



Winterthur/University of Delaware
Program in Art Conservation
Conservation Report



Accession #: 2001.0017.0038

Object: [Studio portrait of an unidentified seated woman in front of Capitol Building backdrop]

Object Date: 1918-1930

Artist/Author: Unknown

Materials: Silver gelatin developed-out print

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: Bellie Fichtner, Art Conservation BA 2019

Report Date: January 8, 2018

DESCRIPTION

This silver gelatin developed-out print is mounted on a divided postcard. It shows a woman wearing an empire-waist dress and turban style hat. She is seated in front of a backdrop showing the Capitol Building. The verso of the postcard has an AZO stamp box.

CONDITION

The print measures 8.7 cm wide by 13.8 cm in length. These measurements differ slightly from the current Artstor database record

The photograph is in generally fair condition. It is yellowed and covered in a thin layer of surface grime on the recto and verso. All four corners are slightly creased. There are two areas of continuous brown staining on the right edge. Both the recto and verso are scattered with dark accretions, most likely fly specks. There are also small localized dark and light brown stains, some caused by fly specks. These are concentrated on the top edge and corners of the recto and the left corner of the verso. The binding layer has a slight gloss. The filamentary silver image is faded overall. The original image color is visible at the bottom of the sitter's skirt and in the shadows around her feet.

TREATMENT

1. Digitally photographed recto and verso.
2. Surface cleaned recto and verso using soft brush and cosmetic sponges.
3. Wet cleaned photograph verso using 1:1 solution of deionized water: ethanol on cotton swabs.
4. While working under magnification, removed black accretions from surface of verso using a scalpel. Attempts at removal of accretions on recto were ineffective.
5. Digitally photographed after treatment.
6. Rehoused in standard sized polyester L-sleeve.