

EXAMINATION RECORD—Cased Object

Artist: UNKNOWN **CNS No.:** 0508:12:43
Title/subject: [PORTRAIT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED MAN] **GEH No.:** 77:243:12
Object Date: CA. 1850
Owner: GEH PHOTO ARCHIVES **Dimensions:** 15.1 X 11.9 X 2.0 CM
Medium/Process: CASED ½ PLATE
DAGUERREOTYPE
Support: _x_silver/copper plate _glass _iron _other:
Housing: _x_cased, type: "BOSTON"
Examiner: KATHARINE WHITMAN
Exam Date: 12 SEP. 2005
Authorization for treatment:
Date:

PHOTODOCUMENTATION

1. BT_N0001 CASE RECTO, NORMAL, OVERALL ILLUMINATION
2. BT_N0002 CASE VERSO, NORMAL, OVERALL ILLUMINATION
3. BT_R0001 CASE RECTO, RAKING ILLUMINATION.
4. BT_R0002 CASE VERSO, RAKING ILLUMINATION.
5. BT_N0003 CASE FOREEDGE, NORMAL, OVERALL ILLUMINATION
6. BT_N0004 CASE SPINE, NORMAL, OVERALL ILLUMINATION
7. BT_N0005 CASE TOP EDGE, NORMAL, OVERALL ILLUMINATION
8. BT_N0006 CASE BOTTOM EDGE, NORMAL, OVERALL ILLUMINATION
9. BT_N0007 3-D IMAGE OF CASE RECTO, NORMAL OVERALL ILLUMINATION
10. BT_N0008 3-D IMAGE OF CASE VERSO, NORMAL OVERALL ILLUMINATION
11. BT_N0009 CASE INTERIOR, WITH PLATE, NORMAL, OVERALL ILLUMINATION
12. BT_N0010 CASE INTERIOR, WITHOUT PLATE, NORMAL, OVERALL ILLUMINATION
13. BT_N0011 PLATE RECTO, NORMAL, OVERALL ILLUMINATION
14. BT_N0012 PLATE VERSO, NORMAL, OVERALL ILLUMINATION

CONDITION

Previous Treatment:

THE IMAGE PACK HAS BEEN OPENED. THE ORIGINAL PAPER SEALING TAPE IS MISSING AND THE PRESERVER IS BENT.

Housing: LEATHER COVERED WOOD.

Case: _wood case: _broken _warped _loss _other: THE TL, BL, AND BR CORNERS OF THE TRAY ARE SEPARATED.

Covering: _hinge broken _delaminated _other: INSECT LOSSES ON THE INTERIOR LEATHER ALONG THE CENTRAL HINGE AND ALONG THE OUTER FORE-EDGE. THE LEATHER IS LIFTING ALONG THE BE AND THE LOWER HALF OF THE LE OF THE OUTER TRAY. THE LEATHER ALONG THE BLE OF THE OUTER TRAY IS ABRADED AND ALL OF THE CORNERS ARE WORN. "18" IS WRITTEN IN GOLD INK IN THE TLC OF THE OUTER TRAY.

THE PAPER LINING THE INTERIOR IS DIRTY AND TORN ON THE LE OF THE TRAY.

Clasps: _missing: _corroded _bent _other: PRESENT BUT NOT CATCHING.

Textile

_cushion: _faded _brittle _broken _other: VERY GOOD CONDITION.

_retainer: _faded _brittle _broken _other: GOOD CONDITION.

Preserver: _corroded _bent _broken _other: THE PRESERVER IS TARNISHED, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS THAT WRAP AROUND THE IMAGE PACKAGE.

Cover glass: _broken _deteriorated _other: THE COVER GLASS IS FAIRLY THICK AND SHOWS SIGNS OF NEEDLE-LIKE CRYSTALS FORMING WHEN VIEWED UNDER THE STEREO-MICROSCOPE WITH RAKING REFLECTIVE ILLUMINATION. THERE IS AN ACCRETION ON THE INNER SURFACE OF THE GLASS NEAR THE LEFT EYE OF THE SITTER. THERE IS A WHITE ARCHIVES STICKER AFFIXED TO THE OUTER SURFACE, IN THE BLC OF THE COVER GLASS.

Window mat: _corroded _bent _other: THE BRASS MAT IS TARNISHED WITH SOME CORROSION IN PATCHY AREAS OVERALL.

Image Plate: VERSO IS RATHER DIRTY WITH FINGERPRINTS. MORE WILL BE KNOWN OF THE CONDITION ONCE THE PLATE HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE CURRENT IMAGE PACK.

Surface soiling/accretions: THERE ARE MANY NEEDLE-LIKE CRYSTAL ACCRETIONS FROM THE DETERIORATED COVER GLASS ON THE SURFACE OF THE PLATE. (PLEASE SEE COVER GLASS DETERIORATION ABOVE, AND PLATE TARNISH BELOW)

Scratches: THERE ARE LONG BLACK SCRATCHES IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF THE PLATE. THERE ARE ALSO SOME SLIGHTLY DEEPER, MORE CONCENTRATED SHORT SCRATCHES IN THE REGION OF THE LEFT SIDE OF THE SUBJECT'S MOUTH.

Tarnish: THERE IS A YELLOW TARNISH IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF THE PLATE AND THE EDGES OF TARNISH CAN BE SEEN NEAR THE BRASS MAT. SOME CRYSTALS FROM THE DETERIORATING GLASS HAVE DROPPED TO THE SURFACE OF THE PLATE, CAUSING NUCLEATED HALOING TARNISHING. A MORE IN DEPTH ANALYSIS CAN BE DONE ONCE THE PACKAGE IS OPENED.

