conservation
Conservation Report



Accession #: 2001.0017.0046

Object: [Portrait of standing woman]

Object Date: 1874-1880

Artist/Author: Unknown

Materials: Albumen

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 rectangular shaped carte-de-visite photograph with an albumen photograph (5.8 cm x 9.2 cm) of a woman standing next to a piece of furniture. The photograph is adhered to a piece of cardboard (6.2 cm x 10.3 cm) with the following gold-colored text on the bottom: "Kuhn & Cummins. 48 & 50 N. Charles St. Baltimore." The text is repeated on the verso in script format on top of a calendared, patterned piece of paper adhered to the cardboard.

CONDITION

The mounted photograph is in relatively poor to fair condition. It has overall surface dirt and staining. The silver image is faded overall to a brownish-yellow tonality. The albumen binder has yellowed and exhibits a fine crackle pattern that is visible under magnification. There appears to be some inclusions (possibly metal salts) that look like dark stains. One of the inclusions around the sitter's sleeve has a reddish stain consistent with iron corrosion that has caused the binder and silver image to flake. The photo is curling and detached from the cardboard backing along the bottom edge.

The cardboard support is very dirty overall with purple-colored mold damage. The cardboard is almost completely delaminated and facing paper on the reverse is completely detached.