



Winterthur/University of Delaware
Program in Art Conservation
Conservation Report



Accession #: 2001.0017.0044c

Object: [Portrait of an unidentified woman wearing a dress with leg-of-mutton sleeves]

Object Date: 1850-1890

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: Karissa Muratore, WUDPAC 2020

Report Date: January 13, 2018

DESCRIPTION

This tintype depicts a standing portrait of a woman facing the camera, in front of an outdoor backdrop taken in a studio setting.

CONDITION

The photograph measures 8.85 cm wide x 6.35 cm long (3.48. x 2.5 inches). These measurements vary from those on Artstor.

The colloidal silver image is in overall fair, unstable condition. In addition to general dirt and grime, there is much loss to the collodion binder and black lacquer (also known as japanning) layers, causing iron corrosion to form on the exposed iron support, mostly along the edges and corners of the plate's recto side. In addition, there are losses to just the collodion binder, causing image loss and revealing the black lacquer underneath it. These losses are throughout the image as small scratches and areas of loss, but are concentrated just the left of the figure's proper right arm, over the figure's proper left arm, in a horizontal line that crosses the tintype just under the figure's proper left hand, and just to the right bottom corner of figure's skirt. All corners except the bottom left one seems to have suffered a small loss of the iron support, and about 1.3 cm of the top right corner of the plate is bent backwards, contributing to the aforementioned loss of the binder and lacquer layers in that area. The verso of the plate exhibits an increased quantity of iron corrosion and exposure of the black japanning/lacquer overall, especially in comparison to the recto.