**Author**

**DESCRIPTION:**

**General Remarks**

This is a photograph album approximately dating to 1892. It contains various civil war photographic portraits (including a portrait of Robert E. Lee) mounted to cabinet cards. The binding patent (incised on the metal clasp) dates to June 6, 1882.

**Binding**

Bound in dark red leather (possibly grained leather) with a blind stamped cover and a silver fore edge clasp. The spine is blind stamped with panel decoration and gold stamped with the title, "Album." Guarded leaf structure. The cover boards are hollow and are most likely constructed from wood and millboard. The boards have beveled exterior edges.

**Textblock**

The textblock is primarily comprised of laminated rigid board leaves with stubs. The fly leaf is a thinner, single stiff board, with "Album" and other decoration printed in gold. The pastedown is a textured gold patterned paper. The cabinet cards are inserted into the leaves through a slot along the bottom edge and are visible through rectangular windows. The leaves are connected by strips of green cloth "v" hinges that are adhered over the stubs and boards and are tucked under the edges of the facing papers. The textblock spine contains pink stuck-on headbands. All edges are gilt.

**Primary Support**

The textblock leaves contain board cores that are covered with thin green decorative facing papers. The facing papers serve as window mats for the photographs.

**Medium**

Gold printed decorative borders are present throughout the textblock windows.

**Attachments|Inserts**

There are 27 albumen (?) cabinet cards housed within the album. Currently the cabinet cards are removed from the album windows and are lying loose inbetween interleaving and the text block leaves. The versos of the cabinet cards contain handwritten inscriptions. The portrait photographs are in fair condition with no signs of apparent fading or scratches but are beginning to delaminate from the cabinet cards. One cabinet card is curling and may not be easily inserted back into the leaf window.

**Housing**

**CONDITION:**
Summary
The album is in poor condition and cannot be handled without causing abrasion to the photos or further damage to the covers and textblock.

Binding
The upper board and spine are detached. There is minor wear along the edges of the boards and spine. The binding is currently in good condition.

Textblock
The gaurded leaf attachment appears stable.

Primary Support
The textblock leaves contain tears and creases around the slots and window edges where the cabinet cards slide in and out. The upper fly leaf is breaking along the edge of the cloth V-hinge.

Medium
The printed gold is friable and vulnerable to lifting.

Housing Narrative
No housing

Attachments | Inserts

Previous Treatment
None

Materials Analysis
Paper fibers are visible under the transparent photographic coatings on the paper portrait photographs, indicating they are most likely albumen.

TREATMENT:

Proposal
1. Dry surface clean the textblock as needed in preparation for mending.
2. Repair tears in the facing papers of the album leaves.
3. Remove the brittle spine linings and headbands. The stuck-on headbands will be retained for reattachment.
4. Re-line the spine. Reattach the headbands.
5. Repair the hinge of the inner joint of the front paste down.
6. Re-attach the textblock to the cover with paper hinges.
7. Re-adhere delaminating albumen prints to the cabinet cards.

Optional: Photograph/Scan versos of cabinet cards so the cabinet cards can be reinserted so the handwritten inscriptions are easily accessible in a digital format.

Reproduce the photograph on the curved cabinet card to re-insert into the album and house the curved card in a folder in the clamshell box with the album.

Housing Need
Cloth clamshell

Factors Influencing Treatment
Re-attachement of binding to cover should maintain the original 180 degree opening of the leaves.

Performed Treatment

Monday, May 05, 2014
Album Treatment:

1. Loose dirt on the textblock and cover were lightly removed with smoke sponges.

2. The friable red-rot leather was consolidated with 2% Klucel G in ethanol with brush application.

3. To reduce corrosion, the clasp was lightly surface cleaned with a cotton swab dampened with mineral spirits.

4. Uso Mino thin tissue was toned with Golden Acrylics to match the green album leaf paper and the golden cloth textblock hinges. A linen-kozo tissue laminate was toned to match the purple album leather.

