

TREATMENT RECORD

Artist: UNKNOWN **CNS No.:** 0508:12:43
Title/subject: [PORTRAIT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED MAN] **GEH No.:** 77:243:12
Owner: GEH PHOTO ARCHIVES **Object Date:** CA. 1850
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"
Conservator: Katharine Whitman
Date: 25 October/ 2005

PHOTODOCUMENTATION

15. DT_N0011 Plate recto, normal illumination.
16. DT_N0012 Plate verso, normal illumination.
17. DT_N0013 Plate verso, normal illumination, detail of mechanical exfoliation.
18. DT_N0014 Plate verso, normal illumination, detail of in-painting (?)
19. DT_UV0011 Plate recto, UVC illumination.
20. DT_UV0012 Plate verso, UVC illumination.
21. DT_UV0015 Brass mat recto, UVC illumination.
22. DT_UV0016 Brass mat verso, UVC illumination, showing cyanide residue.
23. DT_S0011 Plate recto, axial specular illumination.
24. AT_S0011 Plate recto, axial specular illumination
25. AT_N0011 Plate recto, normal, overall illumination
26. AT_N0012 Plate verso, normal, overall illumination
27. AT_N0013 Plate verso, normal illumination, detail of mechanical exfoliation.
28. AT_N0014 Plate verso, normal illumination, detail of in-painting (?)
29. AT_N0017 Plate recto, normal illumination, exfoliation after ammoniated water wash.
30. AT_UV0011 Plate recto, UVC illumination
31. AT_N0001 Case recto, normal, overall illumination.
32. AT_N0002 Case verso, normal, overall illumination.
33. AT_N0003 Case foreedge, normal, overall illumination
34. AT_N0004 Case spine, normal, overall illumination
35. AT_N0005 Case top edge, normal, overall illumination
36. AT_N0006 Case bottom edge, normal, overall illumination
37. AT_N0007 3-D image of case recto, normal, overall illumination
38. AT_N0008 3-D image of case verso, normal, overall illumination
39. AT_N0009 Case interior, with plate, normal, overall illumination

TREATMENT

Surface clean: The surface of the plate was cleaned with a pH ~9.8 ammoniated water wash for approximately 1 minute. The plate was held at a 45° angle, image side down during the wash to avoid wetting the exfoliated edge and the verso of the plate. The plate was rinsed with distilled water and then ethanol and acetone and dried under the fume extractors. Some exfoliation occurred in the top right corner of the plate, where there is some strong tarnish (see image).

The brass preserver was cleaned with swabs and distilled water

Remove accretions: The accretions were removed during the ammoniated water wash.

Glass: ___ cleaned replaced: the original cover glass was replaced with framing glass.

Rebind: The plate was rebound into an image pack with Mylar against the verso of the plate, Escal film between the plate and the brass mat, new cover glass, and sealed with two layers of Filmoplast P-90 paper tape (one strip).

Repair case: The corners of the case were repaired with “Professional Titebond liquid hide wood glue”. The paper lining was cleaned with “Absorene dirt sponges”. The leather cover material was reattached with liquid hide glue.

OBSERVATIONS:

Overall, this treatment was successful. The case was able to be satisfactorily stabilized without looking “over treated”.

The ammoniated water wash served the purpose of removing the yellow film from the plate quite well. The exfoliation in the top right corner of the plate was an unfortunate development that may have been prevented with closer inspection, and by not allowing the ammoniated wash to come in contact with the heavily tarnished areas of the plate. Areas of heavy tarnish will tend to exfoliate more readily and therefore these areas should be closely inspected for insipient exfoliation before undertaking any treatment. It is uncertain whether the exfoliation was a result of the surface’s interaction with the ammoniated water, or if it was the rapid temperature changes that occur in the washing and drying process: the application of alcohol and acetone causes the temperature of the plate to drop rapidly, and possible thermal shock to the plate may weaken the electroplated silver’s hold on the clad silver plate. Research needs to be conducted into this possibility.

A final secondary enclosure was created for the cased object. A “tuxedo” design, four-flap enclosure was decided upon because it would provide protection for the case, while being easily handled. In order for the case to be opened, it must be placed upon the table. This negates the risk of the object being dropped while being accessed.

Total Time of Treatment: 6 hours

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.