



Winterthur/University of Delaware
Program in Art Conservation
Conservation Report



Accession #: 2001.0017.0052

Object: [Portrait of an unidentified woman wearing a ruffled, three-tiered skirt]

Object Date: 1850-1870

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: Yan Ling Choi, WUDPAC 2020

Report Date: January 15, 2018

DESCRIPTION

The object is a tintype mounted on paper and tape, showing a portrait of a woman dressed in a ruffled skirt standing next to a chair to her right.

CONDITION

The mounted photograph measures 6.2 cm wide by 10.1 cm in length. (This differs slightly from the database)

The tintype is in poor condition. The silver image has been protected from oxidation by a varnish layer and is therefore in good condition. However, iron corrosion is visible at all exposed edges. The silver image is obscured by an overall layer of surface dirt and grime. There are losses and lifting in the collodion layer, especially along the left and right edges, revealing the corroded iron support and deteriorated lacquer layer underneath. The tintype is bent at the center, likely due to poor handling. On the verso, filiform corrosion occurs in the iron layer causing the lacquer layer to crack.

The rust particles from the iron support cause staining on the window mat and the pressure sensitive tapes on verso. The window mat on recto is delaminated and completely detached into two pieces.