5. The break line in the fly leaf was repaired with the green toned Uso Mino thin kozo paper and Zen Shofu wheat starch paste. To repair, the inner cloth hinge adhered to the fly leaf was lifted with a spatula. The Uso Mino thin tissue was pasted over the break line and allowed to dry. The cloth hinge was then re-adhered back into place on top of the Uso Mino thin tissue repair with wheat starch paste. Only a minimal amount of the repair is visible.

6. Weak areas of the cloth fly leaf hinge were strengthened with a tissue repair using the gold toned Uso Mino tissue and wheat starch paste.

7. The repairs in the break line and hinge of the fly leaf were inpainted with Schmincke watercolors.

8. The leather on the boards was lifted with lifting knives.

9. Tears in the leather along the joint were re-joined with Lascaux 498 HV.

10. Sheets of un-buffered Light Impressions interleaving tissue were inserted into the album windows to protect the cabinet cards from each other and from extant original acidic brown interleaving paper. Many windows did not contain the original brown interleaving paper, but the ones that did were kept.

11. The photographs were fed into the bottom window slots prior to mending the textblock album tears in the leaves. This allowed the photos to be inserted easily without causing further tearing.

12. Tears in the facing papers of the album leaves were repaired using wheat starch paste and toned kozo tissue. Before repairing, a sheet of Hollytex was slid under the window’s facing paper to protect the photograph below. Some windows with large tears were repaired with tissue on the recto or verso, but many tears were repaired by simply pasting the overlapping champfer tears together.

13. The textblock mends were inpainted with Schmincke watercolors.

14. The album spine linings were removed using a methyl cellulose poultice. The stuck-on headbands were retained for reattachment.

15. The spine was re-lined with wheat starch and Uso Mino tissue and a linen cloth lining. The linen cloth lining was adhered with a 1:1 ratio of PVA and methyl cellulose mix. The stuck on headbands were re-attached with wheat starch paste on top of the cloth lining.

16. A hollow tube was constructed out of Moriki colored kozo tissue and adhered two-on with 1:1 ratio of PVA and methyl cellulose.

17. The upper cover was re-attached with the cloth hinge from the linen spine lining. It was adhered to the outside of the board beneath the lifted leather with the PVA/methyl cellulose mix. The lower cover
18. The album was re-backed by adhering the toned tissue/cloth laminate to the hollow tube and under the leather on the boards with PVA.

19. The original leather spine was adhered to the new re-backed spine with PVA.

Cabinet Card Treatment:

1. General Lee’s delaminating photograph was re-adhered to the cabinet card with wheat starch paste and dried in-between blotters under light weight.

2. All of the photographs and cabinet cards were surface cleaned to remove overall dirt with vinyl eraser crumbs. Block vinyl erasers were used on the cabinet cards in areas with localized smudges.

3. Photographs with grimy spots were surface cleaned locally with cotton swabs dampened with filtered water.

4. The concave distortion in the curved cabinet card was gradually reduced over time by keeping it lightly underweight in the lab’s ambient environment over a six-month period.

5. The curved cabinet card was inserted in a window by itself. Placing it alone without a cabinet card on the verso helped to compensate for the thickness from the slight planar distortion; therefore, making a photographic replica to insert in the album was not necessary.

Housing Provided
Corrugated clamshell

Housing Narrative
A cloth covered clamshell was constructed but did not fit properly, therefore a corrugated clamshell was constructed to save time [CV].

Storage Recommendations and Handling notes
The album must be handled with the aid of a cradle. As the pages are turned, the album cover opening should be adjusted to let the album pages open naturally. NEVER push on the album pages to open. This may cause the original cloth hinges to crack.

Albumen photographs are susceptible to changes in humidity. As albumen ages, it expands and contracts in various atmospheres and tends to crack. Albumen photographs are also prone to curing and delaminating from mounts in low humidity. The photographs should be stored in an environment with consistent humidity.

TOTAL Treatment Time
21.75 hrs
The Preservation Lab

Treatment Report Cont'd

Before Treatment

After Treatment
i18380281_772_A4N, torn windows and slots, Before Treatment

i18380281_772_D4N, repaired tears, After Treatment
The Preservation Lab  
Treatment Report Cont'd

i18380281_772_A6N, Before Treatment

i18380281_772_D6N, After Treatment