Other: THERE ARE PATCHY AREAS OF WHITE HAZE OVER THE VISIBLE AREAS OF THE PLATE.

PROPOSED TREATMENT

Remove accretions: ACCRETIONS WILL BE REMOVED DURING THE AMMONIATED WATER WASH.

Remove tarnish: REMOVE THE YELLOWING WITH AN AMMONIUM WATER BATH.

Glass: ___ cleaned _x_replaced

Rebind: CREATE AN IMAGE PACK FOR THE PLATE SO THAT IT CAN BE REPLACED IN THE CASE.

Repair case: REPAIR THE SEPARATED JOINTS WITH HIDE GLUE AND POLYESTER TISSUE. RE-AFFIX THE LIFTED LEATHER WITH HIDE GLUE.

Other: CREATE NEW HOUSING FOR THE OBJECT THROUGH CONSULTATION WITH THE ARCHIVES.

LOCATION KEY:

TL	TC	TR
CL	C	CR
BL	BC	BR

Note: Where precise locations are specified, the coordinates are given in inches from the closest support edge. 2½ B/ 1¾ L is a point located 2½ inches from the bottom and 1¾ inches from the left edge. E = edge, C=center.

ADDENDUM TO THE EXAMINATION REPORT – 28 SEP./'05

THE IMAGE PACKAGE CONTAINING WAS DISMANTLED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF MARK OSTERMAN.

THE PLATE MEASURES: 13.8 X 10.7 CM AND HAS ROUNDED CORNERS. THE EDGES ARE ROUNDED SLIGHTLY TOWARDS THE VERSO OF THE PLATE. ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS ARE MARKED WITH A **

Window mat: UNDER UVC ILLUMINATION THE RECTO OF THE MAT FLUORESCES ORANGE, WITH DRIP MARKS ONTO THE VERSO, INDICATIVE OF SHELLAC. THE VERSO OF THE MAT STRONGLY GLOWS YELLOW, INDICATIVE OF CYANIDE (?). THE CYANIDE COULD HAVE BEEN LEFT FROM THE PLATING PROCESS. THE FACT THAT THE SAME FLUORESCENCE APPEARS ON THE PLATE WHERE IT WAS IN CONTACT WITH THE MAT SUGGESTS THAT HUMIDITY AND RUBBING COULD HAVE TRANSFERRED THE MATERIAL TO THE PLATE.

Image Plate: VERSO IS RATHER DIRTY WITH FINGERPRINTS.

Surface soiling/accretions: THERE ARE MANY NEEDLE-LIKE CRYSTAL ACCRETIONS FROM THE DETERIORATED COVER GLASS ON THE SURFACE OF THE PLATE. (PLEASE SEE COVER GLASS DETERIORATION ABOVE, AND PLATE TARNISH BELOW)

Scratches: THERE ARE LONG BLACK SCRATCHES IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF THE PLATE.

** THERE ARE SCRATCHES ALONG THE LE OF THE PLATE ASSOCIATED WITH PAST REMOVALS FROM THE IMAGE PACK.

Tarnish: THERE IS A YELLOW TARNISH IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF THE PLATE AND THE EDGES OF TARNISH CAN BE SEEN NEAR THE BRASS MAT. SOME CRYSTALS FROM THE DETERIORATING GLASS HAVE DROPPED TO THE SURFACE OF THE PLATE, CAUSING NUCLEATED HALOING TARNISHING. A MORE IN DEPTH ANALYSIS CAN BE DONE ONCE THE PACKAGE IS OPENED.

** THERE IS TARNISH AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE PLATE. THE BRASS MAT WAS CHANGED AT SOME POINT AND THE TARNISH FOLLOWS THE DESIGN OF THE ORIGINAL MAT. THERE IS ALSO SOME LIGHTER TARNISH ASSOCIATED WITH THE NEW MAT.

Exfoliation: ** THERE IS EXFOLIATION ALONG THE LE OF THE PLATE,

PROBABLY MECHANICALLY CAUSED IN THE REMOVAL PROCESS IN THE PAST.

Losses: ** THERE ARE LOSSES ALONG THE LE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ABOVE DESCRIBED EXFOLIATION.

Other: THERE ARE PATCHY AREAS OF WHITE HAZE OVER THE VISIBLE AREAS OF THE PLATE.

THERE IS DISCOLOURED TOUCH-UP PAINT IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF THE PLATE, NEAR THE CORNER OF THE SUBJECT'S MOUTH.

UNDER UV THERE IS EVIDENCE OF CYANIDE IN THE RUBBED AREAS OF THE PLATE: WHERE THE MAT WAS IN CONTACT WITH THE PLATE (PLEASE SEE MAT CONDITION ABOVE).

IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESERVER AND MAT BE SURFACE CLEANED WITH AMMONIATED WATER TO REDUCE THE TARNISH. THE WASHING OF THE PLATE WILL BE ALTERED IN CONSIDERATION FOR THE EXFOLIATION ALONG THE LE: THE PLATE WILL BE PLACED ON AN INCLINE AND THE WASH WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH A PIPETTE TO INSURE THAT THE EXFOLIATED AREAS ARE NOT WETTED.

SPOKE WITH ALISON NORDSTROM ON 20 OCT/05 AND SHE AGREED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE AMMONIATED WATER TREATMENT.