



Winterthur/University of Delaware
Program in Art Conservation
Conservation Report



Accession #: 2001.0017.0047

Object: [Studio portrait of unidentified woman wearing hat]

Object Date: 1873-1881

Artist/Author: M. Stahn Photography, 87 N. Gay Street, Bet. The Bridge and Front St., Baltimore, Maryland

Materials: Albumen print mounted to a white card

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

A carte de visite (studio) portrait of a woman is a bust length and albumen print portrait. She is pictured in profile, but her head is turned slightly towards the camera, giving a three-quarters view of her face. She does not meet the viewer's gaze. The woman's dress is vertically striped and is embellished with piping at the seams. She is wearing a tall, light colored hat perched on the top of her head.

CONDITION

The image is in a bad condition. The deterioration causes discoloration overall. It degrades badly on the upper and bottom edge of the image. Grime and dust deposited on the surface. There is also mold damage on the surface, both image and mounting card, resulting in the purplish staining. Several small specks and corrosive accretions resulted in the brown staining and loss of binder and image. Some of them located on the figure's face, decreasing the aesthetic value of the portrait. The abrasion, crackles, and loss of the binder material are visible. There is also abrasion on the edge of the mounting card, which tends to be delaminated. The dissociation of the photo and mounting card leaves adhesive residue and dust deposit underneath the edge of the image.

On the verso, there are mold damage and staining overall. Dust deposition, specks and accretions contribute to the dirty surface. Mounting paper degraded, appearing to be yellowing. Abrasion was probably caused by handling.

Surface dry cleaning was done with cosmetic sponge.



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| ■ 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 |
| ■ 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 |
| | ■ Iron corrosion |